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Czarny Dunajec: Selected Issues of Cultural Heritage Conservation

Czarny Dunajec – wybrane zagadnienia ochrony zasobu dziedzictwa kulturowego

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Introduction

This paper presents the history and conservation of the cultural heritage of a former town in Podhale, Poland—Czarny Dunajec. It is located in the Nowotarska Valley, in Nowy Targ Powiat, in the Lesser Poland Voivodeship. Currently, Czarny Dunajec is a village and the seat of the Czarny Dunajec Community. Its population is estimated at around 3800 residents.

Addressing the issue of protecting this small town, which lost its significance in the twentieth century, but can still boast valuable cultural heritage that should be remembered, seems to be of particular importance now. The noticeable, intensive economic development, and the resultant transformations in its historical spaces of places like the market square, its surrounding

blocks and settlement plots in the town center, result in the gradual destruction of historical heritage in Czarny Dunajec.

It is worth noticing that Czarny Dunajec is merely one of numerous historical towns that are in danger of losing their cultural heritage that, paradoxically, very often constitutes one of their greatest values. Similar problems can be observed in Lipnica Murowana [Budziakowski 2019], Wolbrom [Kuśnierz-Krupa et al. 2020], Dukla [Kuśnierz-Krupa et al. 2019], Przecław [Figurska-Dudek et al. 2020] or Gorlice [Kuśnierz 2020], where the conservation of valuable cultural heritage, both in the area of architecture and urban design, should be strengthened immediately. Because of the above, research aimed at determining the origins of the town, its original structure, and the objects constituting

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Fig. 1. Bird's-eye view of the urban layout of Czarny Dunajec, 2018; photo by W. Gorgolewski.
 Ryc. 1. Widok z lotu ptaka na układ urbanistyczny Czarnego Dunajca, 2018; fot. W. Gorgolewski.

that heritage is crucial. It not only aids routine conservation activity, but also popularizes the idea of heritage among the local community.

Origins of the town and its historical urban layout

Before Czarny Dunajec became a town, it had been a village in Podhale, founded around the mid-sixteenth century. Some experts believe that the village was established in 1552 [Długopolski 1914]. Unfortunately, the foundation charter of Czarny Dunajec, which might have dispelled any doubts concerning the date of its foundation, has not survived to the present day. However, information about the beginnings of the village can be found in the first royal land inspection report that was carried out in 1564. There it was recorded that Czarny Dunajec had been founded due to the efforts of Prokop Pieniążek, a tenant of Nowy Targ at the time [Małecki 1997].

The person who settled the village was Tomasz Miętus, who was also the first *sołtys* (alderman) of Czarny Dunajec [Długopolski 1911]. The information about establishing the settlement can be found in the privilege issued by King Zygmunt August for Jan Miętus, son of Tomasz, in 1592. Among other things, it was written there that the foundation of the village had been preceded by the clearing of a forested area, and also that the first church in Czarny Dunajec was founded by the Miętus family [Długopolski 1911].

In 1605, King Zygmunt August gave Jan Miętus and his wife Anna permission to transfer the of-

fice of the alderman to their son, Klemens, and then to their grandson Sebastian, which can be interpreted as permission for the position to be hereditary in the Miętus family. In 1641, Klemens Miętus sold the village in Czarny Dunajec to the starost of Nowy Targ, Adam Kazanowski, who turned it into a manorial estate. In 1669, after the death of Klemens Miętus, King Michał Korybut Wiśniowiecki granted the aldermanship of Czarny Dunajec to war veterans Teodor Sulima and Jan Pawecki, in appreciation of their service [Długopolski 1911].

Two years later, the same monarch transferred the village of Czarny Dunajec (or a part of it) to Katarzyna Odolińska, the wife of Captain Jan Pawecki, probably in recognition of his service to the country [Długopolski 1911].

