

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

This work is for research and educational purposes only.

ROSELAND

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Part of St David's Place later called the Railway Terrace, and owned by the mariner David Hughes of the Railway Inn and his descendants. Used for family and tenants, including a tailor, and two laundress sisters.



LEFT Roseland in 2009 with Hendre on the left.

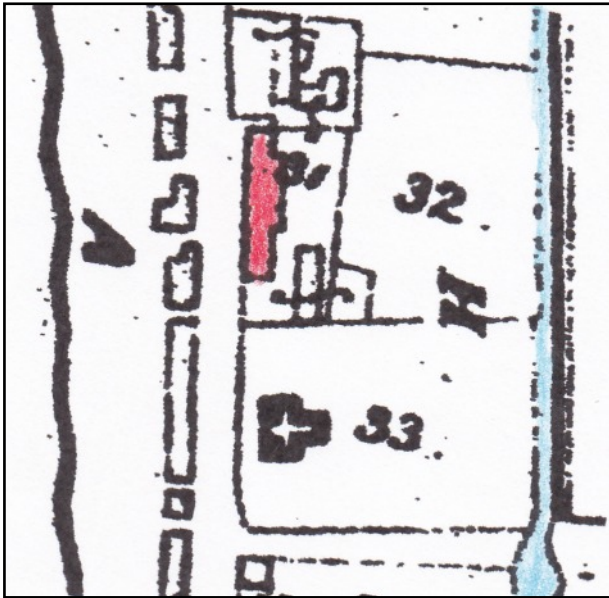
Roseland is a bare two storeys high, under a gable roof parallel to the road, the same height as that of Glan Nant's. It shares a chimney with both its neighbours. The walls are rubble stone and rendered and one in between Roseland and Hendre is clom (mud) but with a rubble stone hearth. There is some framing in the rendering around the door and windows. The front door of the house is modern and on the north. It opens on to the street, and unlike Hendre's has a shallow arch above it. There are two modern windows, one above the other, the topmost taking a piece out of the roof, so it can be of a similar size.



LEFT At the back roof lights allow for an attic floor, and the large modern upper window also takes a slice out of the roof. There is an extension at the rear.

Behind the narrow back garden is grassland.

The ground on which the cottage was built was the stone embankment built up by the sea. The road was very old and a quick way to North Wales via a ferry across the River Dovey. It was a turnpike road by the 1770s. A three quarter acre plot on the stone embankment owned by the Crown Manor had been enclosed by 1818. The person's name on their map sadly is illegible. There were no cottages on it in 1829 (Detail from a Crown Manor Map of 1829, National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

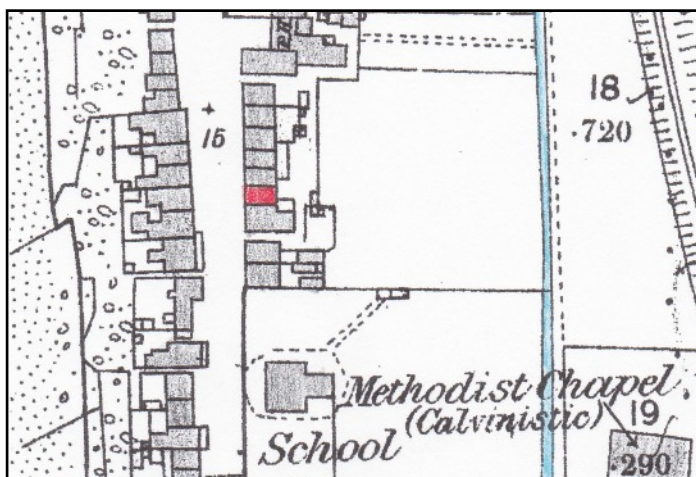


LEFT By 1848 a terrace of cottages, marked in red, was on that site and the owner was David Hughes, a mariner. They had been built after 1832, and stood on half an acre of ground. David Hughes also had nearly three quarters of an acre of 'garden' (2 rods, 38 perches). (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township. On-line at Cynefin).

The name for the row of cottages was once St David's Terrace. The Diocese of St David owned the big site 33 close by, and had a Church (National) School there by 1842 (replaced by the Meddygfa). John Ellis writing a history of Borth in 1930, and whose great aunt was born in Borth in 1809 and lived there all her life and must have supplied him with some information, wrote that the southernmost cottage now Glan Nant was the shop of William Hughes Ody, a butcher, and all the remaining cottages belonged to an enterprising mariner David Hughes.

In 1846 he had built a ship, the 'Catherine and Ellen' on the beach across the road. His family set up the Railway Inn which began in 'Brookfield' and eventually moved next door and expanded, so the history of Roseland is connected to this family. Like the oldest Borth cottages they were set back a little bit from the street. Terry Davies has found out that when Hugh Hughes another master mariner owned the cottages, he had Roseland, Hendre and Khaims Mushayt for his three daughters and left them the cottages after his death (the cottages did not have these names then).

It is not possible to trace the occupants of this cottage in the early Census.

