

The windmill of Naveau

On 16th of January 1665 Jean Pierre Fichet asked permission to build a windmill at Fleurus; he was granted to do so on the 3rd of February of the same year.

Later, on 14th of April 1677, the widow of Fichet, Ursule Hanquinbrant, asked for a permit to construct a small road connecting the windmill to the road which leads to Charleroi. On 22nd of January 1681 the windmill was owned by M. Drion, and in 1698 it went over to Martin Mairesse and later to his children Jean Francois Mairesse and Michel Lambilotte.

On 30th July 1783 the new owner became Jean Baptiste Dewez and later a widow called Doques lived there. On 14th January 1809 the windmill was bought by Paul Joseph Hanolet from Wanfercée-Baulet.

Hanolet in his turn sold it in 1816 to Francois Berlaimont, Ernest Benoit Sandrart (both from Fleurus), and Jean Joseph Sandrart (from Lodelinsart).

Jean Joseph Sandrart gave his share of the property to his brother Ernest Benoit. It is in connection Ernest Benoit that the name of Naveau can be found for the first time. It was derived from his neighbour, Emmanuel Naveau.

Throughout the 19th century the windmill changed hands several times: Ernest Benoit Sandrart was succeeded by Barthélemy Leveux from Fleurus, then there were Jean Jacques Gailly, Emmanuel Gailly, tax official at Gilly, and then Jules Gailly, lawyer at Montigny-sur-Sambre.

In 1884 the windmill was bought by Jean Charles Ferrand from Fleurus.

It was some years after the battle of Ligny that the windmill lost its function and by then the wings were removed. In 1921 the mill was owned by Henri Lavrette and in 1958 there lived a man called Andris.

Since long, there is a tablet on the building which reads: "Observatoire de Napoléon 16 juin 1815".

In 1815 the windmill consisted of the red-bricked building, which was crowned by a wooden cap where the wings were attached. Around the building was a wooden platform.

Until late in the 19th century the windmill was located at the extreme north-west edge of the village. ¹

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1. For illustrations:

Lithograph of Jobard. In: De Cloet, *Voyage pittoresque dans le royaume des Pays Bas* Vol.I p.75

De Vos, L. - *Les 4 jours de Waterloo*. Brussel p.31 (lithograph of Williaume in the LMB).

Waterloo 1815. L'Europe face à Napoleon p.39 (anonymous drawing).

Also in: *Carte de cabinet des Pays Bas Autrichiens*, and map of Vandermaelen.