

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.

YSBRYD-Y-GORS

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

Formerly part of Wellington House. It was not there in 1848 but was built by 1871, possibly by a butcher, and used for holiday visitors. It was the home of two families of butchers.



LEFT Ysbryd-y-gors in 2013.

This is a three storey single fronted terrace house with its front door on the southern side, and under a gable roof parallel with the street. There is an attic floor with roof lights. The walls are rendered. The ground and first floors have canted bay windows topped by a line of moulding. The windows are sash windows.

RIGHT The front door has an elegant hood supported on brackets, and there is a pilaster (flat column) on either side of the door. Above the door is a narrow rectangular light. The front door is modern. The house opens on to the street. Since 2013 the sash windows have been replaced with modern windows.





LEFT At the rear is a two storey extension to the house with a back door and a small garden. The rear walls are also rendered. There are no chimneys, but there are roof lights on the main building.

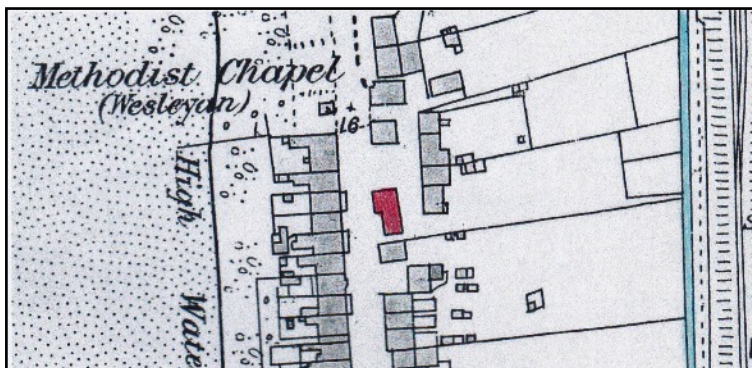
In 1823 the ground on which Ysbryd-y-gors would be built was enclosed from the pebble bank which the Crown manor who owned it considered was 'waste' because it was no use for farming. It was the front ground by the road of a three quarters of an acre plot owned by a John Lewis on which stood two cottages set back from the road which would develop into a row of old cottages behind what is now Leronian, Manchester House and Ysbryd -ygors.

In 1829 it was Plot Number 26 on a hand painted map of the 'waste' (National Archives LRRO 1/3060)

There was still open ground by the road in front of the cottages of Lewis Williams and others in 1848 (Number 14 on the Tithe Apportionments Map Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township, on-line at CYNEFIN)

In 1871 the house then called Wellington House was built and had its name. The famous Duke of Wellington had died in 1852. Miss Williams was the landlady for holiday visitors who came from Welshpool, Oswestry and London for nine weeks in the summer. It is likely she was a daughter of Lewis Williams, a butcher (1871 Census) and possibly related to the 1848 Lewis Williams who may then have lived in the cottage at the rear. Did money from this butcher enable the house to be built?

In 1880 Mrs John Davies was the landlady for six weeks of holiday visitors. There was room in one week for three families some with children. Most the visitors came by train and were Welsh, though one came from Birmingham. Mrs Davies was the wife of a butcher, and in the 1881 Census John Davies was the butcher, born about 1853. His wife Margaret was 29, and he ran his business selling from a wooden stall across the road beside at the (now) Boston House (Remembered by the Matthews family of Leronian House)

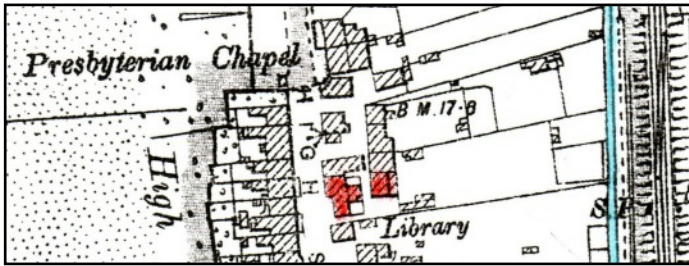


LEFT Marked in red is John Davies's house in 1886. It was quite a large home. Behind it were the old cottages all called Wellington Place - and the surveyor has suggested that two of the cottages at the rear belonged with Wellington House and they all shared the garden which led down to a stream of fresh water (Detail

from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

In the 1891 Census Wellington house was unoccupied. Mary Jenkins was doing her laundry in Wellington Cottage now gone, one of the terrace of four cottages on the old maps.

