

wife's inheritance – from this time onwards he and his descendants would be known as the princes of Savoy-Achaea.

From 1295, therefore, Philip ruled Piedmont as his own principality, in an uneasy relationship with his uncle Amadeus V. But he did not make Turin his capital, preferring to hold court and administer his domains from his castle in the city of Pinerolo, in the Alpine foothills to the west. Pinerolo had long been a bridgehead for Savoyard expansion into the north Italian plain. It had fallen under Savoyard domination in the early thirteenth century, and had served as a base of operations for Thomas II and his son in their campaigns to conquer Piedmont. The princes of the Achaea line would not finally transfer their residence from Pinerolo to Turin until a century later, but in the end Turin's greater economic value and its strategic position as the point of departure for expansion into Lombardy convinced them to make it the capital of their Piedmontese lands. For a century, however, Pinerolo remained their capital and they paid only periodic visits to Turin.

Philip of Achaea did not neglect Turin, however. His chief concern was the maintenance of public order, which was continually disturbed by fighting between the city's leading families. Moreover he was by no means certain of the loyalty of these turbulent clans. So to consolidate his hold on the city, in 1317 he ordered the construction of a fortified residence at the Porta Pretoria, based around the existing Roman towers. The purpose of this new fortress was not so much to ward off external foes as to overawe the city's factious population and to serve as the headquarters for the prince's administration in the city. It housed his officials – the Vicario, the Judge, and their staffs – along with a garrison of about forty guards. It also served as a prison. (This new fortress was probably not an extension of the castle that William of Monferrato supposedly built in Turin after he occupied the city in 1275. Recent research has shown that his castle was not in fact located at the eastern gate, as was formerly believed: it was probably built at one of the city's gates, but its precise location remains uncertain). Over the next few years teams of laborers quarried tons of dressed stone from the Roman walls to serve as the foundation for the two massive towers that Philip's architects were adding to the eastern gate, in order to turn it into an urban fortress. The gate itself had long been walled up, and traffic had been diverted through a new gateway in the wall alongside it – the so-called Porta Fibellona, documented from 1208. The exact shape of Philip of Achaea's castle – which with many later modifications and additions would evolve into the Castello or Palazzo Madama that stands at the center of the city today – is not entirely clear from the surviving