

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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SEASHELL COTTAGE

On the beach side at the southern end of Borth High Street. This was formerly a Britannia Place Cottage. Home of a master mariner and his wife and then of a Jenkins family with connections to Liverpool. The cottage was built between 1848 and 1871.



Seashell is a double fronted cottage under a gable roof parallel to the High Street. It is the southern end of a terrace. The walls of exposed rubble stone include rounded stones from the beach. It has a rubble stone chimney on the south end of its roof with a 'sill' or ledge one course of stones from the top. A second chimney with one chimney pot is shared with Cefn-for next door. The front door is not central, as in Morfa Borth's old cottages, allowing a larger front room on the north side.



TOP The cottage in 2009.

BELOW The south side of the cottage in 2013.

This usually was the main living room of the cottage with a hearth for cooking. Either side of the door are sash windows with sixteen lights. The front door is interesting as it does not come all the way up to the eaves as often happened in the oldest cottages. In Seashell there is a shallow arch of stones above the windows with a gap before the eaves. The front door opens into a passage. Today one downstairs room is a living room, the other a bedroom. The stairs are

narrow leading to one large bedroom and one small one. The narrow front garden area is enclosed by a rubble stone wall. The south wall of the cottage is on the boundary of its plot so there is no access to the yard at the back. This wall has a small upper window to light a

floor under the roof, and the rear of the cottage has dormer windows in the roof for this upper floor and these have fine views over the sea. Today there is a window on the ground floor on the beach end of the wall. A tall wall encloses the rear yard as a public footpath from the High Street to the beach runs beside it. A door in it gives access to the yard.

There is only one window in the rear wall of the main building. The cottage now rebuilt as Colliscot in the terrace had no windows or door on the sea side to protect it from storms.

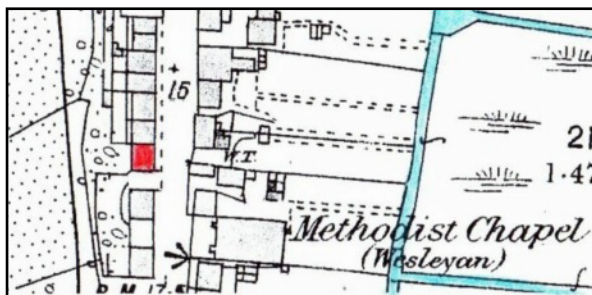


The rear of the cottage in 2015. The modern extension is built with rubble stone cladding to suit the old cottage. This has a large window with a fine view over the beach. A platform has been built for the yard to allow unrestricted views of the beach.

The ground on which this cottage stands is the wide embankment of stone thrown up by the sea and

called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. The road had been there for centuries and became a turnpike road in the 1770s. It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales. In 1829 this ground had no cottages and was called 'beach'. (National Archive Map LRRO 1/3060.) In 1848 there was only a tiny building somewhere on the site, not a proper cottage. (Tithe Apportionment Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township. On-line at CYNEFIN, NLW)

The cottage was certainly there by 1871, in that Census and still twenty years later in 1891 there was a master mariner Hugh Jones and his wife Mary and their children living there. Hugh Jones was born in Ouldhob, Liverpool about 1823, but had married a Borth girl, Mary the same age. They had two daughters born in Borth, Jane in 1859 and Mary in 1861. The address of the cottage in the 1881 Census was Number 1 Britannia Place. We can find Mary and one daughter in the 1861 Census, Hugh was away - probably at sea, but they then lived in one of the cottages near the Railway Inn.

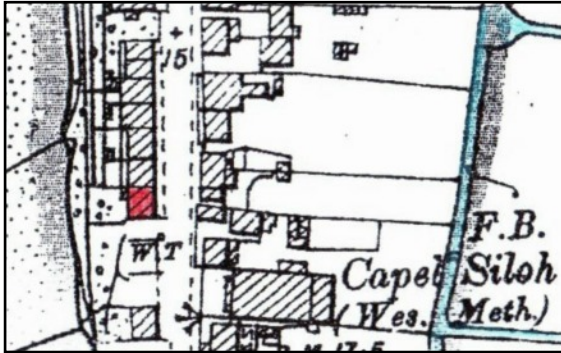


This map of 1886 shows the cottage marked in red. It had no back garden, but fences had been built to protect the cottages from the sea during storms.

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

In 1901 at the Census, in the cottage was Jane Jenkins, a widow, nee Richards, then aged 51. She was born in Aberystwyth about 1850. With her was her sister Ann Richards, unmarried and aged 40. She had been born in Borth about 1861. Both spoke only Welsh. Also in the cottage were two Jenkin lads born in Liverpool, Evan L. Jenkins was 21 and worked in a tannery. He spoke English and Welsh, and David Jenkins aged 12. In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned, but not levied the cottage was valued at £31, and the

Councils address for it was 3 Wesleyan Place. There would have been £2.4s to pay, £2.15s gross. Jane Jenkins was living there, but it is not clear who owned it. (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the NLW). There is no entry for it in the 1911 Census.



This map of 1904 shows the cottage when the Jenkins family lived there. It does have a sort of back yard, but is shown as stony, rough ground. The cottage opened on to the street and had a wall and an unenclosed narrow strip of land by the road. The 'brook' over the road had been the villager's fresh water, but by this date good spring water had been piped to Morfa Borth.

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gan/by Beryl Lewis
[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.

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-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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