

# 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.*

# WESLEY PLACE SHOP

On the site of a building of 1848. A shop in the twentieth century.



This is a one storey lean to building at right angles to the High Street, Behind is the 'Elms'.



*LEFT The rear wall on the north side is rubble stone with a very high proportion of rounded stones from the beach. This kind of wall is found in Borth's oldest cottages. The rubble stone wall ends higher than the front wall of Wesley Cottage. It may have been re-used from an older building.*

The street front of and side of the building is rendered, and both have doors and boarded up windows. These seem to be left from a former shop there. At the eaves is a wooden board. The width of the front of this building is about 39.4 metres. The south side wall is rendered and divided into panels. The first three from the street are empty, beyond is a high rectangular window, boarded up and framed in wood, and then a door which reaches to a wooden plank at



the eaves of the building. The roof is of a very low pitch and covered with corrugated iron - two sheets were needed for the slope. There is access to the building on the south side - between it and Wesley Cottage.

*LEFT The south front of the building which opens on to the drive to 'The Elms'. Remains of a low wall survive beside the pavement.*



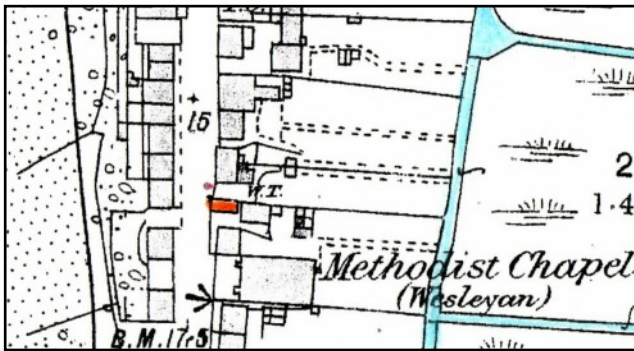
The ground for this house was enclosed in 1820 from the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' because it was no use for farming. The ground measured 1 rod, one and half perches and extended to a brook.

*LEFT On a map of 1829 it was Number 47 and shown with a single cottage set back from the street, on the site - behind the present building and up against the northern boundary. A rent of £1.2s had to be paid every year to the Crown manor who owned the ground.*

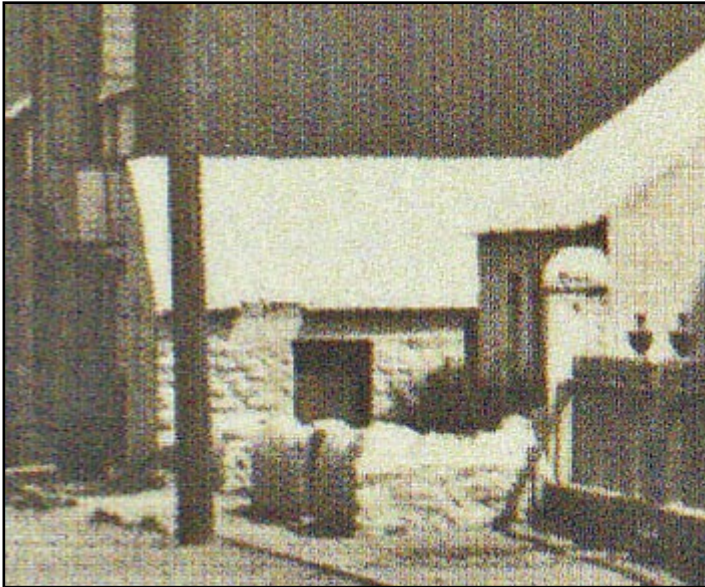


*Mary Lewis had the cottage and all the ground. Wesley Cottage was not there and probably not the Chapel either. A brook of fresh water ran along the eastern edge of the ground (National Archives, Map, LRRO 1/3060).*

*LEFT By 1848 there was a building on the site, marked in red. Wesley Cottage and other cottages had also been built and the Chapel - the large square shape. Edward Thomas owned the ground marked in yellow and all the buildings. He lived in one of the cottages, and there were other families in the other cottages and gardens - their names were not given. (The Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township CYNEFIN).*



In the 1841 Census, Edward Thomas was a carrier, and in their home was his wife Margaret aged 35 with sons Edward aged 10 and Richard aged 4, and daughters Jane, 7, and Elizabeth 2. This entry is next to that of John Morris who in 1845 owned the ground to the north of the Chapel - now Eltham's garden - so this was probably the Tithe Map's Edward Thomas.)



*LEFT* In 1886 this was no longer a normal Borth sized cottage, but a longer and thinner building. At the rear the old cottage still stood. The building shared a front garden or yard with Wesley Cottage and the cottage at the back - suggesting one owner for all of them. The ground at the back reaching behind the Chapel was also part of this (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886, published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904 this building was the same.

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied land by

Wesleyan Place was listed, but there is no mention of this building. On their map it is coloured as belonging with Wesley Cottage where Margaret Lewis, an elderly laundress was living (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).



*ABOVE* This is the earliest picture of the building dating from the 1920s and the front was stone including round beach stones. It is a large window that is directly ahead with possibly a glimpse of a doorway. (Detail from a postcard, private collection)

In 1925 the Owen family owned both Wesley Cottage and the Elms - and had put tenants in both. Paying the Rates for these in 1949 were a Jenkins family - J. Llewellyn Jenkins in the 'Elms' (which had its name). and James Jenkins in Wesley Cottage. There was no mention of a shop.

*LEFT* This undated detail from a photograph shows the building when it was a shop. There is a sign 'OPEN' on the door. Any rubble stone front was well hidden and modernised (Detail from a photograph from Aberystwyth Public Library and On-line)

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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.

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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