

ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH IN THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING THE RESTRUCTURING OF BUILDINGS USING THE TOWN HOUSE AT 1 RYCERSKA STREET IN BYTOM AS AN EXAMPLE

Teresa ADAMCZYK-BOMERSBACH^{1*}, Magdalena KRAUSE-ŚWIERCZYŃSKA^{2*}

¹ Silesian University of Technology; Teresa.Adamczyk-Bomersbach@polsl.pl, ORCID: 0000-0001-6027-5944

² Silesian University of Technology; magdalena.krause@polsl.pl, ORCID: 0000-0003-0360-1461

* Correspondence author

Purpose: Identification of the successive stages of construction, restructuring and disassembling of the former hotel buildings at 1 Rycerska Street in Bytom.

Design/methodology/approach: The following architectural research was undertaken: analysis of archival documentation and the current state of preservation of the building; collection and testing of mortar and wood samples; an inventory (laser scanning) and comparative studies of the stone cellars and eastern wall, the southern and western walls (including lintels on the third floor) and an external wall, the remains of the former connecting wall between the existing building on Rycerska Street and the demolished one at Grunwaldzki Square; also studies comparing the building's cellars on Rycerska Street with other previously known structures in Bytom such as the cellars of the western frontage of Rynek (Market Square).

Findings: The work above resulted in linking current findings with data from historical sources, establishing the sequence of changes (the structure's stratigraphy) and confirming the originality of the features being examined.

Research limitations/implications: Time, accessibility, the inability to examine the adjacent structure (no. 3 Rycerska Street), which included the cellars and the wall between the town houses.

Practical implications: Improving the teaching process of architectural research and utilising the research to understand the history of changes in the development of Bytom market square.

Social implications: The ability to undertake architectural research on a historic structure is contributory to the preservation of cultural heritage.

Originality/value: Filling a research gap in the building history of Bytom market square.

Keywords: architectural research, education, town house, research techniques.

Category of the paper: Research paper.

1. Introduction

In 2024, for the needs of the Silesian Voivodeship Conservator of Monuments, architectural studies were conducted on the tenement located at 1 Rycerska Street in Bytom. The direct cause of this action was the major renovation of a neglected building that had not been used for a long time, combined with its adaptation into an Apart-Hotel. During the renovation, after removing the internal plaster, inconsistencies in the materials and construction techniques used were revealed. This provided grounds to presume that the current building was constructed in several phases and modified. The aim of the research has therefore become to determine these phases and transformations, as well as to document the discoveries made, and consequently to supplement the knowledge regarding the building history of the property in question and the development of Bytom's Market Square.

The research was conducted in a dual manner, encompassing a detailed analysis of the collected archival and contemporary documentation as well as "in situ" actions – identifying changes and inconsistencies occurring in the subject: basements - front and rear, east wall (between objects number 1 and 3) up to a height of 2 floors, revealed window lintels of the 2nd floor and a fragment of the wall remaining after the demolition of the outbuilding at Tkacka Street, preparation of documentation and collection of samples of mortar and a fragment of wood for laboratory material testing.

The town house had no previous broader historical and architectural studies. In 1993, following the decision to enter the building in the Register of Historic Monuments of the then Katowice Voivodeship, its inventory card (the so-called white card) was created along with a brief description attached to that decision. In these documents, the town house is described as brick, with stone-brick cellars, built around 1880 by an unknown author. To this day, the archives – particularly the Bytom archive – have organised and made available the historical documentation preserved in their collections. It has become a valuable source of knowledge due to the graphic materials contained within it, allowing for a detailed analysis of the successive transformations of the building alongside the texts. In addition, a measurement documentation covering the tenement house along with the outbuilding (which no longer existed at the time of the study) was produced for the needs of the renovation, and in 2020, a team of archaeologists from the Upper Silesian Museum in Bytom conducted archaeological research in the cellars of the building. An important source of information were also historical plans of the city, showing the development of the waterfront quarters.

The town house in Bytom is one of the buildings that makes up the market square, a historic development entered into the Register of Historical Monuments in 1993 (National Heritage Protection Service, 1993) and is subject to Category A strict conservation protection. The building is situated in the northeastern corner of the market square, on the site of earlier buildings and within the boundaries of the medieval urban layout.

The town house itself was entered into the Register of Historical Monuments in 1993 and is legally protected by resolution in the context of the local civic spatial development plan for Bytom town centre.



Figure 1, 2. Part of a historical map from 1926 showing the plot location of the town house at 1 Rycerska Street in Bytom; also part of a map of the building prior to reconstruction and extension in 2021.

Source: www.sitplan.um.bytom.pl and www.zabytek.pl

Built prior to 1844, project designer unknown, on the foundations of an earlier structure, for Salomon Beuthner or his son Loebel, the building was significantly remodelled in 1900 in the Historicist style, with a rich architectural and sculptural façade. It was redeveloped and extended in 2021.

