

Grantown Heritage Plaques: Military Road

New Grantown was built at the intersection of two military roads. This one leading to Fort George from Blairgowrie crossed the River Spey at what is now known as the “Old Spey Bridge”. This was built in 1754 by “Bigg Scott” to link up the Caulfeild Road - often erroneously called a Wade Road, though General Wade was dead and buried quite sometime before this road was built. John Scott was a Perthshire-born master mason whose principal career was as a government contractor, pioneering stone bridge building in the northern central Highlands. He was also for a time a tenant of the farm of Revack and an innkeeper in New Grantown. He was subsequently called on to effect emergency repairs in September 1768 when floods severely damaged the central arch



The “Old” Spey bridge showing the pillars put in place to stop traffic.

The bridge was finally closed to traffic 1931 when the new bridge was completed.



The New Bridge was opened in 1931 by the MacIntosh of MacIntosh. It then connected up with the early 19th century “New Road”, part of the A939, Grantown’s main approach from the South.

The old road continued in use during the 1939-45 war as a route for military transport as Grantown was an important REME centre for the maintenance and repair of military vehicles. The stone pillars of the check point and road block still stand guarding the entrance to the town.

Opening the New spey Bridge

On the West side of the Old Road was Lady’s Garden, the pleasure garden created by Sir James Grant for his eldest sister Miss Marian Grant of Grant. Trees and seeds were carted over the Drumochter in the winter of 1766 to help make this an attractive space.

The old military road as it approaches the town at what i now the junction with South Street.



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