



Designed in the Gothic style by the Belfast architect WH Lynn and opened by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1869. The grey and pink sandstone clock tower is 160 feet high (48.7m)

Walk diagonally across Town Hall Square and stop outside the large arch of the Abbey Gateway.



A vaulted sandstone arch dating from the mid-14th century which was the main entrance to St Werburgh's Abbey (now the

Walk through the gateway and turn left once in Abbey Square.



Georgian terraced houses mainly built between 1754 and 1761 on the site of the old abbey kitchens, bake-house and brewery.

Walk through Abbey Square to the opposite side. Continue along Abbey Street and at the bottom turn right up the ramp onto the City Walls to reach the Bell Tower.



Officially called the Addleshaw Tower, this remarkable freestanding tower designed by George Pace in sandstone and Welsh slate, has housed the Cathedral bells since

Continue along the City Walls to the

EASTGATE

Chester's most famous landmark was designed by the acclaimed local architect John Douglas to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1887 - but not actually erected until 1899. Continue along the City Walls and over the Newgate. Go down the steps on your left to street level, cross over and walk up Park

6 THE NINE

HOUSES

in about 1650. Only six of the

Cross the road and go through the

gate in the City Walls. Turn left to

walk through the Roman

Gardens. At the main road turn

right and cross narrow Souters

AMPHITHEATRE

Lane for the amphitheatre.

7 ROMAN

The partially excavated remains

(including about 40% of the

arena) of the largest Roman

amphitheatre in Britain. It lay

ust outside the south-eastern

corner of the fortress and may

have seated 10,000 spectators at

Follow the road around the

amphitheatre and head for the

railings outside the church.

These tiny timber and sandstone cottages were built as almshouses

WEIR

This massive stone Weir across the river was built in the 11th century to provide water power for the Dee Corn Mills, situated on the city side

Turn right and go under the Bridgegate. The Bear and Billet is on the opposite side of the road.

11 BEAR & BILLET

The historic inn name has been changed recently, but there is no mistaking the many-windowed black and white frontage of this famous 17th century house, once owned by the Earls of Shrewsbury.

Continue up Lower Bridge Street.

8 ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Access Service on 01244 324324.

Disabled people, particularly wheelchair users, will find parts of this walking route inaccessible. For access

information in Chester contact the City Council's

Within the Victorian exterior is one of the region's finest Norman churches, once Chester's first cathedral. The eastern ruins are open for exploration.

Follow the path alongside the church and at the ruins turn right down the slope and steps towards the river. Turn right along The Groves.

CELL

Probably built in the mid-14th century to house an anchorite or hermit - a recluse who locked himself away for a life of prayer and

Continue along The Groves until you reach a sandstone bridge – the Old Dee

10 NORMAN

of the Old Dee Bridge.

parish churches, this dates mainly from the 14th and 15th centuries and is an excellent example of the Perpendicular style.

Take the path beside the church between two black bollards. Walk through the archway and across the car park to the statue of Queen Victoria.

Take the first street on the left, turn

right at the end and walk up the steps

(beware of wet leaves at certain times of

2 ST MARY'S CHURCH

One of Chester's nine medieval

CHURCH

13 CHESTER

Built between 1788 and 1822 by Thomas Harrison and largely replacing the medieval castle, these neo-Classical buildings have been described as the best examples of the Greek Revival style of architecture

Continue across the car park and through the archway in the corner. Once in the courtyard, turn left.

4 AGRICOLA

Built in the 12th century as the gatehouse to the inner bailey, the Agricola Tower is one of the oldest surviving parts of the great medieval castle. On the first floor you can see the medieval chapel of

Before leaving the Castle, it is worth visiting the Cheshire Military Museum for a fascinating insight into the Regiments of Cheshire over the past 300 years.

Leave the castle forecourt by the impressive Propylaeum or gateway Cross the main road at the pedestrian crossing and then take the second crossing to the Magistrates' Court on the other side of the roundabout.

15 MAGISTRATES COURT

Built in 1991 to replace the old Magistrates' Court in the Town Hall, this is an excellent example of how a truly modern building can make a positive contribution to a historic setting.

