

# The Memorial

Both permanent exhibitions demonstrate the history of “The Rote Ochse” in the distinguished periods from 1933 to 1945, and from 1945 to 1989.

On the ground floor – the former execution place – there is a presentation on the history of the National Socialist dictatorship.

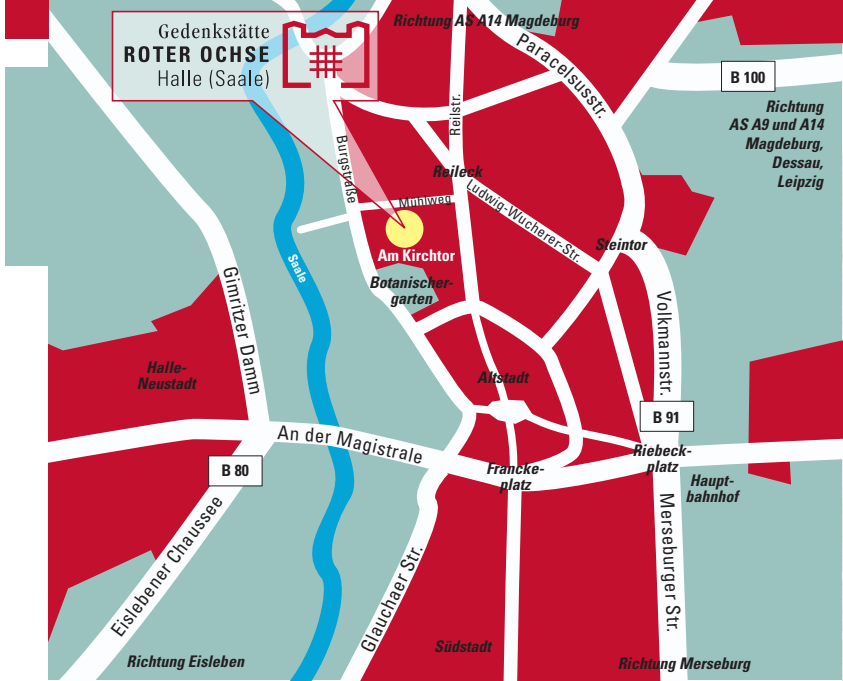
On the first floor renovated prison cells and an original Stasi (short for Ministry for State Security) chamber for personal effects may be visited. Besides that the area for special exhibitions is also located here.

On the second floor exhibitions of the Soviet Military Tribunals and of the pre-trial custody of the Ministry for State Security – MfS – are presented.

On the top floor there are seminar rooms and a PC-science room.

In the former guardhouse there is a film about the building construction history of “The Rote Ochse”.

Separate signs comment the history of use of individual parts of the building complex



Gedenkstätte  
**ROTER OCHSE**  
Halle (Saale)



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E-Mail: [info-roterochse@stgs.sachsen-anhalt.de](mailto:info-roterochse@stgs.sachsen-anhalt.de)

**Tuesdays – Fridays:**

10 am – 4 pm

**Every first weekend each month:**

10 am – 5pm

Admission free.

Tram connections:

Line 7 up to stop “Hermanstraße”

Line 8 up to stop “Peißnitzstraße/Diakoniewerk”

With friendly support of the Federal Government, the representative for Culture and Media and the “Stiftung zur Aufarbeitung der SED-Diktatur”



# The “Rote Ochse” – History of a Prison

1838-1842	Erection of the Royal Prussian “Penal institution and Reformatory” outside the gates of Halle/S.
1848/49	First detention of political prisoners after the revolution
1933	Incorporation of “The Rote Ochse” in the Nazi penal system
1935	Reorganisation of the prison into a penitentiary
1942 - 1945	Execution of 549 prisoners
17th April 1945	Liberation of the prisoners by the US Army
1st July 1945	Opening of “The Rote Ochse” to Soviet occupying power
1945 - 1952	Use of the penal institution for military tribunals and as an internment camp
1950 - 1989	Use of parts of the building complex to remand suspects in custody by the Ministry for State Security of the GDR
1990	Incorporation of the prison into the criminal justice of the Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt
1996	opening of “The Rote Ochse” memorial to the public
2002-2006	Comprehensive renovation of the memorial and setting up a new permanent exhibition



layout: signum

# The ROTE OCHSE Halle (Saale)

## Political Justice

**1933 – 1945**

**1945 – 1989**

Gedenkstätte  
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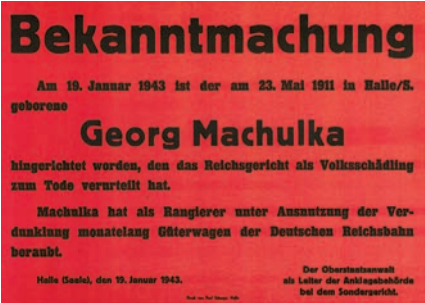
# National Socialism

Shortly after Adolf Hitler was named as German Chancellor, “The Rote Ochse” started to be incorporated into the penal system of the “Third Reich”. The building complex located at “Am Kirchtor (by the Church Gate)” was then used by the National Socialists to imprison political opponents and those people who did not fit into the “community of national comrades” for racial or religious reasons.



This picture, taken in 1938, shows prisoners and enforcement officer in the typesetting workshop

Many of them served long sentences in the prison, which was transformed into a penitentiary in November 1935. At the beginning of the World War II, the Nazi leadership tried to maintain control by more and more brutal means. These efforts peaked in 1942 when the execution place was set up. By the end of the World War II 549 people from 15 European Countries were sentenced to death and executed at Halle’s/S. Penitentiary.



