

OTWOCK

Otwock, located just south of Warsaw, is mentioned in fifteenth-century sources, but a Jewish community there dates only from the late nineteenth century. When a Hasidic dynasty established itself in the town, a Jewish community formed around the rebbe's residence and study house, built in the middle of the surrounding forest. In 1893, Dr. J. Geisler opened a sanatorium for people suffering from tuberculosis, and Otwock soon developed into a fashionable health resort attracting particularly middle-class Jews from Warsaw and central Poland.

In the fall of 1940, the Germans imposed a ghetto in Otwock, through which passed more than 12,000 Jews from Otwock and the surrounding area. Some 2,000 Jews died of hunger and typhus, and another 2,000 were shot during the ghetto's liquidation in August 1942. The remaining Jews were deported to Treblinka. About 400 Jews settled in Otwock after the war; a home for Jewish children and a Jewish sanatorium functioned for several years.

Location

27 km ESE of Warsaw

52°07' / 21°15'

Voivodship: Warsaw

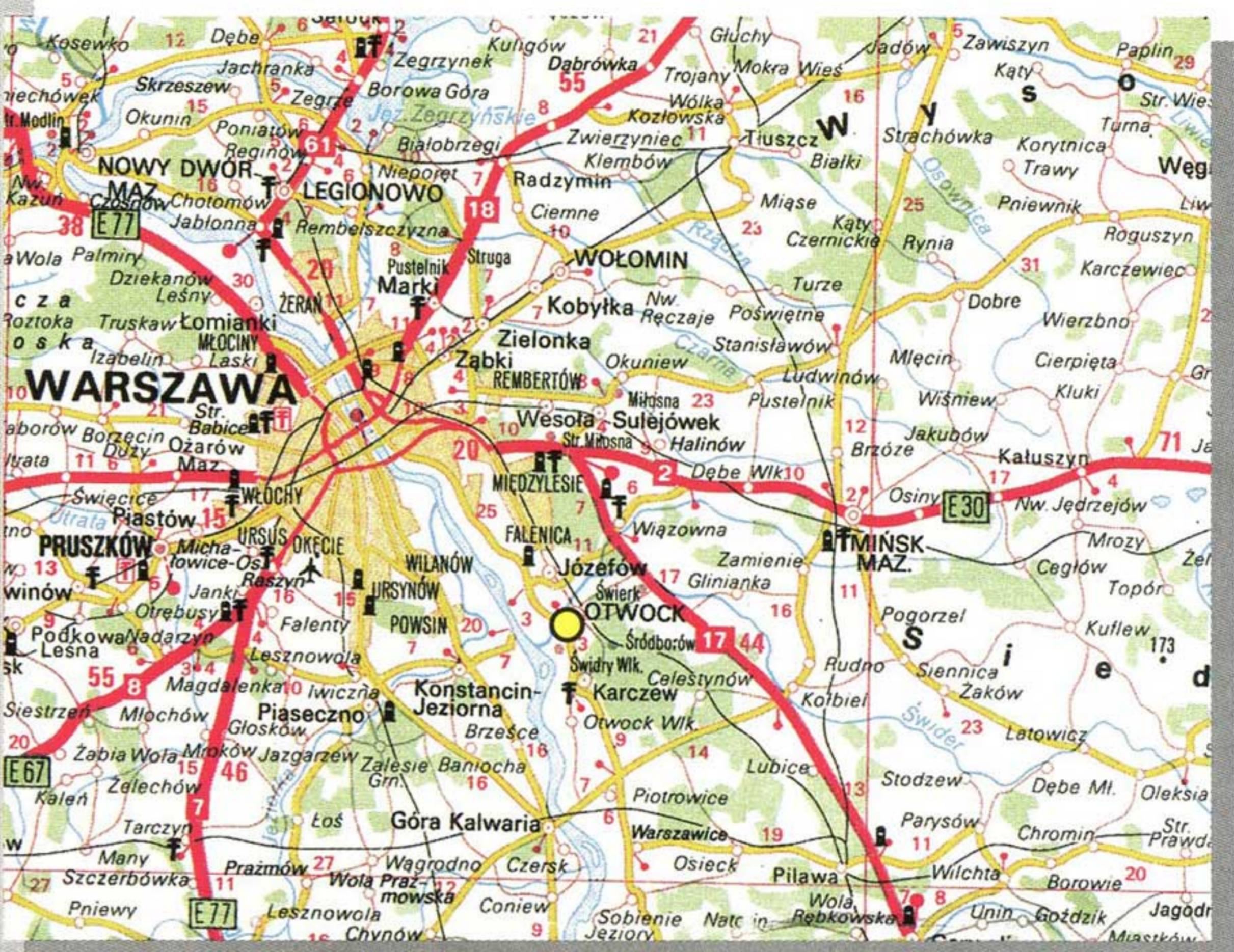
General Population, 1939

30,000 (45% Jewish)

General Population, 1994

43,719

OTVOSK, OTVOTSK, USHVOTSK, OSHVOTSK



SYNAGOGUES

All five synagogues burned in October 1939.

ul. Góra 6

Bet Midrash Reindorf (Mikvah was next door).

ul. Warszawska 41

Bet ha-Keneset Goldberg.

ul. Kupiecka (formerly Aleksandrowa)

Bet Midrash Blas.

ul. Reymonta and Zeromskiego

Bet ha-Keneset Weinberg.

ul. Zeromskiego (continuation of ul. Warszawska)

Bet ha-Keneset Jablonski.