Another source of information concerning Czarny Dunajec appeared in 1711. It was then that another inspection took place, during which it was recorded that a grange belonging to the Nowy Targ aldermanship functioned in the village. The steward of the grange was Florek Nalezak [Długopolski 1911]. It is worth mentioning here that the abovementioned grange (that is a vast farm that could either be focused on the cultivation of crops exclusively or in combination with animal husbandry, geared towards mass production of grain for sale and using serf labor) must have been located in the vicinity of the local marketplace, to the west of it. Because the grange did not yield expected profits, in 1753 the estate was almost entirely sold out to local inhabitants.



Fig. 2. Czarny Dunajec on the First Military Survey from the years 1779–1783 (Galicia and Lodomeria), the blue circle marks the center of the settlement with the forked marketplace [www.mapire.eu].
Ryc. 2. Czarny Dunajec na Pierwszym Zdjęciu Wojskowym z lat 1779–1783 (Galicja i Lodomeria), niebieskim okręgiem oznaczono centrum osady z placem widlicowym [www.mapire.eu].



Fig. 3. Czarny Dunajec on the Second Military Survey from the years 1861–1864 (Galicia and Bukovina), the blue circle marks the center of the settlement [www.mapire.eu].
Ryc. 3. Czarny Dunajec na Drugim Zdjęciu Wojskowym z lat 1861–1864 (Galicja i Bukowina) [www.mapire.eu].



Fig. 4. Czarny Dunajec on the Third Military Survey from the years 1868–1887 (Galicia and Bukovina), the blue circle marks the center of the town with the rectangular market square in the middle [www.mapire.eu].
Ryc. 4. Czarny Dunajec na Trzecim Zdjęciu Wojskowym z lat 1868–1887 (Galicja i Bukowina), niebieskim okręgiem oznaczono centrum miasteczka z prostokątnym rynkiem pośrodku; [www.mapire.eu].

It should be mentioned that the last proprietors of the village in Czarny Dunajec was the Ratułowski family, who received the privilege from King August III in 1754 [Dzieje miasta Nowego Targu 1991]. It should also be emphasized that Czarny Dunajec was situated along the following trade routes: the first, running from Trencin to Nowy Targ, along the Vah River valley via Twardoszyn, Jabłonka and Czarny Dunajec, and the second, running from Orava via Czarny Dunajec, Długopole, Lasek, Klikuszowa, Spytkowice, Toporzysko and further north [Dzieje miasta Nowego Targu 1991]. The location must have determined the development of the settlement, and was the reason that trade flourished here, which was probably related to the emergence of a marketplace with an organic structure, located in the center of the village. Its remains were marked on the seventeenth-century map by Friedrich von Mieg.

During the Partitions of Poland, the Nowy Targ Starosty became the property of the Empire and then, after being divided into two domains (*dominium*), was put up for sale. In 1819, *Dominium Czarny Dunajec*, which encompassed the villages of Ciche, Chochołów, Czarny Dunajec, Dzianisz, Podczerwone, Witów and Wróblówka [Dzieje miasta Nowego Targu 1991], was purchased by Jan Pajączkowski. In order to become independent of the manor and to increase their holdings, the inhabitants of Czarny Dunajec bought back the manorial lands from Jan Pajączkowski.

Czarny Dunajec was granted its town rights in 1880. Previously, it had a typically rural layout, and buildings were located predominantly along a single road and around an organically shaped commercial square, which probably had a fork-type layout.

Currently in the center of Czarny Dunajec there is a rectangular market square measuring approximately 150x50 m. The square was regulated in the second half of the nineteenth century, which might have been connected to the fact that, as mentioned before, the village was granted town rights in 1880 (and later lost them in 1934). A fire that broke out in the town in 1787,

when almost half of all buildings burned down completely, could also have influenced it [Czarny Dunajec i okolice 1997]. It should be remembered that the market square in question was not an entirely new element in the spatial layout of Czarny Dunajec, since previously the aforementioned fork-shaped marketplace of the former village was situated here. It should also be added that Czarny Dunajec is an example of a transformation of an organic layout (a former village) into a defined orthogonal layout. Attention should be drawn to the fact that the parish church is located in the western section of the south frontage of the market square. As far as traffic is concerned, it must have ran along the roads running through the village, namely the road running parallel to the Dunajec River, and the road leading north, towards Jabłonka. Additionally, minor roads of local importance also started at the market square. Having analyzed the shape and location of settlement plots currently only vestigially preserved, as well as archival maps (Fig. 2–4), one can put forward a hypothesis that as a result of measuring off a regular urban layout in Czarny Dunajec, beside the main roads,



Fig. 5. An analysis of the urban layout and traffic grid, indicating the area to be placed under conservation by listing it in the heritage register; by K. Kuśnierz.

