

# INSTERBURG CASTLE



The Insterburg castle is located in the city of Chernyakhovsk (former Insterburg), outside the Castle. It was founded in 1336 on the orders of the master of the German order of St. Mary of the Teutonic order Dietrich von Altenburg on the site of ancient settlement of Ansitropic, destroyed in 1256 during the military campaigns of the Order of Nadrovia.

The place to build a castle in the military sense was chosen very cleverly, taking into account terrain conditions and strategic considerations – on the hill near the river Angerapp, where his position allowed to control the crossroads at the confluence of Angerapp, Pissa and inster flow together (from which the castle got its name). First, there was built an oak blockhouse and surrounded it with a ditch and rampart, the tree is then gradually replaced by stone. Orders in the period, judging by the extant information, the castle was rebuilt several times.



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Insterburg, Stadt, Stadtkreis Insterburg, MT13096-3. Schloß V. (1930-1940), © Stengel & Co., Dresden

For a long time, people settled around the castle because often the current hostilities. The first mention of civilian settlements in historical documents belong to 1466 - Sloboda Freiheit to the South of the castle, the settlement Hakelwerk on the South shore of the Mill pond and the Prussian village of Sparge who settled in the upper reaches Wegorapa. Their inhabitants are engaged in traditional crafts - trade and agriculture.

After 1525 the castle was located in the main district office of Insterburg. On 10 October 1583 Insterburg, by that time thoroughly overgrown, according to the data obtained from the Margrave Georg Friedrich von Ansbach literacy, named as the city with all its urban status attributes - a private court, the city coat of arms and seal



Insterburg 1849. - größte Grenzbesatzung



The Insterburg castle was badly damaged in 1944 during the bombing of British aircraft, then during the storming of the city by Soviet troops, including that from a fire. In the surviving buildings were stationed a military unit. Presumably in 1949 in the castle again suffered a massive fire almost completely destroyed the citadel (survived only exterior walls), then the outer ward began to disassemble the brick exported to Lithuania for the recovery of the economy. In the early 50-ies the territory of the castle was transferred to the RSU (repair and construction management) No. 1.



Today the castle is the center of local cultural life. The efforts of local enthusiasts remains of ancient buildings, partly preserved in the Museum of the Chateau exhibits collected by members of the youth tourist RAID "the Destiny of man - the fate of the earth" territory of the Chernyakhovsk area exhibits and owned by local collectors Antiques. Since 1999 in the castle during the tourist season (may-October) are different representations - staged fights of medieval knights, festivals, concerts, exhibitions, performances of shadow theater, tourists can also visit the castle dungeons. Since 2002 on the base of the castle are held annually interregional public jousting tournaments with the participation of people from historical clubs and cities of Kaliningrad region - Sovetsk, Baltiysk and Chernyakhovsk, and also guests from Russia and abroad.

