



EA group seminar
"Protecting and promoting regional Cultural and Heritage"

**Revitalization
of cultural heritage
in rural areas in Poland
on the example
of the commune Jaraczewo**

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The Mayor of Jaraczewo

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The commune of Jaraczewo is a Polish commune located in the Greater Poland Voivodeship.



In terms of area, which is 133 km², it belongs to the group of medium-sized municipalities.



It is inhabited by less than 10 thousand residents.

The commune is an agricultural area. According to, the majority of the population are people who work in the agriculture sektor.

The economic activity is represented by several medium-sized private enterprise that mainly process agricultural products. The rest are small, artisanal companies.



The first historical records of the village are noticed in 1369. In the 14th and 15th centuries, Jaraczewo was a village. In 1519, thanks to the owner, Trybucy Jaraczewski, the village Jaraczewo received city rights.

An interesting information to historians and tourists is the Poznan's archive where we can find original location documents written in the chancellery of King Sigismund the Old on parchment in Latin and bearing a seal.



Jaraczewo was a small town, for the surrounding towns it was the center where all matters could be settled. There developed culture, bakeries, cold cuts, etc.

The number of inhabitants grew dynamically. In 1789, it had 322 inhabitants. In 1871 it reached the size of 1,105 people.

Bakery in Jaraczewo before 1919



Jaraczewo. Ratusz (przed 1919)

Town Hall in Jaraczewo before 1919



F. Rutowski's "Hotel de Rome" before 1919

The society of Jaraczewo in the nineteenth century was characterized by multiculturalism. **Evangelicals, Catholics and Jews** lived here next to each other.

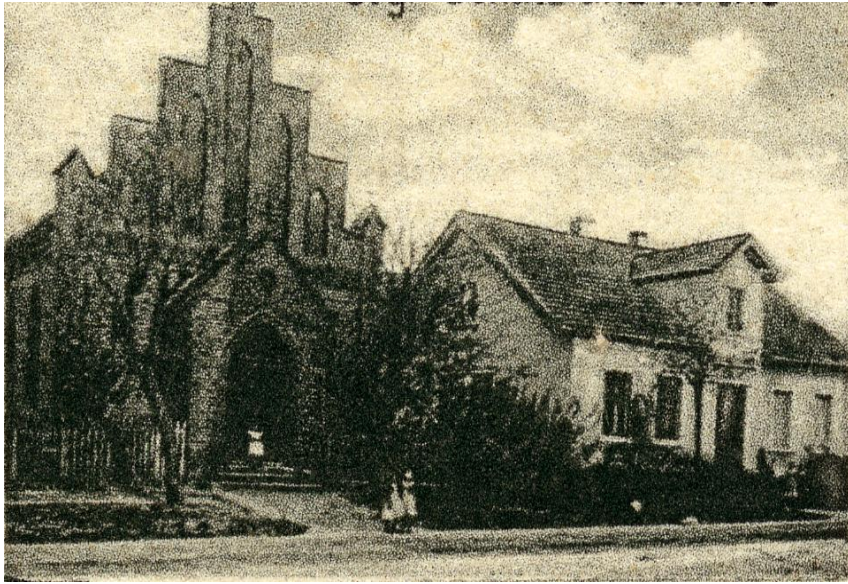
Next to the Catholic church, there was also a synagogue and an Evangelical church. Each of these religions also had their own cemetery. In that place communities lived together until the outbreak of The Second World War.

Unfortunately, the period of the Second World War was not kind to all buildings.

