

Public Schools No. 1 in Chelm Project: The Whole World Is a One Big Chelm

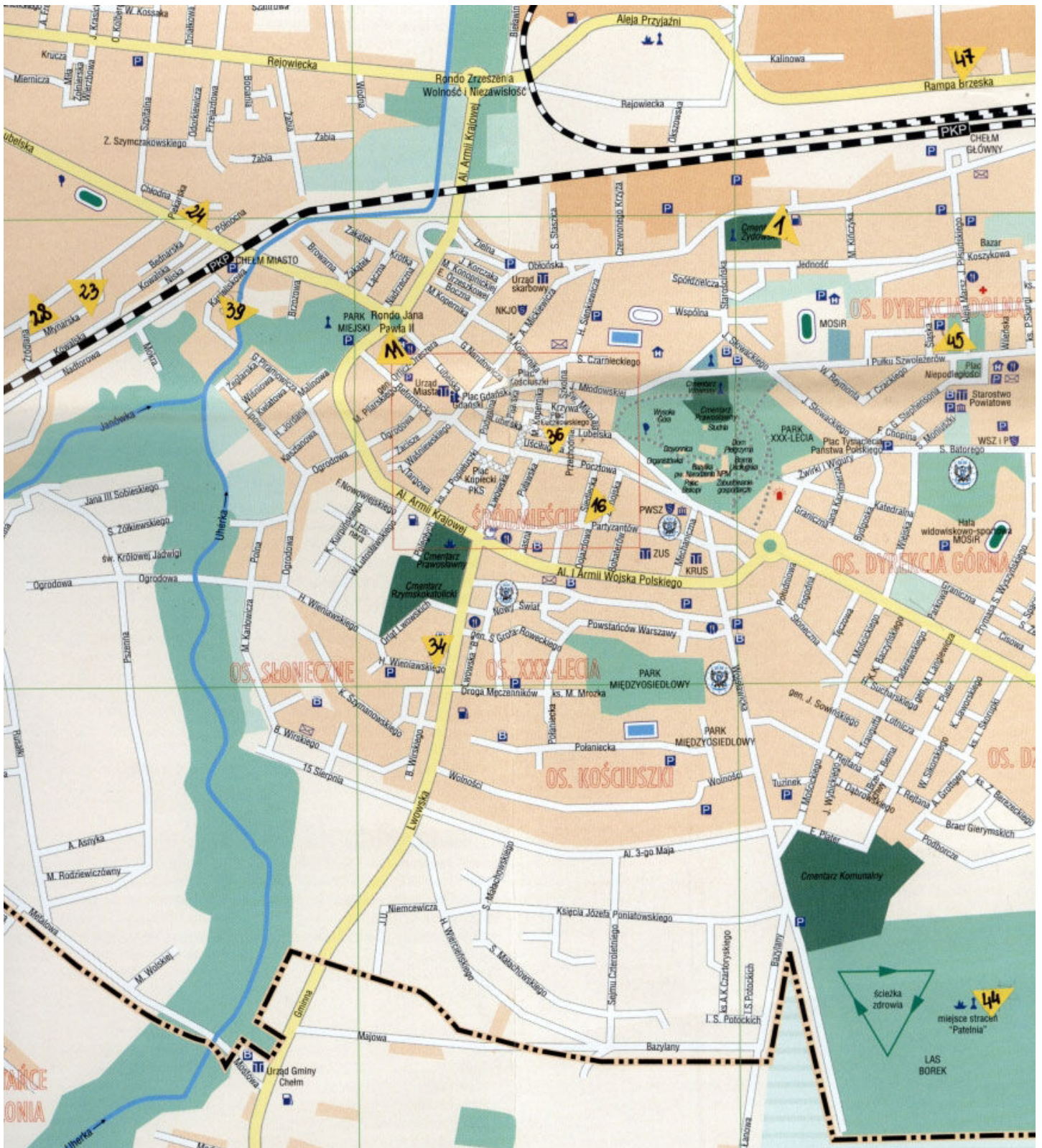
JEWISH HISTORIC SITES IN CHELM

After collecting enough information on the history of the Jews from Chelm, on the basis of reports and interviews with the eldest inhabitants of our town, we were able to compose a catalogue of Jewish historic monuments. Our programme is one of a kind. As far as we are aware no one yet has attempted to catalogue the Jewish historical sites and plot them on the town map. We are very proud of our work.

