

A WALK THROUGH THE DISTRICT OF GISZOWIEC

Giszowiec /formerly Gieschewald/ built in 1907-1910 as a residential estate of rural type, for families of the miners from "Giesche" (now "Wieczorek") mine. The construction was initiated by Anthon Uthman, the director of the company Georg von Giesche's Erben/ heir of Jerzy Giesche, according to the design of Emil and Georg Zillmann. It was intended to be the realization of the English urban planner Sir Ebenezer Howard's idea of the 'garden city'. Today it is a district of Katowice, located 6 km away from the city centre. Giszowiec – an extraordinary place. **Let's have a walk.**

1 Pod Lipami Square - once a marketplace, today a square, in the centre of which there is a beech tree which is over one hundred-years-old, called Anthon. The buildings located along the East side of the square included: a bakery, a butcher's and shops (a greengrocer and handicraft shop), the Giesche concern ensured that the prices of the goods were kept as low as possible.

2 The Former Forest Inspectorate Building – originally the seat of the forest inspector and also the administrator of the estate. To this day there are two remaining characteristic details on the roof of the building: a deer head and a clock tower.

3 Old school – the former primary school of 1908 at pod Lipami Square.

4 Giszowiec Park contains magnificent specimens of old trees. Entered into the Register of Monuments of the Silesian Province. There is a concert bowl and a square for playing pétanque. There is also a restaurant called "Dworek pod Lipami" which serves Silesian Cuisine.

5 MDK Szopienice - Giszowiec – building of the former Karczma Śląska. There were: a café, two club rooms, a ballroom and a theatre. A laundry and a linen press was built nearby, as well as a stable for horses, pigsties, a hen house and a shed for cars.

6 Izba Śląska (Gawlikówka) – former stable. Currently a building arranged as a traditional Silesian room, with antique furniture and household appliances. Ewald Gawlik, an amateur painter and member of the famous Grupa Janowska, created some of his pieces of work here. His paintings are displayed in the room and made available for visitors to view. Many of them depict the scenes of everyday life of the former inhabitants.

7 Historic cottages – can be seen while walking down Wesołowska, Barbórki, Przyjazna, Ewy and Kwiatowa street. They were built for approximately 600 mining families and officials. Most were two-family houses. Sometimes three or four families lived in one house. They were rarely single-family cottages. They are what remained from the original building of the estate, which consisted of 42 types of single-storey and two-storey houses with soaring roofs, according to the design of E. and G. Zillmann. Only 30 % of these buildings survived, as the others were demolished in the 1970s due to the residential needs of the Staszic mine. Kazimierz Kutz made a moving film about this very subject, called „Paciorki jednego różańca”.

8 The Barber's Shop at 34 Pod Kasztanami street. An artistic surprise awaits inside – under the ceiling there is a small gallery of paintings by E. Gawlik - "Van Gogh from Giszowiec". The former owner of the shop – Ludwik Lubowiecki was also a fan of the work of the painter from Grupa Janowska.

9 An American colony - in 1926 the Giesche concern was purchased by the „Silesian-American Corporation". New residents from America came to Giszowiec and a small clerical colony was built for them. The American Colony consists of 6 splendid mansions, whose appearance is heavily influenced by the Anglo-Saxon architecture.

10 The water tower is located in the highest point of the area (h. 33 m). With the use of pipelines, it provided water for the buildings in the estate. The pumps were located every 100 m and the residents drew water from them.

11 At 10 Pszczyńska street there is the former **villa of the director of the Giesche concern** – A. Uthman, the then director of the Georg von Giesche's Erben concern. It was built in the early 20th century according to the design of E. and G. Zillmann. During the World War II, a dignitary of the Third Reich – Fritz Bracht, gauleiter- the upper president of Upper Silesia lived in this building.

12 A great way to end your walk through Giszowiec is by passing through **Ośrodek Rekreacyjny "Barbara - Janina"**, which is named after two nearby ponds. The more persistent walkers may continue their walk down the paths for pedestrians or bicycle trails which lead through vast forest areas to the baths „Słupna”, Hamerla, Starganiec or Piotrowice.

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Opening hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday, Sunday 11⁰⁰ - 15⁰⁰

Buses from the city centre to Giszowiec:
30, 674, 920

LEGEND

- 1 Pod Lipami Square
- 2 Former Forest Inspectorate Building
- 3 Old school
- 4 Giszowiec Park
- 5 MDK Szopienice - Giszowiec
- 6 Izba Śląska (Gawlikówka)

- 7 Historic cottages
- 8 Barber's Shop
- 9 American colony
- 10 Water tower
- 11 Villa of the director of the Giesche concern
- 12 Ośrodek Rekreacyjny „Barbara - Janina”

