

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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AWELON

Morfa Borth

The first house in the old Township of Cyfoeth-y-brenin and at the north end of the village with the beach over the road. Formerly called Moreland (Moorland) House. The name Awelon in Welsh means 'cheerful air'. Home of Theophilus and Frances Rees who took in holiday visitors and lodgers, as did carpenter and builder William Williams and his family. Built after 1859 but by 1871.



Awelon in 2015.

Awelon is an end of terrace house and two storeys high under a gable roof at right angles to the road and within the roof is an attic. The house is double fronted, and its walls are stone, probably rubble stone, and are rendered. The chimneys are narrow and of a dark brick. The four windows and front door seem to be symmetrical which is unusual for Borth. The windows are modern. There is a porch

on the front with a sloping lean to roof with a door at the side, and a window with one large light facing the road. This has a quarry tiled floor. The front garden is enclosed by a low wall, and part is planted. Part of the north wall butts against Morlan Bwthyn but is not joined to it.

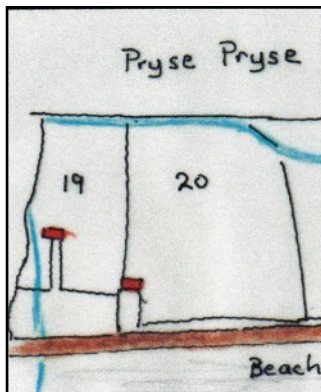


The rear of the house in 2015.

At the back is an extension of one and half storeys, its gable roof at right angles to the main house. This has modern windows. Joined to it on the north side is a single storey section with a lean to roof and with a modern window facing the garden. Either side of the tall extension are upper windows of the house with views across the railway, reclaimed pasture and the Cors Fochno to the hills. The garden is grass, and on the north side is a garage and a wooden shed. Today the house has four or five bedrooms, and a skylight in the

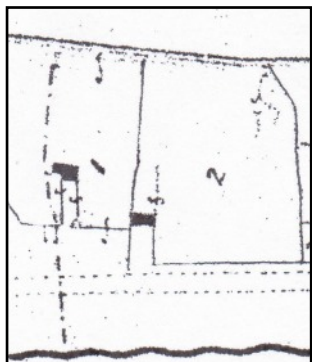
roof lights the top of the stairs. The ground floor has a living room which before the building of the sea defensive concrete wall and promenade about 1960 would have had a view of the beach. There is also a study or bedroom, a shower room, and steps lead down to a dining room and kitchen. On the first floor are four bedrooms and a bathroom.

The ground for this house is the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. It was enclosed in 1826 by William Thomas, and his ground measured over an acre and extended from the road to a brook. On a map of 1829 it is shown with one cottage on it set back a long way from the road. Where Awelon stands today was not built upon (Map 1829, National Archive LRRO 1/3060). Mr Thomas rented the ground from the Crown Manor and had the option to buy it. The road



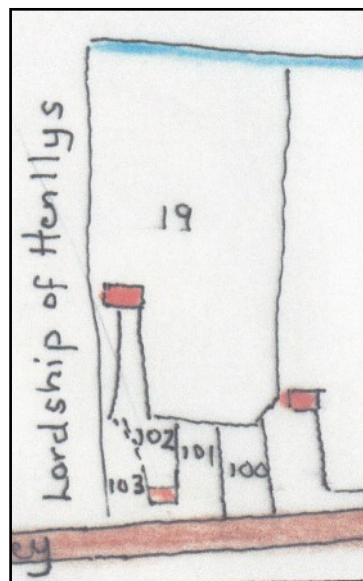
had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales. Fresh water for the old cottages came from the brook, now a ditch, the tail race from the Glanlerry Corn Mill plus other small streams. For fuel the cottagers had their own area where they could dig peat on the far side of the River Leri near Ynys Fergi.

LEFT William Thomas's cottage and land was Number 19 in this detail from a map of 1839. At that time the Cyfoeth/Henllys boundary had a water course along it.



LEFT In 1848 there were still no houses by the road. Number 1 was Mr Henry Thomas's cottage and land and he was a mariner and Number 2 was Hopewell (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth township and 1841 Census).

RIGHT In 1859 the Crown still owned the ground, and plots by the road had been marked out for houses. Awelon was eventually to be built on the plot number 103. There was already a cottage next door part of which became Caerffynon. This detail is copied from the Crown Manor's map (National Archive, Map 1859, LRRO 1/3060).



By 1871 'Morland House' had been built and Mr T. Rees was having holiday visitors who could come by train, the station had opened to passengers in 1863. The Cambrian News reported they came from Bewdley, Dudley, Oswestry, Nottingham, and Hay. Children were not mentioned. This suggests Awelon was already a house rather than a small cottage. Mr Theophilus Rees was listed as the 'lodging house keeper' in Slater's Directory of 1868.

In the house at the 1871 Census was Frances Rees, aged 40, local, a married woman, and she had two lodgers in the house, one from Devon and one from Warwickshire, both 'drainers' by trade. They were probably employed on the fields at the edge of the Cors Fochno marshland.

In 1880 there was a new family in the house. William Williams and his wife had holiday visitors at 'Moreland House' and they had holiday visitors in the house for seven weeks.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the house had a new name 'Awelon' and was owned by Daniel E. Jones, who was also the occupier. It was valued at £275, with £8.18s.6d to pay, £10.10s gross. Mr Williams still had Morlan Bwythn next door with the land behind it, and several other parcels of land, one by the Jasper Villas, so he probably had a horse and cart and a milk cow. He and his wife spoke both Welsh and English.

The house was not mentioned in the 1911 Census.

In 1925 Mr Jones paid the rates.

In 1949 paying the rates was John Davies.

Paying the rates in 1957 and 1963 was W. D. Williams. With votes for the house in 1963 were R. S. Millar, and Barbara Gladys Williams (Ceredigion Archives, Electoral Registers and Rates) Linda Christie remembered the Williams family there. 'Bill' was a signalman at Ynyslas Station (BBC Wales, Borth).

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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-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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