

From Sarah Brown McCulloch's *Guilford: A Walking Guide* (2012):

**Guilford Town Hall, 31 Park Street, Romanesque, 1893-94; Colonial Revival, 1947-48, Architect: Leoni Robinson.**

The first town hall was built in 1775 with private subscriptions and stood inside the Green on the north side. The second floor was used for town offices and the first was thriftily rented out “for a store selling dry and West India goods.” In 1820 the building was moved off the Green to a location on Church Street. As decay set in, repeated attempts were made to repair it or replace it, but it was not until 1892 that the town meeting finally voted to put up a new building here “to cost not over \$13,500.” Built in the Romanesque style with typically irregular roof line and arched doors and windows, the new building had, besides offices, a 500-seat hall with stage and dressing rooms, where plays and musical programs were presented and where numerous organizations met. By 1947 when “Victorian monstrosities” had become hopelessly out of date and Colonial Revival was considered almost the only style suitable for civic architecture, the town suddenly took strong measures, wiped out all traces of its Romanesque past, and transformed it into something described as Georgian. In 1973 another vigorous remodeling produced a successful modernization of the interior.