

Reports

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Architectural heritage: log houses of the Warmia Region. A report from research workshops

Abstract

The report concerns a research workshop attended by students of the Faculty of Architecture at Warsaw University of Technology. The workshop took place on 10–23 July 2023. During the workshop, among others, an architectural inventory of three Warmian log houses dating from the 2nd half of 19th century was made, ethnographic interviews with the inhabitants of analyzed houses were performed. The performed research aimed at documenting the existing but still disappearing heritage of log houses in Warmia, and at recognition of the structure of buildings and history of inhabiting them since they had been built. Threads of Warmian social identity were investigated – whether it was present or missing. The workshop resulted in a material that will be useful in further research. The graphical documentations of the houses were delivered to the house owners. The original drawings are archived at the Faculty of Architecture of Warsaw University of Technology. The overall outcome of that event is also a valuable experience for the participants and the inhabitants. All those actions aim to enrich the awareness of the log houses heritage in the region, especially among local communities, and to recognize relations of identities of researched houses with the cultural landscape of a land – here in Warmia as an example.

Key words: heritage, wooden architecture, log structure, Warmia, architectural inventory, ethnographic interview

Introduction

This paper reports an architectural survey and research workshops organized as part of the grant titled “Wooden architecture heritage in Poland. Colour in architecture in the context of wood colour variations” (504/04749/1010/43.012205). The workshops were held between 10 and 23 July 2023 and attended by members of the Scientific Club of Vernacular Architecture of the Faculty of Architecture at the Warsaw Uni-

versity of Technology (KNAR WAPW). The study covered three log cabins¹ built in the 2nd half of the 19th century and located in Giławy, Marcinkowo and Kaborno, Purda commune, in the Warmia Region.

Log cabins of the Warmia Region are considered to represent one of the types of wooden folk architecture present in Warmia, Powiśle and Masuria, identified using the classification systems developed by German and Polish researchers before and after the World War II as well as based on results of field studies carried out by the authors. On the one hand this heritage is disappearing due to recon-

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¹ There are two different terms used in Polish: “chałupa” and “chata” (both mean a small farmhouse or dwelling in the country of modest proportions and simple construction), which are translated using the English terms “cottage” and “cabin”. A general term “house” is also used in reference to the residential use of the structures described in the paper.

structions or dismantling of the original buildings. On the other, however, these structures are also preserved from deterioration and loss as a good place to live. There are people who decide to restore them and live in them. The observed trend for disappearance of log cabins in Warmia and, at the same time, for their recovery has fuelled the need to record and re-analyse the structure of these buildings as well as to examine sociological aspects of their use as homes, both in the past and in the present. To obtain the most complex representation of the functional use of the houses included in the study, for each building the following information was gathered during the workshops:

- an architectural and structural survey based on hand-drawn drawings: floor plans, cross-sections and four elevations, at a scale of 1:20,
- colour samples of external wall beams as well as window and door woodwork,
- recordings and transcriptions of ethnographic interviews with residents about the past and present of residence and the technical condition of their houses.

In addition, detailed photographs and video footage were recorded using a drone (operator and photographer: Stanisław Podsiadło). All forms of recording information collected during the workshops (scans of inventory drawings, transcriptions and audio recordings of interviews, drone material, selected photographs) were provided on external storage media to the residents of the surveyed houses, and the original drawing documentation was deposited in the archives of the Department of Polish Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology.

The workshops led to recording of the functional properties of the structure of log cabins in the Warmia Region and their usability values based on declarations from their present owners. The resulting records can serve for the preservation and continuation of the existing heritage. The complex fate of the three studied houses and their inhabitants was also traced, from the time of construction, through the period of their functioning in the Warmian culture, to the migration of people in the post-war period and to the present day. This is a rich material supporting research on the issues of perception and formation of Warmia's regional identity² and cultural landscape today³.

² Research on the identity of the people of Warmia is carried out, among others, by Izabela Lewandowska [1]. The complex nature of this issue, due to the fact that before World War II Warmia and Masuria belonged to Germany, and after the War, these areas were incorporated into Poland, is researched by sociologists and historians, e.g., Anna Szyfer [2], Andrzej Sakson and Robert Traba [3].

³ The phenomenon of transformation of the cultural landscape applies especially to the 2nd half of the 19th century and the interwar period – and therefore to the area of East Prussia, and then to the changes that have been ongoing in Warmia since the Polish People's Republic until today, already under the Third Polish Republic. Social migrations had significantly contributed to disrupting continuous development of these areas. A similar phenomenon has been observed in other areas of the Prussian Partition, which today is termed as the so-called post-German heritage in the cultural landscape. An interesting analysis was carried out by Filip Springer [4], where he explains the resulting relationships between the power, evolution of the industrial era and cultural influences as the factors that have shaped the area where we live today.

