

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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CEFN-FOR or CEFN-FOR HOUSE

A house in a terrace on the beach side at the southern end of the High Street. Formerly a Britannia Place Cottage, built after 1848. Re-built as a house by 1910 and the front later altered.



Cefn-for in March 2009.

The front door too has curved decoration on the board above it supported on brackets, part of the small roof created above the two ground floor canted bow windows. All the windows are modern, but the casement style and diamond pattern is a reminder of old cottage windows. The front door has a generous supply of panes to light the hall. Three steps lead down to the pavement, and a wall encloses a narrow front garden area and is topped by various coloured stones. Some care has been taken with the design of this house front. The drainpipe above the front door makes a good contribution to the pattern. Interestingly the front door is not central - echoing the old cottage from which this house was re-built. The wider front room on the left would have been the living room/kitchen of the old cottage. At

Cefn-for is a double fronted, one and a half storey house under a gable roof parallel to the road. It is not clear what the walling is, but the chimneys are brick and are shared with the homes next door. These chimneys have bricks of varying colours. The simple dormer windows have bargeboards with curved ends, and a decorated



On this old postcard the rubble stone cottage now re-built as Cefn-for is the centre one. It was rather shabby. The sash windows had twelve lights. Rounded stones from the beach were used in the partly whitewashed wall. It opened directly on to a pavement.



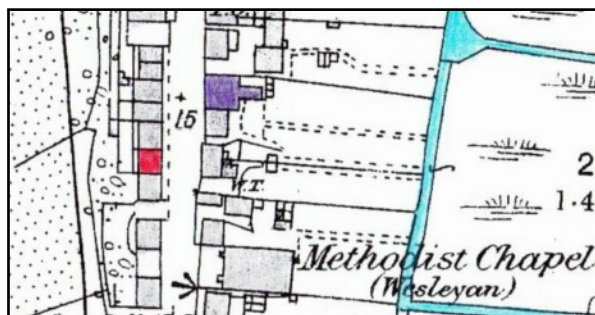
Cefn-for from the beach in 2015.

the back the house is much larger than the old cottage, extended out towards the beach. The top floor opens on to a balcony supported by posts. There is a single storey extension on the south side. The low concrete wall and planks protect the yard from the sea during storms. Walls both sides of the yard provide privacy.

The site of this house was still open ground in 1829 on the stone embankment thrown up by the sea. It was called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it, as it was no use for farming (National Archive, LRRO 1/3060). The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road in the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales. Fresh water for the cottages and houses came from a brook behind the houses and cottages on the other side of the road, and for fuel villagers could dig peat, free, from the far side of the River Leri near Ynys Fergi.

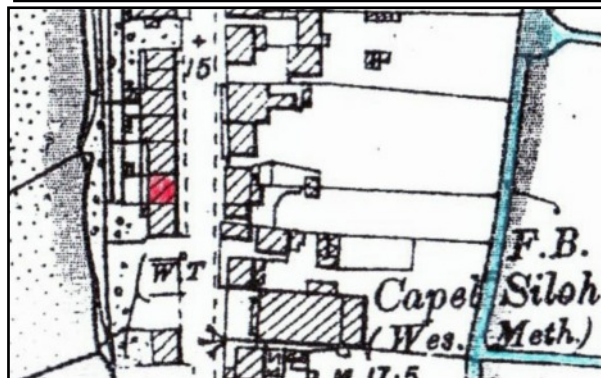
There was not yet a cottage on the site in 1848 (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township - on line at CYNEFIN NLW)

It is not possible to trace the occupants in the Census's until 1881 when the address was 'Britannia Place'. In the house was probably a young mariner called Jenkins, with his wife Mary aged 49 and born in Borth about 1832. She was earning money as a laundress, and they had three children. The cottage was empty in the 1891 and 1901 Census's.



On the 25 inch map surveyed in 1886 the cottage is marked in red, and Britannia House in purple. The cottage was sharing a yard with the cottage next door suggesting they had the same owner. The cottage opened directly on to the street, and a pavement is marked.

(Ordnance Survey Map 1888, Cardiganshire III.10)



By this map revised in 1904 the cottage had an enclosed back yard, and apparently no Ty Bach (outside lavatory) like its neighbours. Some kind of narrow patio is at the back of the cottage, and there was a double row of sea defences - probably bundles of brushwood anchored into the side of the stone embankment.

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied the valuation was £112. This was not the value of a cottage, suggesting that the present house had been built. The owner was Mrs Mary

Jenkins of Gwastad, Borth, and living there was J. Brodigan (Ceredigion Archives, T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).



This detail from an old postcard shows the rebuilt cottage. It had finials on the roofs of its dormer windows, but did not yet have bow windows.

In the Census of 1911 the house had its name, Cefn-for, Welsh for, 'at the back or on the ridge of the sea', and John E. Brodigan was a sailor. His wife Jane Ann was local, aged 30 and born in Borth about 1881. They had been married for two years and had a two year old daughter, Mary Ena Brodigan. The house had five main rooms.

Paying the rates in 1925 was John Jenkins, and living there was Daniel Davies. In 1934 Violet Harris was the owner, but this was changed to M. E. Harris, and living there was Margaret R. Harris. William Harris paid the rates in 1938. He and Hilda Harris had votes for it in 1945 and also with votes were Mabel E. Anderson, Violet and Susannah Murray, and Florence Taylor. F. E.

Wheeler paid the rates for it in 1949 and also in 1963. He is in the electoral register that year as Frank Enoch Wheeler. He had the house at least 14 years, and the postcard below shows that the front of the house at that time had been changed to the one we see today (Rates information, Ceredigion Archives, and postcards by courtesy of Mrs Pat Havers).

BELOW This postcard dated 1961 shows the house with its present front. Mr Wheeler was proud of the house as it had matching containers of plants beneath its upper windows. (Postcards by courtesy of Mrs Pat Havers)



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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-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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