



## Lettre d'information N°17

### Focus on la Tour La Faye

#### - 1 Introduction

In this chapter, let us continue our tours of the towers of Domfront. We especially wish to thank Mrs. Yvetot for kindly welcoming us in this visit.

#### - 2 Origin of the Name

According to our local historians, the current names of the defense towers are those of the owners of the first half of the twentieth century.

The denominations of origin have been lost, while those of the towers of the dungeon have been preserved but difficult to locate.

#### - 3 Location

On its south face, the tower LA FAYE (cadastral plot AV 206) overlooks a terrace and 2 espalier gardens (walls along which fruit trees are planted) particularly well highlighted by the owners. The imposing retaining walls overlook the Rue des Fossés Plisson. The masonry of the tower, regularly maintained, is in perfect condition and conservation and seems to defy time by its solidity.

It is located between two other towers:

- To the west, that of Mr. and Mrs. Boulestreau where a well-preserved postern comes to against the tower.
- To the east by la tour Coroller.

It stands in witness to the continuity of the defenses of the city to the South, from the Castle to the Porte d'Alençon as maintained to the present day.



#### - 4 Dating

As previously stated, the dating of the defense elements of the city has not been the subject of extensive study due to a lack of documentation. There are some elements of dating of the defense works in a study made by Mr. Pierre Baudry on the castles and their 'meurtrières' (loopholes or small orifice in a wall, typically used by archers) but not on the urban fortifications.

An archaeological study of these urban defense works could, to this end, make it possible to advance a dating of the construction of our city, while knowing that the towers are not of the same period and that the enclosure has been the subject, as everywhere, of many alterations over the centuries

*For the record, Mrs. M.P. Baudry was mandated in 2020 by the municipality for a census of writings relating to our city.*

#### - 5 Description

The La Faye Tower is of great architectural interest because it still has its crown of 'corbeaux' and numerous 'meurtrières' (now protected by plexiglass to retain heat and avoid infiltration). It is an impressive structure with a diameter of about fifteen meters and its height preserved in its entirety.

A singular roof with 2 slopes caps it all, a frequent method to ensure waterproofing when the edifice has lost its circular roof. A passageway of limited size makes it possible to walk around it.

The junction between the tower and "the surrounding wall" gives evidence of numerous, but poorly executed, reworkings of the masonry.

The interior of the tower has a stone spiral staircase clinging to the wall on its eastern side. The interior floors having disappeared, we can see the considerable volume of the building in its entirety.



## 6 Different Views



























## **Our Thanks**

We would especially like to thank Mrs. Yvetot for opening her gardens and tower to us so kindly and graciously.

**Nota bene** : *Ms. Yvetot informs us of an insurance problem that occurred in 1999 relating to the damage caused by that year's hurricane.*

*Indeed, the insurance company wanted to participate in the reimbursement of roof damage only to a minimum degree, the insurance contract not specifying the Classification of the tower. It would therefore be appropriate and incumbent upon any owner to know what the clauses are concerning natural disasters and whether their property is classified, in order to avoid disappointments.*

Domfront, June 2022

Votre bureau dévoué.

## **A Call for participation:**

**This is an offer to participate in a pottery course during which we will reproduce vases in the style of 'Partridge Eyes' ( a reference to the shape of the handles):**

**Please be sure to confirm your desire to participate as, depending upon the number of interested people, we will indicate several possibilities.**