



# DISCOVER OLSZTYN

## Historical Monuments

### History

Defensive architecture monuments

Public buildings

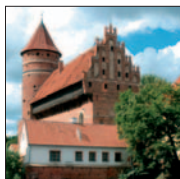
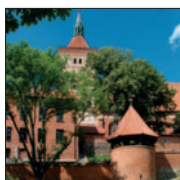
Sacral monuments of history

Palaces, manors, villas

The Polish traces

Monuments of technology

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*A mural in the Olsztyn Town Hall by M. Smerek and T. Wójcik*

Olsztyn was and is a town of important political, cultural and scientific events. It was here that Nicholas Copernicus looked into the sky seeking answers to tormenting question about the Earth's place in the universe. Napoleon Bonaparte marched with the van of his troops during his victorious campaign in 1807, Feliks Nowowiejski looked for inspiration for his compositions. Olsztyn's monuments witnessed all these great events and were a symbol of historic complexity and multicultural character of this land. Catholic traditions were interwoven with Protestant and Orthodox ones, Polish with German, the tradition of mediaeval craftsmen's workshops – with the products of the 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial revolution. The admiration of Olsztyn's monuments of history means wandering through various periods of the town's development. It is worth remembering that the twists of history, which affected Olsztyn severely, caused that a large part of the possessions of the generations living in the town have not been preserved till our time.



*A fragment of the defensive walls*

The first mention of the town dates from 1334, when Henryk von Luter set up a wooden-earth watch-tower in the meanders of the river Łyna, giving it the name Allenstein (City on Łyna). Alna meant „a hind” in the forgotten language of Prussians. Native inhabitants of this land used this word as the name of the largest river flowing through Olsz-

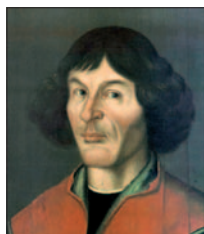


tyn. The town received municipal rights and the name Allenstein (for Poles – Holstin, and later Olsztyn) on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1353. Jan of Łąjsy was the founder and first mayor of Olsztyn.

Numerous wars between the Teutonic Order and Poland were waged in this territory in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, repeatedly destroying the new town. In 1414 Olsztyn suffered under the troops of King Władysław Jagiełło. In 1454 the townspeople took part in an uprising against the Teutonic Order and seized the castle, and at the same time acknowledged the sovereignty of the Polish king. However, the town came back under Teutonic control a year later. It was only on the strength of the Second Toruń Peace Treaty (1466) that Olsztyn and the whole of Warmia found themselves within the borders of Poland. A next war with the Order, waged in the years 1519–1521, ravaged Warmia. The administrator of the landed property of the Warmia Chapter at that time was a Frombork canon – Nicholas Copernicus. In 1521 he prepared the Olsztyn castle effectively for its defence against the expected attack of the Teutonic Knights. During that time, Copernicus was also the initiator and executor of the settlement of Polish-speaking settlers from Mazovia in Warmia.



*Jan of Łąjsy*



*Nicholas Copernicus*



*Feliks Nowowiejski*



*Erich Mendelsohn*





*A picture-postcard illustrating the historical monuments of Olsztyn*

The following century was a time of prosperity for the town, located on the busy Koenigsberg – Warsaw route. This growth was stopped by the wars waged in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the great plague of 1709–1712, which decimated the population of the town. Due to the First Partition of Poland (1772) Warmia together with Olsztyn was incorporated in Prussia.



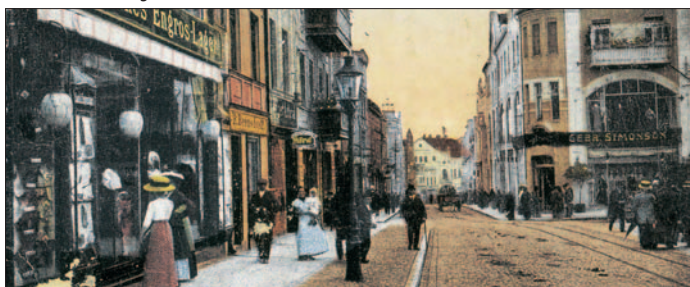
*The view of the High Gate*



*A restaurant building in New Jakubowo*

During the Napoleonic wars the town was destroyed again. On 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1807, Napoleon Bonaparte – the French Emperor stopped in Olsztyn during his East Prussian campaign.

