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The history of the Sieradz's Old Town hidden in the former Tatarczy Market Square

Introduction

Sieradz is one of the oldest cities in Poland and has been a significant place in this country since its inception. The first mention of it comes from the Gniezno bull of 1136, where it is referred to as a castellan stronghold. However, archaeologists confirmed that the first settlement appeared at the beginning of the 11th century on the site of the Castle Hill, which has survived to this day. With time, there was a development of settlement in the vicinity of the Dominican Monastery and the Church of All Saints. The location document has not survived to this day, but there is a consistent view that the location took place between 1247 and 1255. The layout of the city was determined by the course of trade routes, at the intersection of which the market square and the main streets leading from it were situated [1]. Sieradz was distinguished as the capital of the Duchy of Sieradz in the period from 1262 to 1339, and then of the Sieradz Voivodeship in the years 1339–1793.

The Old Town of Sieradz is one of the most important and best-preserved medieval city complexes in Poland. It makes up a spatially defined complex that determines the city's identity. The visage of the Old Town is presented uniformly through the lines of single-story tenements, which fill the frontage of the market square and most streets. This is where the most important monuments of Sieradz are located.

Some of the historical elements situated in the Old Town have not survived to this day. One of them is the Tatarczy Square. It is rarely mentioned in the literature. Moreover, the fact of its existence is not widespread information. However, the location within the former fortifications at

the foot of the Dominican Hill and the vicinity of one of the oldest and most important buildings in Sieradz suggest that this is an area with a long and interesting history that deserves a special mention.

Objective of the work

The main aim of the article is to present the history of the elements of the former Tatarczy Square and its surroundings (town fortifications and gates, street network, monastery complex and crafts), which constitute an important part of the history of the Old Town (Fig. 1). The multithreaded history of the market and the uniqueness



Fig. 1. Sieradz, bird's eye view of a fragment of the Old Town in the region of the former Dominican Monastery.

The dashed line marks the area of the former Tatarczy Square (by A. Sowała, photo by Ł. Piotrkowski)

Il. 1. Sieradz, widok z lotu ptaka na fragment Starego Miasta w rejonie klasztoru poddominikańskiego.

Liniją przerywaną oznaczono teren dawnego Tatarczego Rynku (oprac. A. Sowała, fot. Ł. Piotrkowski)

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of its elements indicate the need to disseminate this information. Therefore, the text also touches on the role of historical urban spaces as well as the need and ways of presenting their history.

Research method

During the work, the methodology appropriate for historical and interpretative research was used – information was collected and analyzed on the spatial development of Sieradz and the history of individual fragments of the Old Town area, such as city fortifications and gates, street network, church and monastery complex and crafts. These were elements of great importance for the Tatarczy Market Square. For this purpose, the available archival materials, the results of archaeological research and the literature on the subject were used, the analysis of which allowed for drawing conclusions describing the history of the Tatarczy Square and its surroundings.

The state of research

In the 13th–14th centuries the town assumed the shape of an elongated oval, supported from the east by a flowing line of scarps. A headland, known as the Dominican Hill, was formed on the northern edge (Fig. 2). As a result, between the back of Grodzka Street, north-eastern Mnichów Street and the hill a depression was formed. Due to the topog-

raphy, it could not be designated for urban development. As a result, in the mid-16th century, a side market, called Tatarczy, was established here [2]. The existence of the square in 1567 was confirmed by Priest Walery Pogorzelski on the basis of the old parish files that no longer exist [3]. It also appears in the city registers in 1591 and in the data from the inventory of the city of Sieradz from 1789, where its location between Dominikańska and Zamkowa Streets [4] is mentioned. The last mention of the Tatarczy Square appeared in 1808, along with the Old Market Square.

