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OPOLSKIE

FLOURISHING OPOLSKIE REGION

CASTLES, PALACES AND MANSIONS

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Introduction

The Opole Voivodeship – a region of cultural and natural diversity – hides a number of architectural treasures in its territory. The most valuable of them include castles and palaces. Several dozen of those have been described in this publication – they are displaced throughout the entire area of the Opole Voivodeship, coming from various eras and representing different architectural styles. In the old days, almost every village or town used to have a palace or another residence within its territory. However, many fires, uprisings or wars suffered so much by Opole Silesia have changed this situation. Nevertheless, quite numerous surviving buildings can still be explored today. Therefore, we invite you for a fascinating journey introducing the history and culture of the Opole region.

The oldest complexes under discussion appeared in the Opole region in the Middle Ages. They usually played a defensive role, built along borders or at places of strategic importance. They often were seats of dukes – in the Opole region, they were dukes of the Piast dynasty. Examples of such strongholds include castles in Brzeg or Chrzelice. Over time, as a result of political changes (after the extinction of the Opole line of the Piasts), vast estates in the Opole and Racibórz duchies would be purchased by such powerful magnate families as Redern, Beess, Oppersdorff, Prószkowski or Gaschin. These families created residences worthy of their wealth and importance – built splendid mansions or converted old castles, adjusting them to their needs (Krapkowice, Chrzelice, Strzelce Opolskie). This process mainly took place in the 16th and 17th century. The predominant style at the time was Renaissance, and inspiration was sought, among others, in Italy. Another distinctive trend was Baroque (17th-18th century). Buildings of that period have survived until the present day in a relatively good condition – examples include the palaces in Klisino, Żyrowa, or the magnificent bishop's palace in



Nysa. Picturesque gardens and parks were created around the buildings. The 19th century brought a resurgence of historical forms, hence numerous objects in neo-Baroque or neo-Renaissance costumes. There was also a tendency to combine elements of various styles, known as Eclecticism. The Silesian industry was dynamically developing, while aristocrats were extending their property and putting much effort into decorating their residences. Palaces in Moszna or in Kopice shone with a new splendour.

The most painful period for the region's castles and palaces was the turbulent 20th century, especially World War II. Fires and devastations caused by military operations wiped many splendid buildings from the face of the earth or led them to an almost total ruin – Pokój, Sławięcice, Strzelce Opolskie. These are irreversibly lost cultural treasures. The fate of the monumental palace in Kopice was sad as well – although it had survived the war, it was finally destroyed by a fire in 1958. Another cause of decline of many buildings was a change of the political system and inappropriate management. Due to lack of owners and supervision, many structures fell into decay or were mindlessly robbed of their equipment. Nobody cared about them for many years. Fortunately, people sensitive to the beauty of architecture finally appeared and, often with enormous efforts, managed to bring back the previously magnificent historic buildings from the ruins. Fate was kind to the palaces in Kamień Śląski, Sulisław or Pawłowice. Some others, unfortunately, are still decaying and waiting for better times (Niewodniki, Rożnów).

Bąkowice – palace (Świerczów Commune)



The oldest information about the village of Bąkowice comes from 1353. An attraction of Bąkowice is a Baroque/Classicist palace from early 19th century. In the later period, the eastern wing was built, as well as a veranda over a porch embellished by Doric columns. The interior has been changed in the 20th century. There is an adjacent extensive park with many interesting plant species. Currently, the building is private property and is unavailable for visiting.

Bąków – palace and park complex (Kluczbork Commune)



The small locality blends picturesquely into the surrounding ponds and vast forests. Over the centuries, the estate was owned, among others, by the Frankenberg, von Seidlitz and von Salisch families. The palace with neo-Classical features was built about 1855. The architect created a building reminiscent of an Italian villa. It consists of three parts – the main body with a high basement and two side wings. Of interest is an avant-corps with a triangle top and a portico with a large terrace. Near the palace, there is a farming area, including former houses of labourers, a sheepfold and a distillery. Of interest is a massive 19th-century granary. A curiosity illustrating the daily life of former owners is a ground icehouse preserved in the park. Currently, the palace is private property.

Biechów – palace and park complex (Pakośławice Commune)



In the Middle Ages, the village was owned by the Schenk family, and later by the von Montbach and von Matuschek families. After a disastrous fire of the estate, a new residence was decided to be built at this palace (1854). Construction, after a design by Karl Lüdecke, was finished in 1865. The result of works was a spectacular palace in the Dutch neo-Renaissance style. After a 1904 conversion, the palace was expanded by a new northern wing. Currently, the complex is captivating with its multitude of architectural details. It is covered by a ceramic roof and adorned by many dormers, lucarnes and a tower with a cupola. The western façade stands out with its terraces. A part of the former décor, including wooden panels and ceiling decorations, has been preserved. Near the palace, there is a 19th-century chapel with a crypt. Today, the building belongs to a private owner; renovation works are in progress and the palace is unavailable to the public.

Biestrykowice – mansion (Świerczów Commune)



In the 18th century, the village was owned by the von Frankenberg family. It was then that the mansion surviving today was built. In 1857, Hugo von Garnier rebuilt the mansion, giving it a Baroque/neo-Classical costume. In the front part, a heraldic cartouche has been preserved. In the surrounding park, there used to be beautiful Baroque sculptures, including allegorical women figures representing the four seasons. They had been made at the workshop of a renowned sculptor H. Hartmann. Currently, after renovation, they adorn the University Hill in Opole (near Collegium Maius). The palace is currently undergoing renovation.

Biskupice – mansion (Byczyna Commune)



The village has a medieval origin. Over the centuries, the estate had been owned by the Frankenburgs and the Jordans. The Classicist mansion was built about 1800. It was rebuilt in late 19th century by Karl von Jordan. The building was constructed on the rectangular plan; it is covered by a half-hip roof with a characteristic pediment. In front of the façade, there is a peculiar flower lawn with a driveway. Inside, of special interest is a room with a barrel vault. A park with approx. 300-year-old pedunculate oaks is adjacent to the mansion from the west. The dominant of the park is a charming hornbeam alley. Of special interest is a nearby granary in a style referring to Italian Renaissance. Today, the mansion houses an agritourism farm offering rest in a natural surrounding.

