

Remembering Strathpeffer



During winter 2010/2011 a group gathered at Strathpeffer Community Centre four mornings to remember the physical remains of Strathpeffer – buildings, sites, or monuments which were new, modified or no longer there. Using old maps, photographs (some more than a century old), a detailed sales prospectus from the mid 20th century, and memories spanning over 80 years, information about over 80 sites was gathered. Some pupils from the school joined us as well, looking on in some amazement at the excitement and enthusiasm in the room.

This report summarises the results of the meetings. The details will also be forwarded to the Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HER) where they will provide valuable new information about Strathpeffer's past (<http://her.highland.gov.uk>). It is clear that given more time even more information could have been gathered, and hopefully future projects will continue this work.

The sessions were organised by ARCH which provides opportunities for people interested in learning about and helping to preserve their heritage. Thanks to Generations Working Together: the Scottish Centre for Intergenerational Practice for providing the funding for this project. Thanks also to the Highland Museum of Childhood for allowing us to see text panels from their 2009 'Hands Across the Sea' exhibition. But most of all thanks to the group who braved difficult weather to share their many memories and photographs.

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
1	Spa Buildings, The Square	NH 48352 58205	Shops	In use	<p>This row of shops dates back to the 1840s (Murray 1985). Though externally little altered, internally the layout of the shops has changed considerably. On the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps (1876, 1906), the Post Office was located at the west end of the block, though it is now at the opposite end. It originally had a clock above the front window. In a postcard, dated 28 Sep 1909, 14 staff are lined up in front of the PO (Uncles 1998, 27). Next door to the PO was George Souter (Stationer), then T Wellwood Maxwell (Pharmacy).</p> <p>Mr Wellwood Maxwell had a darkroom in the flat above the pharmacy and his photographs, in the possession of Mrs M. Spark, include several of the Spa Buildings. These photographs date from between 1900 and 1910. The earliest of these, dated c. 1900, shows that it was occupied by (from west to east) the Post Office; T Wellwood Maxwell, Hughan and Co., Fishmongers, Hughan and Co. Grocers and W. Mackenzie and Sons, Provisions and Wine Merchant. Later photographs show different names above the shops. One shows, from west to east, the PO, H. Beaton 'Stationer and Tobacconist', T. Wellwood Maxwell, J. E. Adams, 'fishmonger', and D. F. McLeod, 'Italian Warehouseman'. Another shows that the former PO at the west end was occupied by A. Cross, 'Draper and Clothier', with the Pharmacy next to it and then A. Humphries and Co. (the rest of the block is not visible).</p> <p>In one photo, there is a chimney facing the front of D. F. McLeod's shop at the very east end of the block. This was removed during renovations in the 1970s and replaced with a door.</p> <p>Duncan Finlayson remembers the shops from the 1920s. Again from west to east they are:</p> <p>1) The end shops which changed uses frequently, but included a Ladies' woollens shop run by Mrs MacDonald of Croftcrunie and a</p>		<p>Duncan Finlayson, Margaret Spark, Kitty Campbell, Jennifer Haslam, Fiona Newton</p> <p>Other sources cited: Murray 1985; Uncles 1998; Sale Catalogue 1949; Duncan Finlayson - Shops</p>

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					<p>hairdresser at the back run by Muriel MacDonald. Later Miss Agnes Fraser who had run the newsagent took over the woollen goods. It then had a variety of occupants.</p> <p>2) A. & M Fraser Newsagent, Stationer, Books and Tobacconist, run by sisters Agnes and Molly Fraser, and later their nephew Donald.</p> <p>3) Pharmacy run by T. Wellwood Maxwell and then Mr Barnie.</p> <p>4) Adams fruit and vegetable shop, run by Mr & Mrs Adams and sister-in-law Mrs Johnstone.</p> <p>5) The current double shop was joined in his time, and included a grocery, but mainly the bicycle repair and parts run by Mr & Mrs Humphrey.</p> <p>6) D. F. MacLeod, Grocer, and later in the 1930s the shop passed to Mr Smith he thinks. The entrance was at the corner on the eastern side. Domestic quarters were behind the shop at shop level and upstairs.</p> <p>See attached documents for Duncan Finlayson's memories of the shops and the people who ran them in the 1920s.</p> <p>The date the Spa Pharmacy opened is not known, but it was there in the 1890s, when taken over by Mr T. Wellwood Maxwell. Prior to that Mr Wellwood Maxwell had been the manager, and a messenger boy is known in 1883. The prescription books go back to the 1890s. The pharmacy was originally two shops: a butchers closest to the PO (then at the west end of the block) and a pharmacy in the other, but they were knocked together, probably in the 1890s. The dished butchers slab was found under the most westerly window sill when the two shops were renovated in the 1980s. The pharmacy was taken over by Sandy Barnie in 1936 and was sold to William Bolton (Margaret Spark's father) in 1958. Margaret Spark sold the pharmacy in 2001.</p> <p>In a sales prospectus for the Strathpeffer Estate, dated 1949, the shops from west to east were respectively a wool shop (Miss M.</p>		

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					<p>A. Fraser), a Booksellers and Newsagents (also Miss M. A. Fraser), the Spa Pharmacy (Mr Alexander [Sandy] Barnie), a Fruit Shop and Grocer (Mr J. E. Adams) and a Licensed Grocer and General Merchant (Mr J. George Smith).</p> <p>Miss Agnes Fraser with her sister Molly originally ran just the Booksellers and Newsagents, but later also took over the wool shop. She was still running the wool shop into the late 1960s or early 1970s. Miss Fraser drank a bottle of spa water a day. Her nephew, Donald, ran the booksellers and newsagents ('The Paper Shop').</p> <p>Up until the 1980s the building was green and white, not black and white - and Miss Fraser resisted the loss of the 'Spa colours'. The flats above the shops were accessed by a door at the east end of the block. There was a row of sheds at the back of the shops, used as a sweet factory in the 1950s.</p>		
2	Spa Hotel	NH 4768 5764	Hotel	Demolished	Lots of cream pots, etc said to have been found when digging foundations for the new houses of Kinellan Drive. The hotel burnt down when in use as a hospital during WWII (Finlayson 1979, 90).	MHG22637	Margaret Spark; Finlayson 1979
3	Ardival Steading /Ben Wyvis Motors / The Depot	NH 48502 58331	Steading; garage; shops	Demolished	On the OS 1 st edition map (1876), a U-shaped steading is shown with an additional rectangular building along its west side and a small building and what may be pens along its open (north) side. On the 2 nd edition map (1906), it seems to have been roofed over to form a single unit. It was a coaching stables prior to the introduction of motor vehicles, the carriages occupying one side and the horses the other, with the coachmen and stable boys living above. In the 1920s, the garage was operated by Willie Kennedy; he moved to Spa Motors (see below and Site 19, MHG32482). According to Peggy Macdonald nee Ramsay, who lived at Ardival House (Site 9) after the Finlayson family left after WWI, the garage burnt down about 80 years ago, destroying 7 carriages; this was probably when the curved corrugated iron roof was put on. A plumber and a mason worked from the east end of		Kitty Campbell; Duncan Finlayson; Neil Macdonald; Fiona Newton; Peggy Macdonald Other sources cited: Sales Catalogue 1949

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					the building after the fire. This is how it appears in a 1949 sales prospectus for the Strathpeffer Estate, when it was in use as the Ben Wyvis Garage, run by Messrs. Logan & Co. In 1949, there was a painter's shop and store, let to Mr Ross, between the garage and the Dingwall road. This was later occupied by Robertsons, Joiners. When the Logans moved to Muir of Ord, they took the name with them, and the garage became known as Ben Motors. It remained in use as a garage, run by Bill Gilbert, until 1953, when it was taken over by the then County Council as a roads depot and signshop; it is annotated as 'Depot' on the current edition of the OS map. The corrugated iron roof had become rather dilapidated by the time the building was demolished in October 2010. See also Site 26.		
4	'Tank'	NH 48243 58075	Tank	Demolished	Depicted on the OS 2 nd edition map (1906) and on the current edition of the map between Hamilton House and the Highland Hotel. Now demolished but foundations said to be under thick rhododendron bushes. It would have been located near the original bathhouse and so may have been connected to it, to hold water in case the wells ran dry. A well is shown next to Studdingsail Hall on the OS 1 st edition map (1876) and this may also be related.		Margaret Spark; Iain Davidson
5	(Lower) Pump Room	NH 4830 5810	Pump Room	Demolished	The Pump Room appears on the OS 1 st edition map (1876), but had become a much larger complex by the time the map was revised in 1906 for the 2 nd edition. The Pump Room also housed a bath house and treatment rooms. It had become very dilapidated and was demolished in 1950 (Murray 1985). It was replaced in 1987 by the present buildings, built by Ross and Cromarty District Council and designed by Dave Somerville. After demolition, the Clock face from the old Pump Room was taken and put into Fodderty school, and when the school moved to Strathpeffer, the clock was removed there. Some of the Pump Room's doors were brought up to Newhouse croft on the Heights after demolition.	MHG22712	Fiona Newton; Duncan Finlayson; Neil Macdonald; Margaret Scott Other sources cited: Murray 1985

