

A Brief history of Keswick Hall

KESWICK HALL was built in 1817 by Hudson Gurney, member of Parliament for the "Rotten" Borough of Newtown Isle of Wight until 1816, the seat was abolished in 1832. The architect was William Wilkins architect of Downing College Cambridge and the National Gallery.

Originally a fairly small two storey house with stable block to the North-West, the house was extended in 1839 when a large bay fronted dining room and library were added together with porticos around the rest of the house and domestic quarters to the west. At this time the grounds were embellished with a terrace of exotic trees, some of which still remain as local land marks.

In 1886 John Henry Gurney and his family moved into the house and made more alterations. A third floor was added and the garden front was extended over the portico with the addition of a pediment.

After the 1939/1945 War the property was occupied by the Norwich Training College and subsequently in 1950 to 1951 a large East wing was added. Thereafter from 1952 onwards the college expanded and new buildings were built westwards over the site of the former garden, greenhouses and aviarys. Consequently the property was acquired by the University of East Anglia when the college was incorporated into the University.

Article taken from glossy booklet by Chantry Homes, on conversion of the college into individual private housing; complete with spelling mistakes!



Above: Keswick Hall in original form, 1948
Below: At the end of the 1990s



