Ancient City Sites of Tettnang

Tettnang received the town charter on 1 December 1297.

1 New castle (Neues Schloss)
The new castle was built in 1712 by Christoph Gessinger. It was the residence of the Count of Montfort up to 1720. In 1753 it burnt down and was rebuilt by Jakob Emele in 1755. The interior decor was created by Anton Feuchtmayer, Johann Georg Dirr (stucco) and Andreas Brugger (paintings). In 1779/80 the Montfort territory became a part of Austria and the castle was used as an administrative building. Today it is the seat of the county court and the notary's office. In 1979 a museum of the stately castle and gardens organisation was opened. The castle chapel has been a Protestant church since 1853.

2 Former guardhouses (Ehemalige Wachthäuser)
Built in 1720 as single-storey guardhouses (architecturally also called »Kavaliershäuser«), they came into private ownership and another storey was added to the houses in the 19th century. Dr. Albert Moll, a physician, local historian and honorary citizen of Tettnang, lived in the northern house at the end of the 19th century. At the beginning of the 20th century the Montfort Café was accommodated in the southern house.

3 Former »shooting house« (Ehemaliges Schiesshaus)
Instead of the summer house, which had burnt down in 1735, the »shooting house« was built along the western part of the wall of the castle garden. It was opened 15 October 1736.

4 Former forester's lodge (Ehemaliges Forstaus)
According to the plans of the royal district forestry office Ravensburg, the forester's lodge was built as an office and official residence. The adjacent building was used as stable and coach house. Since 2007 the building has belonged to the town of Tettnang. Today it is the home of the vehicle registration centre, the town gallery and the office of the local history society.

5 Baroque house (Barockhaus)
It is the only preserved late baroque residence in Tettnang from the time of the Montfort dynasty. It was built in 1775 in a striking corner position next to the castle. Originally, it was probably designed for a court official. Until 1871 a similar corner house stood at the end of the street. Between these two buildings the former Count's riding school was situated until 1872.

6 Old castle /town hall (Altes Schloss)
Built by Michael Kuen, who was a master builder from Vorarlberg, during the time of Count Johann X of Montfort-Tettnang (*1627 †1686) in 1667. Rebuilt in 1904 to become the town hall, owned by the town of Tettnang. Above the door you can find the alliance coat of arms of Johann X (middle) with his wives Maria Anna Eusebia von Königsegg-Aulendorf (left) and Maria Anna Katharina von Sulz (right).

7 St George Chapel (St. Georgs-Kapelle)
The first building mentioned in 1416 was destroyed during the Thirty Years' War. It had probably been used by Count Montfort as a chapel. Count Johann X of Montfort had the master-builder Heinrich Bader rebuild the chapel in 1682. The high altar was taken from the castle chapel, which was secularised in 1828.

8 Former Middle Mill (Ehemalige Mittelmühle)
In the mid-16th century the mill was mentioned as the most recent of three mills in Tettnang. First it was called the »Grubmühle«, later in the 17th century the »Kopfmühle«. The mill was always privately owned. The last miller Albert Fugel ran the mill until 1972. It was pulled down in 1980 and replaced with a new building.

**9 Former »montfortisches« official building
(Ehem. Montfortisches Amtshaus)**
Built in 1688, the similarity to the old castle suggests the same builder Michael Kuen. A remarkable detail: the roof ridge ventilation similar to that of the old castle's gable, disguised by the Count's coat of arms and the Montfort flag. The Bueble family has owned this building since 1837.

10 First school house in Tettnang (Erstes Tettnanger Schulhaus)
From 1570 until 1783 there was a German school on the ground floor and a flat for the teacher on the first floor. In 1730 another storey was added for the organist. After the introduction of compulsory education the school was relocated to the gate castle building in 1783.

11 Restaurant Brünnle, former »Wacht am Rhein«
Constructed in the 16th century, this building is one of the few which survived the town fire in 1633. In the 18th century it housed a butchery. In 1872 a restaurant opened for the first time, called »Wacht am Rhein«, which was run until 2003. Since 2003 it has accommodated the restaurant »Brünnle«.

12 Gate castle (Torschloss)
In spite of its name, this building has never been a castle. The oldest parts of the city fortification were built in the 13th century. In 1464, the tower was added to the fortification. »Landschreiber« Leuthold bought it in 1569 and made some building alterations. In 1629, the Montfort family bought it back and extended the left wing of the building. By 1783 it was a school house. Today it is the home of the municipal archive, the Montfort museum, and the electronics museum. Also the clubroom of the local historic carnival society (Narrenzunft Tettnang) can be found here.

13 Creststone from Oberhof (Wappenstein vom Oberhof)
This is the alliance crest stone of Montfort and Thun from the former manor (Gutshof) Oberhof in 1720, which the Count of Montfort had bought in 1694. Referring to the year 1720, the inscription A:G:Z:M:1720:MA:G:V:T: points to the builders Count Anton Montfort and Count Maria Anna Thun.

