

# 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.*

# DRESS SHOP J. H. BRIDAL WEAR

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

At the north end of the High Street on the east side. Originally open ground in front of old cottages called Wellington Place. The present shop replaced a single storey Chemist's shop after 1963.



The building is two and a half storeys high under a gable roof parallel to the street. The roof is hipped on the south side. The building is single fronted and butts up against Leronian House on the north and its walls are rendered. On the other side of the shop there is access to the back. There is a chimney on the northern side of the roof with four chimney pots. In the front is a canted bay window on the south side of the second floor with a hipped roof. All the windows have the pattern of sash windows. In 2009 the house had a door on the northern side with a light at the top with a geometrical pattern of panes to match the windows. The remainder of the ground floor is shop window. The building is a simple square shape with an extension on

the south side of the back. Behind is a yard with hard standing. There is no garden as the old cottage terrace now no longer homes, survives behind it.



*LEFT This photograph was taken in 2017. The shop front extends into the street. The private front door to the house had gone.*

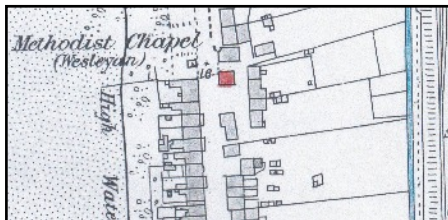


*RIGHT The front of the building in 2009 showing its substantial chimney for a home upstairs Four flues could keep several rooms warm.*

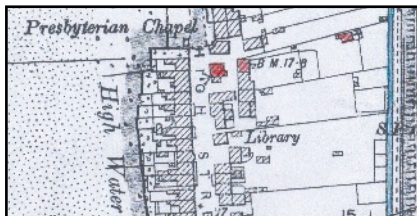


In 1823 the ground on which the J. H. Bridal Wear Shop would be built was enclosed from the pebble bank which the Crown manor who owned it considered was 'waste' because it was no use for farming. It was the front ground by the road of a three quarters of an acre plot owned by a John Lewis on which stood two cottages set back from the road which would develop into the row of old cottages behind Leronian House. (Plot Number 26 on a hand painted map of 1829, National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

There was still open ground by the road in front of the cottages in 1848 (Number 14 on the Tithe Apportionments Map Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth township, on-line at CYNEFIN



*LEFT In 1886 Leronian marked in red had been built and the terrace of old cottages were still behind, but there was open ground where the J.H. Bridal Wear Shop would be built (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888 - Cardiganshire NW III..10)*



*LEFT By 1904 there was a tiny building butting up to the south of Leronian - then a butcher's shop which owned the cottage behind it and another buildings on a field beyond. All Leronian's buildings are marked in red (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905 - Cardiganshire NW III..10)*

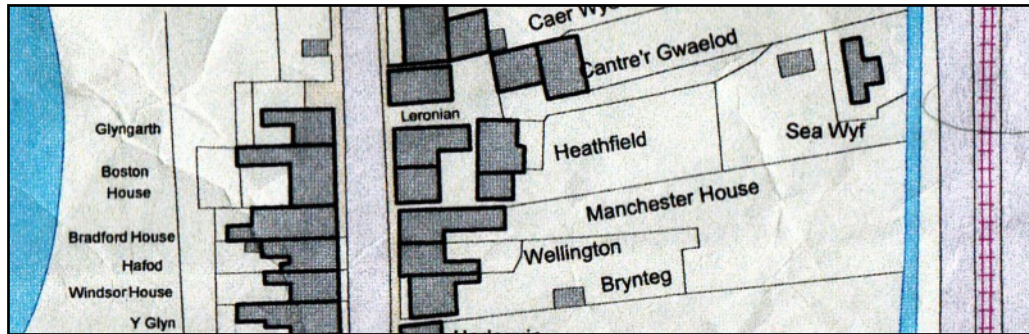


*LEFT A postcard sent in 1937 shows a single storey shop on the ground between Manchester House and Leronian. Lettering down the side said CHEMIST. On a map for a 'Borth Guide' in 1965 it was Pharmacy, Films and Toiletries Telephone Borth 205, (The Borth Unique Village Handbook and Guide - Ceredigion Archives ABX/726/13, and postcard from a private collection)*

In 1957 this was E. Merfyn Bowen's "The Pharmacy" valued at £55 for the rates. Manchester House and Leronian House were only £41. Why was this shop so valuable? Its site was a wide as the neighbouring houses but there was just a yard and an old cottage behind

it. Perhaps because it was a thriving business? (Rates Ceredigion Archives)

In 1975 the shop was a square shaped building between Leronian and Manchester House. (Historical Maps on-line).



*ABOVE On this detail from a Council Map the shop is not named as it was a commercial premises. Access was from the south side of the building (Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).*

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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.

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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-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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