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The late-gothic Town Hall in Zielona Góra and its remodelings in the 16th and 17th centuries

The town hall in Zielona Góra is located in the middle of the elongated market square. Its present shape is defined by a few buildings of different sizes erected at different times; it has a dominant tower topped by a neo-classical spire and its elevations indicate its Gothic origin. The town hall has three wings of which the middle single-storied one, whose façade features neoclassical decorations, is its oldest and main part (Figs 1, 2).

Until the 19th century, one of the characteristic features of Silesian towns was concentration of commerce and administration in the buildings around the market square which created structures divided by passages. At first, different products were sold from wooden sheds and bench-

es grouped in rows. In bigger towns, the first masonry buildings were the town hall and the merchants' house – the cloth hall. Later designed masonry buildings used by the members of various trades included a hall with sales stands owned by the commune and a private town-



Fig. 1. View of the town hall from the south-west (photo: A. Legendziewicz)
Il. 1. Widok ratusza od południowego zachodu (fot. A. Legendziewicz)



Fig. 2. View of the town hall from the south-west (photo: A. Legendziewicz)
Il. 2. Widok wieży ratusza od wschodu (fot. A. Legendziewicz)

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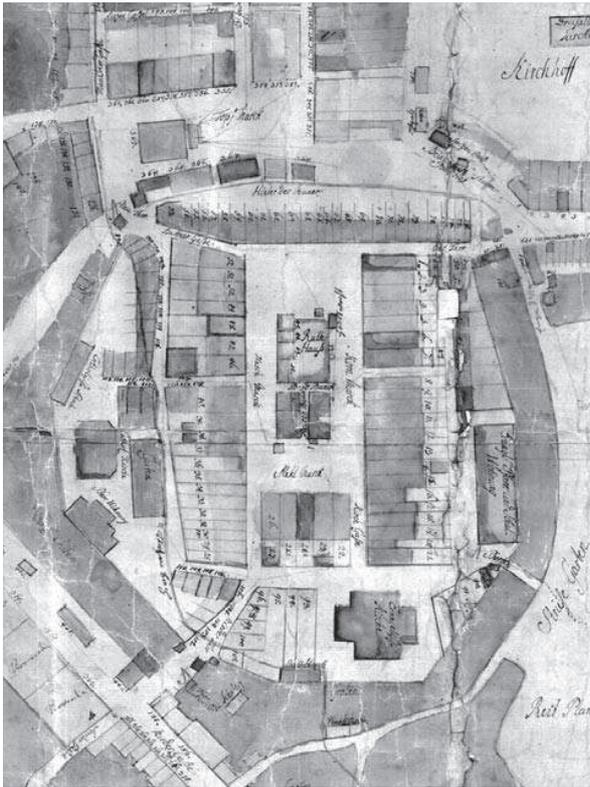


Fig. 3. Fragment of Büttner's plan from 1784 (original in the Museum of Ziemia Lubuska in Zielona Góra, file MZL-H-ZG-223)

Il. 3. Fragment planu Büttnera z 1784 r. (oryginał w Muzeum Ziemi Lubuskiej w Zielonej Górze, sygn. MZL-H-ZG-223)

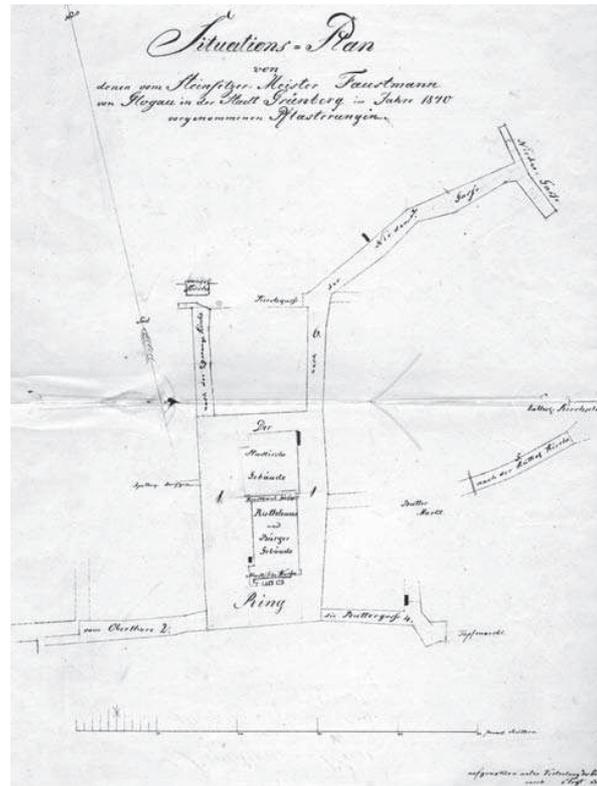


Fig. 4. Site plan of pavement works of the middle of the town in 1840 by Taustmann from Głogów (original in APZG, file 2683)

Il. 4. Plan sytuacyjny brukowania środka miasta w 1840 r. przez Taustmanna z Głogowa (oryginał w APZG, sygn. 2683)

house, with the ground floor for commercial purposes and residential upper floor [6, pp. 13–166]. Sources with layouts and view of the block in the middle of the market square in Zielona Góra show the commercial section from the final years of its existence. The plans made in 1784 and 1840 (Fig. 3, 4) show that it consisted of three complexes of buildings divided by passages, including the town hall on the south with four burgher's houses adjoining it from the east. The buildings on the north side were divided by a north-south passage. A later plan also shows that when it was made the buildings on the south side were already fully owned by the town and there was a guardhouse adjoined the town hall from the south. The drawings from the 19th century show the west side, probably a nicer one, of the block in the middle of the market square with three buildings in the form of townhouses adjoining the town hall with a neoclassical façade from the north [3, p. 70, 71]. The emergence of the capitalist economy in Silesia at the beginning of the 19th century eliminated the commercial operations controlled by the city authorities on the basis of legal norms which derived from the medieval times from the buildings in the middle of the market square. In 1857, the north part of the block of buildings in the middle of the market square in Zielona Góra was demolished except for the townhouse adjoining the town hall from the west which the city bought from a burgher in 1827 and located the City Treasury there. The

town hall was decorated with neoclassical motifs in the years 1788–1790. At the same time when it was remodeled, the guardhouse was extended. Further investments involved side wings of the town hall. Its south wing was built by adding an upper floor to the guardhouse in the 1870s. Its north wing with the City Treasury on the ground floor and the Council Room upstairs was built in 1885–1886 and one more floor was added to it in 1925 [1], [3, pp. 72–74]. From the burgher houses adjoining the east wall of the first building of the town hall, only those located at its ends were preserved in their original form. The one from the south adjoins the town hall and the one from the north, around the lower section of the tower, have a separate system of circulation.

