

THE BUILDINGS OF MORFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



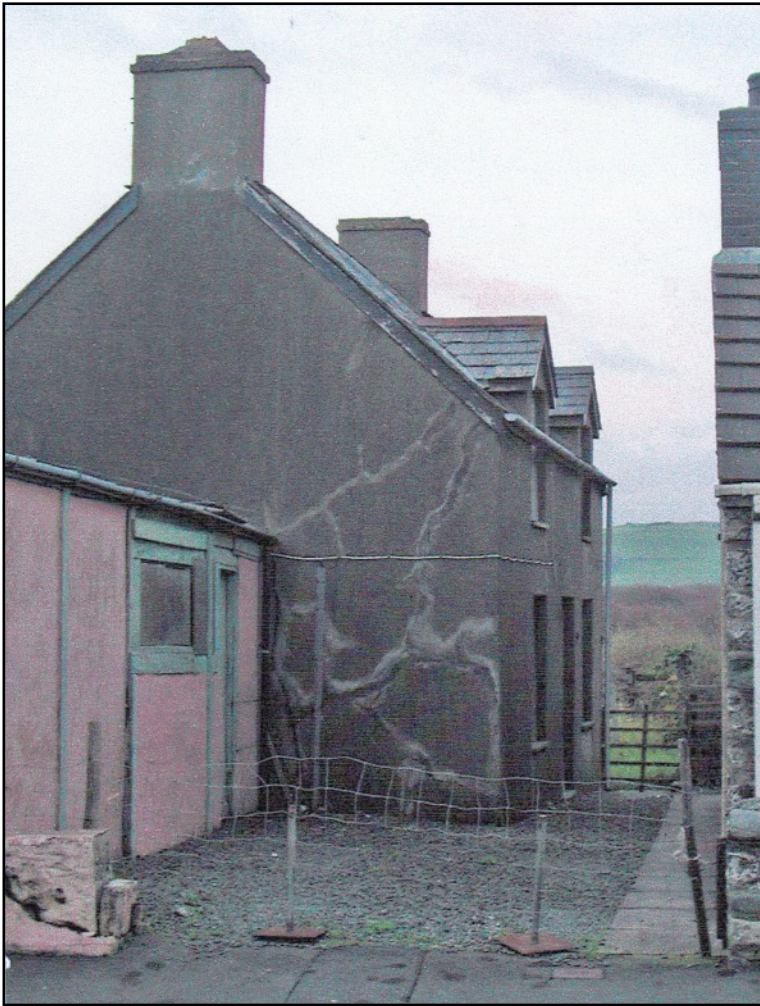
That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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THE ELMS

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour



The house is set back from the southern end of Borth's High Street, and is at right angles to the street and has substantial rubble stone walls. Butting against it is the disused shop. Elms is one and a half storeys high under a gable roof, the upper floor having dormer windows. The front and west walls are rendered. The rear wall and east wall are rubble stone including rounded stones from the beach. Borth's oldest buildings used these. The roof is slate with red ridge tiles, and the slope is moderately steep. The chimneys at each end of the roof are rendered and topped with brick. The western one has a chimney pot. The house is double fronted with four front windows, all very plain. The east wall has no window in its gable to light the upper floor. The front door opens on to hard standing and has access to the High Street on a driveway. Beyond the fence is a large garden area extending to the ditch, the former

brook. It extends behind the Warehouse/Chapel and stretches as far as the Dôl-Wen roadway. There is a small extension from the east wall of the house.

BELOW LEFT A low rubble stone wall with beach rounded stones and a wooden fence connect the north wall of the Elms to the former shop adjacent to the street.

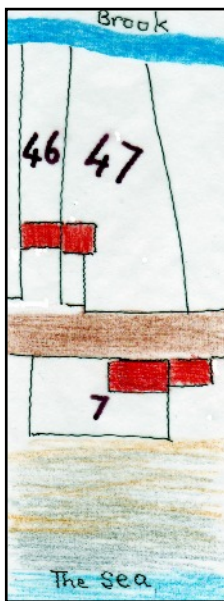


LEFT There are a large number of rounded stones from the beach in this wall.



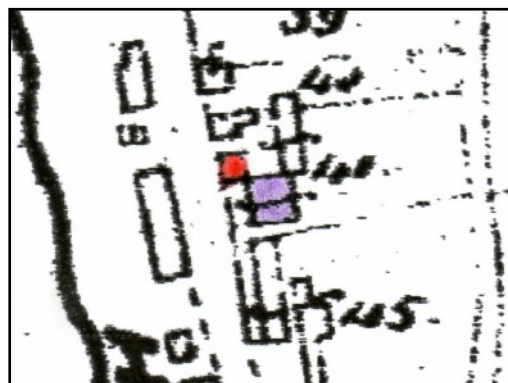
LEFT The north side and east end of The Elms, all rubble stone.

