

JEWISH OLOMOUC

JEWISH CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF OLOMOUC

Specialized printed map
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1 THE JEWISH GATE Univerzitní Street 3

This four-storey tower inside the original Gothic fortification of the city, called the Jewish Gate, served as one of the entrances into the early Medieval Jewish settlement, which was built by Jewish merchants on the northern hillside of the current Michal's Hill (originally called Juliusberg), Julius' Hill in the twelfth century. Jewish Street (Judengasse) was located in the area of today's University Street and consisted of roughly twenty houses. The Jewish community (kehila) had a synagogue, located on the eastern side of Jewish Street until at least 1549, roughly on the site of today's entrance to the Arts Centre of Palacký University, and also probably two cemeteries. Jews were engaged mainly in trade but were also allowed to use their money in a different way, lending it on deposit or for interest. By means of the privilege of Statuta Judoarum (1254–1262) by Přemysl Otakar II, Jews were legally made servants of the royal chamber under the direct administration of the royal crown.



2 THE SMALL JEWISH GATE Bezručovy sady

In the fifteenth century, anti-Jewish sentiments escalated throughout the whole of Europe, leading to a number of pogroms and expulsions of the Jewish population. Jews posed growing economic competition, although religious-political issues also played a crucial role. In 1454, fourteen-year-old King Ladislaus the Posthumous, under diplomatic pressure from city representatives, issued official documents, expelling Jews from Moravian royal towns, including Oloмоuc. The Jews expelled from royal Oloмоuc founded communities in Prostějov, Loštice, Kojetín, Tovačov, Holešov, Lipník nad Bečovou and Přerov. They traded with money, worked as craftsmen in glass processing, textiles, metals and wine. The prosperity and population growth of the decentralized Jewish population in Moravia, administered by the Moravian Land Council with the Landesrabbiner (rav medinah) as its head, came to an end with the so-called Familiants Law (1726–1727) issued by King Charles VI. This decreased the number of Jewish families (*Numerus clausus*) and ordered the segregation of the Jewish population from the Christian one (*Translocation Rescript*).



3 THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY Slovenská Street

Two visits by John of Capistrano (1386–1456) were the impetus behind the construction of the Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary on the site of the former suburb Běláda (Pitlen). This Italian General Vicar of the Order of St. Francis, later canonized, was commissioned by Pope Nicholas V with a mission among Hussite heretics and visited Oloмоuc in 1451 and 1454. His fervent anti-heretic sermons against dissenters encouraged the expulsion of the Jews from the Moravian royal towns.

4 JEWISH PRAYER HOUSE Sokolská Street 7

The Jewish Religious Association in Oloмоuc (est. 1865) bought the building in 1867, and established a prayer house there. The architect Franz Kottas was assigned the task of adapting the building, and even installed very modern gas lighting. The space was divided into two separate parts, one for men and one for women, which were perpendicular to one other at the place where the bima (the elevated place



in a synagogue where the Torah is placed on a table during reading) and the sanctuary stood. Although the prayer house provided space for almost 300 people, it soon became insufficient for the established Jewish religious community (1892), and a decision was made to build a synagogue in 1894. Small private prayer houses were created by Jewish merchants, who could participate in the city markets for a fee from the middle of the seventeenth century, and who ran inns in the suburbs of Oloмоuc. The first of the prayer houses was established in the beginning of the nineteenth century in the suburbs called Běláda on the estate of the Fischel family (today's Libušina Street 9).



5 PÖTTINGEUM Palackého Street 10

The Institute of Earl Emanuel Ptting-Persing was opened in 1895 as one of the first Czech educational institutes for girls in Oloмоuc. The building not only contained classrooms but also provided boarding accommodation. One of the most impressive parts of the building is the ceremonial hall, today's school assembly hall, but its true architectural highlight is the Neo-Gothic chapel situated in the front part of the complex, which was designed by the Jewish architect, Jakob Gartner. Despite his Austrian origin, Emanuel Ptting-Persing (1819–1898) joined the Czech national movement and pushed for the development and support of the Czech language. He ranked among the important donors who supported the construction of new school buildings, and became a founding member of Matice školská association in Oloмоuc and the Czech singing association in Žerotín Oloмоuc.



