

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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TREVAYNE HOUSE

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Formerly Miss Galloway's Library and part of Rose Place right at the southern end of the east side of Borth High Street. Built by 1871, possibly earlier, and owned by the builder and carpenter Evan Griffiths of the (now) Pencarreg and still owned by his eldest son in 1925. Probably built to let. Today a house and disused shop.



LEFT Trevayne House in 2009.

The house is in the centre of a terrace of three houses. Across the road is grass and then the beach. It has two storeys, with wide dormer windows with sea views for an attic floor under the roof. The gable roof is parallel to the High Street. There is a rubble stone chimney on the north which is rendered. The house is double fronted, the rubble stone walls are rendered, and there are two windows on the upper floor with modern frames. On the ground floor is a front door to the house on the north side and then a box extension shop front This had its

own door. There is no access to the rear. Today there is a small garden at the back.

RIGHT The fronts suggest that Pencarreg on the left and Trevayne house were once the same as if both built together.





LEFT Efelwen on the right has larger windows with different spacing. Trevayne House opens on to the pavement.

The house stands on the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it because it

was no use for farming. It extended to a brook. On their map of 1829 the ground was 'beach' and 'unoccupied' (National Archives LRRO 1/3060. There was still empty ground where the house stands in 1848, and it was not far from the southernmost of Morfa Borth's four limekilns on the other side of the street.

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.

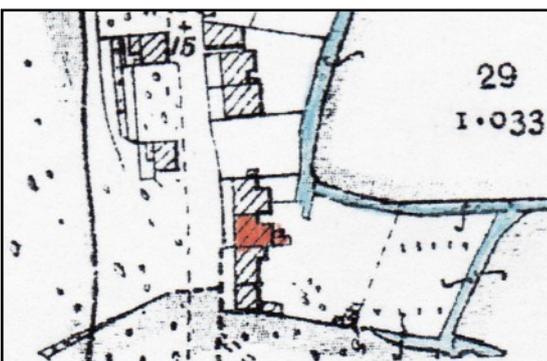
It is likely that Evan Griffiths the builder and carpenter next door built it but the date is uncertain. He was living next door in 1861 (Census)

In 1871 at the Census in the house was an elderly mariner Evan Williams, a widower, born in Llanbadarn Fawr about 1804, with a mariner son Richard aged 27 born about 1844 in the parish, and a daughter Margaret, aged 22 born about 1849. Also there was a two year old nephew, John Whitlock Williams, born in the parish in 1869.

In the Census of 1881 the house was unoccupied.



LEFT This was the house in 1886 marked in red and it had an extension on the north side of the back. Behind was open ground. The tiny building could have been its Ty Bach - outside lavatory. The brook was turning away but close enough to be useful for fresh water for the house. The house then had a front garden (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire NW III.10).



At the Census's of 1891 and 1901 in the house, then number 2 Rose Place, was a 'carter in the town' called David Jones. He was middle aged, born in Clarach about 1836. His wife Bridget was there too. Mrs Jones was born in Clarach (Llangorwen).

LEFT In 1904 Trevayne House was unchanged, but the Beynon family in Efelwen had a workshop by their house.

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this house was valued at £153 (the same as the now Pencarreg next door). There would have been £5.19s to pay, £7 gross. The owner was Richard Griffiths of Dolenydd, Ynyslas who owned Pencarreg too, and living there was Bridget Jones (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales). Mrs Jones had private means and her daughter Anne Jones aged 45 and unmarried was there too. She was born in Clarach about 1840.

In the 1911 Census the house had six main rooms.



ABOVE The Terrace in an old photograph published in Y Tincer in Tachwedd 1977. The front of Efalwen in the foreground suggests that the houses were rubble stone. They had sash windows with many panes. Trevayne House had a doorway on the ground floor to the left of its front door. The date would be pre 1935, still the Griffith's house. The

stones in the foreground had piled up over the road after a storm.

In 1925, the address was still Rose Place, and paying the Rates was Richard Griffiths who owned the house and living there was Anne Jones Bridget's daughter.

In 1935 Marjorie M. Galloway (Miss Galloway) opened a 'circulating Library' at the house which continued until 1965 (A cutting about Borth's Libraries, Aberystwyth Library). In 1949 she was selling postcards, maps, guide books, stationery, knitting wools, and embroidered goods (Borth Review, National Library of Wales).

She had a vote for The Library in the General Election of 1945 and also paid the Rates in 1949 By 1950 she had a telephone, Borth 437, and toys were also being sold in her shop.

She paid the rates in 1957. It was still 'The Library'.

From December 9th 1963 Mr Taylor paid the rates (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives).

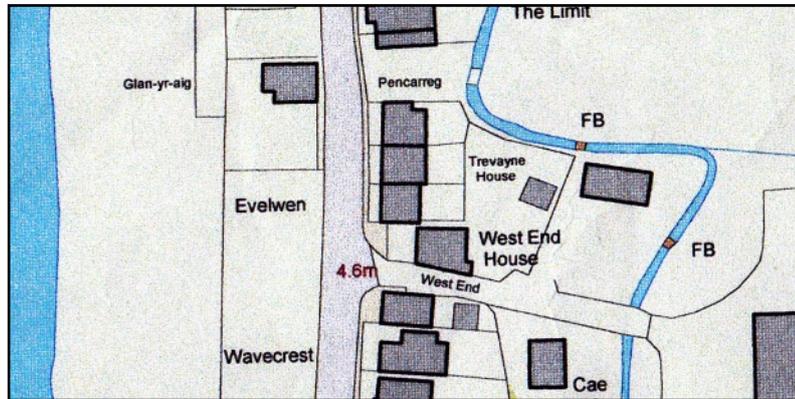
In 1975 the houses in the terrace all had their own back gardens. Efelwen had lost its workshop (Detail from Historical Maps On-line)

Sale details of 1989 give a picture of the organisation of the inside of the house which had a ground floor flat with a maisonette above. The ground floor had an entrance hall and an inner hall and a living room. There was a modern kitchen, two bedrooms, and a bathroom with no bath but a shower, and a lavatory.

Upstairs on the first floor was a living room in an 'L' shape, a modern kitchen, and a bathroom with a lavatory.

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On the floor above under the roof and lit by dormer windows were three bedrooms lit by dormer windows. The largest was in the front and had a small bedroom beside it. Looking out the back with views across the marsh to the hills beyond was another bedroom of reasonable size (Details from a Sale in 1989 Ceredigion Archives)



(Detail from a modern Council Crown Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it to held with some research for an event in the village).

The map above shows that the garden of the house is quite small and enclosed. Behind the drainage ditch moves away and encloses ground for the launderette.

When Trevayne House was Miss Galloway's shop the front was open to the road as it is today. The shop is no longer used.

BELOW The rear of the house in 2019. It has had two substantial enlargements at the back.



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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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