In study *Polityka konserwatorska* [Conservation policy] the authors combine the creation of the Tatarczy Square with the reconstruction of the north-eastern part of the city due to the destruction of fortifications and the appearance of new road routes in the 18th century towards Kalisz, Żłoczew and the settlement of Rybaki [5]. Another reason for its creation may be the necessity to create a space in front of the southern façade of the Dominican church, i.e., from the city side. However, insufficient knowledge of the history of this area and the lack of archaeological research make it impossible to confirm this [6]. The only study entirely devoted to the Tatarczy Square is an article by Ruszkowski, which outlines the state of research, mentioning the sources and suggests the reason for the liquidation, which, according to the author, could be a consequence of being a nuisance for the neighbouring church, similarly to the market square next to the Church of All Saints existing

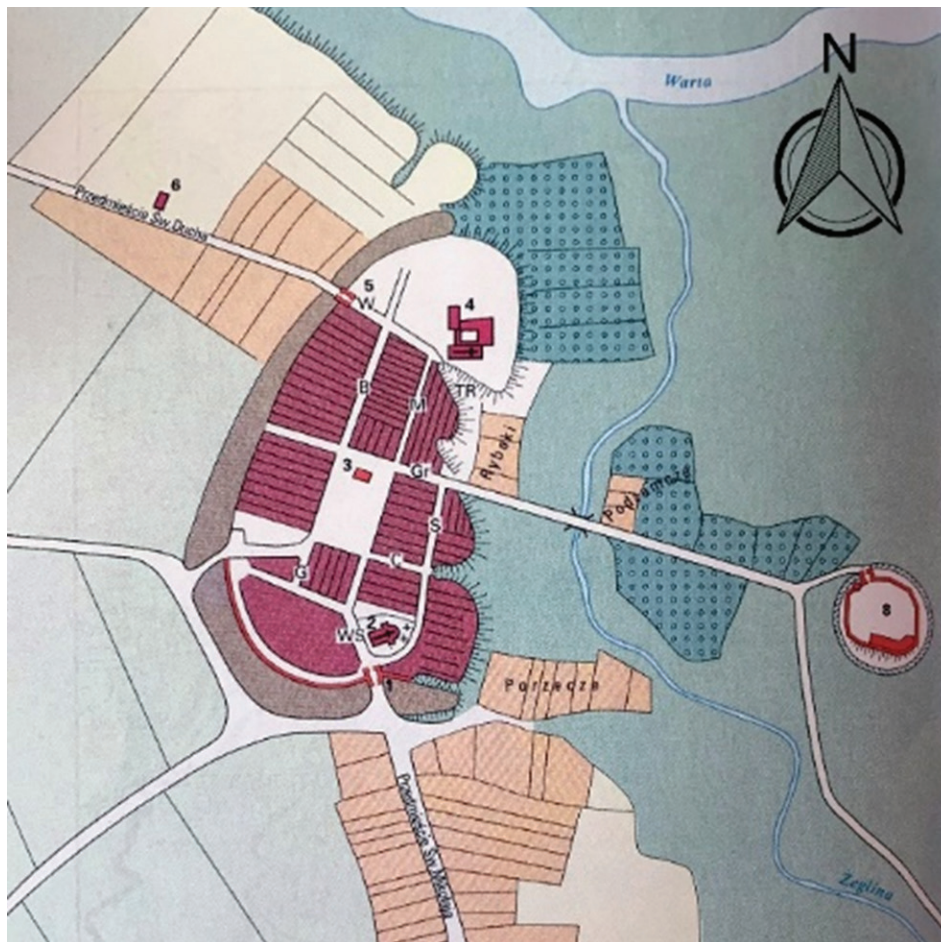


Fig. 2. Sieradz, city map in the 15th century:

- 1 – Krakowska Gate,
 - 2 – All Saints Church,
 - 3 – Town hall,
 - 4 – Dominican Monastery,
 - 5 – Warcka Gate,
 - 6 – The Church of the Holy Spirit,
 - 8 – Castle,
 - TR – Tatarczy Square,
 - B – Błotna Street,
 - M – Mnichów Street,
 - Gr – Grodzka Street,
 - S – Sukienicza Street,
 - G – Gołębia Street,
 - C – Czapnicza Street
- (by A. Dunin-Wąsowiczowa, H. Rutkowski, source: [4])

- Il. 2. Sieradz, plan miasta w XV w.:
- 1 – Brama Krakowska,
 - 2 – Kościół parafialny Wszystkich Świętych, 3 – Ratusz,
 - 4 – klasztor dominikanów,
 - 5 – Brama Warcka,
 - 6 – kościół św. Ducha, 8 – zamek,
 - TR – Tatarczy Rynek,
 - B – ul. Błotna, M – ul. Mnichów,
 - Gr – ul. Grodzka,
 - S – ul. Sukienicza, G – ul. Gołębia,
 - C – ul. Czapnicza
- (wg A. Dunin-Wąsowiczowej i H. Rutkowskiego, źródło: [4])

It was not possible to recreate all ownership divisions in this part of the city. However, it was possible to establish a division for Mnisza Street, as it was mentioned at the beginning of the 16th century. It has been proven that on its northern side, in the immediate vicinity, there were 7 plots, marked in the diagram with a yellow line [11] (Fig. 3).