State of the research: The architectural heritage of log houses in the Warmia Region

The study area for researching Warmian cabins was defined based on the historical border of the Warmia Region⁴. The territory of the Diocese of Warmia, where the chapter and bishopric of Warmia were established, changed slightly in its shape between 1243 and 1772. Initially an autonomous entity managed by bishops, the area was incorporated into the Kingdom of Poland in 1525. Catholicism determined the cultural distinctiveness of Warmia from the then surrounding Duchy of Prussia, where protestantism was growing popular in the 16th and 17th centuries. These differences began to fade when, together with Masuria and Powiśle, the area went under the administration of East Prussia from 1772 until 1945. An extensive and detailed account of the history of Warmia and Masuria was written by historian Stanisław Achremczyk [5]. The distinctive character of the lands of Warmia and Masuria is noticeable to this day, because the historical factors of religious affiliation and dominant power influenced how the local cultural landscape evolved [6]. Of relevance to maintaining the differences was also the ethnographic factor, because native inhabitants of Warmian and Masuria are identified (also by themselves) as two distinct ethnic groups [2].

Since the 1950s, studies have been written by Polish researchers who are rediscovering the environment and cultural heritage of these areas. In the series *Ziemie staropolskie* [Old Polish Lands], published for Warmia and Mazury in two volumes in 1953, we find, e.g., a study by Hieronim Skurpski [7], painter and cultural activist, that contains references to folk art which is considered to include rural wooden constructions. A detailed distinction between the typical cabins of Masuria and Warmia can be found in Franciszek Klonowski's book titled *Drewniane budownictwo ludowe na Mazurach i Warmii* [Wooden Folk Architecture in Masuria and Warmia] released in 1965 [8], with maps showing the locations of individual structures – approximately 300 existing buildings in the Warmia Region⁵. This study is also valuable as it contains a collection of photographs of non-existing structures (the collection is kept in the archives of the Museum of Warmia and Masuria) and a detailed description of technical and ethnographic details. This topic is also treated by authors such as Ignacy Tłoczek [9] and Marian Pokropek [10], in whose works folk structures of Warmia and Masuria make part of studies on the wooden architecture heritage in Poland. In their publications, however, a typical rural house of the Warmia

⁴ The scope of the study area is determined by the historical border of Warmia. It was adopted on the basis of a study by Piotr Nawacki, author of the numerical outline of this border in the GIS format. Nawacki has authored a number of tourist maps covering Warmia and Masuria. He determined the historical border of the Warmia Region based on historical German maps (e.g., Jan Fryderyk Endersch's map dated 1755, [5, p. 18]) and field studies. The resulting outline was provided to the study authors as a layer source in the .json format for research purposes, <https://warmaz.pl/granica-warmii/> [accessed: 12.09.2023].

⁵ According to the records from the 1960s [8, pp. 50–52].

Region is represented by a cottage with a front arcaded space⁶. According to Klonowski, a total of four types of arcaded cottages can be distinguished in Warmia, including a cottage with a front arcaded space, but also a cottage featuring a gable-end arcaded space, typical of Masuria. The newer type of cottages also had characteristic entrance porches. It could therefore be assumed that this typology is diverse in Warmia and becomes polarized in the north-west (house with a front arcaded space), in the east (house with a gable-end arcaded space) and in the south (an entrance porch but no arcaded space). Of importance are also source works written in German, such as *Bauernhäuser und Holzkirchen in Ostpreussen* by Richard Dethlefsen, dated 1911 [11], which contains a comprehensive listing of typical cottages and their locations in the individual lands of East Prussia as well as extensive tables illustrating the types of wooden rural buildings and their structural details. Knowledge about the culture of construction and the use of cottages is complemented by literary works such as *Warmio moja miła* [Warmia, My Dear] by Maria Zientara-Malewska [12] or *Kele wsi chatupa* [Cottage Near the Village] by Edward Cyfus [13], providing an important commentary from people who grew up in such homes, which allowed them becoming familiar with many aspects of life in a Warmian cottage from their own experience or from stories told by their relatives.

Based on these and many other sources, the Warmian log cottage can be identified as a type of construction typical of the region, developed according to specific construction principles and within a given culture, and constituting an element of the cultural landscape and architectural heritage of Warmia today.

The study authors determined the quantity of log cabins in the Warmia Region based on a search in the Register and Records of Heritage Assets kept by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage of Poland (NID), local registers of historical buildings and sites, archives and catalogues of the Regional Office of Heritage Protection (WUOZ) in Olsztyn, National Archives, and study visits. These activities led to the creation of maps of existing and non-existing log cabins of the Warmia Region so as to reflect their condition in present times. During the study, the following classification criteria were adopted to create a record of log cabins of the Warmia Region:

- location within the historical borders of the Warmia Region,
- date of construction between the 19th century (or earlier) and the beginnings of the 20th century,
- log construction, preserved in full or to a significant extent,
- proportions characteristic of the “older” type (low-height corner edge, high roof) and the “newer” type (knee-wall, tiled roof with a smaller slope, stave and daub infills),
- design featuring a “black kitchen”,

⁶ In Polish language there are two different terms “podcień” (an open arcaded gallery along one of the walls of a building) and “ganek” (a small area at the entrance to a building that is covered by a roof and often has walls). These terms are translated using the terms “arcaded space” and “porch” respectively.