Take the first road on your left, using the crossing to reach the opposite side

Don't miss the award-winning Grosvenor Museum, re-opened in August 2000 following major improvements. An excellent introduction to Chester's past. Just past the museum, take the first righ into Bunce Street and then left into Castle Street. Gamul House is at the junction with Lower Bridge Street.

16 GAMUL HOUSE

Behind the 18th century brick frontage lies a late medieval Great Hall, once owned by the Gamull family. The entrance at first floor indicates that the building once had an elevated Row walkway, similar to those in Chester's main streets. Cross Lower Bridge Street (take care).

Park House is half-way up. 17 PARK HOUSE

This elegant Georgian town house was built in 1715 by Madam Elizabeth Booth and

became one of Chester's leading hotels in the early 19th century. The Duke of Wellington stayed

Continue up Lower Bridge Street, Tudor House is three doors

18 TUDOR HOUSE

Although the wall plaque states 1503, this important timber framed town house was built for a wealthy Chester merchant in the early years of the 17th

Continue up Lower Bridge Street, and turn left, using the crossing to reach The Falcon.

19 THE FALCON

Formerly the town house of the Grosvenor family, this largely 17th century timber building was the first in Chester to lose its elevated Row walkway.

Cross Grosvenor Street at the crossing and walk up Bridge Street. The Three Old Arches is on the left hand side.

20 THREE OLD ARCHES

The three arches at Row level are some of the earliest structures to be seen in the Rows and provide a vital clue to what Chester's medieval stone houses looked like from the street.

Continue to walk up Bridge Street towards St Peter's Church and The

21 I BRIDGE STREET

These corner buildings at The Cross are the most famous of Chester's Victorian 'black-andwhite' revival. They were designed by the local architect TM Lockwood and are dated

Turn right down Eastgate Street, keeping on the right hand side.

22 BROWNS OF CHESTER

Built in two very different styles - one Classical, the other High Victorian Gothic - these adjacent buildings represent two phases in the development of Browns, Chester's leading store in the 19th century.

Cross to the left hand side and continue down Eastgate Street to the corner of St Werburgh Street.

23 33 EASTGATE STREET

Now the National Westminster Bank this was built as Dixon and Wardell's Chester Bank. The Classical design by George Williams was much criticised when it opened in 1860.

Take the next street on your left, keeping to its right hand side

A ST WERBURGH STREET EAST

Built 1895-97 by John Douglas, the buildings on the eastern side of the street are widely acknowledged to be the finest examples of Chester's Victorian 'black-and-

white' vernacular revival. Follow the curve of St Werburgh Street. The sandstone St Nicholas's Chapel is on the left hand side.

75 ST NICHOLAS'S CHAPEL A much altered medieval chapel which at various times has been

used as the city's Common Hall, Wool Hall, Georgian theatre, Victorian Music Hall and early cinema before becoming a shop. Continue walking up Si

of St Werburgh Row.

26 ST WERBURGH

Werburgh Street, under the arcade

This range of arcaded shops and The buildings on this side of architecture in Chester. Built in 1935 by Maxwell Ayrton, who also designed Wembley Stadium Cross over the road to the Cathedral entrance.

27 CHESTER CATHEDRAL

Founded as a Benedictine Abbey dedicated to St Werburgh in 1092, this great building became the Cathedral in 1541. Inside are some of the best preserved monastic buildings in the

Continue in the direction of the Town Hall, turning left when you reach the square to walk down the right hand side of Northgate

NEWSROOM & INN

Designed by Thomas Harrison, architect of Chester Castle, this fine Classical building opened in 1808 and housed a newsroom, coffee room and subscription library. Behind it, the Commercial Hotel was also built by Harrison at the same time.

Turn right up the steps into St Peter's Churchyard to the Commercial Hotel. Leave the churchyard by the archway in the far left hand corner. This leads on to Chester's famous Rows, where you should

'WATERGATE

best preserved medieval stone town houses in Britain. No. 38-42 is the argest, spanning three tenement plots and dates from the early 14th

At the end of the Row descend the steps to street level, cross over and continue a short distance down Watergate Street.

30 BISHOP LLOYD'S PALACE

Chester's most ornately carved timber-framed town house was built for George Lloyd (d. 1615), Bishop of Sodor and Man and then of Chester. Open to the public Monday-Thursday (noon-2pm) and at other times by arrangement.

