

# 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.*

# TRYSORDY

Princess Street, Morfa Borth - Borth Marsh.

In the northern area of the village, with the sea across the road. Built on ground once the garden of the Cambrian Hotel, possibly after 1984.



*Trysordy in 2009*

The name Trysordy is Welsh and means ‘treasure house’. This is a two storey house under a hipped roof parallel with the main street. On the north front is a bold extension under a gable with plain barge boards with squared ends and matching windows. The walls of the house are rendered, and its roof is a slate colour. It has an important balcony and opening on to this is a living room with a large picture window for sea views. On the north end of the balcony is a door opening on to it. The balcony is supported by four bold flat pillars, of a dark colour in 2009, and by a wall extending from the south wall of the house. Plastic panels between each pillar act as railings. There is a light on each wall between the windows. Beneath the balcony is a front door which matches the door to the balcony above it and an attractive circular house name is on the wall nearby. There is a narrow area of hard standing in front of the house enclosed by a low, rendered wall. There is no gate to the street. The design of this house suggests it was built after the concrete defensive wall with a promenade was completed in 1956. The upper floor can see over it to the bay. Trysordy has low maintenance surroundings.



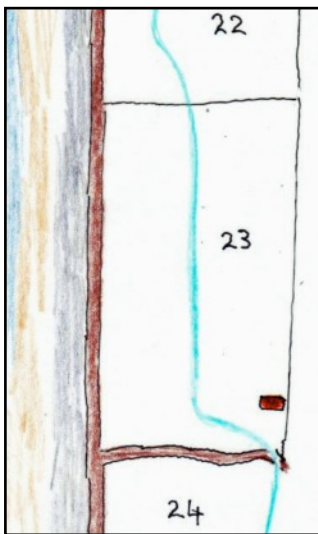
*LEFT The rear in 2016.*

The house has a large plot with room for a garage and storage sheds at the back. There is a gabled extension on the south side with a back door. Because of the sloping site this is accessed by four steps. Against the house, at right angles, is a garage with rendered walls.



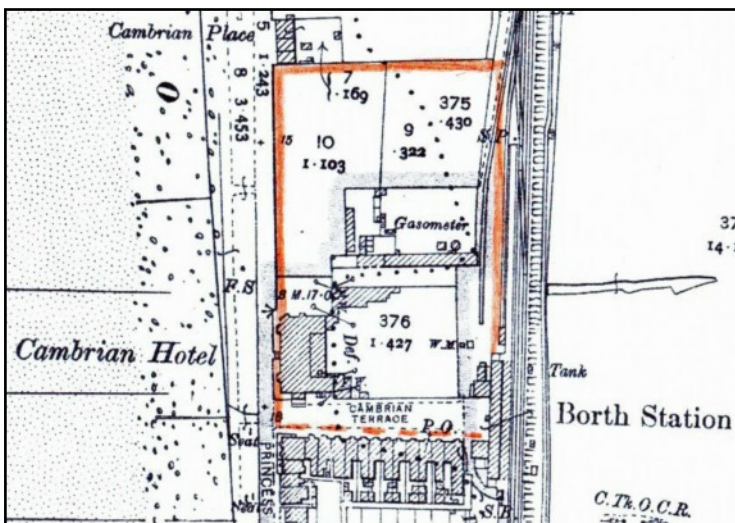


*LEFT On the northern boundary of the plot is a long storage shed, glassed in at the top, and with a door. The yard area is hard standing, and there is parking space for several cars or trucks. It is open to the back lane .*



*LEFT The ground for this house was enclosed in 1809 by a local lawyer called Big John (John Lewis) from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming, and the marsh ground beside it (also called 'waste') could be reclaimed for pasture with drainage ditches. It was a field of 4 acres, 3 rods and 20 perches, that is almost five acres, and across it ran a brook on the old course of the River Leri. John Lewis had a cottage on it called Terfynau (boundaries) – where the railway station is today. There were no other cottages. On this detail copied from a map of 1829 the ground was Number 23. A rent of £16 had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground, but there was an option to buy it for twice that, and a note with the map said that John Lewis had bought it at a Manor Court Leet in 1809.*

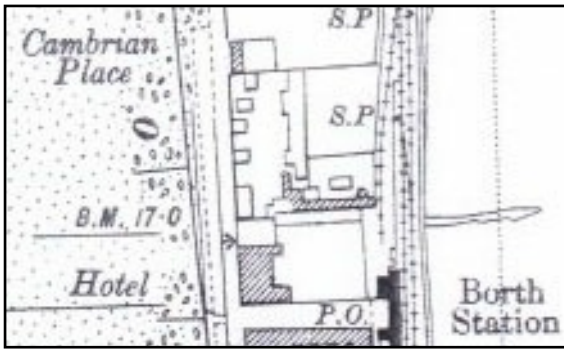
The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.



*ABOVE The garden of the Cambrian Hotel is outlined in red on this detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 (Cardiganshire III.10)*

John Lewis's land was sold to the developer Thomas Savin who brought the railway and built the Railway Station, the great Cambrian Hotel and Cambrian Terrace. The Hotel had large grounds (nearly two acres) for tennis, croquet, pleasure gardens, a bowling green, and possibly a walled garden. However, the Hotel did not do well, it had a hundred rooms, but often many were empty. It is likely that by the 1920s and 1930s it needed to raise money by either selling off

its roadside land to build the bungalows and houses, or having them built itself to sell. The owner of the then 'Grand Hotel' in 1930 was a 'Hotel and Land Development Company Ltd' (Rates, Ceredigion Archives)



*LEFT A detail from a 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1948. Bodlondeb ends Cambrian Place. Beyond was the former garden of the Hotel. There were plenty of spaces between the buildings sketched in. Maesteg and Benfleet are drawn together at the south end of the ground that was being developed. Trysordy is not there yet. (Ceredigion Archives)*

Trysordy was not drawn on a map of 1984, and is the most modern of all the buildings on the roadside of the former garden of the Cambrian Hotel later Pantyfedwen. The others were built in the late 1920s and 1930s.

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**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.

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