6 HOUSE OF KARL FRÖHLICH Palackého Street 13

In this house, on former Alleestrasse, the violin virtuoso Karl Fröhlich (1917–1944) was born to a Jewish family. The fate of the Fröhlich family was greatly impacted by the Nazi persecution. Karl was sent to Terezin in 1941, where he appeared briefly as the first violinist of the Terezin Quartet in a propaganda documentary by Kurt Geron, *The Führer Gives the Jews a City*. Fröhlich was also a member of the Terezin orchestra that accompanied the performance of a children's opera called *Brundabár*, written by Hans Krása based on Adolf Hoffmeister's libretto. The premiere took place on 23 September 1943 and was played up until the moment when its actors were sent to the extermination camps. The Jewish community in Oloмоuc can also take pride in another important musician, namely the talented artist Leopold Fall (1873–1906), who lived in Vienna as of 1906, and became famous especially for his operettas, in which he combined classical Viennese melodies (waltz and polka) with modern influences (jazz).

7 VILLA OF THE GROAG FAMILY Mozartova Street 36

The villa of the family of Emanuel Groag (1886–1961) was designed by Jacques Groag, younger brother of Emanuel, between 1927–1928. This somewhat over-sized house had three residential floors with a winter garden, bedrooms, and a bathroom with access to the terrace. The ground floor contained not only a utility room, but also a flat for the driver and a garage. In 1939, several years after a fire in the family malt factory in Týnec, the owners, Emo and Gertrude Groag decided to sell the villa. They were deported together with their three children, Wilhelm, Hans Helmut and Gustav Leopold, to Terezin in 1942. After World War II, the family moved to Israel. Trude and Emo Groag settled in Kiryat Tivon and successfully devoted themselves to artistic activities. Emo was an accomplished caricaturist back in Europe, while Trude was a gifted poet and artist. Their oldest son Wilhelm was involved in the process of repatriation of the deported children. The new owner had the villa rebuilt, and its current version does not resemble the original at all.

8 BRIESS VILLA Na Vozovce Street 12

The Functionalist tenement villa was designed at the request of Paula (1881–1942) and Hans (1904–1973) Briess. The property and the villa of this important malting family in Oloмоuc was confiscated by the Gestapo in the 1940s. Hans managed to escape to London, but his wife was deported to Terezin and was murdered in Baranoviči in 1942. The life of the architect of the villa, Jacques Groag, who also came from an important Oloмоuc Jewish malting family, was also tragically impacted by the



anti-Jewish laws. This graduate of the Vienna University of Technology and private Bauschule of the architect Adolf Loos, worked mainly in Vienna. He also had some commissions in Oloмоuc, where he lived shortly with his wife, Hilda Blumberger (1903–1986, née Pick, using the name Jacqueline in exile), who was a painter and textile designer. Jacques designed several buildings, i.e. a magnificent villa for his brother Emanuel, or the house of the Bergman family (Videňská Street 18), the interior of the flat of Walter Pollack (Reslova Street 19), or the villa of Rudolf Seidler (Václavkova Street 2). In 1938, the couple fled to the United Kingdom, where they became renowned in interior and furniture design.

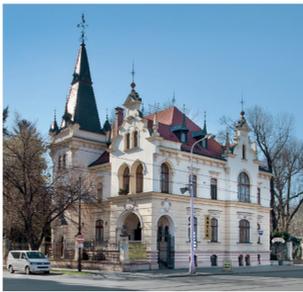


9 FRIEDRICH PATER – PHILOSOPHICAL UNION Kollárovo náměstí 7

In 1905, the building on Kollárovo náměstí (square) became the seat of the Chamber of Commerce and Trade in Oloмоuc. The lectures of the Philosophical Union were moved into the conference hall of this chamber in the 1920s. The branch of the Philosophical Union in Oloмоuc, which was established in 1923 by the philosopher, sociologist, and later rector of the renewed university in Oloмоuc, Josef Ludvík Fischer (1894–1973), was greatly motivated by efforts to connect up the Czech and German land (and therefore also Jewish) cultural scene. Its activities began on 4 October 1923 with a German lecture *Über das Komische* (About the Comic) by a Jewish philosopher from Oloмоuc, Friedrich Pater (1891–1955). Pater was connected with a group of Jewish German-speaking artists and intellectuals around Paul Engelmann, and worked with a translator from Samotičky, Otto František Babler (1901–1984). In 1940, Pater travelled illegally to Palestine. When he was released from a collection camp of the British Mandate Administration after several months, he settled in Haifa. He worked as an usher in a movie theatre and only continued with his philosophical activities to a limited extent.