The Tatarczy Square probably never had a compact frontage on the south side (Fig. 3). This could be due to the topography, irregular division of the plots and the lack of main streets. This is confirmed by the plans from 1796 [12] and 1823 [13], which show individual wooden buildings of the Tatarczy Square and its vicinity. From the side of the alley, only the backs of the front plots of Grodzka Street were visible.

In the 20th century, the wooden buildings were replaced with brick ones, which still stand here today. These are mainly one- and two-storey single-family residential buildings. The current development is chaotic and has no connection with the spatial arrangement of medieval Sieradz. What's more, its architecture does not refer to the former buildings or neighbouring monuments. The alley that used to be the northern extension of Tkaczy Street has not survived.

Former and present-day elements of the spatial and urban composition of the Tatarczy Square

Water alleys

The topography of medieval Sieradz within the defensive fortifications was determined by trade routes. Their sections became the main streets of the city, and the Old Market Square was built at their intersection. The second,

equally important factor that influenced the shape of the Sieradz street network was water. The need to provide access to it caused the development of a network of water alleys inside the city and its “opening” to the east towards the water. As a result of this, there were as many as three passages in the defensive fortifications, having the character of a gate in the fence. One of these passages coincided with the aforementioned passage through the Tatarczy Square – the so-called Dominican Alley. The sources mention it as *via ducens ad aquam* (1489) (Fig. 4), *penes a clauastro ad fluvium eudente* (1508), *platea mnyska* (1520), *via qua itur ad monasterium* (1525). The aforementioned Dominican Alley ran to the east, where it reached a passage (*walwa*) through which people walked to the water (*ad fluvium, ad aquam*). Therefore, it is highly probable that it was an alley connecting the monastery and the northern part of the city with the river flowing below the monastery hill [11]. Thanks to the water alleys, the eastern part of late medieval Sieradz had access to water.

City gate

The spatial layout of the town is known mainly from the plan drawn up by Prussian cartographers in 1793, dated August 4, 1796 [12] (Fig. 5). It is the oldest and most complete plan that has survived and represents the entire city. You can see the remains of the town fortifications, walls, three gates, moats and embankments erected in the 2nd half of the 14th century, which existed only in a residual form at the time the plan was created [1].

On the aforementioned plan, you can see that there was a narrow and winding passage in the fortifications in the vicinity of the Tatarczy Square. It was the so-called city



Fig. 4. Sieradz, view of the Dominican Alley from the west (photo by A. Sowała, 2019)

Il. 4. Sieradz, widok na Zaułek Dominikański od zachodu (fot. A. Sowała, 2019)

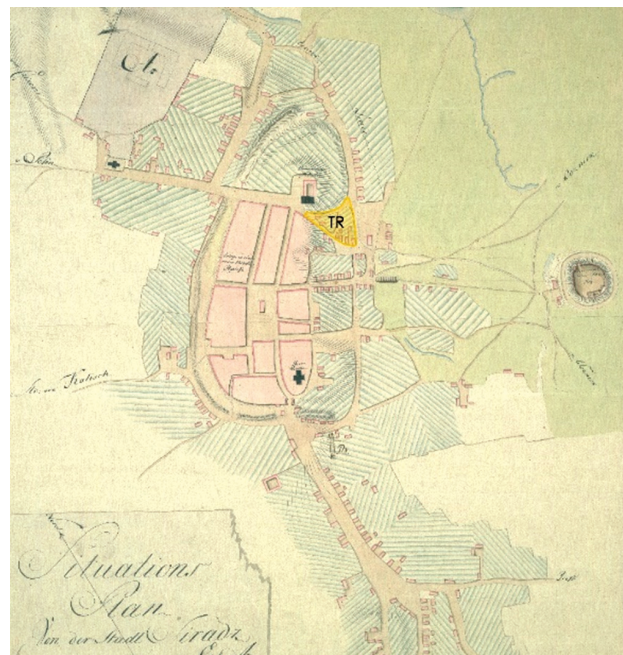


Fig. 5. Sieradz, city map, 1796; TR – Tatarczy Square (source: [11])

