



Wasserschloss Wülmersen - More than 900 years old....

Situated along the banks of the Diemel River at the northern tip of the German federal state of Hesse, the medieval castle at Wülmersen dates back more than 900 years. Its main hall once served as the residence of the aristocratic von Stockhausen family.

Cows, horses, and pigs were kept in stables and barns belonging to the complex. The castle was surrounded by fields and meadows which were used for agriculture and worked by more than 70 people. It was built in various phases from the 12th to the 19th century. Sandstone, oak timber, and clay were used for its construction. A small brook, known as Holzape, flows past the castle and once provided water for a large adjacent ditch reminiscent of a moat, thus giving the structure its German name Wasserschloss ("moated castle"). Although the von Stockhausens eventually moved their residence elsewhere, agriculture continued to play a role here until 1960. After the Second World War, the estate was sold and partitioned to create seven smaller farms. These were then inhabited by families who had been expelled from their native territories the end of the war and who were resettled here to have the opportunity to start anew.

By the mid-1980s, however, the oldest buildings of the castle itself had become unusable and derelict. Then, in 1986, local politicians and involved citizens founded an association dedicated to rebuilding this historic landmark. A publicly funded program was initiated in which unskilled and unemployed youths worked together with experienced craftsmen and artisans to reconstruct parts of the complex. Lasting from 1987 to 2005, the project was funded largely by the Hessian Office for the Preservation of Historic Buildings, which also provided advice.

Since 2005, the castle has belonged to Kassel County. It now houses workshops in which young people can obtain vocational training. It also contains a hostel, a camping site for groups, and a museum of agriculture and rural life.

The museum is open between May and October
Wednesday - Sunday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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