

# ARCHITEKTURA ARCHITEKTUR ARCHITECTURE CHEB EGER A OKOLÍ UND UMGEBUNG AND SURROUNDINGS

Architektonickou studii města pro brožuru Architektura – Cheb a okolí na základě smlouvy o dílo s Městem Cheb zpracoval

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## Brief architectural development of Cheb historical center and surroundings

### Cheb castle<sup>(1)</sup>

It is situated in the southwestern part of a former Slavonic (early-medieval) fortress. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century this fortress occupied an area of about 2.5 hectares. From the side of contemporary town it was protected by a monumental rampart braced with an egg-crate structure and by double moat with stockade. It ran along back tracts of present houses in the western part of Růžový kopeček, Růžová Street, along west frontage of Jánské Square and Mlýnská Street down to the river. There a rock in a warp of the river Ohře created a natural fence. The burial-ground of the Slavonic fortress, probably with a small chapel, was located to the southeastern part of the fortress.

The first castle stood in the northwestern, preferably the most protected part of the fortress. It was divided by a 12 meters wide moat and a monumental stone wall from the Slavonic burial-ground. Two polygonal foundations of probably round towers remained preserved in northeastern and southeastern corner placed inside the fortification. Remains of the third supposed tower (southwestern), which would protect the castle from the most accessible direction of the rocky promontory (contemporary Dobrovského Street), have not been discovered yet. Other castle buildings were probably wooden. The castle was built by Diepold III. of Giengen and Vohburg around the year 1125. When the building of Stauf imperial residence started at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the castle was still standing. During the building works of a new residence of Friedrich Barbarossa it served as a source of building material.

### Black tower<sup>(2)</sup>

During the years 1179-89 a Romanesque Black tower was built partly on foundations of the southeastern pre-Stauf tower. Black Tower derives its shape from antique monuments of Ancient World and early Middle Ages in Italy, it expressed imperial power and majesty. It is all built of large, black touchstone and outside bossed blocks from nearby quarry in Komorní Hůrka. Three-storied, 18.5 meters high prismatic tower, standing with its corner towards the town, has a square (9 x 9 m) foundation. The walls are perforated only with two loop-hole windows on the west and with one on the south. Thickness of the wall on the ground floor is more than 3 meters. On the next floors the thickness is reduced. The entrance was in the height of 7 m, probably from the fortification gallery. Today's entrance from the passage was built in connection with the building of the baroque fortress in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. At that time the quarrystone backing of wall coping was also made and it replaced the original truss with high chisel roof.

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## Castle palace<sup>(3)</sup>

In the northwestern corner of the former Slavonic fortress, so outside the Vohburg castle and Slavonic burial-ground, there stands the palace of imperial residence, in which the emperor Friedrich Barbarossa changed the Cheb castle. The palace built during the years 1179-89 was designated to meeting of imperial and courtly assembly and to many festive occasions in presence of the monarch. Big part of peripheral walls of the basement and elevated ground floor remained preserved up to the present day. The whole eastern half of the ground floor was occupied by ceremonial hall, whose northern wall towards to the river Ohře is daylighted by three five-piece arched windows with marble columns. In the eastern wall of the palace out of the axis of the hall there is one more two-piece arched window divided also by a marble column with trapezoidal capital. Only a granite door case of original entrance portal leading directly to the ceremonial hall remained from the inner southern wall of the palace. There were no windows in the wall towards the chapel. The remaining half of the ground floor was divided into two chambers. Romanesque windows of private chapels, fireplace chimneys, entrances into oriel prevets (toilets) and round airing windows placed high near the ceiling are regularly repeating in northern peripheral wall. Entrance into chambers was from the passage along the southern wall, in which two windows and one built-in door are slightly apparent in the inner part. Stone corbels along the whole perimeter of the building served for setting of lengthwise timber beams on which floor beams were laid up and supported in the middle with supporting joists placed on wooden columns. The basement did not have flat floor on the whole surface and till the 15<sup>th</sup> century only its western part was used. According to the latest archaeological excavation of Dr. Šebesta it was accesible by now built-in passage through to the vaulted corridor directly from the courtyard. At the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century a flat surface was created in the whole basement that was used as horse stables and storage place. Towards it a steep ramp under the main entrance to the hall had to be dugged up from the courtyard. Under the chambers in the western half, stone and brick round pantries were placed. Originally the palace was only ground floor covered by a low saddle roof.

After the fire in 1472 a half-timbered residential floor was built above the ground floor. In 1663 the castle served as a town armoury, but already in 1686 an order of clearing of debris had to be given. At that time the castle was used for cultural and social occasions and during the regular dance of drapers and bakers in the palace the floor fell in. On the orders of authorities the residential part of the palace had to be demolished. During the baroque rebuilding (building of the fort) in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the lengthwise palace walls cleared from transverse bracing and burdened from the court side with loose soil were stabilized with supporting pillars. However, the palace remained a ruin. After the demolition of the town fortification, which was connected with northeastern corner, the statics of the walls was broken. Complete demolition was taken away due to additional building of abutments and romantic reconstructions at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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## Two-storied castle chapel<sup>(4)</sup>

The double-chapel, a jewel of medieval architecture, remained up to the present times without any substantial changes. This, in the Czech territory unique building, is comparable with supreme monuments of European Romanesque and Early Gothic architecture.

The first historical remain tells, that in 1213 the emperor Friedrich II. got out a golden bulla regulating a relationship between the emperor and the Church. It was built probably at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century near the southern palace wall on the place of former chapel of obsolete cemetery of Slavonic fortress and it was dedicated to St. Eduard, St. Martin and St. Ursula. Under the sacristy in December 1997 there was discovered a part of stone foundation of older church from the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The chapel was built together. The foundation is created by square chapel space of clearance of about 8 meters, with altar bay, which occupies almost one half of the chapel space. The entrance is from the castle yard in the southern wall of the chapel through a simple portal down the provisional stairway into the lower room, which is 1.5 meter under the level of surrounding surface. Upper room had a special entrance through now built-in door in the first floor of the western wall. Both stories are connected by a stairway with high stairs, which according to the last archaeological excavations was not built later. From 1762 to 1818 the building was without a roof. Recently the roof was repaired again, but without airing spirelet.

Lower chapel is divided with four massive granite columns into eight bays of a cross vault. The central bay is missing and a view upstairs into the lofty space of upper chapel opens through an octagonal aperture. Plain columns lean on shaped foot standing on square boards with corner spurs with palmette plastic decoration. It appears also on cube capitals, where they are complemented with small heads in quoins of two capitals. Original floor of terracotta tiles was covered with stone boards in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible to go up two stairs to the choir, narrowed on both sides with sacristies. Rectangular Romanesque windows provide only little light. "Gothic" window at the head was mounted additionally at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Although both stories of the chapel were built together, interior arrangements are different in style. Sunken ground floor is an illustrative example of Romanesque style, the first floor has ribbed vault of early Gothic style. Columns of the upper chapel are slim, round and octagonal. Windows and column head decoration are purely Romanesque. Floral and figural ornaments there have a very naturalistic conception. Capital of northeastern column is decorated with four angelic figures holding cross and book in hands, probably symbolizing the Evangelists. Common sins like miserliness, perjury and fornication are shown on the head of opposite southeastern column. A figure of naked woman is explained like a satire on the first wife of Friedrich Barbarossa, Adela of Vohburg. Stylistically different marble column with fluted shaft in chancel was imported probably by Friedrich II. Sicilian from his mother Sicily. Through a winding stairway it is accessible a small room with renaissance fireplace, where according to

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a legend there was an alchemistic laboratory. Both chapels were independent sanctuaries with their own dedications and divine services were held separately. The opening connecting both stories served for observation of divine services in the ground floor from the first floor.

