

The Town House of Old Stonehaven was erected in 1790 to house a public bell and was paid for by the Town's Funds. As the tower was without a spire at the time the bell would have been visible to the public who according to documents from the time were of the opinion that the new bell was too small and that 'Managers should purchase a larger bell for the Town's Clock of such as they should think proper'. A larger bell was then installed alongside the smaller one in 1793. Both bells remain in the spire of the tower which was added in 1827 and was originally clad in copper which was later replaced by lead sheet. A barometer was incorporated into the first floor window in 1852 and in 1896 the clock was repositioned to its current location.

Stonehaven's Mercat Cross is located in front of the Town House and dates from 1645. It was the hub of municipal affairs where government and judicial pronouncements were made. In 1651 proclamation was made from the Cross, of the attempt by the Commonwealth to incorporate Scotland with England and called upon the burgh of Stonehaven to elect representatives of integrity disposed to the welfare and peace to appear at Dalkeith to agree to the proposed Union. In the winter of 1715 one of the most fateful proclamations was made when the "Old Pretender" was declared King James VIII by John Maule the local Procurator-fiscal.