

BROGÅRDEN (~Bridge manor house)

Settlement

Brogården was built 1871-1873 by Gustaf Ödqvist (1826-1906). He moved to Karlskoga in 1851 from Väse. In 1864 he married Katarina Fredrika von Wachenfeldt and they gave birth to eight (8) children.

Gustaf Ödqvist was a man of great local influence and he ran several business enterprises. He served as a farm inspector, later as Estate Inspector at Bofors, Backa and Björkborn. He also was a Member of the Board for the nearby Karlskoga Railways since the opening in 1874 until his death. He also held municipal trustee positions and served as churchwarden, as well. Another position held was as Chairman of Karlskoga Housekeeping guild and Managing Director of Karlskoga Brewery.

After marriage the family lived at Älvtorp/Elftorp. Gustaf Ödqvist owned a manor house at Utterbäck. He had the main farmhouse moved close to Älvtorp, where it stands today. The move of the farmhouse started in 1871, the construction was finished in 1872 and the house was finished in 1873.

When Gustaf Ödqvist was appointed Estate Inspector at Björkborn factory for Mr Per Lagerhjelm in 1875, the family settled at Björkborn manor. After the bankruptcy of the Bofors company in 1879, Gustaf was forced to leave Björkborn. He then built a new house named Katrinedal after his wife Katarina. In 1891 the couple moved to Erikshall where later the Wemlands bank was built.

Trading post

In the early 1880s, Brogården was extended with an additional floor in the western part. Around 1885, a shop was established there, run by Bofors Arbetareförenings Handels AB (Bofors Workers' Association Trading Company). After some time the company was dissolved and the shop was transferred to the manager.

In 1899, Bofors Arbetares Handels AB (Bofors Worker's Trading Company) was formed and a shop was opened elsewhere. The shop went bankrupt in 1906 probably because a new cooperative store had been established

Company Housing

For a long time Brogården then served as an official residence for senior officials at Bofors. Around 1905 the house was extended towards the east, and around 1925/28 a second floor was built on top of the former shop. The house was then divided into two big apartments of about 250 sqm each.

The garden was designed by the famous landscape architect Rudolf Abelin, who created the Norrviken Gardens i Båstad. He also designed the gardens at the Bofors Hotel in 1906, the new Bofors hotel in 1930, and at the Managing Director's residence.

One of the more well-known leading Bofors figures who lived at Brogården was Helmer Nordqvist. He was Chief Financial Officer and Deputy CEO at Bofors, a Member of Parliament, and active in local politics.



1930st



1960s



1960s

Hotel and Inn

In 1989, Hans Jonsson opened a residential hotel for long-term guests at Brogården. On June 1st, 1990, Jan and Ingalill Gillberg took over Brogården. They had previously run Hotel Skotten, Hotel Selma Lagerlöf in Sunne and had been from 1984-1988 restaurateurs at the Stadshotellet (the City Hotel). They began converting Brogården into an inn. It was opened in connection with serving the Christmas buffet in December 1990. In February 1991, Brogården and the business was taken over by Tony Nilsson, Annika Eriksson and Roy Bengtsson. They had previously worked for Gillbergs. They ran an inn with a restaurant, catering and hotel operations with 9 rooms for 14 years.

Private Residence and Hotel

In January 2005, Jan and Barbro Krey took over Brogården.

One part of the building today houses a hotel with six rooms and a breakfast dining room. The other part is today a private residence.

www.hotellkrey.se



Brogården 2007



Brogården in late 1880s, in the background Elftorp



The highway bridge and Brogården, approx 1900