



PRO LOCO
TREVIGLIO

Ufficio Informazioni
e Accoglienza Turistica
di Treviglio e Comprensorio



“TREVIGLIO”

CASTRUM VETUS

Taken from “**Treviglio: storia, arte e cultura**” by Barbara Oggioni - *ed. Clessidra 2002*

The area surrounded by Piazza Manara, Piazza Garibaldi e Via Galliari has been known since the 14th century as *castrum vetus* or “old castle”. The term *castrum* describes an area enclosed within thick, solid, fortified walls topped by towers, with an access gate and in most cases surrounded by a moat.

Tradition would have it, and historical studies would seem to confirm, that Treviglio grew from a unification of three Roman settlements, or *Roman villae*: the inhabitants felt the need of a fortified nucleus so they joined together around what is today Piazza Garibaldi and built a solid, thick-walled enclosure topped by three towers and surrounded by a moat. The defensive role of the primitive structure fell into disuse around 1000 A.D. when the townspeople, too numerous to all live in the old *castrum*, built new and larger fortification.

Access to the old *castrum* was by way of a lane, today's vicolo Teatro.

The old *castrum* was certainly altered and remodelled over the centuries and was absorbed by new buildings works and used as private home or for public use (bakery, tavern, cellar...)

Now-a-days, from Vicolo Teatro, parts of the old *castrum* can still be seen with their narrow rooms and pointed arches. Other remains can be seen in the Bank building in Via Galliari: a square room linked to a narrow corridor, probably another communication trench, constructed in river stones and of considerable thickness.