

# Key qualities of 19<sup>th</sup>-century barrack complexes on the example of Legnica's Grenadier Barracks

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## Abstract

With the construction of Grenadier Barracks in 1874, Legnica joined the prestigious group of 82 Silesian garrison towns that were regularly visited by the highest authorities. Barracks, which were often built according to a typical plan, were characterized by a set of standard features that immediately distinguished them from the surrounding buildings and communicated a set of intangible impressions: prestige, community, strength, etc. Today, these features form a link with intangible heritage and local tradition. For this reason, when demilitarized barrack complexes are redeveloped, priority should be given to preserving the plan and architectural form as these now constitute cultural capital. The present study contains a synthetic description of the evolution of Legnica garrison, a detailed analysis of the Grenadier Barracks, and an introduction to the discussion on their protection through suitable revitalization.

**Keywords:** barrack complexes, revitalization of historic cities, cultural landscape, local identity

## 1. Legnica as a part of a network of garrison towns

Among Silesian cities, the shape of Legnica was most influenced by the army. From the end of the First Silesian War in the summer of 1742 until the withdrawal of the Russian Army units in 1993, Legnica's history was intertwined with that of various military units. The army was the factor that powered the transition from a rural township to a town where the emperor dined with his troops. Initially underestimated as a strategic vantage point as compared to nearby Głogów, Legnica gradually reinforced its relations with the military, thereby achieving a strong economic position and high administrative rank at the turn of the 20th century. A systematic influx of military units stimulated the construction market and boosted the services and trade market (Schoenaich, 1931: 460–462). The founding of the garrison, especially in its initial stage before the First World War, influenced the further development of this city. New complexes stimulated the expansion of the city, initiated road network development, and affected the layout of future suburbs.

The construction of the barracks could not have happened any later. Although in the 16th century Legnica was already the second largest stronghold in Silesia (bested only by Wrocław) (Paetzold, 1998: 7), no barracks were built here until the late 1870s. This was probably because Legnica, which remained under Austrian supremacy, was not a garrison, and its defense lay in the hands of the citizens. After coming under Prussian rule, Legnica became the seat of a standing army for the first time in its history; however, this fact did not immediately lead to the construction of barracks. Until 1714, Prussia-Brandenburg did not have a standing army (Hahn, 1991: 161–208). Owing to the general conscription introduced at that time (Lehmann, 1891: 254–289), the army increased in numbers from 40,000 to 80,000 soldiers (Clark, 2009: 109). However, even the military reform of Fryderyk Wilhelm I did not cause a “construction boom” of barracks in Legnica, as was the case, for example, in Wrocław (Rudnicka-Bogusz, 2015: 20). The billeting of a steadily increasing number of soldiers had to be arranged by the townspeople (Lepage, 2009), which caused a considerable rift between the two parties (Davies, 2004: 281). Billeting proved a real nuisance, particularly in times of war, when lodgings and contributions were demanded not only by domestic soldiers but also by the enemy (Mortimer, 2002).

The numbers show how big a burden the billeting really was. After the First Silesian War, in the summer of 1742, the oldest royal cavalry regiment, *Regiment Geßler zu Pferde Nr. 4*, became the first unit of the Legnica garrison. The feeding, clothing and sheltering of the 834 troops was the responsibility of the city and its rural peripheries. In 1797, the regiment already contained 2,425 people, who formed a separate community with its own administration, justice, education, health care and pastoral system. They lived as before, cohabiting with the townspeople. The importance of this problem can be demonstrated by the fact that the city had a population of 8,026 inhabitants (Eysymontt, 2009: 25). The constant rotation and frequent passage of troops were not without significance. During the Seven Years' War, Legnica was not manned by a military team and fell into the hands of the Austrians. The last effort of the Prussians in the campaign of 1757 was to take back the city. In the 1760s, the town was recaptured by the Austrians, who in 1761 were joined by allied Russians, only to finally leave the city to the Prussians. In 1828 and 1835, great maneuvers of the Prussian, Austrian and Russian armies took place in Legnica; 1867 marked the 50th anniversary of the honorary suzerainty of King William I over the Grenadier regiment of his name. In the 1870s in Legnica, a prisoner-of-war camp for Frenchmen was established and required personnel to guard it. On the occasion of all these events, the soldiers in the formations arriving here had to be quartered temporarily in hastily adapted accommodation and townhouses. The townspeople could, however, buy themselves out of this duty by paying a new “service” tax to finance the living costs of soldiers and other townspeople and innkeepers who made lodgings available. In this way, the richest and most influential families were excluded from billeting

(Paetzold, 1998: 9), thus reducing the pool of available quarters and contributing to the overcrowding of those in use.

