

# Orla



The history of the synagogue in Orla dates back to the seventeenth century. For decades it was a living center of Jewish tradition and culture.

In the spring of 1942, the Jewish community of Orla was forcibly moved into a ghetto and, later that year, transported to Treblinka extermination camp. The former synagogue was used as a storehouse for property stolen by German soldiers from the Jewish population and the Ark was destroyed.



After World War II, the building was occasionally used as a storage facility, but frequently stood empty and neglected, its condition deteriorating. In 2010, the synagogue came under the ownership of the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland (FODZ).



Today, the former synagogue building towering over the village is a witness to common past of the inhabitants of this region. It also recalls the history of the Jewish community, which for decades was an important part of Orla community and its surroundings.



In previous decades the building was considered to be abandoned and stayed closed – it would seem – left to itself, it stayed empty like a rock in the tissue of the town. However, for several recent years, after FODZ took over property rights of the building, a group of enthusiasts has been acting to bring life to its walls. As a result of their activities, the building of former synagogue again became a "meeting place" for the local community as well as for visitors coming to Orla from various parts of Poland as well as from abroad.

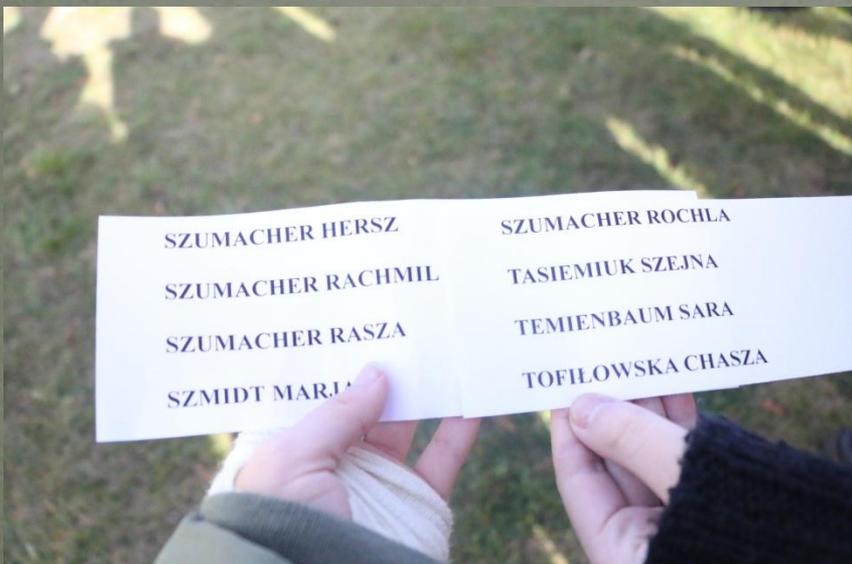


The following events and meetings were held inside the former  
synagogue:



- commemoration ceremonies of the Jewish community of Orla







- educational meetings for children and youth, the content of which was the history of the Jewish community in Orla





