

What are we looking at?
The western corner of the castle



What do we know?
Abandonment and ruin of the castle

The castle is abandoned after a fire. Although the castle was likely barely in use by this time, it was finally abandoned when a fire destroyed the building in 1695. Like all ruins with an abundance of stone, it became a quarry for the nearby walls and houses.



What was it like?
The bridge

The original bridge

There was a bridge over the moat, and its supports have been preserved in their final form after the 16th-century renovation.



Typically, the original bridge had a solid section and a wooden section; the latter could be quickly destroyed in the event of an attack to isolate the castle.

The bridge after the renovation

With the enlargement of the moat, the bridge had to be modified. Defensive measures were no longer necessary, so it was rebuilt with the addition of an arch, some remains of which have survived at the bottom of the moat.



What was it like?
The entrance gate to the site



Although the castle's curtain wall gate has not been preserved, its location is known thanks to the position of the bridge and the remains of one of the two flanking turrets that defended it.



Walls for El Capricho, with the flint pieces visible



Goya painted this picture for the Duke and Duchess of Osuna. He was inspired by a corner next to El Capricho: in the foreground, the Church of Santa Catalina and, behind it, the remains of the castle

The plundering for El Capricho

The plundering of materials intensified in 1785 when, with municipal authorisation, the Duchess of Osuna extracted a large part of the stone from the castle to build her nearby palace. This resulted in the demolition of the entire western corner, including the keep. Later, erosion caused the remains to be buried.

But the aggressions against the castle are not only a thing of the distant past...

Around 1970, during the development of the neighbourhood, bulldozers dug two large trenches to extract earth, one on each side of the castle, destroying part of the buried remains of the moat. One of these sides (the one beneath this viewpoint) has now been restored.



The Ruins of the Castle in an Engraving Published in the Magazine Ilustración Española in 1886



The castle between 1950 and 1960, before the abandonment of the Casa del Guarda (Estate Keeper's House) and the opening of the ditches (Photo by Valentín Gamazo y Bordejé)



The Duke and Duchess of Osuna with their children, painted by Goya in 1788, when the palace was being built. (Prado Museum)