

## 2 & 4 High Street : ex Confectioner, now "The Potting Shed"



[Top L](#) : Shop (no.4) has its own doorway [Top R](#) : Shop has canopy over doorway and window.



Both properties have remained in single occupancy since the first feus, initially as 2 houses and then as a house and shop (possibly from 1787 when the properties were owned by James Douglas, baker).

The original building consisted of 2 houses, with there being 3 doors onto High Street. The left and right doors directly entered each property whilst the middle door led to a pend entrance to the rear of the properties where there might have been a separate building/cottage and a well.

The currently existing door was the pend entrance. The outline of the original doorway to no.2 (which is now bricked up) is still visible to the left of this door. In the 1960s, the entrance to no.4 was integrated with its adjacent window to provide a large shop-front window, and the passageway behind the remaining door was removed, so that the door now leads directly into the shop.

There is a right of way for No 6 High Street leading from Ann Street running through the courtyard/garden of 2/4 High Street.

It appears that there have been other changes to the structure of this building, including the addition of the attic bedrooms. Both properties are now integrated, but there has been a time when the ground floor of the shop was a self-contained unit with a kitchen / scullery at the rear. Both upper levels were accessible only from no.2.

There may have been a door into Ann Street from the side of No.2 (where there is now a window). The old doorway seems to indicate that the road level is now higher than it was, as the old door base is lower than pavement level.

## ◀ Chronology of Ownership & Occupancy ▶

- 1763** Samuel Ramsay, wright, Creetown, [leased](#) a plot of ground extending to 79 feet along the new street. [*this included what is now nos. 2 to 10 High Street as well some property on Ann Street*].
- 1766** [Feu charter](#) to Samuel Ramsay, with life rent to Janet Corbet his wife. Ramsay was to build houses along the whole of his feu by 1768.
- 1771** Ramsay borrowed £40 from Patrick Brown of Barharrow and Margaret Gerran, widow of Alexander Hughan, merchant, Creetown.
- 1787** Sold by Margaret Gerran widow of Alexander Hughan, Creetown to James Douglas, baker in Gatehouse and Marion Lockhart, in life rent.
- 1818** Charter in favour of Ann Douglas or Sloan, only surviving child of James Douglas, baker at Gatehouse and lately Provost, spouse of William Sloan, bricklayer.
- 1818** Sold by Anne Douglas to Jean Stodhart spouse of Martin McAdam, formerly tenant in Disdow.

### 1841 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 6 Page 2 Front Street 6

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
McAdam	Jane	f	76	independent	Kirkcudbrightshire
Purdie	Jane	f	21		Kirkcudbrightshire
Purdie	Mary	f	20		Kirkcudbrightshire
Duff	William	m	33	dancing teacher	Scotland
Duff	Eliza	f	25		Scotland
Gordon	Thomas	m	24	dancing teacher	Kirkcudbrightshire

*Jane McAdam was probably widowed. Above suggests that there may have been 2 separate houses at this time.*

- 1843** Sold by Jean Stodhart or McAdam, innkeeper, in favour of Robert Purdie

### 1851 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 2 Page 10 High Street (South) 26

<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>
McLean	John	head	s	m	35	gen. practitioner (ex Glasgow Univ.)	Wigtown, Leswalt
Robertson	John	lodger	wr	m	30	officer of Inland Revenue	Haddington, Penicuik
McBeath	Agnes	servant	s	f	30	house serv.	Kbts, Twynholm

*This entry was the last one for High Street south (heading east), and may refer to 2 and/or 4 High Street*

- 1852 Slater's Directory :** John McLean M D was recorded as being a surgeon in High Street.

Stewartry P.O. Directory 1924/27: John (& S. A.) Miller, tobacconist & confectioner, High Street.

- 185x** Sold to James Hornsby

- 1859 Valuation Roll :** A house & shop was owned and occupied by James Hornsby, bricklayer.  
*This seems to confirm that James Hornsby owned both 2 & 4 High Street (description says : house & shop).*

### 1861 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 6 High Street South 01

<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>
Hornsby	James	head	m	m	47	bricklayer	Kbts, Gatehouse
Hornsby	Martha	wife	m	f	49	grocer	Lanark, Glasgow
Hornsby	Robert	son	s	m	17	bricklayer	Kbts, Girthon
Hornsby	Emily	dau		f	15	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Hornsby	Mary	dau		f	12	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse

- 1864** Sold to James Wylie.

