

Kazimierz Kuśnierz  [orcid.org/0000-0001-6703-5695](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6703-5695)

kazimierz.kusnierz@pk.edu.pl

Faculty of Architecture Cracow University of Technology

## JORDANÓW – THE TOWN'S GENESIS, URBAN LAYOUT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION. INITIAL REMARKS

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JORDANÓW – GENEZA POWSTANIA, UKŁAD URBANISTYCZNY  
ORAZ PROBLEMATYKA OCHRONY DZIEDZICTWA KULTUROWEGO.

UWAGI WSTĘPNE

### Abstract

This article discusses the history of the spatial development of the town of Jordanów, as well as the cultural heritage sites located inside the territory of this urban centre. Jordanów, currently located within the administrative area of the Lesser Poland Voivodship, in the district of Sucha, was founded as a private town in 1564 and issued a charter by the Krakow Voivod Spytek Jordan of Zakliczyn. The urban centre is an example of a town which was founded in *cruda radice*—i.e. on previously undeveloped land—during the early modern period but whose model bears a similarity to traditional urban forms used in previous centuries.

**Keywords:** Jordanów, Jordanów's urban layout, Jordanów's cultural heritage

### Streszczenie

Niniejszy artykuł dotyczy problematyki historii rozwoju przestrzennego miasta Jordanów oraz zabytków dziedzictwa kulturowego zlokalizowanych na terenie tego ośrodka. Jordanów, położony obecnie w granicach województwa małopolskiego, w powiecie suskim, został założony jako miasto prywatne w 1564 roku z fundacji wojewody krakowskiego Spytka Jordana z Zakliczyna. Ośrodek jest przykładem miasta, które lokowano na surowym korzeniu w okresie nowożytnym, ale jego rozplanowanie nawiązuje do tradycyjnych form urbanistycznych stosowanych w wiekach wcześniejszych.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Jordanów, układ urbanistyczny Jordanowa, dziedzictwo kulturowe Jordanowa

## 1. Introduction

The goal of this study is to present an analysis of the genesis of the town of Jordanów, its charter-period urban layout—developed in accordance with its original town charter – and its heritage sites in the context of highlighting their value and the need to renovate and protect them.

The town of Jordanów is located in the Lesser Poland Voivodship, in the district of Sucha. In administrative terms, it is the seat of a rural municipality. The urban centre was founded in 1564 near the Skawa river, in the Rabka basin, in the southern foothills of the Beskid Makowski mountain chain. Jordanów is an example of a modern-period urban layout – an economic centre featuring references to Medieval traditions in its plan, with a well-preserved spatial structure that should be protected because of its high cultural value.

Economic centres in the Land of Krakow were essentially founded between the sixteenth and the eighteenth century. These were economic centres of territorial units (village complexes, called *klucze* in Polish sources), fulfilling trade-related functions associated with the exchange of goods, including the selling of craft products. These economic centres differed in size and their functional and spatial programme, as well as their role and significance within their respective regions, which led to their division into simple and complex layouts. Complex layouts were characterised by relatively small areas and were primarily associated with local trade. The complex layouts, in turn, were larger towns or cities, which, apart from a trade-related form of use, also featured other functions which were not necessarily linked with



Fig. 1. Jordanów on a contemporary aerial photograph, view from the south-west  
(Photo by W. Gorgolewski, 2017)

the primary role of a given *latifundium*. The urban layout of Jordanów should therefore be regarded as a simple layout, while it should be noted that – when performing an analysis of the use of Renaissance compositional models in its plan – the traditional model of urban space organisation was employed [1].

At present, Jordanów's urban layout per se is not a heritage site listed in the Voivodship heritage sites registry. It has been placed under protection by means of the provisions of the local spatial development plan, which encompasses the territory of the historical town centre. Apart from the town's historical urban layout, the town's territory also includes four listed heritage sites. These are: the church of the Holy Trinity and its surroundings; the town hall located at Rynek 1 (1 Market Square), the building of the former town hall and town court, also located near the market square, at Rynek 2 (2 Market Square); the former inn at 10 Kolejowa Street [2]. The group of listed sites is supplemented by buildings featured in the municipal heritage sites registry, which features a total of 102 items. Among other structures, this list includes: masonry residential buildings located near the market square, largely dated to the years around 1900, nineteenth-century timber residential buildings; public buildings such as the former post office building or the high school building; statues and roadside chapels [3]. The previously mentioned elements of Jordanów's cultural landscape make it one of the more interesting urban complexes in this part of Lesser Poland.

