

THE BUILDINGS OF MOREFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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PLATFORM HOUSE

Morfa Borth, the marsh harbour.

Converted from a waiting room on the south end of Borth Railway Station in the 1980s.



The building is red brown brick with sandstone dressings. The geologist Dr Tim Palmer has discovered that the stone came from a quarry at Cefn Mawr owned by Savin. The roof is hipped with two small lights in its west face. Quoins of sandstone edge the walls and sandstone edges the old windows. Alterations to the Grade 2 listed railway station built in 1863 to 1864 for this house were carefully matched to the existing building.

Platform House from the south in 2016.



ABOVE LEFT The house windows open on to the platform. A change in the colour of the bricks shows where the door of the waiting room was removed. Otherwise the original windows of the station with their sandstone ashlar dressings have been preserved. The upper light in the nearest window is modern but in the style of a sash window. The window once had four lights.

ABOVE RIGHT That section of the station building in 1976 showing the door that had to be removed. At that date the waiting room may not have been in use, as the windows were boarded up. The furthest windows belong to the Stationmaster's House which also had windows opening on to the platform. That too was out of use with boarded up windows.



The western wall has no windows, and on the ground floor is a brick porch and front door with glazed upper panels, set in an angle, and a window on the remaining side. Steps lead up to the door and Alongside is a basement garage with possibly

folding doors. They have a small rectangular light near the top. A wall leads from the brick side of the porch which encloses the garden of the stationmaster's house adjoining, giving it some privacy.



Platform House's entrance porch is on the ground floor, as also is a lounge and modern kitchen/dining room. They have windows on to the station platform. The first floor has a main bedroom, a front bedroom, a study or bedroom, a bathroom, and an airing cupboard. The porch opens into an area of hard standing partly enclosed by rails with a hedge. There is parking space for several cars, and access is along the rough roadway leading from the station to the rear of Cambrian Terrace.

LEFT The handsome brick chimney for a fire to keep people in the waiting room warm was shared with the Stationmaster's house next door. Today roof lights give light to the upper floor. There was no upper floor originally.

There had been a tall casement window in the south end of the building, but today it has been replaced by a glazed door opening on to a balcony. Since 2008 a wooden balcony has been added, with a flight of steps leading down to the ground. That is supported by wooden posts, and has a solid fence on the platform side, and wooden railings on the other.

The windows of Platform House which open on to the public platform of the station have been treated with an overlaid protective film to give privacy. During the conversion the old roof had insulation added beneath it

A photograph of 1876 shows the waiting room had a large window at the southern end, then room for a notice board, and then a handsome entrance door from the platform. There were further windows, smaller, but all the same size.

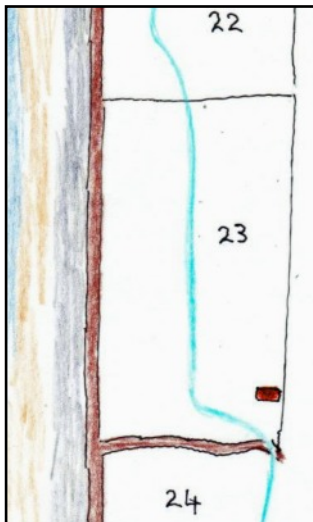
Some of these belonged to the Stationmaster's house which was next door to the waiting room. The canopy over the platform then extended all the way to the end of the building. There was a chimney which was probably allowing a fireplace for the waiting room and on the other side of the wall a fireplace for the Stationmaster's house. So the waiting room probably ended under that chimney which is still there. Ladies had their own waiting room at the other end of the station next to the toilets. The end wall of the waiting room seems to be plain, and set back from it was a tall wall with a doorway.



LEFT The station in 1876. There was a notice beside the entrance door to the waiting room, and a seat outside.

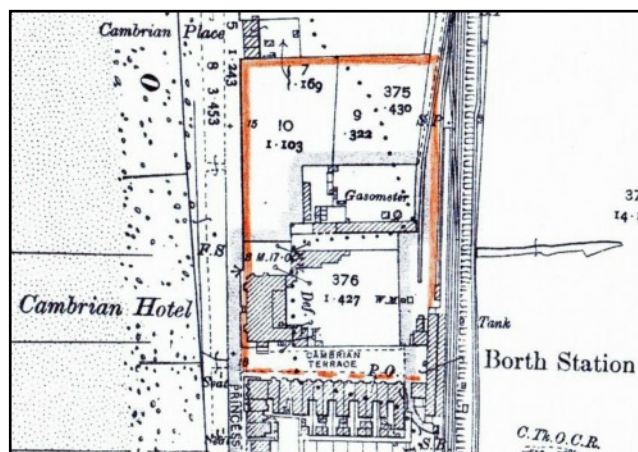
(Photograph courtesy of the Archives, Uppingham School)

The ground for the station was sold to Savin by John Lewis, a local lawyer and was part of his 3 acres he had enclosed in 1803, from the shingle strip and the marsh alongside which with drainage ditches had become pasture. He bought the ground from the Crown who owned



the manor as this ground was part of their 'waste'. His home, called 'Terfynau' (boundaries) was very close to the present site of the station, he was a smallholder, and his house was used as an impromptu railway station when the line first reached Borth. A freshwater stream ran across the ground – previously the course of the River Leri.

LEFT John Lewis's land and cottage, Number 23, copied from a map of 1829. The roads are coloured brown, his cottage red. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060)



On this detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905, John Lewis's former land is marked in red. The old lane became Cambrian Terrace and John Lewis's cottage was taken down. Savin had found somewhere sensible for the old water stream of fresh water to run. It was hidden on this map.

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yn cyflwyno / presents
Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

Mae **Tai'r Borth** yn cynnwys dros 350 hanes sy'n ymwneud ag adeiladau unigol ac mae'r hanesion wedi'u darlunio â chyfoeth o ffotograffau, mapiau a dogfennau. Mae'r ffeiliau ar gael ar ein gwefan: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php?lang=cy>

Hoffem ddiolch i Beryl am fod mor garedig â chaniatáu i ni rannu ei gwaith â'r gynulleidfa ehangaf bosibl.

Ceidw Beryl Lewis yr hawlfraint yn ei gwaith ac mae'r hanesion yn cael eu rhannu at ddibenion preifat ac ymchwil yn unig.

Houses of Borth consists of over 350 histories of individual buildings, lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and documents. All the files are available from our website: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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