

Castles and Fortifications of England & Wales

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HEREFORD CASTLE



The first town defences were erected around 850 and were then extended in 900 to cover the area (Castle Green) which later became a motte and bailey castle c.1050. The castle was rebuilt after the Norman invasion, being strengthened with stone and enlarged during the second half of the 12th century with the keep being added a few years later. In the 14th century it needed much repair as it had fallen into ruins but after additions it was described as one of the strongest in England. By the the end of the Civil War it fell into decay again and was demolished and the motte reduced. Apart from the building in the south-west corner (photo), thought to be the Governor's residence, nothing now remains apart from the once enclosed Green which was the outer bailey.

Photo Charles Taylor

The city walls were erected in the early 13th century with 6 gatehouses and 17 towers. They stood intact until the middle of the 18th century, but were then mainly demolished for their stone. Only small parts are now still standing.

Close by is the Bishop's Palace, which had to be used by Royalty as a residence in the 14th century as the castle was in disrepair.

Directions

To the south east of the cathedral, by the river.