The date when Zielona Góra was granted a town charter with a regular layout is unknown. Sources from the first quarter of the 14th century suggest that it took place in the previous century. The document of Henryk Duke of Głogów from 1302 mentions Zielona Góra as the capital of *weichbild* – district [5, Bd. 16, No. 2700], and the one published in 1317 mentions Commune Head Henryk [5, Bd. 18, No. 3682a]. In 1323, Henryk IV Duke of Żagań confirmed that the townsmen had the same rights as in Krosno Odrzańskie [11, No. 1]. The oldest accounts about local authorities, councilors or mayor and councilors come from 1416 and 1421 [5, Bd. 24, No. 5, p. 19], [11, No. 5].

Accounts about the town hall in Zielona Góra from the period in question regard mainly its fires and in general building activities¹. According to the account quoted from the oldest town chronicle by Johann Nippe which was lost, the town hall was built in 1321 [5, Bd. 18, No. 4122], [15, p. 315]. In 1582, it was destroyed by fire [11, No. 38]. In his historical monograph of the town, Hugo Schmid assumed, on the basis of the parish chronicle known to him, that the rebuilding of the town hall was completed eight years after that event [13, p. 175]. In 1609, the imperial commission ordered the council and the mayor to rebuild the damaged buildings, including the town hall [11, No. 52, 54]. A clock and a small bell were located in the tower in 1613–1615. Schmid mentioned that on the basis of Soviet reports quoted in Nippe's chronicle [13, p. 176]. Next damage of the town hall took place in 1627 as a result of warfare [APZG, file 1] and next year it was repaired. Then, according to the monographs of the town and notes of the recorder known to the author, new clocks and a ball were installed [13, p. 176]. The fire that broke out in Zielona Góra in 1651 burned down the town hall with archive records kept in the basement [13, p. 176]. The information about its rebuilding quoted by Schmid from the records which have not been preserved regards such construction activities as: four dormers, whole roof and floor; expenses made in 1664 on the town hall and the tower; installation of a new clock on the tower in 1666; renovation of the tower in 1669; installation of a ball and a vane on the tower in 1670; renovation of the floor of the town hall and the clock in 1679 [13, p. 176, 177]. According to a source that has been preserved the Town Council commissioned in 1677 a masonry master to rebuild the town hall and the buildings which were burned down at Niedergasse [APZG, file 14, k 159v].

Otto Wolf and Schmid, the authors of historical monographs of Zielona Góra, assumed the date of construction of the first town hall mentioned in Nippe's chronicle [13, p. 175], [14]. The opinion expressed by Schmid about erection of a masonry town hall, after the town hall made of timber was burned down in 1582, and completion of the construction of the tower in 1604 [13, p. 175] was repeated in publications in Polish [2, p. 16, 17], [8, pp. 156–160], [12, p. 69, 70] even though there existed evidence indicating their Gothic origin. Only Gwido Chmarzyński drew attention to the blanks with pointed arches in the elevation of the upper, octagonal section of the tower, dating its construction to the 16th century [7, p. 420]. The basis for the right chronology of the town hall was provided by the graphic panorama of Zielona Góra viewed from the south-east which shows its crow-stepped gables².

The Gothic origin of the first, masonry town hall was confirmed by the examination of the elevations

conducted by Stanisław Kowalski in 1989 in connection with their renovation. The removal of damaged plaster from the neoclassical façade of the middle wing revealed a Flemish bond of the wall and blanks with cross division on the upper level, which were preserved in various degrees. The Flemish bond was also found on the upper level of the short east elevation of that wing which was revealed after demolition of the middle of the row of old burgher houses. The construction of the town hall was dated to the second half of the 15th century. The walls in Flemish bond without plaster inside the tower indicated that it was built at the same time or around the time when the town hall was built [9]. The results of these examinations were taken into account in the publication on historic sites in Zielona Góra [3, p. 69, 70]. One of the Gothic blanks was revealed in the façade. In 2005, different parts of the wings of the town hall and old burgher townhouses adjoining it as well as inside the tower were examined. These examinations were conducted in renovated rooms with brick walls as well as in the attics and a blank revealed in the façade³. The results of these examinations indicated that the Gothic town hall did not have basements; it was built with a tower and a commercial structure was designed along its east wall. Furthermore, they revealed articulation of the north elevation and the original part of the gable, elevation colors, layout of the ground floor and appearance of some interiors on that level. The information gathered about the remodelings of the town hall in the 16th–17th centuries mainly regards changes in its layout [4]. In 2008, the south elevation ground floor of the first building of the town hall was surveyed [10].

The town hall built in the Late Gothic period was a building designed on a plan of an oblong with one upper level and outside dimensions of 34×13.5 m. The height of the ground floor as well as of the upper floor was about 3.5 m. The tower, located 4.7 m from of the town hall's north end, and buildings designed for commercial purposes adjoined its east side. The walls of the town hall, placed on footings from erratics, were built as *opus emplectum* in Flemish bond made of bricks with the dimensions of 25.4–27.6×11.5–13.5×8.2–9.5 cm. The walls were filled with pieces of bricks and erratics which were detected in the lower sections of the walls in the south part of the town hall. The building material in the footings and walls was bonded with fairly hard, light gray mortar with visible lime particles. The joints in the walls from the inside were formed flush, more diligently in elevation planes, horizontal ones – as struck joints and vertical ones – as V-joints. The recesses which were discovered as well as window and door openings were topped by half brick thick segmental arches. It is worth noting that the walls on the ground floor have different

¹ Archive records regarding the town have been preserved only partially. They were damaged in the 19th century and during the Second World War. T. Dzwonkowski, *Akta miasta Zielonej Góry 1538–1945, stan zachowania i zawartość zespołu, Studia Zielonogórskie*, 1, 1995, p. 35.

² Etched plate by Johann Benjamin Brühl (in: *Allgemeines und vollständiges Evangelische Gesang-Buch*, Spottau, Grünberg. Beuten, Beuten 1744.

³ Apart from the authors of the paper, the following specialists participated in the examinations: architect J. Burnita, M.Sc. and archeologists: P. Janczewski, M.A., and P. Kraus, M.A. Examinations were directed by C. Lasota, Ph.D.

