

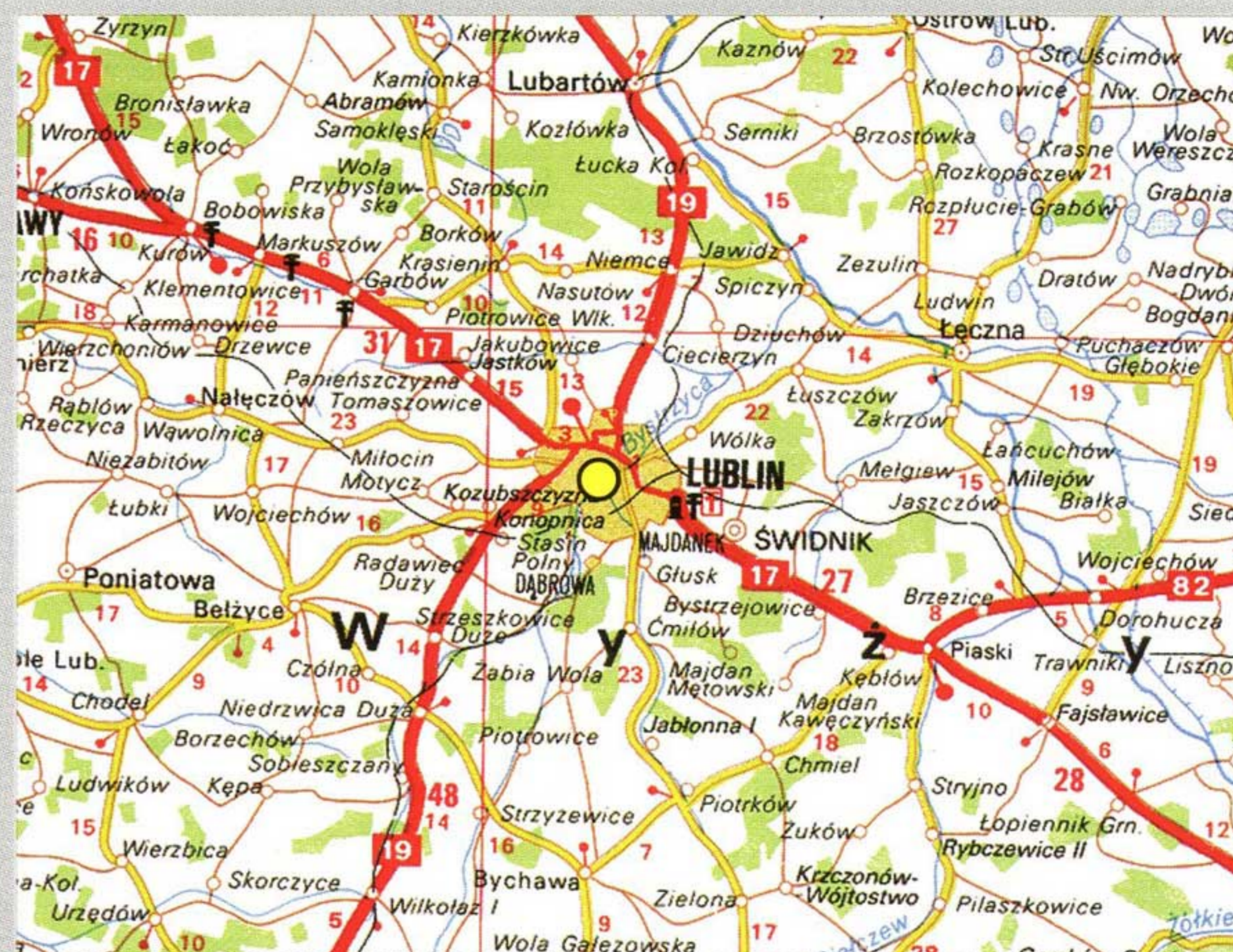
LUBLIN

The Jewish community of Lublin was celebrated for its commercial activity and venerable traditions of piety and scholarship. Jews lived adjacent to the city in the fourteenth century. In the sixteenth century, they acquired land within the city limits for Jewish institutions and a cemetery. Jewish merchants were active in the international Lublin trade fairs; though often opposed by Christian guilds, Jews also worked as tailors, furriers, brushmakers, brewers and bakers. Every spring at the time of the fair, the Council of the Four Lands, the supreme governing body of Polish Jews, convened in Lublin. Beginning in the sixteenth century, Lublin became a center of Hebrew printing. The city was also the site of the first great yeshiva in Poland, headed by Rabbi Shalom Shakhna (c. 1500–1558), which initiated the tradition of Talmudic scholarship for which Poland became celebrated.

