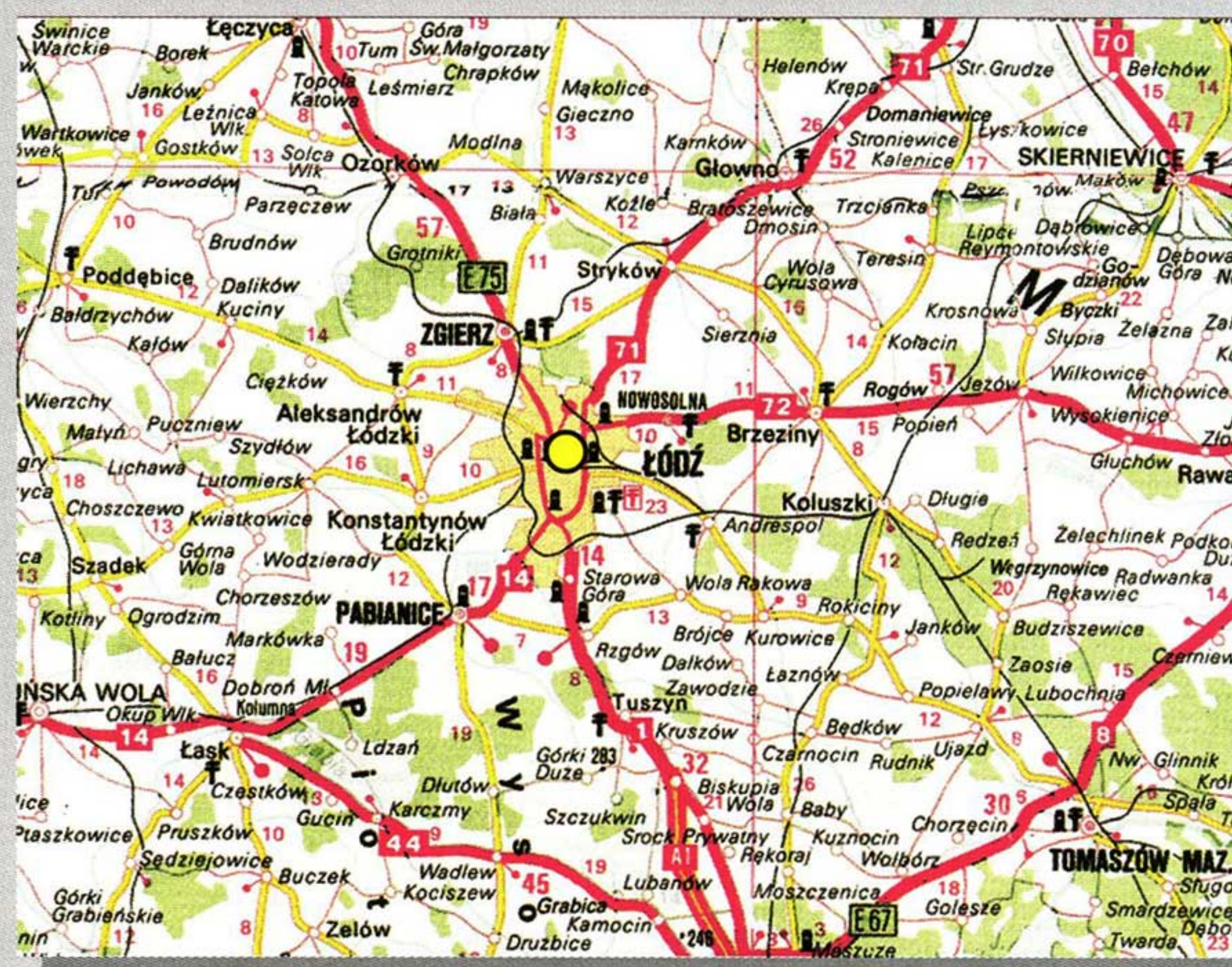


The history of Łódź, like the history of capitalism in Poland, is short, beginning only in the mid-nineteenth century, when the czar encouraged German weavers to settle in Poland. By the second half of the century, handweaving had been superseded by large textile mills established by German and Jewish entrepreneurs employing Polish laborers. Łódź, known as the “Polish Manchester,” emerged as the center of textile production for the Russian Empire. By the beginning of the twentieth century, Jewish industrialists such as Israel Poznański and Asher Kon were among the wealthiest men in Poland. In proletarian Łódź, Jews also increasingly worked with their hands as manual weavers and in the needle trades; but they were largely excluded from employment in the largest, most modern, and best-paying textile mills. The northern neighborhood known as Bałuty became a synonym for poverty and a hotbed for the Jewish socialist Bund.

By 1939, the Jewish population of Łódź was second only to Warsaw’s; there were nearly a quarter of a million Jews, constituting more than a third of the city’s population. The grimy “city of labor” was the scene of a complex Jewish communal life that played itself out in hundreds of synagogues and prayer halls, an array of Jewish political parties and movements, scores of Jewish labor unions and charitable associations, along with a varied daily and periodical press in Yiddish, Hebrew and Polish. The “city without a past” developed a unique modern Jewish culture that was brash and creative; modernist painting and avant-garde Yiddish literature, theater and cabaret flourished.

