

3 & 5 High Street – Fergusson's Drapers



Shop rented by Gowans of Castle Douglas



No. 5(with canopy) & No.3 High St.



Jessie Fergusson in the doorway of No.5 (c.2000)



In 1877 nos. 3 & 5 High Street were purchased by John Fergusson, who opened a drapers shop on the ground floor of No.5. The property is still owned by the Fergusson family (as of 2022).

◀ Chronology of Ownership & Occupancy ▶

1767 Feu granted by James Murray of Broughton to John Walker, weaver, Gatehouse.

Feu believed to cover property now occupied by nos. 1-5 High Street.

Current measurements are 1 High St = 37 feet, 3-5 High St = 33 feet.

1784 John Walker sold to William Hannay of Bargally.
(we suspect that this sale was for nos. 3 & 5 High Street, not the whole feu of 1-5 High Street)

1803 Sold To Nelson Rae, surgeon in Gatehouse.
It is probable that, following the death of William Hannay in 1802-03, a 'roup' resulted in the sale of what is now 3 & 5 High Street to Nelson Rae. We have no details of 1 High Street being sold separately until 1808. By the date of the roup in 1803 the property of 3 & 5 High Street was 'possessed' by William Walker, weaver and John Quirk. We think that in this context 'possessed' means occupied, not owned.

1825-26 Pigot & Co. Directory Nelson Rae was a surgeon whose practise was in High Street.
From 1803 he owned 3-5 High Street. He also owned 27-29 High Street from 1811.

1829 June Nelson Rae died. His only sibling Margaret Rae died in **February 1838**. She was a spinster. Nelson had 2 children, Alexander and Margaret. Alexander died as a minor in **June 1838** leaving no children. The last surviving relative who could inherit the property of Nelson Rae was his daughter Margaret who married the local doctor Oloff Gotlieb de Wet Fehrszen and she died in **October 1841**.

1837-38 Pigot & Co. Directory Catherine McGeoch & sisters ran a Milliners & Dressmakers business in Front Street.

1841 census – Front Street 03 & 05

<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>
McGeoch	Margaret			f	48	milliner	Kirkcudbrightshire
McGeoch	Cathrine			f	40	milliner	Kirkcudbrightshire
McGeoch	Menzies			f	38	milliner	Kirkcudbrightshire
McGeoch	Susan			f	33	milliner	Kirkcudbrightshire
Martin	Nicholas			f	65	independent	Kirkcudbrightshire
Martin	Nicholas			f	24		Kirkcudbrightshire

N.B. The 1841 census suggests that the above 2 families might have lived in separate properties and that the Martin family lived between the McGeoch family (at no.3) and the Fowler family (no.7).

1851 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>
McGeoch	Mary	head	s	f	55	housekeeper	Kbts, Girthon
McGeoch	Catherine	sister	s	f	46	dressmaker	Kbts, Girthon
McGeoch	Menzies	sister	s	f	44	dressmaker	Kbts, Girthon
McGeoch	Susan	sister	s	f	38	dressmaker	Kbts, Girthon
Rouselle	Mary	head	w	f	70	annuitant & ret'd housekeeper	England

N.B. The 1851 census suggests that the above 2 families lived in the same building.

1852 Slater's Directory : There are 2 entries for the business run by Catherine McGeoch of High Street –
(1) Linen & Woollen Draper & (2) Milliner & Dressmaker

1855 Following various legal transactions Dr Fehrszen (husband of Margaret Rae, daughter of Nelson Rae - see note dated 1829 above) became the legal inheritor of 3-5 High Street.