The constant interactions with the military began to become visible in the city and its investments. Because the soldiers were stationed not in barracks but in private quarters, in the event of an alarm they gathered at a previously designated place. In 1747, in Legnica Town Square, the old main guardhouse was replaced by a more representative arcaded one. In 1842, the arcading was fashioned into a portico, which survives to this day as part of a 1913 café. Guardrooms were installed at four of the city's main gates. In 1752, the municipality funded a military hospital in what is now Szpitalna Street, and a training ground with shooting range was set up in Głogowskie Suburb (*Glogauer Haag*) outside the city walls to the north (Jander, 1905: 173). Still, every large-scale maneuver was a painful reminder of the shortage of quarters, and dormitories for newly arriving soldiers were hastily organized in public facilities such as the castle or monastery.

Unfortunately, Legnica was only the seat of the county. The administrative order established in Prussia-Brandenburg was extended over Silesia after Prussia took it over in the 1760s. From 1723, the country was administrated by The General Chief Directory for Finance, War and Domains (Haussherr, 1953: 1–30), divided into departments headed by ministers. For the newly annexed Silesia, however, a separate minister was established. Under the leadership of presidents, new provincial authorities, so-called War and Domains Chambers, administered departments that were divided into districts (German *Kreis*) and managed by *Landrat*, which coexisted with judicial units called *Regierung*. After the annexation by Prussia, two chambers were established in Silesia in 1741: the first with headquarters in Głogów and the second with headquarters in Wrocław. There were also three *Regierungs* in Wrocław, Głogów and Opole. One of the most important tasks of the chambers was to regulate the movement and lodgings of troops, and the provisioning of the army. Therefore, the most important garrisons were located in the seats of chambers, and these cities were the first to construct barracks. The position of Legnica in this administrative hierarchy was affected by Prussia's defeat in a conflict with the Napoleonic army in 1806 (Mortimer, 2002: 240–241). In 1808, this led to fundamental administrative reforms involving the army, such as consolidation of The War and Domains Chambers with *Regierungs*. As a result of the Treaties of Tilsit in 1807, Silesia remained Prussian. Nevertheless, the Napoleonic army took post in the Głogów fortress, therefore it could no longer fulfil the function of a Chamber seat; when administrative reform occurred in 1809, the seat of the restructured *Regierung* was moved to Legnica and stayed there even after the Vienna Congress of 1815. For the first time, Legnica gained enough importance to qualify for the construction of its own barracks.

## 2. The Grenadier Complex as an example of barracks from the first period of militarization in Prussia

Despite the increased number of troops in Legnica, they still had to live in makeshift lodgings or with civilians until as late as the 1860s. It was only in 1874, on the 60th anniversary of King William I presiding over the regiment that the construction of Grenadier Barracks began. Perhaps the decision to build permanent lodgings was accelerated by the victorious end of the war with France in 1871. Contributions obtained on that occasion were used, among other things, to expand the army and strengthen its combat potential by shortening the response time. This was to be achieved with the establishment of a network of barrack complexes that were all near main routes or railroads for swifter deployment. The growth of the army that ensued entailed the necessity of building new barracks. Luckily, at the turn of the 20th century, Prussia enjoyed significant economic growth, which boosted the real estate boom and the construction of barracks. The improvement in the economic situation coincided with the removal

of city walls and fortifications, which facilitated large scale-investments such as industrial buildings and barrack complexes that were close enough to city centers but free of the constraints of dense urban development. The tendency to locate barracks in smaller complexes forming a ring on the edges of garrison towns (instead of, for example, creating a large compound in one location) was shared by all the Prussian Army Corps. They can be identified not only in Leszno (V Army Corps), but also in Wrocław, Koźle, Nysa or Prudnik (VI Army Corps). In Chojnowskie Suburb in Legnica (V Army Corps), Grenadier Barracks were built in 1874–1888 (on what is now Hutników Street – former *Grenadierstraße*), with an accompanying army hospital (1877) on a nearby street. In 1913, this complex was extended to the east with the construction of Wilhelm I. Barracks. The fall of the monarchy and the economic crisis temporarily impeded the expansion of the garrison. However, after this political transformation, in 1935 a barrack complex of the 51st Infantry Regiment was constructed further west on the south side of Chojnowska Street. In 1938, this complex was expanded further west on the north side of Chojnowska Street by the construction of *Füsilierkaserne*. In the north of the city, in Głogowskie Suburb, artillery barracks (so-called *Ziethenkaserne*) were built in 1934–35, along with an officers' casino on Stubińska Street. A supplementary compound, the *Scharnhorstkaserne*, was built in 1935–36 for the artillery regiment. On the eastern side of the city, in 1913, a communications unit constructed its barracks and expanded them in 1933–38. In 1935, the construction of *Siegeshöhe Kaserne* in Złotoryjski Wood south of the city marked the arrival of an anti-tank defense unit. Overall, over the course of 64 years the city was gradually surrounded on all sides by barrack complexes of various types (Fig. 1). Comparing the construction dates of barrack complexes shows how long it took Legnica to acquire its first barracks and how rapidly the complexes grew once they were established.

