

Historical Survey Materials as an Important Basis in Rural Revitalization to Improve the Quality of Life

Przemysław Baster (Poland)

Key words: Keyword 1; Keyword 2; Keyword 3

SUMMARY

The historical character of the rural landscape is disappearing in many places in Poland, which results in the loss of individual features of a given place, but also a reduction in the quality of life and tourist values of many villages. Historical cartographic materials can be used today for the protection of cultural heritage and landscape revalorization, but it is still an underused practice.

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, a large part of Małopolska Region was covered – like the entire Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria – by three Austrian military and cadastral surveying measurements. The maps created during this period and stored in the Viennese and Krakow archives are an invaluable source of data on spatial changes in rural areas, as well as on landscape elements. Locating these elements, and then adapting to the current needs and realities – can improve the quality of contemporary projects for the development of rural areas and restore the original landscape compositions, especially in urbanized areas of villages.

A comparative analysis of the aforementioned historical maps allowed for the reconstruction of excellent historical urban and landscape solutions, as well as spatial forms visible only on them. This is especially true of areas characterized by significant landscape changes, where the original compositional layout is now obliterated.

As part of the comparative analyzes carried out on the example of the village of Strzelce Wielkie in Małopolska Region, three analyzes were performed, which were used to develop various concepts for the development of this village. The aim was to improve the quality of life by improving spatial and infrastructural solutions and shaping the cultural landscape. The creation of a tourist route and minimization of changes in the historical landscape of the village were taken into account. Another aspect was the conservation of local monuments and the surrounding composition related to them.

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The basis here was, as mentioned above, a comparative geodetic analysis of the historical and existing condition. The mutual complementation of the results of these studies and the developed three different variants of the concept of the development of the same village enables the preparation of a more perfect final project of revitalization of the village, aimed at improving the living conditions in rural areas. The condition for the implementation of such projects is the synergy of geodesy in rural development with landscape architecture.

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