

# Monuments and matters of interest

## 1) Building A

Historical monument. It is the oldest building in the asylum. The Jesuites built it as the basic building of the monastery in 1717-1727. You can find a richly decorated frater (a refectory and a ceremonial room) inside. Ceiling fresco paintings are unique. They show pictures from St. František Xaverský's life. Oil ceiling painting is completed with rich stuccos.

## 2) The Church

Historical monument. It was built to the monastery residence in 1735. It is sacrificed to St. František Xaverský and it looks like the Prague church of St. Kliment. It has a rich and valuable artistic and craftsman equipment. The fresco paintings on the arch are the work of Jesuit Kramolin. The organ from 1736 was built by Václav Pantíček from Dačice.

## 3) Gate Markéta

Historical monument. It is a part of the former monastery complex. It has got the name „Markéta“ according to a fresco painting portrayed in its gable-St. Markéta throwing a reaping hook in the rye.

## 4) Water supply tower

Historical monument. It was built in 1908 when extending the capacity of the asylum. It is 26,3m high and it has served as a water tank up today. It was reconstructed in 1997-99 including both tanks. Its content is 85 and 95 m<sup>3</sup>.

## 5) Administrative building

An interesting building thanks to its preserved functionalistic look. Built in 1927. There have been offices inside until today. Originally there were apartments or later also a toddler section. At present they are substituted with an ambulatory surgery, a chemistry or an archive.. In the foyer there is an exhibition hall with a permanent display of different artists who donated their works to the asylum as a gift.

## 6) School

Institutional school was opened festively on the 28th of November 1926. Apart from six classrooms, a gym hall and workshops it contained an inside swimming pool. From the beginning a large part of the park belonged to it together with children playground and a solar bath.

## 7) Recovery building

Originally an autopsy room with a laboratory and a funeral room. Built in 1924-1929.

## Matters of interest of the park

## 8) Quercus rubra

The age of this tree is estimated to 110 years.

## 9) Thuja plicata

The age of this tree is estimated to 110 – 120 years.

## 10) Tilia tomentosa

The place of grafting is still evident on these trees. Their age is about 110 years.

## 11) Fraxinus excelsior

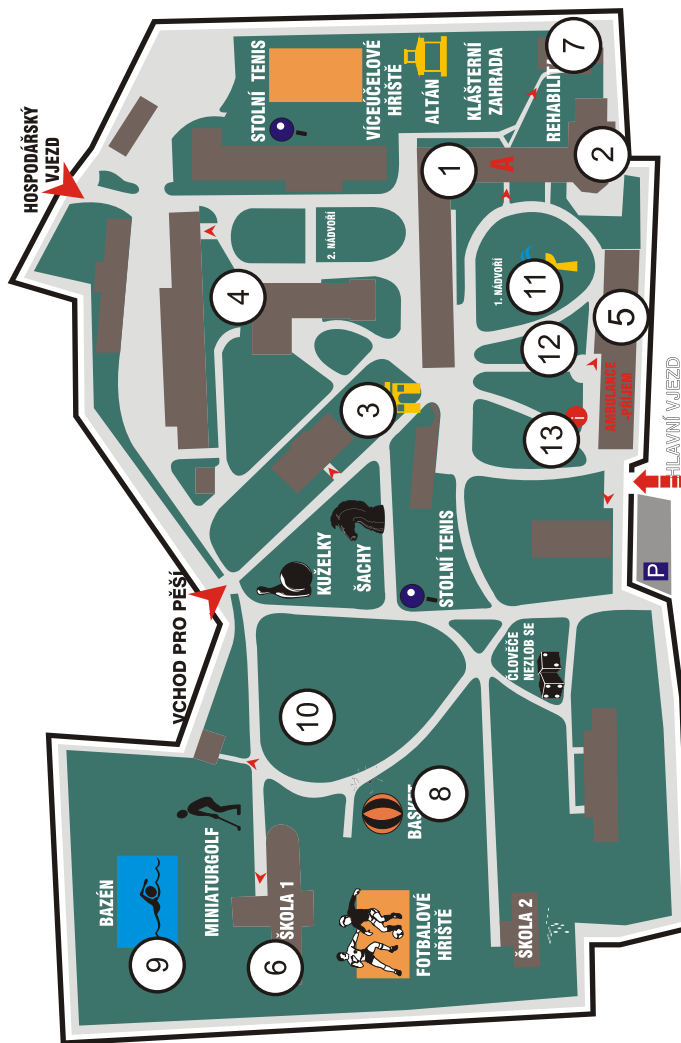
This tree can be about 100 years old.

## 12) Quercus robur

The only tree of its kind in our park.

## 13) Sorbus aucuparia

The rareness of this tree is in its relatively big size of the trunk – cca 40 cm and age of 80-100 years.



On the occasion of European heritage days Children's mental home issued. Opařany 2008

## Children's mental home Opařany



Professional medical institution for children  
and the young with special care in the field of  
young generation psychiatry.

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# History of the place

The oldest mention dates back to 1287. According to which there used to be a fort with a brewery in these places. It was made of stone and wood and when it was pulled down in 1727, there were still rooms preserved.

