

Geotouristic attractions of the Ostrava part of the Upper Silesian Basin: Remains of mine structures and architecture related to the mining industry

Jakub Jirásek^{1, a*}, Martin Sivek^{1, b}, Andrea Bašová^{1, c}, Tereza Kurková^{1, d} and Markéta Vojnarová^{1, e}

¹ Department of Geological Engineering, Faculty of Mining and Geology, VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava, 17. listopadu 15/2172, 708 33 Ostrava – Poruba, Czech Republic

^a jakub.jirasek@vsb.cz, ^b martin.sivek@vsb.cz, ^c andrea.basova.st@vsb.cz, ^d tereza.kurkova.st@vsb.cz, ^e marketa.vojnarova.st@vsb.cz

* corresponding author

Abstract.

In the Ostrava part of the Upper Silesian Basin there are many geotouristic sites connected with the underground mining of Carboniferous bituminous coal. Text is focused on those related to mining – the premises of abandoned mines with preserved parts of structures associated with mining. Sites both accessible and closed to the public are presented. Attention is also paid to traces of architecture linked with coal mining. Different types of architecture are shown by means of examples of miner's colonies and housing estates in contrast with former headquarters of mining organizations from the 19th to the 20th century. The Ostrava area is a great training ground for gaining knowledge of mining and related historical and architectural issues connected to coal mining.

Keywords: *geotourism, mining, architecture, Upper Silesian Basin, Czech Republic*

Introduction

The Czech part of the Upper Silesian Basin has always been the most important and at present is also a single mined hard coal basin in the Czech Republic. From this area, one of the primary uses of coal by men is known. Mammoth hunters used coal from seams outcropping on Landek Hill, situated in the area of the present-day town of Ostrava, as fuel for fires about more than twenty thousand years ago. True development of coal mining is however linked with development in steel making and with connection to the rail network at the beginning of the nineteenth century. New mines and their service facilities grew up. The development of mining required new workers; this was associated with the construction of miner's colonies. Moreover, buildings of headquarters of mining companies, banks and insurance companies, houses for high- and medium-level mine officials and villas for mine managers were also erected. Ostrava gradually changed from a tiny, unimportant town to an industrial conurbation known beyond the borders of then Austria-Hungary. Ostrava has held this position in relation to its surroundings to this very day. In the Czech part of the Upper Silesian Basin, the highest production was reached in the second half of the seventies of the twentieth century as a result of the then orientation of the Czechoslovak economy to heavy industry. At the beginning of the eighties, the production began to decrease gradually. The last mine car with coal from the Ostrava part of the Upper Silesian Basin was pulled out in the Odra Mine on the 30th June 1994. Mining was moved from the Czech part of the Upper Silesian Basin to the Karviná region and Frýdek-Místek region. In the submitted article we draw attention to the most interesting geotouristic sites occurring in the area of present-day Ostrava.

History of mining in the Ostrava part of the Upper Silesian Basin

The oldest chapter of the history of the use of coal in the Ostrava part of the Upper Silesian Basin is doubtless connected with the area of Landek Hill at Petřkovice (at present part of Ostrava). Here, above the confluence of the Oder and Ostravice rivers, one of a few natural outcrops of coal-bearing Carboniferous occurs. From the year 1924, archeological researches were done here on the premises of the present Mining Museum in several phases; the existence of a settlement of hunters from a period of the beginning of the Late Palaeozoic was proved. In addition to discoveries of tools, bones and other materials, the discoveries of hematite so-called "Landek Venus" figure and open-air fireplaces, in which remains of coal burning were found, are remarkable. This is evidence of the oldest use of hard coal in the world, dated in the range of 23,000 - 21,000 years B.C. (Svoboda, 1996).

After a long interruption, the beginnings of interest in prospecting for and mining of coal in the Ostrava area are connected with efforts to industrialize Central Europe in the 18th century. In the area of the Austrian Empire, the first discoveries of coal were made in the surroundings of Ostrava, without further localization, in the

years 1750, 1753, 1757. The first localized discovery comes from the area of present Silesian Ostrava from the year 1763. In the area of Prussia, coal was discovered on Landek Hill in the year 1780 and soon after that regular mining began here (Broskevič et al., 2001; Klát, Slíva, 2011; Klát, Vokříněk, 1996).

