

JUNGSHOVED CHURCH

The Castle Bank and The Cove



*The Cove, The Castle Bank, and The Church seen from the south
(Photo: Jens Neergård Ottesen)*

Welcome to Jungshoved Church



The site of Jungshoved is generally connected to the famous Svend Poulsen, leader of the resistance against the aggressor Sweden back in the middle of the seventeenth century, (as described in the novel “Gjøngehøvdingen”, by Carit Etlar, 1853). However, the interesting history of the site connects back to the period of the Danish Iron Age (500 AD - 400 AD).

The importance of maintaining power over this specific site, between the sea and the inland area, is verified by archaeological findings from the Iron Age as well as from the later Viking Age in the form of blockings in the water, erected to prevent hostile ships from entering the narrow bay called Jungshoved Nor (Jungshoved Cove).

The site, with its significant church and castle ruins, tells the story of its high status during the Middle Ages, but also of a secluded beautiful spot which through centuries attracted the nobility as well as famous Danish artists.

Dorthe Danner Lund, curator, Vordingborg

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These articles – only in Danish - are found on:

www.jungshovedkirke.dk/artikler



The Jungshoved Cove

At the entrance of Jungshoved Cove, nearby the castle bank, blocking poles are rammed down into the water. In its original form, the cove extended from Vasebæk to Skibinge (previously Skifsvinge), which means meadows or fields where the ships were pulled up.

The oldest pole blocking found in the cove, dates to the year 330 AD (the Iron Age).

A second blocking was built approximately 980 AD (the Viking Age). This was in the era of Gorm den Gamle, who died in 940 AD, Harald Blåtand¹, who reigned from 940-986 AD, and Svend Tveskæg, who reigned from 986-1014 AD.

Even though some of the pole blockings are built at the same time as constructions in other parts of Denmark, the purpose of these blockings remains uncertain, as well as the target they were intended to protect.

The most recent pole blocking dates to the 13th century, (the Middle Ages).

At the western side of the church, along the cove, you find the so-called Church Harbor. In the period 1894-1936 it was used in the transportation of sugar beets to the sugar plant in Stege.



1. Blocking from approximately 330 AD.

2. Blocking from the period of Harald Blåtand (about 980 AD)

3. Blocking from 1200 AD found by Andre Jørgensen in 1980

4. Western ferry quays from 15th-16th century

5. Eastern ferry quays from 15th-16th century

6. Undefined construction from the Viking Age

Source: Anne Nørgård Jørgensen

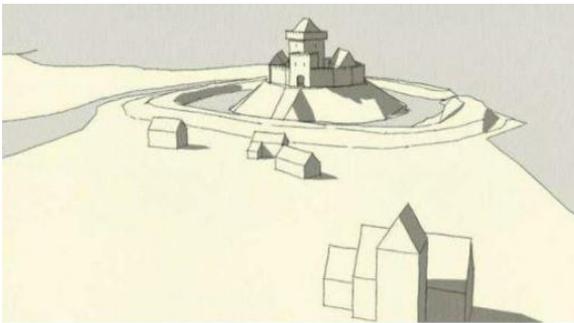
¹ Harald Blåtand erected the Jellinge-stone, marking the christening of the Danes. In the period from about 980 AD, several Viking fortresses were built in Denmark, the so-called ring fortresses. We know of Aggersborg at Aggersund, Fyrkat at Hobro, Nonnebanken at Odense, Trelleborg at Slagelse, and Borgring at Lellinge west of Køge.

Jungshoved Castle

Evidently, Jungshoved has been inhabited since ancient times, and the topography reveals the shape of barrows, e.g. Mislehøj, one of the best-preserved barrows, dating from the Bronze Age (1700 AD–500 AD). However, not until the Middle Ages (app. 1000–1536) we get a thorough knowledge of the area and its history.

Only few archaeological investigations have been carried out in Jungshoved. The first observation took place in 1963, followed up in 1980. So far, the only excavations carried out at the very bank of the castle was done in 1999. The bank was measured to be 45 x 47 meters, and here the remnants of a wall was found, dating to about the year 1500 (the Middle Ages).

