

The colonial village of Radomierowice and its sacral buildings as an example of typical rural architecture during the Frederick colonization

*Marcin Fiutak*¹, *Dariusz Bajno*¹ and *Agnieszka Grzybowska*^{1*}

¹Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Architecture, Department of Building Structures, Poland

Abstract. The article presents an overview of half-timbered construction in Opole Silesia (south Poland). Its unique forms on the example of the church of N.M.P. in Radomierowice. It shows the genesis of the Prussian colonial style (log construction). Influence of colonial settlements and types of wooden folk architecture in Opole Silesia from the 17th century. The article presents an analysis of frame structures on the example of the church of N.M.P. in Radomierowice by architect Christian Isemer. Which were used in religious architecture during the Friderite colonization (the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries). Was presented a result of the analysis, the problem of the disappearance of the historical substance of monuments from the landscape of the Silesian countryside.

1 Introduction

Analysis of eighteenth-century rural settlements in Opole Silesia to their form and structure allows to show the layouts and structures of Silesian villages. The forms of housing estates can be divided into housing estates with a simple or complex structure. Simple forms, characterized by regularity, include rows (street villages), ovals and chains villages. At the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, completely new forms of settlement began to emerge in the Opole region, created by colonists settling in Silesia [1, 2, 3]. These villages are colonial row villages, which were usually characterized by a small area of landscaping. These estates were most often established in unsettled or sparsely settled areas. Colonial villages had regular forms of buildings as well as regular forms of layout. The colonies had a row layout with one or two rows of buildings with regular layouts. The plots had an area of about 5 hectares. An example of a classic colonial row village is the village of Radomierowice (Fig. 1).

* Corresponding author: agnieszka.grzybowska@pbs.edu.pl

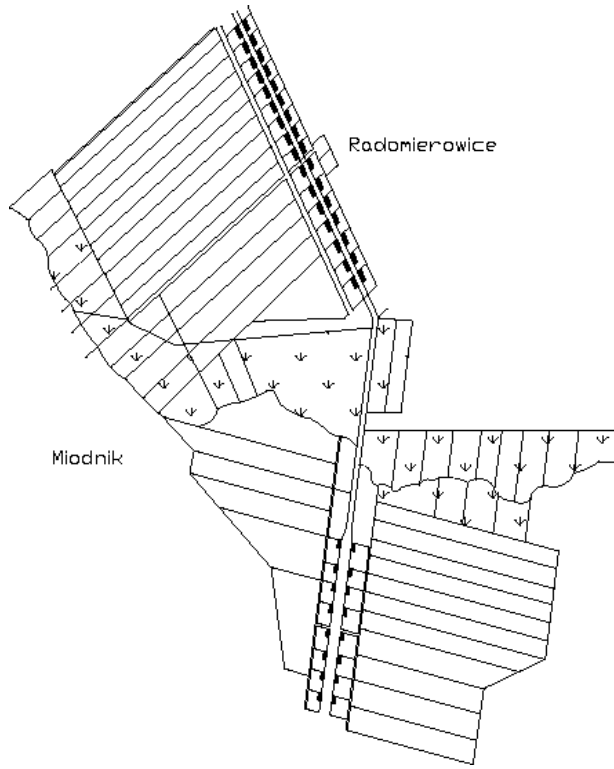


Fig. 1. Layout of the colony village of Radomierowice (authors archive)

2 Building characteristics

Until the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, the rural architecture of the Opole region developed based on natural climatic and geographical conditions. The abundant forests that covered the areas of Opole Silesia provided the necessary building material, easy for carpentry processing. Wooden construction corresponded to the requirements of the climate and geographical conditions. It consisted in the construction of walls from horizontally arranged wooden logs, the ends of which in the corners of the building were connected with the use of notches. It was a log building with a centuries-old tradition. It was the basic construction **technic** in Opole Silesia. Wooden construction was used in these areas from the 10th century to almost modern times. This uniform image of folk architecture in Opole Silesia changed as a result of transformations lasting from the second half of the 18th century to the middle of the 19th century.

The village of Opole was divided into two regions separated by the Odra River. The first one is the right Opole region with preserved and cultivated wooden buildings, and the left Opole region, where there was a rapid development of half-timbered and brick construction.

After the Seven Years' War, settlements began to develop in Silesia. In 1773, King Frederick II of Prus Country issued a declaration supporting the settlement processes in Silesia. They were at bringing new human forces to the country, especially craftsmen and specialists in manufacturing. Agricultural, forestry, craft and mining estates were established, providing labour for work in the field as well as for the emerging steelworks and mines in the area of Upper Silesia. In 1753-1755, ironworks were established in Ozimek city and Kluczbork city. Forest estates inhabited by settlers involved in logging, charcoal and tar

