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## *Legnica's Grenadier Barracks as a cultural capital in the urban space*

### *Introduction: the beginnings of Legnica's relationship with the Prussian army*

Among Silesian towns, Legnica is the one whose shape has been most influenced by its ties with the military. Although in the beginning Legnica's role as a strategic outpost was underestimated, the city gradually strengthened its relationship with the military, which helped it to build its economic strength and achieve a high administrative rank before the war. Owing to its location, the city was used as a military outpost by numerous military units, whose presence stimulated the construction boom and boosted the market of services and trade [1]. The shape of the city was strongly influenced by the development of the garrison at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, prior to World War I. The barracks in Legnica were a source of pride for its inhabitants, in particular because members of the imperial court visited the city to oversee the developing garrison. Military parades made local festivals more attractive and military associations participated in local affairs: garrison life and city life were intertwined [2]. From the end of the First Silesian War in the summer of 1742, until the withdrawal of the Russian Army in 1993, Legnica functioned as a garrison for various military units, which is reflected in its contemporary physiognomy.

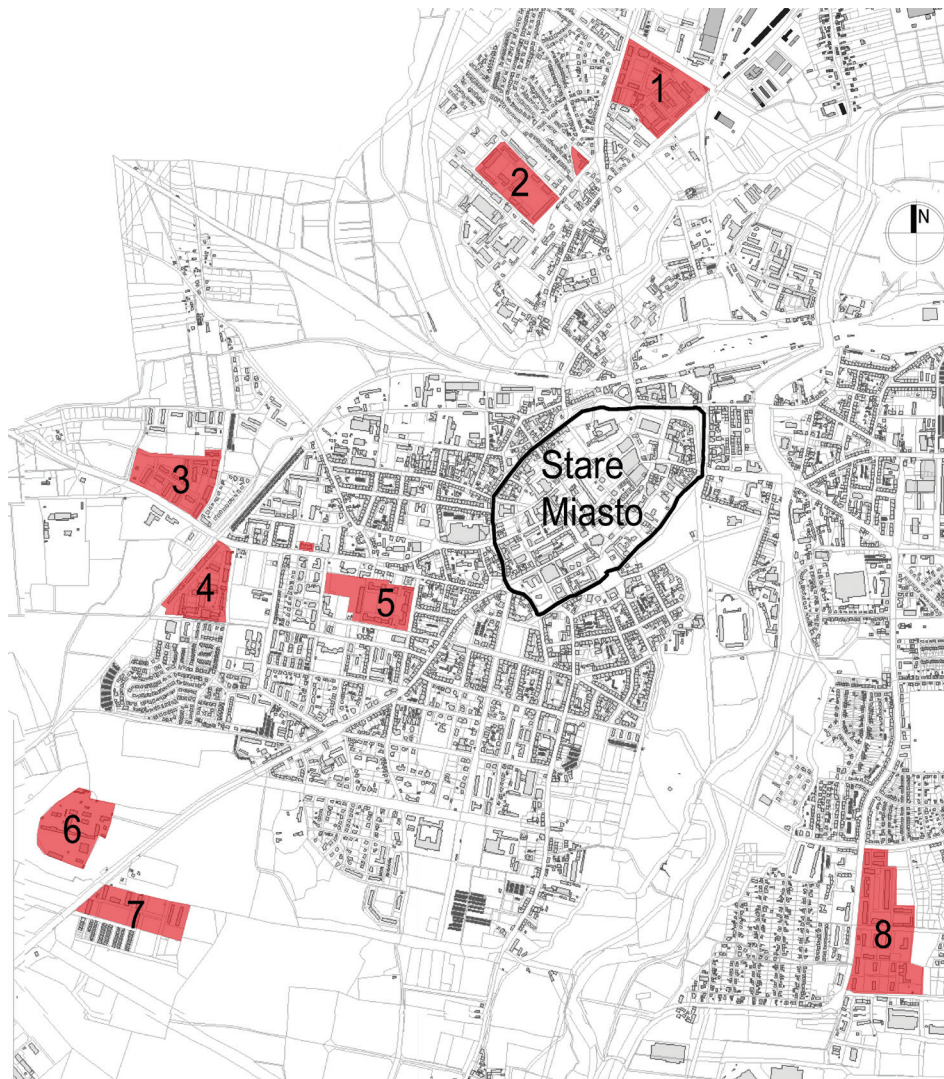
As in other garrison towns on the eastern frontier of Prussia, and later Germany, the barracks complexes of Legnica were built in the suburbs, forming a loop around the town. In Legnica, this process took 64 years (Fig. 1) and started in the Chojnowskie suburb at Hutników Street (which was formerly called Grenadierstraße) with the construction of

Grenadier barracks in 1874–1888 and the accompanying lazaret building (1877). In 1913 this complex was expanded to include the Wilhelm I Barracks at Tarasa Szewczeni Street, which stood on the opposite side of the quarter. The collapse of the monarchy and the economic crisis halted the expansion of the garrison, which resumed only 22 years later, after the transformation of the political system.

