

CZĘSTOCHOWA

The shrine of the Black Madonna of Jasna Góra in Częstochowa is the most sacred Catholic site in Poland, to which thousands of pilgrims have streamed annually since the seventeenth century. A Jewish community was not formally organized until 1808. Jews played important roles in the development of industry and commerce and were particularly active in mining, metallurgy and the production of Christian religious souvenirs. During the interwar period, the latter activity became the focus of intense protest and anti-Jewish legislation by the church and Polish nationalists, leading many Jews to convert their factories to toy production.

When the Germans entered Częstochowa on September 3, 1939, the Jews were immediately subjected to a reign of terror that took hundreds of lives within the first days of the occupation. Thousands of Jewish refugees poured into the city from other parts of western Poland. A ghetto was imposed in April 1941. Between September 23 and October 5, 1942, about 39,000 Jews were deported to Treblinka; 2,000 others were shot in the city. The Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa (a united Jewish Fighting Organization) led by Mendel Fiszlewicz was formed in December 1942 and made repeated efforts at armed resistance in the city and the formation of guerrilla units in the forests. In June 1943, the Częstochowa ghetto was liquidated; most of the surviving Jews were transferred to slave-labor factories. After the war, survivors returned to rebuild the Jewish community, but most eventually left Poland.

Location

114 km NW of Kraków
50°48' / 19°07'
Voivodship: Częstochowa

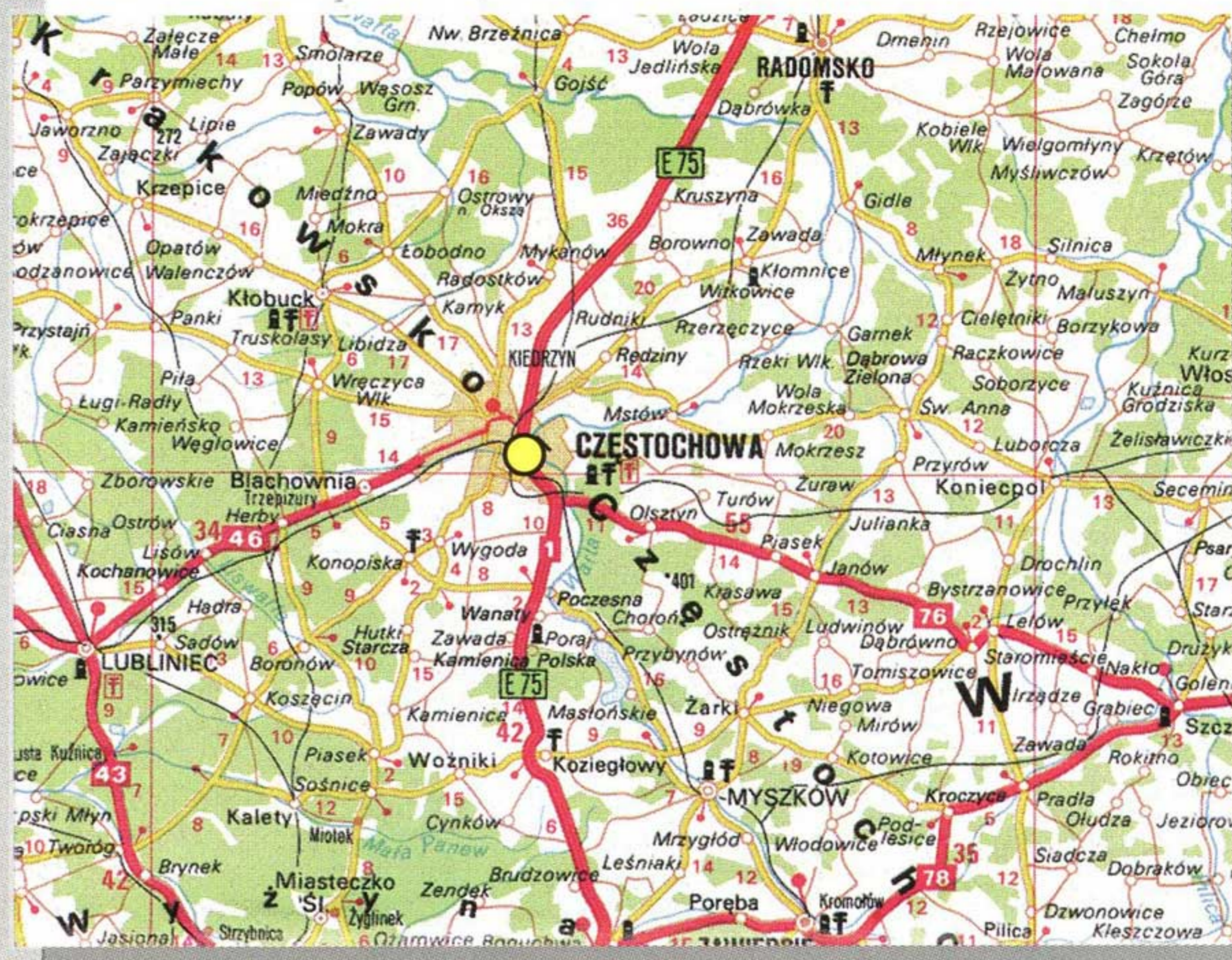
General Population, 1939

129,486 (22% Jewish)

General Population, 1994

259,722

CHENSTOKHOV, TSHENSTOKHOV



SYNAGOGUE

ul. Wilsona 16
Great Synagogue constructed in 1899.
Burned by Germans on December 25, 1939
(only synagogue foundation remains).
Current site use: Częstochowa Philharmonic Orchestra.

