

HISTORY

The territory on which the town of Uherské Hradiště spreads belonged to the core of Great Moravia, the first state of Western Slavs in the 9th and the beginning of the 10th centuries. The centre of development was the Na Valách gord and the Na Špitálkách settlement on the territory of today's Staré Město. These important places were complemented by the spiritual centre in Uherské Hradiště-Sady.

The royal town of Uherské Hradiště was founded in 1257 by Ottokar II of Bohemia at the place of ancient tradition, as a fortress protecting the southern and eastern borders of the kingdom from the raids of foreign troops. The town was surrounded by a wooden wall and from the first half of the 14th century by a ditch and earthen mound.

In the Middle Ages, Uherské Hradiště was one of the most important Moravian towns, with the greatest boom at the turn of the 15th and the 16th centuries when it was granted many privileges. In 1468-1470 and 1472-1474, its citizens defended themselves against the army of Matthias Corvinus, who in 1481 granted the town a new, improved emblem and the right to seal documents with red wax as evidence of respect for the bravery and loyalty of its citizens.

Over the following centuries, a series of hostile invasions and military clashes had occurred and in addition to the sufferings of war also frequent fires and epidemics. In 1681 the town almost burnt down and in 1715 it suffered the worst plague epidemic. All this was reflected not only in the life of the town's inhabitants, but also in its architectural appearance.

Still, the town has never been conquered, only in 1742 the Prussian army was let into the town based on the order of the regional governor. The fortress was abolished in 1782. During the 19th century, when the town became the seat of a number of offices, there was a further development of the town that spread beyond the original walls and gradually gained its present form.



1. Masaryk Square

The Masaryk Square is one of the two historically oldest squares in Uherské Hradiště. The Chapel of St. George that originally stood in its centre was rebuilt in the 15th century into the Gothic Church of St. George. In 1681 the church burnt down and after the futile efforts of reconstruction it was demolished in 1786.



2. The Complex of Jesuit Buildings

The Masaryk Square is dominated by the complex of Jesuit buildings, which is formed by the former Jesuit college, the Church of St. Francis Xavier and the former grammar school called Reduta. The entire complex was built between the years 1654 and 1729 in the Baroque style, and a number of significant artists – e.g. painters Jan Jiří Heintsch, Ignác Raab and sculptor Ondřej Schweigl – participated in the decoration of the church. There are two permanent exhibitions in the premises of the Jesuit buildings – a multimedia exhibition of the history of the town of Uherské Hradiště with a unique virtual tour and the Gallery of Joža Uprka, the most significant Moravian Slovakia painter.



3. New Town Hall

The New Town Hall, built at the turn of the 19th century stands in the south-west corner of the square. Its neo-Renaissance façade is decorated by atlantes, between which the town emblem is placed. In the ceremonial hall there are preserved wall paintings by the well-known painter Joža Uprka, depicting scenes from the foundation of the town by Ottokar II of Bohemia and the confirmation of the town privileges by George of Poděbrady.



4. Zelný (Vegetable) Market

Zelný Market got its name in the Middle Ages, when this place served as a small market for agricultural products. In its centre is an Art Nouveau cast-iron fountain (probably made by the foundries in Blansko) from the end of the 19th century.



5. Mariánské Square

is the second of the two historically oldest squares in Uherské Hradiště. It preserved its medieval rectangular ground plan; originally Gothic houses stood along its periphery that were replaced by Baroque houses after a fire in 1681. The most beautiful houses are those of Nos. 45, 46 and 61.



6. House No. 61

was built in 1711 in Baroque style. The original Baroque portal with the Latin inscription LABORE CREVI AMANDO LEVOR (I grew up by work, love has been rising me) was preserved to date with the chronogram of 1711.



7. The Column with a Statue of St. Florian

Near the house No. 61 there is a baroque column with a statue of St. Florian, built by the Royal Mayor and the burgess of Uherské Hradiště Jan František Schwarz as an expression of thanks for being rescued from Prussian captivity. The statue of St. Florian, a fire-fighter patron, varies from his typical depiction.



8. The Baroque Fountain

comes from the end of the 17th century. It is decorated by mascarons, a symbolic representation of a human face with an open mouth, from which water gushes.



