

# Gesslerburg

**Gesslerburg** (actually *Burg zu Küssnacht* ) is the name of a medieval castle in Küssnacht . Like Hohle Gasse in the same town, it is linked to the legend of Wilhelm Tell . According to the historian Aegidius Tschudi, it is said to have been the seat of Landsvogt Hermann Gessler . The ruins of the Gesslerburg have been owned by the Swiss Confederation since 1908 .

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## Location


The ruins of the hilltop castle are located on a hilltop in the east of the village, above the village stream, which flows from the Seebodenalp into the lake . A path leads up to the Gesslerburg from the Knochenstampfe, a shed by the stream with a water wheel in which fertilizer was once produced.

## History

Despite archaeological investigations, very little is known about the origin and history of the castle complex. There is evidence of a nobleman named Recho from the second half of the 9th century, who donated his possessions in Küssnacht to the Benedictine monastery in Hof Luzern, along with other goods. An early medieval castle probably also belonged to it. The first documented mention dates back to 1263: «in castro nostro Chüssenach».


In 1291, Küssnacht was bought from the monastery by Rudolf I of Habsburg . The lords of the castle, who were employed as bailiffs by the House of Habsburg , appeared as "nobles from Küssnacht". Knight Eppo II (1282-1315) demanded taxes, duties and forced labor as a bailiff. In 1302 there was a dispute with the people of the Bailiwick of Küssnacht, in which the bailiff is said to have almost died.

### Gesslerburg



The Gesslerburg with the Pilatus in the background

Alternate Name(s)	Castle of Küssnacht
Country	<u>Switzerland</u>
Location	<u>kissing night</u>
time of origin	probably 9th century
castle type	hilltop castle
state of preservation	ruin
Geographical location	<u>47° 5′ N , 8° 27′ E</u>





Painting *Ruins of Gessler's Castle* ,  
ca. 1870

In the chronicle of the city of Zurich (1415), a feud between Zurich and the Confederates on the one hand and Duke Albrecht II of Austria on the other is mentioned for the year 1352 .

## Literature

- Ivo Zemp, Kaspar Michel, Markus Bamert, Valentin Kessler: *Gesslerburg and Hohle Gasse with Tellskapelle*. (Swiss art guide, no. 790, series 79). Published by Society for Swiss Art History GSK. Berne 2006, ISBN 978-3-85782-790-7 .
- Eugen Schneiter: *The "Geßlerburg" above Küßnacht*. In: *News from the Swiss Association for the Preservation of Castles and Ruins (Castle Association)* , Issue 3, 22 (1949), p. 122 f. ( PDF (<https://www.e-periodica.ch/digbib/view?pid=mit-001:1949:22::57#13>) )

## Web Links

 **Commons : Gesslerburg** (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Gesslerburg?uselang=de>) - Collection of images, videos and audio files

- Description of Hohlgassland Tourismus (<http://www.hohlgassland.ch/de/ausfluege-sehenswertes/sehenswuerdigkeiten/gesslerburg>)
- Castle World: Castle Küssnacht (Gesslerburg) (<http://www.burgenwelt.org/schweiz/kuessnacht/object.php>)

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