

THE OLD MEDIEVAL CASTLE

The square of the French Memory is located on the same place as the medieval old castle of Rixheim, mentioned in 1347, in a document related to the belongings of the Lucelle abbey. It is mentioned a field « bi der bürge », « next to the castle ». Unfortunately, no other sources mentioned it.



We know precisely where it was thanks to a map made in the eighteenth century by the engineer geographer Antoine Régemorte. The extract on the left shows the location of the old « Wasserburg », a fortified building completely surrounded by water moats, powered by the source that originated in the place called Quellmatt, located in the hills.

In the beginning of the twentieth century, a pond was taken all the space between the «rue de l'Abattoir» (street of the slaughterhouse) and the «rue de la Brasserie» (street of the brewery). It was shaped in half-moon as were half of the old water moats. This pond now reduced to a small basin, had an important utility until the half of the twentieth century. It was used as a fire fighting reservoir, but also a drinker for animals, a swimming pool for the children and a skating ring in the winter.



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