The building is made of brick, and following the current reconstruction, has four floors above-ground and a cellar. The cellar walls are constructed of stone and brick, 120 cm thick, while the ground floor walls are approximately 70 cm thick, and the upper floor brickwork is 51 and 38 cm thick. The ceilings above the cellar are barrel-vaulted and partially supported by steel girders, while the upper floors are now made of reinforced concrete, originally timber-constructed. Prior to the works in 2021 the building had a wooden roof covered with roofing felt with a skylight located above the staircase. Currently, the roof is of wooden construction extended into the external wall of the upper floor.



Figure 3, 4. Current view of the building from Rycerska and Targowa Streets, 2025; and before renovation in 2021.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska, Voivodeship Monument Protection Department in Katowice archives.

The front elevation is four-axis, symmetrical, with rebuilt ground-floor window openings in the form of shop windows. In 2025 the windows received decorative framing extensions. An inter-floor cornice runs between the ground floor and the first floor. On the first floor, the windows are surrounded by trim in the form of pilasters on plinths supporting a beam and a semicircular tympanum. The tympanum area bears a bas-relief featuring an angel's head in the centre. The windows on the second floor are surrounded by profiled trim with a central keystone. The lintel is framed by an ornamental bas-relief topped with a window cornice. The windows of the earlier loft space were made double in size with a profiled trim around. Flat brackets supporting the crowning cornice were placed between the window verticals. The additional new floor was made of a wooden structure with a wall finishing of sheet metal roof panels (National Heritage..., 1993).

The side elevation of the building facing Targowa Street is six-axis, with a four-axis wing of a three-story annex building, which had existed before renovation and demolition in 2021. On the right side, the first two vertical sections of the elevation are finished identically to the front façade, while the remainder of the elevation is devoid of architectural detail. The cornice line above the ground floor, along with the crowning cornice, has been retained. The façade front is finished with smooth plaster.



Figure 5, 6. View of the annex building before demolition in 2021 and its condition in 2024.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause- Świerczyńska.

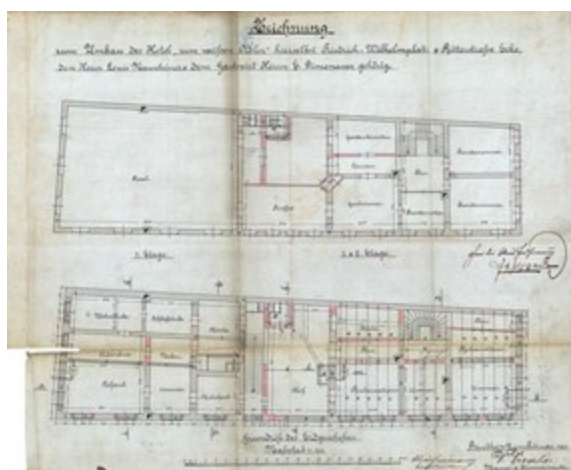
The northern elevation of the town house was uncovered after the demolition of the residential and commercial annex buildings in the 1960s. Until 2021 the building accommodated an attached garage on the ground floor and a centrally located window on the second floor. The buttresses, reinforcing the longitudinal walls of the annex building, were preserved at the corners, while the asymmetrical façade devoid of architectural ornamentation was rebuilt on the courtyard side. Only a small fragment of it currently remains.

2. Analysis of Historical Documentation

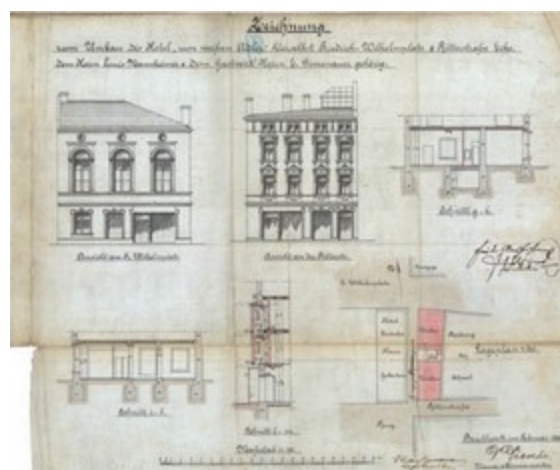
The Bytom Town Hall Archives possess an abundant collection of documents relating to the construction and transformation of the town house at 1 Rycerska Street, covering the period 1860 to 1948, as well as information on the property's owners dating back to 1802. The National Archives in Katowice hold even older records dating back to 1779. Historical civic plans of Bytom, drawn up from the mid-18th century onwards, attest to the continuity of development in the market square quarter, which includes the property in question. Surviving documents (National Archives, Bytom Town Hall Archive, 2024) indicate that in 1779, Karol Foltek, son of Ludwik, inherited from his father 'a town house, a vegetable garden bordering Count Hencl's ornamental garden, a barn and a butcher's shop' (translated by Z. Jedynak, *Non-existent Castle* [in:] Bytom Museum, ed. Jan Drabina, Bytom, 2001). Thereafter the property passed

through the hands of subsequent owners, including Loebel Beuthner, founder of the White Eagle Hotel (*Zum weissen Adler*, 1844), and Paul Langer, who established the Thalia cinema in the property, the hotel having been renamed Langer's Hotel in 1918.

