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HISTORICAL REUSE STRATEGIES: THE CASE STUDY OF TOWN HALL IN NOWA SÓL, SILESIA, POLAND

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Abstract

The article presents the transformation of the town hall building in Nowa Sól as an example of adaptive reuse architecture. Adaptive reuse architecture is currently a very popular research topic and mainly concerns the adaptation of historical buildings to new functions. The town hall building discussed in the article is an example of reuse and adaptive architecture. The adaptation took place between the 16th and 20th centuries. It is therefore an interesting example of the historical adaptation and adjustment of a salt building to changing functions, which ended with the building being the seat of municipal authorities. The issue of the adaptive reuse architecture of the salt building in Nowa Sól is presented with regard to other town halls in Central Europe – including those in the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, and Silesia. The need for a detailed identification of historic buildings before their adaptation for the purpose of preserving and conserving their most valuable fragments is emphasized in the summary.

Keywords*: Adaptive reuse; Refurbishment; Architecture; Town hall; Gothic Revival; Baroque*

Introduction

The subject of adaptive reuse architecture is constantly gaining popularity, with a sudden increase in interest being noted in 2016. This can be seen in, among others, the bibliometric analysis conducted by Ç. Takva and E. Özkan Yazgan [1]. The issue of adaptive reuse in historical heritage architecture currently covers many research areas, such as environmental science-ecology, engineering, architecture, construction-building technology, urban studies, arts-humanities, business economics, or public administration [1]. Consideration is also given to issues related to the internal environment of adapted buildings [2]. When adapting historical buildings to new functions, the guidelines included in the conservation documents that are adopted by recognized international authorities should be followed [3], [4], [5]. The issue of adaptive reuse is very often studied based on a case study that examines either a single object [6], [7], [8], or groups of objects with the same or similar function [9]-[12].

It should be remembered that the phenomenon of adaptive reuse is not new and that it has already occurred in the past. Many buildings have even changed their function several times during their existence. The article presents historical reuse strategies using the buildings of the former Salt Office in Nowa Sól as an example. In addition to literary, iconographic, and archival studies, the architectural research method, which is based on the assessment of the chronological stratification of preserved walls, was also used.

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Recognizing and discussing the individual stages of the buildings' development provides a full picture of their transformations. They also show how complicated and long-term the process of shaping the architecture and urban planning of the discussed complex was. It should also be noted that the conducted research was the first to cover studies concerning buildings that form the complex of the former Salt Office to such a broad extent.

The conclusions drawn from the research can also be used in any contemporary process of adaptive reuse.

Historical background

Nowa Sól – historical outline, geographical location

The settlement of Nowa Sól was founded in 1563 on the orders of Emperor Ferdinand I of Habsburg in order to make Silesia independent from expensive salt supplies from German lands and Poland. It was located directly on the banks of the Odra River. As a result of the First Silesian War, Nowa Sól became part of the Kingdom of Prussia. The Prussian King Frederick II granted the city its rights on October 8, 1743. After the end of the Silesian Wars, until the beginning of the 19th century, the city experienced a long period of economic recovery [13]. After the end of the Napoleonic Wars, new areas were incorporated into the city, and the river port was expanded. Industry also developed. After World War II, the city became part of Poland. Nowa Sól did not have much administrative significance during the German period. In 1953, it became the seat of the district authorities, which were transferred from nearby Kożuchów. Currently, it is part of the Lubuskie Voivodeship in western Poland. Together with Zielona Góra and Sulechów, they form the Lubuskie Tricity.

Description of the building complex

The complex currently consists of three interconnected buildings, which form the shape of the letter "L." The western end is the Old Salt Office Building (German: *Altes Amtstube*), and the eastern end is the building of the so-called Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer), housing premises related to the salt trade, i.e., the saltworks, scales, and offices of officials. Between them is the New Salt Office Building with the Cash Register Office (German: *Amtstube mit Kasse*). To the east of the complex there are three residential buildings, which were built on the site of former salt warehouses.

Fig. 1. Nowa Sól, the complex of the buildings of the former Salt Office; view from the south

The current styleless architectural design is the result of the renovation carried out in 2009. The architectural details include profileless moldings above the windows of the first floor and above the windows in the gable, and also simple cornices separating the ground floor. The interiors of the building are in a two-lane, multi-bay layout, of which four rooms located along the western wall are covered with groin vaults.

Fig. 2 Nowa Sól, Salt Camera; former town hall; view from the east

The new building of the Salt Office (formerly Amtstube mit Kasse) has a shape of different heights. In turn, the building that originally housed the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer) is the largest out of all the preserved elements of the complex. The building, erected on a plan similar to the letter "C," has a multi-pitched roof with two gables, which is covered with ceramic roof tiles. The interiors are arranged in a one-and-a-half-bay, multi-lane layout. The corridor is in the south and is connected to the staircase located in the tower. The rooms on the ground floor on the north and east sides, and on the first floor in the east wing, were covered with groin vaults or barrel vaults with lunettes. Along the eastern wall of the building, there is a passage to the former courtyard.

