

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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ELTHAM HOUSE

On the site of a cottage built by master mariner Captain Richard Jones by 1845 on ground his family had enclosed in 1811. Owned by the Jones family and their descendants, a Williams family. The present house replaced the cottage by 1886, or the cottage was rebuilt larger. It was the home of a mariner John Williams and his wife Elizabeth by 1891.



Eltham House is at the southern end of Borth High Street on the east side of the road. It is a two storey single fronted house under a gable roof parallel to the street. The roof is slate colour and has a brick chimney on the southern end with one chimney pot. The walls are rendered, the front wall being very plain. The front door is on the north side of the front and is modern with one small curved light, and is up one step from the pavement.



LEFT On the right is the single storey, lean-to garage extension on the north side of Eltham. Eltham's upper window is smaller than the other two windows on the front which are quite large and square and modern compared with the rectangular and smaller windows of Pomona on the left of this photograph. They all have modern frames divided into vertical lights, casement style. The south gable end of the building is plain.

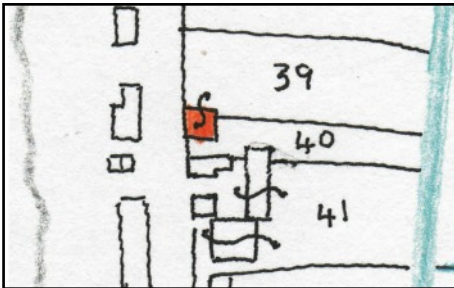
of Eltham through a gate.

There is access to the rear on the southern side

The rear of the house has a large wing of brick, two storeys high with a flat roof. There are modern windows in the wall at the end with a large light and an upper small light with a larger one below. This extension has a back door. There is a further single storey lean to against the wall that divides Eltham from Pomona's back yard. The lower part of this wall is built of seashore rounded stones, the upper is breeze blocks.

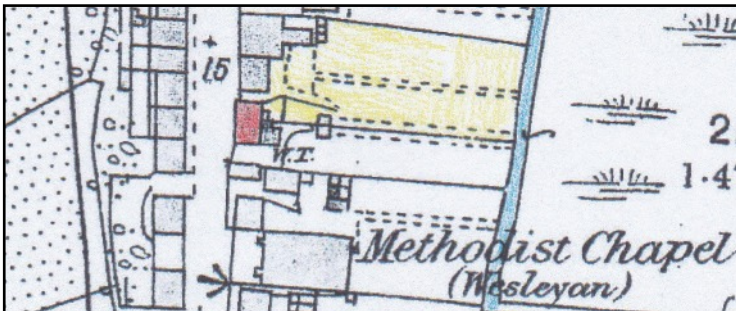
The ground for this house was enclosed in 1811 from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming. The ground measured 1 rod and 19 and a half perches, that is nearly a quarter of an acre. It extended to a brook. A rent of £1.2s. had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground. The road was centuries old and was a quick way to North Wales via a ferry to Aberdovey. It was a turnpike road in the 1770s.

In 1829 the owner was Catherine Jones, a widow. (National Archives Map LRRO 1/3060) She had shares in the 45 ton sloop Swallow, and was a managing owner who had a say in what cargoes it carried (Shipping Register Aberystwyth, Ceredigion Archives). This Jones family of master mariners from Borth went back to the turn of the century. Captain Richard Jones of the sloop Britannia's son John, aged 2 was buried in 1814 at Llandre, aged 3. (Gravestone - St Michael's Church)



LEFT Number 39 was the land of the Jones family. By 1848 Captain Richard Jones had built a cottage for himself at the roadside marked in red, though it was partly on the plot of land next door, and today Eltham stands on that site (Detail from a photocopy of the Treh Appportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN)

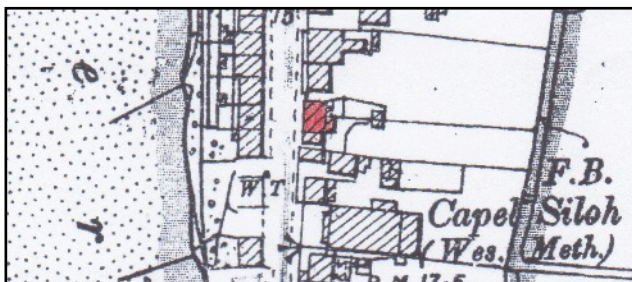
At the Census's of 1871 and 1881 this house did not have its name, but was part of Britannia Place. Pomona and Britannia House had been built by 1886.



