

# KIELCE

For seven centuries, until 1789, Kielce was the property of the bishops of Kraków and Jews were banned from the city. Jews were admitted in 1818, but it was not until 1868 that czarist authorities recognized an official Jewish community in the city. Jews established themselves in industries related to natural resources, as the city's economy was based primarily on metallurgy and mining. In the interwar period, Kielce was known for its strong Jewish educational system and its large library sponsored by the Zionist cultural organization, Tarbut.

In April 1941, the Nazis created a ghetto in Kielce into which Jews from neighboring small towns were also driven, along with 1,000 Viennese Jews. The 27,000 inmates were rapidly reduced through starvation, shootings and an epidemic of typhus. In August 1942, the ghetto was liquidated and its surviving inhabitants shipped to Treblinka. After the war, Kielce was the site of an infamous pogrom. On July 4, 1946, responding to a rumor that a missing Christian child had been murdered by Jews, a mob attacked a residence for Holocaust survivors, killing 42 Jews and wounding more than 100. This pogrom became an impetus for the mass migration of Jewish survivors out of Poland.

## Location

114 km NNE of Kraków  
50° 53' / 20° 37'  
Voivodship: Kielce

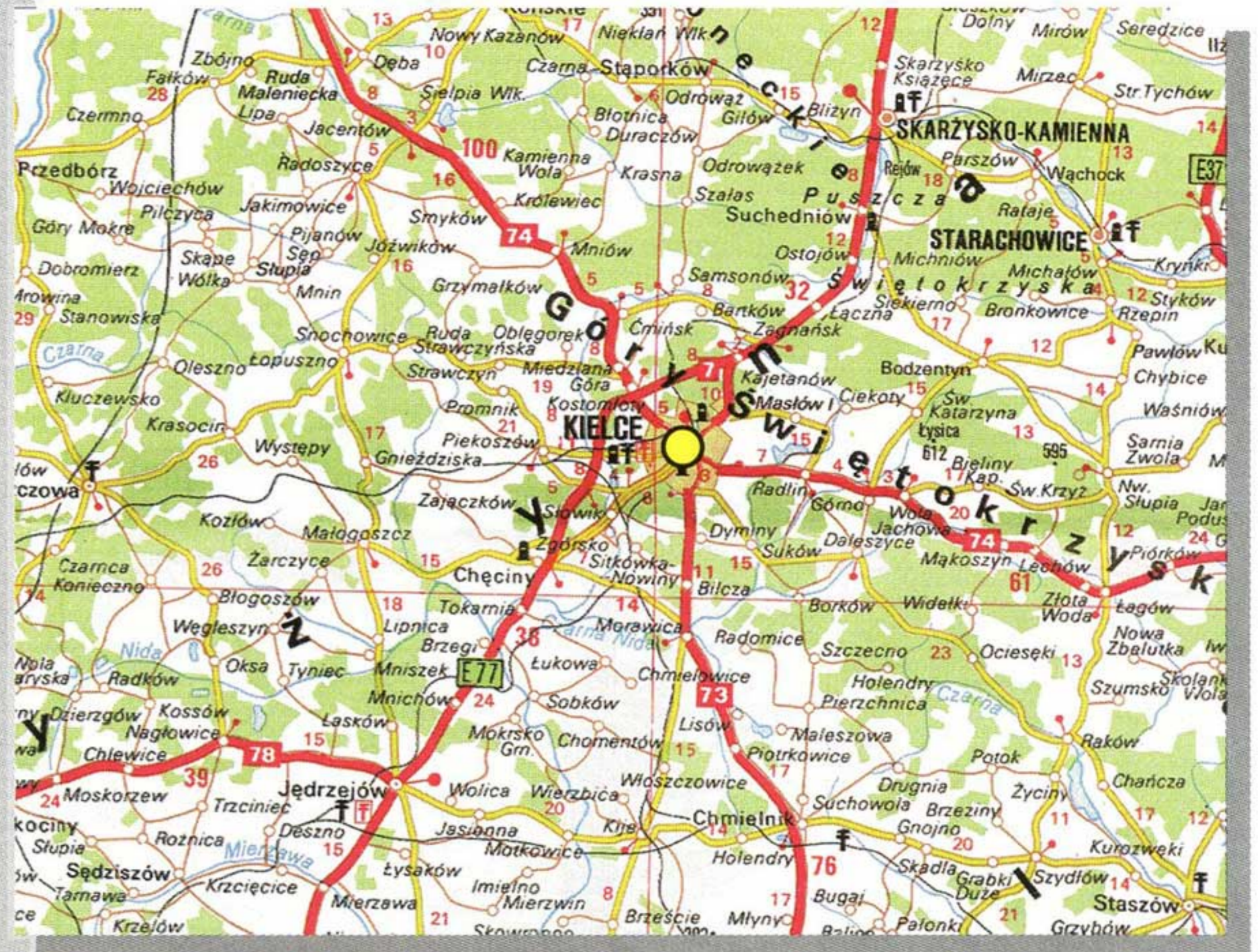
## General Population, 1939

48,000 (50% Jewish)

## General Population, 1994

214,484

## KELTS, KELTZ, KILTS, KILTZ



## SYNAGOGUES

ul. Warszawska 17

Synagogue constructed in 1903.