JEWISH CEMETERY

ul. Żłota
Cemetery founded in eighteenth century.
1,000 tombstones remain.
Cemetery is now within the premises of the steelworks.



Great Synagogue, ul. Wilsona 16, c. 1919

1



■ Jewish cemetery, ul. Złota, 1983

2

HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

ul. Kawia 20–21

Monument and memorial plaque commemorating Jews shot during liquidation of ghetto on September 24, 1942.

ul. Złota

Monument and mass grave in Jewish cemetery where Jews from the ghetto were killed.

Second monument to Jewish resistance fighters.

Monument at Plac Bohaterów Getta (Ghetto Heroes Square).



■ Monument and mass grave, ul. Złota, 1983

3

DEPORTATIONS

Treblinka, Cieszanów, Buchenwald, Gross-Rosen, Ravensbrück.

SELECTED READING

Brener, Liber. "O pracy przymusowej ludności żydowskiej w Częstochowie w okresie okupacji hitlerowskiej" (The Forced Labor of the Jewish Population in Częstochowa During the German Nazi Occupation of Poland). *BŻIH* 22 (1957): 45–60. (P, E)

———. *Vidershtand un umkum in Tshenstokhover geto* (The Uprising and Destruction of the Częstochowa Ghetto). Wrocław: Yidisher Historisher Institute in Poyln, 1950. (Y)

Glicksman, William. "Daily Record Sheet of the Jewish Police (District I) in the Częstochowa Ghetto (1941–1942)." *Yad Vashem Studies* 6 (1967): 331–358.

———. *A Kehillah in Poland During the Inter-War Years*. Philadelphia: M.E. Kalish Folkshul, 1969.



■ Częstochowa, c. 1915

4

Glicksman, Wolf (William). "Silent Night, Holy Night (A Temple Burns)." *Jewish Forum* 30/1 (Jan. 1947): 15–16.

Jakubowski, Zbigniew. *Żydzi w dziejach Częstochowy* (Jews in the History of Częstochowa). Częstochowa: Wyższa Szkoła Pedagogiczna w Częstochowie, 1991. (P)

Kaufman, Abe, ed. *Tshenstokhov, mayn geboyrnshtot* (Częstochowa, My Hometown). New York, 1950. (Y)

Klein, Harry, ed. *Czenstochow: Our Legacy*. Montreal: Harry Klein, 1993. (Y, E)

Landau, Yeshaiahu. *Lizkor ha-kol ve-davar lo lishkoah* (Remembering Everything and Forgetting Nothing). Ramat Gan, 1965. (H)