The Łódź ghetto, established by the Germans in the spring of 1940, was the second to be set up in Poland and the last to be destroyed. Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski, named by the Nazis to be the “Elder of the Jews” in a city renamed Litzmannstadt, was a controversial figure who attempted to promote the survival of Jews by demonstrating the importance of Jewish factories to the German war effort. Rumkowski, who issued postage stamps and coins bearing his likeness, negotiated successive deportations of “unproductive” Jews, including virtually all children and the elderly, believing that a remnant of Jews could be saved. However, in August 1944, as the Soviet Army was approaching and the war

## LITZMANNSTADT, ŁODZ, LODSCH



was ending, the Łódź ghetto was liquidated. Rumkowski and nearly all the 70,000 remaining Jews were loaded into freight cars and sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. When the Soviets entered Łódź in January 1945, they found only 877 Jews.

In the immediate postwar period, some 38,000 Jews settled in Łódź, making it Poland’s most important Jewish community. However, confronted by economic hardship, political violence, repression and anti-Jewish hostility, most of this community emigrated. After the “anti-Zionist” campaign of 1968–1970, only several hundred Jews remained in Łódź, with a single synagogue and Jewish cultural club.

### Location

134 km SW of Warsaw  
 51°47’/19°28’  
 Voivodship: Łódź

### General Population, 1939

750,000 (34% Jewish)

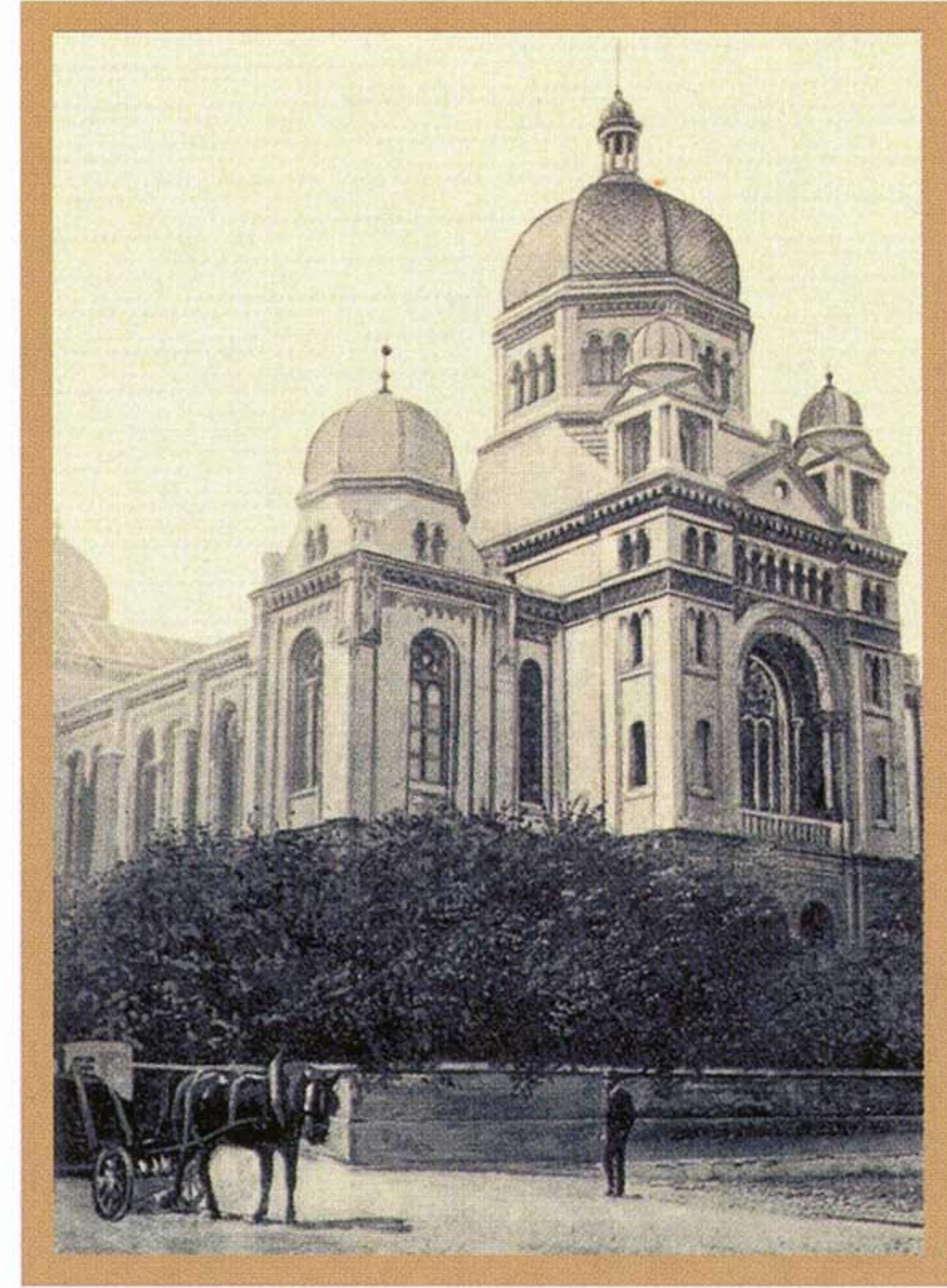
### General Population, 1994

831,272





■ Synagogue interior, ul. Południowa 28, c. 1993 1



■ Synagogue, ul. Spacerowa, c. 1914 3

## SYNAGOGUE

ul. Południowa 28

Synagogue dates from 1885–1900 and was damaged by fire in 1987. The synagogue was built by Wolf Reichert, who died in the Łódź ghetto. It was rebuilt with financial assistance from the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation.

