

Chapel of the Finding of the Holy Cross

Object no. 20 | Lípová street, Teplice

This unobtrusive Chapel of the Finding of the Holy Cross (St. Kreuzauffindung) was built between 1728 and 1730 and figures among the few preserved Baroque memorials in Teplice. At the time of its construction it was a part of a cemetery which used to be situated close to the road to Šanov. The town of Teplice, surrounded by medieval fortifications, began at today's U Krupské brány street.

When Teplice spread across the boundaries of its fortifications and started to unite with neighbouring Šanov in the nineteenth century, the cemetery between the spa houses and newly built villas turned out to be an obstruction. It was abolished in 1864, and only the tombstones of former mayor Wolfram and the German romantic poet Johann Gottfried Seume, who died in Teplice in 1810, were preserved. His tombstone is situated near the chapel towards the street. Instead of the cemetery, a park was established alongside Lípová Street which carried Seume's name till the World War II. It is called Havlíček orchids today despite the fact it is dominated by the poet's bust.

The chapel is inaccessible most of the time. In spite of this you can see a fingerprint of Teplice's history through a small opening in the door. There, there are plates with the names of officers who died in the Battle of Chlumec and Přestanov in 1813. Teplice Spa was declared a neutral town and wounded soldiers of the Austrian, Prussian and French armies were cured here.