Il. 5. Sieradz, plan miasta, 1796; TR – Tatarczy Rynek (źródło: [11])

gate (*furta*). It was rather a gate in a fence, because Sieradz never had any fortifications in the form of walls in this place. Moreover, the creation of this type of passage was caused by the destruction of the fortifications at the end of the 16th century. The gate at the Dominican Alley was used for communication with the Fishermans Hamlet (Rybaki), which was located at the foot of the escarpment, south of the church and Dominican Monastery.

Two additional gates also appeared in two other places – in the western part of the circuit towards the Kalisz road and in the south-west to the Złoczew route (Fig. 6).

Rybaki is a fishing village existing in the 1st half of the 14th century. It was located below the escarpment at the foot of the Dominican Hill along Żabia Street (former Wodna Street) on the Żeglina River. The northern part probably served economic functions for the Dominican farm located above. Fishermans Hamlet constitutes a coherent spatial area in the form of houses built on one side with extensive gardens and fields at the back.

Therefore, the creation of the Tatarczy Square could have been determined by the road marked out here, resulting from the destruction of the fortifications. The existence of a leak in the fortifications may suggest that it was a frequently visited place and an important passage for people living in the Fishermans Hamlet and heading for the Dominican monastery.

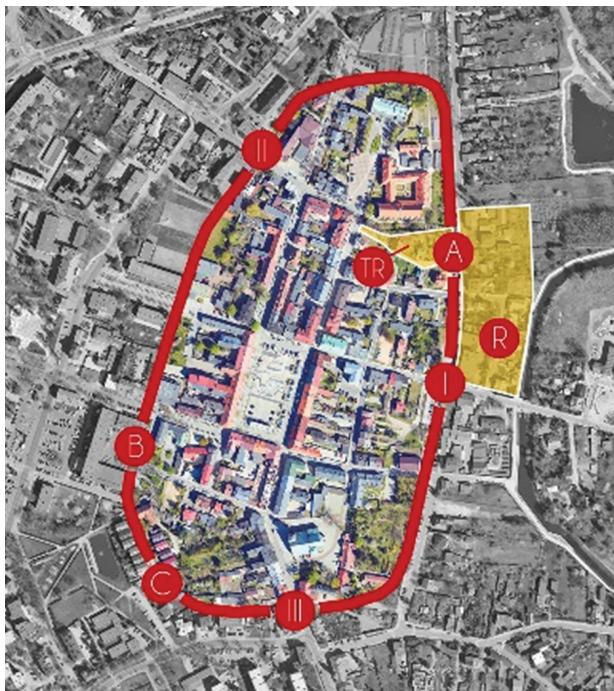


Fig. 6. Localization of fortification, gates and the Fishermans Hamlet:

I – Grodzka Gate, II – Warcka Gate, III – Krakowska Gate,
A, B, C – gates, TR – Tatarczy Square, R – Fishermans Hamlet
(elaborated by A. Sowała,
source: <https://mapy.geoportal.gov.pl/>)

Il. 6. Sieradz, lokalizacja obwarowań miejskich, bram i furt
oraz osady Rybaki:

I – Brama Grodzka, II – Brama Warcka, III – Brama Krakowska,
A, B, C – furty, TR – Tatarczy Rynek, R – osada Rybaki
(oprac. A. Sowała,
źródło mapy: <https://mapy.geoportal.gov.pl/>)

“Exhibition portal”

One of the most important buildings in Sieradz, i.e., the church and monastery complex, is located in the immediate vicinity of the former Tatarczy Square. The monastery was built in the years 1233–1245 as one of the oldest Dominican temples in Poland. Currently, it belongs to The Congregation of the Ursulines of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus. It is worth mentioning that the monks settled only in developed urban settlements, so Sieradz must have been well developed and populated. The mendicant orders were the first to programmatically and consciously locate monasteries within the city. Apart from the religious function, the Dominican church probably brought commercial profit to the town community by attracting the local population [6].