### **Gordon's House in the castle<sup>(5)</sup>**

**A**fter 1472 an outbuilding with oriel, so called "Kuchelhaus", serving as governor's quarters was built to the western palace wall. During the works an original wall of Vohburg castle to which the palace was added was demolished.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February 1634 Wallenstein's officers were murdered there. In 1745 outbuildings next to the western wall were demolished. The whole western part of the castle disappeared later under 8m high mound. Ruined Kuchelhaus was covered like that in 1809. Remains of above-foundation walls were discovered in 1911 and preserved during the castle reconstruction in 1932-1933.

### **Castle fortification<sup>(6)</sup>**

**D**uring the Stauf rule there did not stand any wall on the south and east. Representative and social function was much more important than defensive. The emperor did not feel vulnerable in his own town during festive occasions, that is the reason why his residence was an integral part of the town growing under his protection. The need of fortification appeared at the time when a royal burgrave was introduced to Cheb and municipal government defended against his interventions into its privileges. Bigger conflicts between rich and self-confident Cheb inhabitants and the state power appeared during the reign of the House of Luxembourg, after the pawn of Cheb to the Czech Crown since 1322. A Gothic fort segregated from the medieval town became from welcoming Stauf residence. The fortification of hitherto open residence was designed and made very monumentally.

Plain field depression to the east of the palace and chapel was deepened and a ditch was hollowed in underlying rock. Foundations of a massive stone wall were placed on its inner edge. Also on the southern side the castle was fortified against the town with a wall and a ditch over which led a bridge to the gate built near the Black Tower. Probably in that time a 20 meters deep well was hollowed in the middle of the court. The whole castle was incorporated into the town fortification; thereby a castle moat with towers Mlýnská (Clock tower)<sup>(7)</sup>, which is still standing, and Skalní (above Písečná gate)<sup>(8)</sup>, which was destroyed in 1828, grew.

Following an order of the emperor Ferdinand III. the castle was changed into a citadel of Cheb fort during the years 1652-1673 and it was masoned with a baroque brick wall with casemates<sup>9</sup>. In palace basement next loopholes were perforated. Town and castle fortification, which was being built for 80 years, proved to be ineffective in the time of finishing regarding to development of military technique. The castle lost its strategic importance once for all.



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## Casemates

From the time of building of baroque fort casemates were preserved. Vaulted rooms with a ceiling strengthened with a big layer of clay placed in wings of fortification with a gate near the Black Tower serve as an exhibition place for archaeological artifacts and exposition of stove building up to present day. A row of vaulted rooms was preserved under the castle moat in several mutually connected floors between the rock and new brick fort walls above the river valley. In the 1990s a winerom was set up there. And the rest will be open to public from the year 2006.

## Castle court

The court of the first Vohburg castle was from the northern and western side buried under defensive ramparts built together with the change of the castle to citadel during the building of baroque defensive system of the town. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century the court served as a dumping ground for rubbish and clay from liquidated town fortification and house trash from neighboring parts of the town.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century during the romantic reconstruction of the castle the court was arranged park-like. At the same time several trees were plant out, which later markedly damaged original building constructions of the palace and chapel. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the court was used for holding of Wallenstein plays. Mound in front of the chapel above former Slavonic cemetery served as a stage and slopes of dumping ground as amphitheatre. In the 1950s a booth for summer cinema was built on the mounds and between the chapel and corner bastion a construction for screen enabling projection of wide-screen films was raised. The castle became together a scene of summer festivals and theater plays. During the reconstruction works at the end of 1980s the amphitheater, booth and stage mound with the summer cinema screen was removed. But history is repeated. The castle should become a place for taking place of entertaining actions and a tourist attraction. The castle itself should be shown in a virtual coffee room that shall be built above baroque casemates.

## Development and monuments of medieval town fortification

Ramparts and ditches of massive fortification of Slavonic fortress were discovered during the archaeological excavations in the 1960s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In outer parts of western line of houses in Růžová Street their supposed shape and course is noticeable up to the present day.

Foundations of eastern castle wall of Vohburg castle<sup>11</sup> and two round towers were conserved on the castle yard. Unfortunately they slightly dissolve in abundance of new paving which was laid recently.

Imperial residence was not fortified. The Black Tower was more a symbol of emperor's power than a defensive building. It was changed into it in late Middle Ages when the imperial residence became a royal castle.

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The town fortification started being built from the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and about 100 years later the town was surrounded with a wall with bastions. Fragments of the wall, later reinforced and heightened, are noticeable on the southern side of the old town, near the castle, along Dobrovského Street<sup>(9)</sup>, where they end in the place of former Rámová gate, next in Hradební Street, westward from it medieval Radanská gate used to stay, in Šlikova Street<sup>(21)</sup> near destroyed Horní gate<sup>(24)</sup>, on the east in Komenského park and in places where Lodní gate was connected. The third town gate was Mlýnská gate standing near former access to ford over the river Ohře. Later its function was taken over by Mostní gate which was standing near St. Bartholomew church<sup>(13)</sup>. These two main gates ensured entrance to the town through present streets Březinova (Horní gate<sup>(24)</sup>), Smetanova (Lodní gate) and Kamenná (Mostní gate).

To the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century the town was surrounded with the second and third (along the river) wall with bastions. Fragments of this fortification are visible from the street Obrněné brigády (behind the buildings of regional archive). In Komenského park remains of castle moat walls are preserved behind the buildings of Integrated Middle school. To this fortification range belongs also Mlýnská tower<sup>(7)</sup> connected with destroyed castle moat – walls northern from the castle palace and the fortification walls incorporated into the walls of former monastery of Knights with Cross with a Red Star with preserved Teyfl tower<sup>(9)</sup> in Křížovnická Street. In tennis area under the castle there are visible remains of bastions and the third fortification range which continued along the right bank of the river towards to Mostní gate.

