

DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL TOURISM IN RZESZÓW DISTRICT WITH THE USE OF SELECTED BŁAŻOWA CITY MONUMENTS

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Abstract:

Błażowa Commune has very attractive values of the natural-cultural landscape. Most cultural monuments are located in the town of Błażowa. The monuments that emphasize the uniqueness of this city include: Parish Church of Sts. Marcin, Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Court House. These objects are a sign of the municipality, it is impossible to imagine the image of the town itself without them. Thanks to such a monument base, with the skillful application of tourist promotion, the Błażowa Commune has a chance to become an important tourist center not only of the district but also of the country.

INTRODUCTION

The natural and cultural qualities of the city of Błażowa are a great asset for the development of the town and the municipality through the tourist. The Commune has attractive areas that can promote the development of tourism, recreation and leisure. In addition, the Błażowa commune has good road connections with more important centers of the Podkarpackie voivodeship. Properly maintained, aesthetically developed and exemplified cultural values reflect the pride and respect and also concern of the inhabitants of these areas for their own cultural heritage. Two nature reserves, "Mójka" and "Wilcze", as well as natural and educational trails encourage to visit nature and educational trails. [Nature and education trail in the "Mójka" reserve, 2015]. As part of the microregion "Dolina Strugu" (which also includes the communities of Chmielnik, Tyczyn and Hyżne), these areas constitute an important tourist and recreational base for the nearby Rzeszów [Tourist Map "Dolina Strugu", 2013].

According to the Law on the Protection of Monuments and the Care of Monuments of 23 July 2003, the monument is: "immovable or movable property, parts or assemblies which are human work or related to its activity and constitute evidence of a past epoch or event whose behavior is in the interest of society because of its historical, artistic or scientific value" [Journal of Laws of 2014, pos. 1446]. Each of the historical monuments of the commune has a significant cultural and scientific value, has its own unique history, sometimes designed by a well-known architect, built with the exertion and efforts of the local population, is a valuable national product.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LOCATION OF THE BŁAŻOWA

The Błażowa urban-rural commune is situated in the central part of the Podkarpackie voivodship and in the southern part of Rzeszów county. The distance from the capital of the voivodeship – Rzeszów, is about 20 kilometers. Prior to 1999, before the administrative reform of the country, the municipality was part of the Rzeszów voivodship. There are 10 villages belonging to the commune: Białka, Błażowa Dolna, Błażowa Dolna-Mokłuczka, Błażowa Górna, Futoma, Kąkolówka, Kąkolówka-Ujazdy, Lecka, Nowy Borek, Piątkowa

[Tourist Guide - Błażowa commune, 2016.]. The municipality of Błażowa borders the following communes: from the north with Tyczyn, from the west with Lubenia, from the east with Hyżno, and from the south with the commune of Niebylec (district of Strzyżów), Domaradz, Nozdrzec (district of Brzozów) and Dynów.

The area of the municipality is located within the mesoregion Pogórze Dynowskie [Michałowicz-Kubal M., 1999]. The whole area of the municipality together with the town of Błażowa is located between 21'58' and 22'11' east longitude and between 49'56' and 49'49' north latitude [Tourist Guide - Błażowa Commune, 2016].