During the period of its existence there have been a number of owners. For example in 1268 it was bought by Přemysl Otakar II. During the Hussite wars it belonged to Tábor temporarily. Anna Hozlauer from Kalenice na Olší, who bought Opařany in 1628, had a new mansion (chateau) built on its place. Jan Jáchym, Františka Slavotová's son, was handed over the village in 1656 and sixteen years later he sold everything to a Jesuit school Jesus's journeyman in Jindřichův Hradec. Two years later the grange of Opařany together with other property was bought by a Jesuit school in Prague and they joined it to their property in Bernartice and Dobronice.

When the Jesuit came, there was an extensive building-up. They pulled down the ruins of an old fort and also the chapel. A complex of monastery and a church sacred to St. František Xaverský grew on the edge of the village.

When the Jesuit friary was abandoned in 1773, its former property in Opařany and Bernartice fell to the educational fund. Princess Kvilda Balduine from Paar bought it for her oldest son Charles in a public auction on the 28th of March 1825. This way the monastery became a part of the mansion in Bechyně and the authorities and officers' apartments were moved over there. They started to call the monastery a chateau. In 1854 the Paar family offered it to the provincial committee as a branch of the Prague asylum for the first time. After their failure they repeated the offer in 1861. Seven years later they were considering establishing a jail there, but it did not work out fine due to water shortage.

Finally in 1887 the provincial committee rented and later bought the premises in order to establish an asylum for the insane.



# History of Children's mental home

„Czech king provincial institute branch for the insane in Opařany“ was put into operation on the first of September 1887. It was the branch of the Prague insane asylum. There had been many acts and arrangements before it was opened. The reason to the Prague asylum insane branch was a growing number of the sick. A committee sent to Opařany to check through the offered chateau came to the conclusion, „that the chateau of Opařany, due to its position and climate as well as a view to its building facility and after all to all the circumstances, perfectly fitted for the insane asylum.“

At the beginning the asylum had 211 beds. In the fall of 1887 there were 138 patients from the Prague asylum moved to Opařany and in 1889 there were already 279 sick. Therefore there was a new pavilion built.

As there was a growing number of children and the young in the insane asylums after World War I, a need to concentrate the care of mentally sick children in one home emerged.

Therefore the provincial administrative committee told the management of the Opařany asylum to file a proposal to convert it into a children's institution...

It was decided to convert it into a children's institution by the provincial administrative committee for Czech at their meeting in March 1923. But the first children patients were accepted only in the fall of the following year. In 1927 the institution enlarged so much that it had its own school, kindergarten, autopsy room... Altogether 22 buildings. It looked as an independent village, which was absolutely self-sustaining as for children nursing and upbringing with all the devices of medical science then. It was sufficient for 450 children, which made it one of the largest children's asylums in Europe.

During World War II it was temporarily moved out in context of establishing a German military hospital. After the war, there was (again temporarily) Czech Army personnel.

In 1953 the asylum was extended to a toddler section of twenty-two beds. But the medical institution was overcrowded anyway. It served more as a throw-away institution for the chronic sick than a medical institution. It corresponded to its material as well as personnel equipment.

Only the new director, who entered his post in 1955, changed the work of the medical institution. It started to follow more the diagnostic and medical way. The institution was slowly converted into a real medical home, where children got a real, modern psychiatric care. With the goal to improve the care, in 1975 its capacity was reduced.

The started process of care improvement ran (with a short interruption at the end of the 70s) until the political turnover in 1989. In connection with society reorganization the asylum changed its trustee. From the County institution of national health in České Budějovice it passed on to health care ministry and it is getting familiarized with a new system of health care financing. It starts to fight the lasting economical situation which is getting worse. Though it has significant merit in the field of pedopsychiatry in the specialist as well as economic area. An ambulatory place of work of children psychiatry comes into existence here.

In the past years it has enjoyed unusual development in the field of technical equipment modernizing, buildings renovation and humanization of surroundings. It introduces recovery and resocialization programs. Thanks to children movement Multipled and sponsors it gains a swimming pool, a cliffhanger wall, a multiple-use playground, a farm, a grove, a hydrotherapy, a minigolf, a tearoom or a club. For the first time of its existence it is opened to public.

# The Park

The exact date of the foundation of the park is unknown. It is for sure that originally it was much smaller than today. According to archive maps, during the Jesuit activity the courtyard was divided into two symmetrical areas. The roads imitated the ground plan of the buildings. The surrounding area was evidently a built-up area, filled with trees in some places, without a bigger composition design.

A map from about 1840 already shows that the base of the park used to be a fixed grid of trees. The boundary of the chateau garden imitates country roads below the central gate and the present eastern boundary of the area. The area of the park is intersected by two cross roads. In the area, there is a kitchen garden and a small greenhouse. Below the chateau windows, the trees line up a large water reservoir. The western wing of the park used to serve as a forest tree nursery.

The park was probably extended to today's area size only in the 19th century. We can guess so from the new part of the area which looks like an English park.

The park was rooted most likely without any composition design. Above all leafy trees in combination with fruit trees were rooted and only a small number of coniferous trees. Gradual plantations were concentrated on leafy, fruit trees and bushes. Coniferous are the youngest ones in the form of hedges.

Trees of all categories of park value can be found in the area. Reaching from distinctively valuable to half-dead trees. There are about 400 trees, of which 136 coniferous and 259 leafy ones.

The only symmetrical items are two alleys of maples with formed tree tops and in the area outside the chateau there are lime trees which bend over the roads. The park is a preserved national historical landmark. The trees are interesting as for variety and age. An instructive footpath with descriptions of the most valuable ones leads through the area. It serves as a background for sporting programs, leisure time activities and it also offers relaxing zones.