## Significant Gothic buildings of the town

### St. Nicholas Church<sup>(10)</sup> – Kostelní Square

The first church building was a three-aisled Romanesque basilica with vaulting system of four bays. On the western side there was a square choir with two towers, western side of a church was enclosed with a transept with the main portal. The original intention was maybe to build there next two towers. From the original Romanesque building built in years 1220-30 there are preserved four lower floors with Romanesque windows divided in facade by crimping frieze. Western portal and parts of northern portal are also Romanesque. After the great fire of Cheb in 1270 the church was rebuilt. At that time damaged Romanesque part was replaced with a new Gothic choir with outer supporting pillars. A sacristy was later added to its northern side. In the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century there was a monumental reconstruction of the main aisle. Original middle aisle is incorporated into the new 50 m long and 30 m wide three-aisled hall between western Romanesque portal and eastern early Gothic choir. Both lower side aisles, which were originally half-wide, were twofold enlarged and heightened to the level of middle aisle vaulting. Supporting pillars are built to the inner parts of peripheral walls. Vaulting was finished to the

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year 1470 under the leadership of master Jorgen from Cheb and in the years 1472-76 a stonemason Erhard Pauer finishes building of the main aisle. Simultaneously paintings on walls and columns were made. These paintings were covered with white colour in protestant period of the church. Their fragments were renewed during the last restoring works and after restoring they were partly renewed. From the written sources we also know about next two frescoes on facade, but they did not preserve. Also from the original Romanesque, Gothic and later baroque equipment of the church did not remain much after many fires and rebuildings. Major part of pseudo-gothic interior is dated to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. To this times is also dated the reconstruction of western vestibule with sculptures of patrons St. Elisabeth and Nicholas. In 1894 a masterlike organ with 2997 pipes from the workshop of Martin Zaus was installed to the choir, which is a sought-after musical instrument for concerts of the world-famous organists up to the present day. During the years both church towers were changing. In connection with reconstruction works at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century new Gothic roof with corner turrets were put on the church. After the fire in 1742 a significant late baroque architect, born in Cheb, Balthasar Neumann suggested octagonal bell towers with elegant bulbous double roof. The bell towers were built, but only the southern one was set. Northern tower remained uncompleted with provisional aisle roof. After the fire in 1809 when both towers and main aisle were badly damaged, only southern tower was given a neogothic helmet with four corner turrets. Reparation of the northern one, temporary roofed with tent roof, was finished fifty years later. In 1945 an artillery fire from an English plane, which replied on fire of German guard from the tower, damaged the towers and they were burnt together with the roof. After a post-war reconstruction the towers were roofed with low tent roofs. At present a gathering for roofs renovation is organized.

## **Franciscan church of Annunciation of Virgin Mary<sup>(11)</sup> and the monastery<sup>(12)</sup>, Franciscan Square**

**T**he Franciscans came to Cheb twenty years after establishing of the order and till 1256 they built a monastery with a church adjacent to the southern town fortification wall. A big fire of the town destroyed both buildings in 1270. Only early Gothic sacristy with cross ribbed vault remained. Under its floor there is exposed a preserved part of a cellar or an underground part of a house from the original settlement of this part of the town. A new presbytery was standing in 1285 – a narrow long building dynamically elevated, with narrow high windows and stepped supporting pillar, going from early Gothic. Three bays with five-sided ending and cross vaulting, emphasized with piriform groins lying on brackets, show evidence of elevating during the time of construction. Steep roof has a well preserved late Gothic truss (one of the oldest preserved roof frames) to this day. New three-aisled hall with 12 vault bays, with an exception of some later rebuildings, remained preserved to this day. It

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is one of the first hall buildings in Bohemia. From the side chapel built together with a hall a tribune was built later by inbuilding of a ceiling on the level of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. It was used by the nuns of St. Claire. The main entrance to the church devoted to Annunciation of Virgin Mary was on the west side from present garden. Since 1707 the entrance from Franciscan Square near the tower has been used. Slender stone tower, placed between the main aisle and southern choir wall changes above the second floor from the square base to octagon divided into two floors. It was finished around the year 1330. With regard to skewed southeastern corner, which was adjacent to the wall of inner town fortification, it can be presumed, that the original plan of the building took into account bigger aisle and possible enlargement of local town build-up area.

Changes of Gothic style prove, that the cloister around small cloister garth was built in years 1301-1374. In that year original chapter house, probably joined with the cloister with a range of arched openings, was rebuilt into a library. Its contemporary form is a result of a renaissance rebuilding in 1630. In the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a baroque rebuilding of the monastery and inner equipment of the church. The second rebuilding was in year 1828 when the choir was built. The church has been out of its original service for more than 50 years. The interior was completely destroyed, timber constructions torn up, and paving and pargets damaged. Occasionally concerts and exhibitions take place here in the summer months. The monastery is empty now, too.

## **St. Bartholomew Church<sup>(13)</sup> at the monastery of Knights of the Cross with a Red Star**

**T**he monastery was founded by Přemysl Otakar II. in years 1266-1270. After the fire of the town, the commendam and the church were joined with the town's hospital. The new building of a hospital was joined directly to the chapel built next to the town fortification and Mostní gate. In 1414 a new two-aisled Gothic church with star-vaulting supported only by one column was built, probably with using of the peripheral wall of the chapel of Holy Ghost destroyed by the fire in 1270. Walled up small portal in southern wall joined the church with a baroque chapel of St. Wenceslas. The church was damaged at the end of the Second World War. During the reconstruction works in years 1962-1963 original wall paintings from the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century were restored. To the year 1997 there was an exhibition of Cheb Gothic sculpture collection. Then it was returned to the Order of Knights of the Cross with a Red Star and it is used by an Association for old Cheb as an exhibition hall. Hospital and St. Wenceslas chapel (its foundations were with certain shape reduction marked near southern frontage) were not renewed after the war.

The monastery building, originally added to the inner town fortification wall, is after several radical rebuildings used as a school dormitory and a restaurant now. Restaurant Ohře with a dormitory upstairs was built up from the brewery after a radical rebuilding. A new hotel should grow here.

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## Špalíček<sup>(14)</sup>

A block of houses, standing freely in northern extended part of the square, consists of two longitudinal rows divided by 1.6 m wide Kramářská Street (the third western part documented only thanks to a drawing from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century was destroyed in unknown time and it has been not archaeologically exactly localized yet.). It grew in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, probably from original shopkeepers' dwellings built on very small sites. For living and storage only vertical enlargement was possible. In the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century quarrystone, half-timbered walls and Gothic bricks started to be used even there. The majority of now preserved houses of Špalíček was built to the end of the first half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Several modifications were done at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Empire Style house No. 494 and Empire Style rebuilding of a house No. 504). Within sanitation of the town in the 1950s almost all the houses of the eastern range were mutually connected and the building constructions of the walls were hanged on a steel constrained structure. Original stairways were pulled down and only some of them replaced by tinny ones. Western range, dispositionally richer, was reconstructed in a similar way to three units. Except of originally functional half-timbered construction, from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century visible again, and several stone portals and fragments with gothic profilation on foreside, timber painted ceiling with coffers was preserved on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the house No. 502. The ceiling was newly fixed on its original place after complete replacement of all ceilings.