No pictorial records, however, have survived to reveal the appearance of the town house that preceded the construction of the hotel on Rycerska Street, nor any design documentation for the hotel itself. Therefore, the most valuable data came from archival drawings showing the building's subsequent transformations. The oldest, dated 12 December 1860, contained a plan for changes based on an earlier document from July of that year, relating to the extension of the connecting passage by one floor. An unrealised plan, dated 14 February 1866, included a project to raise the building on Rycerska Street by another, fully functional floor. Further drawings were drafted by Dominik Drescher on 5 February 1900 and 8 June 1900 which gave the building its final form. Preserved drawings from later years illustrate minor changes and relate mainly to the interiors: the development of a two-storey hall (1901, 1917), water and sewage facility installation (1903) and modification of toilets (1907, 1922, 1928), the layout of entrance areas with changes on the ground floors (1911, 1917 - cinema, 1942 - entrances, signs), transformation of the interiors to serve as a cinema (room layout, stairs, entrances 1917), the creation of a large hall on the first floor of the front part from Rycerska Street (1927) etc.



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Figure 7, 8. Part of archival documentation from 1900, project design by Dominik Drescher, reconstruction project of the Zum weissen Adler hotel.

Source: Bytom Town Archives.

Unfortunately, surviving documentation from the post-war period (1947-48) does not include a graphic section illustrating the changes introduced. However, it does provide information about the state of destruction of the building at 1 Rycerska Street (damage exceeded 40%) and its thorough renovation, which also relates to its conversion to industrial use. It was not until 2020 that an inventory and photographic documentation of the building were completed, revealing its condition following the departure of its last occupant, the Specialist Physicians' Cooperative.

Analysis of this material allowed us to reconstruct the original appearance of the hotel, built in the 1840s on the foundations of an earlier structure, likely to have been residential in nature. The complex then constructed was sited between Rycerska Street (Ritterstrasse) and present-day Grunwaldzki Square (formerly Friedrich-Wilhelmplatz), with its entire length adjacent to Targowa Street (formerly Synagogestrasse) and consisted of three parts: a three-storey brick building with a lower loft space sited on the Ritterstrasse side; a two-storey brick building with a double-height floor on the Friedrich-Wilhelmplatz side; and a connecting passage between the two buildings comprising a brick front wall, on the Synagogestrasse side, and internal wooden structures. After 1900 the buildings underwent significant transformation, both internally and, in particular, the façades. The building on Rycerska Street received ornate, historicising decoration, covering the façade and the two extreme axes of the western elevation. This is evidenced by its current state, although the façade decorations shown in the drawing differ in detail from the actual preserved ones. These were likely altered during construction. All façades of the buildings were covered with smooth plaster, the ground floor window and door openings received profiled trims with extended architraves and a polished stone motif along the axes. Spaces for signboards were added above the entrances. The interior ceilings were replaced. As before, timber ceilings were installed, with the exception of the ground floor of the building facing Rycerska Street, where steel beams were introduced. Their mounting levels were likely slightly altered at that time. Horizontal lintel beams were also introduced, with the exception of the window openings in the large hall on the first floor of the building at Friedrich-Wilhelmplatz, which involved changing the height of their siting and their dimensions; the previous vaulted lintels were covered with plaster. Some internal divisions were altered, toilet provisions were either separated or added to in the buildings and the connecting wall between the buildings was rebuilt. The product of all these efforts was a modern hotel facility, incorporating both technical innovations and a rich, historicising exterior. The 1900 design included, for the first time, a longitudinal section showing the cellars in the building on Rycerska Street. It led through the front room, with its barrel vault, set lower than the remaining cellar sections, a remnant of the earlier structure. Following war damage the building was rebuilt in 1947 to accommodate the Water Inspection and Measuring Equipment Construction Institute, owned by W. Neugebauer, B.Sc. The interior of the building on Rycerska Street was adapted to its new function and the connecting building was also rebuilt, while the building on Friedrich-Wilhelmplatz remained untouched. Friedrich-Wilhelmplatz was renamed Grunwaldzki Square, and Synagogestrasse became Targowa Street (Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska, Wałek, 2024).

During the last renovation in 2023 the former annex building was also demolished, leaving only a fragment of the external wall, up to the height of the first-floor window sills.

3. Architectural Research

3.1. Scanning

For the purposes of the planned architectural research scans were undertaken of elements of the interior wall, lintels, cellar and exterior wall sections exposed during renovation work. This enabled comprehensive analysis and the preparation of comparative documentation relating to the building in its current state against that shown in archival documentation.