Continue down Watergate Street. Use the crossing over the ring road to reach the opposite corner.

This late Elizabethan town house is dated 1591. It is named after the Stanley family, custodians of the nearby Watergate, who were responsible for collecting tolls on goods brought into the city from

the Port of Chester. Continue down the hill, Watergate House is on your left on the corner of the next street.

32 WATERGATE HOUSE Thomas Harrison, architect of

Chester Castle, designed this house for his friend Henry Potts, Clerk of the Peace for the County of At the Watergate, cross the road to

urn right into City Walls Road

33 QUEEN'S SCHOOL

EA Ould, a pupil of John Douglas, designed this school in 1883. The site was formerly occupied by the City Gaol and House of Correction.

Continue along the road and follow the upward slope of the City Walls.

34 WATER TOWER

Dating from the time when Chester was a major port, the Water Tower was built at the edge of the river to protect the harbour in 1322-26.

Leave the City Walls by the next main steps (on your left) turn right and walk beside the canal and under the railway to reach the top of the locks.

An impressive staircase of three deep and wide lock chambers on the present Shropshire Union Canal. These date from the 18th century when Chester was a canal and river port.

Continue past the locks and up the slope or the steps on your right. Go through the gateway in the City Walls and straight ahead along Pemberton Road. Turn left into King Street and left again onto

Northgate Street. 36 BLUE

Once an inn, this splendid little building is dated 1494 and formed part of a range of your right. Row'. The detached cabin was used as a barber shop in the 18th

and 19th centuries. Continue up Northgate Street and under the Northgate.

27 BLUECOAT SCHOOL

Built in 1717 to house a charity school for poor boys, the first of its kind outside London. The Blue Coat boy over the main entrance wears the distinctive uniform worn by pupils until the school closed in 1949.

Cross Northgate Street and return to the Northgate. Climb the steps on your left and enjoy one of the most spectacular stretches of the Roman/medieval City Wall. After a short distance the steps on your right lead down to Rufus Court.

Artist's representation only. Not to scale.

An award-winning development of the 1980s, tucked between the City Wall and Northgate Street. Go down the spiral stair and through the court. Turn left into Northgate Street, crossing over to

the Odeon Cinema on the corner. 39 ODEON CINEMA

One of the most prominent buildings in Chester, the Odeon Cinema of 1936 was designed in the typical Art Deco style by the Odeon Company's architect,

Harry Weedon. Cross the road in front of the Odeon and walk towards the Town Hall Square, building number 40 is on

WESTMINSTER 40 COACH & MOTOR CAR WORKS

This splendidly decorated brick and terracotta façade of the Edwardian Baroque motor works has been retained as part of Chester Library. In the future this will become the entrance to the new market hall.

See the reverse of this leaflet for more information about these

TOWN HALI

This replaced a building of 1698 called the Exchange, which burnt down in 1862. Designs were selected by an architectural competition. Entrants included Alfred Waterhouse, but the winner was the Belfast architect, WH Lynn. Built 1865 - 69, at a cost of £40,000, the Town

Hall contains a large assembly room, council chamber (by TM Lockwood) and Lord Mayor's parlour. 2

Waymarker. The clock tower - "a building that deals with numbers".

2 ABBEY GATEWAY

This medieval gatehouse led to a great Benedictine abbey dedicated to St Werburgh. Within the vaulted interior you can see carved sandstone bosses, including the faces of Christ, St John the Baptist and St Werburgh herself. The upper storey is a late 18th century addition and is not accessible to the public. Waymarker: "The lock and key, a symbol for entrance as well as confinement".

3 ABBEY SQUARE

Most of these houses were built in the mid 18th century in the 'London style' although the houses adjacent to the Abbey Gateway were not completed until the 1820s. Each terrace has a uniform design, but the individual houses are very different in their detailing. The central garden was once enclosed by iron railings, while the York stone pavings or 'wheelers' ensured a smooth carriage ride over the cobbles. Waymarker: Plan-form - "a considered layout".

4 BELL TOWER

In the 1960s the central tower of the Cathedral suffered structural problems, and a new tower to house the 13 bells was commissioned by Dean Addleshaw. Sometimes described as the 'Chester space rocket', George Pace's innovative design was the first detached bell tower to be built for an English cathedral since the Reformation. Waymarker: "A bell in its tower".