## SITES OF SOME FORMER SYNAGOGUES

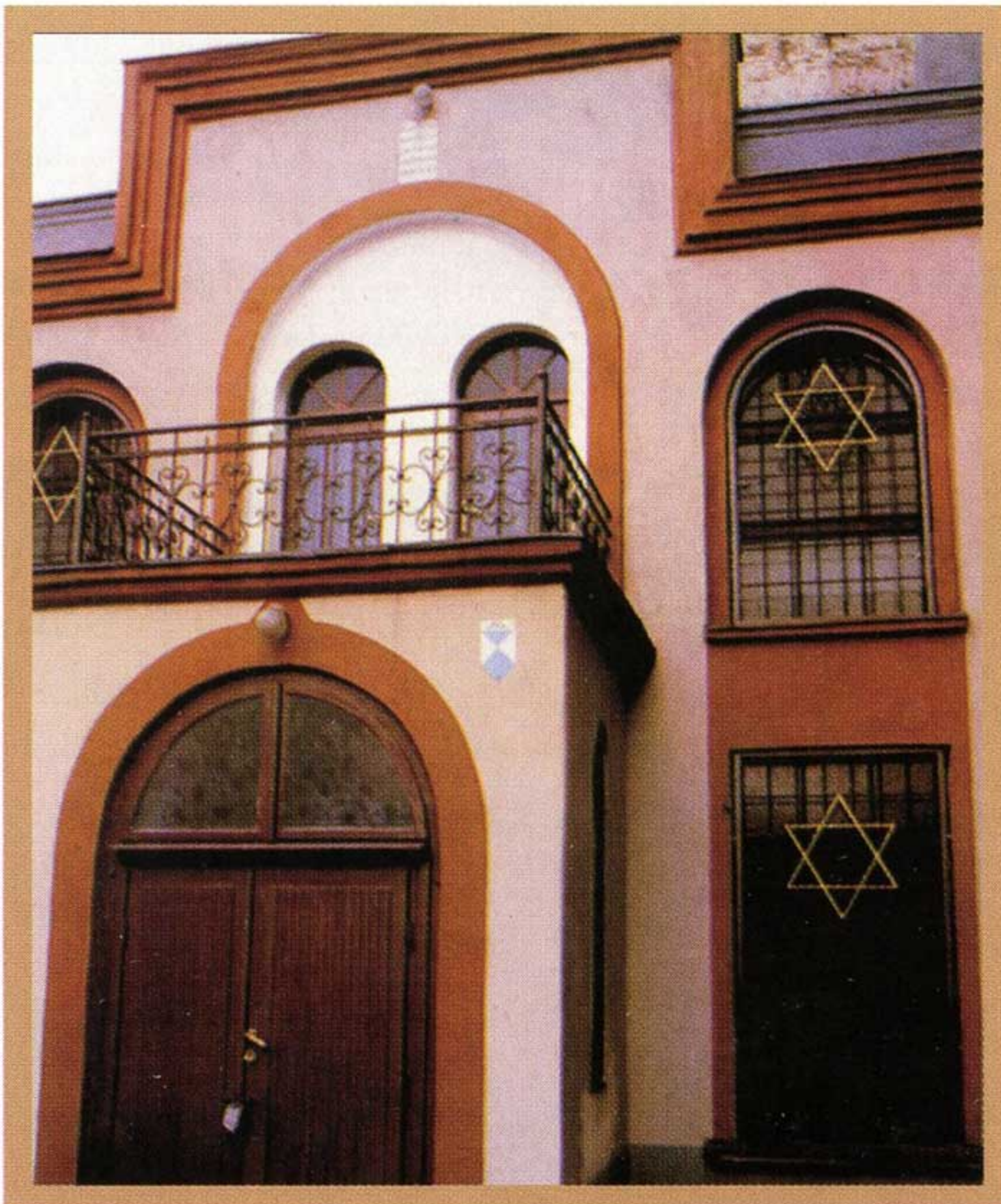
Aleje Kościuszki (formerly Spacerowa)

Reform Synagogue; burned by the Germans in November 1939.