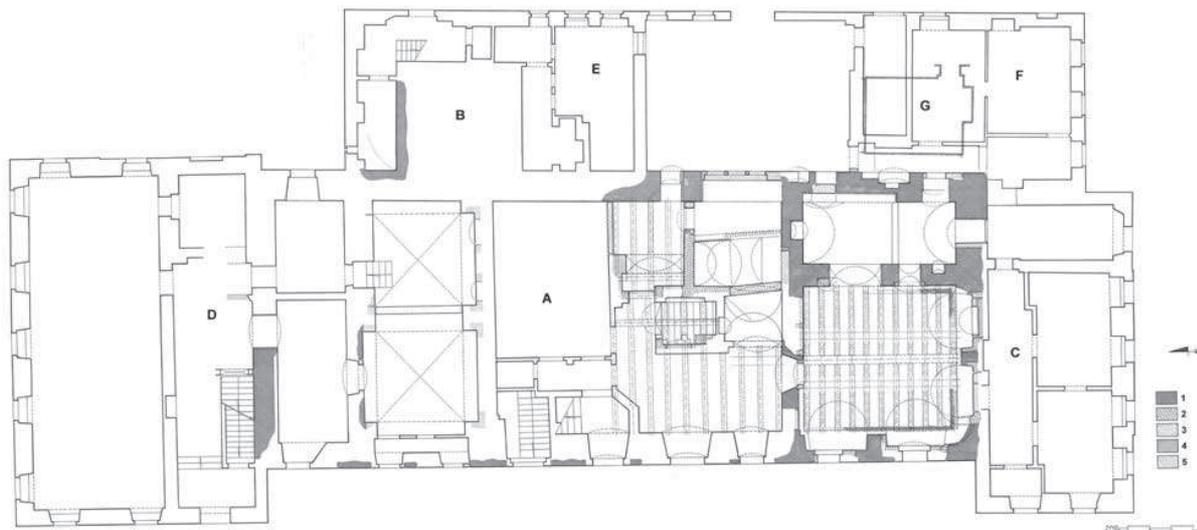


Fig. 5. Plan of ground floor of middle wing of the town hall and the tower with layers of the examined walls: 1) walls from the 15th century, 2) walls from the 1540s, 3) walls from the 1660s–1670s, 4) walls from 1788–1790, 5) walls from the last third of the 19th–1st half of the 20th century, A) middle wing of the town hall, B) tower, C, D) side wings of the town hall, E, F) old burgher townhouses, G) location of Gothic base-ment of the chamber-shop in the commercial building (by J. Burnita, C. Lasota, A. Legendziewicz)

Il. 5. Rzut parteru skrzydła środkowego ratusza i wieży z rozwarstwieniem zbadanych murów: 1) mury z XV w., 2) mury z lat 40. XVI w., 3) mury z lat 60–70. XVII w., 4) mury z lat 1788–1790, 5) mury z 3. tercji XIX–1. poł. XX w., A) skrzydło środkowe ratusza, B) wieża, C, D) skrzydła boczne ratusza, E, F) dawne kamienice mieszczańskie, G) lokalizacja gotyckiej piwnicy komory-sklepu budynku handlowego (oprac. J. Burnita, C. Lasota, A. Legendziewicz)

thickness. The thicknesses of the outer walls are as follows: the south wall – 1.5 m, the east wall from the south end to the tower – 1.38 m, the west section of the north wall – 1.15 m. The thickness of the partition walls is 80 cm – 1 m.

The level of the market square declining from south to north changed only slightly from the moment of construction of the town hall. It declines along the Gothic structure by about 80 cm. Its detected foundation ends at the most 30 cm below and above the current level of the market square.

The layers of the walls on the ground floor in the middle wing of the town hall detected during examination



Fig. 6. Ceiling from the 15th century in the south-west room wing of the town hall (photo: A. Legendziewicz)

Il. 6. Strop z XV w. w pomieszczeniu południowo-zachodnim skrzydła środkowego ratusza (fot. A. Legendziewicz)

indicate that originally that level had four rooms (Fig. 5). Two rooms adjoining the south gable wall, just like today, could be accessed from the biggest room in the middle, with the dimensions of 19.3×10.9 m. The height of the door opening, splayed to the middle room, was about 2.2 m. The Gothic character of the south rooms was revealed after almost complete removal of plaster from the walls and the soffit in the west room, still before construction works began. The west room has a beam ceiling with top boarding, installed during the construction of the town hall supported originally on two girders whose positions are marked by the seats, maximum 30×25 cm in cross section, discovered in the north and the south walls as well as the grooves on the beams supporting the top boarding. The ends of those beams have chamfered edges with grooves and are maximum 29×25 cm in cross section, are set in shallow cuts in wallplates laid on offsets of the east and the west walls. The grooves before the walls and along the removed girders go transversely, which is typical of Gothic. The boards on the ceiling which are placed close to one another indicate their tongue and groove or overlap joints. When examination began, the paint coat on the ceiling was completely removed (Fig. 6). The west room was connected with the east room by a 1.82 m high door opening with straight jambs and a door stop. North of it, there was a recess whose original fragment enabled the determination of its width and height respectively as 90 cm and 44 cm. A fragment of window jambs and an edge probably of a recess with a full brick thick arch was discovered in extensive cuts made most probably in the 20th century in the walls of the west room. An arch was detected from the window which was in the north wall of the west room in the elevation plane. Most probably

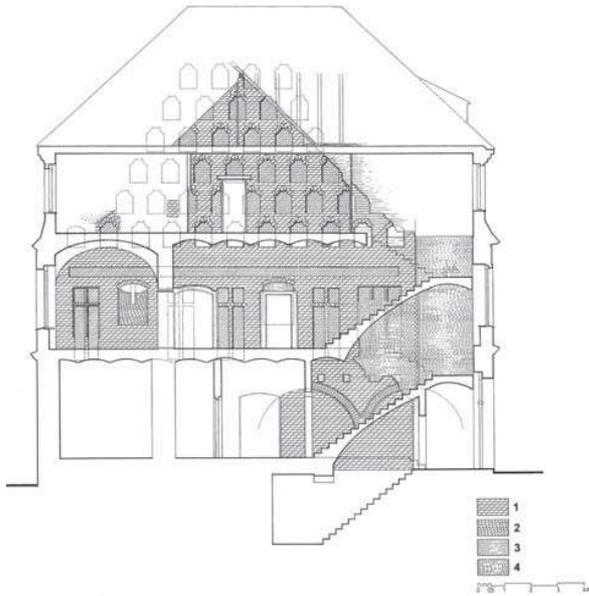


Fig. 7. The north elevation with part of gable of the building of the town hall: 1) wall from the 15th century, 2) wall from the 1540s, 3) wall from the last third of the 17th century, 4) wall from 1885–1886 (by J. Burnita, C. Lasota, A. Legendziewicz)

Il. 7. Elewacja północna z częścią szczytu pierwszego budynku ratusza: 1) mur z XV w., 2) mur z lat 40. XVI w., 3) mur z 3 tercji XVII w., 4) mur z lat 1885–1886 (oprac. J. Burnita, C. Lasota, A. Legendziewicz)

another window was located in the south section of the wall. There is a fragment of a jamb and arch edge probably of a recess at the west end of the south wall. It began about 90 cm above the footing of the wall and its arch extended above the ceiling covering the room. The brick walls were only whitewashed. Still before the first remodeling of the town hall in question, the walls were covered with thin plaster and painted white again. Some remains of that plaster were found in some of the openings mentioned above. The east room adjoining the south gable wall of the town hall was covered with a full brick thick semicircular barrel vault built some time after construction of the walls with vault blocks. It was detected that a vault with a different arch was supposed to be laid on side wall offsets about 50 cm below the one actually installed. The offsets were lifted with cladding made of vault blocks reaching the dirty brick joints. A window in the east wall provided ingress of light into the east room. An original fragment of its west splay was discovered in the plane of the examined ground floor of the elevation. Recesses were detected in the remaining walls. The heights of the wholly preserved recesses in the north and the west walls are respectively 1.35 and 1.22 m. Only one 80 cm high jamb has been preserved in the recess in the east wall. Local removal of plaster in the north part of the ground floor of the first building of the town hall revealed existence of a fourth, narrow room along its north gable wall.