Town structures went beyond the walls of the Old Town after 1818. The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was a time of dynamic development. The population increased from 4 thousand in 1846 to 25 thousand in 1895. In 1867, a modern hospital was built in the town, and the first railway line, part of the route connecting Toruń with Insterburg (Wysuń) passed through Olsztyn in 1872. The first gas street lamps flashed in 1890, and the first telephone rang in 1892; a modern water supply



*Prosta Street (about 1910)*



*Olsztyn railway station (about 1910)*

system and sewage system was built six years later, and in 1907 – Olsztyn was electrified. Trams appeared in the streets. In 1910, the first plane landed in Dątki.

After World War I – in 1920 – a plebiscite decided the future national status of the southern part of East Prussia. Olsztyn with Warmia remained in Germany. In 1939 the town was inhabited by over 50,000 people.

On 22 January 1945 Olsztyn was occupied by the Red Army. Red Army soldiers set fire to the town after several days of their occupation. Nearly half of the city built-up areas, including the Old Town, was destroyed.

After 1945 Olsztyn became the capital city of the province. The seat of the episcopal curia (diocesan, and since 1992 – archdiocesan) was also moved here from Frombork.

Today Olsztyn is an important tourist centre mainly thanks to its location amongst the lakes and forests, but also owing to the numerous historical monuments and other tourist attractions. Olsztyn monuments are on the European Brick Gothic Route, Gothic Castles Route, Copernicus Route, St. Jacob's Route.



*The urban arrangement of the Old Town*



*Olsztyn, January 1945*



POLSKIE  
ZAMKI  
GOTYCKIE



Europejski Szlak  
Gotyku Ceglanego



*The itinerary of St. Jacob's Route*



*The Warmia Chapter Castle*

## DEFENSIVE ARCHITECTURE MONUMENTS

**The Warmia Chapter Castle** (2 Zamkowa St.). The Olsztyn castle was built in the Gothic style in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. At present it houses the Museum of Warmia and Mazury. In its primary function the castle was the seat of the administrator of the landed property of the Warmia Chapter. The most famous administrator, performing these duties in the years 1516–1521, was Nicholas Copernicus. The former refectory with a subtle crystal vault dating from about 1520 is the largest castle hall. The castle, built in the years 1346–1353, originally consisted of one wing on the north-east side of the rectangular yard. The access to the castle, surrounded by a belt of defensive walls and a moat, led through a drawbridge from the Łyna side. The south-west wing of the castle was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The 40-metre tower from the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, located in the western corner of the yard, was rebuilt at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century



*Copernicus rooms in the castle*

and given a round shape on a rectangular base. At the same time, the castle defensive walls were raised up to 12 m and complemented with another belt of lower walls, additionally strengthened with towers. The castle wall system was partially connected with the municipal walls, which made the castle a bastion protruding beyond the town and preventing access to it. The





castle belonged to the Warmia Chapter, which, together with the Warmia bishop was under the military protection of the Teutonic Order till 1454. For this reason the castle played an important role during Polish-Teutonic wars. In 1410, after the Battle of Tannenberg, it surrendered without fight to the Poles. In 1414, Polish troops captured it after a siege of several days. During the thirteen years' war (1454–1466) it changed hands. Teutonic Knights threatened the castle and town once more in 1521, when Nicholas Copernicus was the administrator of the Olsztyn district. Copernicus prepared Olsztyn for the defence against the expected enemy attack so effectively that neither the town nor the castle itself suffered significant loss during the last Polish-Teutonic war.



*The salt warehouse*



*The Castle Tower*



*Galleries*



*A souvenir shop in the castle yard*



*A Prussian stone figure in the Olsztyn Castle yard*



*All-Polish Castle Meetings „Let’s Sing Poetry”*

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, two Warmia bishops and great writers: Jan Dantyszek – “the first Sarmatian poet”, and Marcin Kromer stayed in Olsztyn castle. During his visit, Kromer consecrated St. Ann’s Chapel, built in the south-west wing of the castle and embellished with delicate lamella vault.

