



The former royal town of Vodňany



In 1646 there were with the emperor Ferdinand III (1637 – 1657) **The clever ones from Vodňany** **The legends** In this way Ferdinand III paid for the cobblestones twice. "The emperor himself can see that he didn't give enough money". Those ones then required a new contribution, because as it was said: burghers' houses) leading to the square which was still full of mud. that new cobblestones were only in the streets (in front of the tower, on the south side there is the Czech royal crest and on the preserved. Now there is the town crest on the east side of the laughing sock for the then windings. This sight hasn't been decorated by his initials and fish with a year. It was probably the was restored and in memory of a dean Antonín Jan Vokoun it was in the cage on the church tower. In 1734 after great fire the tower folk became a laughing stock and they were said to breed a carp

The carp in the cage



The decanal church was established concurrently with the town. There was built a new pres-btery in the style of high Gothic in the 1st half of the 15th century by Mr. Jáklik and his son Václav. In the 80s of the 16th century the northern nave with an organ gallery and entrance hall was adjoined. The church was extensively damaged by fire in 1722, then it was restored. Apparently at this time the church tower was decorated by the coats of arms of the town of Vodňany, coats of arms of the Czech kingdom and of at that time a dean A. Vokoun. It was thoroughly re-Gothicized in 1894 – 1897 by R. Stech according to the designs of J. Mockler. At the same time the interior was decorated by the mural frescos, the gables on the west front were decorated with graffiti and the windows in presbytery with window paintings after the designs of Mikoláš Aleš. It was furnished with pseudo-Gothic furnishings. On the vault over the high altar there are painted 4 carps of Vodňany. Aleš' s original sketches together with the individual items of the original movable chateaus can be found and seen in the collection of the Town Museum and Gallery. In the 64-meter high tower there hang 6 bells, the largest one

The Decanal Church of the Birth of Virgin Mary

of St. John of Nepomuk (about 1730). This picturesque quiet place is called Vodňany Venice. The former Gate of Pisek the canal is spanned by the low stone bridge with crucifix and the statue of preserved prismatic bastion they come from the 15th and 16th centuries, built on one older foundations. 3 medieval town gates (of Bavorov, Pisek, Týn) and one modern one (New) were demolished in about 1840. A medieval technical relic with economic and defensive importance is the millrace along the north edge of the town core. Nearby the former Gate of Pisek the canal is spanned by the low stone bridge with crucifix and the statue

with St. John of Nepomuk statue.

The town walls and a bridge over the millrace canal

Historical sights

school in Protivín. *The Memorial Hall of František Herites* (1851 – 1929) introduces a Vodňany native, a pharmacist, a writer of the novels set in the small town, a literary editor, for the certain time also a mayor of the town and especially a leader of the cultural events in Vodňany. The furniture and the things from the Herites family estate create the atmosphere of the town household of the end of the 19th century. Remarkable is also the large family library, where are hidden lots of foreign-language publications, but especially the presents from their literary friends with the personal dedications. *The Memorial Hall of Julius Zeyer* (1841 – 1901) gets to know the 19th century Czech literature important personality. This writer lived in Vodňany in 1887 – 1899 predominantly in the baroque house “U čápů” and he was a friend of F. Herites and a poet O. Mokřý (1854 – 1899). Enchanted by this small town and his surroundings he made a lot of his friends visit it (Z. Braunerová, A. Chittussi, F. Bílek, A. Heyduk) and he wrote here many of his books. Exhibited collection of ceramics, china, glass and textile introduces Zeyer as a passionate collector and traveller. Neo-Renaissance furniture from the 80s of the 19th century tells us not only about the taste of the owner but also about the need of the men's household of that time. *In the room of dr. Žahour* there are shown the portraits and personal things of Vodňany personalities (J. Zrzavý, O. Mokřý, B. Žahour, V. Kopista...) and a part of a library of M. Havel Gelastus Vodňanský from the 16th century.



been revealed yet.