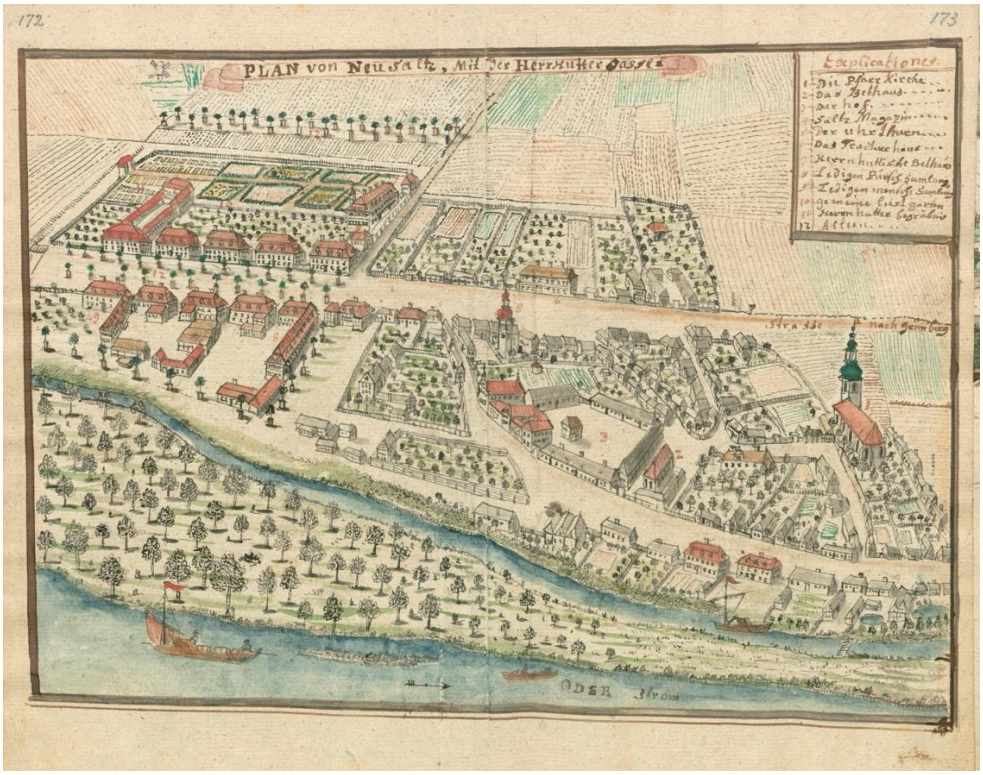

Fig. 3. Nowa Sól, - around the mid-18th century with the marked location of the Salt Office; a view from the north according to Fryderyk Bernard Werner [24]

Methods

In order to correctly identify the changes in the buildings in the context of adaptive reuse, architectural research was carried out. It involved recognizing the structure of the walls in order to distinguish the individual phases of the reconstruction. A bibliographic and iconographic survey was also conducted, as well as studies of the archival materials from the collections of the State Archive in Zielona Góra (files of the city of Nowa Sól, formerly Neusaltz Baupolizei), the Municipal Museum in Nowa Sól, and the District Office in Nowa Sól. Photographic documentation of the research was also made for all three buildings:

- the Old Salt Office, (German: Altes Amtstube) from around 1585;
- the New Salt Building with the Cash Register Office (German: Amtstube mit Kasse), which was probably built in around 1664;
- the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer) from the Baroque period, which was rebuilt in the years 1876-79 and in the years 1934-37.

Results

Analysis of the archival iconography and source notes, as well as the investigation of the structure of the walls of the buildings that were part of the former Salt Office in Nowa Sól, became the basis for the development of research concerning the architecture of this unique complex. The scope of the conducted research activities allowed an outline of the stages of developing and transforming individual buildings (from the second half of the 16th century until 1945) to be presented.

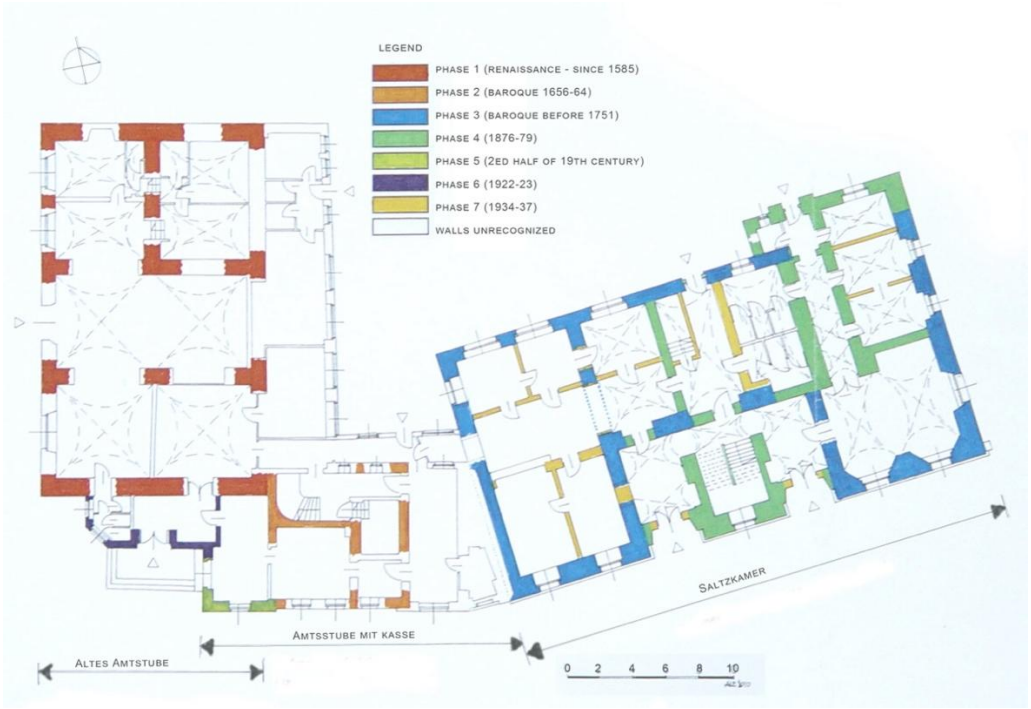

Fig. 4 Nowa Sól, complex of the buildings of the former Salt Office; ground floor plan; inventory with chronological delamination of the walls

Based on the conclusions drawn from the analyses, eight construction phases were distinguished—showing the evolution of the development of the Salt Office's architecture:

Phase 0 (around 1563) — the first Zupan house (*Zupan—the* leader of the administrative unit in Central and Southeastern Europe between the 7th century and the 21st century);

Phase I (around 1585) — construction of the Old Salt Office Building (German: Altes Amtstube);

Phase II (1654-64) — the expansion of the Salt Office building complex by starost Georg Ernst von Pfrüster;

Phase III (before 1751) — the construction of the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer);

Phase IV (1876-79) — the Gothic Revival reconstruction and adaptation of the Salt Camera to a town hall;

Phase V (2nd half of the 19th century) — the reconstruction and adaptation of the Old Salt Office Building (German: Altes Amtstube) and the New Salt Office Building with the Cash Register Office (German: Amtstube mit Kasse);

Phase VI (1922-23) — the construction of the vestibule at the Old Salt Office Building (German: Altes Amtstube) and the New Salt Office Building with the Cash Register Office (German: Amtstube mit Kasse);

Phase VII (1934-37) — the reconstruction and adaptation of the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer) in order for it to serve as police headquarters.

