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**The House and the utility buildings of the Cathedral Chapter in Wrocław
in the light of architectural and archaeological studies**

Abstract. Detailed architectural studies of the 14th-century House of the Cathedral Chapter in Wrocław conducted in the course of the current renovation works of the Archdiocese Museum complex shed a new light on the architecture of the building and the way it functioned in the Middle Ages. Parallel archaeological studies carried out in the basement of the building and in the courtyard revealed utility buildings, furnaces, a latrine shaft, and cobblestones from the medieval era and the subsequent period. The article presents the history of the construction of the buildings that comprise the chapter complex including the adjacent utility buildings divided into 3 medieval phases and 3 modern phases, as well as selected archaeological artefacts.

Keywords: The House of the Cathedral Chapter, staircase tower, Piwnica Świdnicka, ceramics, coins, metal book cornerpieces, glass.

Introduction

The old House of the Cathedral Chapter at Plac Katedralny 17 in Wrocław is an example of the city's fully preserved 14th-century building of secular purpose second only to the City Hall. Furthermore, as in the case of the City Hall, until the modern era, it served as the location for Piwnica Świdnicka, the second place in the city that was granted the licence to sell beer brewed in Świdnica, famous in the entire Europe

(Goliński 1997, p. 254). However, the main function of the building was situated on the ground floor where in the main hall, under a vault with multiple ribs the cathedral chapter used to hold meetings. To this day, the building retains the form of a tower, while detailed architectural and archaeological studies conducted in 2022 during the renovation works of the Archdiocese Museum¹ complex shed a new light on its architecture and the way it functioned including its immediate surroundings (Kaczmarek 2011; Chorowska 2019). Owing to the unearthed relics and negatives of passageways, embrasures in the attic, a courtyard and utility buildings, the structure can be considered a quasi-stronghold that used to guard the cathedral part of the Ostrów Tumski settlement outside the city walls in its easternmost area.

The old House of the Cathedral Chapter

The House of the Cathedral Chapter was founded before 1382 (Kaczmarek 2011, pp. 427–428). In the Middle Ages, it underwent two more significant renovations, specifically, in the 15th century and in the years 1518–1527, and at least two more in the modern era (Fig. 1: A, B, C). Three subsequent renovations that took place from the 19th to the 20th century will not be addressed here, as they have been already presented earlier (Chorowska 2019; Gryglewska 2019).

Phase 1. Originally, it was a 15 m high longitudinally-planned brick building (18.5 by 12.5 m). It was raised using medieval-format brick with a frog made with fingers, Gothic-sided and meticulously jointed². Its north-western corner was strengthened using a short straight groin buttress. It was not until sometime later that both western corners of the building gained flying buttresses, which undoubtedly involved the incorporation of rib vaults into the interior on the first floor. On the ground floor and on the level of the cellars, the Chapter House consisted of two rooms, whereas on the level of the first floor, it consisted of three rooms. In the cellars, on the southern side, there was a large, deep, rectangular-plan chamber covered with a groin vault without ribs supported on a centrally located pillar (Fig. 2), while on the northern side, there was a smaller barrel-vaulted chamber. The Cathedral Chapter was said to hold a beer selling licence ensured by the bishop's endeavours in 1461 (Goliński 1997, p. 254). The archaeological research conducted in the cellars and the courtyard of the archdiocesan complex, particularly numerous finds of vessels and chalices show that it had been completed by ca. mid-18th century.

¹ Today, the Old House of the Cathedral Chapter in Wrocław (at Plac Katedralny 17) is part of the Archdiocese Museum complex. Two other buildings of the complex are the Office of the Cathedral Chapter (at Plac Katedralny 16) from 1756 and the so-called New Archives of the Priests-Bishops and the Cathedral Library from 1896 (at Kanonia Street 12–14) (Chorowska, Gryglewska 2018; Chorowska, Bogdała 2022).

² Horizontal and vertical joints were emphasised by marks made using a spatula.

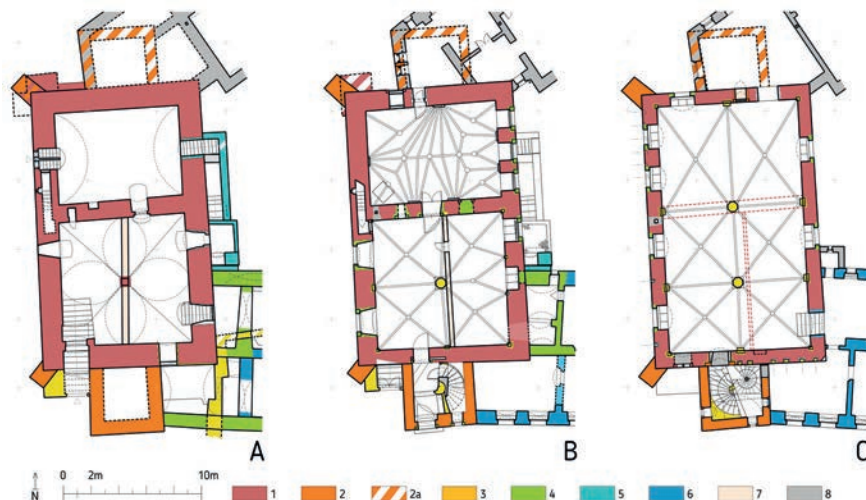


Fig. 1. Wrocław. Chronological stratification of the walls of the House of the Cathedral Chapter on: A – the basement level, B – the ground floor, C – the first floor; 1 – walls from the second half of the 14th century, 2 – walls from the second half of the 15th century, 3 – walls from 1518–1527, 4 – walls from ca. mid-17th century, 5 – walls from the second half of the 17th–18th century, 6 – walls from 1756, 7 – walls from ca. mid-19th century, 8 – walls from 1882–1903 (developed by M. Bogdała and M. Chorowska)



Fig. 2. Wrocław, interior of Piwnica Świdnicka in the underground of the House of the Cathedral Chapter. In the centre of the wall that serves as a secondary partition in the cellar there is a walled-in pillar (photo by M. Bogdała)

Originally, the cellars were accessible via as many as 3 ways. The southern one, running from the side of the cathedral, has been in use until the present day. The western one, from the side of Kanonia Street, was converted into a window in the 20th century. The third way was leading directly from the ground floor of the Chapter House via a narrow staircase corridor hidden in the depth of the west wall. The stone door frame leading to this corridor were bricked up ca. mid-17th century and for this reason, it had not been discovered until the renovation works in 2022. The corridor was narrow, with a brick barrel vault (Fig. 3). The brick steps were illuminated by an embrasure that is now walled over.

