

The Town Fortifications



The mediaeval town fortifications almost entirely surround the central, oldest part of Pyrzyce.

Due to the condition in which the defensive walls have been preserved, Pyrzyce can be easily

called Polish Carcassonne. The first mention concerning the fortifications of Pyrzyce can be

found in the sources from 1279. Most likely the 13th century is the period in which the lower,

stone part was built. Because of the development of siege techniques, the walls were

heightened to 7-9 metres in the 15th century. The superstructure was made of ceramic brick.

After the reconstruction, the total length of the fortifications of Pyrzyce exceeded 2

kilometres. The defence was facilitated by fifty lookout posts – half-open, short towers

equipped with platforms and connected with each

DETAILED INFORMATION

ADDRESS

74-200

COORDINATES

53.1401314804, 14.8919319218

53° 8' 24", 14° 53' 31"



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other by wooden galleries. Additional protection was provided by earthworks, a moat, mill ponds, and two lakes. Due to the development of firearm, at the turn of the 15th and the 16th century it was necessary to heighten Brama Bańska [the Banie Gate] and Brama Szczecińska [the Szczecin Gate], build protruding gatehouses and turn the key half-open posts into taller towers. Already in the 17th century, in the face of ongoing development of firearm, the fortifications of Pyrzyce lost their significance. The towers were turned into storehouses or houses for the poorest. In 1750, a part of the earthworks was levelled, and the rest was turned into a tree-lined promenade in the years 1830-45. Shortly thereafter, the moats were filled in, which provided the space for gardens. The last time the walls of Pyrzyce have been stormed in 1945 by the Red Army.

However, due to weak resistance of Nazi defenders, they were not severely damaged. In the

further years, the walls were restored twice and they still look really impressive. Particularly

notable are the following:

- the north-eastern (Jana Henryka Dąbrowskiego Street) and the north-western (2 Marca

Street) section of the walls.

- Baszta Bluszczowa [the Ivy Tower], also known as Baszta Śpiącej Królowny [the Sleeping

Beauty's Tower]. It was adapted from an already existing semi-circular lookout post in the

years 1440-1470. It defended a small gate located nearby and leading to Stare Pyrzyce. The

tower was damaged during the fights of 1945.

- Baszta Klasztorna [the Monastery Tower], called Baszta Mnisza [the Monk's Tower]. It was

built in the mid-14th century in the south-eastern

corner of the town. The tower has two

shooting levels. It was named after an already non-existent monastery. The tower was

damaged during the fights of 1945 – then it has lost its cylindrical superstructure from the

16th century.

- Baszta Pijacka [the Drunkard's Tower]. It was built in the early 16th century on a field stone

foundation. The upper parts were built in brick arranged in a Wendish bond. In addition, the

tower served as a sobering-up shelter. An oriel with a latrine has been preserved in the tower's

northern façade.

- Baszta Prochowa [the Gunpowder Tower], called Wąźniak [the Braggart], was adapted from

a half-open lookout post in the years 1470-1480. It was used as a gunpowder and ammunition

depot.

- Baszta Wysoka [the High Tower], also called Baszta Lodowa [the Ice Tower]. It was built in

two stages. It was at the same time a watchtower and a prison, a later it served as a store of ice

sheet and a meat cold store.

- Baszta Sowia [the Owl's Tower], erected in the years 1260-1270. In the 16th century, it was

crowned with a conical cupola. In the 19th century, due to a landslide, it became a "leaning

tower" of Pyrzyce. The deviation from the vertical in the upper part of the tower amounts to

30 cm.

- Brama Bańska [the Banie Gate], built in the years 1260-1270, near the northern outskirts of

the town, by a road leading to Banie and Myślibórz. It originally had three storeys, two more

floors were added in the mid-15th century and in the first half of the 16th century.

- the ruins of Brama Szczecińska [the Szczecin Gate].