– design featuring an entrance porch, but without an arcaded space.

The study covered cabins without an arcaded space, which are typical of southern Warmia. According to the collected data, there are currently 115 such log cabins in the study area (or near the study area⁷). A total of 181 buildings identified in records or found in catalogues and on photographs are no longer in existence. The largest number of existing buildings were located in communes Purda (45), Stawiguda (19) and Giętrzwald (17) while Biskupiec commune has the largest number of previously recorded but currently non-existing buildings (37). A quantitative summary of the studied resource is presented in Table 1, and their location – graphically in Figure 1. Notwithstanding, it should be kept in mind that the collected data can be incomplete, e.g., due to information gaps in the Local Register of Historical Buildings and Sites (GEZ), which means that the actual number of buildings (in particular non-existing buildings) could be higher. This is the case, e.g., in gmina Barczewo.

A total of three houses representing different types of cottages and different modes of use, however, meeting the adopted classification criteria, were selected for a detailed study, carried out as part of the workshops.

Research methods and workshops plan

Architecture can be studied through the empirical experience of space and structure. An insight into the character of a place is also gained by acquiring knowledge about the place and its past history. Wooden architecture is a direct response to the conditions prevailing in the living environment throughout the history while being one of the primordial forms of human shelter⁸. Its manifestations are shaped by the use of manual construction methods that involved the participation of carpenters and rural community. The objective of the summer student workshops organised in collaboration with KNAR WAPW was to enable students to carry out observational research, develop skills in conducting architectural surveys of wooden structures and approach inhabitants of the houses and their stories of inhabiting the houses. The atmosphere during the workshops⁹ was captured in several photographs (Figs. 2–5).

A compilation of distinctive features of the study houses is presented in Table 2, prepared according to the five eli-

⁷ Given that the historical border of the Warmia Region is currently largely conventional, this catalogue also includes houses presenting features that meet the adopted criteria and located not far (up to 10 km) from the borders of the study area.

⁸ One of the dimensions of this issue is presented by Gerard Ciołek, who refers to the regionalism shaping human shelters [14, pp. 14–16], and Tłoczek [9, pp. 3–4] who highlights the connections between the forms of folk architecture and the geography and natural environment.

⁹ During the workshops, the group stayed in the study house in Marcinkowo. A temporary work studio was set up in the barn. Several drawing tables were arranged on site, which were also used as common dining tables at the time of meals. Workshop participants travelled to Giławy and Kaborno by car and bicycle to carry out measurements and talk to the residents. A total of two workshop groups (one group per week), consisting of 5 to 7 students, worked in Warmia during these two weeks.

Table 1. Record sheet of existing and non-existing objects of investigated resource (elaborated by A. Bonisławska)

Tabela 1. Zestawienie obiektów istniejących i nieistniejących na badanym obszarze (oprac. A. Bonisławska)

Commune	Existing cabins	Non-existent cabins
Purda	45	36
Stawiguda	19	31
Gietrzwałd	17	25
Biskupiec	11	36
Jonkowo	8	15
Dywity	5	13
Barczewo	3	5
Świątki	2	2
Dobre Miasto	2	
Jeziorany	1	6
Godkowo	1	2
Olsztynek	1	–
Kolno	–	5
Olsztyn	–	3
Lidzbark Warmiński	–	2
	115	181

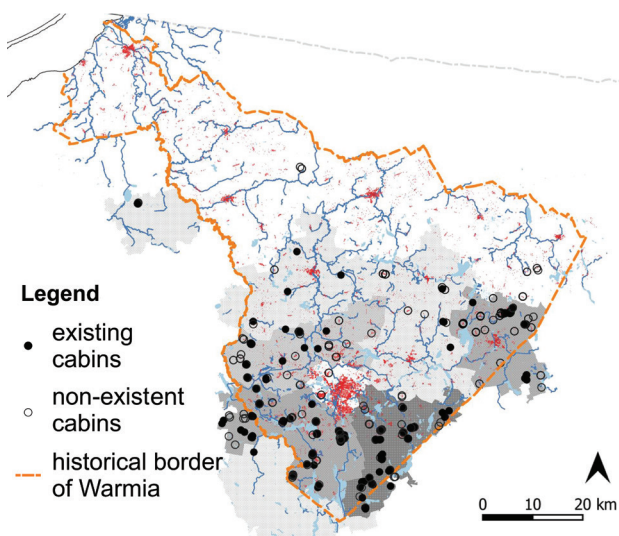


Fig. 1. Map presenting locations of log houses in boundaries of historic Warmia existing buildings are marked by black dots, non-existent are marked by non-filled dots (elaborated by A. Bonisławska)

II. 1. Mapa występowania chałup zrębowych w granicach historycznej Warmii, kółkiem czarnym oznaczono obiekty istniejące, czarnym okręgiem bez wypełnienia oznaczono obiekty nieistniejące (oprac. A. Bonisławska)



Fig. 2. Temporary workspace in the barn (photo by A. Bonisławska)

II. 2. Tymczasowa pracownia w stodole (fot. A. Bonisławska)



Fig. 3. Measurements in Marcinkowo (photo by A. Bonisławska)

II. 3. Pomiary w Marcinkowie (fot. A. Bonisławska)



Fig. 4. Measurements in the interior of the house in Kabornie (photo by M. Patrzalek)

II. 4. Pomiary we wnętrzu domu w Kabornie (fot. M. Patrzalek)

gibility criteria for positive classification as a Warmian log cottage, also taking into account other elements typical of the study structures. An important aspect of their description is also the past and contemporary form of use.

