

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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HEATHFIELD

Set back from the High Street, formerly the northernmost of a terrace of cottages, two already there in 1829. Later called Wellington Place. Heathfield built by 1934 replaced the northernmost cottage which when owned by the Matthews family of Leronian House burnt down.

Heathfield East Side in 2018.



The house is a full two storeys high with matching windows, rendered walls and a porch for the back door. Solar panels have been added to the roof. The wall of the old cottage remains on the north side of the house which is alongside a passage to an old cottage.

LEFT The south side of the house butts on to the stone wall of the row of old cottages. The chimney which has four chimney pots and flues would have made a well heated house at the time of coal fires.

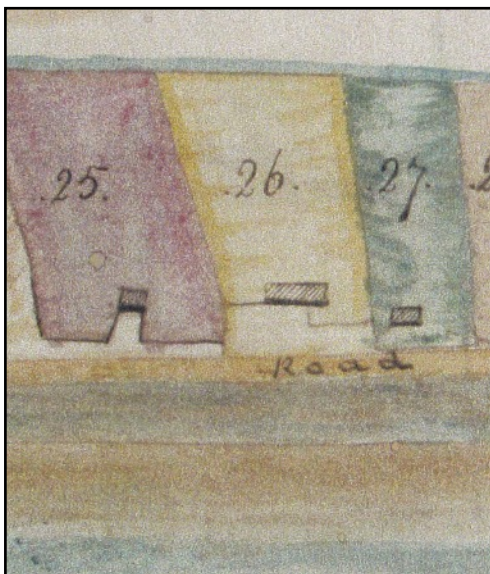


LEFT The west side of Heathfield in 2009. Beyond are what remains of the second old cottage in the terrace.

BELOW The one next to Heathfield. Some had been used as workshops.



RIGHT A garage had been added. Of the remaining cottages in the row - one was swallowed up into the back of Manchester House and the southernmost one is gone.



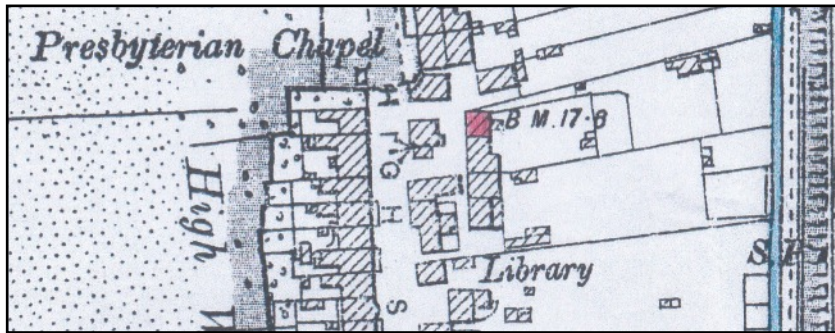
LEFT In 1823 the ground on which Heathfield would be built was enclosed from the pebble bank and marsh which the Crown manor who owned it considered was 'waste' because it was no use for farming. In 1826 there were two cottages owned by John Lewis and set back from the road on plot number 26 coloured yellow. Their ground was three quarters of an acre. These developed into a row of old cottages behind Leronian House. They had fresh water in a brook at the end of the plot (Detail from a hand painted map, National Archives LR-RO 1/3060)



LEFT Marked in red is the cottage in 1886 that burnt down and was rebuilt as Heathfield. Leronian House had already been built in front of it. The cottages were called Wellington Place after Wellington House which was

a good sized house in 1886 now partly Ysbryd-y-Gors to the south of Leronian on the High

Street (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)



LEFT This was the cottage in 1904 with an enclosed garden shared with the neighbouring cottage -suggesting the same owner (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905., Cardiganshire NW III.10)

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied the cottage was valued at £100 with £3 to pay and £3.15s gross. It was owned and occupied by the butcher Jesse Matthews of Leronian House. It still shared a garden with the cottage next door but had an area of land to the east with probably the butcher's slaughter house which may have made it more valuable than the other cottages.

In 1925 Jesse Matthews paid the rates for a 'workshop' in Wellington Place. With £1.4s to pay £1.10s gross this was still the cottage and Heathfield had not yet replaced it.

