

ZAMOŚĆ

The town of Zamość dates back to the late sixteenth century, when Prince Jan Zamoyski imported Italian architects to build a town in the Renaissance style. Even in a world of shifting borders, the fate of Zamość was particularly complex. In the nineteenth century, it belonged first to Austria and then to Russia. Sephardic Jews were the first Jews to settle in Zamość at the end of the sixteenth century; they were followed by a larger decisive settlement of Ashkenazic Jews. Haskalah, the Jewish Enlightenment movement, flourished in Zamość in the nineteenth century. It was the birthplace of both Róża Luxemburg, a fiery radical active in the founding of the Communist parties of Russia, Germany and Poland, and of I. L. Peretz, known as the father of modern Yiddish literature. Peretz modeled the setting of his famous play, *Night at the Old Marketplace*, after the magnificent Zamość marketplace. World War I devastated Zamość, but by 1939, Jewish life had revived and about 12,000 Jews were living there.

When the Germans invaded Poland, Zamość came under Soviet occupation; about 5,000 Jews retreated with the Red Army. In the spring of 1942, the Germans established a ghetto in Zamość to which they shipped Jews from other cities in occupied Poland as well as from Germany and Czechoslovakia; about 9,000 Jews passed through the ghetto. Successive deportations, primarily to the Bełżec death camp, emptied the ghetto; it was liquidated in October 1942.

