

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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PENHALE Glanwern Village, Borth.

A modern house, probably designed by an architect, and built after 1975. Alongside the road to Llandre.



LEFT TOP Penhale in 2009 the west front.

BELOW Penhale in 2015, the east front.



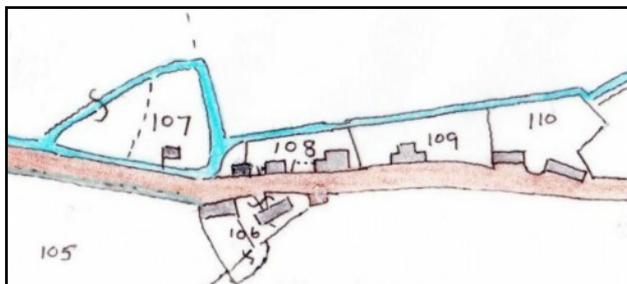
Penhale is a two storey house under a gable roof at right angles to the road, and its walls are rendered with dark coloured footings. The roof has a deep slope on its east side, a narrow one on the west. On the west side the house has an extension two upper windows wide with a porch with a door opening on to hard standing leading to the street. On the east the house nearly reaches its boundary, on the west there is more room, and its area of hard standing is open to the road. A tall fence begins at the far end of the porch to enclose a rear garden.

The south end of the building facing the street has one tall and very narrow light on the ground floor – giving some light but maintaining privacy for the room inside. Beside it going round the corner of the building is a smallish decorative area of exposed stone, local stone of various colours in a random pattern beneath a deep curve. The front and side of the porch also has exposed stone. This feature is unique to Borth. The east front of the house is four windows wide, the rear window in a section at the rear that looks as though it was added on because it has a different coloured and angled roof and a small chimney. On the ground floor nearest the road is one window, then a door, then two further windows beyond. Above the door is a decorative architectural feature with three overlapping rectangles each casting a prominent shadow at its base. This suggests it could have been designed as the main entrance. All the windows are modern with two lights in the style of casement windows. On the west side the ground floor window nearest the road is tall and almost floor length – a picture window in two sections each with a single light. Beyond is the porch which has a gently sloping lean-to roof, tiled to match the main roof. The south face of the porch has a modern door with one light in the top half. Alongside it on the east is a narrow window. The west face of the porch

in its upper half has three large lights. Beyond is the fence into the garden, and this side of the house has another lean to roof which may be glass, and glass windows in the wall of it. The wall of the house facing the road has a narrow area of garden enclosed by a low rendered wall, beginning with a square post, and this turns to run along the south face of the house. This wall is designed with planting holes along the top.

This house seems to be architect designed in a modern style, and it makes good use of its site to provide a generous amount of rooms.

The reason a small settlement could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill at Glanlerry, which was fresh water from the River Lerry. It was joined by a small stream down the valley behind Ty Gwyn too, and helped drain the marsh on the north. After passing Glanwern the tailrace ran seawards then turned along behind Borth High Street, providing a brook' with fresh water for the houses and cottages there. This 'brook' is marked on a map of 1829. Today the water flows out to sea from a pipe near the Lifeboat House. To the north of Glanwern Village was the marsh whose old name was Wern Leri. (1859 Crown Manor map NA LRRO 1/3060). There was already a settlement at Glanwern by 1806 when Elizabeth Davies said she was born there for the Census of 1851. The road was there too, it was shown on a map of 1829 and led down to three lime kilns beginning where the road opened on to the beach. Later another was built. Lime would be carried to farms inland and the road connected to an important road, as today, at Rhyd-y-pennau. The High Street road at Borth was very ancient as in Norman times it was a quick way to north Wales along the shingle bank and high sand dune area at Ynyslas and then across the River Dovey on a ferry to Aberdovey.



ABOVE A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map of 1848 for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township. Courtesy of the National Library of Wales, the original now on line, Cynefin website.

On a map of 1848 Penhale's ground was part of Number 107 which had a cottage on it. The map listed David Hughes as the owner and William Davies as his tenant. At the time 107 was enclosed by ditches of water – needed to drain it from the marsh if was to be useful for example to grow grass or other crops. The ground measured 1 rod which was a quarter of an acre. This would have been an enclosure from 'waste' ground between the road and the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill and a rent would have had to be paid to the Crown Manor when it was enclosed.