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6	Birch Lodge	NH 4810 5817	House	In use	This is a relatively new house, built as a doctor's house by Dr Douglas Hanton in 1975. The surgery, now known as Birch Cottage, was located in the bottom of the garden. Before the surgery was built, Dr Hanton consulted at Cairngorm (Site 54). Previously, the doctors' surgery had been located in Fife Lodge (Site 21, MHG22734) and prior to that at Greenside (now Inver Lodge, MHG22728). After 1975 Kitty Campbell owned the surgery part of Birch Lodge, until the early 2000s.	MHG22711	Fiona Newton; Margaret Newton; Kitty Campbell
7	Urinal	NH 4832 5821		No longer extant	Shown on the OS 1 st edition map (1876), but not on the 2 nd edition map (1906). See also Site 24.		
8	Studdingsail Hall	NH 4824 5812	House	Demolished	Prior to the building of the Highland Hotel in 1910 (Site 20, MHG16401), the site was occupied by Studdingsail Hall. The Hall appears on the OS 1 st edition map (1876). It was reputedly very similar in appearance to Kinnettass House (MHG16416) and so may be of similar date. See also Site 20.		Margaret Spark; Jennifer Haslam
9	Ardival House	NH 48550 58334	House		Reputedly the oldest house in Strathpeffer, it is said to have originally been an inn, but was also a farm and mill (Finlayson 1979, 31-2). It is called Ardvall on the OS 1 st edition map (1876), but the farm - and the name - seems to have been transferred to its present location, up the hill by the time of the map was revised in 1906 (Finlayson 1979, 31; see MHG22697). The building was originally single storey and has been altered significantly during its lifetime. Ardival was run as a boarding house by Kate Finlayson prior to WWI. See also Sites 3 and 26.		Duncan Finlayson; Highland Museum of Childhood exhibition 'Hands across the Sea exhibition' (2009) Finlayson 1979
10	The Shieling	NH 4838 5823	Shop; well	Extant	This building is described as 'clad in vertical half-round poles dark stained and with a slated and piended roof over' (Murray 1985). A semi-circular building is present on the OS 2 nd edition map (1906). In a photograph by Mr Wellwood Maxwell, c. 1900, in the possession of Mrs M. Spark, the sign above the door reads 'Castle Leod Well and [in much larger letters] Lady Cromartie's Well'. On the OS 1 st edition map (1876), this area is depicted as garden	MHG22633	Duncan Finlayson; Margaret Newton; Fiona Newton; Margaret Spark

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					<p>ground, apparently associated with Clisham (Site 60, MHG22692). Though there are wells in the vicinity on the 1876 map (one at the south east corner of the plot belonging to the Strathpeffer Hotel, with another close to where the boundary between Craigvar (then Park House, Site 30, MHG16224) and Mackay's Hotel (Site 32, MHG22732) meets the road, on the 1906 map a well is marked under The Shieling. At some time after 1906, The Shieling became a shop - and also housed a lending library. In Miss Sarah McKeon's time, from the 1920s-1940s, it sold good quality fancy goods; Miss McKeon was Irish and a staunch Roman Catholic, hence the Gaelic name, <i>Tigh Mile Annas</i> ('house of the hundred thousand welcomes'). Much of the fancy work, such as lace, which Miss McKeon sold was made in convents. She lived for a period in part of the bungalow in the grounds of Holly Lodge (Site 37, MHG16410) while the Finlaysons were there, and latterly in rooms or room at Hope's Hotel. Mrs Littlejohn, who followed Miss McKeon, sold tweeds and other woollen goods. Mrs Littlejohn was followed by Mrs Cherret.</p> <p>This building should not be confused with the now-destroyed Shieling (Site 11).</p> <p>The Shieling is currently unused and is for sale (2011).</p>		Other sources cited: Murray 1985; Duncan Finlayson - Shops
11	The Shieling	NH 48496 58395	Shop	Demolished	<p>The older of two shops known as The Sheiling, it was also constructed of wood, though it was not similar in appearance to Site 10. It is shown as no. 111 on Plan 3 in a 1949 sales prospectus for the Strathpeffer Estate. It lies against the boundary of Burnhill (Site 29, MHG22284), on what must once have been Ardival ground (see Sites 3, 9, and 26). The shop burnt down before 1957, reputedly because a firework was put through the letter box on Guy Fawkes Night. The outline of the plot is still indicated by a fence and by the concrete threshold.</p> <p>In the 1920s-1930s, it was run by Miss Macdonald and Miss Fraser, who sold good quality woollen ladies wear. This was a</p>		<p>Duncan Finlayson; Fiona Newton; Margaret Spark</p> <p>Other sources cited: Sale catalogue 1949; Duncan Finlayson - Shops</p>

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					very successful business, serving both visitors and locals alike. Miss Macdonald and Miss Fraser lived in Holmwood, now Glenesk (Site 61, MHG22724). Both were very active in the life of the Strath; Miss Fraser was a great walker and a fine skater. In the 1940s-1950s, The Shieling was run by Mrs Joan Cooper, who also sold woollen goods.		
12	Heatherlie	NH 4828 5821			Heatherlie was 'originally named The Studio when built in 1897, it was a photographer's studio and home ... It also incorporated a small bank entered by a second entrance' (Murray 1985). The bank is marked on the OS 2 nd edition map (1906).	MHG16372	Murray 1985
13	Former Post Office; Telephone Exchange	NH 48213 58132	PO		<p>The Post Office and Telephone Exchange were formerly located in the sandstone building behind the Highland Hotel. Though the Post Office is shown on the OS 2nd edition map (1906) within Spa Buildings (see Site 1), photographs of Spa Buildings by Mr Wellwood Maxwell, in the possession of Mrs M. Spark, suggest that it may have moved to this location by c. 1910. In the 1920s-1930s, the Post Office was certainly here and was a hive of activity. There were three units: 1) a Post Office, with a fine counter and full staff; 2) behind this the telegraph office; 3) a mail depot (sorting office).</p> <p>The Telegraph office went automatic in the late 1950s. Then the building was used as an annexe for the Highland Hotel. By the 1970s it was a hostel for staff, and it is believed to be still owned by Highland Hotel.</p> <p>In the 1920s and 1930s the postmaster was Major Wilkie, who had a residence upstairs. The Telegraph Office was so important that there was a permanent telegraph boy (Ian Henderson in Duncan Finlayson's day). In the summer, because of all the visitors to the Spa, a second telegraph boy was required. Later Jackie Mellis was telegram boy who went on to be a postie. Walter Ross did the telephone exchange at night – he was there until it went automatic (in the late 1950s).</p>	MHG22706	<p>Duncan Finlayson; Fiona Newton; Jennifer Haslam; Kitty Campbell; Margaret Spark</p> <p>Other sources: Duncan Finlayson - Shops</p>