3.2. Stratigraphic Research – Interior Wall

Renovation work begun in 2021 revealed the structure of a shared wall between town house no. 1 and town house no. 3. On the first and ground floors a dolomite stone wall of varying thickness with lime mortar was discovered, along with unidentified dark minerals, feldspars, plant fibres, clay material, as well as ceramic fragments, wood fibres and charcoal. The wall structure and samples taken suggest that this is the oldest part of the building and likely a shared wall between both houses. Numerous brick inserts, brickwork and a wall extension on the second floor were revealed.



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Figure 9, 10. View of the wall on the 1st floor and a fragment of the wall near the staircase, with brickwork and brick inserts visible.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

3.3. Stratigraphic research – wall, remains of the annex building

The wall on Targowa Street (formerly Synagogeasse) is a remnant of the exterior wall of the former 19th-century passageway, spanning the buildings on Rycerska Street (formerly Ritterstrasse) and Grunwaldzki Square (formerly Friedrich-Wilhelmplatz). The surviving wall on the ground floor, up to the first-floor window sills (the inter-story cornice and these sills remain), is covered on the street side with a layer of post-war plaster, partially damaged in the lower part; later repaired brickwork and a fragment of the plinth are visible. On the courtyard side, the post-war plaster remains here and there, mainly obscuring bricked-up openings and only fragments of the original wall. As a result, it is possible to analyse its subsequent

transformations based on archival documentation prepared in 1860 and 1900, the 2020 inventory, along with an on-site inspection.



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Figure 11, 12. Preserved fragment of the former connecting wall, view from Targowa Street; clearly visible cornice between floors, window sills and gaps in the plaster showing later reconstruction works.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

Analysing the available archival materials, it can be concluded that:

- The fragments of wall exposed beneath the plaster confirm alteration of the exterior wall of the passageway. In the 19th century it consisted of a three-axis ground floor façade (a passageway and two window openings with arched brick lintels), topped by a cornice between the floors, and a four-axis section above.
- After 1900 the ground floor area was altered by using steel lintel beams over the outer openings (vehicular and pedestrian passageways) and by bricking up the central window.
- After the Second World War all entryways were bricked up and covered with plaster, obliterating the former divisions on the Targowa Street side. The rooms arranged at that time on the ground floor, along with the upper usable floors of the passageway, were demolished in 2023.



Figure 13. View from the courtyard: clear phases of subsequent transformations of the ground floor zone, identified in archival documentation (1860, 1900, 2020).

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

3.4. Stratigraphic Research – Cellars

The building located at 1 Rycerska Street is a structure with full cellar facilities, with cellar rooms set at various levels. Archaeological findings indicate that the cellar is constructed of stone with brick elements, with lime mortar, and a 5-12 cm thick concrete screed floor. The cellar rooms are vaulted or covered with a flat ceiling supported by steel beams. In the front section facing Rycerska Street there is one room, set deeper than the rest, occupying the entire width of the building, with an axis parallel to the street and connected to the rest of the building by an arched staircase. On the other side of the building are three rooms with axes perpendicular to the above. The entire floor is connected by a corridor, parallel to Rycerska Street, connected to a staircase leading to the upper floors.



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Figure 14, 15. Cellar room with barrel vault.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

Despite the similarities in materials, with the use of stone and lime mortar, the cellar rooms differ from each other. The front section, spanning the entire width of the building, is made entirely of stone and is set significantly lower than the rest, suggesting earlier construction and affiliation with a structure that preceded the hotel in question. According to archaeological research, the level of the market square, to which it adjoins at the southwest corner, has risen in this part by approximately 2.20 meters since the Middle Ages. This is further evidenced by the thickness of the foundation walls as determined by the inventory conducted in 2020, their depth, the support of the barrel and the height of its arch. The northern part, with extensive use of brick (also for later repairs and re-building), with different coverings (ceilings and brick barrel vaults, resting on walls perpendicular to the line of support of the lower barrel) and the shape of window openings, as well as with shallow foundations and divisions corresponding to the ground floor, was probably built at a later period.

Furthermore, comparative analysis of the oldest parts of the structure was undertaken against reference examples, which included the cellars of the town houses on the now-vanished western frontage of the Market Square. This analysis revealed stylistic and material similarities with the cellars examined in 1993-94, which were generally dated to the Middle Ages and Renaissance, although, owing to numerous alterations, parts of these could also have been built in the late 17th and 18th centuries.



Figure 16, 17. Cellar room.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

3.5. Stratigraphic Research – Second Floor Lintels

Once previous plasterwork inside the southern and western rooms had been removed during the last renovations, arched brick lintels were revealed on the second floor, aligned with the current window openings under their sills. These were constructed of solid bricks measuring 32 x 15 x 7 cm, laid on lime mortar, consistent with the exposed exterior walls of the building. The under-arch was rebuilt with broken bricks arranged irregularly. The drawings from 1900 include cross-sections: a longitudinal cross-section through the entire complex of buildings undergoing renovation, and a cross-section showing the changes introduced at the time – new ceilings and horizontal window lintels. It was likely already at this time, when planning the new, decorative exterior of the building, that the heights of individual floors, and consequently the window openings, were slightly adjusted. Available descriptive documentation from 1947-48 only details damage, the repair and reinforcement of weakened ceilings and the complete replacement of windows. During the most recent renovations in 2020-2024, all the ceilings and windows in the building were replaced and the exterior façades were renovated.