In course of time, both wings lost their military importance and became of little convenience for dwelling purposes. Therefore, a drive was led to the castle from the town, and a palace wing was built on this side in 1758, while the borough and part of the walls were liquidated. Ignacy Krasicki stayed here in 1779. After the annexation of Warmia (1772), the castle devolved to the management of state estates. In 1845, the bridge over the moat was replaced by a dam connecting the castle with the town, and the moat was dried. In the years 1901–1911, a major repair of the castle was carried out, which involved changes in many fragments of this monument of history including a change in the level of floors and the putting in of window-frames in the gallery. A museum was located in the castle rooms in 1921. In 1945, the castle became the seat of the Mazurian Museum, which is called The Museum of Warmia and Mazury today. Apart from exhibition activity, events organized here within the framework of the Olsztyn Artistic Summer (OLA), such as castle nights and „Summers at the Museum” are highly popular.

There is a permanent Copernicus exhibition (located in two spaces: in the gallery and in the room which was once a private apartment of the administrator) in the castle. There is an astro-



*The astronomical plaque made with Nicholas Copernicus’s own hands*





*The view of the High Gate from Prosta Street*

nomical plaque for equinox studies from 1517 on the gallery wall made by Nicholas Copernicus with his own hands.

**The High Gate** (Upper Gate) and defensive walls (1 Staromiejska Street). The Upper Gate (German: Obertor, Hochtor – Upper Gate, High Gate) called the High Gate since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is the only remaining gate of three which existed in the defensive walls surrounding the town. Large fragments of the walls near St. Jacob's Church, at Asnyka and Okopowa Streets and near the castle have also been preserved from the mediaeval retrenchment. The gate is situated in the north-east part of the Old Town complex, on the axis of the outlet of the high road.

In 1788, the High Road was repaired and adapted for the purposes of an armoury of the dragoon squadron, in 1858 it was rebuilt into a prison, and in 1898 it was turned over to the town police station. A lot of modifications were done in it (among other things, a different shape was given to window holes and the gable of the structure and a passage for pedestrians was broken through). In 1863, Wojciech Kętrzyński, accused of gun-

running for the January Uprising, was held under arrest here. The gate has four storeys with a little floor forming a kind of the fifth storey in the gamble area. The gate has a ridge roof.

The Gate was restored in 2003. The effigy of Our Lady Queen of Peace, presented to Olsztyn by John Paul II was placed in the niche facing the Old Town. This work was made in the glass mosaic technique in one of Rome's studios. A red bronze effigy of John Paul II, consecrated on the first anniversary of his death, is also placed on the walls of the High Gate.



*A Mosaic – a gift from Pope John Paul II to Olsztyn inhabitants and a relevant information plate*



*The High Gate*



*The Old Town Hall*

## PUBLIC BUILDINGS

**The Old Town Hall** (33 Stare Miasto Street). Located in the heart of the Old Town, the Old Town Hall was built in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century just after Olsztyn received municipal rights. It housed the offices of the town authorities until 1915. Initially the building consisted of



*The Provincial Public Library in the Old Town Hall*

one wing situated on the south-west side of the Market-place. In 1620 it was burnt like most of the town. Four years later it was rebuilt. The authorities of the town occupied the first floor of the building while the ground floor and the cellars were used for commercial purposes. During the re-modelling of the town hall, a tower used as a guardroom was added.

In the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century a major repair was carried out. Selling outlets disappeared from the Old Town Hall in 1880. In the place of a former brewery a third, north-east wing of the building (the second, north-west one was built in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century) was erected between the two World Wars. In 1945, the Old Town Hall was burnt for the second



*Fragments of the Old Town Hall elevation*



*The sun-dial on the wall of the Old Town Hall*

time. It was reconstructed in the years 1946–1949. The town hall building underwent a major repair in 2003 on the occasion of the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town. A decision on the restoration of the turret was made at that time. During the work, original Gothic elements including the so called “donkey’s backs” characteristic of late Gothic, were discovered under the plaster layer in the southern part of the building. The sundials, placed on the outer walls of the building, are an unquestionable tourist attraction. At present, the Old Town Hall building houses the Provincial Public Library.

**The Regency Building** (1 Emilii Plater Str.). It is undoubtedly the most monumental edifice in the town. This magnificent office building was erected in the years 1908–1911 for the purposes of the Olsztyn regency brought into being in 1905. This new superb edifice, together with the new town hall built in the same time, was an architectural symbol of the advancement of the town.