Phase 0 (around 1563) – the first house of the Zupan

The oldest building in the complex was built around 1563 as a flat for an official who managed the sale of salt on behalf of the king (Zupan). This building was described by Georg Ernest von Pfüster (the salt starost and a member of the bookkeepers of the Silesian Camera) in the so-called "Urbarium" of the Imperial Salt Office in Nowa Sól in 1670 [14].

During the research work, it was not possible to find the relics of this building. According to von Pfüster's description, it was a two-story building, probably built with wattle and daub wall construction made of wood and brick. On the ground floor there were two warehouses - a small one for salt and a large one connected by a passage to a stable. Next to them, there was a kitchen, a bath, and a bakery. The main storage room and a small storage room were located on the first floor. These rooms were accessed by a door from the roadside. The second entrance was from the large storehouse and kitchen. The facades were painted black (wooden elements) and white (plastered areas). The remaining buildings were located around the inner courtyard. A small vegetable garden adjoined the building, to which water was supplied by Mr. von Barwitz through pipes. The buildings were used until 1585, when the Old Salt Office Building (German: Altes Amtstube) was erected.

Phase I (around 1585) – the construction of the Old Salt Building (German: Altes Amtstube)

The Old Salt Building (formerly Altes Amtstube) was erected in 1585 together with the church [26]. Its architecture is illustrated in two drawings by Fryderyk Bernard Werner from around the mid-18th century (Figs. 3 and 5). The Old Salt Building (formerly Altes Amtstube) was located in the western part of the complex – next to the garden (formerly Amtsgarten). The gable front facade faced the south, from the side of the road connecting the salt harbor with the trade route running towards Wrocław, Głogów, and Zielona Góra.

The two-story building was built of brick and bog iron on a plan close to a rectangle, which measured 13.6×22.6 meters. It was covered with a gable roof with decorative gables in the south and north. The facade was designed as a three-axis facade with window openings only on the first floor. The windows were rectangular and had profiled frames, probably with flat pediments. Above them, a prominent crowning cornice was placed, which constituted the base of the three-story gable. Its contours were created using volutes, or S-shaped forms. They were placed on profiled cornices that separated individual floors. The lowest floor had three rectangular windows in profiled bands. The floor was flanked by two obelisks that were placed in its corners. The second floor of the gable was decorated with two rectangular openings in frames, and the prominent cornice was supported on a pair of pilasters or lesenes. The contouring took the form of volutes or S-shaped forms. Above the volutes there were S-shaped forms, which constituted the base for the flagpole with a flag. Above, the eastern facade was shaped as a six-axis arrangement with rectangular openings placed quite regularly. The windows, as in the case of the front facade, were probably enclosed in profiled bands.

The interiors were designed as a single-lane, three-bay layout (Fig. 4). The location of the main entrance remains unknown, although it can be assumed that it was probably located on the eastern side (from the courtyard side). On the ground floor, in the front and middle bays, there were two almost square rooms, which were probably used for evaporating processes or for storing salt. Two smaller rooms, filling the rear part of the building, were connected to them. The first floor repeated the layout of the ground floor. The front bay was illuminated by three window openings from the south and two from the east. The middle bay had a pair of windows from the east, and the back bay had two more from the east and probably two from the north.

The layout of the openings in the western facade remains unknown due to transformations and a lack of reliable iconography. Communication between the rooms on the first floor was provided by rectangular door openings covered with segmental arches that were one brick thick. The lintels above the window recesses had a similar shape and thickness. Bricks were used to make the jambs, while the perimeter and structural walls were built from irregular blocks of bog iron.

Phase II (1654-64) – the expansion of the Salt Office building complex by the starost Georg Ernst von Pfrüster

On April 11, 1654, Georg Ernst von Pfrüster was appointed to the position of the salt starost in Nowa Sól. Over a period of 10 years, between 1654 and 1664, he renovated the existing buildings and expanded the entire complex so that it could serve not only official purposes but also production purposes [14].

A new building was added to the Old Salt Office Building (German: *Altes Amtstube*), probably on a plan similar to the letter "L." Its northern, probably single-story wing was added to the eastern facade of the Old Salt Office Building (formerly Altes Amtstube) and covered with a shed roof. In turn, the front part, with its facade facing south, was located along the road connecting the harbor with the trade route. This part was shaped as a two-story building covered with a gable roof with red ceramic roof tiles. The facade had four window axes. One of Fryderyk Bernard Werner's engravings, depicting the Salt Office, probably shows a driveway leading to the inner courtyard. The driveway is flanked by two two-axis wings (Fig. 5). However, this is not confirmed in the view plan of the salt settlement developed by the same author (Fig. 3). In both of these engravings, the southern part does not have a passage on the ground floor.

Fig. 5. Nowa Sól, Salt Office from the north according to Fryderyk Bernard Werner [24]

In the middle of the official courtyard, a small two-story building was erected - probably in a wattle and daub wall construction. In the "largest room of this building, officials stayed on official business" [14]. The building had a plan close to a rectangle and was covered with a gable roof - probably with ceramic roof tiles. The southern façade, with two or three window

axes, was topped with a triangular gable, possibly covered with planking (Fig. 5). The western closure of the almost square courtyard was made up of utility buildings.

In 1664, Georg Ernst von Pfrüster expanded the complex with additional wooden storage buildings in the north, east, and south. On the western and partly northern side of the Salt Office, an official garden (German: Amtsgarten) was established, with fruit trees and bushes. In addition, two gazebos were built there [14].

Phase III (before 1751) – the construction of the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer, currently the town hall)

The last building constructed on the premises of the Nowa Sól saltworks was the Salt Camera. Written sources do not link the construction of this building with the expansion carried out by Georg Ernst von Pfrüster. However, it is visible in archival drawings from around the mid-18th century: drawings by Fryderyk Bernard Werner and the plan of Nowa Sól from 1753 (Figs. 3, 5). It is also known that salt production was discontinued in 1713 [15]. It can therefore be assumed that it was built before that date. The building had a plan similar to the letter "C." It was erected on the eastern side of the Old Salt Building (German: Altes Amtstube). The two-story structure was covered with a multi-pitched roof covered with red ceramic roof tiles, with a small rectangular dormer window in the western wing.

