

## The chateau of Fichermont <sup>1</sup>

The old name of the chateau is Frischermont. <sup>2</sup> Nowadays, the name of Fichermont is in use. Yet, several other versions can be found. <sup>3</sup>

The first time the chateau is being mentioned is in 1250. In that year, Léon, seigneur in Brussels, approved of the donation of 1.75 hectares of land, at Fichermont, to the abbaye of Aywiers. In 1440 traces can be found of a "courtil à Feceraimont". At the end of the 17th century Antoine Xavier, *maitre de camp* and brigadier of the cavalry in Spanish service had the title of seigneur of Fichermont.

After his death in the battle at Seneffe (11<sup>th</sup> August 1674) the territory of Lasne was established as a barony. His descendants became seigneurs of Lasne and Chapelle until the annexation of the Austrian Netherlands by the Directoire. On 21<sup>st</sup> January 1805 the chateau, with four hectares as garden, was sold by the family of Xavier to the Brussels lawyer Jean Charles de Hardy de Beaulieu. His son, the viscount J.G. de Hardy de Beaulieu, sold the farm of the chateau with 35 hectares of land in 1847 to Gustave T'Serstevens. His sons sold the chateau to Charles de Fierlant on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1856. He rased it in 1857.

Charles de Fierlant built a new chateau, designed by the architect Derre in the period 1858-1859. In all probability he did not demolish the old chateau right away, as there is a description of both buildings right at the same time and there being built a construction on top of the old lower part of the massive tower of the old chateau containing the emblem of the family of De Fierlant and the statue in a niche of Saint Hubert. <sup>4</sup> In 1828 a part of the old tower, being in ruins, was pulled down, while a storm took down the last bits in 1876. <sup>5</sup> Of this second chateau, the facade was crowned with a stepped gable. The building had one floor and its walls were constructed of bricks. Rims at the upper sides of the walls and runways of windows were made of blue stone. In the south-west corner of the chateau stood a 18 meter high tower, which contained a staircase which led deep into the ground, thereby giving access to a marl-quarry. <sup>6</sup> The second building has been demolished in 1958 [<sup>7</sup>], to be replaced by a modern villa, which is located a few hundred meters away from the place of the old chateau. Around 1980, the old well of the old feudal chateau has been razed to the ground as well. <sup>8</sup>

The chateau as it stood in 1815 probably dated from 1550 and its remains probably still existed in the early twentieth century.

The buildings, comprising the chateau and a farm, formed in 1815 an irregular rectangular of about 80 x 50 meters around a large courtyard. Basically, it consisted of two wings with some annexes.

In its southwest corner was the gable of the huge barn, where a smaller construction was built. A high, vaulted gate opened in a wall which connected the barn to the house. The front of this part was flanked by a square, massive tower, which had no windows, only loopholes.

This tower was situated in the northeast corner of the complex. The upper part was decorated on each side by a protruding bust, fitted into a medallion. Each side of the tower was in its turn crowned by a very small tower. The dilapidated state of the upper part of it forced the owner in 1830 to demolish this part. <sup>9</sup> The tower and the adjoining buildings dominated the track which led in a steep slope towards la Marache. The chateau and the barn were on the north-west and

south-west side of the courtyard.<sup>10</sup>

On its north side the complex was bordered by a garden and a park. The whole complex was surrounded by high trees which formed a small, triangular wood.<sup>11</sup>

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1. Logie, J. Waterloo, l'évitable défaite p.172  
 Tarliers, J. & G.Wauters. La Belgique ancienne et moderne.Brussel.1859  
 Adkin, M. – The Waterloo companion p.144-145  
 Navez, L. Le champ de bataille etc. p.53, 164
  
2. Cf. Carte de cabinet Pays Bas Autrichiens (1777)  
 Capitaine (1796)  
 An 18th century map called *Carte particulière des environs de Bruxelles avec le bois de Soigne et une partie de la Flandre jusques à Gand*, and published by G.Fricx, however, states Fichermont. In: Pierson, S. Histoire illustré de la forêt de Soignes Vol.I p.91
  
3. For Frichermont.  
 Cf. Thiers, A. - Histoire du consulat et de l'empire (atlas)  
 Houssaye, H. 1815.Waterloo (plan)  
 Craan, W.B. - Plan du champ de bataille de Waterloo dit de la Belle Alliance etc.  
 For Frichemont. Cf.  
 Charras. Histoire de la campagne de 1815 (plan)  
 Frischemont. Cf.  
 Collection de 12 vues de Waterloo nr.3  
 Nowadays, the name of Fichermont comes back in the *couvent des Dominicaines de Fichermont*, built in 1929 at about 750 meters east of the crossing of the Brussels road and the Ohain-road.
  
- <sup>4</sup> Fierens Gevaert, H. Waterloo légendaire.In: Revue de Paris.15 september 1900.p.402.448  
 Old postcard (1913).
  
- <sup>5</sup> Coppens, B. & P.Courcelle. La Papelotte. Waterloo 1815 p.5
  
6. Tarliers, J. & G.Wauters. La Belgique ancienne et moderne.Brussel.1859
  
7. Villers, M.L. de –Notre chère Waterloo de naguère n.p.
  
8. Logie, J. Waterloo.L'évitable défaite p.172  
 According to Fierens Gevaert the well dated from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In: Waterloo légendaire.  
 In: Revue de Paris.15<sup>th</sup> September 1900.p.402-448  
 Also see: Aerts, W. Etudes etc. Livre V (manuscript) p.108
  
9. Tarliers, J. & G.Wauters. La Belgique ancienne et moderne.Brussel.1859 p.94  
 Cf. anonymous litho in: Logie, J. Waterloo, l'évitable défaite p.173  
 A print in the album "Collection de 12 vues de Waterloo" shows the complex without the tower (nr.3)

Also see the map in: Siborne., W. History of the war etc. London.1842

<sup>10</sup> Aerts, W. Etudes etc. Livre V (manuscript) p.107-108

11. Cf. plans in:

Carte de Cabinet des Pays Bas Autrichiens

Craan, W.B. Plan du champ de bataille de Waterloo etc.

Bas, F.de La campagne de 1815 etc. (atlas)

Charras. Histoire de la campagne de 1815

Houssaye, H. 1815.Waterloo

Siborne, W. History of the war etc.London.1842 (atlas)