



PALAZZO TENTORIO (TENTORIO PALACE)

You can find this point of interest in Canzo - Path 1 - Stage 1

INFORMATION

Location: Palazzo Tentorio (Palazzo Tentorio) overlooks Via Mazzini, and its entrance is at number 28.

Paving: Via Mazzini is asphalted; the pavement on the side of the street is of porphyry flagstones, while the Palace hallway is made of stone flags.

Architectural barriers: to access Palazzo Tentorio one must cross a small stone-made chute-shaped threshold opening onto a hallway, the first portion of which is inclined slightly downwards and separated from the interior by a glass door.

Access: access is from the large monumental portal in Via Mazzini.

Services: parking available in the area; automated teller machines along Via Mazzini; Chemist in Via Mazzini.

Leisure and food: bars and restaurants in the area.

DESCRIPTION

(Silvia Fasana)

Palazzo Tentorio (Tentorio Palace) is an austere three-floor building, with an imposing rounded arch ashlar portal in its façade.

The ground floor of the palace is occupied by a large hallway, with a porch opening onto the square at the back; following the recent restoration, the first floor has come to host the offices of the Mayor and City Clerk and the Council Chamber. A large hall with exposed trusses takes up the second floor.

The name of the palace derives from the Tentorio family, who purchased it in 1706 from the Riboldis. The Tentorios had become a wealthy family through their flourishing woollen cloth trade; they left a significant trace of their presence in Canzo by generously contributing to the construction of the new Church of S. Stefano (*St. Stephen*), consecrated in 1752.

In 1828 the complex was transferred to the brothers Giovanni Maria, Benedetto and Venanzio Gavazzi, who in that period were active in the development of the silk industry; in 1836 the entire structure was acquired by Giovanni Battista Gavazzi, son of Giovanni Maria. Three years later, Giovanni Battista, too, distinguished himself for an initiative of great importance and public interest: the foundation of a Hospital next to the Church of S. Francesco (*St. Francis*).

Subsequently, the Palace was purchased in 1889 by the Municipality to host the school and, later, the Town Hall. In 1999 the building was renovated, and a new building - opened in 2002 - was added at the back.

The latter building, made in contemporary style undressed stone, and designed by architects "Studio Associato Ventura Architetti di Pizzighettone", is composed of two distinct parts: the porch and the tower that, in the intention of the designers, can be considered as the founding elements of a "Broletto" «*a term which defines the old Lombard communes' Municipal Palace (also called "arengario") and which derives from "brolo", an enclosed garden with dry stone walls where in times past people gathered to make decisions affecting public life*». The porch houses municipal offices and medical clinics; the assembly room is hosted in the upper part of the tower, outside of which stands a large clock.

Palazzo Tentorio and the new building are separated by a small square.