

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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JASPER VILLA Number ONE

Morfa Borth

At the north end of the village with the beach over the road. Built after 1859 but by 1881 on part of land enclosed in 1829 by William Thomas a mariner.



ABOVE Jasper Villa Number 1 is on the right or south side of this pair of villas.

The villas are two and a half storeys high under a gable roof parallel to the road. They share a chimney, each house with three chimney pots (flues). The pairs of dormer windows have decorative curved barge boards and a finial. These were copied by the builder of the North Parade terrace built about 1891, however the fronts of the Jasper Villas are much narrower. Each house has a pair of bay windows topped by moulding, and the walls are rendered and very plain with no decoration around the front doors. These have a narrow window above them to light the hall. A low wall encloses the small front gardens. These villas fill their plot so there is no access to their gardens at the back. The south gable wall of Number 1 does not have windows.

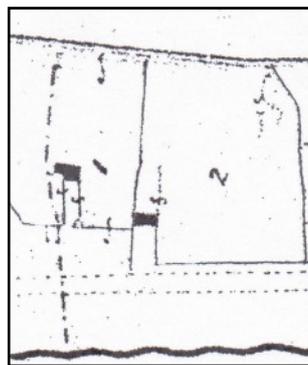
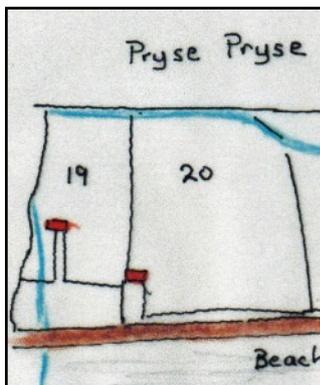
BELOW A glimpse of the upper floor of the back of the pair of villas. Number 1 is on the left. There is quite a deep roof which joins on to Hafan -wen on the right. The villas have roof



lights for their attic floor. Both houses have extensions, back to back on their ground floor. They share a garden. Originally it reached to the railway line, today it is divided into two sections.

The ground for this house is the pebble embankment thrown up by the sea, and called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. It was enclosed in 1826 by William

Thomas, and his ground measured over an acre and extended from the road to a brook. On a map of 1829 it is shown with one cottage on it set back a long way from the road. Where the Jasper Villas stand today was not built upon (Map 1829, National Archive LRRO 1/3060). Mr Thomas rented the ground from the Crown Manor and had the option to buy it. 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. Fresh water for the old cottages came from the brook, now a ditch, the tail race from the Glanlerry Corn Mill plus other small streams. For fuel the cottagers had their own area where they could dig peat on the far side of the River Leri near Ynys Fergi.

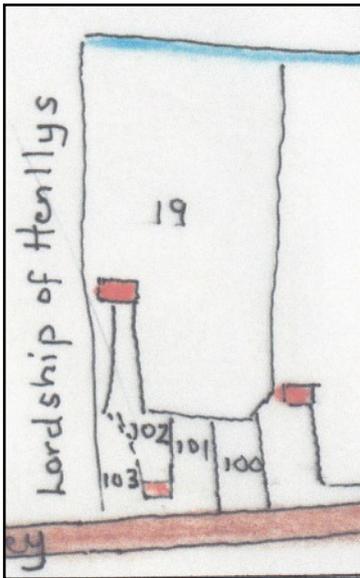


FAR LEFT William Thomas's cottage and land was Number 19 in this detail copied from a map of 1839. At that time the Cyfoeth/Henllys boundary at the left hand edge of Number 19 had a water course along it (Map National Archive LRRO 1/3060)

LEFT In 1848 there were still no houses by the road. Number 1 was Mary Thomas's cottage and land and

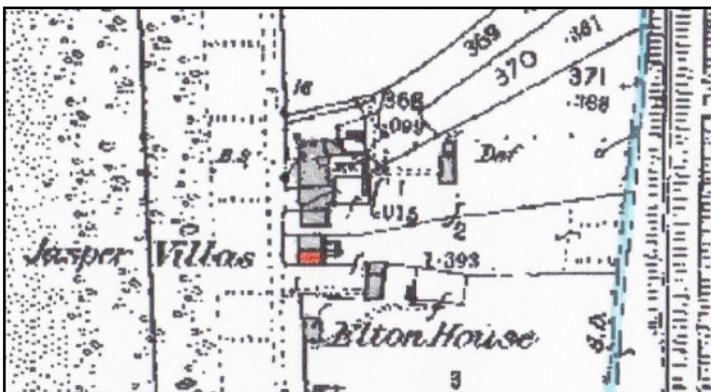
Number 2 was Hopewell Cottage (Detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth township and 1841 Census, on-line at CYNEFIN).

Mary Thomas, a mariner's wife was living in the cottage in the 1841 Census, when she was 35 years old. In the house were her young children, Margaret (born 1836), David (1832), Jane (1829) Anne (1838) and Mary (1840).