Comparing the layout of the Gothic partition walls on the ground floor with the contemporary layout of the upper floor, one can come to the conclusion that both levels could have been designed together. The upper level

is divided mainly by thin walls and partitions. The layout of thick partition walls indicates two rooms adjoining the south gable wall, one spacious in the middle and the other narrow parallel to the north gable wall. One of the vaults on the upper level covers two rooms divided by a partition which is above the south-east ground floor vault with a barrel, whereas the other, corresponding to the north room on the ground floor, comprises three rooms divided by thin walls.

Based on knowledge of functional solutions of the town halls in Silesia in the 14th–15th centuries [6, pp. 49–94], one can say that the seat of municipal authorities as well as administration and court bodies were located on the upper level. The operations of the Council on the upper level are indicated by its connection with the upper section of the quadrangle of the tower above prison dungeon. The room, which is at present in the middle part of the ground floor, was probably the place where the meetings of townsmen were held and commercial activities conducted, and the rooms at its sides could have been occupied by institutions connected with administration and control of commerce – office of weights, beer and

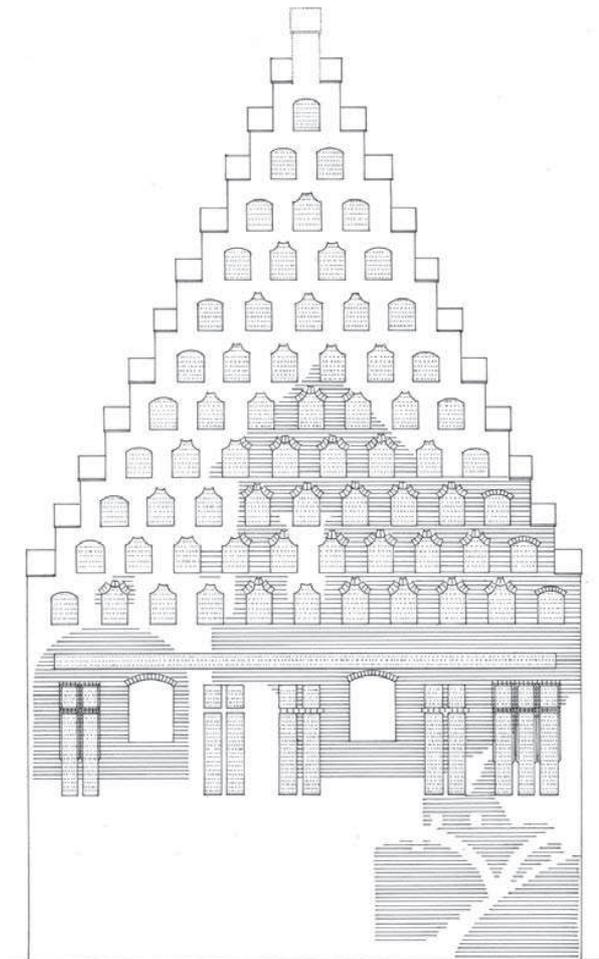


Fig. 8. Reconstruction of the upper floor in the north elevation and gable of the Late-Gothic town hall (by A. Legendziewicz)

Il. 8. Rekonstrukcja piętra elewacji północnej i szczytu późnogotyckiego ratusza (oprac. A. Legendziewicz)

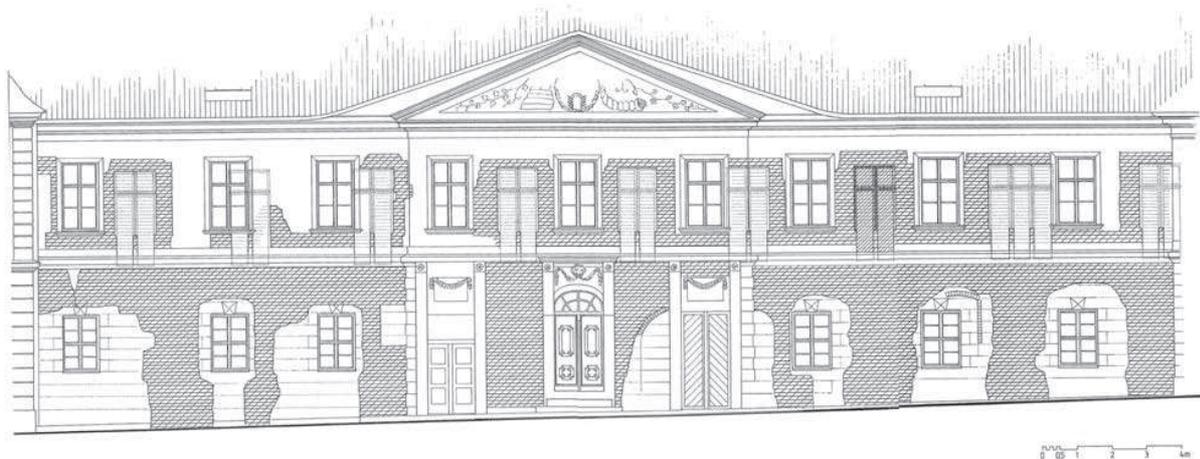


Fig. 9. The west elevation of middle wing of the town hall with the wall from the 15th century (marked) (by J. Burnita, S. Kowalski)

Il. 9. Elewacja zachodnia skrzydła środkowego ratusza z zaznaczeniem muru z XV w. (oprac. J. Burnita, S. Kowalski)

wine license, etc. The different functions of the ground floor and the upper floor were manifested by rich decorations of the upper level. The upper level of Gothic town halls in Silesia, housing the town's authorities, was acces-

sible through separate circulation. In some buildings which underwent architectural examination the upper level was accessed through an external staircase. In the case of the town hall in Zielona Góra, the entry to the upper level must have been from the south side.

The upper level of the Late Gothic town hall north, west and most probably also south elevation was divided by blanks and windows located very close to one another. More is known about articulation of the upper level of the north elevation which had two window openings topped by half brick thick segmental arches and five rectangular blanks with the Latin cross. The elevation has a 40 cm high and 5 cm deep frieze panel (Fig. 7, 8). The elongated 2.8 m high blanks, with four and six compartments at the east end, began directly from above the ground floor. Window openings started in the middle of the height of the blanks. The line of parapets of the blanks provided an imaginary border between the ground and the upper floor. Three of them in the middle had straight edges, whereas the edges of the ones on the sides, from 1/3 of the height, had three kinds of molding: with one or two hollows and with cornice with eaves. The frames of the blanks and their mullions and transoms were made respectively of the second and third kind of molding. The wall was burned through in the fire, except for the blanks in which some red paint coat was preserved on brick wall. It was discovered in the walled-up east window opening that it had splayed jambs narrowed from outside with reveals covered with red painted plaster. This opening was walled up during the first remodeling of the town hall. On the upper floor of the west elevation there were eight blanks with four compartments and one – penultimate from the south – with six compartments, all with molded edges made of three types of molding used the same way as in the blanks of the north elevation (Fig. 9). The location of window openings is unknown. The ones which exist now have edges made during modern remodelings of the town hall. The location of original windows in relation to blanks was