Thanks to Grenadier Barracks, in 1874 Legnica joined the prestigious group of 82 Silesian garrison towns (Schoenaich, 1931: 460–462), with Legnica taking the rank of Landwehr Headquarters in the V Army Corps. The city's inhabitants took great pride in Legnica's barracks, especially as the developing garrison was the reason for visits from members of the imperial court. Military displays graced local festivities and military associations involved themselves in local affairs, thus the lives of the garrison and the city were intertwined (Paetzold, 1998). It was only the unfavorable turn of the First World War that put this army-induced prosperity on hold. This is why the Grenadier Complex from this first garrison development period is so important as cultural capital: it paved the way for future development, which sealed Legnica's fate as a "military town".

The modern rediscovery of the idea of placing soldiers in separate residential buildings specifically dedicated to them was not Prussian. The 1887 Architecture Manuals ("Handbuch der Architektur") described not only the historic beginnings of this idea but also the standards to which it should contemporarily adhere at



**Fig. 1.** Barrack complexes in Legnica (by Marta Rudnicka-Bogusz)

the example of domestic and foreign compounds. These expansive barrack complexes resembled *entre cour et jardin* palaces: the main edifice and auxiliary buildings were spread out on a raster plan, thus creating one or more drill grounds. Extensive internal courtyards were the essence of 17<sup>th</sup>-century barracks (Oestreich, 1977: 30). Regular drills in typical combat routines served to increase the maneuverability of large numbers of soldiers and resulted in a high level of specialization of a wide variety of troops and a vigorous professional discipline of the officer corps. Barrack complexes built at that time represented a type of architecture called *architecture parlante*. They were evidence of the power and status of the institution for which they were intended, hence the reference to palatial stylistics. Buildings of this type and style can be found throughout the whole of Germany and former dependent territories, regardless of which army corps they were constructed for. The outline of Grenadier Barracks in Legnica brings to mind the so-called “Old Barracks” building of the 46th Infantry Brigade (46. [2. Königlich Sächsische] Infanteriebrigade) at *Alaun Platz* in the *Albertstadt* district of Dresden (II Army Corps), or the Cuirassier barracks in Wrocław (VI Army Corps). Such standardization was not surprising and can be associated with the generally understood system of visual identification in urban space. Indeed, all these values, which local communities associated with barracks, were also universally perceived and comprehended by the general public. Barracks had to be readily identifiable by both locals and visitors so that these contexts could be easily understood. In addition, the reason for this standardization could simply have been of a practical nature. From the time of the Roman Empire, unification of a camp’s layout allowed, for example, the rapid dispatch and rotation of troops.

The similarities between army barracks and palaces bestowed prestige on the soldiers stationed in them; they also counteracted desertion (Podruczny, 2009: 80) and at the same time led to the improvement of relations between the army and the local population. Due to the waiver system, it was usually the less affluent who joined the military. The sense of belonging to the army, which since the time of Frederic William I had been the top priority of rulers and their administrations, was therefore a source of pride, and military service was a path to regular income and possibly fame. Living in newly built, representative buildings increased the prestige of military life even further. Cohabitation created an almost family-like bond between soldiers and made them less likely to abandon each other in battle. The general conscription introduced in 1714 meant that the army recruited mostly domestically, unlike other armies that consisted of foreigners and mercenaries. Custom required that all reservists attend mass in full uniform. They often gathered of their own volition in the markets of their villages and towns to practice and drill. The army then seemed omnipresent. Because townspeople had been freed of billeting obligations and the majority of adult men were reservists with several years of training, a symbiosis begun to develop between them and regiments stationed nearby. Citizens also appreciated the grandeur of newly built barracks, which elevated the neighborhood and stimulated urban and economic development. At the same time, Prussian involvement in the armed conflicts that raged during the greater part of the 18th and 19th centuries fueled the national trauma caused by the atrocities committed against the civilian population during the Thirty Years’ War. This might have been a source of support for the autocratic absolutist monarchy, whose strong army and firm foreign policy were seen as a guarantor of the safety of its subjects (Clark, 2009: 61).