The castle and the church are first mentioned 1231 in King Valdemar's Jordebog (Valdemar Sejrs). Here it is stated that the castle and the church were the property of the king, to be administered by a vassal².



The drawing shows a vision of the Castle of Jungshoved as it might have appeared in the Middle Ages.

Drawing: Leif Plith-Lauritsen

Jungshoved Castle had defenses in form of a moat, a bank with palisades, and an outer moat as well as pole blockings at the entrance of the cove. Furthermore, the remains of a bridgehead, dating back to the years 1500 - 1600, was found leading across the cove to a military road towards Gl. Oremandsgård.

² Some of the most famous vassals of Jungshoved Castle are Peter Oxen and Byrge Trolle, brother of the naval hero Herluf Trolle.

The site of the castle roots back to the early 12th century, where the Wend plundered and ravaged the southern Danish coasts; it was when Valdemar the Great reigned (1157-82).

When the castle was built, it was larger than the castle in Vordingborg. But although Valdemar Sejr, who reigned 1202-41, extended the castle of Jungshoved, the castle of Vordingborg must have been considered more important, as it was here that Jyske lov was signed 10th of March 1241, codified by king Valdemar Sejr ³.

In the early 1600s, during the rule of Christian the 4th (1588-1648), Jungshoved Castle was decaying, and in 1649 only three timber-framed buildings remained.

During the Swedish War (1657-60), the castle was exposed to numerous raids and ended up as a ruin in 1673. Eventually, it was inherited by Prince Jørgen after his father, Frederik the 3rd.

In 1670, most of the castle was demolished, and the building materials were removed to Vordingborg. (The Courtyard of Prince Jørgen)

Prince Jørgen went to England in 1685 and married Anne of England. He was named George, Duke of Cumberland, and in 1702 Anne became the reigning Queen of England. They never returned to Jungshoved.

In 1717 the castle was demolished, and only the castle bank remained. In 1761 King Frederik the 5th sold the castle bank and the church to the Privy Councilor (Geheimeråd) Henrik Adam Brockenhuus, who later included the estate in the Manor of Stampenborg (Nysø).

In 1925, the site of the castle bank as well as the church were preserved.

³ Denmark is by now a Christian kingdom, and the church has great influence on the law, which is very inspired by the Code of Canon Law. The preface "With law country should be built" is usually attributed to Bishop Gunnar of Viborg. Valdemar Atterdag, who ruled from 1340-75, renews the castle of Vordingborg, e.g. erecting Gåsetårnet.

Jungshoved Church

As early as 1231, the church is mentioned in the register known as “King Valdemar’s Jordebog”, as the property of king Valdemar Sejr.

The distance between castle and church was only 60 meters; at the southern side of the church you can still see the walled- up entrance to the church. Throughout the Middle Ages, the castle was under The Crown, and we presume that the church has functioned as a royal chapel church; however, the primary function of the church must have been as a parish church of Jungshoved. Despite the fate of the castle, being plundered during the Swedish wars and later demolished, the church was left untouched.

The vicarage burned down in 1718, and with the lack of residence for the vicar, the parish of Jungshoved became annexed to the Church of Præstø until 1762, still under the jurisdiction of The Crown. In 1761, King Frederik d. 5th sold the castle bank and the church to Privy Councilor Henrik Adam Brockenhuus, situated at the Manor of Stampenborg, Nysø. In the 1800s, Nysø was a rallying point for many artists like H.C. Andersen and Bertel Thorvaldsen, and we are very fortunate that the latter has left his mark on the interior of the church. In 1762 Brockenhuus financed a new vicarage in Stavreby.

In 1914, the church was conveyed to the parishioners, and today it functions as an ordinary parish church under the Danish National Church. In 1925 both church and castle bank were preserved, and in 2010 the church went through a major restoration, involving the Danish National Museum.

