

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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GLYNGARTH Morfa Borth

The last house on the beach side at the north end of the High Street. Built after 1901 but by 1904. By 1938 there was a 'Blue Lantern' shop there and it was still there in 1963.



LEFT Glyngarth in 2017.

Glyngarth is the same height as Boston House next door, but effectively is a detached house as it is linked to Boston House only by a two storey enclosed passage. Glyngarth has three storeys and is single fronted under a gable roof parallel with the street. There is an attic floor lit by roof lights. On the south side of the roof is a tall slab chimney which is rendered and has five chimney pots - five flues- so the house had plenty of heated rooms. On the ground and first floors on the south side of the front are canted bay windows. These have nicely moulded wooden frames and sash windows. The front wall of the house is exposed stone edged by painted bricks. The stone is various sizes, squared and coursed, and the masons have flattened the surface, making it a more expensive finish so these stones were probably designed to be seen. The sides and rear of the house is rendered. The six panelled front door has good proportions, and above it a rectangular window to light the hall carries the name of the house picked out in gold. The narrow front garden is enclosed by a low wall which is rendered.



ABOVE The good quality squared rubble stonework under the window above the front door.

RIGHT The north wall is rendered and plain.





LEFT The house from the beach in 2016.

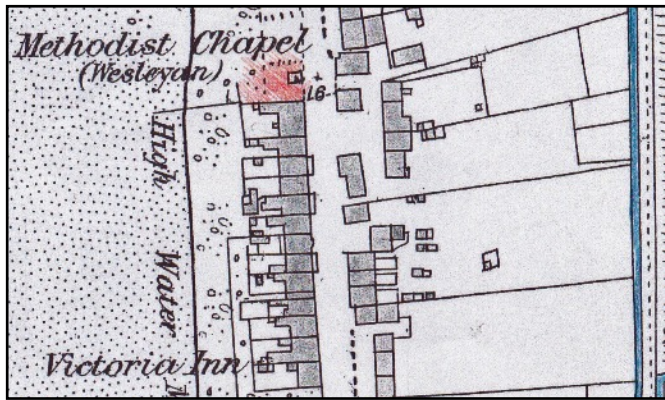
There is an oriel canted bay window on the first floor, suggesting that a view of the sea was an important part of the design of this house. The second floor window on the north side has a pattern that suggests the 'art nouveau' that was in fashion when the house was built. On the north side of its yard is a single storey wing which was there in 1904' The yard has a gateway out on to the beach.



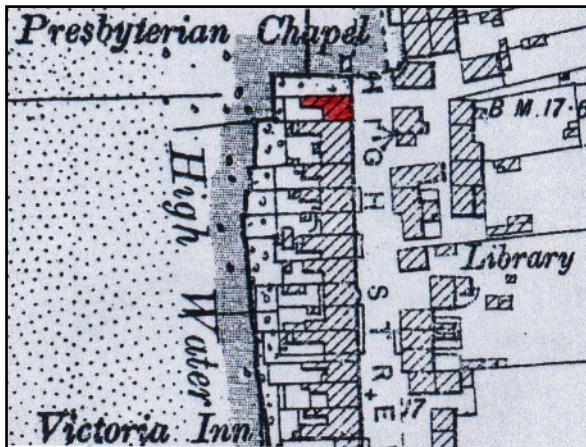
LEFT A photograph of Borth Sea Captains outside Boston House taken around 1900 gives us a glimpse of Glyngarth being built. The ground floor bay window still had not been put in, though the wooden floor joists for the upper bay window are there. There is also a glimpse of an inner doorway from

the hall to the living room and an interior wall before it was plastered which looks like rough stonework. The light slanting down suggest the roof was not on yet. (John Thomas photograph, National Library of Wales and on-line).

The ground for the house is the stone bank thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. On a map of 1829 it was beach (National Archives LRRO 1/3060). The road had been there for centuries, it was used in the



twelfth century and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales. By the time this house was built there was a piped water supply to the houses though no sewage disposal and these beach side houses when built used outside lavatories over stone lined cess pits in their yards. Glyngarth did not replace an old cottage this was originally open ground



ABOVE LEFT Marked in red is the site in 1886 where Glyngarth was to be built. The little dots show the site was not fenced or walled. There was one tiny little building on it. The chapel was across the road (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)

The house was not in the 1901 Census - either not there, or partly built.

LEFT Marked in red is the house in 1904. The surveyor has not drawn in the curves to show the bay window (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905).

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied the house was valued at £275 - similar to other three storey houses at the top of High Street, and the site was valued at £18. The rate to pay would have been £12.15s., gross £13. The owner and occupier was Charles Robertson.



Glyngarth was not listed in the 1911 Census, probably no-one was there to fill in the form.

In 1924 the Cambrian News reported a Miss Hughes from Glyngarth.

LEFT An old photograph from a glass plate shows a brick in-filling between the bay windows. A glimpse of light coloured, probably yellow bricks decorated the edge. The wall around the front garden was brick in two colours, probably red and yellow, and was topped in front with railings. The notice in the window says 'TO BE SOLD'. (Photograph from a glass plate, courtesy of Peter Fleming).

By 1925 there was a new owner, Mary Jane James, and the occupier was Myra James. Beside the house was a shed owned and occupied by David Morgan, rated at £1.16s. There was also a garage by the house that John Watkin Williams paid a rate of £2, gross £2.10s. For. Either the garage or the shed is in the photograph on the left.

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In 1934 the occupier was Thomas L. Williams and the owner was Maggie James.

In 1938 Thomas John Williams paid the rate for the house, and paying a rate of £2 for the garage was C. Roy James. There was also a shop there which E. Evans paid a £1 rate for.

In 1949 paying rates as owner of the house was J. B. Leather.

In 1957 we have a name for the shop - the 'Blue Lantern' - and for the shop and premises D. K. Heath paid a rate of £32.

In 1963 paying the rate for the Blue Lantern shop and premises was Dr J. B. Leather. He also had a vote for it that year. (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

This house is interesting because it seems that a large part of the original building has survived, and we can see the quality of it. To have exposed stonework with yellow bricks was the fashion at the latter part of the 19th century as in for example Chesterton and Gordon Villa and the large London House further south along the High Street and other Morfa Borth houses. The yellow bricks made good edgings for the local rubble stone. The bricks were not made locally but came on the train from North Wales. However, the stones of Glyngarth are very good quality and the decorated wall and railings of the front garden shown in the old photograph suggest some care taken by the first owner with the appearance of his new house. Today the yellow bricks have a smooth coat of plaster or paint.

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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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