

# FÜRSTENBERG FOUNTAIN

*small fountain commissioned by Charlotte Landgravine of Fürstenberg (1853)*

**Location:** opposite to Spar Schober (Linzerstraße 147, 3003 Gablitz)

The Fürstenberg Fountain, a small drinking water fountain situated on Linzerstraße opposite to Spar Schober, was erected in 1853 by way of tapping a natural spring. Charlotte Landgravine of Fürstenberg, a charitable lady of that time, dedicated it to thirsty travellers. The Landgravine owned a small country house on Herrengasse in Purkersdorf (the “Purkersdorfer Sommerschlössl”) until her death in 1864.

Born in 1787 in Prussia, Charlotte Countess of Schlabrendorf married Joseph Friedrich Landgrave of Fürstenberg in 1804. In Vienna, she was part of the royal household of Empress Elisabeth as one of the Empress’ ladies-in-waiting. Through her charitable actions, she gained much renown during her lifetime: besides the fountain, which she commissioned in 1853, she was responsible for the installation of a water supply line and the construction of a well in Purkersdorf during a period of drought. Furthermore, she was a generous benefactor of the local poorhouse. In all likelihood the biggest charitable contribution by her was made to the Silesian town of Odrau, however, where she funded the construction of a hospital with 34 beds, a pharmacy, a chapel, a girls’ school and a poorhouse.

The Fürstenberg Fountain is reminiscent of her charitable work. It was renovated only in 2019, accompanied by some improvements to its immediate surroundings.

- *Grimmlinger, Renate u. Haunschmidt, Angelika (2020): Gablitz - eine Geschichte. Baumgarten: Fa. Mails & More.*

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