## 2. State of the art

There is a rather limited amount of publications on the history of the founding of Jordanów and its cultural heritage. The most notable publications include: *Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich* [4, p. 604], published in the years 1880–1914; a monograph devoted to the town from 2013 [5]; the works of Feliks Kiryk, entitled *Rozwój urbanizacji Małopolski XIII–XVI w.* [6]; a monograph by M. Książek entitled *Zagadnienia genezy rozplanowania i typologii miast prywatnych XVI i XVII wieku w południowej Małopolsce* [7]; the works of the author of this article concerning the economic urban centres of the large *latifundia* of southern Poland in the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries [8].

## 3. History of the founding of the town

The town of Jordanów was founded by Krakow Voivod Spytek Jordan of Zakliczyn in 1564 as a private town. It was founded *in cruda radice*, on the basis of the Magdeburg rights.

The town was linked with the region by a route that ran to the south-west of the town, in the direction of the village of Bystra, a route that ran eastwards, to Naprawa, and another, which led to the northeast, to Łętownia. These latter two were linked to the Myślenice–Nowy Targ route [9, 6, p. 233].

It can be assumed that Jordanów's urban layout was erected on what was formerly the territory of the village of Malejowa, which belonged to the parish of Łętownia. It had already



been the site of a chapel of St. Laurence, with its own vicar. Prior to the town's founding, it belonged to the parish in Łętownia, later taking on the function of Jordanów's parish church.

In the town's charter, King Sigismund II Augustus permitted Jordanów's residents to hold markets and fairs on the days of their choosing. Monday was set as market day, while fairs were to be organised during parish festivals. In 1576, by request of Anna Zebrzydowska, King Stephen Báthory issued a charter in which he permitted the town's residents to host two additional fairs: on the day of the Conversion of Paul the Apostle and on the day of St. Giles [6, p. 232].

Spytek Jordan delegated noblemen Stanisław Gostyński, who was the Krakow Vogt, and Jan Biedrzycki, the Myślenice Starost, to carry out the process of the town's founding. Stanisław Gostyński was tasked with founding the town using the model of Krakow, while Jan Biedrzycki's obligations revolved around safeguarding the entire process's finance and settlement side. The *lokators* were primarily aided by the residents of nearby villages, which belonged to the Jordan family [6, p. 232].

Sources indicate that towards the end of the 1560s, the town was already filled with buildings. The mayor and councillors were chosen from among the settlers, who were partially comprised of residents of the villages surrounding Jordanów. The town assembly also included a scribe and town servant. Among the provisions that regulated the centre's functioning, there were also regulations concerning the obligations of the town's authorities, the organisation of fairs, the repairing of roads, the building of houses, forest use, fields, mills and defence. What is interesting is that Jordanów was not bestowed with a hereditary vogt office, which was typically awarded to the *lokators* of a centre. It can therefore be presumed that, in this case, the *lokators* received payment in land or money from Spytek.

Of note is the fact that the owner of Jordanów gave the settlers twelve years of *wolnizna*, which was a period during which they were exempt from all payments (including taxes) [10, p. 56] owed to Spytek Jordan and his descendants. After the adoption of the town charter, every new settler received a plot of land for building a house and a farmland allocation, one half of which was to be assigned for growing crops, while the other was to be a pasture. The settlers built timber houses, which were located near the market square, along the main paths, with barns behind them in the fields. Of note is the fact that Jordanów's residents mostly earned their livelihoods by farming and animal husbandry, in addition to trading and crafts [4, p. 604; 6, pp. 236-237].

It is known that the centre had a hospital for the poor, an inn, a parish house, a bathhouse and a town hall, located on the market square, around ten years after its founding. The buildings were made of timber, but differed depending upon the wealth of their owner [4, p. 604].

#### 4. The urban layout of the town

The state of Jordanów as surveyed in the middle of the sixteenth century presents a traditional manner of urban space organisation. It belongs to a group of cities and towns from the southern part of the former Land of Krakow (along with Limanowa and Zakliczyn) which are characterised by 'transitory' layouts. These layouts were a kind of link between Medieval and Renaissance urban planning, preceding the appearance of typically modern-

period plans. The urban centres in questions were the economic centres of the vast estates of the Jordan family of Melsztyn.

