

ONHHL = 2006.277

Genefer Clark  
21 Walton Street  
Oxford  
OX1 2HQ

Replied  
26 June, 97.

21 April 1997

Dear Mr Bell,

Thank you very much for your letter of 5 March with the information of the lecture by Elizabeth Beaton. I am sure that it was very well attended and I was sorry not to have been there but I finished work just after that on the 24th so life now is very different. I left to join David in early retirement but he is so busy doing a certificate in the history of architecture that I don't think there will be much time to do things together until September!

I see to my shame that your previous letter dated 3rd <sup>May</sup> 1995 was not replied to either. I am really so sorry. There really had been so much to do here. I have now a new computer and intend to go through all Dad's papers carefully as well as getting Meta's writings together along with the interest in buildings. I could get all that I have on to a disc which someone in the Heritage Society could then take on. That won't be just yet for the weather is good and I have just enlarged my holding at the allotment! It seems more of a winter job.

I thank you very much for the information you sent about the houses in Sutherland Road and Rosebery Avenue. It was funny that you mentioned the Kennedy family for Links House and Kennedy Avenue had been much in mind recently for the house is similar in many ways to the Old Convent at (former) work which David started researching before they started modernising with replacement plastic windows! I kept feeling that the Old Convent was about 1840 rather 1800, knowing that Links House is 1844 (or thereabouts), and from the deeds the date looks as though it is between 1831 & 5.

I phoned Edinburgh for *Sutherland: An Illustrated Architectural Guide* and it came the next day. It is a fascinating book and I am so pleased you told me about it. There are some interesting inclusions and omissions. Thank you. I see that Caithness and Ross-shire have been covered too so more joys to come!

I am so pleased that the Heritage Centre is almost completed. Summer visitors will appreciate having it as well as Dornoch people. There is so much interest now in houses and families. It is an exciting venture and I hope that you will get more information and donations as people realise what a valuable asset it is.

I have all Dad's papers to go through as I said above but I enclose something which is immediately of interest. I do not know how or where he got it from but I pass it on to you for the Centre. I have done a copy.\* It hasn't been handled with cotton gloves (as recommended by the County Archive here!) but it has been kept in this sleeve and in the dark at about 60 degrees centigrade so I hope that it has not deteriorated.

Letters to  
Achlach  
at  
Cuthell

\* on the computer - not photocopied.

It is an incredibly sad letter with so much that can be read into it. I am not familiar with the names of Achlach or Auchlach but hope that you are and can fit this into a Grant family tree. Interesting that Gentlemen for the shooting were about even then. Mortlach is the parish in Banffshire that the Wrights left about 1804 for the lower parish of Grange so I found it particularly interesting showing the continuing movement of men looking for employment. It seems as though his wife might too have gone looking for employment under the protection of her father.

This is just a patchy reply to your kind letters. I do hope to get to grips with all the papers we have here though a lot are just recent press cuttings of things that interested Dad. It is a great business looking at the past.

Hope that you both are well & although I see that  
Sutherland has a dark spell of weather at  
the moment while we have sunshine with no  
rain in sight, hope that the good weather  
will soon return.

We're all well with the girls, altho' 27 + 26,  
still erecting hurdles in the form of exams & being  
chappily in Birmingham & Lancaster.

With very best wishes to you both,

Yours sincerely,

George

*Keep with Dornoch Burgh Records*

21 Walton Street Oxford OX1 2HQ

9 April 1995

Dear Mr Bell,

I don't know if I will see <sup>you</sup> this visit to Dornoch but I have some things which are for the Heritage Society which Dad rescued from wherever.

I pass on to you the summary of the buildings as I don't really know how far I can go with it. There is the difficulty about putting on paper things which people may feel is intrusive - I have some information about houses being 'in the bank' which I have not recorded even though it was more than 50 years ago and also there is the problem about how much time I can/will devote to this for it is fascinating and can be extended to the old rating records as seen to by Leslie Smart and all the new buildings that have sprung up recently. I can see lots of 'projects'.

My particular one would be the geology of the houses of Dornoch which I think you may well have in hand. I feel very conscious that Mr Jock Maclean has a wealth of information that may well not be recorded.