Beginning in the nineteenth century, Hasidism acquired a large following in Lublin through such figures as Jacob Isaac, known as the Seer of Lublin, and the Eiger dynasty. In the second half of the century, Lublin expanded its economic importance through trade with the vast Russian market. One of the largest cigarette factories in Poland was founded by a Jew, and the tanning industry was also in Jewish hands. By the end of the century, Jewish workers in Lublin were organizing unions, and the Jewish socialist Bund became prominent. During the interwar period, in the face of mounting anti-Semitism, Lublin Jews, more than one-third of the city's population, developed a gamut of institutions and organizations: Jewish political parties, school systems, drama societies, libraries, orchestras and sports clubs. Yeshivat Hakhmei Lublin (Yeshiva of the Sages of Lublin), the most famous yeshiva in interwar Poland, founded by Rabbi Yehuda Meir Shapira, opened in an imposing new building in 1930. Although Lublin was occupied by the Germans in 1939, a ghetto was not formally imposed until March 1941. Only a year later, 30,000 Jews were deported to the death camp at Bełżec. A handful of Jews who were skilled craftsmen continued to work in Lublin; but in May 1943, the workshops were liquidated and the Jews shipped to Majdanek, the death camp that had been constructed on the outskirts of Lublin.

The Red Army liberated Lublin in July 1944, and it became the provisional capital of Poland until the liberation of Warsaw in January 1945. At first, Jewish survivors flocked to Lublin, and some Jewish cultural and social institutions were reestablished, but most of these Jews left Poland during the continuing turmoil and violence after the war.

LUBLIN



Location

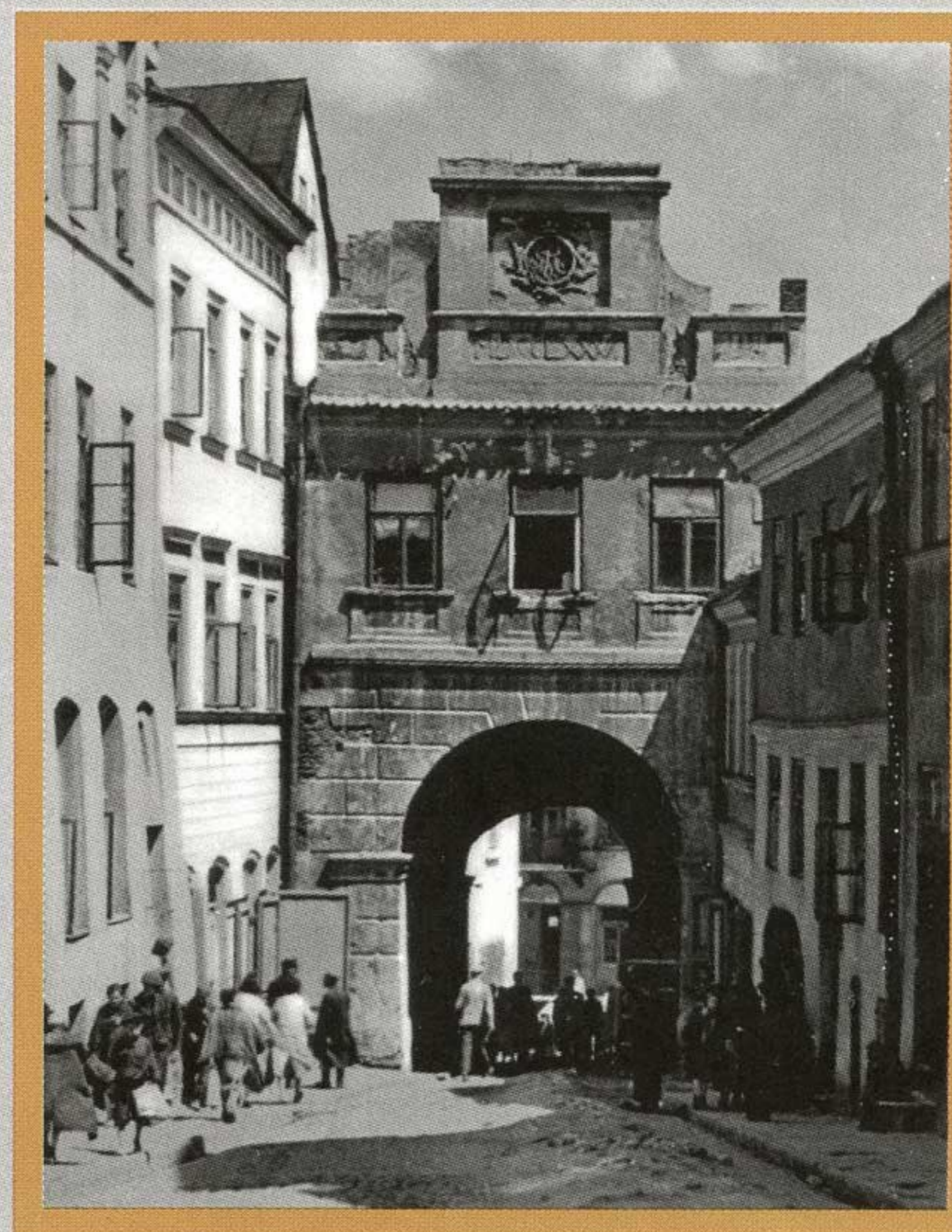
161 km ESE of Warsaw
 51°14' / 22°34'
 Voivodship: Lublin