In the heyday of the fortifications of

Pyrzyce, it was the main entrance to the town from Szczecin and Stargard. The gate was built

in three stages. Already in the 15th century it has six floors and was topped with a conical

cupola. During the fights in 1945, it was destroyed from the top to the first floor. After the

war it was maintained in a form of "ruina trwała" [permanent ruin] – a historic object in

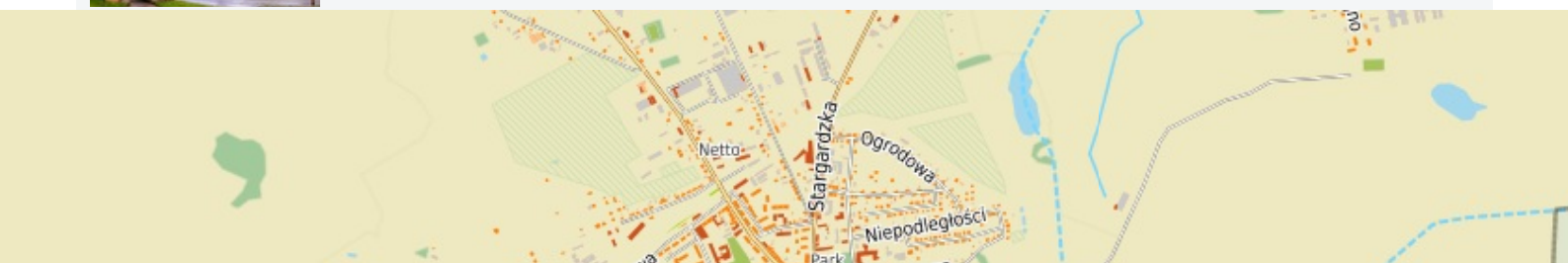
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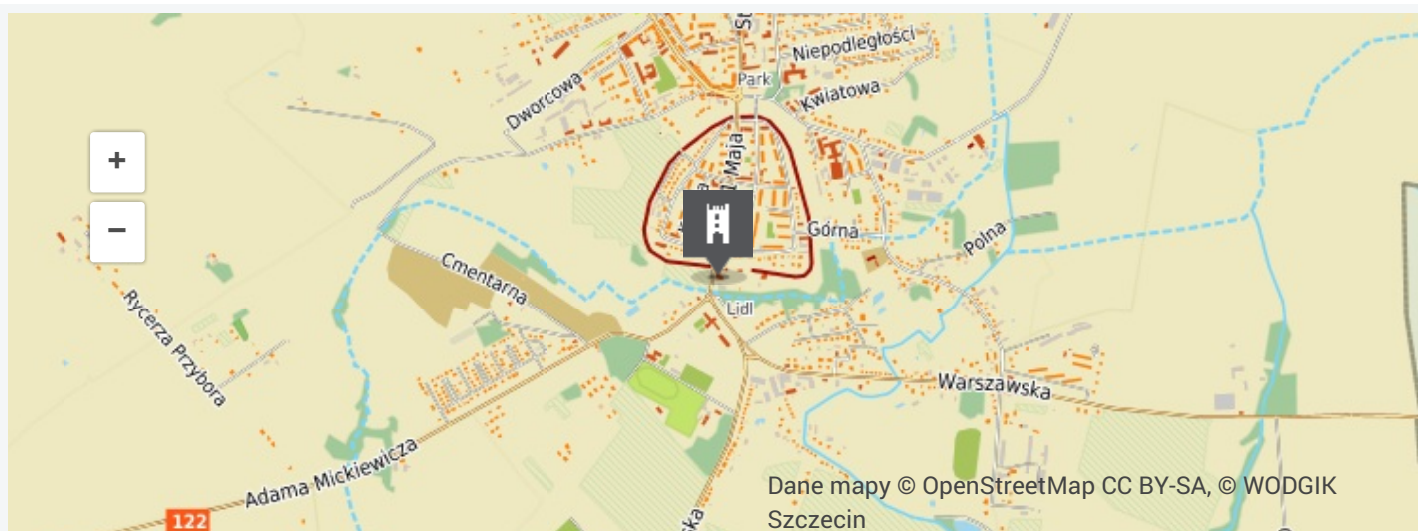
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