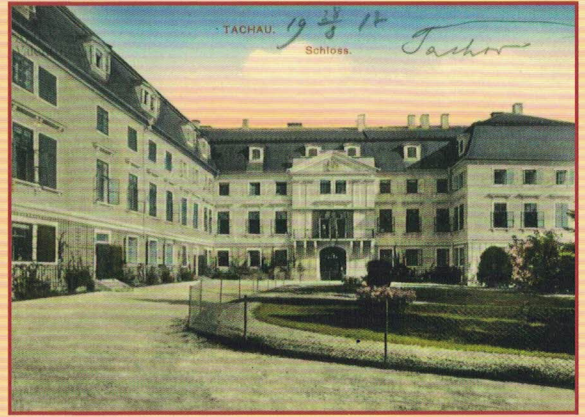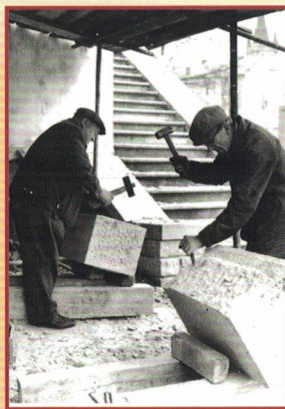Jízdárna Světce
národní kulturní památka

Tachov Chateau

Tachov Chateau is located on the site of the original medieval castle. It got its present form at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, when the new owner of the Tachov estate, Joseph Nicolas Windischgrätz, built it in the modern classical style.

The chateau was belonged by this noble family to the 1930s. Then the chateau became the property of the Czechoslovak state whose government planned to build a State Office there, but this was not realised because of the Second World War began. During the war the chateau was occupied by a hospital and an army as well. Just after the war there was a camp for Germans from Tachov who were be destined to move away.

Then came the worst stage in the history of this monument. The chateau had been used since 1947 as a granary, warehouse, furniture store etc. Nobody cared about the building during these years and at the end of the 1960s the whole building was almost all desolated. It was already planned to demolished. Thanks to the pressure of public opinion and also to the group

of retired craftsmen, who decided to rescue old chateau, was the idea about demolition cancelled and in 1961 the gradual rescue of the whole building began. It lasted until 1983. It was already at the time of the renovation that it was decided that one part of chateau would be used by the Municipal National Committee and the second part would be the seat of the Folk Art School – now the Primary Art School, which is still active today. The Municipal National Committee had the seat in the chateau until the year 2012.

Tachov Chateau

Svetce

The hamlet of Svetce is located 2 km west of the center of Tachov and is connected with the town by a road and picturesque path commonly referred to as 'Prince's Alley'.

A small church that once stood in the area lends its name to the hamlet. According to legend, its construction was prompted by the appearance of fourteen lights above a nearby boulder supposedly representing the Fourteen Holy Helpers in need. Upon the discovery of pilgrims gathered to pay homage to the apparition, a godless knight violently struck the lights with his sword, creating panic and confusion amongst the worshippers. In demonstration of the lights' supernatural power, the ground is said to have opened, swallowing the knight whole.

Although early records suggest the founding of the church in the mid-14th century, more convincing data about its existence does not emerge until the 1500s. At the beginning of the 17th century the church is described as 'unkept', later giving way to the newly built church of the nearby standing monastery.

Pauline Monastery in Svetce

Pauline monks were brought to Svetce by the new owner of Tachov's dominion, Jan Filip Husmann of Nameda. In 1639, Jan Filip Husmann presented the monks with the Church of Fourteen Holy Helpers and helped to finance a new monastery; however, the monastery church was not erected until 1671-1674 under a new landowner, Earl Losy of Losinthal.

The Riding School in Svĕtce

In 1785, reforms of the Emperor Joseph II led to the closing of Pauline monasteries throughout the land and the Svetce monastery was abolished. Later, the hamlet was acquired by its last feudal owner – the noble family of Windischgrätz. In 1858, at almost 70-years-old, Field Marshal Alfred I Windischgrätz began the construction of a grand manor house on the site. Progress on the building of the estate ceased in 1862 when the death of Marshal Windischgrätz brought the project to a standstill.

Although reconstruction of the riding hall is not yet complete, guided tours are available to groups which book in advance.

On July 1st 2010 the Svetce riding hall acquired the status of an official national cultural landmark of the Czech Republic. The building combines elements of aristocratic structure with industrial architecture; the preserved roof trussing is one of the building's most unique characteristics, boasting the so-called lantern which lights the inner hall.