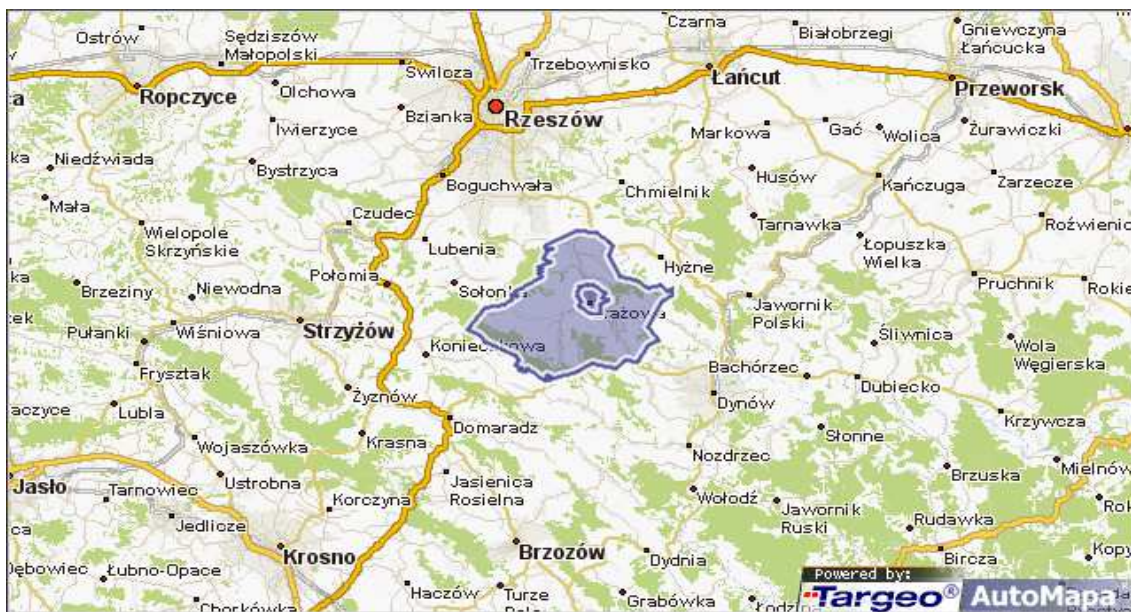


Figure 1. Location of the commune of Błażowa, source: <http://mapa.targeo.pl/GminaBlażowa,668705/gmina>

The city of Błażowa is 24 km away from the center of Rzeszów, and about 60 km from Przemyśl [Tourist Information - City and Commune of Błażowa, 2014].

Błażowa commune has a typical agricultural character. The agriculture is conducted mainly in individual farms, which occupy an area of about 6913 hectares, which gives over 60% of the total area of the municipality. The orchards occupy an area of about 97 hectares, meadows and pastures about 1800 hectares. The number of non-agricultural farms is insignificant. The largest area is used to grow cereals (wheat, rye) and potatoes. The specific microclimate of hills on the south show and south-west in the north of the municipality created the conditions for growing vines, as evidenced by two vineyards ("345" and "Mazurak" vineyards) entered on the Podkarpacie Vineyard Trail. They are an interesting alternative to low-yielding cereal crops in the municipality area [podkarpackiszlakwinnic.pl,2017].

The area of the municipality is inhabited by 8 655 people (as of 30.06.2017) and in the city live 2142 people. The population density is low and amounts to 94 persons per 1 km², with an area of 113 km². In recent years, there has been a tendency towards decreasing pre-working age population, which is the result of, among others, a negative growth rate [demografia.stat.com.pl, 2017].

The level of industrialization of the municipality is quite small. There are 595 business entities operating in the municipality. On the basis of the data it appears that 83.2% of the total number of entities are natural persons who conduct business activity on the basis of the entry into the REGON register. The most developed sectors are trade, car repair, construction and industrial processing. The number of working people is 709, and there are 502 registered

unemployed. 1369 people went to work outside the region, and 300 people were arriving to work [stat.gov.pl, 2017].

Sculpture of the area is varied, the whole area of the municipality is elevated from 220 to 450 meters above sea level and growing in the south. Territory is quite diversified, different is the direction of the course and the height of the upland ridges as well as degree of inclination of the slopes. The hilly area of the municipality is built from flysch coming from Tertiary times. There are mineral deposits in the municipality such as: menial shale in Futoma and diatomite deposits in Nowy Borek and Futoma, as well as slope clay slates, exploited in Przylasek [Mosoń, 2010].

The area of the municipality is mostly located in the Wisłok river catchment area, and the catchment area of the Ryjak river. Only water from a small part of the municipality in the east is drained by the Ulenka river to San. The rivers that flow into Ryjak take their origin in the municipality, and are short and usually characterized by quite large fall (e.g. stream flowing through Futoma crosses 150 meters high for 4 km.) Ryjak flows through the municipality area with a riverbed cut into the bottom of the valley to a depth of about 2 up to 12 m (hence the name of the river). The total length of the watercourses is 33.8 km (with the section of Tatyna along the commune boundary) [Michałowicz-Kubal, 1999]. Borders of Ryjak are regulated at the length of 640 m. In the Ryjak and Mójka valleys there are small fish ponds. The productivity of groundwater is low and in the Podkarpackie voivodeship the area of the commune is not very rich in water.