EASTGATE CLOCK

Said to be the most photographed clock in the world after Big Ben, John Douglas's exuberant Eastgate Clock has come to symbolise the spirit of Chester. The open wrought ironwork is by Douglas's cousin James Swindley and the clock itself by JB Joyce

ROMAN

AMPHITHEATRE

The first amphitheatre was built around 80AD.

Improved seating and external staircases were

added around 95AD. In about 200AD the

building projects across the city. 3

structure was remodelled with a 12m high outer

Waymarker: "Roman coins, hand stamped and cut".

8 ST JOHN'S CHURCH

The Saxon minister of St John the Baptist was

refounded as a collegiate church in 1057.

Between 1075 and 1102 it was the cathedral for

the diocese of Lichfield, which initiated an

ambitious rebuilding programme that continued

Maxwell Ayrton's design reflects the Chester 🅻

wall, decorative façade and internal staircases (vomitoria).

It was used for gladiatorial combat and executions. No longer used as an

amphitheatre after 350AD, archaeological evidence suggests it may have

become a stronghold following the fall of the Roman Empire. By the 11th

century much of its masonry had been taken to provide stone for new

of Whitchurch. Below, the elegant sandstone Eastgate of 1769 replaced the medieval gateway, which in turn replaced the Roman east gate or Porta Principalis Sinistra.

Waymarker: "The VR picks up on both images and metal work details in the clock".

THE NINE HOUSES The six surviving cottages are the oldest almshouses in Chester. Residents had to be over 65 years old and promise not to indulge in tobacco or alcohol! In the late 1960s the almshouses were rescued from collapse and heavily restored by Chester City Council. Look for the unusual parish boundary sign, marking the boundary between St Olave's and St Michael's parishes. 🌗

Waymarker: "The door is an image of security for the almshouses".

Chester is thought to have first constructed a weir or causeway here to provide power for his corn mill on the north bank of the river. All citizens were compelled to have their corn ground there, providing a rich source of profit to the Earldom. By the 17th century the weir served eleven water wheels, six for grinding corn, three for fulling cloth and two for raising water to a water tower on the Bridgegate. Waymarker: "The river and its life are constant".

intermittently over three centuries. The splendid interior gives a good idea of the size and scale of the original building. The eastern chancel and

chapels were cut off from the main building in the 16th century and

Waymarker: "The light of the church can be found in its congregation".

survive outside as picturesque ruins. 2

9 ANCHORITE'S CELL

This tiny building, built on a sandstone

outcrop within a former quarry, is one of

John's church in medieval times. According

Waymarker: "An isolated, elevated building".

Hugh Lupus, the first Norman Earl of

10 NORMAN WEIR

was added.

to legend, King Harold II did not die at the

Battle of Hastings in 1066, but fled to Chester where

he lived as an anchorite for many years. The building was much

altered in Victorian times when a porch from St Martin's Church

two cells or hermitages associated with St

BEAR AND BILLET

Dated 1664, this is one of the last major timberframed houses to be built in Chester and probably the whole country, until the style was revived in the 19th century. It seems to have replaced an earlier house, destroyed in the 1640s, when Royalist Chester was attacked by Parliamentarians during the Civil War. Until 1867 it was owned by the Earls of Shrewsbury, who as custodians of the Bridgegate, had the right to control tolls in goods brought through the gate into the city. It became an inn in the late 18th century. Waymarker: "Old inn sign".

26 STWERBURGHROW

tradition of building over the pavement to form an arcade, which can be seen in the main streets beyond the Rows (see no. 36 The Blue Bell). The western end is linked to Clemence House, also by Ayrton. Look for the inscribed stones commemorating the architect, his client and the date. 2 Waymarker: St Werburgh links the city and the Cathedral - "from a stained glass window in the Cathedral".

27 CHESTER CATHEDRAL

The Saxon church on this site was refounded as a Benedictine Abbey dedicated to St Werburgh 🔓 in 1092. From 1260 to 1537 the Norman monastic buildings were gradually replaced by the great Gothic building, which became the Cathedral in 1541. The west front dates from the early 16th century, but like much of the Cathedral, was restored and embellished by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1868-76. Waymarker: "From medieval carving of elephant and castle in the Choir".

