

# Grantown Heritage Plaques: The Square.

It was around New Grantown's market place that most of the first houses were built. In the North-East corner stands the oldest urban housing in Strathspey. Of these, two were built in 1768 for James Haston, son of the Castle Grant head gardener and brother of the first postmaster.

Throughout the year, fairs and markets were held in the Square. One writer recalled of a time around the end of the nineteenth century:



*Currently Grantown's oldest housing - in the corner of the Square*



*An old postcard view of the Square from the Grant Arms*

*"Feeing markets were held in Grantown regularly ..... On both sides of the square, stalls, booths and tents were erected, while hobby horses, merry-go-rounds and all kinds of side-shows filled the whole area east of the Grant Arms. Goods of all kinds were displayed and money changed hands quickly. The stalls with their huge array of sweets, toffees, clothes, boots, shoes, carpet slippers and other useful articles were soon emptied. The Dundee Gundy Wife was there regularly. If one wanted a whole*

*stalk of gundy it cost 2d; but if you only wanted a pennyworth, she would spit on her hands and break the stalk in two."* (Grantown Grammar School Magazine 1937)



*Fair Day in the Square with the local Pipe Band*

At one time every Saturday night there was music in the square provided by the brass band of the 1st Elginshire Rifle Volunteers and later the local pipe band. For many years a wartime trophy in the form of a German canon stood, controversially, on the grass at the far end of the Square.