LEFT In 1859 the Crown still owned the ground, and plots by the road had been marked out for houses. Caerffynnon was already there built on plot 302. The Jasper Villas would be built on plot 100. This detail is copied from the Crown Manor's map (National Archive, Map 1859, LRRO 1/3060).

By the Census of 1881 the villas were built and in Jasper House Number 1 was a retired farmer, William Shaw aged 77, an Englishman born in Chebrey, Staffordsire, as was his 44 year old daughter Ellen. She had not married. Also in the house was his grand-daughter Evelyn Mary Shaw aged 15 and born in Worcestershire. They had a domestic servant, a widow of 48, Hannah Morton, born in Eccleshall Staffordshire.



LEFT Villa Number 1 is marked in red on this map surveyed in 1886. It shared a front and back garden with Villa Number 2. At the back it had a very narrow extension. The 'S' marks (braces) indicate that the Villas had the same owner as Hopewell to the south and on the north the Thomas cottage's ground, by then with Caerffynnon and Penmount (Hafan-wen) built at the roadside. (Detail from the 25 inch

Ordnance Survey Map, surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)

In the Census of 1891 in Jasper Villa Number 1 was a man born in Staffordshire, at Sedgely. He was William Stevens aged 63, a Metal Broker Agent. His widowed sister Sarah Jane Cadenhead aged 59 was his housekeeper.

At the 1901 Census the house was a boarding house run by Elizabeth Williams, an unmarried woman 48 years old She was local, born in Borth. With her was her niece Mary Jones, thirty four years old, also unmarried, born in Newport Monmouthshre and a schoolmistress. In

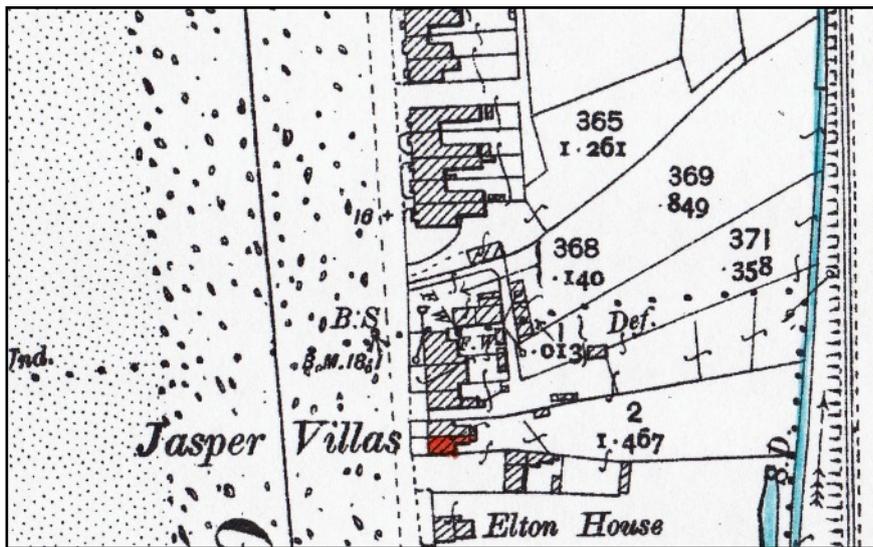
1911 at the Census the pair of them were still there. The house had seven main rooms.



LEFT We have a photograph of the house in about 1904 from a postcard. This was then Elizabeth William's boarding house. It had sash windows with blinds, and on the top of the wall around its front garden were iron railings with a gate.

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, Jasper Villa Number 1 was valued at £260. There would have been £10 4s to pay, £12 gross. Living in the house was Elizabeth Williams. The owner was Margaret Pellers of South and Darrows, Agents who owned both the Jasper Villas and also the land behind them for which she would

have paid 14s, 15s gross. William Williams was her tenant on that ground (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and a map at the National Library of Wales)



LEFT In 1904 the ownership was the same, except that Number 1 now had its own front garden. The spotted line was the township boundary of Cyfoeth-y-brenin to the south and Henlllys to the north and east. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map, revised in 1904, published in 1905. Cardiganshire III.10)

In 1925 paying the rates was Martha Roberts of the Garibaldi Stores, a drapers (now the Premier Family Stores). Mrs Roberts owned several other properties in Borth. Living in the villa was William Watkin Phillips.

Paying the rates for the house in 1949 and still in 1963 was Trevor Owen. In the late 1960s Mrs Owen was running a bed and breakfast and offering three bedrooms (Handbook and Guide to Borth, private collection). With votes for the house in 1963 were Trevor Owen and Elizabeth G. Owen (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives).

BELOW The gable end of Jasper Villa Number 1 is right on the boundary of the garden of Otago. Next door Hopewell the cottage seen on the old maps which was already there in 1829, there before either Otago or the Jasper Villas.



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gan/by Beryl Lewis
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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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