Ryc. 5. Analiza układu urbanistycznego i siatki ulic, wskazująca obszary do objęcia ochroną konserwatorską przez wpis do rejestru zabytków; oprac. K. Kuśnierz.

three more streets emerged from the market square. One of them ran south from the southeast corner; the second from the northeast corner to the north; and the third led south from the southwest corner (by the parish church). The presented hypothesis is confirmed in part by the Third Military Survey of Galicia and Bukovina. In-depth research in this respect is fairly difficult because there is no cadastral plan (Galician cadaster) for this town from around the mid-nineteenth century, as it has not survived until the present. Nevertheless, for the purpose of this study, it is worth analyzing other archival maps, such as the First Military Survey of Galicia and Lodomeria (1779–1783), the Second Military Survey (1861–1864) and the already mentioned Third Military Survey of Galicia and Bukovina (1868–1887).

Historical values of the urban layout and architecture of Czarny Dunajec in the context of the need for its protection

While discussing historical values of the center of Czarny Dunajec, including the urban layout of the former settlement and its historical buildings, it is worth remembering the provisions of Art. 3 in the Historical Monument Protection Act where the concept of a monument is defined. According to the Act, “monuments

are movable or immovable objects, their parts or sets, which were created by man or are related to his activity and commemorate a bygone epoch or event, the preservation of which is of social significance because of its historical, artistic or academic value” [Ustawa z 23 lipca 2003 o ochronie zabytków i opiece nad zabytkami].

In reference to the above definition, it should be stated that the urban layout of Czarny Dunajec (Fig. 1–4), which crystallized during the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, should be put under conservation protection by being listed in the heritage register. The discussed layout is well-preserved, which was confirmed in the course of multi-disciplinary research (field surveys, analyses of historical cartography, a contemporary orthophotomap and a land register map). It is also the testimony of a past epoch i.e., in this case both the second half of the nineteenth century, and the earlier times when the village of Czarny Dunajec used to exist with its centrally located marketplace which was later regulated and adapted to serve as a market square.

Preserving the discussed urban layout of Czarny Dunajec is vital for social reasons, as it will allow for perpetuating awareness among the local community of the origins and the history of the settlement because of its high historical, cultural and urban design value.

From a historical viewpoint, among the most significant features of the structure of the former town



Fig. 6. View of the northern frontage of the market square in the first half of the twentieth century, as depicted on archival postcards; from the collection of the Chair of History of Architecture and Monument Conservation—Unit of History of Urban Design, FA CUT. Ryc. 6. Widok północnej pierzei rynku w pierwszej połowie XX w. przedstawiony na archiwalnej pocztówce; ze zbiorów Katedry Historii Architektury i Konserwacji Zabytków – Zakład Historii Urbanistyki, WAPK.



Fig. 7. View of the market square from the southeast in the first half of the twentieth century, as depicted on archival postcards; from the collection of the Chair of History of Architecture and Monument Conservation—Unit of History of Urban Design, FA CUT. Ryc. 7. Widok rynku od południowego wschodu w pierwszej połowie XX w. przedstawiony na archiwalnej pocztówce; ze zbiorów Katedry Historii Architektury i Konserwacji Zabytków – Zakład Historii Urbanistyki, WAPK.

