

SELECTED PROBLEMS OF CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION IN A SMALL HISTORIC TOWN BASED ON THE EXAMPLE OF GŁOGÓW MAŁOPOLSKI

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Abstract

The article deals with the protection and revalorization of a small historic town, using Głogów Małopolski as an example. Głogów is located in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, near Rzeszów. This town, with its rich history and pedigree in the Renaissance period, currently faces a number of problems in the field of cultural landscape protection and revalorization of the historic center. The authors used research methods such as urban, architectural, and photographic inventory, literature and archive research to analyze the historical urban layout of the center, its historic architecture, as well as current forms of conservation protection. On this basis, they diagnosed the biggest problems related to the protection and revalorization of the city's cultural heritage and presented proposals for their solution.

Keywords: Głogów Małopolski; Competition for historic city; Preservation of historic city; Renaissance urban layout

Introduction

Głogów Małopolski is currently a small town of modern origin, located in the Rzeszów conurbation. It is the seat of an urban-rural commune that is constantly expanding, resulting in the intensification of development on the outskirts. The historic center, on the other hand, is in need of revitalization and in-depth analysis due to its cultural values.

The protection of the cultural heritage in Głogów is extensive, as both the Renaissance urban layout, which is still the heart of the town, and the numerous tenement houses in the area are protected. It should be noted that in a period of dynamic transformation and investment pressure, maintaining the spatial order and proper aesthetics of historic urban interiors is a major challenge. In the case of Głogów (Fig. 1), the municipality and the Conservation Department are undertaking a number of measures to protect the area's historical heritage resources and to modernize and adapt them appropriately. One of them is the effort to implement a general plan relevant for the protection of the spatial order.

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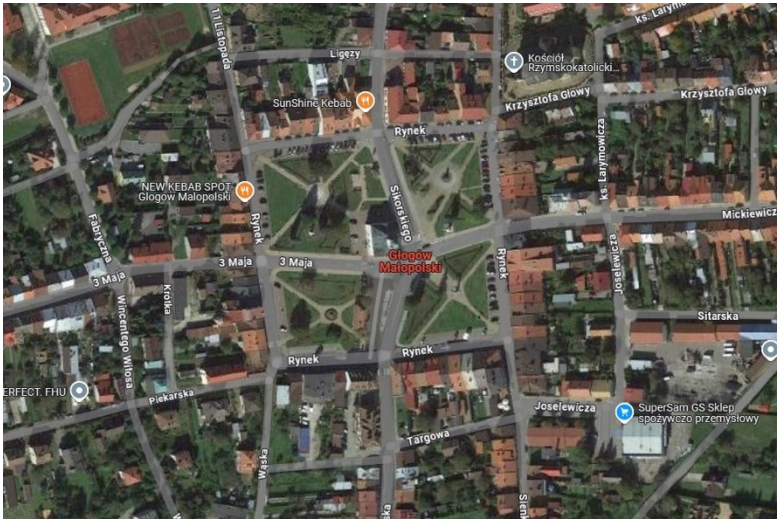


Fig. 1. Głogów Małopolski currently on an orthophotomap. Orthophotomap [in:] www.geoportal.gov.pl, accessed: 15.03.2025

Research methods and scope

The research described in this article was carried out using the following methods: local visits, urban inventory, architectural inventory, photographic inventory, literature research, archive research, and the method of analysis and synthesis of the results obtained.

The scope of the authors' research was the area of the historical urban layout of the town of Głogów Małopolski, together with the historical buildings located in this area (Fig. 2).

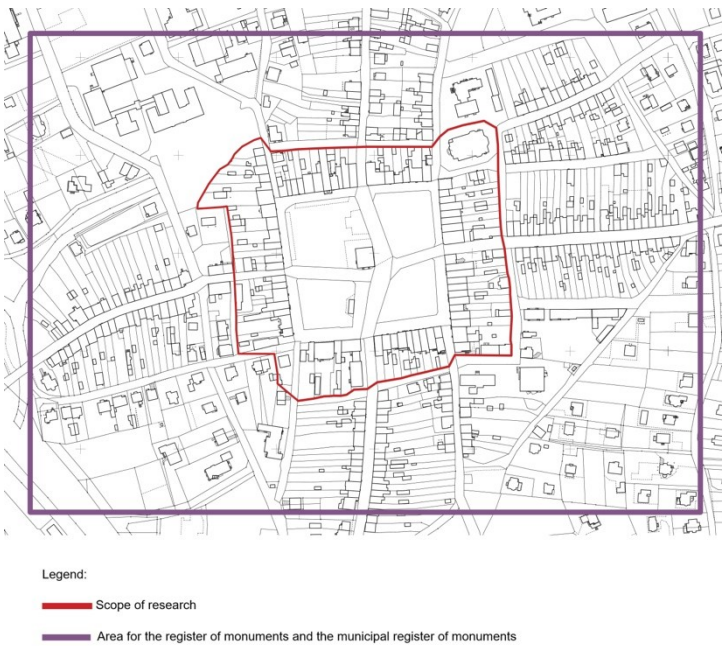


Fig. 2. The study area marked on a map of Głogów Małopolski

State of research

Issues related to the history of the spatial development and architecture of Głogów Małopolski have been and are being studied by architects, town planners, and historians alike.

