

# 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.*

# NEWLANDS

Wernfach, the small marsh Morfa Borth

Newlands is part of a group of four brick houses, now a terrace, with the road to Clarach and the beach in front, and the Lôn Glan-y-môr (marsh-bank lane) behind. It was built after 1925 and before August 1930.



The house was the second in a group of four, all identical, perhaps built by a speculative builder. The centre two of the four were semi-detached. The front door is on the north side, with a porch roofed with slate, and Newlands has an extension on its upper floor at the back of the porch - Craig Weil has a matching one. The roof of the house like many in the 1930s was hipped. It is slate coloured edged with red ridge tiles. The house still has the original roofing above its ground floor bay window, now rendered to match the walls which have a rough cast finish. All the windows are modern. A low, rendered brick wall encloses the front of the house. The step from the gate opens directly on to the road there is no pavement. When the house

was first built it had a narrow strip of grass and no front wall.



In 1934 the house was owned by Miss Owen, and the occupier was Miss Maud Evans. Miss Evans paid the rates in 1935 and 1938. The house was valued at £14. 8s. With votes for the house in the General Election of 1945 were Charles A. Green , Aileen L. Green and Doreen

*Newlands was a pair with Craig Weil on the right, and they share a chimney with two chimney pots.*

M. Roberts. In 1949 V. E. Stone-Pierse paid the rates. In 1957 and 1963 E. Davies paid the rates, and with a vote for the house was W. Ronald Jenkins, and he was a mariner (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives)



*The rear of the house in 2016. It too opens directly on to the road, the Lôn Glan-y-môr. Because the rear of the shingle bank sloped down, the house has to be taller at the back, with a staircase to the back door. It has a glazed door, with a pattern in coloured glass. I do not know if this was original - but this kind of decoration for a door was popular in the 1930s.*

At the back which faces east, the hipped roof has two sections, another smaller piece for the extension on the north side, behind its front door and porch. A roof light will light an attic room. All the windows are modern. From the windows and the balcony is a view across the Wernfach and Borth common to the hills in the distance. Under the balcony is useful storage space. Coal would have needed a place when the house was first built. It is likely that this house has three main bedrooms, a sitting room, kitchen and bathroom and possibly a separate lavatory like Craig Weil next door.

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 mostly shown as beach, the manor owning some 'waste' eastwards of a line from the edge of the Beach Cottage ground to the corner of the road to Llandre. (NA 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.



*This was the site on a postcard of 1914. The Lôn Glan-y-môr is on the left, and Beach Cottage was already there.*

*Private Collection*



*LEFT The 'new' road and the houses. Newlands then had a white front and is the second from the end. Beyond is the main road and The Sands - then a hotel called Athlone.*

*Postcard from a private collection.*



*LEFT This is a detail from a postcard sent in August 1930 when the houses were new and shows the old sash windows. The X marked Craigweil which had just been bought by Mr Jordan. The houses had brick walls.*



*This photograph of Mr Jordan's son and his wife show the sash windows. By then the walls had been rendered with a pebble dash.*

*(Pictures courtesy of Mrs F. H. B. Renny)*

The houses suffered regularly from flooding with westerly gales together with spring tides. The boat park and walls were built to protect them, but some damp occurs as the rainwater from the marsh finds it more difficult to drain under the shingle bank 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-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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