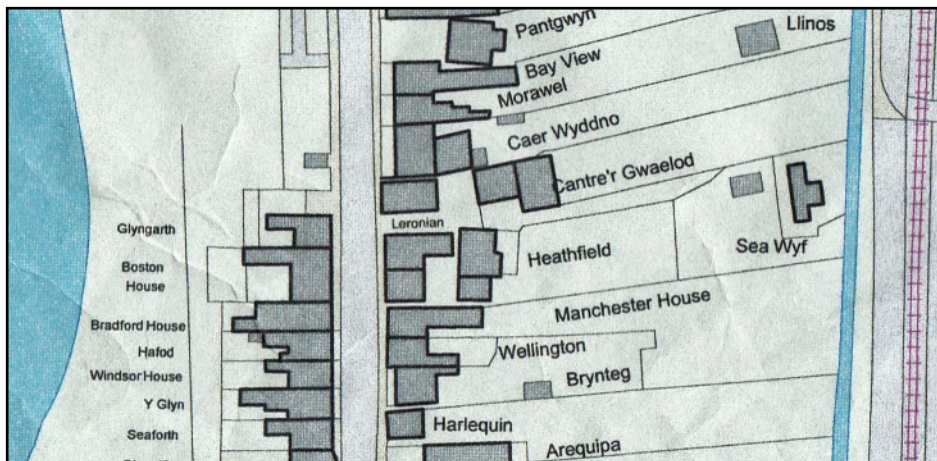
In 1934 Jesse Matthews and Cecil Matthews paid the rates. The old cottage had burnt down, 'Heathfield House' was built there and 'Wellington Place' had been crossed out in the Council's list.

Cecil Matthews paid the rates in 1938.

Leslie Matthews paid the rates in 1949.

Paying the rates in 1957 had been Leslie Matthews, he had died and from 31st March 1958 it was the Rev. C. Matthews. The Reverend still paid the rates in 1963 and with votes for the house that year were Richard Stanley Evans and Dorothy Diana Evans. (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

In 1975 Heathfield House shared a large garden with a workshop next door. The old slaughter house building had a plot of its own, and the Sea Wyf bungalow had been built on a plot by the former stream (Ordnance Survey Map, 25 inch, see Historical Maps on-line).

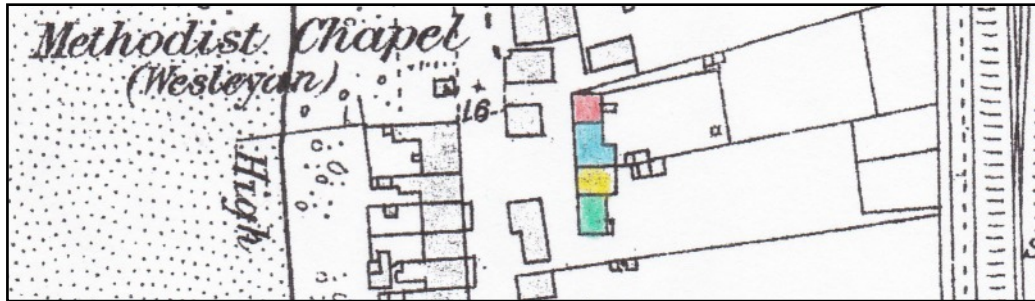


LEFT This more modern map shows that the row of old cottages were not inline with the High Street, and Heathfield shares its garden with the remains of the old cottage next door (Detail of a

Council 25 inch Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant provided for research for a local event).

WELLINGTON PLACE COTTAGES

There were four cottages in the terrace by 1886, all called Wellington Terrace in 1881.