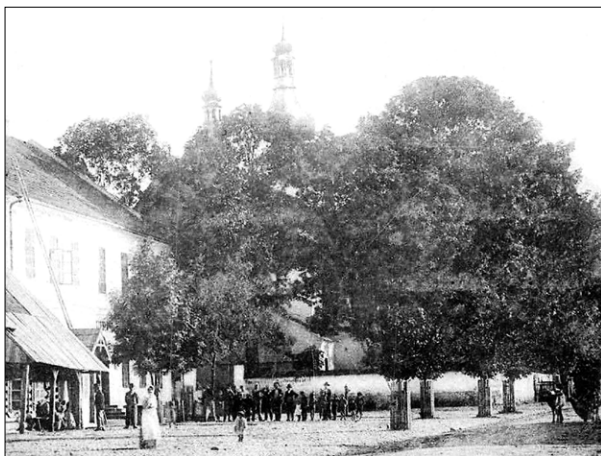


Fig. 8. Eastern view of the Holy Trinity parish church complex in the first half of the twentieth century, as depicted on archival postcards, from the collection of the Chair of History of Architecture and Monument Conservation—Unit of History of Urban Design, FA CUT. Ryc. 8. Widok od wschodu na zespół kościoła parafialnego Świętej Trójcy w pierwszej połowie XX w. przedstawiony na archiwalnej pocztówce; ze zbiorów Katedry Historii Architektury i Konserwacji Zabytków – Zakład Historii Urbanistyki, WAPK.



Fig. 9. View of the parish church of the Holy Trinity from the north, 2020; photo by the authors. Ryc. 9. Widok kościoła parafialnego Świętej Trójcy od północy, 2020; fot. autorzy.

one must mention the following: the preserved market square whose existence is also connected with the marketplace in the former village, and the historical traffic network of former roads running through Czarny Dunajec.

It is also worth noticing, that a historical church complex is located in the center of Czarny Dunajec. One should add that it constitutes a fragment of the south frontage of the market square on the west side. A wall surrounds the complex which consists of a church, an ossuary and several historical tombstones. The church was erected in the 1860s. Previously, the site was occupied by a sixteenth-century wooden church which burned down during the town fire in the eighteenth century, and a masonry church from the first half of the nineteenth century, which also was destroyed [Czarny Dunajec i okolice 1997].

With regard to the historical buildings which, together with the already mentioned urban layout, create the valuable cultural landscape of the place, it must be stated that the heritage has seriously eroded in comparison to the situation at the end of the twentieth century. It consists mostly of buildings listed only in the community monuments records. It should be emphasized that even the parish church of the Holy Trinity has not been listed in the heritage register yet. The listed buildings are e.g., residential buildings located in Piłsudskiego Street, Kamieniec Dolny Street, Kantora Street, Kmietowicza Street, Kolejowa Street, Ogrodowa Street, Sienkiewiczza Street and, naturally, at the market square, as well as the former synagogue, granary and the gymnasium school building (the former Powiat Courthouse) [“Czarny Dunajec – Gminna Ewidencja Zabytków” 2018].

Finally, it is worth mentioning the local spatial development that is in effect on the territory of Czarny Dunajec. It postulates a conservation zone intended



Fig. 10. View of the marketplace from the west, 2020; photo by the authors.

Ryc. 10. Widok rynku od strony zachodniej, 2020; fot. autorzy.

to maintain the dominance of the traditional development of the village of Czarny Dunajec [Miejscowy Plan Zagospodarowania Przestrzennego Gminy Czarny Dunajec 2020]. It must be mentioned that the conservation status resulting from the establishment of this zone is primarily based on the architectural heritage of the town's historical development. The plan's written section does not feature any references to Czarny Dunajec's urban heritage, which means that placing the town's urban layout in the historical monuments register appears to be necessary. Taking this action is also crucial from the standpoint of highlighting the cultural values of the locality's center and popularizing knowledge about the value of the urban layout itself as a monument.