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telephone/facsimile +48 77 414 68 62 or +48 606 475 412
www.zacisze-dwor.eu*

Błotnica Strzelecka – palace and park complex (Strzelce Opolskie Commune)



The village is located near Strzelce Opolskie, on the ancient Amber Road. The first owners of the village were knights from Błotnica (15th century). The Classicist palace was built in middle 19th century, on a rectangular plan. It consists of a main body (two-storey) and annexes attached on both sides. A remarkable feature is a central belvedere. A characteristic element of the palace is a portico with a terrace, which gives the building elegance and classical appearance. The interiors look impressive – one may see stucco-adorned ceilings, historic window woodwork, or a neo-Baroque fireplace. The palace used to be surrounded by splendid trees, which have been largely destroyed by a hurricane in 2008. In 1921, the palace housed a headquarters of the Silesian Uprising. Today, it is a library and a rural day room of the Strzelce Centre of Culture.

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Brzeg – Castle of Silesian Piasts (Brzeg Commune)



The most important building in Brzeg is the 16th-century Castle of the Silesian Piasts, known as “the Wavel of Silesia” (it incorporates elements of a Gothic castle of 13th-15th century). It was the seat of dukes of the Legnica-Brzeg line. The building had been rebuilt many times; currently, it has three wings. There is a remarkable façade of the entrance gate, adorned with sandstone busts and statues of dukes and kings of the Piast dynasty – a 16th-century work of sculpture, unique on the national scale. An arcade courtyard contributes to the appeal of the building. A picturesque Renaissance garden is adjacent to the



castle. Inside, there is the Museum of Silesian Piasts where one can see works by Silesian painters (including by M. L. Willmann), a 14th-century hunting bow, or sarcophagi of the Dukes of Legnica-Brzeg.

*Address: Muzeum Piastów Śląskich, pl. Zamkowy 1, 49-300 Brzeg.
telephone +48 77 401 91 00, facsimile +48 77 416 42 10
sekretariat@zamek.brzeg.pl
www.zamek.brzeg.pl*

Chrzelice – castle and park complex (Biała Commune)



In 1306, the village was owned by the order of Knights Templar. The castle in Chrzelice near Biała had been built of brick, probably in the 14th century (or at the turn of the 12th and 13th century). It was situated on an island surrounded by water from all sides. The original building had a quadrilateral shape; it was surrounded by a wall, and a free-standing tower stood in the middle. Until 1532, the castle used to be owned by the Piasts. In 1578, the tenant of the estate was George IV of Prószków. In the 17th century, the castle, converted to a palace, was given a Baroque costume. In 1769, the estate was bought by Walter von Dietrichstein. The building survived World War 2 unscathed, yet, since the 1970s, it has begun to decay successively. The plans to secure the object and bring it into order arose only recently. However, the works have been currently halted.

Dąbrowa – castle and park complex (Dąbrowa Commune)



In the Middle Ages, Dąbrowa belonged to the Knights of Saint John, and later, to the von Mettich family which, in 1615-17, built a palace in the late Renaissance style. A 19th-century conversion of the object greatly changed its appearance – only an entrance tower and one wing have remained from the previous palace. Of interest is a cloistered courtyard. The architectural dominant is a tall gate tower with a balcony resting on columns. Elements of a 17th-century sgraffito decoration have been preserved in several places on the walls. A characteristic feature of the building are rare twisted chimneys. Inside, few remnants of the old décor have been preserved, including several spectacularly ornamented fireplaces. There is a park stretching around the palace. Today, the complex is property of the Opole University.

Dąbrówka Górna – palace and park complex (Krapkowice Commune)



This small village is located near the Niemodlin Woods. The current palace had been constructed in several stages – its present form is a result of a thorough expansion in 1905-07. The oldest part of the two-wing palace is the southern one, erected in the 17th century. The body is made more interesting by neo-Gothic porches with terraces. On the other hand, the attic is adorned by 18th-century dormers. The centre of the frontal façade is a stone portal crowned with a pediment. A tall, 5-storey tower rises over the complex. The palace is separated from the road by a characteristic stone-and-brick enclosure crowned with battlements and turrets. An interesting building is a gate erected at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. The palace is surrounded by a park. Today, the complex is private property, unavailable to the public.

Frączków – palace and park complex (Pakośćawice Commune)



A large palace complex used to be situated in the centre of an extensive, 23-hectare English-style park. The origins of the residence go back to middle 18th century, when a late-Baroque palace was erected. A significant reconstruction was performed between 1886 and 1889. It gave the palace some features of Dutch Mannerism, adorning it with towers, turrets, and bay windows. Simultaneously, the nearby park was modernized by adding a scenic glade and a pond with an island. Today, the palace has two storeys and is covered by a hip roof. The frontal part includes an arcade portico with a terrace. Inside, one may admire remnants of the old equipment, including plafonds, Doric columns, tiled fireplaces. There are utility buildings of late 19th and early 20th century in the vicinity. Today, the walls of the palace house an elegant accommodation facility with a possibility to rent rooms for various events.

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telephone/facsimile +48 77 435 76 11
palac@fraczkow.pl
www.fraczkow.pl*

Gierałcice – palace and park complex (Wołczyn Commune)



The locality blends picturesquely into the vicinity of the Stobrawski Landscape Park. Its architectural pearl is a 19th-century palace with neo-Baroque forms; it draws attention with its harmony of shapes and proportions. The building is covered by hip roofs with characteristic lucarnes. The eastern façade includes a decorative entrance avant-corps adorned with a dormer. Near the entrance, lanterns are hanged, with a heraldic cartouche above. Of interest is the nearby park, established probably in the 18th century and converted in the 19th century. The oldest specimens are pedunculate oaks, being about 300 years old. Of utility buildings, a granary and a cowshed stand out. Today, the palace houses a Nursing Home.

