

The goal of the Women of Krakow Trail is to help society remember these outstanding and courageous women. The tourist route dedicated to those women will imprint them on the urban fabric together with places associated with the emancipation movement, and emphasise the important role of women in the development of Krakow.

The route was created thanks to the cooperation of the Municipality of Krakow with the PTTK Central Mountain Tourism Centre, and with the substantive support of dr. hab. Agnieszka Chłosta-Sikorska, a professor at the University of the National Education Commission in Krakow. The route is part of the "Women of Krakow" project.

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Historic Centre of Kraków
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1978

Organizacja Narodów
Zjednoczonych
dla Wychowania,
Nauki i Kultury

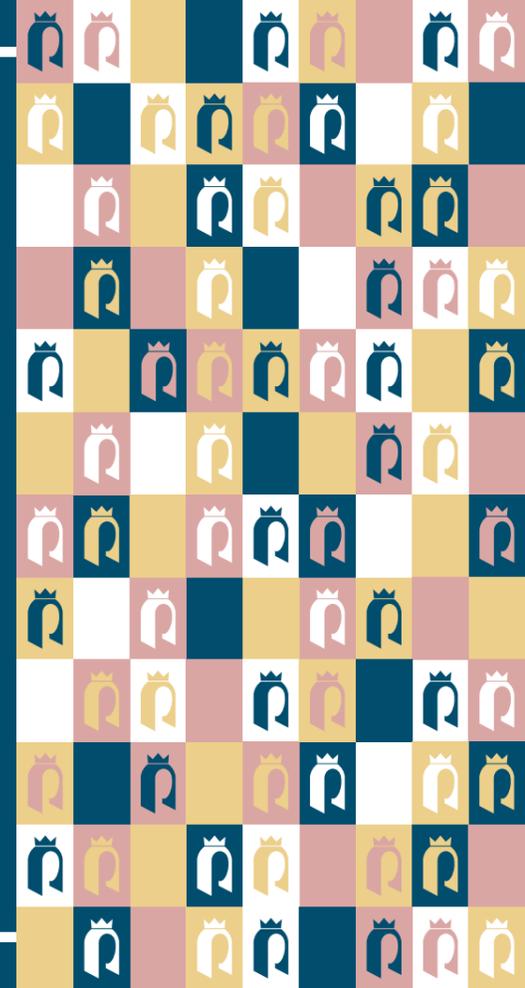
Historyczne Centrum Krakowa
wpisane na Listę Światowego
Dziedzictwa w roku 1978



krakowianki

CITY ROUTES
NOWA HUTA

THE WOMEN
OF KRAKOW TRAIL



1 ANNA PAWLAK-DRUZGAŁA (PAWLAK-SUCHOWIAK)

(1937–2009)
– a sociologist of sport, tourism and recreation. She held a Ph.D. in physical culture, was a professor at the Academy of Physical Education in Krakow, the pro-rector of the Podhale State College of Applied Sciences in Nowy Targ, and also a visual artist. She prepared the design of neon signs with a distinctive cut of letters, including those of the Markiza and Bambo confectioneries, and numerous stores in Nowa Huta.



2 ZOFIA WŁODEK

(dates of birth and death unknown)
– the founder of the women's masonry brigade. When Nowa Huta was being constructed in 1950, she promised to also use the broken bricks that the men's masonry brigades rejected in their work, and build a children's nursery relying solely on the help of other women. She became a propaganda star of the Stalinist era, but her fame dimmed with shortage in the supply of construction materials, resulting in a significant delay in the work. After this setback, Zofia Włodek "disappeared" and no one ever heard of her again.



3 ALINA FEDOROWICZOWA

(1913–2002)
– an intelligence officer of the Polish Underground, captain of the Home Army, poet, educator, lecturer, and activist who campaigned for sick children. After moving to Krakow, she opened hospital schools at the Żeromski Hospital and the Institute of Pediatrics in Prokocim, and taught at the Medical Academy's Institute of Pediatrics. She helped veterans and families murdered in Katyń, Kharkov and Miednoye. She was surveilled by the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD).



4 HELENA ŚCIBOROWSKA-MIERZWINA (HELENA MIERZWA)

(1910–1977)
– a social, educational and political activist associated with the People's Party; a graduate of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Jagiellonian University; wife of the important folk activist Stanisław Mierzwa. After World War II, she moved to Mogiła to work at the municipal office, where she helped to create a junior high school. She was chairwoman of the Women's Section of the Krakow board of the Polish People's Party, and in the 1947 elections she ran for the Sejm from the party's list. The elections were rigged by the Communists, and the People's Party was marginalised. After the 1956 Polish October, she was active among rural women.



5 JADWIGA BEAUPRÉ

(1902–1984)
– a graduate of the Faculty of Medicine at the Jagiellonian University, doctor of medical sciences, pioneer of modern motherhood, captain of the Home Army, participant in the Warsaw Uprising. After the war, she returned to Krakow, where she worked at the Gabriel Narutowicz Hospital, and in Nowa Huta in 1956 she opened one of the first birthing rooms and birthing schools in Poland. She wrote self-help books on motherhood.