Therefore, the construction of barracks in Legnica started rather late. Although in the 16<sup>th</sup> century Legnica was already the second largest stronghold in Silesia after Wrocław [2, p. 9], no barracks were built here until the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 1870s. This was probably because Legnica, which remained under the supremacy of Austria, was not a garrison and its defense lay in the hands of the town guard. After Legnica came under the Prussian rule, it became a base for troops for the first time in its history, but this did not immediately lead to the construction of barracks. Until 1714 Brandenburg-Prussia did not have a standing army [3]. As a result of conscription introduced at that time [4], the army grew from 40,000 to 80,000 soldiers [5]. However, even Frederick William I's military reforms did not spark a construction boom for barracks in Legnica (which took place, for example, in Wrocław [6]). Therefore, initially townspeople were required to provide quartering for the growing number of soldiers [7], which led to numerous tensions between the civilians and the army [8]. This was especially troublesome in time of war, when housing and tributes were demanded not by domestic soldiers, but by the occupants [9].

The constant presence of army troops started to affect the appearance of the city and its investments. Since the soldiers were not stationed in barracks, but in private dwellings, they gathered in a pre-arranged location if there was an alarm. In 1747, the former main guardhouse where the town guard (Hauptwache) used to gather was replaced with a new one [10] – a small, more elegant brick building

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1 at Poznańska Street (Scharnhorst Kaserne)  
 2 at Słubicka Street (Ziethen Kaserne)  
 3 at Chojnowska Street (Füsilier Kaserne)  
 4 at Kawaleryjska Street

5 at Hutników Street (Grenadierkaserne)  
 6 garrison lazaret at Złotoryjska Street (Siegeshöhe Kaserne)  
 7 at Złotoryjska Street (Siegeshöhe Kaserne)

Fig. 1. Location of barracks complexes in Legnica (elaborated by M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

II. 1. Rozmieszczenie kompleksów koszarowych w Legnicy (oprac. M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

with an arcade. In 1842, it was replaced by a building with a portico, which in 1913 was redesigned to function as a café and has survived the turmoil of history until today. Guardhouses with rooms for officers and sentries were built next to four of the city's main gates. In 1752, a garrison lazaret was built in Szpitalna Street with municipal funds [11, p. 173] and training grounds were established in the Głogowskie suburb (Glogauer Haag), located to the north of the city and its fortifications. However, there was still no barracks so newly arriving soldiers were quartered in public buildings, such as the castle or a monastery, which were hastily adapted to function as dormitories.

Legnica was only the seat of the county. After Silesia was annexed by Prussia as a result of the Silesian Wars, the public administration system of Brandenburg-Prussia was introduced in this region. After the annexation by Prussia, two chambers were established in Silesia in 1741<sup>1</sup>: one with

a seat in Głogów and the second with a seat in Wrocław, as well as three governmental districts: in Wrocław, Głogów and Opole. One of the most important tasks of these chambers was to exercise military control over the movement, quartering, and provisioning of troops, which is why the most important garrisons were located in the seats of chambers, and these towns were the first to construct barracks. The position of Legnica in this administrative hierarchy was influenced by Prussia's defeat in a conflict with Napoleon's armies in 1806 [8, pp. 240, 241]. This led in 1808 to sweeping administrative reforms involving the military, such as the merging of chambers and governmental districts. Although after the Treaties of Tilsit in 1807 Silesia remained in Prussian possession, Napoleonic troops took post in the fortress of Głogów. Therefore, the town could no longer function as the seat of the chamber and during the next administrative reform in 1809 the seat

<sup>1</sup> Under the direction of presidents, the new provincial authorities, the so-called War and Domain Chambers, governed departments that were

divided into districts (*Kreis*) administered by Landrat, which coexisted with judicial units – administrative divisions (Regierungsbezirk) [12].

of the new governmental district was moved to Legnica and remained there after subsequent reforms related to the provisions of the Congress of Vienna in 1815. For the first time in history Legnica became important enough on the administrative map that it received its own purposefully-built barracks. The notion of form and style of Silesian barracks is all the more interesting because this subject has not been yet thoroughly explored, but merely mentioned in passing by Grzegorz Podruczny in his doctoral thesis written in 2005 entitled *Pruskie budownictwo wojskowe na Śląsku w latach 1740–1807* [Prussian military construction in Silesia in the years 1740–1807] [13].

### ***Grenadier Barracks complex – the first period of garrison creation in Legnica***

In 1828 and 1835 the Prussian, Austrian and Russian armies took part in a military exercise in Legnica, and in 1867 the city celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King Wilhelm I's command over the grenadier regiment named in his honor. In the 1870s a prisoner-of-war camp for the French was established in Legnica. During all these events, the soldiers arriving here had to be quartered in improvised rooms and in townspeople's houses, as in the past. The construction of the grenadier barracks did not begin until 1874 when preparations started for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King William I's assumption of command over the regiment. It is possible that the decision to build permanent barracks was influenced by the victory in the war with France in 1871. The contributions obtained as a result of the wars with Austria and France helped Prussia, among other things, to strengthen the army and increase its combat potential through proper drill and shorter reaction time. The growth of the army and the introduction of systemic solutions for military training necessitated the construction of new barracks, which started to appear in large numbers on the outskirts of garrison towns. To accomplish this, a chain of barracks complexes was to be built near major exit roads or railroads in order to move troops quickly. Improvements in the economy coincided with the dismantling of historic fortifications in cities. The land made available for the city was used for large-scale construction projects, including barracks complexes. This allowed them to remain close to city centers but also to grow without being constrained by high urban density. Vast barracks complexes resembled *entre cour et jardin* palaces with avant-corps and auxiliary buildings arranged on a grid plan, thus creating one or more internal squares to serve as training grounds. Vast courtyards were the essence of 17<sup>th</sup>-century barracks [14]. Regular military drills during typical combat exercises designed to increase the maneuverability of large formations of soldiers produced highly specialized and diverse units and a professional officer corps that prided itself on discipline.