The other one is the movement of shops within the town. The disappearance of the barber's shop when Grant & Sons expanded and the fact that there was a watchmaker in the town when Mattie Macrae was young.

Amongst Dad's papers was the family tree of the Munro family of Embo Street among whose decendants were the Munro builders, the retired banker at An Cala and the ladies at Rose Cottage on Grange Street. You may well have this already.

I have not finished going through his papers - his handwriting was even worse than mine! - but I am sure that there will be other bits to come.

I would appreciate your advice about what to do with the buildings information. Is it of any use? Can it be added to at your end? Is there anyone who is doing this already and I am just duplicating the work? I think that probably the only thing that I can reasonably hope to do is Sutherland Road for that would not require too much work to complete it.

LISTED BUILDINGS IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF DORNOCH

ARGYLE STREET

No 2 - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH799896

One of a pair of earlier/mid 19th century, 2 storey, 3 bay houses each with centre door and later projecting gabled timber porch. Rubble, tooled dressings. Multi pane glazing with narrow margin panes. Corniced end and ridge stacks; slate roof. Rubble garden wall with tooled cope.

Internal: original -

With regard to Argyle Street, it will be observed from reference to the Ordnance Map of Dornoch, First Edition 1874, that Argyle Street branched off from Schoolhill or Schoolbrae. Subsequently, Grange Road was formed leading from the Square immediately south of the Volunteers Drill Hall (known as the "The Black Hut" to the junction of Argyle Street with Kennedy Avenue to the Golf Links at "Kilncroft". The water main and sewer serving the westmost houses in Grange Road run along the line of the former Argyle Street.

Argyle Street

Grange Road

193 ?? Owned by Mrs Christian Sutherland, widow of ex provost William Sutherland, draper's business, Hilton House, Castle Street ( now D D Purvis, electrician)

1960 Bought by William Mackay, son of the Reverend Evander Mackay latterly chaplain at the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness and nephew of the late William D Munro tenant farmer Overskibo, Clashmore. He resided with W D Munro after his return from Ghana with a view to taking up farming, attended the Town Clerk's office with a view to taking up law and then went to Dunfermline as Secretary of the local National Farmers Union.

Sold 1993?



CASTLE STREET

No 1 - "Claremont" - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH794897

One of a pair of earlier 19th century 2 storey, 3 bay houses. Dressed coursed rubble, ashlar margins, rubble flanks and rear. Centre door, 12 pane glazing; missing end stack west gable, slate roof. 4 windows in west gable with 2 additional windows in modern rear addition.

Internal: original -

c 1898 Owned by John Leslie, solicitor and notary public, Dornoch, believed to be founder of law practice now known as Arthur & Carmichael. No heirs of John Leslie could be traced, and about 1967, Dornoch Town Council acquired the property by Compulsory Purchase and converted the house into flats and erected a wing of two flats on the north.

1950's George Davidson, motor hirer and his wife, Nan (nee                      of ) lived there.

CASTLE STREET

No 2 - "Sule Skerry" - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH794897

One of pair of earlier 19th century 2 storey, 3 bay houses with centre door; dressed coursed rubble, ashlar margins, rubble flanks and rear. 12 pane glazing, end stacks, slate roof.  
2 modern dormers.

Internal: original -

1950 Bought by Ailsa Burns from the executors of Miss Ellen Mackay (related to Mackays of the Meal Mill Golspie) as annexe to the Castle Hotel. Modern dormers added then.

Included in the purchase of Dornoch Castle Hotel by Captain and Mrs Allan Macdonald.

Included in purchase of Dornoch Castle Hotel by Mr & Mrs Thomson.

1970 ? Bought by Colonel John & Mrs Cynthia Swallow.

CASTLE STREET

No 3 - "Glenn Gollaidh" - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH794897

Earlier 19th century, single storey and attic, 3 bay house with centre door. Coursed rubble frontage, rubble rear and flanks, tooled dressings. Modern glazed door; 3 later 19th century barge-boarded dormers rise from wall-head; 4pane glazing; end stacks; slate roof.

