

# Significant Dates in the Development of Gatehouse and District

When we were trying to arrange our old postcards into date order we needed to create a brief list of dates when certain buildings were constructed or demolished. This only affected the late 19th century onwards, but we thought that it might be useful to construct a more complete timeline which we include below. The source for many of these dates cannot necessarily be regarded as "official". They are provided as a general guide to the order of development, rather than an accurate catalogue.

If you are aware of errors, or think there are significant events that we have missed, please email us and we will be pleased to add them.

Date	Place
Late 6 <sup>th</sup> Century	<b>Trusty's Hill Fort</b> : destroyed by fire.
12 <sup>th</sup> Century	<b>Mottes</b> : Green Tower (near Boreland of Anwoth) built by Lord of Anwoth. Cally Motte built - possibly destroyed by fire in 1174.
Late 15 <sup>th</sup> Century	<b>Castles</b> : Rusko, Cally & Cardoness built.
1620	<b>Churches</b> : Possibly first church at Girthon Kirk (site used since 12th century).
1626	Anwoth Kirk built, possibly on the site of an earlier church
1640	<b>Roads</b> : Glen Bridge built (over Arkland Burn, on old road from Ferrytoun (of Cree) to Gatehouse).
1661	First Fleet Bridge built (wooden – washed away in 1721).
Early 18 <sup>th</sup> Century	<b>Mills</b> : Waulk (wool) Mills constructed at Enrick & Skyreburn.
1720	Cardoness Chapel built. Rebuilt in 1786.
1729	First stone Fleet Bridge built (widened in 1779, 1811 & 1965).
1755	<b>General Roy's map</b> : shows the 'Road from Portpatrick to Dumfries' via Corse of Slakes from Creetown, Glen Bridge, Anwoth Kirk, Woodend, ford over River Fleet, passing the Gaithous in Ann Street, Robber's Gate, Drumwall to Mark near Trostrie and on to Twynholm.
1760 ish	King's Head Inn was built (later became the Murray Arms).
1762	<b>Ardwall House</b> built (but previous building probably existed on the site).
1763	<b>Gatehouse</b> : Work started on houses in High Street. <b>Roads</b> : Tarff Bridge to Newton Stewart section of the Military Road built. From Twynholm via Muiryard, Townhead, Robber's Gate, into Gatehouse, right down new High Street, across Fleet Bridge, then right to Blackloch to join the old route to Anwoth Church, Corse of Slakes and Creetown.
1765	<b>Cally House.</b>
1768	Brewery Brae tannery leased.
1769	Brewery contract signed.
Late 18 <sup>th</sup> Century	Lint Mill constructed at Skyreburn. Bobbin Mills constructed e.g. Barlay (burnt down in 1867). Corn Mills e.g. Low Creoch, Fleuchlarg & Barlay (burnt down in 1837).
1772	Skyreburn Bridge built as part of the <i>new coast road</i> .
1778	<b>Kirkdale House</b> built.
1779 ish	Temple built.
1785	Upper Birtwhistle Mill built (later became the Bobbin Mill, now derelict).
1786	Cardoness Chapel rebuilt.
1789	McWilliam's Mill built (next to The Brewery).
1790	Lower Birtwhistle Mill built (now The Mill on the Fleet). Academy Chapel opened for Episcopal worshippers. Possibly in Cross Cottage. Closed in 1820.
1790 ish	Scott's Mill at top of Ann Street first feued (to John McWilliam) in 1794 but the Gatehouse halfpenny, payable at Scott's Mill was dated 1793, so it was probably working before the first feu. Sold in 1812. Became Cally Estate sawmill in 1820s.
1791-2	Moravia built as a Mill for John Pape (now 29 Fleet Street).
1794	Ship Inn built.
1790s	Cally Academy opened (C.of E. School at Cushat Wood) – closed in 1820. Work started on building houses in Fleet Street.
1797	Bridgend - name for Fleet St, Boatgreen etc (1797 James Murray will).