The Błażowa municipality is not very popular touristic region. This is due to the underdevelopment of important functions such as accommodation (lack of hotels or motels in the region) or lack of recreational water areas. Tourism in the municipality is based on attractions such as nature reserves "Wilcze" and "Mójka" and architectural monuments. Nearly half of the territory is part of the Hyżniański-Gwoźnicki Protected Landscape Area [Nature and education trail in the "Mójka" reserve, 2015).

Cultural tourism in the Błażowa commune is based on visiting and exploring the attractions of cultural heritage - architectural monuments, sacral buildings, rural buildings and folk arts centers [Tourist Guide - Błażowa Commune, 2016].

The most valuable monuments of architecture should be mentioned: parish church of St. Marcin in Błażowa, built in the years 1896-1900 according to the design of the architect Jan Sas-Zubrzycki, brick mansion in Błażowa from the 18th-19th century and adjoining park, parish church of St. Valentine's in Futoma.

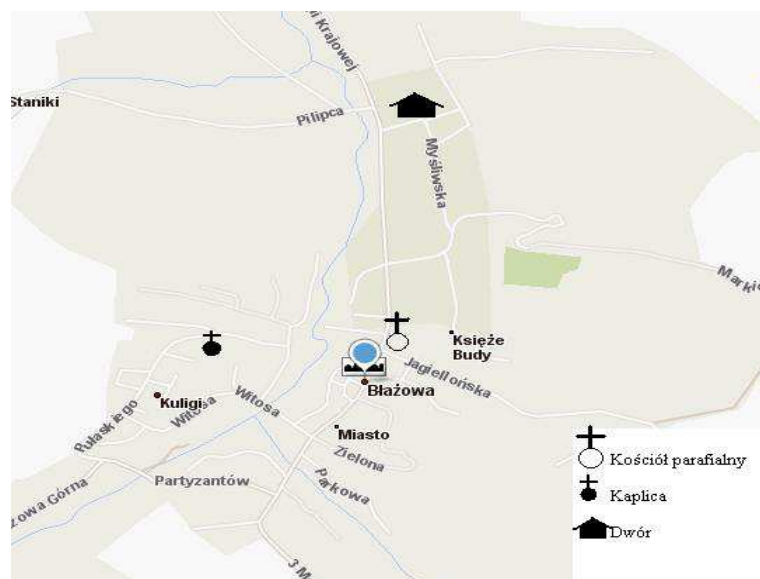


Figure 2. The most important monuments of Błażowa city, source: own elaboration.

MANOR IN BŁAŻOWA

The tradition of the manor house in Błażowa dates back to the first half of the 15th century, which probably existed at that time, together with a manor house belonging to the Kmita and Rzeszowscy families [Dąbkowski, 1923].

The Manor is located at the entrance to Błażowa from Rzeszow side, about 200 meters from the main road on its eastern side (now it is Armii Krajowej street). The property is situated on a gentle slope inclined south and south-west. The manor is detached, west side elevation facing the main road, front elevation facing south. The building is on a rectangular plan on uneven short sides: east elevation - 12 meters, west - 12.8 meters [Czajkowska-Ważny, 1977]. The manor is surrounded by the park with a pond from a western side, and from the north there is a ramp with a trees (with a poorly readable ramp garden and terraces). Till the time between 1st and 2nd world war, there were farm buildings on the east and the south: fours, two barns, a granary, a stable and a barn, which after the war were replaced by the buildings and the farmhouse of the Agricultural Cooperative.

The house is made of brick and stone (basement and bottom of the plinth), one-storey with an attic adapted to the flat, plastered and partly basement (in about 80%). At the west there is a large cellar with a rectangular plan, and under the central part and a porch of 6 small cellars with trapezoid and rectangular views, while half of the eastern part includes basement with rectangular cellar. All of them are vaulted, set on different levels, the layout of the stone (thread) is irregular. The building has an electrical installation, central heating, water and sewage, lightning and telephone.



