



Wiltshire Workhouses

Alderbury Union Workhouse at East Harnham

Although called Alderbury Union Workhouse it was actually in East Harnham on the Coombe Road.

It was designed by Edward Hunt and built in 1836-1837 at a cost of £4,975.

It could accommodate up to 280 inmates at a time. Children were separated from the adults.

There was no nurse to look after the sick; inmates were used for this task.

It was rebuilt again in 1877-1879 using a design by G B Nicholls.

In 1920 it was renamed the Tower House Poor Law Institution.

In 1930 was renamed again Public Assistance Institution.

Finally in 1970 it was called Meyrick Close County Welfare Home. Then in the mid 1970's it was demolished.

The only part that remains standing is the much altered workhouse chapel. This is now in full use by Harnham Free Church.

A housing estate called Ridings Mead now covers this area and further up into what were the grounds of the Common Cold Cure Unit.