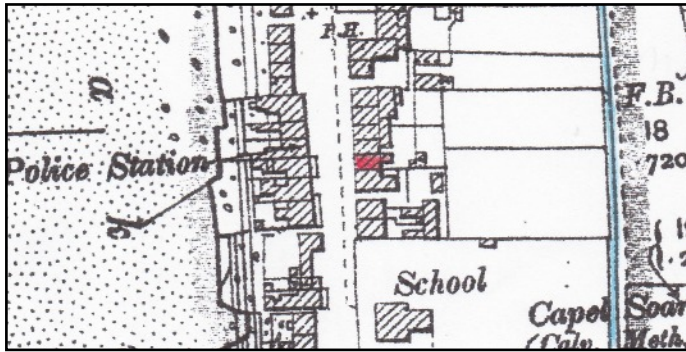


LEFT In 1886 Roseland marked in red had a narrow front as did the two cottages beside it on the north. In all there were seven cottages in the terrace. They shared a back yard with the Railway Inn (P.H.), and probably had the use of the large garden at the back. It extended as far as a 'brook', a watercourse which had fresh water for the families in the cottages. This was water from the River Lerry taken for a mill (now gone) at Glanlerry, and this was joined by streams coming from Ty Gwyn at Glanwern, and from Bryn Owen (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

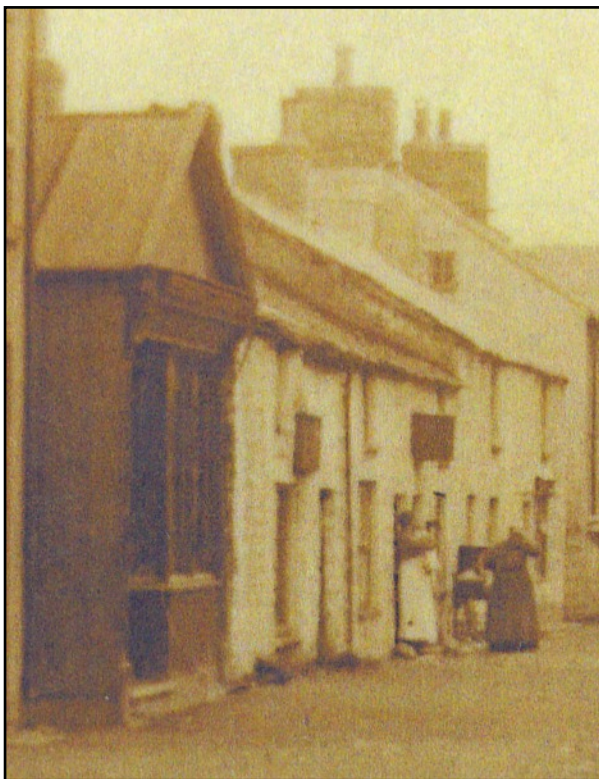
In 1886 in the cottage was a tailor, Lewis Lewis, aged 38, born in the parish, with a wife Margaret aged 43 born in Llandoverly, and five children, all born in Borth, Mary Elizabeth, 12, David, 10, William 8, Ellen 7, and baby Margaret 2 months. This family would either be tenants of the Hughes family or related to them.

In 1891 there was a washerwoman, Margaret Hughes in the house. She was born in Clarach, was aged 56 and had a daughter there, Trefennah aged 17, born in Borth, and a 'domestic servant' sister

called Mary Griffiths, also born in Clarach. Margaret's husband was not at home. They were still there in 1901, Margaret and her sister Mary, listed as laundresses working at home. They spoke both Welsh and English.



LEFT A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905. Only six cottages in the Terrace now, and the big 'garden' at the back has been divided into two. Roseland marked in red shared a yard with Hendre and Khaims Mushayt the Captain's daughters homes. It was the same size as them. The small building in the garden probably contained the Ty Bach - outside lavatory. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10)



LEFT our earliest view of the cottage in a detail from an old postcard. It was taller as today, and had a plain front, and no sign on the front wall of a business there - in Hendre next door was a shoe-maker (Amgueddfa Ceredigion Museum).

In 1910 the owner was Morris D. Hughes, and for a tax planned but not levied, the cottage was valued at £70. Hendre was only £45, and the butcher at Glan Nant, William Ody, running a butcher's shop next door was valued at £53. Something made Roseland more valuable.

By 1911 Margaret's husband had died. She was 74, but with her sister, was still washing clothes. The Census listed the house with four rooms, but that would not include a scullery (washhouse?) at the back, which we can probably see on the 1905 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map.

In 1925 Morris D. Hughes was still the owner, and the tenant was Hughie Hughes.

In 1949 the house had its name 'Roseland'. Mary Jones was the owner. She was still there in 1957 and

had a vote for the cottage in 1963 (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

There has been a patio area at the back of bricks laid in a pattern. They had no maker's name, and were simply shaped blocks. The colours varied.

Alterations at Hendre next door on the north suggest that the party wall between Hendre and Roseland was a wall of clom (mud) above rounded beach stones about knee high.

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives
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-eredigion.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-eredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

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

Beryl Lewis retains the copyright in her work and the histories are made available for private use and research only.



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Archifdy
Ceredigion
Archives