Figure 18. Visible window lintels on the second floor.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

Having analysed archival documentation it can be concluded that the original lintels in the building were constructed as arched brick vaults in the traditional manner until the early 20th century. Later, during the initial renovation, horizontal lintel beams were introduced and inserted lower, the arches being covered with plaster. The change in the ceiling levels resulted in the former first-floor lintels now being visible above the ceiling level of that floor (Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska, Wałek, 2024).

4. Analysis of collected samples

For further identification of the fabric of the building thirteen samples were collected from various locations inside it for laboratory testing to determine the physical properties of the mortar and plaster. Four samples were collected in the cellar, the remaining samples from the upper floors. The locations from which samples were taken were determined by prior analysis of available archival documentation. The plaster and mortar were analysed by means of immersion in hydrochloric acid. Once the reaction was complete, the slurry was filtered,

separating and quantifying that which had not dissolved in the acid. The amounts of clay particles passing through a 0.1 mm sieve were separated and the mass determined. After drying, the separated filler was examined under reflected light under a stereoscopic microscope. The results indicated that the mortar was made using a thin limestone binder with a small addition of clay. The aggregate was variously selected sand (quartz with minerals – products of rock weathering, co-present in the deposit). Crushed ceramic was found in the filler in several samples, plant fibres were found in the bulk of them, and wood fibres in a few others. Charcoal was detected in one of the mortars. The mortars collected in the building's cellar were prepared with a very thin limestone binder containing clay and poorly selected sand aggregate. The samples obtained in a crushed, brownish condition are quite similar. Both contain a large amount of clay material and the mortars also contain charcoal. Wood and plant fibres were found in one of the mortars (PKZLAB S.C., 2024).

Wooden dowelling was examined at the Silesian University of Technology Laboratory in Gliwice, at the Institute of Physics in the Scientific and Educational Centre. Samples were prepared using ABA preparation and cellulose extraction.

The results from the collected samples indicated two possible ages of the wood: either approximately 1960 or 1975 to 1982. However, this latter option is highly unlikely, as it would result in a large difference in the growth ages, significantly exceeding 3 years. Therefore, it is most likely that the tree was felled around 1962 (Institute of Physics, Scientific and Educational Centre, 14C and Spectrometry Laboratory, 2025).