The northern facade—probably the front one—was designed as a seven-axis facade with an entrance in the central axis. In turn, the openings from the east were arranged in a five-axis layout, and from the west - probably in two. From the back, from the street side, the front wing had three rectangular windows. The walls closing the side wings from the south had four openings arranged in two axes. The internal facades of the wings had one axis (Fig. 4).

The interior layout of the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer) was probably planned as a single-bay composition. The individual rooms were probably connected in an enfilade arrangement. Based on the analysis of archival iconography, it can be assumed that the rooms of the front wing on the ground floor and the first floor were covered with barrel vaults [16]. Unfortunately, the location of the stairs remains unknown.

Due to the construction of the Salt Camera, it was probably necessary to move the entrance to the yard. The new entrance was located along the eastern facade of the complex, between the Camera and the warehouse building from 1664 (Fig. 4).

The walls were made of bricks measuring 6.5-6.7×14-14.5×27-28 cm, which had a varied firing color (from orange to cherry). They were laid in a fairly regular block bond. A lime-sand mortar, which was medium-hard and yellowish and which had particles of powdered lime, was used for bonding the bricks.

Phase IV (1876-79) – the adaptive reuse: the* Gothic Revival *conversion of the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer) into a town hall

Due to the dynamic spatial and economic development of Nowa Sól in the second half of the 19th century, it was probably necessary to create a new, representative seat of the city authorities. A decision was made to locate the town hall in the building of the Salt Camera. In 1876, a reconstruction project was developed, which assumed the enlarging of the original building. It was given Gothic Revival forms, which were fashionable in the second half of the 19th century [16]. The Gothic Revival reconstruction was completed in 1879, which was celebrated with a publication discussing the history of the town hall [25].

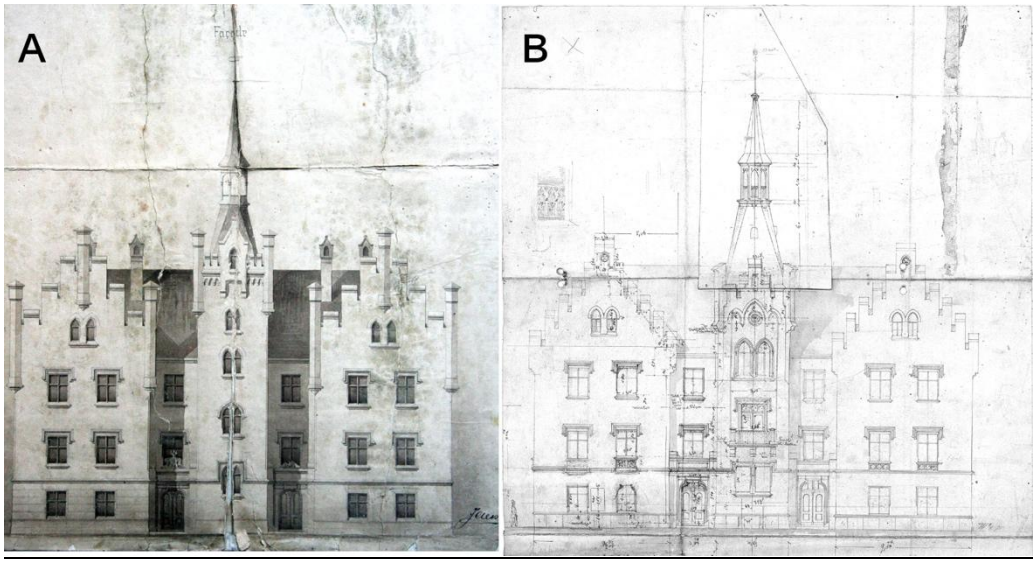

Fig. 6 Nowa Sól, Salt Camera; adaptation project for the town hall from 1876:
A) not executed project of the facade, B) implemented project [16]

The nature of the adaptation was primarily utilitarian. The main goal was to increase the usable area by building a superstructure and to give the building a representative form appropriate for its new function. The front facade was completely transformed according to the then prevailing fashion. A tower was also added - an attribute closely related to the shape of other town halls. The tower was located in the place of the inner courtyard of the former Camera. The new front of the building was developed in two variants (Fig. 6). Both assumed the creation of a representative form by using plastered, Gothic Revival architectural details that refer to palace architecture.

The front facade was designed as a symmetrical, three-story, seven-axis composition with a tower placed on its central axis. The tower was flanked by two two-axis avant-corps. The ground floor was separated by a profiled drip cornice, and its wall surface was covered with bossage. The two outermost axes were highlighted with avant-corps that accentuated the eastern and western wings (which refer to the original design). Between them and the tower, recessed single-axis sections were located. In these sections, two entrances to the building were located, which were enclosed by lesenes. The openings were framed by plaster double portals. Above them, heraldic elements were designed. On the western side there was the coat of arms of Nowa Sól - in the upper field it had a black Silesian eagle with a white (silver) band on a yellow (gold) background, and below - a black boat with a raftsman and white barrels of salt on blue waves. In turn, on the eastern side, there was the coat of arms of the German Empire - a black eagle in a crown holding symbols of power: a scepter and an apple. The entrance openings had wide single-leaf doors, which probably had a frame-and-panel construction that consisted of four panels, the upper one of which was designed as semicircular. Profiled strips with heads supporting carved decoration were placed between the panels. Above the openings, two rectangular windows with chamfered bands were introduced. They were placed on profiled windowsills. A broken pediment from a drip cornice was planned to be introduced above the first-floor windows.

The avant-corpses of the side wings were raised by one story when compared to the original Baroque design. They were shaped as two-axis compositions with high stepped gables.

Rectangular window openings were enclosed in chamfered bands, which in the sections above the ground floor received a broken pediment made of a drip cornice. Below the first-floor windows, there were mirrors with a tracery motif. In the gable, it was proposed to introduce ogival bifora windows. The contouring of the gables involved a system of eleven steps that had copings and drip cornices.