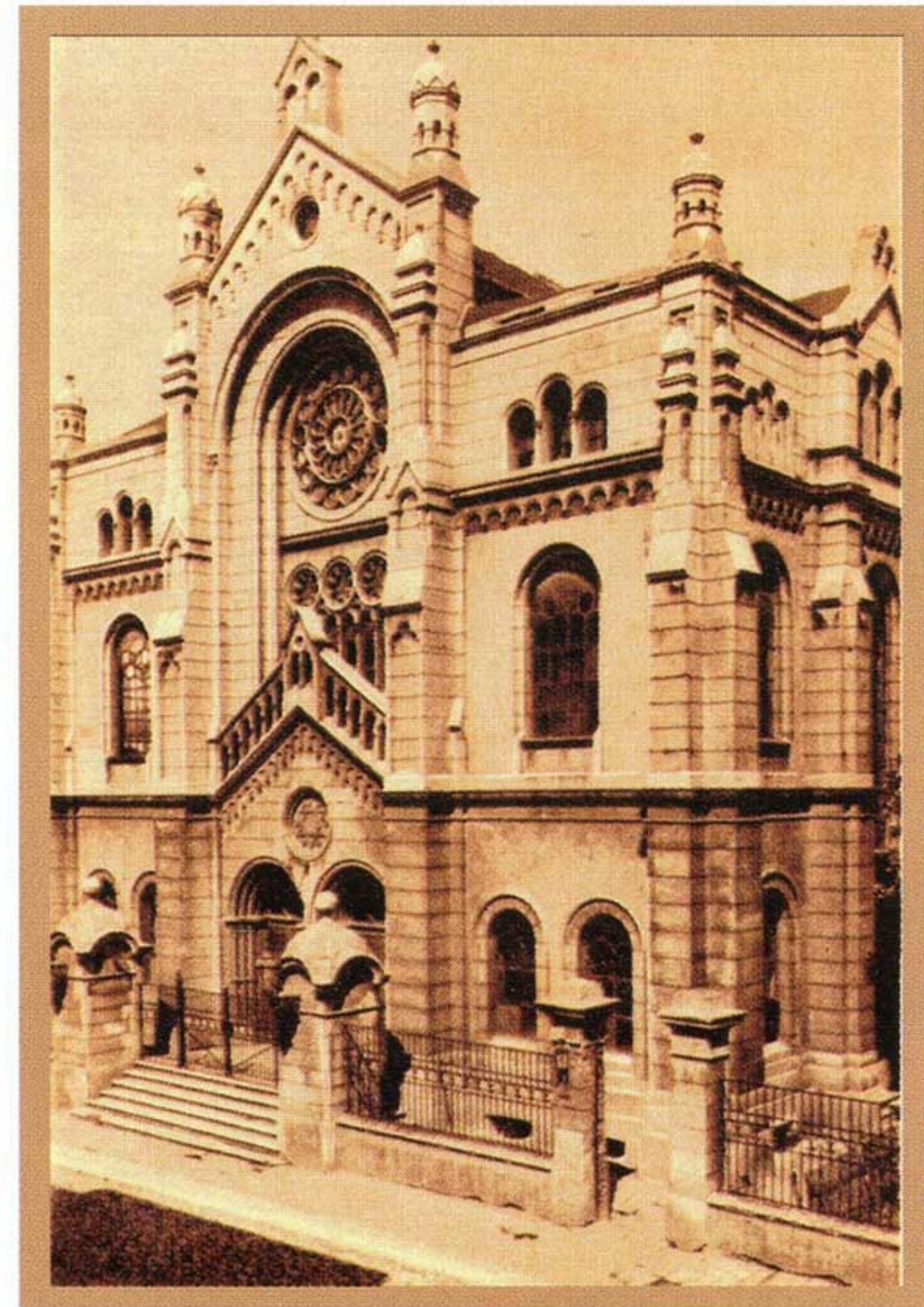
Current use: parking lot.

ul. Wólczańska 6

Ohel Yaakov synagogue dating from 1899–1904; burned by the Germans in November 1939.



■ Synagogue, ul. Południowa 28, c. 1993 2



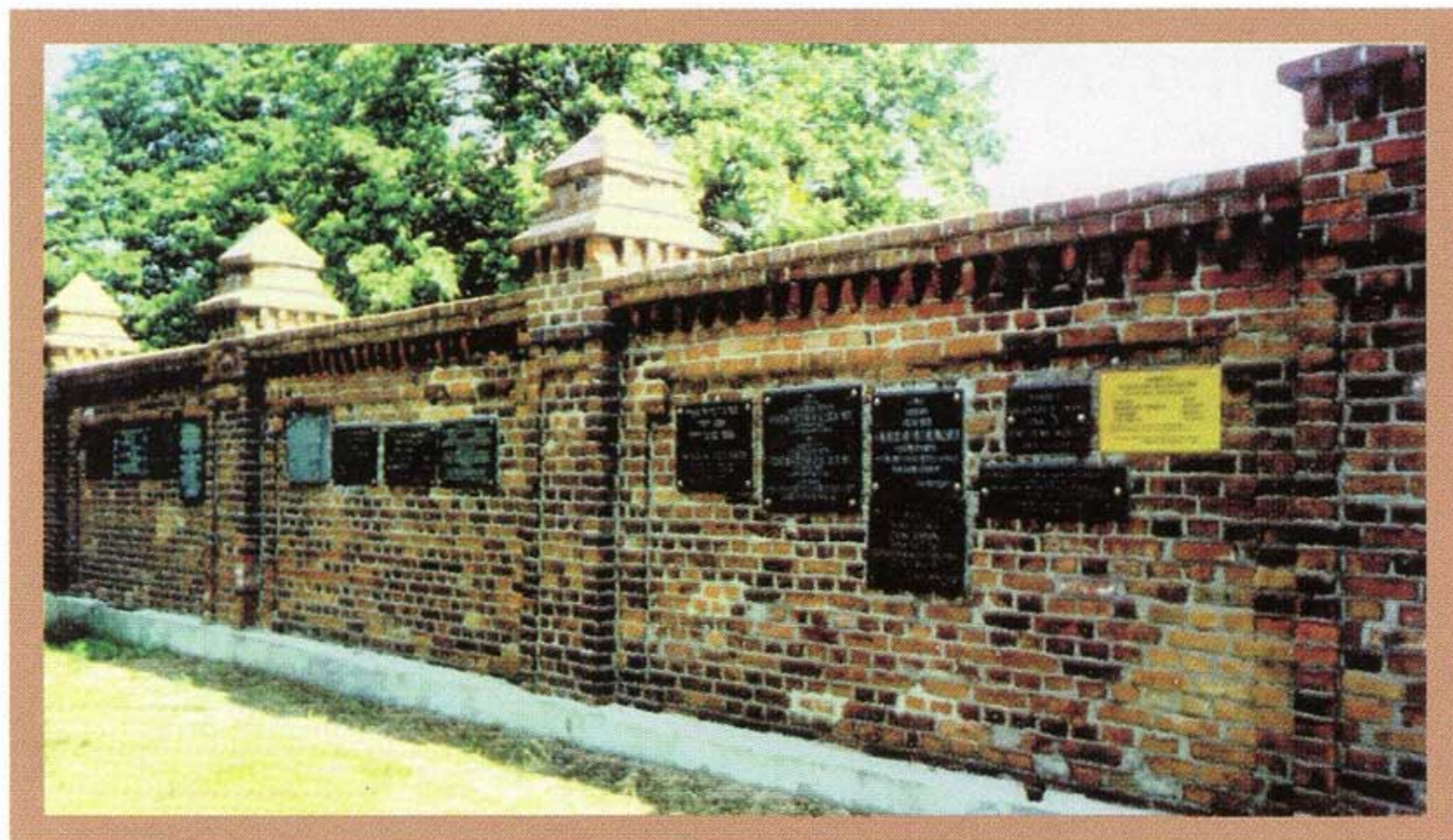
■ Ohel Yaakov Synagogue, ul. Wólczańska 6, 1939 4