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Głogówek – castle complex (Głogówek Commune)



Głogówek is a picturesque town on the Osobłoga River, a tributary of the Oder. Its name comes from the bushes of hawthorn (głóg) which used to grow here in the past. The locality received city rights in 1275. The town's development and economic growth was immensely impacted by the Oppersdorff family which, between 1561 and 1945, used to be the owner of Głogówek. It was the members of this potent family who built the currently existing residence. In 1561-71, Jan Oppersdorff built a Renaissance castle consisting of three wings and a chapel. In the following years (until 1606), cylindrical towers were attached – thus the so-called Upper Castle was made. That year also saw the start of construction – at a place of a former castle approach – of the so-called Lower Castle (until 1618); it was surrounded by three wings of buildings. The castle was among the most beautiful buildings of Silesia. The Upper Castle is adorned by Baroque portals and turrets, and the Lower Castle by a Mannerist stone portal. The castle was home to famous people – in 1655, John Casimir, the King of Poland, found refuge here during the Swedish invasion, and in 1806, Ludwig van Beethoven created his famous 4th Symphony in B-Major here, dedicated to Count Oppersdorff. Today, the castle's turret houses the Regional Museum with a rich ethnographic collection, 19th-century books, or memorabilia of a Colourist painter Jan Cybis. The castle itself is undergoing renovation for the purposes of this institution.

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Gorzów Śląski – mansion and park complex (Gorzów Śląski Commune)



Gorzów Śląski is a small town situated on the picturesque Proсна River. For centuries, these areas had been borderlands – the river used to separate Silesia from Greater Poland, and later, Prussia from the Polish Commonwealth. The construction of the Baroque mansion is dated probably to middle 18th century. It could have been built by a member of the Ozorowski family who were partially owners of the town in that century. In 1811, Gorzów became the property of the Hohenlohe-Ingelfingen family. After 1930, the Gorzów estate was parcelled out. Periodically, the mansion used to house a hospital and a Nursing Home. Today, it is private property, and potential sightseeing is possible upon prior agreement with the owner.

Izbicko – palace and park complex (Izbicko Commune)



The origins of the palace go back to the 18th century. The building and the surrounding estate were brought in dowry by a member of the Frankenberg family, the previous owners of Izbicko. In consequence, the estate became the property of the von Strachwitz family. The building took on Classicist features; it was distinguished by two towers crowned with battlements. The 19th century brought a reconstruction of the palace – the interior design was changed through hunting-themed ornaments. In 1921, the building had been destroyed by insurgents, but soon it was rebuilt and has remained in this form until the present day. Two stone boars dominate majestically over the entrance gate. Around spreads a garden with picturesque trees and bushes. Currently, after a renovation, the palace houses elegant accommodation rooms and a restaurant with delicious cuisine. Organization of events is possible.

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palacizbicko@vip-palm.pl www
www www.palacizbicko.pl*

Jakubowice – mansion and park complex (Wilków Commune)



The palace in the Jakubowice village is a dominant of a complex including a park and farm buildings. The mansion was built in 1882 on the initiative of the Scholz family. It can be reached by a U-shaped driveway adorned by a lawn. The object was given features of the neo-Classical style. The corners are accentuated by pilasters located on them. The side façade incorporates an interesting ornament – medallions with women's heads. At the front entrance, there is a small terrace. Inside, one can see a hall leading to a dining room, and the first floor houses guest rooms and bedrooms. The building's charm is magnified by the adjacent 19th-century Romanticist park. Currently, the palace houses a hotel (100 beds with the adjacent buildings), Jakubus restaurant with a roofed summer patio, a Piano Bar with a billiard room and cigar smoking room, and a conference centre with modern equipment. Guests can also make use of a horse riding centre and fishponds.

*Address: Hotel Jakubus, Jakubowice 36, 46-113 Wilków
telephone +48 77 419 56 53
jakubus@jakubus.pl
www.jakubus.pl*

Jędrzejów – palace and park complex (Grodków Commune)



This picturesque palace is situated on a small elevation. The object would often change hands – the last owners, before World War II, were members of the von Francken-Sierstorpff family. The origins of the palace go back to 1830, although its appearance then had been a far cry from the expectations of successive owners who would rebuild the residence thoroughly. Architect Karl Lüdecke provided the palace with features of the then-fashionable English neo-Gothic style. The current form of the building comes from 1882. It is captivating with its imaginative details and shapes. There is a highly spectacular terrace with a fountain, enclosed by a railing. The dominant is a square clock tower and a circular turret. Neo-Gothic features are visible in battlements and corner turrets. Today, the palace houses a Nursing Home.

*Address: Dom Pomocy Społecznej, Jędrzejów 16, 49-242 Jędrzejów
telephone/facsimile +48 77 415 80 15*

Kamień Śląski – palace and park complex with a farm (Gogolin Commune)



The origins of the present palace go back to the 17th century – the Larisch family converted the previously existing stronghold into a Baroque residence. In 1701, a chapel was erected in the tower, at a probable birthplace of St. Hyacinth. The building was burned in the 1970s, yet in 1990, the ruin was purchased and reconstructed by the Diocese of Opole. The interior is ornamented with stylized furniture brought from Paris. It is worth visiting the St. Hyacinth's chapel with the saint's statue and a rococo altar. The palace is surrounded by a picturesque park. Currently, the object is a seat of the Centre of Culture and Science of the Faculty of Theology of the Opole University. By decision of Bishop Alfons Nossol, the palace complex became a Sanctuary of St. Hyacinth. The buildings nearby house Sebastianeum Silesiacum – the Rehabilitation and Leisure Centre performing hydrotherapy methods as propagated by Father Sebastian Kneipp in the 19th century. This place provides for unique conditions for regeneration of body and soul.

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Klisino – palace and park complex (Głubczyce Commune)



The village initially belonged to the Dukes of Opole, later – to the Bishopric of Olomouc. The original palace was built in the 16th century (it was a knightly seat of the von Tschetschow family). However, it had been destroyed in a fire in the 18th century, due to which it was thoroughly rebuilt (with addition of Baroque features). Next modernization works took place at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. Today, the palace looks very impressive. Set on a square plan, it has an internal courtyard, a drive-through hall and a stone entrance portal. The interior changed its original appearance – the exceptions are: the cellar (with a surviving barrel vault), ground floor and the ballroom. The palace is adjacent to a naturalistic park with a chapel as well as farm buildings. Today, the building houses a Nursing Home. Sightseeing is possible upon request on site.

