6. The Guildhall is an imposing Victorian Gothic building, built in the 1860s and extended in 1892. The interior decoration is stunning and well worth a visit.

7. The Royal Theatre, with ornate internal decoration, is late Victorian, designed by C J Phipps, famous for his theatres.

8. Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. Displays include Northampton’s long history in the leather trade and as a centre of non-conformism.

9. Sessions House. With adjacent judges’ lodgings, this was Northampton’s courthouse from the 17th to 20th century. It still has its ancient cells. It is now the County’s Welcome and Visitor Centre.

10. All Saints Church, a Wren-style church with portico by Hawksmoor. King Charles II stands above the portico. To the rear is the Lutyens war memorial.

11. St John’s Roman Catholic Church, founded 1138, the present form is 15th and 16th centuries. It is now a restaurant and adjacent is the old almshouse.

12. Beckett & Sergeant’s School for Girls, 1862 building by E F Law to house a charity school endowed in 1738.

13. The former Grand Hotel dating from 1892, by local architect Charles Dorman, replacing a smaller hotel on the same site.


15. St Peter’s Church, 1160, an exquisite Norman building on the site of an earlier Saxon chapel, with close connections to the nearby castle.

16. Castle Mound (across the car park) is a tiny remainder of the Norman castle partly destroyed in 1660 after the restoration of the Stuart kings. The railway construction a century ago destroyed the rest.

17. Castle Hill URC. Built 1695, subsequently enlarged. Closely associated with the noted 18th century preacher and teacher Philip Doddridge, who ministered here.

18. The Drapery. A centre for drapery in the 18th and 19th centuries and now a busy thoroughfare of popular shops and eateries.

Further from the town centre, continue south from St John’s Church, 20 minutes walk, and reach:

19 & 20. Delapre Abbey and Eleanor Cross. Medieval nunnery which became a manor house after the dissolution. South of the Abbey, Queen Eleanor cross marks one of the stopping points on the funeral cortège of Queen Eleanor on its journey from Lincoln to London in 1290.

Further information on Northamptonshire and its heritage please visit [www.letyourselfgrow.com/heritage](http://www.letyourselfgrow.com/heritage) or visit the Northamptonshire Welcome and Visitor Centre, Sessions House. Tel: 01604 838800
Northampton Heritage Trail

The Northampton Town Trail begins at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the oldest building in Northampton, and finishes by the ancient Market Square, which still holds markets and plays host to popular shops, cafes, and pubs.

Many of the streets, even openings to alleys and side roads, highlight the heyday of Northampton, from Regency Terraces to tell-tale signs of its industrial heritage.

The 1675 town fire resulted in an extensive rebuild which included All Saints Church as the focal point, next to the Market Square into which the medieval roads flowed. The buildings that remain now provide a valuable insight into Northampton's fascinating heritage.

There are many more historic buildings than listed here, so take your time to discover them all.

1. **Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Sheep Street.** Dated 1103, this is the oldest remaining building in the town and the best preserved of the four Norman round churches in the country.

2. **Northampton Market Square** with its beautiful historic buildings, is one of the largest and oldest nationally. Alleyways give access and views on to the old town.

3. **St Giles Church.** The 12th century original was rebuilt after the tower collapsed in 1616. The west door is a cunning Victorian reconstruction of Norman work.

4. **Becket's Well.** Mythology suggests that Thomas a Becket drank from the spring on fleeing from his trial at Northampton Castle in 1164.

5. **78 Derngate** is a 19th century terraced house, remodelled by Scottish Art Nouveau architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh, his only major work outside Scotland.