

The history of the castle

The area between Kraków and Częstochowa, also known as the Upland or Jura Krakowsko-Częstochowska, is one of the most beautiful places in Poland and a real cradle of native culture. Picturesque, Silesian castle buildings, because of their charm, attract tourists who want to feel like their ancestors from centuries ago.

Among the limestone monadnocks on the rocky hill called Janowski Mountain there are the ruins of the Ogródzieniec castle. At the turn of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, a wooden fortress stood there and on its ruins King Casimir the Great erected a castle that was protected by steep slopes and a stone wall from three sides. Afterwards Casimir the Great gave the property to Przedbór from Brzeź. When Przedbór received Ogródzieniec, the castle was damaged and required reconstruction, which was carried out. It is possible that the wooden castle obtained brick defense elements at that time.

In the 16th century, the stronghold was inherited by Seweryn Boner, who built a Renaissance defensive residence on the site of the castle, consisting of four wings around the courtyard with cloisters. The eastern wing (High Castle) had a defensive character and was accessible only with the help of ladders - only later the rocky stairs were made. Magazines were located in the basement. On the southern rock, the Middle Castle was erected. In the north wing there was a kitchen and a well, there were rooms for the army and service on the first floor, and accommodation rooms upstairs. The north and south wings were connected by a gallery, in which the owner's bedroom, a study room with a library and a toilet were placed. The entrance to the castle was defended by a high gate tower with a drawbridge over a dry moat, a chapel was arranged in the tower. In the mid-16th century, a residential building called the Kurza Stopka was added to the Middle Castle.

The castle, however, in the sixteenth century was more a residence than a defensive object. The next owner of Ogródzieniec was Mikołaj Ligęza, who raised the castle's defense from the south, rising next to Beluard's "chicken-leg". The castle was acquired in 1587 by the army of Archduke Maximilian Habsburg, but he did not suffer in this episode. Then it was the property of Firlejs, and in the mid-seventeenth century Andrzej Firlej made a small construction work and changed the interior of the castle to a baroque one. During the Swedish Deluge, the castle was invaded by the invader, but it also did not suffer. After the withdrawal of the Swedes, the castle was taken over by Stanisław Warszycki, a castellan of Kraków, who surrounded the castle wall with the entrance gate and erected a stables and a coach house within it.

From 1702, the fall of the castle began. The Swedish army of Charles XII retreating from this area burned down the residence. The owners did not undertake too expensive renovation and the castle fell into disrepair. When Tomasz Jakliński bought the ruined buildings from Męciński in 1784, only a few rooms could be used there. In 1810, the last owner of Ogródzieniec, Jakliński's sister, finally left the castle. From then on, it was a place to acquire building material for nearby farms. At the beginning of the 20th century, the area with ruins was purchased by one of the local peasants, which, however, did not change the purpose of the ruins.

Currently, the building is a permanent ruin available for sightseeing.