1858 Disposition by Alexander Douglas (WS, Factor for Dr. Fehrszen) in favour of John & Marion Brown.

1859 Valuation Roll : John Brown (factor to late Dr Fehrzen) was proprietor and occupier.

1861 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>
Brown	John	head	s	m	81	proprietor of house	Dumfries, Tinwald
Brown	Marian	sister	s	f	70	proprietor of house	Dumfries, Tinwald
Armstrong	Francis	nephew	s	m	41	Joiner	Dumfries, Tinwald
Kennan	Mary	servant	s	f	45	domestic servant	Kbts, Tongland

1871 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>
Palmer	Isabella	head	s	f	70	Income from house & annuities	Kbts, Balmaghie
Palmer	Mary	sister	s	f	60	Income from house	Kbts, Balmaghie
Moffat	James	lodger	s	m	31	medicine general practitioner - graduate MBCM Univ. of Glasgow	Kbts, Urr
Stuart	Lewis	lodger	s	m	29	ride officer - excise	Banff, Inveravon
Swan	Annie B	lodger	s	f	29	school mistress	Berwick, Grantshouse

1873 Sold by Jane Brown, Langlands, Twynholm to Alexander McCutcheon, farmer High Barlay. Isabella Palmer was living there at that time.

1873 Assigned by Alexander McCutcheon to Thomas McGuffog.

1877 John Fergusson, draper in Gatehouse bought the property from Thomas McGuffog, Esquire, cotton spinner in Preston. The property has continued in the Fergusson family into the 21st century.

1878 Valuation Roll : John Fergusson, draper, was both proprietor and occupier.

1881 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>
Fergusson	John	head	m	m	37	linen draper	Ayr, Ballantrae
Fergusson	Emily	wife	m	f	35	milner <i>{m.s. Hornsby}</i>	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fergusson	James H	son		m	7	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fergusson	John R	son		m	6	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fergusson	William H	son		m	4		Kbts, Gatehouse
Fergusson	Malcolm R	son		m	3		Kbts, Gatehouse
Thompson	Elizabet	servant	s	f	16	general servant domestic	Kbts, Gatehouse
Parker	Mary	servant	s	f	15	general servant domestic	Kbts, Gatehouse

1884 Valuation Roll : John Fergusson, draper, was both proprietor and occupier.

1891 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>
Fergusson	Emily	head	w	f	39	draper	Kbts, Girthon
Fergusson	Annie	dau.	s	f	18	milliner	Kbts, Girthon
Fergusson	John	son	s	m	15	draper apprentice	Kbts, Girthon
Fergusson	William	son	s	m	13	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Fergusson	Malcolm	son	s	m	11	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Fergusson	Marjorie	dau.	s	f	7	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Fergusson	George	son	s	m	5	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Fergusson	Eric	son	s	m	3	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Tait	Mary	sister	m	f	36	living on private means	Kbts, Girthon
Tait	George	nephew	s	m	4	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
McMichael	Marianne	servant	s	f	18	domestic servant	Dumfries, Thornhill

1901 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>
Fergusson	Emily	head	w	f	55	shopkeeper draper	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fergusson	J R	son	s	m	24	drapers assistant	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fergusson	M B	dau.	s	f	18		Kbts, Gatehouse
Fergusson	George	son	s	m	17	masons apprentice	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fergusson	Eric	son	s	m	15	lawyers apprentice	Kbts, Gatehouse
McLauchlan	E	servant	s	f	15	gen. dom. serv.	Kbts, Castle Douglas
Tait	Mary	sister	m	f	53	living on own means	Kbts, Gatehouse

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>
Fergusson	John Robert	head	s	m	36	draper	Kbts, Girthon
Logan	Margaret	servant	w	f	67	domestic servant	Kbts, Twynholm

1912 Valuation Roll : James Fergusson, who lived in Chile (?) was proprietor and John R Fergusson, draper, was the occupier.

1920 Stewartry P.O. J R Fergusson was listed as a draper in High Street.

Directory : Geo. H Fergusson was listed as a builder in High Street (*George Fergusson lived at Glenavon, Digby Street, but maybe his brother's shop was used as a trading point*)

1921 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>
Fergusson	John R	head	s	m	47	Draper	Girthon
Tait	Mary	visitor	w	f	73	h.d.	Girthon
Gorman	Mary	serv.	s	f	46	housekeeper	Stranraer, Wigtown

1930 Valuation Roll : John Robert Fergusson, draper was proprietor and occupier.

20th Century Shop Adverts etc.



1911 – Fergusson letterhead

Galloway News announcements



1944 1st July



1944 26th August

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5 High Street, Gatehouse-of-Fleet

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