Location

89 km SE of Lublin
50°43' / 23°16'
Voivodship: Zamość

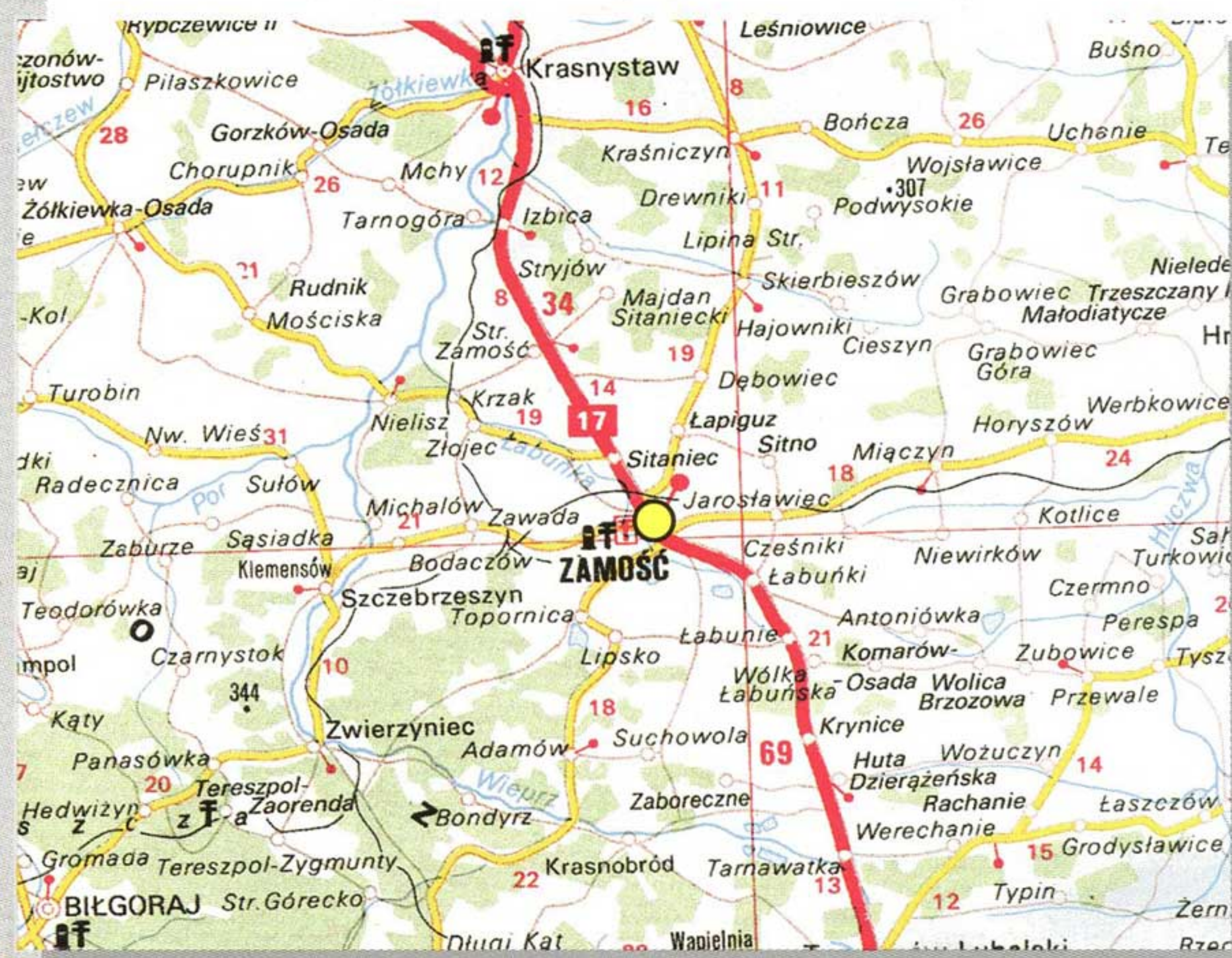
General Population, 1939

24,000 (50% Jewish)

General Population, 1994

65,955

ZAMOSTIE, ZAMUSH, ZAMOSHTSH, ZAMET



SYNAGOGUES

ul. Gminna 32

Constructed in 1872; destroyed in 1939; reconstructed after the Holocaust.

Current use: nursery school.



Dawna Synagogue, ul. Zamenhofska 9, 1916

2

ul. Zamenhofska 9

Constructed 1620, extensively damaged during the Holocaust; rebuilt in 1950s.

Current use: library.

OTHER SITES

ul. Zamenhofska 5

Mikvah constructed in 1877.

Current use: jazz club.