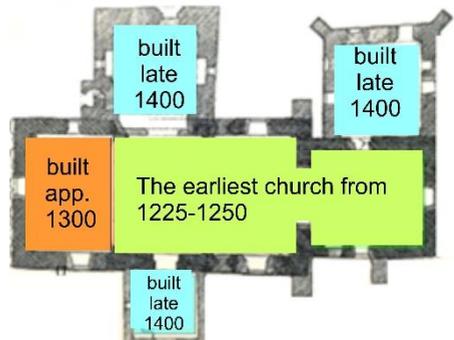
ROCK ENGRAVINGS

In older churches, you can often see rock engravings on footings and stone steps due to the habit of reusing building material, especially stones with rock engravings primarily from the Bronze Age (1700-500 AD). It may be signs, pictures or the so-called cup-shaped marks, which are dents with diameter measuring 25-60 mm and 2-20 mm in depth. The significance of these signs is unknown, but they may relate to a fertility cult.

At Jungshoved church you can see three stones with cup-shaped marks: Facing the porch you can find two stones at the right corner with eight cup-shaped marks. The sandstone is split, and both parts lie side by side as two red stones on the footing. At the farthest left corner of the church you can see another cup-shaped mark at the corner stone of the footing.

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

The oldest parts of the church are the chancel and the nave up till the northern and southern entrances, built around 1225-1250 in limestone ashlars and medieval large bricks. In the 1300s the nave was extended to the west, and from this period traces of a sharp-pointed window facing north are preserved.



In the late 1400s, the southern part of the chancel as well as the eastern corners of the nave were supported by buttresses. The flat ceiling was replaced by vaults, and the cross-vaulting sacristy, porch, and the lower part of the tower were added to the church. In 1882, the windows were replaced by Romanesque windows. The original entrance to the church can be found at the south side of the chancel.

THE TOWER

The church tower is placed at the northside, rather unusually and probably due to lack of space at the western side at the cove. The two upper storeys were not finished until the beginning of the 1600s.

There are two bells in the tower. The oldest is from 1616 and has inscriptions in Latin and in German. It is also decorated with medallions, i.e. of a pelican, which is a Christian symbol of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The other bell is cast in 1897, and the transverse measurement of both bells is about 1 meter.



The oldest bell is the one to the right

Originally, the lower part of the tower functioned as a porch, but after the northern entrance was closed, the tower probably was used as a transept.

During the 1780s, a chapel was established in the tower for Privy Councilor Henrik Adam Brockenhuus (1720-1803) and his wife Elisabeth b. Holstein Lederberg (1737-1786). The couple was buried in sarcophaguses of Norwegian marble, created by the Danish sculptor Johannes Wiedewelt.



THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH

Viewing the altar

About 1590, the first altarpiece was set up; it was executed by the carpenter of the Bårse district. However, during the time of the vicar Peter Ditlev Faber, this altarpiece was removed in 1799 and stored in the back of the church room, perhaps because he wanted to face the congregation.

Detail of the altar shows the Infant Christ with a cross



Here, the right hand of the Infant Christ is blessing, while in the left hand he holds the globe of the world



Bertel Thorvaldsen spent the last 6 years of his life at Nysø and frequented the church with the baroness Christine Stampe. They were both offended by the missing altar piece and Thorvaldsen decided to grant a new one. It became the present one, "Christ in Emmaus", which tells the story of Jesus wandering and visiting two of his disciples on Easter Day. The high relief

was placed in the frame of the original altar piece, and it is believed to be the original model in plaster by Thorvaldsen. It was never finished in marble, but several copies are to be found, i.e. in Nyord Church, and a minor model in silver in Firenze. The altar piece was unveiled during Christmas 1839, and a new cherub head was set in 1866.

The altar-silver



The inscription on the wafer case contains the year 1651 and the initials of Vassal Jørgen Kaas and wife Margrethe Kathrine von Buchwald as well as their scutcheon.

The altar candlesticks from 1649 is donated by Vassal Ove Gedde and his wife Dorthe Urnes.