28 COMMERCIAL NEWSROOM & INN

Before public libraries were introduced in the 19th century people generally paid to read newspapers or to join a circulating library. Harrison's Commercial Newsroom became a fashionable meeting place, rather like a gentleman's club. The narrow passageway leads to the charming St Peter's Churchyard and the Commercial Hotel, probably the only public house designed by Thomas Harrison. 1 Waymarker: "World events were first heard here".

29 38-42 WATERGATE STREET

Here the Row runs through a great stone house built above three undercrofts or cellars running back from the street. At Row level there was a range of small shops with the open great hall behind. Through the window you can still spot the small arched doorway,

connecting the hall and shops. The large studded door led to the passage which screened the hall from the service rooms. The outline of the blocked up stone arches is visible inside. The open hall was subdivided in the late 16th century, when a cross-beam floor and back-to-back fireplaces were inserted to created four heated rooms. 3

30 BISHOP LLOYD'S PALACE

Waymarker: "Hidden interiors".

Originally two houses built over medieval cellars, the Palace was completely rebuilt in the early 17th century, although heavily restored by T M Lockwood in the 1890s. The elaborate carvings include Biblical scenes, the arms of King James I and the Legs of Man. Above is a riot of detail including heraldic images and fantastic beasts - don't miss the 17th century version of an elephant! More original carving survives within the Row, where you can find some fearsome giants, animals and an owl. 2 Waymarker: Carved detail - "The Legs of Man".

31 STANLEY PALACE

One of the city's finest timber buildings, Stanley Palace was originally built for Sir Peter Warburton, passing into the hands of the influential Stanley family in 1621. Its fortunes subsequently declined and by the 19th century it was occupied as cottages. It was saved from demolition and possible reconstruction in the United States by the Chester Archaeological Society. The building was restored by Chester Corporation in 1935 when a new gable was added to the street side. Waymarker: Timber detail - "building and patterns".

WATERGATE HOUSE

Although Thomas Harrison designed a number 🛭 of villas, this is his only town house. It has an 🌘 unusual curved entrance, flanked by Ionic columns which leads to an octagonal entrance hall. The letters ER over the porch refer to Edward VII who was on the throne when the building became the headquarters of Western Command in 1907. 2 Waymarker: "Corners and curves".

ST MARY'S CHURCH

The original parish church was in the tiny chapel of St Mary de Castro in the Agricola Tower of Chester Castle (see no. 14). By about 1350 this was too small and a new church outside the Castle was commissioned. This became the final resting place for many prisoners, including three witches sentenced to hang in 656. Inside is a fine timber roof and the tombs of several important families including the 17th century effigies of Thomas Gamull and his wife Alice attended by their children. Waymarker: "Detail from the Gamull family tombs".

13 CHESTER CASTLE

The rebuilding of the medieval castle occupied Thomas Harrison for 40 years. From here you can see the central block with a pediment supported by twelve giant unfluted Doric columns. This housed the Shire Hall and assize Court with the County Gaol demolished) behind. The two wings were for the Armoury and Barracks. The great entrance gateway, not completed until 1822, was said o have been inspired by the Propylaeum of the Acropolis in Athens. Waymarker: Looking through the gateway – "designed around viewpoints".

14 AGRICOLA TOWER

Chester Castle was built by William I in 1070 as a typical Norman motte and bailey castle with earthen mound and timber defences. In the 12th century both the tower on the motte and the bailey wall were rebuilt in stone and this impressive gatehouse was added. It was later replaced by a new gateway (now demolished) and you can still see where archways were filled n. The chapel, which is still used by the Cheshire Regiment, has fragments of exquisite – but very difficult to spot – 13th century wall paintings. Waymarker: "Detail from the wall paintings in the tower".

MAGISTRATES' COURT

QUEEN'S SCHOOL

This school was founded in 1878 as the Chester

of Queen Victoria in 1882. Ould's Tudor Gothic

building with intricately patterned brickwork

petween 1809 and 1866.