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Komorno – mansion and park complex (Reńska Wieś Commune)



The origins of the village of Komorno go back, probably, to the 14th century. The history of this locality was influenced by the nearby Koźle fortress – Austrian troops used to be stationed here (1760); there was also fighting between Prussian and Bavarian units (1807). The picturesque mansion was built about 1760; it combines features of Classicism and Baroque. A single-storey building is covered by a mansard roof with dormers. The entrance avant-corps is accented by a triangular pediment with a so-called oculus (a circular aperture in a wall). Of external decoration, of interest are elaborate window framings having such forms as stylized leaves. The interior has preserved its former layout. An eye-catching feature is a beautiful tile stove. In the nearby park, a curiosity are several-hundred-years-old plane trees. The mansion is property of the Reńska Wieś Commune. Sightseeing is only possible on the outside.

Komorzno – palace and park complex (Wołczyn Commune)



The first mentions concerning the village go back to 1253. Later, Komorzno belonged to the von Frankenberg family who expanded their property by further areas, creating extensive estates. The magnificent palace was built in 1895-96. It was given features of a country house in the Eclectic style. However, it was rebuilt before World War II, taking up its current form. In the outline of the palace, distinguishing features are two octagonal towers and a large portico with columns and a terrace. The palace is covered by a ceramic roof. Inside, one may admire beautiful panelling, fireplaces or a hunting salon. The oldest preserved building in the complex is a 18th-century annex. Currently, the palace is private property and unavailable to the public.

Kopice – palace and park complex (Grodków Commune)

The remains of the palace complex blend into a huge park with ponds. The origins of the building go back to 1764. A Classicist palace was built after a design of architect Jan Rudolph. The residence flourished after an 1864 reconstruction on the initiative of Count Hans Ulrich Gotthard von Schaffgotsch. The result was a monumental building with an unique shape, combining features of neo-Gothic, Dutch Renaissance, and the Tudor style, one of the most splendid palaces in Silesia. The estate was managed by the count and his wife Joanna, the heir of the fortune of Karol Godula, the “Silesian king of zinc and coal”. This magnificent building was spared from the destruction of World War II, but could not resist a fire in 1958, which destroyed it largely. The remains of the former heyday include traceries in the façade, pinnacles, battlements, and a clock in the avant-corps. Formerly, the palace used to be surrounded by a splendid park with an artificial island. Today, the remnants of the building are owned by a private investor.



Krapkowice – castle complex (Krapkowice Commune)



The origins of the Krapkowice castle go back to the Middle Ages. Until 1532, the stronghold belonged to the Dukes of Opole and Racibórz. In late 17th century, the family von Redern replaced it with a new large residence which would later be destroyed and rebuilt many times over the centuries. Currently, the castle is a late Renaissance building with four large wings around a courtyard with a deep well (probably medieval). Of special interest are arcade cloisters. The preserved items of the old interior décor include oak panelling in the dining room or several tile stoves. The castle houses a complex of schools.

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Kujawy – palace and park complex (Strzeleczki Commune)



In its beginning, Kujawy was a church-owned village and later it became the property of the Beess family. In 1863, the estate was purchased by Major Thiele-Winckler, the owner of the nearby Moszna palace. The present palace has been built by Hubert von Thiele-Winckler in the second half of the 19th century. In 1909, the northern wing was attached. The building has two storeys and is covered by a mansard roof with lucarnes and so-called eyelids. Façades represent the neo-Baroque style. A peculiar feature is an interesting portal made of sandstone. The palace is also decorated by avant-corps crowned with gables. The nearby utility buildings have been built in the 19th century. A park with old trees adds more charm to the complex. The palace is private property and may be explored only on the outside.

Łąka Prudnicka – castle and park complex (Prudnik Commune)



The village is located near the Opawskie Mountains, in the valley of Złoty Potok. It used to be owned, among others, by the von Mettich-Tschetschau family who made Łąka their main seat. The central part of the complex is a four-wing Renaissance castle of 1593. In late 19th century, this imposing building was rebuilt in the neo-Gothic style – adding two towers and a cloister in the form of a gallery. The decorative elements include bay windows, friezes, numerous sgraffitos, as well as cross and barrel vaults. In the park, a quite large number of trees has survived, including ash specimens which are 150-180 years old. Currently, the castle is private property and unavailable for sightseeing.

Łosiów – palace and park complex (Lewin Brzeski Commune)



In early 13th century, the village of Łosiów belonged to the Knights of Saint John, one of the oldest military orders (on their initiative, a commandry was established here). In 1810, following the secularization, the order's property was confiscated. In the later period, it belonged, among others, to the Molls, an industrialist family from Brzeg. It is estimated that the palace has been built in the 19th century or about 1910-15. It is stylistically homogenous, having Baroque and Classicist features with some elements of Historicism. This small building is distinguished by four Ionic columns in the southern façade. A tower on a square plan rises over the entire complex. The object was fortunate enough to survive World War II. Around, there is a well-groomed English park. The building can be visited upon a prior telephone contact. The palace, as well as the nearby building, is utilized by the Opole Agricultural Advisory Centre.

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telephone +48 77 412 52 97, facsimile +48 77 412 53 68
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www.oodr.pl*

Maciejów – palace and park complex (Kluczbork Commune)



Maciejów was first mentioned in 1409; later, it was connected with the von Frankenberg and von Bethusy-Huc families. A curious fact is that in the 18th century, excavation of considerable iron ore deposits started here (however, there was no possibility of on-site processing of the material). The Classicist building was erected about 1790. A two-storey object is covered by a hip roof. Its dominant is a huge portico with a passage and high arcades. Inside, the division of rooms into residential (ground floor) and private (first floor) was preserved. Of utility buildings, of special interest are 19th-century barns with elements of chamfering. The renovated palace invites visitors to explore the interior. Of special value are Romanticist wall paintings from the turn of the 18th and 19th century. Nearby, there is a manor which used to be the residence of a famous beekeeper, Father Jan Dzierżon PhD, the discoverer of, among others, parthenogenesis in bees.