Dawna Synagogue, ul. Zamenhofska 9, today a library

1



■ Holocaust Memorial, ul. Prosta, 1996

3

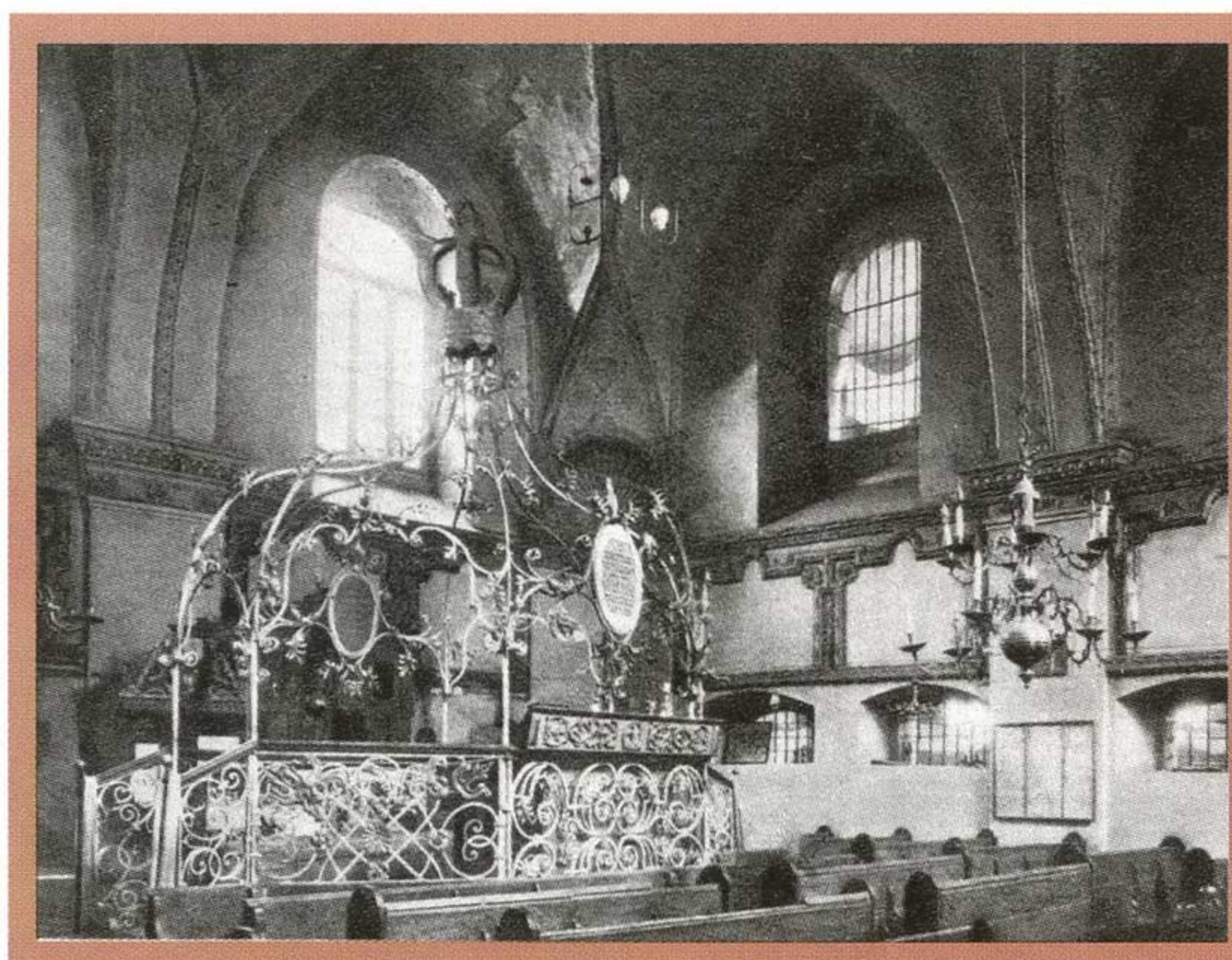
JEWISH CEMETERIES

ul. Partyzantów

Old cemetery destroyed during Holocaust.
Current use: cultural center.

ul. Prosta

New cemetery founded in 1906.
About 50 tombstones remain.
Current use: lapidarium.



■ Dawna synagoga interior, pre-Holocaust

4



■ The town hall on the Great Market Square, 1995

5

HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

ul. Prosta (former Jewish cemetery)

Monument (obelisk) constructed in 1950 from
tombstone fragments.

