

Ogrodzieniec castle is located about 60 kilometres from Częstochowa in the area called Polish Jura and it is a part of the hiking trail called "Szlak Orlich Gniazd". Both Ogrodzieniec Castle and Częstochowa are located on the Kraków- Częstochowa Upland. The Castle is set in the village of Podzamcze. The building is surrounded by beautiful landscape characteristic only to this part of the country. The castle was built on a hill as to make it harder to be attacked and as for easier to be defended.

The first defensive structures were made out of wood and established at the times of King Bolesław Krzywousty. It is assumed that the wooden structures of the building were destroyed during the Tatar invasion in 1241. Many years later on its place a stone Gothic castle was built by King Kazimierz Wielki in the middle of 14th century. The fortress was given in holding to Przebór from Brzezia. The new owner fortified and improved the castle.

After Przebor's death the castle was given to Włodek from Chrabinowice by King Władysław Jagiełło. Włodek's descendants controlled the castle for almost 100 years. In 1470 the castle was bought by Imbar and Piotr Salomonow. Later the castle was owned by a lot of people including Rzeszowscy, Pilescy, Chełmscy and Bonerowie. In the first half of the 16th century the castle was owned by Severyn Boner who was the right hand of King Zygmunt Stary. At that time the renovation of the castle started and it was reconstructed from the gothic style to the Renaissance style. At the same time they built a new part of the castle. The castle was expanded in the north west part and also two towers were built in the east part and a third tower in the entrance. Then the west part was expanded to fortify the building and also a rectangular building was added in the south.

In 1655 the castle got partly burned by the Swedish soldiers who stayed in it for almost 2 years ruined the castle. Then it got into hands of Stanisław Warczycki who renovated the castle from the damage sustained by the attackers. In 1702 the Swedes led by King Karol XII started the fire which burned almost the half of castle. At the end of 18th century the building fell into ruins. In 1810 the castle got abandoned and it was used for building materials and forgotten.

After the Second World War the castle became a tourist attraction. People began coming to the ruins of the castle and relaxing in the shadow of the ruins. Nowadays the ruins of the building are popular with tourists, especially families. Touring the place is a great way to get to know what life was like in the past and get an idea of living in a castle. The castle is also popular among film makers.

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Sources:

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