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14	Maya	NH 4833 5809	Shops	In use	<p>This building, though now only one property, was originally four separate premises. It is present on the OS 2nd edition map (1906), though the current footprint is much larger.</p> <p>In the 1920s it had 4 shops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A jewellers and watchmakers shop, a branch of a shop in Tain, but served by Miss MacKintosh, daughter of the miller at Millnain. It had displays of pearls from the River Conon in its window. 2. A vegetable and fruit shop (before the coming of Adams in the Square). 3. A butchers run by Murdo MacGregor. This fine business supplied meat to hotels and boarding houses from Mr MacGregor's own farms, and was noted for its quality. Miller Macrae was the butcher after Murdo MacGregor. 4. A small useful grocery run by Miss Jean Graham, daughter of the stationmaster. <p>When put up for sale in 1949, two of the shops were occupied by a furnisher and upholsterer (Messrs Fraser & Co.), with the other two let to a butcher (Representatives of Murdo MacGregor) and a grocer (Miss Jean Graham).</p> <p>The Post Office was located here from the 1960s to the mid 1980s. Several other shops have been located here in more recent times. In the early 1990s it was a café and creative drafts shop. In the 2000s, it was a craft shop owned by a Dutch couple. More recently the site has been an antiques shop (run by Jessie Mackenzie in the old sorting office end) and a church, and is now (2011) a well known chocolate shop.</p> <p>The stone footings are original, though the roof burnt down c. 1960 and the three shops were converted into two. The Smiths owned it prior to the fire, when it was taken over by the Millers. When purchased in the early 2000s, the property still had 3 post codes. The sign for the PO was found during renovations in 2004.</p>	MHG22291	<p>Duncan Finlayson; Jennifer Haslam; Fiona Newton; Yves Pattyn; Margaret Spark</p> <p>Other sources cited: Sale Catalogue 1949; Duncan Finlayson - Shops</p>

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15	Highland Home Industries Shop	NH 4840 5818	Shop	Demolished	This shop, run by Miss MacCallum, was located in the grounds of Craigvar, at least since 1949 (for its previous location, see Site 36). It shut as the Highland Home Industries shop in the late 1970s/early 1980s and was then briefly a sweet shop, run by Ernie Dan, who wanted to turn it into a chip shop, but was not allowed. The shop only opened during the summer months during its latter years. More recently, it was used by the church to make teas, also in the summer months; it did not have running water or toilet facilities. The building was only demolished fairly recently; the plan of the sunken garden, dated 2000, attached to MHG29343, relates to this site.	MHG41168	Kitty Campbell; Fiona Newton; Margaret Spark; Duncan Finlayson
16	Bank of Scotland	NH 4840 5813	Bank (Financial)	Extant	This wooden building, 'a charming essay in timber post and harling' (Murray 1985), was in use until the early 1990s. Heavy bags of money were collected from the bank in Dingwall by the bank manager and the clerk and taken up to Strathpeffer on the bus - and returned in the same way at the end of the day. Following the closure of the bank, the building lay empty for a while, before being taken over by Douglas Murray, architect and then as offices for the Pavilion Association during the restoration of the pavilion. The building was originally a doctor's surgery (Murray 1985). See also Site 36.	MHG22700	Jennifer Haslam; Fiona Newton; Margaret Spark Other sources cited: Murray 1985
17	Windsor Lodge	NH 4836 5850	House	In use	According to research undertaken for the Highland Museum of Childhood exhibition in 2000s, this house was built in 1890 by Donald MacRae, a joiner and cabinet maker from Garve, as a boarding house with 20 bedrooms, and run by his wife Helen MacLennan. Donald specialised in staircases, and examples are said to survive at Windsor Lodge, Holly Lodge, Brunstane Lodge and in the Highland Hotel. Windsor Lodge is notable for its 'interesting half-timbered projecting bay windows' (Murray 1985), which must also reflect MacRae's joinery skills. The boarding house was run by Helen MacLennan until the 1950s. After her death, Windsor Lodge was divided into flats in which	MHG22612	Fiona Newton Other sources cited: Highland Museum of Childhood exhibition 'Hands across the Sea exhibition' (2009); Murray 1985

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					members of the family lived. Their former housekeeper, Jean (Shine) MacLean was given Windsor Cottage and the entrance between the now flattened house and cottage was sealed up.		
18	Grain Store	NH 4808 5802	Storehouse	Demolished	This is located where Nicolson Court now is.	MHG19888	
19	Spa Motors	NH 4813 5799	Garage	In use	This was originally the steading for Kinnettass House (MHG16416). It appears as a large complex of buildings on the OS 1 st edition map (1876). Its use as a garage predates mechanised transport. In the 1920s, it was run as a garage and taxi service by Davy Munro, who lived in Francis Villa. In return for keeping Davy's accounts, Duncan Finlayson's father kept his car at the garage, in an area where the remnants of the horse stalls were apparent. According to a 1949 prospectus for the sale of the Strathpeffer Estate, it was known as Kinnettass Garage, when let to William Kennedy, who built the bungalow next to the garage; Willie had previously been at Ben Wyvis Garage (see Site 3). There was a cinema at the back of the depot during the war. Neil MacDonald has a photo of the horses and carriages in front of the garage.	MHG32482	Duncan Finlayson; Neil Macdonald; Margaret Spark Other sources cited: Sale Catalogue 1949
20	Highland Hotel	NH 4824 5812	Hotel	In use	The interior panelling was covered up to protect it during the war, when the hotel was used to house troops. After the war, the hotel accommodated soldiers' families. See also Site 8.	MHG16401	Margaret Spark
21	Fife Lodge	NH 4822 5820	House	In use	Fife Lodge was requisitioned for use by officers during WWII. After 1955, it was bought by Doctor Dick as his home and for use as his surgery; his patients waited in the dining room, with the surgery in a smaller room behind. The doctor's surgery later moved to Birch Lodge (Site 6, MHG22711); previously Dr. Dick had used Greenside (now Inver Lodge, MHG22728).	MHG22734	Fiona Newton; Margaret Newton; Margaret Spark; Jennifer Haslam

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22	Cromartie Buildings	NH 4841 5831	Shops; flats	In use	<p>This three storey block dates to 1885 (Murray 1985). In the 1920s-1930s, the downstairs shops were Burnetts Bakery, with a tea room in the back (east) and a drapers (west), run by Samuel Fraser and his family. The Frasers lived at Timaru. See Duncan Finlayson's memories of this building in the 1920s.</p> <p>Behind Cromartie Buildings, there was a long row of garages, where the delivery van was kept and, behind that again, the bakery itself. On the OS 2nd edition map (1906), the long narrow row of buildings at the rear of Cromartie Buildings, and, behind this, another building, would seem to correspond to this description</p> <p>The Burnetts, an Inverness family, advertised themselves as 'Bakers to the Highlands' and the bakery and the tea room were vital to the Spa. Like Burnetts, the Frasers - who held a tremendous stock, including mens, womens, and childrens clothes, table linen, bed linen, etc - delivered around Strathconon, the Heights and Garve.</p> <p>Burnett's continued in business until the 1980. After Burnetts, the property was a supermarket which also sold fishing permits and had accountancy.</p> <p>Frasers drapery shop was succeeded by George MacKenzie, ('Gentleman George'), when it was known locally as 'The Toffs'. Then it was run by Eric Simpson. Taylors had it after the Simpsons.</p> <p>The properities above the shops were flats from at least the 1920s and probably before. Originally the people who owned or managed the shops often lived above them. For example, the Abbot family, who ran Burnett's in the 1920s, lived in these flats. Later, in the 1950s, Mrs Murchison, who was manager of Burnetts, lived upstairs. But later tenants were not associated with the businesses. There has been a large turnover of people living in this building.</p>	MHG22709	<p>Duncan Finlayson; Fiona Newton; Margaret Spark; Jennifer Haslam</p> <p>Other sources cited: Murray 1985; Duncan Finlayson - Shops</p>