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ks_dzierzon@poczta.onet.pl
www.kluczbork.pl/podstrony/pasieka.php
www.maciejow.pl*

Moszna – palace and park complex (Strzeleczyki Commune)



The origins of this imposing building probably go back to the 18th century – a Baroque palace (the central part of the present building) was found here at the time. That object had partially burned in 1896. Its reconstruction was supervised by Franz Hubert von Tiele-Winckler. Until 1900, the body of the former palace had been connected with a neo-Gothic eastern wing with an orangery (surviving until today). In 1911-13, a neo-Renaissance western part was added. The building's architectural elaborateness is delightful – its peculiar features include mansard roofs as well as stone siding of the façade. The object houses 365 rooms and has 99 charming turrets. Inside, one may admire a ballroom with a glass ceiling, a fireplace and an intricate stairway. The castle is surrounded by a picturesque park complex with water canals



and a romantic island. The pride of the park, drawing many tourists each year, are its azaleas and rhododendrons. Next to the castle is a horse stud offering various attractions, including horseback riding and riding camps. At the palace, visitors may enjoy a cafe and a restaurant, as well as elegantly equipped rooms. Interesting concerts and cultural meetings take place here.

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biuro@moszna-zamek.pl
www.moszna-zamek.pl*

Namysłów – castle and park complex (Namysłów Commune)



Namysłów was located at the border of Silesia and Greater Poland; it was a frontier fortress and would often change hands. The original castle, made probably of wood, existed as early as in 1312-23. The construction of a brick building started in 1360. In the following centuries, the building used to be changed many times through attaching new sections. In 1895, it became property of a brewery which had formerly been owned by the castle. In the northern wing, there is a chapel and a hall, and the courtyard has a Renaissance well of 1600. It has a baldachin resting on columns with floral motifs and mascarons. The remnants of the complex are peripheral walls and a residential building. Today, the Namysłów Brewery operates here. The castle is not available for sightseeing.

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namyslow@namyslow.com.pl
www.browarnamyslow.com.pl*

Niomodlin – castle and park complex (Niomodlin Commune)



The Niomodlin castle was built in 1313 by Duke Bolko of Opole. However, this original building had been destroyed; in late 16th century, it was rebuilt using the surviving walls. Unfortunately, this structure was badly damaged again during the Thirty Years' War. Soon, measures for reconstruction of the castle were undertaken. This impressive building is distinguished by its massive gate tower. The entirety of the quadrilateral structure consists of one low and three tall buildings. The courtyard is cloistered. Worth seeing is a Baroque chapel in one of the wings. The castle is surrounded by a small park. Currently, activities connected with sale of the castle to a new owner are in progress.

Niewodniki – palace and park complex (Dąbrowa Commune)



Niewodniki in the Dąbrowa Commune is a small village with a hidden architectural gem within. The first mentions of the village go back to the 13th century; its name comes from the word niewód, meaning "seine" (a long fishing net), as it used to be an artisan settlement inhabited by net makers. In 1870, the Niewodniki estate was bought by Julius Wichelhaus. Two years later, he built a spectacular palace in the French style; he surrounded the complex with a picturesque park. The new owner was very enterprising; he would rapidly expand his estate through skillful management. World War 2 did not damage the palace, yet later years brought its successive deterioration. The object was purchased by a private owner who has renovated it. For some time, there used to be a hotel at the palace; today, it is unavailable to the public.

Otmuchów – castle complex (Otmuchów Commune)



The architectural pearl of Otmuchów is the former castle of the Bishops of Wrocław, located on a hill. The original building was erected in the 14th century and rebuilt in the 16th century. The bishops spared no efforts to make the castle a splendid residence worthy of its masters. The remnant of the original complex surviving until today is the north-eastern wing. Of special interest is a massive quadrilateral tower and a structure unique on the European scale – the so-called horse stairs (made for a bishop carried inside in a litter). The medieval roots of the castle are reminded by two death cells: a starvation cell and a trapdoor cell. A fireplace with a movable wall has survived at the knights' hall. The castle is surrounded by a dense old park. Currently, the building provides accommodation with a rich offer for the guests – a restaurant, a possibility to organize weddings and trainings.

*Address: Centrum Usług Hotelowo-Turystycznych „Zamek” Sp. z o.o.
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telephone/facsimile +48 77 431 51 48, +48 77 431 46 91 do 93
recepja@zamek.otmuchow.pl
www.zamek.otmuchow.pl*

Nysa – complex of the former bishop's mansion (Nysa Commune)



The former bishop's palace was erected at the turn of the 17th and 18th century for the Bishops of Wrocław. It represents Baroque and is a grand example of an urban residence. A two-storey building was set on an irregular quadrilateral plan; it has an internal courtyard. The external walls are adorned by three 18th-century sun dials. Standing out are two peculiarly decorated portals. Few has survived from the old décor, including renovated fireplaces. The rooms are connected into an enfilade (by doors set in a straight line). The staircase has a representative character. Currently, the palace is a seat of the oldest museum



in the Opole Voivodeship (established in 1897), displaying a rich collection of painting, graphics and sculpture.

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Opole – Piast Castle (Opole Commune)



Two castles have been located in the territory of Opole – one of them on the Ostrówek Island, and the other in the north-eastern part of the city. Ostrówek is known to have been inhabited as early as in the 8th century, and a fortified borough was established here in late 10th century. Since 1283, Opole had been the capital of the Duchy of Opole, and later, for many centuries, the capital of Upper Silesia. An important role in development of Opole was played by the line of the Piast dynasty known as the Opole Piasts – they cared for the citizens and erected bridges, chapels and churches. They had been reigning over this land for more than 300 years, until the 1532 demise of the last Piast of Opole, Jan the Good. The decision to build a brick castle was made as early as in 1217. The construction was completed by Duke Bolko I, reigning since 1283. In the following centuries, the castle had been devastated several times; finally, it was reconstructed in 1740. In 1838-55, moats were filled in and a part of defensive walls was pulled down; beautiful green areas were established at their place.



