

‘Flora’s Barn’



And ‘Tigh Eachainn Mhor’



South Erradale

[illegible]

This ruin sits on a level area of ground at the foot of a S facing slope just outside the existing township head dyke.

However the estate map of 1845 shows that before the crofts were established the original settlement was in this area and this building is shown as roofed. The 1st OS map shows it as partially roofed and the 2nd OS shows it as fully roofed again.

The original road into South Erradale came in from the W and vehicular access finished at this point. A track continues on to Badachro.

It is known as Flora's barn as latterly it was used as one, however local knowledge states that Flora was born here in the W end of the building being a house, and lived here until her mother died when she was young and then she moved with her father to live with a relative in a neighbouring house (see list of ruins and features of South Erradale number 24). She lived there until elderly.

The structure of the building has been altered considerably, probably several times, but suggests that it may have been used for horses and other animals. Cathma Thompson's account of South Erradale gives more information. The floor of the building is known to be inlaid with cobbles in the design of cartwheels but we were unable to see this due to tumble, collapsed roof and other debris.



Flora's barn still roofed in approx 1965 showing a chimney at the W end



Floraidh

Nan

Two contrasting pictures
of Flora.

At work

Going to a wedding



Floraidh & Nan

The ruin comprises two attached buildings built at different times as the dividing wall shows a complete break.. The W end is very tumbled and the remaining walls are mainly below sill height. However they were of typical double sided walls filled with infill, and made with local sandstone that had been chosen rather than dressed. The construction seems to be typically of a door and two windows to the front and probably a smaller window to the rear.



What remains of the W end of the building today which in previous photo had a chimney and was where Flora was born

The E end of the building is of a rougher construction and the walls although higher are collapsing. At ground level there appear to be the base stones of an earlier building on which the present walls are constructed. This would suggest a building rebuilt and altered as its use changed.

Base stones of earlier building



The walls in the E end of the building are collapsed and tumbled. The dividing wall between W and E is leaning.



This photo shows the leaning dividing wall and one of the large boulders that the walls are constructed around (N side)

On the S side at the opposite end of this wall there is a lot of collapse and another large boulder



The S wall has had a buttress built against it to try and prevent further collapse without much success



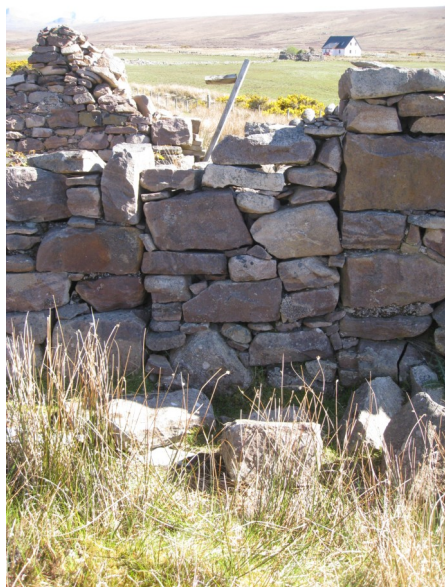
The inside of the E end is overgrown and full of debris, making it difficult to see detail clearly.



Large stones appear to have been placed along the top of the N wall. It is not known if this was a recent modification.



There is a blocked doorway in the N wall



The doorways have substantial doorsteps and large facing stones.



side

At the E end the roof rafters are still partially in place



To the E of the ruin a burn flows down the hill and there is evidence of attempts to divert it away from the building by digging and lining a channel, as well as a ditch at the N side of the house.



The 1st and 2nd OS maps show an enclosure/garden to the S of the ruin and there is still evidence of an improved bit of ground. The surrounding wall is partially in place and forms a wall along the edge of the track to Badachro that was once used. \This wall has been improved in recent times, The track runs between the ruin and the wall.