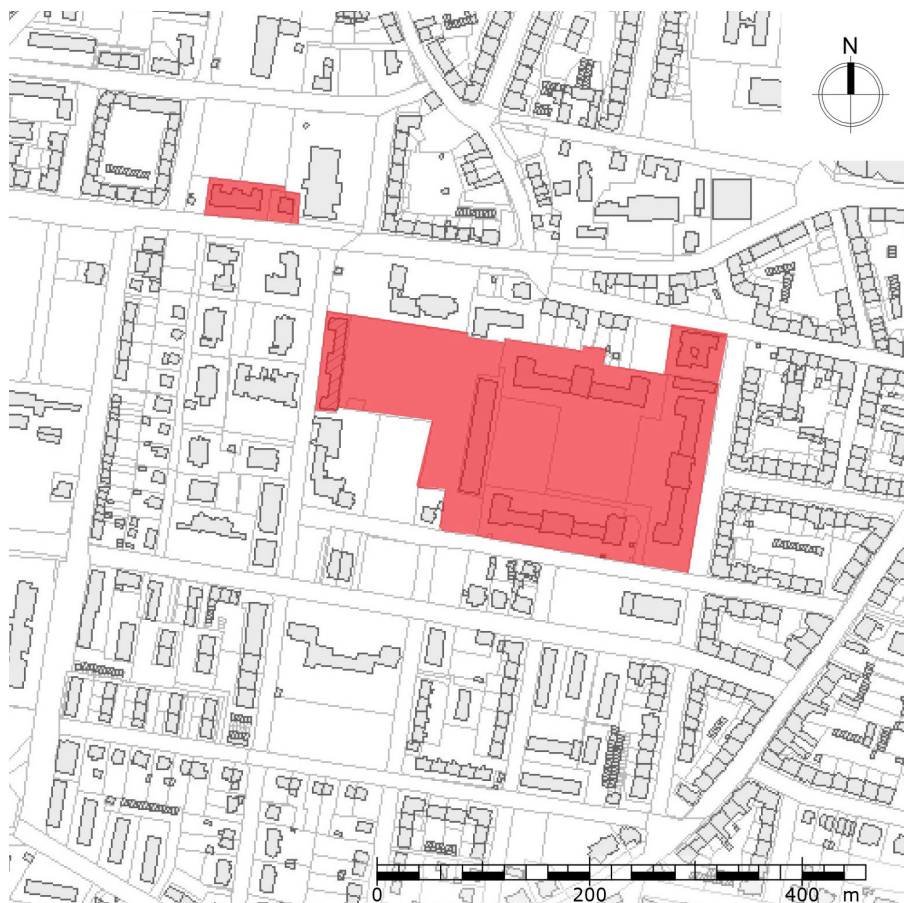
Barrack complexes comprised buildings of three types: dormitories for soldiers’ accommodation; apartment buildings intended for officers and their families; and auxiliary administrative, economic and storage buildings. Dormitories were divided into soldiers’ rooms with 10–15 beds each. They were heated with masonry heaters in every room, as indicated in designs (Urbaniak, 2012: 44). Initially the corridor ran along one wall and the rooms stretched along the other. Later, to achieve better use of space, the corridor was placed

centrally with rooms opening to it on both sides. Barracks were usually red brick buildings, often adorned with green or brown glazed fittings in the neo-Gothic style, less frequently in Romanesque style. The usage of specific revivalist styles was intended to appropriate simple references to castles and strongholds. The tectonicity of façades was achieved with pseudo-machicolation, pilaster strips, socles, ledges and ceramic friezes. This style was fashioned after public facilities such as courts of law or schools, but it was also used in the construction of factories or tenement houses.

This trend can be illustrated by the huge Grenadier Barrack Complex in Legnica, which influenced the urban development of the Chojnowskie Suburb. The core of the plan was a street whose central point would be the grenadier barracks. The complex was built on previously undeveloped land that had been used as gardens (Dymarska, 2007: 34). The main axis of this part of Legnica was the current Nowy Świat Street (*Nicolaistrasse*), which was delineated in 1870. When the decision to construct the barracks had been made, Hutników Street (*Grenadierstrasse*) was outlined perpendicularly towards Złotoryjskie Suburb, running in front of the facade of the main building in the complex (Dymarska, 2007: 35). In 1889, when the entire complex had been completed, the current Sejmowa Street was marked out to limit it from the south.

The construction of the first building in the complex commenced in 1874 and concluded in 1882. The emperor was the guest of honor at the ceremony of the formal inhabiting of the barracks (Paetzold, 1998: 47), and the townspeople financed a commemorative fresco adorning the canteen. The building accommodated soldiers of the 1st battalion. A dormitory for the 2nd battalion was built on Sejmowa Street in 1879–1881, and a year later the construction of the third building was completed, with a third and fourth battalions settling in the barracks in 1897 and 1909, respectively. The array was supplemented by an army hospital at nearby Chojnowska Street in 1877 and by another dormitory on an adjacent street in 1913 (Fig. 2).

The first institution dealing with all matters related to military construction was the 4th Department, which was established in 1787 within the framework of the Supreme Army Council (Maude, 2011) (*Ober Kriegs Collegium*). However, it was not until 1878 that the Construction Supervision Office of the Legnica Garrison (*Garrison-Baubezirk Liegnitz*) was established under the leadership of the *Baumeister* Nerenz from Głogów. Before that, civilian officials were responsible for all buildings financed by non-private funds. Military engineers were active at that time, but it was civic construction officials who designed barracks, guardhouses, and lazarettos, i.e. structures that had analogous civilian equivalents (Podruczny: 58). This was perhaps due to the fact that these officials were bound by law to participate in each stage of the construction process, starting with the inception of the project. The building surveyor (*Baurat*) who held office in Legnica during the establishment of the Grenadier Barracks was



**Fig. 2.** The Grenadier Barracks together with the garrison hospital and Wilhelm I's barracks (hatched outline – building does not exist) (by Marta Rudnicka-Bogusz)

**Fig. 3.** The Grenadier Barracks shortly after completion, as depicted on a period postcard (in the author's collection)



Theodor Becker (Winkel, 1913: 476), who arrived from Berlin at the beginning of 1874. It is plausible that as the Imperial Grenadier barracks were a prestigious complex, he brought the plans with him, which would explain similarities to corresponding buildings erected throughout the empire. This is a hypothesis for now, as all the source materials for this building are missing and there is no mention of this in the literature.

