



LA FERTE DE SAINT AUBIN

Located in the Loiret

GRANT SUMMARY

The Château de la Ferté Saint Aubin in the Loiret was one of many properties throughout France evacuated by its owners as flood waters engulfed the estate in the spring of 2016. Making the devastation even more poignant, restoration work had been on-going over the past 30 years. The château’s owner is only 25 and is very committed to maintaining this historic estate. Its park, cellars, and outbuildings were covered in over three feet of water. Bridges leading to the château are under intense pressure do to the flooding. This grant would extend aid and encouragement following this natural disaster.

AT A GLANCE

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|-----------------------|---|
| Location: | Loire Valley |
| Ownership: | |
| Grant Request: | Available for Funding – Flood Damaged Châteaux campaign |
| Matching Fund Source: | |
| Allocation of Funds: | Cost of work : |
| FHS Payment: | TBD |

HISTORY OF OWNERSHIP

It is believed that in the 11th century, a little château already existed on the current site. During the Middle Ages La Ferté passed into the hands of several families.

In 1575, the Saint-Nectaire family inherited the lands of La Ferté. In 1625 Henri I de la Ferté Sennectère undertook the building of the “Grand Château”. Due to lack of funds it remained unfinished. Therefore, the «petit château », the left side of the construction is the all that still exists today.

Henri II de La Ferté Sennectère, peer of the kingdom, also a Maréchal de France, won fame in numerous battles. He built the two stables.

In 1746 the château was bought by Woldemar, Count of Lowendal and Maréchal de France, military chief of Louis XV and a close friend of Maréchal de Saxe who occupied at that time the château de Chambord, 30km away.

Then the château had many owners including the countess of Talleyrand Périgord, until being sold in 1922 to François Victor Masséna, duke of Rivoli, prince of Essling, son of the famous general of Napoleon.

Jacques Guyot, the current owner, bought the château in 1987. He opened it to public in order to finance the huge restoration works.

COMPELLING INDICATORS

When Jacques Guyot bought the château it was in very poor condition due to fires and over-grown vegetation of more than 60 years that that invaded the building.

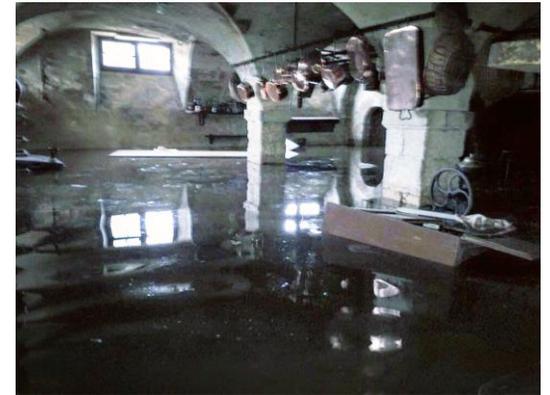
A quarter-century later the Orangerie was reconstructed, the courtyard of honor redesigned, the stables rehabilitated, the roof is almost finished but much remains to be done. Château de La Ferté finances its restoration work thanks to the rental of a reception hall, two charming cottages, annual events, and above all its 50,000 annual visitors. Due to the flood damaged la Ferté had to stop their activities that are necessary to continue their restoration works.

La Ferté is currently the most visited château of the Loiret region.



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