Conclusions

Field research and evaluation of the cultural heritage in Czarny Dunajec have shown that there are still monuments in the town, but they are generally in a very poor technical condition. Residential houses from the nineteenth or the beginning of the twentieth century are largely uninhabited; the exceptions are the ones located at the marketplace or in its vicinity. The marketplace, of unquestionable historical value as far as its urban design is concerned, is currently sadly neglected. Its center is occupied by a functioning petrol station, a bus stop and a parking lot. In consequence, the

cultural landscape of the place as a uniform, coherent space formed in the past is endangered. In the authors' opinion, the urban layout of Czarny Dunajec should be listed in the historical monuments register [Kuśnierz-Krupa and Kuśnierz n.d.]. The market square space should be tidied up and create an urban interior, friendly for residents and attractive for tourists. It should also include elements that would popularize the knowledge about the history of the town and its monuments, for instance in the form of signs with temporary displays or info-kiosks with their stylistics suited to the character of the space.

Historical buildings listed in the community monuments register should be inventoried considering its value, technical condition and the possibility of restoration. In the authors' opinion, the former synagogue should definitely be placed under statutory protection and subjected to adaptive reuse, e.g., in a form related to the history of the Jewish community in the area. In turn, traditional wooden houses should also be placed under protection and care because historical buildings with timber structures, due to the material they are made of, are more often exposed to damage than others. This damage may be caused by biological corrosion of wood or as well as by exceeding boundary states in the structure of the building. A cursory visual inspection of wooden structural elements may lead to significant errors in the assessment of technical condition, which may affect further safe operation. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out thorough tests of the technical condition of timber before deciding on the necessity and scope of anticipated repair works [Bajno et al. 2019]. Due to the historical value of the buildings, the tests should be of minimal interference in the structure of the material and the construction. Such conditions are fulfilled by non-destructive testing (NDT) or quasi-destructive testing (QNNT). In the case of particularly valuable buildings, apart from detailed inventory and assessment of technical condition, permanent monitoring of the structure should be considered [Bednarz et al. 2014].

All the aforementioned activities offer an opportunity to slow down the degradation of the cultural heritage in this once unique place. Czarny Dunajec can become an important center on the map of cultural tourism in Podhale, which favors revalorization processes and popularizes the knowledge about the past and heritage of Polish towns.

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Abstract

This paper presents the cultural heritage of the former town of Czarny Dunajec in the context of protecting urban design and architectural monuments. Czarny Dunajec is located in Nowy Targ Powiat, in Lesser Poland Voivodeship. At present, is the seat of a rural municipality. In the past it used to be one of the most important townships in the Podhale region, and owed its significance to its favorable location along supralocal and local trade routes. This paper discusses the history of Czarny Dunajec, its urban layout and historical buildings. It traces the development of the town’s spatial development based on historical documents and cartographic materials, including royal inspection reports and nineteenth-century Austro-Hungarian military survey maps by Friedrich von Mieg, outlining events that may have impacted it the most. Attention was drawn to the need for the statutory protection of the town’s most valuable monuments, which include its urban layout, a synagogue, and selected traditional houses which have still survived in the village, albeit mostly vestigially.

Streszczenie

Artykuł dotyczy dziedzictwa kulturowego dawnego miasta Czarny Dunajec w kontekście ochrony zabytków urbanistyki i architektury. Miejscowość położona jest w powiecie nowotarskim województwa małopolskiego. Obecnie jest wsią i siedzibą gminy. W przeszłości odgrywała dużą rolę jako jeden z ważniejszych ośrodków Podhala, na co wpływ miało m.in. jej położenie na ponadlokalnych i lokalnych traktach handlowych. W tekście omówiono dzieje Czarnego Dunajca, jego układ urbanistyczny oraz historyczną zabudowę. Na podstawie historycznych dokumentów i materiałów kartograficznych, w tym inwentarzy królewskich i XIX-wiecznych austro-węgierskich map wojskich autorstwa Friedricha von Miega, prześledzono rozwój przestrzenny miasta, nakreślając wydarzenia, które wywarły na niego największy wpływ. Zwrócono uwagę na potrzebę ochrony ustawowej najcenniejszych zabytków, w tym układu urbanistycznego, synagogi oraz wybranych, reliktowo zachowanych tradycyjnych domów mieszalnych.