After vital beginnings, when only individuals were engaged in prospecting for coal, the state began to support this business in the second half of the 18th century. Inefficient small-scale production fell into the hands of landowners, who thanks to capital concentration ensured investments in the development of mines and also solved the problems of low demand for a new kind of fuel (Klát, Slíva, 2011; Matějčíček et al., 2003). The foundation of Rudolph Ironworks (Vítkovice Ironworks at present) at Vítkovice in the year 1830 represented the biggest boom. By increasing the demand for high-quality fuel, the Ironworks intensified the production of local coal by several hundreds of percent in the course of subsequent decades. The estimated production of about 6,600 t of coal in the year 1822 went up to 61,000 t in the year 1842. Another impulse to the development of coal mining was the connection of the Ostrava area to the rail network, and thus access to new markets. The Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway from Vienna was extended to Bohumín in the year 1847, connected to the line to Berlin in the year 1848 and to the rail line to Cracow in the year 1856. Thus the production increased from 1,200,000 t in the year 1872 to 2,600,000 t in the year 1882 (Matějčíček et al., 2003).

Mining was always done underground and thus was money consuming. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the production, which had grown on a long-term basis, began to be threatened by competing mines in other parts of the Upper Silesian Basin, especially in the German Empire. Social unrest and other problems associated with the increasing concentration of a multinational population occurred. The First World War meant a sharp increase in demand for steel and thus coal so that the production in the coalfield was more than 11,000,000 t. The post-war period brought a markedly lower demand and a new geopolitical situation. The Upper Silesian Basin was divided into the newly established Czechoslovak Republic, Poland and Germany. In the area of Ostrava, it was the Hlučín area that was affected by changes in boundaries in the year 1920. Production of above 10,000,000 t was achieved as late as the year 1924; however, the onset of the Great Depression in the years 1931-1935 decreased it to less than 8,000,000 t (Steiner, 2003). The onset of armament before the next armed conflict and during it meant a new increase in production when in the Czech part of the basin (Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia) the annual production of 20,000,000 t was almost achieved (Pavelčíková, 2003).

After the year 1945, the basin was divided between the Czech Republic and Poland and another increase in production occurred very rapidly with regard to the post-war rehabilitation of the state and a new emerging arms race. The highest production of almost 25,000,000 t per year was achieved in the period 1971-1982 (Fojtík et al., 1985). Mining at increasingly greater depths brought geological and mining complications that resulted in a slight reduction in the volume of production already before the year 1989. After the change of political regime and especially the opening of the market, the state-owned company OKD, JSC (as the only coal mining company in the Czech part of the basin) was forced to carry out a transformation. The phasing out of inefficient mines and a marked reduction in coal production occurred. In the area of the Ostrava part of the basin, the mining was terminated in the year 1994. Since then, mining operations have only been conducted in the Karviná area and in a single mine in the vicinity of Frýdek-Místek (Roček, 2003).

Methodology

The choice of old mine areas and architectonic attractions of the Ostrava part of the Upper Silesian Basin was made using the data owned by the Faculty of Mining and Geology of the VŠB-Technical University of Ostrava. The major limit was open access to described localities. Since only a minor number of old mine areas are open to the public, we decided to also briefly mention interesting sites with restricted access, but sometimes of large scientific value and interest for education and specific industrial/environmental tourism.

All selected objects are described with the same structure – name, brief description, location with the position on the map (Fig. 1) and GPS coordinates, recommended access, description with references to other information sources and pictures. Such structure allows an easy orientation and might be in the future used for web presentations of local tourism as well.