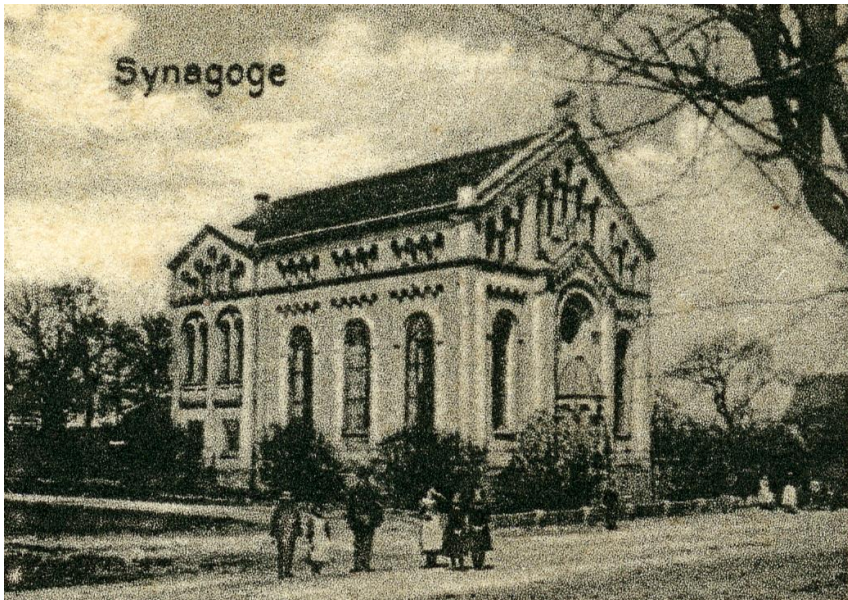
Made of brick **Catholic Church** in Jaraczewo, built in 1843, has survived in the best condition to this day.



The Catholic Church in Jaraczewo, photo took in 1909



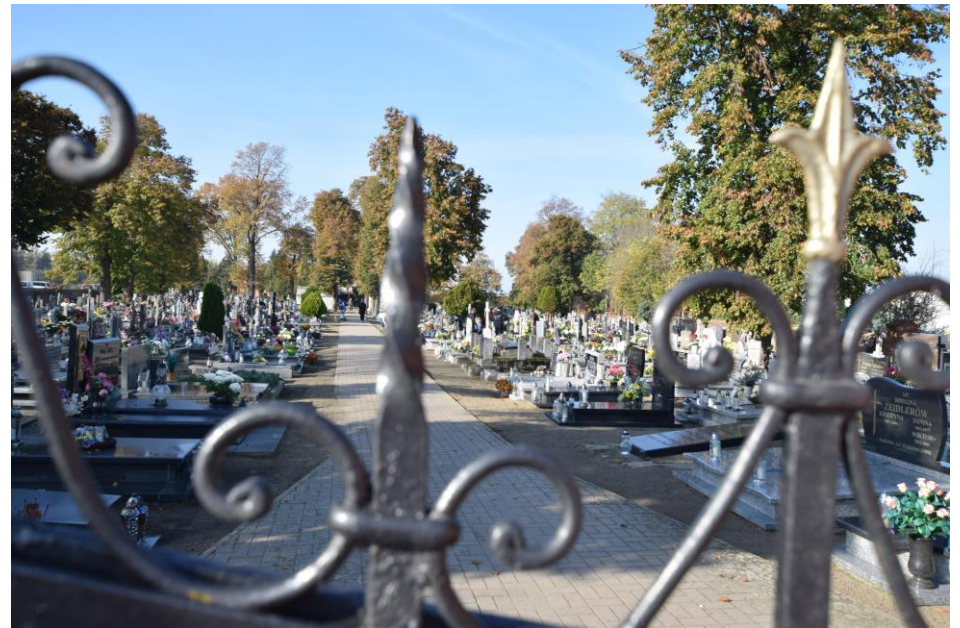
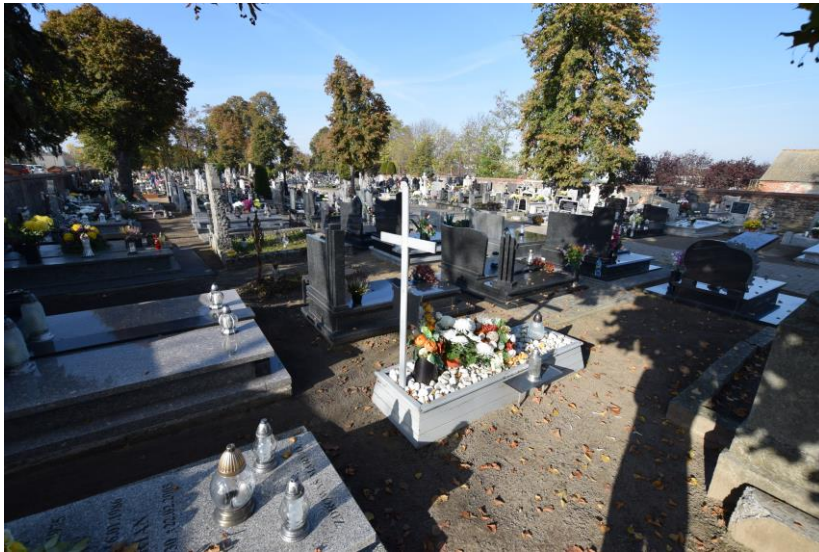
To this day, the **Evangelical church** has not survived as the same like Evangelical school from 1889 in Jaraczewo, probably in the same year. Both buildings were destroyed during the Second World War.