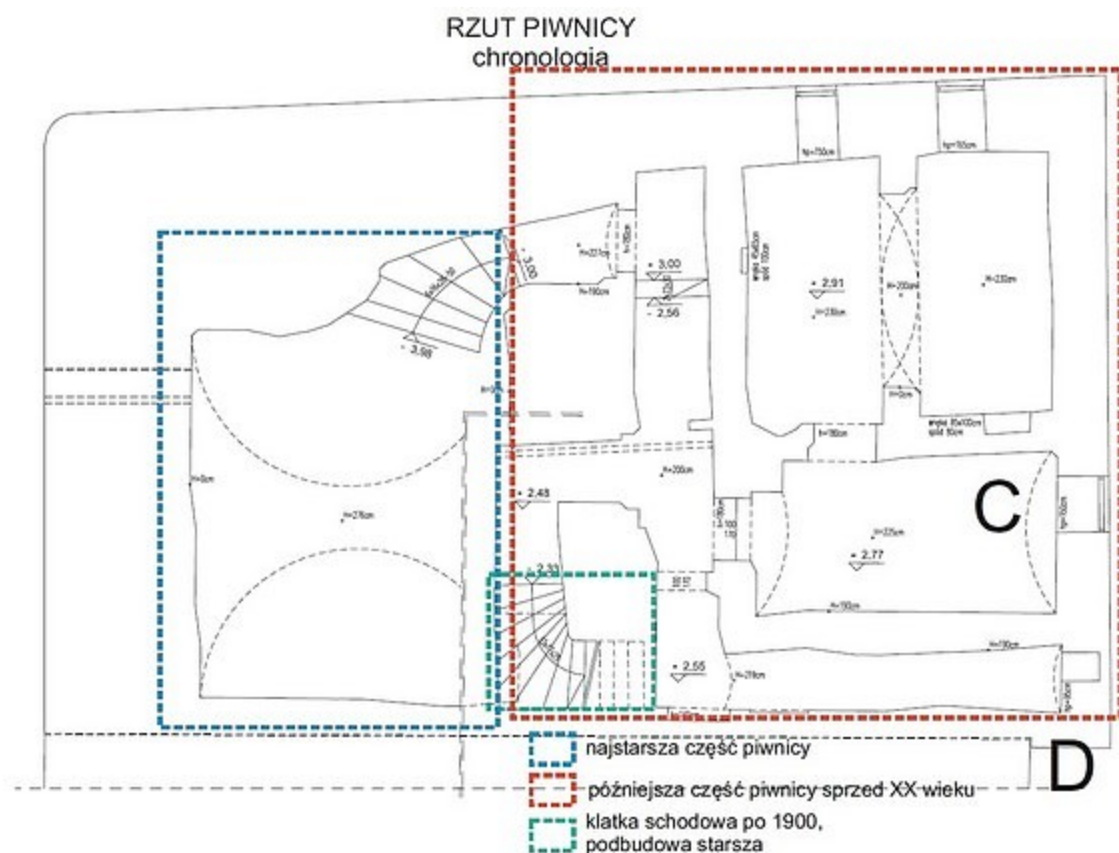
4.1. Archaeological Research

Study of the town house was supplemented by archaeological research of the cellars conducted by staff from the Archaeological Department of the Upper Silesian Museum in Bytom. Six wall-level excavations were made inside the cellar rooms, four in the upper section (one in each room) and two in the lower section (near the southern wall and the curve of the wall), as well as four geological boreholes, three inside the cellar (3 m deep) and one outside (6 m deep). These investigations allowed us to identify the nature of the layering and determine the depth of the foundation footings of the walls in each section of the town house. The foundation of the front section reaches a depth of 70 cm below the current floor of the room, approximately 4 m below ground level; the western exterior wall inspected in the southwest corner of the upper section is 130 cm below the floor, and in the northern section there is a very shallow depth of 15-8 cm below the floor. Apart from these, no walls other than the foundations of the tenement house were found. A small amount of movable material was also recovered and preserved: two pieces of pottery vessels, two fragments of animal bones and a small section of a wooden beam from the deepest cellar (Badura, 2020).

5. Summary – Building Development Phases

Summarising all the information gathered during the research, we can draw general conclusions which shape the chronology of the building:

- The cellar was built on the foundations of earlier structures. The stone barrel vaulted section of the cellar is the oldest part of the building, located deepest with an arched former furnace in the corner. Preserved pieces of coal were found during research.
- The stairs leading to the cellar in the upper section are consistent with the 1900 drawing, with a stone substructure in the lower section. The concrete steps with metal strips are consistent in character with the steps leading to the lowest cellar in the arched corridor.



PLAN OF THE CELLARS

Chronology

Oldest part of the cellar

Later part of the cellar prior to 20th century

Stairwell after 1900

Older substructure

Figure 19. Chronology – cellar plan.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

- Ground floor plan with a fragment of the adjacent building wall, with walls dating back to the 19th century, and the annex building with re-walling dating back to the 20th century.
- The remaining wall, part of the annex building demolished in 2023, is partially original, as confirmed by mortar samples taken, consistent with samples taken inside the building.

- Façade detail, the division of windows on the ground floor is the result of the 2020-2025 redevelopment.
- A dolomite stone wall between buildings 1 and 3 is visible from the ground floor to the first floor, which is the oldest part of the building.

