Hôtel d 'Alluye

The Hôtel d 'Alluye is a hôtel particulier in Blois , Loir @-@ et @-@ Cher , France . Built for Florimond Robertet when he was secretary and notary to Louis XII , the residence bears the name of his barony of Alluyes . On Rue Saint @-@ Honoré near Blois Cathedral and the Château de Blois , it is now significantly smaller than it was originally as the north and west wings were destroyed between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries .

Built between 1498 (or 1500) and 1508 , the hôtel particulier is one of the first examples of Renaissance architecture in Blois . Its façades consist of Gothic , French Renaissance and Italian Renaissance architecture . The Hôtel d 'Alluye was owned by the Robertet family from 1508 until 1606 before undergoing frequent changes in ownership ; since 2007 , it has been divided into ten apartments and a large office .

As a result of its ownership changes the building has been considerably altered , with only the east and south wings retaining their original appearance . Destruction of the west wing began during the seventeenth century , and the north wing was destroyed in 1812 . The Hôtel d 'Alluye was classified as a monument historique on 6 November 1929 , and its courtyard has been open to the public on European Heritage Days since 2011 .

Location

Built near Blois Cathedral and the Royal Château de Blois , the Hôtel d 'Alluye is located on Rue Saint @-@ Honoré . Its south side originally extended along Rue Saint @-@ Honoré between the current No. 4 and No. 10 , and its west side extended along Rue Porte @-@ Chartraine . Records indicate that the north side was extended to Rue Beauvoir in 1643 , enlarging the hôtel particulier over a large quadrangle 30 m (98 ft) wide .

How Robertet obtained such a large plot in the centre of Blois is unknown ; he may have acquired the land gradually for the building 's future construction , or could have been granted a fief by the Crown for his services . Although , it is known that Robertet sought to acquire an adjoining building (the Hôtel Denis @-@ Dupont) to extend his property . Lawyer Denis Dupont (the building 's owner) strongly opposed the idea , and over half of the former Hôtel Denis @-@ Dupont remains .

History

Construction

Under Louis XII the courtesans of France settled in Blois from 1498 to 1515 , and the city became the capital of the Kingdom of France . As a result , many people purchased residences in Blois and the Loire Valley . Named after Robertet 's barony of Alluyes , construction of the Hôtel d 'Alluye began in 1498 or 1500 and was completed in 1508 . It was built during his tenure as secretary and notary to Louis XII , and a diplomatic document from the Republic of Florence described the hôtel as new in September 1508 . The hôtel particulier is an example of French Renaissance architecture ; this , coupled with its ornamentation , were intended to reflect the tastes of Robertet , who was well known for his artistic collections . One of the first examples of Renaissance architecture in Blois , the hôtel indicates the influence of the Quattrocento on him .

The Hôtel d 'Alluye was owned by the descendants of Robertet and Michelle Gaillard de Longjumeau until the early sixteenth century . In 1588 , it hosted Louis II , Cardinal of Guise , the brother of Henry I , Duke of Guise (" Scarface ") , who was on the Estates General of Blois until his assassination was ordered by Henry III . Robertet 's grandson , Baron François Robertet of Alluyes , died in 1603 with no male offspring ; three years later , the residence and its surrounding property were seized by the Crown .

Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries

The 1620s saw the fragmentation of the west wing of the original residence . Sold to a number of owners , this part of the building was gradually distorted until only a few remnants were left . The other three wings of the building were acquired by the Huraults of Saint @-@ Denis in 1621 , and on 5 July 1637 the residence was acquired by the Bégon family . In 1644 , major restoration work was done on the north wing under Charles Turmel . The Hôtel d 'Alluye was sold by Michel Bégon de la Picardière to the Terrouanne family on 5 August 1718 for 9 @,@ 000 livres .

