

# 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

*This work is for research and educational purposes only.*

# GARAGE COTTAGE

Wernfach - little marsh - Morfa Borth

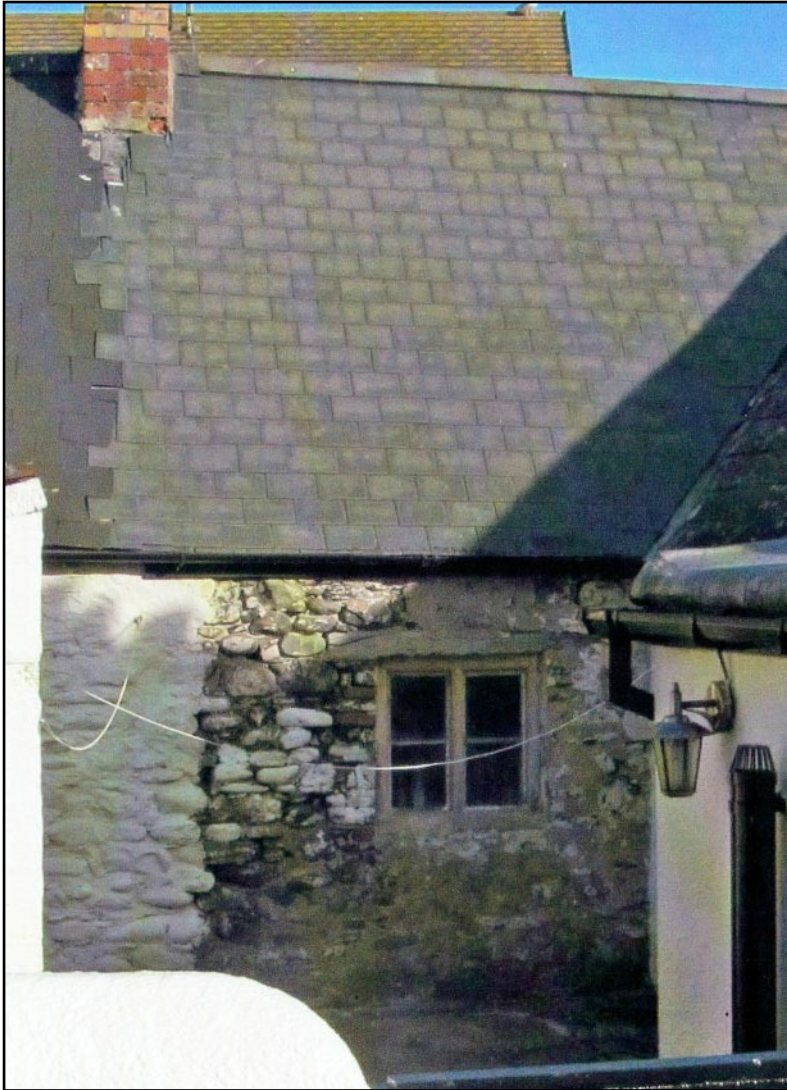
Formerly Number Two Bryn-y-môr (1901). A garage by 1938. Part of an L shape terrace of four cottages between the road to Clarach and the Lôn Glan-y-môr at the far southern end of Morfa Borth. The cottages were estate owned but sold off by 1910. Today only three are inhabited, Craigfryn rebuilt tall, Drake Cottage, and Gull Cottage alongside the Lôn Glan-y-môr (Sea bank or Marsh bank Lane).



*ABOVE* Garage Cottage in 2016.

*LEFT* Its front door opened on to a narrow passage. (2012)

This is a rare survival in Borth of an old cottage front with its old window with the small window panes. It would have shared the brick chimney with Drake's Cottage next door and that suggests its kitchen/living room was at that end of the building.



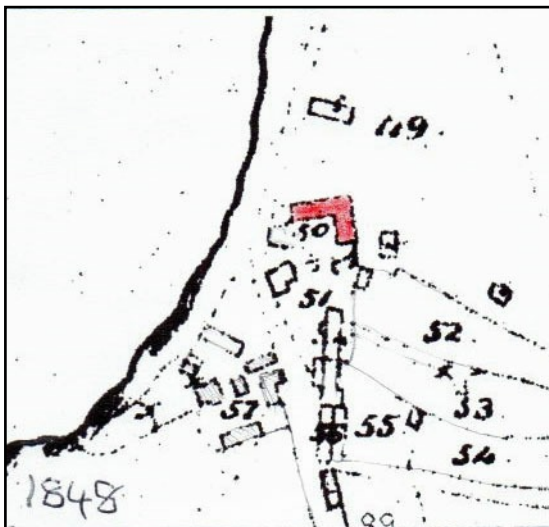
Access today is along a narrow stone paved passage enclosed by a low stone wall when the 'New Cottage' now the Beach Cottages was built close beside it by 1886.

