

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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GULL COTTAGE

Wernfach- little marsh - Morfa Borth

Formerly called Hollyhock Cottage. Part of an L shape terrace of four cottages between the road to Clarach and the Lôn Glan-y-môr at the far southern end of Morfa Borth. The cottages were estate owned but sold off by 1910. Today only three are inhabited, Craigfryn rebuilt tall, Drake Cottage, and Gull Cottage alongside the Lôn Glan-y-môr (Sea bank lane - possibly Marsh bank lane).



Gull Cottage in 2012

Gull Cottage is under a gable roof parallel with the lane. The position of the chimney indicates that it has an extension built on the south end. The front door today is enclosed in a porch with a large area of window and a translucent sloping roof. Formerly the front door would be nearly in the centre of the old cottage, the room on the south with the chimney being its living room/kitchen was wider than the room on the other side of the front door. Once there would have been a passage from the front door between them. Today the front door opens into a living room.



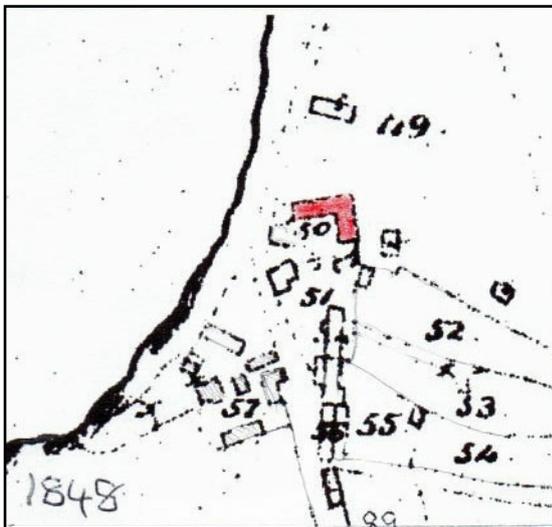
The garage alongside was the side of the next door cottage. (2012)



The yard of Gull Cottage in 2016. It is alongside the Lôn Glan-y-môr which turns the corner round the cottage. The nearly flat roofed extension contains a bathroom and kitchen and a back door into the yard.

The cottage has an upper floor, lit by two dormer windows at the front and one at the back in the new section. The cottage walls are rubble stone and are rendered. Inside an outer wall edges the stairs at the rear of the living room and this shows no rounded beach stones. The windows are modern. The two ground floor front windows have a smooth rendered frame. Some negotiations with a Garage Cottage owner have allowed a yard large enough for an extension at the rear of Gull Cottage.

The cottage stands on a bank of shingle, and in 1829 was part of a 'piece' of ground with no cottages on it. The Crown Manor owned it and it was part of their 'waste' being unsuitable for farming. It had been enclosed by a Mr Williams and a John (illegible) and a note said it was surrendered at the last Court Leet. This usually happened when an owner had died and his heir wanted to inherit it, or wanted to sell it. What happened is illegible. The enclosure had some of the marsh ground on the other side of the Lôn-glan-y-mor at the rear of the cottages too. (Map National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

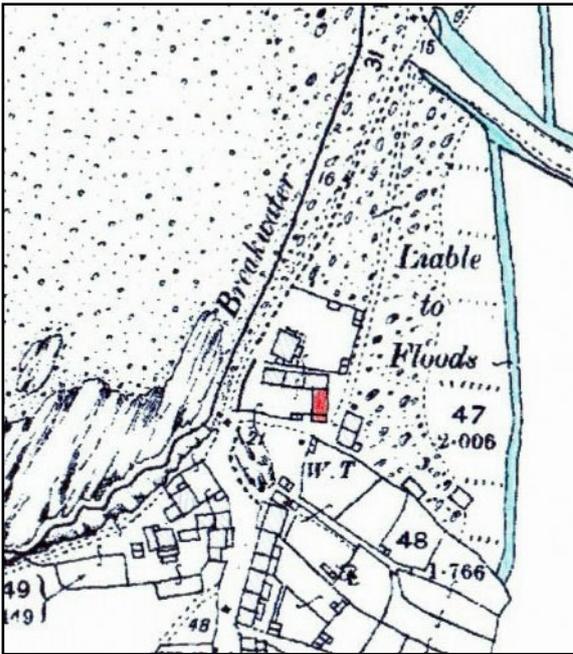


A detail from the Tithe Map of 1848. The cottages are marked in red.

By 1848 an L shaped block of cottages had been built on the shingle bank at the beach end of that ground. They were at right angles to the beach, and opened into a small lane. Behind was a yard area shared by all the cottages. Their owner was Matthew Davies Williams of the Cwmcynfelin Estate at Llangorwen. (Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township). So tenants came and went. In 1848 in one of the cottages was John Davies – perhaps a John Davies shoemaker or a John Davies farmworker (1841 Census).

By 1886 there was a lane to the south of the cottage, as there is now (25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10).

In 1901 living in the cottage was Mrs Elizabeth Jones, she was aged 51, born in Oswestry and deaf. With her was her son John David Jones aged 25 who was a house painter. Also in the cottage were her children Martha Jones 15, Thomas A. Jones 11 and William Jones 9. This was a family all born in Borth. Also there was William Devon Phillips born in Glamorgan. (Census). Children usually slept in a loft under the roof of cottages.



A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886. The cottage is marked in red. Some kind of addition is shown on the south end of the building and the small building may have been a Tŷ Bach - outside lavatory for the cottages. The yard was shared as all four cottages had the same owner. The Beach Cottages next door had been built by then. Unfenced tracks are where the road to Clarach and the Lôn Glan-y-môr are today.

In 1910 the cottage was valued at £90 for a tax planned but not levied. There was £3.4s to pay, £4 gross. This was a good cottage, the best of the four as it was valued at twice as much as the cottage next door £45 and Drake Cottage at £40. The cottage was empty, and the owner was James Lakin.

In 1925 and 1934 paying the rates was a new owner, Richard E. Fuller, and James Lakin was his tenant.

By 1938 and still in 1963 Mr Fuller paid the rates. With votes for Hollyhock were Richard and Edith Fuller who would have been living there (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives).

The name Gull Cottage came with a couple living there sometime after this. Today there are three bedrooms in the loft.



Lôn Glan-y-môr in 1915, our earliest glimpse of the cottage. It had its dormer windows and the extension on the south end of the roof beyond the chimney.

A tiny picture from a group of them in a letter-card called 'Welsh Women'. Private Collection.

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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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