2 ends and at each end there are 2 houses. The right house hasn't in the abandoned gallery. The present Heritesova Street has tunnel to the villages of Píražák where there are the statues hidden Hrnčířská (Heritesova) Street there leads the underground place. It is said that from the corner house at the end of former Apostles long ago. In the war times they were hidden in the secret The altar in Vodňany church was decorated by 12 silver statues of **The silver statues in the underground tunnel**

the parish office of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. Budějovice and crowned with a gilded cup on the top. In the building there is to be found there rises the atypical 20-meter high tower, designed by an architect Weinzierl from České author of interior decoration is V. Churaň from Píchačovic. Neighboring the old cemetery modified by a local master-builder A. Krížek. The opening ceremony was held in 1925. The ...of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church was built since 1923 according to Procházka's designs,

John Huss' Community Centre

1960 together with the ceremonial hall.

private ownership in 1787, re-consecrated 1816. Since 1860 it has been the property of the town of Vodňany. To the chapel there was removed the cemetery which has been in use since

It was founded and built 1730 – 1732 by Kristián Jonáš. It was closed and sold off to the

The Chapel of St. Adalbert (Vojtěch)

have kept preserved. Since 2005 it has been called The Park of John Paul II. place. Only the graves of the Herites family, the Mokřý family and neo-Gothic dean tomb ing cemetery was after the winding up in the 80s of the 20th century converted into a sacred there stands the forged cross from the year 1847 with a newer statue of Jesus Christ. Adjoin-furnishings are of the neo-Renaissance and neo-baroque origins. In front of the church Lord Jesus was given to the church by the empress mother Caroline Augusta. Most of the after designs of J. Sandner, was consecrated 1848. The altarpiece of the Christening of the in 1843 because of the unsatisfactory technical condition. The present empire church, built plain Gothic building, which used to stand in the middle of the cemetery, was pulled down Originally it was the hospice and cemetery church, indirectly mentioned in 1414. Original

The Church of St. John the Baptist

Jan which was smashed taking down for war purposes in 1917.

– Marek – was casted in 1725. At the south foot of the church there stands the missionary

The Town Museum and Gallery

In 1895, supported especially by the writers J. Zeyer, F. Herites and O. Mokřý, there was orga-nized the ethnographic exhibition collecting the first items of the future museum collection. Its installation was realized 10 years later in the Town Hall. The first custodian of the *new museum* was a teacher Haštal Mostecký, who took the main credit for development of the museum between two wars. Since 1959 the museum has used the premises of *the former synagogue*. From the 1st May until the end of September it is possible to visit the exposition called *The Fishing Tradition in Vodňany* about the local fish farming, fishing and miller's trade. It was created in cooperation with The Secondary Fisheries School. All the year round *in the Town Hall* there is opened the *Town Gallery*, founded in 1967. Dr. B. Ža-hour gave to his birth town 157 paintings by 95 Czech painters of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries (O. Blažiček, V. Brožík, O. Bubeníček, A. Kalvoda, F. Kaván, K. V. Mašek, J. Panuška, J. Ullmann, J. Úprka, F. Ženíšek ...). His act inspired a lot of other donors and thanks to them there came to being the valuable collection of works of art, which has been supported by the goal-directed purchases since 1992 made by the Foundation of Zdeněk Novák and Marie Nováková. The largest collection of the drawings is on the show in *the Hall of Mikoláš Aleš* (1852 – 1913). They are the designs and sketches for the decoration of the Decanal church in Vodňany and the



At Fucík, who won his nickname Kudlíčka. It is said that he made Jewish prayer room where he frighntened to death the praying Jews. One of his attempts finished as landing on the window of the then wings and he was flying with the help of air bladders full of march gas. His primary has neither been confirmed nor refuted. "The bird man" was buried in the cemetery in Bílá Hůrka in 1804 and 50 years later until these days.

The bird man

citizenship from the representatives of the town.