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23	Well	NH 4833 5814			There was an open well in the middle of square, now under the modern Pump Room.		Margaret Spark
24	Urinal	NH 4832 5811		No longer extant	Shown on the OS 1 st edition map (1876), but not on the 2 nd edition map (1906). See also Site 7.		
25	Hamilton House	NH 4826 5805	House	In use	This Georgian style house is now divided into two separate dwellings.	MHG16358	Iain Davidson
26	Ardival Mill	NH 48471 58359	Mill; dam	Demolished	The pond and sluice which served Ardival Mill are shown on the OS 1 st edition map (1876), but are not visible on the 2 nd edition map (1906). The mill was still present on the 2 nd edition map, but is no longer extant. According to Watson 1904, the mill is first mentioned in 1586 and 'in 1681 it is mentioned as "Tympane mill, near Clach an Tiompan," the stone in the grounds of Nutwood near the public road ...' (1904, 99). According to Finlayson, the mill, which stood of the bottom of Ardival's garden, was not generally known as Ardival Mill, but as the Tympan Mill (1979, 32). The Eagle stone (MHG43542) was said to have originally been located beside the mill. See also Sites 3 and 9.		Watson 1904; Finlayson 1979
27	Kinnettas Graveyard	NH 4803 5818	Cemetery	extant	The last burial took place at least 40 years ago. This may have been of Andrew Ross, who sat in the front pew at church and who had fought in the Boer war; Andrew worked on the roads and lived in one of the cottages next to the graveyard. A study of the graveyard has been done.	MHG7897, 41436	Jennifer Haslam; Margaret Spark
28	Timaru	NH 4846 5844	House	In use	The arcaded balcony is actually made of iron, not wood as stated in Murray 1985. For about 20 years it was known as Ardgor, but now is known by its original name. Fraser the draper (see MHG22709) lived here in the 1920s. The house was built by Donald MacLennan (b. 1838) from the Heights of Achterneed who had emigrated to Timaru in New Zealand. On his return after 1873 he built Timaru, as well as Timuka (MHG7865) and Oamaru (now called Mooruna; MHG22710) nearby, and possibly Camuserroch (MHG22286) behind Oamaru. Donald was known as 'Old Timaru' and died in Strathpeffer in 1919.	MHG7886	Margaret Spark; Highland Museum of Childhood exhibition 'Hands across the Sea exhibition' (2009); Murray 1985

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29	Burnhill	NH 4850 5839	House	In use	Formerly known as Breadalbane, this was built by Daniel Scott, an Inspector of Schools, who came from Perthshire. The Sasine abridgements show that the plot was bought in 1887 by Daniel Scott, clerk of the School Board, from the Countess of Cromartie. The house was built in early 1888. In 1899 it was bought by Mary Macneil, wife of Duncan Bain of Elgin. In 1914 it was bought by Edith Christian Macrae & Dorothea Kathleen Macrae, daughters of Donald Macrae, jeweller of Inverness. The Macintoshes lived here in the 1960s and 1970s. The plot size is listed as 2031 sq yards. The property had iron steps at the back for Dr Chisholm; these no longer survive.	MHG22284	Fiona Newton; information from Sasine abridgements supplied by descendent of Daniel Scott to Fiona Newton.
30	Craigvar	NH 4840 5815	House	In use	Murray thought that this villa dates back to the 1860s (Murray 1985), but it was built in 1839 (Margaret Scott). On the OS 1 st edition map (1876), Craigvar is named as Park House. During the 1920s-1930s, Dr Thompson from Dingwall consulted in Craigvar twice a week; this was in addition to both ordinary consultations taking place at Dr. Bearn's surgery in Eaglestone (Site 65, MHG16305), and to the consulting rooms attached to the spa (Site 38, MHG22690). During WWII, it was taken over for military accommodation, housing amongst others the Norwegian chaplain.	MHG16224	Duncan Finlayson; Margaret Scott Other sources cited: Murray 1985
31	Athole House	NH 4845 5824	House	In use	This villa dates to c.1874 (Murray 1985). On the OS 1 st edition map (1876), Athole House is named as Lairg House.	MHG22698	Murray 1985.
32	Mackays Hotel	NH 4842 5819	House	In use	This was originally MacGregor's Hotel and dates back to the late 1860s (Murray 1985).	MHG22732	Murray 1985.
33	Spa Lodge Hotel	NH 4843 5823	House	In use	On the OS 1 st edition map (1876), the name is given as Caberfeigh House and it was known by this name until the late 1990s or early 2000s when it became known as Spa Lodge Hotel. Jackie Cross, renowned goalkeeper for Dingwall Victoria and later as it became Ross County, lived here in the 1920s and 1930s. Like many properties it was a boarding house.	MHG22285	Jennifer Haslam; Duncan Finlayson

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34	Station goods yard	NH 4863 5841	Goods yard	Demolished	Following the establishment of the Strathpeffer branch line in 1885, extensive sidings for goods, such as coal, paraffin and oil, etc., grew up on the north side of the station (Site 50, MHG6292). One of the two goods sheds was located under the present Peffery House. There were two coal merchants in Strathpeffer - Roy Munro and then Willie Kennedy (for Kennedy, who ran Ben Wyvis Garage and then Spa Motors, see also Sites 3 and 19). Jock Henderson, who lived at Kinnettas, used his horse and cart to carry luggage and the large amounts of goods of all kinds that came by railway between the station and the various hotels before WWII. A path from the station to the Ben Wyvis Hotel (MHG7864) allowed the porters to walk up to the hotel.		Kitty Campbell; Duncan Finlayson; Neil Macdonald
35	The Anchorage	NH 47984 57762		No longer extant	Grit for the roads was kept in a hollow, surrounded by chestnut trees, just below Park Terrace. This is probably what is described as 'A Useful Site', fronting onto the main Dingwall road and let to the County Council in a sale prospectus for the Strathpeffer Estate, dated 1949. The accompanying map appears to show a triangular shaped hollow on the plot where The Anchorage now is. On the OS 2 nd edition map (1906), this same hollow lies beyond Corrie Vanie, at that time the last house on this side of the Dingwall road. On the OS 1 st edition map (1876), there are no buildings near this spot.		Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam Other sources cited: Sale Catalogue 1949
36	Shop (original Highland Home Industries premises)	NH 483 573		No longer extant	Before it moved to the grounds of Craigvar (Site 15, MHG22486), the first home of the Highland Home Industries shop was in a small building behind The Shieling (Site 10, MHG22633). In a sales prospectus for the Strathpeffer Estate from 1949, it was being offered as two lots; Lot 12a, a store for the Commercial Bank of Scotland, while the rear of the building, forming part of Lot 13, was described as offices for the bank (see Site 16, MHG22700). It was a tin roofed, timber building and appears on the OS 2 nd edition map (1906), as well as in a photograph by Mr Wellwood Maxwell, c. 1900, in the possession of Mrs M. Spark.		Duncan Finlayson Other sources cited: Sales Catalogue 1949

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
37	Holly Lodge	NH 4828 5841	House	In use	Though the Listed Building record says it was built c. 1860, this Classically influenced villa was constructed in 1901 according to Murray (Murray 1985). It was run as a boarding house by Mrs Finlayson from 1928 until 1939. Later (in the 1970s) it was run as a hotel with 'The Blue Room' being very popular for dining.	MHG16410	Duncan Finlayson; Fiona Newton Murray 1985
38	The Cottage	NH 4833 5820	House	In use	In a 1949 prospectus for the sale of the Strathpeffer Estate, this single-storey dwelling house is described as having been previously a doctor's consulting rooms and was let to Dr. David Dick. This appears to have been the consulting rooms attached to the spa - with ordinary consultations taking place at Dr. Bearn's surgery in Eaglestone during the 1920s-1930s (Site 65, MHG16305), while Dr Thompson from Dingwall consulted in Craigvar twice a week (Site 30, MHG16224). The building must be on the site of the urinal noted on the OS 1 st edition map (1876; Site 7); it is present by the time the map was revised in 1906. The maps included in the 1949 sales prospectus show that the sexagonal building at the rear of the building was separate, though it has now been incorporated into the main part of the building.	MHG22690	Duncan Finlayson Other sources cited: Sales Catalogue 1949
39	Kinnetas Square Tennis Courts	NH 4803 5805	Tennis court	Buried	A clay court tennis court, a foot beneath the soil of the gardens, was owned by the Highland Hotel (Site 20, MHG16401) for their guests to play on. Mrs Sheila Dick, the doctor's wife, taught tennis there in the mid 1950s. There was a little pavilion, which had become very dilapidated by this time.		Hamish (P7 at Primary School); Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam
40	Pavilion Gardens, curling pond	NH 48379 58013	Curling pond; tennis courts	Buried	By the time of the 2 nd edition map (1906), a curling pond, along with two bowling greens (Site 52) and a bandstand (Site 53), had been laid out in Pavilion Gardens (Site 59). The curling pond became tennis courts by the mid 20 th century - and is shown as such on the map contained in a 1949 prospectus for the sale of the Strathpeffer Estate. Later it reverted to a curling pond, and it is again tennis courts.		Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam; Margaret Spark Other sources cited: Sales Catalogue 1949

