

TOMASZÓW MAZOWIECKI

Tomaszów Mazowiecki emerged with the Polish textile industry during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The Polish owner of the town, Count Antoni Ostrowski, invited Jewish weavers and entrepreneurs to settle there in the 1820s, and a Jewish community was officially organized in 1831. However, the czar exiled Ostrowski for participating in the 1831 Polish uprising and confiscated his estates. The Jewish community continued to grow in the second half of the century, as Jews set up textile mills and were active in other industries, including carpentry, cloth-dyeing and construction. The Great Synagogue was completed in 1878, and in 1889, a kosher kitchen was established to cater to Jewish soldiers serving in the Russian Army who were stationed in Tomaszów. In the early twentieth century, a strong workers' movement emerged. By the interwar period, all the Jewish political parties were represented in the town. A weekly Yiddish newspaper was established, and there was a Hebrew high school. Leon Pinsker, a pioneer of political Zionism, was a native of Tomaszów.

After the Germans occupied Tomaszów, they imposed a ghetto in December 1940 for the Jews of Tomaszów and surrounding towns. In March 1941, several thousand Jews from Płock were also forced to settle there. In November 1942, the Germans liquidated the ghetto and some 15,000 Jews were deported and murdered in Treblinka. The ghetto became a forced-labor camp for the remaining Jews until May 1943, when they were transferred to camps at Blizyn and Starachowice, where most of them died.

Location

48 km ESE of Łódź

51°32' / 20°02'

