



CONTEMPORARY PHOTOS
“SURROUNDINGS OF
AUSCHWITZ I”

November 2021

The following presentation provides contemporary photos of buildings presented in the chapter “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images” by Dr. Jacek Lachendro.

The corresponding historical images in the book along with Dr. Lachendro’s annotations and the respective page numbers are referenced after the present-day photos.

All photos were taken by Dr. Anja Nowak during a research stay at the *Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum* in November 2021 under the kind guidance of Dr. Lachendro.



Satellite Image, Google Maps, December 2021.

Theatergebäude



Housing today the offices of the International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

Image A1:

Theatergebäude (Theatre Building)

“In the early stages of the camp a film screening room, as well as a storeroom of weapons, were located here. From 1942 onward, it was the main storehouse for Zyklon B. The building also housed the following: a cosmetics work-shop, where prisoners made hand soap from cosmetics brought in the luggage of Jews deported to Auschwitz; a storeroom for various objects (suitcases, baskets, pots, among other items) plundered from Jews; and a storeroom of mineral water for the SS camp personnel.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 203.

Aufnahmegebäude



Housing today the reception center of Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (front), as well as the offices and laboratories of the Preservation Department (back).

Image A2:

Aufnahmegebäude (Reception Building)

“The facilities here included a bathhouse for newly arrived prisoners, a laundry-house, and a gas chamber for disinfecting clothing. However, the building was never fully operational. Prisoners from one or, at most, several transports passed through this building in the second half of 1944.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 204.

Lagererweiterung



Today partly in residential and partly in military use. Photos taken coming from the North.

Image A3:

Lagererweiterung (Camp Extension)

“[A] complex of 20 blocks built between 1941 and 1944 on the grounds abutting the old blocks complex on the north side. Dr. Carl Clauberg carried out sterilization experiments on Jewish women prisoners in his laboratory (which was initially in block 10 of the main camp, but transferred to block 1 in May, 1944). Some blocks of the extension were used as warehouses or workshops. There were clothing, tailors’, and cobblers’ workshops, as well as a printing shop (1943-1945) in the first row of blocks. The others served as temporary SS barracks. On October 1, 1944, a new women’s camp was established in a number of blocks in the “camp extension.” It held about 6,000 female prisoners, assigned to various labor details until the liquidation of KL Auschwitz in January, 1945.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 205.

Haupttruppenwirtschaftslager (HWL)



Housing today parts of the *Małopolska Uczelnia Państwowa / Małopolska State University*. Photo taken coming from the North on Spółdzielców Street.

Image A5:

Haupttruppenwirtschaftslager (Main Equipment Warehouse for the SS Garrison)

“One of the main warehouses for the SS garrison where food, clothing, arms, and ammunition were stored. The fleet of SS motor vehicles was also assigned to this warehouse.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 207-208.

Stabsgebäude



Housing today parts of the *Małopolska Uczelnia Państwowa / Małopolska State University*. Photo 1 taken coming from the North, photo 2 from the South, both on Spółdzielców Street.

Image A6:

Stabsgebäude (Headquarters Building)

“As a part of Auschwitz, the “Stabsgebäude” housed: some SS offices; the kitchen and the canteen for SS men (1940-1942); an armory; the living quarters of the female SS supervisors; a laundry-room for SS clothes and linen; and the living quarters of female prisoners working in the laundry. The SS placed the first groups of Polish political prisoners there from June 14 to July 6.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 208.

Unterkunftsgebäude



In the process of being renovated. Photos taken from Spółdzielców Street coming from the North.

Image A7:

Unterkunftsgebäude (Living Quarters of the SS-men and a Warehouse)

“This building was the first living quarters for the SS (non-commissioned-officers and enlisted men) and some SS offices. There was also a warehouse that supplied the SS with clothing, linen, bedding, food, and other items. It also housed a printing press (1940-1943); grain and fodder stores; the room where prisoners cut looted soap; as well as a warehouse and room where prisoners sorted belongings plundered from deported Jews.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 209.

SS-Küche



In the process of being renovated. Photo 1 taken from Spółdzielców Street, photo 2 from Maksymiliana Kolbego Street.

Image A8:

SS-Küche (Kitchen for SS-Camp Personnel)

“[B]uilt between 1941-1942. The barrack housed the kitchen, the commissary, and a canteen for SS personnel. It was also used as a performance hall and cinema (there was a stage and a movie screen).”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 210.

Lagerhaus



In the process of being renovated. Photos taken from Maksymiliana Kolbego Street.

Image A9:

Lagerhaus (Storehouse)

“As a part of the Auschwitz camp, this building was used as a storehouse for flour, cereals, and sugar for SS personnel.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 211.

Grossbäckerei



Photos taken from Maksymiliana Kolbego Street. Photo 1 (front) from the South, photo 2 (back) from the North.

Image A10:

Grossbäckerei (Main Camp Bakery and Storage Facility)

“The bakery started to operate in December, 1943. In the autumn of 1944, its daily production capacity peaked at 25,000 loaves of bread weighing 1.5 kg (3.5 lb) each.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 212.

Wasseraufbereitungsanlage



Housing today the *Przedsiębiorstwo Wodociągów i Kanalizacji / Water and Sewage Company*. Photos taken from Ostatni Etap Street.

Image A11:

Wasseraufbereitungsanlage (Water Conditioning and Pumping Station)

“[W]ith water pipes leading from deep wells to the station building. It supplied the main camp with water.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 213.

Fernheizwerk



Photo taken from footpath along the train tracks behind Hotel Imperiale, showing the back of the building.

Image A20:

Fernheizwerk (Heat and Power Plant)

“[A]ccompanied by an underground central heating channel running to the “reception building” (Aufnahmegebäude). The construction of the central heating system was never completed.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 215

Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke (DAW)



Housing today the *Powiatowe Centrum Kształcenia Technicznego i Branżowego / Poviat Technical and Industry Training Center*. Photo taken from street corner, facing West.

Image A22:

Deutsche Ausrüstungswerke (German Equipment Works)

“[A] company owned to the SS, was established in 1939 to exploit the labor of prisoners interned in German concentration camps. The Auschwitz branch was set up in 1941. The prisoners produced woodwork (windows, doors, window and door frames, partition walls, components of barracks) and furniture (wardrobes, tables, beds, stools, shelves, trash cans, coal boxes, etc.). In 1942, the company started mass production of ammunition boxes for the army; they also renovated skis and carts for carrying artillery ammunition.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 218-219.

Union Werke



Photos taken from Stanisławy Leszczyńskiej Street.

Image A 23:

Union Werke (Union Works)

“The construction of the factory began in mid-1943. Initially, it was to be a Krupp factory for the production of artillery shell fuses. However, on October 1, 1943, on the orders of the Central Bureau for Ammunition Affairs of the Army, it was taken over by the Weichsel Union Metallwerke armaments firm, which had been evacuated from Ukraine. By the end of 1943, more than 1,200 male and female prisoners worked there. Initially, the women walked to work each day from the Birkenau camp. On October 1, 1944, they were moved to the Lagererweiterung (camp extension) near the main camp.”

Jacek Lachendro, “Surroundings of Auschwitz I. The Industrial Zone in Images”, page 220-221.