### 3. The appearance of Grenadier Barracks' facades as a means of achieving prestige

The main barrack building at Sejmwowa Street represents historicism: it is neo-Gothic with aspects of neo-Renaissance and neo-Romanism (Fig. 3). It is splayed on the north-south axis, and the façade faces Hutników Street. Its layout brings to mind a rotated letter "E" and it was designed in the monumental manner of a baroque palace in the "between court and garden" type – the essence of absolutism. The façade of the *corps de logis* on the street side is composed according to three axes of symmetry. The central axis marks the highest part of the building – a block of 11 windows which towers a whole story over the rest of the edifice. Owing to the avant-corps at its extremities, the whole section seems to protrude from the building like an *avant-corps*. This portion of the edifice is triaxial as the middle part on the ground floor contains the main entrance. It is stylized as an archivolt portal, crowned with a semi-circular arcade and enclosed in a framework of pilaster strips. On the ground floor, lesenes protrude from the elevation that are similar to half-pillars and which used to be topped with grand eagle figurines on the level with a first-floor ledge. A round medallion was placed over the portal's keystone, resulting in angulation of a corresponding fragment of the second-floor stringcourse. On the upper floors above the portal, the space between the pilasters is filled with three slender, semi-circular windows clustered together, which in the context of the overall stylistics may be reminiscent of a triforium. On each corner, pilaster strips flank two window bays and the whole section of the wall protrudes from the face of the building, creating avant-corps-like projections. On the top floor of these projections, above the cornice, eagles similar to those crowning the pillars at the portal used to culminate the lesene. Ancient-looking busts with banners (much like *spolia opima*) highlight the roof ridges (Fig. 4). Between the projections and pilaster strips in the central part, there are two window bays per level on each side, topped with a segmental arch. A hip roof stretches over the edifice.

From the *avant-corps*, the lower parts of the *corps-logis* protrude symmetrically to the north and south. The façade culminates with projections: the northern one encompasses five window bays enclosed in corner pilaster strips, while the southern one has three high, arcaded windows extending from the ground floor to top of the second floor. The whole edifice rests on a rusticated socle. The stone cladding takes the form of truncated diamonds in the base part under the pilaster strips. The socle encompasses small square windows that illuminate the basement and culminates in a base molding. An inter-story ledge tops the first story. The accompanying frieze is made of ceramic tiles with a six-pointed star motif. The building is crowned with an arcaded frieze, a frieze with a rosette motif, and a crowning cornice angulating around the pilaster strips, which gives the appearance of capitals.

On the courtyard side, the elevation has largely corresponding tectonics and stylistics. The central block of the *corps logis* comprises a centrally located archivolt portal and six window bays. Pilaster strips enclose the two corner windows on each side, thus giving the impression that they protrude. The half-story vertical offset of the windows in these projections immediately reveals the locations of the staircases. This is confirmed at ground level by two portals in these *avant-corps* that lead directly from the stairwells to the drill yard. The sections extending from the central block both have seven window bays. On the courtyard side, these are single windows that correspond to the paired windows on the façade on the street side. Accordingly, the side wings in the yard match the *avant-corps* at the culminations of the street-side facade. The side wings' façades are divided into three parts by the middle *avant-corps*, which emphasizes the location of the entrance portals. The projections contain one window bay that is flanked by corner pilaster strips. The corners of the wings are also highlighted with pilaster strips. Base molding also highlights the ground floor on the courtyard side, but the frieze with the star motif has only survived on the elevations of the wings. The top entablature at the backside consists of a pseudo-machicolated arcaded frieze, a frieze with rosettes, and a crowning cornice fashioned like a *sima* with an *anthemion* motif.