= = = Modern era = = =

 Around 1812 Lambert Rosey , a member of the Terrouanne family , demolished the building 's north wing . In 1832 , Rosey sold the building to Amédée Naudin for 12 @,@ 000 francs . Work began in the east wing , with its depth reduced and its layout becoming more irregular . Naudin died on 21 November 1864 , and his two daughters sold the residence on 5 June 1866 for 40 @,@ 000 francs . From 1868 to 1869 , it was restored under the direction of Félix Duban ; in 1877 , further restoration work was planned but not done .
 From 1890 to 1895 major changes were made to the Rue Saint @-@ Honoré section , with many attics and roofs transformed . In 2007 , the residence was purchased by a developer , who divided it into ten apartments three years later . This helped save the rear of the residence , which had a badly @-@ damaged roof . Currently , the building comprises ten apartments and a large office .

= = Buildings = =

 Destroyed in 1812 , the original layout of the north wing is unknown but it is described in a 1644 document . Narrower than the other wings , the wing and its gallery were no more than 8 m (26 ft) wide and contained two bedrooms . A staircase at the northeast corner linked it to the other wings .
 Although the east wing is well @-@ preserved , it has undergone many changes and its initial appearance is unknown . The wing has two levels overlooking the courtyard retaining their arcades (now glassed @-@ in) , which are the same shape as those in the south wing . The southeast end of the wing contained a kitchen (with a well) and a large pantry .
 Opening onto Rue Saint @-@ Honoré with a large portal , the south wing was the hotel 's main building ; like the east wing , it is well @-@ preserved . To the left of the portal is an area which previously served as a stable . The ground floor has a large room opening onto the courtyard and another , smaller room . The first floor consists of three rooms : two small rooms and a garderobe . During the eighteenth century , it was recorded that the top floor had two chambres de bonne .
 The west wing 's design is known only from archival records , since it was almost totally destroyed between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries . The first part of the wing consisted of stables , a spiral staircase leading to the exterior façade , a corridor linking the courtyard to the street and a large pantry . During the seventeenth century , the second part held an indoor jeu de paume court and a chapel ; its first floor had three large bedrooms .

= = Façades , entrances and courtyard = =

 The hotel 's exterior façade was inspired by the Louis XII wing of the Château de Blois . Since its construction , dormers have been added and the window design has changed . The original façade can be seen in the decoration of some ground @-@ floor windows and the portal , and the walls , windows and corbels of this hôtel particulier are in the Gothic style .
 More modern than the exterior façades and contrary to French architectural tradition , the interior façades embrace the Italian Renaissance style . The hotel 's galleries had two levels of " basket @-@ handle " arches , columns on the first floor and rectangular pillars . Italian influence on the buildings appears in the moldings and carvings on its doors and pillars ? for example , facing birds .
 Thirteen antique terracotta medallions adorn the balustrade of the gallery 's first floor , representing Roman emperors and influenced by Italian architecture . Surrounded by a thick garland of fruits and

flowers , these medallions were originally painted green to suggest bronze and distinguish the façade . The building 's perforated railings are inspired by the François I wing of the Château de Blois . The windows were probably added during the late @-@ nineteenth @-@ century restoration . Dismantled in 1812 , the northern galleries were originally supported by two sets of six white marble columns (rarely found in sixteenth @-@ century buildings) .

The hôtel d 'Alluye originally had three entrances linking it to shopping areas . The original main entrance , on the south side of the hotel , has been preserved . The hotel was accessible from the west by a path from Rue Porte @-@ Chartraine ; that entrance was bricked up in 1606 . A third , seventeenth @-@ century entrance linked the north side of the hotel to Rue Beauvoir .

The inner courtyard was originally decorated with a bronze copy of Donatello 's David , which was inspired by Michelangelo . Placed in 1509 , the statue was given to Robertet by the Florentine Republic . As early as 1513 , it was moved to his Château de Bury .

= = Interior decoration = =

Much of the hôtel d 'Alluye 's original interior decoration remains . A notable exception is the fireplace in the largest room of the south wing , which was repainted and redecorated by Martin Monestier during the nineteenth century . On the sides of the fireplace , two maxims (maxima propositio) are engraved in ancient Greek . The first reads , " Remember the common fate " (" ??????? ??? ?????? ????? ") and the second " Above all , respect the divine " (" ??? ?????? ????? ?? ????? ") .

= = Conservation = =

The hôtel d 'Alluye , classified as a monument historique on 6 November 1929 , is privately owned . Since 2011 , its courtyard has been open to the public on European Heritage Days .