

Summary

Architecture – migrations – identity.

A Study of the Half-Timbered Architecture of the Historic Region of Colônia Santo Ângelo in Brazil in View of the 19th-Century Emigration Wave from Western Pomerania

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Doctoral thesis in the field of engineering and technical sciences

Discipline: Architecture and Urban Planning

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Key words:

wooden frame architecture, half-timbered architecture, migrations, Brazil, Colônia Santo Ângelo, Western Pomerania, identity, Pomeranians, Pomeranos, colonization

The issue of German colonies, especially those established in South America, is relatively little known in Europe. All the more, research and comprehensive scientific studies on architecture accompanying the German-speaking colonists were required. In the dissertation on the 19th-century emigration from Western Pomerania [Pomorze Zachodnie] to Brazil, a fragment of this phenomenon is presented. The research was based on a case study of the historical region of Colonia Santo Ângelo in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, where a group of Pomeranians emigrated in the second half of the 19th century. They came mainly from the village of Łubowo (Lubow) and the surrounding inhabited communities, currently in Szczecinek and Drawsko powiats in the West Pomeranian Province [województwo zachodniopomorskie].

The main purpose of the dissertation was to prove the existence of wooden frame houses erected by Pomeranian settlers in Brazil. By carrying out the research, attempts have been made to prove that the half-timbered technology occurring in this area was the result of the transfer of construction and material solutions, known from Western Pomerania, during mass population movements. Moreover, the goal was to define

the characteristics of the half-timbered house from Santo Ângelo Colony and compare it with the Pomeranian prototype. The main theme of the half-timbered architecture was set within a broadly understood historical, landscape and natural context.

The attitude of migrants and their descendants to buildings erected in the half-timbered technology, preserved to this day within the area of the former colony, is an important question raised in the thesis. The issues of collective identity expressed through architecture are discussed, illustrated with an example of Santo Ângelo Colony as well as Blumenau – a Brazilian city with German roots.

A combination of research methods, for which the sequence of execution was of key importance, have been used in the study. In addition to the bibliographic and source query carried out, among others, in Polish and Brazilian archives, many field queries have been carried out. In the years 2013–2018, three research trips to Brazil and two trips to Western Pomerania were completed. The method consisted in discovering, observing and recording the geolocation of discovered objects. 57 sites (61 objects) in the former Santo Ângelo Colony and 12 half-timbered houses in Szczecinek and Drawsko Pomorskie poviats were cataloged. Detailed information was obtained during 11 architectural inventories. The collected data was systematized using the author's analysis of representative features using verifiers. In order to examine the emotional attitude of the inhabitants of the former colony to the preserved frame houses, an interview questionnaire was used.

The validity of the theses has been confirmed with the use of the aforementioned research methods. The existence of originally preserved half-timbered buildings erected by Pomeranian migrants in the colony has been unequivocally confirmed and documented. The evolution of the typology of the Pomeranian house in Brazil has been observed and its connection with the passage of time has been noticed. Thanks to the comparison of the characteristics of houses from both ends of the migration path, their common features (similarities - petrified features) and their differences resulting from adaptation to new conditions (adapted features) have been determined. Additionally, factors influencing the characteristics of the Pomeranian house in Brazil have been distinguished: practical, cognitive, symbolic (cultural), natural, organizational, retro-cognitive and other-cultural.

As a result of interviews with inhabitants and owners of half-timbered houses in the former Santo Ângelo Colony, their strong bond with German culture has been revealed. With regard to skeletal structures, residents declared positive emotions, while pointing to the anachronistic nature of this type of buildings. It has been noticed that architecture can carry identity symbolism. Furthermore, its role may be to evoke a sense of security among migrants, which is achieved by interacting with the space they know and recognize. However, it is worth noting that the relationship between architecture and users changes over time. The symbolic value that strengthens the identity of an ethnic group can be preserved only through its proper protection and responsible and reliable transfer of knowledge to subsequent generations.