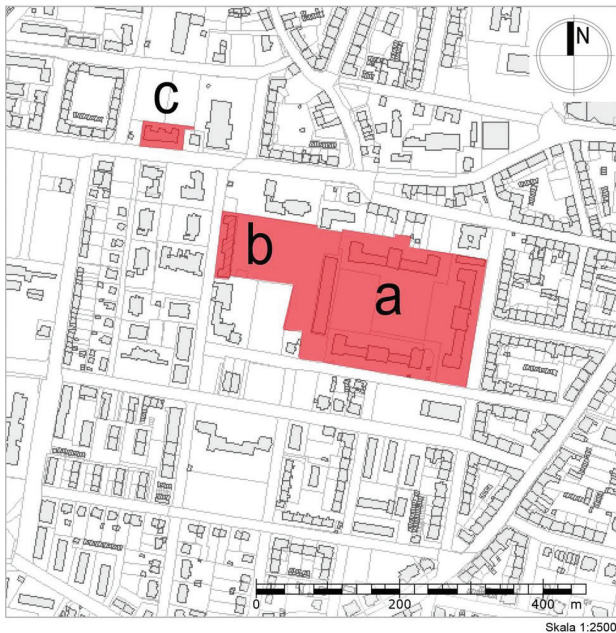
The "palatial character" of the complexes increased the prestige of the military profession and prevented desertion [15], while helping to improve the relations between the army and the local populace. Due to the system of draft exemptions, it was mainly the less wealthy who were draft-

ed to the army. The army had been a priority for rulers and their governments since the time of Frederick William I and, therefore, being part of it was, for these people, a source of pride, and military service was a career that guaranteed a path to fame and a stable income. The opportunity to live in new, elegant buildings enhanced this prestige even further. Soldiers who lived together created almost family-like bonds and were less likely to abandon each other in battle. After conscription was introduced in 1714, the army was largely drafted from domestic conscripts, unlike other armies which consisted of foreigners and mercenaries. All reservists were required to attend church in full uniform. Reservists also gathered on their own initiative in the marketplaces of their villages and towns to maintain combat readiness. The military thus permeated to the public consciousness as something omnipresent. After the local community was relieved of the quartering obligations and because most adult men were reservists with several years of training, there developed a symbiotic relationship between the local communities and the regiments recruited from a given canton. Parallely, the appearance of palatial barracks raised the prestige of the area, fueled local prosperity, and stimulated the development of urban infrastructure. Prussia's involvement in armed conflicts that took place throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, fueled the national trauma caused by the atrocities committed against the civilian population during the Thirty Years' War. This might be seen as a source of support for the autocratic absolute monarchy, which can defend its subjects through a strong military and a firm foreign policy [5, p. 61].

Barracks were built of red brick. The façade tectonics was sculpted with quasi-machicolations<sup>2</sup>, lesenes, socles, and ceramic friezes. Friezes, ledges and lintels were formed from bricks arranged in a rowlock and soldier course. In more prestigious locations the façade was decorated with details made from glazed Gothic-style moldings and stone socles. The Gothic references were designed to evoke associations with fortified castles. Barracks complexes can be divided into three types: accommodation for soldiers, accommodation for officers with their families, and auxiliary administrative, economic and storage facilities. The dormitory buildings originally had a two-bay plan and later three-bay for better use of space. Dormitories for soldiers were divided into rooms with 10–15 beds each. Because they were heated with masonry stoves [16], the roofs of the dormitory wings were dotted with chimneys. Common washrooms were in basements while canteens in separate buildings. Officers and their families lived in separate buildings within the barracks complexes. These were either villas, divided into 4 apartments, or buildings with a central staircase for 8 or more families. Non-commissioned officers with families lived in apartments arranged in side wings of dormitory buildings, positioned to overlook the landings of side staircases.

<sup>2</sup> A method of shaping the finial of a building using the proper combination of a cornice and frieze in order to create the appearance of a machicolation.





a) Grenadier Barracks complex at Sejmowa Street  
 b) Wilhelm I's barracks (the building does not exist) at T. Szewcenki Street  
 c) Garrison lazaret at Chojnowska Street

Fig. 2. The Grenadier Barracks together with garrison lazaret and Wilhelm I's barrack (elaborated by M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

II. 2. Zespół koszar grenadierów z lazaretem garnizonowym oraz Koszary Wilhelma I (oprac. M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

This trend is visible in the large-scale grenadier barracks complex in Legnica, which determined the urban layout of the Chojnowskie suburb (Fig. 2). The plan included a street and the grenadier barracks as its central point. The complex was built on land that had previously been undeveloped and used as gardens [17]. The main axis of this part of Legnica was Nowy Świat Street (Nicolaistrasse) which was laid out in 1870. When the decision was made to build the barracks complex, Hutników Street (Grenadierstrasse) was delineated from the complex towards the Złotoryjskie suburb, running in front of the façade of



Fig. 3. The oldest building in the Grenadier Barracks complex at 5a Sejmowa Street – façade (photo by M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

II. 3. Najstarszy budynek kompleksu Grenadierów, przy ul. Sejmowej 5a – fasada (fot. M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

the main barracks building [17, p. 35]. In 1889, after the complex had been completed, Sejmowa Street (Weissenburger Strasse) was laid out, limiting it from the south.