There was a **Jewish Synagogue** in the opposite side of the street. Luckily, the building from 1882 did not share the fate of the Evangelical Church. In the 1950s, it was unfortunately disfigured by outbuildings that partly covered its beauty.

Each religion had its own cemetery in Jaraczewo.

The only one is opened today. It is a **Catholic cemetery**. There is a chapel where funeral masses are held.



The **Evangelical cemetery** was located in direct neighborhood of the Catholic cemetery. Today, there are no human remains in this area. Besides, the memory of this place is cherished by the Jaraczewo Commune, which cares about order and preserves this place with due respect.



There are also no remains or traces of tombstones at the **Jewish cemetery**, or Kirkut . Currently, it is a fenced area, and the Jaraczewo Commune takes care of order, whether it is indicated by a commemorative stone with a memorial plaque in Polish, English and Hebrew.



The city life of Jaraczewo, after 415 years, was interrupted. By a regulation of the Polish authorities in 1934, the city rights were withdrawn.

Despite, Jaraczewo still played the role the center of the commune, it had many urban features. First of all, it was the center of the remaining towns in the commune.

The inhabitants of Jaraczewo sought restitution. According to mine initiative, as the current mayor, councilors and residents, requests were made to restore the town.

It is happened on January 1, 2016



The restoration of city rights coincided with the implementation of many aid programs of the European Union. Before joining the EU, many areas of our life required improvement, including the construction of municipal infrastructure, road infrastructure, etc., which we carried out on a continuous basis. On the other hand, the renewal of the existing cultural heritage was unfortunately postponed. Own resources of such communes as Jaraczewo have never allowed for thorough renovation and repairs.

The example of a major renovation of our synagogue proves that joint efforts, with the combination of funds of several beneficiaries, can implement a very interesting project, even in a small commune.

The project called "**Revitalization in the Jaraczewo Commune**" included the implementation of **five tasks**: reconstruction of the market square in Jaraczewo and greenery in the line between the city park and the market square, revitalization of the city park, extension with reconstruction and superstructure of the GOK (synagogues) and construction of the fire station in Jaraczewo, as well as construction of a sports hall in Góra. " It created a coherent and comprehensive range of revitalization activities in the commune, supporting the most important areas of the inhabitants' functioning: education and sport - a sports hall, security - the Volunteer Fire Department station, culture and tradition - the GOK building, environmentally friendly meeting and leisure places - renovation of the market square and the park.

The European Regional Development Fund came to the rescue of the project. The commune of Jaraczewo has obtained funding for a complex project.



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Finally, the revitalization project was implemented with the support of funds from the Wielkopolska Regional Operational Program for 2014-2020.

Co-financing	PLN 11.5 million (i.e. approx. EUR 3.1 million)
own contribution	PLN 5.0 million (i.e. approximately EUR 1.3 million).

Therefore a few words about the revitalization of the synagogue.