## Shirndinger House<sup>(30)</sup> No. 508 standing on the square

It belongs to the most beautiful Cheb houses. From the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century there were several rebuildings and it was newly built at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century in Gothic style. It stands on narrow (8 meters wide) site and its court tract adjoins Školní Street. The majority houses on the square could look like that. In years 1622-1626 it was completely reconstructed in renaissance style. Gothic entrance portal, richly profiled, and basic division of rooms remained. Ground floor was newly vaulted with a rib-like cross vaulting into two columns and a part of the first floor next to a new spindle arched stairway. (Trabeated ceilings and wainscot of two rooms on the first floor decorate imperial palace in Laxenburg near Wien where they were sold in 1826). High stepped gable and three-storeyed frontage with big windows with stone profiled jamb. In rear part of the site a new residential tract was built. With the front part it was connected by Renaissance three-storeyed gallery with vaulted arcade in lower floors. It was broaden near the back house in place of toilets and its columns and balustrade is covered by glyptic ornament. On the second floor arcade was replaced by timber columns which support the ceiling and aisle roof. Arcade houses in Nürnberg and arcade yards of some of Czech chateaus could serve as a model.

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## Town's armory<sup>(15)</sup> and yard<sup>(16)</sup>

**T**own's armory originated from the building of town's carpentry (dating back to 1551) in present Hradební street. High Gothic gable of a saddle roof with ventilating shed dormers and fragments of stone window jambs remained preserved on one-storeyed frontage. Interior was completely rebuilt in the last century. After addition of baroque yard wing in 1700, the armory was changed into a three-wing complex of town's farmyard with granaries. Linking block with one-storeyed stone masonry of peripheral walls has a high roof supported by multilevel truss of Cheb kind. Ceilings of lower floors and the truss is supported by decoratively hewn timber columns bearing timber lengthwise main beams (on the ground floor they are of respectable measurements). Decoratively hewn roof dormer with pulley is completed with windlass for lifting of goods to the attic. It is an example of high-quality carpentry which was applied at that times at buildings of half-timbered super-structures and trusses of Cheb houses and farm houses with rich timber-framing in villages in Cheb region. Back storeyed granary has a preserved gothic portal to the yard.

## Significant Renaissance and baroque buildings of the town

### Fountains

**B**oth fountains standing on the square have Renaissance stone water reservoirs. Roland's fountain is standing in front of the town hall and a fountain with a sculpture of Hercules (or a savage man) in front of Špalíček. Both sculptures are baroque.

### Building of a fort

**M**edieval fortification did not stand bombing of besiegers and The Thirty-years war left Cheb demolished. Change of the town Cheb to a fort started due to an imperial order in 1652. The building works started in the spring in 1655 according to plans of an imperial fort builder Pieroni de Galiano. The building was controlled by Czech provincial assembly in Prague and lead by a builder de Capauli to the year 1679. After him the building was lead by Abraham Leuthner. When he went to Prague to take work after dead Fr. Lurago, there stayed (1698-1701) a former Waldsassen foreman bricklayer Kryštof Dienzenhofer. After his departure to Prague he became one of the most significant personality of Prague baroque architecture.

From this first phase of building there is nothing visible with naked eye. Only line of circular streets (Obrněné brigády, Májová, Evropská) and ditches in blocks between them and in parks reveal where there used to stay this fortification consisting of walls, gates, curtains, bastions and ditches.

During the second phase a citadel was built. To the year 1650 the castle was protected only with Gothic fortification. In 1688 the ditches started to

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be hollowed and the material was carried to the castle yard where ramparts were made. In the 1690s a new fortification of western part of the castle with southwestern corner bastion and a new northern wall connected directly to Romanesque palace was being built. In front of the western gothic fortification wall from the castle, the moats were reinforced with high brick fortification wall above washboard meadows near the river Ohře. The fortification was prolonged to the southwestern corner of the town fortification. At the same time a new southeastern bastion and a new fortification wall leading to the palace on the eastern side were built. Casemates with a new entrance gate were built and Black Tower remained wedged between them. The ditch in front of the entrance gate was masoned from two sides after hollowing. Under demolished Skalní tower on the northwestern side of the castle, after destruction of the rock, Písečná gate<sup>(8)</sup> was built there. All these buildings remained preserved. According to original plans there should have been built two more corner bastions, which would have changed the castle to regular citadel, but they have never been built. The construction of the fort was finished in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The building was also controlled by G. B. Alliprandi, who was the highest fort builder in Bohemia in the second decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## Dominican monastery and church

**D**ominican monastery and church in Kamenná Street is the only building representing early baroque architecture in Cheb. Czech king Wenceslas II. allowed building of the Dominican church and monastery in the year 1294. During the Thirty-years war a part of the monastery was destroyed and the church demolished. Money gathered by the town and a gift from the emperor Leopold enabled the start of rebuilding works in 1674. Plans were created by Abraham Leuthner, who was working in the Cheb region at that time. The church was consecrated in 1689. Construction of a two-storey convent building with basements leading along gradient Kamenná Street proceeded in years 1688-1720.

Baroque rebuilding of the church turned round original Gothic orientation. The main entrance from Kamenná Street is on the axis of high tripartite frontage with triangular tympanum and ponderous volutes of both wings supported by attic gable on the place of former easterly-orientated choir. Above a massive portal with bossage in deep niche there is placed a statue of St. Wenceslas. Entrance gate placed high above the street are accessible through platform stairs with a fountain in niche under landing. Side wall of the church in Dominikánská Street is completely plain. Original entrance portal remained visible in western wall. It shows evidence of the fact, that peripheral walls of the original gothic church during baroque rebuilding were partly preserved.

High hall space with side chapel niches goes from a model of that time, Roman church Il Gesù. The church resembles with its general conception and architectural elements the work of a prominent architect of that time G. Lu-rago. From the time of finishing of the church there stand only two altars in chapels, Betrothal of the Virgin and Crucifixion with Dominican saints.

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The building of the monastery is added to northern side of the church. It is a simple three-storey building with plain frontage to Kamenná Street, which is decorated only with profiled window-frames. Above the entrance portal there is a niche with a statue of Saint Dominic. Directly behind the entrance door a narrow stairway rises to a vaulted corridor on groundfloor. Cloister, to which the church and other parts of the monastery are added, is connected with it. Main stairway of the building is placed to the south-western corner. High cloister alley on the first floor opens towards the cells with two-storey arcade. Richly decorated library hall on the second floor was added to the stairway in the year 1720. In 1936 the convent was dissolved and the town Cheb bought the building. In 1950s the monastery was arranged for municipal cultural centre. From the northern side a social hall was added on a basement level. Its vestibule is accessible directly from Kamenná Street. On the second floor a club cinema with cafeteria was established and the cells were changed into offices and club rooms.

## House No. 449 in Jateční Street

**H**ouse No. 449 in Jateční Street is one of the first baroque houses. The builder was a treasurer of Cheb fort building works (1679-87) Jan Václav Vyšehradský. Author could have been a builder Abraham Leuthner, who was working on building of Cheb fort at that time.

Bossed ground floor of an attached house is a substructure of two storeys. Symmetrical division into central part and wings is broken with asymmetrically placed niche with a statue of St. Wenceslas and displacement of the portal out of central axes, so that it can be connected with a passage into the yard. Originally the house had joist ceilings, which were replaced with vaulted ones later. It is interesting, that all window cartouches and ledges in frontages are timber. Interior layout was changed several times and in the last century small rental flats were built there.