The chalice and the bread plate from 1811 are donated by C. Stampe



The font



Jungshoved Church is exceptional regarding religious art made by Thorvaldsen. The quadrangular font from the 1820s, in the style of neo-classicism, is decorated by Thorvaldsen with high reliefs in baked clay.

The christening basin from 1625 is made in The Netherlands. The christening ewer from 1862 is made of pewter.

In the chancel you see an older font from about 1790 in the style of Louis XVI, made of sandstone.

The pulpit

The wooden pulpit is made 1605-1610 by Abel Schrøder in Næstved. It is carved in the style of the High Renaissance, and at the corners you find hermas symbolizing various virtues: faith, hope, justice, courage and wisdom. The virtues of love and moderation found no space.



Detail from the pulpit which shows Matthew with his attribute the child, Mark with the lion, Luke with the bull, and John with the eagle.

The murals



On the west wall of the church room you see a very interesting fresco, made about 1450. It illustrates the devil dancing in a chain with noble men and women. Probably, the motive reflects dancing at the nearby castle. Dancing in a chain is very well described in Danish folk songs from the Middle Ages, and in The Faroe Islands

it has survived as a living tradition. Earlier, the fresco was interpreted as a Dance of Death, but is now considered to be a Dance of Devil. A similar fresco is to be found in Ørslev Church, Western Sealand. Above the vaults there are traces of murals, but these are no longer accessible.

It has been acceptable to place the dancing scene upon the less fine western wall, if it has contained a moral warning. In contrast, you find a religious motive, the resurrection, at the fine northern wall of the chancel.





Before entering the chancel, in the corner vaults at the entrance to the chancel, you find two examples of a fool's head. The one to the left has bells in his cap and you can vaguely see the year: 1513. The other fool's head is



placed right above the pulpit, very well placed considering the fool's ability to tell the truth! This kind of fool's head above the pulpit is not seen before 1610.

The organ

From 1969, in pale oak, is made by "Krohns", Frederiksborg Organ Manufacturer.

The chandeliers

The one in the chancel is made in the 1600s and consist of a double eagle at the top and a lion's head at the bottom. The three other chandeliers in the nave are copies made in the 1900s and donated by Dr. H.C. Hagedorn.



The votive ships

In the nave you find two beautiful votive ships. Near the altar is a model of "Marcus", a three-masted full-rigged ship, donated 1955 by customs officer Frits Hemmingsen, Bønsvig. The other ship, farthest away from the altar, is a model of "Ingeborg", donated 1923 by shipmaster Ole Larsen, Roneklint. Both ships were restored 2009 by Poul Bendsen, Bønsvig Strand.



Vicarages of Jungshoved

Originally, a vicarage was positioned approximately 75m north of the building called Rejsestalden, where today you find a marl pit.

According to a legend from 1718, the priest Peder Fallenkamp “with fire and smoke tried to get rid of a rat and mouse plague, whereby the building burned down”. The parish priest and his family then moved into the sacristy, a solution that was not sustainable in the long term, as the congregation complained about cooking odors in the church. Consequently, the church became annexed to the church of Præstø in 1718. However, in 1762 it became an independent parish again, thanks to Privy Councillor Brockenhuus, who instead of a vicarage provided a house in Stavreby to the disposal of the parish priest as a residence.

In 1781, a new vicarage was built in Stavreby during the ministry of Augustinus Christian Faber. A new main building was built in 1896.

Since the parishes of Jungshoved and Allerslev in 1970 were united into one benefice, the vicar has had his residence in Allerslev. The vicarage in Stavreby was still leased out to a tenant until the buildings, including a smaller acreage, were sold April 1992. Most of the glebe is still owned by the church, and these areas are currently farmed out.

Outside the wall of the church yard is the sexton’s house and “Rejsestalden”, originally a stable for travelers, which also belong to the church. “Rejsestalden” was restored in 2005, thanks to an inheritance from farmer Edvard Hansen, Tjørnehoved. Today it contains a meeting-room i.e.



Rejsestalden and Jungshoved Church seen from the east

(Foto: Eli Frandsen)