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ELEMENTS OF THE JEWISH ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
IN URBAN STRUCTURES AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
OF SMALL TOWNS OF *LUBELSZCZYŻNA*
doctoral dissertation

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SUMMARY

The aim of the work was to provide an overview and to determine the role of the Jewish architectural heritage in creating urban landscapes of Lubelszczyzna over the last 200 years. Regional peculiarities of architecture and town planning that were affected by the 450-years-long presence of Jewish communities were highlighted. This regarded architectural forms, their aesthetic qualities, as well as their part in urban compositions. Diverse factors affecting them were described. Archival documentation of over 180 architectural objects of 9 categories (synagogues, mikhves, houses of prayer, yeshivas, ritual slaughterhouses, hospitals, rabbi houses, dwelling houses and cemeteries) was analysed. Results of the investigation are shown in 12 tables that contain localizations of the objects, as well as their architectural and historical specification. The assessment of both, the preserved and already non-existing objects made it possible to provide their multi-faceted systematics and typology. The development of particular types of buildings used by the Jewish communities as dwellings and for public purposes was presented. They were discussed in terms of their architectural genesis, as well as commonly occurring forms and construction (considering their building techniques and materials used). The thesis provides, among others, a chronological and typological classification of synagogues under the following groups: medieval and early modern ones (the latter can be subdivided into a single-span type A, where all the interior is taken by a main hall, and type B, where a main hall is preceded by a vestibule with a women's balcony above it), synagogues of 19th century, and synagogues of 20th century. Particular urban structures were analysed in order to define optional spatial relationships between such architectural objects as a synagogue quarter and a marketplace or a Roman-Catholic church. The catalogue completed for the selected 20 small towns can be considered as a template for the documentation of Jewish architectural heritage.

The results of the work fill the gap in the knowledge upon the issue and set possible further directions for the research. Additionally, the applicable forms of protection and promotion of the Jewish heritage have been indicated. The correct identification of historical factors and mechanisms of the development of urban organisms shall help the eligible institutions to optimise procedures for heritage and landscape protection, urban planning and revitalisation, as well as promotion of the region.

KEYWORDS: architecture, urban planning, small town, synagogue, mikveh, ritual slaughter, Jews, Jewish heritage, heritage protection

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