Jackie Grant, butcher, was born there. It was a small thatched house. Bought by Calder who improved the subject and added thatched roof. 1940 Occupied by Francis G Carmichael, solicitor, Arthur & Carmichael, and his wife Jean (nee McQueen of Kilwinning) prior to buying "Briarfield"

194? Bought by Mr Fraser, Schoolmaster Scourie, passed on his death to his widow, Christina, who married Thomas Mackay, who succeeded to the property on her death. He died in 1990 and the house then sold to ?



CASTLE STREET

No 4 - "Osman House" - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH794895

Earlier 19th century, 2 storey and attic house, 3 bay with centre door. Coursed stugged rubble, tooled margins; 2 canted dormers. 4 pane glazing corniced end stacks; slate roof.

Internal: original - stairs rear extension with stone flagged floor, kitchen range and stairs to room above. In late Victorian state with water and mains drainage but no electricity until modernisation in 1974 by present owners.

1930 Miss Jeannie Matheson

1974 Bought by Peter Oman, newsagent and his wife, Renee (nee of ) then owners of Gillespies, Newsagent, Castle Street.

CASTLE STREET

Nos 5 & 6 - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH795897

Earlier 19th century, pair 2 storey, 3 bay houses. Coursed rubble, tooled dressings. Centre doors; 12 pane glazing (except ground floor no 5) Panelled doubled leaf door to no 5 and small single storey modern extension at west; gable end stacks; slate roofs.

Internal: original - stairs

No 6 has interesting plaster arch in vestibule.

No 5 Built by person who built 'Elmbank'. (eccentric lady)

Owned at one time by Miss Nellie Matheson.

On her death, purchased by Sinclair Macintosh, factor of Westminster Estates, Achfarry, and his wife, Sandee nee Baxter, "Halladale", Dornoch.

The house is let at present.

No 6 Owned at one time by Mr Macleod, jeweller and now owned by William Ross, retired station master.

CASTLE STREET

No 7 - "The Eagle Hotel" - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH795898

Mid 19th century, 2 storey and attic, 3 bay with centre door. coursed rubble, tooled dressings, rubble flanks. Hood-moulds to door and windows; 2 canted dormer. 12-pane glazing (except lower sashes ground floor); end stacks; slate roof.  
2-storey modern addition to rear of west gable.

This addition was built during the ownership of John McCulloch. The hotel was enlarged by building a new west gable out to the limit of the land belonging to the hotel and by also erecting a two storey extension on a north/south axis behind this new gable on the west boundary.

Prior to 1951, the front of the hotel was covered in ivy in which the Dornoch sparrows held dominion. A great gale threw the entire ivy plant down on the footpath and street.

Gunn and then daughter Christina Gunn Rosebery Avenue.

Owned by Tewsley, retired police officer, reputed to have been Chief Constable of an English borough and then by Gordon, his bachelor son. On his death, the hotel was cleared by Frank Carmichael of Arthur & Carmichael who found tins, bowls and basins in cupboards, under beds, filled with coin, silver and gold.

1955 Bought by John McCulloch, son of a forester on Cawdor Estate and his wife, (nee Campbell whose parents had shop and petrol pump, Balloch). Previously, he had been night porter at the Caledonian Hotel Inverness and then owned the Old Mill Inn, Spinningdale. On taking over the hotel, it was reported that Mrs McCulloch wondered when Gordon had last tarred the floors.

1960 Bought by James Seatter, Orcadian and his wife, Anne (nee Leonard) having been Steward at Haggs Castle Golf Club, Glasgow.

1972 Bought by Duncan Allan

1982 Bought by Morrison from Durness who was hotel wine waiter in Edinburgh

1984 Bought by Shepherd. One of the Shepherd family whose mother was born in Strathan at Achvaich.

The Eagle Hotel lands at one time stretched from the boundary wall on the north separating Sutherland Estate lands from the lands of Balloan Estate to the wall on the south being the north wall of "Sunnyside". Beyond the hotel the land on the north is now part of G A Mackenzie's garage. On the south side of Castle Street, the lands are now owned by

- (1) Mrs Margaret Sutherland's (nee King) shop "Finesse"
- (2) Dental surgery
- (3) Hydro-Electric distribution box.

Read SOMEWHERE!!!! that the Eagle built by Sutherland Estates around 1840 not in Bentinck or the burghs survey 1982.