ul. Zielona (near Zachodnia St.)  
Great Synagogue dating from 1883 to 1887; burned by  
Nazis in November 1939.

ul. Wolborska 20  
Altschule Synagogue, dating from 1860 to 1871.

ul. Piotrkowska 114/116  
Former prayer house.



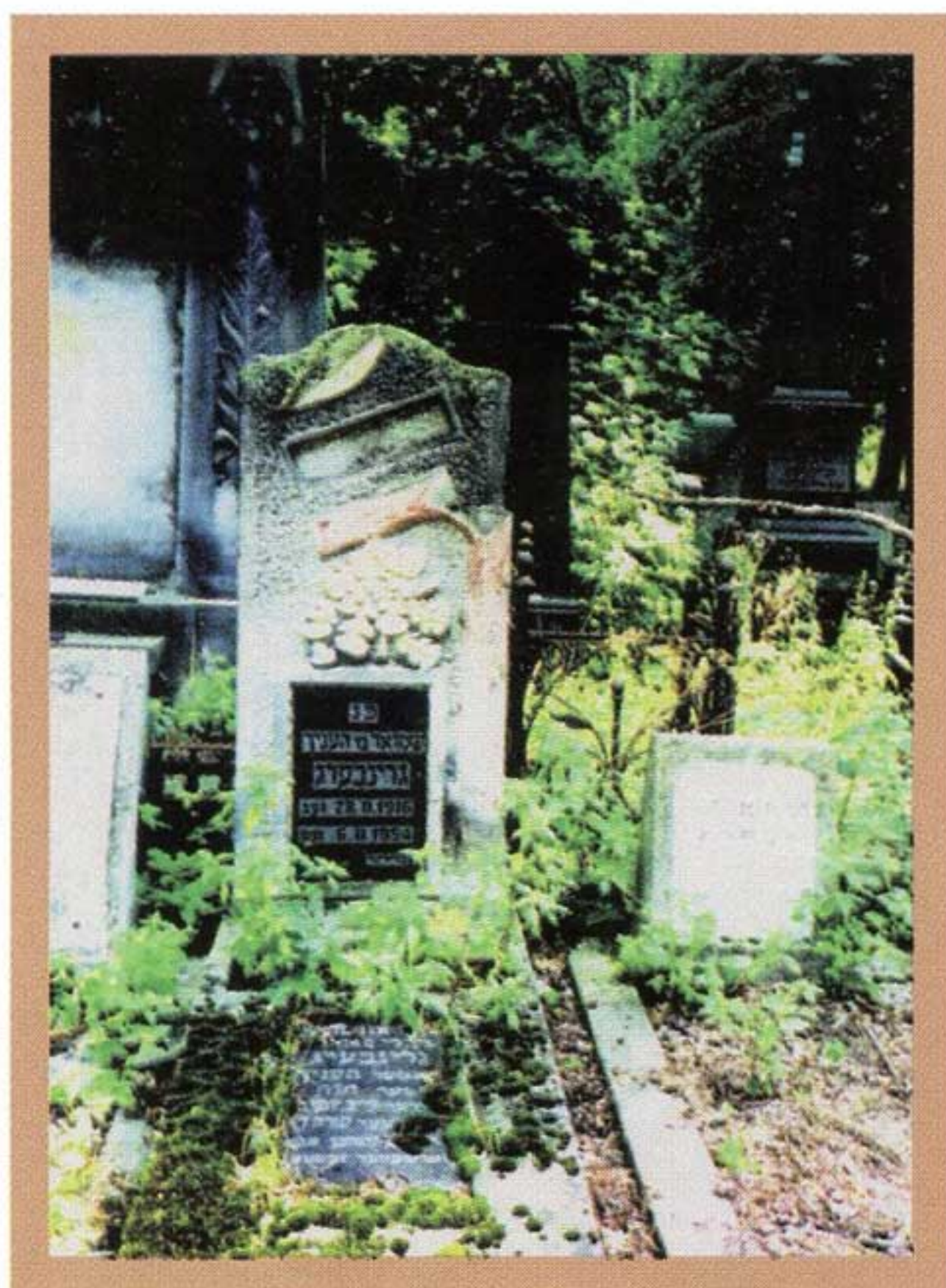
Memorial wall at Jewish cemetery, ul. Bracka and Zmienna, 1994