In its programmatic assumptions, Jordanów was established as a centre of the exchange of goods for a complex of villages and the surrounding region. Spatial solutions that referred to traditional urban settlements were used here. A small, rectangular market square was delineated in the centre of Jordanów, measuring around 81 x 143 metres. Individual urban blocks were delineated around it and were further divided into deep plots, which transitioned into farmland meant for the town's settlers. The concentration of functions and buildings, which significantly differs from the extensive functional programme of the cities of the modern period, can be considered proof of Jordanów's plan referencing traditional urban models from the Middle Ages. The circulation system of Jordanów is likewise noteworthy. Five streets lead out of the town's centre. Two lead eastwards, each extending from a different corner of the market square (the north-eastern and the south-eastern). Another street leads westward, starting at the north-eastern corner of the market square, with the last two leading northwards and southwards from the market square. It should be noted that this circulation layout also features characteristics of Medieval tradition [8, pp. 88–90].

Jordanów's urban plan has been depicted on archival plans: on Mieg's map from the years 1779–1783, on a cadastral plan from the middle of the nineteenth century, and on the second military survey from the years 1861–1864. It should be noted that this modern-period urban layout has survived almost unchanged to the present day. This was proven with the use of a research procedure developed by D. Kuśnierz-Krupa [11], which is based on, among other things, comparing archival cartography with a contemporary orthophotomap.



Fig. 2. Jordanów on Mieg's map from 1779-1783, copy [from:] archive of the Chair of the History of Architecture, Urban Planning and Art, CUT FoA, s.v.

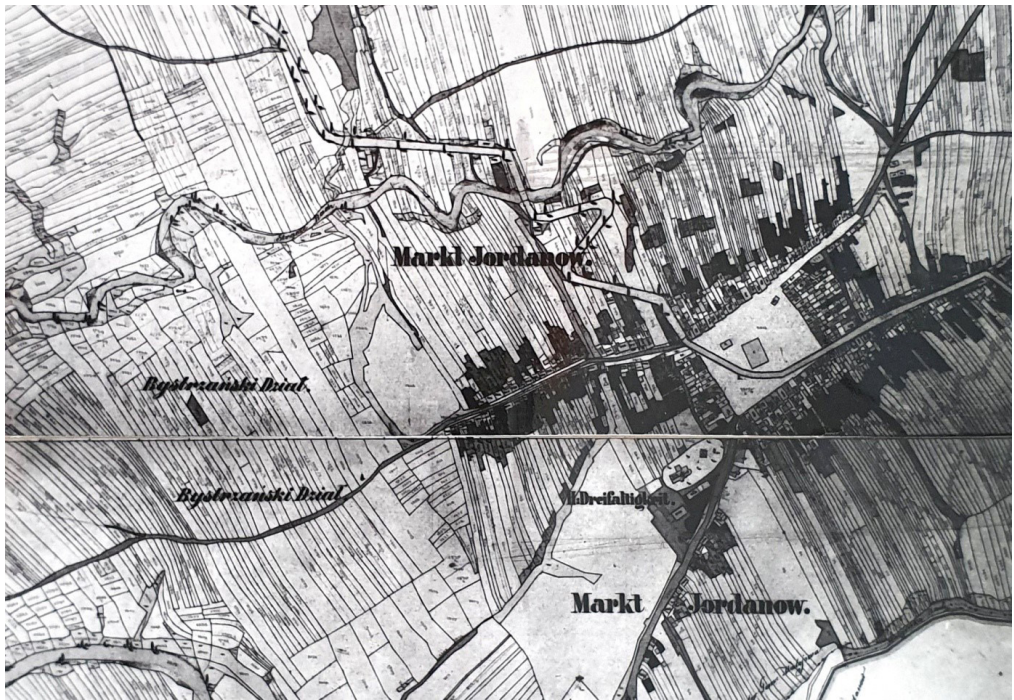


Fig. 3. Jordanów on a cadastral plan from 1844, photo [from:] archive of the Chair of the History of Architecture, Urban Planning and Art, CUT FoA, s.v.