Voivodship: Piotrków Trybunalski

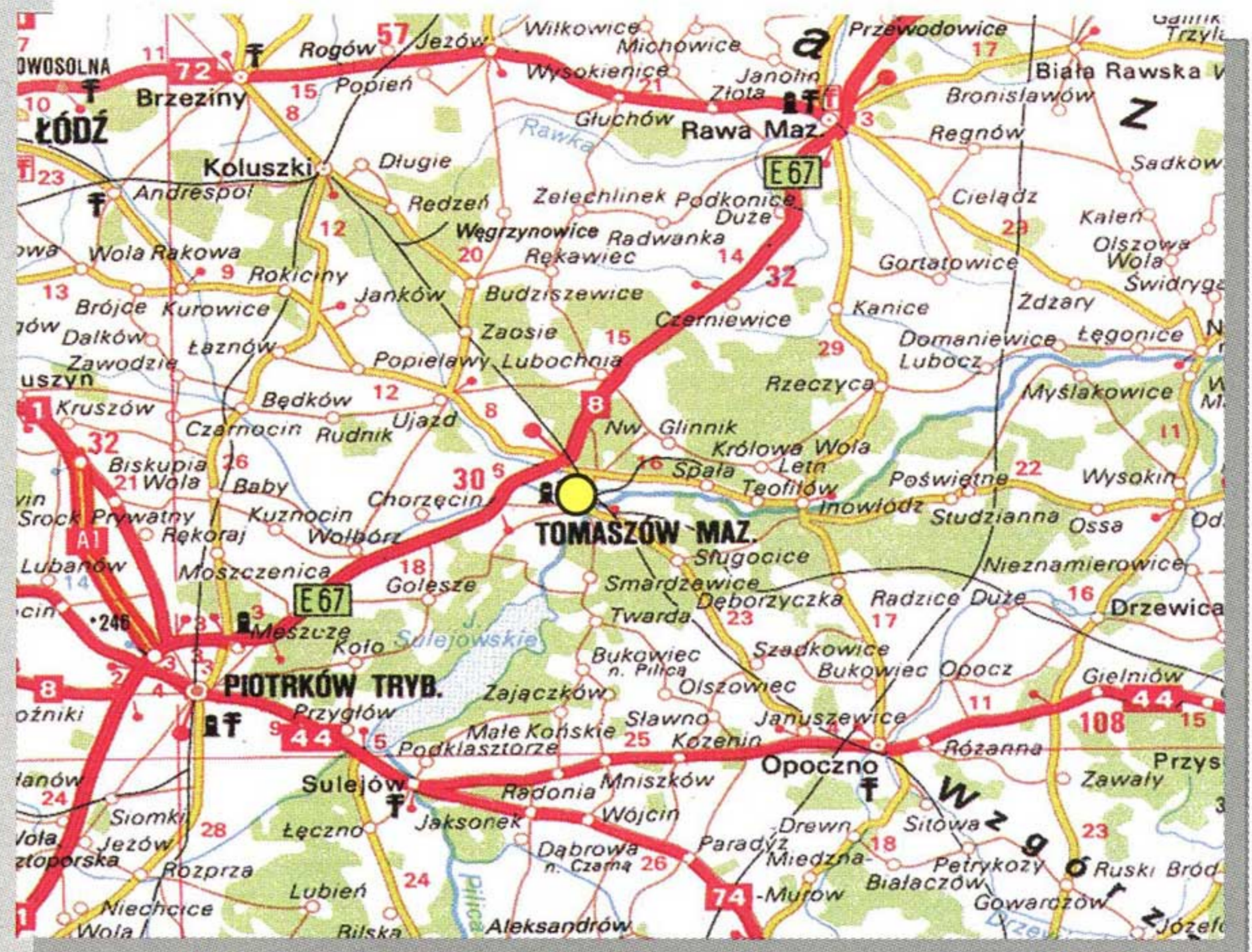
General Population, 1938

45,000 (26% Jewish)

General Population, 1994

69,811

TOMASHOV MAZOVYETSK, TOMASZÓW RAWSKI



SYNAGOGUE

Great Synagogue constructed in 1864–1878.
Destroyed by the Germans in 1939.



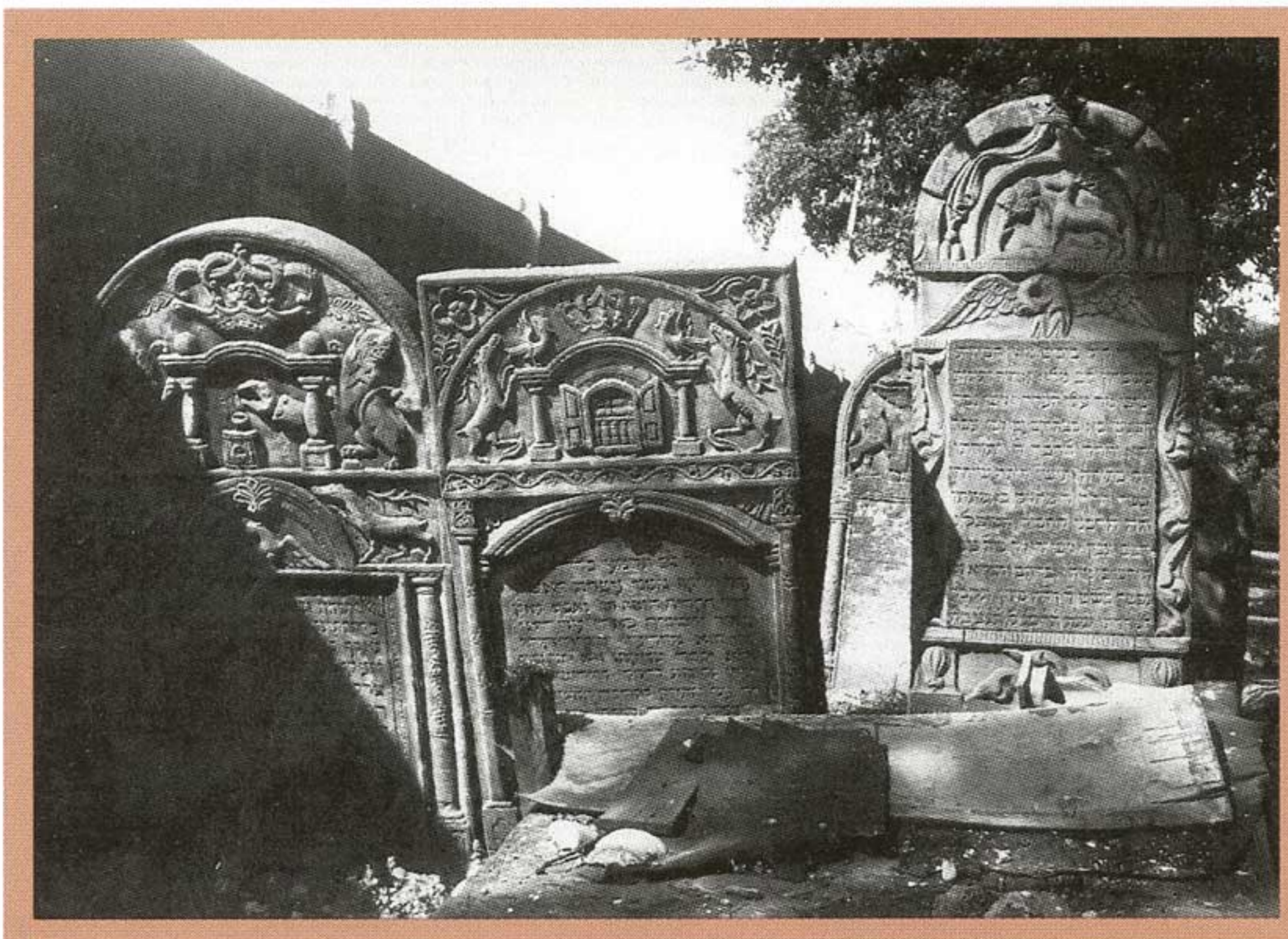
Great Synagogue being dismantled in 1940, after it was virtually destroyed by the Germans.

