

**Osterburg** ruin, north of Henfstädt above the valley of the right bank of the Werra on the Hain or Osterberg; once an important castle. It probably belonged to the Counts of Henneberg, whose burghers Gerhard and his brother Herold de Ostirburg 1187, Engelhard von Osterburg 1219, Heinrich von Hosterburc 1233, are to be considered. In 1268 the castle was abandoned by Count Berthold VI to his wife. In the division of the old Henneberg lands, the Osterburg and its area were divided between the lines Schleusingen and Hartenberg, the castle, as it seems, more often by Henry IV. of Hartenberg and his son Poppo IX. The Hartenbergische Antheil, like the whole Lordship, came in 1371 to the line Aschach, in 1378 to the Counts of Schwarzburg, in 1416 also to the Counts of Henneberg-Schleusingen (see listed Einl.). From these the Osterburg was transferred to the Lords of Bibra (or already in 1384 by the Counts of Schwarzburg?), redeemed in 1452, but in 1453 again, along with other goods and rights, transferred, 1476 redeemed. In 1554 "it was given by Count Wilhelm to Kaspar of Oberrnitz and was still called a castle"; it must therefore have expired later. With the remaining property of Oberrnitz at Henfstädt, it came to Hanstein.

The ruin consists preferably of the main square and the approximately circular wall ring. All around runs the ditch and its outer enveloping. To the east and west, but especially to the south, the ground then falls quite strongly to the valley; So here the outer wall was more elevated. Vice versa, the further to the north, the more the trench was artificially deepened, in part here after the outer edge towards the rock. After this direction, the mountain rises higher, especially to the north and northwest, while to the northeast beyond the castle district, the height descends again somewhat in a rocky slope. The whole district is now quite overgrown with trees and bushes.

The square keep was probably built in the 13th century. It is built very firmly from bossed blocks in which the holes for the former lifting pliers (the wolf) are visible. Without cornice, it rises to a height of about 20 m in seven [formerly eight] projectiles. The basement is now inaccessible, into the ground floor south a newer rectangle door broken. A staircase, built by Amtmann von Breitenbach in 1743 and renewed by the current owner Freiherrn von Hanstein, leads outside to the 1st floor and into the old entrance door, which is occupied on the south side, which has once been renovated round-arched [but again broken down in the keystone]. On the 2nd floor a rectangular light gap. The interior is made accessible by wooden stairs. Above a half-timbered storey, room with windows, made by Amtmann von Breitenbach and renewed by Freiherrn von Hanstein after it had burned down in 1843. The upper floor is provided with a roof and slightly indented, so that on the wall base around a narrow handle is created, which provides a beautiful view. [First after Appunn the Thurm was surrounded by a square wall, which had already completely collapsed around 1820]

The perimeter wall, drawn around the castle district, is best preserved, in pieces up to about 10 m height, on the northeast, north and northwest sides. On the north-eastern side of this wall are the remains of a square tower rising from the bottom of the ditch. Here below a newer rectangular entrance is broken into the former basement, at the top at the height of the castle terrace the square crown opening of the basement exists. On the north-western side, a once very solid Mauerturmln rises in a three-quarter circle. Also in it is broken from the ditch a newer rectangle-entrance. Its 1st floor is from the castle district

from having been accessible and covered with a flat dome; Above it, the Thurm is still a piece of ruins. [Appunn saw four such towers at the Mauezz] On the west side are visible remnants of a wall running across the ditch. It is obtained over a flat arch, which can pass through the water, in strong blocks up to some height. [On it rested probably the pillars and other construction heaps of the former drawbridge] Also otherwise still several ruins scattered.

Appunn, in Gottschalck, Burgen und Bergschlösser V, 1821, p. Hennebergische Geschichte von Mag. Junker zu Schleusingen, in der herzogl. Biblioth., in Gotha, with an image of the Osterburg. Brückner, Landesk, S. 253 f. Galletti, S. 277. Lotz, Kunsttopogr. I, S. 490, mit Hinweis auf Unterfränk. Archive XIII, I, p. Piper, Burgenkunde, 1895, page 761, number 2 (Schultes, Diplom. House of Henneberg I, 314.333) Schultes, Themar, 104 ff., Spangenberg, Henneberg. Ohn, 1599, S. 135 f. 168. 208 Anm. Voit, S. 238 f.

**Chapel**, called "Steinerne Kirche" by the Uin inhabitants, 2 km southeast of Henfstädt on the Steinernes Berg. "Berg Kierlein" (little church?), shall he be saved. Otilia (cf. Ehrenberg, chapel), fell into disrepair after the introduction of the Reformation. The 4.7 m long west wall stands about 2 in height, on the inside left with a rectangle panel, and in the middle with the beginning of a window; also approaches of the north and south wall. Brückner, Landesk. 254 (here erroneously cited as belonging to Wachenbrunn). - Gelpke, p.