Issues related to the historical architecture of Głogów Małopolski were discussed by F. Kotula in the study "Miasteczko na przykładzie Głogów Małopolskiego i jego sąsiadów" [1]. S. Mendelowski in the publication "W gminie Głogów Małopolski" [2] and in the collective work "Zarys historii gminy Głogów Małopolski" [3] published by J. Krawiec and Ł. Klęska, S. Kłos in the publication "Rzeszów, Głogów Małopolski, Tyczyn, Błażowa i okolice" [4], and D. Kuśnierz-Krupa, M. Krupa, and J. Malczewska in the article "Głogów Małopolski—historia rozwoju przestrzennego oraz współczesne problemy ochrony zasobu dziedzictwa kulturowego—wybrane zagadnienia" [5] in the monograph "Miasteczko Galicyjskie" edited by R. Mazur.

Głogów Małopolski, as an excellent example of a Renaissance layout, has been analyzed against the background of other Renaissance towns both from Poland and Europe. M. Książek wrote about it in his publication "Zagadnienia genezy rozplanowania i typologii miast prywatnych XVI i XVII wieku w południowej Małopolsce" [6]. K. Kuśnierz in his study "Miejskie ośrodki gospodarcze wielkich latyfundiów południowej Polski w XVI oraz XVII wieku" [7], "Directions of modern urban development in south-eastern Poland. Origins, urban models, examples" [8], and "Market squares in the selected modern towns in Lesser Poland – p. 1 (economic centers)" [9]. The studies by W. Kalinowski, "Miasta polskie w XVI i I połowie XVII wieku" [10] and "Zarys historii budowy miast w Polsce do połowy XIX wieku" [11], should also be mentioned. Głogów also appeared in articles: J. Kowalczyk entitled "Głowów. Zagadka planu pierwszego miasta renesansowego w Polsce." [12]; S. Herbst, "Uwagi nad renesansowym rozplanowaniem Głowowa" [13]; T. Zarębska, "O związkach urbanistyki węgierskiej i polskiej w drugiej połowie XVI wieku" [14]. The article by D. Kuśnierz-Krupa, M. Krupa, and J. Malczewska, "Głogów Małopolski-historia rozwoju przestrzennego oraz współczesne problemy ochrony zasobu dziedzictwa kulturowego-wybrane zagadnienia" [15] in the monograph "Miasteczko Galicyjskie" edited by R. Mazur, also developed this theme.

Głogów Małopolski - historical spatial layout

The historical spatial layout of Głogów Małopolski (Fig. 3), as shown above, has been analyzed by researchers for years because of its uniqueness. It is an excellent example of a reference to the idea of the 'ideal city' (*la citta ideale*) described and illustrated by Italian theorists of the Renaissance.

Głowów (today's Głogów) was founded in 1570 by the castellan of Połaniec, Krzysztof Głowa, who also owned a complex of settlements not far from the emerging town. The center was designed as a defined orthogonal layout with a central square and a cross of main streets along which buildings were constructed. It should be added that the town was built on previously undeveloped land, i.e., on the so-called "raw root," on a small hill overlooking the Szlachcina stream.

Blocks of buildings were laid out around the market square in 3×3 large cords, which, when the width of the streets was added, amounted to approximately 154×154 meters. These diagonals were intended for the location of public facilities such as a church, a bathhouse, a hospital, and a brewery. Another characteristic feature of this layout is the location of the Town Hall in the middle of the square, at the crossroads of the main streets [16]. It is worth mentioning that communication played an important role in economic centers, and Głogów Małopolski was such a center, as trade was one of the most important elements of the town [17]. In fact, the purpose of the foundation of the town of Głowów was to create a local economic center, a place for the exchange of goods that could compete with Rzeszów [18].

The panorama of the city, typical of the Renaissance, is horizontal, and the urban layout is strongly marked by the dominance of the compositional factor and the search for symmetry and axuality, which undoubtedly refers to the models of "la citta ideale" [19].



Fig. 3. Historical urban layout of Głogów Małopolski on a cadastral plan from 1849.

Map [in:] Archiwum Państwowe w Przemyślu, sygn. 56/126/0/442M

Historic architecture

In the city center there are several townhouses of historic value. Most of these houses are listed.

