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Maria Wodzińska, Chopin's only fiancée was born in Służewo in 1819. After the Second World War the village was a centre of activities connected with Chopin and his works, although Chopin had never visited Służewo.



Służewo was mentioned as a village as early as in 1286 and it was a private town in the years 1458 – 1867 belonging first to the Służewski family and then to the Potulicki, Skórzewski and Wodziński families respectively. The town was located on so-called route from Gdańsk, through Toruń and to Warsaw, which further led through Koneck, Brześć Kuj., Kowal, Gostynin etc. After the Congress of Vienna, which resulted in marking the border between occupants of Poland in the village of Tażyn, Russian customs and border offices were established in 1827 and Służewo began to develop economically. The offices were moved to Aleksandrowo Pograniczne in 1862, which caused visible stagnation in Służewo, which was later enhanced in 1867, when the town was deprived of its town charter.

The Baroque synagogue dating back to the first half of the 17th century was destroyed by the Nazis in 1942. Soon after the deliverance in 1945, the Baroque palace of the Wodziński family was looted, burnt and eventually dismantled. A meadow found in the spacious park is the only trace of the palace. In the southern part of the meadow there is a monument dedicated to Fryderyk Chopin and a stone found at the park alley bears a commemorating table.

The Church of Saint John the Baptist erected in the Gothic and Renaissance style in 1560 by Małgorzata Służewska nee Kostek and Jan Służewski, is a real pride of the village. The church is a brick structure standing on stone foundations. It has two naves, which are divided atypically by two pillars. The church interior is contemporary, however, during the interwar period, the Wodziński family founded ceramic figures made by Waclaw Bębnowski from Aleksandrów Kuj. In the parish cemetery in Goszczewo (located 1 km away from Służewo) there is a well preserved tomb of the Wodziński family dating back to the second half of the 19th century.

Developed by: Andrzej Hermann

See other localities on the Fryderyk Chopin Route in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province



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