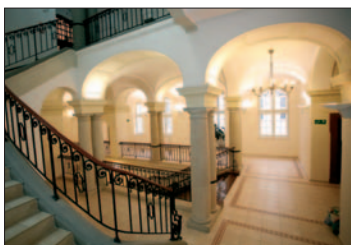


*The building of the former Regency, now housing the Self-Government of the Province of Warmia and Mazury and the Provincial Administrative Court*





*The restored interior of the former Regency*



The Olsztyn regency building is an example of early modernism architecture.

This representative building housed the most influential institutions in the town: it was built as the seat of the Olsztyn regency established in 1905, it also housed the offices of the Allied Commission and its Chairman during the 1920 Plebiscite, apart from the regency offices there were also other

smaller institutions and government offices in the edifice, and during World War II, the Gestapo was there, too. In the years 1945–2002, the building was occupied by the Polish State Railways. Today, the Marshal's Office, the Regional Council of the Province of Warmia and Mazury and the Provincial Administrative Court have their offices in the thoroughly renovated edifice.

**The New Town Hall** (1 Jan Paweł II Square). The so-called New Town Hall has been the



*The New Town Hall*

seat of the town authorities since 1915. It is situated in the centre of the town at Jana Pawła II Square. This structure was erected in the years 1912–1915 in the place of a 14<sup>th</sup> century Holy Cross Church, which was pulled down at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The final shape of the building was achieved in the mid-twenties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century after adding the south-west wing. The New Town Hall was built in the New-Renaissance style. Its location in the central point of the



*A relief symbolizing Air on one of the walls of the Olsztyn Town Hall*



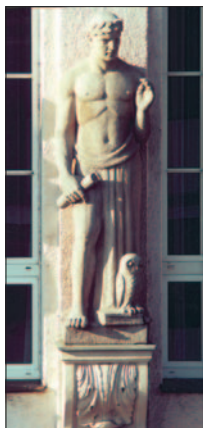
*A fragment of the hall at the main entrance and stairs to the first floor*

former Upper Suburb determined the new city centre. The Town Hall was an expression of the ambitions of intensively developing Olsztyn. It also performed ideological and political functions. Its primary decorations told the story of the successes of German forces during World War I. At present, it houses the City Office, City Council and is the seat of the Mayor of Olsztyn.

**The Fire-Station** (16 Niepodległości Str.). The fire-station was built in the years 1908–1909. It was one of many municipal investments associated with achieving a higher rank by Olsztyn. Situated near the present Roosevelt Square, provided with a massive tower, it became the most important building of the so called Lower Suburb. Like the New Town Hall, erected a little later in the Upper Suburb, it represents the neo-renaissance style. The motif of peaks with wavy flows was used to design the fire-station, while the semicircularly ended quadruple gates of the former cart house resemble arcades.



*The Fire-Station*



*One of the statues personifying Wisdom on the façade between the windows of the Town Hall*



*A stone head over the entrance from Ratuszowa Street*



*A fragment of the main entrance door*



*A sentimental firemen's symbol – a fire vehicle outside the entrance to the Fire Brigade terrain*



*St. Jacob's Cathedral basilica*

## SACRAL MONUMENTS OF HISTORY

**St. Jacob's Cathedral basilica in Olsztyn** (12 Staszica St.). St. Jacobs Church was built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The partially wooden part of the church tower was replaced with a new one in 1596. It is maintained, as the whole church, in the Gothic style. It is 63 metres high. The side chapels of the church were reconstructed in 1721 by Piotr Olchowski of Reszel. In 1864 the shrine threatened to collapse and it had to be closed. After a major repair in the years 1866–1868 it was put to use, but the work on the complete interior restoration continued for several years. A fire, which caused a lot of loss, broke out in the church in 1896. Sermons in the church were given in Polish from at least 1565. Over the centuries, the church was visited by eminent Poles: Jan Dantyszek, Marcin Kromer and Ignacy Krasicki – all three holding the post of Warmia bishops, and King Władysław IV (in 1635). Feliks Nowowiejski, the composer of "Rota" and "Legenda Bałtyku", worked as the organist there in the years 1898-1900. The church had the rank of pro-cathedral from 1945, con-cathedral from 1973, and it has been a basilica minor since 2004. Olsztyn Organ Concerts are held there in summer.