## Pilgrim place Loreta near Starý Hrožňatov

**E**arly baroque architecture in Cheb surroundings is represented by pilgrim place Loreta near Starý Hrožňatov. In 1664 Cheb Jesuits started to build Loreta. In the years 1675-1683 cloister alleys with crossing vaulted in pilasters and pillars of yard arcade was built. Together with cloister alley a tower with double bulbous roof was built in the middle of entrance frontage above main gate. Cloister alleys with low saddle roof were later emphasized with corner chapels roofed with bulbous towers. On the precinct axis a central pilgrim church of Holy Ghost with pyramidal roof and a tiny tower was added to back wall of the cloister elevated in the place of connection. Timber vaulting with cane plaster was built in years 1851-1853 during replacement of roofs according to plans of Cheb architect Adam Haberzettl, who replaced older similar false vaulting. Together with building of Loreta there were also built 23 chapels of big Calvary with 29 stoppings and holy spring. They were finished in 1689. Only some of them were restored including Holy Grave and Chapel of St. Cross near the cemetery.



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The building was inspired by Loreta in Dolní Římov in South Bohemia, which was standing, except of the church, in the time of commencement of building. Santa Casa is a copy of original Santa Casa of Loreto in Italy, one of the most famous pilgrim places in the world. Loreta in Starý Hrozňatov was built with a plain ground plan. Architect is not mentioned. Carlo Lurago, who was working for Jesuit Order and often visited Cheb, may participate on general conception of the building. He is probably an author of cloister church in Waldsassen. Building of cloister alleys and mainly corner chapels is accredited to an architect Christopher Dienzenhofer, minor foreman in Waldsassen and later a builder of Cheb fort. An architectonic detail (vaulting of northwestern corner chapel) is an evidence of the fact that this building phase predetermines high baroque style in Bohemia.

## St. Claire Church<sup>(17)</sup> on Franciscan square.

The most important baroque church building in Cheb is St. Claire Church on Franciscan square.

Church and nunnery of nuns<sup>(18)</sup> of the Order of Saint Claire was founded in 1268. Convent buildings adjoined from south to the church of franciscan monastery. Original church was finished in 1288 after building of new southern town fortification. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was rebuilt with distinctive Renaissance elements, which are preserved under the facade of southeastern frontage. Church and nunnery were destroyed during the Thirty-years war. In 1708 it was demolished for the most part and building of a new convent and church began on the place of the old precinct. Author of the plan was probably Christopher Dientzenhofer (1655-1722), who was very asked baroque architect at those times and together with Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel (1677-1723) he was the most significant architect of high baroque style.

The nunnery was built along town fortification and the first southern fortification wall, which affects also the ground plan of Franciscan monastery standing opposite, was probably used for northern peripheral wall. In 1902 part of former monastery enclosing southern side of Franciscan monastery was demolished and a passage into present Obrněné brigády Street was created.

The church is situated upright to two-storey block nunnery building. Its hall space is based on intersection of three ovals, which create convex and concave surfaces of both lengthwise church walls. A vestibule with a passage into a yard and stairway hall connects the church with conventual building. Above this part of church there is a deep balcony with massive skittle banister standing on brackets in church hall. Balcony was connected with church hall with newel stairs and now demolished double-flight stairs with stairway hall on the ground floor. Above the balcony there is organ choir accessible by timber stairway from balcony vestibule. The whole space is vaulted with a vaulting made of ovals, restricted by bays, inter-sectioned with each other very elaborately. Vaulting sits on richly shaped ledge finishing longitudinal walls. Both lengthwise frontages are the same, they are shaped with stone architectural elements and dividing double

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Ionian pilasters, which optically rise three-axial surface of these frontages. Western frontage creates eastern side of Franciscan square. Eastern one leads to a small yard determined by southern and eastern convent wing and an office building added later, which is connected with its northern side to the church choir (now the House of Balthasar Neumann). At the same time a four-storey granary with mansard roof standing on the corner of Dlouhá and Františkánská Streets and enclosing Františkánské Square from the north. The granary has a richly engraved timber construction of storeys supported by middle row of pillars and a baroque truss. The whole composition of the square, which is dominated by a slender tower and deep super-elevated apse with supporting pillars of a gothic Franciscan church against an undulating western frontage with raising gable decorated with sculptures and rich ledges, is an evidence of the fact, that a baroque builder did not consider a building like a solitaire, but he was able to compile the whole urban space. That is the reason why an authorship of Christopher Dientzenhofer is most presumable. He outran his time because of his creative work and eternal searching. He projected a building, which is fundamental in baroque style and simultaneously he created one of the most beautiful urban places, not only in Cheb. Unfortunately after demolishing of the fortification, southern frontage of the town was demolished, too and the conventual building was divided into two mutually not connected parts. The church was consecrated in 1712 and 80 years later it was together with the nunnery secularized. In 1816 it was sold and used as a prison and store-room. In 1926-37 it was changed into a memorial hall of the people from the Cheb region who died in the First World War. In 1969 due to the director of Municipal Gallery, a painter Mojmir Huta, the church was changed into a concert and exhibition hall. Two new organs were installed in the church and occasionally it was used for taking place of significant exhibitions. Since mid 1990s it was closed and after exertion of huge costs for a new installation it was opened again for permanent collections of The Gallery of Fine Arts and taking place of concerts with restricted number of visitors in 2004.

## **New Town Hall<sup>(26)</sup>**

**N**ew Town Hall<sup>27</sup> on King George's of Poděbrady square No. 10, Gallery of fine arts now, is an example of pure baroque house.

Old Gothic town hall, in spite of the fact, that it was enlarged southwards for neighbouring house in half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, become too small and not representative enough for growing town council. Original intention of the rich town Cheb was to build a representative building of a new town hall on a large site occupying four houses. The project was created after the year 1716 and it was ordered at the highest Czech royal builder G. B. Alliprandi, who was simultaneously the general inspector of fortification works in Cheb. Projected building should have been two-storeyed, with 21 axes, the middle part emphasized with a segmental bay and wings graduated on the ground plan. Two towers ended with volute gables and containing symmetrical passages on the ground floor divided the wings

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from the central part. In the years 1723-1728 southern (right) wing was built, which belongs to the best buildings in the town. Building works were led by Cheb fortification builders Angelus Pfeffer and Jan Kryštof Faber. The whole project was not finished because of lack of money and the old town hall was still being used. A row of roof dormers, which are not sketched on the original plan, is a typical feature of a Cheb baroque house. From the interior parts we can anticipate how beautiful the original planned town hall should have been, built extraordinary superior not only in project, but also in stone work and finish plastering. In that case not only the house adjacent to the square, but also the yard wing and the tract along Školní Street was built in the same quality. Monumental stairway put into quadratic, two-storeyed and open stair shaft is the dominating feature of the interior. Stone skittle balustrade is decorated with statues from the workshops of Cheb sculptors. The statue of St. Joseph by Johann Carl Stilp (1668-1735) stands on the second floor. On the last half-landing there is a statue of Hercules, called also "The Savage Man" by the sculptor Petr Anton Felsner (active in years 1710-1745), who is the author of a statue of Hercules on the fountain in front of Špalíček. Mirror vaulting of the stairway is decorated with plastic stucco, which is also his work, finished by the painter Mikuláš Haberstumpf. Around the God's eye there are placed signs of four then portreeves, imperial sign and signs of Hungary, Bohemia and Austria, then allegories of four main virtues in oval reliefs surrounded with ornamental bays with ribbons. Through an entrance portal it was possible to come to Mincovní Street, which was connecting the square with Školní Street. After the town hall was moved to Pachelbel House, the building serves as a court. After the year 1945 a Gallery of fine arts was established there. In 1960 the passage was closed with a glassed-in doors with bar and the passage to Školní Street was created in the southern part of the building.