Date	Place
1800	Original building at Angel Hotel. Re-built by James Wood c.1830 as the Angel Hotel.
1810	Birtwhistle Mills closed.
1812	Cally Boys School opened in Ann Street. Masonic Arms. Neilson Square.
1816 ish	Lake School / Lady Anne's School for Girls opened.
1817	Girthon Kirk closed.
1818	Girthon Parish Church opened (date on gable end 1817- maybe built 1817, opened 1818).
1820	Cally Academy closed.
1823	The Cut opened.
1823 ish	Woodside Toll built. (Original house may have been 1790).
1824	Fleet Canal opened. Fleetbank built (house in Dromore Road).
1825	Anwoth Kirk closed. Boatgreen leased. Drawbridge opened.
1826	Anwoth Parish Church and new Manse built. Bush O Bield demolished (Old Anwoth Manse).
1830s	<b>Mines</b> : Rusko lead mine.
1831	Drawbridge : this date is inscribed on the seaward side of the north pier. We believe this may be a recent carving, but questions the accuracy of opening in 1825 as above.
1832	Birtwhistle Cotton Mills re-open, owned by James Davidson & Co. (after being closed for 22 years).
1832 ish	Belvedere Lodge built.
1836	David McAdam given permission to build Port McAdam
1840	The 'Wee Kirk' in Dromore Road opened as the United Secessional Church. In 1847 this church joined with the Relief Church to form the United Presbyterian Church. It is now St Mary's Episcopal church. Upper Birtwhistle Mill destroyed by fire in October.
1840s	Copper mine at King's Laggan. (closed 1850 s).
1842	Rutherford Monument built.
1845	United Free Church opened (later United Presbyterian Church, then Rutherford Hall). Rutherford Manse built ? Laggan School opened – closed 1872.
1847	Rutherford Monument struck by lightning and destroyed (rebuilt 1851). Gas Works opened in Fleet Street.
1850	RC Church at 10 Catherine Street – until 1971. Birtwhistle Cotton Mills closed again.
1850 ish	Lockenbreck Spa opened.
1857	Library opened (at 65 High Street).
1859	Bobbin Mill opened (Upper Birtwhistle Mill) by Helme. Lower Birtwhistle Mill used as bark mill. Lake School (near Cally Lake) closed – joined with Cally Boys School in Ann St.
1861	Big Water of Fleet Viaduct built.
1862	Quoiting Green at Boatgreen.
1864	New road to Dromore Station opened.
1860s	Boatgreen Tannery closed. Cally Avenue Lodges replaced old lodge.
1866	Bland Female School opened (later became Fleetside School).
1871	Clock Tower built.
1872	Skyreburn School opened on site of old lint & waulk mills.
1877	Cally Chapel added to Cally House as a High Episcopalian chapel for Cally House residents and estate workers.
1885	Town Hall opened.
1889	Cardoness House extended (work on original house may have begun in 1721).
1896	Girthon Church Tower added to building.
1900	United Presbyterian Church joined with the Free Church to form the United Free Church of Scotland, using the Free Church building (Rutherford Hall)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
1900s	Lower Birtwhistle Mill re-roofed. (upper floor used for indoor bowling).
1904	Cally Boys School & Cally Girls School merged as Rusko School. Cally Chapel closed. Used again as a chapel during World War 2 by Cally House School.
1906	Knockbrex garage built - now Knockbrex Castle. Riverside built (house near western end of Fleet Street).
1907	Cricket Ground laid out. Victoria Inn closed (corner of Victoria Street and High Street).
1909	'Wee Kirk' in Dromore Road became the Episcopal Church.
1912	Cast iron sewer attached to south side of Fleet Bridge.
1913	Kirkdale School opened at Carsluith (attended by some children from Anwoth) – closed in 1964.
1914	Guido Frullani given licence to sell ice cream. Rusko School closed.
1918	Gatehouse gasworks closed
1919	Upper Birtwhistle Mill again destroyed by fire.
1920	Upper Birtwhistle Mill – roof lowered & changed from bobbin mill to saw mill.
1921	Gatehouse Golf Course opened. War Memorial unveiled.
1925	Drumaber built on site of 6 & 8 Garden Street.
1927	Girthon & Anwoth Schools combined as Gatehouse School. New building, which is now the Community Centre.
1929	Loch Corbie dammed. Dam burst 1930.
1930's	Drawbridge closed.
1932	Free Church of Scotland joined with Church of Scotland in 1929, but the union in Gatehouse was delayed until 1932, on the death of Free Church minister Rev McGlashan. Building renamed Rutherford Hall and it became a church hall for Girthon Parish Church.
1933	Cally House and policies sold to Forestry Commission. Catherine Street nos. 40 & 42 demolished. Digby Street nos. 12, 14, 16 demolished & 4 council houses built.
1934	Cally House opened as Cally Palace Hotel. Catherine Street nos. 8,15,32 & 44 scheduled for demolition. Garden Street nos. 2 & 18 demolished.
1935 ish	Crosbie's Garage built. Market Hill houses built. Plans submitted for Annfield, house on The Cut (now called Whitefield).
1936	Houses at Back Neilson condemned. Many residents moved to the new Market Hill. Campbell's garage built by Mr Aitken. Garries Park was created on part of the Cally Estate known as Academy Land. Fleet Farm lade in-filled.
1937	Compulsory purchase 1,3, 5 & 7 Catherine Street. Territorial Army took over old Girthon School as a Drill Hall.
1938	Bobbin Mill closed as a Saw Mill.
1939	Bowling Green opened at its current site (moved from Murray Arms grounds). Cally House School opened (in what is now Cally Palace Hotel - closed 1944).
1942-44	Catherine Street nos. 1 - 7 demolished.
1940s	Garden Street Hostel built for agricultural workers. Carrick - first holiday huts built.
1944	Cally House School closed.
1945 ish	Kedah built. Now Clermiston (next to Murray Arms Hotel).
1947	New classes added at Gatehouse School (pre-fabricated huts + dining room).
1948	Memory Lane houses built + those at corner of Catherine Street [Cruden houses].
1949 ish	Riverbank first houses built (56).
1950	Youth Hostel built (became a house in 1970).
1950s	Football pavilion erected behind Angel Hotel (old Kirkcudbright Academy classroom).
1951	Riverbank - top end built. 4 houses at Market Hill. 4 more houses at Riverbank (Dromore Road side).
1952	Planetree Park built - now Gatehouse Manse.