In 1807, during the Napoleonic wars, the French kept 1500 Russian prisoners of war in it, who, protecting themselves against the cold, burnt a considerable part of the wooden furnishing of the shrine. However, some of the church's movable monuments of art have remained: Gothic ones (including a wall tabernacle with a Gothic grating and a late-Gothic triptych); Renaissance ones (including painted decoration of the wall tabernacle, St. Cross triptych and chandeliers); Baroque (including statues of apostles St. Andrew and St. Jacob Senior, and a crucifix of supranatural size, a picture of Our Lady of the Rosary, a baptismal font).



*St. Joseph's Church*

**St. Joseph's Church** (41 Jagiellońska Str.).

It is the oldest shrine in the Olsztyn district of Zatorze. The corner stone was consecrated in the spring of 1912 by dean Joseph Teschner. The church was built according to the design by Fritz Heitmann of Koenigsberg, who also supervised the construction work.



The church was built in the Neo-Romanesque style, which, beside Neo-Gothic, was regarded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the most appropriate one for sacral structures. The church is a three-aisled basilica with a transept and presbytery, with a two-tower façade and an octagonal tower rising over the intersection of the aisles. The interior decorations are also in the Neo-Romanesque style. Fourteen stations of the Way of the Cross have been built around the shrine.

**The Evangelical-Augsburg Church** (1 Zamkowa Str.). This church is one of three shrines within the Old Town. The structure was built in the years 1876–1877. Because of an increasing Evangelic community in the town, the church had to be expanded as early as in 1899. The bells hanging in the church tower have inscriptions from the twenties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (the original bells were probably remelted into cannons during World War I. The church has one tower with a clock. A sacrificial stone of the pre-Christian time has been placed under the high altar. The Evangelical-Augsburg parish in Olsztyn comprises about 500 people now.



*The Evangelical-Augsburg Church*

**The garrison Church of Our Lady Queen of Poland** (5 Konopnicka Str.). The church is on the outskirts of the Olsztyn Old Town. The structure was built in the years 1913–1914. The Evangelical-Augsburg military chaplains were its first owner. After World War II, the Catholic Polish Army chaplains took it over. The church has three aisles, a transept and a separated presbytery, in which the figures of twelve apostles are presented. Ludwik Dihm was the designer of the church built in the Neo-Gothic style. The interior walls of the church are decorated with Neo-Gothic polychromy.

**The Jerusalem Chapel** (Saint Cross affiliate chapel) (Grunwaldzka Str.), built in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century at the confluence of the present Grunwaldzka and Jagiello streets, is one of the oldest preserved monuments of Olsztyn architecture. The structure was erected at the now non-existent St. George's hospital. It is dedicated to the cult of the Passion of Christ. The victims of the epidemics that affected the town were buried in the graveyard once situated near the chapel. The chapel was visited by pilgrims walking to church fairs in nearby Gutkowo and Jonkowo. The Jerusalem Chapel was reconstructed in 1609 and restored again in 1775. Inside there is an altar with a crucifix with the figure of Christ and two crosses with crucified thieves. Next to the chapel there is a cross which commemorates a cholera epidemic of 1866. Now the area of the chapel is surrounded with a decorative enclosure.



*The garrison Church of Our Lady Queen of Poland*



*The Jerusalem Chapel*



*The Church of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord*

### The Church of the Sacred Heart of Our Lord

(10 Mickiewicza Str.). This church is regarded as one of the most splendid examples of Neo-Gothic in north-east Poland. The construction work was begun in June 1901 and finished two years later. The structure was designed by a well-known architect Fritz Heitmann (like St. Joseph's Church in Zatorze). The consecration of the church took place on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1903.

The church has three towers. The highest of them is 83 m tall (it is 2 m higher than the tower of St. Mary's Church in Cracow). The ball decorating its top is 1.7 m in diameter.

The vault of the nave rests on two brick pillars. Two chapels adhere to the aisles: Our Lady chapel in the north and St. Joseph's chapel in the south.