Survey measurements were carried out for each building with the use of traditional methods, using tape measures and rangefinders, preparing measurement sketches. The first step was to determine the zero-point level in the horizontal plane using a laser level. Subsequent elements were measured from this plane – below and above the “zero-point” level. As a result, it was possible to reproduce the unevenness of the terrain and the foundations of the houses. Due to the age of the building and subsidence, the gable-end elevations had different heights from the ground to the ridge, e.g., in the house in Kaborno.

The drawings were made in a scale of 1:20 which is typically used for wooden buildings. The unevenness of the log beams, knots visible in the log, joints and pins, details of window and door joinery, decorative elements, the arrangement of roof tiles and thatch were reproduced. For each cottage, a total of six drawings were made on B1 sheets: floor plan, cross-section and four elevations. The documentation, along with measurement sketches,



Fig. 5. Interior of the “black kitchen” in the house in Kaborno – view up to the chimney (photo by M. Patrzalek)

Il. 5. Wnętrze “czarnej kuchni” w domu w Kabornie – widok w górę komina (fot. M. Patrzalek)

was delivered to the archives of the Department of Polish Architecture of the Faculty of Architecture of the Warsaw University of Technology, where it was scanned and deposited in its original form. Scan copies of the works are kept

Table 2. Characteristics of investigated houses (elaborated by A. Bonisławska)
Tabela 2. Charakterystyka badanych domów (oprac. A. Bonisławska)

	Kaborno	Marcinkowo	Giławy
Historic Warmia Region	+	+	+
Date of construction	2 nd half of the 19 th century	2 nd half of the 19 th century (1874 – year on a wayside chapel near the house) / 1900 – year according to GEZ	1887 – year carved on a beam
Description of the structure	log construction	log construction	log construction (on the outside) and timber-framed construction (on the inside)
Structural features	low-height log structure, high thatched roof, roof slope: 46°, floor plan dimensions: 17 × 8 m, height to the ridge: 7.5 m	low-height log structure, high tiled roof, roof slope: 43°, dimensions: 16 × 9.5 m, height to the ridge: 7.8 m	low-height log structure, brick filling above the girthing beam, tiled roof, roof slope: ~35°, dimensions: 13 × 7.8 m, height to the ridge: 5.4 m
Black kitchen	yes, fully preserved, not used	yes, a modern kitchen on the ground floor, an old-type smokehouse preserved in the attic	yes, a modern bathroom on the ground floor, an old-type smokehouse preserved in the attic
Distinctive features	recorded in the Register of Historic Buildings and Sites under the number A-3569 1983, 2 points of access – central entrance from the garden and corner entrance in the back, outside door in the attic wall, green (previously blue) window and door woodwork, no decorative elements	recorded in GEZ, 2 points of access – central entrance from the street and the garden, a porch overlooking the garden, green window and door woodwork (reconstructed), house modernised inside (thermal insulation, underfloor heating system), a decorative element (Polish: pazdurek) in the gable (recreated, based on archival photographs)	recorded in GEZ, 2 points of access – central entrance from the garden and in the back, a porch overlooking the garden, blue window and door frames, house refurbished inside, partially preserved old larch floors, a decorative element (Polish: pazdurek) in the gable (non-original decorations)
Use	formerly: a family house of local farmers; nowadays: a summer/year-round home of a couple of journalists	formerly: a family house, used by 8 families during the Polish People’s Republic period; nowadays: guest house, yoga studio	formerly: a family house of local farmers; nowadays: a writer’s summer home / The Warmian Homestead Museum (Polish: Muzeum Gburstwa Warmińskiego)



Fig. 6. Kaborno 33
– western elevation
(drawn by P. Jabłoński,
measured by P. Jabłoński,
A. Jarochońska)

Il. 6. Kaborno 33
– elewacja zachodnia
(rys. P. Jabłoński,
pomiary: P. Jabłoński,
A. Jarochońska)

