



ŚWIEBODZIN COUNTY

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MONUMENTS

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der Europäischen Union
Współfinansowany przez
Uniję Europejską

Brandenburg – Polska



The publication was compiled by Świebodzin County as part of the project “Cross-Border Encounter with Nature – Promotion of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of Poland and Germany” and is financed from the Interreg VI A Brandenburg–Poland 2021–2027 Cooperation Programme and the Small Project Fund of the Euroregion Spree-Nysa-Bóbr.



The Palace in Chociule

Grzegorz Walkowski

Foreword

In the Świebodzin district one can find both majestic castles and imposing residences of landowners. The Świebodzin town hall attracts visitors with its stately appearance, the former abbey in Paradyż combines medieval asceticism with Baroque opulence, and in the churches scattered across the entire Świebodzin Land one finds traces of the region's history — a history different from that recounted in textbooks telling of world powers, uprisings, and revolutions, yet at the same time very close to every person connected with this land. It is worth discovering at least a few of the places mentioned here in order to become acquainted with the remarkable past of these larger and smaller localities of our region.



Anna Zielińska



Świebodzin

THE TOWN HALL

A symbol of municipal self-government authority, dating from the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries. After the great fire of 1541, it was rebuilt in a form close to its present appearance. The three-bay edifice previously had two town hall towers linked by a wooden footbridge. In the 19th century, the northern tower and the butcher's stalls (jatki) surrounding the town hall were dismantled. Over the course of the town's history, it served as the seat of the municipal authorities and also housed market halls, cafés, a police station, and an air-raid shelter.



THE CASTLE

The stronghold first appears in the historical record around 1329 and became the administrative centre of local sovereign authority. It was the residence of the Knights Hospitaller from nearby Łagów, Habsburg governors, and Cistercian nuns from Trzebnica administering their local estates. It repeatedly passed into private hands, and in the 19th century it housed the Royal Post Office. Over the centuries, the castle was remodelled on numerous occasions, evolving from a defensive structure into a residence. Adjacent to it, St Joseph's Hospital was built, where from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries the Sisters of Mercy of St Charles Borromeo cared for the sick and the needy. After the Second World War, part of the complex became the Therapeutic and Educational Institute for Disabled Children, which is now the Lubusz Centre for Orthopaedics.



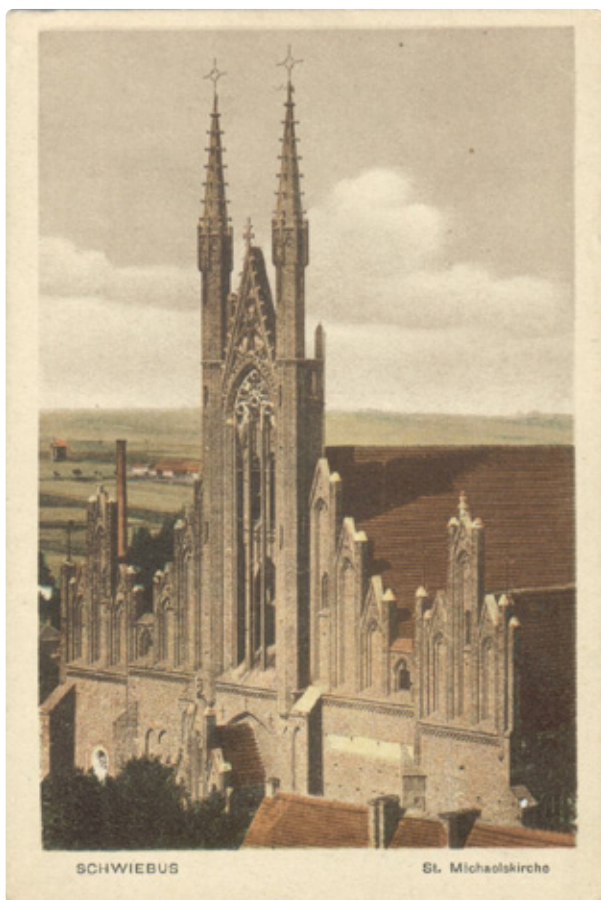
THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF POLAND

The present church stands on the site of several previously built Protestant meeting houses from 1694 and 1750. Thanks to the generosity of the Protestant majority of the town's inhabitants and the support of the court of the German Emperor, the new brick-built church, known as the Frederick Church (Friedrichskirche), was consecrated in December 1900, becoming the most recognisable centre of Lutheranism in the Świebodzin Land. After 1945, as the so-called "school church", it was incorporated into the Parish of St Michael the Archangel. In 1981, a new parish dedicated to Our Lady Queen of Poland was established.



THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

The wooden town church dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul is dated to the beginning of the 14th century. In the 15th century it was replaced by a brick-built three-nave hall church with net vaulting. A fourth nave was added after the great town fire in the mid-16th century, and in the mid-19th century the church underwent a thorough renovation and remodelling in the Neo-Gothic style under the direction of the then parish priest, Künzer, and the esteemed architect of the period, Alexis Langer. Throughout the centuries of the town's history, the church was the centre of the Catholic community of Świebodzin.



FRAGMENTS OF THE TOWN WALLS

The town walls around Świebodzin were erected gradually from the end of the 14th century, progressively encircling the entire town. Originally there were two town gates: the Głógów Gate (on what is now Głogowska Street) to the south, and the Cross Gate (on what is now 1 Maja Street) to the north of the town. In 1586, the New Gate was built (on what is now 30 Stycznia Street). The town walls, together with the moat, protected the town against incursions and also held prestige, fiscal, and regulatory significance, serving as points controlling entry into the town. From the 18th century onwards, they began to be dismantled owing, among other things, to their low resistance to the fire of the artillery of the period, and the reclaimed materials were used to construct new houses and buildings in the expanding town.





Paradyż

THE POST-CISTERCIAN MONASTIC COMPLEX

In the era of Poland's feudal fragmentation, the Voivode of Poznań, Mikołaj Bronisz, founded a Cistercian monastery in 1230, to which the monks arrived a few years later. The original wooden monastery became the nucleus of the settlement of "Paradisus Sanctae Mariae" ("Paradise of the Mother of God"), later Polish as Paradyż. The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Martin was built over more than a hundred years and was consecrated in 1397. In the 13th century, the abbey's estates encompassed over 16,000 hectares of land. In the 15th century, Jakub of Paradyż (Jacobus de Paradiso) gained renown across Europe — a theologian and preacher who called for radical changes in monastic life and for the secularisation of ecclesiastical property. The development of the monastery was checked by the Thirty Years' War and numerous fires. Thanks to the aid of Polish kings, the abbey was rebuilt in the 17th century and extended in the Baroque style in the 18th century. After the Partitions of Poland, the Prussian authorities finally dissolved the monastery in 1834, establishing the Royal Teachers' Training Seminary here, and in the 1920s a secondary school operated on the premises. After 1945, a boys' boarding school was housed here, followed by the Faculty of Philosophy of the Gorzów Diocesan Seminary, and since 1992 the former monastery has been the seat of the Higher Seminary of the Diocese of Zielona Góra–Gorzów.





Łagów Municipality

THE CASTLE OF THE KNIGHTS HOSPITALER

The castle was built around 1350 on the isthmus between Lake Trześniowskie and Lake Łagowskie, and until 1810 it was the seat of the local commandery of the Knights Hospitaller. It was built in a form approximating a trapezium, measuring 30 metres by 34 metres. The imposing keep-style tower stands 34 metres tall. In the 16th century and after the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648), the castle was remodelled on numerous occasions. Following the dissolution of the Order in 1810, it passed into private hands, including those of the von Zastrow family. After 1945 it housed a Creative Work Centre (Dom Pracy Twórczej) and, following a further renovation at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s, a hotel was established within it.



THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

The church was erected in the 1720s, possibly on the site of a former chapel adjoining the castle. As a Protestant church, it served the inhabitants of Łagów and the surrounding area until 1945. It was remodelled in 1887, when the tower and a transverse nave with galleries were added. Inside the church, particular attention is drawn to the tomb slab of Commander Andreas von Schlieben from 1571, located in the porch beneath the tower.





