

Zahrádky Castle – brief description of the building

Zahrádky Castle was built in the second half of the 16th century. After 1623, Albrecht from Valdštejn became the owner of the castle, who had the original building rebuilt in the Baroque style and founded a park. After 1945, the building served as a youth home and language training center for foreign students.

The four-winged multi-storey building of the castle (it has one subterranean and three above-ground floors and attic) with corner towers was severely damaged by fire in 2003. The northwest part of the building was most affected. In this half, there are burnt-out ceiling/floor structures between the 1st and 2nd above-ground floors, which were partially removed to prevent damaged parts from falling off spontaneously. Access to this part of the building on the 2nd floor is currently prohibited. The 3rd floor is completely closed due to damaged structures. The ground floor of the building is fully accessible.

The original mansard roof, including the historic trusses, burned down or was irreparably damaged by fire. It was completely removed and replaced with a temporary roof made of lattice saddle trusses with Welsh rafters and a roofing made of corrugated sheet. The facade of the dormers and the chimney bodies were professionally renovated.

There are damaged windows in the entire building, which in some places are missing glass, can no longer be closed or are completely missing, so due to the effects of the weather, the building is slowly deteriorating further.

In 2022, the entire building was completely cleared of all remains of furniture and equipment, and all rubble and other construction waste after the fire and remediation work were also removed. Currently, only the rooms on the 1st and 2nd floors near the southeast tower are in usable condition. Here, the water and electricity supply and waste disposal are put into operation. These are two small "apartments" with their own sanitary facilities on the 2nd floor and "conference"/technical spaces (2 rooms, kitchenette and adjacent ladies' and men's toilets) on the 1st floor. The spaces on the ground floor are primarily used as a background for performers and organizers of cultural events held in the grounds of the castle park.

In addition to the castle and the castle park, the grounds include other smaller buildings, in particular the orangery, the greenhouse, the house of the castle custodian, and the farmhouse which is situated in front of the main castle gate.