General Population, 1939

122,000 (34% Jewish)

General Population, 1994

352,148



Exit from the Old Town to the castle and Podzamcze district; known as the Jewish Gate, pre-Holocaust

1



Interior of former Maharshal Synagogue, pre-1939 2

SYNAGOGUES

ul. Lubartowska 10
Active synagogue and museum.

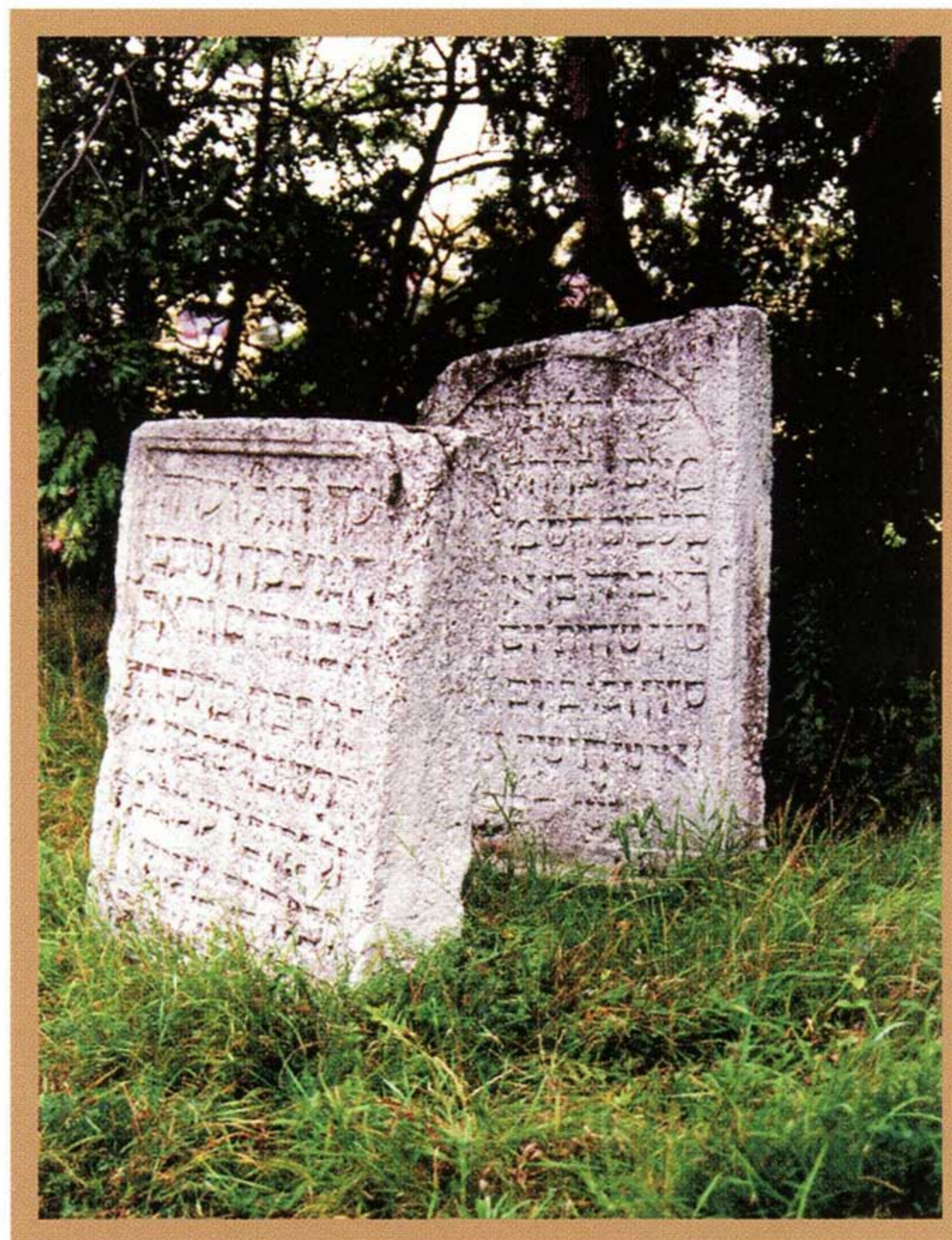
Al. Tysiąclecia (formerly ul. Jaleczna)
Maharshal and Maharam Synagogues, dating from 1567, devastated in the Holocaust and subsequently destroyed by local authorities.
Memorial plaque below the castle.