Date	Place
	First house on the hill built for Dr Christie (home + surgery).
1955	Cally - glazed dining room & lift tower added.
1957	Scout Hall in Digby Street opened.
1958	Drill Hall closed.
1961	PO moved to 61 High Street.
1962	Bank of Scotland closed (ex Union Bank, now Bank O Fleet). Laurieston Road houses – first planning applications submitted.
1963	Skyreburn School closed – pupils moved to Gatehouse School.
1964	Gatehouse Secondary School opened - now Gatehouse Primary School. Old Fleetside School buildings, huts and dining room demolished.
1965	Fleet Bridge widened to include footpaths on either side.
1966	Baker's Dozen & Ramsay Wood houses approved.
1967	Riverbank - 5 single storey <i>old people's</i> houses. New Doctor's Surgery in Garden Street, rebuilt in 2008.
1968	Anwoth Manse burned down.
1971	Church of the Resurrection (RC) opened. Town Car Park created.
1972	Mansewood development built.
1974	Gatehouse Waterworks closed.
1975	Girthon & Anwoth Parish Churches unite to become Anwoth & Girthon Church. Bakers at 44 High St. closed (Kean's). Cally Hotel - west wing extension added to provide more bedrooms. Fleetwood House built in Boreland Wood development.
1978	Fire Station built in Dromore Road. Fleetside houses started.
1981	Girthon Parish Church Hall built. Gatehouse Secondary School closed and building used as Primary School.
1984	Housing development started at Boghall Wood (now called Bracken Wood).
1985 ish	Fleet Farm closed.
1986	Gatehouse bypass opened.
1990	Cally Chapel demolished.
1991	Lower Birtwhistle Mill renovated as The Mill on the Fleet.
1992	Campbell's Garage closed (Fleet Street).
1994	Angel Hotel closed.
1995	Bicentennial Bridge built. Town Hall garden opened.
2000	Millennium Memorial, Boreland Hills.
2003	Post Office moved to Fleetvale.
2005	Riverside Walk opened (Port McAdam to Drawbridge). Anwoth & Girthon Church changed title to Gatehouse Parish Church.
2014	Post Office moved to 52 High Street.
2016	Roman Catholic Church closed for regular services.