6 MARTA INGARDEN

(1921–2009)
– a graduate of the Krakow University of Technology, architect engineer, co-designer of the most important buildings in Nowa Huta, and a soldier in the Home Army during World War II. She co-designed, among others, Central Square, the Administrative Centre of the Steelworks, the Swedish Block, the Ludowy Theatre, the Ludwik Rydygier Hospital, and kindergartens and schools in Nowa Huta neighbourhoods.



7 KRYSZYNA GIL

(1938–2021)
– a Roma activist orphaned at the age of 5 when her family was slaughtered by the Germans in Szczurowa, while she was among few survivors. In the 1950s, she moved to Nowa Huta, where she started a family. She was the first Roma motorist in Krakow, an activist for the rights of Polish Roma, and the founder of the Association of Roma Women in Poland. She ran a day care centre for children, organising meals, activities and camps. The children fondly called her "grandma."



8 ANNA SIATKOWSKA

(1932–2014)
– a social activist and animator of culture in Nowa Huta, the head of the Cultural Department of the District National Council in Nowa Huta from 1957 to 1982, and initiator of art studios in newly built blocks of flats. This idea allowed many artists, including prominent ones, to settle and work in Huta. She was one of the co-creators of the Nowa Huta Cultural Centre.



9 WOMEN DEFENDERS OF THE CROSS

– heroines of the events of 27 April 1960, they defended a wooden cross at the intersection of Karol Marks and Włodzimierz Majakowski streets. The communist authorities had first decided to build a church there, in Nowa Huta, but later changed their minds and sent a team to dismantle the cross. People protested against such turn of events, and even chased the workers away and put the cross back. The conflict escalated, and the authorities sent the militia and the Motorised Reserves of the Citizens' Militia (ZOMO), who used batons, water cannons and tear gas. The defenders of the cross resisted and fought with stones and paving bricks, and were not pacified until around midnight. The cross remained in place, but the first Nowa Huta church was built in a different location.



10 KRYSZYNA SKUSZANKA

(1924–2011)
– a theatre and television director, and from 1955 – the first director of the Ludowy Theatre, which she ran together with her husband Jerzy Krasowski. Her leadership made the theatre one of the leading and most interesting dramatic stages in Poland. In 1972, she became the director of the Juliusz Słowacki Theatre, and was a lecturer at the National Academy of Theatre Arts in Krakow.



11 THE SERVANT SISTERS OF DĘBNIKI

– this female Congregation of the Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been present in Krakow since 1913, when they arrived in Dębniiki, with the sisters engaged in charitable and educational work. In October 1945, some of them were delegated to Bieńczyce to take care of the chapel in the manor house at Kaczeńcowa Street, and later – the nearby Ark of the Lord Church and its parish. When martial law was in force, they supported the families of the internees and helped organise illegal structures of the "Solidarity" movement. Almost 150 sisters have lived in the parish at certain points in time, and they continue to take care of the church.



12 WANDA

– the legendary daughter of Prince Krak, who, as legends say, took over power after her father and ruled his principality wisely and justly. Unfortunately, the German prince Rydygier learned about her beauty and the wealth of the region. He decided to marry her, but, when met with refusal, began preparing for an invasion. To save her subjects from captivity and raids, Princess Wanda threw herself into the Vistula River and drowned. Her body floated near a village, in which the villagers buried her and piled a burial mound over her grave. The village was later named after the mound. The name Wanda was used in Nowa Huta to name a neighbourhood, a now-defunct speedway club, a department store and a bridge.

WOMEN OF KRAKOW TRAIL THROUGH NOWA HUTA

WOMEN HAVE ALWAYS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF KRAKOW. IF NOT FOR THEIR HARD WORK, PASSION AND PERSEVERANCE, THE CITY WOULD HAVE A COMPLETELY INCOMPARABLE NATURE AND APPEARANCE. WOMEN ARE AMONG THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HISTORY OF THIS UNIQUE PLACE AND CODETERMINE ITS DEVELOPMENT, BOTH IN TURBULENT MOMENTS AND DURING TIMES OF PEACE. THE WOMEN OF KRAKOW ARE PASSIONATE AND EXUBERATE ENERGY, WHICH IS WHAT GAVE THIS EXTRAORDINARY CITY A UNIQUE ATMOSPHERE. STROLL THROUGH NOWA HUTA TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY (OR HERSTORY) OF THE WOMEN OF KRAKOW.

1 ANNA PAWLAK-SUCHOWIAK

On the corner of Central Square and Osiedle Centrum A, on the side of Aleja Jana Pawła II, you will find the "Markiza" neon sign. Nowa Huta was famous for its neon signs, and this particular one advertised a confectionery shop located under the arcade. Anna Pawlak-Suchowiak designed this and many other projects. Today, the renovated neon glows in pink and blue, although, interestingly, the residents are not sure what the original colours were, and no colour photos have survived to settle the matter.