In the center of the building, between the two avant-corpses of the side wings, a tower of about 19.3 meters in height was introduced. It was built on a plan close to a square with a side length of about 2.7 meters. In the plane of its southern facade, it was assumed that bifora ogival window openings would be introduced, which would be enclosed in profiled plaster bands and arranged on four levels. The tower's shaft was to be crowned with an attic with stepped edges, copings, and drip cornices. The tower was to be covered with a slender pyramidal dome of about 8.5 meters in height. It was designed to be on a square plan, which transforms into an octagon at a higher level. At one-third of its height, at the level of 12.3 meters above the ground, a clearance with ogival arcades was planned, which had profiled cornices from the bottom and from the top. The top of the pyramidal dome had a form of a spike with a flag placed on a profiled strap (Figs. 6, 7).

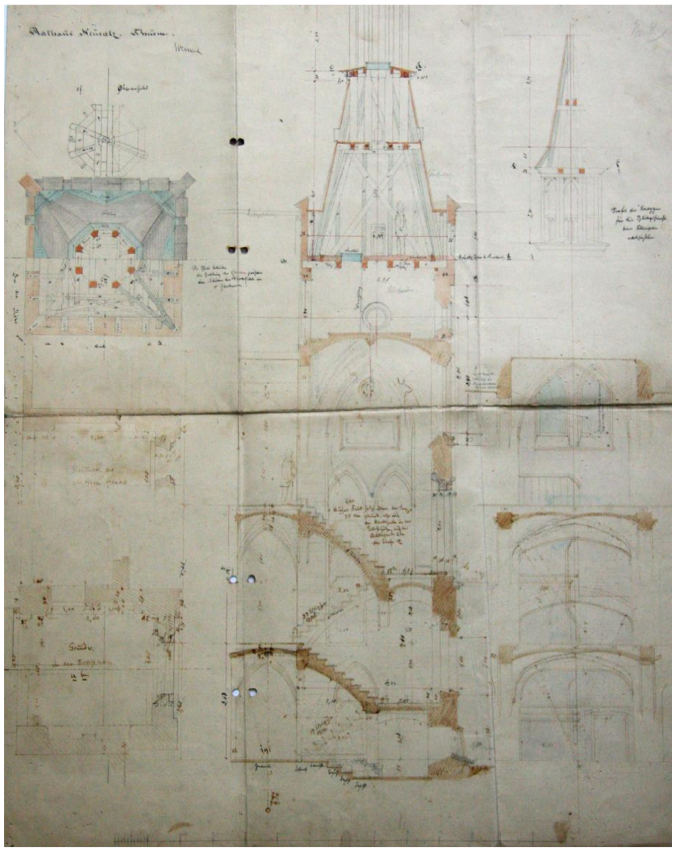

Fig. 7. Nowa Sól, Salt Camera; cross-section of the tower from the implemented project from 1876 [16]

The side facades were designed based on both the existing layout of window openings and the compositional arrangement of the facade. The ground floor section was separated by a

drip cornice. The facade was topped with a prominent profiled cornice. The former front facade (from the courtyard side) became the rear facade. On the added floor, the number of window openings corresponded to the lower floors. The windows were enclosed in smooth bands, and the whole facade was topped with a prominent profiled cornice.

The plan of the original building of the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer) underwent major transformations. Only the perimeter walls and partially structural walls in the northern wing (former front wing) were left, with the interior divisions also being changed. Office rooms were located within the outline of the original layout, providing additional light through windows in the perimeter walls. The inner courtyard between the two side wings was eliminated, and the northern wing was expanded towards the south, with a connector with a tower that housed a representative staircase being introduced. In the eastern wing, an additional corridor leading to a toilet was added. The ground floor and the first floor were covered with groin vaults or barrel vaults with lunettes. In turn, in the interiors of the first floor on the northern side, the Baroque barrel vault remained.

Fig. 8. Nowa Sól, Salt Camera; cross-section of the tower from the implemented project from 1876 [37]

Some rooms, as befits the seat of municipal authorities, received a representative interior design. The most interesting design was given to the three-bay City Council Chamber located on the first floor, which contained a currently unpreserved painting that depicted the act of granting city rights to Nowa Sól in 1743 by King Frederick II the Great (Fig. 8). The author of the painting, which was painted in 1893, was Oskar Silzmann. The interior design of this room consisted of panel wainscoting (topped with a profiled cornice), chairs, a rather simple table, and a set of five brass lamps (two standing and three hanging at the intersection of the vault fields).

The walls of this phase were built of cherry-red machine bricks laid in a block bond. The ceramic brick, with dimensions of 5.5-6×11-11.5×25.5-26 cm, was bound with a grey-cream lime-cement mortar, which was quite hard and had powdered lime.

Phase V (2nd half of the 19th century) – the reconstruction of the Old Salt Office Building (German: Altes Amtstube) and the New Salt Office Building with the Cash Register Office (German: Amtstube mit Kasse); adaptive reuse into a bank

In the second half of the 19th century, the reconstruction of the two remaining buildings of the former Salt Office was probably carried out. The Old Salt Office Building (German: Altes Amtstube) also received Gothic Revival forms. The New Salt Office Building with the Cash Register Office (German: Amtstube mit Kasse) was given eclectic architectural details. It can be assumed that the construction that covered both buildings was carried out at the same time, despite the formal differentiation of detail.

Fig. 9. Nowa Sól, the complex of the buildings of the former Salt Office in the early 20th century; view from the south; a postcard from that period [17]

The southern facade of the Old Salt Office (German: Altes Amtstube) underwent significant transformations. The Renaissance outline of the gable was dismantled, and a truncated pediment was introduced in the front part of the roof. Therefore, it was shaped as a two-story, two-axial building with a two-story, two-axial gable (Fig. 9).

On the ground floor, two rectangular window openings were made, but they did not refer to those on the first floor. The ground floor was emphasized by the introduction of bossage in the form of strips, and the windows were enclosed in bands. The facade of the first floor was decorated with rectangular window openings, which also had plaster profiled bands and windowsills. A pair of niches flanking the window located in the central axis of the former facade was decorated similarly. Above them, a broken pediment, which was made from a drip cornice, was introduced.