The monastery was situated in an undeveloped area at the north-eastern end of the town's Sieradz district at the exit of Warcka Street. Archaeological research carried out in the 1950s allowed the discovery of relics from an early medieval settlement and the period of Roman influence here [14]. Dominicans combined their religious life with evangelization service, which is why they usually established their convents in cities, most often near the city gate.

The monastery is accompanied by the Church of St. Stanislaus, the construction of which was completed around the mid-13th century. The temple is a single-nave building with a presbytery narrower than the nave. According to the Dominican rule, there is no tower, only a turret. The north and west wings of the monastery were erected simultaneously with the church. The eastern wing was added in the 16th century, and the southern one in 1651. The irregular extension of the western wing is a former priorat, which had been built before the church. Its original size was determined

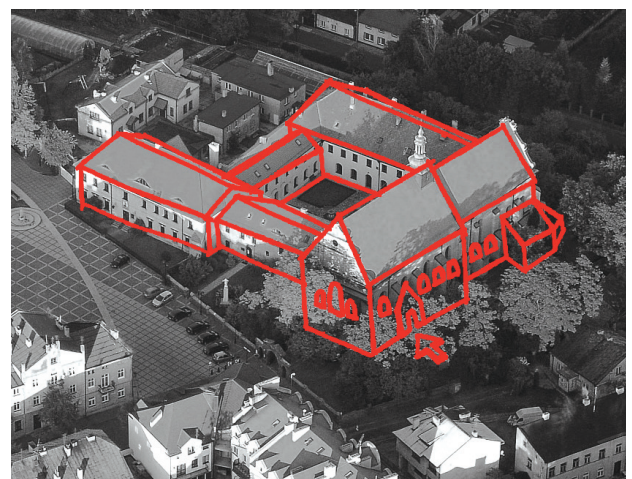


Fig. 7. Location of the gothic portal in the former Dominican Monastery (based on A. Grzybowski [6, p. 89], photo by Ł. Piotrkowski, elaborated by A. Sowała)

Il. 7. Lokalizacja gotyckiego portalu w dawnym klasztorze dominikanów (na podstawie A. Grzybowski [6, s. 89], fot. Ł. Piotrkowski, oprac. A. Sowała)



Fig. 8. View of the gothic portal (photo by A. Sowała, 2020)

Il. 8. Sieradz, widok na gotycki portal (fot. A. Sowała, 2020)

by the basement, which is the only preserved early Gothic interior in the monastery. From the north of the monastery you can see the “courtyard” – this is the square surrounded by four buildings. The then monastery was surrounded by gardens on the southern and eastern sides.

Currently, the main entrance to the church is on the west side (Fig. 7). However, it was originally located on the city side, i.e., on the southern elevation, the foreground of which was formed by the Tatarczy Square. Therefore, the west façade played a supporting role. This could also have been caused by the topography that sloped to the east. The Sieradz portal is one of the few 12th-century gothic portals in Poland. The solutions in which the arcade penetrates the gable triangle are typical of the style of transition between Romanesque and Gothic. The described portal was walled up before 1680.

The Tatarczy Square used to be the foreground for the church and monastery complex. The lack of archaeological research and the insufficient amount of materials concerning the 13th-century system of Sieradz do not allow to establish the relationship between the abovementioned gothic portal with an existing town square, which, according to Grzybowski, would make it possible to call the entrance a *market portal* [6] (Fig. 8).

Trade and crafts

The commercial function of Tatarczy Square can be proved by its name, which derives from *tatarka*, i.e., buckwheat known in Europe since the Middle Ages.

The archival material that can bring us closer to the history of this part of the city is a sketch from 1849 of the



Fig. 9. Sieradz, view of the Tatarczy Square, date unknown (source: [16])

Il. 9. Sieradz, widok na zabudowę Tatarczego Rynku, data nieznana (źródło: [16])

Plan sytuacyjny pustych placów w Sieradzu [the Situation plan of empty squares in Sieradz] showing the north-eastern part of the city. We do not know its contractor and scale, but it may provide us with information on the development of the area in question. It features a fragmentary view of the Tatarczy Square with wooden buildings drawn [15]. The above-mentioned drawing was probably created on the basis of the *Plan miasta Sieradza, w guberni Warszawskiej w powiecie Sieradzkim położonego, zdzielany w 1823, W. Ziółkowski mier(niczy) przy(sięgły)* [Plan of the city of Sieradz, in the Warsaw governorate located in the Sieradz powiat made in 1823, author W. Ziółkowski], and more precisely its copy from 1859 made by A.Z. Gustowski in Warsaw [13].