1



Town square, 1952

2



■ Jewish cemetery, ul. Smutna 12

3

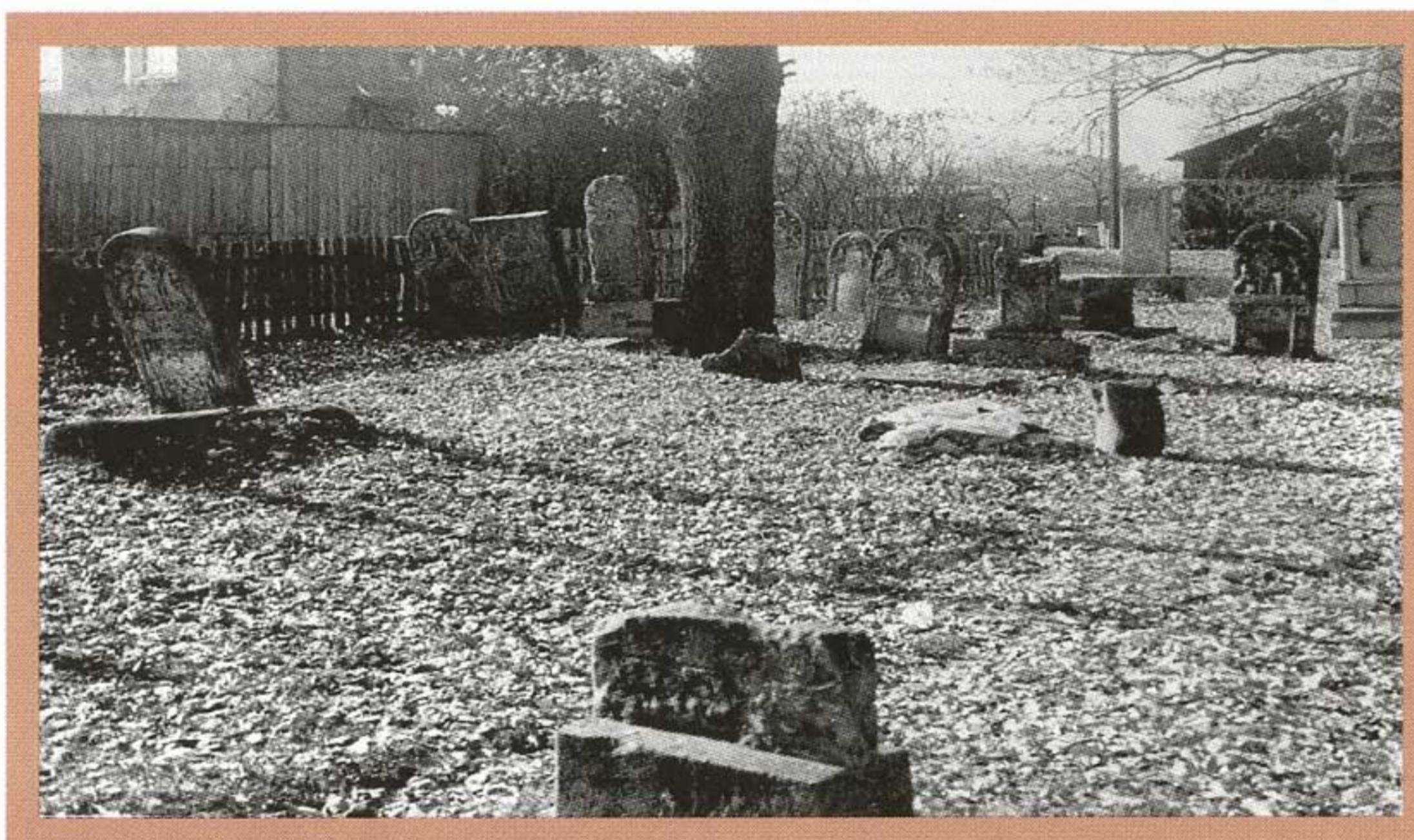
JEWISH CEMETERY

ul. Smutna 12

Cemetery was founded in 1831.

