

# The Patrol of Emperor Franz Joseph I.

Object no. 07 | Na Letné street, Teplice

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A bizarre dominant feature on Na Letné, formerly King's height, proudly carried the name of the Patrol of Emperor Franz Joseph I. In 1877, architect Gustav Jirsch projected here all important styles – from a Gothic pointed arch to a Renaissance window.

This watchtower, which offered both a restaurant and accommodation, was built by one of the most important Teplice clubs of the second half of the nineteenth century – The Mountain Club. This club, as well as the current Club of Czech Tourists, looked after the paths in the Ore Mountains and the Czech Central Mountains. The Patrol of Emperor Franz Joseph I did not only serve as a popular destination for spa guests but also as the seat of this active club. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, evening symphonic concerts took place in the garden café.

After World War I, in connection with the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, this place was renamed as the High Patrol. Even during the days of the so called first republic crowds of local inhabitants and spa guest fled to this place. After World War II, the watchtower started to run to ruin. At that time an art atelier and later an amateur radio station were located here.

The 1990s form a sad chapter in the history of this dominant. The owner's business plan did not turn out well and the building became hopelessly ruined. In 2003, an unexpected thing happened – one of regionally important companies bought the building and completely reconstructed it. The reconstruction was completed in spring 2008. Unfortunately, this building, literally raised from the ashes, is not open for the public.