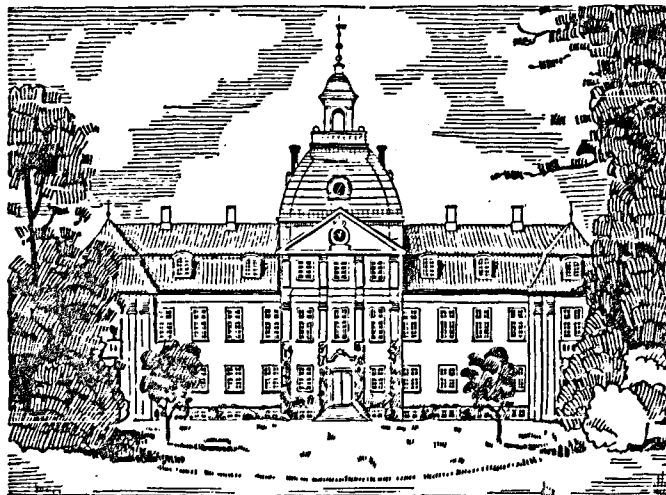


Konstanzforschungsanstalt  
Bibliothek  
für Fischerai, Hamburg

THÜNEN

Digitalization sponsored  
by Thünen-Institut



CHARLOTTENLUND CASTLE

The history of Charlottenlund dates from the 17th century. At that time the place was called "the small deergarden". It belonged to the king, who in 1663 gave one of his valets permission to establish a resort there.

In 1671 the buildings were taken over by Ulrik Frederik Gyldenløve, natural son of King Frederik III. Gyldenløve improved and enlarged the gardens, and as a sort of compensation the king (Christian V) conveyed to him "the small deergarden". The wood, which already then had about the same extent as now, was after Gyldenløve named "Gyldenlund" (i.e. golden grove). In the neighbourhood of the resort, and probably at the same place where now the castle is situated, Gyldenløve had his own summer-house.

Already in 1681 the king again acquired Gyldenlund. About 1690 he had the summer-house rebuilt. The new house had two stories, each of them containing a hall with many windows from where the view could be enjoyed. Gyldenlund was now a place of excursion for the royal family, but only intended for trips in the daytime as it was not possible to put up for the night there. The birthdays of the members of the royal family were often celebrated at Gyldenlund.

A few years after his accession in 1699 Frederik IV left the country-house to his son, crown prince Christian (later king Christian VI) who in 1717-18 had the house rebuilt. In a contemporary description it is called "a small, but neat summer-house". The court often visited the place, especially in the hunting season.

At his accession in 1730 Christian VI presented Gyldenlund to his sister, princess Charlotte Amalie (1706-1782). In the years 1731-33 she had the old summer-house replaced by a somewhat larger and more stately building with front towards the Sound. This building constitutes the middle part of the present Castle. It had a basement, 2 stories and an attic (towards east) with 3 windows, and mansard roof.

Characteristic for the baroque style of the building is the emphasizing of the central part by outside staircase, portal and pilasters. As a decoration over the entrance portal was placed princess Charlotte Amalie's back-to-back monogram which can still be seen there.

It has been said that the exterior is distinguished neither by clearness nor by elegance, but that it emanates a certain plain comfort that suits the place and interprets its popular spirit.

At the ground floor were the hall and the garden-room, at the first floor the festival hall with the portraits, still to be seen there, of Christian VI and his queen, Sophie Magdalene.

After this rebuilding the country-house was re-named. Christian VI is said to have scratched these lines on a window-pane of the new building: "Gyldenlund muss fort, Charlottenlund heisst dieser Ort". Thus the place was named after princess Charlotte Amalie.

During half a century the princess spent the summers at the small country seat near the Sound, and the court often paid a visit there. During winter it happened that they sledged from town to Charlottenlund.

After the death of princess Charlotte Amalie in 1782 the Castle was taken over by the Crown. During the war in 1807 it was occupied by British troops.

Later the place was frequently used by princess Louise Charlotte (a sister to king Christian VIII) and her consort, landgrave Wilhelm of Hessen.

At their wedding in 1869 crown prince Frederik (later king Frederik VIII) and princess Louise of Sweden moved into the Castle where for the rest of their lives they spent the summers, and the Castle was the frame of the childhood and youth of their sons, the later kings Christian X (of Denmark) and Håkon VII (of Norway).

Originally the building had a length of 27 m only and was thus rather small for permanent use. In 1880-81 two wings were therefore added. They are felt as a natural and harmonic extension of the old castle. It is strongly to be regretted, however, that at the same time the architect added a dome and a lantern which, nowadays at any rate, is felt to be completely inconsistent with the unpretentiousness of the building. It is to be deplored that it has not yet been possible to have removed the dome and the lantern.

At the time of the extension of the Castle the buildings near Strandvejen were erected to house some of the servants. Also stables and a coach house were built there.

After the death of Frederik VIII in 1912 the queen dowager continued to spend the summers at the Castle.

The queen dowager died in 1926. The Castle remained empty from then until 1936 when the Danish Institute for Marine Research and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea moved in. The stables now house the permanent exhibition "The Fish and the Sea".

The garden, which originally was in baroque style, has long ago been changed into the English style. Attention is especially drawn to the three larch-trees immediately to the west of the building. They undoubtedly date back to the time of princess Charlotte Amalie.

On the great lawn of the garden near the big larch-trees, a monument was unveiled in 1938, to the memory of king Frederik VIII and queen Louise.

Compiled and produced 1966  
by staff members of  
the ICES Service Hydrographique