

# 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.*

# CORONWEN

## Morfa Borth, the Marsh Harbour.

In the northern part of the village, on the east side of the Back Lane, built by on ground reclaimed from the bog as pasture, later the pleasure garden of the Cambrian Hotel, and now with rough grassland at the back. Coronwen was built by October 1927.



*LEFT and BELOW  
Coronwen in February  
2016.*

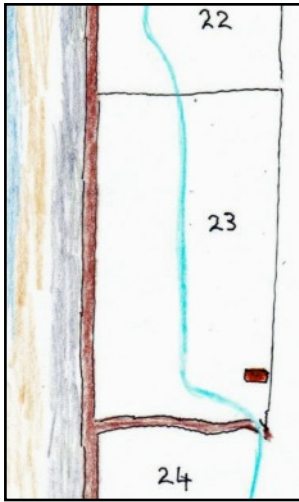
Coronwen is the largest of the bungalows on the back lane and the rates suggest it was the first to be built (Rates Ceredigion Archives). It is detached, and almost fills its plot widthwise and its ground overlaps the front of Vangre on its north side. There are no chimneys, the walls are rendered and the windows are modern. There is a porch for the front door giving access to Coronwen's garage and to the lane. Steps lead down from it. On the south side of the bungalow is an enclosed area of yard which is fenced in, and accessed from a gate on the north side. From the rear of the bungalow there are good views across the railway and the Cors Fochno bog to the hills beyond. At the centre of the back, between the extensions is



a glazed back door. Beyond the small back garden enclosed by a wooden lap fencing is rough grassland. The bungalow has three bedrooms.

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



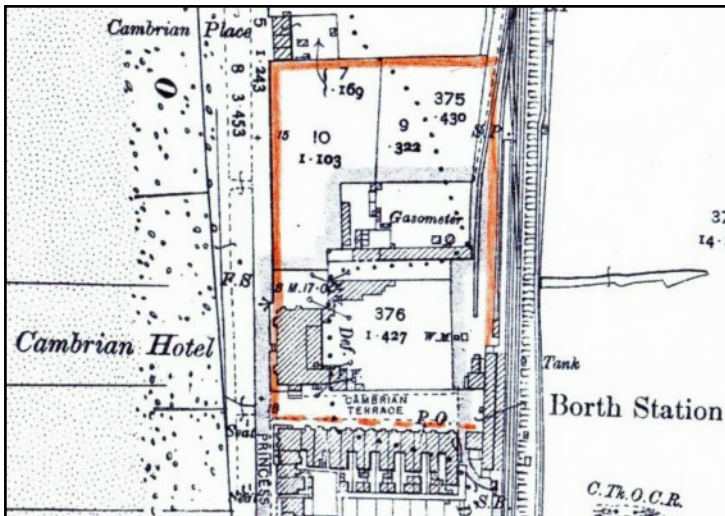


cottage on it called Terfynau (boundaries) – where the railway station is today. There were no other cottages.

*LEFT On a map of 1829 the ground was Number 23 (Detail copied from a Map in the National Archives LRRO 1/3060)*

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 for twice that, and a note with the map said that John Lewis had bought it at a Manor Court Leet in 1809.

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.



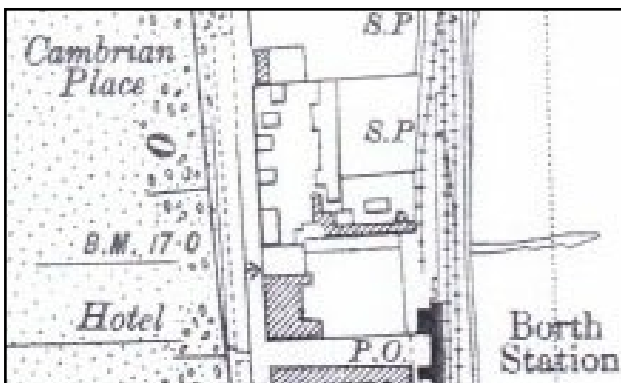
John Lewis's land was sold to the developer Thomas Savin who brought the railway and built the Railway Station, the great Cambrian Hotel and Cambrian Terrace. The Hotel had large grounds (nearly two acres) for tennis, croquet, pleasure gardens, a bowling green, and possibly a walled garden.

*LEFT A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905.*

*John Lewis's former land is marked in red. The house nearest*

*the hotel's ground, part of Cambrian Place, is Bodlondeb (Cardiganshire III.10)*

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 selling off some of its land. The granddaughter of Captain Davies who built Maesteg remembers that the ground behind it was owned by Mary Roberts. She was one of the family who owned the Garibaldi Draper's Shop (now the Premier Stores) and other properties in Morfa Borth. They were an enterprising family. By 1924 Howard Lloyd Roberts had set up six hard tennis courts on this land (Cambrian News, May 30<sup>th</sup>) and by 1934 the family had five bungalows along the back lane for themselves and for tenants. However Coronwen which first appears in the rates in October 1927, possibly on former Roberts land, was owned and occupied by H. M. Harrington. It was considered the most valuable of all the bungalows in 1934. When it was built it is likely to have had piped water, and coal for heating came on the train.



Vera Rosemary Harrington had a vote for the bungalow in the General Election of 1945

*LEFT On this detail from a Provisional Six Inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1948 the site of the bungalows is drawn in, but there is no back lane and no details. S. P. was a signal post on the railway (Ceredigion Archives)*

In 1949 V. M. Evan Jones paid the rates.

The concrete sea wall and promenade was completed in May 1956, and in January 1957 the Aberystwyth Rural District Council charged the bungalows and houses because it now offered them protection from the sea. Coronwen was charged £25. The owner at that time was the Rev. E. G. Jones of The Vicarage, Capel Colman, Boneath, Pembrokeshire. (Ceredigion Archives ABR/HI/6/40) He paid the rates in 1957 and had a vote for the bungalow in 1963 (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).



*ABOVE A detail from a modern Council Map showing the row of bungalows.*

*(Map courtesy of Councillor Ray Quant who provided it for research for a village event).*

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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.

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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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