

## The Granary

The Granary is one of three buildings preserved from the former extensive castle farm. It was erected on a steep slope, about 150 m away from the castle, presumably in the last decade of the 18th century. This hypothesis is confirmed by early 19th century prints depicting clearly a massive silhouette of the grain storage. In the preceding centuries the building was slightly modified, but, except for these small alterations, it has been preserved until today, which makes it a by far unique building of this kind on the area of Spisz and Podhale. The nearest similar monuments located in Nowy Sącz and Zubrzyca open-air ethnographic museums have been relocated from other places whereas the Granary of Niedzica has been present *in situ* for over 200 years.

The Granary is a spacious and monumental building, on a rectangular 9x2 m plan, with three floors. The lower masonry part houses two cellars and the Northern one has a barrel vault. The upper part, made of wood, is constructed of logs and has two storeys. Both single-space storeys are of various heights and are connected by narrow steep stairs located in the Northern-Eastern corner. The whole building is crowned by an attic truss work and a high slate shingle roof. The entrance to the Granary, with several steps, is situated on the Eastern elevation. The remaining three walls are fitted on both sides with small square-shaped windows with gratings, thus allowing for good airing of the grain which used to be stored on both storeys.

In the course of its 200 years' history the Granary of Niedzica went through many twists and turns of the history. There is no doubt however, as follows from the inventory drafted in 1923, that the condition of the Granary was poor already in these days. The testator of the properties of Géza Alapi Salamon referred to the grain storage as "the old and miserable building". Countess Ilona Bethlen, the widow after Géza Salamon, in the 1920s when remodeling of the castle farm was underway, decided most probably to include in the works also the Granary. After the Second World War the building was so dilapidated that when it was entrusted to the Association of Art Historians, securing and conservation works had to be performed immediately. The author of the project was Prof. Alfred Majewski. Yet it was not until 1996 that, after many years of attempts, a general, comprehensive restoration of the Niedzica Granary was conducted. The construction-restoration works were preceded by a detailed stocktaking which was of major importance also because of the fact that, owing to its poor technical condition, the Granary needed to be disassembled. Sophisticated construction works were performed with a great attention paid to the preservation of the antique substance. The project of architectural-restoration works was developed by architect Piotr Stępień, whereas of the construction project – by Stanisław Karczmarczyk, Ph.D. The refurbishment was completed in 1997. Already in the previous years the SHS Management Board

decided to arrange on the two floors of the Granary a permanent exhibition and a Spisz folk art repository. The decision was by all means correct as the extensive interior of the wooden Granary constituted a better setting for ethnographic exhibits than the stone walls of the upper castle, where the collection had been displayed until then. Furthermore, on both storeys of the old grain storage a considerable number of monuments could be presented and stored. Since 1963 gathering of ethnographic exhibits has been both an obligation and a passion of the successive custodians of the museum, including: Janina Kalinowska, Ph.D.; M. Sc. Stanisław Gołubiew and Stanisław Kostka Michalczyk, Ph.D. It's thanks to them and the voluntary work of many members of the Association that this extensive collection came into being, comprised of over 1000 artifacts as of today. The value of the collection increases in the times of fast urbanization of the countryside when wooden architecture is disappearing, together with its typical equipment. On 23 June 1998 a ceremonial opening of the permanent ethnographic exhibition was held in the newly restored Granary. The main exposition room for the visitors was arranged on the lower storey. Here you can find the most interesting and typical artifacts. The upper storey was converted into a repository-studio where one can work and where the aforementioned exhibits can be stored. On the lower storey considerable space was designated to display the reconstructed so called white typical Spisz-style room. At the ceiling there is a genuine crossbeam bearing the inscription "Błogosław Panie dom ten to R. P. 1893. Fundator Józef Gancar" ("Lord, bless this house, AD 1893, founder Józef Gancar"). The room is furnished with typical equipment such as a bed with a pile of pillows next to which you can see a small cradle, a square-shaped pull-out table from 1863, a sideboard with some colorful pottery and, near a wide stove, a coffee table with various daily necessities. The walls are decorated with glass holy paintings, whereas by the bed you can see female costumes. The latter are displayed also on mannequins. Near the room agricultural machinery and tools are presented, including: querns, ploughs and equipment to process and spin linen yarn. The processing technique is depicted on glass paintings on the nearest wall. The whole exhibition comprises such pieces of furniture as tables, chairs and lavishly embellished dowry trunks. Beneath them you can see wooden shrines with sculptures of Holy Mary and the saints which used to hang on the trees or inside the houses. Most extensive and most characteristic at the same time is the collection of paintings: chromolithographs with religious motives, frequently with original iconography. They bear inscriptions in Polish, German, Slovak and Russian which is a perfect manifestation of the multiethnic and multicultural character of Spisz. Near the Granary you can find a wayside cross from Niedzica, a beehive made of a single tree-trunk, a cart and three boats, the so called "dłubanki" (boats made of hollowed tree-trunks) used by lightermen to transport tourists back in the days when the canoe trips along Dunajec River would begin at the foot of the castle of Niedzica.