

# 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.*

# TY NI

## 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. Built by October 1927.



*Ty Ni in 2016.*

This is a bungalow under a gable roof parallel to the lane. There is no chimney and the walls are rendered. The front door is on the north side of the front and is a modern wooden door in the style of a stable door. Two steps lead down into the front garden. The windows are modern. There

is a hard standing drive on the north side of the front garden and a tall hedge. The rest of the front is a lawn. There is a small tree on the south boundary of this which is alongside a garage.



*LEFT The south gable end of the bungalow has a small window which looks over an enclosed yard, with a wall between it and the lane which turns past it there.*

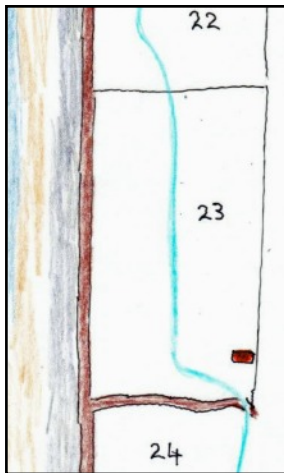
The rear of the bungalow has an extension on its south side, of concrete blocks, with a picture window. There will be a fine view across the railway and the Cors Fochno Bog to the hills beyond. A verandah runs along the rest of the back of the bungalow. The front and south end of

it is open. A tall lap wooden fence encloses the rear garden which is very narrow. Beyond is a narrow track. Behind this is rough grassland. The rates shows that this building and Coronwen next door are the earliest to be built along the lane.



*LEFT The rear of the bungalow in 2016 with the track behind its yard in the foreground.*

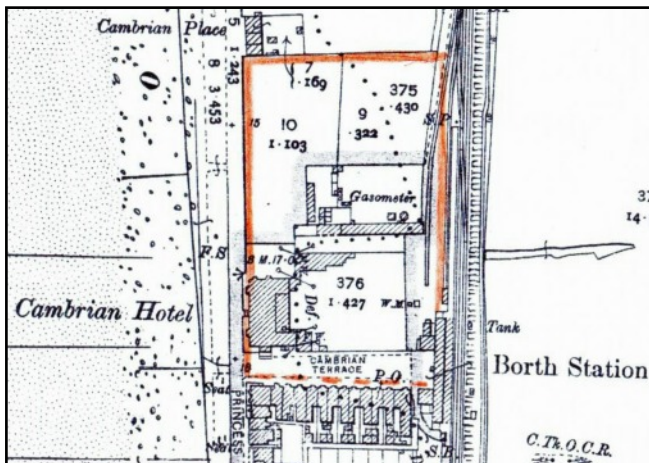
The ground for this house was enclosed in 1809 by a local lawyer called Big John (John



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, 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.

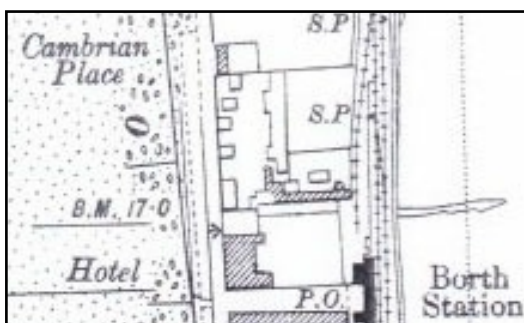


John Lewis's land was sold to the developer Thomas Savin who brought the railway and built the Railway Station, the great Cambrian Hotel and Cambrian Terrace. The Hotel had large grounds (nearly two acres) for tennis, croquet, pleasure gardens, a bowling green, and possibly a walled garden.

*LEFT A detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905. Marked in red is John Lewis's former land. The house in Cambrian Place nearest the hotel ground is Bodlondeb.*

However, the Hotel did not do well, it had a hundred rooms, but often many were empty. By the 1920s and 1930s it needed to raise money by selling off some of its ground.

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. Ty ni first appears in the rates in October 1927, owned and occupied by Howard's brother, Charles Lloyd Roberts. It was not a valuable home, rated at just £6 to pay, £10 gross. When it was built it would have had piped water, and coal for heating came on the train.



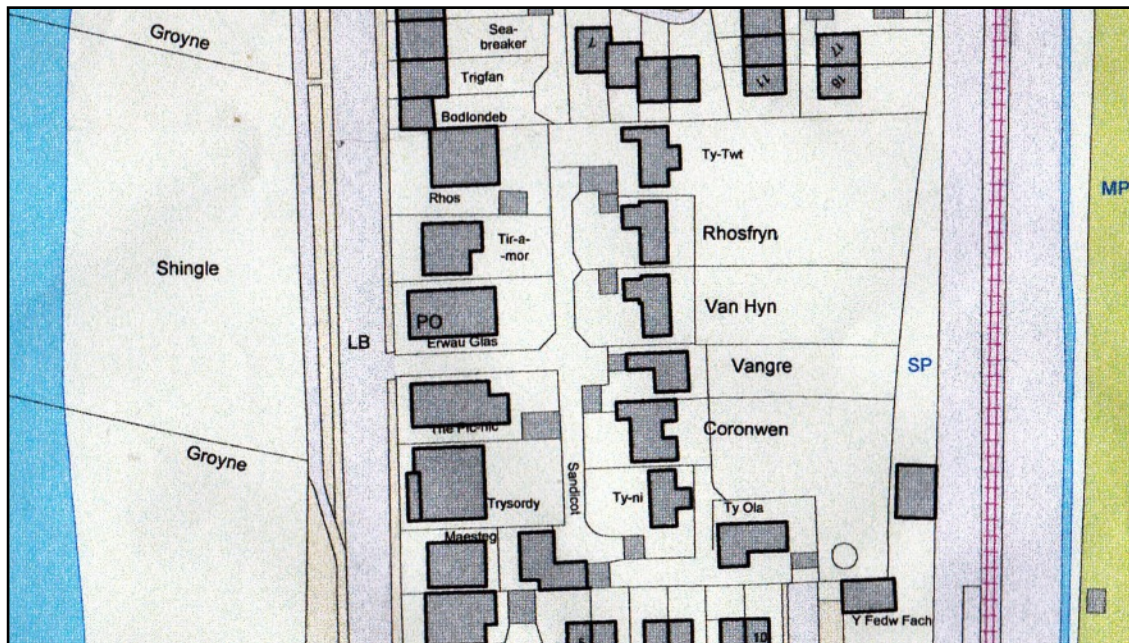
*LEFT This detail from a Provisional Six Inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1948 shows the position of the bungalows, but there is no lane drawn, and no accurate details of individual bungalows and their gardens. S. P. was a railway signal post.*

Charles Roberts paid the rates in 1934 and 1938.

With votes for the bungalow at the General Election of 1945 were Albert R. Lane, and John E. and Muriel G. Tonkins, and Mary Lloyd Roberts paid the rates in 1949.

Mr M. F. Leyman paid the rates in 1957 and 1963. In 1965 Mrs Leyman advertised the bungalow as a ‘furnished bungalow’ for holiday visitors or to let. She was an absentee landlady, her home was ‘Stone, Fownhope, Herefordshire’ (Handbook and Guide to Borth, Ceredigion Archives ADX/726/13).

The name of the house in Welsh means ‘Our House’.



*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).*

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