DEPORTATIONS

Tyszowce, Treblinka.



ul. Kościelna, 1929



1 Former synagogue, Bet Midrash Reindorf, ul. Góra 6

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■ Jewish cemetery in Anielin (includes Otwock burials), 1995

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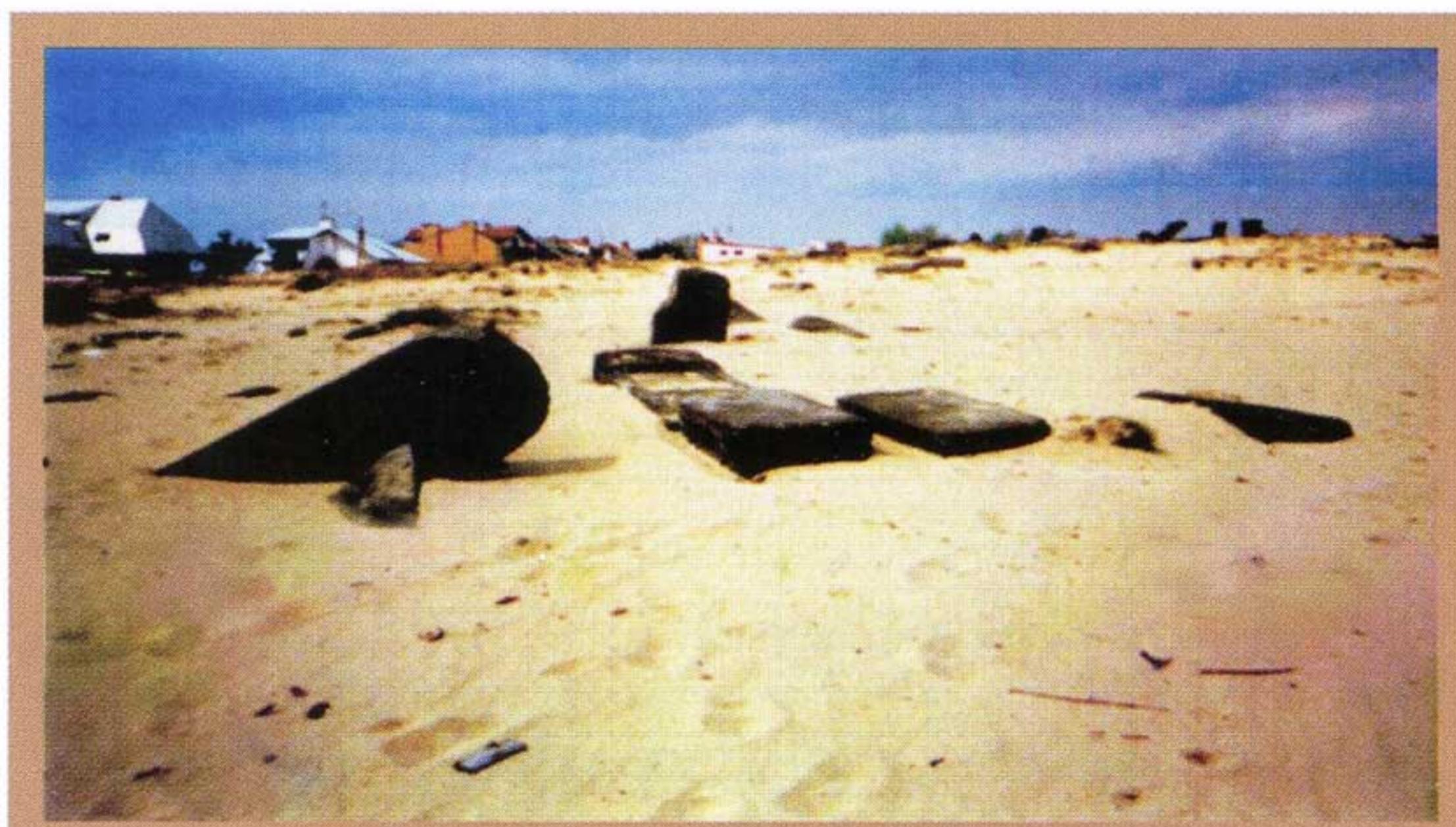
JEWISH CEMETERIES

In nearby village of Anielin

The cemetery was established in the nineteenth century.
Remaining tombstones: 200, dating from 1915.

ul. Szkolna (in nearby Karczew)

Remaining tombstones: 50, dating from 1876.