**1871 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 5 High Street (S) 01 & 02**

<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>
Rogers	Agnes	head	s	f	65	annuitant	Kbts, Girthon
Wylie	James	head	m	m	42	draper	Kbts, Borgue
Wylie	Gordon	wife	m	f	44		Kbts, Kirkcudbright
Wylie	John	son		m	13	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Wylie	William E	son		m	12	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Wylie	Alexander	son		m	10	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Wylie	Maggie Agnes	dau.		f	6		Kbts, Girthon
Currie	Marjory	servant		f	14	general servant	Kbts, Troqueer

*James Wylie & Gordon Rogers married in Girthon in 1856. Agnes Rogers must have been Gordon's mother.  
N.B. Gordon was a fairly common female Christian name at that time.*

Year	Surname (M)	Forename (M)	Surname (F)	Forename (F)	District	City/ County/ MR	GROS Data
1856	WYLIE	JAMES	ROGERS	GORDON	GIRTHON	/KIRKCUDBRIGHT	866/00 0011

**1878 Valuation Roll :** James Wylie, draper owned a house & garden and a house & shop in High Street. He occupied the house & shop, whilst William Macauley, painter occupied the house & garden.  
*It is likely that the house & garden was no.2 and the house & shop was no.4.*

**1881 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 5 High Street (South) 01**

<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>
Wylie	James	head	m	m	52	draper	Kbts, Borgue
Wylie	Catherine G	wife	m	f	54		Kbts, Kirkcudbright
Wylie	William E	son	s	m	22	draper's assistant	Kbts, Girthon
Wylie	Maggie A	dau	s	f	16	scholar	Kbts, Girthon

**1884 Valuation Roll :** James Wylie, draper owned and occupied a house & shop in High Street.  
*There is only one entry for him so it is likely that nos.2 & 4 had been combined by this time.*

**1891 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 4 High Street (S) 1**

<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>
Wylie	James	head	m	m	62	draper	Kbts, Borgue
Wylie	Catherine G	wife	m	f	65		Kbts, Tongland
Wylie	Maggie A	dau.	s	f	25		Kbts, Gatehouse

**1897** Sold by James Wylie, draper, Gatehouse to Maggie Wylie wife of Edward Ewen, watchmaker and jeweller, Gatehouse.

**1901 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 1 High Street 01**

<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>
Ewen	Edward	head	m	m	32	jeweller & qualified refractionist	Aberdeen, Methlic
Ewen	Maggie A	wife	m	f	35	jeweller's wife	Kbts, Gatehouse
Ewen	Eveline B G	dau.		f	3		Kbts, Gatehouse
Wylie	James	f-in-law	m	m	72	draper / shopkeeper	Kbts, Borgue
Wylie	Catherine G	m-in-law	m	f	75	drapers wife	Kbts, Kirkcudbright

**1911 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 3 High Street**

<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>
Dott	Alexander	head	m	m	46	medical practitioner	Inverness, Laggan
Dott	Catherine Greig	wife	m	f	29		Kbts, Castle Douglas
Dott	Alastair	son	s	m	7 mth		Kbts, Gatehouse
Thomson	Jane	servant	s	f	18	general servant (dom.)	Kbts, Crocketford

- 1912 Valuation Roll :** Margaret Agnes Ewen, wife of Edward Ewen, jeweller of 26 Buccleuth St., Dumfries owned 2 houses in High Street. Dr. Alexander Dott occupied no.2 and Elizabeth H McLellan, widow and grocer, occupied no.4.
- 1923** Sold by Maggie Agnes Wylie or Ewen to John Miller, chauffeur, thereafter confectioner.  
*N.B. the first photo at the top of this file shows the name Miller above the shop.*
- 1924-7 Stewartry P.O. Directory :** John & S. A. Miller were tobacconists & confectioners on High Street.
- 1931** Sold to Hector McKay.
- 1938** Sold by Hector McKay, confectioner, Gatehouse to Thomas Nicol, commercial traveller, Stirling.
- 1958** Sold to Janet Taylor or Carson.
- 1973** J S Carson and R Carson, confectioners sold to Eva Johnstone.  
Shop owned by N & D Baker and A & J Kerr.
- 1996** Purchased by present owners.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century adverts