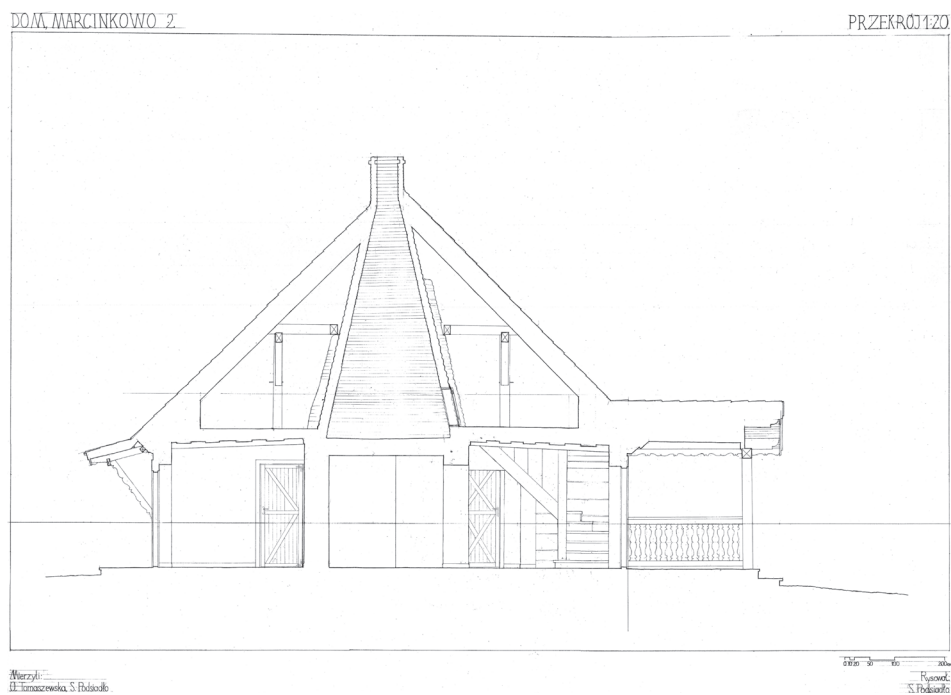


Fig. 7. Marcinkowo 2
– cross-section
(drawn by S. Podsiadło,
measured by: O. Tomaszewska,
S. Podsiadło)

Il. 7. Marcinkowo 2
– przekrój poprzeczny
(rys. S. Podsiadło,
pomiary: O. Tomaszewska,
S. Podsiadło)

by the authors. They were made available to students participating in the workshops as well as given on pen drives to the owners of the study houses as a record of architectural and structural features of their properties. Figures 6–8 show selected drawings made during the workshops.

Additionally, colour samples of external wall beams as well as window and door woodwork were prepared during the measurements in that the colour of the wood was imitated using water-soluble coloured pencils on thick paper (Fig. 9). This type of record shows only an approximation of the true colour for conservation purposes. Throughout the many years of their use, log beams of the study houses underwent various treatments by impregnation and insecticides as well

as containing with paints of a strong black dye¹⁰. However, the colour of the window and door woodwork is not original, as is mostly the case. The record of colours refers only to the present condition of the study houses. For greater accuracy, it would be necessary to carry out tests aimed at uncovering old woodwork elements and fragments of log beams. The original intention was to attach the samples to the survey drawings, however, given that the colour of the existing material is not original, the samples were not included.

¹⁰ For example: a black metal paint or a wood impregnating agent in dark colour of rosewood.

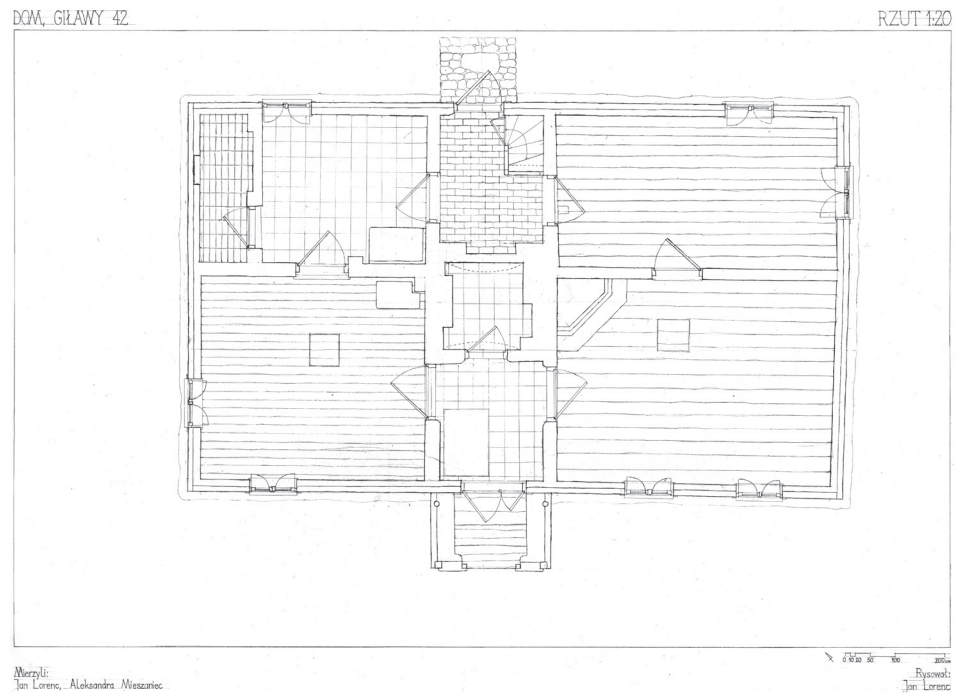


Fig. 8. G1awy 42 – floor plan
(drawn by J. Lorenc,
measured by J. Lorenc,
A. Mieszaniec)

Il. 8. G1awy 42 – rzut
(rys. J. Lorenc,
pomiary: J. Lorenc,
A. Mieszaniec)

The last, and perhaps the most important, study component during the workshops were interviews with residents of the houses in the form of a non-directive interview¹¹. The questionnaire was comprised of the following four parts:

- past history,
- present history,
- detailed questions,
- direct questions about relations with the local cultural identity.

