

At this spot Hackenbroich Castle was located until its demolition in 1953. The beginnings of the castle can be traced back at least to the year 1330 when the “burch van Hackenbroich” was first mentioned in documents. However, its construction may be dated back even further. Presumably, the original complex was a so-called lower castle (Niederungsburg) of the type „moth“ which consisted of two parts surrounded by moats, the main castle in the form of a „moth hill“, and a rectangular outer embankment with farm buildings. The well-fortified complex was destroyed in 1474 during the siege of the city of Neuss by the Burgundian duke Charles the Bold, but later rebuilt, at least in parts. The castle’s last memorable shape was a late baroque new building during the 18th century. Paul Clemen, the provincial curator of the Prussian Rhine Province, described the castle in 1895 as follows:

“The access is through a magnificent, 120-step straight alley of beeches, the beginning of which is flanked by two eight-sided towerlike garden sheds with bell-shaped roofs, though the shed to the left is completely torn and decrepit. The actual castle consists of a fairly regular rectangle in which the residential buildings occupy the southwest corner while the other sides of the courtyard are enclosed by the barns and stables. The entire complex is surrounded by 30-step wide water-filled trenches and an outer rampart. The gate to which the alley leads is a petite complex with a wide way thoroughfare, closed off by another pretty bell-shaped roof, flanked by two slender pilasters which are crowned with their own articulated roofs. Above the portal two lions hold the coat of arms of the Counts of Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck.”

Burg Hackenbroich was not continuously but for the most part possessed or owned by the Salm-Reifferscheidt(-Dyck) family. In the 1970s, the former castle grounds were changed by the construction of the municipal elementary school.