The ground for this house was enclosed in 1820 from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming (Map National Archives LRRO 1/3060). The road was centuries old and a quick way to North Wales via a ferry to Aberdovey.



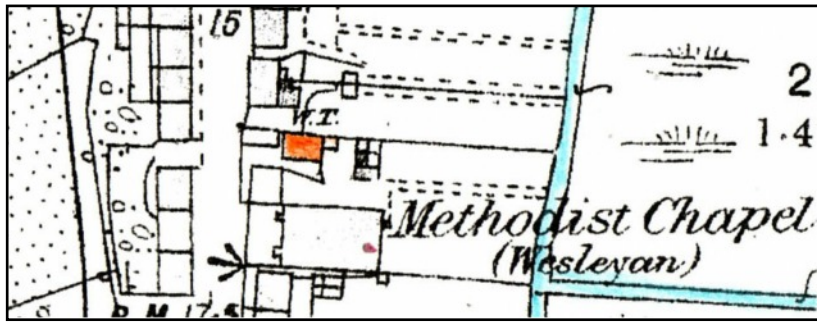
LEFT In 1829 The ground, number 47, measured one rod, one and half perches and extended to a brook and had a single cottage set back from the street, on a site almost that of the present building and like it, up against the northern boundary. A rent of £1.2s had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground. Mary Lewis owned the cottage and all the ground. Wesley Cottage was not there nor the Chapel (Detail after a map National Archives LRRO 1/3060).

RIGHT By 1848 Wesley Cottage coloured red and other cottages were added to the original one including a building on the site of the old shop. The Chapel coloured purple had also been built. Edward Thomas, a 'carrier' owned the ground and all the buildings and lived in one of the cottages, but there was nothing like the Elms (Detail from the *Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN*)



(Detail from the *Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN*)

By 1886 there was a building on the site of The Elms today. It was a little narrower than Wesley Cottage next door. It shared a yard or front garden with it, and probably shared the ground at the back too, suggesting one owner for all of it. Behind it was a small building possibly the remains of a very old cottage that appears to be pig sties, or for chickens. There was also a track down to the brook



LEFT THE Elms building is marked in red on this detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, (Cardiganshire NW).

On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 little had changed, except the pigsties had an enclosure and the Chapel was much larger.

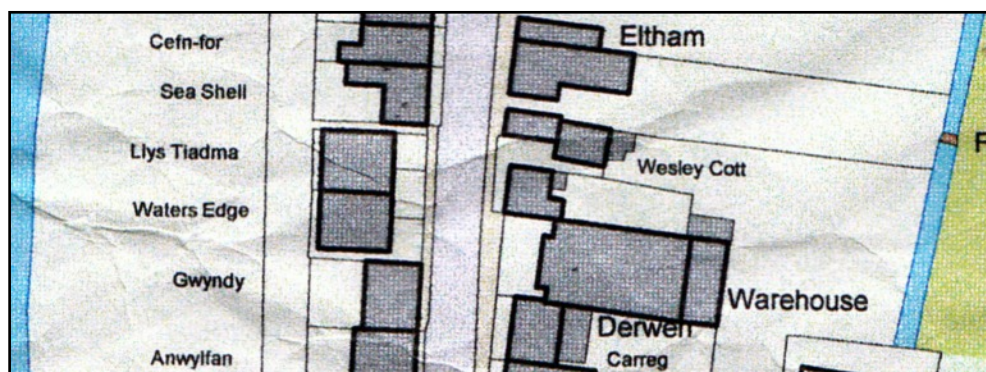
In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this house was valued at £60. There would have been £2,16s to pay, £3,10s gross. Wesleyan Cottage next door was more valuable at £66. The owner and occupier was Robert Owen (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales). Robert Owen was a railway platelayer from Montgomeryshire. His wife Eliza was local, they were married in 1862 and they had children Edward and Elizabeth. He and his wife could speak both Welsh and English. Robert Owen was also in Wesleyan Cottage in the 1871 and 1881 Census's. In 1881 he was 42. The present Elms was not listed in the Census in 1891, but Robert Owen was living there by 1901. By the 1911 Census Robert Owen was 74 and a 'railway ganger'. His children had left home and his house had four main rooms - Wesleyan Cottage had two.

In 1925 called a 'Cottage and Garden in Wesley Place' Nurse Roberts lived there, and the owner was Miss Owen.

The house had its name 'Elms' in 1949 when J. Jenkins paid the Rates for the house. (Was this the James Jenkins who lived in Wesley Cottage next door?)

Lilian Jenkins paid the rates for The Elms in 1957 and in 1963 and she had a vote for the house (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives).

BELOW The buildings today on a modern Council Map (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).



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Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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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