Lubrza Municipality

THE CHURCH OF ST ANNE IN NOWA WIOSKA

The wooden Baroque church, built around 1670, was erected through the foundation of the Cistercians of Paradyż. A distinctive feature of the church's massing is the square tower crowned with an onion dome and lantern. Inside the church, the ceramic floor laid in a chequerboard pattern attracts particular notice.



THE PALACE IN PRZEŁĄZY

An imposing palace erected at the end of the 19th century on the initiative of the Castell family. It is a three-storey Neo-Renaissance edifice with towers adorned with crenellation and a balcony supported by arcades. The building was remodelled in 1889, 1910, and 1923, as well as in the post-war period.





Skąpe Municipality

THE CHURCH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW IN OŁOBOK

The wooden church was dated to the first half of the 13th century. In 1795, a new church was founded by Dominika I von Giller, the last abbess of the Cistercian convent in Trzebnica. The single-nave church with a rectangular chancel is characterised by two adjoining rooms and a square tower.



THE CHURCH OF ST HEDWIG IN RADOSZYN

A brick-built Late Gothic Catholic church from the end of the 15th century, erected on the site of an even earlier church from the second half of the 13th century. It was one of the local centres of the foundation of the Cistercian nuns of Trzebnica, who held landed estates here until 1810. In the mid-1530s it passed into the hands of Protestants, and from the mid-1650s it returned to the Catholic community. Inside the church, particular attention is drawn to the altar in the form of a triptych from the end of the 15th century.





Zbąszynek Municipality

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES SIMON AND JUDE THADDEUS IN KOSIECZYN

A historic wooden Catholic church whose origins reach back to the second half of the 14th century. It is considered that the log walls of the church were built in 1389 and the timber roof frame is dated to 1407. At the beginning of the 17th century, it temporarily passed into the hands of local Protestants. The original church plan was repeatedly extended and its structure reinforced. Inside the church, the Baroque altar and the Renaissance pulpit attract particular notice.



THE PALACE IN DĄBRÓWKA WIELKOPOLSKA

A historic palace built between 1856 and 1859 to a design by the architect to the King of Prussia, Friedrich August Stüler, for the then owner of Dąbrówka, Count Albert Strein von Schwartzenu-Dammer. It was commonly known as “Albert’s Palace”. It combines the style of the Elizabethan era (massing with corner towers) with the German Renaissance (window shapes). It was remodelled at the end of the 1880s. During the Second World War, it was the seat of the female section of the Reich Labour Service and, as part of the scheme to relocate children from areas threatened by bombing (Kinderlandverschickung), it accommodated evacuated children.





Szczaniec Municipality

THE PALACE COMPLEX IN SZCZANIEC GÓRNY

The original seat, known as the White Manor (Biały Dwór), was established around 1436. As a result of the Thirty Years' War, it was destroyed in the first half of the 17th century. In the mid-1850s, the remains of the castle were dismantled, and in the 1870s a Neo-Gothic palace was erected, which was extended in the 1920s. The two-storey building, constructed on a T-shaped plan, was occupied by a Soviet garrison after the Second World War; after 1948, an agricultural school operated here, followed by a State Agricultural Farm (PGR).



THE PALACE IN OJERZYCE

The residence was built in 1885 on the walls of a former Baroque manor house. The remodelling of the building, including the addition of a new wing, was undertaken by Eugeniusz Fryderyk Guido von Schmeling. The new wing of the palace is distinguished by a greater wealth of architectural detail. The decorative portal at the entrance to the palace also attracts the eye.





Church of St Stanislaus the Bishop in Żelechów

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Świebódzin, 2026

Text: Tomasz Plichta; texts were compiled on the basis of the following websites: zabytek.pl, kosciolydrewniane.pl, lw kz.pl; illustrations are from the collections of the Regional Museum in Świebódzin, unless otherwise credited

Graphic design: Drukarnia Sil-Veg-Druk s.c.

Publisher: Drukarnia Sil-Veg-Druk s.c.

ISBN 978-83-982777-4-7



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