9. The Marian Plague Column

is one of the monuments reminiscent of the plague epidemics that the town suffered in the past. It was built from Cetechovice marble in 1718-1721 as a thanks for averting the plague epidemic in 1715. The fountain that was originally in the current location of the column was moved to its present

place. The top of the column is formed by the sculpture of the Immaculate Conception; on the corner of the pedestal there are statues of St. Charles Borromeo, St. Francis Xavierius, St. Florian a St. Peter of Alcantara and in a grotto on the front there is a sculpture of St. Rosalia.



10. The Gallery of the Moravian Slovakia Museum

The building of the present Gallery of the Moravian Slovakia Museum is part of the former town walls and was built between the years 1721 and 1723 as an imperial military armoury on the site of the original Red Tower, which served as a gunpowder magazine and exploded in 1695. After the removal of the fortress during the reign of Joseph II the building served as a post office, a warehouse or a military hospital. Since 1962, the Gallery of the Moravian Slovakia Museum has its seat there.



11. Fortification Walls

There is one of the remains of the inner fortification walls near the Gallery of the Moravian Slovakia Museum. The town was fortified from the very beginning with the first walls being wooden palisades. The first stone town walls were built in the middle of the 14th century and consisted of inner and outer fortification walls, between which was a moat supplied with water from the Morava River.



12. The Chapel of St. Elizabeth

The oldest building in the town is the Gothic Chapel of St. Elizabeth built at the beginning of the 15th century next to the town hospital and rebuilt in the 17th century. The chapel has a preserved Gothic presbytery with a cross vault and external supporting pillars. The baroque façade originated during the rebuilding in the 17th century. Since its extensive reconstruction in 1995, a pharmacy is located in the chapel. There was nothing left of the Gothic hospital.



13. Franciscan Monastery

The Franciscan monastery was founded in 1491 by a Bishop of Oradea and the administrator of the Olo-mouč Bishopric Jan Filipec. The monastery is Baroque, built on a square ground plan in the middle with a paradise court where the oldest well in Uherské Hradiště is located. The most important and very representative rooms are the Baroque refectory and the Baroque library with their original furniture.



14. Church of the Annunciation of Virgin Mary

The Church of the Annunciation of Virgin Mary that was built at the turn of the 15th century comprises a part of the Franciscan monastery complex. Only the peripheral walls of the main nave and the presbytery were preserved from the original building after the radical reconstruction in the 17th and the 18th centuries. The church is Gothic in its core, with side chapels, arched in baroque barrel vaults. (On the left side of the entrance to the monastery there was a chapel of St. Rosalia between 1716 and 1876, whose memorial plaque is now placed in the foot of the monastery tower. On the right side of the church building there is a statue of St. John of Nepomuk, which originally stood by the Morava River next to the Hradištská Gate).



15. Moravian Slovakia Theatre

The building of the present-day Moravian Slovakia Theatre (originally the Koruna Hotel) was bought in 1909 by the Sokol organization that in the same year extended the building, added changing rooms and a wash room. In 1928-1930, a new, better-fitting building of the Sokol House was built. The Moravian Slovakia Theatre was founded in 1945 and the former Sokol House was lent to it in 1956.



16. Grammar School

The Grammar School in Uherské Hradiště was founded in 1884 as the first Czech secondary school in Moravian Slovakia. The school is built in the neo-Renaissance style

with a typical dome roof. The façade is decorated with sgraffiti and medallions that capture significant representatives of the nineteenth-century sciences.



17. Jewish Synagogue

Near the monastery is a Jewish synagogue built in 1875. In 1904 it was rebuilt in Art Nouveau style and a dome was added. During the Second World War, the Nazis demolished it and destroyed by fire. After the war it served cultural purposes, it was rebuilt into a two-storey building and since 1967 Bedřich Beneš Buchlovan's Library has its seat there. The restoration of the dome that took place in 2004 returned the building its original form.



18. Old Town Hall

The building of the Old Town Hall in Prostřední Street probably dates from the end of the 15th century. It originated by the combination of two houses: the older Gothic house on the left and the Renaissance central part of the passage and the upper hall on the floor and the younger Baroque house. Both houses are connected by a Baroque portal at the back of the passage. The town hall was rebuilt at the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th centuries, with further modifications in the 18th and the 19th centuries. The last extensive reconstruction dates back to the year 1995. The interesting feature of the Town Hall Tower is the fact that it is 28 inches deviated from its vertical axis.