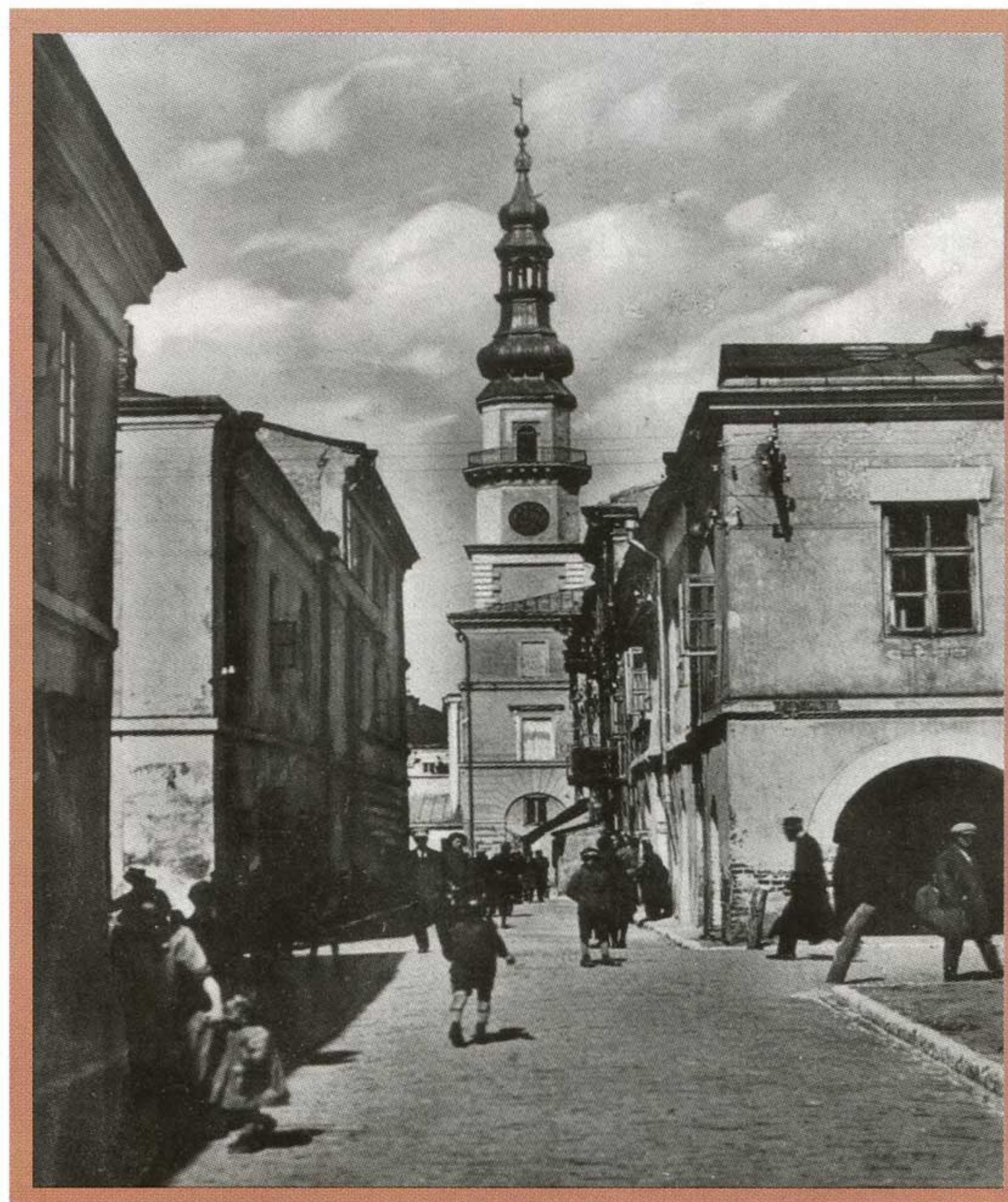
ul. Męczenników Rotundy

The Museum of Martyrology (in Rotunda)

Constructed on the site of mass executions.

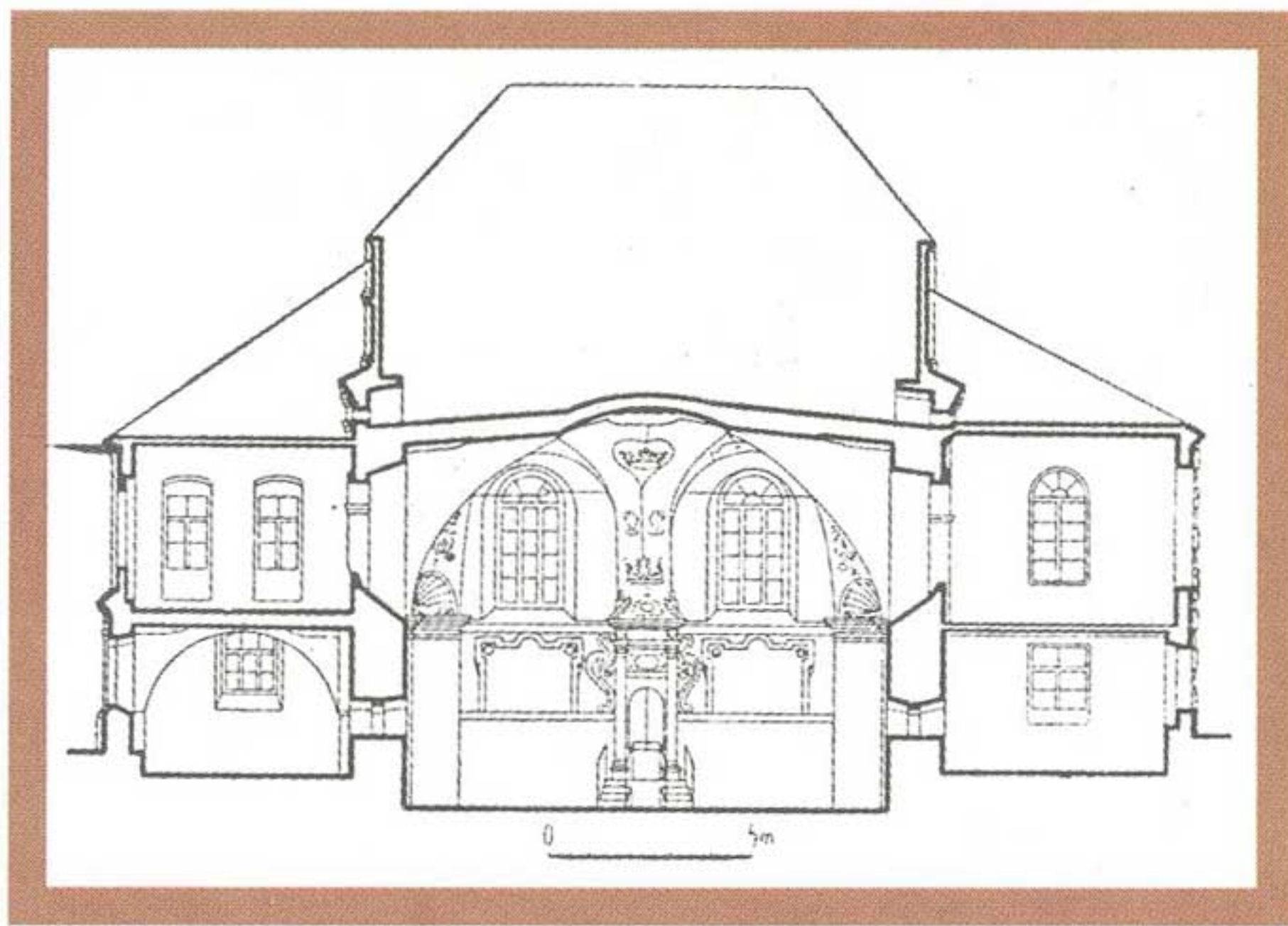
DEPORTATIONS

Izbica, Bełżec.