The first building in the complex, facing the street, was built in 1874–1882 (Fig. 3). The emperor attended the opening ceremony of the barracks [2, p. 47]. The building accommodated soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. A barracks for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, located along Sejmowa Street, was built in 1879–1881, and the third building was completed one year later. A battalion of fusiliers, previously stationed in Lwówek Śląski, was permanently housed in this building. The fourth battalion settled in between 1893 and 1897 and a machine gun corps in 1909 (Fig. 4). The building of the garrison lazaret in today's Chojnowska Street was completed in 1877.

The main barracks building at 5a Sejmowa Street is historicist in style – it is neo-Gothic and has elements of neo-Renaissance and neo-Romanism. It is located on the north–south axis facing Hutników Street. The building takes the form of a rotated letter “E” in plan and exemplifies the monumental style of a palace *entre cour et jardin* – the essence of absolutist architecture. The façade of the *corps de logis* facing the street has three axes. The tallest part of the building is on the central axis. The corner *avant-corps* make this block protrude from the façade like a central *avant-corps*, which is composed of three parts. The main portal in the central part on the ground floor includes an archivolt and is crowned with a semicircular arcade and framed by lesenes. The lesenes on the ground floor jut out from the façade as half-pillars topped with eagle figures (which have been replaced by chunky pinnacles) above the cornice of the first floor. A circular medallion was also placed above the portal's keystone, causing the cornice below the second-story window to be angled. On the three stories above, the space between the pilaster strips is filled with sets of three slender, semicircular windows, which could be a reference to a triforium in this context. Two window bays on each corner are framed by lesenes and extend beyond the face of the building like *avant-corps*. These protrusions are crowned with eagles, which are similar to those that were once on top of the pillars on both sides of the portal. In the central part of each floor, between the *avant-corps* segments and the lesenes, there are two windows topped with a segmental arch. The building is covered by a hipped roof. Its edges are decorated with busts, that harken back to antiquity (Fig. 5), and banners (that resemble *spolia opima*).

This central *avant-corps* is adjoined to the north and south by two symmetrical lower parts of the *corps de logis*. The façade is flanked by two *avant-corps*, of which the northern spans five window bays framed by corner pilaster strips, and the southern has three tall windows spanning the ground floor and the second floor. The entire socle under the lesenes on the lower ground floor is clad with stone tiles shaped like truncated pyramids. The socle includes square windows to allow light into the basement. The socle and the first story are separated by inter-story cornices. The frieze above the first story is made of ceramic tiles with a hexagram motif. The entire building is crowned with a blind arcade, a frieze with a palmette pattern and



Fig. 4. The regenerated Grenadier Barrack Complex (currently vocational school) courtyard view (photo by M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

II. 4. Koszary grenadierów po rewaloryzacji (obecnie Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa) (fot. M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

a crowning cornice, which is angled on top of the lesenes and creates the impression of cube-shaped capitals.

The exterior wall facing the courtyard is similar. The central block of the *corps de logis* includes a central archivolt portal and 6 window bays. Pilaster strips, giving the impression of *avant-corpses*, frame two corner windows on each side. Because the window bays in these “protrusions” are offset vertically by half a story, the location of staircases is revealed. This solution also produces two portals in the protrusions on the ground floor, which lead from the staircases directly to the training grounds in the courtyard. Each of the sections extending from the central part have seven window bays. The single windows facing the courtyard correspond to the placement of pairs of windows on the façade facing the street. As for the *avant-corpses* at the ends of the *corps de logis* facing the street, they correspond to short wings on the courtyard side. Their faces are divided into three parts by central *avant-corpses*, which emphasizes the placement of entrance portals. The *avant-corpses* contain one window bay that is flanked by corner lesenes. The corners of the wings are also accentuated with pilaster-strips. There is also a cornice above the ground floor facing the courtyard, but the frieze with the hexagon motif has only survived on the façades of the wings. The *corps de logis* facing the courtyard is crowned by a pseudo-machicolation in the form

of an arcaded frieze, a frieze with a palmette motif and a crowning cornice made of moldings with the motif of a *sima* with an *anthemeion*.

In the same period (in the years 1879–1881) the second building – currently at 5b Sejmowa Street – which constitutes the southern frontage of the grenadier barracks complex was constructed. It has the same design as the frontal building, i.e. its plan has the shape of the letter “E”, it is historicist in style and is symmetrical in relation to the central *corps de logis* block, which is one floor taller than the other parts of the building. The main neo-Renaissance portal which faces the street and is flanked by pilasters with simplified Tuscan capitals with a palmette motif and crowned with an archivolt protrudes slightly from the façade, as if there was a decorative balcony above the entrance. The building is surrounded by a plastered socle with basement windows, which is accentuated by wider corner lesenes and visually separated by a rowlock stringcourse. The brick cornice, an unmolded frieze, and a crowning cornice made of ceramic moldings with *denticuli* function as a line that separates the more stylish ground floor and first floor from the simpler upper floors. The entablature bends at right angles on the corner lesenes, creating the impression of a capital. Shallow side projections sit at the east and west ends of the central *avant-corpses*; their corners are emphasized pilaster strips.