5

## JEWISH CEMETERIES

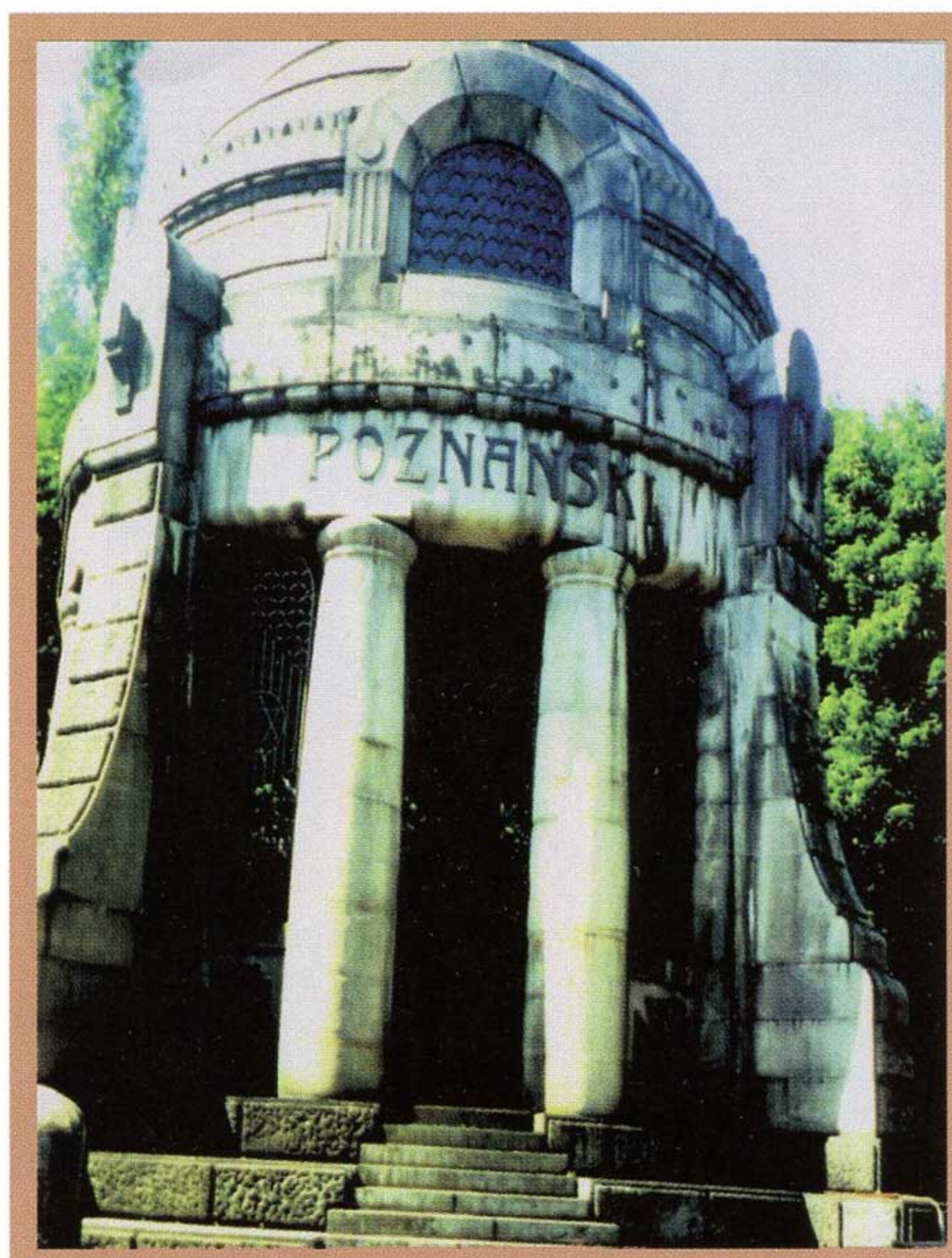
ul. Bracka and Zmienna  
180,000 tombstones dating from 1892.  
More than 40,000 ghetto victims buried in one section  
on ul. Bracka. Key is available at the Jewish Community  
Office, ul. Zachodnia 78.

ul. Wesola  
Old Cemetery dating from 1811.  
Completely destroyed by Germans and paved over after  
1945.