WCW No info at this date 20/1/91. Note: I believe that the Sutherland Arms Hotel and Ben Bhraggie Hotel in Golspies were built by Sutherland Estates. No info about Eagle Hotel Dornoch: I have heard it said that it is the oldest licensed subject in the county but have no confirmation.

The West Deanery, Salon Miki and The Deanery. These properties and the ground on the opposite side of Castle Street stretching from Elmbank (Donald Macdonald) to Tordarroch ( Mrs Rose Matheson (nee Munro)) and bounded on the south by the Meadows road were all under the occupation of one person, Fraser, Procurator Fiscal, who in due course received a title from Sutherland Estate for the whole piece of ground which stretched from St Gilbert Street on the north and lying between Dean's Lane and High Street to the Meadows Road on the south.

#### LAND HOLDINGS

A short note on property title in Dornoch would be appropriate as it can explain the difficulty in tracing old proprietors of blocks of ground in the Burgh.

Originally the lands of Dornoch belonged to the Church and the cross east of Achinchanter shows the northern boundary between the Bishop on the south and lands of the Earl of Sutherland on the north. Prior to the Reformation, Bishop Stewart, Earl of Lennox, (who spent the latter part of his life enjoying the "Good Cheere" in St Andrews on the income of the Bishopric and the stipend of the Priory of St Andrews) conveyed the church lands to the Earl of Sutherland and his spouse and heirs. While Bishop Robert was securing his own future (the Countess of Sutherland being his sister) the other Churchmen conveyed their manse and lands to relatives or purchasers with the result that at the present time Dornoch property is either held on ancient title from the days of the Reformation or

An example of property held on ancient title is Reeves Bakery, Elders Row, High Street which was part of the Minister of Assynt's manse and did not pass to the Earl of Sutherland. Another property which does not appear to be part of Sutherland estate is the block of two shops and house over at the east end of High Street, where Ian Millburn has his butcher's shop and John Gordon has his newsagent's shop and house. That property built in this century. There is no garden ground attached. Another like property is Carling Bank and the lands to the south thereof. On the east side of Church Street from Golf Road and south and east, that is the Littletown area, is not Sutherland estate ground and the property is either held by private persons or Sutherland District Council as successors to Dornoch Town Council. Despite the fact that the Town Council owned property in the Burgh not subject to the Superiority of the Duke of Sutherland, the town did not have a Property Register in which titles could be recorded for publication.

The lack of title to Mrs Voigt's house, here or in the house section?

1061

CASTLE STREET

The West Deanery - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH796896

Early 19th century, 2-storey, 3-bay house with centre door; slightly lower 2-storey, single bay extension to west gable with modern projecting porch masking side entrance. Random rubble with heavy cement pointing, ashlar margins, some harling to rear. 12-pane glazing: multi-pane glazing to centre door; corniced stack; slate roof.

Low coped dressed rubble retaining wall with spearhead cast-iron railings.

Rubble rear wall of Sutherland's shop, Dean's Lane, backs onto West Deanery garden and forms L-plan court with house.

Harling removed and rubble repointed in 1960's.

1950/60's Mrs Nancy Mackay (nee Davidson, sister of George Davidson, "Claremont", Taxi-hirer).

1960's Gardener, who had a surveyor's office in St Gilbert's Street.

Now to Ewan & Harris, Solicitors.

CASTLE STREET

"The Deanery" - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH796896

Circa 1840. 2-storey and attic, 3 bay house. Coursed rubble, ashlar dressings. Panelled pilasters at ground and 1st floor at outer angles and to centre bay; storeys divided by simple dentilled cornice. Open pedimented centre bay with anthemion finial; centre door, window above with shell pediment rising into open pediment. Moulded eaves cornice, blocking course and pyramidal end finials: 2 canted dormers and 1 small centre pieended dormer. Original lying-pane glazing in ground floor windows; 4-pane sashes elsewhere. Corniced end stacks; slate roof.

Small single storey ground floor extension to west continuing ground floor cornice detail, end finial as at wallhead.

Low coped rubble retaining wall with cast-iron spearhead railings. Modern box dormer to rear.

