

THE BUILDINGS OF MORFA 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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SANDICOT

Morfa Borth - Borth Marsh

On a back lane at the northern end of the village, on the east side of the main street. Built immediately behind Maesteg possibly after 1937/8.

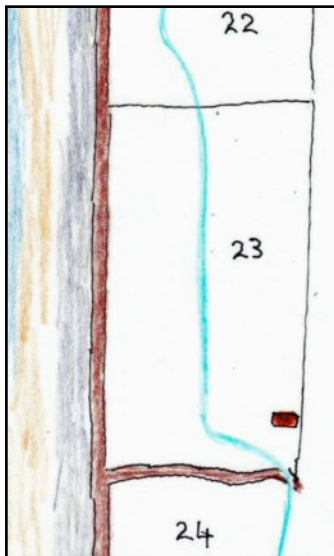


Sandicot is a bungalow at right angles to the back lane, and with a double front facing north. The roof has roof lights for an upper floor and the walls are rendered. There is a decorative gable for the porch and front door. The windows are modern. There is only a narrow area



between the front of Sandicot and the wall of the yard of Trysordy. However this building is quite deep in plan.

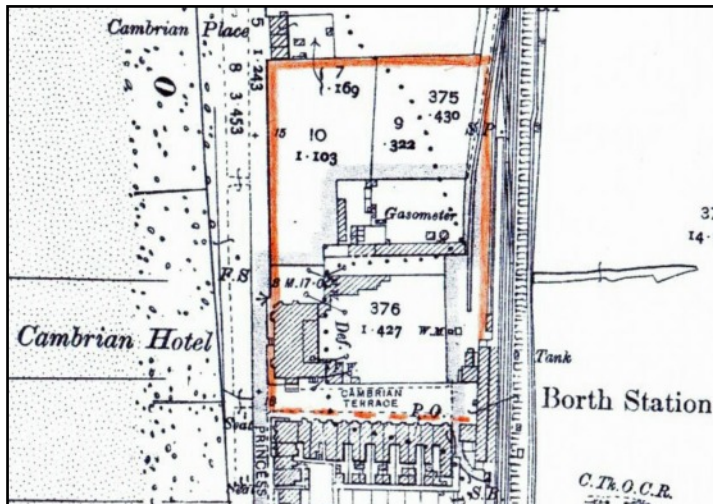
LEFT The south gable end has a pebble dash surface. The garage is single storey and opens on to the back lane, and the building continues as another garage, a single storey (nearly) flat roofed building with large doors and rendered a dark colour. The back lane ends there.



The ground for this bungalow was enclosed in 1809 by a local lawyer called Big John (John Lewis) from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming, and the marsh ground beside it (also called 'waste') was reclaimed for pasture with drainage ditches. It was a field of 4 acres, 3 rods and 20 perches - that is almost five acres - and across it ran a brook on the old course of the River Leri. John Lewis had a cottage on it marked in red called Terfynau (boundaries) - where the railway station is today. There were no other cottages. On a map of 1829 it the ground was Number 23. A rent of £16 had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground, but there was an option to buy it for twice that, and a note with the map said that John Lewis had bought it at a Manor Court Leet in 1809.

ABOVE A detail copied from the map of 1829. NA LRRO 1/3060

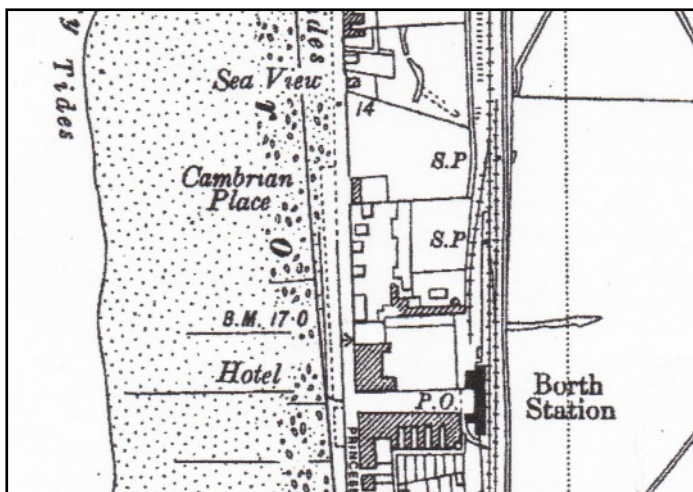
The road had been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.



LEFT A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 showing the Cambrian Hotel. John Lewis's land is marked in red. The house in Cambrian Place nearest to it is today's Bodlondeb (Cardiganshire III.10)

John Lewis's land was sold to the developer Thomas Savin who brought the railway and built the Railway Station, the great Cambrian Hotel and Cambrian Terrace. The Hotel had large

grounds (nearly two acres) for tennis, croquet, pleasure gardens, a bowling green, and possibly a walled garden. However, the Hotel did not do well, it had a hundred rooms, but often many were empty. It is likely that by the 1920s and 1930s it needed to raise money by either selling off its roadside land to build the bungalows and houses, or having them built itself to sell.



LEFT This detail from the Ordnance Survey six inch map of 1948 shows the new buildings on the former ground of the Hotel. Maesteg and Benfleet are drawn as one block next to the Hotel's garden.



ABOVE This was the first Sandicot in June 1936. Unlike the present one, Captain Davies's grand daughter told me it 'faced the sea' so it is possible it was on the ground before Maesteg was built, and a new Sandicot had to be built at the rear of Maesteg. There is a bold pattern of bricks below the two bay windows and it had a chimney. The geometrical metal framed windows were characteristic of the nineteen thirties. (Photograph courtesy of Mrs Jean Caswell)

Maesteg and its garage had been built in 1936/7 by Captain Davies for himself and his wife and Mr and Mrs Pack rented Sandicot after the war. In 1949 M. E. Herbert (of Maesteg) paid the rates which were a humble £3. Meiriona E. Herbert was the Captain's daughter so this family probably had Sandicot built.

In 1957 V. Greenhouse paid the rates for Sandicot and Maesteg.

In 1963 Mrs Elizabeth Hughes paid the rates for Maesteg and Sandicot and Richard and Elizabeth Hughes had votes for Sandicot so possibly were living there (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

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yn cyflwyno / presents
Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[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.

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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