Above the niches, polygonal corbels were formed, on which lesenes were supported. They constituted the lower parts of the pinnacles. They were topped with a stylized battlement. Between the lesenes, pairs of rectangular windows were composed on two stories. They were enclosed in profiled plaster bands and placed on one windowsill. A broken pediment made of a

drip cornice was introduced above each pair of openings. The finial of the gable in the part of the truncated pediment was a cornice in the form of a stylized battlement (Fig. 9).

Due to the covering of the eastern edge of the facade, only the western edge of the gable received a new setting. The composition, which consisted of five recesses, referred to the solution of the gables of the side avant-corpses of the Salt Camera (German: Salzkamer). The upper covers of the recesses were shaped with a slight slope and were emphasized with a profiled cornice.

The Salt Office and Cash Register Office (German: Amtstube mit Kasse) had a very modest architectural design. As a result of the reconstruction in the second half of the 19th century, they were given forms that referred to palace architecture with eclectic detail. In addition, the building was enlarged westwards by a two-axis avant-corps that covered the eastern part of the southern facade of the Old Salt Office (German: Altes Amtstube) (Fig. 9).

The southern facade was designed as a six-axis composition, with two single-axis shallow avant-corps. The lowest story was separated by a profiled cornice. The three-axis, two-story central section was accentuated by an entrance that was placed on the main axis. The rectangular opening, which was covered with a segmental arch, was enclosed in a profiled plaster band, with double-leaf doors being placed in it. Rectangular windows, with segmental lintels and frames resting on windowsills, were composed on both sides. Three openings on the first floor were arranged in axes and enclosed by similar frames as on the floor below. However, they additionally had flat-profiled pediments above them. The rectangular attic windows, which were placed under a prominent cornice, were given smooth bands. This part of the building was covered with a gable roof that had ceramic roof tiles.

The central part of the facade was enclosed by two avant-corps, which were shaped in the form of stylized towers. The facades were designed as single-axis with doubled windows in the second-floor section. The ground-floor openings were covered with segmental arches and enclosed in profiled bands. Flat pediments were introduced on the first floor. The second-floor bifora received an architectural setting that consisted of three pilasters, which supported the entablature and rested on a windowsill. The avant-corpses were topped with an attic, which rested on a prominent corbel cornice. It had a brick balustrade with pillars in the corners (Fig. 9).

The eastern facade, at the contact point with the Salt Camera building (German: Salzkamer), was designed as a single-axis connector that was bent towards the north in relation to the line of the facade. It received a three-story, single-axis layout. Rectangular window openings on the ground floor and first floor were covered with segmental lintels and enclosed in frames similar to those that were used in the avant-corps. The connector's facade was topped with a short section of a brick balustrade supported on a corbel cornice. The Salt Office and Cash Register Office (German: Amtstube mit Kasse) was extended towards the west. The new facade was designed as a two-axis, three-story structure. The ground floor, as was the case with the facade, was separated by a profiled cornice and included a window in the northern axis and an entrance in the southern axis. The openings were shaped in reference to those on the southern side. The wall was topped with a prominent cornice that was supported on corbels, above which a low attic was placed. It had a brick balustrade framed by two square pillars placed on the edges.

The layout that emerged as a result of the transformations was a four-lane, two-bay composition. Only the outermost western lane, located in the added avant-corps, had a single-bay layout. On the ground floor, a drive-through hall was placed in the eastern avant-corps, and a small porter's lodge with a window was located on its eastern side in the front bay of the

connector. A small corridor with one window led to the staircase located in the rear bay and connected it to the hall. The quarter stairs had a shape similar to the letter "L". The interior of the front bay was divided into two premises that had a service function. The entrance to one was placed in the southern facade in the axis of the central part. The first premises consisted of two rooms: probably a hall and a back room, which were lit from the south through two windows. The second premise (single room) was located in the added part, and the entrance to it led through a door in the southern axis of the western facade. Its interior was also lit by two window openings, one from the west and one from the south.

The layout of the first floor repeated the solution of the ground floor. The front bay contained three rooms. The hall located in the added part had two openings from the west and one from the south. The entrance to the staircase led from the central interior. In the rear bay, the staircase and one room connected to it (with three windows on the north side) were located.

These rooms were designed as offices because, at the beginning of the 20th century, the building housed the seat of the Municipal Savings Bank (German: Städtische Sparkasse).

Phase VI (1922-23) – the construction of the vestibule in front of the Old Salt Office (Ger. Altes Amtstube) and the New Building of the Salt Office and Cash Register Office (Ger. Amtstube mit Kasse)

Due to the adaptation of the Old Salt Office (German: Altes Amtstube) into the bank's headquarters and the adaptation of the New Salt Office and the Cash Register Office (German: Amtsstube mit Kasse) into the Municipal Savings Bank (German: Städtische Sparkasse), it was necessary to build a small one-story vestibule on the south side.

The vestibule had a plan close to a rectangle (with one of the corners cut off) with dimensions of 7.3×3.2 meters in the external outline. It was decorated using elements that refer to Art Nouveau patterns. At the top of it, there was a low wall with a metal balustrade and flower pots, which flanked the balcony (accessible from the room on the first floor).

The construction of the vestibule resulted in the transformation of the ground floor of the side (western) facade of the western avant-corps of the New Salt Office building (German: Amtstube mit Kasse). Due to the expansion of the entrance part, the window in the northern window axis was covered. However, the entrance was partially bricked up and transformed into a display window.

Phase VII (1934-37) – the reconstruction of the Salt Camera (formerly Salzkamer, currently the town hall) - adaptive reuse for a police headquarters

In the early 1930s, a decision was made to rebuild and adapt the Salt Camera building (German: Salzkamer) for the needs of a police headquarters. Three versions of the façade's reconstruction project have been preserved in the collections of the State Archives in Zielona Góra. Two of them probably did not gain recognition in the eyes of the dissidents of the time, and the third one was carried out in the years 1934-37 [18].