Rear gives on to St Gilbert Street.

See "The West Deanery" for details of land holdings.

At one time, a branch of the Caledonian bank. The small single storey addition at the west of the front aspect was the Bank's strongroom.

At one time owned by Miss Harriet Tapp and was liferented by her housekeeper, Miss Studdart. Miss Tapp was the proprietor of the south part of the feu including the ground on which the toy shop and late Dr Robert Carrick's house on the Meadows Road were built.

195? Bought by Alexander Addison, Electrician, Glasgow and his wife, Pat, (nee of ). For a time, he carried on a shoe repair business at the rear on St Gilbert Street. Mrs Addison runs a bed and breakfast business in the house.

## CASTLE STREET

"The White House" - listed, 7/3/84 - on 1874 map - NH796896

Early 19th century; 2-storey and attic elevation to Castle Street (south) single storey to Cathedral Square (north), both elevations 3-bay with centr doors. Rubble with heavy cemenet pointing, ashlar margins. Steps to north door. 12-pane glazing; 2 canted dormers; end stacks; slate roof.

Low ashlar coped rubble retaining wall to south.

This property belonged at one time to the Cathedral but apparently the ground was held to belong to the Duke of Sutherland in Superiority and so a title was granted in this century when the existing lease ran out ( if such a lease ever existed). Unfortunately, when a heritable title is given in exchange for a lease the lease is delivered up to the ground superior and another piece of history may be lost.

The age of the property can be estimated with some accuracy as not being younger than 1837 because within the ground floor east room behind the bookcases on the north wall, there is a built up door way which would have given access to Cathedral Square before that street was formed at its present height presumably from the rubble from the old Cathedral Nave when the countess of Sutherland 's renovations of 1835/7 were effected.

There is a wooden lintel in the ground floor (street level) Castle Street? same room as blocked up door ? window in the eastmost room. The building is erected on running sand and the whole ground floor consists of concrete to consolidate the foundations.

Thought at one time to have been an Inn but perhaps unlikely as it belonged at one time to the Cathedral.

1895 Inhabited by John Macintosh, mail gig contractor, grandfather of John Macintosh, Embo House when Captain Robert Grant was a young lad. 1920's? Mrs Sykes, who owned the Castle, purchased the White House. It was let to Forbes Topp, slaughterman, father of Alister, husband of Elsie, Amateur Dramatics, sometime typist to Bhan Macrae, Inveran, County Clerk.

Mrs Sykes bequeathed the property to her housekeeper Miss Andrews who ran it as a boarding house until her death, when the Burgh Surveyor, Edward Brannen, advised the Town Council that the property should be condemned as a dwelling house by reason of the ground floor rooms being partly below ground level.

1960's The property was purchased by Arthur & Carmichael and converted to office premises.

The front garden was surrounded by a high wall and iron railings and A & C reduced the heights of the east and west walls in the interests of road safety at the junction of High Street and Castle Street.



Dornoch Cathedral and walled grave yard - see pages 5,6& 7 of the Statutory List for full description.

#### Cathedral Graveyard

Now contained with walls bordering on the north High Street, east and south Cathedral Square.

Originally and for many years known as Finbar's Kirkyard and it is believed that St Finbar's Kirk was situated near the east end of the Kirkyard adjacent to Tor

When laying water main pipes in High Street remains of ancient burials? were uncovered which to believed that the road way running through Dornoch from west to east passed through the Kirkyard with burials on north and south sides. H and the B argue that that there were houses along the south side of High Street but this would seem to be unlikely. the tolbooth(probably the original Cathedral Chapter House) was situated on High Street almost certainly on the south side of the boundary?

markets were traditionally held in the graveyard and this appears to have been common throughout Scotland as an Act of Parliament dated??? forbade the holding of markets in the future but is is likely that they did not bring the custom to an end in Dornoch as the law was not felt .

The Kirkyard walls were erected at the time of the 1835/7 rebuilding of the Cahtedral.

The textile seller's ell lies on the east side of the footpath passing from Cathedral Square to High Street at the Merkat Cross.