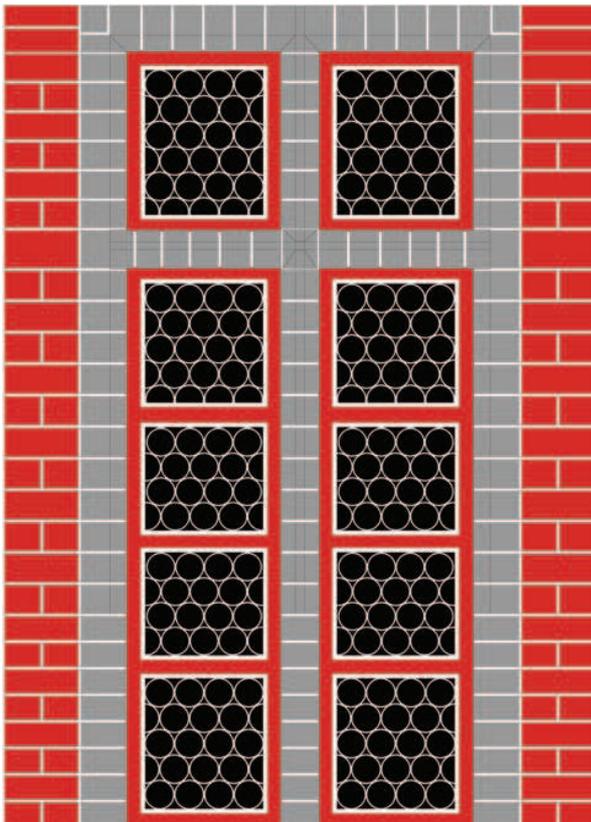


Fig. 10. Reconstruction of the colors of a fragment of the upper floor with blank on the west elevation of the first Late-Gothic building of the town hall (by A. Legendziewicz)

Il. 10. Rekonstrukcja kolorystyki fragmentu piętra z blendą elewacji zachodniej pierwszego budynku późnogotyckiego ratusza (oprac. A. Legendziewicz)



Fig. 11. The east elevation of the middle wing of the town hall and part of the tower with marked examined walls from the 15th century:
1) original Gothic face, 2) damaged Gothic face (by J. Burnita, S. Kowalski, C. Lasota)

Il. 11. Elewacja wschodnia skrzydła środkowego ratusza i części wieży z zaznaczeniem rozpoznanych murów z XV w.: 1) lico gotyckie zachowane, 2) lico gotyckie zniszczone (oprac. J. Burnita, S. Kowalski, C. Lasota)

the same as in the north elevation. While examining the piece of Late Gothic elevation revealed in the façade of the town hall it was found that the plaster covering the blanks extends beyond its edges where it formed a frame. The plaster with polychromy was cast on brick wall painted red. The painted decoration of the blank presents ten quarters, including eight in lower sections filled with imitation of crown glasses painted with white lines on black background. The frames of the quarters formed red bands extending to the compartments' molded edges. The front planes of the cross as well as the band framing the blank had a gray paint coat with white horizontal lines corresponding to the joints, also painted white, in the brick section of elevation. The exposed Late Gothic piece of elevation revealed that the white joints were reaching the blank band (Fig. 10).

The crow-stepped north gable was divided by small tightly spaced blanks with straight edges topped by draped and segmental arches. Its original part has six levels of blanks, including one with segmental arch on the first level, closing a series of draped ones from the west (Fig. 7). It is possible to demonstrate, on the basis of the articulation of the original section of the gable, that it had nine levels of blanks with the ones topped by segmental arches flanked by the draped ones on its sides (Fig. 8). One of the four examined blanks has original plaster with polychromy, including black background and fragments of white line of an unidentified motif.

Two of the detected window openings on the ground floor of the south and the west elevations had straight edges. Probably one of the openings on that floor had a distinctive portal, a fragment of whose jamb's edge and a slightly

pointed arch was found in the west elevation of the town hall's middle wing. Identification of that remnant with the entry on the ground floor of the original town hall is based on the comparison to the window opening with a segmental arch through which light was allowed to the room with original Gothic ceiling (Fig. 10). While examining the ground floor of the south elevation, remains of three openings were found. A fragment of a full brick thick segmental arch and vertical edge were revealed in the west corner which most probably are the remains of a door opening leading to a staircase. The second – most likely a window opening – topped by a half brick thick segmental arch, was located on the axis of the west room, and the third one, allowing more light to the east room, probably had a pointed arch with splayed jambs. The middle opening had stucco with lines made in wet plaster, corresponding to the arch curve. The grooves mark the borderlines between the colors of the band with white primer and colors: red and black with white in between. The plasters were applied very early, maybe still in the Gothic period as bricks painted red with white joints were detected underneath.

In respect of the general issue of texture and colors of the elevations, it can be noted on the basis of revealed facts that in the first stage of their decoration the bricks of the walls were painted red with white joints, including the blanks and probably frieze panels which then were plastered. The monochromatic bands were most likely applied around the blanks on the upper level of the elevations and the openings on both floors could have polychromatic frames with grooves in plaster. The last stage of the elevation decoration process included application of polychromy on plasters and lime milk on the wall face joints.

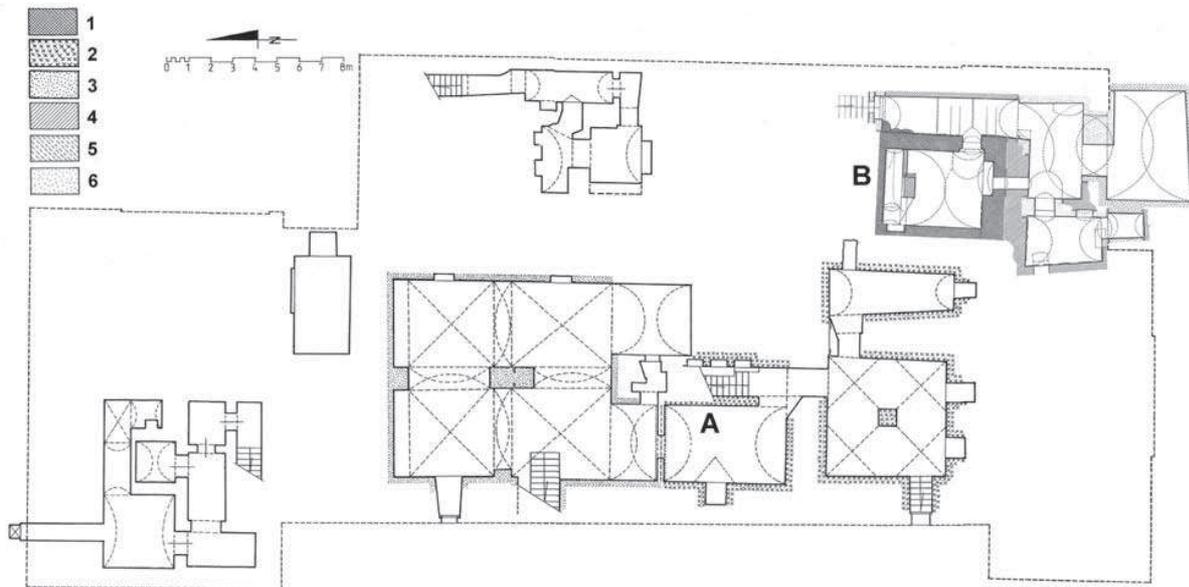


Fig. 12. Plan of basements of the middle wing of the town hall and old burgher townhouses with layers of the examined walls: 1) walls from the 15th century, 2) walls from the 1540s, 3) walls from the 1660s–1670s, 4) walls from the 17th/18th century, 5) walls from the 18th century, 6) walls from the end of the 19th century, A) basements of the first town hall building, B) basement of the chamber-shop in the commercial building (by J. Burnita, C. Lasota, A. Legendziewicz)