The second building in the complex constitutes its southern frontage and was built in 1879–1881 at Sejmowa Street. Similarly to the previously discussed building, the edifice was designed in accordance with an *entre cour et jardin* layout in the shape of a rotated letter "E". The *corps logis* is arranged symmetrically around the central axis. The middle block consists of six window bays and is one floor higher than the rest of the building. The main entrance is placed on the axis of symmetry and is a neo-renaissance portal flanked by pilasters with simplified Tuscan capitals with rosettes and topped with an archivolt. The portal protrudes slightly from the façade, creating the impression that the entrance is crowned by a balcony. On both sides, similarly to the adjoining building, two peripheral lines of windows are inscribed in shallow *avant-corps* but without the use of corner pilaster strips. The whole building is encircled with a plaster socle that is crowned with base molding



**Fig. 4.** The entablature on the regenerated elevation of the Grenadier Barrack Complex; courtyard view (by Marta Rudnicka-Bogusz)



**Fig. 5.** The western side wing of the second building in the Grenadier Barrack Complex (by Marta Rudnicka-Bogusz)

made of rowlock and profiled brick; the arched basement windows and corners are accentuated with enlarged pilaster strips. On the ground floor, pairs of windows capped with arches in casing made of double soldier course run the length of the elevation. Directly over the arch key, a second brick cornice with a frieze and ceramic fittings with a *denticule* motif divide the elevation into a more decorated lower part and plainer upper parts. The ledge angulates around corner pilaster strips, giving the appearance of a capital. Above it there are three levels of paired windows crowned with a rowlock, a machicolated frieze, a frieze with a course of diagonal bricks, and a crowning cornice with ceramic fittings. The edifice is topped with a hipped roof. To the east and south, six pairs of windows separate the central *avant corps* from its

shallow side equivalents, each of which is axially symmetrical and encompasses five arched windows on each level. Pilaster strips accentuate the corners of the *avant-corpses*.

The elevation facing the courtyard is also symmetrically arranged in relation to the central axis of the *avant-corps* of the building. The central block rises a whole story above the rest of the building and is divided into three sections by a slight protrusion of the outmost pairs of windows. There is a high portal in neo-Renaissance style on the axis of symmetry, just like the one facing the street; it is crowned with an archivolt fashioned of a double soldier course and flanked by two Tuscan pilasters with rosettes. On the backside, analogically to the main building, side wings appear as equivalents of the lateral projections on the façade (Fig. 5). The front elevations of the sidewings are tripartite: in the middle part, the windows are offset by half a story from the rest, thus revealing the position of the landings in the staircases. On the ground floor, side wings contain centrally placed portals that enable direct exit from the staircases to the courtyard. At the third-floor level, oculi are used to highlight the central axis. The corners of the side wings are accentuated with pilaster strips. On consecutive levels, base molding, a string course, and a crown molding run the length of the façade.

The third building was completed in 1882 and restricts access to the grenadier barrack complex from the north. The design maintains the same historicizing style as the two neighboring edifices but with one difference: the elevation with side wings faces not towards the courtyard but away from the complex; this is probably due to the relation between the functions inside and the cardinal directions. However, since the complex is originally located outside the city in an undeveloped area, the elevation that faces away from the complex should be considered the façade, despite the fact that it is shaped like the rear elevations of neighboring buildings. The third building in the complex consists of a corps de logis and two side wings. The whole edifice is set on a socle faced with ashlar in which arched windows that illuminate the basement are placed and topped with a base molding. The building is three stories high with a four-story *avant-corps* stretching the length of six window bays. It protrudes beyond the face of the building to such an extent that it was possible to place six window bays on the side elevation. Therefore, the central part forms not only an *avant-corps* but also a sort of central wing. The main entrance is the most significant object on the ground floor of the façade. It is a neo-renaissance portal flanked with

Tuscan pilasters with rosette and cymatium, and it is crowned with an archivolt. It protrudes slightly from the face of the wall, making the whole façade more tectonic and articulated. Above the portal, pairs of windows are placed centrally on the second, third and fourth stories. On the second and third story, these pairs of windows are flanked on both sides with additional windows. Above the base molding, the pilasters double, thus emphasizing the corners of the central wing. On both sides of the tallest block, seven window bays were designed, the farthest of which are paired. The side wings that culminate the *corps de logis* project only half the length of the central wing from the main façade. The facades of the side wings are tripartite: two plain strips are divided by a protruding part of the wall. The entrance portal is placed centrally in each of the side wings at ground level. On the third floor, similarly to the southern building, *avant-corpses* are embellished with oculi. At each level, the central pair of windows is offset by half a story in relation to the general position of the windows on the façade, which indicate the landings. The topmost entablature angulates around the pilaster strips, creating the impression of capitals. The entablature consists of a rowlock course, a profiled cornice stylized as machicolation, a smooth frieze, and a cornice made of ceramic fittings.

A socle faced with ashlar and topped with a base molding with a *denticule* motif constitutes the lowest layer of the elevation on the side of the yard. A shallow centrally located *avant-corps* rises above the remaining part of the façade by a story. Its corners are accentuated with pilaster strips. In a small projection of the wall, there is a neo-renaissance portal flanked by two Tuscan pilasters with rosettes and topped with archivolts. The base molding angulates around the pilaster strips and the frontage of the portal. Above the cornice, there are twice as many pilaster strips. The extremities of the building are accentuated by shallow protrusions and the edifice is covered by a hipped roof. The collection of buildings is completed by a stable which encloses the drill square from the west; the auxiliary buildings stand in the north-eastern corner in the gap between buildings 1 and 3.