The only person with a right to be interred in the Cathedral Kirkyard are those whose immediate ancestors were buried there. There has been no burial there for a number of years. Miss Sykes and her sister Mould of Dornoch Castle are interred on Cathedral ground west of the cross path and near the vestry wall on the south side of the Chancel.

When Bertie Sutherland Golspie was installing the Town Council's flood lighting at the Cathedral, Chris Murray, Reefton, was working on the job and he reported that on the north side of the Nave dwarf walls or wall foundations lay beneath the surface.

WCW 31/1/91

Sanctuary: The Sanctuary stretch 3 Scots or Italian miles from the Cathedral. Bet Mackay once told me that she had discovered a sanctuary stone (marked with a cross) but it was stolen before she had a chance to remove it to a safe place.

There are so far as I know no place names identifying the position of the sanctuary stones. It is said at Tain they can trace all the sanctuary boundary stones of St Duthac's Church.

Refer to W J Watson 'History of Celtic Place Names of Scotland' at

Page 259 for info re girth or sanctuary names.

Difficulty about Dornoch Cathedral sanctuary is the tracing of the ancient roads or tracks leading to the Cathedral.

Sanctuary limit of 3 Scots miles

to the north at or very near to the remains of the old pier on the south side [at Littleferry]

on Meikle Ferry side in the south west in the neighbourhood of Cuthill farm

on the west it passes through or near the chambered cairn west of Clashmore & north of the present trunk road

the lines of other roads cannot be traced with any accuracy.

SUTHERLAND ROAD

No 1 "The Elms" name given by Mr Robert Grant retired Greenkeeper circa 1957.

non listed - on 1874 map- NH

Mid 19th century 1 storey + attic 3 bay house with centre door, modern bay window and kitchen extension - 1956 & '76. Pink sandstone, squared random rubble with tooled rybats with margin draft and flanks random rubble with mortar. Sash four pane windows, modern glazed door; end stacks, slate roof, dormers with stone decoration, modern veluxes at rear.

Range of stone out buildings on boundary with Victoria Cottage at right angles to house.

Internal: original - stairs left to right, back room off lhs room, scullery at back of lhs room, kitchen fire and stove in lhs room, outside toilet opposite scullery back door.

Built pre 1874 by William Munro mason builder (died 1924 aged 83) who with his brother John a builder built nos 1 & 2 Sutherland Road. The outbuildings were for the builders' business and straddle the boundary with Victoria Cottage which was owned by his brother. His daughter Annie married Robert Simpson from Lairg, tailor, and they lived there until she moved to Lairg in 1955 after her husband's death in ? , to be closer to her son Albert who had draper's business there. <sup>Up</sup>stairs front bedroom right was tailor's workshop after Robert Simpson left William Moore's tailor's shop, Cathedral Close, where George Maclean's furniture shop is now (1995).

Bought October 1957 by Robert Grant, retired Head Greenkeeper at Royal Dornoch Golf course. House modernised with scullery and outdoor toilet removed to form new kitchen 1958. His twin daughters, Daisy and Cathy live there now.

## SUTHERLAND ROAD

No 2 - "Victoria Cottage" - Date 1871 - not listed - on 1874 map - NH

Later mid 19th century, 1 storey + attic, three bay house with centre door. Grey sandstone, squared random rubble, projecting ashlar margins, flanks of random rubble with mortar, modern double glazing, modern door; end stacks, slate roof, three dormers with wrought iron finials.

Internal: original - stairs left to right, back room off lhs room, scullery at back of lhs room.

193? wall between lhs room and back room removed to form l shaped living area.

Built 1871 (date on stone ) by Munro brothers. The outbuildings shared with no 1 for their building business. Not on 1874 map.

1920'S ? Mrs Jessie Mundell, the aunt of William Sutherland who built Drumiosal in 1931. She previously lived in Lawrence Cottage, Meadows Road.

1940's Mr and Mrs Charlie Grant before buying 'St Gilbert's' from Mrs Partin who had run it as a guest house, at the end of the war.

1946 Bought by William Wright, solicitor with Arthur & Carmichael and his wife, Jean (nee Finlayson of Inverness). Bought 'Drumiosal' in 1948

1948 Bought by Phemister, retired Head Teacher of

196? Bought by Miss Meta Campbell, Nursing superintendent and after her death husband Colin Campbell.