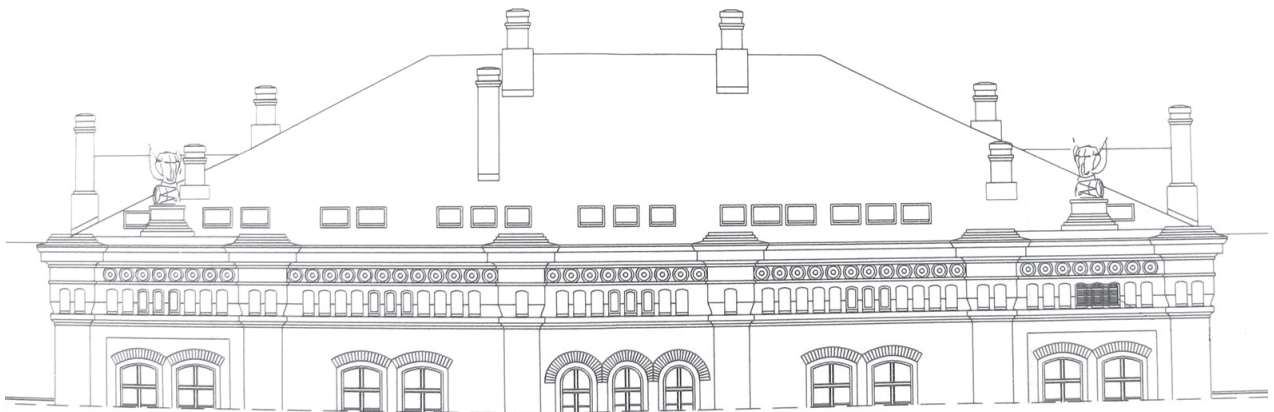


Fig. 5. The entablature on the regenerated façade of the Grenadier Barracks Complex; façade view (elaborated by M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

II. 5. Belkowanie na zrewaloryzowanej elewacji kompleksu koszar grenadierów (oprac. M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)





Fig. 6. The southern building in the Grenadier Barrack Complex (photo by M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

Il. 6. Południowy budynek w kompleksie koszarowym grenadierów (fot. M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

The crowning cornice is stylized to resemble machicolations. The building is covered by a hipped roof.

The façade facing the courtyard corresponds to the façade facing the street in that the middle block is one story taller than the rest of the building, a tall Neo-Renaissance portal is located at the center of symmetry, and side wings serve as an equivalent of side *avant-corpses* (Fig. 6). These wings were designed to have five columns of windows and a single-axis central *avant-corps* whose window banks are offset vertically by half a story in relation to the rest of the building, thus revealing the location of staircase landings that lead to the centrally located portals, which, in turn, lead to the courtyard. The third story features oculi in the central axis. The corners of the *avant-corpses* are accentuated with lesenes, and a stringcourse above the lower ground floor and a crowning cornice run across the entire façade.

In 1882, the third building was completed and it enclosed the grenadier barracks complex from the north. It has the same historicist style and design as the other two adjacent buildings, with the exception that the façade with side wings does not face the courtyard, but faces outwards – probably due to the arrangement of the rooms in relation to the cardinal directions. Since the complex was originally located outside the city on undeveloped land, the wall that faces away from the complex should be considered the front façade. It is shaped like the rear walls of the neighboring buildings, i.e. it comprises the *corps de logis* that is flanked by two side wings. The *corps de logis* is three stories high with a four-story central *avant-corps* that protrudes from the face and has a length of six window bays. Its corners are accentuated with lesenes which are doubled above the cornice that runs on top of the lower ground floor. In the center there is a Neo-Renaissance portal. The building rests on a stone-clad socle which includes square windows to allow light into the semi-basement. The wings that sit at the ends of the main building are slightly shorter than the central part and have central *avant-corpses* with portals in the center. The entire build-

ing is crowned with an entablature that undulates at right angles around the pilaster strips making them look like crowned with capitals. The entablature includes a rowlock course, a profiled cornice designed to resemble machicolations, an undecorated frieze, and a crowning cornice made of ceramic moldings.

The façade fronting the courtyard rests on a socle clad with stone slabs and has a shallow centrally-located *avant-corps* that is one story taller than the remaining part of the elevation. Its corners are accentuated with pilaster strips. Slightly projecting from the wall is a Neo-Renaissance portal, which is flanked by two Tuscan pilasters with rosettes and topped with an archivolt. The lower ground floor is separated from the top floors by a stringcourse with *denticuli*, which bends at right angles around the lesenes and the projecting portal. The lesenes above the cornice are doubled. The corners of the building are accentuated with shallow side projections and the whole building is covered by a hipped roof. Additional buildings in the complex were the stables which enclosed the training grounds from the west, and auxiliary buildings in the northeastern corner.