Synagogue during the II World War



There was a lot of work on this monument, because many bad changes were made during the communist years. First of all, a ceiling was made in the synagogue building, thus creating two floors. In that way, the beautiful large windows disappeared. In the mid-seventies, garages and offices were added to the synagogue, which were used by the Volunteer Fire Brigade in Jaraczewo. The ground floor of the synagogue has also been converted into garage rooms.





The renovation of the façade involved restoring as many architectural details as possible and bringing the synagogue as close as possible to its original appearance.

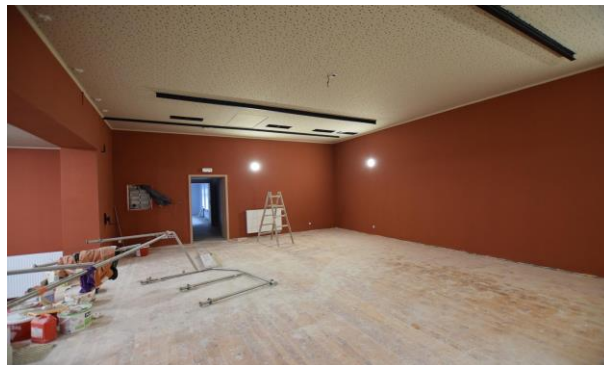




Renovation of the roof and attic included the replacement of the tiles, insulation of the ceiling and installation of air conditioning.



The main hall has been renovated with the ornaments and colors specified by the Monuments Conservator. In order to search for the right colors, opencast works were carried out.





All details, e.g. a chandelier, wall lamps, the color and shape of the windows, the color of the floors, the colors and patterns on the walls and ceiling, were strictly checked according to the pattern by the Conservator of Monuments.

The biggest surprise was the discovery of inscriptions in German and Hebrew, which have been beautifully displayed and are now a valuable decoration of the Main Hall.



Below is a translation of the text from Old German:

Lord of the Universe!

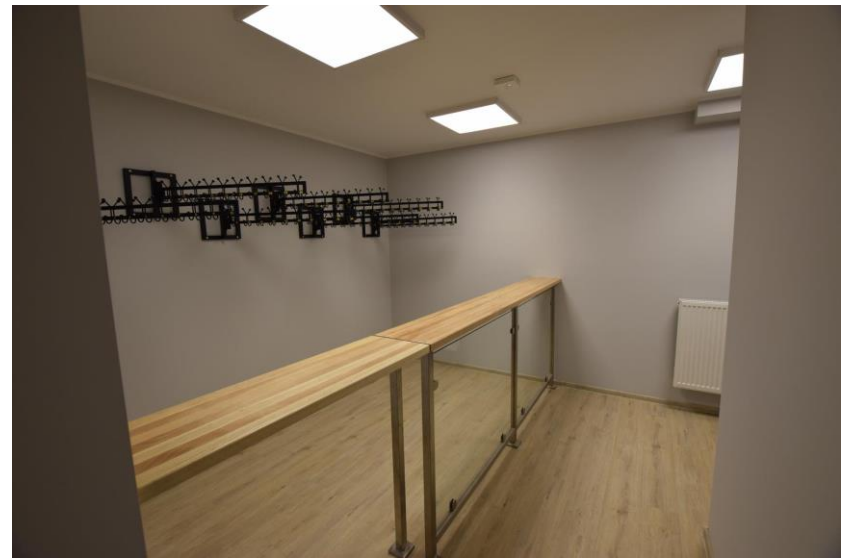
Whose kings you give victory and crowned heads with power, whose kingdom is the kingdom for all eternity, who saved your servant David of Destruction, grant your divine support to our most powerful ruler, the noble
To the Emperor and the King



The greatest revolution took place inside the building. First of all, the facility has been adapted to the needs of people with disabilities. A light was installed in the building, and stickers with a description for the visually impaired were placed throughout the building.



