

# Citadellet

During Christian III's reign, 1534-1559, two important fortresses, Malmöhus and Landskrona, were built in Scania. When Malmöhus Castle was completed in 1542, the king ordered the county sheriffs at the Helsingborg castle of the realm to plan and build a fortified castle at the harbour entrance of Landskrona. The result was a fortified brick stronghold, intended exclusively for military purposes with a broad moat, diagonally positioned corner towers and loopholes in the solid walls. The castle was completed in 1559, the same year that Christian III died. Thirty years later a two-storey building for living quarters was added. It was intended as the official residence of the country sheriff and the king, for the latter's visits to the castle.

New buildings and fortifications were added both in the first half of the 1600s and after the Swedish takeover. The castle's expansion was at the expense of the old Landskrona, whose medieval buildings were gradually demolished to make way for new, extensive redoubts and defensive works. In the late 1600s, the gifted fortifications expert Erik Dahlberg carried out an extension of the castle to create a star-shaped bastion based on the Dutch model. Thus, the original fortified castle had been transformed into an extensive Citadel, which today is still largely preserved.

The Citadel has been attacked on several occasions and has had several different purposes, most with some sort of military connection. The Swedes took the fortress in 1644, but after the Treaty of Brömsebro a year later, it was given back to Denmark. In the Scanian War of 1676-79, Landskrona, and with it the Citadel, was taken by Danish troops. They then used the fortress as a base for continued operations in eastern Scania. Despite several attempts, the Swedes did not succeed in liberating the city, and were forced to buy it back at the conclusion of peace in Lund in 1679.

In the early 1700s, Charles XII made the fortress a prison for the many Russian and Polish prisoners of war. After the war and the prisoners' release, the castle remained a prison until modern times, but with the difference that the prisoners were civilians. During and after the Second World War, the Citadel was a refugee camp.

Today, the Citadel is rather an idyllic place with old-world buildings and luxuriant greenery on the fortress ramparts. Within the grounds is Sweden's oldest allotment-garden area, from the late 1800s.

## The King's fortress

In the late 1740s, the Swedish parliament decided to expand two strong fortresses to protect the realm. In 1747, it was resolved to improve protection in the west by replacing the old citadel in Landskrona, and a year later in 1748 to enhance security in the east by building a fortress, Sveaborg, on the sea approach to Helsinki,

Plans for the new Citadel in Landskrona, which was christened Adolph's Fortress after the king, were very extensive and would affect both the military and civil parts of the city. The Citadel was to be built on the easternmost part of the southern bank, "Gråen", while the old castle would be linked to the new one only as a part of the outer bounds. In addition, the city was to be moved and built on what was then an area of water between the old Citadel and the harbour. At that time the Citadel was mostly used as a prison, and prisoners were kept in a log house that had been built in the southern part of the fortress.

In 1754, planning of the new fortress had advanced so far that work could start in the embanked area on the new fortress chapel, designed by castle architect Carl Hårleman. On 24 August the same year, the royal couple visited Landskrona. Both had foundation ceremonies to perform in the new fortress. Queen Lovisa Ulrika laid the foundation stone of Sofia Albertina Church, and the same day King Adolf Frederick laid another foundation stone, for the southern bastion of the new Citadel. The queen's foundation stone was also the signal to start demolition of the medieval St Johannes Church. Thus, work started on the building of the new Citadel.

After 10 years, the Scanian Fortress Commission was formed with fortification director, Johan Bernard Virgin, as chairman. In a worrying interim report it was stated that the building of the

fortress in Landskrona was about to exceed all the budget estimates. The government had estimated the cost at five barrels of gold, but the commission calculated that the final bill would be over 300 barrels of gold.

A year later, in 1766, Gustav the Swedish crown prince, later Gustav III, visited the castle building site, possibly to encourage the down-hearted, as the project was threatened with being shut down. The Scanian Fortress Commission finished its work in 1768. It was stated that with the current work rate the fortress project would not be completed for another 340 years or in the year 2110. The commission stressed that a border fortress of that type was no longer needed, as the security and military-political situation pointed to a prioritisation of defence resources in the east. This meant that the level of ambition was reduced and that of the originally planned Adolph's Fortress, only a few shore batteries were built on Gråen and the land side.

In 1788, all work on fortress construction ceased. Thus, Landskrona lost its position as the country's most important defensive fortress in the west. The closing down of fortress construction was felt by the entire city of Landskrona, which did not recover before well into the 1800s.