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
41	Jubilee Pond	NH 47981 57266	Curling Pond; pavilion	Pond: extant. Pavilion: demolished	This was available to everyone as a pond for skating and curling (Finlayson 1979, 90-1). Its name commemorates Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. There was also a small log-built pavilion, which had a veranda protecting two seats on either side of the door, where you sat to put on your skates. The pond remained in use until the late 1950s. The pavilion does not survive and the pond is now very overgrown.		Jennifer Haslam Other sources cited: Finlayson 1979
42	Sawmill, Jubilee Pond	c. NH 47947 57322	Sawmill	Demolished	This sawmill ran from 1952 for at least 25 years. It was powered by electricity.		Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam; Neil Macdonald
43	Timber huts, Jubilee Pond	c. NH 47966 57319	Huts	Demolished	A series of timber huts housed the workers at the sawmill (Site 42).		Pat Justad
44	Jubilee Drive	NH 47781 57496 - NH 5034 5838	Carriage Drive	Track	This was established to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It ran from immediately north of Elsick House (MHG7863) up to Knockfarrel, where you could take tea at The Chalet (Site 51). It was very well made and allowed small horse drawn carriages to travel up to Knockfarrel.		Duncan Finlayson; Pat Justad
45	'The Shoppie'	NH 4788 5758	Shop	Demolished	Until about 10-15 years ago, there used to be a general stores at the corner of Park Road. It was a green painted, wooden building, with a car park to the south. It was built by Bill Brown, the physiotherapist at the Nicolson Mackenzie Memorial Hospital. Bill Brown was known as 'Rogie', because he was such a keen fisherman and the shop also sold fishing tackle. The shop was demolished and rebuilt as three houses, now known as 'The Crannog'. It was partly built over a well. Bill Brown was well known around Scotland for his fishing expertise, writing in a number of journals.		Jennifer Haslam; Pat Justad; Fiona Newton; Kitty Campbell
46	White Cottage	NH 48298 58174	Shops	Extant	On the OS 2 nd edition map (1906), a very small building is depicted in this location in the garden of White Lodge, known on the OS 1 st edition map as Ivy Cottage (MHG16481). In the 1920s-1930s, one of the shops was a dairy, distributing Mr		Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam; Fiona Newton; Margaret Spark;

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
					<p>Duncan MacGregor, Ardival Farms's cream, etc. The other shop had a variety of occupants, some only for a short time, including a fish shop, and shoe shop.</p> <p>In a 1949 sales prospectus for the Strathpeffer Estate, this building is described as 'a block of three modern stone, rough cast and slate Shops', occupied by a shoemaker (George Anderson), baker (James Deas) and fishmonger (Ann Macgregor). In the 1950s, Ken McMaster had a carpenters shop behind the two surviving shops.</p> <p>In the 1960s-late 1970s, the building was occupied by a ladies hairdresser and a ladies' clothes shop.</p> <p>More recently it was occupied by a 'Tea Shoppe'.</p> <p>It is now a holiday cottage.</p>		Duncan Finlayson Other sources cited: Sales Catalogue 1949; Duncan Finlayson - Shops
47	Former Police Station	NH 4831 5807	Police Station	Demolished	The plot boundaries shown on the OS 2 nd edition map (1906) suggest that the police station was built on what must have been part of the garden of Hamilton House (Site 25, MHG16358). This building, the successor of Site 49, was built in the 1950s/60s and went out of use in the 1980/90s; it is marked on the modern OS map as a former police station.	MHG22289	Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam; Fiona Newton
48	Nicolson Mackenzie Memorial Hospital	NH 4803 5806	Hospital	Extant	The hospital was built in 1895 (opened 1896), to a design by W. C. Joass, though it has now been extended many times. It originally had a tower, which no longer exists. It developed as a specialist rheumatology unit, which was passed over to the NHS in 1948. Later it was moved to the Peterkin Maternity Unit in Dingwall. The original plans are on display in the current rheumatology unit. It is now a private home, known as Mackenzie House.	MHG7883	Fiona Newton; Kitty Campbell
49	Old Police House	NH 48679 58363	Police House	In use	The police house, which preceded Site 47, was probably built in the early 20 th century. It recalls Railway Cottage and Viewfield, the buildings immediately adjacent to it, in style. It is now a private home.		Kitty Campbell
50	Strathpeffer Station	NH 4860 5839	Railway Station	In use	Though the station closed to regular passenger traffic on 2 nd March 1946, freight was carried until 26 March 1951. The rails	MHG6292	Duncan Finlayson;

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
					<p>were taken away by 1952. The present station is comprised of buildings from three periods:</p> <p>The oldest part of the station is to the west. During the 1920s-1930s, John Menzies had a bookstall at the station, built against the west wall of the station and with a sloping display area. It sold cigarettes, tobacco, chocolates, sweets, papers (some of which were regular orders for the nearby properties), magazines and books. In the 1950s and 1960s there was a coal merchants there and Bob Knox had an upholstery business.</p> <p>The middle section of the station, currently (2011) housing the bookshop, was constructed in the 1970s/1980s.</p> <p>The 2010 extension to the Museum of Childhood lies to the east. See also Site 34 and 73.</p>		<p>Margaret Spark; Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Maxwell</p> <p>Duncan Finlayson - Shops</p>
51	The Chalet, Knockfarrel	NH 50362 58382	Tea Room	Demolished; only iron foundation pieces survive	<p>This was a wooden building, encircled by a veranda, similar in character to The Shieling (Site 10, MHG22633). In the 1920s/1930s Miss Camerons (sisters) ran it. They initiated the idea of teas at Knockfarrel, and then the enterprise was made a reality by the Cromartie Estate providing the chalet. It was very cleverly designed, where the shutters let down to form tables for outdoor teas. In busy times tables were also set out in the more level areas of the surrounding grassland. The Miss Camerons lived in one of the crofts lying immediately at the foot of Knockfarrel slope on the Loch Ussie side, carrying the necessary provisions and water up the slope. Duncan Finlayson remembers the delicious teas with home baking and, in season, strawberries and cream at 2/6 a time – a lot of money in those days. Some visitors to Strathpeffer regarded tea at the chalet as a ‘must’, though his family regarded it as a luxury.</p> <p>The chalet was in business until the mid 50’s /1960s, when it was run by Flora MacDonald, who had a croft on the south side of Knockfarrel and also carried water up to The Chalet from a well on the croft each day. A number of photographs survive of the</p>		<p>Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam Neil MacDonald Duncan Finlayson</p> <p>Other sources cited: Uncles 1998</p>

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
					chalet (a particularly good one in Uncles 1998 p. 29). The chalet became very dilapidated and derelict, before it finally burnt down in the later 1960s (date not positive) - reputedly an act of arson by a group of boys seen running away from the scene. Remnants of the foundations can still be seen.		
52	Pavilion Gardens, bowling greens	centred NH 4845 5806	Bowling green	In use	Two bowling greens - along with a curling pond (Site 40) and a small building which was a bandstand (Site 53) - are shown on the OS 2 nd edition map (1906) within Pavilion Gardens (Site 59). The smaller of the bowling greens was used for crazy golf during the 1960s-1970s. One of the bowling greens was a putting green in the 1950s.		Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam
53	Pavilion Gardens, bandstand	c. NH 4835 5800	Bandstand	Demolished	Within Pavilion Gardens (Site 59), a building shown on the OS 2 nd edition map (1906), next to the curling pond (Site 40) and the bowling greens (Site 52), was a bandstand. It was an open building, large enough for people to sit under cover when the weather was wet. There were toilets in the back by the 1950s. The bandstand is now long gone.		Kitty Campbell; Jennifer Haslam
54	Cairngorm	NH 4818 5837	House	In use	Before Dr Douglas Hanton built Birch Lodge in the late 1970s (Site 6, MHG22711), he consulted in Cairngorm.		Kitty Campbell
55	'Back Roadie'	NH 4839 5834 - NH 4836 5835 - NH 4831 5829	Path	Extant	Bounding the north and east edges of the plot associated with Cromartie Buildings (Site 22, MHG22709) is a lane, known as the 'Back Roadie', which acted as a short cut to the bakers and the station from the Free Church (MHG16337).		Duncan Finlayson; Kitty Campbell
56	The Orchard	centred NH 4798 5814	Orchard	Pasture	This was run very successfully by the Paris family in the 1920s who sold the produce locally. In the 1949 sales prospectus for the Strathpeffer Estate, this is Lot 34, which was described as 'A Useful Area of Garden Ground', 1 acre 1 rood and 3 poles in size. At that time it was let to John Henderson, with most of it sub-let as cottage gardens for nearby Kinnettas Cottages.		Duncan Finlayson Other sources cited: Sales Catalogue 1949