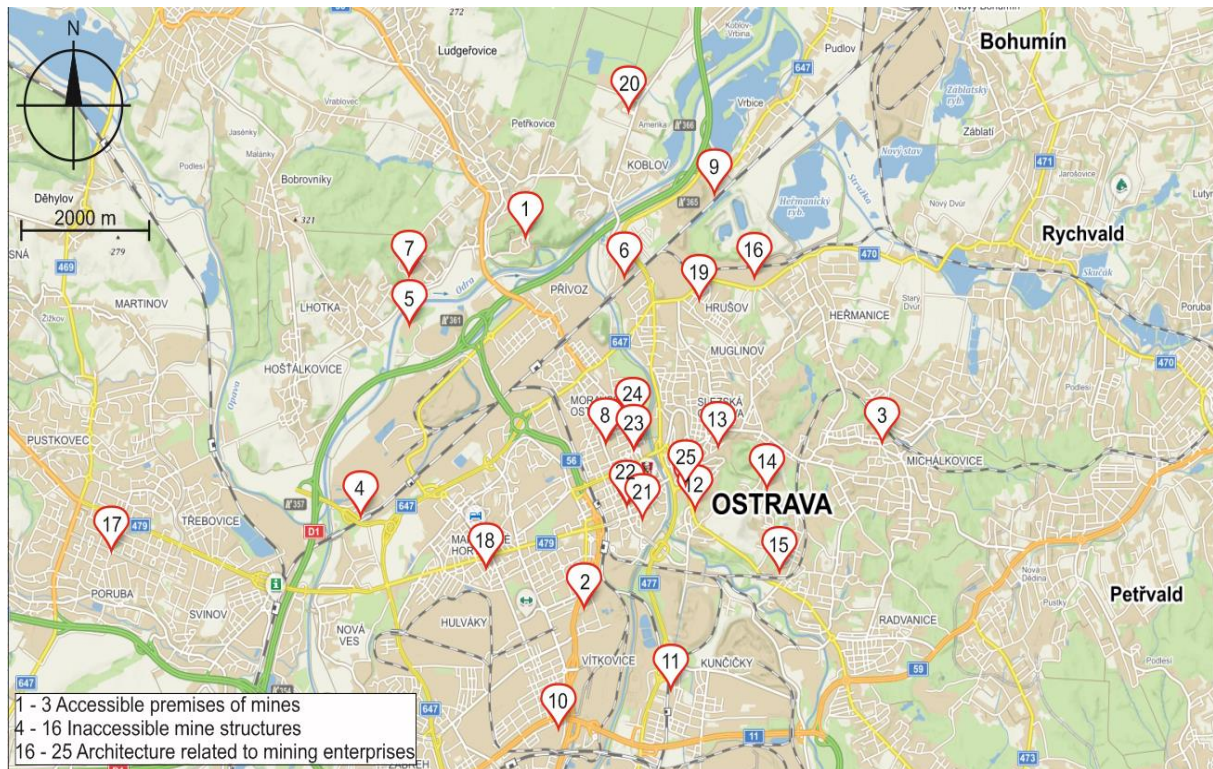


Figure 1: 1. Anselm Mine at Ostrava-Petřkovice, 2. Hlubina Mine and Dolní Vítkovice Industrial Park, 3. Michal Mine at Michálkovice, 4. Shaft No. 3 of the Jan Šverma Mine, 5. Odra Mine premises, 6. Stachanov Mine premises, 7. Lidice Mine premises, 8. Headframe of the Jindřich Mine, 9. Headframe of the Vrbsice Mine, 10. Headframe of the Jeremenko Mine, 11. Alexandr Mine premises, 12. Trojice Mine premises, 13. Petr Bezruč Mine premises, 14. Michálka Mine premises, 15. Jan Maria Mine premises, 16. Rudý říjen Mine machine house, 17. Socialist realism in Ostrava-Poruba, 18. Miner's colony U Koule, 19. Colony of the Ida Mine, 20. Miner's colony Amerika, 21. Former Headquarters of Vítkovice Hard Coal Mines, 22. Elektra Palace, 23. Former Headquarters of the Mining and Metallurgical Company, 24. Former General-Directorate of the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway, 25. Villa of the manager of Franz Joseph Hard Coal Mines, Count Wilczek

Accessible premises of mines

Anselm Mine at Ostrava-Petřkovice

content: a cultural monument and mining museum

location: Ostrava-Petřkovice, N 49° 52.110 E 018° 15.910, for the entrance fee and opening hours see <http://www.landekpark.cz>

access: from Petřkovice and Koblův along a red-marked tourist trail. Free passage through the premises, paid admission to exhibitions.