### Grüner's House<sup>(27)</sup>

**G**rüner's House No. 478 on the square is a little baroque palace. It is named according to Joseph Sebastian Grüner, who as a geologist and mineralogist kept close friendship with Johann Wolfgang Goethe, who lived at him in this house during his visits of Cheb. The house was built on place of two older gothic houses in 1713. It is one of the first beautiful baroque houses, influenced probably by G. B. Alliprandi. Displacement of the entrance portal from the centre came from the original ground plan of the older house. A portal bay is emphasized with grouping of windows on the upper floors. Entrance portal is remarkable: sidelong double pilasters carry a gable, under it there is a heraldic cartouche of the Werndels in soft acanthine frame made of cut stone with stucco around. Lunette is also decorated by massive acanthine twine. This extraordinary perfect stone and stucco work repeats at the beletage (the most important floor) windows, too. Steep is roof divided with three rows of plain dormers ventilating storeyed attic, which served as store for goods. Typical Cheb dormer with trolley remained preserved above the yard, where it was possible to come through a vaulted passage with

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gently profiled door frames. A rectangular wide U-stair leads from the passage near outer frontage to the storeys, supported with four pillars, which determine middle shaft. From the second half-landing it was possible to enter the yard wing, which was an integral part of the house and connected it with yard functional object and with a living storey built simultaneously with a baroque reconstruction. Unfortunately the whole yard tract was demolished within sanitation works, like at the majority of Cheb houses. Later a yard gallery on stone brackets was added, finished in its extended part with latrines. Original ground floor windows were replaced with large display windows in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Within the reconstruction in the 1950s the windows were reduced on supposed original size. During the last reconstruction in 1970 they were enlarged on display windows again. On the first floor plain stucco ceilings of three rooms on the square side remained preserved. Timber elements in the interior (door jamb, doors, skittle banisters) are mostly copies of original ones, which remained preserved until the last reconstruction works.

### **Pachelbel's House<sup>(28)</sup>**

**P**achelbel's House No. 492 on the square is an example of a house, where the most significant features of several styles remained preserved. In 1634 Albrecht of Wallenstein was murdered on the first floor there.

Two original houses were joined on the break of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century. Entrance portal is from that time, too. At that time the house had only elevated ground floor with high saddle roof with the ridge parallel with the street line. One hundred years later the ground floor was lowered and two other floors with high roof were added. At that time yard wings with timber engraved ceilings on the ground floor were also built. Some times later back wing standing on Kostelní Square was finished in the whole width. Around 1600 (1603) there was a big reconstruction in Renaissance style. The hall vaulted with Renaissance vaulting with delicate stuccowork and paintings was badly damaged at the end of the last century at building of a straight floor with stairs in front of the doors leading to the yard on originally slant floor of the hall. The main building was furnished with historicist gothic window. Timber engraved ceilings were put to the first floor of the main building. Yard timber gallery (supported by stone brackets), which was originally joined with spindle stairs with the yard, is also from that time. The house was reconstructed in baroque style for the governor of the town's fort in 1736-38. During those works frontage was rebuilt in baroque style, too and a precious timber skittle stairway was built. Together with a new roof the house was equipped with new ceilings with stucco profiles. Since 1808 a Cheb portreeve Abraham Totzauer, known for building parks and insensitive destructions of historical monument, had a flat there.

In November 1849 a municipal office moved there from the town hall. During the reconstruction works in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century some additional constructions on the floors were changed, original timber ceilings were uncovered, some of them were replaced by copies according to need

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of a museum (e. g. timber ceilings in back tracts placed on ceilings made of concrete blocks etc.). In 1873 two rooms in back tract were modified into the town's museum. A false mirror vaulting of the ceiling above the hall on the second floor (Wallenstein picture gallery) was not built until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1906 a neighbouring building was joined. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century the collections of the museum were broadened out. In 1947 eleven halls were arranged. Till the 1970s there was a ceremonial hall of the Municipal People's Committee. Now the whole building serves for the museum purpose, unfortunately the house No. 493 only as a functional one and depository.

## Gabler's House<sup>(29)</sup>

**G**abler's House No. 507 on the square, modified in late baroque style, is an expressive house with a rococo frontage. Reconstruction is dated in chronogram placed in its entrance portal to the year 1773. This two-storeyed house with high roof has also a late gothic nucleus. It is one of the few houses where a long yard wing with a gallery joining a modern back yard wing demolished during the sanitation works was built again. Five-axial front divided by bossed pedestals on the ground floor creates a socle connecting two upper floors. Portal, whose cartouche is filled with an embossed figure of Virgin Mary and an inscription, is infilling the middle part of the ground floor. Pilasters with richly decorated corbels are carrying the main ledge. The first floor is emphasized with richly decorated windows. Except of rocaille the parapets are filled with garlands, on the header joist under the ledges there are allegorical heads of four seasons in cartouches complemented with a dove symbolizing the Holy Ghost above the portal. In the 1950s the facade was renewed by Prague restorer A. Zvolenský. Unfortunately new paintings do not reach the subtlety and rococo airiness of colours. A vaulted passage into the yard grew from the original yard on the ground floor. A stone renaissance stairway leads to the first floor, where a hall and a room to the yard remained preserved. An early baroque stairway with timber skittle banisters leads from the hall to the second floor. Original gothic division of rooms towards the square was changed. A narrow room with a chamber leading to the stairs was separated with a half-timbered curtain. A deep alcove of a sitting room, after which entrance jamb remained, was near. The sitting room itself with two windows towards the square placed in deep jambs, modified in baroque style, is all covered by rococo stuccowork and paintings complemented with oval oil-painting above the doors and unfinished ceiling fresco covered in the time of painting. Rococo decoration and paintings considerably resembles today destroyed decoration of chateau sitting room of the Zedvitz family in the castle of Libá. A protrudent niche for tile stove, vaulted in hemisphere shape, was placed into the interior to the inner corner of the room. Rococo decorations, cartouches and then modern Japan paintings on window jambs and pedestal give elegance and lightness to that room. It became a pattern for local masters for modifications of other houses. Fragments of late gothic frescos

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with hunting scenes remained preserved on the walls on the second floor above the sitting room. The owner of the house prepares its' accessing. Within the sanitation works the house was modified for office rooms and joined with neighbouring houses. On the first floor an alcove with a chamber were destroyed because of this connection.

## Buildings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

### Theater<sup>(19)</sup>

A neo-classic building of the theater<sup>30</sup> was build with a distinctive connection to the centre of the town.