- meetings on the occasion of the Jewish holidays





- meetings with guests from Israel and representatives of the Jewish diaspora







- concerts of Jewish music and works inspired by Jewish tradition







- reviews of contemporary Israeli cinematography





- exhibitions of contemporary art and photography









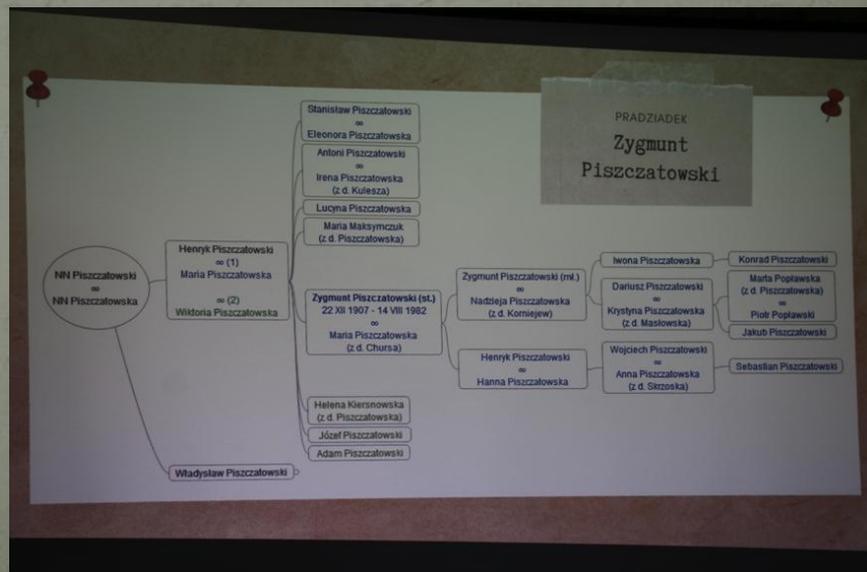


- meetings with authors





- evenings devoted to the genealogy of Orła families



- arts festival 'TIME RECOVERED - MEMORY AND PARTICIPATION' reflecting discussions that have taken place involving The University of the Arts Poznań, the Orla community, the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, and the UK-based Foundation for Jewish Heritage regarding contemporary uses of Jewish heritage spaces







- scientific conference devoted to the discussion what's next for the former Orla synagogue





These activities was possible thanks to cleaning, care and organizational works carried out in the synagogue and its surroundings by a group of local volunteers.



We regret to explain that this year, as a result of administrative decisions, the above-mentioned activities in the former synagogue have been suspended. Their resumption will be possible only after the necessary preventive works have been carried out.

## Technical expertise

In order to define the range of necessary preventive works technical expertise was done in early 2023. The aim of the expertise was to determine the technical condition of the former synagogue building in terms of renovation and revitalization of the facility and the possibility of its further use for cultural activities.

### **EKSPERTYZA TECHNICZNA** z oceną stanu mykologicznego budynku



Fot.1

**OBIEKT:**

**Budynek zabytkowej synagogi**  
(wpisany do rejestru zabytków pod nr A-411)

# Recommendations

The technical expertise allowed to present the recommendations, the implementation of which will allow the resumption of former activities. Taking into account the technical condition of individual elements of the building, the building is eligible for renovation in the nearest possible period. Until the recommendations are implemented, the building should stay closed for visitors and any activities.

Wypełniając m.in. uwagi PINB zawarte w postanowieniu z dnia 09.12.2022 r. należy wykonać następujące roboty naprawcze i zabezpieczające budynek :

1. Wykonać doraźną reperację podstawy filarów Nr 1-4 (oznaczenie na rzucie parteru – Załącznik Nr 1 do niniejszej ekspertyzy) za pomocą cegły pełnej, czerwonej, o wytrzymałości na ściskanie min. 12 MPa i zaprawy cementowo-wapiennej marki min. 5MPa. Zachować oryginalne wymiary obrysu.

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Fot.30 Uszkodzona podstawa filara Nr2 ....

... i filara Nr3

2. Naprawić wyrwę w połaci dachowej z pokryciem dachówką pokazaną na Fot.18
3. Odcinkami przemurować pionowe i skośne (Fot.6,7) rozwarstwienia muru

## Repair and maintenance recommendations

The following building repair works must be carried out:

1. Repair of the base of the pillars with solid, red brick and cement-lime mortar;
2. Repair the gap in the roof;
3. Repair of vertical and diagonal wall stratifications of the structural wall. Works should be done from the inside and outside to the depth of one brick;

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Fot.30 Uszkodzona podstawa filara Nr2 .... i filara Nr3

2. Naprawić wyrwę w połaci dachowej z pokryciem dachówką pokazaną na Fot.18
3. Odcinkami przemirować pionowe i skośne (Fot.6,7) rozwarstwienia muru poprzecznej ściany konstrukcyjnej w osi D-D za pomocą cegły pełnej, czerwonej o wytrzymałości na ściskanie min 12 MPa i zaprawy cementowo-wapiennej marki min 5MPa. Przemierowanie od strony wewnętrznej i zewnętrznej na głębokość min. 1 cegły (tj. 25 cm dla cegły pełnej)
4. Zamurować otwór na łączeniu ścian (Fot.31) za pomocą cegły pełnej o wytrzymałości na ściskanie min 12 MPa i zaprawy cementowo-wapiennej marki min 5MPa.



Fot.31 Ubytek muru przy pionowym tunelu schodów spiralnych

5. Ustawić kolumnę przesuwne rusztowania typu warszawskiego do H=9,00m i dokonać delikatnego „opakania” powierzchni sklepienia krzyżowego (Fot.32).



Fot.32 Fragment sklepienia krzyżowego. Widoczne reirtki tynku

4. Brick up the opening at the wall joint;
5. Remove all falling off remnants of plaster and brick surface;
6. Fix a protective net over the entire surface of the Main Hall.

After completing the works described above, the building of the former synagogue in Orla can be used and allowed to visit.