10 ZWEIF VILLA Třída Spojenců Street 16

The building that was supposed to be constructed on this lucrative land was originally owned by Hermann and Adele Konstandt and was supposed to have a revolutionary interior in the spirit of the so-called Raumpfan. The authors of the project, the Oloмоuc architect and philosopher, Paul Engelmann, and his Viennese teacher, the architect Adolf Loos (1870–1933), designed a centrally unified space conceived as a system of rooms with different height levels, without a classic staircase. The project was never realized, and in 1929, the new owners, the Jewish factory owner, Otto Zweig (1874–1943), and his wife Anna, née Briess (1876–1942), decided on the Classicist country style designed by the architect Franz Kuhn (1889–1952). Originally from Prostějov, the large Zweig family extended the malting business empire in Oloмоuc with their successful company, Markus Zweig's Söhne. The Zweigs actively participated in the political lives of both the Prostějov and Oloмоuc Jewish community. Art also had an important role in the family. Max Zweig (1892–1992) was a playwright active in British Mandate Palestine/Israel since 1938, and his cousin, Fritz Zweig (1893–1984), living in exile in the USA, became internationally renowned in music.



11 HAMBURGER VILLA Videňská Street 2

The villa of an important maltster from Oloмоuc, Eduard Hamburger (1834–1901), was built in 1896 on a plot of land, where the city fortifications once stood. The design for a Historicist building was commissioned to the Viennese Jewish architect, Jakob Gartner. A number of important Jewish businessmen owning the lucrative land on Parková Street (today's Videňská Street) made an agreement with Gartner to design their family residences: Wilhelm Briess (house No. 4.), Josef Bergman (house No. 8.), his father-in-law Ignaz Briess (house No. 8.), and Hans Passinger (house No. 12). Gartner also designed several tenement buildings there (houses No. 5, 7, and 9) with spacious flats meeting the needs for modern, comfortable living, according to the Viennese model. Eduard Hamburger was not only an extraordinarily successful businessman in the area of malting, who had train tracks running all the way to his modern malthouse on Nová Ulice (opened in 1895), but he was also the chairman of the Jewish Religious Association, and since 1892, chairman of the Jewish Religious Community. He was elected the first Jewish councillor to the city council.

12 JEWISH CEMETERY Smetanovy sady

The sites where the Jewish community in Oloмоuc buried their dead changed over time. We can presume the existence of the first smaller burial site in the proximity of the Medieval synagogue on today's Univerzitní street. The second Medieval Jewish cemetery stood in the neighborhood of the German Povel settlement at the former Lower Gate, and in between today's railway stations Oloмоuc-Nová Ulice and Smetanovy sady. After the expulsion of the Jews from Oloмоuc, no more burials took place. Jews, who began to return to the city in 1848, were initially buried in the cemeteries of their home communities where they paid the membership fees. Only in 1867, when the Jewish religious association applied to the district governor's office for permission, a new cemetery was built in front of Terežská brána (Theresian Gate), thus once again in Smetanovy sady. In 1900, a new Jewish cemetery was built for the needs of the growing community in Neředín. The old Jewish cemetery was maintained up until the 1940s, when it was decimated by the Nazis. There are binding rules for Jewish cemeteries, according to which the gravestone is the property of the deceased, and his body must remain at the place of rest until the end of time.



13 APARTMENT BUILDING OF MORITZ FISCHER Nešverova Street 2

The tenement building on Nešverova Street 2 was built in 1901 for Moritz Fischer (1839–1906) by his long-term business partner and a respected builder from Oloмоuc, Karel Starý Sr. (1843–1920). The land upon which the house stands, still stood outside the city walls, on newly created building plots. Fischer received this plot with significant help from the city representative and café owner, Johann Rupprecht. There is currently a brewpub Moritz in the building, whose name refers to its original owner. Moritz Fischer moved to Oloмоuc from his hometown Kojetín in the 1860s and started business in construction soon after. Beginning in 1882, he worked with Karel Starý Sr. as well as with the Jewish architect Jakob Gartner. They created in cooperation a significant part of the development on today's Třída 1 Máje Street, in the former clerical district and past Terežská brána (Theresian Gate). Most of Fischer's companies went bankrupt in 1902 and the businessman himself died in Vienna, forgotten.

14 SYNAGOGUE Palachovo náměstí

The Oloмоuc synagogue used to stand on today's Palachovo náměstí (square) in front of Theresian Gate. The council of the Jewish Religious Community bought building plots for the synagogue and the adjacent house for the rabbi in 1894. The Synagogue, designed by the architect Jakob Gartner, was completed and solemnly consecrated under the leadership of the newly elected rabbi Berthold Oppenheim three years later. It was a two-storey longitudinal three-aisled building with a central eight-sided dome. The Oloмоuc synagogue met with a tragic fate during the Nazi occupation. In March 1939, it was set on fire by local Fascists, and in the winter of the same year, the city tore it down together with the house for the rabbi. Only the wooden pews and a few colorful stained-glass windows were preserved from the colorful and stood there until 1989.