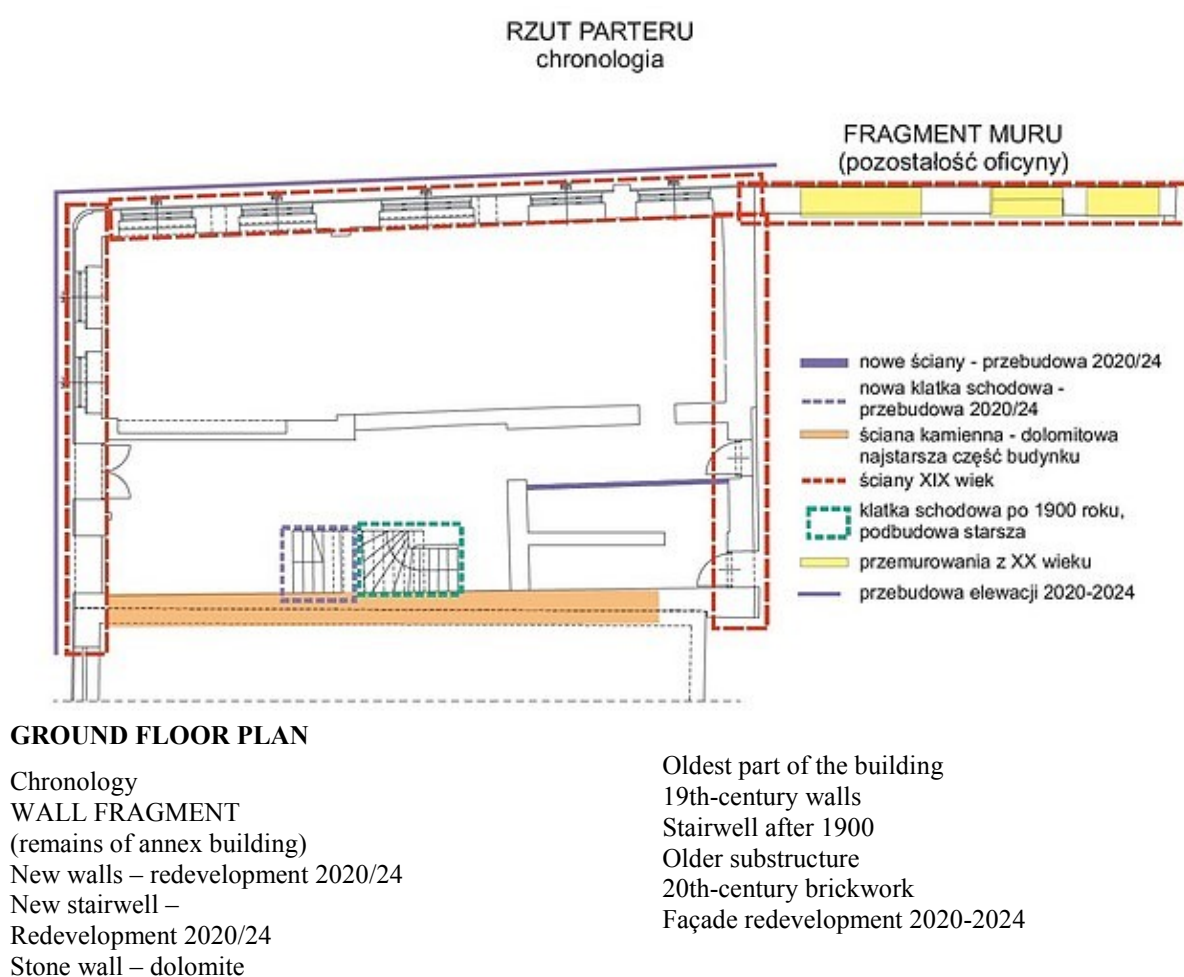
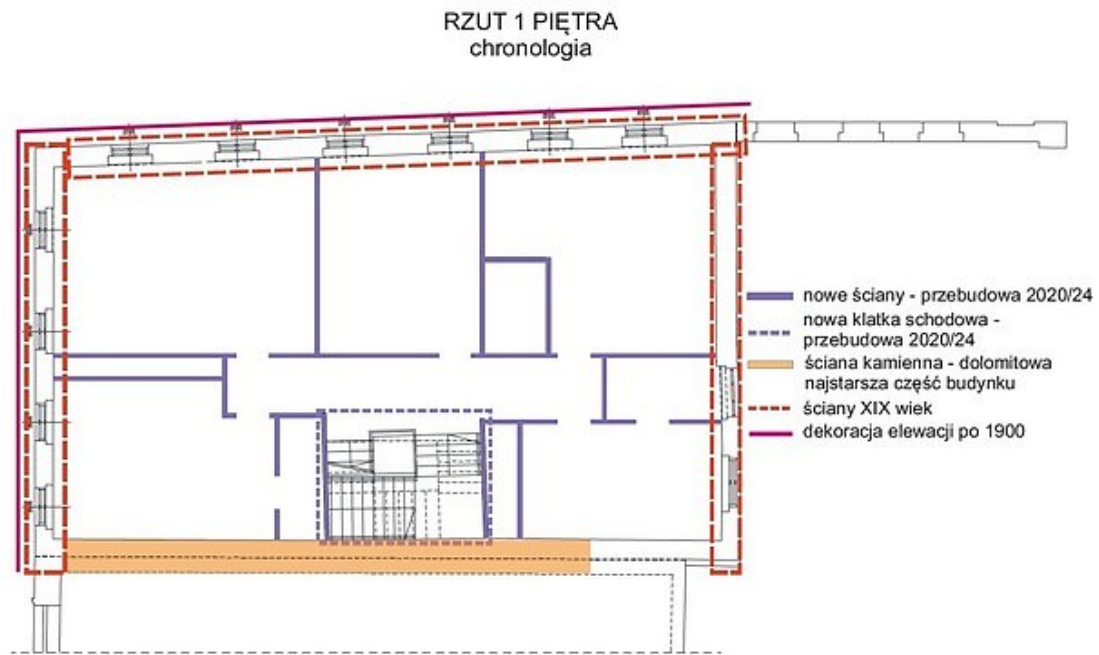


Figure 20. Chronology – ground floor plan.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

- The first floor has 19th-century walls around the perimeter of the building, with a stone wall between the buildings up to the first floor, transitioning to a brick wall on the upper floor.
- A new stairwell from the ground floor to the loft - renovation 2020/2024.
- The façade decoration on the first floor dates from 1900.
- New interior walls from the 2020/2024 redevelopment.
- The second floor has preserved 19th-century lintels, arched with solid bricks measuring 32 x 15 x 7 cm, set in lime mortar and are consistent with the exposed exterior walls of the building.
- The walls around the perimeter of the building date from the 19th century, with façade decoration from 1900.
- New interior walls from the 2020/2024 renovation.