Each module consisted of 7–9 questions about the history of the house, its construction, current technical condition, residential history and how it is inhabited today. The questions also inquired about the relationship that the present residents have with the Warmia Region. The gathering of the history of each house included an ethnographic walk¹², during which photographs were taken of the house's elements, interior and furnishings mentioned by the interviewees. Each interview was recorded with an audio recorder. The recordings were transcribed and then sent, along with drawing documentation, to the house owners for authorization. The materials provided to residents on external storage media were supplemented with photographic documentation of houses, photos and videos taken with a drone, and group photos of students and hosts (Fig. 10).

To sum up the course of the workshops, it was an extremely valuable time spent in an atmosphere of cooperation and commitment of all participants. Due to the prepara-

tion of drawings on site, in order to obtain better detail (drawing of basements, details of floors, stoves, some household appliances characteristic of interiors), one week should be allocated to the inventory of one house. This conclusion concerning the organization of the workshops was reached after a joint discussion with the students. A more thorough examination of the colours of buildings should be done using conservation methods. The scenario-based interview methodology was found effective as a result of the structured questions that guided the conversation. However, due to the element of free narration, which allows



Fig. 9. Color samples of the house in Kaborno
(photo by A. Bonisławska)

Il. 9. Próbk kolorystyczne dla domu w Kabornie
(fot. A. Bonisławska)

¹¹ According to the classification of non-directive interview, it was a non-directive interview using a standardized list of search items [15, pp. 169, 170]. It was also sought to ensure that the recorded interviews reminded a narrative like oral history testimonies [16, pp. 517–552].

¹² Here used as a field research method aimed at observing practices related to how people live in Warmia's log cabins today, based on an inspection of the household space and furnishings combined with information provided by their users [17, pp. 71–75].



Fig. 10. Workshop participants with the “Guardians” of the house in Kaborno (photo by M. Patrzalek)

Il. 10. Uczestnicy warsztatów ze „Strażnikami” domu w Kabornie (fot. M. Patrzalek)

the interlocutors to independently discuss topics that are important to them, asking specific questions could result in omitting valuable information that they would have told on their own and which was not provided for in the questionnaire [16, p. 522].

Study results: Knowledge on wooden cottage houses in the Warmia Region

General observations from the surveys concern the interior layout of the houses, where in each of the examined cases the rooms lined up one behind the other around the central bottle-shaped chimney and a “black kitchen”¹³. Each house has a cellar (at least one, used or not), which can be accessed through a trapdoor in the floor (usually from the hall). An important element of the house space is also the attic, which is usually used to some extent and provides a thermal insulation space for the ceiling above the ground floor. The technical condition of the houses included in the study can be classified as good. All the houses were adapted to the modern needs of their users, which included, e.g., a re-design of bathroom facilities. Modifications to adapt the interior to ensure thermal or functional comfort were carried out to varying degrees, with due care to preserve the original structure of the building. Nonetheless, they have affected the character of the interior. The results are summarized in Table 3.

During the interviews, the history of the houses and their dwellers was recorded. In the case of houses in Kaborno and Giławy, the builders and founders are known, while in Marcinkowo there is a local legend about the approximate date of construction of the cottage. The interviewees shared their knowledge about the past – sometimes they

had the opportunity to meet former residents or their families who, after leaving their estates, were returning from Germany to see their land again. At that time they could talk indirectly about their experiences or stories they had heard. Two houses featured a representative living/guest room¹⁴ (*Polish*: *izba paradna*) – an area designating for celebrating important events. There was also a separate kitchen area for preparing meals, in addition to a “black kitchen”, which over time was reduced to an area of smoke extraction from the stoves installed in the house. In two cases – Giławy and Marcinkowo – residents mentioned a “cold pantry”, i.e., a back room located in one of the northern corners of the house, where the temperature is naturally the coldest, and in the course of the interview they confirmed that this solution was also effective in the summer season. The study houses contain modern equipment, bought at nearby flea markets or originally found on site by the present residents. An example is a wardrobe in the house in Kaborno, where on the door we can find notes made by former residents about the size of their livestock herds, as well as other souvenirs, such as black folk art paper cutouts or prayer books.

Modern users live differently than the builders of their houses in the 19th century, who worked in agriculture and lived under one roof with a three-generation family¹⁵. Currently, the cottages are used only during summer or all year round, provided that they have been adapted for such a use. Their residents have retired or, as, e.g., the resident of the house in Marcinkowo, run a business and a guest house. During the interviews, when assessing the general comfort of living in a log cottage, the interviewees referred to the fact that the building keeps the temperature (it is cool in summer and warm in winter – provided that the building is heated by a wood-burning stove and an electric heater is used, and in the case of Marcinkowo – the house is insulated from the inside, there is an underfloor heating system and a heat pump), as well as the comfortable acoustic effects provided by wooden walls¹⁶. The residents also indicated the proximity of the natural environment as an unquestionable advantage of living in such a place (morning cries of cranes, evening spectacles of rutting deer, possibility to sit on a porch overlooking a garden or to spend time “under a linden tree”).