The complex also included the new garrison lazaret and a villa for medical staff. The garrison lazaret was built at today's Chojnowska Street 111. The building plan was in the shape of the letter "E" and had the same style as the rest of the barracks complex. The building comprises two corner *avant-corpses* that flank the smooth and axially symmetric *corps de logis*. Due to the differences in the shape of the roof, these *avant-corpses* are taller than the *corps de logis*. The building rests on a tall plaster-covered socle with bossage which is visually separated from the upper section with a cornice made of ceramic moldings. The square windows in the socle do not have casing and are designed to allow light into the basement. On the main axis of the *corps de logis* there is a tall portal that protrudes slightly and extends beyond the socle and the first floor. The portal was framed with Tuscan pilasters with rosettes and an archivolt composed of half-cylindrical moldings. The first story, which includes layers of overburned brick, was visually separated with a diamond frieze and a cornice made of ceramic moldings, whereas the second story was visually separated at the level of the window sill with a stringcourse with *denticuli*. In the corners of *avant-corpses*, above the stringcourse on top of the lower ground floor there are pilaster strips, which connect to the smooth frieze in the top entablature to form a frame. The entire building is crowned with a sophisticated entablature consisting of a course of bricks with protruding corners, modillions and a crowning cornice made of ceramic moldings. The rear façade has three axes which include a central *avant-corps* that is slightly taller than the other parts, and two side wings.

The grenadier barracks complex, which took 23 years to complete, is consistent both in terms of its plan and style. The complex perfectly fulfilled its functions, including its representative role. The three barracks were placed along the edges of the plot to showcase their grand façades. Between the buildings there was a training ground, which was indispensable in these types of complexes and, due



Fig. 7. Former shape of William I's barracks (by M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

Il. 7. Dawny wygląd koszar Wilhelma I (rys. M. Rudnicka-Bogusz)

to its large size, allowed all three battalions that were stationed in this complex to train simultaneously. Due to the similar arrangement of buildings II and III and because, contrary to building regulations, there were no additional exits from staircases facing the courtyard, it is safe to assume that the designer's primary concern was to ensure that the soldiers' sleeping quarters in the buildings allow enough sunlight from the south.

Barracks built at that time represented *architecture parlante*. They were a symbol of the power and status of the institution for which they were intended, which is why they made references to palatial architecture. Such buildings can be found throughout Germany and the former dependent territories, regardless of which army corps they were subordinate to. The shape of the building is similar to the so-called old barracks of the 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (46. [2. Königlich Sächsische] Infanteriebrigade) at Alaun Platz in the Albertstadt district of Dresden (2<sup>nd</sup> Army Corps) or the Cuirassier Barracks in Wrocław (6<sup>th</sup> Army Corps). Such unification was not surprising and can be associated with the generally understood visual identity system of the urban space. This is because all of the aforementioned values that the local communities associated with barracks were universally accepted by every other community that coexisted with a garrison. Barracks needed to be easily identifiable by both locals and newcomers so that these meanings could be conveyed. This standardization might have also been due to practical reasons. Already in the time of the *castrum romanum*, the uniform layout of the camp allowed, for instance, troops to be moved instantly.

In 1893, the fourth grenadier battalion was created, which included a fusilier regiment. To accommodate the new battalion, two buildings at Hutników Street were rented and a wooden barracks covered with sheet metal was set up at Sejmowa Street [2, p. 51]. The continued growth of the army necessitated the construction of new barracks. In 1913, the grenadier barracks complex was expanded by a building which faced today's T. Szewczeni Street. The building was financed by the treasury of King William II, and was named after his grandfather, William I.

The building faced the internal courtyard on the side of earlier developed grenadier barracks. Its front façade has three axes which correspond to *avant-corpses*. The central *avant-corps* has four axes, five stories and is crowned with a triangular tympanum. The window bays at the extremities are embedded into single-axis side *avant-corpses*, which are also crowned with triangular tympanums. The entire building rests on a tall unplastered brick socle which is visually separated from the upper floors with a cornice, above which there is the lower ground floor with bossage. Above the lower ground floor there are two, or three in the case of the *avant-corps*, plaster-covered stories with rectangular windows under which there are decorations made of *panneau stucco*. The *avant-corpses* on both ends house portals and staircases hence their windows were vertically offset by half a story. The third story of the façade was topped with a crowning cornice, except for the central *avant-corps*. In this case, the crowning cornice was above the fourth story, which extended above the cornices of the other *avant-corpses*, and like a *geison* encircled the tympanum, which did not have any decorations, either in the form of paintings or sculptures, and was accentuated only by a centrally located oculus. The tympanums of the side *avant-corpses* extended above the crowning cornice of the central one. The building was covered with a gable roof, punctuated by dormers. The façade at T. Szewczeni Street (Fig. 7) had three axes, which included a *corps de logis* and two side wings. The central wing, corresponding to the *avant-corps* on the front façade, had two window axes flanked by pilaster strips and topped with a triangular tympanum. The gables on the side faces followed the design of the tympanum on the central *avant-corps*. There were *panneau* under all windows. Currently, the building does not exist. What is left of it is an undeveloped plot [18].

Wilhelm II was the last king of Prussia and emperor of the Second Reich and after the fall of monarchy the prestige of the military declined. After World War I, Legnica lost its significance as a garrison town. In 1921, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, some of the barracks were transformed into residential buildings and a prisoner of war camp.





Fig. 8. The Gdańsk Wrzeszcz Garrison of Culture (source: press materials Hossa Investment Group)

Il. 8. Garnizon Kultury w Gdańsku-Wrzeszczu (źródło: materiały prasowe Grupy Inwestycyjnej Hossa)

### ***Conclusion: the cultural capital of barracks complexes in Legnica***

Today, barracks complexes offer a wide range of possibilities for adaptation and people are eager to use such opportunities. However, when reevaluating and adapting these buildings, it is important to preserve their style and underline the spatial relationships between individual buildings in the complex, which hint at their original function. La Marmora Barracks in Turin is a good example of how revaluations can preserve the spatial relationships between elements of the complex. In accordance with conservation requirements, the revalorization did not change the façades of buildings, just as in the case of barracks in Legnica. The redevelopment of the training grounds served as an occasion to introduce greenery into the urban space, which is lacking in many contemporary cities. The revalorization project involves the planting of trees on the former training grounds in order to create a public square surrounded by historic buildings, where people can rest and relax, exercise, eat or simply laze around.