Jewish cemetery, ul. Bracka and Zmienna, 1994

6



Mausoleum of Israel and Eleonora Poznański;  
Jewish cemetery, ul. Bracka and Zmienna, 1994

7

## HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

ul. Limanowskiego (corner of Zgierska)  
Memorial plaque, at site of former Gestapo office in  
ghetto, dedicated to the 210,000 local Jews and Romani  
(Gypsies) who were victims of Nazi war crimes.

ul. Lutomiarska  
Memorial to murdered Jews from Hamburg.

ul. Bracka and Zmienna (Jewish cemetery)  
Memorial in memory of 200,000 Jews from Łódź and  
nearby towns.



Holocaust memorial in cemetery, ul. Bracka and Zmienna, 1994

8



## SELECTED READING



Memorial to Jews from Hamburg who died in Łódź ghetto; ul. Lutomska, 1994

### OTHER SITES

ul. Sterlinga  
Former Jewish Hospital.  
Current use: general hospital.

ul. Więtkowskiego 15  
Former Yiddish State Theatre, after 1945.  
Current use: general theater.

ul. Więtkowskiego 32  
Former Jewish Peoples' Library.  
Current use: Jewish Social and Cultural Association.

ul. Zachodnia 78  
Prayer house and Jewish community office (maintains a list of burials in the Jewish cemetery and information as to when the cemetery is open).

### DEPORTATIONS

Chełmno, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poznań.



Memorial plaque, ul. Limanowskiego, 1994; 10 former Gestapo office (in ghetto)

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9 Diamant, Adolf, ed. *Getto Litzmannstadt (Łódź Ghetto)*. Frankfurt: A. Diamant, 1986. (G)

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ul. Piotrkowska, c. 1918

11

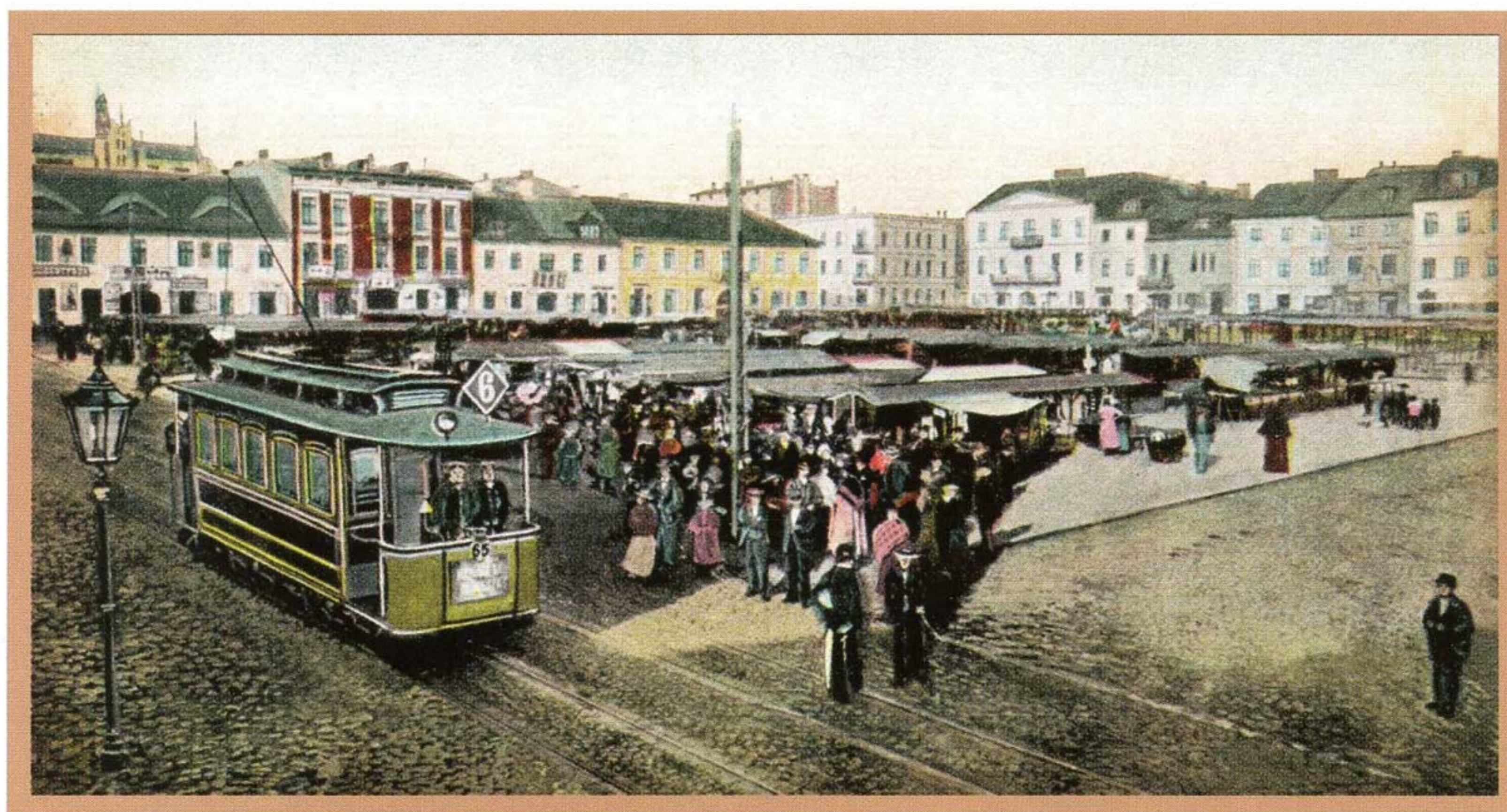
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Market square, 1920

12

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#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Two valuable databases are maintained by the Organization of Former Residents of Łódź in Israel, 158 Dizengoff Street, Tel Aviv 63461, Israel. One list (200,000 names) includes residents of the Łódź ghetto from February 1940 to August 1944. The second list (160,000 names) is a compilation of cemetery records from 1895 through the final liquidation in August 1944.

