

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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WERN SIDE Glanwern Village, Borth.

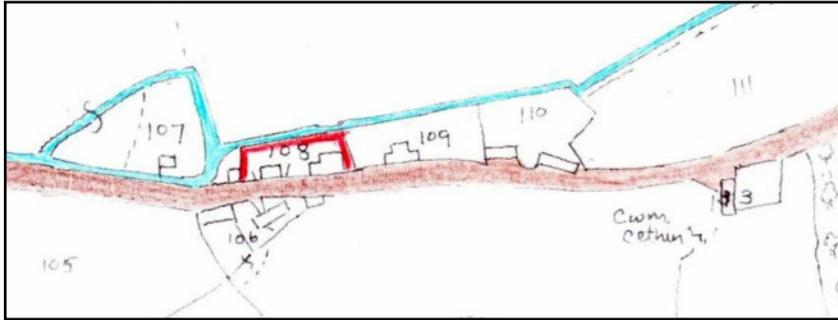
A modern home built after 1925 but by 1934 by Captain John Lloyd of Y Graig who owned Glasfryn, on the site of a garden which in 1848 had cottages on it, the last one gone by 1900.



Wernside is a single storey bungalow under a gable roof parallel to the road. The roof has tiles, and there are no chimneys. The walls are rendered. The front door is modern. It is set back in between bay windows set on a low wall in the style of tongue and groove. These take up over two thirds of the front. Set in the bungalow wall is a narrow rectangular window with a window box. The front of the bungalow opens on to the street with an area of paving. Access to the rear is on the east side of the house which has a driveway with hard standing. Opening on to the drive is a single storey extension and a further extension with a doorway blocks the end of the drive. The garden ends at the tailrace.

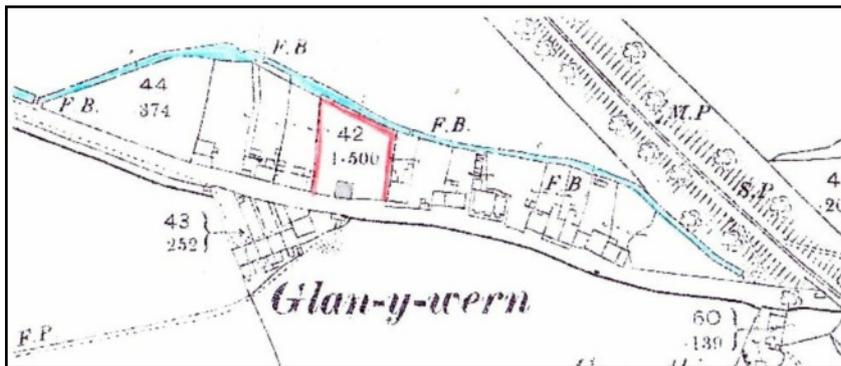
The reason a small settlement could grow up at Glanwern was the presence of the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill at Glanlerry, which was fresh water from the River Lerry. It was joined by a small stream down the valley behind Ty Gwyn too, and helped drain the marsh on the north. After passing Glanwern the tailrace ran seawards then turned along behind Borth High Street, providing a brook' with fresh water for the houses and cottages there. This 'brook' is marked on a map of 1829. Today the water flows out to sea from a pipe near the Lifeboat House. To the north of Glanwern Village was the marsh whose old name was Wern Leri. (1859 Crown Manor map National Archives LRRO 1/3060). There was already a settlement at Glanwern by 1806 when Elizabeth Davies said she was born there for the Census of 1851. The road was there too, it was shown on a map of 1829 and led down to three lime kilns beginning where the road opened on to the beach. Later another was built. Lime would be carried to farms inland and the road connected to an important road, as today, at Rhyd-y-pennau. The High Street road at Borth was very ancient as in Norman times it was a quick

way to north Wales along the shingle bank and high sand dune area at Ynyslas and then across the River Dovey on a ferry to Aberdovey.