Hudečková, a ceramist, decorated the foyer of the school. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the opening the school Mr. and Mrs. Hudeček received the honorary it was situated in front of the newly built school in the Bavorovská Street. His wife Olga created by the academic sculptor Miroslav Hudeček from Kácany near Prague in 1977 and On the contrary the youngest statue in Vodňany called "The butterfly on the flower" was by Mr. Vojtěch Větrovský with his journeymen. The statue was restored in 2007.

penalties for mutual insults among the townsfolk. Statuary and building work was done in about 1730. The statue of St. patron of good reputation was partly financed from the the Mlýnská Street. Its creating was inspired by the dean of Vodňany Antonín Jan Vokoun most favourite one is the Statue of St. John of Nepomuk on the bridge over the millrace in Vodňany there are only 5 statues on the built up area of 307 ha. The oldest and also the

The oldest and the youngest statues

and industry. pal coat of arms and symbols of the activities done in the town – fish farming, agriculture statue of Liberty. Below the statue, on the middle column, there can be seen both the munit-It was adapted in 1928 according to the design of J. Kvasančíka, the author of the allegorical

The Fountain in the Square of Liberty

The plain building in the classicist style. Since its completion 1860 to the 2nd world war former synagogue there is the building of the former Jewish school from 1868. The cemetery ments in 1959 it has been used as the exhibition area of the Town Museum. Behind the it served for the divine services of the local Jewish religious community. After the improve-The former synagogue

The model of the town in 1837



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Gallery (the building of the Town Hall)
April – September
Tue – Sun 9 – 12, 13 – 17
October – December
Tue – Thu 9 – 12, 13 – 16
Fri 9 – 12
Sun 13 – 16

Museum (the former synagogue)
May – September
Tue – Sun 9 12, 13 – 16



1



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1_ The former Synagogue
2_ The Church of St. John the Baptist
3_ The Decanal Church of the Birth of Virgin Mary
4_ John Hus' Community Centre
5_ The Chapel of St. Adalbert (Vojtěch)



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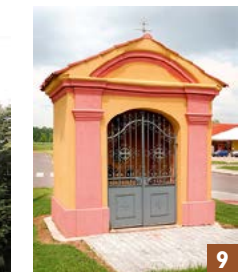
6_ The missionary cross at the Decanal Church of the Birth of Virgin Mary (Husova Street)



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10_ The Chapel of Virgin Mary (Zátíší, at the Secondary Fisheries School)
11_ The Chapel of St. John of Nepomuk (Rechle)



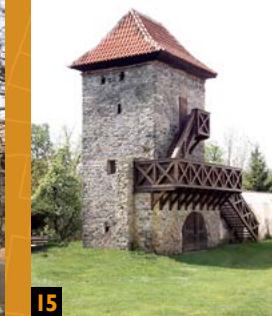
12_ The north moat wall (Barviřská Street)



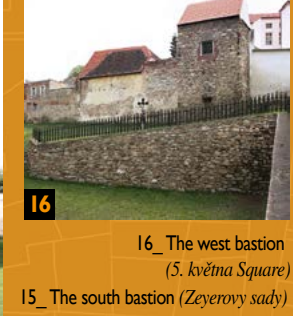
13_ The north-east bastion (Mokrého Street)



14



15



16_ The west bastion (5. května Square)



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17_ Petr Chelčický (Zeyerovy sady), by František Bílek 1914
18_ The allegorical Statue of Liberty or Republic – the Fountain (the Square of Liberty), by Josef Kvasnička 1928
19_ St. John of Nepomuk – bridge (Mlýnská Street), about 1730
20_ The Butterfly on the Flower – the area of the basic school (Bavorovská Street), by Miroslav Hudeček 1977
21_ Jan Žižka of Trocnov (Žižka Square), by Josef Kvasnička 1928



LEGEND

- 1 – 5_ Churches and prayer rooms
- 6 – 11_ Small religious sights
- 12 – 16_ Bastions
- 17 – 21_ Statues
- 22 – 35_ Important buildings – sights – monuments
- XX*_ The more distant objects which are out of the map

The memorial plaques:

