Pre-Historic and Historic Timeline of the Ansbach Area

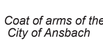
Mesolithic Finds

Typical Linear Pottery Settlement with long houses

Bronze Age Jewelry

Roman Finds (Franken)

Wolfram von Eschenbach (ca 1170-1220)



Coat of arms of the City of Ansbach

Residence (built during the 15th century)

Kaspar Hauser

Storck Barracks (1968)

Entrance to Barton Barracks (1950s)

Protected Building (Casino) at Bismarck Kaserne

Emblems of the USAG Ansbach

Mesolithikum (Mesolithic)

Jungsteinzeit (Neolithic)

Bandkeramik-Kultur (Linear Pottery Culture)

Bronzezeit (Bronze Age)

Urnenfeldkultur (Urnfeld Culture)

Eisenzeit (Iron Age)

Hallstattzeit (Hallstatt Period)

Latènezeit (Latène Period)

Römisches Reich (Roman Periode)

Mittelalter (Middle Ages)

Hochmittelalter / Romanik (High Middle Ages)

Spätmittelalter / Gotik (Late Middle Ages)

Renaissence

Barock

1618-1648: 30 Years' War

Klassik/ Romantik

20th Century

1919 - 1932: Weimar Republic

1933-1945: Third Reich

1914 - 1918: World War I

10000 BC | 8000 BC | 4500 BC | 4000 BC | 2000 BC | 800 BC | 480 BC | 500 AD | 1000 AD | 1200 AD | 1500 AD | 1700 AD | 1800 AD | 1900 AD | 1945 AD | 2010 AD

The area around Ansbach was populated by human beings as of the early Middle Stone Age (Epipaleolithic) as early as 10000 BC. The Epipaleolithic Period characterizes the early phase of the Mesolithic, which followed directly after the Old Stone Age.

The first Mesolithic settlements on the highlands around Ansbach date back to 8000 to 4000 BC. In 1924 Carl Gumpert discovered the first settlement pit of this period in Germany in Eyb near Ansbach.

Despite its poor soils, the Frankenhöhe was always populated. Finds from the Bronze Age, the Urnfield Culture and the Celtic Period confirm the permanent presence of human beings.

The Urnfield Culture is named after its traditional way of burial. The corpses were burned, their ash filled in clay vessels and buried in cemeteries located on flat areas, mostly in valleys.

While the Roman Times were in Central Europe, the Frankenhöhe formed the border to the free Germania. Burgundians and Allemanians settled in the area. Characteristic of these tribes are the "Langfluren" – long parcels of land behind the farmsteads adjacent to the roads – and settlements whose names end with –ingen.

As of the 5th century, the land was ruled increasingly by the Franks. Village names ending with –heim were founded by Frankonian settlers.
The villages of the community of Burgbernheim, to which Illesheim belongs, were probably founded during this period. Storck Barracks is situated at Illesheim.

The first settlement was founded around 740 AD. It is ascribed to a Frank by the name of Onold. Eight years later a Benedictine monastery was founded by Gumbert.

The first mention of a parish in Ansbach ("Onoldsbach") dates back to 1139. The Emperor Friederich I of Barbarossa visited the settlement and the monastery in 1189. The first mention of the settlement as a town is known from 1221.

110 years later, the town came under the rule of the Counts of Nürnberg from the house of Zollern. The Counts of Hohenzollern were raised to Princes of the Empire in 1363. In the same year, they began building a castle, their subsequent residence. In 1456 Ansbach became the residence of the electors and margraves of the house of Hohenzollern.
When the house of Hohenzollern was raised to the Electorate of Brandenburg, Ansbach was not united with Brandenburg but remained independent as Ansbach-Brandenburg.
In 1806, as a consequence of the Napoleonic wars, Ansbach became part of the Bavarian kingdom and the seat of the administration of the Rezat region. In 1838 the city became the seat of the governmental district of Mittelfranken.

Kaspar Hauser, the "European child", lived in Ansbach from 1830 on until his violent death on December 1833. Not only his death has remained a mystery. Was he the true successor of the Grand Duke of Baden, the illegitimate child of another European house of gentry or perhaps the son of a Tyrolean maidservant? Nobody really knew where this foundling came from. He appeared in Nürnberg in 1828, shabby and hardly able to speak.

1939-1945: World War II

During the Nazi period, Ansbach was made a garrison-town and the already existing Hindenburg Kaserne (built in 1722) was enlarged. Moreover, Bleidorn and Bismarck Kaserne were added as well as the airfield in Katterbach.
Ansbach was bombed in 1945. At the end of WW II, the US Army took over the barracks.

Today the city of Ansbach has approximately 40,000 inhabitants. The communal area reform of 1972 made Ansbach the fifth largest community (in area) of Bavaria. The city of Ansbach today exhibits a well preserved amount of buildings from the baroque period. The city is the econimic and commercial center of western Mittelfranken and the seat of a university of applied sciences.

Barton Barracks
The Gneisenau Kaserne was built in 1936. In 1945 the American forces took over the Kaserne, renaming it Barton Barracks in 1947.
The area named Feuchtlach was incorporated in Barton Barracks. In 1995, the grounds was returned to the Federal Republic of Germany.
Katterbach Kaserne
Katterbach Kaserne was built between 1935 and 1938. After the end of WW II, US Army forces took over the barracks.
Today, Katterbach Kaserne is the home of 4th Aviation Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division of the US Army.
Storck Barracks
The barracks was built as an airforce base for the Luftwaffe ("Luft Park") between 1934 and 1936.
At the end of WW II, the barracks was named Storck Barracks after the U.S. officer Colonel Louis J. Storck.
Oberdachstetten
This installation was planned and built in 1934. By spring 1936, 400 employees were already producing ammunition in one of the largest, if not the largest plant of the 3rd Reich. Later the Bundeswehr established the "Franken-Kaserne" on part of the grounds.
Urlas LTA
The footprint of Urlas LTA served as a military training area for the Bavarian Army and the Reichswehr (Imperial Army) from 1897 to 1924.
In 1945, the property was taken over by the U.S. Army and the rifle range was blown up. Urlas LTA has been used as training area yet again since 1952.

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