34 WATER TOWER

Until the early 14th century, the north-western

corner of the medieval walls and the harbours

below were guarded by Bonewaldesthorne's

Tower. Gradually, extensive silting caused the river

course to move away from the base of the walls, so

gardens over 200 metres from the river.

35 NORTHGATE LOCKS

the engineers built a set of five locks and excavated a

deep cutting through the sandstone below the City

Waymarker: "Lock gates holding back the water".

building outside the main Row system. Typically,

the upper story is built over the pavement to form

an arcade. This was once very common in Chester and

36 BLUE BELL

is the only one to have survived.

Waymarker: "Food and wine on a plate".

Walls. In the 1790s a new canal was cut linking the

the New or Water Tower was built further out in the river,

In the 1770s the Chester Canal connected the River Dee at Chester with Nantwich on the Cheshire Plain. To reach the eastern side of the city

Chester Canal at Tower Wharf to the River Mersey at Ellesmere Port.

Originally two small mid - 15th century houses, the Blue Bell is a rare example of a medieval building outside the main Row system. Typically,

can be seen in adjoining buildings and also in Foregate Street. The tiny cabin

The original five locks were modified to become the present three.

clearly reflects the influence of John Douglas. It

replaced the City Gaol, built here in 1807 as successor to

Waymarker: Building details — "is that a window or a class of children?".

School for Girls. It was renamed by permission

Occupying a very prominent position adjacent to Chester Castle and the Victorian buildings of Grosvenor Street, this courthouse by Cheshire County Architects won a Civic Award in 1995. 2 Waymarker; The coat of arms - "a contrast in

16 GAMULHOUSE

The external appearance dates from about 1700 when the timber structure was refronted in brick, with a Classical doorway and unusual elliptical windows. Inside the Great Hall is open to the roof in true medieval style. In the 17th century, the building was owned by the influential Royalist Gamull family who leased the Dee Corn Mills. King Charles I is said to have stayed here on the eve of his army's defeat at the Battle of Rowton Moor on 24th September 1645. Waymarker: "Corn, toll bar and Charles I"

PARK HOUSE

In the 18th century, Lower Bridge Street was Chester's most fashionable street and many leading families built new town houses here. Rebuilding resulted in the medieval Rows being lost on both sides of the street. Behind this house were two acres of parkland, which were opened as formal pleasure gardens when it became the Albion Hotel. This closed in the 1850s and the park was developed for housing, including Albion Street. Waymarker: "A view through the window".

18 TUDOR HOUSE

Like many other buildings in Lower Bridge Street, Tudor House once contained a Row but it was enclosed to form an upstairs front room in 1728. The large sash windows probably date from this time. At street level were two shops. One was the Britannia Inn until 1820 and the other a bake-house. The original oven has been preserved. Waymarker: Timber detail - "a variation on a pattern".

THE FALCON

This is the surviving half of a much larger medieval town house which extended down Lower Bridge Street, Original 13th century Lower Bridge Street. Original 13th century timbers survive in the undercroft (now the beer cellar). In 1643 the Row was enclosed by Sin Richard Grosvenor. The stone Row piers and original late medieval shopfront are still visible inside. The Falcon was an inn from 1778 to 1878, when it was repaired by John Douglas and reopened as a temperance house. It was restored in the 1980s and became a public house once again. 2 Waymarker: Timber detail - "circles and squares".

20 THREE OLD ARCHES

These three round headed arches formed the Row frontage of the 13th century hall built at right angles to the street. The property was enlarged in the 14th century to form a stone hall of massive proportions running parallel to Bridge Street. The brickwork of the upper storeys dates from the 18th century, but much of the original medieval stonework survives inside. Waymarker: Shops on two levels - "wheat, barley and rye".

21 1 BRIDGE STREET

In the second half of the 19th century much of central Chester was rebuilt in the 'blackand-white' half timbered style. Although local architects took their inspiration from 16th and 17th century buildings, the Victorian examples tend to be larger and more highly decorated than the originals. Like this example nearly all the Victorian buildings are dated. 2

Waymarker: From a 1975 postage stamp – "a familiar image".