- 36_ František Herites (1851 – 1929), a pharmacist and a writer (The Square of Liberty No 1)
- 37_ Váša Příhoda (1900 – 1960), a world-famous violinist (The Square of Liberty No 8)
- 38_ Otakar Mokřý (1854 – 1899), a notary and a poet (The Square of Liberty No 194)
- 39_ Josef Kajetán Tyl (1808 – 1856), an actor and a playwright (The Square of Liberty No 23)
- 40_ The 50th anniversary of the end of WWII (The Square of Liberty No 24)
- 41_ Master Jan Kampanus (about 1570 – 1622), a writer and a rector of the Prague University (Alešova Street No 50, the building of the basic school)
- 42_ Julius Zeyer (1841 – 1901), a writer, a playwright and a poet (Zeyerovy sady No 43)
- 43_ Dr. Antonín Majer (1826 – 1880), a technical expert and a founder of technical schools in Bohemia (Majerova Street No 164)
- 44_ František Zemlička (about 1897 – 1945), a member of the partisan army Šumava II (Kampanova Street No 330, railway station)

Monuments and memorials:

- 45_ The memorial to the casualties of the 1st and 2nd WW (Zeyerovy sady, park)
- 46_ The memorial to the casualties of the communistic despotism (Zeyerovy sady, park)
- 47_ To Dr. Theodor Mokřý (1857 – 1945), an expert of forestry and fishing (Zátíší, the Secondary Fisheries School)
- 48_ To the millers in the Blаницe valley for the help in need (Mlýnská Street)
- 49_ Memorial stone by the Tree of the Third Millennium (Elektrárnská Street, by the bus station)
- 50_ The tomb of a writer František Herites and his wife Marie (the Park of John Paul II)
- 51_ The tomb of the Mokřý family (the Park of John Paul II)

Significant trees:

- 52_ Oak tree (between the railway and the road near the campsite Pražák) – 25 meters high, the girth of the trunk 532 cm, the age of 260 years, the given data come from 2001 when it was proclaimed protected.
- 53_ Lime tree (at the chapel next to the building of the Secondary Fisheries School) – 23 m high, the girth of the trunk 527 cm, the age of 261 years, the given data come from 2001 when it was proclaimed protected.
- 54_ Lime of Freedom I (grounds of the Bavorovská Basic School) – planted by pupils of the school on March 21, 1990.
- 55_ Lime of Freedom II (in the small park by the senior citizens' home) – planted by representatives of the town on March 30, 1990.
- 56_ Lime of Freedom III (originally in Husova Street, in 2012 moved to Radomilická Street) – planted by the members of the Club of Friends of Dřemlíný pond from Železný Brod in November 1990.
- 57_ Tree of Earth Day I (park in Holečkova Street) – copper beech, 1st solitaire tree planted by members of CA Krajina on the occasion of the Earth Day on April 22, 1998. The tradition continues every year.
- 58_ Lime of Partnership (park by the Culture Centre) – planted on the occasion of signing a partnership agreement between the town of Vodňany and Wartberg ob der Aist (Austria) on June 23, 2001.
- 59_ Tree of the Third Millennium (Elektrárnská Street) – the Japanese cherry (it has been replaced by the lime tree) was planted in 2001 as an act of gratitude of the physically handicapped to the town – by the bus station at the memorial stone.
- 60_ Oak for protection against floods (beneath the dam of Příbramovský pond) – planted by the members of the Club of Friends of Dřemlíný pond from Železný Brod and fishermen from Vodňany on November 5, 2004. The oak was planted in the place where the dam was damaged during the floods in 2002. Members of the club contributed to the repair works.
- 61_ Lime of the Czech-Polish Friendship (John Paul II Park) – planted by the representatives of the town of Vodňany and of the town of Sieraków on April 30, 2005.
- 62_ Lime of Friendship between Slovenia and the Czech Republic (park by the Culture Centre) – on the occasion of the 87th anniversary of the constitution of an independent Czechoslovak state planted by the ambassador of the Slovenian Republic and the mayor of Vodňany on October 27, 2005.