19. Baroque Fountain

At the Masaryk Square there is a baroque fountain from the first half of the 18th century with a sculpture of dolphins and a pine cone. The original of the fountain was moved to the courtyard of the Gallery of the Moravian Slovakia Museum in 1979, with a copy standing in its original place.





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20. U Zlaté koruny (At the Golden Crown) Pharmacy

The U Zlaté koruny Pharmacy with a pseudo-Renaissance façade from 1884 and a baroque interior has already been serving its purpose from the end of the 17th century. Valuable Baroque ceiling frescoes in the interior of the pharmacy that represent the ancient doctors and pharmacists, are the work of Josef Ignác Sadler from the middle of the 18th century.



21. Building of the Slunce (Sun) Hotel

The building of the Slunce Hotel is the only Renaissance building in the town. It was built in 1578 and from 1637 it belonged to a monastery in Velehrad, which later set up a salt warehouse there. In the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th centuries the building underwent a number of modifications, which, unfortunately, significantly eroded its original Renaissance character, preserving only the Renaissance core within this burgher house. Today, the building serves as a hotel and the SLUNCE shopping arcade.



22. The Former Prison and the Palace of Justice

The former prison and the Palace of Justice are one of the first buildings to be built outside the town walls from 1891-1897. Since its inception, the prison had served for delinquents and for serving shorter sentences. In the years 1939-1945 the prison was used by the German occupation administration for the detention of political prisoners. In the 1950's, the Uherské Hradiště Prison became known by its extraordinary cruel persecutions of the opponents of communism. The prison was cancelled in 1960 and the building has not been used any more. The premises of the former Palace of Justice are home to the Secondary School of Applied Arts.



23. Chapel of St. Sebastian

The Baroque Chapel of St. Sebastian at the Palacký Square was built by town guards at the time of the plague in 1715 in the



area between the outer and inner town fortifications. In 1969, the chapel was moved several metres from its original site and then renovated in 1971.

24. The Moravian Slovakia Museum

The Moravian Slovakia Museum is housed in the Smetana Park in the building of the former Na Střelnici inn built in 1908. A side wing designed by the architect Bohuslav Fuchs was added to the original building in 1936 and 1940-1942. Since its inception, the Moravian Slovakia Museum has played an important role in the cultural events of the Uherské Hradiště region. In its main building in the Smetana Park we can get acquainted with the permanent ethnographic exhibition of Moravian Slovakia, which is about occupation, housing, original handicraft techniques, folk clothing, ceremonies and family and annual customs. In the modernly designed area, festive and ceremonial costumes, items of daily necessities and documents of exceptional skill and artistic feeling of the inhabitants of Moravian Slovakia are presented. Three-dimensional objects in the exhibition are complemented by multimedia elements.



25. Slovácká buda

On the edge of the park there is a building known as Slovácká buda, which was built as a replica of the folk dwelling at the time of "Exhibition of Moravian Slovakia 1937". After the flood in 1997 it was reconstructed and in 2014 decorated with replicas of the original painting - traditional Moravian Slovakia ornaments. Today it is used for cultural events or as a rehearsing room for folk ensembles.



26. Historic Cellars

In the picturesque valley below the southern and south-west slopes of Černá hora mountain (also referred to as Rochus), we will find a number of historic cellars. Monks from the monastery in Velehrad - the Cistercians - cultivated vine in the vicinity of Uherské Hradiště. The owners of the vineyards in Mařatice cadastral area were mainly burghers from Uherské Hradiště, who had been building there not only the wine cellars, but also the summer dwellings above them, during



the Baroque period. At the end of the 19th century, the vineyards were destroyed by phylloxera and the cultivation stagnated. Only after 1945 there was a further development and planting of vineyards both in the country and town vineyards. Mařatice vineyards and cellars attracted prominent personalities. The musicians Kreutzer, Ondříček, Kubelík, Novák, Suk, writers Havlíček, Heyduk, Jirásek, Čech, Herben, Durych, Machar, artists Aleš, Mánes, Slavíček, Kalivoda, Trampota, Uprka, Frolka, Lolek and many others visited them.



27. Matthias Gate

The Matthias Gate is the only surviving town gate and one of the few remains of the original town fortification. Originally the gate should serve as an escape route when the town was attacked. There is a story about King Matthias linked to it.