Figure 3. The Manor in Błażowa,
source <http://www.polskaniezwykla.pl/web/gallery/photo,127894.html>

Prior to the reconstruction, the layout of the ground floor was double-decked with ballroom on the axis, now it is three-storey with porch in the front elevation. Corridors were built on the east and west. The ceiling was demolished over the ballroom, which resulted in the creation of a high-rise two-storey hall, where there is an entrance to the mezzanine, which

leads to the residential part of the attic. Originally, the ceilings were wooden, beams, with a deck of planks, covered with reed and plastered. Currently the floors are made of reinforced concrete. The roof is high, hipped with a half-height fold, covered with a flat sheet painted red. Above the porch is a gable roof, also covered with sheet metal, roof of this ridge is perpendicular to the main roof ridge. The high stairs leads to the porch, made of concrete, straight, single-run with metal railings.

The southern front facade is eight-axial, with an open pillar-porch asymmetrically extended (the consequence of a slight eastward displacement). The pedestal is lower on the east side, higher on the west, because of the uneven terrain. The pedestal is decorated with sculpture in the plaster, separated from the elevation with profiled cornices, in the west there are two windows to the basement, in the east - the door to the basement. There are also rectangular window openings in profiled bands. Window frames (so-called Polish) are double, with wings on both sides of the door frame, open outside and inwards, double doors. Window sills have a form of rectangular slabs with truss in the plaster.

The porch is based on four pillars of concrete (two are rectangular), closed by a triangular, plastered top - there are two square window openings. In the lower porch part, there are boards on the parapet walls. In the western part of the porch there is a door opening to the cellars. The entire elevation crowned with coronal cornice, interrupted on the length of the porch. In the roof area there are four loosely covered roofs with sheet metal roofs. There are also windows without compartments. The eastern side has no pedestal, it is biaxial. The walls are devoid of facade bars in the strips, and the windows are arranged symmetrically, as in the front elevation. In the roof area there are two loops. The rear north facade, like the eastern one, has no plinth, it is six-axial with an irregular axle base, plastered smoothly, with a door hole.

The western side elevation, in contrast to the north and east, has a high, pointed pedestal, with a corners extend downward. The plaster on each facade is mottled, the plinth painted on the color of cement [Wajdowicz, 2004].

In the years 1978-1979 a complete renovation of the manor was carried out without the consent of the Voivodeship Conservator of Monuments. In 1976, renovation guidelines have been prepared, which have not been completed, the documentation of the entire project is missing. Many elements have been completely changed: the historic partition of the walls was eliminated, there were also changes in the roof and the porch. The whole building was raised by about 0.80 m. In the interior of the manor house changes were made to the original state.

There were built double walls, the old fireplace was demolished in the ballroom and the main stairs to the porch were raised. In the porch, in east and west corridors, a terracotta tiles were placed, in the rooms - parquet floors and linoleum flooring. The toilets were provided with floor and wall glaze. In most rooms attic floor is missing, except for a large room from the west and a lounge over the porch (parquet floor). The stairs in the hall are covered with a wooden stave, similar to the floor of the mezzanine. Most of the room's walls are covered with paneling up to the ceiling. In the attic there is a common room and guest rooms - these rooms are illuminated. Reinforced rafter-collar roof structure was rebuilt [Mosoń, 2010].

PARISH CHURCH OF STS.MARTIN IN BŁAŻOWA

Parish church of Sts. Marcin in Błażowa is located on the Armii Krajowej street. It was built in the years 1896 - 1900 according to the design of the architect of Lviv Jan Sas Zubrzycki. The land around the temple is an outline of an irregular oval, the northern side ends with a slope going down to the street leading to the kindergarten, the east and south side is bounded by a terrace with reinforced by retaining walls. The area is surrounded by deciduous trees: linden, maple and oak, with coniferous trees - spruce, which grow mostly

from the Jagiellońska street side. The church is orientated; it is an example of a monumental type, a three-nave basilica with a transept and a western two-tower facade [Koczela, 2000].

The temple is built on stone foundations, which can be seen in the basement under the sacristy. The building is brick, made of red and black glazed brick called “zendrówka”. Architectural elements such as the main portal, pedestals, cornices crowning the main and lateral aisles and the rosette were made of large stone beams. The pedestal is about 60 centimeters in height, covered with stone rustic and a stone apron.



