

Customs Chamber – the former seat of border and custom guards, built on Polish-Czechoslovak border probably in the year 1924. This wooden two-storey building with underpinning brickwork is characterized by the entrance and arcaded porch in the front axle and by a high, unique roof. The shingle roof above the central part of the building is four-sided with a short roof ridge, whereas the roof over the lateral parts of the building is three-sided, with deflected roof slopes over the prominent eave. The architecture of the customs chamber makes indirect reference to the so called “manor-house style”, popular in the Poland of 1920s. A similar building whose function was to guard the then Southern and Eastern borders of the Second Republic of Poland has been preserved in the town of Kacwin. The Customs Chamber in Niedzica is a unique monument and a living evidence of pietistic attention paid in the prewar Poland to the aesthetic value of buildings guarding the borders of the state.

In the course of more than 10 years after the war the Customs Chamber was used according to its original function. Only in the beginning of 1970s, as a result of moving the border 2 km towards Czechoslovakia, the building was entrusted to the Regional Directorate of Water Management (RDWM). The reason for the takeover by RDWM was the location of the Customs Chamber on the area designated to be flooded by a lower water reservoir which constituted a part of a new dam. Over the course of several years the building, deprived of due care, went into rack and ruin to such an extent that even the option of its demolition was not excluded. The fate Customs Chamber was rescued by the Association of Art Historians, who suggested moving the building to the area surrounding the castle and incorporating it into the Castle Museum Complex. First assessments of the state of preservation of the building as well as initial inventory measurement were conducted voluntarily by the members of the Association of Art Historians. After the agreement of conservation authorities and funding were obtained, detailed stocktaking could begin. On the basis of the analysis, complicated disassembly and reassembly works were conducted. The transfer of the building was completed in 1989.

The rescued old Customs Chamber, thoroughly restored, is now situated within the vast area of park and former castle farm, 200 m away from the castle. The interior design has been modified with a view to its new function: building currently houses the museum’s guestrooms. These

are well-known for their comfort, peace and picturesque views on the surrounding garden.

The building neighbours directly with Customs Chamber and is constructed on a prolonged rectangular plan, with masonry ground floor and a 2-sided shingle roof. There is an entrance porch on the Western side of the building. In the time of Ilona Salamon Countess of Bethlen it served as an utility building and was a henhouse. After the war, the building was replaced and was used as a holiday house by the guests of the Art Historians Association's Creative Work House. Its prominent guests include Tadeusz Kantor, a famous Polish theatre director. In the later years the building was used as a warehouse and a garden tool depot. After thorough refurbishment in 2010, two small guest rooms were arranged here