description: Although the occurrence of coal on Landek Hill was recorded as early as the Stone Age, the beginnings of mining date back to the second half of the 18th century. In addition to many adits dug in seam outcrops, the first vertical shaft, later named Anselm, was sunk here in the year 1835. The present-day appearance of the premises dates back to the years 1907 to 1915. Mining was terminated here in the year 1991, but already in the year 1987, a mining museum of the OKD was founded in this place (Matěj et al., 2009). Mine transport and rescue exhibitions can be visited and an underground coal mining tour can be taken (Broskevič et al., 2001). On the surface, e.g. a replica settlement of mammoth hunters, an exhibition of modern mining machinery and children's playground are freely accessible. Food and drink are available in a typical mining pub.

Hlubina Mine and Dolní Vítkovice Industrial Park

content: a national cultural monument, technical and educational park, for the entrance fee and opening hours see <http://www.dolnivitkovice.cz>

location: Ostrava-Moravian Ostrava, N 49° 49.280 E 018° 16.690

access: In the vicinity of the center of Ostrava. Free passage through the premises, paid admission to exhibitions.

description: A unique industrial complex of Dolní Vítkovice. All premises of the Hlubina Mine (mining in the years 1863 to 1992) and the adjacent coking plant and blast furnaces of Vítkovice Ironworks were declared a national cultural monument in the year 2002. Here you can see the area of the historical part of the Vítkovice

Ironworks open to tourists with the possibility of visiting a blast furnace, gas holder and energy center, entertaining and education parks Small World of Technology U6 and Science and Technology Centre. In the year 2015, the premises of the Hlubina Mine are planned to be open to the public.

Michal Mine at Michálkovice

content: a national cultural monument, mining museum

location: Ostrava-Michálkovice, N 49° 50.550 E 018° 20.660, for the entrance fee and opening hours see <http://www.dul-michal.cz>

access: near the road from Silesian Ostrava to Petřvald. Paid admission to the museum.

description: The first shaft was sunk here as early as the year 1843; the mine was established two years later. Part of the surface of the mine was destroyed by subsidence resulting from the widening of the mining shaft in the year 1871. The premises were rebuilt again in the years 1913-1915 owing to the transition from steam to electric power. Mining operations were terminated here in the year 1993. After the termination of mining, all the surface premises, including technical equipment remained preserved here. The premises were declared a national cultural monument in the year 1995 (i.e. the most important parts of the cultural wealth of the nation), and a nomination for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List is considered (Matěj et al., 2009). Three tours, including the home to work travel of a miner, the familiarization with the work of mine surveyors, rescuers, geologists and other professions related to coal mining are offered.

Inaccessible mine structures

The text of this chapter is taken from Čapek (1928), Hedvábný et al. (2002), Matěj (2003), Matěj et al. (2009), Klát, Slíva (2011). Access restrictions vary from the private fenced land to abandoned structures with high-security risk for visitors.

Shaft No. 3 of the Jan Šverma Mine

location: Ostrava-Nová Ves, N 49° 49.980 E 018° 13.720

description: A shaft with circular enclosed lattice headframe was built in the year 1906 to ventilate the west field of Ignát Mine, later Jan Šverma Mine. Protected as a cultural monument.

Odra Mine premises

location: Ostrava-Přívov, N 49° 51.425 E 018° 14.370

description: The remains of the Odra Mine, operated in the years 1910 to 1968. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Stachanov Mine premises

location: Ostrava-Hrušov, N 49° 51.800' E 018 17.230

description: The Hubert Mine was founded in the year 1854; in the year 1946 it was renamed Stachanov. At the beginning of the nineties of the 20th century, its operation was terminated and both shaft buildings and headframes were demolished. Here, typical buildings of machine shops and engine houses are there. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Lidice Mine premises

location: Ostrava-Petřkovice, N 49° 51.800 E 018° 14.370

description: The remains of premises of the Oskar Mine, later named Masaryk and Lidice, operated in the years 1896 to 1967. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Headframe of the Jindřich Mine

location: Ostrava-Moravian Ostrava, N 49° 50.530 E 018° 16.980

description: The shaft and shaft building in the center of the town evoke memories of the mine, in which coal was extracted in the years 1863 to 1932, and which was used as a subsidiary one by the year 1982. A small part is protected as a cultural monument.