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
57	Raven Cottage	NH 4842 5836	House	In use	'A neat cottage tiny in comparison with its neighbours', this cottage has multi-paned sash and case windows and originally had a thatched roof (Murray 1985). The cottage is present on the OS 1 st edition map (1876). Two photographs by Mr Wellwood Maxwell, in the possession of Mrs M. Spark, show the cottage with its thatched roof. In a 1949 prospectus for the sale of the Strathpeffer Estate it is also known as 'Tigh na Fhitheach' and had a wooden shingle roof. The roof is now tiled (2011).	MHG22716	Margaret Spark Other sources cited: Murray 1985; Sales Catalogue 1949
58	Victory Hall	NH 4811 5799	Hall	Demolished	This was a Hall built after WWI. It was also the regular venue for many smaller or medium sized concerts, public meetings, election meetings, district drama, clubs, basket whist and for films (the Pavillion (MHG7887) was for bigger occasions and important concerts). It also housed a billiard room to the right after going through the door. The hall had large metal stoves, and often smelled of paraffin. It is now (2011) a cleared area used as additional parking for Strathpeffer Community Centre.		Duncan Finlayson; Jennifer Haslam; Kitty Campbell
59	Pavilion Gardens	centred NH 4828 5794	Gardens	In use	On the OS 1 st edition map (1876), the Pavilion Gardens - though not named as such - are shown as planted with trees and with a network of paths. By the time of the 2 nd edition map (1906), a curling pond (Site 40), a small building which was a bandstand (Site 53), and two bowling greens (Site 52) had been laid out.		
60	Clisham	NH 4837 5826	House	In use	Clisham was formerly known as Brookside, because there was originally a burn, formerly an open drain. Now covered over, the burn can still be heard. Clisham is one of the earliest houses in the Spa development and is very typically Highland in appearance (Murray 1985). As Brookside, it is recorded in a 1949 sales prospectus for the Strathpeffer Estate, when it had a builders yard, office, workshops, and a store at the rear.	MHG22692	Neil Macdonald; Margaret Spark Other sources cited: Sales Catalogue 1949; Murray 1985
61	Glenesk	NH 4820 5842	House	In use	This villa was built c. 1910 and was previously known as Holmwood. It was lived in by Miss Macdonald and Miss Fraser, who ran The Shieling (Site 11). After them came Joan Cooper and then the Sparks. The veranda woodwork was similar to that	MHG22724	Duncan Finlayson; Margaret Spark

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
					originally at the Highland Hotel, but was pulled down because it had rotted.		
62	Ord Wood	Exact route not known. Ord Wood centred at NH 4778n 5818	Carriage drive	Track	In addition to Jubilee Drive (Site 44), there was also a carriage path into Ord Wood which went up to the Flagstaff. It was a 'favourite perambulation of the Victorian visitor' (Murray 1985). It may have originated as a drove road: 'Skirting the graveyard was a drove road which at the junction with a farm track had a well, used alike by residents and passers-by. A pump which supplanted the well was in use until just before the First World War' (Finlayson 1979, 31).		Duncan Finlayson Other sources cited: Finlayson 1979; Murray 1985
63	Strathpeffer Golf Course	NH 4804 5858 (club-house)	Golf course	In use	Most of the lands of Kinnetas Farm are now part of the golf course. There is still ridge and furrow visible. The clubhouse (MHG22719) and adjacent open fronted caddies shelter, roughly where the present (2011) shop is situated, are present on the OS 2 nd edition map (1906). The clubhouse appears in one of Mr Wellwood Maxwell's photographs, in the possession of Mrs M. Spark. The course was laid out by Colonel Blunt-Mackenzie in 1902 (Finlayson 1979, 83). Before 1914, there was a shorter ladies' course in front of Ord Wood (ibid.).	MHG22719	Duncan Finlayson; Neil Macdonald Other sources cited: Finlayson 1979
64	Strathpeffer Parish Church, underground chamber	NH 4820 5799	Underground chamber	Buried	In the grounds of the church, between it and the road, there was an underground chamber. Children played there in the 1940s-1950s. It is now filled in, with a lump in the ground where it originally was.	MHG16425	Neil Macdonald
65	Eaglestone House	NH 4842 5848	House	In use	This house, with its separate coach house to the rear, is present on the OS 1 st edition map (1876), when the Eagle Stone (MHG43542) was in its garden. The cast iron columns supporting the veranda were apparently once gnarled timber posts (Murray 1985). During the 1920s-1930s, Dr. Bearn had his surgery in Eaglestone House. This was in addition to the consulting rooms attached to the spa (Site 38, MHG22690) and to Dr Thompson from Dingwall, who consulted in Craigvar twice a week (Site 30,	MHG16305	Duncan Finlayson; Fiona Newton Other sources cited: Sales Catalogue 1949; Murray 1985

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
					MHG16224). In a 1949 prospectus for the sale of the Strathpeffer Estate, the house is listed as having outbuildings consisting of garage, laundry with sinks and coalhouse, all built of stone with a slate roof, as well as a Gardener's Cottage with coal shed, W.C. and tool shed.		
66	Loch Kinellan, crannog	NH 4710 5759	Crannog		Peggy Macdonald née Ramsay, whose father was factor to the Fairburn Estate, remembers that when Kinellan Farm was part of the estate, there was an orchard on the island. In the excavation report for the island, this is also recorded: 'In the nineteenth century the island was, under different tenants, used as a kitchen garden. A number of fruit trees still growing upon it are evidence of this somewhat ignoble use, while the rich crop of nettles that mantles its surface season after season is further eloquent of its departed glory (Fraser 1917, 52). This use of the island went back at least as far as 1837: 'Loch Kinellan is also a pleasing object with its pretty little island (for many years a garden), and the fine arable fields on one side contrast strikingly with the wilder scenery on the other (Downie 1837, 236).	MHG6285	
67	Loch Kinellan, crannog dugout canoe	NH 4710 5759	Dugout canoe	No longer extant	Though the canoe was said to have been taken to Fort Augustus Abbey museum where it disintegrated, Duncan remembers seeing this as a boy in Inverness Museum	MHG43472	Duncan Finlayson
68	Kinellan Drive pond	NH 475 573	Pond		This whole area was always very peaty when ploughed. The formation of the pond is probably due to blocked field drains and now means that the water drains to the east (down into the village) rather than to the west.		Neil MacDonald
69	Glenorchy	NH 48613 58343	House	In use	This house is situated overlooking the Station. It was built c. 1901 and was originally called Stanley Villa, but was renamed in 1952. It had a room in the back near the coal shed with a cooker, so the family could live there when they let the villa for the season. This happened in a number of properties in Strathpeffer. The cottage		Kitty Campbell

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
					built onto the back was built for one of the sons of the original owners.		
70	Electricity Company Offices	NH 4838 5823	Shop	demolished	Duncan Finlayson remembers this building as being situated beside the Sheiling (Site 10, MHG22633).		Duncan Finlayson
71	Drill Hall	NH 4811 5799	Hall	demolished	This wooden building was situated across the little road from the Victory Hall (site 58), next to Macgregor's tattie stall. Army cadets was held there, and Neil MacDonald remembers being taught to box there.		Neil MacDonald
72	Beechlea	NH 4833 5831	House	In use	Situated behind the Strathpeffer Hotel. This was built by Jackie Fraser in the 1960s. It is unusual for being a bungalow in the conservation area.		Jennifer Haslam; Margaret Scott
73	Station gates	NH 485 584	Gates	extant	The gates to the Station premises are comprised of a larger and smaller one. The larger was made in the Rose Street foundry, Inverness. When the station premises were redone the entrance was made wider and the smaller gate was added on. This later one looks similar but is of different construction, welded rather than riveted.		Neil MacDonald
74	First Community Centre	NH 4811 5799	Hall	Demolished	This was built to the side of Victory Hall (site 58), in the 1960s, and was in use until the 1990s.		
75	Strathview	NH 4832 5844	House	In use	Museum of Childhood display panel: 'Strathview was built in 1890 on land bought by a Mr Skinner from the Countess of Cromarty. The property was originally a hotel called the Kildonan Hotel... During the First World War the house was used as a convalescent home before reverting to use as a hotel. In the Second World War the house was used again as a convalescent home...In 1947 the property was divided into two semi-detached dwelling houses called Kildonan and Strathview.'	MHG16456	Highland Museum of Childhood exhibition 'Hands across the Sea exhibition' (2009)
76	The Haven	NH480 580	House	In use	Built in the 1930s		Duncan Finlayson

