

## 15 & 17 High Street



17 & 15 High Street

No.15 High Street was the post office from about 1812 to about 1870 during which time Charles & Jannet McKeand + Isabella Palmer had been in charge. The post office then moved to No.11 High Street when the Gibsons took over. In the 1960s and 1970s the building housed the town clerk's office.

### ◀ Chronology of Ownership & Occupancy ▶

#### 15 High Street

- 1766** Feu to James Heron, mason. (22<sup>nd</sup> Dec)
- 1774** Sold (18<sup>th</sup> Apr) to John Thomson, Boreland of Girthon, factor to James Murray (£23 10s). In the 1820s the famous American scientist Joseph Henry collected the memories of his family about this house which they left in 1774, following the collapse of the Ayr Bank which had a serious effect on the local economy
- 1774** *On 7<sup>th</sup> May over 60 people from the neighbourhood set sail for New York aboard the Gale of Whitehaven. James Heron and the Ramsay family from across the road were among this group. According to the passenger list which is now in the Public Record Office in London the reason in each case for leaving was 'want of employment'. Gatehouse had suffered badly in the economic downturn following the collapse of the Ayr Bank.*
- 1809** Sold to William McClure and his wife Christian McLure
- 1812** Sold to Charles McKeand, postmaster in Gatehouse.

**1825-6 Pigot & Co. Directory :** Charles Keand was a grocer on Front Street.

#### **1841 census : Front Street 36**

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
McKeand	Jannet			f	60	post office	Kirkcudbrightshire
Palmer	Isabella			f	35	post office assistant	Kirkcudbrightshire
Neilson	William			m	62	independent	Kirkcudbrightshire

#### **1851 census : High Street N27**

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
McKeand	Janet	head	w	f	72	ret'd postmistress	Kbts, Balmaghie
Palmer	Isabella	niece	s	f	45	housekeeper	Kbts, Balmaghie
Nelson	William	head	s	m	73	ret'd land factor	Kbts, Balmaghie

**1854** Isabella Palmer inherited the property

**1859 Valuation Roll :** Isabella Palmer owned 2 properties. One was a house & garden in which she lived, which was probably no.17. The other was a shop, probably 15, the tenant being John Hall, druggist.

**1861 census : High Street N11**

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Palmer	Isabella	head	s	f	60	house proprietor	Kbts, Balmaghie
Palmer	Mary	sister	s	f	50	house proprietor	Kbts, Balmaghie
Hall	John	lodger	s	m	32	chemist & druggist	Lanark, Glasgow
Stewart	John	boarder		m	14	chemist & druggist apprentice	Kbts, Twynholm

**1871 census : High Street N25**

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Gray	James	head	m	m	46	grocer	Edinburgh, Edinburgh
Gray	Agnes D	wife	m	f	59		Kbts, Tongland
Palmer	Margaret	head	s	f	64		Kbts, Balmaghie

**1877** Sold to Graham family

**1878 Valuation Roll :** Proprietors of the shop & house were Andrew, Isabella, Mary & Elizabeth Graham (probably siblings). The tenant was Horatio G M S Graham who was a grocer.

**1881 census** – building believed to have been uninhabited. The Graham family lived at Cally Saw Mill in Ann Street .

**1884 Valuation Roll :** Proprietors of the shop & house were Andrew, James C.(joiner) & Mary Graham (all from Saw Mill). The tenants were James & Isabella Graham, grocers.

**1891 census : High Street N22**

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Patterson	Robert	head	m	m	24	joiner	Kbts, Gatehouse
Patterson	Violet	wife	m	f	21		Kbts, Parton
Patterson	Maggie Jane	dau.	s	f	8m		Kbts, Gatehouse
Palmer	Mary	head	s	f	82	living on private means	Kbts, Balmaghie

**1892** Ownership recorded of James Caird Graham, grocer and William Graham, architect.

**1899** Ownership recorded of James Graham, grocer

**1899** Sold to Mrs Jane McGaw, widow of William McGaw, builder and others

**1901 census : High Street N03**

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
McGaw	Jane	head	w	f	58	shopkeeper grocer	England
McGaw	Margie	dau.	s	f	23		Kbts, Gatehouse
McGaw	Lila	dau.	s	f	21		Kbts, Gatehouse
Buchanan	Alexander M	lodger	s	m	26	bank teller	Perth, Dunkeld

**1911 census**

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
McGaw	Jane	head	w	f	69	grocer	England, Dorset
McGaw	Margie	dau.	s	f	32		Kbts, Girthon
McGaw	Lila	dau.	s	f	30		Kbts, Girthon
Lillie	Richard	lodger	s	m	35	solicitor	India, Bengal

- 1920-21 Stewartry** Mrs J McGaw was a grocer in High Street  
**P.O. Directory :**
- 1924-27 Stewartry** Mrs J McGaw was a grocer in High Street.  
**P.O. Directory :** Richard Lillie was a solicitor working in the Glover practice at 1 High Street. He lived at Elderslie in 1924-27 but was a lodger with Jane McGaw at 15 High Street in 1911.  
*It is likely that Richard Lillie later started his own solicitors practice which he ran from 15 High Street.*
- 1965** Sold to Margaret Weir or Robson, garage proprietrix, Twynholm. Until the reorganisation of Local Government in 1976, when Gatehouse ceased to be a burgh, the town clerk's office was located in this building
- 1993** Sold by Kenneth Robson to Neil and Marjorie McCormick
- 2002** Sold.

*Last Updated :29 March 2015*