Headframe of the Vrbice Mine

location: Ostrava-Hrušov, N 49° 52.430 E 018° 18.430'

description: The well-preserved premises and shaft with the headframe from the year 1911 are still used as degasification station for mine gas extraction from underground. They are planned to be open to the public. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Headframe of the Jeremenko Mine

location: Ostrava-Vítkovice, N 49° 48.375 E 018° 16.348

description: The mine was founded under the name New Shaft in the year 1872. The present-day appearance of the strut headframe dates back to the year 1929 when the timber structure was replaced by a steel one. Moreover, the premises of the mine forge are preserved here. The historical premises are adjacent to a modern mine sunk in the years 1943 to 1966, in which mining operations were terminated in the year 1992. At present, this is the center of the pumping system that regulates the height of the water table in former mines in the Ostrava part of the coalfield. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Alexandr Mine premises

location: Ostrava-Kunčičky, N 49° 48.670 E 018° 17.850'

description: The devastated premises of the mine operated in the years 1896 to 1976 with preserved two shaft buildings with headframes and buildings of boiler plant, compressor plant, bathrooms, administrative building, and machine shops. South of the premises of the mine, there is a miner's colony, New Colony, built in the years 1900 to 1904. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Trojice Mine premises

location: Ostrava-Silesian Ostrava, N 49° 50.050 E 018° 18.150

description: Preserved machine houses, compressor house, bathrooms and administrative building of the former Trojice Mine, operated in the years 1844 to 1967, are there in the former Burňa Valley, one of the places of initial coal mining in the Ostrava region. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Petr Bezruč Mine premises

location: Ostrava-Silesian Ostrava, N 49° 50.525 E 018° 18.475

description: At present, the preserved conjugate strut headframe of the Terezie Mine (later Bergschicht and Petr Bezruč) is a landmark of Hladnov Hill in Ostrava. Shallow mining commenced here already in the year 1843; in the year 1862, the mine was rebuilt to an underground mine. The operation of the mine was terminated in the year 1992. The remarkable conjugate strut headframe and auxiliary structures from the seventies of the 19th century, belonging to the oldest preserved ones in the Coalfield, have been preserved here (Matěj et al., 2009). Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Michálka Mine premises

location: Ostrava-Silesian Ostrava, N 49° 50.190 E 018° 19.130

description: A preserved machine house, compressor house and bathroom building of the former Michálka Mine (former Jan Nepomuk, Jan Michaeli), active in the years 1855 to 1964, coming from the time of premises renovation in the years 1909 to 1917. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Jan Maria Mine premises

location: Ostrava-Silesian Ostrava, N 49° 49.560 E 018° 19.290

description: A preserved machine house and administrative building of the former Jan Maria Mine (active in the years 1855 to 1963) function as parts of the hotel complex at present. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.

Rudý říjen Mine machine house

location: Ostrava-Hrušov, N 49° 51.790 E 018° 18.960

description: A preserved machine house of the Ida Mine (later Hoffnungschacht, Generalisimus Stalin I and Rudý říjen I), active in the years 1879 to 1961, is there on the premises of the Heřmanice prison complex. Some parts are protected as a cultural monument.