Originally, there were only two rooms on the ground floor, namely, the main hall and a spacious rectangular entrance hall. The opening that connected them was bricked-over about mid-17th century. At that time, the former one situated on the axis was opened. The main hall was covered with a ceiling with a complex layout of ribs, partially stellar, and partially irregular. Only one of the original windows was preserved, in a stone frame with a fine “wire” profile typical of the second half of the 14th century. The doorway to the entrance hall was leading from the side of the cathedral and had a beam construction modelled on the entrances to medieval castles. In its reveal, a beam pocket situated in a large dimension stone made of sandstone was found. It was 1.2 m long.

The original layout of the first floor consisted of three rooms. One larger room, most likely serving as a chamber, was situated over the main hall, whereas above the

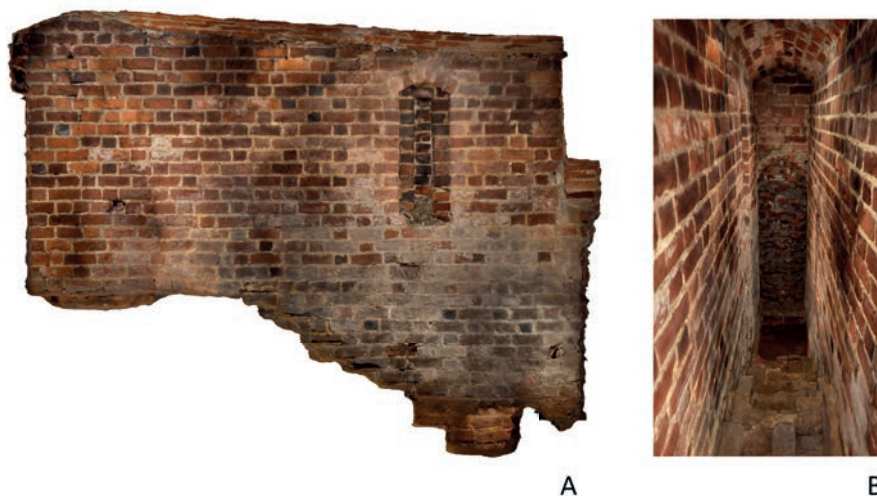


Fig. 3. Wrocław, Chapter House. A – photogrammetry of the internal wall of the staircase corridor with an embrasure overlooking Kanonia Street (edited by M. Bogdała), B – the corridor interior (photogrammetry model 3D by M. Bogdała)

entrance hall, there were two narrow chambers. We have no data regarding the arrangement of vertical communication in the 14th-century building. However, we do know the situation of the gallery on the first floor, which was found in the northern part of the façade from the side of Kanonia Street. There, a row of 6 wooden support beam pockets was preserved, discovered on the level corresponding to the floor of the chamber over the main hall. It is thus likely that the gallery was accessible via wooden stairway directly from the street. On the end wall of the building, from the side of the cathedral, a row of similar pockets was found, too. They were made in an older wall about 1.5 m above the floor of the first floor. It remains unsure whether they were remains of a gallery or a building added to the southern façade of the Chapter House.

Little do we know about the roof over the 14th-century building. The height of the external walls was the same as today, meaning that they were extending much above the level of the ceiling over the first floor. There, recesses of 10 window openings were preserved, evenly situated around the building – 4 recesses in each longitudinal wall and one recess in each end wall. They were 1.5 m wide. Therefore, they were thick, yet the window openings were as small as embrasures. All except for one³ were enlarged in the 15th century. The discovery of these openings shows that in the 14th century, there was a covered gallery in use over the first floor, circumventing the main walls or a storey housing an attic sparsely illuminated with small openings. Due to the building being situated on the eastern border of Ostrów Tumski, immediately by the river and the embankment, this high position of the openings shows they could have served a defensive function.

Phase 2. In the 15th century, the gallery or the attic converted into second floor, whereas the small windows were enlarged and framed with simple chamfered masonry. To both end walls, rectangular-plan annexes of a vertical, towering structure were added. The southern annex has been preserved to this day and serves as a staircase tower (Fig. 4: A, B), whereas the northern annex was demolished when the House was expanded in the neo-Gothic style. Archival drawings from 1894 show it as a small barrel-vaulted extension on each of the two storeys, which stands at odds with Joseph Jungnitz's presumption that until the time the tower (the southern annex) with the comfortable stairs was completed, it housed a narrow stairway linking the main hall to the first floor (Jungnitz 1908, p. 4). Most likely, the northern annex served sanitary-restroom purposes, whereas the narrow stairway must have been situated in the southern tower since in the course of the present studies, it was confirmed that there were door openings leading from the tower up to the storeys of the building. It was also confirmed that there was an opening that

³ All of them except for the embrasure in the southern end wall of the Chapter House that at the moment when the staircase tower was being added in the 15th century was not enlarged but walled-in. The opening was revealed during the conservation work carried out in the staircase tower.