■ ul. Ormiańska, c. 1933

6



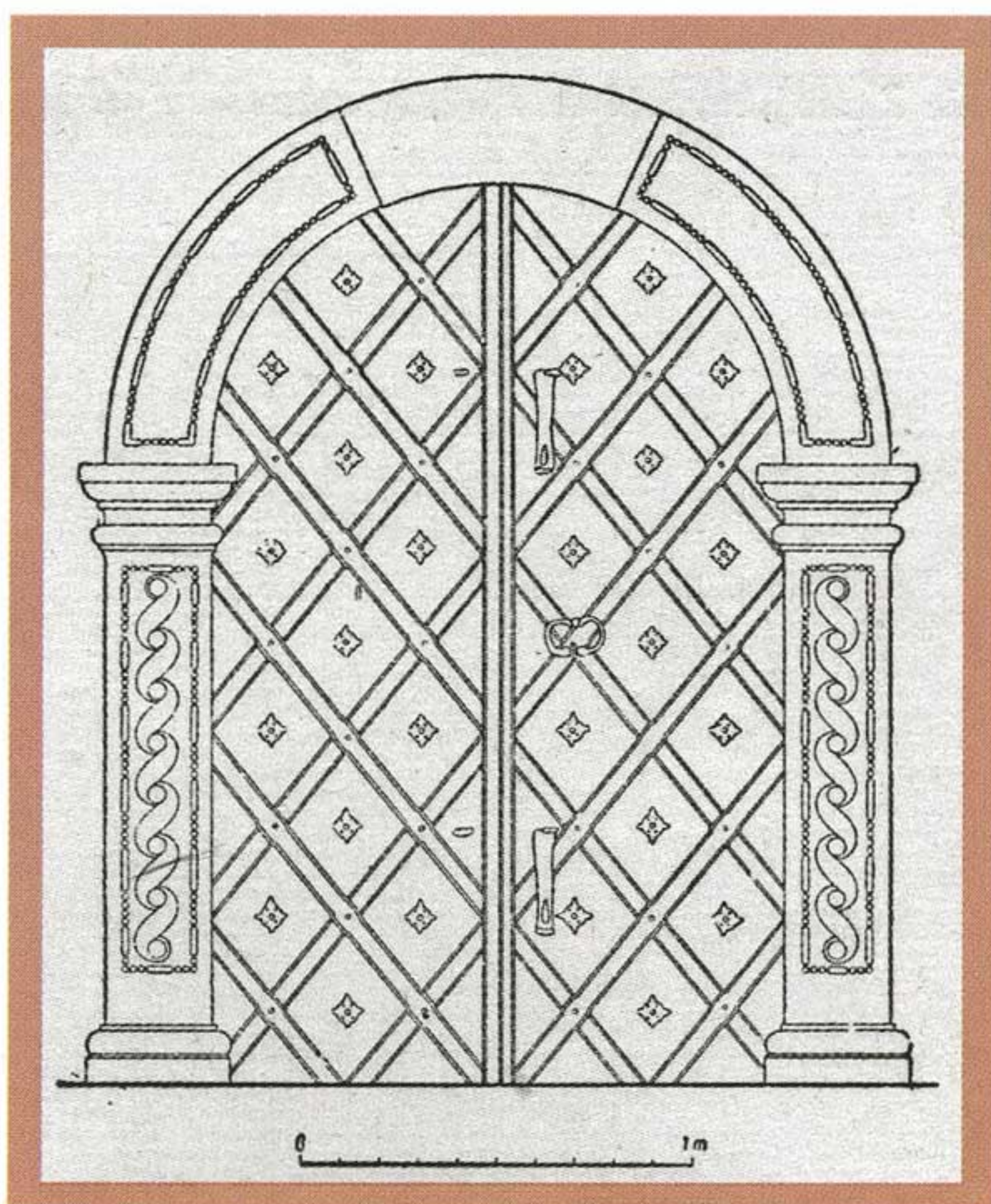
■ Dawna Synagogue (cross section), pre-1939

7



■ Portal and vestibule, Dawna Synagogue, pre-1939

8



■ Portal of Dawna Synagogue (elevation), pre-1939

9

SELECTED READING

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