FOOTPRINTS OF POLONIA

POLISH HISTORICAL SITES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

EWA BARCZYK

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE LIBRARIES, EMERITA

Sponsored by Polish American Historical Association
WAVES OF POLISH IMMIGRATION

Economic
“za chlebem”
- 1870 - 1914

Political
Post World II
- 1945 – 1950’s

Solidarity
- 1980 - 1989

Nowa Polonia 1989-
WHAT/WHO IS POLONIA
WHO IS A POLISH AMERICAN

HOW TO DEFINE “POLSKOŚĆ “

• JEWS... UKRAINIANS... LITHUANIANS... TATARS
  CATHOLIC...MUSLIM... JEWISH... ORTHODOX

HOW DID POLES IDENTIFY THEMSELVES IN POLONIA NEIGHBORHOODS
WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE BOOK

• CHURCHES (221)
• STATUES
• MONUMENTS
• CEMETERIES
• PLAQUES
• COLLECTIONS IN LIBRARIES
• ART INSTALLATIONS
• BUILDINGS
• RELICS
• MUSEUMS
• MOSAICS
• 866 SITES
• 9 COUNTRIES
WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

• COMMERCIAL ENTITIES
• ORGANIZATIONS
• CLOSED OR INACCESSIBLE
• STREETS, PARKS, HIGHWAYS UNLESS HISTORICAL MARKERS
• NO TRACES OF POLISHNESS REMAINING
• NATURE - LAKES, FJORDS, MOUNTAINS

FOCUS ON BUILT ENVIRONMENT
TYPICAL FORMAT

• AVERAGE ENTRY 200 WORDS

• ALPHABETICAL ARRANGEMENT
  • COUNTRY
  • STATE/PROVINCE
  • CITY
  • SITE
EDMONTON POLISH CENTENNIAL MONUMENT

TORONTO KATYN MEMORIAL MONUMENT

TORONTO BATTLE OF MONTE CASSINO MEMORIAL
41 Kościuszko 41 Pulaski
HELENA MODZREJEWSKA
MARIA KONOPNICKA

MARCELLA SEMBRICH MUSEUM
MARIE CURIE SKŁODOWSKA
BREAD & ROSES STRIKE
EVERETT MILL BUILDING
LAWRENCE MA

POLISH SETTLEMENTS IN CANADA

1817 - 2017

To commemorate 200 years of Polish immigration to Manitoba,
En commémoration de 200 ans d'immigration polonaise au Manitoba
Dla upamiętnienia dwustu lat imigracji Polaków do Maniobty

Canadian Polish Congress Manitoba District
Section manitobaine du Congrès canadien polonais
Kongres Polonii Kanadyjskiej okręg Manitoba
This place in Polonia, Wisconsin marks the foundation of the Felician Sisters in America in 1874. How great are thy works, O Lord.

Ps. 91:6
ST. FAUSTINA CHAPEL
NATIONAL SHRINE OF DIVINE MERCY

ROADSIDE SHRINE
WISCONSIN
MOTHER THERESA
DUDZIK
St. Stanislaus

ST. JOSEPH BASILICA MILWAUKEE
CHALLENGES

- COVID
- Coordinating 200 volunteers
- Selection criteria
- What to exclude
- Copyright & licensing
- Organizational schema & metadata
HOW CAN READERS USE THIS BOOK:

- **Travel companion for Polish Americans and Poles coming to U.S.**
  - Brief overviews
  - Further reading recommendations
  - Websites listed

- **Reference guide**
  - Provides information on local area

- **Handbook for students & Polish organizations**
  - Instill pride in Polish American contributions
  - Motivate Polonia to preserve their treasures

- **Opportunity to showcase Pol-Am contributions to non-Polish audience**
Observations/Conclusions

- Polish traces are found everywhere
- Some churches, veteran homes being closed
- New monuments, plaques, churches being erected
- Polish emigres are very proud of these visible markers of their heritage
PAHA PROJECTS

• POLISH AMERICAN ENCYCLOPEDIA
• MEMOIRS PROJECT
• OBJECTS THAT SPEAK
• POLISH AMERICAN STUDIES JOURNAL

QUESTIONS

polishamericanstudies.org

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