

High Street Bath



Edward Eyre. Watercolour on paper. 18.5 X 25 cms. c. 1776.



Thomas Malton. Watercolour on paper. 76 X 196 cms. 1779.

The Eyre picture shows the Stuart Guildhall in the middle of the street, with space for market stalls beneath it. Following the total clearance of the old Guildhall and nearby buildings, Malton shows the splendid Georgian replacement. Statues from the old building were saved and can be seen now above the Registrar's entrance and some of the 1724 van Diest portraits of Councillors were transferred to the new Council chamber where they remain.

The building on the extreme left is the White Lion coaching inn which was cleared in the late 19th century for the building of the Guildhall North wing and the Victoria Art Gallery and the library.

The North side of Wade's Passage is at the far end of the street and that was later shortened and the remnant refaced, leaving us now with the camera shop and Bath Aqua Glass, which still has, as in medieval times, shop fronts on both sides. The Abbey clock came down to the north transept gable about 1833 because of concerns about the effect of its weight when in the tower.