

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

<b>LISTED BUILDING</b>	The Old Guildhall, Somerset Place
<b>Grade:-</b>	II*
<b>Date of Notification:-</b>	30.03.87
<b>National Grid Reference:-</b>	6608093930
<b>O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-</b>	69 SE
<b>CADW Reference No.:-</b>	11643
<b>C &amp; C of S Reference No.:-</b>	LB:147

### Notes:-

Large public building close to the River Tawe and the former site of West Docks.

First built 1825-29 by Thomas Bowen, a local builder, to designs by John Collingwood, architect of Gloucester. Enlarged and entirely re-modelled 1848-52 by William Richards of Swansea to plans by Thomas Taylor, architect of London, dated 1848 over entrance. Later extensions, alterations to north and east sides and interior remodelled (partly by C J Phipps of London, 1870). Ceased use as Guildhall in 1934. Roman Classicism using Corinthian order (capitals modelled on Temple of Jupiter Stator in Rome).

Two storey six bay Bath stone entrance front, advanced ends with first floor aedicules and paired centre bays with three quarter columns. Deep cornice to entablature (dentils removed) with solid parapets over (balustrades and urns removed), chancelled rustication under band course to ground floor.

Tall round arched windows with architraves, lion masks and heads to key blocks, impost bands, sash windows with glazing bars. Ground floor openings with keyblocks and recessed frames, twin pilastered doorcases with volutes to arched architraves, blind lunettes and double panelled doors, carved Borough of Swansea arms to centre spandrel. Later three storey extensions with large ground floor arches to left side concealing original rear elevations.

South elevation of nine-bays with detailing as before (three bay centre), upper floor glazing altered, sash windows to ground floor, area railings. Three bay return elevation (part of larger design on east side), two-storey larger extensions, attached galleried ranges to north and east of east courtyard are not of special interest.

Interior retains fine classical detailing to main lateral staircase with arched coffered ceiling, top flight with trabeated columned archway ceiling and massive doorcases. Good classical interiors to former Council Chamber and Court Rooms I and II en suite on first floor. Vaulted ground floor rooms and passages, brick cells to rear.

Disused at time of survey (October 1985).

Group Value.

**Reference:-**

H Colvin: Biographical Dictionary (1978) page 230.

The Guildhall, Swansea, edited by J R Alban, pages 4-11.

Plans and Prospects, Welsh Arts Council 1975, pages 50-51.

Inscribed plaque to left of entrance.

Original drawings in Royal Institution of South Wales, collection no's. 97-100.

"Builder", 11 March 1871, page 191.