LEFT On a map of 1848 the ground for the Chalet was part of Number 108 which had cottages on it, and it is marked in red. Enoch Williams and Richard Davies had cottages and gardens there. The ground

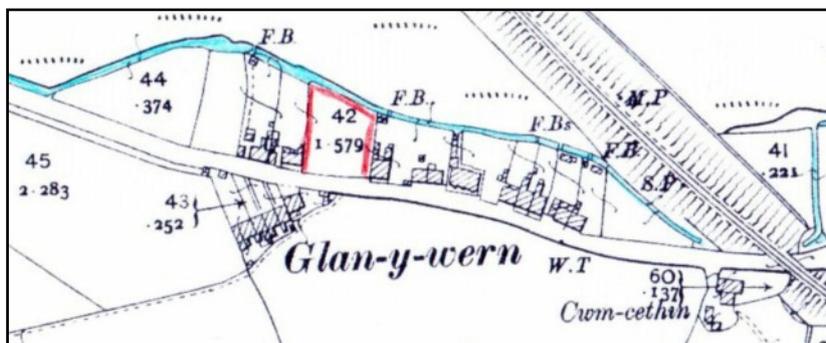
measured 33 perches, nearly a rod (a rod was a quarter of an acre). This would have been an enclosure from 'waste' ground between the road and the tailrace from the Felinwern Mill and a rent would have had to be paid to the Crown Manor when it was enclosed. There was the option to buy the ground too. Two buildings are shown on 108 and the westernmost today has become Rose Cottage. The Davies family throughout the nineteenth century lived there. Enoch Williams's cottage was by the watercourse. At the 1851 Census Richard Davies and Enoch Williams were both farm labourers. There was no building in the centre of the plot where Wernside stands today (A detail from the Tithe Apportionments Map of 1848 for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township on-line at CYNEFIN)



LEFT By 1886 the tailrace stream had been moved northwards to allow decent gardens for the houses. There was one cottage left in the enclosure marked in red, but again nothing built on the site of Wernside (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of

1888, surveyed in 1886, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

On the 1891 Census that cottage was the home of John Williams, a 57 year old shoemaker and his wife Margaret who was 55 and had been born at the local Rhiwlas Farm' By the 1901 Census they had gone.



By 1904 the old cottage had gone (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1905 revised in 1904, Cardiganshire NW III.10)

A John Thomas photograph taken about 1900 shows the gap between Glasfryn House on the left and Rose

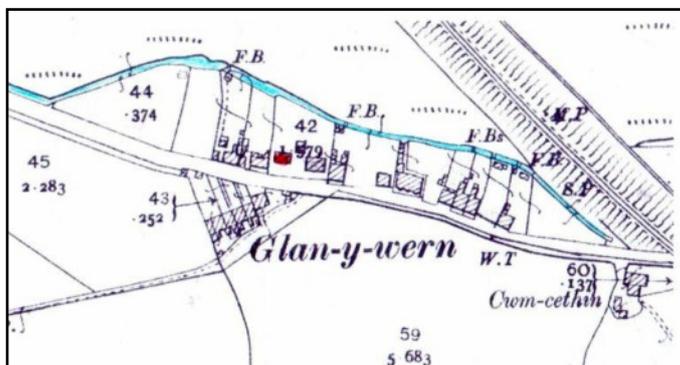
Cottage on the far left. The old cottage had gone.



ABOVE The John Thomas photograph.
(On-line, the National Library of Wales)

In 1910 for a valuation for a tax planned there was a garden there. The owner was John Beynon and the occupier was Margaret Williams who was probably a widow by then and was still listed as a tenant there. It is clear that her old cottage had already gone. The garden was quite large and it was valued at £80, perhaps because it was a potential building site? John Beynon would have paid 10s.6d, 11s gross. If he was a local man, this would have been the builder and carpenter John Beynon who lived at Efalwen at the south end of Borth's High Street. He was 61 years old and not many houses away was Y Graig (Ceredigion Archives T/DV/18 and map at the National Library of Wales).

In 1925 Captain John Lloyd who lived at Y Graig (near The Sands) owned the 'agricultural land' (the garden) beside Glasfryn. He had a tenant there, Edward Jones.



ABOVE A detail from the Council's 1905 map.
(Ceredigion Archives).

By 1938/9 The Chalet and Wernside had been built by Captain Lloyd. Paying the Rates for Wernside was L. Lloyd, £6 for the half year. The 'Wern' was the marsh then grassland across the tailrace at the end of the garden.

The Council drew in new houses on their copy of the 1905 map. Wernside was a simple rectangle, marked in red, with no extensions on the back.

Paying the Rates for it in 1949 was 'Ford' – the Council did not have his

or her Christian name.

In 1963 paying the Rates was Mrs Annie Clare and the value of the bungalow and garden was £29. She had a vote for it as did Arthur C. Clare (Electoral Registers and Rates Ceredigion Archives). Today the bungalow has three bedrooms (Cambrian News when for sale).



LEFT This is part of a Judges postcard, and Wernside is on the far left. There are bushes on the edge of the land at the rear of the bungalow.

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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.

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