

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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TY BIJOU

Morfa Borth - the marsh harbour.

At the southern end of the High Street on the beach side. Formerly one of a pair of Evelyn Cottages. Built after 1848 and before 1881 probably by Abraham Lloyd Lewis of London House, either for his family or to let. Later called Berwyn.



Ty Bijou is a single fronted, two storey house under a gable roof parallel to the road, and is a pair with Auburn next door on the south. It has a third floor under the roof lit by roof lights in both the front and the back of the roof. There is a brick chimney on the south side of the roof, almost all built of yellow bricks suggesting a date of after 1863 when the railway arrived in Borth and when such bricks, made in North Wales, could come by train. The north wall is rubble stone, and has some rounded beach stones, but few compared with some other Borth buildings. Its walls are rendered but it is likely the remaining old walls, now with smooth thick rendering, are also rubble stone. The windows are modern but have the pattern of old sash windows. Its porch matches that of Auburn and is accessed from a door in the north side.

The front door opens into a passage, and on the left is a living room the depth of the building with windows at both ends. The passage leads to stairs and on to a kitchen in an extension on the south side of the back of the building. This has a back door opening into the yard. On the

floor above is a bathroom. The first floor of the main house has a front bedroom overlooking the street, and a back bedroom overlooking the beach. On the floor under the roof are two more bedrooms.

The rear of the house on the north side has a pair of windows overlooking the beach, but the rest is taken up with the two storey extension with a sloping roof at right angles to the main house. It ends with a single storey extension with a toilet and store. Steps lead up to a platform with a view over the beach. Tall walls either

ABOVE Ty Bijou in 2009.

BELOW Its brick chimney.





side give privacy to the yard which ends with an old sea defensive wall of sloping planks which has been cut lower on the north side for a gate to access the beach. The yard is not as deep as its neighbours.

LEFT The pair of houses in 2009.

BELOW The back of them in 2015. Auburn now has a very differently shaped modern sunroom extension to that of Ty Bijou whose extension is similar to old ones built for pairs of houses in Cambrian Terrace.

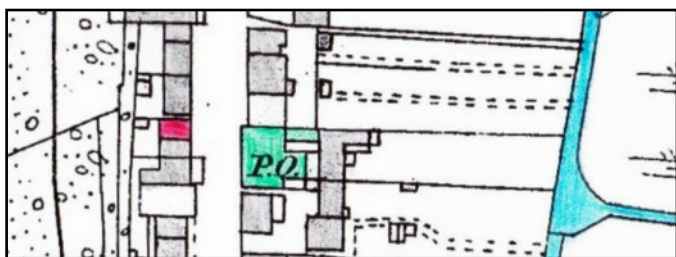


The ground for this house, a bank of stones thrown up by the sea, was still open ground in 1848 (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN National Library of Wales) The Crown Manor would have called it 'waste' as it was not suitable for farming, and when a villager enclosed this plot to build on he would have either paid a rent for it, or bought it. The road was centuries old and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from

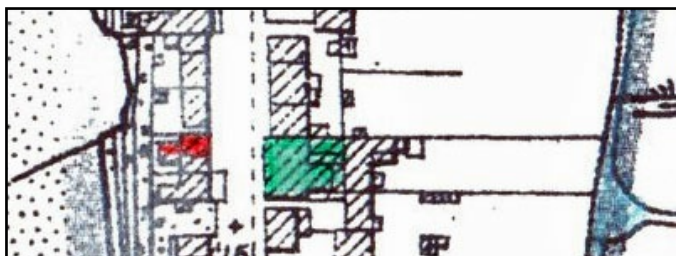
Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales. Fresh water for the cottages and houses came from a brook on the other side of the road - the tailrace from the Glanlerry Corn Mill (Felinwern) plus two small streams. For fuel villagers had their own area to dig peat on the other side of the River Leri just north of Ynys Fergi.

In 1848 there was no building on this site. (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN, National Library of Wales). In the 1871 Census there is no mention of this house. However, at the 1881 Census it was one of two Evelyn Cottages. It was occupied, but no names were given.

At the 1891 Census it was Evelyn Cottage Number 1, and living there was a 30 year old married woman, Elizabeth Lawrence, with a two year old son, Martin F. Lawrence. The house was not listed in the 1901 Census.



LEFT This was the house in 1884, marked in red. It had no extension at the back and no porch at the front. The small building in the yard was probably the Ty Bach (outside lavatory). It shared the yard with the other Evelyn Cottage (Auburn) and both were owned by Abraham Lewis of London House, (draper, grocer and post office) marked in green.



BELOW By this map of 1904 the pair of houses shared an extension at the back, probably two storey. (Both maps details from 25 inch, Ordnance Survey Maps, 1888 surveyed in 1886 and 1905 revised in 1904. Cardiganshire, III.10)

In 1910 for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £81. There would have been £3.4s to pay, £4 gross. The owner was William Thomas Lewis, draper and grocer, who succeeded his father at London House and he also owned Auburn next door. Living in Ty Bijou - still called an Evelyn Cottage, was Stanley Jones. The house is not in the 1911 Census - possibly no one was there to fill in the form. Auburn then had six main rooms.

By 1916 William James lived there and the house had a new name, 'Berwyn'. His son Sergeant James was back from fighting in World War One, he had joined the army in Canada (Cambrian News). William James was still there paying the rates in 1925. He was a tenant of William Thomas Lewis. The house was called after a range of mountains in North Wales near Llangollen.

Paying the rates for Berwyn in 1934 and 1949 was Edith Watkins also a tenant of Mr Lewis.

By 1963 the house was called Ty Bijou, and Mr Franks paid the rates. Thomas Michael Franks is on the electoral register with a vote for the house. (Rates and Electoral Registers, Ceredigion Archives).



Auburn and Ty Bijou are the building second from the left. They had very plain fronts, and sash windows with four panes. In the photograph the street is being dug up, perhaps to lay a pipe.

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yn cyflwyno / presents
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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.

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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>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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