

# 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.*

# THE WHITE HOUSE

Morfa Borth - the Marsh Harbour

At the northern end of Borth with the beach across the road. This house is built near the roadside on the southernmost part of two acres of land that Captain Thomas Jones enclosed in 1824 and built a cottage on (now Hopewell). The White House may have had a different name when it was built.



*ABOVE The house in February 2009.*

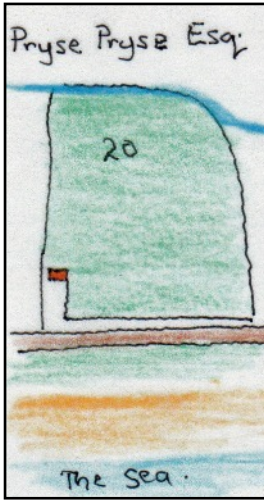
The White House is double fronted and under a hipped roof parallel to the street. At each end of the roof is a brick chimney, the northernmost being taller and thinner. The roof is slate coloured with red ridge tiles, and the walls are rendered. The design of the front is symmetrical. The bay windows upstairs would have a good view of the sea. The house



probably was probably built before about 1960 when the sea wall and promenade was built, so all the windows would have had a good view of the beach.

*LEFT The house in 2106. A balcony had been added to the front. The central top bay window was altered to access it, and the wall in front was heightened.*

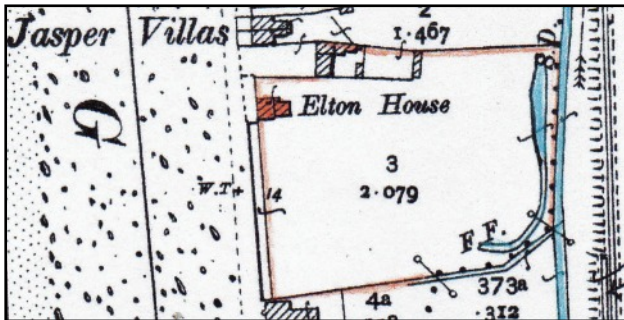
On the south side of the house is a drive with access to another dwelling built behind The White House. Behind is a strip of ground extending to the ditch and railway line which today is divided into three with a small building (garage?) on the central section.



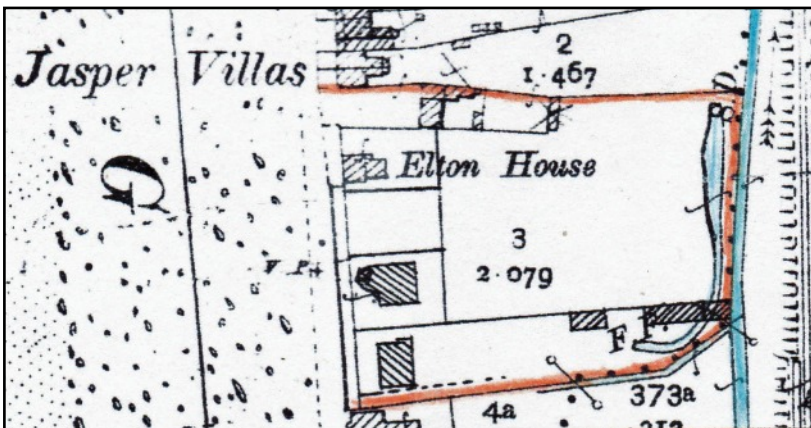
The ground on which The White House stands was two acres enclosed in 1824 by Captain Thomas Jones. Part was the embankment of stones built up by the sea, and part was reclaimed marsh. It was called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it, and the Captain could pay a rent for it, or buy it for two years rent.

*LEFT On a Crown Manor Map of 1829 the ground was Number 20 and extended to a brook - now a dry ditch. The cottage set back from the road was Hopewell, named after a sloop many shares of which were owned by Captain Jones, and sailed by him and his son.*

The road was centuries old 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. The brook had supplied the cottages with fresh water, the out flow from the Glan Lerry Corn Mill plus some little streams, and for fuel the cottagers had an area of peat near Ynys Fergi. The White House probably had its own water supply and probably electricity too. The Siloh Chapel had it by 1932, Borth St Matthew's Church, the Vicarage and the National School by 1934, the railway station by 1936 (*Advertisement by A.W. Miller E.C.A. of Aberystwyth in a Recipe Book in aid of Borth's St Matthew's Church .and the Coastlines of the Cambrian Railways, C. C. Green*)



*LEFT This was the Jones's ground in 1904 outlined in red. Hopewell is on the northern boundary and Elton House had been built for Captain Thomas Jones's son, also a Captain Thomas Jones. No other houses had been built there. (Detail from the Ordnance survey 25 inch map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire III.10),*



*LEFT The White House, is right on the southern boundary of the Captain's land (marked in red) as drawn on this map of 1905 on which the Council drew later houses. The White House had a small extension on the back of the north side but no extension on the back as there in 2015 so it was a smaller house.*

*Its ground extended to the ditch and railway line, with some prominent buildings on the northern boundary near the railway and built across an old watercourse.*

On the 1949, 1957 and 1963 Rates - I can't find the house, either it was not built yet or had another name.

*The White House Page 3*

The concrete sea wall and promenade was completed in May 1956. This house has taken that into account and provided good views of the sea from its first floor. (Ceredigion Archives ABR/HI/6/40)

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[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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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-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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