

Neokastro in Pylos

FROM TURKISH CASTLE TO TOURIST ATTRACTION



This is a view copy. It shows the cover, table of contents and a few representative pages. For the complete publication, see www.historypicturesanddocuments.com

Content

1	Plan of the castle and its citadel	3
2	Views from the castle	5
3	The citadel	7
4	Bastions and walls	9
5	Church of the Metamorphosis	13
6	Barracks of Maison	15
7	Aqueducts	18
8	Battle of Navarino	19
	Neokastro in Pylos, a castle and its history	22
	To readers who want to participate	24
	Volumes <i>Greek history in pictures</i>	24
	Colophon and Acknowledgements	25

(previous page)

NEOKASTRO SEASIDE VIEW

In 1572-1573 the Turks built this castle in the south entrance of the bay to replace the outdated Frankish castle on the other side of the bay.

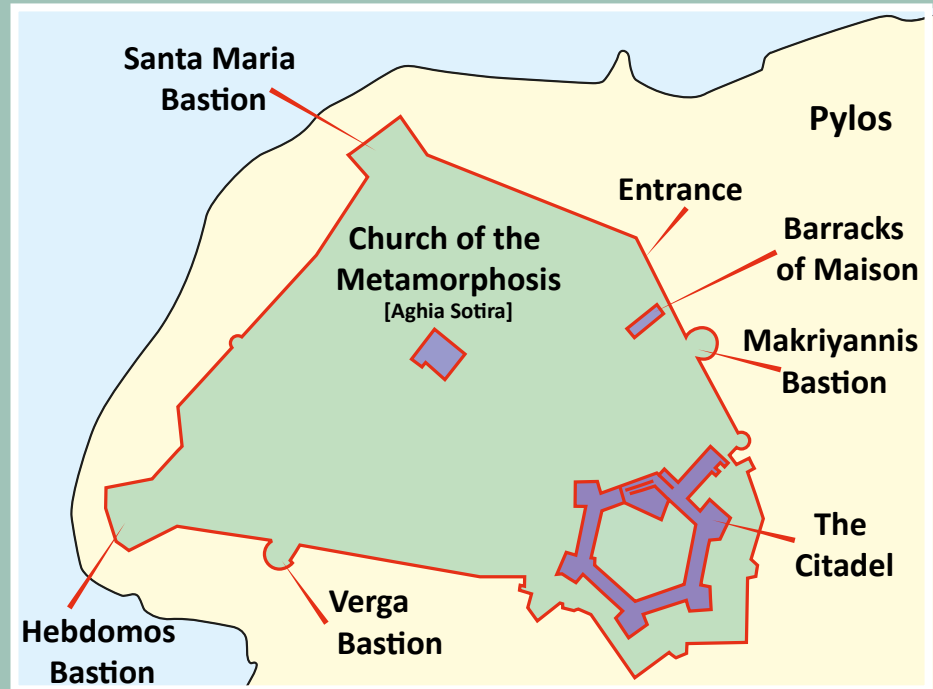
Greek history in pictures

The volumes in this series are designed for everyone who wishes to orient in short time on one or more aspects of Greek history, especially through visual sources. Our target groups are tourists, pupils of secondary schools, students, teachers and everyone else who are interested in short introductions in aspects of the fascinating history of the Greek people.

This series will present the history of Greece from prehistoric times to the present in small pictorial volumes. Every year some volumes will be published on the internet. See page 23 for available volumes, summer 2015. Contributions of anyone who is interested in the Greeks and their history are appreciated (see page 23).

Plan of the castle and its citadel

In 1453 BC the Turks conquered Byzantium and gradually afterwards the rest of Greece. When the Turks conquered Pylos they named it Navarino (Anavarin). In 1572-1573 they built a new castle in the south entrance of the bay to replace Paleokastro on the other side of the bay. The Turks wanted to secure more the natural port of Navarino (modern Pylos) and to use the port as a naval base.



AERIAL VIEW OF THE CITADEL

In the 16th century Paleokastro was from military point of view outdated. New developments in artillery caused inaccessible heights to become less important, very thick walls to withstand artillery bombardments became more important.



Photo: Costa Navarino

View from the castle

MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE BAY OF PYLOS

View from the castle of the main entrance of the Bay of Pylos. In the distance the south of Sphakteria, the island that played a historic role during the battle of Spartans and Athenians in de Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC). The Bay of Pylos offered the Turks a large and safe harbour on the south-west edge of their empire for naval operations. The harbour became a safe base for naval operations, for ships that brought supplies from Egypt and for piratical raids.

VIEW ON THE BAY OF PYLOS

View from the castle to the Bay of Pylos. On the left in the distance Sphakteria, on the right the mainland and Paleokastro. In the foreground the part of Neokastro with the Church of Metamorphosis, in Turkish times a mosque (see page 13). The church is in restauration.



Photo: Kirsten van den Berg (2014)

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The Citadel



GATE OF THE CITADEL