

XII. RECTORY FARM

The largest farms in Błazowa were the rectory and manor farms.

Stanisław Koczela writes in his book "Memories of Błazowa" that the rectory farm covered approximately 40 hectares, along with 8 hectares of meadows and pastures and about 20 hectares of forest. They kept two pairs of horses for fieldwork and one horse for the parish priest's carriage. The property also housed around seven cows, 4-5 pigs, and a significant number of poultry, including chickens, ducks, turkeys, and guinea fowl.

The outbuildings were situated along what was then called Plebańska Street, now known as Jagiellońska Street. The rectory itself was in the first wooden building, with the entrance connected to the church. It featured a spacious kitchen of about 70 square meters, a hall of approximately 45 square meters, two living quarters, and a dining room. The cook and the housekeeper occupied the two living quarters. The priests resided in the presbytery, which is the current rectory, and they only came to the original rectory for meals.

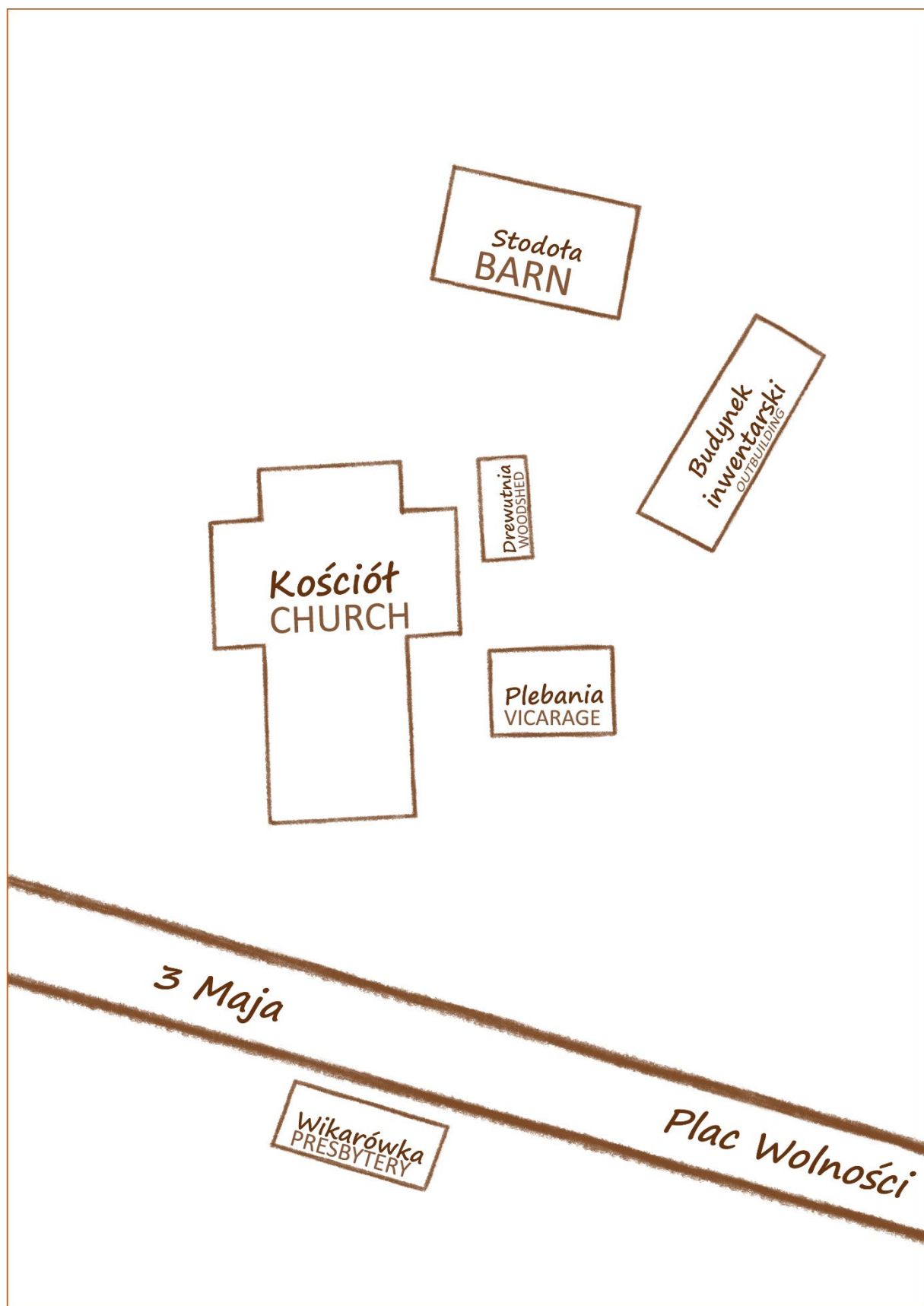
A dozen or so meters up the road stood a partially two-story brick outbuilding, along with a barn situated to the north on brick pillars. Both of these buildings were constructed shortly before the war. There was a wooden building, an old stable, located just above the church wall, which functioned as a woodshed. Above these structures was a brick-making yard and underground kilns for firing the bricks.

Fieldwork activities—including ploughing, sowing, fertilising, crop rotation, and harvesting—were overseen by a knowledgeable and experienced man named Wojciech Wojewoda from Łęg, who usually took care of the horses. Other responsibilities related to crop and animal production were handled by a dynamic and diligent housewife, Salomea, affectionately known as Salka. The cook handled all kitchen duties.

Kazimierz Krygowski, in his diary, recorded in the chapter titled "The Fire of Błazowa":

"There was no escape. A group of people in the distance was desperately defending the rectory buildings near the church, which were also covered with shingles and straw. If those buildings caught fire, the church would inevitably burn as well. They had extinguished fires in those buildings seven times before, but now the people on the roofs were sweltering in the heat as flames engulfed the entire street just 4 meters away. Finally, the fire engine broke down, and there was no water left in the wells. Despair gripped the defenders of the church".

On the night of January 18/19, 1964, a significant landslide, approximately 0.5 hectares in size, occurred on the south side of the church, destroying the rectory buildings. The displaced earth piled against the church wall, and, under its pressure and due to other factors, several cracks appeared in the walls and in the vault above the main altar. Work to remove the effects of the landslide continued until the end of 1967, while the entire project, including interior renovations, was completed in 1972.



1930s/40s

Maps from 1851 indicate that the farm was square in shape, with a large courtyard in the centre. Today, no remnants of those buildings remain.





Kościół w Błazowej.