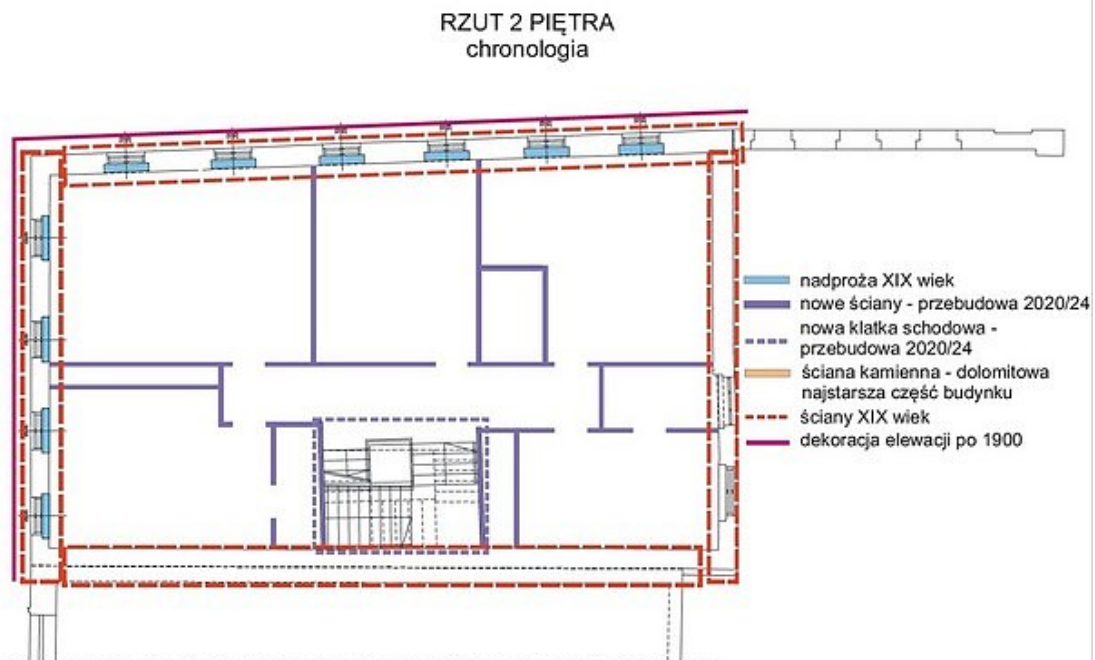
**1ST FLOOR PLAN**

Chronology
 New walls – redevelopment 2020/24
 New stairwell –
 Redevelopment 2020/24

Stone wall – dolomite
 Oldest part of the building
 19th-century walls
 Façade decoration after 1900

Figure 21. Chronology – first floor plan.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

**2ND FLOOR PLAN**

Chronology
 19th-century lintels
 New walls – redevelopment 2020/24
 New stairwell –

Redevelopment 2020/24
 Stone wall – dolomite
 Oldest part of the building
 19th-century walls
 Façade decoration after 1900

Figure 22. Chronology – second floor plan.

Source: Adamczyk-Bomersbach, Krause-Świerczyńska.

6. Conclusion

The building has undergone numerous renovations over the years which has influenced its shape and history. This, however, does not change the fact that it was a significant structure in shaping the market square and the history of the town of Bytom. Rycerska Street appears in numerous publications from its earliest years, and fragments of the remaining structure of the town house, documented by research, confirm this.

The research results have shifted the time of the hotel complex's establishment to the 1840s. They confirmed that it was built on the foundations of an earlier structure, likely residential in nature (a comparison with the cellars of the western frontage of the market dates it to the medieval-renaissance period). They documented the subsequent reconstructions and their authorship and associated individual discoveries with them – architectural and construction-related (use of new techniques and materials). They confirmed the erection of the former annex simultaneously with the construction of the first hotel. Furthermore, all exposures related to the renovation that are to be plastered over or demolished as a result of adaptation have been documented. Unfortunately, the short availability of the facility and the inability to examine the basements and the common wall with building number 3 limited the possibilities for comparative studies between these facilities.

In conclusion, completed the construction work, including the redevelopment, the extension of the town house, and the demolition of the annex building, has made a significant impact on this historic building, resulting in a significant loss of the original fabric of the structure. Meanwhile, the research activities undertaken enriched the knowledge of the site, also filling a research gap in the history of the development of the market quarter buildings. Their results may also be very useful in further studies of the adjacent sites. Their compilation would provide the opportunity to understand the historical development and shaping of the buildings on Rycerska Street.

An additional aim of the article is to demonstrate the importance of architectural research based on DT and NDT (destructive and non-destructive testing) in architectural practice. The example presented above, showing the transformation of a town house, is just a model that can enrich the educational programme for future architectural conservators, so essential for the protection of historic monuments.

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