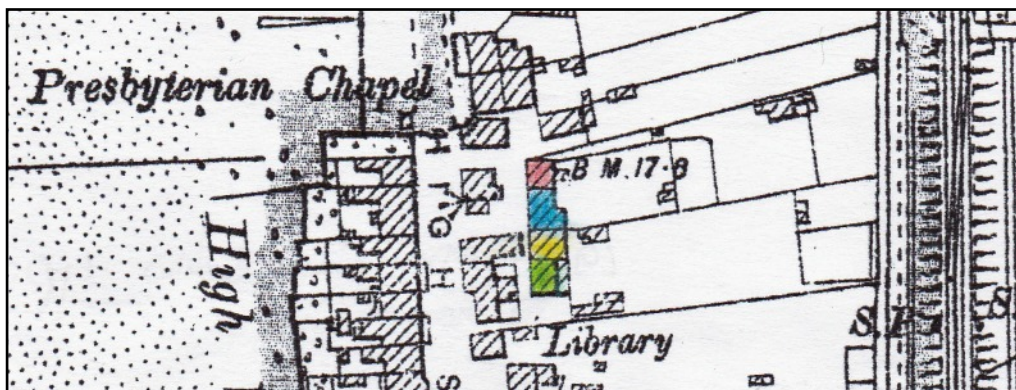


ABOVE Wellington Terrace in 1886 and as at that time Census's did not give them names they are coloured instead. The northernmost two were in the same ownership and shared a garden and the southernmost two shared a big garden with Wellington House on the High Street which may have owned them. The small buildings were probably their Ty Bachs - outside lavatories, and pigs were often kept too (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

In the early Census, 1841 to 1871 it is not possible to identify the people in the cottages. In the 1881 Census we do not know which end of the terrace the Census taker began with but living in one cottage was a widow lodging house keeper, Margaret Hughes. Next in the list was another widow Mary Williams, 63 years old and also a lodging house keeper. Next to her was Margaret Evans aged 35 a labourer's wife, and the final one in the list was empty. Two cottages had room to take in lodgers - there would have been lofts in the roof.

In 1891 one was empty, next door was a hotel porter called David Jones and his wife and five children and in the next one was 75 year old Margaret Davies, possibly a relative of the butcher John Davies who lived in Wellington House. The remaining one is not listed - but Leronian House came next - and probably owned the northernmost cottage.

In 1901 the Census takers missed the cottages out altogether.



ABOVE The cottages in 1904. Manchester House in front of them in the High Street had been built by then, and the southernmost cottage had an extension on the back (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied we have details and a map locating the cottages (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales)

The small former old cottage beside Heathfield was with Leronian House and valued in 1910 at £100, with £3 to pay and £3.15s gross. It was owned and occupied by the butcher Jesse Matthews of Leronian. It still shared a garden with the what is now Heathfield but had an area of land to the east with probably the butcher's slaughter house which may have made it more valuable than the other cottages.

The next old cottage was the workshop of Thomas Tibbott a joiner and carpenter who lived at Bradford House and it was valued at £27.

John Jones occupied the next cottage which was owned by Thomas Richards with Manchester House. It was narrower than the others but deep. Its value was £32 with £1.4s to pay, £1.10s gross.

John James of Wellington House a grocer occupied and owned the southernmost old cottage 'by Wellington Terrace'. There was no occupier in this cottage and it was as big as Tibbott's workshop, and there was £1.4s to pay, gross £1.10s

No one filled in a Census form for any of them in 1911.

In 1925 Jesse Matthews paid the rates for a 'workshop' in Wellington Place. Also still there with a workshop and garden was Thomas Tibbott, and Thomas Richards also had a workshop there owned by Jesse Matthews. There were no other entries for Wellington Place.

In 1934 Heathfield had been built for Jesse Matthews of Leronian House and Catherine Tibbott paid the rates for the Tibbott workshop. There are no other mentions of occupants in Wellington Place.

In 1949 Thomas Tibbott still paid rates for the family workshop.

By 1957 the rates listed the Tibbott workshop as derelict (Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

The cottage behind Manchester House became part of it as it spread eastwards. The cottage behind Wellington House was still there in 1975, but is gone today.

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives
yn cyflwyno / presents
Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

Mae **Tai'r Borth** yn cynnwys dros 350 hanes sy'n ymwneud ag adeiladau unigol ac mae'r hanesion wedi'u darlunio â chyfoeth o ffotograffau, mapiau a dogfennau. Mae'r ffeiliau ar gael ar ein gwefan: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php?lang=cy>

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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