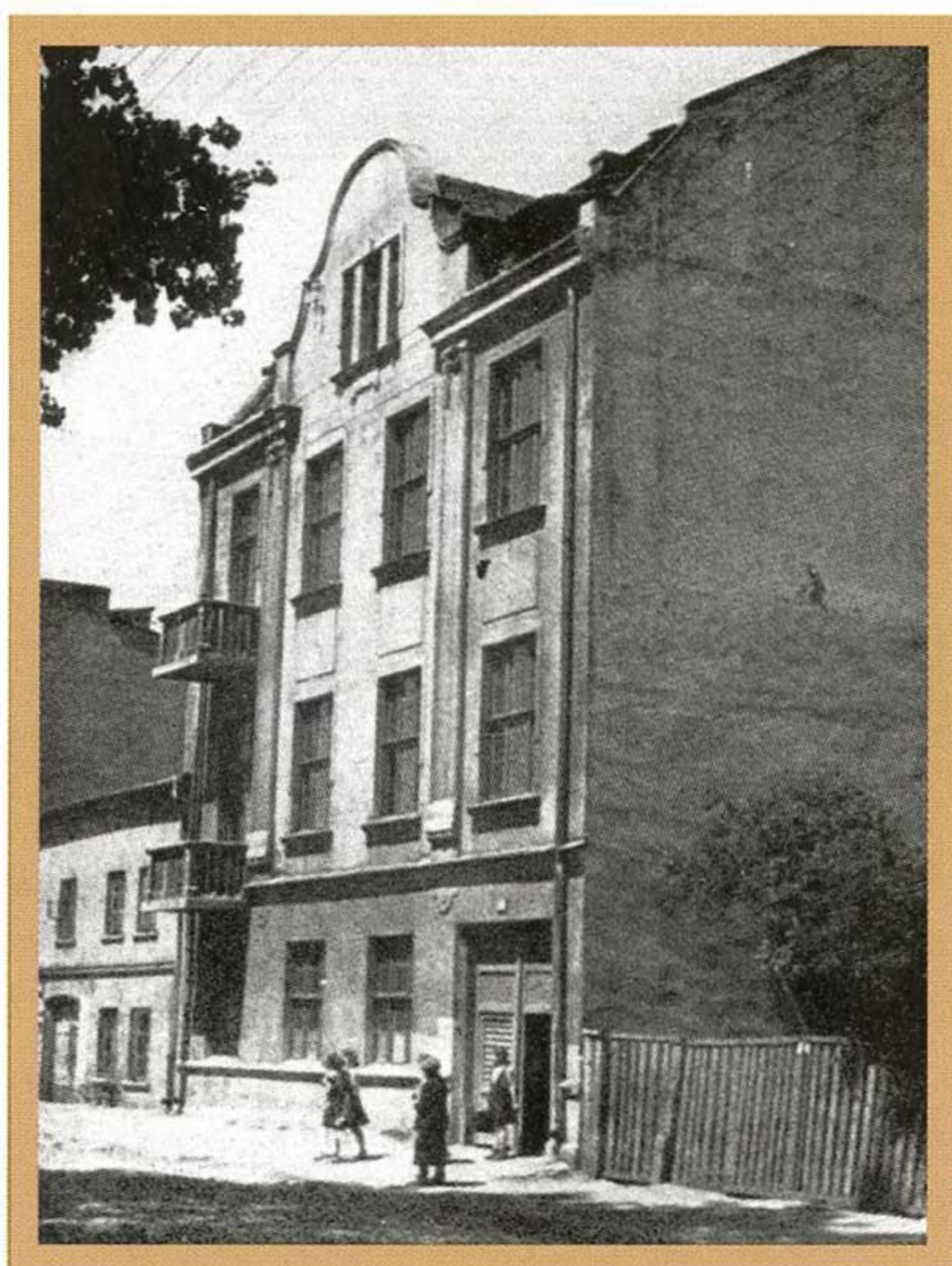
Mahler, Raphael, ed. *Tshenstokhover yidn* (The Jews of Częstochowa). New York: United Czestochower Relief Committee and Ladies Auxiliary, 1947. (Y)

Orenstein, Benjamin. *Churban Czenstochow* (The Destruction of Czenstokov). Western Germany: Central Farwaltung fun der Czenstochower Landsmanschaft in der Amerikaner Zone in Dajczland, 1948. (Y, in Latin characters)

———. *Der umkum un vidershtand fun a yidisher shtot* (The Destruction and Resistance of a Jewish City). Montreal, 1949. (Y)

Orenstein, Benjamin, ed. *Tshenstokhover landsmanshaft in Montreal* (Czenstochover Landsmanshaft in Montreal). Montreal: The Czenstochover Society in Montreal, 1966. (Y)

Schutzman, M., ed. *Sefer Tshenstokhov* (Memorial Book of Czenstochow). 2 vols. Jerusalem: Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora, 1967–1968. (H, Y)



I. L. Peretz House, ul. Krótka, pre-Holocaust 5

Silberstein, Adam. *Be-getaot Varsha; Tshenstokhov* (In the Ghettoes of Warsaw and Czenstochowa). Merhavva, Israel: Sifriat Ha-poalim, 1945. (H)

Singer, S. D., ed. *Tshenstokhov; naye tsugob-material tsum bukh "Tshenstokhover yidn"* (Czenstochov; a new supplement to the book "Czenstochover Yidn"). New York: United Relief Committee in New York, 1958. (Y)

Surviving Jews in Czenstochowa. New York: World Jewish Congress, c. 1945.



ul. Aleja II, c. 1917 6

Szymański, Stanisław. "Do dziejów Żydów w Czenstochowie w Okresie Konstytucyjnym Królestwa, 1815–1830" (To the History of the Jews in Czenstochowa During the Constitutional Era of the Polish Kingdom, 1815–1830). *BŻIH* 39 (1961): 17–38. (P)

Tenenbaum, J. *Underground: The Story of a People*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1952.

Waga, Solomon. *Khurbn Tshenstokhov* (The Destruction of Czenstochowa). Buenos Aires: Tsentral-farband fun Poylishe Yidn in Argentine, 1949. (Y)

Żmigrodzki, Z., and K. Nabidlek. "O Żydach czenstochowskich w piśmiennictwie" (Czenstochowa Jews in Literature). *BŻIH* 2/58 (1991): 99–103. (P)



ul. Warszawska, c. 1917 7

BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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



Aleja 1, c. 1917



Aleja NMP, 1994

8

11



Monastery and fortress at Jasna Góra, c. 1990

9



Housing development at Bleszno, today

12



Market square, 1916

10



Warsaw-Vienna railroad terminal, c. 1917

13