Holocaust monument in new cemetery, 1991 3

JEWISH CEMETERIES

ul. Kalinowszczyzna and ul. Sienna
The old cemetery, dating from the early sixteenth century, is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Poland today. The cemetery was heavily damaged by the Nazis, but more than 100 tombstones remain, which have been partially preserved, particularly the tombstones of famous tsaddikim (rebbees or leaders). Some tombstones that had fallen were re-erected with the assistance of the Society for the Protection of Jewish Monuments.



Old Jewish cemetery, ul. Kalinowszczyzna, 1993; tombstones date from the 16th century 4

ul. Wałecznych
The new cemetery, founded in 1829, with several remaining tombstones, is used by the small surviving Jewish community. Restoration work financed by the Sara and Manfred Frankel Foundation of Antwerp resulted in a small modern synagogue being built and a new fence, made from symbolic tombstones, enclosing the cemetery. The new synagogue (Remembrance Chamber) was dedicated in a ceremony in 1991, attended by hundreds of people, including prominent Jews from Belgium, Israel and the United States.

ul. Leszczyńskiego (Wieniawa section of Lublin)
Site of former Jewish cemetery dating from 1828.
Current use: sports stadium.

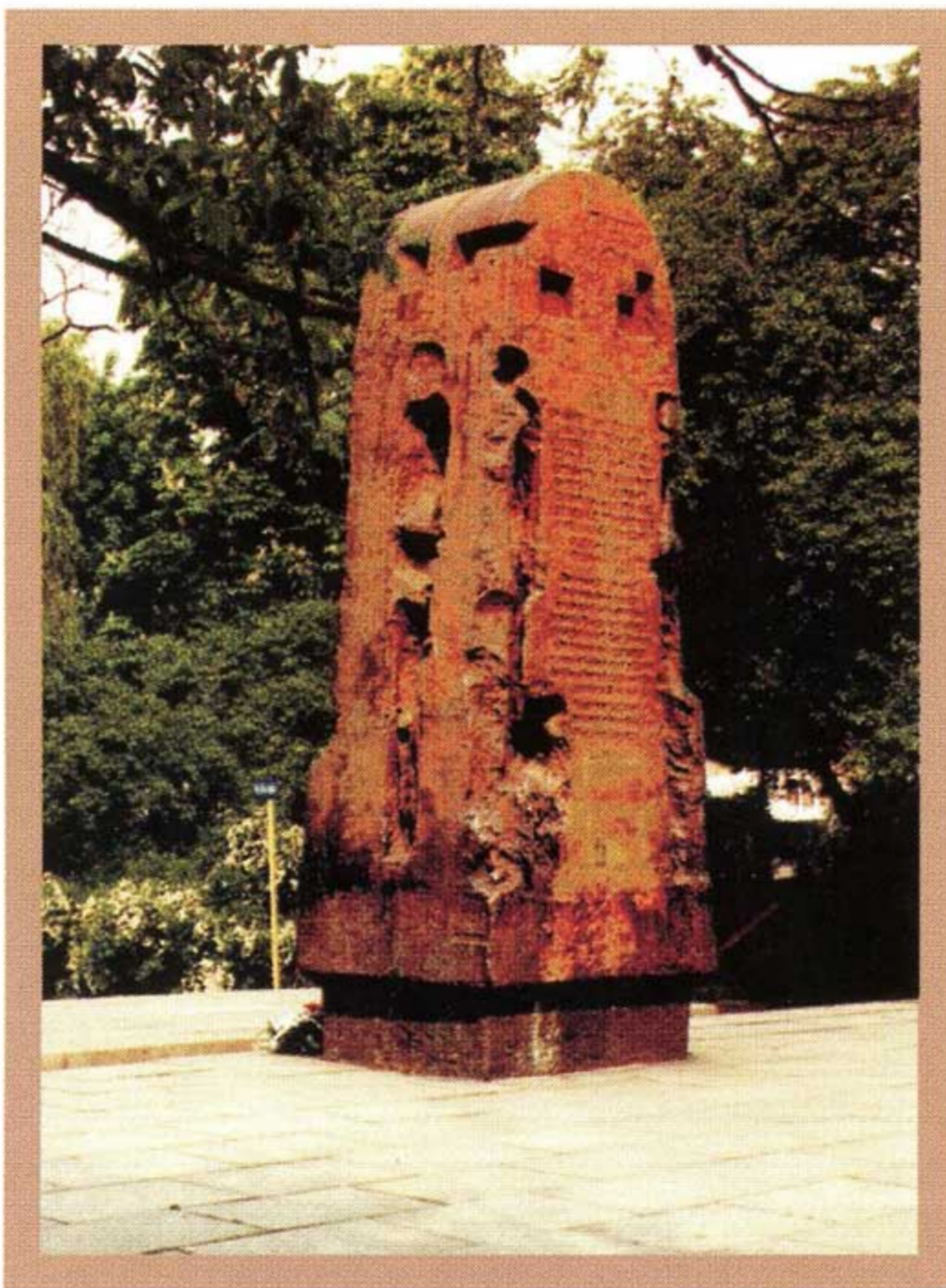
HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

ul. Grodzka 11

Plaque at site of Jewish orphanage records the murder of Jewish children.

ul. Rady Delegatów and ul. Hanki Sawickiej

A monument to 46,000 Holocaust victims from Lublin and environs can be found in the square between these two streets.



Holocaust monument,
ul. Rady Delegatów, 1991

5

OTHER SITES

ul. Lubartowska 85

Site of Yeshivat Hakhmei Lublin, built in 1930.
Current use: Medical Academy of Lublin University.

ul. 19 Szeroka

Site of house where the Council of the Four Lands met during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

ul. Lubartowska 10

Jewish community center.

ul. Lubartowska 10 (synagogue)