A similar solution was implemented in the revalorization of the barracks complex in Gdańsk Wrzeszcz, which today houses the Garrison of Culture in its southern part (Fig. 8). The muster yard between the revaluated buildings took the form of a green square with a sculpture and is a place for meetings and activities of nearby service establishments and cultural institutions, including an art school, a cooking school, a café, a bookstore, and a restaurant with an auditorium.

It could be debated whether the barracks are part of the cultural capital in the urban space of Legnica or merely a resource. The barracks in Legnica are undoubtedly part of the city's cultural capital, because they were the focus of the most important and characteristic events in the life of the city, which shaped its image in the national, and perhaps even international arena. What distinguished Leg-

nica from other local towns was its ties with the military. The complexes with military architecture in Legnica were built in two main phases connected with the rise of militarism, i.e. in the 1880s and in the 1930s. However, the most significant period is the time before World War I, when the ongoing construction of the barracks symbolized the city's growing importance in the national hierarchy, and the completed barracks attracted visits of the royalty and high-ranking officials. This is why the barracks in Legnica are the medium that conveys these meanings, and thus the identity of Legnica.

These meanings emerged during three independent periods but they form a continuous narrative about the history of Legnica. It starts with the Prussian story, when in 1809, after the Napoleonic Wars, the Commandant's Seat was transferred from Głogów. In his chronicles that describe in detail the most important aspects of the city life in Legnica from the times of Frederick the Great to 1911, Arnold zum Winkel [19] repeatedly mentions the interactions between the military and the townspeople: military jubilees, parades and exercises. From 1817 until his death in 1888, Emperor William I was the honorary commander and patron of the grenadier regiment, which was permanently stationed in Legnica since 1860 [20], and the regiment took part in every jubilee of its creation that was celebrated in Legnica. During these celebrations the emperor dined with high-ranking military personnel and officials in the officers' mess, which was part of the barracks complex that was located in Grenadierstrasse, a street named to commemorate the creation of this complex. Emperor William II who named the new buildings in the complex after Wilhelm I also frequently visited Legnica. The palace-like barracks represented the so-called architecture of power (Herrschaftsarchitektur) and had an impact on the local identity and the cultural landscape.

The second period is associated with the presence of the Soviet Army (JAR) in the city between 1947 and 1993. After the end of World War II Legnica became part of the



Polish state. The war did not damage this part of the Tarninów district. In July 1947, the Legnica City Council entered into an agreement with the command of the Northern Military Group of the Soviet Army (PGWAR, and in the years 1984–1990 Staff of the Western Strategic Direction) under which city districts were transferred to Soviet institutions and citizens. The Russians had exclusive rights to use more than 160 sites of various sizes and functions located in different parts of the city and in its immediate vicinity [18], covering a district of approximately 17 km<sup>2</sup> with more than 1,200 buildings, including an area covering 16.5 hectares which encompassed the grenadier barracks complex. For the citizens, these barracks were an antithesis, symbolizing the part of the city that was outside of Polish jurisdiction and was unreachable – a blank spot on the map.

The third phase began on September 16, 1993, when the last Russian soldier left Legnica. After the Russian Federation withdrew its troops and as a result of the progressive restructuring of the Polish Army, over the past 20 years, all of the barracks complexes in Legnica have been demilitarized. More than half of the buildings vacated by the Russians were taken over by the municipality of Legnica. The city authorities were faced with a challenge of repurposing the recovered property that was comparable in magnitude only to the immediate postwar period. The lack of appropriate legal regulations, poor technical condition and the large size of the complexes were obstacles to their redevelopment and the deteriorating buildings have become a symbol of the negative effects of political transformation. Some of them are decaying, unused, and bury valuable historical data. Some have been adapted to serve new functions. According to the historical and urban study prepared in 2007 by the Regional Centre for Research and Documentation of Monuments and commissioned by the City Hall of Legnica, priorities focused on saving old, historic buildings, in particular the representative ones which could serve as public buildings. The buildings in grenadier barracks complex were added to the list of historical monuments in Legnica and the study indicated that they qualify for enlisting in the register of monuments and historic sites. This coincided with a growing acceptance of social and cultural “diversity” in the cultural landscape and the interest in the city’s pre-war history exploded. One fact that was noticed, was that grenadier barracks were built using local red bricks, which, just like the ceramic deco-

rations, came from Peipe’s brickyard called *Siegeshöhe* (it no longer exists), which was established in 1865 in Chojnowskie Suburb and later taken over by Julius Röther’s local company, who made a fortune in the *Gründerzeit*. People started writing monographs about the town and remembered that Legnica had been a garrison not only when Soviet troops were stationed here, but much earlier and that these relations with the military had been a source of pride and contributed to local development.

