

Four railway administrations and a safeguarding association in almost 150 years

Façade sur la Voie



Top: The Sentheim railway station on the track side, like it was originally and as drawn in the model plans of the Eastern Railway Company.

On the right: the station on the court side around 1934, there is gas lighting installed in conjunction with electric lighting. On the left of the station, a removable AL barrier guard house used as an annex. (coll.P. Perrot).

Below: The station very damaged after the bombing of September 21, 1916. (Sentheim town archives)



The station was inaugurated in September 1869 by the Eastern Railways, but in 1871 the annexation of Alsace by Germany connected it with the «Kaiserliche Generale Direktion der Eisenbahnen in Elsass Lothringen» abbreviated EL. In 1902, the wings of the station were raised to accommodate the large family of the station master. In August 1914, the station was included in the little French Alsace reconquered, and at the heart of a device of strategic military railways, which will earn him aerial bombardments! In 1919, it returned to the "Compagnie des Chemins de Fer d'Alsace et de Lorraine", founded by the French State and is rebuilt in its disposition. The Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français (SNCF) inherited it in 1938. It suffered little damage during the conflict 1939-1945. Operation with agent ends in 1969 and the last freight train passes through it in April 1972. The station is abandoned and the association receives the lease in June 1976. It will serve as staff housing for two permanent employees of the association during the years 1980-1990. In 1999, the «Gare aux artistes» art gallery was created in the rooms on the ground floor.



The Sentheim passenger station

History and characteristics



The Sentheim passenger station, year 1938 with the Family of the station master (engraving Atelier de Pat 2013)

Built by.....	COMPAGNIE DES CHEMINS DE FER DE L'EST (Eastern Railway Company)
Time of erection.....	1868-1869
Type of standard building.....	Type «C» from the Compagnie de Chemins de Fer de l'Est.
Family of buildings....	Station «Mignere» for the Departmental Railways from the Ministry of Public Works.
Current owner.....	Community of towns Vallée de la Doller et du Soultzbach.
Management and maintenance.....	TTDA with « Pays Thur Doller » and the community of towns Vallée de la Doller et du Soultzbach.
Waiting rooms.....	1 st and 2 nd class in the main building and 3 rd class in the right wing.
Service rooms.....	Station master office, ticket window, room for trains traffic and baggage.
Staff housing.....	One for the station master at 2 nd floor with 1 living room, a kitchen, 3 bedrooms, toilets, one bedroom in garrett.
Main rebuilding.....	2 bedrooms added in 1901 in the enhanced wings, and addition of attic bedroom.
Annex buildings.....	Stable, Utility room Est (in bricks) to which is joined an utility room and lamp store EL added in 1902. Original Toilets building Est was replaced by the one we can see today by EL. The freight hall originally in stone was rebuilt in wood in 1941.