Each of the current owners, either in coordination with a heritage conservator or otherwise, has become an expert in the renovation of their log cottage. Each house has undergone more or less invasive procedures to adapt the existing structure to contemporary housing needs, as well as to preserve the wooden structural components. The least amount of interference with the original substance saw the house in Kaborno. The other two houses, even though ef-

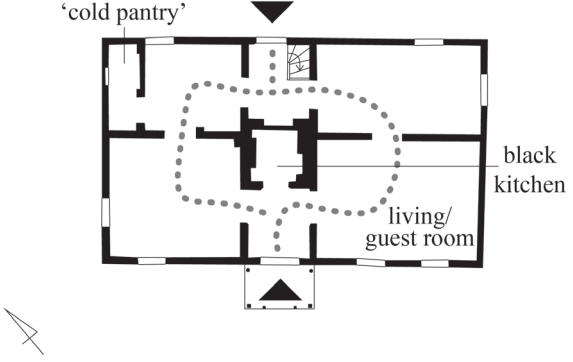
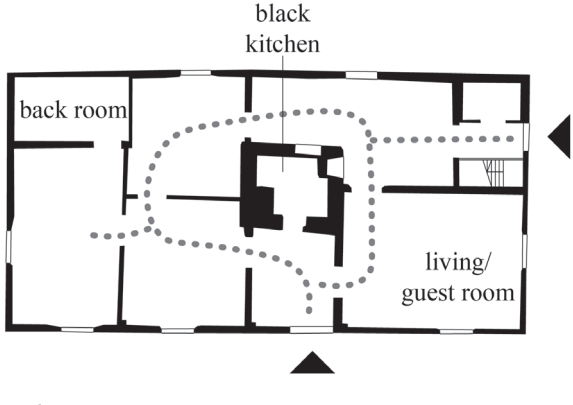
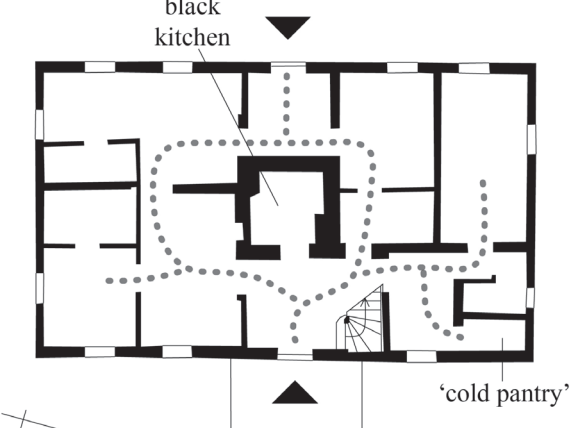
¹⁴ A room called “izba paradna” in Warmian tradition.

¹³ A wide chimney made of bricks or clay, covering completely the centrally placed open hearth in the hall of the cottage. The interior of the chimney, accessible from the hall, was used for preparing meals and was called “black kitchen” [8, pp. 105–110]. This is a particularly peculiar room in the house as it has an open chimney at the top, through which, high above the head, daylight streams into the tight and dark interior.

¹⁵ Based on an interview with Witolda Kuper and Andrzej Kuper on 18 July 2023 in Kaborno, as well as based on Edward Cyfus’s a novel about his house in Giławy [13].

¹⁶ In this regard, two different interviewees shared a similar story about when they did not hear a storm raging outside and how they were surprised when their family and friends called them to find out if they were fine.

Table 3. Characteristics of spatial layouts of investigated houses (elaborated by A. Bonisławska)
 Tabela 3. Cechy układów przestrzennych badanych chałup (oprac. A. Bonisławska)

General components of the layout plan	Diagram
<p style="text-align: center;">House in Giławy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2 entrances – 2 halls – rooms lined up one behind the other (enfilade) – according to the original layout – black kitchen – currently used as a bathroom, preserved chimney (previously a smokehouse) – 3 cellars – attic: in use, changes to the original arrangement of rooms – “cold pantry” – a back room to the kitchen, in the north-eastern corner of the house 	<p style="text-align: center;">Diagram</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">House in Kaborno</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2 points of entrance – 2 halls (one in the corner) – rooms lined up one behind the other (enfilade) – in the 19th century, the house was expanded to include an additional bedroom and back room – black kitchen – original, fully preserved, not used – 1 cellar accessible from a back room – attic: not used, storage space 	
<p style="text-align: center;">House in Marcinkowo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2 entrances – 2 halls – rooms lined up one behind the other (enfilade) – based on the original layout, modified by adding guest bathrooms – black kitchen – currently used as a kitchen, preserved chimney (previously a smokehouse) – 1 cellar accessible from the hall – currently visible through a glazed space in the floor in the room to the left of the hall from the yard – attic: in use – “cold pantry” – a back room in the north-eastern corner of the house – undetermined location of a representative living/guest room 	

forts were made to preserve the external structure, partition walls, beams and ceiling boards, roof truss and roof covering, spatial layout or “black kitchen” – underwent modifications focused on adapting them for modern use, such as new floor and wall finishing, additional rooms (e.g., a bathrooms for guests in the house in Marcinkowo) or installation and heating units (e.g., an underfloor heating system in Marcinkowo, a new fireplace in Giławy).