Figure 4. Parish Church in Błazowa,
source: <http://azbest87.bikestats.pl/c,495,50-100km.html>

The roof above the main aisle is tall, gable, crossed at right angles with the roof of the transept, is covered with a red ceramic tile with traces of decorative motifs made in a dark tile. Roofs on the aisle are paneled, covered with copper sheet. Roofs on pyramid towers are quadrilateral, also covered with copper sheet [Wajdowicz, 2004].

The western elevation is the two-storey, situated in the middle part, closed on both sides with two fifty-meter towers. The main portal was made of stone sandstone, topped with a triangular top, with a double door at the bottom, above which there are two dates: 1896 and

1900. In the interior field there is inscription: "Magnificat anima mea Dominum, Ł. I 46". The Eye of Providence is located in the triangle. At the top of the portal there is a stone cross. There are gargoyles on both sides, made of copper sheet, have toothed mouths. The octagonal stone rosette is covered with a protective glass, above it there is a cornice made of bricks and cornice crowning. The whole closes the screen wall covering the top of the roof, in the center of which is a stone cross. On the south tower is a clock face and two stone tablets, one commemorates the 100th anniversary of the temple building, the other is devoted to the professor dr. Jan Sas Zubrzycki - the designer of the temple. The elevation is preceded by granite stairs.

The chancel is topped with a semicircular apse, separated from the main nave by transept. There are two stone portals in the north and south walls. The doors in the upper part are multi-lane, in the lower side they are four-lane. Main nave opens to the side with six arcades, supports are alternately pillars and columns. Western porch is two-storey, in the second floor there is a music choir topped with a cross vault. The windows are fixed in place, monorail, with figural stained glass in the chancel, the others have stained glass windows. Apses in transept with polychrome: in the north side - Resurrection, in the south - Baptism of Jesus [Wajdowicz, 2004].

The main altar is three-storey with the sculpture of Christ in the middle field, on the sides there are the sculptures of St. Peter and Paul and a tabernacle made of silver. In the neo-Gothic transept are located the following altars: St. Joseph with the child and the Virgin Mary. At the middle pillar of the western porch side is located a font.

The apse of the chancel is five-ply, divided by three-stepped buttress. The windows are closed with a full arc, finished with brick arcades. Above the windows there is overhanging cornice molded in brickwork as well as a stone profiled cornice crowning. The chancel windows are visible above the roofs of the sacristy on the south and north sides. The roof is 9-layers, covered with tile. The roofs of the nave, chancel and transept are gable, equal to the height, at their intersection there is a pyramid sign.

The facade of the aisle is placed on a pedestal covered with stone rustic, decorated with horizontal stripes of black glazed brick, whose heads are protruding from the face and also a strip of stone frieze with a triangular motif. Between the buttresses there are closed windows with a full arc with an overhanging stone arch. The entire facade ends with a brick cornice along with profiled brick cornice. A sloping roof is covered with copper sheet. The main nave's elevation is above the sidewalk and is divided into three trusses, each with two window openings. As in the elevation of the aisle, it is enclosed by a stone cornice. Between the side wall of the nave and the western wall of the transept there is a small porch covered with a sloping roof.

The temple is in very good condition, all the time performing its sacred functions.

CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was built in 1904. Mass chapel is located in the western part of the town, in the former Roman Catholic cemetery, located on the slope inclined to the east, on the left side of the river Ryjak. The building is a freestanding, unoriented (presbytery facing west), located in the middle of an uninhabited rectangular area falling to the east, surrounded by new housing developments. Inside the cemetery there is a gravestone of Maciej Grochmalicki, an organist living at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. On the south side there are several deciduous trees.

The chapel is made of red roasted bricks and black brick called "zendrówka" (used in the pedestal). Erected on the plan of the Greek cross, the chancel is narrower and lower than the main body. On the north and south sides there are small, low sacristies. The southern

vestry was added in the 1990s, slightly different from the northern vestry: it has no pedestal on the outer facade, it is covered with flat ceilings, and windows without glyphs.