SUTHERLAND ROAD

No 3 "Ajmere Cottage" - carved in stone with date 1879  
Place in India, about 300 miles south west of Delhi.

non listed - not on 1874 map - NH

Later 19th century 2 storey, 3 bay house with central door. Honey sandstone, squared random rubble, tooled rybats, margin draft and chamfered arris with mason's mitre, flanks of random rubble and mortar. Sash, four pane windows, two leaf door, three dormers. End stacks, slate roof.

Internal: original - stairs left to right, passage on rhs to rear scullery extension, row of bells for servants to answer, bathroom extension at rear of house.

Bought by Mrs Budge, sister of Andrew Munro, Alness, and widow of sawmillar, after living in Inveran House, Poles Road, then called 'Balvraid'.

Still owned by the Budge family, but lived in by different families.

1945- William and Janet May.

195 The Budge Family.

196 Miss Ruby and Miss Munro

197 Miss Winifred Budge

SUTHERLAND ROAD

No 4 "An Cala"

non listed - not on 1874 map - NH

Late 19th century 2 storey and attic, 3 bay house with centre door. Honey sandstone, dressed coursed rubble, flanks with random rubble and mortar. Sash four pane windows, two leaf door with lights above with name "An Cala", three dormers. End stacks, slate roof.

Internal: original - stairs left to right, back room off rhs room.

Probably built between 1879 and 1889.

Owned by Murrays of Eaglefield, by ? , then by Robert Munro his brother, railwayman at Ardgay, nephew of Mrs Simpson, 1 Sutherland Road. His niece, Mrs MacDonald with her husband and their son Ray lived there with him.

195? Bought by Norman Munro (same family as Munro Builders 1 & 2 Sutherland Road) born Embo Street, (his sisters Minnie with her husband William Laurie and unmarried Christina) lived in Rose Cottage, Argyle Street) retired from bank, Gateshead of Fleet, Oban, with his wife, from Haggarty in Morayshire.

1960's

197? Bought by Ian Mackay, chartered accountant and his wife, Maureen (nee Addison of The Deanery Dornoch).

Garden plot belonging to "An Cala"

SUTHERLAND ROAD

No 5 "The Old Manse" name given by Mr & Mrs Macleod in 1990.  
Formerly the Manse of the Free Church, Church Street, Dornoch.

non listed - not 1874 map - datestone 1889 - NH

Later 19th century

Built in 1889 by Angus <sup>Manse</sup> Builders. The house was built in two parts.

Owned by the Free Church and lived in by their ministers.  
192? -196? Rev William MacLeod and his wife

1990 Bought by Mr and Mrs MacLeod.

SUTHERLAND ROAD

No 6 "Drumiosal"

non listed - not on 1874 map - 1931- NH

Early 20th century Arts and Crafts style, 2 storey house. Harled with sandstone ashlar cills and rybats. Asymmetrical 3 bay south west front, with 2 recessed bays to left covered by verandah, with 5 windows in dormer above. Modern single pane double glazing replaced 12 pane sash windows in 1990/91. End stacks, slate roof. Sandstone from Greenbrae quarry, Hopeman, Morayshire.

Internal: original -on rhs, dining room backed by scullery, then kitchen with "Sentry" boiler in recess on rhs. Toilet on lhs at back door, coal cellar accessed from outside.

Designed by G A Gordon, Queensgate, Inverness, built in 1930/32 by Smith, Inverness for William Munro Sutherland, "The Sheik" and his wife, Margaret Farquar. He was a cousin of Christina Gunn, "The Eagle" and Rosebery Avenue and Alastair Gunn, Drumgevan Farm.

Cost of £2500 for house and garden layout. Had to be wired after completion when electricity came to Dornoch in 1932. Plumbing planned by Mrs Sutherland.

1969 - boiler house built for the new central heating system.

1936 -Lived in by George Mackenzie, solicitor, Mackenzie & Cormack, and his wife, Una (nee of Tain)

1948 - Bought by William Wright, solicitor, and his wife Jean, moving from Victoria Cottage.

1983 - Exchanged for "Rinnes", by their son, Norman Wright, solicitor, Arthur & Carmichael, and his wife, Susan (nee Abbott of Inverurie.)