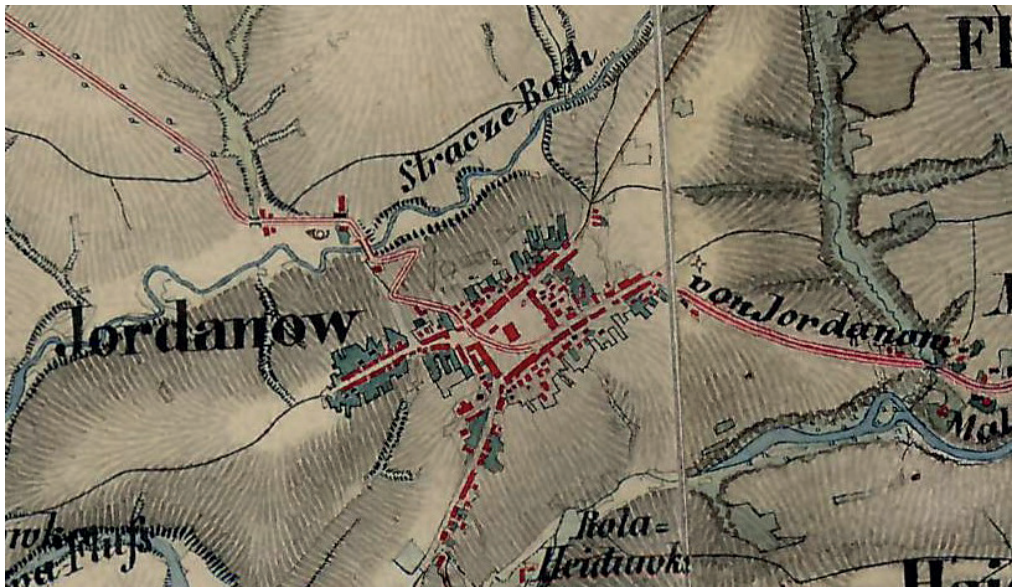


Fig. 4. Jordanów on the second military survey from 1861-1864, copy [from:] archive of the Chair of the History of Architecture, Urban Planning and Art, CUT FoA, s.v.



Fig. 5. Jordanów on a contemporary orthophotomap (Photo by W. Gorgolewski, 2017)

## 5. Conclusion

The historical value of Jordanów's cultural heritage is indisputable. The modern-period urban layout, which represents a group of simple layouts developed on the basis of traditional urban planning models of the Middle Ages, is of particular historical value. In addition to Jordanów, this group also includes towns like Limanowa, Zakliczyn or Lutowska.

Because of the aforementioned reason, the urban layout in question should be placed in the heritage sites registry. At present, its conservation, as well as that of other elements of Jordanów's cultural heritage, is enforced by the provisions of the town's local spatial development plan. The plan stipulates, among other things, that the town's cultural landscape and urban layout within the area covered by the plan is to be placed under protection, along with immovable historical monuments (buildings, structures and complexes) listed in the heritage sites registry (along with their surroundings). Also to be placed under protection according to the plan are historical monuments listed in the municipal heritage sites registry, in addition to archaeological research sites. Of note is also the obligation to protect buildings, other structures and complexes thereof that are listed in the heritage sites registry as being within territories outlined in decisions concerning placement in the heritage sites registry, as marked on the plan's graphical appendix. This provision applies to structures and complexes such as the parish church with its furnishings and tree stands, the town hall and the Market

Square within the area outlined by the lines of its frontages, the statue of St. Nepomucen and the former 'Poczekaj' inn. The local spatial development plan also stipulates an obligation to protect the historical urban layout of the town centre within the area outlined in the plan as a 'conservation zone'. The object of protection is understood here as the spatial urban layout, including the market square with its primary street layout, its buildings in the form of the market square's frontages and the streets that extend out of it, heritage sites listed in the heritage sites registry and placed in the municipal heritage sites registry, as well as old trees. The provisions of the local spatial development plan impose constraints on measures that could significantly alter the historically developed character of the layout and introduce, among other things, adapting the size and architectural form of newly designed buildings to those that predominate in the individual frontages and groups of buildings. One important aspect of the protection of Jordanów's cultural landscape is also the obligation to protect the 'skyline' of the central complex.

In conclusion, it should be stated that guidelines associated with the protection of Jordanów's heritage sites and spaces, as written in the local spatial development plan, do protect the town's cultural landscape. However, it should be noted that for this protection to be complete, then in light of applicable regulations, the charter-period urban layout, which possesses indisputable historical value as determined earlier in the article, should be placed in the voivodship heritage sites registry. This would provide it with better protection and ensure properly conducted revalorisation.

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