



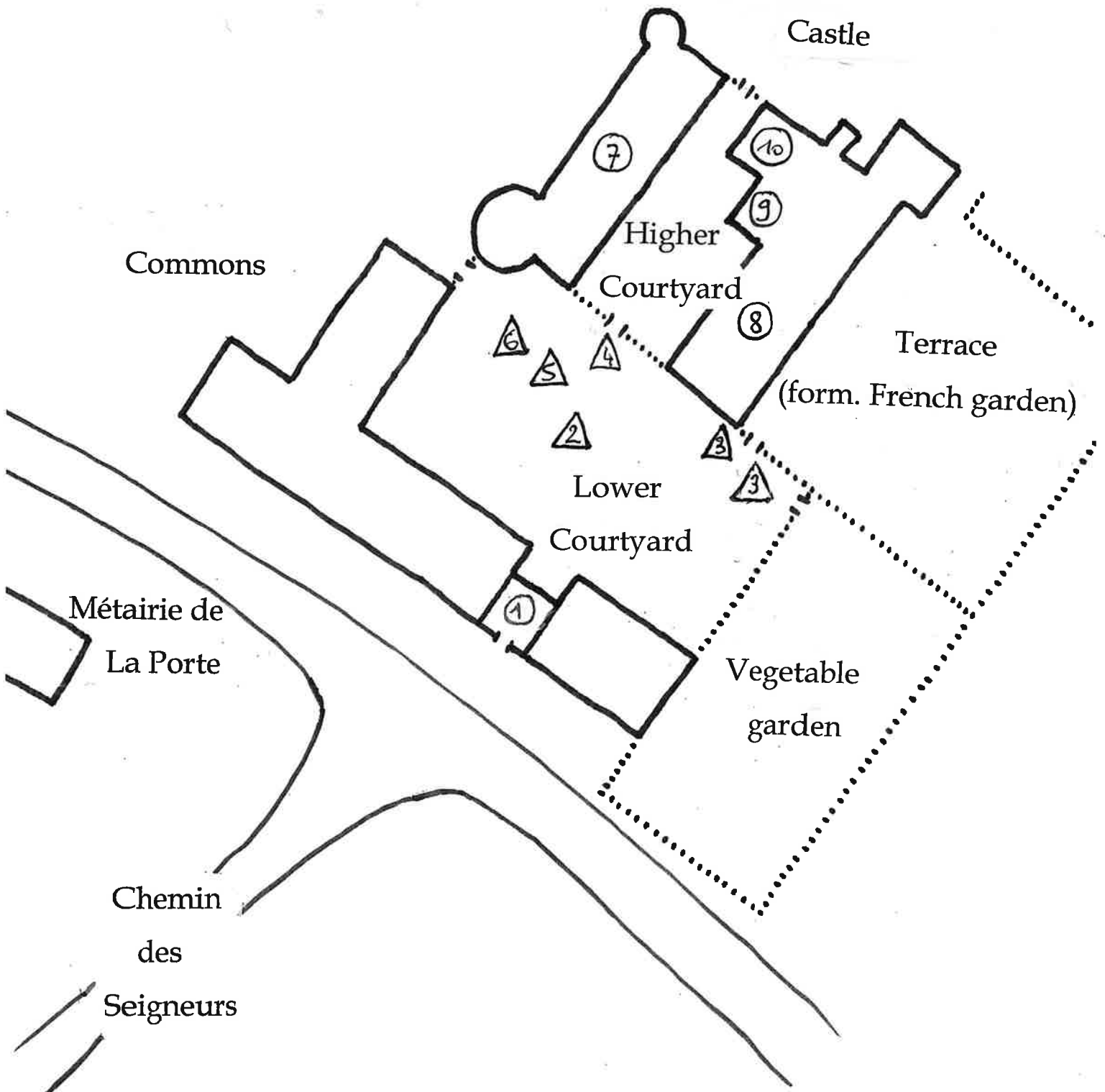
Montautre

1403

Site map

○ buildings

△ remains



Château de Montautre (15th century)

