

SoLiLL

Project group „Bread and Housing“ in České Budějovice

Renovation of an ancient area of city

Mystery of town Pelhřimov ramparts
Program of historical sights renewal

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Project group “Bread and Housing”: **SoLiLL 2002**

Town Pelhřimov

The district of Pelhřimov is bordered by Moravia and the regions of South, Central and East Bohemia.

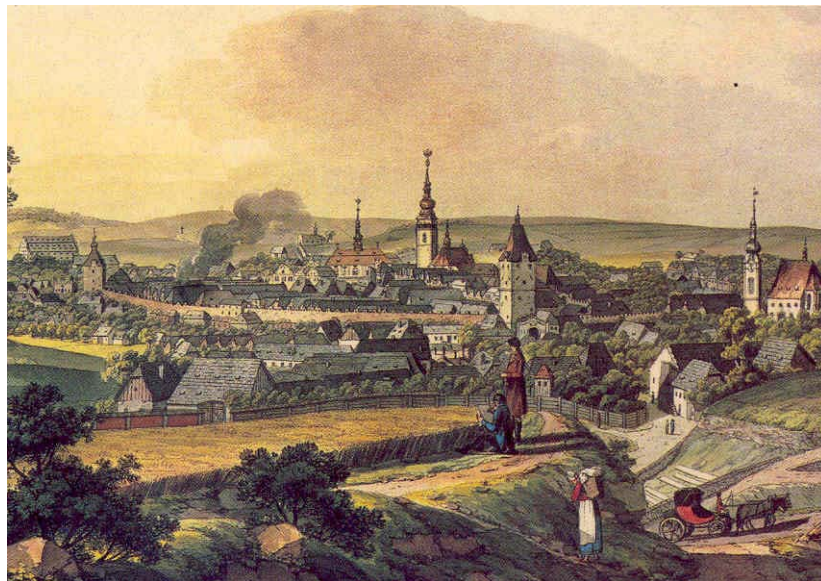


Photo : V. B. Juhn : Pelhřimov in 1812

Hundreds of years ago, when this area was covered by dense forest, it formed part of the impenetrable border of the Czech state.

The hard work of several generations changed the wooded wilderness into a medieval cultural landscape. Work and life in this area were always more difficult than in those places where nature is more generous. The fruits of this land were difficult to obtain. Life here was always modest, often on the verge of poverty. Centuries of work and self-denial, as well as the harsh climate and stony soil,

contributed to the inconspicuous beauty of this region, which is today so rare and unusual.

The town's appearance is marked by years of glory and suffering. In the 16, 17 and 18 centuries the town completely burnt to the ground several times, but it always recovered and each rebuilding restored the original order and even lent new beauty.



Town fortification

As thousands of pilgrims before us, let us enter the town through one of the three gates: Jihlavská (Lower), Rynářecká (Upper) and Solní. Only fragments have been preserved of the once mighty double town walls, originally made of wood and later rebuilt in stone.

They were built and maintained by the burghers from the very founding of the town until the 16th century, as Pelhřimov often found itself caught between implacable forces.

The reason behind the effort and costs invested into such an extensive system of defenses was summarized by the townsfolk in the 16th century in a statement chiselled into a stone plaque by the Rynářecká Gate: *Felix civitas, quae tempore pacis cogitat bella* (Happy the people who in times of peace think of war).

In the past, the town wall was a symbol of social differentiation and inequality, which for many centuries separated the inner city residents from those living in the outskirts and the peasant population in the villages.



Town fortification today

The town Pelhřimov fortification kept up the essential stages especially thanks to existing of original town gates.

Plan of renewal of town historical sights

To renew these sights the municipal office in Pelhřimov plans to expend the amount 4.000.000, Kč.

What is the opinion of the inhabitants on the plan of renewal of the town historical sights?

The inhabitants of our town agree with renewal of the town historical sights.

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