

Glimmingehus

Glimmingehus, located in Simrishamn Municipality Scania, in southern Sweden, is the best preserved medieval stronghold in Scandinavia. It was built 1499-1506, during an era when Scania formed a vital part of Denmark, and contains many defensive arrangements of the era, such as parapets, false doors and dead-end corridors, 'murder-holes' for pouring boiling pitch over the attackers, moats, drawbridges and various other forms of death traps to surprise trespassers and protect the nobles against peasant uprisings. The lower part of the castle's stone walls are 2.4 meters (94 inches) thick and the upper part 1.8 meters (71 inches).^[1]

Construction was started in 1499 by the Danish knight Jens Holgersen Ulfstand and stone-cutter-mason and architect Adam van Dören, a North German master who also worked on Lund Cathedral. Construction was completed in 1506.

History

The artwork placed over the castle entrance by Jens Holgersen Ulfstand commemorate the foundation-laying year as 1499.^[2] Ulfstand was a councillor, nobleman and admiral serving under John I of Denmark and many objects have been uncovered during archeological excavations that demonstrate the extravagant lifestyle of the knight's family at Glimmingehus up until Ulfstand's death in 1523. Some of the most expensive objects for sale in Europe during this period, such as Venetian glass, painted glass from the Rhine district and Spanish ceramics have been found here.^[3] Evidence of the family's wealth can also be seen inside the stone fortress, where everyday comforts for the knight's family included hot air channels in the walls and bench seats in the window recesses. Although considered comfortable for its period, it has also been argued that Glimmingehus was an expression of "Knighthood nostalgia" and not considered opulent or progressive enough even to the knight's contemporaries and especially not to later generations of the Scanian nobility.^[2] Glimmingehus is thought to have served as a residential castle for only a few generations before being transformed into a storage facility for grain.

An order from Charles XI to the administrators of the Swedish dominion of Scania in 1676 to demolish the castle, in order to ensure that it would not fall into the hands of the Danish king during the Scanian War, could not be executed. A first attempt, in which 20 Scanian farmers were ordered to assist, proved unsuccessful. An additional force of 130 men were sent to Glimmingehus to execute the order in a second attempt. However, before they could carry out the order, a Danish-Dutch naval division arrived in Ystad, and the Swedes had to abandon the demolition attempts.^[4] Throughout the 18th century the castle was used as deposit for agricultural produce and in 1924 it was donated to the Swedish state. Today it is administered by the Swedish National Heritage Board (Swedish: *Riksantikvarieämbetet*).

On site there is a museum, medieval kitchen, shop and restaurant and coffee house. During summer time there are several guided tours daily. In local folklore, the castle is described as haunted by multiple ghosts and the tradition of story telling inspired

Glimmingehus

Simrishamn Municipality



Glimmingehus



by the castle is continued in the summer events at the castle called "Strange stories and terrifying tales"^[3]



Interior



Heavy vaults in lower part



Stone artwork of Jens Ulfstand in Glimmingehus.



door

Coordinates	55.501111°N 14.231111°E﻿ / ﻿
Type	Stronghold
Site information	
Owner	Swedish National Heritage Board
Open to the public	Yes
Site history	
Built	1499

References

- ↑ Åkesson, Sylve. "Skånska slott och herresäten:Glimmingehus"(http://www.algonet.se/~sylve_a/glimmhus.htm) (in Swedish). Retrieved 2009-01-22.
- ↑ "History of the Fortress"(http://www.raa.se/cms/en/places_to_visit/glimmingehus_the_medieval_manor/history_of_the_fortress.html) Swedish National Heritage Board Retrieved 2009-01-22.
- ↑ "Glimmingehus"(<http://www.skane.com/cmarter/cmarterasp?doc=1943>) Skane.com. Retrieved 2009-01-22.

External links

- Glimmingehus - The Medieval Manorat the Swedish National Heritage Board

Retrieved from 'https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Glimmingehus&oldid=822591358'

This page was last edited on 27 January 2018, at 08:31(UTC).

Text is available under theCreative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike Licenseadditional terms may apply By using this site, you agree to theTerms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of theWikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.