There is also a photo showing the existence of wooden buildings in this place. This is also confirmed by Priest Waleri Pogorzelski, mentioning in his book a fire of 37 houses in the Great Suburb and the Tatarczy Square in 1681 [3] (Fig. 9).

Crafts played an important role in the history of Sieradz. Archaeological research has shown that various professions were practiced here as early as in the 11th century. From the mid-14th century onwards, there were references to individual craftsmen, and from the middle of the following century – there are mentions of guilds. At the beginning of the 2nd half of the 16th century, there were 162 craftsmen in Sieradz. On the city map, you can specify streets such as Sukiennicza or Szewska. In the north-eastern part of the city, in the 15th and 16th centuries, there was a great variety of professions. On the plots located along the monastery’s alley, the existence of houses for a cook, saddler, cutter and carpenter has been confirmed. However, to the houses located at Mnisza Street, between the Old Market Square and the former Dominican monastery, a sword maker, a carpenter, a linen maker, a cap maker and a bricklayer moved in. A *rumistrz* (pipe master) lived close to the church and monastery complex [11]. In old Poland, it was a term for a person who was in charge of municipal water supply. The existence of such

a profession indicates that Sieradz must have had such networks.

The previously mentioned water alleys played a dominant role in the city. They supplied water to many streets, which from the beginning of the 16th century was a supplement to the market area, where the waterworks functioned. Elements of the modern water supply system were discovered in 1979 by A. Kufel-Dzierzowska (in: [10]). They were also found during archaeological excavations in 2010 [10].

The eastern part of the city's land was determined by the proximity of the Warta River. Due to the water, mills, baths, bleachers and malt houses are located here. At the turn of the Middle Ages and early modern times, there were at least five water mills east of the town: *ślodowy*, *wójtowski*, *kołowski*, *mączny* and in Błonia. Most of the mills in Sieradz were powered by *młynówka*. At the *wójtowski* mill house in Porzecze, south of the Grodzka Street, there were, apart from the mill and baths, *blech* and *mielcuch*. In this way, until the 2nd half of the 16th century, the most important devices operating on the basis of water were concentrated in the town basin. The *młynówka wójtowska* together with the neighbouring devices served the city – water was drawn from it, carrying it or transporting it through a water alley, and also pulling it through pipes along Grodzka Street to the Old Market Square [11]. On the other hand, the *ślodowy* mill served the town. It was not advisable to dig wells in townspeople's plots due to the proximity of the cemetery [11]. Such an observation may also lead to the assumption that water was used not only for domestic purposes, but also for production purposes.

Secondary markets as added value to the history of medieval cities

The existence of the second, next to the rectangular market square, less regular market square in Sieradz is an interesting case, but not an isolated one. The presence of such squares is always an added value for the city. Recovering historical spaces allows to create places that will convey the history of the city to residents and tourists in an attractive and legible way. They will also enrich it with an atmospheric and unique space. In the area of the former Tatarczy Square, this story has not yet found its reflection. It is probably due to significant transformations. In the area of the former Sieradz Land, the author has not noted any examples showing the recovery of this type of historical space. However, the effect of revitalizing the secondary market in a small town can be seen in Bystrzyca Kłodzka.

Bystrzyca Kłodzka is located in the southern part of Kłodzko Land, on the former trade routes, e.g., on the main route from Silesia to the Czech Republic. It was established in a defensive place, captured by the forks of the Nysa Kłodzka River and its left tributary, the Bystrzyca River. The Old Town has the shape of an oval with a checkerboard-cross urban layout, which was shaped in the 13th century. There are two adjacent markets here – the main square (now Wolności Square) with the town hall and the secondary market, the former cattle market (now Small

Market Square) [17]. The Small Market Square is an irregularly shaped square with three narrow streets leading to it. The secondary square market of Bystrzyca Kłodzka is surrounded by dense frontages of classicist buildings from the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century, which are characterized by harmonious, symmetrical façades with straight lines, with details in the form of porticoes with a tympanum, as well as sparse ornamentation. On the north-eastern frontage of the Small Market, there is a complex of the Evangelical Church, which was designed by architect Karl Friedrich Schnikel. The complex of buildings consisted of a church and a school, which were built in the years 1821–1823. Originally, a curtain wall with a gate stood between them. In 1978, a new part of the building was erected between the church and the school. At present, there is the Philumenist Museum [18]. In the central part of the Small Market there is a historic pillory, i.e., a punishment tool from 1556. Originally it was located in the Old Market Square, in 1813 it was moved to its present location.

