

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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WESTWARD HO

Formerly a 'Wesleyan Place' cottage built between 1832 and 1845. In 1910 the home of a fisherman. Its front has been altered since 1921.



ABOVE Westward Ho in 2015.

BELOW The cottage in 2009 with a front door with the name above.



like other old cottages this allowed a larger front room - usually for the living room and kitchen with its hearth. Today there is no chimney for that end of the cottage. The front door opens directly on to the street. Access to the enclosed yard or garden at the back is on the north side of the cottage.

At the rear the cottage has a two storey extension, its large modern windows giving a fine view of the beach. Shutters, probably metal, protect the lower windows from the sea.



This is the northernmost cottage of a terrace, once four cottages. It is double fronted but not as wide as Gwinnett next door. It has a gable roof parallel to the street topped by red ridge tiles. There is a red brick chimney of eleven courses topped by a chimney pot on the northern end. In the front two dormer windows have almost flat roofs and light an upper floor. All the windows are sash windows with four lights. The plain wooden front door has been added since 2009. The front door is not in the centre -

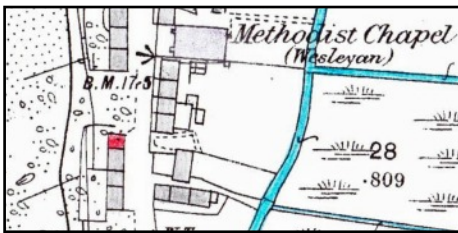
The ground for this cottage is the wide bank of stones thrown up by the sea and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it because it was no good for farming. The road has been there for centuries and was a turnpike road by the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey. Ground on the shingle bank was enclosed in 1827 and by 1829 there was a cottage on it of Richard Hughes.

He had just over a quarter of an acre, and paid rent for it to the Crown Manor. Where his cottage stood is now 'The Coup'.

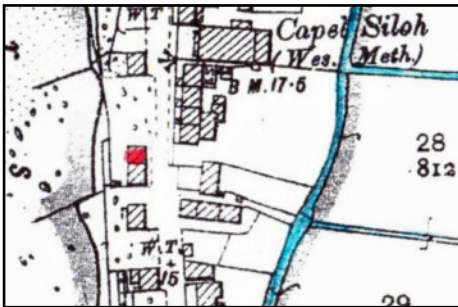


LEFT By 1848 there was a row of cottages - marked in red. Marked in purple is the Wesleyan Chapel which was much smaller then. We do not know who lived in the cottages as they had no garden and paid no tithe.

Tithe Apportionments Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN (NLW).



LEFT By 1886 a map shows there were four cottages in the row. Westward Ho was the northernmost and is marked in red. It was smaller than two of the others and shared ground behind with today's Gwinnett. This probably indicated the same owner of both. Fences had been built to protect the cottages from the sea during bad storms.



LEFT By 1904 just three of the four cottages were left. Westward Ho had no garden of its own, and opened on to the street as it does today. To the north was rough ground.

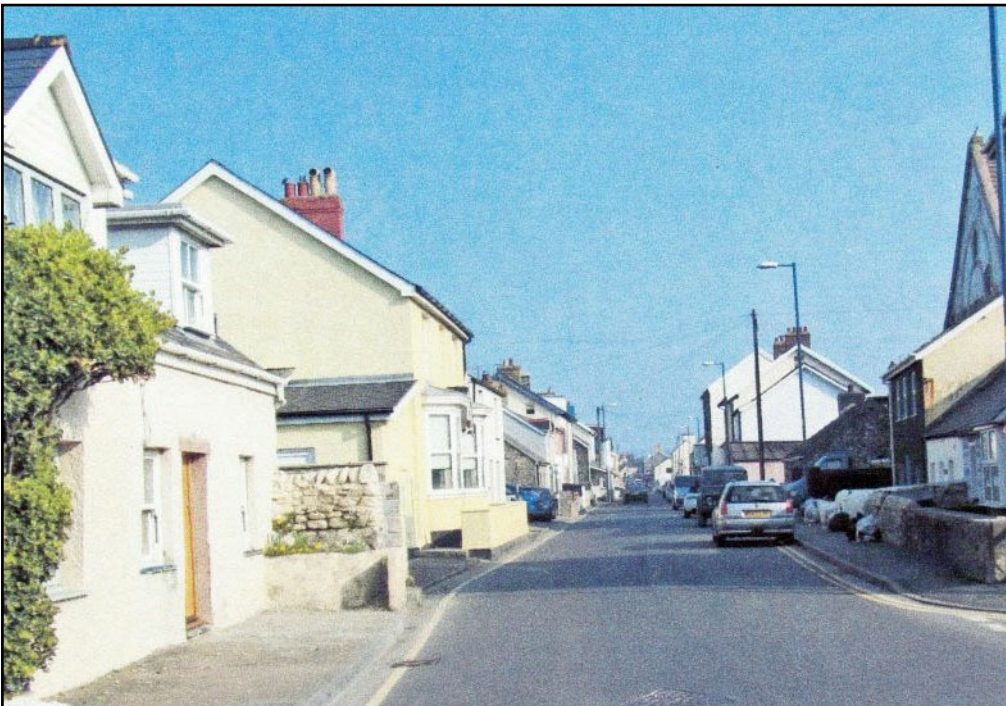
Both the maps are details from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey, 1888 surveyed in 1886, and 1905 revised in 1904. Cardiganshire III.10

In 1891 the address of the cottages was 'Cambridge Place', a name shared with houses and cottages across the High Street. It is not possible to find the names of the families living there .

In 1910 for a tax planned, but not levied, this cottage was valued at £30. There would have been £1.12s to pay, £2 gross. The owner was James Davies. (Ceredigion Archives and map at the NLW.) James Davies, born about 1871, was a Borth fisherman working from home. His wife was Irish, born in Newry about 1869. Their son John J. Davies aged 15 in 1911 was at school part time and also worked as a caddie at the golf course. Also in the cottage was a stepson, a bricklayer, William Byron, born in Shrewsbury and aged 25. (1911 Census). The Council called the row of cottages 'Wesleyan Place'. In 1925 the fisherman's widow, Sarah Jane Davies paid the rates and owned the cottage. William Byron (spelt Baynon by the Council) paid the rates for it in 1934 and 1938 and was living there.

By 1945 the cottage had its name 'Westward Ho' and Charles Smith paid the rates for it, and he was the owner in 15th September 1947. In 1963 Mrs Sheila Joan Treece paid the rates for it, and she had a vote for it which suggests she was living there. (Rates information from Ceredigion Archives)

There is evidence from a postcard of 1921 that this cottage had windows for an upper floor - though they had to be small. The front wall was rendered, and there was a narrow container for plants on the ground in front. This upper floor with windows might explain why the cottage paid 12s. 6d. rates - higher than Gwinnett next door at 10s - half yearly. At some time the roof was rebuilt with the prominent dormer windows we see today.



TOP A postcard dated 1921. Westward Ho is on the far left hand side, its little holders for plants edged with stones. The tall front door betrays the old cottage's height with only small upper windows. The stone wall between it and Anwyllfan is still there today.

BELOW The cottage in 2015.

(Postcard private collection).

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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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