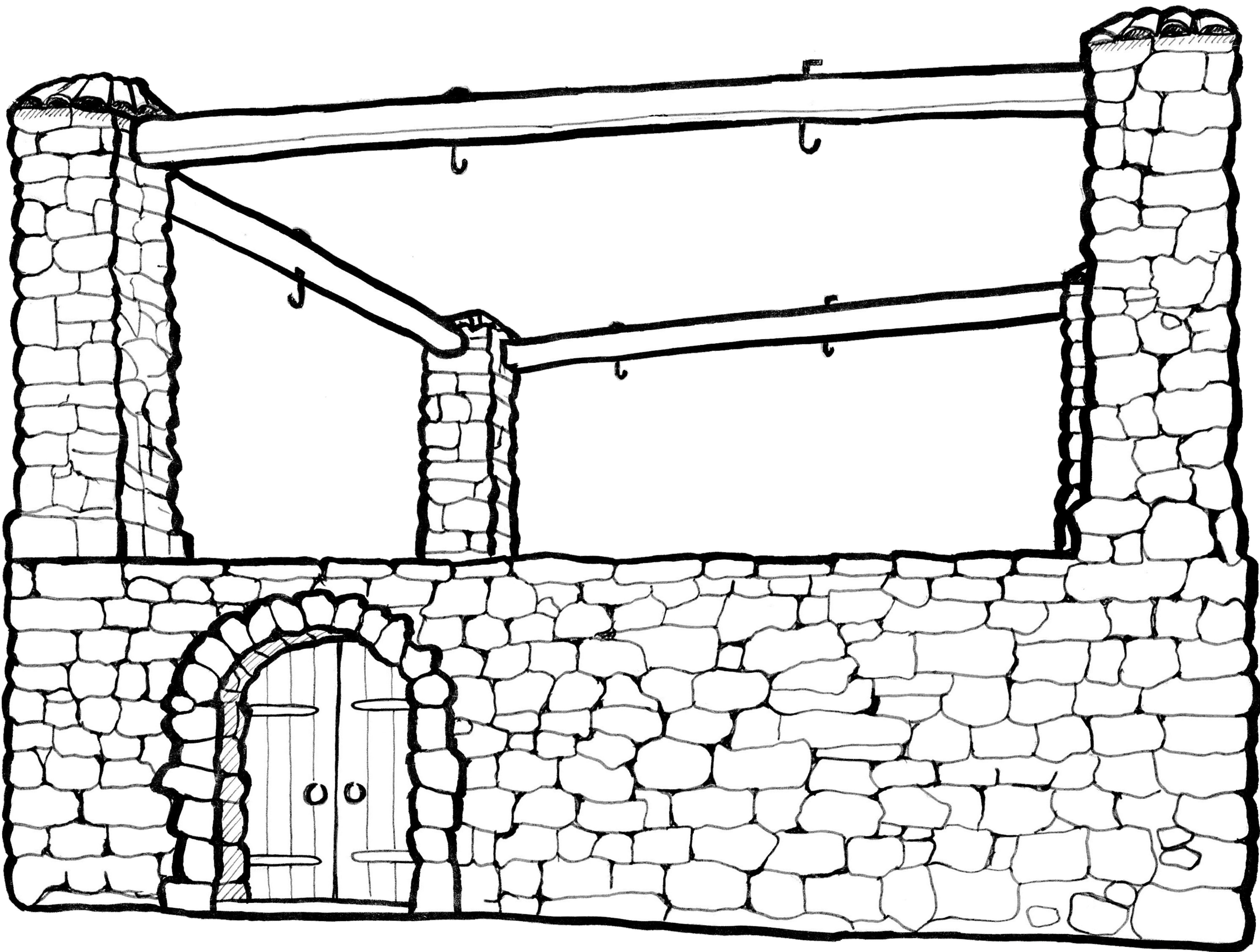




The Later Well-Type Gallows

(an enclosed masonry gallows)

This reconstruction is based on archaeological research and analogies from other sites. It represents one possible appearance of the structure.

The Execution Site

You are standing on the site of a former execution complex, which was discovered and archaeologically excavated between 2019 and 2021. The gallows are shown on a map from the First Military Survey dating to the second half of the 18th century, but no visible traces remained on the surface. The site had to be located using archaeological methods.

The execution complex can be reliably dated to the 15th century and the Early Modern period. According to historical sources, executions took place here until around the mid-18th century, with the last one likely occurring in 1765. In that same year, Polička lost its right of high justice as a result of the Theresian judicial reforms. The town had held this right since the second half of the 13th century. However, no archaeological evidence has been found to confirm that the execution site was used during this earlier period.

The complex is situated on a low hill surrounded by a slight earthen rampart, offering a clear view of the surrounding roads and the historic core of Polička. The hill contained two gallows structures, burials of the executed, and a stone-paved area of undetermined function (likely related to other forms of punishment).

The later well-type gallows was larger, built of stone, and at least partially bound with mortar. It had a trapezoidal ground plan with side measuring from 8 to 10 meters. Access to the interior was on the northern side, where traces of an entrance were identified. The corner pillars were made of stone and supported horizontal wooden beams. The gallows structure was likely unplastered. The interior space was probably covered by a wooden floor. The tops of the pillars and the masonry structure may have been protected by roofing.



Detail from the First Military Survey map showing the marked gallows.



Archaeological features excavated within the execution site.