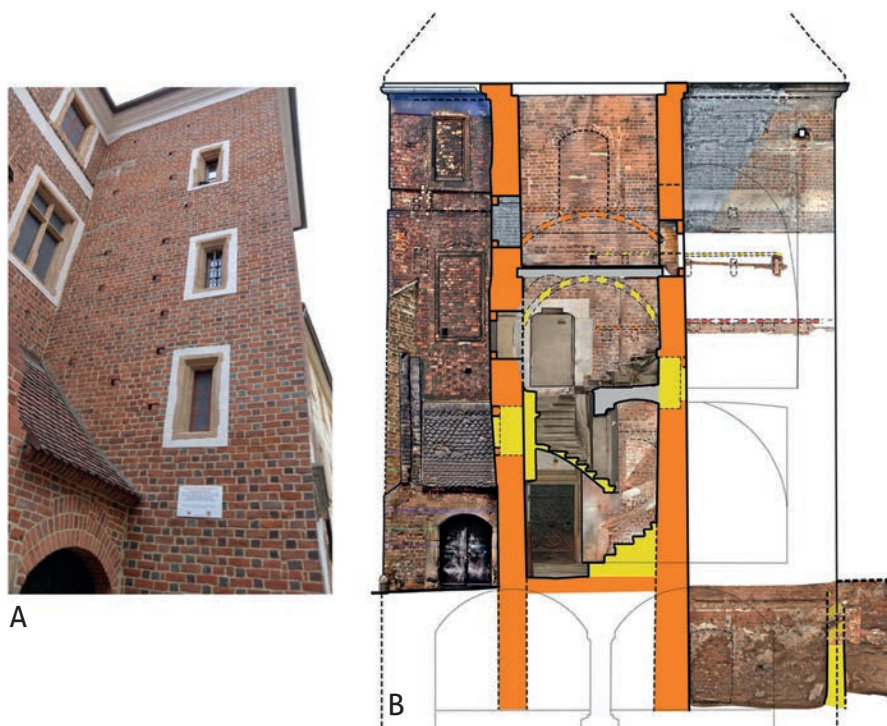


Fig. 4. Wrocław, the Chapter House. A – the staircase tower as seen from the west (photo by M. Chorowska); B – the staircase tower, cross-section, overlooking the south wall: 1 – walls from the second half of the 14th century, 2 – walls from the second half of the 15th century, 3 – walls from 1518–1527 (developed by M. Bogdała)

was connecting the interior of the staircase tower to the gallery on the southern end wall. The landings and flights of the 15th-century stairs in the tower were placed on brick barrel vaults⁴ (Fig. 4: B).

The main entrance to the Chapter House led via the southern tower. It was most likely there that the two-arm portal with lateral panels was originally installed, which art present can be found on the first floor in the tower in the hall leading to the main building (Fig. 5: B). Due to the form, it can be dated back to the third part of the 15th century, which determines with the dating of phase 2 of the building conversion works. At that time, large rectangular windows were introduced on the first floor. They had sandstone frames and were cross-divided into 4 quarters. The spacious window recesses held sedilia (Fig. 6: A). Additionally, on the north wall, a door opening was made, leading to the northern annex. From the side of

⁴ These vaults were demolished in phase 3 (1518–1527). In the course of the conservation work, relics of grooves and abutments of the vaults were found on the main walls of the tower.

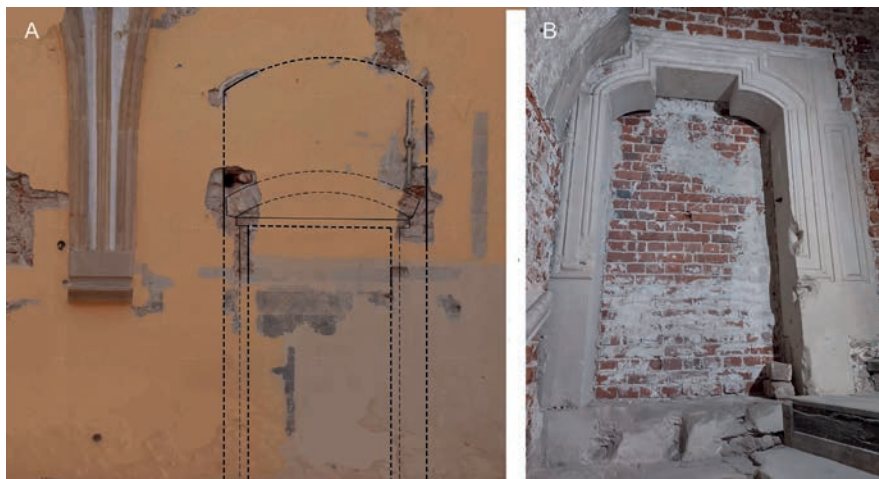


Fig. 5. Wrocław, Chapter House, first floor, southern wall. A – the outline of the walled-in portal recess from the side of the Library, B – two-arm portal as seen from the staircase tower in the course of the conservation work (photo by M. Chorowska; developed by M. Bogdała)

the interior of the Chapter House, this opening was framed with simple masonry with a recess for the door carpentry (Fig. 6: B). From the side of the annex, it was ogival, with the opening cut in the older wall and its soffit plastered with yellow-beige mortar⁵.

Phase 3. In the years 1518–1520 and 1527, the Chapter House was housing the Archives and the Cathedral Library. The work initiated in 1518 by Bishop Jan von Thurzo was finished in 1527 by Jacob von Salz, as documented by a cartouche with a coat of arms including the inscription MDXXVII topping the portal of the staircase tower (Fig. 7: A). These actions were linked to substantial transformations of the interior of the House and the south staircase tower. The spacious entrance room in front of the main hall was covered with a groin vault with ribs raising from the central octagonal pillar with a heavily adorned capital. In the eastern part, supports of ceilings were preserved along with diamond and animal motifs. The refurbishment on storeys consisted in converting rooms into one huge hall that served as a library (Fig. 8). The interior was covered with a sexpartite groin vault with ribs supported on two columns. It was very high and absorbed the lower part of the second floor. What was left of the former top storey of the House was yet again connected to the attic.