The complex also included a garrison hospital along with the medical staff's villa at nearby Chojnowska Street. The building was designed on the plan of the letter "E" in the same style as the barrack complex, namely red brick historicism. The façade of the edifice is tripartite: two peripheral projections flank a plain, axially symmetrical middle section. These *avant-corps* of sorts are higher than the midblock due to the difference in roof geometry. The entire edifice rests upon a high, plaster-veneered plinth with bossage, topped with a ground course of ceramic fittings. The socle is strewn with square windows which illuminate the basement. The main portal is tall and narrow, and it crosses the base molding and the first level of the elevation in its entirety; it protrudes from the wall on the main axis, framed with Tuscan pilasters with rosettes and an archivolt made of brick fittings. The first floor, which is diversified by layers of burr, is crowned with a diamond frieze and a cornice made of ceramic moldings. The second floor extends up to a ledge that is level with the windowsill and is decorated with *denticule*. Pilaster strips appear above the stringcourse of the first floor at the corners of the side *avant-corps*. They are joined to the topmost smooth frieze, creating a sort of frame at the edge of the *avant-corps* elevation. The whole culminates in an extensive crowning entablature which consists of bricks arranged diagonally, modillions, and a cornice crowned with ceramic moldings.

The rear façade's main feature is three *avant-corps* that contain the staircases. The central one is slightly higher than the rest of the edifice; it has chamfered corners, which create a more stately, 'baroque palace-like' appearance. It is separated from each of the lateral wings by three window bays. In each of the wings there is only a single window axis.





**Fig. 7.** The regenerated part of the Grenadier Barrack Complex (currently a vocational school) – courtyard view (by Marta Rudnicka-Bogusz)

where there are only two staircases in barrack building No. 4. The location of staircases remains a separate issue. In the case of the barracks in Legnica, they were subordinated to the arrangement of sleeping quarters: in buildings B and C, the sleeping quarters were located on the south side, therefore the exit from the auxiliary staircases in the wings differs between the barracks. The staircases in building B on the southern side of the courtyard lead to the drill yard; in building C, which is on the north border of the complex, they lead off the complex. Due to the analogies in the design of buildings II and III and the departure from the rule of yard-side stairwells in building III, it can be concluded that the designer's main motive was a functional layout related to the insolation of the sleeping quarters of the soldiers. If you look at similar buildings from this period, e.g. The Red Barracks in Nysa (built in the last years of the 18th century), the barracks building at Słowiańska in Nysa, or the barracks in Leszno, it turns out that, for the most part, the exits from the side staircases terminate in the portals in the side elevations. As the washroom in Legnica is in the basement, the side exits lead to the semi-basement, and the main door and gate portals are placed on one side, similarly to the so-called "Old Barracks" at Koszarowa in Szprotawa, where the exits from the side staircases, the main hall, and the basement led to the courtyard. The structure consists of brick walls; the rooms are 3.5 m high and covered with timbered ceilings, and the corridors are about 3 m wide and topped with Klein ceilings. The dimensions were later considered too impressive and economically unprofitable by Polish researchers (Król, 1936: 256), thus substantiating the claim that the Grenadier Barracks were a prestigious investment.

Although it took 23 years for the Grenadier Barrack Complex to be completed, it is consistent in both plan and stylistics. The complex worked perfectly in terms of functionality and stylistics (Fig. 7). A vast yard was necessary to allow



**Fig. 8.** The oldest building in the Grenadier Barracks complex at ul. Sejmowa 5a – facade (by Marta Rudnicka-Bogusz)

**Fig. 9.** The inner drill square was obscured from view on all sides by sheltering constructions (by Marta Rudnicka-Bogusz)



simultaneous training of all three battalions housed in the complex. Therefore, the three dormitories were built on the very edge of the plot so that the drill ground they flanked was as large as possible. Their long, impressive facades became street frontages that obscured the military training from unwelcome, prying eyes, and on the side of an undeveloped plot a stable cut off the view to the inside (Fig. 8, 9).

The fall of the monarchy in Germany (Wilhelm II was the last king of Prussia and emperor of the Second Reich) led to a reduction in number of the military and a loss of prestige of the military service. After the war, Legnica lost the significance that depended on its garrison status. In 1921, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, part of the barracks was demilitarized and turned into a tenement building and a prisoner-of-war camp. It was not until the second wave of militarism that the barracks began to be developed once again.

