Post Office Cairndow 1963 – Ethel and the Late Archibald MacCallum

Ethel and Archibald MacCallum were tenants at that time.

You enter usually by the front door to a long narrow hall. Directly in front of the front door was the door to the kitchen. Turn left along the hall with a window to your right. Stairs with a sharp turn on your left. Directly in front of you a little sitting room possibly built on to the end of the original house as it had a sloping roof.

The kitchen was a fair-sized square room with a window to the rear of the building. There was a Rayburn stove which heated the water as well as used for cooking. It was to your left as you came in from the hall. The sink was placed in the window, an ordinary ceramic (not stone.) To your right was an entry (no door) which led to the bathroom, which of course had a door, a narrow room nevertheless adequate. In the entry was a cupboard on the rear wall. The hot water boiler was in the kitchen (I think.) The bathroom was renovated for us. Those on the project were Nigel Callander and the late Willie MacPherson. Some kind of black lining was put on the rear wall to discourage dampness.

There were two bedrooms upstairs. One quite large, the one next to the stairs narrower. The windows were square and to the front of the house. There was a skylight in the roof of the passage opposite the door of the smaller bedroom.

The Post Office

A very large room with loads of room with two L shaped counters, one for the Post Office business and the other for the Shop. Straight through from the Post Office which was directly through from the kitchen there was another small room, just the right size for a computer room today. We kept the safe in there in a cupboard.

Outside the counters was a large square for the people to queue. There was a cupboard there too, near the door, which was to the front of the building.

The Shop had lots of shelves. The mail came from Glasgow at 4.30 a.m. each day, but Sunday. Three posts were employed, one going to Lochgoilhead and two for Strachur, one which did Cairndow and St. Catherines. The School car delivered round to Drishaig and up Glen Fyne.

Between the Post Office and the kitchen was a square dark hall housing the back door which led to outhouses and the washing green with steps going up to it. There was also a vegetable garden to the side of the house (beside the small sitting room.)

Across the road from the front of the building was a square piece of land with daffodils growing there, with the river going into Loch Fyne.

Ethel MacCallum 2008