⁵ The opening was in operation until the very demolition of the northern annex after 1896. At that time, the opening was bricked-over on the outside, and converted into a 24 cm-deep recess on the inside (masonry). In the 20th century, the recess was ultimately walled-in with a single brick-width wall.



Fig. 6. Wrocław, House of the Cathedral Chapter, window openings on the first floor level:
 A – recess of the walled-in window opening with stone sedilia on the sides – north,
 B – walled-in entrance to the north (sanitary?) unit, prior to the conservation work
 (photo by M. Chorowska)

Another just as equally significant refurbishment pertained to the 15th-century staircase tower. It was turned into the ceremonial main entrance to the Library on the first floor. The former “narrow stairway” was replaced by a spiral stone staircase with an ornamented handrail and a spiral pillar (Fig. 7: B). They were a highly effective solution consisting in the pillar in the form of an Amazon’s shield spirally enclosed by two shafts. One of them was turning into the inner handrail, whereas the other served as the framing of the pillar. The third shaft was vertical and determined the stairway spital axis. The shafts and the trochilus that separated them from one another were raising from five small bases decorated with colourful reeds and a motif of a twisted rope. Each tread-board was made as a monolith along with a section of the pillar. During the works conducted by fine arts conservator Waldemar Waszkiewicz, the lower part of the outer stairway handrail was also revealed, which was turning into a handrail of a cylindrical form⁶.

⁶ The damage to the newel and the handrail of the staircase took place in 1903 during works conducted in the building by Joseph Ebers, who adapted the interior of the old Chapter House to the needs of the Archdiocese Museum.



Fig. 7. Wrocław, pieces of masonry included in the southern staircase tower in the years 1518–1527. A – portal in H. Lutsch's drawings, B – the unearthed railing of the spiral staircase prior to the conservation work (photo by M. Chorowska)

This stage of works involved fitting two early Renaissance fascia portals. One was leading to the staircase tower from the outside, from the side of the cathedral; whereas the other was leading from the inside of the tower to the entrance hall in front of the main hall. On the first floor, in the entryway to the Library with the spiral staircase landing, a 15th-century two-arm portal with recess panels⁷ was refitted, while the interior of the tower was covered with a barrel vault. Both the mentioned fascia portals and the elements of spiral stairways of late-Gothic forms were made at the same shop, as confirmed by the presence of the same mason's marks. They are attributed to Hans Richter or a shop in the circles of Lusatian architect Wendel Rozkopf⁸.

⁷ Since it proved wider than the entrance to the Library (converted from a former window recess), one of its recess panels was concealed under a side wall of the staircase tower. It was bearing traces of older whitewash, which is evidence that the portal had been reused. Moreover, it was covered with the base of the barrel vault that the interior of the tower was covered with at that time. The partial unveiling of the panel took place as a result of the conservation activities conducted by Waldemar Waszkiewicz, Base Art. Sp. z o.o. company in 2022.

⁸ The masonry of the outer fascia portal bears two house marks – one on the left post (the letters H and K, with the rise between them), and one in the very middle of the portal lintel. The latter was applied again on the stone pillar of the stairway in front of the entrance, which suggests that due to this exposed situation, it was an architect's mark. According to Janusz Kęłowski, who deciphered the

The studies conducted on the first floor of the Chapter House intended to, among others, explain the relationship between the two-arm portal seen from the side of the staircase tower and the bricked-up recess visible on the south wall of the former Library (Fig. 5: A, B). In the studies, it was shown that originally, it was a window recess, about 0.75–0.80 m deep, which was refurbished many times. In the 15th century, it was enlarged and conversed into a door opening about 2.7 m high that was linking the Library on the first floor with the staircase tower. The arc of that opening was cut in the brick wall from phase 1 and plastered. It had no masonry. It was only in the course of the refurbishment in the years 1518–1527 that a two-arm profiled portal with recess panels on the sides was fitted into the widened door opening. At that time, the recess of that opening, situated on the side of the Library, was made 3.2 m high at the rise of the flying buttress. On the inside, it was plastered and whitewashed. The portal recess was not partially bricked-over until the 19th century. At that time, it was narrowed and lowered to make it 2.15 m high, and a narrow passageway via the two-arm portal was preserved. The passageway was completely walled-in in 1903, with an imitation of dimension stones painted on the wall.

The Office of the Cathedral Chapter

In the 1562 axonometric layout by Barthel and Georg Weiner one can spot right next to the Chapter House and the staircase tower in the foreground the building of the Cathedral Office with a parallel roof ridge (Fig. 9). The version of that view of Wrocław in colour shows that it was a single-storey beam building. At present, this location is taken by a building that is one storey higher, with a beautiful late Baroque frame façade⁹, founded in 1756, when the chancellor of the chapter was baron Adam Josef Keller. During the architectural-archaeological studies conducted in 2022, its foundations were unearthed. They were massive brick arcades enclosing the older walls, partially late Gothic, from the first quarter of the 16th century, and partially from the 17th century. Thus, the chronology of this building was confirmed, dating it to the time before the 18th century.

On the southern façade of the Chapter House, about halfway up the present-day first floor, a row of 4 beam pockets was discovered. They were sized 28 by 24 cm, with 0.95–1.00 m spacing between the centres. They were made in the 14th-century

letters H K as H R, they were meant to stand for Hans Richter. According to Ewald Wernicke, the mark on the lintel was the mason's mark of Wendel Roskopf (Kaczmarek-Löw, 2010, pp. 346, 371).

⁹ The framing of the ground floor-foundation plinth was reconstructed based on Probst's drawing in 2017.