After demilitarization, the grenadier barracks stood empty for 5 years until the city authorities agreed to hand them over to the Witelon State University of Applied Sciences in Legnica. Over 20 million PLN [21] were spent to renovate two barracks and auxiliary buildings. Today, the facility is home to a constantly growing educational institution. The brick façades were scrubbed and restored. Large dormitory rooms were converted into lecture halls, with additional installations covered by suspended ceilings. The stable now houses a multi-purpose auditorium which is equipped with state-of-the-art multimedia and can be divided into smaller independent rooms. The complex was ideally suited to be adapted for educational use. The impression of grandeur created by these large barracks perfectly matches the serious nature of the educational facility, and the wide passageways that were once used by battalions of soldiers can easily accommodate crowds of students.

Today, these buildings are part of the local material tradition, whose preservation is all the more important in an era of globalization and cultural homogenization. Legnica continues to build its brand name but it is primarily remembered as the former site of the PGWAR command or as the center of copper production. However, the prestige-building potential of these barracks complexes has already been recognized. The Witelon State University of Applied Sciences, which renovated and adjusted the grenadier barracks complex with the help of the State Treasury, boasts the historical significance of both the buildings and of the historical figures associated with them. Therefore, the accumulation of military architecture is not only a feature of the city and its resource, but also its capital, i.e., a resource that can be used both materialistically and ideologically [22] to build prestige, as emphasized by Bourdieu.

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## Abstract

### *Legnica's Grenadier Barracks as a cultural capital in the urban space*

The purpose of the article was to demonstrate that in garrison towns, barracks are a cultural capital because they are on many levels the carriers of intangible heritage and tradition related to the presence of the army in historic towns. Second incentive was an introduction to the discussion on their protection through suitable revalorization from the point of view of preserving their typological characteristics.

The article presents a synthetic description of the evolution of Legnica garrison before World War II, the development of the Grenadier barracks complex at Hutników Street in Legnica and a detailed stylistic analysis of the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings making up the complex.

In the course of the research, it was possible to establish the determinants thanks to which the historical barracks of Legnica are not only the features of the city, its resource, but its cultural capital, i.e. a resource that can be used both materially and ideologically to build prestige etc. Legnica became a garrison town at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, which significantly affected the cultural landscape, population and real-estate market. Majestic barracks, built with state money, proved the government's special attention and enhanced the aesthetic value of the city's landscape. An ascetic, yet expressive style helped build an impression of the wealth of the state that founded the barracks and the clearly defined typology of complexes allowed for their immediate recognition in the urban space. A vast supply of barracks was one of the reasons why post war the military took up seat in Legnica, which is also one of the founding myths of the city. That is why it is so important that the barracks in the garrison cities are revitalized with respect to historiographic values as exemplified by the Grenadier Complex, and not rebuilt, densified or demolished. The regeneration efforts must observe the plan and architectural form of buildings, which are the hallmarks of military architecture.

**Key words:** barrack complexes, revitalization of historic cities, cultural landscape, local identity

## Streszczenie

### *Legnicki zespół koszar grenadierów jako kapitał kulturowy w przestrzeni miejskiej*

Celem artykułu było ukazanie, iż koszary stanowią kapitał kulturowy w miastach garnizonowych, ponieważ są na wielu płaszczyznach nośnikiem niematerialnego dziedzictwa i tradycji wiążących się z obecnością wojska w historycznych ośrodkach miejskich. Praca stanowi też wprowadzenie do dyskusji o właściwych drogach rewaloryzacji zespołów koszarowych z punktu widzenia zachowania ich wyróżników typologicznych.

W artykule naszkicowano historię garnizonu legnickiego przed II wojną światową, dokonano prezentacji rozwoju zespołu koszarowego grenadierów przy ul. Hutników oraz przeprowadzono szczegółową analizę stylistyczną XIX-wiecznych budynków składających się na zespół.

W toku badań udało się ustalić determinanty, dzięki którym historyczne zespoły koszarowe Legnicy nie stanowią jedynie cechy miasta, jego zasobu, ale jego kapitał kulturowy, czyli taki zasób, którym można się zarówno w sposób materialny, jak i ideowy posługiwać do budowania prestiżu itp. Na przełomie XIX i XX w. Legnica stała się miastem garnizonowym, co miało znaczący wpływ na krajobraz kulturowy i strukturę ludności. Pałacowe gmachy koszar budowane za państwowe pieniądze były dowodem szczególnego zainteresowania rządzących i podnosiły walory estetyczne krajobrazu miasta. Za pomocą ascetycznej, jednak wyrazistej stylistyki budowano wrażenie bogactwa państwa fundującego koszary, a jednoznacznie określona typologia zespołów pozwalała na ich natychmiastowe rozpoznanie w przestrzeni miejskiej. Rozległa sieć koszar była jedną z przyczyn umieszczenia tu jednostek wojskowych po wojnie, co również stanowi jeden z mitów założycielskich miasta. Dlatego tak ważne jest, aby w miastach garnizonowych koszary podlegały rewitalizacji z poszanowaniem wartości historiograficznych – czego doskonałym przykładem jest adaptacja koszar grenadierów – a nie przebudowie, dogęszczeniu lub wyburzeniu. Adaptacji dokonywać należy z poszanowaniem planu i formy architektonicznej, które są wyróżnikami architektury wojskowej.

**Słowa kluczowe:** zespoły koszarowe, rewitalizacja miast historycznych, krajobraz kulturowy, lokalna tożsamość