The townhouses closest to the square, i.e., in the frontages, are mostly single-story buildings dating from the first half of the 19th century.

Local inspections in the field and a search of available technical documentation and archival material provided the basis for determining their height, i.e., the number of stories (Fig. 4), and their state of preservation (Fig. 5).

The vast majority of the analyzed buildings are single-story buildings located on plots whose fronts have still retained their original widths. The others, for the most part, were erected on plots created after the amalgamation of several smaller ones, also with original parameters.

The main high-rise dominants in the town are the aforementioned town hall, the Holy Trinity Parish Church located in the diagonal block of the market square, and the building located in the southern frontage, at the entrance to the market square from the direction of Rzeszów.

With regard to the discussion of the research on the degree of conservation of the substance, i.e., the buildings in the market facades, it should be noted that three criteria were adopted in order to carry out the relevant analyses. These were state of conservation (taking into account the possible process of deterioration), coloring (in terms of integration into the cultural landscape of the city center), and façade aesthetics (divisions, ornamentation, etc.). The buildings were assessed according to the three categories adopted: preserved and maintained in good condition, preserved and maintained in satisfactory condition, and preserved in unsatisfactory condition (see Fig. 5).



Fig. 4. Analysis of the height of buildings in the market square development in Głogów Małopolski



Fig. 5. Analysis of the state of preservation of market tenements in Głogów Małopolski

Conservation of cultural heritage in the city

The basic document concerning the protection of historical monuments in Poland is the Act of 23 July 2003 on the Protection and Care of Historical Monuments (Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1292, 1907). This document lists, among others, the forms of conservation assessment, which, for immovable monuments, i.e., objects, complexes, and spaces, are registration in the register of monuments, recognition as a monument of history, establishment of a cultural park, and establishment of protection in a local spatial development plan or in a decision on the location of a public purpose investment, a decision on development conditions, etc. [20]. Objects of cultural value that are not covered by any of the above-mentioned forms of legal protection are included in the municipal register of monuments, which is a list of monuments on the territory of a given municipality. The entire historical resource is managed by voivodeship curators, who sometimes perform their tasks with the help of delegations or municipal curators.

In Głogów there are eight buildings listed in the Register of Monuments of the Podkarpackie Province (Fig. 6). They are Holy Trinity Parish Church with the cemetery and the entrance gate (reg. no.: A-85 of 10.05.2004); "Na Piasku" Parish Cemetery with the Chapel of Our Lady of the Snows (reg. no.: 1278 of 15.07.1995); the Town Hall (reg. no.: 1250 of 18.03.1992); and historical residential houses: the house at 23 1 Maja Street (reg. No: 1179 of 18.03.1992), the house at 8 Rynek Street (reg. no.: A-648 of 20.06.1986), the house at 60 Rynek Street (reg. no.: 1163 of 06.1986), the house at 61 Rynek Street (reg. no.: 1164 of 06.1986), and the house at 6 Sienkiewicza Street (reg. no.: 1174 of 09.09.1987).

In addition to the above-mentioned buildings, the Renaissance urban layout of the town with its surrounding buildings (Reg. No. 392 of 31.06.1971) [21] is also protected on the basis of the area register. It includes the market square and several streets connected to it.



The entire area is entered in the register of monuments as a historical urban layout.

Fig. 6. Objects located in the area of Głogów Małopolski included in the register of immovable monuments of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship

Other buildings of historical origin and value are listed in the Municipal Register of Historical Monuments (Fig. 7) This list includes most of the townhouses in the market squares.



Legend:

 Objects entered into the municipal register of immovable monuments

Fig. 7. Objects located in the area of Głogów Małopolski included in the communal register of monuments

Protection and revalorization of the cultural landscape in the centre of Głogów

The analyses carried out in the first phase of the study (of the heights and state of preservation of the buildings) made it possible to draw conclusions that formed the basis for the definition of more detailed guidelines necessary for the development of a plan for the regeneration and revitalization of the city center.

As a result of the field research (on-site inspections and inventory), it was found that the Music School building (Rynek 14) is the clear dominant feature of the northern frontage, as well as being the building in the best condition in this part of the market (Fig. 8). Another building worth mentioning is the house at Rynek 23, the facade of which is of great historical value due to its preserved divisions and ornaments (Fig. 9).

On the other hand, the buildings at the exit of Sikorskiego Street from the Market Square (Rynek 17, 18, 19) are among the most striking in terms of color, which is caused by advertising banners. In this frontage, buildings at Rynek 20 and Rynek 21 were rated the worst in terms of aesthetics, as their size does not correspond to the proportions and dimensions of the historic buildings (Fig. 10).