Fig. 8. Wrocław, the interior of the former Library on the first floor of the Chapter House before the renovation works (photo by M. Chorowska)

façade of the House and bricked-over in the years 1518–1527¹⁰. On the level of 135 cm above the upper edges of these pockets, 3 slanted carvings were found in the façade of the Chapter House. Though their function has not been clearly identified¹¹, it is highly likely that they constituted part of the wooden structure of the building, whose body was brought forward before the brick façade of the Chapter House. What is more, as mentioned above, during the studies, a bricked cellar¹² of that House was discovered (Fig. 4: B, Fig. 10). It filled a recess between the Chapter House and the staircase tower. It was a barrel-vaulted chamber sized 3.5 m by over 4.0 m. The vault of the cellar was extending from a wall of the building of the Chapter, specifically, from grooves carved in that wall. Below, there was a door opening made with the intent to connect it to Piwnica Świdnicka. On the east, the cellar was separated by a 0.4 m thick wall stretching between stone support pillars. Right behind the corner of the Chapter House, the building was made wider northwards, reaching up to about 8 m. Its full length remains unknown. It had no basement in

¹⁰ We know this due to the use of the light grey lime mortar, identical to the mortar applied for fitting the early-renaissance portals and spiral stairways in the tower.

¹¹ These could be carvings for elements of the roof framework, such as rafters or angle braces.

¹² It was built using medieval-format bricks (with a frog made with fingers, sized 8–9 by 14 by 25–26 cm) with light grey lime mortar.



Fig. 9. Wrocław, fragment of a 1562 copy of the layout by Barthel and Georg Weiner, showing the property that is an appurtenance of the building of the Chapter including utility buildings (copy at the Faculty of Architecture of the Wrocław University of Science and Technology, building E-5)

the widened part. The modest thickness of the strip foundations unearthed there confirms that the overground parts of the walls of the Office building were raised as a beam construction daubed with straw and clay.

After the refurbishment that took place from the second half of the 16th century to the 17th century, the Office gained bricked longitudinal walls – the north and the south ones. They were leaning on solid brick strip foundations. On the level of the ground floor of the present-day building inside the former restroom, a single barrel vault with a lunette was preserved. The wooden beamed ceilings from that era were not preserved to our times. Single sleeve joints were reused to build subfloors on the first floor of the Baroque building. As mentioned above, the present-day house of the Chapter Office was made using walls of the older buildings that were linked by transverse foundation arcs. This building was covered with a hip roof. Its façade with 7 axes was covered with a plaster framework finish on all storeys including the foundation plinth, now fully reconstructed. On the portal situated on the axis of the façade the date “1756” was etched and a stone cartouche with a coat of arms was added in lieu of the Rococo stucco cartouche with the inscription “CAPITULAR Cantzelley”.

In the 17th century, the inner corner between the Office and the Chapter House held a latrine shaft. It was about 1.3 by 1.5 m large. Inside, there was a shaft sized 0.66 by 1.05 m, that ran up to the level of the building overhang. At present, it is inoperative from the first floor, while its former structure holds a toilet. The shaft was added to the north wall of the Office, at the same time separating it with a 0.3 m thick partition wall. The waste outlet, about 1m wide, was covered with

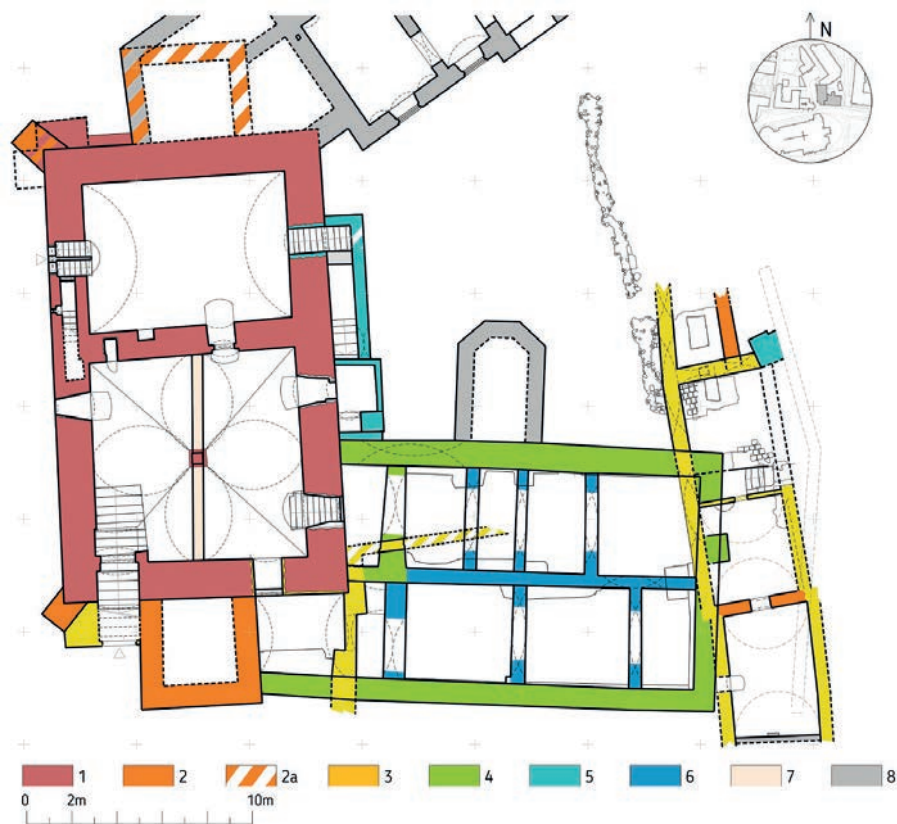


Fig. 10. Layout of the cellars of the Chapter House, the Office and the adjacent utility buildings. 1 – walls from the second half of the 14th century, 2 – walls from the second half of the 15th century, 3 – walls from 1518–1527, 4 – walls from ca. mid-17th century, 5 – walls from the second half of the 17th century–the 18th century, 6 – walls from 1756, 7 – walls from ca. mid-19th century, 8 – walls from 1882–1903 (developed by M. Bogdała and M. Chorowska)

