

## About the Synagogue of Przysucha

Przysucha is located in a region of Poland with small towns surrounded by farmlands. The town was founded in the early 15th century, and by the end of the 18th century, when the synagogue was built, Przysucha was a major center of Chassidism in Poland. Today it is still a site of annual pilgrimage by Jewish religious groups; there are several famous tzadikim buried at the Przysucha Jewish cemetery.

Jews comprised 75% of the town's population in the 19th century and continued to be the largest ethnic group until the eve of WW2. During the War, the Nazis established a ghetto in Przysucha; most of the town's Jews were then deported and killed in Treblinka. The population of Przysucha is now about 6,000 but there is no Jewish presence in Przysucha today; the synagogue stands alone.



Despite having been used by the Nazis as a warehouse and heavily damaged during and after the War, the synagogue building still retains impressive ornamental and structural details: inside, a large central bimah, a wall niche for the ark framed with stucco griffins, a women's gallery with vaulted ceilings, and highly colorful fragments of decorative frescoes; on the exterior is a very unusual feature: a pillory where Jews sentenced by the Jewish community court would be locked for punishment!

Following the War, the building fell into disrepair and neglect, like so many synagogues and sites of Jewish heritage in Poland. Misguided "renovations" contributed to a deteriorating situation, and dangerously threatened the structural integrity of the building.

Our organization - the **Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland (FODZ)** - acquired the synagogue in 2007; immediately thereafter we began major work to stabilize the structure. Years 2012 -2014 saw the building's foundation reinforced and the bimah properly re-supported, the copper roof restored, and three of the four exterior walls rehabilitated. The final exterior wall is the object of our work for 2015. The synagogue in Przysucha has been nominated for inclusion in the World Monuments Watch list for 2016. When the exterior work is complete, our Foundation will focus on fundraising to restore the synagogue's rich and impressive interior.

It is our long-term goal for the restored Przysucha synagogue to host educational, cultural, and religious conferences and events, accessible to all visitors. Here will also be an opportunity to educate in situ the local non-Jewish population about the richness of Przysucha's Jewish past, while also serving the needs of visiting Jewish tourists, pilgrims, and descendants, as well as Holocaust researchers and academics. With 80% of American Jews tracing their roots to Poland, combined with the growing popularity of Jewish heritage travel and trips built around visiting sites of family history, we fully expect the restored Przysucha synagogue to be one of the "must-see" Jewish travel destinations in Poland.



Take a virtual tour of the Przysucha synagogue:

<http://fodz.pl/?d=5&id=93&l=en>



Download a .pdf on  
*Preserving Jewish Heritage In Poland*  
marking FODZ's 10th anniversary,  
highlighting our projects and programs,  
including the Przysucha synagogue:

[http://fodz.pl/download/album\\_fodz\\_www.pdf](http://fodz.pl/download/album_fodz_www.pdf)



Help us preserve the Przysucha Synagogue:

<http://fodz.pl/?d=16&l=en>





The historic town of Przysucha (near Radom) is located about 100km (60 miles) southwest of Warsaw.

### How you can help:

For more information on how you can participate in the renovation of this precious and unique survivor for future generations:

<http://fodz.pl/?d=16&l=en>

Donations to the *Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland* may be made by PayPal, credit card, check, bank draft, money order, or wire transfer.



You can indicate your wish to directly support "The Przysucha Synagogue" on the online donation forms or with your donation letter.

FOUNDATION FOR  
THE PRESERVATION  
OF JEWISH HERITAGE  
IN POLAND



[www.fodz.pl](http://www.fodz.pl)

FUNDACJA  
OCHRONY  
DZIEDZICTWA  
ŻYDOWSKIEGO

### ABOUT US

FODZ was established in 2002 by the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland and the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO). Our primary mission is to protect and commemorate the surviving sites and monuments of Jewish cultural heritage in Poland. The Foundation is active where no Jewish community exists today or where distance from major urban centers or lack of sufficient financial resources makes it difficult for present-day small Jewish communities to provide adequate long term care and maintenance of historic Jewish properties.

To learn more about our Foundation and our many important projects in Poland, including our latest initiative - *Adopt-A-Jewish-Cemetery* - please visit our website. And now:



**SAVING JEWISH HERITAGE,  
ONE STONE AT A TIME**



[www.fodz.pl](http://www.fodz.pl)

## Adopt a Jewish Cemetery in Poland

The Foundation for the Preservation  
of Jewish Heritage in Poland  
(Fundacja Ochrony Dziedzictwa Żydowskiego)

[www.fodz.pl](http://www.fodz.pl)

Tel.: +48 22 436 60 00

Fax: +48 22 436 06 58

E-mail: [fodz@fodz.pl](mailto:fodz@fodz.pl)

Help us preserve the  
**PRZYSUCHA  
SYNAGOGUE**  
in Poland



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The Przysucha synagogue is a rare and unique survivor of Poland's pre-War Jewish physical heritage. It was erected between 1764-67, and is one of the largest baroque synagogues found in Poland today (650m<sup>2</sup>). It stands as a reminder of the now extinct Jewish community. It is our long-term goal for the restored Przysucha synagogue to host educational, cultural, and religious conferences and events, accessible to all visitors. We fully expect the restored Przysucha synagogue to be one of the "must-see" Jewish travel destinations in Poland.

**Help us ensure that the  
Przysucha synagogue  
- this precious and unique survivor of  
our Jewish heritage -  
has a future**