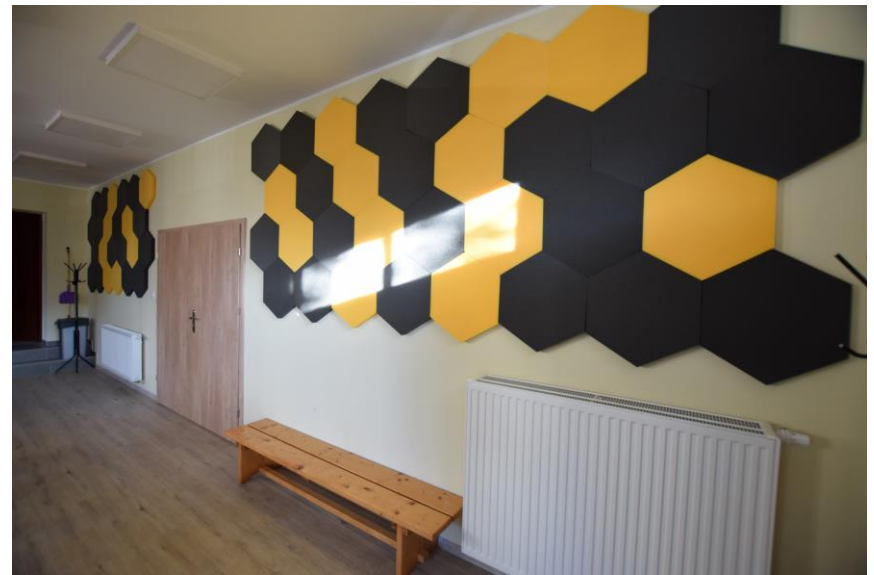
The rooms on the ground floor are now primarily a beautiful main entrance with a cloakroom, public toilets and a spacious hall that serves as a cafe, waiting room, and is also a meeting place for children, adolescents and adults.



There are various studios inside. There is a music room, an art and sculpture room.



There are also rooms adapted to learn to dance (mirror wall), to learn singing or computer classes.



The presented revitalization of the synagogue in Jaraczewo is the first such large investment in a historic building. There are still many interesting monuments in the commune that require renovation.

Unfortunately, the main difficulty is **the limited financial resources**. Property matters are another difficulty. Often these facilities have an **unregulated legal status**.

The next slides present the monuments in the Jaraczewo commune, which we strive to preserve together with their guardians, owners and residents of the commune.

We have six Catholic churches from different eras in the commune.

St. James the Greater the Apostle in Cerekwica Stara



There is a church complex probably from 1637 in Cerekwica.

Previously, there were two wooden churches that had been destroyed in this place.

The current church was built in the years 1948-1950.



Church of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Poreba



Roman Catholic branch church belonging to the parish in Cerekwica Stara.

It was built in the neo-Gothic style, it is unplastered and has a characteristic shape.

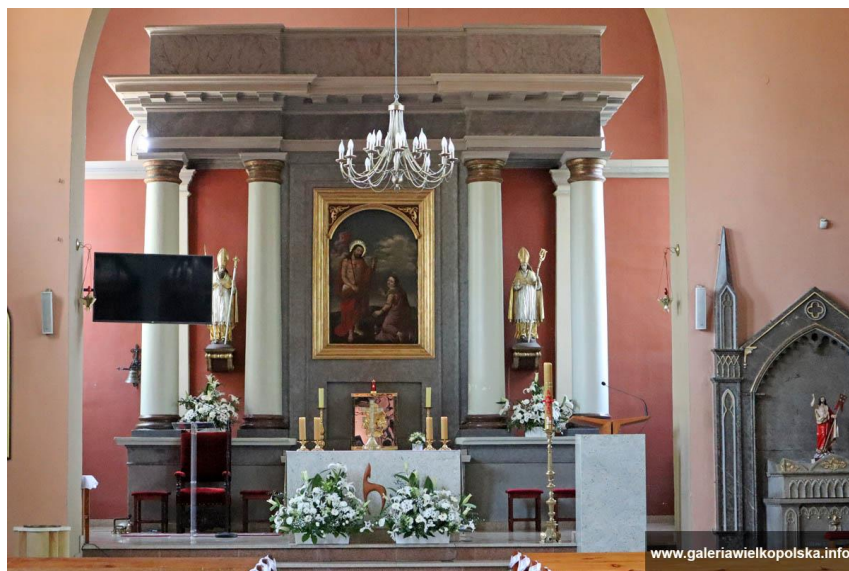
It is a post-evangelical temple erected in 1885.

