

BRADY CASTLE

The Brady Castle is located on the top of a hill southeast of Tucson and north of Interstate 10 in the foothills of the Rincon Mountains. You can obtain excellent views of the Castle while hiking the Arizona Trail about three miles north of the Marsh Station Trailhead.

The Castle is sort of an enigma. There are different stories concerning its origin. One of the stories was that the castle was purchased in Europe, disassembled and shipped to Arizona in the early 1900s. As the story went, the original owner's wife passed away before the castle was completed and the owner never occupied the Castle. This story, though, is a complete Fairy Tale. A man who grew up on a property adjacent to the Castle site said that when he was young, teenagers used to party on the site where the Castle was eventually built. He indicated that construction on the Castle started when he was about 10 or 12 years old in the early 1970s. He also said that the original owner was German who liked castles and since he was building a house anyway for his family, why not make it a castle.



An early picture of the Brady Castle
Photo by William Carpenter

The owner of the Castle in the mid-1970s was William Brady (thus the name Brady Castle). During this period, there are indications that Bill Brady hosted a number of medieval-style events at the Castle. The full history of the Castle is rather vague. Ownership changed from time to time and the property stood vacant during different periods. Sometime after the Brady family left, the castle was also called the Sunrock Castle

Around 2000, new owners took over after the property had been vacant for about three years and had been terribly vandalized. The owners spent 2 to 3 years completely renovating the Castle and tried to turn it into a bed & breakfast but were unable to obtain the necessary County permits. A description of parts of the interior of the Castle was provided by one of the children of the owners: “ *He (the father) had a huge 10 foot knight outside the round tower ... He also had 4 other smaller knights that ranged in height from 5-7 feet tall ... There is an impressive bedroom at the top of the tower that you get to from a spiral staircase. The bedroom is round which makes for some REALLY COOL furniture*



View of Brady Castle from the
Arizona Trail – October 2010

as it has to be curved to fit the walls, even the bed is round. The bathroom in that room is also round and mirrors curved to fit the wall as well.”

After the bed & breakfast venture failed, the Castle was abandoned again and vandalized. As of April 2010, it was decided to demolish the Castle due to abandonment and vagrancy. However, as of October 2010, the Castle is still pretty much intact.

Summary prepared by T. Johnson in October 2010 from the DuPont Castle Web Site.

Additional Material: GVHC Library File