

Pordenone, the Castle

The castle of Pordenone appears in documents in 1276 when Patriarch Raimondo della Torre protests with the Emperor because Philip Ulrich of Carinthia, bishop of Salzburg, had built the castle. The fortress, which stands on a raised spur, separated from the city by a moat and facing east, was the residence of the Habsburg captains until 1508, then by Bartolomeo Liviano d'Alviano until 1537, and finally by the Venetian captain-supervisors until 1797. There are news of various restoration works in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1544 a part of it, the great tower, was adapted to prison, a function that still remains.

After a probable decline in the eighteenth century, in 1811 the Italic government sold the building to a private individual who, to make houses for rent, demolished the internal and external fortified structures; it was then repurchased by the Austrian government, which used it as a prison, a salt warehouse, rental housing, various offices, and a shelter. In 1842 it appears to be owned by the Royal Intendenza della Finanza of Treviso. In 1883-1887 it was turned into a prison.

In 1944 excavations at the foot of the structure for the construction of an anti-aircraft shelter, allowed the discovery of ancient foundations of the structure, resting on a conglomerate of rock and stones of a stream. In 1967, during the construction of some internal rooms, part of an ancient sixteenth century floor came to light.

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