



To what do the notions of "category", "value" and "rank" correspond?

Defining a building's interest

Initiated in 1988 during the extension of the Federal Inventory of Protected Heritage Sites in Switzerland (ISOS), Neuchâtel's Cantonal Architectural Ranking (RACN) has permitted us to obtain a better and deeper understanding of the fabric of the built world of Neuchâtel, and to define the interest of different buildings with regards application in legislation.

From 1988 to 2003, some 12'800 buildings situated in long-term inhabited zones (ZAL) were ranked by the communes with the support of the Confederation. More than 4'000 constructions outside urbanised zones (HZ) were then added from 2002 to 2009.

So as to guarantee the maintenance of the rankings, the work is followed by regular revisions and additions, by the digitising of records and images, as well as the enrichment and the maintenance of the historical information. Led by the Heritage Conservation Section, this work relies notably on revisions to Communal Town Planning.

Details of the Categories/Values/Ranks

For the granting of building permits, one must distinguish between the notions of "category" (1st through 3rd) and ranks (0 to 9).

First Category: interesting buildings

0. Remarkable
1. Multiple interests
2. Evident interest
3. Probable interest

Second Category: buildings well integrated into sites

4. Typical
5. Picturesque
6. Neutral, banal

Third Category: banal or disturbing buildings

7. Without interest
8. Unpleasant
9. Extremely disturbing

① Refer to the French page and know more know more on these ranks/values

What are the criteria for evaluation?

The building is evaluated according to the following interests:

- Geographical and Situational
- Historical and Archaeological



① Refer to the French page and know more know about these evaluation criteria...

What body is responsible for this evaluation?

A commission composed of members from the Cantonal Commission of Cultural Properties, representatives of the communal authorities and the Neuchâtel's Heritage and Archaeology Office rate the buildings according to the above criteria.

The evaluation of the buildings is then submitted to the communal authorities when town planning changes; when this occurs, the proprietors can request a re-review if they so wish.