a sectional flying buttress. A slanted brick window sill facilitated the outflow to a brick container sized 1.90 by 2.35 m situated about 2.14 m below the level of the present-day yard. The sides of the container were screened with thin walls. Based on the construction technique, they can be dated back to the mid-17th century/ the turn of the 18th century. The bottom of the container was laid with fieldstone. Below, there was a thick layer of pure sand that was applied across the entire courtyard at the same time. Below, there was sand mixed with humus. The bringing in of the sand caused the exploitable level of the courtyard to rise by about 1.5 m. This happened in both cellars of the Chapter House, which consequently made it

necessary to knock through a new doorway to the cellar and new stairway leading from the side of the courtyard. Most likely, these changes took place with respect to the renovation work of the building about mid-17th century undertaken after the damage it sustained as a result of the Thirty Years' War and organizing its surroundings (Jungnitz 1908, p. 5).

Utility buildings of the complex

The analysis of the Barthel and Georg Weiner layout shows that about mid-16th century, the complex of buildings of the Cathedral Chapter and its Office was enclosed on three sides by courtyards and utility buildings – from the north, the south and the east. North of the Office, there was a substantially longitudinal-plan courtyard. In the course of the excavation studies, remains of quite large parts of paving made using fine fieldstones was found about half a metre below the present-day courtyard level, corresponding to the ground level of the Chapter House in the Middle Ages. From the east, the courtyard was enclosed by a long line of utility buildings oriented parallelly to the House. These buildings or, more accurately, the cellars that were left of them, extended past the line of the façade of the Office into the trapezoidal-plan southern courtyard. The entryway to the premises was leading through the area of the latter, and then turned north past the Office building and, most likely, past the above-mentioned utility buildings.

Among the unearthed buildings, the oldest ones were two narrow barrel-vault cellars situated one after another in N–S axis configuration. In the first stage, these cellars were separate brick “tunnels” independent of the clay-wooden buildings higher up in terms of their structure. Their interiors were enclosed from above and on the sides by clay barrel vaults that extend down (Fig. 11), whereas on the side of the tops, by screen walls that are not extended above the ceilings. The interior of the northern cellar was 4.4 by over 3.5 m big, whereas that of the southern one was 6.0 by over 3.6 m large. Initially, there was one entrance leading to these interiors, located on the south side. The cellars were connected by holes in the end wall. Their 15th-century chronology is supported by the used building material. In the next phase, the northern cellar gained an adjacent brick wall, 0.7 m thick, running in the north-south axis, as one more utility building was added. It had no basement and was supported by a pillar and flying buttress. Considering that on average, the thickness of the walls is 0.7 m, it can be assumed that it had two bricked storeys and two chambers on the ground floor.

Both rooms on the ground floor housed fire heating devices. In the northern room, relics of a furnace were unearthed; it was situated below the exploitable level of the rooms and most likely served for heating that space with warm air. Another find was the bottom of a firebox sized 0.75 by 1.35 m, located 1.10 m below the



Fig. 11. Interior of the discovered cellar – as seen from the north (photo by M. Bogdała)



Fig. 12. Wrocław, utility buildings of the Chapter House – a general view on the discovered relics of the utility building in the northern part. 1 – cobblestones; 2 – hypocaust furnace, bottom of the firebox; 3 – clay-tiled floor; as seen in the north-eastern direction (photo by W. Waniek)

cobblestone level of the yard. It was built using bricks and hardened with kaolin clay (Fig. 12). The space between the three walls of the room and the firebox was filled with brick rubble and fragments of monk-and-nun tiles joined together using greyish lime mortar. Its pinkish discolorations show that it was in contact with fire. Below the foundations of the wall that separated the rooms with furnaces, there was a foundation from an older building whose role is unknown. Perhaps it was a wall that was enclosing the Chapter House complex back in the 14th century.

Excavations made in the northern room yielded historical material that was mostly made up of shattered masonry heater tiles. Based on the artefacts, the backfill of the cellar can be dated back to the 17th century. In the southern room, on the ground floor, the entire surface was covered in 7 cm-thick clay floor tiles sized 22 by 21 cm. It was preserved on the area of over ten square metres. On the tiling, there was a clear mark left by the dismantled furnace. It was 0.7 by over 1.0 m large and was situated by the partition wall. The uptake 25 by 25 cm in cross-section ran in that wall. The presence of the furnace indicates that the southern room served for habitation.

Another change was brought by the demolition of the wooden building over the northern cellar, as it was replaced by a wider one. We are unable to tell whether it was brick or wooden-and-clay. Judging from the modest thickness of its walls, specifically, only 35 cm, it can be claimed that it must have been low, perhaps with a wooden storey. From the north, next to the cellar, a small staircase corridor was built, 1.2 m wide. The staircase landing sized 1.2 by 1.1 m was also preserved along with three steps built using brick courses. In the lower part, the staircase was built using bricks and lime mortar, whereas in the upper part, bricks and clay were used. The opening leading from the small corridor down to the cellar was cut in older screen wall. The refurbishment of the utility building took place in the end stage of the Middle Ages and corresponded to phase 3 in the construction of the Chapter House.

