

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

Music Hall, 69-75 Whitfield Street, 1849.

This building, on the site of Brown's Tavern where Lafayette was entertained in 1784 during his first visit to Guilford, originally stood near Jones Bridge which crosses the West River at Water Street and housed a steam-engine factory. It was moved to the Green by oxen in 1866 and used at different times for the post office, savings bank, and many different retail businesses. On the second floor was the large public hall that gave the building its name. Here entertainments of all kinds were presented including (as reported by the Shore Line Times) the appearance of a local man, Andrew Benton, making his debut to a full house: "I come not here, my friends, to boast, That I am the Guilford poet; I count it bliss to make a verse, But not such bliss to show it." Charles Hubbard, artist and chronicler, remembered the traveling shows, minstrel shows, concerts, magicians, and an exhibition of Kickapoo Indians with their amazing cure-alls. After the 1920s the building provided space for a dancing school and basketball practice. Originally the Music Hall had rounded triple windows at the second-floor level and a monitor on top.