The design variant adopted for the implementation assumed the removal of the Gothic Revival architectural detail (Figs. 10, 12). It introduced a simple modernist architectural detail, which included window frames and a cornice above the ground floor. The window frames on the ground floor were designed as smooth bands, and on the upper floors they had the form of splayed lesenes that were placed on straight windowsills and which carried flat pediments. The large tower window, with an entrance to the balcony, was replaced with two smaller ones, which also received triangular pediments. The biggest change to the structure was the increase of the brick shaft of the tower by approximately 5 meters.

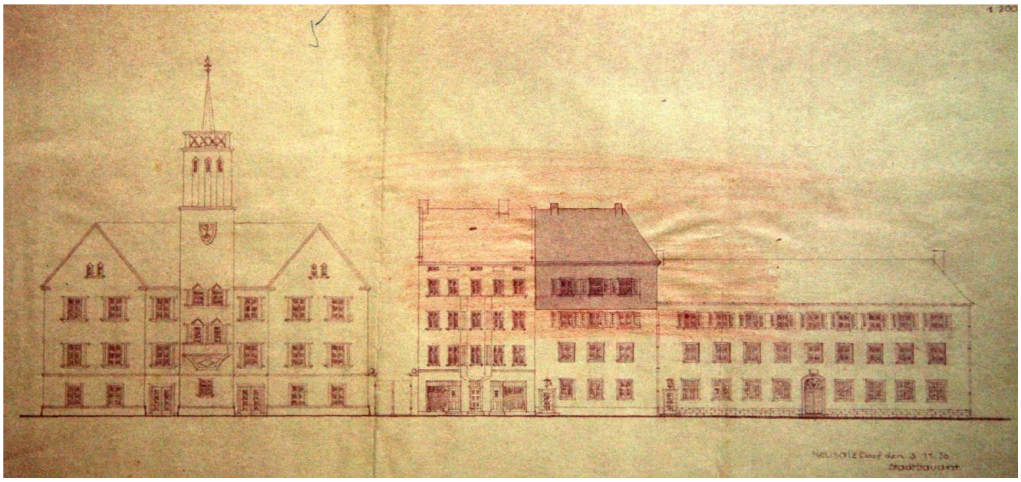

Fig. 10. Nowa Sól, Salt Camera (formerly Salzkamer, currently the town hall); drawing of the facade and frontage of Stanisław Moniuszko Street (formerly Amtstrasse) - adaptation project from 1934 [18]

The facade planes of the superstructure were composed by introducing three triangularly topped narrow niches that had small windows on each of the walls. An openwork balustrade with a cross motif was formed around the base of the pyramidal helmet that was approximately 7.5 meters high. There was a flagpole with a flag on its top. From the south, a simple shield with the coat of arms of Nowa Sól was designed. The facades were painted light gray, and the architectural elements—cornices, window and portal frames—were painted red. The coat of arms was colored in accordance with the heraldic record: on a yellow (gold) background there was a black Silesian eagle with a white (silver) stripe, and below it, a black boat with a rafter and white barrels of salt on blue waves.

In the building itself, one significant transformation involved the removal of the stepped gables of the avant-corps and the replacing of them with straight triangular ones.

Due to the adaptation of the interior for the needs of the police headquarters, divisions were introduced in the large rooms, including on the ground floor and on the first floor in the northern corner of the eastern wing, where a large three-bay hall was divided into three smaller ones. Similar actions were conducted on the ground floor hall and in the northern and western wings, where rooms for policemen were created (Fig. 11). The biggest changes affected the City Council Room in the northern wing. The baroque vaults were probably demolished and replaced with a ceiling. The painting depicting the granting of city rights to Nowa Sól by King Frederick II the Great was probably destroyed. The small rooms in the bends of the corridor (that is adjacent to the staircase) were also separated by walls that had glass in their upper part.

The gate leading to the inner yard was also rebuilt. The neo-Gothic frame of the opening was dismantled and replaced with two simple pillars, on which the gates were hung. The pillars were topped with spheres.

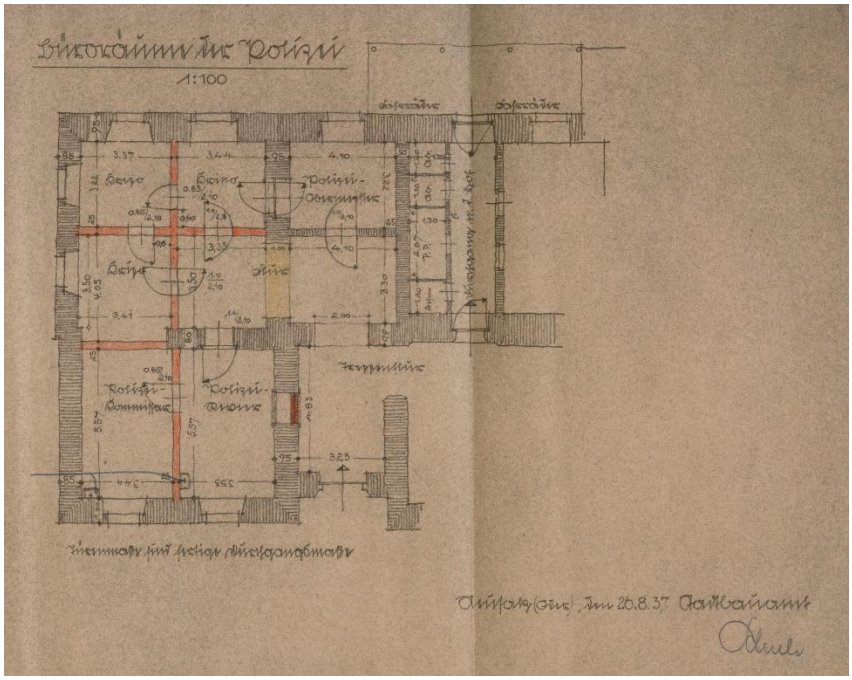

Fig. 11. Nowa Sól, Salt Camera (formerly Salzkamer, currently the town hall); detailed drawing of the division of rooms in the western and northern wings - design variant III from 1937 [18]