To sum up the results of the team's architectural studies, it could be said that the analogies between the Wrocław city hall and the Cathedral Chapter House of the back-then bishop-owned Ostrów Tumski mentioned in the introduction did not involve solely the presence of cellars where the famous Świdnica beer was sold on licence. In both these cases, there was the main interior in the form of a gathering hall – the City Council Hall at the City Hall and the Main Hall at the Chapter House. Another analogy, though less obvious, pertained to defence, at least in the sense of prestige and symbolism. In the late Middle Ages, town halls were considered castles of the townspeople, and the tower-like silhouette of the Chapter House with the bolt-locked entrance and embrasures in all directions likely made a similar impression. However, if in the 14th century, it was a complex enclosed by an outer wall, then since the end of the 15th century, it has been standing amidst the utility buildings, narrow streets and yards of Ostrów Tumski.

Archaeological finds

The excavation studies that lasted from January 2021 to August 2022 were conducted on the total area of 19 ares (Chorowska *et al.* 2023). Most of the area – 16 ares – consisted of basements of three buildings of the present-day Museum (former Cathedral Chapter House, Cathedral Chapter Office, and the Cathedral Archives and Library). The remaining 3 ares held an open, undeveloped courtyard and a narrow passageway to the closed area of the Museum from the south-east. The excavations were even 4.5 m deep. The archaeological studies provided a rich and diverse collection of movable artefacts¹³. They were obtained from all the renovated buildings that were part of the present-day Archdiocese Museum complex as well as from the newly-discovered utility buildings in the yard. The stratigraphic layout of the examined area was also identified, which together with the artefacts and the architectural analyses allows us to trace the process of changes that occurred in the construction and the material culture within the lot of the Cathedral Chapter.

Ceramics. Of all the movable archaeological artefacts, the most numerous inventory group is that of fragments of ceramic dishes (1453 pieces). This collection is quite diverse, owing to which we distinguished several groups and subgroups of products that stand out due to their manufacturing technique and quality. The mentioned differences are reflected in the chronology of materials (more on that in Rzeźnik 1998), and for this reason, they are valuable for determining the timeframe for the discovered settlement relics. In this respect, what comes as significant is their percentage share in the dense complexes of artefacts obtained from specific lots situated within this property (Szwed 2004, p. 344).

The fragments of ceramic dishes show unequivocally that the oldest preserved settlement traces within the examined area reach back to ca. mid-14th century. Pieces of the steel grey vessels characteristic of that period (including chalices) were found both in the southern side of the Chapter House cellars and in the bottom layer of the Cathedral Library basement. These finds are few.

Likewise, what is also relatively sparse in the entire collection are fragments of products dated back to the 15th century. Cream-coloured and lacking any glazing on the inside, such pieces of ceramic dishes prevail over glazed ceramics unearthed within the layers of the Cathedral Library basement. In turn, among both glazed and non-glazed products encountered in the backfill in the northern part of the Chapter House cellar, one can notice linear patterns made with red paint. The listed features allow us to link such ceramics with the settlement between the second half of the 15th century and the first half of the 16th century. In that specific time, characteristic forms of vessels appear in the form of glazed pans, plates, bowls, small baths or covers, the percentage of which significantly rises in the course of the 16th century.

¹³ In the course of the archaeological studies, over 2.5 thousand artefacts were unearthed.



Fig. 13. Wrocław, selection of ceramics: a – aquamanile from the cellar of the Cathedral Office building (from the turn of the 17th century), b – stoneware jug from the northern part of the cellar of the Chapter House (17th century), c – faience, d – porcelain from the latrine shaft (photo by K. Czarniak)

However, the majority of the explored strata could be dated to somewhat later time. The absence of older layers as regards the courtyard of the chapter suggests that they could have been removed together with the artefacts deposited in them and replaced with river sand that was brought in, which was up to 2 m thick. This intensification of changes – mainly the order and the refurbishment – is also observed in the layers of the other buildings whose backfills contain mainly items from the end of the 16th century to the second half of the 17th century. A feature typical of the materials of this era is the substantial prevalence of fragments of vessels with one-sided glazing on the inside, with a small percentage of both unglazed and bilaterally glazed products. What is also important is the occurrence of stoneware among these objects, usually in small numbers. It was made most likely mainly in centres situated in the region of Bolesławiec, Mużaków and Trzebiel (more in Mackiewicz 2012). A more numerous collection of stoneware bits occurred in the northern part of the cellar of the Chapter House (the lower level of the buildup), which was related to the inn that used to be there (Fig. 13: b). In the same part of the cellar, the highest number of pieces of dishes with one-side glazing was found, mainly plates, bowls and jugs used for serving food and drinks.

In the light of the ceramic sources, after that period, an apparent lack of 18th-century vessels and their fragments can be observed. This fact is most likely related to the changed organisation of the space and the discontinuation of depositing waste in the habitation area. The youngest collection of ceramic vessels within the premises in question was obtained solely from the latrine shaft situated in the south-western corner of the courtyard, where the Chapter House and the Chapter Office meet. Though in its backfill few fragments of dishes from the turn of the 16th century were discovered, most probably, they had been redeposited there. The largely complete 17th-century aquamanile (a specimen that is nearly identical comes from the northern part of the cellar of the Chapter House – Fig. 13: a) can point to the time when the bricked structure was built. The latrine itself was used for a long time. If necessary, it was regularly cleaned, with the impurities and disposed objects being nearly completely removed. Therefore, the rich collection of artefacts found in its backfill, which were dated back to the period between the second half of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century determines the end of its use. It is worth mentioning the stoneware found inside the shaft that vary from



Fig. 14. Wrocław, Chapter House. Glassware from the northern part of the cellar (photo by K. Czarniak)

the above-mentioned ones and the faience and porcelain vessels discovered there in terms of style (Fig. 13: c, d).

Glassware. The region covered by the study yielded a rich collection of glassware and fragments (744 pieces) of at least 398 products. The most representative are the materials unearthed in two abundant complexes, namely, the northern part of the Chapter House and the latrine. Furthermore, they somewhat show a chronological diversity. As for the glassware from the cellar, two main temporal horizons can be identified, too.