14 The Chapel of the Holy Cross (Heilig-Kreuz-Kapelle)
The chapel was built by Mr. Leuthold, who was the owner of the gate castle at that time. In the fresco on the eastern wall you can see the coat of arms of the town and of Count Ulrich IX Montfort (†1574) and his wife Ursula, neé Solms-Licht. The chapel was used as a detention cell from 1784 until 1945. That is why in the past naughty children in Tettnang were told, »If you are not a good child, you'll be sent to the chapel«.

15 The Crown Inn (Gasthof Krone)
1290-1787
For five centuries Tettnang was the residence of the glorious Counts of Montfort. Their last descendant died in this house in 1787.

16 The Golden Wheel Inn (Hotel Rad)
In 1585 it was already called the »The Golden Wheel Inn«. Between 1680 and 1858 it was a post office. The building was destroyed by a fire on 16 April 1974 and rebuilt afterwards. It was reopened on 25 April 1975. Since 1921 it has been owned by the Eberhardt family.

17 The Bear Inn (Gasthaus Bären)
Around 1580, this building was called »Black Bear Inn« (»Schwarzer Bären«). At that time it was located at a crossing point of the old post roads to Ravensburg, Lindau, Wangen and Buchhorn (today Friedrichshafen). Since 1834 it has been owned by the Forster family and above the entrance you can see the Forster family coat of arms.

18 Former »The Cross Inn« (Gasthaus Kreuz)
The former Cross Inn was a traditional inn located on the old post road to Ravensburg in 1686. The present design with the classical door was added during renovation (probably in 1879).

19 Parish church St. Gallus
First mentioned in 1246. The laying of the foundation stone was in 1467. The pointed gothic top of the tower was replaced by today's baroque attachment after the fire in 1705. After pulling down the main aisle and reconstruction in 1858, it was consecrated in 1860. The church was badly damaged after the bomb attack on Tettnang on 16 March, 1944. In 1990/91 the church was renovated and redesigned by Helmut Lutz, an artist from Breisach.

20 Swiss House (Schweizerhaus)
Owing to the remarkable construction from wood and its architecture, the building was named the »Swiss House« (Schweizerhaus) .It was built for Dr. Constantin Locher, who was a veterinarian and founder of the »crate factory Locher« and his son Franz.

21 Former cemetery chapel (ehem. Friedhofskapelle)
A neo-gothic cemetery chapel from 1891. In 1937 it was rebuilt and became a mortuary. In 1970 it was renovated. After the new cemetery had been laid out, the old cemetery chapel became a war memorial. The window was made by the art master Jupp Eisele, the candle holder and the portal were made by art studio Kober of Tettnang.

22 Loreto Chapel (Loretokapelle)
The chapel was founded by Countess Johanna Euphrosina of Montfort, neé of Waldburg-Wolfegg, because of a vow in 1624. The building is a copy of Santa Casa in the place of pilgrimage in Loreto, Italy. In 1627 it was consecrated and donated to the rosary brotherhood (Rosenkranzbruderschaft). The chaplaincy was added in 1738. The gallery with north western frontage is from 1902. The chapel was a place of pilgrimage until World War II.

23 Former Hospital (ehem. Oberamtskrankenhaus)
Built between 1884 – 1886 by the internationally acknowledged architect Otto Tafel (*1838 †1914) from Stuttgart. It was the centre piece of architecturally advanced hospital buildings of the 19th century. In 1993 it was completely restored. Today it houses the Tettnang music school and a primary school.

24 St. John Chapel (St. Johann-Kapelle)
Former location of the oldest chapel in Tettnang. It was first mentioned in 1364, when Count Heinrich IV of Montfort and the citizens of Tettnang founded the chapel. In 1627 the ruined chapel was rebuilt due to a vow made by Count Hugo XVII after the birth of his son and heir. During the Thirty Years' War this building was destroyed. The chapel you can see today is an early baroque building from 1659. Important vicars of the chapel were Michael von Jung and Adolf Aich.

25 Former infirmary (ehem. Spital / Kaplaneihaus)
The infirmary, established by the town in1489, was relocated to this building in 1729. It was a retirement home as well as a hostel for sick travellers. After the establishment of the hospital in 1886, it became a maternity ward and was in use until the end of the 1950s, when it became a retirement home until 1972. The vicars of St John never lived in this building despite its name.

26 St. Anna Chapel (St. Anna-Kapelle)
The chapel is the oldest sacral building in town. It was founded and well provided by Count Ulrich VII of Montfort and Magdalena, neé of Öttingen, who hoped to have a male heir. The ribbed vaulting and the gallery are remarkable. In the 19th century the chapel became rundown and was used as barn and stable. There were extensive restorations in 1949/52 and 1971. The chapel was consecrated again in 1952.

27 Former leper infirmary (ehem. Leprosenhaus)
As early as in 1482, this building was already an infirmary. At that time people who suffered from incurable diseases, like leprosy or the plague were accommodated here far away from the town centre. The present building stems from the 17th century. It has been the home for the sacristan since 1730. The formerly attached restaurant, barn and stable do not exist anymore.