

P302 Mary Ann's Cottage Photographs

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number: P302

Alternative reference number:

Title: Mary Ann's Cottage Photographs

Dates of creation: July 1998

Level of description: Fonds

Extent: 10 photographs

Format: Photographs

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators:

Administrative history: In 1990 just before her 93rd birthday, Mary-Ann Calder moved from her life-long home at Westside Croft, Dunnet to a Wick nursing home.

Her grandfather John Young, had built the cottage in 1850, and the croft was successively worked by him, his son William, and finally his grand-daughter, Mary-Ann and her husband James Calder. Over the three generations the way of life and working practices had continued largely unaltered.

When the time came for Mary-Ann to leave, because of its historic nature she sought to have the croft preserved as it was, and so the Caithness Heritage Trust was formed to acquire it and carry out her wishes.

One Trust member, Professor Alexander Fenton, has written about Westside Croft - "I have known about this croft for a long time. It is in its own right a most important social document. It incorporates in its layout and fittings a natural a natural blend of the old and the new, showing how innovations and more concepts gradually displace or replace the old. In terms of field layout and details like the tethering of animals and the siting of plant-cots for cabbage-

propagating on adjacent waste ground, there are rare pointers to older, pre-improvement community system that prevailed throughout much of Scotland. It can be used, therefore, to interpret both the past and the more recent present, especially if it can be preserved with all its contents intact."

The Trust has restored the Croft, as near as possible, to its state when worked by Mary-Ann and James Calder. Visitors are taken on a guided tour of the buildings.

Custodial history:

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description:

Appraisal:

Accruals:

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: Open

Closed until:

Access conditions: Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Archive searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: March 2012

Ref.	Description	Dates
P302	Photographs of Mary Ann's Cottage in Dunnet [10 photographs]	July 1998