"The Sheik" was financially embarrassed during the depression, being 'in pepper' and came out of retirement to run the Ulbster Arms Hotel. He died New Year's Day 1943, and his estate was wound up by Keith & Murray in Thurso, where William Wright saw the plans of "Drumiosal".

Garden of one acre was laid out and well stocked with fruit bushes in a net cage, a hen run, a vegetable garden, lawns, a shrubbery and bounded by pine trees on three sides. Mrs Mundell, aunt, Victoria Cottage, gave Victoria plum which was on south wall on site of boiler house. She had had trouble with the plums 'disappearing' at Victoria Cottage.

The garden was completely re modeled in the eighties by the Wrights as the mature trees needed to be felled and then designed to combat rabbit invasion.



SUTHERLAND ROAD

No 7 "Orcadia"

non listed - not on 1874 map - 197? - NH

Modern 3 bay bungalow with recessed porch and centre door. Pink harled with sandstone facings. Integral garage, end stack, slate roof.

Built for James Seatter, Orcadian, retiring landlord of "The Eagle" and his wife, Anne (nee Leonard of )

The West Deanery, Salon Miki and The Deanery. These properties and the ground on the opposite side of Castle Street stretching from Elmbank (Donald Macdonald) to Tordarroch ( Mrs Rose Matheson (nee Munro)) and bounded on the south by the Meadows road were all under the occupation of one person, Fraser, Procurator Fiscal, who in due course received a title from Sutherland Estate for the whole piece of ground which stretched from St Gilbert Street on the north and lying between Dean's Lane and High Street to the Meadows Road on the south.

#### LAND HOLDINGS

A short note on property title in Dornoch would be appropriate as it can explain the difficulty in tracing old proprietors of blocks of ground in the Burgh.

Originally the lands of Dornoch belonged to the Church and the cross east of Achinchanter shows the northern boundary between the Bishop on the south and lands of the Earl of Sutherland on the north. Prior to the Reformation, Bishop Stewart, Earl of Lennox, (who spent the latter part of his life enjoying the "Good Cheere" in St Andrews on the income of the Bishopric and the stipend of the Priory of St Andrews) conveyed the church lands to the Earl of Sutherland and his spouse and heirs. While Bishop Robert was securing his own future (the Countess of Sutherland being his sister) the other Churchmen conveyed their manse and lands to relatives or purchasers with the result that at the present time Dornoch property is either held on ancient title from the days of the Reformation or

An example of property held on ancient title is Reeves Bakery, Elders Row, High Street which was part of the Minister of Assynt's manse and did not pass to the Earl of Sutherland. Another property which does not appear to be part of Sutherland estate is the block of two shops and house over at the east end of High Street, where Ian Millburn has his butcher's shop and John Gordon has his newsagent's shop and house. That property built in this century. There is no garden ground attached. Another like property is Carling Bank and the lands to the south thereof. On the east side of Church Street from Golf Road and south and east, that is the Littleton area, is not Sutherland estate ground and the property is either held by private persons or Sutherland District Council as successors to Dornoch Town Council. Despite the fact that the Town Council owned property in the Burgh not subject to the Superiority of the Duke of Sutherland, the town did not have a Property Register in which titles could be recorded for publication.

The lack of title to Mrs Voigt's house, here or in the house section?

## No. 1 Rosebery Avenue

Built by trustees acting under the ante nuptial contract between the Rev. Harry A.A. Kennedy, Free Church, Callander thereafter Professor of Theology, New College, Edinburgh and his fiancée Miss Elizabeth Gordon daughter of George Gordon Esquire of Donavoured.

The trustees acting under the said contract dated 11th and registered in the Books of Council and Session on 27th, both days of July 1893 were -

George Rainy Kennedy, Links House, Dornoch and Lewis Gordon of 131 Bristol Road, Birmingham and later of 10 St. Mary's Mansions, Paddington, London, W2.

### Feu Charter

By Cromartie Duke Earl of Sutherland to Hector M. Mackay, dated 12/2/1896.

*Gifted to the Society  
by Gordon Grant of  
1 Rosebery Avenue*