1 Entrance Gate (15th-17th century)

2 Fragment of Gallo-Roman milestone (converted into a millet mill)

3 Two Gallo-Roman funeral coffins (2nd century)

4 Two monolithic columns (Gallo-Roman type)

5 Gallo-Roman funeral coffins (3rd century)

6 Millstone of the Montautre Mill

7 Guards' quarters (circa 1500, partially collapsed in mid-18th century)

7.1 medieval stables (1st floor) and mini-museum

7.2 chief of staff room (2nd floor)

7.3 guards' room (2nd floor) with French Renaissance-style ceiling (1500)

7.4 bakery and laundry room (1st floor)

7.5 chapel (consecrated in 1716)

8 Lord's family quarters (15th century)

8.1 kitchen (1st floor, restructured in 16th century)

8.2 living room (1st floor, with 18th-c woodwork, former 15th-c lower room)

8.3 lord's bedroom (2nd floor, 15th century)

8.4 bedroom of Mr. and Mrs Dufour de la Prugne (2nd floor, art déco-style)

9 Dungeon/Staircase tower (16th century)

9.1 escape footbridge from the dungeon to the surrounding walkway

9.2 « citadel bedroom » with mâchicoulis and surrounding walkway

10 18th century building (former kitchen transformed into library)

Not included : 2 wells, 3 natural springs, 2 wash-houses, a fishery (42 meters long), and an hydraulic network of canals preserved for more than 10 kms : they provided water for the moans, the gardens, the ponds and the yards

History

Montautre benefits from an exceptional location that undoubtedly explains its occupation since Neolithic times : it overlooks a tributary of the Semme (the advantage of a dominant position), it is located on the edge of a plateau (an advantage for cattle and cultivation) and it enjoys several natural springs (advantage for daily life). The numerous Gallo-Roman remains suggest an important building that tradition reports as being a temple dedicated to Mercury, which has not yet been confirmed.

From 1403, life in Montautre is well known, thanks to the castle archives carefully preserved by the family who occupied it for six centuries. Originally a secondary stronghold, Montautre gained importance thanks to a family which chose the party of the King of France and remained loyal to Him. The first known "Lord of Montostre", Olivier Mondin, was a squire and was confirmed noble by Louis XI. He built his seigniorial residence around 1465, next to an earlier building dated 1445. Opposite, the guards' residence and its two towers were built around 1500.

The high courtyard is enclosed by machicolated walls which are accessed by a drawbridge over a moat, which has now disappeared.

In the 16th century, François Mondin was promoted to the court of François I and then Henri II as a gentleman in charge of "the venery and vaultraits of the King" (the hunting dogs). This is the time of the construction of the staircase tower (1550-1560). His son, Gabriel Mondin, distinguished himself at the siege of La Rochelle (1573) led by the Count of Anjou (future Henri III) during the Wars of Religion.

At the end of the 17th century, Louis XIV charged his « dear and beloved » François Mondin with setting up a company to join the Limoges regiment of which he would take command as sergeant-major.

The lords of Montautre paid tribute to the Baron of Fromental for Montautre but also to the Viscount of Bridiers for the lordships acquired by alliance of La Barde and Rechinevoisin.

In 1735, Marie-Marthe Mondin, the only heir to the estate, married Joseph-Daniel Bony de Lavergne, Count of Ladignac who became Lord of Montautre. It was their daughter, Marie de Bony, who inherited the estate and married Charles-Sylvain Dufour de la Prugne.

Upon the death of Marie-Thérèse Dufour, shortly before the year 2000, the estate was transferred to Norma and Rini Schipper, then to Catherine and Serge Lacaze in 2018

Today : under the French Government local supervision (DRAC and UDAP) we have started a major restoration plan dedicated to historical and authentic preservation of Montautre. Private crowdfunding under the French Heritage fundation umbrella (Fondation du Patrimoine) is on-going to save the guards building including chapel, tower, bread ovens, guards room ceiling, ...). Your support is welcome !

We share our passion for the site : historical guided tours (reservation required), bed & breakfast accommodation in the oldest part of the castle (1440), seminars, public meetings or NGO gatherings in our guards rooms (1495). All details on our website : www.chateau-de-montautre.fr.

Please do not hesitate to E-mail at contact@chateau-de-montautre.fr or call Serge Lacaze at +33 (0)6.07.53.00.45