Figure 5. Chapel in Błażowa, source: <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/48958234>

The pedestal has a height of 80 centimeters, covered with a copper plate apron. The roof of the main body is high, gable, crossed at right angles, it has five-layer over the presbytery, sloping over the vestibule. The roofs are covered with decorative red masonry tiles with concave grooves. The drainage pipes and gutters are made of copper sheet. At the junction of the nave there is a signage covered with a four-sided slender pyramid, topped with a globe with a cross [Wajdowicz, 2004].

Front elevation with portal on the axis is topped with a stepped escutcheon. The portal is pointed, closed in the casing exiting the face of the facade. At the top is a stone cross with equal arms with indented arms. Facade walls are flanked on both sides.

In the western facade there is a five-sided chancel adjoining the broader and higher wall of the body, the walls are covered with two-sided faces with a double profiled cornice.

South facade has transept on the axle, closed straight wall with large pointed, multi-room window embedded in a deep jamb. The upper part of the window is covered with brick, black-colored arcade frieze, with pendants on the ends. The transept walls in the frontal and lateral planes are flanked by two-sided skirts. On the east side of the body wall there is a small arcaded window. On the western side between the transept and the chancel there is a low sacristy.

The north facade is similar to the southern one, with the difference that a triangular pseudo-turret is located between the eastern side of the transept and the body wall.

The chancel is enclosed with a semi-circular apse with a five-lines vault, separated from the nave by a wide vault line. The nave is similar in shape to the square, covered by a cross vault. Over the porch there is a music choir supported by a sloping cut-out bracket, entrance to the choir in the north wall of the porch [Wajdowicz, 2004].

There are three neo-gothic wooden altars: in the chapel - "Heart of Jesus", in the northern transept - St. Antoni with the child ", in the southern transcription - "Our Lady with the

Child". Benches are decorated with folk motifs, doors leading to the tower have a quadrangle pattern.

The property has considerable architectural value, is a significant compositional and landscape role in the spatial structure of the village, has an influence on shaping the identity of local residents. The chapel is a continuation of the earlier cemetery chapel, although it was built in the former necropolis, never used for funeral purposes.

STRATEGY OF PROMOTION OF THE BLAZOWA MUNICIPALITY IN THE DISTRICT OF RZESZOW

The area of south-eastern Poland, also including Błażowa commune are the regions with low-level industrialization but at the same time a great potential of nature. Tourism development is one of the basic ways that the community has to take to eliminate unemployment and raise the living standards of its inhabitants.

In 1996 the Institute of Tourism in Cracow developed a strategy for the development of the Rzeszów voivodeship through tourism. In his work he defined the subregion "Dolina Strugu" (consisting of Błażowa municipality) as an area with great tourist potential [blazowa.itl.pl, 2017].

In terms of tourism, the Błażowa municipality has a sightseeing and recreation character with emphasis on sightseeing.

The locality function of the municipality is based mainly on the values of the natural environment, auxiliary based on anthropogenic values (monuments). The touristic status of the local community is now known locally. Tourism promotion must aim to increase its position in the region, which will increase the influx of tourists from other parts of the country and even from abroad.

In the present condition there is no development of the recreational function, this should be compensated by the construction of the water reservoir in the village of Błażowa - Wilczak. The plans for development of this area were already established in the 1990s. However, till today, there is no action in this direction.

Another impediment in the field of tourism is the lack of developed agritourist farms in the municipality. This leads to impaired development of short-term and weekend tourism. The development of the municipality is largely dependent on the use of its most important monuments. Parish Church of Sts. Marcin, the work of prominent architect Jan Sas Zubrzycki could be one of the "stops" on the path of the work of this significant designer. The Manor in Błażowa also has the chance to become an important point of excursions in the Rzeszów district as one of the most valuable monuments of regional manor architecture.

It would be useful to consider the possibility of organizing philharmonic concerts or organ concerts in a temple. Due to the magnificent size of the building, the Philharmonic Orchestra would have been able to fit in the church without limiting its personal composition.

SUMMARY

Thanks to the development of the above-mentioned branches of tourism, the Błażowa municipality would have the chance to become an important recreational and tourist backdrop for the Rzeszów district. By establishing a hostel base and changing the structure of the tourist traffic from one day to weekend or short-term tourist would stay in the town for a longer time, and this would undoubtedly contribute to the development of the municipality.

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