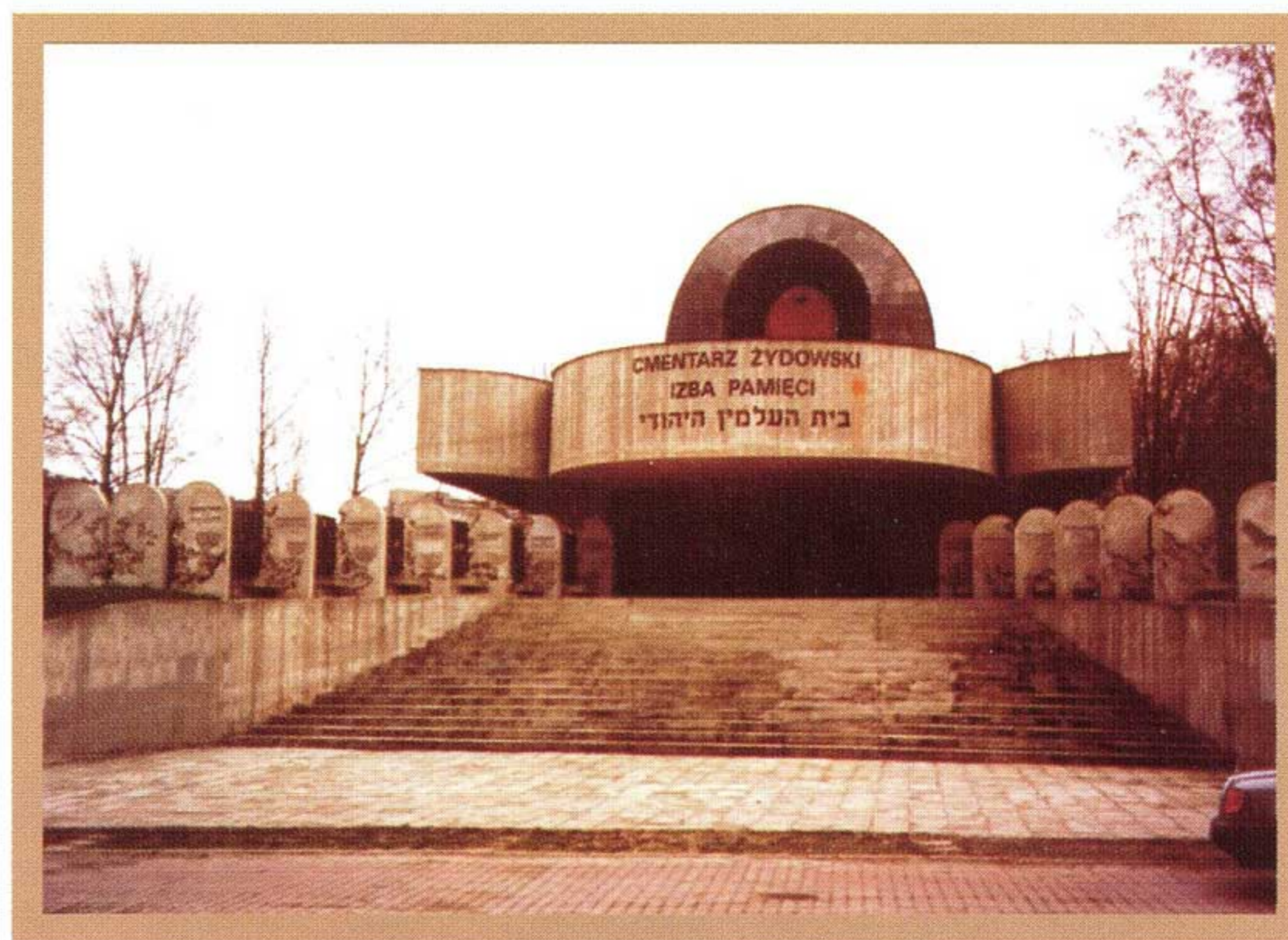
The Society for Care of Monuments of Jewish Culture in Lublin.

ul. Okopowa 12, apt. 3

The Social and Cultural Society of Jews in Poland.

DEPORTATIONS

Bełżec, Majdanek.



Remembrance Chamber, ul. Walecznych, 1991

6



Remembrance Chamber (rear view), 1991

7



Yeshivat Hakhmei Lublin, ul. Lubartowska 85, c. 1990

8



Memorial wall at Jewish cemetery, ul. Walecznych, 1991

9

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ul. Namiestnikowska, c. 1917

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Hotel Europejski, c. 1917

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ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście, today

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Old view, c. 1917

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Plac Zebrań Ludowych, location of former Jewish quarter, 1976

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ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście, 1916

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■ Lublin, c. 1917 (see photo #18 without Hertzman store)

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■ Lublin, c. 1971 (see photo #16)

18

Majdanek Death Camp

Established in 1941, the Majdanek Death Camp was located on the outskirts of Lublin and is preserved by the Polish government as a monument. On November 3, 1943, about 19,000 Jews were shot and buried in an area that is visible to this day in the form of shallow ravines. It is estimated that more than 350,000 people were murdered here, including more than 100,000 Jews from the Warsaw and Lublin ghettos. When Red Army units arrived in July 1944, they found only a few hundred surviving prisoners, though the camp itself was largely intact. A memorial made from a huge mound of human ashes commemorates the victims, and near the camp entrance is a huge monument in the form of a menorah. There is also a museum and archives (see Chapter 6).



■ Grodzka gate (Jewish gate) to Old Town, c. 1990

19



■ Corner of ul. Mostowa and Jaleczna, c. 1905

17



■ Krakowska gate, c. 1917

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