

# 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.*

# KINGSWOOD

## Wernfach - the Small Marsh, Morfa Borth

At the very southern end of Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour, with the sea over the road. Not there in 1925 but built by 1930. A much enlarged part of a terrace of four houses.



Kingswood in 2016

This is a substantial corner house on the northern end of what is now a terrace. It has a hipped roof, and there is a brick chimney, with one chimney pot but possibly room for two. The roof is tiled in a slate colour with red ridge tiles. The house fills its plot, with an extension on the north side allowing bay windows with sea views, and the south side of both the front and the back was the original house before it was enlarged and it once exactly matched the fronts of Newlands, Craigweil and Trysôr-y-môr. On the south end of the building the hipped roof has been modified to allow an extension with a balcony accessed by french windows. There is a similar balcony at the rear with views across the Borth Common to the hills. All the windows are modern. A low stone wall, partly rendered, protects a very small yard area on the north side of the building. Two small walls, divide up the remainder of the front, with hard standing opening on to the road. The building's walls are rendered, and mostly plain. However there are small lines of moulding over some ground floor windows, and one on the sturdy column that supports the extension over the front door. There is no pavement in front of this house.



*LEFT* The rear wall of the house opens directly into the Lôn Glan-y-môr, and once again there is very little pavement, just a narrow section leading to its wooden back gate. The site was sloping so the back door is accessed from a walkway with steps contained within a wall from the rear extension. Once again some strips of moulding add to the design of the walls. The balcony has a wooden rail, and is accessed from a single glazed door.



In the rates of 1934 this house was listed with a garage, and it was valued more than its three neighbours.

*LEFT* In 1914 the site of this house was a strip of land that was formerly '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 (marsh-bank lane) on the left was the only road and it was unfenced. (Postcard private collection)



*This Valentine's postcard shows the embankment and new road, and the original terrace of four houses at the end of the row. (Ceredigion Archives)*

On a Crown Manor map surveyed in 1925 it was mostly shown as beach, the manor owning the land eastwards of a line from the edge of the Beach Cottage to the corner of the road to Llandre. (National Archives LRRO 1/3060) However, after 1925 stones were collected and an embankment built which enabled our present road

to run along the edge of the beach. There is a postcard showing villagers collecting stones

from the beach. This made it possible to have buildings on the strip of land, their fronts facing the new road and the beach, and with the Lôn Glan-y-môr behind them.



*The house on a later Valentine's postcard. It was probably hand coloured, hence its turquoise roof. Ceredigion Archives.*

Paying the rates for a house and garage called Kingswood in 1934 was W. H. Wood who was the owner. The occupier's name in 1934 was M. E. Wood. The valuation for the rates was £18

10s, always more than Newlands next door at £14. 8s, its garage perhaps. The 'Wood' name in the house may relate to the name of this family, who were probably the first owners of the house after it was built.



Paying the rates in 1938 was M. E. Wood. In 1949 there was a new owner, paying the rates Anne E. Jenkins, who probably lived there as she was on the Electoral Register. About 1950 and 1962 Mrs Jenkins was advertising to let, furnished accommodation of three bedrooms, two sitting rooms, a kitchenette, all mod. cons, and with a garage (Borth Guides, Aberystwyth Public Library c. 1950, and private collection). She left and paying the rates from the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1962 was L. R. Guy.

*This postcard shows the other three houses in the group, and their 1930s windows. The houses were grouped with a pair in the middle and single houses either side. Mr H. C. Jordan, who had bought Craigweil has put a cross above his home. The houses opened directly on to the road and beach.*

*(Postcard courtesy of Mrs F. H. B. Renny. It was sent on 7 August 1930).*



*This photograph shows the windows were sash windows. In the picture is Mr Jordan's son Alan and his wife Daphne outside Craigweil. (Courtesy of Mrs F. H. B. Renny)*

*BELOW The postcard shows that these houses opened directly on to the road with no fences in between them and the beach. However they were at the mercy of the sea during bad westerly gales and spring tides. The family remembered the people living along there having to ask the Council for some kind of defence against the sea which was eventually provided. However after the wall and boat park were built the houses suffered from damp from the water off the marsh behind the houses which had previously flowed through the shingle bank under the houses safely out on to the beach.*



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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>

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