

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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PENCARREG

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Formerly THE VERY LIMIT and formerly a house in ROSE PLACE .
Built by 1851 it was the home of Evan Griffiths, a builder and joiner
and his family and still owned by the family in 1910. There was
always room for a lodger too.



*ABOVE The house in 2009.
/RIGHT It is the northernmost of
a terrace of three houses.
Photograph taken in 2015.*



This house is at the southern end of Morfa Borth on the east side, and across the street is some grass and then the beach. It is a comfortably two storey house under a gable roof parallel to the street. There is a chimney on the south end of the roof that is rendered. Pencarreg's rendered rubble stone walls have a pattern of bold quoins edging the front wall. The house is double fronted, with four windows at the front with modern frames. There is a porch with a sloping roof with the front door on the north end. The roofing

is either slate or look-a-like slate. A low wall encloses a narrow front garden. The house has more depth than an old cottage because of an extension along most of the back. The garden is enclosed and small, almost reaching the ditch formerly a brook where it curves away. Part is overlapped by the ground belonging to the laundry. The modern layout of rooms has a ground floor hall, living room, dining room, kitchen and cloakroom, with a shower. The first floor has four bedrooms two with views of the beach, and a bathroom and separate lavatory and an airing cupboard. There are two attic rooms lit by a velux window on the rear roof. Access to the back garden is along a path at the north side of the house.



LEFT At the eaves are pairs of brackets, like those on some of the houses in the terrace at the north end of the High Street, beach side, such as Bradford House. The windows have shaped frames in the rendering and the lower ones a keystone with a random pattern.

The ground the house was built on is 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 and in 1829 it was called 'beach' and in 1848 there was still nothing built there. It was not far from the southernmost of Morfa Borth's four limekilns across the road (Crown Map National Archives LRRO 1/3060 and Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth township, on-line at CYNEFIN)

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.

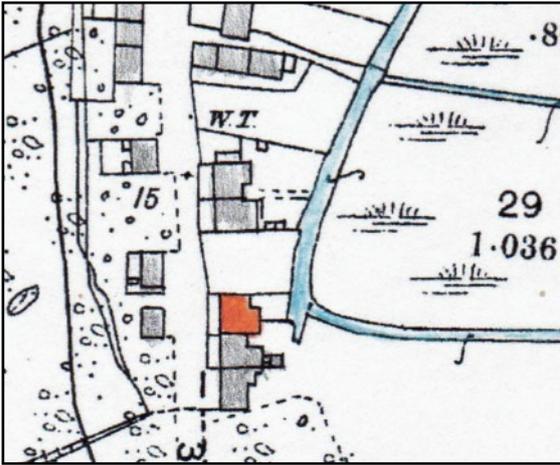
The house was built by 1851 and living there were Evan Griffiths, a builder and joiner aged 30 and born about 1822 in Llanbadarn Fawr, with his very young children Richard, born about 1846, Margaret, born

about 1848, Jane born in 1850 and a lodger David Lewis (Census) Evan came at the head of the Census list which suggests that the other two houses in the terrace Trevayne and Efalwen had not been built yet. Could he afford to build the present two storey Pencarreg?

In 1861 Evan's wife Anne was in the house, she was born at Pantygarddu, Cardiganshire, and Richard and Jane were there, also Elizabeth M. born about 1851, Anne 8 born about 1853, and Evan 6 born about 1855.

Evan and his wife Anne were still there in 1871 at the Census, with their son Evan and a son in law John Beynon, aged 22 and born in Penmorfa about 1849, his wife was their daughter Jane, and they had a small daughter Ann J. Beynon. There were also two lodgers, youngsters, Evan Lewis Davies 11 and Margaret Jane Davies 8. John Beynon later a carpenter and coffin maker and his family would move to live in Efelwen.

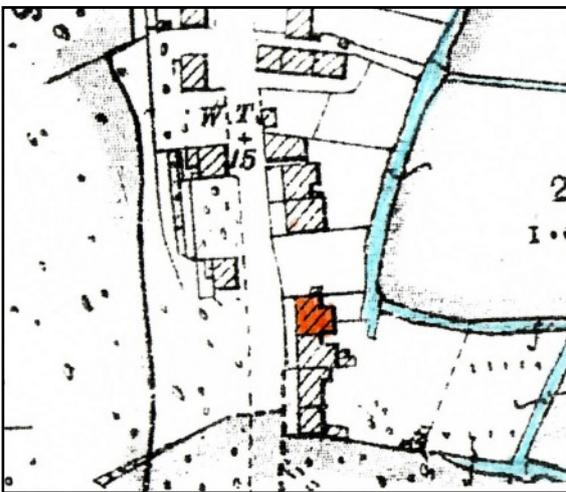
In 1881 in the address of the house was 'Rose Place', and still there were Evan Griffiths and his wife Ann. Also there was their daughter Elizabeth born about 1864, and a grand-daughter Mary Ellen Davies. At present it is not clear where the 'Rose' name came from.



LEFT Evan Griffith's house in 1886 marked in red had an extension on the back, and with its own back garden. As today there was a narrow front garden. It was only a small back garden, and ended at the brook which was fresh water for the house. Both the present Trewayne House and Efelwen had been built beside it (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire NW III.10).

By the 1901 Census Evan was elderly - aged 79 - his wife Anne had died, and his daughter Elizabeth who had not married was there looking after him.

Also in the house was his five year old grandson Harry Brindley Beynon aged 12 from along the road in Efelwen.



LEFT Very little had changed in the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905, revised in 1904. Evan Griffiths son Richard would be taking over the house when his father died. Efelwen had an extension workshop beside it.

In 1910 this was one of three houses of 'Rose Place'. For a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this house was valued at £153. There would have been £5.19s to pay, £7 gross. Evan had died and his son Richard Griffiths was the owner. The occupier was M. M. Jones. (Ceredigion Archives and the NLW)



LEFT The terrace of houses in an old photograph published in *Y Tincer* in Tachwedd 1977. Pencarreg was the most presentable of the houses, nicely rendered and with moulding over the front door. There was a chimney then on the northern end of the roof and sash windows. There was no café extension yet on The Limit next door

so this was probably still 'Rose Place' home of the Griffith's and is pre 1925. Interestingly Pencarreg and Trewayne House have matching upstairs and one ground floor window. Efelwen has larger windows. The small panes of glass in the windows are just visible.

In 1925 the house had new owners and a new name. It was called the 'Very Limit' and paying the Rates was F. A. Fellowes. With votes for the house in the General Election of 1945 were Florence and Dorothy R. Fellowes. Florence was the lady proprietor of the café the Limit next door and she probably named this house 'The Very Limit.' These houses, from Efelwen were Morfa Borth once ended.

Paying the Rates in 1949 was M. A. Fellowes.

In 1967 Miss Fellowes advertised in a 'Guide to Borth' 'The Very Limit' with a furnished flat for four persons. This had a bathrooms and hot and cold water, and the kitchen was all electric. This was accommodation in her own house.



ABOVE The rear of the house in 2019. There are roof lights for its attic floor.

BELOW This drainage ditch joins the former 'brook' now a ditch coming along northwards behind Pencarreg which limits the size of Pencarreg's back garden..



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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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