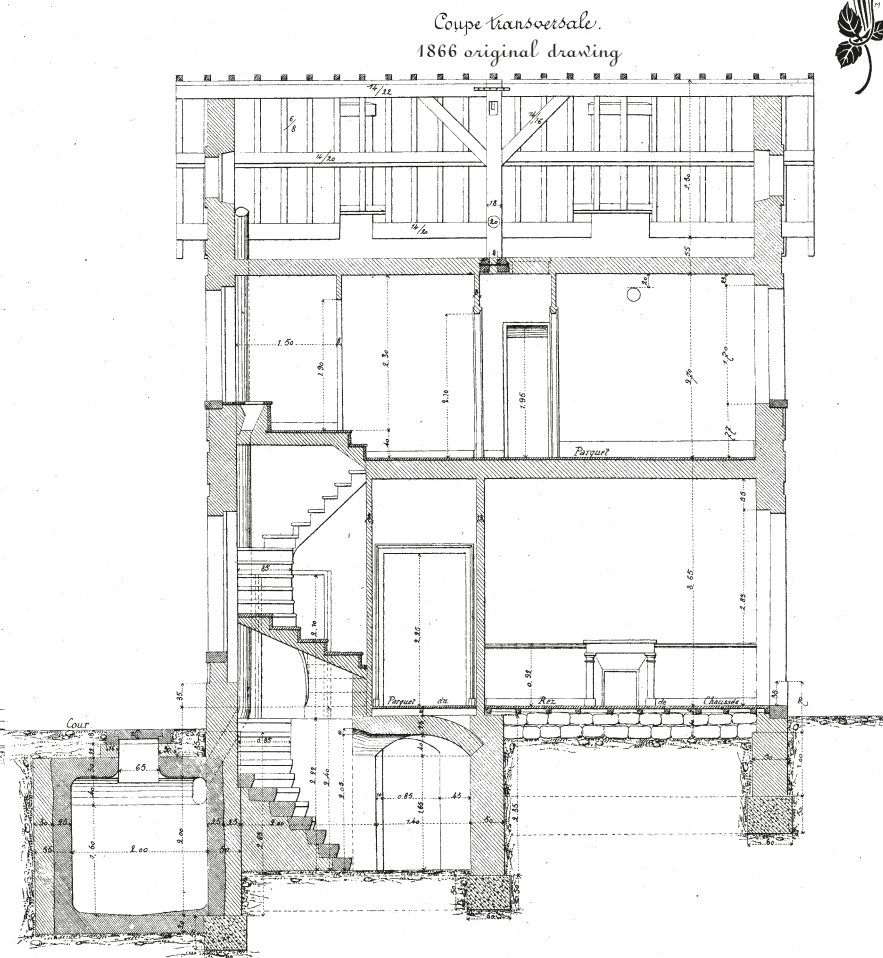
Train Thur Doller
Alsace

Sentheim Passenger station



Top: The Sentheim railway station on the track side, like it looks today. (Drawing P Perrot)

Right: the sectional view from the standard plans shows a fireplace in the waiting room 1st and 2nd classes, but a stove seems to have been installed since the beginning of the use of the station. At the bottom of the image on the left: the cellar and the septic tank



The passenger vessel from its origin is intended for the service of passengers, luggage and high-speed messengers. The building is rectangular in masonry of rubble stones coated with a three-span central fore-body. The main entrance door is in the center of the fore-body. The windows are rectangular with crossovers, with frames of sandstone. On the facade side of the platform, there is a central body a little protruding with two spans, a front door giving in the waiting room 1st and 2nd classes, in side of a door transformed into window at the station master office. The lateral spans are also pierced with a French window giving onto the service room and the 3rd class waiting room. The accommodation of the station master on the 2nd floor has four windows on the track side, and four on the courtyard. It includes a kitchen, a living room and a bedroom, an attic bedroom, and toilets (a luxury in 1869). The extension of the wings adds two large rooms and a small room is arranged in the attic, with a skylight replacing the original oculus. The roof in two slopes is covered with interlocking tiles since the construction. Three chimneys allow the installation of stoves in all rooms except the garret.

The original floors were wood floor and asphalt mastic in the hallway and luggage room. The track side façade and the western gable have been covered with slate since the rebuilding of 1919. They replace a cladding of galvanized sheets with a decoration imitating wood shingles. One finds a real shingle in tongues of fir tree split on the gable of the house of the chief of district, near the station, a remarkable element having survived since the nineteenth.

At present, the Train Thur Doller Alsace has begun a continuous work of preservation of the site and gradual restoration to the aspect of the time of the "Chemins de fer d'Alsace et de Lorraine" (AL), at the time between 1919 and 1938. The color of the interior woodwork was restituted, and the atmosphere of each room in the station was decorated with objects, old time furnaces and old fashion lighting. The station is painted outdoors with SNCF colours (brown-red woodwork) whereas in the AL era they were in malachite green. This colour will be restored in the future.

The ground floor of the station is invested every week in summer by an artist who comes to exhibit his works in the delightfully romantic decor of «La gare aux artistes». In winter, the members meet near the fireplace for cinema projections and convivial evenings. The first floor is used by the association for its activities.