Il. 12. Rzut piwnic skrzydła środkowego ratusza i dawnych kamienic mieszczańskich z rozwarstwieniem zbadanych murów: 1) mury z XV w., 2) mury z lat 40. XVI w., 3) mury z lat 60–70. XVII w., 4) mury z XVII/XVIII w., 5) mury z XVIII w., 6) mury z końca XIX w., A) piwnice pierwszego budynku ratusza, B) piwnica komory-sklepu budynku handlowego (oprac. J. Burnita, C. Lasota, A. Legendziewicz)

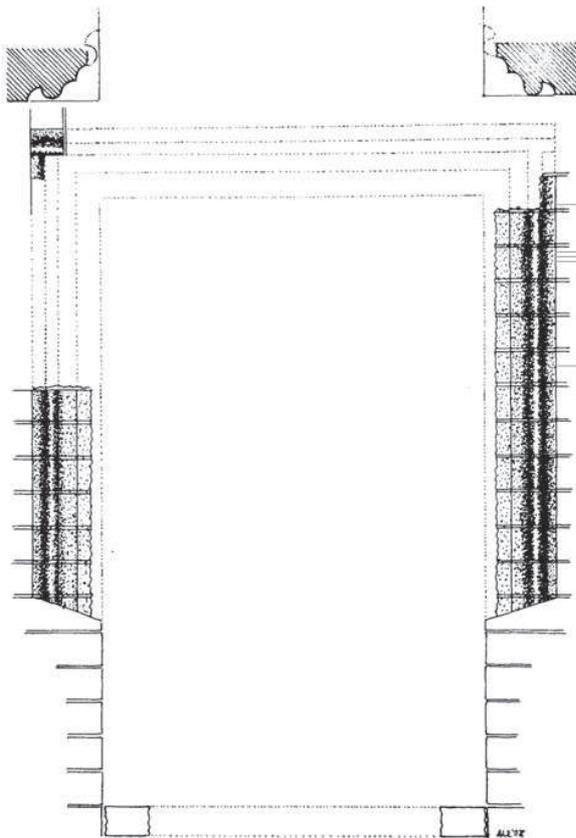


Fig. 13. Survey of the remains of the frame of a window of the ground floor in the south elevation of the original building of the town hall (by A. Legendziewicz)

Il. 13. Inwentaryzacja relikwów obramienia okna parteru elewacji południowej pierwotnego budynku ratusza (oprac. A. Legendziewicz)

The tower and the building used for commercial purposes divided into chambers-shops, which were designed as one investment, adjoined the east wall of the town hall. A wall of the town hall with a frieze panel at its top extended above the roof of the chambers. The revealed face of that wall in its section of the demolished middle part of the row of old burgher houses was severely burned through in fires (Fig. 11).

The connection of the walls between the tower and the town hall revealed in the north room on the ground floor of the building surrounding it from three sides testifies to their simultaneous construction. The dimensions of the plan of lower quadrangular part of the tower on the outside and its height measured from the level of the ground are respectively 5.1×5.9 and about 16 m. The dimensions of the bricks laid in Flemish bond with flat joints in the face of the walls of the quadrangle are as follows: 27.5–28.5×12.5–13.2×8.7–9.5 cm. The walls of the upper, octagonal part of the tower, with the same face as above, made of bricks with the dimensions of 26–27.5×12.5–13.5×8–9 cm, have been preserved up to the height of 9.2 m. All detected openings in both its parts have half brick thick segmental arches.

The quadrangular part of the tower was divided into four stages, first of which, at present inaccessible, was a prison dungeon which was probably covered with a vault with an opening. Next stages had ceilings with beams laid simultaneously with the construction of 1.5 m thick walls. The tower was connected with the upper floor of the town hall by an opening with stairs built within the thickness of its wall leading to the level above the prison dungeon. The height of that room, assuming that its floor

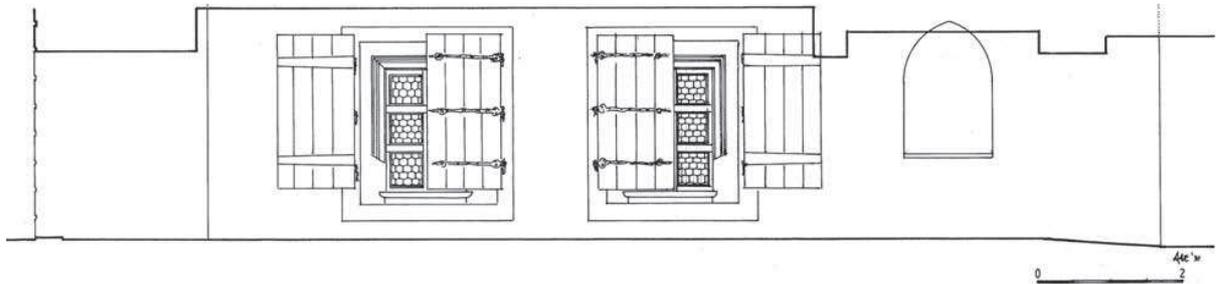


Fig. 14. Reconstruction of a part of the ground floor in the south elevation after remodeling in 1547 (by A. Legendziewicz)

Il. 14. Rekonstrukcja partii parteru elewacji południowej po przebudowaniu w 1547 r. (oprac. A. Legendziewicz)

was at the same level as on the ground floor of the town hall, was about 5 m. First of the stages covered with a ceiling was 4.1 m high, whereas the last of them, and the lowest, was 3.4 m high. The ingress of light into the quadrangular part of the tower was allowed through windows built in the north and the east walls. The jambs of the window openings were slightly splayed. The elevations of the quadrangular part of the tower had different articulations, which was demonstrated by the revealed sections of the east and the north elevations, accessible from the attic of the building surrounding it. In the case of the east elevation, two levels of blanks with segmental arches were detected, lower one with three blanks and upper one with one much bigger blank, with walled-up window clearance, located on axis. Above it there is a blank which was walled up still during construction of the tower (Fig. 11). One level with two blanks in the examined part of the north elevation does not correspond to the vertical layout of the ones detected in the east elevation. The octagonal part of the tower with 1 m thick walls and rectangular window openings was placed with the whole circumference on the walls of the quadrangle. It had two stages divided by a ceiling supported on stone corbels. Four windows were located in the walls of the 5.2 m high lower stage, one in the north and one in the south wall and two, one above the other, in the east wall. The upper stage, with openings in all walls, was covered with a ceiling whose beams were fused into the walls. The windows located in all of its walls indicate that it was the last stage of the tower designed for observation of the area. The original division of the interior of the octagonal part of the tower corresponds to two levels of elongated blanks with pointed arches in elevations. The ones located on lower level have recesses topped by two arcades springing from a corbel (Fig. 2).

