

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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WEST END

Morfa Borth – the Marsh Harbour

West End is on the east side of the High Street at the southern end of the village. It faces west, the sea is over the road. A building was on the site in 1859. It was formerly a shop, the ‘West End Stores’.



ABOVE West End in 2014. BELOW The rear in 2016.

West End is a bungalow with a slate coloured gable roof with no chimneys at right angles to the High Street. The walls are rendered. On the rear is an extension built of blocks. This is a sloping site and the main entrance at the north side has to be entered from a sloping ramp. This has a glazed porch with the door on the west side. It is very close to its neighbour, Sea Breezes, but interestingly its back door opens into the narrow passage between the two, and there is also a window there. This suggests it was built before Sea Breezes. The front has a very narrow garden area of hard standing, enclosed by a low block wall. The ramp at the north side of the bungalow opens directly on to the lane to the Community Hall opened in 1999.



The extension at the back of the bungalow is single storey and had a nearly flat roof and one window overlooking its garden. This is enclosed by a tall rendered wall. Beyond is a garage with a gable roof parallel to the High Street, and it opens on to the lane to the Community Hall. Beyond is an area of hard standing with plenty of room for parking a car. Access to the garden and back door is along the north side of the garage.

The shingle bank thrown up by the sea on which it was built was considered 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it, as it was not suitable for farming. It was called 'beach' in 1829. An enclosure had been made there by 1859, and the man who enclosed it would have had to pay rent to the manor, or to buy the ground from the manor. 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.

There were no buildings on this land until 1925, it was part of a piece of rough ground from Efelwen to the road to Llandre. Across the road on the strip of grass were three limekilns in 1829, four by 1848. They had gone by 1883. (NA LRRO 1/3060 and Tithe Apportionment Map for Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Cyfoeth Township 1848, and Cambrian News, 16 November 1883.

A building was already on the site of the present bungalow in 1925. Paying the Rates in 1934 and 1938 for the 'West End Stores', a shop and bungalow, was John Jones, and he lived there.

In an advertisement in a Borth Guide of 1934, the West End Stores was selling fruit, meat and vegetables. It was in the same advertisement as a 'James's Stores next to the railway station which sold groceries. (Aberystwyth Public Library)

A Whiterod family were there by 1939 when Jonathan James Bessingwhite Whiterod died there aged 56. It was no longer a shop in the Rates lists the word 'Stores' was crossed out. In 1949 an elderly lady, Ann Bessingwhite Whiterod died there aged 79. In 1949 paying the Rates was Mrs Gertrude Hannah Whiterod, and with a vote for the place in the General Election of 1945 was Jesse Chadwick. Mrs Whiterod paid the rates in 1943, and she was on the Electoral Register which suggests she was living there. She was aged 75 by then. The place was valued at £21, the usual valuation for a Borth bungalow. Compare that with £59 for Wave Crest next door. Mrs Whiterod was still there at her death aged 92 in January 1979. (Rates, and Register of Deaths for St Matthew's Church, Ceredigion Archives PRT/BOR/13).

West End

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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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