The church is built of red bricks, set on stone foundation with decorative elements of green glazed

bricks and tiles. The roof is covered by pantiles, and the towers – by roof slates. The church portal is decorated with a mosaic made in 1908, which presents Christ as King against a golden background, in a standing posture among the symbols of 4 Evangelists and alpha and omega letters. An inscription visible there says: "Pone me ut signaculum super cor tuum", which means: "Put me as a seal on your heart".

There are effigies of the Fathers of the West Church in the stained-glass windows on the left, and of the Old Testament prophets on the right.

Picturesque stained-glass windows in St. Jacob's chapel show the escape to Egypt and St. Joseph's death. The figures of St. Francis and St. Notryburgia can be seen in the baptismal chapel. The windows in the gallery show the tools of the Passion of Christ and the symbols of the altar sacrament, i.e.: chalice, host, pelican and the Lamb of God. The polychromatic neo-gothic high altar dates from 1911. Of the more interesting movable monuments to be seen in the church, side altars dedicated to St. Valentine and Our Lady of Rosary, St. Joseph's and St. Anthony altars as well as a neo-gothic pulpit and baptismal font are noteworthy.

**St. Lawrence's Church in Gutkowo** (135 Bałtycka Str.). This shrine is only younger than the Olsztyn St. Jacob's Cathedral, although, according to some historians, it may even be the oldest church in Olsztyn. It was built at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century in the then village of Gutkowo, which is today a district of Olsztyn. Initially it was an affiliate of the Olsztyn St. Jacob's parish. The church



*St. Lawrence's Church in Gutkowo*

was built in the Late-Gothic style on granite foundations. Its interiors are decorated with Late-Baroque furnishing.

The church for a long time served lepers, who were not allowed to enter the city walls. From that time a trace of a small window in the wall, through which Holy Communion was given to the sick. A frieze of terracotta tiles, presenting women's heads and plant

themes, decorates the tower. Napoleon Bonaparte is said to have watched the battle of the French troops with Russian ones in nearby Jonkowo from the church tower in Gutkowo. In September 2007, archeological investigations started in the church, which revealed, among other things, mediaeval paintings on the walls. Conservators discovered, among other things, outlines of the figure of a saint in two blind windows next to the altar. There are also coloured frames dating from the Middle Ages around side niches. Owing to their completeness and state of preservation, the paintings discovered in Gutkowo are extremely valuable. In the area of Warmia, wall paintings of that time have remained only in a few churches, mostly in a rudimentary form. While carrying out their work, archaeologists also discovered a burial of a woman with well-preserved elements of mediaeval clothes.

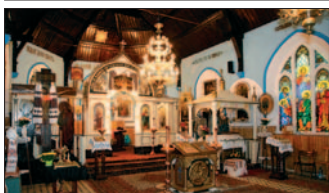


*Monastic Church of Bernardines*

**Monastic Church of Bernardines** (now Christ the King's and St. Francis's Church) (5 Wyspiańskiego Str.). The only historic monastic church in Olsztyn (in the Olsztyn foundation act there was a remark according to which monks were excluded from the right to possess parcels and houses in the town. This regulation was directed against the Teutonic Knights and due to it no monastic order settled in the town for over 600 years) It distinguishes itself by its architectural form, which is very untypical of this town. Erected in the years 1926–1927 according to the design by August Feddersen, it received neo-classical shapes. This church, absolutely unique and incomparable in Olsztyn architecture, attracts attention with its monumental, blank front portico and the working out of the side elevations with pilasters supporting the crown cornice.

**The Evangelical-Augsburg cemetery chapel** (now the Orthodox church dedicated to Our Lady's Care) (38 Wojska Polskiego Ave.) The chapel, built in the years 1903–1904, constitutes the only remainder of the so called new Evangelical cemetery established in 1872 and open till 1961 (finally liquidated in 1973), in the place of which there is a park today.

It is an example of the then popular in Olsztyn small sacral architecture. Among cemetery chapels, it distinguishes itself by its size. It is a representative of the popular at that time neo-gothic style.



*The Evangelical-Augsburg cemetery chapel*





*The Archipresbyter's Palace*

## PALACES, MANORS, VILLAS

**The Archipresbyter's Palace** (5 Staszica Str.) It was built at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the immediate vicinity of St. Jacob's Church. This little palace definitely distinguishes itself against the background of the architecture of Olsztyn by late-baroque forms harmonizing with Secession elements added at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today it is the seat of the senior-archbishop.

