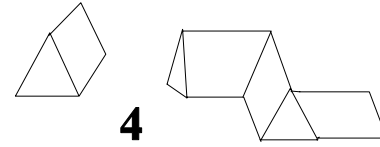
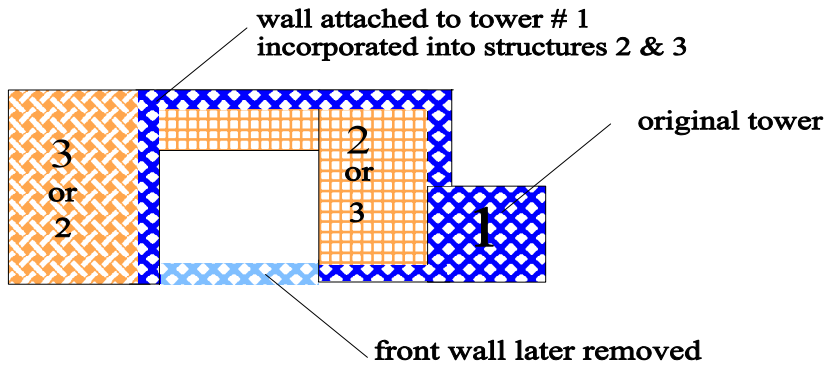


Brennhausen Highlights

Carl S. von Bibra, August 2005



Roof Structure (1525-1531)

- , Age unknown. Building appears to date from around 13th century. According to wood cores, the roof structure dates from just after 1525 Peasants Revolt, indicating that it was gutted by fire in that war.
- , By tradition it was a convent and/or monastery at some point.
- , Brennhausen consists of about 500 acres: 200 farmland and 300 forest. The forest has apparently been poorly managed for centuries and farmland brings in very little for leasing so it can only support itself in years that little maintenance is required.
- , Unique, it is not located in a village, in which almost all castles are situated except those located on hills.
- , Bibra family are recorded being in region since around 1100 AD
- , Received Brennhausen as an out of court settlement August 2, 1681 after a multi-decade lawsuit with the local prince-bishops over the right of receiving fiefs from a cousin upon his death on January 29, 1603. The problem was that during the counter reformation, the bishop did not want the estates and villages to be transferred to protestant noblemen rather than revert to the prince-bishopric. All but one of the fiefs were eventually transferred, but without the income from the previous decades. In exchange for the one fief being withheld (Burgwallbach), Brennhausen (a less valuable property) was given in its place.
- , When current resident's (Conrad) great-great-great-great grandfather died in 1740, a cousin had it seized by a band of horsemen. The cousin claimed that since Ludwig Ernst's wife (Katharina Seyfert) was not a noblewoman (the daughter of a linen weaver and a midwife), that their young sons were not entitled to receive Brennhausen. But the widow was ennobled as "von Seyferhold" in order to allow the sons to receive Brennhausen.
- , Interior gutted in Napoleonic times while great-great-great grandfather in Poland.
- , Bibra Family kept Germanic law (vs. Roman law) as far as equal inheritance between the sons (vs. eldest son getting lion's share) so house has been divided at least a couple of times including most of the 20th Century.
- , Conrad's grandfather left Europe for America after marrying a non-aristocratic girl in 1885.