

On the Route of Fortifications



"Krzyżtopór" Castle in Ujazd



The castle was being built for 23 years by Wawrzyniec Senes from Gryżonia by order from Krzysztof Ossoliński – the Mayor of Sandomierz. On the entrance gate there are pictures of a cross and an axe which gave the castle the common name "Krzyżtopór" – "Crossaxe". 11 years after it was finished, in 1655, it was attacked by the Swede. The castle was occupied and abandoned many times which led to its destruction and after the war it has never been

restored to its former splendor. The castle is situated in the pentagonal fortress on a hill and it is moated. The design was to symbolize the calendar: four towers were representing quarters of a year, the number of bedrooms equalled the number of weeks within a year, there were as many ballrooms as many months in a year and the number of windows matched the number of days in a year.

"Krzyżtopór" Castle

Ujazd, Phone (+48 15) 860 11 33, www.krzyztopor.pl

Royal Castle in Chęciny

There is no accurate data on who and when built the castle. It is known that in 1306 Władysław Łokietek bestowed it to the Cracow bishop Jan Muskat, and he invalidated his decision just a year later. At that time it was an important place thanks to the kings' meetings that took place in the castle in 1310, 1318 and 1331. The last year is regarded as the beginning of the future sejm because some bills were passed then. The castle was also a residence for queens and royal widows. There lived queen Bona who managed to collect great treasure. When she was leaving Chęciny, all her fortune was carried by 140 horses on 24 carts. The castle is divided into two parts: the upper one, between the two rounded towers, and the lower bigger part with the rectangular tower with a nearby well.

Royal Castle in Chęciny

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Defensive Wall in Szydłów

The establishment of Szydłów should be owed to Władysław Łokietek who granted the town its municipal rights. Yet, it was Kazimierz Wielki who gave it its importance, he had a church and a castle built and the whole town surrounded by the defensive wall. There were three entrance gates to the town: Krakowska, Opatowska, and so called Water, but only the first one has remained till now. The castle complex is situated on a flat top of a hill with steep sides going towards the Ciekąca River. The complex consists of the main building, a treasury and an entrance gate building. The main building adjoins the town wall. It used to be two-story with a square projection in the south which housed a chapel. On each story there were two big rooms. The room on the second floor at the defensive wall was called Knights' Room. The treasury, which might have been the castle turret, adjoins the north-west corner of the defensive wall. Nowadays there is a Regional Museum. The entrance gate building was erected by Zygmunt III in place of the original gate leading to the castle.

www.szydlow.pl



Knights' Castle in Sobków

Sobków was established as a town in 1563 by Stanisław Sobek from Sulejów, Biecki castellan, Małogoski foreman, the great royal treasurer. About 1 km west of the town there is a manorial complex so called Knights' Castle. It consists of a stronghold, built in 1560-70 by Stanisław Sobek, with ruins of a classicist palace, built by the Szaniawscy around 1770. Originally the fortress was enclosed from all four sides with defensive wall with towers in the four corners. What has remained to this day are three of those towers covered with wooden roofs and a range downstairs. The building has been partially renovated and the fortress has been used for guest-rooms.

Knights' Castle in Sobków

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Ruins of a Castle in Bodzentyn



The gothic castle in Bodzentyn was built in the late 14th century on a high bank of the Psarka River. Cracow bishop Florian from Mokrsko was its founder. The castle was rebuilt twice: in the early and late 16th century. The second one transformed the castle into a great Renaissance villa. Władysław Jagiełło stopped here on his way back from Święty Krzyż on June 19th 1410 to meet with the Pomeranian ambassadors before taking off to Grunwald. In 1789 church possessions were suppressed and as a result the castle with the whole town became the property of the government. During the reign of the Austrian the castle was used as a granary, then the military hospital and finally, left without

any care it turned into ruins. The castle was U-shaped with a square court in the middle enclosed with a so called curtain wall from the west. It is said that the castle has tiered underground passages leading to dungeons under Bodzentyn.

Ruins of a Palace in Podzamecze Piekoszowskie

The palace was built between 1645 and 1650 by Jan Tårlo, the Mayor of Lubelskie Voivodeship. The building models the Cracow Bishops' Palace in Kielce. It is said that Bishop Zadzik did not accept an invitation from Tårlo saying that he was not going to visit huts. As a result Tårlo got offended and within two years he built a copy of the bishops' palace near Kielce. In the 19th century the palace was ruined by fire and it is in this state till now. Last year for a short time there was a display of architectural details.

www.piekoszow.pl





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