Figure 2: A - Anselm Mine headframe at Ostrava-Petřkovice, B - Michal Mine headframe at Ostrava-Michálkovice

Architecture related to mining enterprises

Socialist realism in Ostrava-Poruba

content: an urban conservation area in the style of socialist realism

location: Ostrava-Poruba, suitable walk e.g. between N 49° 49.848 E 018° 09.867 and N 49° 49.340 E 018° 10.430

access: all center of Ostrava-Poruba in the surroundings of Hlavní třída Street

description: For a long time, Poruba was an independent municipality and was annexed to Ostrava as late as the year 1957. At the beginning of the 50s' of the 20th century, it was decided that, with regard to the rapidly growing number of inhabitants, Ostrava required a residential center in the area where undermining due to coal extraction would not threaten. Such a suitable area was Poruba, which was situated, in addition, outside the area of the main direction of removal of emissions from Ostrava metallurgical works, chemical plants and other plants of heavy industry. For this reason, the construction of a housing estate on greenfield land was commenced in the year 1951; it soon underwent immense development. In contrast to 1,500 inhabitants in the year 1946, more than 20,000 people lived here ten years later. The style of architecture corresponds to socialist realism taken from the Soviet Union. It celebrated the accomplishments of the life of the working class. What is interesting is its comparison with the later buildings from the 60s' and the 70s' that have ornamental elements no more and whose architectonic and utility quality is lower (Strakoš, 2009).

Miner's colony U Koule

content: a miner's colony of the Ignát Mine, built in the years 1907 - 1910

location: Ostrava-Mariánské Hory, N 49° 49.584 E 18° 15.388

access: Ostrava city public transport (bus No. 24; trams Nos. 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 18, 19)

description: The colony was named after a near pub above the door of which a light blue ball hung. At present, this is the best-preserved miner's colony in the area of Mariánské Hory. The colony was built by the Marie-Anna Moravia Ostrava Hard Coal Company, the owner of the Ignát Mine, about 2,100 m south-east of the Mine in the years 1907 – 1910. In the area delimited by present-day streets, namely 28. října, 1. máje and Martinská Streets, 45 houses of 51 original miners' houses are preserved. The houses were of two types: 1) two-storeyed houses always including 8 housing units (Daliborova, Slévárenská, Bendlova Streets); 2) corner houses consisting of two houses adjacent to the third one on both its sides (28. října Street). All were made of burned bricks, without water, gas and electricity supplies, equipped merely with a simple sewage system. To each house, an outbuilding and a shed belonged. In the 90s' of the 20th century, houses were sold by means of municipal authorities to businessmen who had the houses repaired but often modernized to such an extent that they lost their original features. An exception is e.g. a house with house No. 418/9, Daliborova Street, in which there is the Ostrava City Library, Mariánské Hory branch library (Peňázová, 2011; Barcuch, Rohlová, 2005).

Colony of the Ida Mine

content: a miner's colony of the Ida Mine, built in the years 1844 - 1951

location: Ostrava-Hrušov, N 49° 51.630 E 18° 18.221

access: Ostrava city public transport (trolley No. 109; bus No. 49)

description: The colony was named after the Ida Mine, in the immediate vicinity of which it was situated. It is one of two miner's colonies of the mentioned mine located at Hrušov. The oldest part of the colony, called "Kozí roh", was built on the left side of present-day Orlovská Street, to the north-east of Hladnovská Street in the years 1860 – 1905. It consisted of 21 one-story houses, each with 4 housing units, outbuildings and a garden, without water and electricity. This part of the colony ceased to exist after demolition in the year 1965 (Ambros, 1991). In the years 1911 – 1946, the then colony was extended by construction of one-floor houses with 4-8 housing units with a sewage system, water and electricity supplies, on the right side of present-day Orlovská Street (house No. 341) to the north-east of Hladnovská Street, in the area delimited by present-day Orlovská, Sodná, Na Liščině Streets (house No. 338). The newest part of the colony built in the years 1949 – 1951 was, to the northeast of Na Liščině Street in the vicinity of present-day U Dolu, K Důlkům, Na Vrchu, Bažantí, Technická Streets, comprised of assembled timber semi-detached houses, with a partial basement (so-called Finnish houses), bathroom and toilet. With reference to undermining and poor conditions of some buildings due to devastation, 36 of the original 70 houses are used for housing and commercial purposes at present. One of these buildings is originally administrative, after alteration residential building "Old Shaft No. 1" at 84/26 Vývozní Street; it is 171 years old (Jemelka, 2012).