2 ZOFIA WŁODEK

At Osiedle Na Skarpie 27, you will find the building of a former nursery, which construction was undertaken by labour leader and temporary star of Stalinist propaganda Zofia Włodek, and her all-female masonry team. Unfortunately, despite her sincere intentions, she encountered some difficulties, such as a shortage of building materials. This delayed the project, and Zofia Włodek – almost like the hero of the film "Man of Marble" – lost her stardom and was doomed to oblivion.

7 KRYSZYNA GIL

Osiedle Uroczę 1 houses the Association of Roma Women in Poland, which was founded by Roma woman Krystyna Gil. The Association was established to counter societal discrimination against the Romani people and against women in Roma families, and also aims to support the education of and provide help to Roma and Polish children.

8 ANNA SIATKOWSKA

The large building at Osiedle Zgody 2 is now a part of the premises of the City Office of Kraków, and houses both departments responsible for general affairs in Kraków and those that concern solely the residents of Nowa Huta. Until 1990, the building was the headquarters of the Nowa Huta District National Council, and one of the officials in charge was Anna Siatkowska, who greatly contributed to the cultural development of Nowa Huta.

9 WOMEN - DEFENDERS OF THE CROSS

The monument, in the shape of a cross, is located where the communist authorities decided to construct a church, but later revoked their decision and tried to remove the cross. This enraged residents, which led to fights with the police and Motorised Reserves of the Citizens' Militia (ZOMO) in 1960. The monument at 2 Ludźmierska Street was erected in 2007, so six years after the construction of the church promised to Nowa Huta residents 41 years earlier. Many women defended the cross, and it is their hands that are carved in bronze on the monument.

10 KRYSZYNA SKUSZANKA

Krystyna Skuszanka was the first director of the Ludowy Theatre at Osiedle Teatralne 34, and some of her successors were also women. Although the theatre was initially intended for residents of Nowa Huta, already at the time of its first director it quickly started gaining popularity, with audiences made up of people from the "old" Kraków. The theatre operates not only in Nowa Huta, but also on the Pod Ratuszem Stage at Kraków's Main Square.

11 THE SERVANT SISTERS

The Ark of the Lord Church at 1 Obrońców Krzyża Street was the first newly built religious building in Nowa Huta, completing a network of five small churches that might have been sufficient for the former villages, but did not allow for pastoral ministry in the increasingly populous city district. It was built between 1967 and 1977 as a result, among others, of the defense of the Nowa Huta Cross. The communist authorities agreed to its construction, but it was moved several hundred metres from its original location. The ministry at this church is carried out by the Servant Sisters of Debnik.

12 WANDA

Wanda's Mound, the only mound in Nowa Huta and one of five in Kraków, is topped with a marble monument of a white eagle decorated with a crossed sword and the inscription "Wanda" in honour of the daughter and successor of the legendary prince Krak. According to legend, it is her grave, hence the name of the nearby old village.

3 ALINA FEDOROWICZOWA

The Stefan Żeromski Hospital at Osiedle Na Skarpie 66 was created for all residents of Nowa Huta. With construction begun in 1951, it opened in 1954, and new wards were added every few years and, over time, it began to serve residents of the entire city, with a total of approximately 1.5 million patients hospitalised there and nearly 150,000 children born there. Alina Fedorowiczowa should not be forgotten among the many distinguished doctors, having devotedly taken care of sick children at the hospital.

4 HELENA ŚCIBOROWSKA-MIERZWINA

The Rogoziński Villa at 2 Klasztorna Street housed the first school for children from Mogiła, and Anna Rogozińska was among its teachers. After World War II, before the construction of Nowa Huta, the activist Helena Ściborowska-Mierzwińska (Helena Mierzwińska) lived at Klasztorna Street, where she worked in the local municipality office and helped to establish a middle school in Mogiła. Her husband, the distinguished Polish People's Party (PSL) activist Stanisław Mierzwa, is the patron of one of the streets in Nowa Huta.

5 JADWIGA BEAUPRÉ

The former birthing room and birthing school building at Osiedle Willowe 19 now serves as an Intervention Care and Education Facility for Girls. In 1956, Jadwiga Beaupré used this building to open one of the first birthing rooms and birthing schools in Nowa Huta.

6 MARTA INGARDEN

She was one of the designers, among others, of the Swedish Block at Osiedle Szklane Domy 1, built in 1957-1959. Ingarden designed it together with her husband Janusz Ingarden and other architects, including Irena Pać-Zaleśna and Alina Zięba. The seven-story, 260-metre-high building is unique thanks to its original form that brought to life the ideas of the famous architect and urban planner Le Corbusier. Its unusual, colourful facade and wide strips of windows gave the building its name – "glass house," which is a reference to the utopian concept described by Stefan Żeromski in *Coming Spring*.