In Bystrzyca Kłodzka, this historic side market was revitalized in 2019. The aim of the project was to restore the representative function of the Small Market Square and give it spatial order by arranging communication routes. As part of the project, a passage was created that will allow residents and tourists to enter the old town market directly. As a result of the revitalization, the surface of the square was rebuilt, greenery was planted, street furniture was erected and the aesthetic fence around the historic pillory was restored [19].

Architectural and urban concept for the reconstruction of the Tatarczy Market Square in Sieradz

The former area of the Tatarczy Square has great potential to create a place that, with the help of appropriate measures, will be able to present the history of the Old Town in this area. So far, no such proposal has been made. This inspired the author of the article to create an architectural and urban concept that, as one of the possible solutions, could serve this purpose¹.

The main goal of the project was to convey the rich history of this place in an attractive and legible way. Due to significant transformations over the years, which made it impossible to freely develop this area, it was proposed to remove the existing buildings from the former area of the Tatarczy Square. Taking such a step allowed for the creation of a full-size square with an irregular shape, at the end of which a building was situated. The design refers to the old wooden buildings by using the same materials (Fig. 10). The designed pavilion has a commercial function that refers to the history and name of the place. Along the former Mniszy Alley (now Dominican Alley) fountains

¹ It was part of the Master's thesis entitled *Rehabilitacja fragmentu Starego Miasta w Sieradzu w rejonie dawnego Klasztoru Dominikanów* [Rehabilitation of a fragment of the Old Town in Sieradz in the area of the former Dominican Monastery] written at the Lodz University of Technology under the supervision of dr. inż. arch. Maria Dankowska.

were planned, the arrangement of which emphasizes the trail to the former passage in the walls to the Fishermans Hamlet. They are also to remind the important role of water in the crafts and shaping the street network of Sieradz. Appropriate design of the square allowed for the church and monastery complex adjacent to the north, which is currently obscured by the existing buildings, to become a part of this place again. However, in the place leading to the gothic portal, located on the southern wall of the church, it was proposed to break the wall marking the northern border of the market square and emphasize it with two pylons.

The former Tatarczy Square was located in a depression between the elevations of the terrain, which determined its shape. It probably never had the full southern frontage due to the lack of a front street in this place. The

former Mniszy Alley (now Dominican Alley) bordered the back of the plots from Szewska Street. In connection with the above, the concept emphasizes the border of Zaulek Dominikański with new buildings that form the southern frontage of the square and consist of buildings whose dimensions correspond to a typical Sieradz tenement house. The proposed new complex of buildings was divided by means of pedestrian paths, which are to remind of the historical passages leading to the water, the so-called alleys (Fig. 11).

Summary

The current development of Dominican Alley does not allow for clear identification with the former function of the square. This unique place has disappeared from the



Fig. 10. Visualization of the Tatarczy Square (2020, elaborated by A. Sowała)

Il. 10. Wizualizacja projektowanego Tatarczego Rynku (2020, oprac. A. Sowała)



Fig. 11. Plan of the Tatarczy Square (2020, elaborated by A. Sowała)

Il. 11. Plan projektowanego Tatarczego Rynku (2020, oprac. A. Sowała)

contemporary maps of Sieradz and nowadays few people know about its existence. However, the analysis of archival materials, archaeological research and literature on the subject helps to determine the details of its origin, location, function, development or connection with the environment. What's more, one place allows us to accumulate the history of so many elements of the Old Town at the same time. The existence of city gates, the Fishermans Hamlet, passages to the water or the gothic portal are unusual and not disseminated information that will certainly gain the recognition of more demanding discoverers of the secrets of Sieradz.

The amount and value of the collected information on the Tatarczy Square proves the importance of the role it played in the city and how important is to take care of historical

spaces, stop negative transformations, explore their secrets and, above all, save them from oblivion. The knowledge gathered about the Tatarczy Square certainly needs to be supplemented with large-scale archaeological research. Nevertheless, it does set some directions that should be followed.

