

# 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 TWO

Morfa Borth

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



*ABOVE Jasper Villa Number Two is on the left or north 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 are just like those on the houses of the North Parade terrace built later 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 and narrow front gardens.

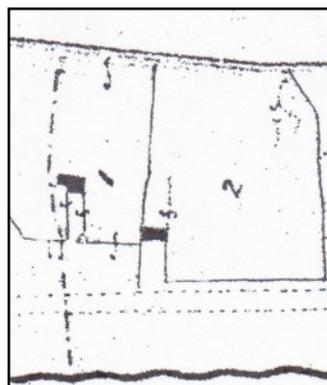
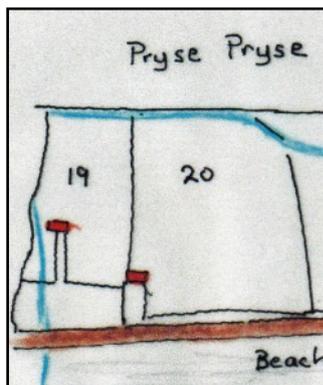
These villas fill their plot so there is no access to their gardens at the back.



*LEFT At the back, a glimpse of the upper floor of the pair of villas. Number 2 is on the right. There is quite a deep roof which joins on to Hafan-wen on the right.*

At the back both villas have roof lights for their attic floor and both have extensions, back to back on their ground floor. Today they share a garden. Originally it reached 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.

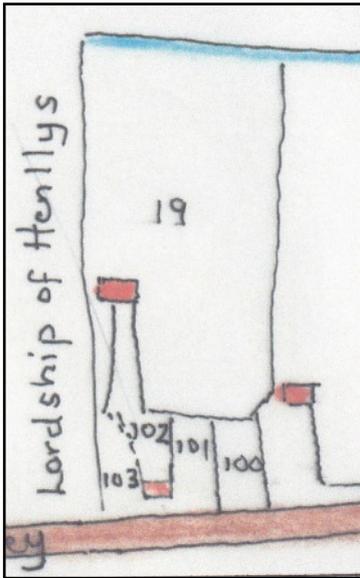


*FAR LEFT William Thomas's cottage and land was Number 19 in this detail copied from a Crown Manor Map of 1839 (Map National Archive LRRO 1/3060)*

*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 (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r*

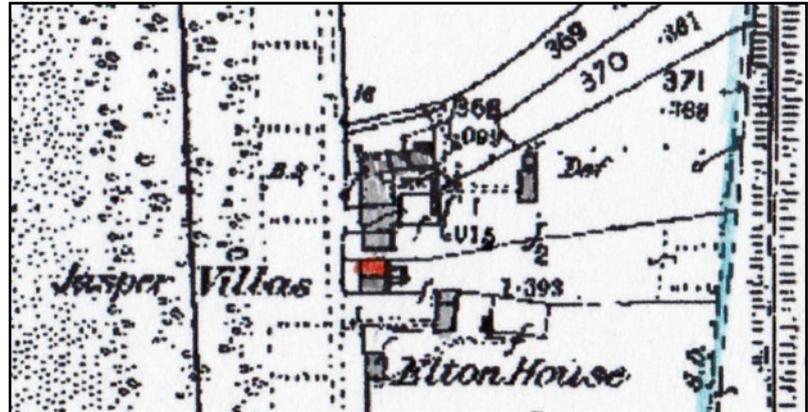
*Glyn, Cyfoeth township and 1841 Census).*

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 which was at the end of, ground belonging with the Thomas's cottage. 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 but in the Census there is no entry for Jasper Villa Number 2.



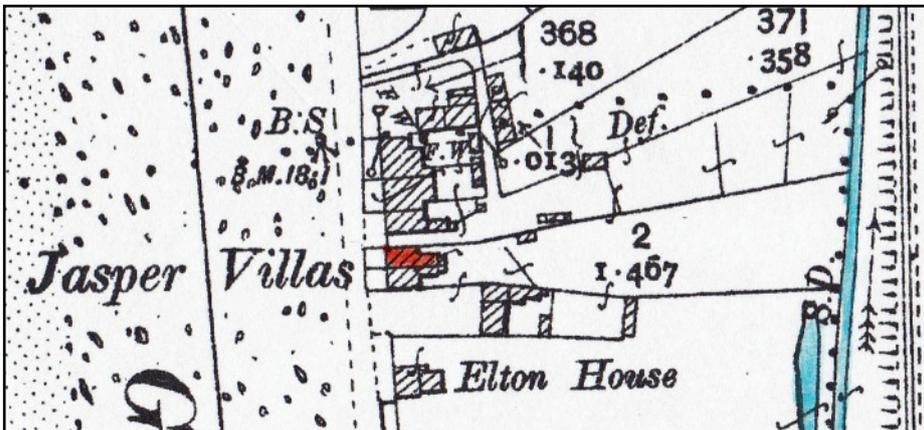
RIGHT Marked in red is the villa in 1886. It shared its front garden with Villa Number 1 and they both shared the ground at the back all the way to the wet ditch then a brook by the railway line. 'S' marks (braces) on the map show that the villas were owned with the Thomas Cottage

ground, by then with Awelon and Caerffynnon built on it, and with Hopewell Cottage and Otago (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance survey Map surveyed in 1886 and published in 1888. Cardiganshire III.10)



In the Census of 1891 the house was unoccupied. In the Census of 1901 in the house (now called a 'villa') was Catherine Emily Jones, an unmarried woman of 67, local, as she was born in Llancynfelin. She had her 'own means', and spoke both Welsh and English.

LEFT These were the villas in about 1904 in a detail from a postcard. Miss Jones's villa is on the left. The windows were sash windows with blinds and not open. Some windows of Number 1 were open, it was then a boarding house. The low wall around the front gardens was topped with railings. (Postcard private collection).



LEFT Marked in red is the villa in 1904. It had its own front garden, but the back garden was still shared. There was quite a good extension behind the villa, and it is likely this had a

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*chimney for a kitchen below (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905. Cardiganshire III.10)*

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned but not levied, the house was valued at £260. the owner was Margaret Pellers, South and Darrow, Agents - they owned the other Jasper Villa as well. There was no 'occupier' in the house.

In the Census of 1911 the house had seven main rooms, and in the house was a Shropshire man from Ironbridge, Frank Brandford aged 33. He was a sanitary plumber. His wife was Blodwen Jane Brandford, aged 25. They had been married for two years and had no children. She spoke both Welsh and English. There would have been plenty of work for him in Borth as a new water supplies had been obtained and some houses had the opportunity to have indoor lavatories and bathrooms.

Mr Brandford paid the rates in 1925 and 1934 and 1938 and 1949 as owner and occupier.

Mrs Blodwen Brandford paid the rates in 1957 and 1963. In 1963 she and Mary Gwendolen Thomas had votes for the house (Electoral Registers and Rates, Ceredigion Archives).

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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-eredigion.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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