*Left The rear of the cottage in 2016.*

In the rear wall are many rounded beach stones, and it was probably whitewashed. The window there is old, but does not have the small panes.

The cottage stands on a bank of shingle, and in 1829 was part of a 'piece' of ground with no cottages on it. The Crown Manor owned it and it was part of their 'waste' being unsuitable for farming. It had been enclosed by a Mr Williams and a John .... (illegible) and a note said it was surrendered at the last Court Leet. This usually happened when an owner had died and his heir wanted to

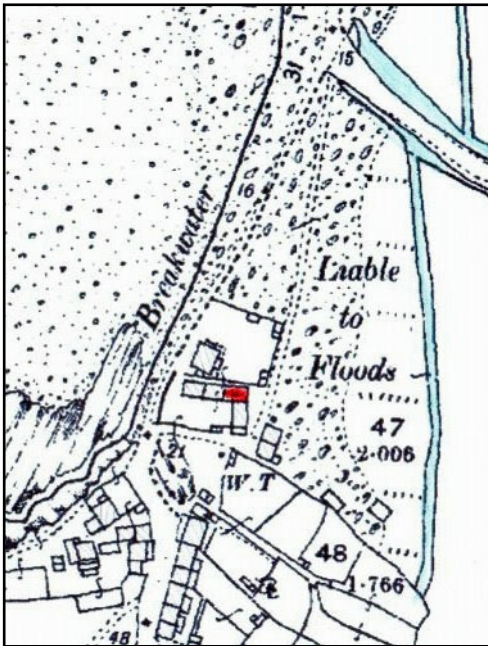
inherit it, or wanted to sell it. What happened is illegible. (The enclosure Number 51 had some of the marsh ground on the other side of the Lôn Glan-y-môr at the rear of the cottages too. (Map National Archives LRRO 1/3060)



*A detail from the 1848 Tithe Map. The cottages are marked in red.*

By 1848 an L shaped block of cottages had been built on the shingle bank at the beach end of that ground. They were at right angles to the beach, and opened into a small lane. Behind was a yard area shared by all the cottages opening on to the Lôn Glan-y-môr. The owner was Matthew Davies Williams of the Cwmcynfelin Estate at Llangorwen (Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township). So tenants came and went. In 1848 in one of the cottages was John Davies – perhaps a John Davies shoemaker or a John Davies farm worker (1841 Census).

Living in the cottage at the 1901 Census was a general labourer, John Felix Jones, aged 64, born at Taliesin and his wife Mary aged 68 born at Rydyfelin. This was a Welsh speaking family.



*A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886. The cottage is marked in red. They shared the yard as were all owned by the estate.*

*Cardiganshire. 111.10 1888*

At a valuation for a tax in 1910, not levied, the cottage was valued at £45. There would have been £2.8s to pay, £3 gross.

The cottage had two main rooms at the 1911 Census. These would be one each side of a passage to the front door – one being a living-room/kitchen which would have been on the west end of the cottage and the other one a bedroom. In 1925 Thomas Williams paid the rates as the owner but the cottage was empty. By 1934 Mrs M. J. Owen had replaced Mr Williams as both owner and occupier of the cottage. In the rates list of 1938 the cottage was described as a garage, and the rate had dropped to £2. In 1949 and still in 1963 Mrs Owen was paying the rates for it - £11 by 1963. (Ceredigion Archives) Today it is still a garage and these are valuable in Borth where so many of the old houses did not have garages or room to park cars. Today it has room for a car and a boat. The present occupiers found an old wooden farm cart in pieces at the back when they took over. Access is from the Lôn Glan-y-môr, and there is a good parking area too. A low rubble stone wall divides the passage to the old front door from the newer house alongside.



*This was the Lôn Glan-y-môr in 1915 when the cottage was inhabited. It was rendered or whitewashed, and shows the spacing of its front door and windows. The roof looks messy as though it was not in good repair. This is a tiny photograph from a lettercard called 'Welsh Women'.*

*(The picture which was very tiny, courtesy of Peter Fleming)*

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**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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