**Museum of Nature** (8 Metalowa Str.). Built in 1903, the palace in Nagórki is an example of a rural residence within the limits of a town. It is situated in an extensive park beyond a dense urban system.

An eclectic palace with a slight touch of secession, fashionable at that time, it combines elements and details of varied style into a harmonious unity. Here we can see combined in a whole: a mansard roof with protrusions, a polygonal tower covered with a cupola, a Swiss porch (reconstructed recently), neighbouring windows of varied shape: rectangular, rectangular with rounded upper corners, closed with a full arch and typically Secession ones of semicircular shape, an arcaded porch with a balcony and balustrade and markedly advanced segments of window mould put together with

a stucco ornament. The coach-house is an integral element of the palace complex in Nagórki. It constitutes an example of representative charring buildings. Like the palace, they combine in themselves elements of different origin, thus forming an architecturally compact whole.



*Villa Hermeneau*

**Villa Bayer** (1 Szrajbera Str.). A palace-like villa was built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is characterized by the original beauty, which is made up by a mixture of French Neo-Renaissance and the character of Russian architecture. Both patterns use contrasting colouristic compositions of the walls and details. Non-classical plastering decoration of Villa Bayer is closer to Russian themes while the tower, closing the perspective of Piętnego street,



*Villa Bayer*

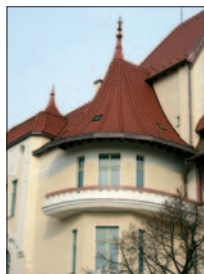


*Museum of Nature*

is a characteristic element of French Neo-Renaissance. The villa has been thoroughly restored recently.

**Villa Hermeneau** (85 Niepodległości Str.). Villa Hermeneau, built in the years 1900–1902, is a so called factory owner's villa. An interesting interpenetration of two masses: one- and two-storeyed and brick details on plastered elevations and the only one in Olsztyn with gables of spandrel beam construction are noteworthy. The whole creates an original impression resembling that of a spa architecture. The building is situated on a small estate with remainings of an old-time garden at the confluence of Niepodległości and Kościuszki Streets. Today it is a children's day stay house „Arka”.

**The Secession Villa** (3 Dąbrowszczaków Str.). One of the finest in the town, a leading building of Olsztyn Secession, attracts attention with its original, harmonious mass and a delicate, economically used Secession ornament. The villa was built in 1907. The architectural value of the building is enhanced by a good state of preservation, particularly almost complete, original interior decoration consisting of Secession glazed tiles, stained-glass windows and wooden balustrades. Now it is the new house of the City Cultural Centre.



*The Secession Villa*



*The Gazeta Olsztyńska House*

## THE POLISH TRACES

**The Gazeta Olsztyńska House** (1 Targ Rybny Sq.). The Gazeta Olsztyńska (The Olsztyn Newspaper) House is now a museum situated in Targ Rybny Square in the Old Town. The museum is in a reconstructed building which housed the editorial office and printing house of The Gazeta Olsztyńska. There are collections and exhibitions concerning mainly the history of the town. Information related to the tradition of the Polish press in Warmia and Mazury is particularly displayed. The Gazeta Olsztyńska House is a branch of the Museum of Warmia and Mazury.

**The Polish House** (87 Partyzantów Str.). The exterior façades of this reconstructed building are a faithful copy of the Polish House, standing here in 70s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was built for the needs



*The Polish House, now housing The Scientific Research Centre, and a fragment of its elevation*

of the office of the Polish Plebiscite Committee. This architecturally very fine eclectic building is noteworthy mostly because of the historic values associated with it. The edifice housed Polish institutions active in Warmia, including a school, library and bank, till 1939. At the same time it performed the functions of a hotel. The façade of the building uses forms derived from classical architecture, harmonizes stylistically with the 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural neighbourhood.

In 1970, the structure was recognized as the „Monument of the Fighters for the Polish Character of Warmia and Mazury” and transferred to the W. Kętrzyński Research Centre. After a demolition for safety reasons in the 70s it was reconstructed in the years 1980–1982,



### **The Polish Consulate Building** (5 Konsulatu Polskiego Sq.).

This tenement-house built in 1910 is one of few examples of a big Secession tenement-house in Olsztyn. It distinguishes itself by a developed, multielement composition of the elevation and a rich decoration with plant and geometrical themes.