Current use: State Archives.

Memorial commemorating Poles who helped Jews during the war (dedicated in 1996).

Monument in memory of 27,000 Jews of Kielce (dedicated in 1996).

ul. Słowackiego 3

Synagogue constructed in 1921.

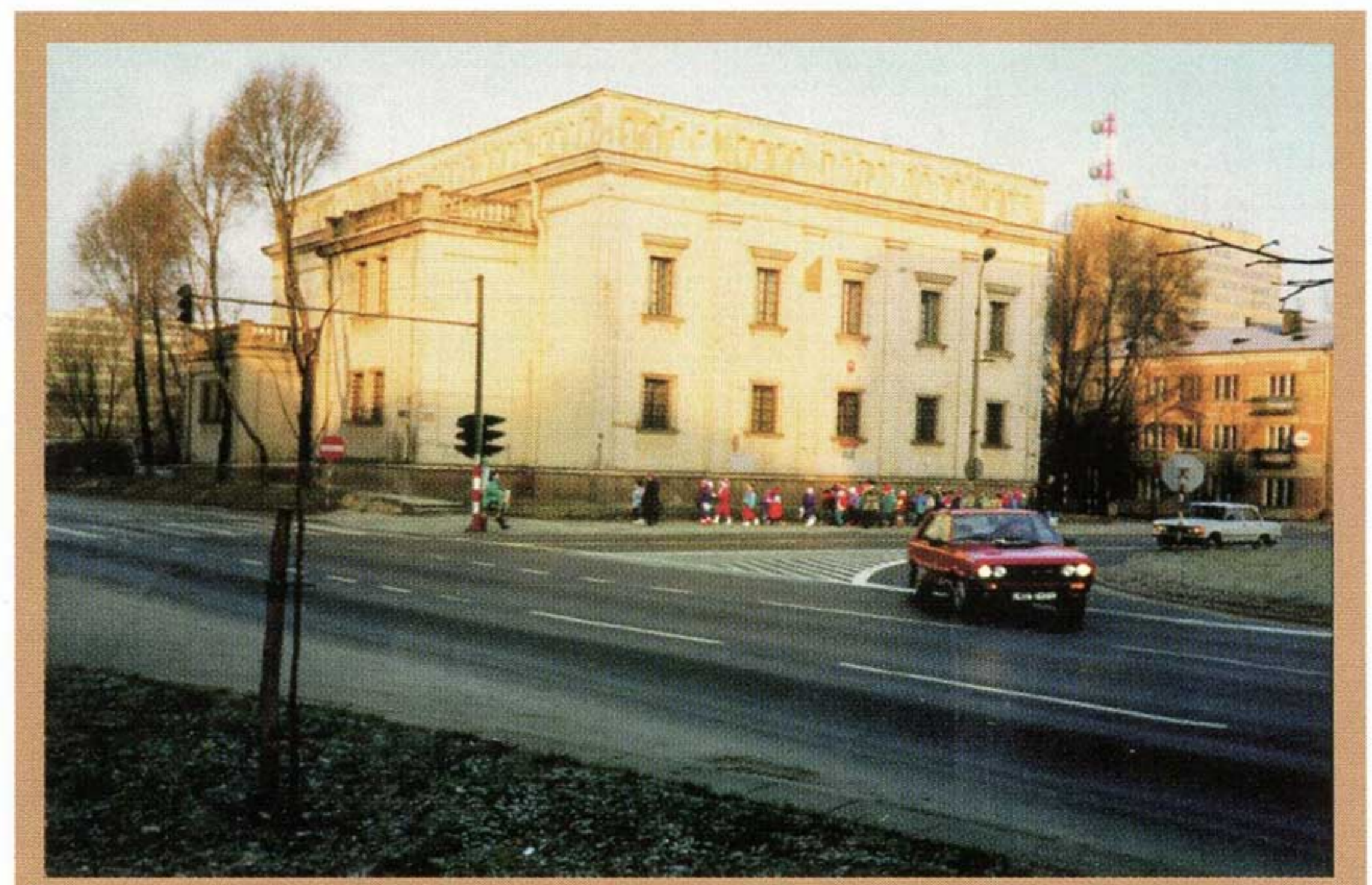
Current use: warehouse.

