

LISTED BUILDINGS OF SHREWSBURY (Grade 1)

Official listing acknowledges a building's special architectural and historical importance and establishes the need to protect it for future generations. For this purpose, a National Heritage List for England (NHLE) is kept and includes approximately 500,000 buildings.

Out of those buildings, about 2.5% are classified as Grade I, because of their exceptional importance. They are usually older than 1700 AD. Another 5.5% of the listed buildings are classified as Grade II*, mostly built between 1700 and 1840 and considered to be particularly important. All the rest (92%) are Grade II listed buildings, which signifies their special importance.

In Shrewsbury there are as many as 784 listed buildings from all Grades. For comparison, there are 420 listed buildings in Ludlow, 138 in Oswestry and 111 in Whitchurch.

From those 784 listings, 15 are classed as Grade I Listed Buildings in the NHLE. They are as follows, when we approach the old town from the direction of the English Bridge:

- Shrewsbury Abbey Church, founded 1085, Abbey Foregate
- Refectory Pulpit of the Abbey Church, early 14th century, Abbey Foregate
- The Trotting Horse, 15th century, No. 1/2, Barracks Passage
- Henry Tudor House, 15th century, No. 72/73, Wyle Cop
- Lion Hotel, late 15th century, Wyle Cop
- Old Market Hall, 1595-1596, The Square
- St Chad's Church, 1790-1792, St Chad's Terrace
- The Abbot's House, 1457-1459, Butcher Row
- St Mary's Church, 12th century, St Mary's Street
- Council House Gateway and Gateway House, 1620, Council House Court
- The Library, 1595, Castle Street
- Shrewsbury Castle, late 12th century, Castle Street
- Ditherington Flax Mill, 1796-1800, Spring Gardens
- Ditherington Flax Mill, Flax Warehouse, c.1810, Spring Gardens
- Ditherington Flax Mill, Cross Building, 1812, Spring Gardens

These highly important buildings represent various aspects of life in Shrewsbury, spanning from the 11th to the 19th century and display achievements inspired by religion and military power, but also to serve perennial human needs for habitation, retail and industry, as well as education, hospitality and entertainment.

In terms of local heritage however, Grade I buildings are only the tip of the iceberg, whereas the real weight of this heritage is illustrated by the hundreds and hundreds of the remaining listed buildings, in and around this ancient little town of Shrewsbury. Additionally, the heritage picture is complemented by the authorised Conservation Areas and by the List of Special Local Buildings currently being developed by the Civic Society.