There was the option to buy the ground too. The cottage astride the boundary with 108 would become our Sunny Hill.

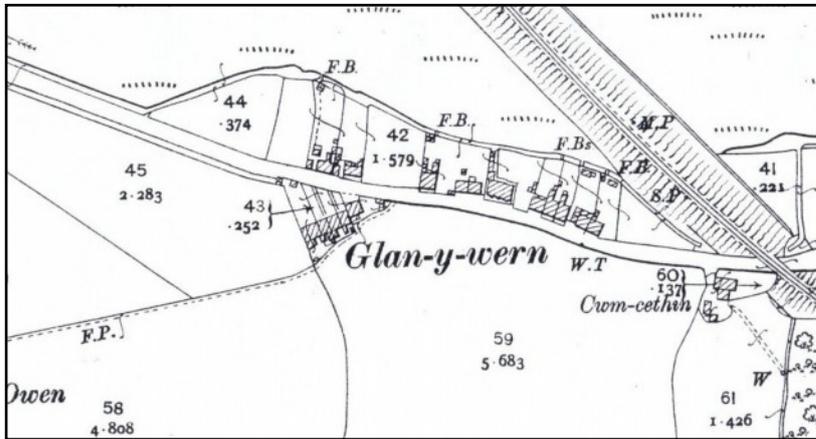


ABOVE A detail from the map of 1888.

On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1888, surveyed in 1886 the tailrace stream had been moved northwards to give cottages better gardens. The watercourse leading down to the road is marked, the dotted line indicating it was open to

the ground behind what is now Sunny Hill. A line shows it was cut off from the tailrace stream so may not have had water in it. The watercourse formerly alongside the road appears to have been moved to the other side.

There was an old cottage very near, or on this site. It was against its western boundary, set back from the road a little, and had an enclosed garden ending at the tailrace stream.



LEFT By the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 the old cottage had gone, but the enclosed plot was still there.

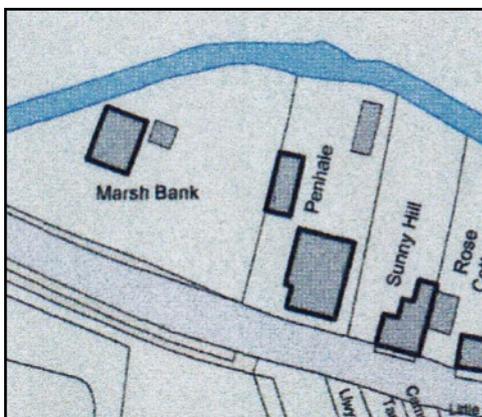
In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied the plot of land was Number 116 and was owned by the blacksmith from Gwastad, Hugh

Williams, and the plot was valued at £30. There would have been 11 shillings to pay. The occupier was also Hugh Williams. He was to build the terrace of houses over the road. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales).

Paying Rates for this ground in 1925 were Mary and James Williams 7s. 9d, gross 8s. 6d. It was called 'agricultural land by Fronhaul' (Sunny Hill) and the owners were James O. James and William Jones.

By 1949 there was a humble building somewhere there, called Wernfa, ('marsh place' in Welsh). It is not clear exactly where it stood, it has gone and I have no photograph of it. Paying the rates was A. H. Darby. The value was just £2. It was probably a cottage as 'Little Cot' the cottage across the road was valued at £3. In 1938 paying the rates for Wernfa was R. Aubrey Davies, and again the value was £2. In 1963 paying the rates was Mrs D. E. Tomlins. She paid £9. Compare that with for example the newly built Werndeg which was valued at £74 and the older cottages now houses were £20 to £29 (the valuations are based on one year's rent). This was not our modern Penhale (Rates Ceredigion Archives).

On a 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1975 Penhale was not there, just two small buildings (See Historical Maps on-line).



LEFT However on a more modern Council 25 inch map the house was marked at the road end of the plot. The two small buildings were still there (Detail from a map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant when assisting research for a local event).

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.

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