

# The Town Hall

## 1 Market Place

Records of property on this site date back to the early 17th century. In the 18th century this was described as the 'Great Cornerhouse called the George'. By 1781 it was described as for many years divided into two tenements. By 1809 it was 3 tenements. It was claimed that George III had a button sewn back on by the tailor in the western shop. In 1849 the occupiers were John Westlake, William Summers and George Leal, tailor.



*The Town Hall in 1866*

In the 1860s plans were made to build a new town hall. The site decided on was this property on the corner of Bell Street and the Market Place.

The building was designed by Mr Bedborough of Southampton. The cheapest of the six tenders, submitted by Mr Dallimore, builder of Fareham, was accepted. The Town Hall was opened with great celebrations on 24th July 1866.



*The Town Hall with the balustrading constructed in 1932, protecting the steps down to the public toilets.*



*The Town Hall under repair in 2005.*