Three recesses discovered in the wall of the town hall, on the ground floor facing outside (Fig. 12), the absence of decoration with blanks on the upper level wall and no window from the south in the quadrangular part of the tower testify to the plan of the construction of a building for commercial purposes divided into chambers as one investment together with the town hall adjoining it from the east. The half brick thick segmental arches of the recesses were built almost on the same level. The width and depth of the recesses were respectively 1.05–1.4 m and 45–60 cm. It was found that the 2 m high north one

started directly from the foundation wall made of erratics. The locations of three detected recesses seem to indicate that four chambers-shops adjoined the east wall of the town hall, south of the tower. One of the examined basements of an old townhouse connected at present with the town hall comes from the Gothic period. It belonged to the furthest chamber from the south (Fig. 6, 13). The walls of the 4.5×3.5 m basement originally covered with a ceiling were built from bricks and erratics. The entrance in the east wall, the recess in the south wall and upper section of the west wall in Flemish bond were built only from bricks with the dimensions similar to those used in the Gothic walls of the town hall. It is likely that retail merchants traded in cloth in the chambers. The merchants who had a monopoly in cloth trading created the elite of the Late Gothic town communities. The merchant houses – cloth halls in Silesian towns were some of the earliest masonry buildings used for commercial purposes; in some they were built even before construction of massive town halls [6, pp. 13–43].

Some Gothic structure adjoined the east wall of the town hall, north of the tower. The remains of the original abutment of the barrel vault with revealed bricks in the wall of the town hall in the north room on the ground floor of old townhouse surrounding the tower testify to that. The abutment of the barrel was placed in the groove cut in the wall of the town hall.

Changes in the layout made during the first remodeling of the town hall included basements in its south part (Fig. 12) and introduction of vertical circulation inside (Fig. 5) New walls were built from vault blocks, bricks with the dimensions of 25×30×11.4–13×8.5–9.6 cm and hard cream color mortar with lime particles after curing. The joints in the revealed brick walls of the basements are damaged. The joints in the walls on the ground floor, in Flemish bond, were smoothed for plaster. With the exception of one basement, the bricks in the face of the walls were laid in irregular bond.

The biggest of the three basement rooms, within the foundation of the town hall, located below the ground floor room with original Gothic ceiling, had a groin vault with four cells, supported on walls and a centrally located pillar. This groin vault and the barrel vault covering the neighboring room from the north were built from curved blocks. The east room is vaulted with a full brick thick barrel and its walls are built from single erratics and bricks mostly

laid in Flemish bond. The basements could be accessed from the ground floor of the town hall and from the market square. Their entry from the ground floor, which is located in the place of the existing stairs, was given the form of a vaulted tunnel. The east wall of the tunnel has three recesses with parapets at different levels, corresponding to the design of the steps of the stairs, topped by half brick thick segmental arches. The original entry to the tunnel was in the west wall of the circulation section located in the south-east corner of the biggest middle room on the ground floor. A 1 m wide opening with steps as thick as the wall, cut out in granite, led from the market square to the room with the pillar in the middle. Most likely barrels were transported to the basements where liquor was sold from the ground floor of the town hall on the ramp in the tunnel which was put on the stairs when needed. Light was allowed to the basements from the south and the west through two windows in the basement with the pillar in the middle and through one window in each of the adjacent basements.

In the circulation section built on the ground floor, there were three rooms, with the west one, covered with a barrel vault, open from the west with a wide arcade (Fig. 5). It is unknown when the arcade opening and the vault were constructed. The middle room was connected with the west one by an arcade with a full brick thick segmental arch. Its barrel vault, whose rise is below the one in the vault in the west side, is horizontal in the north part, and it rises in the south part, which suggests that upper steps of the stairs leading from the ground floor to the upper level were supported on it. What has been preserved from the south section of the wall between the middle and the east rooms is its upper section supported on a steel beam. An original fragment of the west jamb has been preserved in the door opening which was in the north wall of the east room. The spacious middle room on the ground floor of the town hall was covered with a ceiling. The south part of the beam ceiling with top boarding supported on girders was discovered before examination and the paint coat which covered it was completely removed. The chronology of the ceiling was not determined because there was no access to the ends of the beams with chamfered edges. While renovating the south-west room on the ground floor of the town hall, two girders were replaced with one (Fig. 7) and new window openings were built and painted. It should be noted that the internal jambs of the openings were built from curved blocks which were plastered and decorated probably with squares painted with black line – imitating rustication. The ends of the girder beam with chamfered edges, 42×40 cm in cross section, were inserted into the sockets cut in the walls. The appearance of the room was changed substantially by the recesses of rectangular windows cut out in the walls. These 2.15–2.20 m high and 2.40×2.80 m wide recesses in the south wall, with splayed jambs and topped by half brick thick segmental arches, started at the level of about 1 m from the floor. There is a small original fragment of frieze with floral ornaments under the ceiling in the north wall.

In order to examine the changes made in elevations of the town hall, information was collected about the south elevation ground floor and the north elevation upper floor. The edges of the reveals of the 1.7 m high and 1.1 m wide

rectangular window openings on the south elevation ground floor, from the level of 50 cm above parapets, were built from blocks with renaissance molding (Fig. 13). Some sections of the elevation wall were plastered and two paint coats, white primer and ochre, were applied on brick, molded edges of window openings⁴. The recess, located at present between the windows on the ground floor, which was created as a result of walling up Gothic window, was not revealed (Fig. 14). The east window opening on the upper level of the north elevation was reduced to a 15 cm wide slot window. Fragments of plaster with two paint coats, white and light gray, have been preserved in blanks and frieze panel.

The traditions of Gothic craftsmanship in Silesia (brick size, Flemish bond) were maintained until the end of the 16th century. The molding of the edges in window openings on the ground floor of the south gable wall of the town hall and one brick revealed in one of the jambs with impressed inscription to read: “GEORGE SCHV-BART: 1547 [T] VTT” enable dating its first remodeling to about 1547⁵.

The second remodeling of the town hall included construction of the north part of the basements (Fig. 12) and separation of a new room on the ground floor from the bigger one in the middle (Fig. 5). The north basements, just like the south ones, constitute a structure independent from the foundation from the Gothic period. The walls and vaults of the new rooms were built from bricks with the dimensions of 27.4–29.2×13.4–14.2×7–7.8 cm and fairly hard mortar with sand and addition of pulverized lime. The vaults are a full brick thick.