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CAHJP; CTD; EDRD; EJ; EOH; GA; GUM3; GUM4; GUM5; GUM6; HSL; JGFF; JHT; LDL; LDS; LVY; PHP1; PJH; RJHS; SF





Grand Hotel, c. 1917

13



ul. Piotrkowska and Zielona, c.1917

15



Old market square, c. 1917

14



Fragment of old market square, today

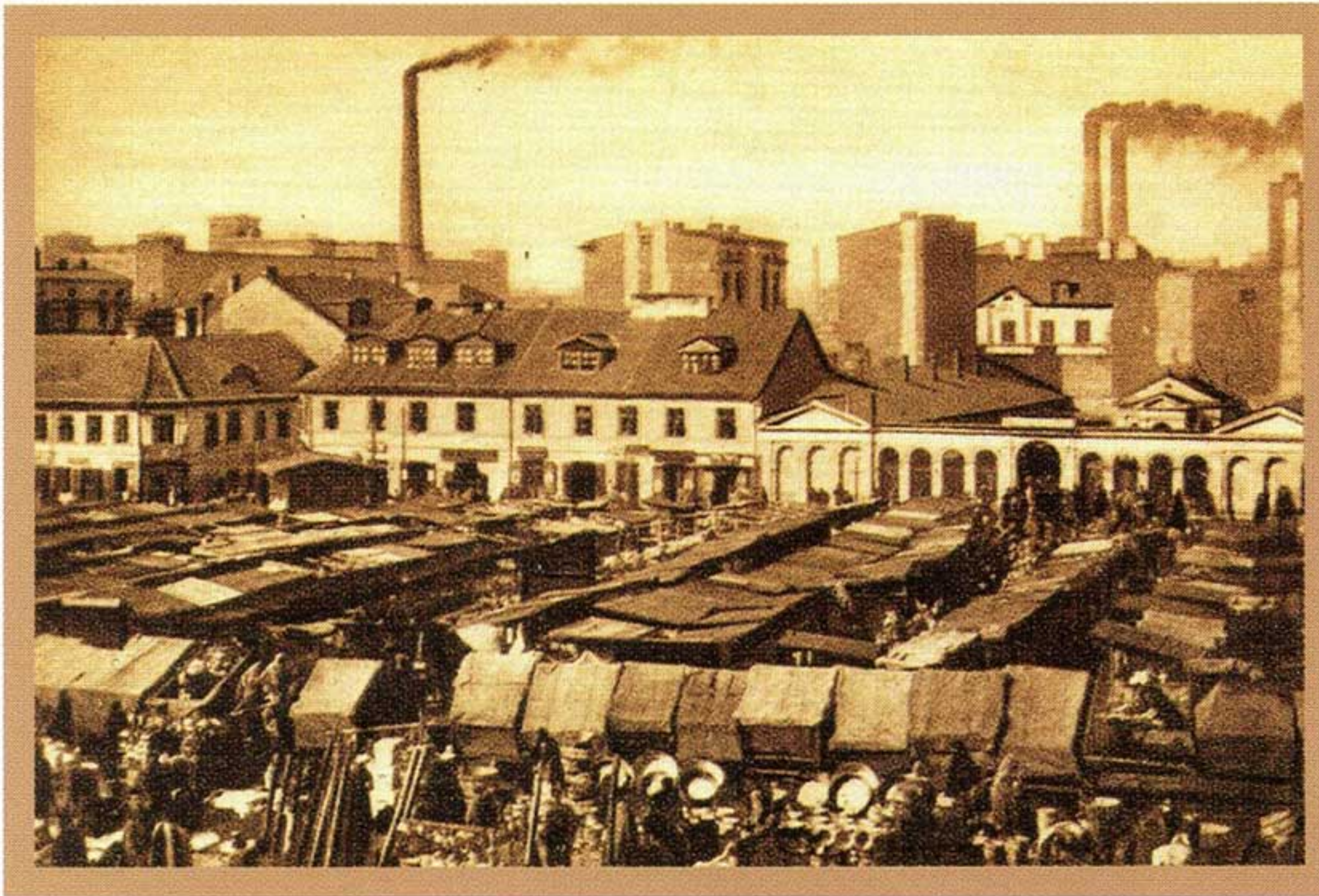
16



ul. Zielona, 1917

17





■ Bazaar, c. 1916

18



■ Plac Wolności, today

19



■ ul. Piotrkowska, 1917

20



■ ul. Dzielna, c. 1918

21





ul. Piotrkowska and Przejazd, c. 1918

22



Edward Herbst's palace, today

23