Each of the house owners has different connections with the Warmia Region, its culture and tradition. A native inhabitant of the Warmia Region, who speaks the Warmian dialect and lives in Giławy, is Mr. Edward Cyfus, a writer, storyteller and propagator of Warmian culture. He wrote

a novel about his house, titled *Kele wsi chałupa*, in which he combined facts and fiction to present the history of former house dwellers. Mr. and Mrs. Kuper, a couple of retired journalists originally from Warsaw, chose to become Warmians [Polish: “Warmiaczy z chanci”]¹⁷, having been “guardians” of the house in Kaborno (as they call themselves) for over 40 years now. Mrs. Piwowarczyk, the owner of the house in Marcinkowo, has lived in Warmia since

¹⁷ This is how they described themselves during the interview conducted on 4 June 2022 in Kaborno. They were called so by Edward Cyfus, with whom they go back a long way. In the Warmian dialect “z chanci” means out of one’s own choice.

2019, because she simply fell in love with that place. She began learning about the area as soon as she started refurbishing the house and actually living in Warmia¹⁸.

The information obtained in the course of the study was used to prepare a complex presentation of the three log cabins in Warmia, demonstrate the common features in their structure and the multiple factors defining their identity as well as to observe how they are used for residential purposes in the present times. The scope of the study also included the maintenance and the forms of how such buildings can be adapted to the residential needs of their current residents. The heritage was documented graphically and using ethnographic interviews so as to preserve, as fully as possible, the memory of its existence and to offer a chance to understand it and to build on it.

Summary

The workshop activities carried out between 10 and 23 July 2023 in Giławy, Kaborno and Marcinkowo (commune: Purda, powiat: Olsztyn) were not so much orient-

ed towards collecting information and materials for research purposes as to initiating another important process of evidencing the heritage of wooden architecture in the Warmia and Masuria Regions since the survey conducted in the 1950s by the Faculty of Architecture of the Warsaw University of Technology under the supervision of Ignacy Tłoczek and the catalogue of photographs of heritage assets produced in the 1990s by the Office for Heritage Sites Research and Records (BBiDZ) in Olsztyn. This heritage is constantly disappearing, and accordingly documented and cared for, it has a chance to survive as an element of the cultural landscape and living space in Warmia.

A sociological study based on ethnographic interviews turned out to be particularly valuable. The workshops attracted the interest of oral history archivists and will most likely be continued based on follow-up projects aimed at recording personal narratives from residential users of wooden houses in Warmia. *The individual life is the actual vehicle of historical experience* [18, pp. 203–204], as stated by Paul Thompson, one of the pioneers in the oral history research.

¹⁸ Based on the interview with Mrs. Piwowarczyk conducted on 12 July 2023 in Marcinkowo.

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Streszczenie

Dziedzictwo architektoniczne chałup zrębowych na Warmii – sprawozdanie z warsztatów badawczych

Sprawozdanie dotyczy warsztatów badawczych z udziałem studentów Wydziału Architektury Politechniki Warszawskiej. Warsztaty te odbyły się w dniach 10–23 lipca 2023. W ich trakcie wykonano m.in. inwentaryzację architektoniczno-budowlaną trzech warmińskich chałup zrębowych z 2. połowy XIX w. oraz przeprowadzono wywiady etnograficzne z mieszkańcami analizowanych domów. Działania badawcze służyć miały dokumentacji istniejącego a zanikającego dziedzictwa chałup drewnianych na terenie Warmii oraz rozpoznaniu struktury tych budynków i historii ich zamieszkania od czasu ich budowy. Zwrócono także uwagę na wątki tożsamości warmińskiej – jej obecność w relacjach mieszkańców lub jej brak. Efektem przeprowadzonych działań jest materiał badawczy służący dalszej pracy nad tematyką zrębowych chałup warmińskich, dokumentacja architektoniczno-budowlana przekazana mieszkańcom analizowanych domów oraz zdeponowana w oryginale w archiwum Wydziału Architektury Politechniki Warszawskiej, a także cenne doświadczenia zarówno uczestników warsztatów, jak i mieszkańców. Działania te służą poszerzeniu świadomości na temat wartości architektury drewnianej wśród społeczeństwa (także społeczności lokalnej) oraz rozpoznaniu korelacji tożsamościowych badanych obiektów z krajobrazem kulturowym badanego regionu – tu Warmii.

Słowa kluczowe: dziedzictwo, architektura drewniana, konstrukcja zrębowa, Warmia, inwentaryzacja architektoniczno-budowlana, wywiad etnograficzny