## DEPORTATIONS

Treblinka, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Buchenwald, Pionki, Skarżysko-Kamienna, Bliżyna.



Market square, c. 1918



1 Former synagogue, ul. Warszawska 17, 1995

2



Jewish Cemetery, 1915

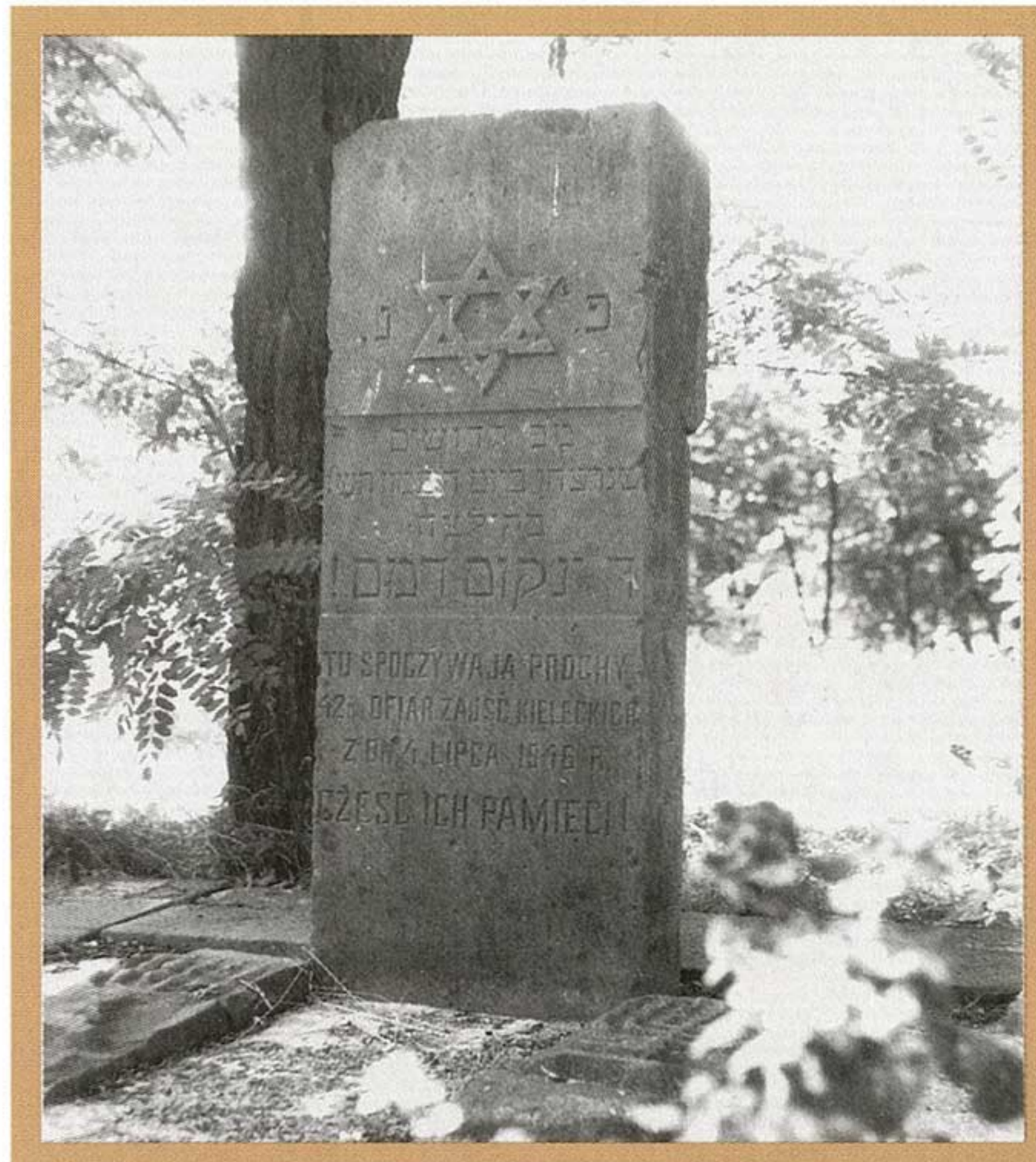
3

## JEWISH CEMETERY

ul. Pakosz Dolny

Cemetery founded in 1867.

Tombstones remaining: 150.



Memorial to July 4, 1946, pogrom victims, ul. Pakosz Dolny, 1981

6



ul. Borzęcka, 1918

4

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

ul. Pakosz Dolny (cemetery)

Memorial to 45 children killed on May 23, 1943.



