

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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RHYD CERRIG

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Number 4 Princess Street in 1891. The house of a mariner and his dressmaker wife. Probably already there by 1861.



Rhyd Cerrig is part of a pair of cottages with Dovey Belle. They have their back to the fields at the edge of the Cors Fochno. This is at the northern end of the village as Princess Street ran northwards from the end of the High Street.

LEFT The house in 2014.

This house is two storeys high, but is not very tall and has the feel of a cottage. The front roof shows that it began the same height as Dovey Belle next door, but has had the walls heightened at both the front and the back, the back having a central area that is a full two storeys high. The gable roof is parallel with

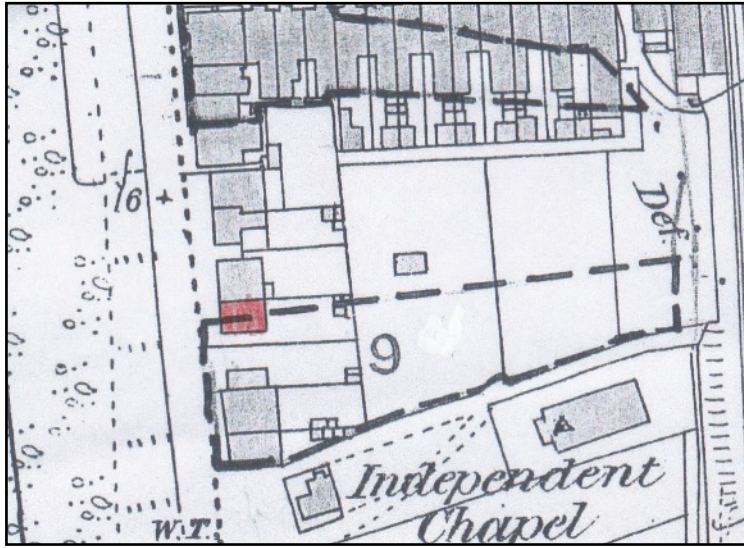
the street and is tiled. There is a tall chimney on the south end of the roof with one chimney pot the other chimney was shared with Dovey Belle. It is likely that the walls are rubble stone probably using rounded stones from the beach. They are rendered, and the façade has been rebuilt with large modern windows. The central ground floor window probably replaced a front door. There are of course splendid sea views from the upper front windows. The front door is on the southern side of the house which has a narrow strip of land giving access to the back garden.



The rear of the house has a single storey extension into the garden with a back door, and above, a doorway leads on to the flat roof of an extension, with a seat and flower pots. The windows and door are modern. The garden extends to a narrow lane.

ABOVE The rear of Rhydcerrig in 2014. Considerable alterations and a flat roofed extension has been added to this building which is used as a balcony.

The ground the house stands on is the pebble bank once owned by the Crown Manor and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming. Someone called Jones enclosed nearly an acre and a quarter of it in 1823. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060 1829 Map and list of owners). By 1848 it was a garden owned by John Thomas and there were no buildings on it (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township - on line at CYNEFIN).

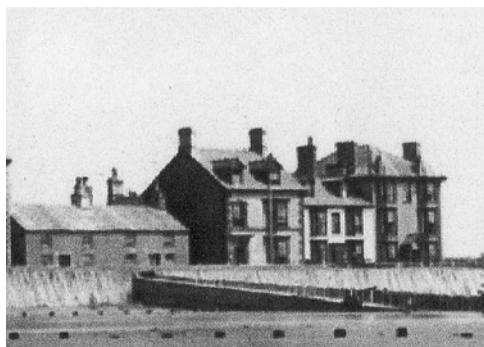


LEFT The house in 1886 coloured red. This detail is from a 25 inch Ordnance Survey map once owned by the Council - and someone put in the Tithe Map plot - number 9. Rhyd Cerrig is partly on that land which had been owned by John Lewis, a lawyer and small holder who sold his land to Savin for building his railway station, the Cambrian Hotel and the Terrace. So behind Rhyd Cerrig in 1886 were the gardens that Savin provided for his houses in the Terrace whose buildings are along the top of this detail. (Ceredigion Archives, Map Cardiganshire III.10 surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888).

There was no building on this site on the Tithe Map of 1848, but by 1871 Dovey Belle next door was up and running with holiday visitors staying there (Cambrian News) On the map above Rhyd Cerrig was not as wide as Dovey Belle next door. It had one small building at the back, probably its Ty Bach - outside lavatory. Both Dovey Belle and Rhyd Cerrig have the shape of a cottage with an extension along the back. The garden extended to land behind the Cambrian Terrace. By the map of 1905 the present small lane was there but otherwise Rhyd Cerrig was the same as in 1886. An Assembly Rooms had been built on the nearest Terrace garden - today replaced by a large garage, and Glan Dylan had been built next door.

In the 1911 Census the house was listed with six main rooms For a tax planned in 1910 but not levied the house was valued at £137, with £5.6s rate to pay, and £6.5s gross. The owner and occupier was Anne Hughes. She was still the owner and occupier in 1925. In 1911 Anne Hughes (born c. 1861) was 50 years old and was a dressmaker. Helping with the dressmaking was her unmarried niece Ann A. King. Anne Hughes was the daughter of a mariner, John Hughes, (born c. 1823 in Borth) who was retired there aged 78 in 1901. His wife was also called Anne and born in Morfa Borth. Their daughter Lizzie (1869-1946) was to marry Captain Lewis Williams, and their daughter Sarah wed Captain John Jones. Their daughter Jane was a lady's maid aged 22 in 1871. There was a son John James Hughes too who was to go to sea. They were listed next door to the Dovey Belle family in the 1861 Census, so it is likely the house was there then. In the 1851 Census they are listed in Borth when John Hughes was a young seaman of 28, and his wife was called Anne, and born in Morfa Borth, but it is not possible to know which house the family lived in then.

After 1922 Rhyd Cerrig was listed with furnished apartments for holiday makers of three bedrooms and two sitting rooms. In 1925 Ann Hughes was the owner and lived there. In 1945 Hannah King was also there. In 1949 Anna King was listed by the Council as the owner for Rates and she still paid the rates in 1963. Hannah King had a vote for the house (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives)



The name for this cottage is Welsh and means 'rocky (cerrig) ford'(rhyd)

LEFT On the left of this detail from a postcard are the two cottages before the front of Rhyd Cerrig was changed. There were wooden sea defences to protect the houses from storms (Postcard private collection).

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

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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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