In 1860, the castle became the seat of the Opole District. The existence of this castle was put to an end by German authorities who, in 1928, due to the plans to build an office building, adopted a decision to demolish the castle. All that survived was the free-standing cylindrical tower known as the Piast Tower – the symbol of the city and an invaluable relic of the 13th century. Its terrace provides a beautiful view to Opole.

*Address: Wieża Piastowska w Opolu, ul. Piastowska 14
www.wiezapiastowska.pl*

*Operator: Miejski Ośrodek Sportu i Rekreacji, ul. Barlickiego 13, 45-083 Opole
telephone +48 77 441 50 20
wiezapiastowska@mosir.opole.pl
www.mosir.opole.pl*

Opole – Upper Castle (Opole Commune)



The second fortress of Opole used to be located, for defensive purposes, in the eastern part of the city. The castle was probably established by Duke Władysław Opolczyk in 1382-87 (it was called the new castle, as opposed to the old castle on Ostrówek Island). In 1615, the building had burnt; it has never been restored from the grave damage it suffered. The only surviving part is a tower with a section of defensive walls. Built of brick on a rectangular plan, it was three storeys high. In the 19th century, it was elevated by one storey and adorned with battlements. Currently, the remains of the castle are blended into the building of the Complex of Mechanic Schools.

Address: Zespół Szkół Mechanicznych, ul. Osmańczyka 22, 45-027 Opole

Pawłowice – palace and park complex (Gorzów Śląski Commune)



The palace in Pawłowice was built in 1864 by Wilhelm von Pannwitz, a royal dignitary and father to the Cossack ataman Helmuth von Pannwitz. After he had lost the building for financial reasons in the 1870s, Rittmeisen Mayer became the tenant of the estate. He worked for the benefit of the local community and surrounded the palace with a captivating garden. Another important stage in the palace's history is 1928, when it became a residence for settlers arriving from Westphalia. It was them who have expanded the building. In the 1950s, the Pawłowice palace became a rural cultural centre – ceremonies, artistic performances or community parties were organized here. Over time, it fell into decay. Only in 2006 it had been purchased by a private owner who, with enormous financial effort and determination, managed to renovate it. Currently, the palace houses a hotel with a refined restaurant and a spa (Jacuzzi, salt cave, swimming pool). One can also admire a historic ballroom and a fireplace room. There is also a possibility to hold conferences or parties.

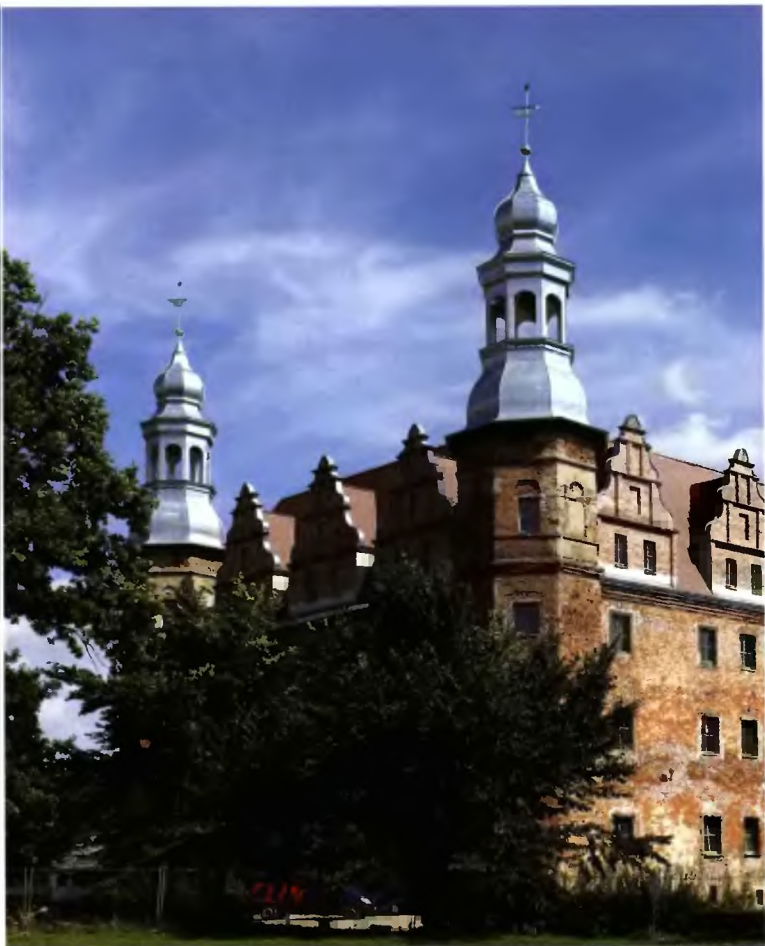
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Pokój – castle and park complex (Pokój Commune)

The small village of Pokój was established in the 18th century. In 1752-57, the duke's architect, Georg Ludwig Schirmeister, built a picturesque palace here. Other erected buildings included eight annexes, and a wonderful park was created, adorned by sculptures and charming temples. The heyday of Pokój was the 19th century, when it became a health resort and the palace became the seat of Dukes of Württemberg-Oels. Unfortunately, fate was cruel to the palace – it has been completely destroyed in 1945. The only thing that reminds the glory days is the unusual urban layout – an enormous roundabout in the centre, with roads running from it in a star-shaped layout. One can also admire fragments of a picturesque park with a cast-iron sleeping lion.



Polska Cerekiew – palace and park complex (Polska Cerekiew Commune)



The origins of the settlement, situated on the ancient Amber Road from Moravia to Poland, go back to the Roman times. The estate was owned by the renowned wealthy families of Silesia, including the Oppersdorffs and the von Gaschins. The palace was built in 1617 (utilizing fragments of the previous Gothic castle) on initiative of Count Friedrich Oppersdorff. In the 19th century, the Matuschek family rebuilt the object, providing it with features of a large residence. The palace is set on a rectangular plan. Its characteristics are two towers in the corners. A neo-Renaissance portal has also survived. The palace has burnt in 1945 and today it is a permanent ruin. Worth seeing is a massive 17th-century gate building, distinguished by two turrets, and a drive-through gate with a tower adorned by a clock face. Today, there are residential flats at the building.

