

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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GER-Y-MÔR

Wernfach, (small marsh) Morfa Borth – the Marsh Harbour.

Ger-y-môr forms part of a terrace, tightly fitted between Trysor-y-môr and Sŵn-y-don. It faces the road to Clarach and the boat park and beach. Behind it is the Lôn Glan-y-môr and a former marsh area, now reclaimed. It was a later house fitted into a gap in an existing row and built by Reginald Guy, a former Mayor of Wolverhampton after 1963 but by 1975.



Ger-y-môr in 2016

The main roof of the house is nearly flat, and hidden from the front by a row of red bricks. The house is two storeys high, with a garage inserted into the south of the front. The house is brick, but the walls are rendered. Tall windows either side of a modern front door light a porch, and the lean-to porch roof extends across the house over the entrance to the garage. This is rendered to match the house walls. The porch which also has a front door would help keep the house warm especially from the westerly winds as this house faces west. The main feature of the front is a large, square upstairs bay window, its four large panes allowing a panoramic view of the bay for the house's sitting room. Above it is a slate coloured lean-to roof. The garage doors are wooden, the circular windows reminding us of the port holes on ships. The drive to them is very short, and the area in front of the house of hard standing is enclosed by low brick walls, partly rendered white. There is no gate, the entrance opens directly on to the Clarach road and there is no pavement. The house was first built with a



float downstairs beside the garage for the owner's bachelor son. Upstairs was the living room with a bedroom and kitchen at the back.

LEFT This is the rear of the house from the Lôn Glan-y-môr (sea bank.

lane) Building was going on at the rear of the house in 2016. The site slopes downwards, so the back of the house is taller than the front. On the north side upstairs there is a door on to a wooden fenced balcony, from which would be views across Borth Common to the hills. Below another glassed in porch protects a glazed door and

windows. From the porch door steps lead down to a wooden door in the rear brick wall. This opens directly on to the lane and there is no pavement.



The house was built on a strip of land that was 'beach'. The embankment of stones had been thrown up by the sea, and belonged to the Crown Manor. At that time the Lôn Glan-y-môr (sea bank lane) was the only road and it was unfenced. On a Crown Manor map surveyed in 1925 it was still beach, the manor owning 'waste' eastwards of a line from the edge of the beach cottages to the corner of the road to Llandre. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

ABOVE The strip of 'beach' in 1914 on which the houses would be built. The Beach Cottage is beyond and the old cottages. On the left is the old lane to Upper Borth, Clarach and Aberystwyth.

However, after 1925 stones were collected on the beach and an embankment built which enabled our present road to Clarach to be built. There is a postcard showing villagers collecting the stones. This made it possible to have buildings on the strip of land opening on to the new road and the beach and with the Lôn Glan-y-môr behind them.



LEFT The gap into which Ger-y-môr would be built. To the left are the three houses, ending with Kingswood, and beyond and set back was a house called Panteg joined on to a 'Canteen Stores' which became a 'Spar' on the site of

the Nisa (Old photograph courtesy of Alan Cash).



ABOVE This Valentine's postcard shows the new road, and it was easy to walk across the road to the beach from the houses and the occupiers and others parked their cars along it - spoiling the view of the beach from the ground floors of some of the houses. However spring tides together with westerly gales could flood them. Ger-y-môr and Isgaer were not yet built when this picture was taken.

The Council built the wall and boat park area to protect the houses.

LEFT Ger-y-môr in 2018 with the rear alterations completed.



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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-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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