



New Council House at Salisbury from a sketch by John Buckler c1800-1850

Salisbury Council House

The building in the above illustration is the third Council House built in Salisbury. Its immediate predecessor, built 1580-1584, was burnt down in 1780. Jacob, Lord Radnor, whose home Longford Castle was just outside Salisbury, offered to build a new Council House at his own expense, and after some debate as to the site, the old Bishop's Guildhall was demolished to make way for it. It is built of cream brick with stone dressings and was originally designed by Sir Robert Taylor. It was completed in 1795 and contained courtrooms and a banqueting room. The entrance shown in this illustration was altered to form a projecting portico, probably in 1889, when the portico on the right was demolished to make room for new cells.

In 1927 the Salisbury Corporation purchased the old St, Edmund's College and this became the fourth Council House. The old Council House was then called the Town Hall, but this was soon changed because of local opposition and is now known as the Guildhall.

From a description by Wiltshire Library & Museum Service 1978