ARCH No.	Name	Location	What is it?	Condition	Description	HER No:	Name of contributors
77	Nutwood Cottage	NH 483 586	House	Moved, then demolished	This house was situated behind Nutwood House. In the 1950s it was moved to Achterneed (approx. NH 488 596) but was recently demolished. Jennifer Haslam has a picture of her mother and grandparents at this cottage.		Jennifer Haslam; Fiona Newton
78	Nutwood House	NH 48445 58598	House	In use	This was the factor's house for the Cromartie estate. It also housed an office.		Duncan Finlayson
79	New House Croft	NH 498 605	Well	buried	On the site of New House Croft, Heights of Inchvannie, there was a sulphur well. It has since been buried.		Neil Macdonald
80	Loch Kinellan	NH 47 57	Curling Pond		Although no one remembered curling on Loch Kinellan, a photograph of early 1900s in the possession of Mrs M Spark shows curling on the pond.		
81	New York Villa	NH 4809 5785	House	extant	Built by Donald Mackenzie in 1889. Donald was a stonemason, born in Drynie Park in Mulbuie in 1854. He travelled in the US and New York as a young man, and when he returned he built New York Villa for his marriage. Slater's Directory of 1911 notes that he had apartments to let, suggesting the property was run as a guest house. The house was sold in 2004-5, having remained in the family until that time.	MHG7867	Highland Museum of Childhood exhibition 'Hands across the Sea exhibition' (2009)

Numbers refer to dots on the accompanying maps.

Sale Catalogue 1949 = Messrs John D. Wood & Co., 1949. *Strathpeffer, Ross-shire. The Holiday Resort of the Northern Highlands. Part of the Strathpeffer Estate. For Sale by Auction as a Whole or in Lots.*

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Duncan Finlayson - Shops: DUNCAN FINLAYSON memories of businesses in Strathpeffer 1920s & 1930s

BUSINESSES IN STRATHPEFFER in the 1920s and 1930s

DUNCAN FINLAYSON

Written 2011.

Dating of these recollections

To identify dating of my recollections, family connections and Strathpeffer as follows.

My parents came from Inverness in 1905 to Kinnetas Cottage 2. My brother was an infant. My sister was born in 1908. We moved to Ardival House which my mother ran as a boarding house (very successfully).

War etc.

I was born in 1917. I have clear toddler reminiscences until 3 ½ to 4: Looking down at trains from Ardival. Playing with Bobby Abbot – his father was manager of Burnetts Bakers at Cromartie Buildings and a baker himself at the Strathpeffer bakery.

My father worked on Cromartie estate office at Nutwood and then ran the Strathpeffer Electricity Co. office in the Square, adjacent to what is now called the Sheiling.

1921 – My father to Fairburn estate Office. We moved to Marybank but still had close connection with Strathpeffer – Friendships etc. continued, coming and going to Strathpeffer. My father continued as an Elder of U.F. church.

1928 – Moved back to Strath. My mother ran (again very successfully) a BOARDING HOUSE at Holly Lodge. I went by train to Dingwall Academy. I went to University in 1936. But Strathpeffer was still my home.

Until 1943 – by which time my parents were in CRAIGVAR – housed, during war, Commanding Officer, Norwegian chaplain etc – taken over as military accommodation.

2000 – I returned to Strathpeffer. Retirement in 2000.

LIST OF “BUSINESSES” IN MY TIME –

1. At Station was **MENZIES BOOKSTALL** selling paper, magazine, books, cigarettes, tobacco etc.

During the period when I was going to school:

It is not generally known that there was a John Menzies, typical of small railway bookstall.

Menzies-style, it was built against station ‘west’ wall – usual sloping layout (so that patrons could quickly grab a paper and pay while rushing for the train – at least gives that impression.

I can’t say how long it was there.

It sold papers, daily, weekly. Some people living at that end of village had their regular order there. Magazines – westerns, detective series Sexton Black, Dixon Hawk etc. Paperback popular literature.

Chocolate, sweets, cigarettes, tobacco.

It was run by Cathie Grant, daughter of senior policeman (Sargeant I think) at Police Station Dingwall. Later she married Jim Abbot of the bakery family. Later still she and Jim ran the very successful boarding house at Rosslyn Lodge.

2. Between Barnhill and Ben Wyvis Entry – **THE SHEILING** –
Wooden showroom and shop. Good quality woollen ladies wear etc. Miss MacDonald and Miss Fraser.

Miss Macdonald and Miss Fraser were very active in local affairs. They lived in Glenesk on Golf Course Road – I think it had a different name then? Miss Fraser was a great walker – an active person. Fine skater – I know, I skated with her! Though she once did have a very bad skating fall. Their business was very successful among visitors and locals.

3. **CROMARTIE BUILDINGS BURNETT'S BAKERY AND TEA ROOM.**

Dominated the area in a sense.

Fine shop at 'lower' end – whole business vital to the Spa. Highest quality bread and range of cakes, baking fancies. This was backed up by a busy bakehouse at the foot of what we called the 'back roadie'. All managed by Mr Abbot, himself a Master Baker – his wife a Burnett of the Inverness family. 'Bakers to the Highlands'. Local men among the bakers – families well-known still in the Strath! Jim Abbot went to the continent to learn the 'fancies' trade, French cakes etc... came back and enriched what was offered..

Beyond the shop was a very pleasant Tea Room. Afternoon tea there was the real thing (cream cookies – real cream of course – ah!).

Burnetts ran a delivery service and the well-stocked van served communities as remote as the depths of Strathconon. I occasionally acted as 'van boy' on these longer trips. The van was a large Guy. It was driven, and the people served, by Dan Campbell who lived in Cromartie Buildings and was a well-known and popular man in the community. On one occasion the gear lever cam unstuck on the Achterneed hill above the railway crossing. The van tumbled backwards, almost onto the railway and turned over. There were no casualties, just some bruised buns!

Times changed. The bakery became centralised in Inverness. This had serious consequences for local employment in the Strath. The usual story of centralisation.

4. **CROMARTIE BUILDINGS MR SAMUEL FRASER AND FAMILY. DRAPER'S SHOP.**

At the 'village' end of ground floor unit was a 'draper's shop'. This meant it carried an unbelievably varied stock in limited space. Men, women, children wear, household ware, table linen, bed linen etc etc.

It was run by Mr Samuel Fraser in partnership with Mrs. Fraser and their elder daughter Miss Elizabeth Betty Fraser. It serviced hotels and boarding houses etc. Betty was trained in corsetry and special fitting service and advice given (significant for her future).

At certain times while the ladies maintained the shop, Mr Fraser loaded his and went round the outlying areas – Heights, Strathconon etc. He may have offered 'terms' to country folk – I don't know.

Betty Fraser married and brought up a family but was widowed in late middle age. She moved to premises on Dingwall High Street. At one widow she offered Bibles for sale and in the other corsetry advice and provision by which she earned a livelihood. It is interesting to note that the Bible sales developed into the Christian Bookshop on Dingwall Station.

5. **Beside the square: Miss Sarah McKeon's TIGH MILLE ANNAS (now called The Sheiling). Good quality fancy goods. Lending Library too. Fine wooden showroom and shop.**

In Miss Sarah McKeon's time, from the 1920s-1940s, it sold good quality fancy goods; Miss McKeon was Irish and a staunch Roman Catholic, hence the Gaelic name, *Tigh Mile Annas* ('house of the hundred thousand welcomes'). Much of the fancy work, such as lace, which Miss McKeon sold, was made in convents. . She lived for a period in part of the bungalow in the

grounds of Holly Lodge while the Finlaysons were there, and latterly in rooms or room at Hope's Hotel.

