

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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AER-Y-MÔR Morfa Borth

At the north end of the village, and a pair with Miramar next door. Built between 1904 and 1910. Formerly Eversley and the Copper Kettle Café.



ABOVE Aer-y-môr on the left and Miramar in 2015.



Aer-y-mor is a single fronted, semi-detached house, two and a half storeys high. The main house is under a gable roof parallel to the road, but in the front is an extension with a gable dormer and below are two square bay windows. There are no chimneys on the main roof and there is a red brick chimney on an extension at the rear. The walls at that date of building are probably brick and are rendered and there is a bold quoins patterns picked out in black. The windows are modern. Except for the large window in the front gable the front extension and its windows and doors match that of Miramar next door. The narrow front is enclosed by a low wall and railings along the path to the front door.

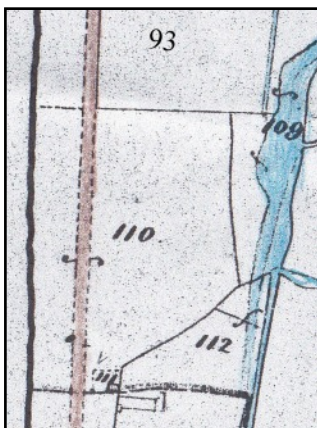
LEFT A glimpse of the pair of houses in about 1921 a detail from a postcard. There is timbering on the gable and string courses (lines of moulding) around the bays. There were sash windows.

(Detail from a postcard, Private Collection)



ABOVE On the left are the pair of houses. Ael-y-môr has a roof light and a dormer window to light its attic floor. The house shares a one and a half storey extension under a gable roof at right angles to the main house with Miramar. This has a red brick chimney with one chimney pot. The yard is divided from Miramar by a red brick wall, and seemingly nearly filled with buildings.

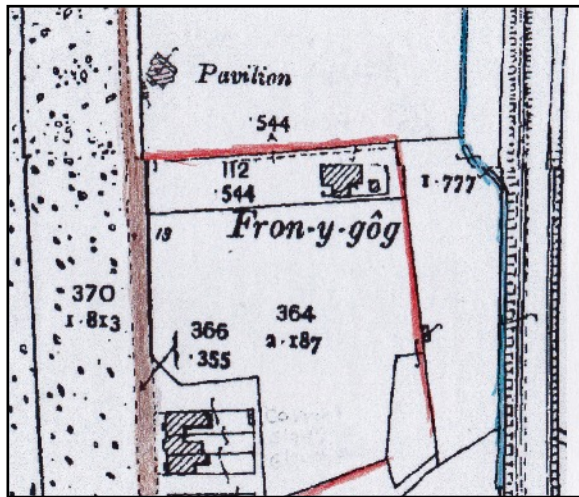
The ground on which Ael-y-môr stands is a stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. The road had been there for centuries, it was used in the twelfth century and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.



LEFT The house stands on a five acre field called an 'allotment' and was number 110 on a map of 1848. Pryse Pryse of the Gogerddan Estate received it after the enclosure of the 'waste' and used it as pasture. Number 93 to the north was the property of the Jones family of the Gwynfryn Estate at Taliesin and had become an eighteen hole golf course before this pair of houses were built. (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Henllys Township, online at CYNEFIN, NLW).

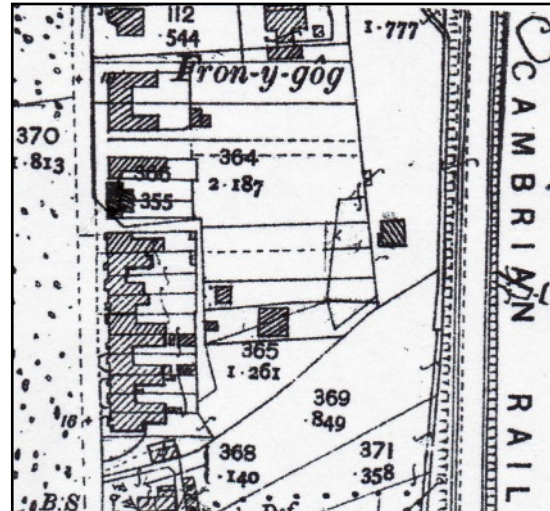
In 1891 Pryse Pryse sold some of Number 110 to Elsie Cecil Wright, the wife of a Birmingham manufacturer of screws and a keen golfer. She had the bungalow Fron-y-gôg built on a strip of it, and had four acres of agricultural land as well. (Deeds to Morlais,

private collection)



LEFT In 1904 there were no other buildings on the part of Number 110 where Aer-y-môr stands today. Some of the houses in the terrace had already been built. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire III.10)

RIGHT The Council used the 1905 map and drew in newly built houses - this map dates from after 1935 because Brockhill had been built in the garden of Fron-y-gôg. Ael-y-mor and Miramar are drawn in a dark colour. They had the same length of garden with no other buildings in them. (Map Ceredigion Archives)



The house was built by 1910, and for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, the house, then called Eversley was valued at £550, the same as Miramar. There would have been £13.2s to pay, £16 gross. This was a valuable house. The owner was Jenkin Jones, and the occupier was J. N. Thompson. (Ceredigion Archives T/DY/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales.) Mr Jones was a plasterer, formerly of Tyrol and he built Gwynt-y-mor (Cambrian News 8 February 1907). He chose to live there. He also owned Miramar.

During the first world war living at Eversley was a seaman, John D. Thomas whose ship was sunk by a German submarine, but he survived. Terry Davies tells his story in his 'Borth; A Maritime History' page 98.

In 1925 the owner was Margaret Jones and the occupier David Hugh Richards. Sometime after 1922 the house was advertised with furnished accommodation of seven bedrooms and three sitting rooms (Illustrated Borth Guide'). That was plenty of rooms. Did the person living there have somewhere else in the summer - perhaps in his back yard! In 1934 and 1938 the same people had the house.

With a vote for the house in the General Election of 1945 and 1957 was Kenneth C. Collier. He also paid the rates in 1949, and the house was still called Eversley (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceeredigion Archives)

Mr Collier paid the rates in 1963, and in 1968 Mrs Collier advertised two furnished flats to let, and there was a telephone, Borth 350. In a Guide Book that year the house had a 'Copper Kettle Café' the entrance being through the front door which had 20 small panes of glass.

BELOW The Copper Kettle. The house had lost some wooden strip decoration in its gable and the dormer window was much bigger than the one there in 1921. There still a tall chimney.

(Photograph courtesy of Peter Fleming)



BELOW LEFT An advertisement from a 'Handbook and Guide to Borth' dated about 1968. (Private Collection)

Today the house has no café, and a new name - Aer-y-môr. This is Welsh, the môr being the sea and aer like 'awyr' meaning the air, so 'Sea-air'.

The Copper Kettle Cafe

Nr. THE GOLF CLUB (The Last Cafe in Borth)

Morning Coffee

Grills and Snacks at any time of the day

Afternoon Teas - Home Made Cakes

Beach Trays

Shell Craft Novelties made with Borth Shells

Enquiries invited for Furnished Flats overlooking sea.

To let for long or short periods

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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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