makers. During the first 16 years of the colonization process in the settlements on the right side of the Oder river, the number of colonists is estimated at 14,000. More than half of the total number of Silesian colonies (about 230 out of 440) were built on the right side of the Oder river. Colonization and the influx of settlers to Silesia was stopped only by the Napoleonic wars. Thanks to such intensive settlement processes and the subsequent development of heavy industry, Silesia became one of the most industrialized regions of Germany and Central and Eastern Europe in the mid-nineteenth century. Colonization and the ongoing settlement processes had a great impact on the character and appearance of the Silesian countryside. In the 17th century, in Upper Silesia, almost no construction was known other than the corner one. With colonization, new building techniques were introduced. The Prussian administration began to introduce hitherto unknown construction regulations. The first fire safety regulations in Silesia. In the newly created housing estates, simple and economical half-timbered construction began to be used. It was characterized by a wooden construction of buildings filled with various building materials, i.e. clay mixed with straw, stone, bricks or covered with boards. By the mid-nineteenth century, 471 colonies were established in Silesia, and as many as 225 of them were established in the Opole region. As a result of the changes that have taken place in rural construction, the architectural silhouette of the Opole village has fundamentally changed. After the end of colonization in Opole Silesia, half-timbered construction was used to a lesser extent until the outbreak of World War II. There are only a few buildings left in the Opole village, which are the remnants of the Frederick colonization period. Today we can see individual buildings from that period, i.e. the church of N.M.P. in Radomierowice village, the church of P.W. st. Jacek in Wierzbica Górna village or the bell towers of the church in Kościerzycze village, or modelled on the urban layout of colonial villages, housing estates in Ligota Turawska village or Radawia village. The buildings from that period did not stand the test of time. Materials relating to half-timbered rural construction in Opole Silesia are very scarce. The small number of buildings does not give a clear picture of the diversity of forms and architectural details in this region. Despite everything, it can be said that colonial construction, its form and urban planning had a great impact on the character of the then Opole region village [5, 6].

3 Case study

Wooden sacral architecture, its traditional forms and types of folk wooden buildings, as well as other cultural phenomena, should be considered against the background of economic and social outlines that have existed in the Opole region since the 17th century. The studies presenting the landscape of the villages of previous epochs show us how important the element used in regional construction was wood. Folk art has always been associated with everyday life, and faith in Silesian society has always been an important element. It accompanied and shaped culture, and above all, it inspired folk art, which was often reflected in sacred architecture. The skills developed by the inhabitants of the village, as well as easy access to raw materials, made it easy to build your own homesteads. The tie-bar construction, so typical of Upper Silesia, was intertwined with the less popular, introduced frame construction used in the established Frederician colonies. Skeletal structures of the period of Frederician colonization, due to the developed construction pattern for the provinces of eastern Prussia country, differ from medieval half-timbered construction. The style developed by Gilly in the 18th century was called the "Prussian Colonial Style". The skeletal structure with compact, straight lines of wooden lattices was filled with unplastered bricks with clay or lime mortar depending on the building. The half-timbered walls made as vertical ones, bound with straw with slats covered with compacted clay [7, 8].



Fig. 2. Visualization of the church of N.M.P. in Radomierowice.

The historical substance of that period has almost completely vanished forever. One of the few and at the same time the best preserved architectural monuments of that period is the already mentioned, charmingly situated church in Radomierowice village. Built according to the design of the architect Chrystian Isemer. On its example, you can outline the form, method of building and architectural detail of the historical substance that has almost completely disappeared from the landscape of Opole Silesia. The Church of "the Blessed Virgin Mary" in Radomierowice village is located directly at the forest wall, among the buildings of Radomierowice, on the local road leading from Murów city to Wołczyn city (Fig. 2). It is located on a regular plan in the form of an elongated rectangle. In the immediate vicinity of the plot there is a cemetery with a cemetery chapel, which is closed by a forest wall. The building was erected in a skeletal structure on a low brick foundation. The structure of the church consists of wooden vertical and horizontal trusses, reinforced with struts in the corners and the tower. The struts of the church tower have a cross system, giving the structure of the tower an individual character. In the finial there is a profiled cornice. The filling of the skeleton throughout the church is made of brick with lime mortar, plastered on both sides. The ceiling of the building was made of wood, beams, bare. The ceiling beams are supported by binders and columns reinforced with swords, which are also the structure of the galleries. The roof truss structure was made as a collar beam with a double stanchion, with two rows of columns. The roof of the church is covered with shingles. Floor made of ceramic tiles, boards on the galleries. Stairs to wooden galleries with simple balustrades. At the church tower, the stairs are made as two-flight, broken stairs with a landing. The window openings are closed with a shallow segmental arch, i.e. an arch cut into the transom. On the lower level, close to a square. The original windows are preserved sporadically. Most of the windows in the building have been replaced. All of them are maintained in a similar character reflecting the historicizing atmosphere of the elements [9,10,11]. The door openings on the outside are covered with roofs covered with shingles. The main entrance is closed with a shallow segmental arch. The doors were made as stave, double-leaf doors. The old fittings have been preserved.



Fig. 3. The church of N.M.P. in Radomierowice.

The church in Radomierowice (Fig. 3) is situated on a rectangular plan on the south axis. – east – Mon. - west from the chancel from the south – east on the axis of the side of - west tower is set up. The interior of the church has a hall character, it has galleries located at the longitudinal walls connected by a music choir. At the eastern corner there is a rectangular sacristy. The church has a compact body with a hipped roof. The church tower is relatively low, two-storey, covered with a three-level octagonal cupola. The facades are divided by non-plastered elements of the frame structure consisting of mullions and transoms. Plastered parts are painted white. On the central axis there is a door to the interior of the church. On the upper level, on both axes, the windows are sectionally closed.

4 Conclusion

In the village of Opole, there are not many visible remains of buildings from the Frederick colonization period. Today we can only see single buildings from that period, i.e. the church of N.M.P. in Radomierowice, the church of st. Jack in Wierzbica Górna or the bell towers of the church in Kościerzycy. A small number of buildings does not show the variety of forms of sacral architecture. However, it can be noticed that half-timbered construction initiated by German settlers had a huge impact on the appearance and character of the then and later Opole village.

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