The church was built for German colonists.

St. Mary Magdalene in Jaraczewo

The parish was established in 1422. Nowadays, made of brick church stands on the site of two earlier wooden ones that were destroyed.

It is a late Classicist building from 1843, one-nave, covered with a ceiling. A slightly lower and narrower chancel adjoins the nave.



Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Virgo in Góra

The parish in Góra was established in 1393. The first two churches were wooden: the first one survived until the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries, and the second was built around 1740.

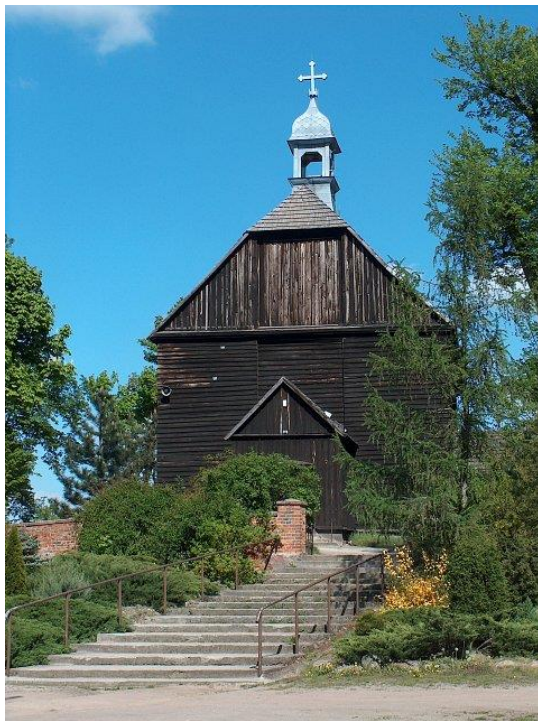
The current church, made of brick, late Classicist, was erected in the years 1817 - 1830. It is a single-nave building on a rectangular plan with a tower in the west facade. Inside, a separate chancel, closed in a semicircle, with a conch vault. The tower is crowned with a neo-baroque cupola from 1928.



Church of the Holy Name of Jesus in Panienska

Church of the Holy Name of Jesus from 1787. Wooden church, single-nave, carcass construction. A rainbow beam with an inscription in Latin and the date of construction, and a baroque crucifix from 1787.

Music choir supported on four pillars with a slightly bulging window sill in the middle. 9-voice organ by Gebruder Walter from 1896. Wooden-frame belfry.



Church of the Holy Trinity in Nosków

Church of the Holy Trinity from 1749 A wooden church, single-nave, carcass construction. The tower is in the front of a pole structure with a porch on the ground floor. It is topped with a shingle tented roof with a cross. Music choir supported on poles with an openwork balustrade.

A rainbow beam with a Gothic Passion Group from around 1420 and a foundation inscription. Wooden belfry from the 18th century. Brick field-stone fence.



Church of St. Wojciech in Rusko

Church of St. Wojciech from 1833. A half-timbered church, single-nave, pole-and- frame filled with brick. A wooden tower from the front, a pole structure, timbered with boards. It is topped with a pyramidal helmet covered with tiles with a cross and a ball at the top. A choir of music set over a porch with a straight-line sill. The main renaissance altar from p. 17th century. Side altar in the chapel, and baroque pulpit from the 17th century. Second Rococo side altar. Wooden, open, shingled belfry.



In addition to churches, other beautiful monuments can be found in the commune, such as railway stations and palaces.

Railway station in Wojciechowo, building from 1888



Railway station in Góra, building from 1898



Czarnecki Palace in Rusko from 1876



Fischer von Mollard Palace in Góra from 1878



Thank You for your attention