The catalogue was put together in various stages. We divided into groups and searched in the libraries for information, and carried out interviews. Each group worked independently. Next we presented our work and exchanged information. We realized that Beata and Olga were most precise and effective in their work. They managed to find the most information. All the Jewish historic monuments they found were plotted onto the town map. They are mostly concentrated around the centre of the town, around the former town Marketplace. By the Luczkowski plaza only three premises belonged to Polish inhabitants. And here are the fruits of our labour.

CITY MAPS (description below)





DESCRIPTION:

1. Kirkut (the Jewish cemetery), situated on the corner of Streets Staroscińska and Kolejowa. The cemetery dates back to the second half of the 16th century. However there is some dubitable evidence that there were once graves from the first half of the 15th century here. The Nazis, who covered the Streets and squares of the town with



maztevat, destroyed the kirkut. (Also the area around the Gestapo headquarters, which was common for the Nazis to do.) The grave stones remain there till today. In the 60s a square was built on a large area of the cemetery. Over a hundred maztevat, majorities of which were heavily damaged survived along the southern part of the cemetery. In the years 1994-1996 a partial reconstruction of the cemetery was carried out. It was enclosed and in the middle a symbolical monument was placed in memory of the Jewish inhabitants of Chelm.

2, The Old Synagogue of the Jews of Chelm was built towards the end of the 16th century on the foundations of an old Dominican monastery. It existed up until WW2 on the corner of Krzywa and Szkolna Streets, near today's Wesola Street.

3. The Small Synagogue (Bet- HaMidrash), a Jewish house of prayer. Was erected in 1914 on the corner of Kopernika and Krzywa Street, it was destroyed during the occupation, and after the war it was used as a storage house. After its reconstruction it was adopted into a Technical house NOT, which was opened in 1987. Its main structure has survived, so has former floor plan of the rooms and the reconstructed architectural detail of the elevation. In the front part there was a vestibule, and at the rear end there was a prayer hall (presently a conference hall.) The rooms are modern in their design. In the former prayer hall there are four pillars, between which stood the bimah (a raised platform with a pulpit). From the original features the balustrade survived in the lower part of the staircase.

4. Mayer Josef Bronfeld's printshop, bookshop, an archive of written documents and also Stamp Factory Kauczukowych "Kultura". It was located in the Bronfeld family house at 10 Lubelska Street. Between 1933 - 1939 the print shop published the monthly literary "Kamena".

5. The headquarters of the Jewish Social - Democratic Working Party Poale Syjon (The Workers of Zion) and relating to the party the Society for Night Courses for the Workers. It was located in the Kuper mansion at 27 Lubelska Street, which was built in 1890 according to Julian Cieszkowski's project.

6. Berk Lewinsztajn's Hotel "Wiktoria" was located in a house at 30 Lubelska Street, which was built in 1910, most probably built according to a project by M. Adler.

7. Icchak Lejbusz Perec's Library, a well-known writer from Jewish Zamość. It was located in a building at 5 Pijarska Street. Apart from being a place where books were gathered and magazines were made accessible to the public it was a place, where an array of cultural and educational celebrations took place. In time it was moved to a mansion of the Ledermans on 70 Lubelska Street, where they were many shops and institutions.

8. Historic kiosk dating back to the beginning of the 20th century on the former old town marketplace (presently Dr Edward Luczkowski square) the property of the Jewish merchant Mayer Dobkowski.

9.