The basements of the town hall reached the line of the Gothic wall on the ground floor separating a narrow north room. The bigger of the younger basements, where most probably liquor was sold, is covered with a groin vault with four cells supported on walls and transverse arches springing from a centrally located pillar. The face of the walls is made from bricks laid in irregular bond which locally changes into Flemish bond and few erratics. The window located in the west wall and the wide entrance from the market square are original. While connecting the basements of both construction stages, the one adjacent to the tunnel entrance was extended to the new one with the pillar in the middle. The south wall, with bricks laid in Flemish bond, of the room separated on the ground floor goes along the transverse arches, separating the cells of the vault covering the basement with the pillar. This room is covered with two cells of the groin vault, with groins articulated in plaster, divided by a transverse arch and supported also on arcades dividing the walls. The arcades, except for the south ones, were added to Gothic walls.

According to the accounts referred to above, the town hall burned down in 1651 and the construction works conducted in it and in the tower continued until 1679. The form of vault groins articulated in plaster in the room built on the

⁴ We are grateful to Ms. P. Celecka, M.A. who conducted stratigraphic research in 2010 for the information about the colors of renaissance frames.

⁵ *George Schubart (in year) 1547 made*, transl. by A. Górski, Ph.D.

ground floor chronologically corresponds to that period. Analyzing the information from the rebuilding period of the town hall, it can be assumed that the installation of the ball and vane on the tower in 1670 took place at the end of the period when construction works were conducted. Most probably when they began, the town hall was secured and at least some of its interiors were restored for use.

While rebuilding the tower, it was extended to reach 25 m and the layout of its stages was changed. The extension of the tower was built from new and recovered bricks in Gothic format in Flemish bond. All walls of the 2.1 m high topmost stage had rectangular recesses with circular windows topped by half brick thick segmental arches. The thickness of the walls right above the recesses was increased from inside of the tower. Their thicker sections were supported on double half brick thick segmental arches springing from corbels.

The construction of the townhouse adjoining the town hall from the north, known from 19th century representations of the west side of the block in the middle of the market square, can be connected with the rebuilding of the town after the fire in 1651 [3, p. 70, 71]. While adding a townhouse to the town hall, the windows, blanks, and frieze panel were walled up on its upper floor, and a groove, in which the vault was set, was cut out on the ground floor (Fig. 7). It covered the passage through the block in the middle of the market square which until then was a small street dividing it into building complexes: south – with the town hall, and north – for commercial operations. The bricks used in the individual construction works had a similar format to that of the bricks used in the walls built during the second remodeling of the town hall.

Translated by B. Setkiewicz

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APZG – State Archives in Zielona Góra, Files of the City of Zielona Góra

Gotycki ratusz w Zielonej Górze i jego przebudowy w XVI–XVII w.

Według zapisu kronikarskiego ratusz w Zielonej Górze powstał w 1321 r. Przeprowadzone badania architektoniczne wykazały, że ratusz wzniesiony z cegiel w XV w. był bez piwnic, jednopiętrowy, o wymiarach w obrysie zewnętrznym 34×13,5 m i wysokości ścian około 7 m. Na parterze znajdowały się cztery pomieszczenia, z których środkowe, największe miało 19 m długości i 10,9 m szerokości. Do południowej ściany szczytowej dochodziły dwa pomieszczenia, nakryte do dziś zachowanym stropem i sklepieniem, a do północnej jedno, wąskie. Prawdopodobnie tak samo zostało rozplanowane piętro mieszczące siedzibę władzy municypalnej, organów administracyjnego i sądowiczego. Środkowe pomieszczenie parteru stanowiło zapewne miejsce zgromadzeń mieszczan i doraźnie prowadzonego handlu. Zróznicowanie funkcjonalne parteru i piętra zostało zmanifestowane bogatym wystrojem elewacji kondygnacji górnej i odrębnie rozwiązaniem wejściem do niej z placu rynkowego. Elewacje, rozczłonkowane na poziomie piętra gęsto rozmieszczonymi blendami prostokątnymi, podzielonymi krzyżem łacińskim na cztero- i sześciopółowe, wieńczyła płycina fryzu. Wiadomo, że szczyt północny ratusza był uskokowy, rozczłonkowany jedenastoma poziomami małych blend nakrytych łękami kotarowymi i odcinkowymi. Fakturę z kolorystyką elewacji oraz szczytu tworzyły ceglany, pomalowany wążek ścian, na czerwono z białymi spoinami, i otynkowane, czterobarwne blendy.

Razem z ratuszem zostały zbudowane, przylegające do jego ściany wschodniej, wieża i budynek o funkcji handlowej, podzielony na komory – sklepy. Wnętrze dolnej, czworobocznej wieży, o wymiarach w obrysie zewnętrznym 5,9×5,1 m, wysokości 16 m, pierwotnie dzieliło się na cztery kondygnacje, z których dolną tworzył loch więzienny. Kondygnacje nad nim oświetlały od wschodu i północy niskie okna zawarte we wnękach z rozglifionymi ościeżkami. Zwieńczenie górnej, oktagonalnej części wieży nie zachowało się. Podział jej wnętrza tworzyły dwie kondygnacje, z oknami zawartymi we wnękach prostokątnych, mające łącznie 9,2 m wysokości. Światło do kondygnacji niższej wpadało trzema oknami. W kondygnacji wyższej, przeznaczonej do obserwacji terenu okna zostały zlokalizowane we wszystkich ścianach. Dekorację elewacji czworoboku wieży tworzyły małe blendy nakryte łękami odcinkowymi. Elewacje jej części oktagonalnej rozczłonkowały dwie kondygnacje blend wysmukłych, ostrołucznych.

W trakcie pierwszej przebudowy ratusza, przeprowadzonej w okresie wczesnego renesansu, wymurowano piwnice pod jego częścią południową i układ komunikacji pionowej zlokalizowano we wnętrzu. W największej z trzech piwnic, dostępnych z placu rynkowego i parteru ratusza, nakrytej sklepieniem opartym na centralnie zlokalizowanym filarze, był prowadzony wyszynk. Wążek komunikacyjny, zawierający tunelowe zejście do piwnic i schody prowadzące na piętro, powstał

w części południowej środkowego pomieszczenia parteru. Przebudowując ratusz, zmieniono także wystrój wnętrz i otynkowano oraz pomalowano elewacje, w tym blendy monochromatycznie. Zmiany dokonane w rozplanowaniu ratusza przeprowadzone w czasie odbudowy po pożarze

w 1651 r. polegały na powiększeniu piwnic i wydzieleniu nowego pomieszczenia w części środkowej parteru. Jedną z nowych piwnic, największą ze wszystkich, nakryta sklepieniem opartym na centralnie usytuowanym filarze, została przeznaczona do prowadzenia wyszynku.

Key words: architecture, Śląsk, Middle ages, Town Hall, Zielona Góra,

Słowa kluczowe: architektura, Śląsk, średniowiecze, ratusz, Zielona Góra