

Former armory | 1 Maja Street

In the old days, the place currently occupied by the armory belonged to the parish farm, whose land stretched over almost the entire south-western part of the present downtown. This area was purchased by the Prussian military authorities, which in 1843-44 erected an arsenal building that has been preserved to this day.

At that time, it was one of the most impressive buildings in the city. At the beginning of the 20th century, the building housed the district headquarters and weapons depot of the Landwehr (National Defense) for the area of the Chodzież County, to which Piła belonged until 1914. Initially, the surroundings of the armory were mostly fields and gardens, as well as a few, mainly one-storey houses. This was the way towards Poznań, at the very arsenal turning at a right angle towards the east (current Śródmiejska and 1 Maja streets).

It was not until the second half of the 19th century that the section by the armory (corresponding to today's 1 Maja Street) began to be built over with tenement houses. Development of the western side of Posener Straße (Śródmiejska Street) reached the very armory, which from the northwest was in contact with the two-storey building in which the Hilla hotel was located, often hosting the Landwehr officers.

In the 1890s, the hotel was demolished and a street laid out in its place. In 1881, part of the arsenal was adapted to barracks for the Landwehr. On February 11, 1888, the official name of the institution located in the building was finally established – Königliche Bezirkskommando Schneidemühl (Royal Piła District Headquarters), which was in force until the end of World War I.

At the beginning of the 20th century, it was enlarged from the west, where an uniaxial storey connector was added to the narrow space between the armory and the neighboring tenement house, distinguished from the older part by larger windows. From the yard side, the armory gained an additional third floor. Already in the interwar period, the second floor was built above the mentioned connector from the west. The Landwehr was liquidated in 1919 on the basis of Article 173. of the Treaty of Versailles.

The end of the war brought changes in the way the building was used. After 1945, it began to serve a residential function, which has not changed to this day. In the times of the Polish People's Republic, the appearance of the building was significantly changed by plastering brick facades.

Currently, the building has undergone comprehensive revitalization.