The first theater building in Cheb was modified so called "rampart" of the baroque fortification, which protected the entrance to Horní Gate of the town (approximately on the place of house No. 595 on the corner of Divadelní Square and Obrněné brigády street). There was a theater from 1851 to 1872. Westward from there a building of a new theater started in 1873. Plans were projected by Vinzenz Prökl in neo-classic style. The building works were directed by Cheb builder Karel Habertzettl, who made some plans, too. Symmetrical building with developed entrance portico bearing by fluted columns is standing on high pedestal. Skittle balustrade of portico banisters repeats as a decorative element of peripheral walls of the building. Classic triangular tympanum creates a gable of the main building. Bossed ground floor creates a counterpart to gently shaped frontage of two floors connected with shallow pilasters and high arched windows into one unit. Not deep buttresses emphasized solid mass of a building, which was exceeded by a gridiron tower above the stage. Gradual auditorium was made with circles. Four boxes were placed next to the auditorium entrance. Expanding of the town to the south started with the building of the theater in the middle of a newly projected square adjacent to circular street around the fortification walls and determined by new streets connecting lots laid out on the place of former baroque fortification walls and intended for building of representative villas of citizens.

Because of an increasing interest in theater after the First World War, the building was enlarged with two symmetrical wings placed next to the side frontages. High first floor was divided by an embedded ceiling into two floors noticeable also due to two rows of windows. Attic of extensions was also decorated with skittle balustrade. At the same time the gridiron tower was heightened and interior modified. After the Second World War the theater served to the end of 1950s, when a big reconstruction started. On 7<sup>th</sup> May 1960 a new running of the theater adapted to requirements of theater technique of that time was festively opened. In 1997 there was a fire in auditorium of the theater, which destroyed interior equipment so much, that it was necessary to make a complete reconstruction. This reconstruction was finished very early. Additionally a reconstruction of cladding and facade was made and surrounding area of the theater was also arranged into its present appearance.

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## Public library (20)

**B**eginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought a whiff of decorative style to the town. On the place of medieval municipal fortification ditch a public library<sup>31</sup> (No. 615, Obrněné brigády street 1) was built. The building was build due to property of Dominik Kreuzinger's foundation; he was a manufacturer and businessman in engineering. It was designed by von Loos, an architect from Teplice, and built by Cheb builder Franz Kraus. The building started on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1908. A festive opening of the library took place on 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1911 at 11 o'clock a.m. A building built in a decorative style with asymmetrical ground plan stays freely and on the first floor there is functionally placed library hall serving simultaneously as a lecture hall. Light and airy decorative style building did not resist historicist inner decorative elements. Decorative motives on the frontages are taken from rococo, but arranged in decorative style. Relief on the southern side (giving literature to various professions) with its contentual pathos and describing form is corresponding to the style of the 1930s. Unfortunately in 1960s the original equipment was destroyed due to non-sensitive modernization, which depreciates the building up to the present day (see e.g. illuminators in the hall or the entrance door).

## Old town hall (25)

**A**n extensive reconstruction of the building of the old town hall on the Square of King George of Poděbrady is an example of relatively successful reconstruction of the whole complex of houses.

According to statements of the old chronicles, the town hall (house No. 1) could stay on present Square of King George of Poděbrady in 1149, because reputedly here Friedrich Barbarossa married Adela of Vohburg. More likely the town hall was established in yeas 1203-1215, when there was a planned house-building around a big marketplace. This first building burnt down with all archival documents during the big fire of the town in 1270. Already around half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century the town hall, renewed and extended after the fire, proved to be insufficient. Gothic town hall, modified in each century, was completely rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the northern house originally high rooms of chapel and hall were divided with a ceiling into two floors. In front of the frontage of the northern house there was standing a two-axial outhouse of a tower with three floors, little tower and gradual gable, which opens to archway (built before 1425) on the ground floor. This outhouse was demolished in 1805. On the first floor there was a courtroom. In 1849 the municipal office moved to the Municipal house in lower part of the square (Pachelbel's House). General reconstruction of both houses for the needs of then People's committee (municipal town hall) in the 1970s was designed and projected by an architect V. Fojtl from Cheb atelier of State institute for reconstruction of historical towns and objects in Prague. Both buildings, after remove of unsuitable built-in elements and necessary static safeguard, were without any other additions used for required purpose. Due to renewal of original medieval floors there was created a suitable space for festive council hall. All discovered valuable relics were incorporated into modern interiors.

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Preserved Gothic windows to the yard from the half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century decorates frontage wall of ceremonial and festive council hall. Remains of fresco decoration are visible in a small boardroom on the ground floor. In the space above baroque vaulted ceiling of this room (under elevated floor of a room next to a ceremonial hall on the first floor) coats-of-arms of old Cheb families are depicted there. In filled cellars there were discovered the oldest remains of well-known town hall prison. Cells with brick simple vault and five ogival portals remained preserved and they are part of council restaurant. On the ground floor towards a yard a small window with lancet remained. Already before the reconstruction a mint standing on the yard was demolished and the southern part of the town hall (see New town hall, No. 10). A new angled stair leads from the entrance hall and connects all the floors. New armoured concrete hall ceilings, which replaced old, insufficient and fallen older ceilings, were lightened with coffers. Within additional building of fallen eastern wing were created sufficient rooms for functioning of effective municipal offices. Increase of state and local bureaucracy shows that even the town hall designed by Alliprandi would have been too small for present needs.

## Monuments in the surrounding area

### Feudal castle and later palace Starý Hrozňatov

There are also several interesting monuments in the surrounding area. Feudal castle and later palace Starý Hrozňatov lies approximately 6.5 km far from Cheb. Originally Romanesque castle standing on the cliff above the river Odava not far from the state border is mentioned for the first time in 1217. Czech nobleman and founder of Teplá monastery, Hroznata of Gutštejn, died in prison there, preserved in western low prismatic tower. A Romanesque round tower walled inside in the Roman way "opus reticulatum" of tiny quarrystone dominates the castle. At the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the castle was rebuilt into a Renaissance palace. In 1648 it was burnt down by the Swedes and renewed by Jesuits in baroque style. During the last rebuilding in historicist late baroque style the corner towers were removed. In 1950 a frontier troop was placed there to guard the Iron Curtain. At the end of 1960 the castle precinct was given to the Gallery of fine arts in Cheb, which made its renovation. For a short time it served for taking place of various cultural actions given by the Gallery. At the beginning of the 1970 (the age of normalization) Ministry of Internal Affairs took over the castle. The castle and its surroundings was arranged as a recreation centre for higher officers of the Frontier Guard and the minister's family. After 1989 the object was privatized in a strange way. A new owner let the castle, which was in a very good condition, completely ruined again.

