

THE FORTRESS OF KARABABAS

By Paschalis Beckham, John Hamilton, Stamatis Bellingham

History

Some academics identify the location of the fortress as ancient Kanethos since the surface of the structure has sparsely preserved building and cemetery remnants. The hill was most likely fortified during the Roman era, but it was undoubtedly undefended during the Byzantine, Venetian, and early Turkish occupations. The Turks most likely constructed the fortress that is currently visible around 1684 to defend Chalkis from the Venetians. The Venetian architect Gerolimo Galopo designed it, and its architectural style is more European than Turkish. The Venetians of Morozini attempted an unsuccessful siege of the citadel in 1688, but the Turks were able to hold it until the Greek state was granted sovereignty over it following the treaty of 1833.



<https://i0.wp.com/www.mixanitouxronou.gr/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Halkida-kastro-1.jpg?fit=832%2C576&ssl=1>

Structure and Fortification

Maximum length: 54 m, Maximum width: 240 m

Perched atop Phourka, a hill along the Boeotian shore, is the fortress of Karababa. Perched over the town of Chalkis and the straits of Euripos, it enjoys a commanding location. Its form is almost entirely Venetian, as it was created by a Venetian. The enceinte has an oblong layout and is facing east-west. It is fortified by three bastions,

a huge tower, and a rampart along the north wall. The wall's southern segment has been poorly conserved. There are numerous old spolia built into the walls.

On the east side of the wall, facing Chalkis, is the most intricate bastion, shaped like a hexagon. On the battlements are two 19th-century Russian canons. On the southeast side of the wall lies the castle's lone gate. Structures with military use were constructed all around the gate. A bell tower has been erected at the east curtain wall, between the east bastion and the gate, in the location where the fortress's alarm bell had stood. The 1895 church dedicated to Prophet Elias is the only structure still standing along the walls' perimeter. The largest of the fortress's defensive towers, with seven sides, is located at the west end of the enceinte. The tower can be reached by a winding, arched hallway that resembles a maze.



<https://oedipusculturalroute.gr/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/get-167.jpeg>