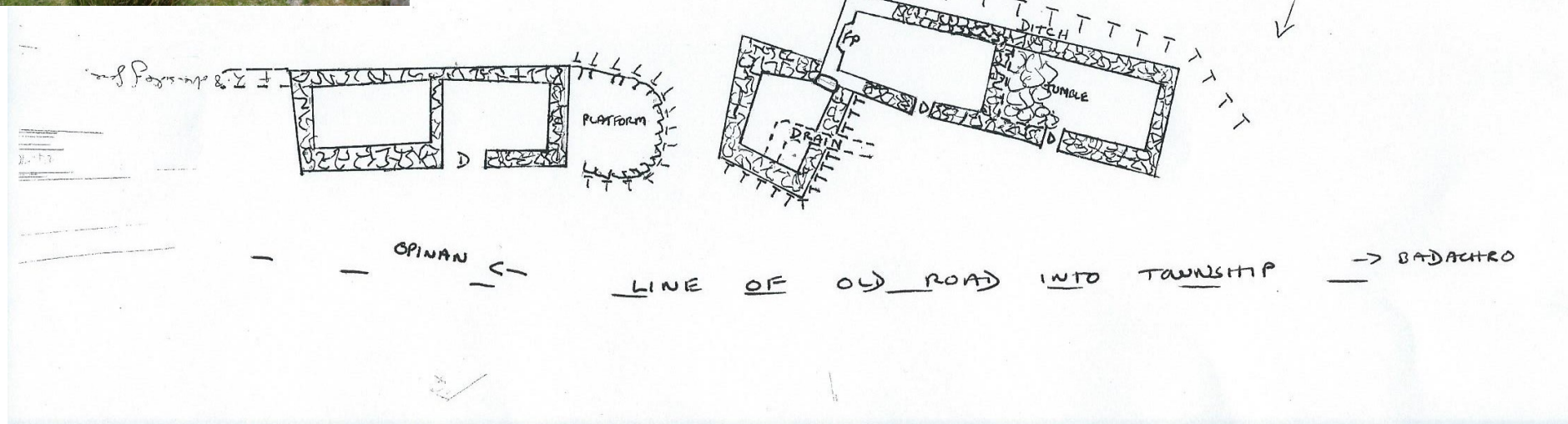
The area was well used in the past by machinery as well as people as three substantial stone bridges cross the burn in this area where the track used to come into the township.



They measure up to 5m in width



Plane table survey of ruins outside head dyke of South Erradale township known as Tigh Eachainn Mhor. Centred on NG 74778 71367 elevation 32m



The ruins are situated at the foot of a SW facing slope on a level area of ground just outside the township head dyke. They are part of a group of buildings that formed the original settlement of South Erradale before the crofts were made in 1845. They are shown as roofed on the Gairloch Estate map and both the 1st and 2nd OS maps. The buildings that lie in ruins now were built in approximately 1890 (see Cathma Thompson's account of South Erradale) so there must have been an earlier building on this site and the stone reused. No definite site of the well that is known to have been used just down slope from the ruin was found.

The ruins comprise a house with attached byre, and an adjacent barn/byre with grain drying platform

The building at the E part of the group is divided into a house with barn. Most of the ruin is below sill height with the W gable still standing. This wall which is made of chosen and dressed local sandstone with larger blocks laid between smaller stones has a fireplace inserted into it. A large natural boulder has been built around in the W corner. Two doorways are still visible amongst the tumble.. The walls are double skinned with infill.



Behind the building is a ditch dug to take water coming down the hillside away from the ruin



The barn section of the building

Attached to this building are the footings of a byre with byre drain which has been built up on a platform.



byre
drain



To the W of this are the footings of another building divided into two with attached grain drying platform. Beyond this the footings of a wall extend for another 3m. This building is of rougher construction made of larger boulders so was probably a barn/byre or perhaps the earlier building marked on the estate map and the stone reused for the adjacent house.



Down slope of the ruins the old track leading into South Erradale can still be seen

Track