Miner's Colony Amerika

content: a miner's colony of the Anselm Mine, built in the year 1922

location: Ostrava-Koblov, N 49° 53.053 E 18° 17.283

access: Ostrava city public transport (bus No. 52)

description: The colony was built by the Vítkovice Mining Company. It represents a completely preserved colony that, despite numerous repairs and modernization, has retained its original character (Herman, 2012). It was constructed on both sides of present-day Na Nové Sachtě Street, in the immediate vicinity of the Anselm IV Mine in the year 1922; the colony is separated from the Mine by Antošovická Street. In the area were erected 20 workers' semi-detached houses (Nos. 180-186, 193-199, 187-192), with a partial basement, electricity supplies, but without a bathroom, toilet and gas supplies. Further, 2 officers' one-floor semi-detached houses (Nos. 179, 218) were built. Already from the beginning, they were fully equipped with a bathroom, toilet, electricity, water, and gas (Bílek 1966, 1969). To all houses, outbuildings and gardens belonged. In the year 1967, the buildings were sold to private owners at a symbolic price owing to their condition (Herman, 2012).

Former Headquarters of Vítkovice Hard Coal Mines

content: a cultural monument, historical building from the year 1896

location: Moravian Ostrava, N 49° 50.000 E 18° 17.460

access: Ostrava city public transport (trams Nos. 4, 6, 10, 12, 14)

description: This palace, as well as the chemical laboratories of Karolina Coking Plant, was designed by Felix Neumann (1860 – 1942), a famous Ostrava architect of Jewish origin. He became a supplier of construction and designing work for the Vítkovice Hard Coal Mines. The building of former headquarters, in its time the largest administrative workplace, is there in Smetana Square (house No. 979/2). Originally a two-story rough masonry building made of fair-faced brickwork with glazed tile fittings, Gothic-like elements on the front of the building (Strakoš, 2009), was erected in the year 1896. The third story comes from the time of completion of the building in the year 1926 according to the project of the architect O. Bém. In the year 2004, the building was altered – bricks on the front were cleaned, roof windows were added, alteration of the right extension and dormer windows, which however was not too architecturally successful, was done. Nowadays, the building is used as the head office of many firms.

Elektra Palace

content: a cultural monument, the historical building erected in the years 1923 - 1926

location: Moravian Ostrava, N 49° 50.051 E 18° 17.257

access: Ostrava city public transport (trams Nos. 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 14, 18)

description: The palace belongs to important buildings from the pre-war period; it was built by the builders František Kolář and Jan Rubý in the years 1923 – 1926. It is located at 305/1 Umělecká Street. It is the case of a four-story building, with fronts to three streets in the spirit of neo-classicist tradition, functionalist style, which is decorated with figures of miners and smelters on the front of the building. The figures were sculpted by the sculptor Augustin Handzel. Originally the so-called Miners' House was used not only as of the seat of mining secretariat, coalfield council, workers' savings bank and council of employees but also as a new center of social life with a cinema, café and library. The original interior decoration and equipment of the Elektra Café in the Art Deco style were completely destroyed by insensitive alterations in the year 1992 and in the years 2005 – 2006, which resulted in the cessation of the original distinctive character of the famous café (Strakoš, 2009; Hotel Palác Elektra, 2015).

Former Headquarters of the Mining and Metallurgical Company

content: a cultural monument, historical building from the years 1928 - 1929

location: Moravian Ostrava, N 49° 50.479 E 18° 17.356

access: Ostrava city public transport (trolleys Nos. 101, 102, 103, 106, 111, 113)

description: The four and five-story building with a flat roof was constructed in the years 1928 – 1929 according to the project of Jaroslav František Stockar von Bernkopf (1890 – 1977), a significant Czech architect. The building in the style of Neo-classicism is, according to Josef Kubíček, supplemented by travertine facing, four shallow reliefs on the main staircase wall illustrating the life of miners and four bronze statues above the main cornice (Strakoš, 2009).

