

BRÆNDEKILDE – CULTURAL VILLAGE

ASKHØJ (farmstead)



Nis og Pia Gerdes.

History of the farmstead

Askhøj was named after the listed Bronze Age burial mound which is pinpointed with a red circle on the above picture. The farm is the earliest secular building in Brændekilde, and it has one of Funen's oldest 'sulelader', i.e. barns with centrally positioned bearing pillars. Askhøj was granted Grade A listed building status in 1996 (all 8 buildings, the yard, garden grotto and drystone wall with its hawthorne hedge).

The exact age of Askhøj is unknown, but year rings suggest the farm's earliest remnants date back to the year 1600.

The year '1517' can be seen carved into one of the bearing pillars of the main building – however, the wooden material may be of recycled origin.

Askhøj may have belonged to Mrs. Ellen Marsvin, the mother-in-law of King Christian IV, one of Funen's greatest landowners. Until 1790, Askhøj was a copyhold farm under different estates on Funen, but after 1790 it gained freehold status. Askhøj was an ongoing property until 1996.

From 1996 and onwards, it underwent an extensive restoration of all its wings. The earliest building is the old barn positioned towards the street. The other buildings date back to the 19th century, also the new barn positioned towards the burial mound.

Askhøj thus did not stand complete from its beginnings, but developed gradually and organically over a more than 400-year-old continuum.

Construction

The word 'sule' is akin to the Danish/German: *Säule/søjle*. 'Sulelade' refers to a building construction with vertical, roof-bearing pillars positioned in the length axis of the building. This construction style, which dates back to prehistoric Denmark and the Middle Ages, is well-preserved not least on Funen:



Nis og Pia Gerdes: Den sidste gård

Restoration

The restoration has been carried out by the present owners of Askhøj with financial support from funds, among others The Agency for Culture and Palaces.

Craftsmen mastering the old arts are doing all restoration.

The farm is private property, and there is no trespassing.

