

The St. Michael Archangel Church in Binarowa

The St. Michael Archangel Church in Binarowa dates back to the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries. Built of fir wood with a log frame structure, it is one of the most precious gems of late-Gothic wooden architecture, both in Poland and across Europe. The entire building is 30 m long, and its roof – 15 m high. Its body consists of several elements: a chancel with a sacristy, a nave with the Chapel of Guardian Angels and a porch, as well as a tower.

Both the roof and the walls are covered with wood shingles, which have taken on a grey shade, sometimes with a green overcast. The walls are light brown. The building has a gable roof, which means that the roof fields drop sideways from the top edge. The ridge turret has its base roughly at half the roof height. This turret is 4.5 m high and ends with a cross.

It is a church with an east-facing chancel, which is nearly 7 m wide and over 9 m long. The eastern wall is closed with a three-sided apse: an inclined wall, a straight wall and another inclined wall. The straight wall includes a high rectangular window, which is 1.5 m high and 90 cm wide. The pane is divided with wooden slats into 24 squares. The other windows of the church look similar. The southern wall of the chancel includes two windows. A sacristy, attached to the northern side of the chancel, is almost 5 m wide and 6 m long. The eastern wall of the sacristy includes a rectangular window. The stairs at its northern wall lead to a wooden door. Above the door is another rectangular window.

The Chapel of Guardian Angels adjoins the sacristy on one side and a nave on the other. Its longer wall is 10 m and has two rectangular windows. The shorter walls are six metres long each. The west-side wall has a small window right beneath the roof edge. The chapel is covered by a separate roof that goes down in three directions. Its upper edge is at the height of 11 metres. The length of the nave is 10 metres.

The church tower is 23 metres high and its base is built on a square plane with 9-metre sides. At the base is a room for worshippers. The western wall of the room includes an entrance with a church porch and two symmetrically arranged windows. The main

section of the pyramid-shaped turret starts at 4 metres above the ground. Its sides are over 6 m long here. Right under the finial of the tower is a section covered with vertical planks. In the lower section, they are decorated with cut-out leaf shapes. The pyramid-shaped finial of the tower is ended with a cross.

The southern wall of the church reflects the original idea of the church, free of any elements attached to it. The currently used entrance is within the nave section, itself 10 m wide. It is a porch with a roof of its own. One can enter it with a simple wooden door. On both sides of the porch, there are rectangular windows. The wall of the chancel is receded by 0.5 m and has two rectangular windows.

In several places of the southern and northern walls, shingles bulge vertically. At those places, the shingles cover the beams that reinforce the wall structure.