Fig. 8. View of the tenement in the northern frontage of the market square (Rynek 14) where the music school operates. Existing condition



Fig. 9. View of a fragment of the northern frontage of the market and the facade of the Rynek 23 house, which is one of the few well-preserved. Existing condition



Fig. 10. View of a section of the northern frontage of the market and the houses at Rynek 17 and 18 with unsightly signs that negatively affect the perception of the historic cultural landscape of this space. Existing condition

The eastern front of the market is the most uniform in height, but here there are two individual dominants, including one with a low aesthetic level (despite the renovation carried out)—Rynek 31 (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11. View of a section of the eastern frontage of the market square and the façade of the pharmacy building (Rynek 31) in a color negatively distinguished from the neighboring buildings. Existing condition

The southern frontage is the most degraded in terms of the degree of preservation of the historic divisions, and the elevations of selected buildings, such as the building at Rynek 53, which now houses a grocery store, do not fit harmoniously into the historic surroundings in terms of aesthetics or colors (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12. View of a section of the southern frontage of the market square and the facade of a grocery shop building (Rynek 53) with architecture, aesthetics, and colors alien to the historic cultural landscape of the historic town. Existing condition

On the western side, there is a building with tailoring services – Rynek 60 (Fig. 13), which was almost completely covered with advertising banners, which had a negative impact on the visual perception not only of the building itself but also of the entire southern part of the western side of the development. In the building at Rynek 4 (Fig. 14), renovation works were started and interrupted. As a result, the building, or rather the front wall itself, has remained degraded and disturbs the visual perception of the western frontage, where the buildings are otherwise in a good state of preservation.



Fig. 13. View of a section of the western frontage of the market and the façade of the single-story house Rynek 60, which is almost entirely covered with advertising banners. Existing condition



Fig. 14. View of a section of the western frontage of the market square and the façade of the neglected and degraded Rynek 4 building, where renovation works have been started and interrupted. Existing condition

The analysis also shows that the number of facilities of an aesthetic and technical standard that can be said to be maintained by their owners on an ongoing basis is low - 26 out of 68. In addition, a large number of facilities that are in use and undergoing ongoing repairs are 'disfigured' by advertising. The number of facilities whose visual perception is spoilt by advertising is 30 out of 68.

Creation of a cultural park

As already mentioned, one of the forms of monument protection in Poland - a form of area protection, but also in terms of cultural landscape - is a cultural park. This form of protection supports the prevention of cultural degradation of the centers of historical towns - such as Głogów Małopolski. Therefore, in the opinion of the authors, the establishment of such a cultural park within the town would be valuable in the process of its multidirectional protection.

The proposed action would remove excessive advertising from the city's public spaces. At present, it is common practice to place signs and advertising banners in colors inappropriate to their surroundings and of sizes disproportionate to the objects on which they are placed, which significantly reduces the aesthetic value of the historic center of Głogów (Figs. 10-12, 14). The proposed restriction and control in this respect could be based on Art. 17 para. 3 of the Act on the Protection and Care of Monuments and Sites, which stipulates that "on the territory of the Cultural Park or its part, prohibitions and restrictions may be imposed on the placement of boards, inscriptions, advertisements, and other signs not related to the protection of the Cultural Park, with the exception of traffic signs and signs related to the protection of public order and safety (...)" [22].

A good start to unifying the cultural landscape would be the introduction of uniform rules for the visual identification of public facilities - signs above the entrances to buildings of market tenements - the introduction of size restrictions, uniform colors, and the removal of the current banners and signs of unlimited color and size, which often almost 'hide' entire small buildings of single-story tenements.

It is worth noting that the establishment of a cultural park in the historic center of Głogów Małopolski would also force the municipality to adopt a local development plan for the area.

Conclusions

As a result of the research, the condition of the cultural landscape of the center of Głogów Małopolski as a historical town was determined. This was done taking into account both the market buildings and the spatial layout.

Among other things, it was found that the town has developed very rapidly in the last 10 years, probably facilitated by its proximity to the provincial capital of Rzeszów. This is evidenced by the number of new detached and semi-detached houses. On the one hand, this development poses a threat to the historical structure of the town center; on the other hand, it brings with it the need for modernization in order to make the town attractive to residents and to provide it with representative qualities.

Therefore, in the opinion of the authors, Głogów Małopolski should undergo a well-planned and properly managed revitalization of the following aspects: the urban layout and the historical architecture of the town center. The Renaissance Market Square is currently neglected and is no longer perceived as a coherent, homogeneous urban center. The historic buildings are deteriorated and in need of modernization.

The above measures appear to be necessary to halt the destruction of this historic center. They should be supported by the creation of a cultural park in the city center and an associated local development plan (which the city does not currently have) and by educating the local community about the value of the monuments in the city and the need to protect them.

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