Disseminating the history of the Tatarczy Square will allow for a greater understanding of the history of the Old Town in Sieradz. Its inconspicuousness and mystery combined with the number of elements that made up this place make it unique and worth exploring further.

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Abstract

The history of the Sieradz's Old Town hidden in the former Tatarczy Market Square

The article presents the history of the elements of the former Tatarczy Market Square, which constitute an important part of the history of the Sieradz's Old Town. The article deals with the history of elements of the Sieradz's Old Town, such as stockade, gates, street system, the former Dominican Monastery and craft. The history of the Tatarczy Market Square is episodic and unique – it points to necessity to popularize information about this place and continue exploring its story.

During the work, the methodology appropriate for historical and interpretative research was used. The information on the spatial development of Sieradz and the history of individual fragments of the Old Town was collected and analyzed. To get to know this story, the available archival references, literature and archaeological research were used. An analysis of these sources allows us to draw conclusions about the history of this part of the city.

The article also discusses the role of historical urban spaces and the need and ways of presenting their history by architectural and urban planning activities. For this purpose, the revitalization of the Small Market Square in Bystrzyca Kłodzka and the concept of transforming the Tatarczy Market Square in Sieradz were presented.

The amount and value of the information collected on the Tatarczy Market Square proves how important it is to take care of historical spaces, stop negative transformations, explore their secrets and, above all, save them from oblivion. The collected knowledge about the Tatarczy Market Square certainly requires supplementing with archaeological research on a large scale. Nevertheless, it does indicate some directions of research that should be continued. Disseminating the history of the Tatarczy Market Square will allow for a greater understanding of the history of the Old Town in Sieradz. Its inconspicuousness and mystery combined with the number of elements that made up this place make it unique and worth exploring.

Key words: Tatarczy Market Square, Sieradz, Sieradz's Old Town, urban planning, architecture

Streszczenie

Historia Starego Miasta w Sieradzu ukryta w obszarze dawnego Tatarczego Rynku

W artykule przedstawiono historię elementów dawnego Tatarczego Rynku w Sieradzu, które stanowią istotną część dziejów Starego Miasta. W tekście zarysowano dzieje obwarowań miejskich i bramy, sieci ulicznej, zespołu kościelno-klasztornego oraz rzemiosła. Wielowątkowość historii rynku oraz unikatowość jego elementów wskazuje na potrzebę rozpowszechniania tych informacji i dalszego zgłębiania dziejów Tatarczego Rynku.

W trakcie pracy posłużono się metodologią właściwą dla badań historyczno-interpretacyjnych – zebrano i zanalizowano informacje na temat rozwoju przestrzennego Sieradza oraz historii poszczególnych fragmentów obszaru staromiejskiego. W tym celu wykorzystano dostępne materiały archiwalne, wyniki badań archeologicznych oraz literaturę przedmiotu, których analiza pozwoliła na wysnucie wniosków przybliżających historię tej części miasta.

W artykule poruszono także kwestię roli historycznych przestrzeni miejskich oraz potrzebę i sposoby przybliżenia ich historii za pomocą działań architektoniczno-urbanistycznych. W tym celu przedstawiono efekt rewitalizacji Małego Rynku w Bystrzycy Kłodzkiej oraz koncepcję przekształcenia Tatarczego Rynku w Sieradzu.

Ilość i wartość zebranych informacji na temat Tatarczego Rynku udowadniają, jak ważne jest dążenie do zadbania o historyczne przestrzenie, powstrzymanie negatywnych przekształceń, poznanie ich tajemnic, a przede wszystkim ocalenie ich od zapomnienia. Zebrana wiedza na temat Tatarczego Rynku z pewnością wymaga uzupełnienia o badania archeologiczne na szeroką skalę. Niemniej jednak wyznacza pewne kierunki, w które należałoby się zwrócić. Upowszechnianie dziejów Tatarczego Rynku pozwoli na większe zrozumienie historii Starego Miasta w Sieradzu. Jego niepozorność i tajemniczość połączona z liczbą elementów, które tworzyły to miejsce, czyni je wyjątkowym i wartym dalszego odkrywania.

Słowa kluczowe: Tatarczy Rynek, Sieradz, Stare Miasto, urbanistyka, architektura