Ellinge

Ellinge Castle is one of the oldest in Scania, but has been significantly altered as a result of several restorations from the 1700s onwards.

The exact location and appearance of the medieval stronghold are unknown, but the present building almost certainly dates from the late 1500s, when the Bille family owned the estate. Like many others, the stronghold was originally built mainly for defensive purposes and was lived in by officials loyal to the Crown, for the protection of the state and monarchy. Several generations of the Galen and Thott families are mentioned in documents from the 1200s and 1300s as the king’s representatives at Ellinge.

In 1395, Ellinge was bought by the knight, Niels Svendsen Sparre, and with that began just over 100 years of ownership within the Sparre family. The last of the family made the mistake of siding with the Swedes in the constant conflicts with Denmark, which is why Ellinge was taken from him by the Danish Crown in 1505. In 1511, it was sold again, to one of the period’s most powerful men, Henry Krummedige, Danish and Norwegian privy councillor and captain of the Bohus fortress. Through a daughter’s marriage to Eske Pedersen Bille, Ellinge became the property of the Bille family from 1530-1619. It was during the time of Bille ownership that the original buildings of today’s castle were built, a quadrangular castle surrounded by a moat on all sides.

After the Bille family, Ellinge was from 1619 owned in turn by members of the Brock, Barnekow and Walkendorf families. When Scania became Swedish in 1658, it was taken over by Christoffer Walkendorf. The second Walkendorf generation was forced, after bad business deals, to hand over Ellinge in 1714 to its biggest creditor, Margareta Ascheberg. She in turn transferred the estate to her son-in-law, Vilhelm Bennet, in 1724.

At the time, Ellinge was in a very poor state, which is why Vilhelm Bennet carried out fundamental changes and a restoration of the entire building complex from the Bille’s time. Dilapidated sections were pulled down and the former east wing became the main building, with two connected single-story wings in the style of the 1700s.

The period set its mark on the property even more when a park with classical elements was created. After Vilhelm Bennet’s death in 1740, Ellinge went, through marriage, to the Dücker family for three generations until 1889. The last Dücker, Carl Frederick, carried out an extensive restoration, which included the demolition of the north wing from the 1700s and its replacement with a new two-story Renaissance-style building.

After Dücker’s death in 1889, the estate was divided between the three distant heirs, Wrangel, Barnekow and Wrede. In the early 1900s, the second of the wings from the 1700s was demolished. This change effectively gave Ellinge the appearance it has today.

In 1950, Ellinge was acquired by Ernst Wehtje, who carried out an extensive modernisation. For the castle, the rebuilding mainly entailed reinforcement work and new technical and practical solutions to modernise the building, while also returning the exterior to its original character from the 1700s. Ellinge is situated 3 km south-west of central Eslöv.

The present owner is Mikael Wehtje.

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