The older one is basically represented by glassware made of natural colour glass, celadon green, with some specimens made of raw material in dark green. Dating back to the 17th century, these products are connected to the operation of the above-mentioned inn. Among them, the most numerous are containers for eating or serving alcoholic beverages. There are numerous fragments of chalices and one specimen preserved in its entirety. It seems that this form could be a one-time order delivered for the inn. It comprises a spherical bowl with a short, distinct cup and a slender stem empty inside, fixed to a wide foot (Fig. 14: a). Most likely, a similar anatomy was shared by chalices that were significantly smaller and thus preserved fragmentarily, which were encountered in the same location. Their stems and bases show the same form, but their bowls were not preserved. Aside of these, there were also occurrences of fragments of beer mugs and glasses on tall stems. Fragments of characteristic tetrahedral carafes were also found (Fig. 14: b). A vast collection there is also made up by pieces of wine bottles with slightly concave walls and bottoms. At the neck of these bottles, there glass rings were added. Interestingly, they come with no traces of stamps (Fig. 14: c). The artefact collection from this timeframe is complemented by small medicine bottles rarely preserved in entirety and more often fragmentarily.

A younger chronological horizon within the discussed cellar is represented by relatively few artefacts made of sodium glass, which makes these specimens ideally transparent and of better quality. These often include particularly fragments of full-size glasses and similar yet smaller chaser glasses. These artefacts occurred within layers situated above, together with ceramic pipes, which allows us to date them back to the first half of 18th century.

The youngest assemblage of glass artefacts was obtained from the backfill of the latrine. These are mainly sodium glass products in the form of fragments of various glasses, including those intended for hard liquor, as well as glasses, chaser glasses, mugs and medicine bottles. Moreover, pieces of objects made using special moulds were found there, too (covers, small bowls), along with products made of cobalt glass and other non-transparent raw glass such as milk glass, blue or navy-blue glass. This collection can be dated back to the second half of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century.

Metal artefacts. The third most numerous category of artefacts is metalware. In total, these include 294 items. A vast majority of them was made using colour metals, mainly copper alloys and, to a lesser extent, silver alloys of varying quality. Few of them were made of iron, lead and tin. Among the artefacts, a rich collection is made up by predominantly fine coins and jettons, followed by metal book cornerpieces and clasps, elements of clothing (including buckles), as well as few seals, weights, devotional items, and other objects of daily use.

Among the artefacts of the oldest metric, it is worth mentioning several coins. In the small corridor that runs along the western wall of the Chapter House towards the cellar, in a crack between the brick steps, a Prague groschen from the turn of the 15th century was encountered. In turn, in the southern side of the cellar of the Chapter House, among the examined coins, a Świdnica bracteate with a characteristic boar head was found (Fig. 15: g) along with hellers from the mid-15th century. Attention should be paid to, for instance, the specimen from the Duchy of Wrocław (Fig. 15: h) and the Duchy of Legnica and Brzeg (Fig. 15: i). Within the northern part of the cellar, a Kraków denarius (Fig. 15: j) and a *półgrosz koronny* occurred as well, both minted under Kazimierz Jagiellończyk (1447–1492).

There is a numerous collection of coins dating back to the 17th century. They were present in nearly all the examined objects of the Archdiocese Museum. The most frequent find was Silesian Gröschlein of Emperor Leopold I (1658–1705). The rich coin collection of the mentioned emperor comes particularly from the northern part of the cellar of the Chapter House, which housed the inn (Fig. 15: k). Among the coins that were found there, attention is drawn to one Kreuzer minted by Johan Ernst von Thun, the Bishop of Salzburg in the years 1667–1709 (Fig. 15: l).

The 17th century is the time that French-type jettons made in Nuremberg can be dated back to (*Dantiscum* 2016, vol. 3). Most of them occurred within the layers explored in the museum courtyard.

A somewhat wider timeframe can apply to the metal book cornerpieces and clasps. Based on the style, these artefacts can be often associated with specific workshops and the moment they were created in can be specified quite accurately (Adler 2010). The ones encountered during the works in question come from the time between the 15th century and the 17th century. The cornerpieces were unearthed mainly in the northern part of the cellar of the Chapter House and in the backfill of the foundations of the cellar of the Cathedral Office (Fig. 15: d, f, m). It was there that a half of a lead seal from papal correspondence was obtained from (Fig. 15: e). It belonged to Urban VIII (1623–1644).

As for younger artefacts, one should also take note of few 18th-century coins minted by Prussian emperors Frederick II (1740–1786) and Frederick William III (1797–1840), as well as Dutch-type pipes. These artefacts occurred within the upper layers of the museum courtyard.



Fig. 15. Wrocław, metalware. a–f – building of the Office of the Cathedral Chapter, g–i – southern part of the cellar of the Chapter House, j–m – northern part of the cellar of the Chapter House (photo by K. Czarniak)

The archaeological studies allowed us to identify in the course of excavation works an area in the eastern part of Ostrów Tumski covering over ten ares, providing no confirmation for the presence of an 10th-century embankment and a moat¹⁴ in that location. The building of the Cathedral Chapter was already situated on the outer side of the embankment and, along with the former Chapter Office and the newly-unearthed part of the Chapter complex that housed utility and residential buildings, it opened up a new phase of the 'colonisation' of the Cathedral Island started in the second half of the 14th century.

In the excavation material, the intense process of changes within the plot of the Cathedral Chapter House that falls to the period from the second half of the 16th century to the second half of 18th century was well documented. The time when Piwnica Świdnicka of Ostrów Tumski discontinued its operation was identified as the second half of the 18th century.

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¹⁴ The most recent findings pertaining to the location of the hillfort with defensive functions (Chorowska, Pankiewicz, Wodejko 2021).

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