Prószków – castle and park complex (Prószków Commune)



Formerly, the town used to be famous in Europe and worldwide for its renowned faience factory. The massive Renaissance castle in Prószków was built in 1563 by Georg von Proskau. Until 1769, it was a residence of the Prószkowski (von Proskau) family. This spectacular defensive building consists of four wings and a rectangular courtyard with a 18th-century fountain. One can admire the surviving architectural details: window framings, portals, magnificent stucco (at the Knights' Hall). The defensive function of the castle is evidenced by the preserved fragments of a moat and two bridges. This is complemented by a charming park (turn of the 18th and 19th century) with interesting tree species, including plane trees and Weymouth pines. Currently, the castle is a seat of a Nursing Home and is unavailable to tourists.

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Prudnik – castle and park complex (Prudnik Commune)



Formerly, Prudnik used to be a dynamic centre of trade and crafts; particularly famous were its cloth-makers who exported their products as far as to the Netherlands. The ducal castle was located in the north-western part of the city. It was built of brick and set on a square plan about 1262 by a Bohemian knight Wok of Rožemberk (Prudnik was established at the foot of the castle). In 1337, the building had been taken over by the Opole Piasts, and later it became the property of the Habsburgs. In 1744, the castle was expanded by an additional wing. 1806 put an end to its existence (the castle had burnt, and in 1844 it was pulled down). A part of the castle complex surviving until the present day is a cylindrical brick tower known as Wok's Tower (41 m tall). Wooden stairs lead to its entrance, and a starvation dungeon can be seen inside. The tower has been thoroughly restored in 2009. Its top provides a spectacular view to the city and the Opawskie Mountains. This is one of the oldest castle towers in Poland and is available for sightseeing from May to September. The tower is made available by the Museum of the Prudnik Region.

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Rogów Opolski – castle and park complex (Krapkowice Commune)



This spectacular castle was built in late 16th or early 17th century. It used to be owned by the Rogojski and Haugwitz families. Currently, the beautifully renovated building is a valuable historic monument of the region. It is located on a slope of a former bed of the Oder, surrounded by an English park with tulip trees and ginkgos. The park's highlight is a gloriette – a garden gazebo – on a circular plan, with seven columns. Near the castle, there is an interesting building of 1915, known as “the House under the Cockerel”, used for accommodation of visitors. The castle and park complex is property of the Voivodeship Public Library in Opole. Priceless collections are stored here, including old prints, manuscripts and historic maps. Visitors can see an exhibition of book history.

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www.rogow.wbp.opole.pl*

Rożnów – palace and park complex (Wołczyn Commune)



The first mention of the village appeared in 1297. Over the centuries, the estate used to be owned by such families as von Frankenberg, von Sebottendorf or von Eben. A member of the last one, Friedrich, inspired by Egyptian discoveries, built a pyramid-shaped tomb for his father; it has survived in Rożnów until the present day. The pyramid is an architectural curiosity on a regional and national scale. The complex received its current shape in middle 19th century. The outstanding feature is a neo-Gothic palace with a quadrilateral tower. It is adorned by many lucarnes, bay windows and pinnacles. Heraldic cartouches have been preserved. There is an adjacent park in the form of an English garden, with a predominance of larch. Currently, the building is decaying; it is property of a private owner.

Sławięcice – palace and park complex (Kędzierzyn-Koźle Commune)

Today, Sławięcice is a part of Kędzierzyn-Koźle but it used to be a separate village formerly. In the past, this estate belonged, among others, to the Dukes of Opole, and later, to the famous Hohenlohe-Öhringen family. Its members were very enterprising, actively expanding their property – an example may be Hugo, who, at his time, became one of the wealthiest industrialists in Germany. The palace was built in the 19th century, immediately after the previous one had burnt. Soon, the existing body of the building was supplemented by two side wings. The palace, with its impressive size, was among the largest ones in Silesia. Unfortunately, it shared the fate of many other palaces, being destroyed in 1945. After the war, a part of the ruin was pulled down. The elements surviving until the present day are: the so-called belvedere (garden pavilion) of 1802, where, according to tradition, Countess Cosel used to live, and one of the side entrances to the palace.



Staroścín – mansion and park complex (Świerczów Commune)



The palace and park complex is located in the direct vicinity of the Stobrawski Landscape Park and surrounded by many trees. The appearance of the mansion was developing over the centuries. The original building was erected as early as in the 15th century, as a so-called hunting castle. Later, it used to be converted many times, including a thorough reconstruction about 1800 – it was expanded by two wings and given some features of Classicism and Baroque. Of interest is an impressive driveway with a lawn. In front of the garden façade, there is an open courtyard. Over the main entrance is a lucarne covered by a gable roof. Inside, a cross-barrel vault (from the oldest building) has survived. The mansion is surrounded by a well-groomed park with an interesting variety of common beech (so-called weeping beech). The palace is private property.

Strzelce Opolskie – castle and park complex (Strzelce Opolskie Commune)



Strzelce Opolskie is a former settlement of the duke's hunters (hence the name of the town), mentioned as early as in 1223. The oldest information about a fortress existing at this site comes from the period of 1324-56. The establishment of the castle, as well as of the town, was strictly connected with establishment, in early 14th century, of a separate duchy, the first ruler of which became Albert, son of Duke Bolko I. Until 1532, the estate belonged to the Opole Piasts, later – to renowned families: Redern, Promnitz, Colonna, and Renard. In the 16th century, that fortress had decayed so much that the new owners, the Rederns, erected a new residence in 1562-95. In the 19th century, the object was given neo-Gothic features. Count Andrzej Maria Renard, the new owner, inspired by European parks in the English style, decided to establish a similar one in Strzelce. The effect was an impressive park complex which has survived until today in a changed form. Unfortunately, the building was burnt during World War II. Today, only a ruin remains and is private property.