10. The Jewish Society for Gymnastics and Sports "Makabi", on Lubelska Street 50.

11. Jewish stalls (wrongly called the town hall) built in the 19th century, Situated within the former Jewish district, on the corner of the Streets Jatkowa and Krzywa. Built from brick, and plastered. Built on a rectangular plan, one storey building. The front elevation with traces of eight semi circular arches, walled up after 1945; a profiled crowned cornice, flat roof.

12. Jewish theatre and cinema, presently situated by the Jan Pawel II roundabout on the site of today's "Kamena" hotel.



The locations of private Jewish elementary education in the Chelm area 1.12.1917 :

13. Budowska Street (presently Narutowicza):

- a) nr 4 (proprietor W. Berżer)
- b) nr 6 (proprietor S. Glencer)
- c) nr 14(proprietor K. Morgensztern)

13. Podwalna Street (proprietor H. Monczarz).

14. Lubelska Street 53 (proprietor D. Sobol)

15. Pokrowska Street:

- a) nr 11 (proprietor B. Bibel)
- b) nr 24 (proprietor M. C. Oksman)

16. Siedlecka Street:

- a) nr 11 (proprietor P. Buksman)
- b) nr 15 (proprietor I. Lejber)
- c) nr 19 (proprietor S. Grinberg)

17. Pocztowa Street:

- a) nr 8 (proprietor A. Grinberg)
- b) nr 16 (proprietor B. Goleman)
- c) nr 22 (proprietor G. Hipszman)
- d) nr 26 (proprietor L. Friedman)
- e) nr 28 (proprietor B. Sznoł)
- f) nr 28 (proprietor S. Sznajderman)

18. Seminaraska Street (today Młodowska):

- a) nr 6 (proprietor A. Ochran)
- b) nr 7 (proprietor M. Sztajnberg)
- c) nr 7 (proprietor J. Sznajderman)
- d) nr 7 (proprietor A. Nuclack)

The locations of private houses of prayer functioning in 1922 in Chelm:

19. Adrianowska Street (today Krzywa) nr 3, nr 5, nr 7, nr 8, nr 10.

20. Lubelska Street nr 6, nr 9, nr 26, nr 87.

21. Mikołajewska Street nr 6.

22. Wesoła Street nr 7.

23. Młynarska Street nr 1.

24. Pilichonki Street nr 74.

25. Katowska Street 2.

26. Seminaryjska Street 9.

27. Pocztowa Street nr 15.

28. Trubakowska Street nr 33.

29. Hrubieszowska Street nr 6.



30. Uściługka Street nr 23.
31. Siedlecka Street nr 2.
32. Reformacka Street nr 19.
33. The doors / gates leading to the Jewish mansion on Narutowicza Street nr 14.
34. The Jewish mill on Lwowska Street.
35. "Okraglak" - Jewish shops on Luczkowskiego square. Known as "the rounded square"
36. The March of Death going/ passing through the Streets from Luczkowskiego square in the direction of Hrubieszow. .
37. Jewish hospital on Zamojska Street.
38. Jewish mikveh on Kopernika Street.
39. Jewish laundry cleaners near Uherca (next to the railway station Chelm- Miasto)
40. The headquarters of the Jewish Organisation which represented Jews during the WW2 on Pijarska Street nr. 5.
41. The Jewish library on Lubelska Street 51.
42. The headquarters of the Common Jewish Workers Union (Bund) on Lwowska Street.
43. Elderly People's home on Mlodowska Street 15.
44. The Jewish cemetery in the Borek wood known as „The Pan".
45. The Gestapo headquarters and detention house for Poles and Jews, on Piłsudskiego Street.
46. Stairs between Przechodnia Street and Pocztowa Street, they were a meeting place for Jews.
47. The place where the Jews were rounded up before being taken away to the concentration camps on Rampa Brzeska Street.

Bibliography:

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The authors:

Olga Guz i Beata Dyjak - students of High School nr VI in Chelm under the supervision of Beata Lukaszewska -Bres.