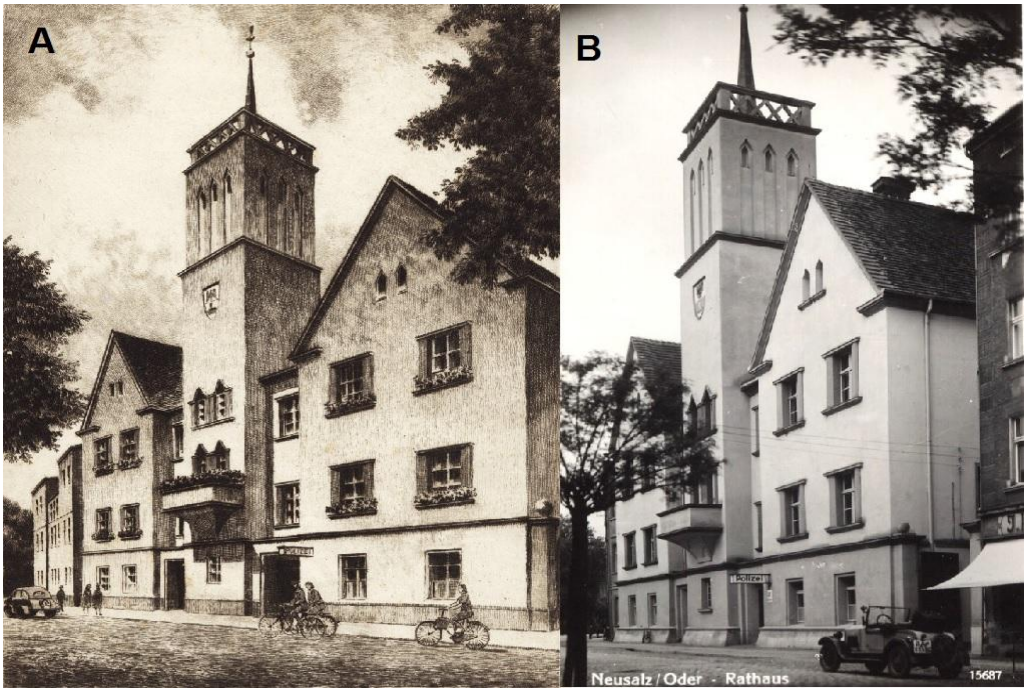

Fig. 12 Nowa Sól, view of the buildings of the former Salt Office after being adapted to the police headquarters; southern facade 1943: A) copperplate by A. Bruk, B) postcard from 1940 [19]

Discussion

The town hall in Nowa Sól in relation to other examples from Silesian cities

In the first half of the 13th century, Prince Henry the Bearded began the municipal charter process for cities in Silesia. An important element of their constitution was the construction of a representative seat of the municipal authorities [20]. The case of the Town Hall in Nowa Sól is interesting because these types of buildings were usually planned and erected at the stage of the municipal charter process, especially in the case of cities from the so-called German cultural circle. Examples include the town halls in Höxter [21], Innsbruck [22], Prague [23], and Timişoara [24]. The model developed during this period included the construction of a town hall with a tower in the central city square. Over time, a block of buildings was built around the seat of the local authorities, which included, among others, cloth halls, stalls, shoemaker and bread stalls, a weighing office, a fabric cutting hall, a trade hall, etc. In larger centers such as Wrocław, Świdnica, or Brzeg, this block of buildings was shaped in the form of a building quarter with internal streets or corridors [20], [25], [26]. In smaller towns, such as Namysłów, Środa Śląska, Zielona Góra, or Kożuchów, it was created as a set of interconnected shapes, which were diverse in terms of style and size [27]-[30].

Changes in the modern period resulted in the transformation of individual stalls into tenement houses with stylistically diverse facades, which can be observed, among others, in Wrocław, Świdnica, Zielona Góra, and Kożuchów [20], [25], [29], [30]. In many cities, as the wealth of the patricians increased, town halls were moved to new locations, often on the frontage of the Market Square, where burgher tenement houses were purchased, e.g., in Lubań [31]. As a result of fires and destruction, the buildings in the middle of the market square were often demolished, and a new town hall of monumental form and scale was built in their place, e.g., in Grodków or Opole [32], [33].

When compared to other cities in Silesia, the construction and functioning of the town hall in Nowa Sól are slightly different. The salt settlement was founded in 1557 by Antoni Schmit, who was called Danczko. It received city rights in 1743 from Frederick II the Great [34], [35]. For the first few years, there was no separate municipal authority building for local authorities. Therefore, selected tenement houses were adapted for this purpose. The case of the Town Hall in Nowa Sól is interesting because these types of buildings were usually planned and erected at the stage of the municipal charter process, especially in the so-called German cultural circle. Examples include the town halls in Höxter, Innsbruck, Prague, and Timişoara. The first temporary seat of the city authorities was a tenement house at the current Wyzwolenia Square (German: Markt), which was built in the years 1749-1839 [36]. The economic growth and dynamic development of Nowa Sól in the 19th century made it necessary to enlarge the town hall. In 1820, the City Council purchased part of the buildings of the former Salt Office located on Moniuszko Street (German: Amtstrasse) [35]. Interestingly, the building was not located on the main city square but on the main street leading to the harbor. The construction of the new seat of the city authorities was carried out in the years 1876-79 by adapting the building of the Salt Camera to these needs. The building was given a representative form of a Gothic Revival palace, which was fashionable at that time.

Conclusions

The described case study of the adaptive reuse of the town hall in Nowa Sól draws attention to how important it is to properly recognize the historic value of a building during the adaptation process. Here, the primary focus was on conditions resulting from the building's function and on transforming it in line with the fashion prevailing at the time. This approach led to the irreversible destruction of some valuable elements, such as the painting in the City Council Room. Unfortunately, a similar approach can also be observed in the present, when this monument and its monumental value are overshadowed by contemporary functional requirements and aesthetics that are currently fashionable. The cited case study draws attention to the problem of the lack of proper recognition of valuable elements of historical buildings. This problem is very important today. In addition to studying preserved archival documents, it is worth using architectural research methods.

Knowledge of the changes that have taken place in the building to date, which is based on historical stratification, shows the course of the reuse process. It helps to recognize the most valuable elements of the building that are worth preserving and protecting. Only after determining them can one begin to look for the best strategy for the building's conservation or its further adaptations in the spirit of adaptive reuse.

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