Former General-Directorate of the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway

content: a cultural monument, historical building from the years 1939 - 1941

location: Moravian Ostrava, N 49° 50.520 E 18° 17.340

access: Ostrava city public transport (trolleys No. 101, 102, 103, 106, 111, 113)

description: An administrative building and seat of management situated near the former headquarters of the Mining and Metallurgical Company, in present-day Prokeš Square, house No. 2020/6. It was constructed according to the instructions of Directorate General Ladislav Jerie in the years 1939 – 1941. The project from the year 1939 was prepared by Karel Kotas (1894 – 1973), a prominent representative of Czech modern architecture (Strakoš, 2009). The building is decorated with works of art, to which belong a granite relief The Birth of Coal by the sculptor Jan Lauda (1896 – 1959) above the main front; stained glass panes between the first floor and the second

floor by Jan Bauch (1898 – 1995); a bronze statue of a miner by Antonín Ivanský (1910 – 2000) from the time after the Second World War (Holý, 2003).

Villa of the manager of Franz Joseph Hard Coal Mines, Count Wilczek

content: a family estate of a mining magnate from the year 1913

location: Silesian Ostrava, N 49° 50.164 E 18° 18.043

access: Ostrava city public transport (buses Nos. 29, 30, 38, 71, 92)

description: The villa is located at 120/54 Těšínská Street near the Trojice Mine. It was constructed by an unknown builder around the year 1913. The style of architecture combines Late Historicism with Neo-Renaissance and Neo-Baroque elements and motifs. This family estate belonged to the owner of the Polish-Ostrava estate, Baron Franz Joseph Wilczek (1748 – 1834), who began to mine coal in Polish Ostrava in the year 1787. He was the last of the counts of this house and is buried in the family vault at Klimkovice (Strakoš, 2009).



Figure 3: A - Socialist realism in Ostrava-Poruba, B - Miner's colony U Koule, C - Colony of the Ida Mine, D - Miner's colony Amerika, E - Former Headquarters of Vitkovice Hard Coal Mines, F - Former Headquarters of the Mining and Metallurgical Company, G - Former General-Directorate of the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway H - Villa of the manager of Franz Joseph Hard Coal Mines, Count Wilczek.

Discussion

The amount of architectonic points of interest related to the mining of the Ostrava region is limited by access to most of them. While there are virtually hundreds of such points in the area, only a very few of them are broadly known and visited. Two of them, namely Hlubina Mine as a part of the Dolní Vítkovice Industrial Park, and Michal Mine, were pronounced national cultural monuments, which is the highest level of cultural heritage protection on the country. Third of them, Ansel Mine, is considered to be a cultural monument, second-highest level of such protection.

As cultural monuments were also pronounced parts (but not the whole premises) of the Stachanov, Rudý říjen I, Vrbice, Alexandr, Jindřich, Jan Šverma, Lidice, Odra, Jan Maria, Petr Bezruč, Trojice, and Jeremenko mines. Most of them are unknown to the public and not presented to potential visitors. Education panels are missing, access to them might be problematic. Some of them are also in very bad condition.

In spite of previously mentioned protected architectonic features related to the mining enterprises, the Ostrava region offers much more. Probably the most interesting are housing colonies, which were established near mines (and also other industrial companies) during the 19th and 20th centuries. They were mostly adapted to modern ways of housing, but one can still trace the evolution of social and economic conditions of miners there.

Conclusions

In the last decades, geology- and mining-related tourism have undoubtedly gained a significant position in the tourist business. The connection of natural geological attractions with a history of mining, technical monuments and architecture of housing and administrative buildings and technical structures creates an interesting range of information that is sought by a substantial part of visitors. This is testified not only by the popularity of mining museums but also by the number of visitors to old mining towns and technical monuments connected with the history of mineral mining and miners housing.

The submitted article draws attention to yet unappreciated possibilities provided in the Ostrava part of the Upper Silesian Basin. In a relatively small area, many sites not mentioned in common travel guides can be found. They can be well-used not only in geological and environmental education but also in architectonic features related to the mining enterprises.

Ostrava still owns the reputation of the mining town. Mining itself ceased in 1994 on the city territory, and better propagation of sites related to mining history is still missing. Drawing the attention of mainstream tourism to remaining industrial heritage including architecture related to mine enterprises offers an interesting opportunity to show both low-end mine colonies for workers housing as well as real estates of rich mine owners or mining companies.

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