Sulisław – palace and park complex (Grodków Commune)



The village is found near Grodków. Its territory hides one of the finest palaces of the Opole Region. In the Middle Ages, the village belonged, among others, to the von Zedlitz family. In 1814, Sulisław was property of Kaiser Wilhelm I, and in 1888, it had been purchased by Hans Karl von Schaffgotsch from Kopice, who was the one to build a beautiful Eclectic palace set on an irregular quadrilateral plan. The building's highlight is a tower in the south-eastern part. Interiors look impressive due to surviving parts of the former décor – one may admire spectacularly ornamented stoves and fireplaces, panelling and stucco (a curiosity is a fireplace covered with tiles from the famous city of Delft). Recently, the palace has undergone a thorough renovation and today it looks elegantly. It houses the first 5-star hotel in the Opole region. Apart from elegant rooms and delicious cuisine, the hotel also offers Ayurvedic treatment, spa and yoga.

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telephone +48 77 415 66 59 or 509 842 741
rezerwacja@sulislaw.pl
www.sulislaw.pl*

Tułowice – palace and park complex (Tułowice Commune)



The palace in Tułowice rises picturesquely over the Ścinawa River flowing out into a beautiful pond belonging to the park by the palace. Fate has been exceptionally gentle to this fine building, saving it from major damage. In late 19th century, the object was rebuilt in the neo-Renaissance style. The building has charming architectural details. An eye-catching feature is a terrace with stone stairs and an impressive fountain, as well as a bronze statue of Diana. The interiors look equally impressive – one can see spiral stairs, stuccos at the Hunting Hall, tile stoves with interesting decoration. Currently, the palace houses a dormitory of a forestry professional school, and a school complex is found nearby, in newer buildings.

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sekretariat@tltulowice.pl
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Turawa – palace and park complex (Turawa Commune)

Turawa is a small village surrounded by lakes and forests. The palace was built in 1728-30 in the late Baroque style, founded by Martin von Löwencron. It was erected at a site of a former wooden hunting castle. In 1761, a side wing was attached. Since the 18th century until 1945, the palace was home to the von Garnier family. Of special interest is the neo-rococo decoration of the building. Inside, one may see the surviving elements of décor: a sculpted oak door in the ballroom, a Baroque bookcase, 19th-century neo-rococo fireplaces. About 500 m from the palace, there used to be a family chapel of the Garniers (the legend has it that it was connected with the palace through an underground passage). The chapel was demolished in 1956. Currently, the palace is private property.



Większyce – palace and park complex (Kędzierzyn-Koźle Commune)



A picturesque palace stands on a small elevation, in the middle of a large park. The surrounding of the building also includes an annex with a stable. Formerly, the village used to be a part of the Koźle estate, strictly connected with the Koźle fortress. The origins of the palace go back to 1871. In front of the façade, a charming lawn with flowers was created, as well as a pond with an island nearby. The park abounds in valuable specimens of trees. The palace is a country house with Eclectic features. It has a peculiar terrace with circular corners, as well as a spectacular entrance portico. The body of the building is ornamented with numerous details: turrets, dormers and bay windows. The interiors captivate with the preserved décor, including marble stairway and polychromes in the hall. The renewed palace currently houses an elegant restaurant. There is a possibility to organize various parties or business meetings.

*Address: Restauracja Pałac Większyce, Patrycja i Artur Biernaczy Sp. j.,
ul. Kozielska 15, 47-208 Większyce
telephone +48 77 482 15 25
info@palacwiekszyce.pl
www.palacwiekszyce.pl*

Zakrzów – castle and park complex (Gogolin Commune)



Formerly, the village used to be owned by the Templars from Otmęt. In 1864, the estate was purchased by Heinrich Madelung, a member of a wealthy industrialist family. Its members contributed to the development of Gogolin and its vicinity (lime industry). The palace was built in 1845. It has two storeys. The entrance leads through a stone portal which used to be adorned with the coat-of-arms of the former owners. A picturesque park stretches around. Today, the palace houses a luxury 3-star hotel. This place guarantees excellent relax and delicious cuisine; it is also a base for sightseeing of the nearby locality of Góra Św. Anny. The palace also has a conference hall.

*Address: Hotel Pałac Lucja, AGRARIA CLAUDII Sp. z o.o., Zakrzów,
ul. Stawowa 9, 47-330 Zdzeszowice
telephone +48 77 439 84 73
info.recepcja@palaclucja.pl
www.palaclucja.pl*

Zakrzów – palace and park complex (Polska Cerekiew Commune)



The Zakrzów estate used to be owned by the Duchy of Opole and Racibórz, as well as by Count von Halsingen and Andrzej Zakrzewski. In 1829, it was bought by the Larisch family. The spectacular palace was built between 1898 and 1900 on the initiative of Count Georg Larisch von Mönlich. It has been rebuilt many times, which caused its stylistic features to wane. Nevertheless, the palace today looks highly impressive; there is a dressage arena in front of it, and around spreads an old park with unique tree specimens. The palace is a seat of the People's Equestrian Club "Lewada", organizing competitions which often involve famous stars of screen and stage. The offer of the centre includes riding camps or lessons in horseback riding. An attraction of the place is the Lewada Art Cup – an equestrian competition attended by celebrities. The guests of honour included Daniel Olbrychski and Beata Tyszkiewicz.

*Address: Ludowy Kor Jeździecki „Lewada”, ul. Parkowa 23, 47-263 Zakrzów
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lewada@kjlewada.pl
www.kjlewada.pl*

Żyrowa – palace and park complex (Zdzieszowice Commune)



The architectural pearl of Żyrowa is a large Baroque palace ranking among the most beautiful in the Opole region. It was built by the Gaschins, one of the wealthiest families in Silesia, founders of the church and monastery at St. Anne's Mountain. After the damage brought by the Thirty Years War, the palace was rebuilt in 1631-44. Currently, the palace complex consists of a set of buildings arranged around two courtyards. The main, three-storey part is covered by mansard roofs. Of special interest are charming towers with blind arcades. The towers are crowned with spherical cupolas. Today, the building is privately owned.

Further reading

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