## 5. Key premises in maintaining the ambience of barrack complexes during adaptation

However, military architecture, especially in smaller historical centers, is rarely characterized by the outstanding aesthetic craftsmanship of individual buildings. The value of military architecture lies in its standardization, repeatability, and the urban layout of barrack complexes, which at first glance reveal to the viewer that he is looking at a military complex. A survey conducted by the author showed that barrack complexes are clearly recognizable due to their spatial features, which result from the spatial relation of objects in the complex. The survey respondents indicated the distinguishing features of barrack complexes: the separation of the complex from the urban space, a raster plan of repetitive buildings, the peripheral development of blocks with a large drill square in the middle, and a clear hierarchy of buildings. The architecture of these buildings was ascribed features such as functionality, modularity, ascetic decoration, neo-Gothic style, etc. Barracks are identified by a corridor layout, with wide, profusely lit corridors providing access to a dense array of dormitory rooms. Nonetheless, when presented with a photo of a regenerated complex, as many as half of the respondents failed to recognize them as barracks, presuming that they were

looking at a hospital. The numbers are even lower in the case of extensive adaptations. When the typological features that distinguish barrack complexes are blurred, these complexes are no longer identifiable. There are no token highlights to distinguish them, such as the tall chimneys of factories, etc. Spatial relations, original dimensions, ascetic stylistics and modularity are features whose loss deprives the respondents of determinants that would allow them to recognize military complexes and identify the related intangible cultural values. Therefore, these are the determinants of the cultural capital in question, and their preservation should be the absolute priority of any revitalization of historic military facilities, but this should not cause petrification.

As a result of the withdrawal of the Russian Federation troops in 1993 and the progressive restructuring of the Polish Army over the last 20 years, the barracks in Legnica were demilitarized. Some of them remained unused for many years and fell into disrepair, thus burying valuable historical evidence. A few have been repurposed.

The Grenadier Barracks complex remained empty for 5 years after demilitarization until it was taken over by a vocational school in agreement with the city authorities. Over PLN 20 million<sup>1</sup> was spent on regeneration of two barracks and auxiliary buildings. Today, the facility is the seat of a constantly growing educational institution. The brick façades have been cleaned and refurbished. Stately dormitory rooms have been turned into lecture halls where, under high ceilings, additional installations are hidden behind suspended ceilings. The stable now houses a multifunctional auditorium which can be partitioned into smaller independent lecture rooms, each equipped with the latest multimedia equipment. The complex is ideally suited for conversion into a higher-learning establishment. The majestic impression that this exquisite barracks makes on onlookers perfectly matches the significance of education, and the wide corridors that once served large bodies of troops easily accommodate crowds of students. However, the complex has lost its monumental character due to the fact that the large drill square was converted into a parking lot that covers the center of the square and forces pedestrians to walk around its perimeter. There is no space for student activity or leisure. The parking lot also diminishes the educational value of the complex because it distorts the original spatial relations between the buildings in the complex. These relations constitute the primary basis of this place's atmosphere, which conveys an idea of how it felt to live in the complex during the time of the military.

A good example of a revitalization of a military complex that has preserved spatial relations is the Turin barracks of *La Marmora*. Similarly to the Legnica complex, in accordance with conservation requirements, nothing was changed during the refurbishment of *La Marmora*: the elevations of the buildings have not been altered, and no new buildings have been added. In contrast to the Legnica project, however, the redevelopment of the drill square became a pretext for returning some much-needed greenery to urban space. The former drill square will be planted with trees during revitalization, thus creating a public square



**Fig. 10.** The Gdańsk Wrzeszcz Garrison of Culture (by Marta Rudnicka-Bogusz)

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pwsz.legnica.edu.pl/strona-100-budynki-1> (date of access: 2019/06/30).

surrounded by historical buildings – a place of serenity and rest where people can exercise, eat, or just lounge outdoors.

A similar solution was exercised during the redevelopment of the barracks in Gdańsk Wrzeszcz, where the southern part of the complex now houses the Garrison of Culture. The drill yard between the restored buildings was turned into a garden and now constitutes a green square in which a sculpture stands. People attending the nearby shops and cultural institutions (such as an art school, a cooking school, a café, a bookshop and a brewery-restaurant with an auditorium) pour out into the square and mingle (Fig. 10).

## 6. Conclusion

The military complexes in Legnica were created in two main phases that were related to the growth of militarism in the 1880s and in the 1930s. The period before the outbreak of World War I was particularly important, as the construction of the barracks was evidence of the city's growing importance in the state hierarchy, and the completed barracks were visited by crowned heads and high-ranking officials. Majestic barrack complexes emanated the idea of the strength and unity of the state. They represented the so-called "*Herrschaftsarchitektur*" – the "architecture of power" – and influenced the local identity and cultural landscape. The road network was adapted to facilitate the newly constructed barrack complexes, and streets were named after regiments stationed nearby. Today, these buildings are a significant part of the local material tradition, the preservation of which is all the more important in this era of globalization and unification of culture. Barracks compounds offer a wide range of adaptation options which are gladly utilized nowadays by investors. Nonetheless, during their revalorization and adaptation, one must remember to maintain the stylistics and spatial relations between individual buildings in a complex, as these are of the utmost importance to the historiographic value of such places.

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