



GEDENKSTÄTTE ROTER OCHSE HALLE (SAALE)



Location of the memorial

1 Entrance of the memorial | 2 Prison of the city of Halle/Saale |
3 Tram stop: "Peißnitzstraße/Diakoniewerk" | 4 Tram stop: "Hermannstraße"



How to get there

The memorial is located next to the city prison of Halle | **Public transport:**
Line 7 stop: "Hermannstraße" | Line 8 stop: "Peißnitzstraße/Diakoniewerk"

Contact

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The Saxony-Anhalt Memorials Foundation is supported by the Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt

Opening hours

Monday and Friday	10 am – 2 pm
Tuesday to Thursday	10 am – 4 pm
Every first weekend of the month	1 pm – 5 pm

Admission and educational offers are free of charge.

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SACHSEN-ANHALT

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Cover picture: Partial view of the former remand prison of the Stasi, 2008
(Collection of the memorial ROTER OCHSE Halle)



STIFTUNG GEDENKSTÄTTEN
SACHSEN-ANHALT



Prisoners in the Halle penitentiary, undated
(J. Hermann: "... die das Höchste geben, leben fort im Volk", Halle 1984, p.47)



View into the exhibition: former execution site
(ikon Hannover)



View into the exhibition: former interrogation room of the Stasi
(Collection of the memorial ROTER OCHSE Halle)

The prison "Roter Ochse" (literally the red ox)

Originally opened as a penitentiary in 1842, the Nazis later turned it into a place of execution for male inmates, political prisoners, as well as prisoners of war and forced laborers.

From the fall of 1942 until the end of the Second World War, both Criminal Courts and the Wehrmacht's Military Courts executed 549 people from 15 European countries and Tunisia.

American troops liberated the prison in April 1945. In the summer of 1945, the prison was handed over to Soviet occupation power that brought military tribunals and numerous deportations into special camps as the new norm in the application of law.

From 1950 until 1989, the Ministry of State Security of the GDR (the Stasi), used several of the prison buildings as their detention center, while other areas served as penitentiary for women beginning in 1954.

The memorial

The memorial *Roter Ochse* opened in 1996 and is located inside the former execution building of the Nazis, which the East German Stasi had subsequently transformed into an interrogation facility and an administrative building. The memorial dedicates its permanent

exhibition, research and educational programs to the victims of political persecution in the years from 1933–1945 and 1945–1989. The historical particularity of the prison *Roter Ochse* is that it had been the place of incarceration for political dissenters, beginning right after the Democratic March Revolution of 1848/49, and continuing during the German Empire (1871–1918) as well as the Weimar Republic (1919–1933). The persecution of actual and alleged opponents of the government, and the serious human rights violations that occurred under the Nazis and the Soviet occupation after the end of World War II, plays a dominant role in the building's history.

In the beginning of 1990, the prison building, which was then planned to be transformed into a memorial, was in poor structural condition. For one, all the records of the Stasi had already been removed and transferred to the archives of the Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security Service of the former GDR. Second, and as a result of own research, it became clear that almost the entire first floor was used as the Nazi dictatorship's execution site. Subsequently, the essential problems for the further conceptual work were obvious: the use of important rooms, during the Nazi dictatorship as well as their handling during Stasi times. Consideration had to be given to the

preservation of the historical monument and the intended multi-functional character of the building for exhibitions, educational programs and events.

Research and education

The memorial is a place of both research and education. Visitors, especially former inmates and their families are offered the possibility of individual commemoration. In addition, the staff will be happy to assist you with information and research.

Visitors of the memorial, especially school classes and student groups, can book tours and lectures and are more than welcome to participate in our education program. Interviews with eyewitnesses from the period of 1945–1989/90 are available upon request.