Holocaust memorial in Jewish cemetery to 45 children killed on May 23, 1943 (photo, 1987)

5

## OTHER MEMORIALS

ul. Pakosz Dolny (cemetery)

Monument commemorating victims of 1946 pogrom.

ul. Planty 7

Memorial plaque on former Jewish communal building (dedicated in 1990).

Memorial commemorating the 1946 pogrom erected next to the former Jewish communal building (dedicated in 1996).



Memorial plaque, ul. Planty 7, 1996

7

## SELECTED READING

Chęciński, Michael. "The Kielce Pogrom: Some Unanswered Questions." *Soviet Jewish Affairs* 5, no. 1 (1975): 57–72.

Fuerst, Dorothy. "The Story of Kielce, a Cemetery and a Survivor." *Martyrdom and Resistance* 14/2 (Nov.–Dec. 1987): 5, 11.

Grzywna, Józef. "Żydowski robotniczy ruch oświatowo-kulturalny w województwie kieleckim w latach 1918–1939" (Educational and Cultural Activities of the Jewish Labor Movement in Kielce Voivodship in the Years 1918–1939). *BŻIH* 3/4 155–156 (1990): 121–140. (P)



ul. Konstancyńska, 1917

8

Meducka, Marta. "Żydowskie instytucje kulturalne w Kielcach" (Jewish Cultural Institutions in Kielce, 1918–1939). *BŻIH* 1/2 129–130 (1984): 61–73. (P)

———. "Żydowskie stowarzyszenia sportowe w województwie kieleckim w latach 1918–1939" (Jewish Athletic Groups in the Province of Kielce for the Period 1918–1939). *BŻIH* 3/4 155–156 (1990): 141–152. (P)



Bazaar, 1917

9

Meducki, Stanisław, and Zenon Wrona. *Antyżydowskie wydarzenie kieleckie 4 lipca 1946* (Anti-Semitic Events in the Kielce Region on July 4, 1946). Kielce: Urząd Miasta Kielce, 1992. (P)

Pawlina-Meducka, Marta. *Kultura Żydów województwa kieleckiego, 1918* (Jewish Culture in the Province of Kielce, 1918). Kielce: Kieleckie Towarzystwo Naukowe, 1993. (P)

Penkalla, Adam. *Żydowskie ślady w województwie kieleckim i radomskim* (Jewish Traces in Kielce and Radom Voivodships). Radom: Tramp, 1992. (P)

Penkalla, Adam, and Jerzy Szczepański. "Synagoga w Kielcach" (The Synagogue in Kielce). *BŻIH* 4/120 (1981): 53–58. (P)

Renz, Regina. "Drobnomieszczaństwo żydowskie w województwie kieleckim w okresie międzywojennym" (Jewish Lower-Middle Class in Kielce Voivodship in the Inter-War Period). *BŻIH* 3/4 155–156 (1990): 101–120. (P)

Shtokfish, David, ed. *'Al betenu she-ḥarav. Fun der khorever heym* (About Our House Which Was Devastated). Tel Aviv: Kielce Societies in Israel and in the Diaspora, 1981. (H, Y, P, E)



ul. Czarnowska, today

10



ul. Sienkiewicza, today

11



ul. Sienkiewicza, c. 1918

12

Szaynok, Bożena. *Pogrom Żydów w Kielcach 4 Lipca 1946* (The Jewish Pogrom in Kielce on July 4, 1946). Warsaw: Bellona, 1992. (P)

Urbański, Krzysztof. "Czas pionierów czyli społeczność żydowska w Kielcach w latach 1863–1904" (The Time of the Pioneers in the Jewish Community of Kielce in the Years 1863–1904). *BŻIH* 1/2 145–146 (1988): 33–46. (P)

———. *Kieleccy Żydzi* (The Jews of Kielce). Kraków: Pracownia Konserwacji Zabytków w Kielcach, 1993. (P)

———. *Zagłada ludności żydowskiej Kielc 1939–1945* (Destruction of the Kielce Jewish Community, 1939–1945). Kielce: Kieleckie Towarzystwo Naukowe, 1994. (P)

Zitron, P. *Sefer Kielts; toledot kehilat Kielts* (The History of the Community of Kielce). Tel Aviv: Former Residents of Kielce in Israel, 1957. (H, Y, E)



Bazaar, 1916

13

### BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

CTD; EDRD; EJ; EOH; GA; GUM3; GUM4; GUM5; GUM6; HSL; JGFF; JHT; LDL; LDS; LVY; PJH; RJHS; SF



Panoramic view of Kielce, c. 1918

14