LEFT In 1886 we can see Eltham which was already bigger than the older Borth cottages. At some time the probably small cottage was rebuilt as the house we see today It was across the boundary of gardens, and had to have curious shaped yards and garden at its rear. The northern side of its garden opened

into the large area of ground by then belonging to the Williams family who lived in Britannia and who owned the Jones land and houses (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886, published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10).

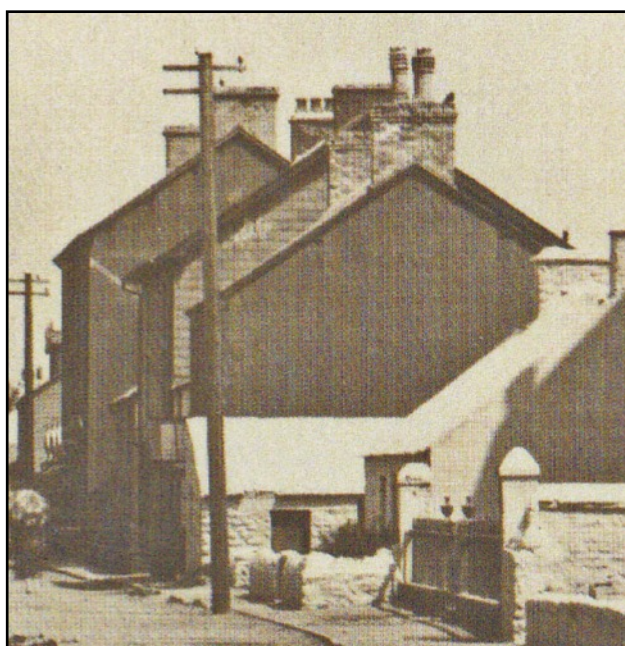
It is clear that this was the house of John Williams a mariner and his wife Elizabeth in the Census of 1891. Elizabeth was a 31 years old, she spoke only Welsh. She was born in Borth about 1861 and was married in 1882. In the house was her son Roland J. Williams aged 6 and born about 1885 in Borth. John was away at sea. It is likely that John Williams was related to the Williams family at Britannia. He had probably come from Llangeitho where his daughter Elizabeth was born in 1871. At the Census of 1901 John was again away, and Elizabeth Williams was in the house with Elizabeth, who had married and had become Elizabeth C. Prosser.



LEFT The house in 1904 marked in red. There was a small extension on the south side of the house (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10).

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied this house was valued at £164 (more than Pomona at £127). There would have been £4.16s to pay, £6 gross. John Williams owned it. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).

At the Census of 1911 there were seven rooms in the house. Elizabeth Williams was still there aged 50. In 1916 her husband John Williams died aged 61. Thereafter Elizabeth Williams owned the house. She paid the Rates in 1925 and 1934.



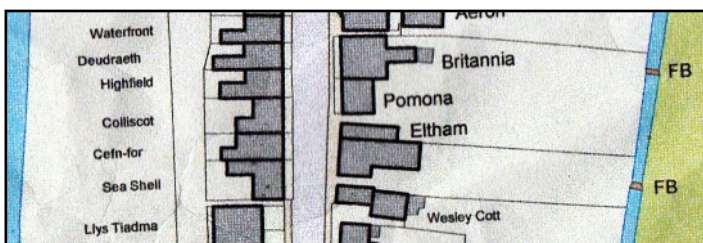
LEFT The side of the house in about 1921 when Miss Williams lived there. It then had two large rubble stone chimneys the nearest one had two chimney pots. The gable end was plain and the lean to building beside it was then a shop and there was a narrow passage between the two

With votes for the house at the General Election of 1945 were Florence Taylor and Elizabeth Williams who was now elderly. She died in 1946 aged 87 (Parish Register, St Matthew's Church, Borth)

Paying Rates for the house in 1949 was Hilda M. Harries. (Ceredigion Archives)

In a Borth Guide Book of 1950 Miss Harries was advertising furnished accommodation with three bedrooms, two sitting rooms, a bathroom with hot and cold and a kitchen She was the proprietor of a hotel at Diana (now Pebbles) (Aberystwyth Public Library). She paid the rates in 1957.

Mrs Evans paid the rates in 1963 and Albert and Mrs Elizabeth Evans had a vote for the house that year (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).



LEFT By 1975 Eltham was a substantial house with a large extension at the back. Its garden stretched down to the old brook, by then a ditch. The garage extension was drawn separately from the house (Detail from a Council Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant when assisting research for a local event).



ABOVE In 2019 in the centre is the back of Eltham which has a substantial two storey brick extension with modern windows and a further single storey extension with french windows into a long garden.



LEFT Against it on the right in 2015 was the rear of the garage and closer to the camera was a small stone building. The passage alongside leads to the High Street.

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[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-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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