■ Jewish cemetery in Karczew (includes Otwock burials), 1996

4

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Monument at ul. Reymonta, where more than 6,000 Jews in the Otwock ghetto were shot between August 19 and 30, 1942.



■ Holocaust memorial, ul. Reymonta, 1995

5

SELECTED READING

Fox, Frank, ed. and trans. *Am I a Murderer? Testament of a Jewish Ghetto Policeman*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1996. (Translation of Calel Perechodnik, *Czy ja jestem morderca? [Am I a Murderer?]*). Warsaw: Karta, 1993.) (P)

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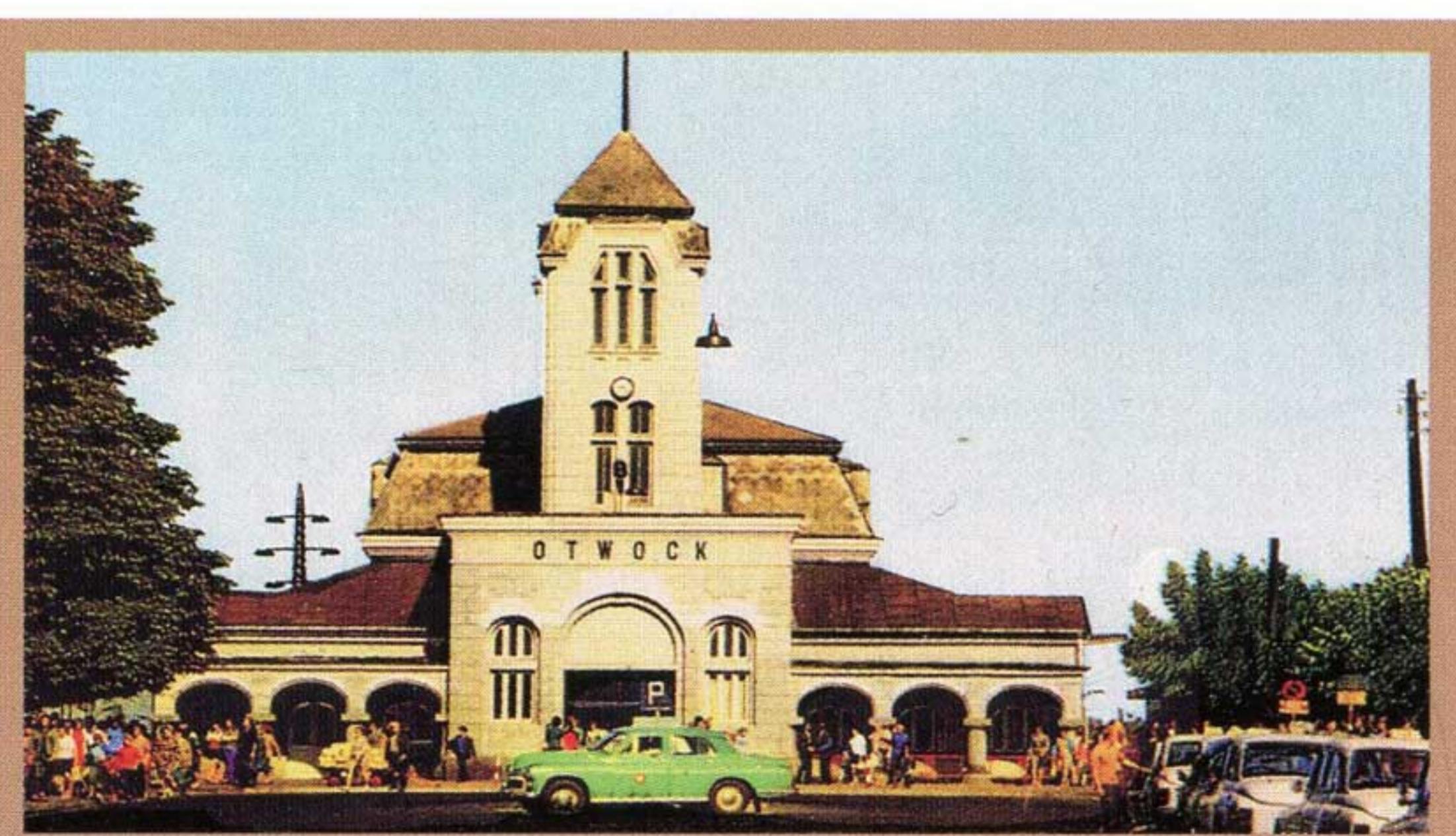


■ Sanatorium (resort), c. 1990

6

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Orenstein, Benjamin. *Khurbn Otvotsk, Falenits, Kartshev* (The Destruction of Otvotsk, Falenits, Kartshev). Bamberg, Germany: Former Residents of Otvotsk, Falenits and Kartshev in the American Zone in Germany, 1948. (Y)



■ Train station, c. 1985

7

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