SQUARE SHOPS:

6. LICENSED GROCER, as now

I think I should preface this by reference to what preceded my time. My parents often referred to Mr and Mrs Dalling of the shop. They were personal friends of some years' standing, so perhaps the Dallings had the shop before and then during the war. I am just guessing from conversations when I was a child. Mr Dalling certainly was a figure of local importance and involved in community affairs. When the early Strathpeffer Electricity Company developed into becoming the Ross-shire Electricity Company, Mr Thomas Dalling was the first manager of the company.

However during the nearly all the time when I knew the shop, it was owned by the MacLeods. The domestic area behind and above the shop had to accommodate Mr & Mrs MacLeod senior, parents of the three sons who ran the shop in my time:

Donnie F. MacLeod, the eldest essentially ran the business

Tommy who eventually joined the army

and the youngest Simon, known universally as 'Spud'.

The position of the shop is as today, but the public shop itself was very small by comparison and of course with a counter. The public entrance was at the corner, on to the square where the Post Box and Post Office notices are today (2011).

After the MacLeods, the shop passed to Mr Smith in the 1930s. Donnie moved south but I used to see him in Edinburgh where he established a Fruit, Veg and Flower Shop at the top of Marchmont Road.

7&8 Double SHOP: 7 and 8 were joined in my time. These units are now (2011) separate – a Gift shop and hairdresser, but the connecting door is still there!

7. Part **GROCERY BUT MAINLY CYCLE SHOP AND CYCLE REPAIRS.**

Mr Humphrey

Mr and Mrs Humphrey lived behind the shop.

The right hand shop had a counter – dealt in a few groceries and certainly had sweets laid out on counter.

The left hand shop was a cycle workshop. Mr H. did bicycle repairs – punctures etc – and had bicycle parts available.

Also I remember he had some golf items but the main business was bicycle repairs.

8. Followed by the Adams. They set up a very efficient and successful Fruit and Vegetable shop, with a delivery van. It was a family business: Mr & Mrs Adams, sister-in-law Mrs Johnstone, and the youngsters helped. All worked hard – a good business. The family lived at Summerhill. Son Jackie was a little younger than me but part of the gang of us boys of the time. Jackie was a very determined character. He was called up and came through the war but with impaired health. Died of T.B. As much a war casualty as any

9. **PHARMACY:** a) T. Wellwood Maxwell b) Mr Bernie

Has continued as such for a long long time. In my youth, the unforgettable T. Wellwood Maxwell reigned supreme – pharmacy and remarkable photography. He did a classic 'modern' analysis of

the waters – sulphur and iron. He was a dapper, immaculate man. Very good at his job and locally revered. He belonged to Melrose and retired there. He lived with Mrs Maxwell and two daughters (one a pharmacist) at Crancil Brae.

(He was very kind to me.– encouraged my interest in chemical experiments. Trusted me with dangerous items, but with dire warnings)

After his retirement, Mr Bernie was the pharmacist – a very obliging nice man ...

10. **NEWSAGENTS**, Stationer, Books, Tobacconist – A.& M. Fraser

A fine business run by the Fraser sisters Agnes and Molly.

This was an exceptional business. It was a proper newsagent handling:

- a variety of daily newspapers, weekly publications, monthly magazines –specialist (farming, fishing etc), periodicals. They would order any paper required.

– Paperbacks.

- Stationery – wide selection of items – paper, pens, writing equipment.

- Tobacconist – cigarettes, tobacco of every type. Snuff – a popular buy in those days!

- Fancy Goods – gifts – books

Agnes and Molly were in school with my brother & sister. Father was a gardener I think at Castle Leod. They lived in the lodge at Castle Leod gate. After the death of their father, I think it was, Agnes and Molly set up business. They lived with their mother above the shop.

When I was senior schoolboy I did a summer as newspaper boy – a big job – and helping in the shop. Quite a demanding job but I enjoyed it. 8/- per week (today's money 40 pence!)

After Molly married, Agnes carried on the business with hired staff. She had a nephew who as a boy came up regularly from down south and helped in the shop. Eventually he took it over – so then it became Donald Fraser shop. Meantime, Agnes had taken over Woolens Shop (see below no. 11).

11. **END SHOP** had various occupants

a) I can't remember, but I have a persistent idea that when I first knew the shop it was a Highland Home Industry type of shop.

b) Ladies' woollens – good quality – Mrs. Macdonald, Croftcrunie

c) Hairdresser at back. Muriel Macdonald.

Later Miss Agnes Fraser of Newsagent (see 10) took over as woollen goods.

After my time, there were a variety of occupants in this shop, which was I believe a newsagents and later a post office.

There was considerable window display space. The entrance was at an angle from pavement. It is very difficult to deal with because, even in my time, it has known a variety of uses. E.g. I was present when a recent short-term lesee – antique shop – in making plans for a new shop notice above the shop unearthed an old large boarding. I can't remember the exact words, but something like 'Lady Seaforth's Shop ... for Soldiers'.

It was from a time when wealthy ladies set up businesses, the profit of which went to extra comforts and help for men on service and their families and could be related as in this case, to soldiers of a regiment raised by the landowning family.

I am only really clear about two main occupants in my time – both of them a ladies' (or wider) Woolen business. One was Mrs Macdonald of house then called Croftcrunie. Her daughter Muriel, but called familiarly Moolie, and she married 'Spud' MacLeod of the shop (see no. 6). She was a hairdresser and took over the 'back room' of the shop and ran a successful Ladies' hairdresser; she also cut boys' hair. Her young brother Thomas Donald Macdonald, known as Tomdon, was one of the liveliest of boys in the village. He was a very close friend of mine. He went on to become an officer with Fleet Air Arm and lost his life very early in the war when the aircraft carrier

Courageous was torpedoed in the Bristol Channel. Sense of the war thus came early to Strathpeffer.

Then later, when Donald Fraser, Agnes Fraser's nephew, took over the newsagent [no. 10], Agnes Fraser took over the woollen business next door.

11A. **HIGHLAND HOME INDUSTRIES.**

Cabin was on a site which was let in to Craigvar Garden. Miss MacCallum ran the shop.

SHOPS BEHIND WHITE HOUSE [nos. 12 & 13]

12. **DAIRY.** Consistently a dairy. Centre for dairy distribution etc. Per Mr Duncan MacGregor, Ardival Farm. Cream, dairy items.

13. Variety of occupants, some only for short time. Fish Shop. Shoe Shop (Keltic branch from Dingwall (run by MacLennans). Neither was long-lived.

GROUP OF SHOPS – MAIN ROAD. NOW CHOCOLATE SHOP [MAYA]. [nos.14-17]

I can't be clear which shops were there when. I think there was an extra shop in the group before the fire.

14. **JEWELLERS AND WATCHMAKERS SHOP.**

Branch from the main shop in Tain. The shop was served by neat competent Miss MacKintosh, daughter of miller at Millnain. I can see her striding up and down daily. There were Conon pearls in the window.

15. **VEGETABLE FRUIT SHOP** (pre the coming of Adams in the Square).

16. **BUTCHER.**

Very fine business – wide range of supply to hotels and boarding houses. Proprietor Murdo MacGregor had local farms – extensive business. Probably as good quality as anything in the U.K. Murdo MacGregor also had a shop in Dingwall.

17. Small useful **GROCERY.** Miss Jean Graham (daughter of stationmaster).

18. **POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE**

facing back entrance of Highland Hotel. Fine red building.

1) Well furnished Post Office

2) Telegraph office (mid door). Permanent telegraph boy, and 1 extra boy in summer

3) Mail office – sorting – dispatch – in mail – parcel centre

4) and apartment above – home of postmaster.

The postmaster was Major Wilkie in my time. He was a significant man in the community. His position and title of 'Postmaster' gave him an automatic status in those days. He was considerably involved in local affairs.

The Post Office was a real 'centre of significance' in the community - a high quality, purpose built building containing services of genuine daily importance to the community in the days before general telephone household contact or modern communications facilities.

19. Bicycle business outwith the Strath

Andrew Campbell in Blairninich made bicycles elsewhere before coming to the area in the 1920s. He sold bicycles and did repairs from his large premises in Blairninich in the 1920s and 1930s, and knew a great deal about bicycles. He was known locally as Gahoochie (the Scots word for the kind of malleable rubber used in golf balls and tyres). He also learned about electro-plating, and people brought items to him to be electro plated.