There is a Holocaust monument in the cemetery.

Remaining tombstones: 2,000.



■ Jewish cemetery, ul. Smutna 12

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DEPORTATIONS

Treblinka, Bliżyn, Starachowice.

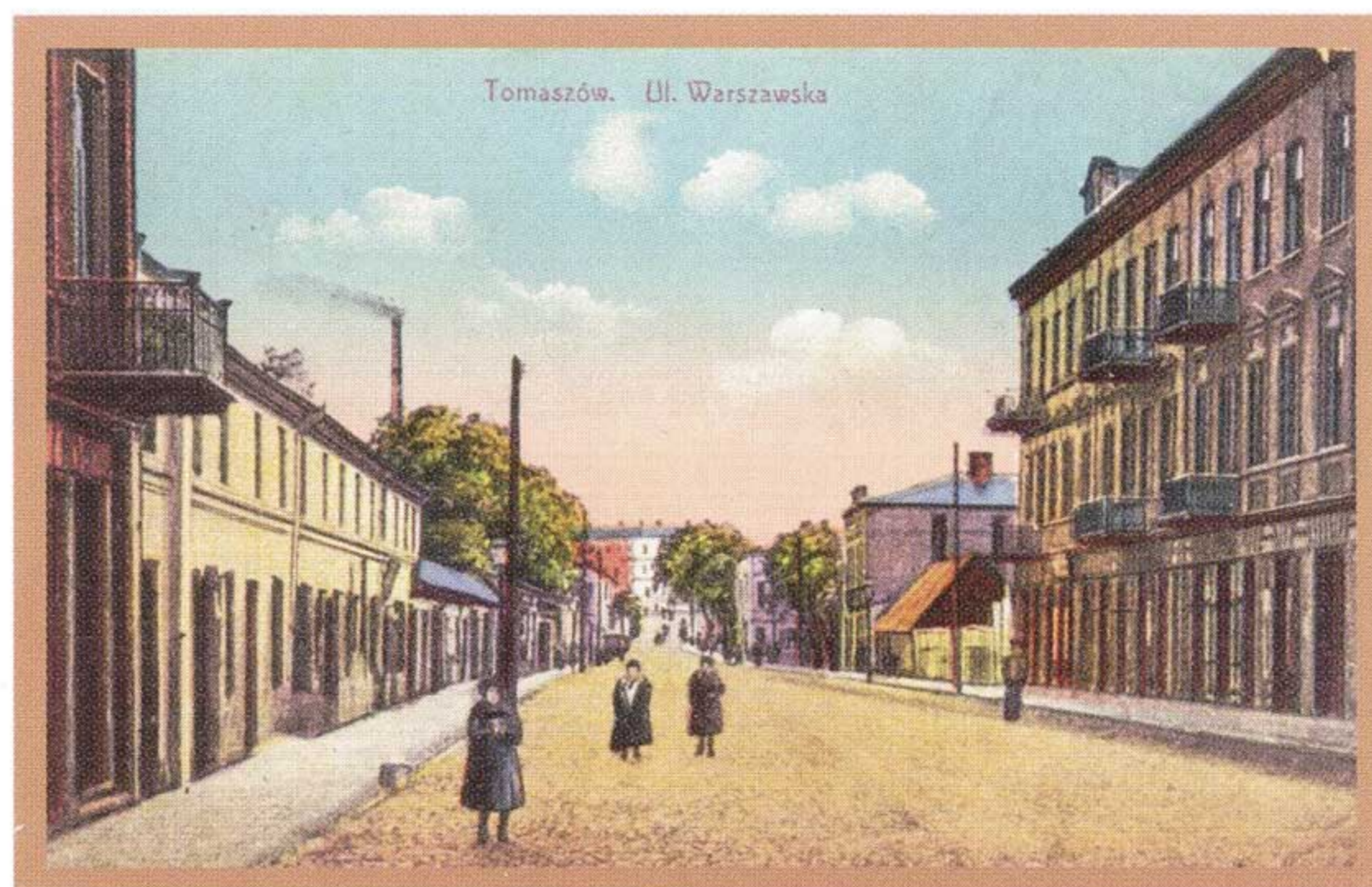


■ Plac Tadeusza Kościuszki, today

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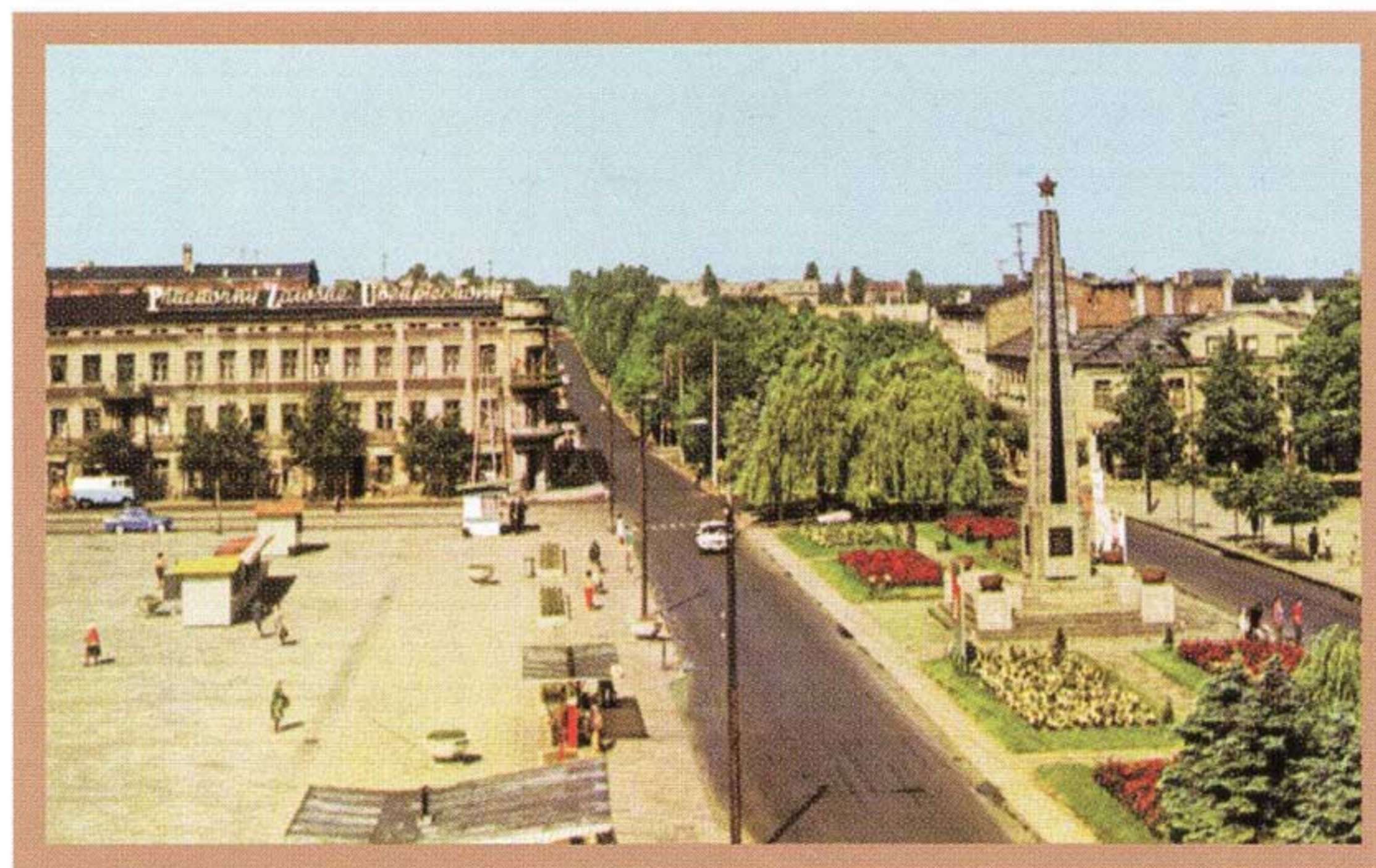
SELECTED READING

Wajsberg, Moshe, ed. *Sefer zikaron li-kehilat Tomashov Mazovyetski* (Tomaszów-Mazowiecki: A Memorial to the Jewish Community of Tomaszów-Mazowiecki). Tel Aviv: Tomaszov Organization in Israel, 1969. (H, Y, E, F)



■ ul. Warszawska, c. 1912

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■ Plac Tadeusza Kościuszki, today

7

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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