Between the two World Wars the building housed the Polish Consulate, which was managed by outstanding Polish diplomats in the years 1920–1939: Zenon Lewandowski, Czesław Andrycz, duke Henryk Korybut Woroniecki, Karol Ripa, Filip Zawada, Józef Giebartowski, Antoni Zalewski and Bohdan Jałowiecki.

Today, apart from apartments, it houses The Olsztyn Friends Society.



*The Polish Consulate Building*



*St. Jacob's monument*



*An ornamental pavement of Targ Rybny (Fish Market)*



*A plate commemorating the last consul of the Republic of Poland, murdered in an extermination camp*





*Railway viaducts on the Łyna River.*

## MONUMENTS OF TECHNOLOGY

**Railway viaducts on the Łyna River.** The complex of two railway viaducts are the only structures of this type in the city. They are near Artyleryjska, Żarskiej and Wyzwolenia streets. It is the only place in Olsztyn where the Łyna flows under the railway traction.

The first (north) bridge was constructed in the years 1872–1873. In that time railway connections leading from Olsztyn to Czerwonka and Ostróda were started. A twin (north) viaduct was built in 1892. The viaducts were entered in the register of architectural monuments in 1977.

**The water-tower** (now an Astronomical Observatory) (13 Żołnierska Str.). This purely functional structure is one of the most representative examples of industrial architecture in Olsztyn. It was built in 1897. Its no commonplace, original shapes with an arcaded tank crown, resembling machicolations of a mediaeval castle, are noteworthy.

**The power station on the Łyna** (the confluence of the Wadąg River to the Łyna River, turning to the left from Wojska Polskiego Avenue). Firms dealing with the production of electric energy developed quickly in Olsztyn in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1903, a decision was made to start the construction of a hydro-electric power plant at the confluence of the Wadąg to the Łyna. This investment was connected with, among other things, the planned development of a tramway network. On 14<sup>th</sup> December 1907, a hydro-complex "Alle", supplying the electric tramway traction, and in subsequent years also trolleybuses, was started (the first Olsztyn tramways started on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1907 and trolleybuses on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939). The power station has been serving Olsztyn inhabitants for over one hundred years. Apart from a modern turbine set from the 1990s, there are 2 hydrosets from 1927 with a turbine made by Kaplan-Voith and a Siemens ge-



*The former water-tower now houses the Astronomical Observatory*



*The power station on the Łyna*

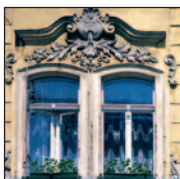
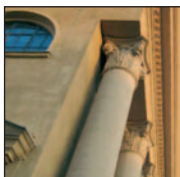
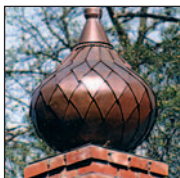
nerator. Only one of them still works, the other being a museum exhibit. Organized groups can visit the power station after previous arrangement (10-373 Wadąg 6B, tel. 089 513 56 98).

**The oldest lift** (2/3 Jana Pawła II Sq.). This old lift is in the building of the Polish Library in Jana Pawła II Square, opposite the New Town Hall. It is one of the oldest active lifts in Europe and probably the oldest in Poland. There are no documents concerning its installation, but the building in which it works was constructed in the years 1910–1912. It can be inferred with a high degree of probability that the lift is as old as the tenement-house itself.

Primarily the lift was used by tenants of the elegant flats situated on the upper floors. The producer of the lift is unknown, but its engine room was made by the German firm C. Herram-Findeisen of Chemnitz. A Danziger-Werft electric motor was used to drive the lift. After the breakdown of the power transmission system (in the middle of the 60s), the lift was shut down. Because of its age it was entered in the register of art monuments in 1991. After a renovation in 2000 it started working again, but due to the safety requirements in force, a new engine room and a new lift cage were used. Only the antique shaft lining has remained of the old lift. Its Secession front is decorated with plant themes. The Secession front of the lift is decorated with delicate plant themes. It has different heights on particular floors: the highest on the ground floor (4.16 m), and the lowest on the third floor (3.15 m). The old engine room, which visitors can see through a glass wall on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, has also been left as a museum exhibit.

*An antique lift in the Polish Library building*





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