### Castle Vildštejn<sup>(33)</sup>

On the other hand, the next feudal castle – Vildštejn, in the town of Skalná lying 10 km far from Cheb, was preserved. The castle was



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built on a granite cliff above the brook Sázek around the year 1200. At first it was just a promontory fortified with a high wall with a palace, whose Romanesque peripheral coursed masonry is visible from the northwestern wall. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the castle was twice rebuilt in late Romanesque style. High tower was added to eastern fortification wall and later a chapel with the ground floor with a round apse built with usage of coursed masonry. The entrance to the castle was through the gate next to the tower from the southern side. The entrance was followed by a small yard in the southwestern part of the promontory. Gothic rebuilding was made in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Behind the entrance gate a new object was added to the tower from the south. Due to additional buildings individual parts of the castle were growing together into one unit. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century even a small yard between the palace and chapel was overbuilt. In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century a Romanesque chapel was abandoned and the entrance to the castle was transferred into its nave. In that time the whole castle precinct was covered with a high roof with half-timbered gable added to the tower. Evidently at that time a bulbous roof was set on the tower, in 1901 it was transferred on the tower of local church. The castle was divided into flats and storerooms. Around the year 1763 a baroque two-wing palace building with mansard roof was build on the place of older foundations in the eastern part of the settlement in the castle's vicinity in 1763. A Romanesque portal was brought there from the castle The palace served as a courtroom and prison for the Wildštejn district. After the year 1945 it was used for living for several years. After the fire it was a ruin for a long time. The reconstruction works started in 1980s. High chisel roof was put on the tower, the roof was repaired and the whole object was ensured statically. Present owner opened the ground floor. There is a stylish restaurant and a little museum. He gradually repairs upper floors. A new shingle roof was put on the front castle. The castle yard was also romantically rebuilt.

## Castle Mostov<sup>(34)</sup>

The castle Mostov lying 10km easternly from Cheb on the confluence of the rivers Ohře and Odava is also used commercially. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century there was a Gothic fortress replaced by a farm with a little manor house in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was rebuilt in the 1860s in then modern pseudo-gothic style, but the house was not enlarged on its ground plan. One-storeyed palace house with a hip roof and the main entrance frontage to the park has a lot of pseudo-gothic elements on the walls (stepped gable, castellation etc.). George Haas of Hasenfels, an industrialist and a co-owner of porcelain factory in Horní Slavkov, bought the castle from the Kommers family. He established a large park with a greenhouse near the castle and let modified into a park the whole riverine landscape with many drainage canals and tree-lined avenues. After the Second World War the castle with a farm house and mill served to a collective farm. The original greenhouse burned up. Later the castle was used for children's recreation. In 1997 the castle was bought by the porcelain factory Haas and Czjzek from Horní

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Slavkov. The whole castle was reconstructed and changed into five-star hotel with a restaurant and a porcelain museum. In the interior there were restored 15 original artistic tile stoves, precious window and door lead glazing above the stairway in dining room, chapel and museum rooms. Wall paintings, stucco and flat painted ceilings document the development of art handicraft in the period of the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Castle Seeberg<sup>(32)</sup>

**F**or cultural purposes a feudal castle Seeberg (Ostroh) standing above a deep valley of Slatinný Stream (Seebach) 8.5 km northwestern from Cheb was reconstructed. It was mentioned for the first time in 1322, when the king John of Luxemburg gained the Cheb region as an imperial pledge. In 1434 the castle came under the administration of the town Cheb. In the following years it was a witness of many fights and it changed the owner a lot. At the end of the Thirty-years war (1634/35 and again in 1648) it was plundered and burnt down by the Swedes. The town Cheb bought it again in 1703. This castle also came through several building phases. From the Romanesque one (the third quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup> century) a central wall with inner gate, arch portal and northern palace building is preserved. From the gothic period (till the year 1349), when the castle was enlarged to the east with an outer area, a part of the fortification wall with a gate was preserved. The gate is Gothic placed forward the Romanesque wall and above the southern slope there is a palace. From the west the castle was enclosed with a wall with a small Gothic gate. Castle fortification was completed with a castle moat. Renaissance phase (1497-1577) let an arcade on the courtyard added to the building, cellar vaulting of the building of the southern palace and foundations of buildings on the southern side of the outer area. In the baroque period the castle was renewed by the town Cheb in its original form and heightened about one floor. A barn near the western side of the outer area and bridge pillars in the ditch in front of the gate are from that time, too (1724-26). In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a tower above the gate in the outer area was demolished, a bridge abolished, the ditch filled and service quarters rebuilt. In the years 1905-1915 the castle was romantically reconstructed and a restaurant with rooms was established there. The castle served this purpose even several years after the Second World War (1951). Till 1967 it served as a recreational centre for children. Since that time the castle was decaying because of missed maintenance and not suitable way of using up to the year 1985, when it came under the administration of the town Františkovy Lázně and the local museum reconstructed it and opened up for public during the following years. Objects in the outer area were also reconstructed and restaurants and offices were established there. Ethnographical collections were installed in the barn, to which two endangered buildings of folk architecture were transferred – a storeyed timber granary from Kopanina and a part of half-timbered hovel with a granary from Mlýnek. Together with a half-timbered baroque barn they represent a small collection of specifics of this region – a Cheb farm.

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## A Cheb farm<sup>(31)</sup>

**R**ichly decorated half-timbered gables attract the visitor at first sight. Sets of them are visible in the village areas with protected monuments in Doubrava near Lipová and Nový Drahov<sup>(31)</sup>. The most beautiful farm is in Tuřany No. 3. The whole sets are in Salajna, Milíkov, Horní Lomany and Milhostov. Cheb farm is specific because of its basic four-sided disposition. At the farms the house (usually storeyed) has a room, hall with black kitchen and a byre on the ground floor. On the first floor there is a bedroom and above the byre and chamber there are rooms for service people and next chambers.

Originally the whole ground floor except from the black kitchen with an outer oven was timbered. Basis for the first floor is usually a timber wreath about 1 meter high. High saddle roof with rich half-timbered gables, engraved window ledges and timber crossing emphasized in colour a typical feature. Walls and inner partition walls above the timber wreath are always half-timbered. Upright to the house there are usually built hovel and granary. Three outer sides of the hovel are usually half-timbered and with the panels painted in white. The yard side is replaced by several massive timber pillars with cruciate timber strips supporting longitudinal main beam. The hovel has also a timber wreath bearing a saddle roof with a rich half-timbered gable. Across from the hovel there are byres. In contrast to the hovel they have timbered ground floor with a timber wreath bearing a floor or an attic and half-timbered gable. The yard is enclosed with a big barn with a double thrashing-floor. It is all half-timbered with a high saddle roof and simple half-timbered gables. The base form of that farm originated in the early baroque period at the break of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. Carpenter constructions of those farms were made by masters who worked on building of baroque trusses in Cheb.

## Timber granaries

**A**lso buildings of gothic kind are preserved from that times. They are three storeyed timber granaries. One of them is now standing in the outer area of the castle Seeberg (originally it was placed in Kopanina No. 19), the second one is next to the entrance to the natural reserve 500S near Nový Drahov and the third one is near the road from Kopanina to Nový Kostel where it was transferred from the garden of No. 14 in Kopanina. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century timber parts of the buildings were replaced by masonry with classicist elements. New buildings were built already walled with classicist gables painted in white and yellow inspired by buildings in Františkovy Lázně.