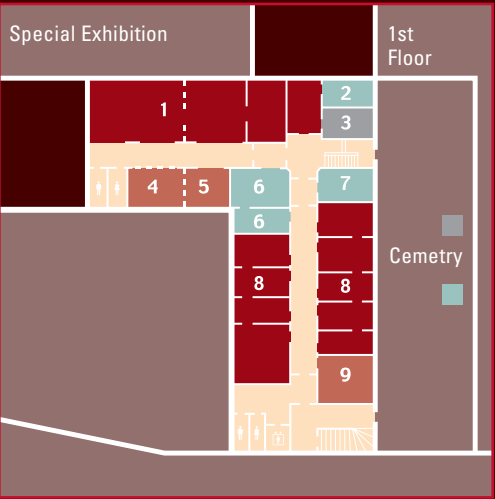
The wording on the notice is supposed to suggest that the father of six underage children is a hardened criminal.



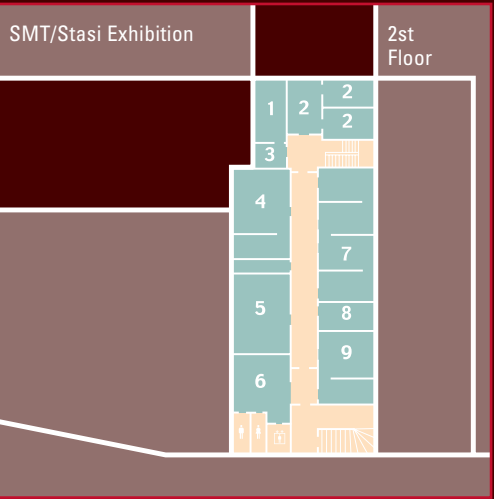
Executed in “Rote Ochse” 24 year old Polish resistance fighter, Krystyna Wituska



- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 Stasi carpenter’s workshop  | 10 Executioner and assistants                              |
| 2 Individual stories          | 11 Courts  |
| 3 Execution room              | 12 Toilets   |
| 4 Death cell                  | 13 Foyer/Information Centre                                |
| 5 End of the war              | 14 The „Rote Ochse” 1933-1945                              |
| 6 Death cell                  | 15 Guardhouse/Construction history of the building complex |
| 7 Stasi lock smith’s workshop |  |
| 8 Disposal of corpses         |  |
| 9 Burial                      |  |



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|------------------------------|
| 1 Presentations              |
| 2 Reconstructed              |
| 3 Types of cells             |
| 4 Tea kitchen                |
| 5 Detention                  |
| 6 Vault for personal effects |
| 7 Personal experiences       |
| 8 Special exhibition         |
| 9 Custody                    |



- |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Weapons store                   |
| 2 Soviet Military Tribunals       |
| 3 Autumn 1989                     |
| 4 The „Rote Ochse” Stasi division |
| 5 Fate of the prisoners           |
| 6 Personal experiences            |
| 7 „Rote Ochse” 1950-1989          |
| 8 Photo laboratory                |
| 9 Interrogation                   |

**Political Justice**

■ 1933 – 1945	National Socialism (Nazi)
■ 1945 – 1989	Soviet Military Tribunals (SMT) Ministry for State Security (Stasi)

## Area of responsibility and educational offers

This memorial remind us of the victims of the National Socialist dictatorship. It is also dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Soviet Military Tribunals and of those kept in pre-trial custody by the Ministry for State Security (MfS) in the building complex “The Rote Ochse”

Visitors to this building – esp. schools and other educational institutions – may take advantage of following educational opportunities:

- **Guided tours** and **presentations** on a range of individual topics
- **Seminars/ project days** on the following main areas:

### 1933 – 1945

- Nazi special and military jurisdiction
- Victims of Nazis justice
- Judicial employees as offenders
- Liberation of Halle by the US Army

### 1945 – 1989

- Denazifikation in Halle
- Soviet Military Triubunals/concentration camps/GULAG
- 17th June 1953 in Halle
- Victims of the Stasi and SED justice
- Stasi employees as offenders Disbandment of the Stasi

All educational opportunities are offered free of charge. Groups are requested to register at least one week in advance.

# Soviet occupation / GDR

In July 1945 the Soviet occupying power took command of the “Rote Ochse”. The building complex was not only used to imprison actual and suspected Nazis but also those people had persecuted as political opponents. Soviet Military Tribunals (SMT) passed hundreds of illegal judgements here. Even today, the number of death sentences passed by the SMTs in “The Rote Ochse” is unknown. Reliable details also are missing about the number of those displaced people died in thespecial and work camps kept before in the penal institution “The Rote Ochse”.



Stamp of the SMT Garrison Halle, 1950

In Autumn 1950 the Ministry of State Security (Stasi), one of the most important instruments in maintaining the leadership of the Sozialistische Einheitspar- tei Deutschlands (SED), took command of parts of “The Rote Ochse”. Here the MfS installed a pre-trial custody (UHA).



Cell furniture



Relic of the Stasi-pre-trial custody (UHA) neon sign outside the interrogation room

By 1989 the Stasi had detained approx 8,100 men and 1,600 women in the UHA which been responsible for the district of Halle since 1952. The detainees were regarded by the SED leadership as political opponents. The Stasi pre-trial custody (UHA). “The Rote Ochse” ceased to exist In December 1989.