In 1895 Kelly's directory of South Wales listed a Mrs Jenkins of Wellington House as a 'private resident'. (Ceredigion Archives). She was Sarah A. Jenkins, a wife, born in Bethesda in 1861, with a son Llewellyn aged 10 and a daughter Ellinor aged 9. They were both born in Borth. They spoke both Welsh and English. Brondeg (sic) was not occupied (1901 Census) I suggest that at this time the Jenkins family owned both Wellington House and the old Wellington Cottage where Mary Jenkins had been a laundress. I suggest that 'Brondeg' - unoccupied - was then being partitioned off from Wellington House for Mary Jenkins from the old cottage.



LEFT In 1904 Wellington House is still marked as one house - no separate Brynteg yet. It had a new extension on the rear with enclosed yards. The old cottage also marked in red is still there behind it (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905,

Cardiganshire NW III.10)

For a valuation in 1910 for a tax planned but not levied Wellington House was valued at £336 with £9.7s to pay and £11 gross. The owner and occupier was Captain John James and he also owned the cottage behind it. Brynteg was in existence alongside with a cottage valuation as it was only a small part of the old Wellington House and Mary Jenkins was living there. Today this is only two storeys high compared with the tall Ysbryd next door.

In 1911 for the Census in Wellington House was a retired master mariner John Jones aged 69 born in Borth about 1842 with his wife Mary. She was local too and they had been wed in 1866. There was one child. Also in the house was David J. Humphreys their grandson, aged 19. He had been born in Liverpool. They had a Welsh girl servant and there were nine main rooms in the house. This would not include a back scullery or bathroom if it had these.

The Illustrated Borth Guide price 6d. published sometime after 1922 advertised furnished apartments with five bedrooms and two sitting rooms (Aberystwyth Public Library). This sounds like the tall Ysbryd we see today.

By 1925 David John Humphreys was the owner and paid the Rates for a house and premises still called 'Wellington'. At £11 for the half year this was a good house. Living there was Eleanor Owen.

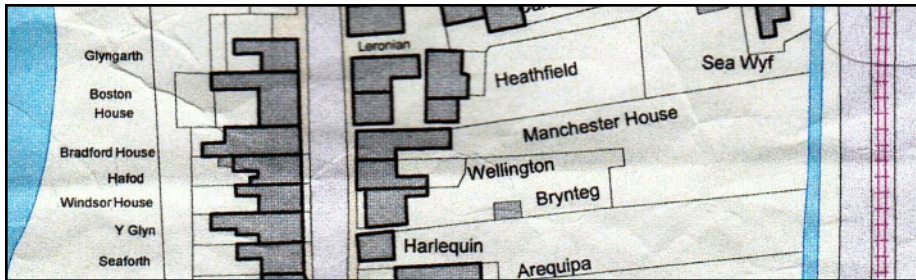
In 1934 Mr Humphreys was still the owner, but Elin Owen had been replaced as tenant by Louisa Jane Jones and she paid the rates in 1938 and 1949.

In 1957 and 1963 L. M. Stephens paid the rates and with votes for the house in 1963 were Elina, Lydia and William Stephens.

In 1962 accommodation of four bedrooms and one sitting room was advertised by Mrs Stephens, and she mentioned 'hot and cold' water and a kitchen (Borth Guide Private Collection)

In 1968 Mrs Stephens offered four bedrooms, parking and a 'bungalow chalet'. The name of the house was still Wellington.

In 1975 it seems that the old cottage at the back had become a 'Chalet' linked to the extension on the rear of what was still called Wellington House. It shared a large back garden area leading down to the railway line with Brynteg which also had a small enclosed garden behind it. (Historical Maps on-line)



ABOVE Today there is no square old cottage shape, a Chalet? behind Wellington. At the rear the garden no longer extends to the old stream now a ditch. Manchester House has ground there. Harlequin, then a café is now the Oriel Tir y Môr (Detail from a recent map owned by the County Council courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it to help with research for a local event).

Since this map the house has been given its present Welsh name Ysbryd-y-gors.

Archifdy Ceredigion Archives
yn cyflwyno / presents
Tai'r Borth / Houses of Borth
gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

Mae **Tai'r Borth** yn cynnwys dros 350 hanes sy'n ymwneud ag adeiladau unigol ac mae'r hanesion wedi'u darlunio â chyfoeth o ffotograffau, mapiau a dogfennau. Mae'r ffeiliau ar gael ar ein gwefan: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php?lang=cy>

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.

Beryl Lewis retains the copyright in her work and the histories are made available for private use and research only.



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Archifdy
Ceredigion
Archives