



NEUSS
HISTORICAL

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Cultural Office



The semi-detached building at Oberstrasse 17-19 was built in 1787 as a private residence for Peter Joseph Nepes, the Imperial Postmaster, who had previously constructed the adjoining post office (Oberstrasse 15) in 1778.

The three-storey residential building, which has two entrances and a central gateway, was designed by the town architect, Kaspar Hermkes (1740-1809).

As assistant to the postmaster, Hermkes supervised construction of the building next door, before the architect Michael Leydel invited him to work at his office in Krefeld. In 1781, Hermkes returned to Neuss, where he distinguished himself by his excellence as an architect and in his own reform projects. After construction of the residential buildings on Oberstrasse, Hermkes was commissioned to undertake a classical modernisation of the old town hall at the marketplace (1789-1794).

In 1976, the semi-detached building at Oberstrasse 17-19 underwent a demolition of the façade and the ancient vaulted cellar (today: the Kulturkeller). Since that time, the new building has been home to the municipal cultural office and other cultural institutions.

Sources and texts: Neuss municipal archives

Graphic design: Cornelius Uerlichs

Translation: A.C.T. Fachübersetzungen GmbH

This plaque was donated by: Stadt Neuss



Audio guide and other information:



Kaspar Hermkes (1740-1809), architect of the community centre at Oberstrasse 17-19 and later the town architect, shown here as Imperial Postmaster in 1777 (*painting in the Neuss municipal archives*)



Historical staircase in Oberstrasse 17, about 1975



Oberstrasse 17-19 before restoration, about 1960