22 BROWNS OF CHESTER

Established by Susannah Brown in the late 18th century, Browns quickly became the symbol of Chester's importance as a fashionable shopping centre. It has often been described as the 'Harrods of the North'. The severe Classical building with stone Doric columns opened in 1828. In 1856 TM Penson's extension was designed in the Gothic style to reflect the early 14th century stone vaulted undercroft or cellar which survives below. Look for the original medieval doorway with flanking lancet windows. Waymarker: "Where architectural styles meet".

BLUE COAT SCHOOL

Sometimes called the Blue Coat Hospital because it stands on the site of a medieval hospital, the chapel of Little St John was relocated within the south wing of the building. Poor boys were taught reading, writing and accounts. Boarders wore blue coats and day boys wore a gaol in the medieval Northgate. Public executions took place here green caps. The original structure of 1717 has been altered, most notably in 1854 when the central section was enlarged. Waymarker: "Learning time".

38 RUFUS COURT

An interesting courtyard development of small An interesting courtyard development of small shops, restaurants and bars which successfully blends old and new buildings. The two-tiered Chester's unique Row system. connected by a spur wall. It cost £100. Over the centuries, the course of Waymarker: "Shops". the river has changed dramatically and the tower now stands isolated in

39 ODEON CINEMA

Chester's Odeon building is typical of hundreds of provincial cinemas designed by Weedon in the 1930s. However, to harmonise with the historic character of the city, this Odeon is clad in hand-made brick, rather than the more usual white ceramic blocks. 2

Waymarker: "Cinema, a new artists' palette for the 20th century".

40WESTMINSTER COACH & MOTOR LIBRARY CAR WORKS Designed by Philip H Lockwood in 1914 for

the Westminster Company, this replaced an earlier coach and motor works which was destroyed in a fire. It was still used as a car showroom in the early 1970s. The restored façade was incorporated into a new library building which opened in 1984. 2 Waymarker: "Look above the library".

TRAIL INFORMATION

ACCESS TO THE BUILDINGS

1 Not normally open to the public

2 Open to the public at specific times

3 Always open and accessible to public

THE WAYMARKERS

The Millennium Festival waymarkers are the work of artist Michael Johnson, who has created forty unique artworks in bronze, stainless steel and glass. Each one has been designed to encourage us to see Chester's building in a fresh light. Some were inspired by local children, others by Michael's own perceptions of Chester's millennium buildings. In this leaflet Michael describes the inspiration for each waymarker.







The Millennium Festival Trail is the permanent legacy of a yearlong celebration organised the The Chester Civic Trust in partnership with Chester City Council, The Cheshire Society of Architects and the University of Chester. Funding for the Trail has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Millennium Festival Fund.

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Based on text by Eileen Willshaw Based on original design by Mike Houghton - Zelus Graphics Reprinted 2007

23 33 EASTGATE STREET By the late 1850s local opinion firmly

believed that new buildings in Chester should reflect the 'black-and-white' vernacular style. So when the proprietors of the Chester bank decided to commission a monumental Classical stone building in the middle of Eastgate Street, the design was inevitably controversial. Thirty years later, when so many adjacent buildings had been given the half timbered treatment, George Williams's bank was still hated for being 'distinctly out of place in such a street'. 2 Waymarker: Building detail - "a Classical language".

24 ST WERBURGH STREET EAST

St Werburgh Street, originally a narrow alleyway, was widened in the late 19th century to make a new approach to the Cathedral. On the eastern side, John Douglas created an outstanding range of timber buildings, whose composition, picturesque proportions and ornamental detailing are unsurpassed. Look out for the carved figures of Norman earls, saints (including St Werburgh herself) and even Queen Victoria, in whose Jubilee year the buildings were completed. A plaque on the bank building commemorates Douglas's work in Chester. 2 Waymarker: Carved detail - "fact and fiction".

ST NICHOLAS'S CHAPEL

Built in the early 14th century as St Nicholas's Chapel. Medieval buttresses and windows can be seen from the side passageway. Between 1545 and 1689 this was the Common

Hall, Chester's most important civic building. It was used as the Wool Hall and as a playhouse before being converted into the Theatre Royal in 1777. Many stars of the Georgian stage, including Sarah Siddons and Mrs Jordan appeared here. The present Gothic appearance dates from 1855 when it became a Music Hall. Charles

Dickens gave readings from his novels here in 1867. Waymarker: Old theatre bill - "the theatre was one of the many lives of this building".