15 THE OLOMOUC RABBINATE Palachovo náměstí

The building of the rabbinate, also designed by Jakob Gartner, was situated next to the synagogue and was torn down at the end of 1939. The Community offices were in the building, as well as the flats for the rabbi and teacher, the library, study room and common hall. The first rabbi of the Jewish religious community in Oloмоuc was Berthold Oppenheim (1867–1942). He was born in Ivančice to the family of Rabbi Joachim Heinrich Oppenheim (1832–1891). He received his education at rabbinical seminaries in Wrocław and Berlin. He was a member of the progressive stream in Judaism, and supported education and interest in Jewish history and culture. He taught Hebrew at the Oloмоuc public grammar school and was also engaged in other institutions. He became the founder of the Union of Rabbis in Moravia and Silesia, and published extensively. He witnessed the burning of the Oloмоuc synagogue in 1939, which he helped establish. He was murdered in Terezin, where he was deported with his wife, Marta, from Treblinka.



16 GERMAN STATE HIGH SCHOOL IN OLOMOUC Tř. Svobody Street 26

The German State Grammar School was established in 1850 with the transformation of the original six-year Latin School. When the number of students increased, the institution was moved in 1902 from the building on today's Univerzitní Street to a new and much larger building on today's Třída Svobody 26 and 28. In 1867, the Czech grammar school Slovanek Gymnázium was also established, which became an important centre for the development of Czech culture and language. Most of the Oloмоuc Jewish middle-class families had a preference for German institutions for the education of their children. Moravian Jews only began to identify more with the Czech language and culture in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Significant graduates of the German state grammar school included the philosopher Edmund Husserl, the architect Jacques Groag and the philosopher Hans Zwi Batscha (1922–2012). Batscha was the leader of the Zionist youth movement and participated in the organization of the relocation of Czechoslovak youth to Israel at the end of the 1940s. His father, professor of chemistry at the German state grammar school, is buried in the Oloмоuc-Neředín cemetery.

17 PALACE ON MOŘICKÉ SQUARE Opletalova Street 2

The designation "Palace on Mořické náměstí (square)" has been used as a grand nickname for the flat of the parents of the architect, the philosopher and poet Paul Engelmann (1891–1966), located in the back of the building opposite the church of St. Maurice. Ernestine Engelmann, née Brecher (1867–1933), born in Prostějov, and her husband, the businessman Max Engelmann (1856–1930) were extremely literate and art-loving people, and raised their children to love art as well. Paul Engelmann also had two younger siblings, Peter and Anna. Peter Engelmann (1892–1939), performing under the pseudonym Eng, established himself as a graphic artist, cartoonist and animator. After 1918, he lived in Vienna where he became a pioneer in animated film. He moved to Berlin in the beginning of the 1930s with his wife, the graphic artist Anna Pölz (1898–1939), and continued to focus on the graphics of advertising posters and film commercials. The Engelmans moved to Palestine in 1938 to join Peter's older brother



Paul. The local climate did not suit them, however, and that same year they returned to Oloмоuc. They committed suicide here after the Nazi occupation began. Anny Engelmann (1897–1942), the youngest of the siblings, was also a talented artist. Under the pseudonym Suska, she established herself as mainly an illustrator of Czech and German books for children. Anny was transported to Terezin in 1942 and then to Malý Trostinec, where she was murdered.

ENGELMANN'S CIRCLE

During World War I and in the interwar years, Paul Engelmann gathered around himself a circle of German speaking Jewish artists and intellectuals. In his parents' flat, the playwright Max Zweig, his cousin, the conductor Fritz Zweig, the philosopher and art theorist Friedrich Pater, and the lawyer Heinrich Groag met regularly. In the autumn of 1916, Ludwig Wittgenstein, who completed his artillery training in Oloмоuc, met with them as well. This stay had a significant influence on his major work *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*. They discussed philosophy and art at these meetings, while Paul Engelmann refreshed the conservative inclined cultural environment in Oloмоuc with his thinking originating in Viennese Modernism, especially the ideas of his teachers, the journalist Karl Kraus and the architect Adolf Loos. Engelmann began actively working as an architect in the 1920s. His foreign work was more prominent, however, for example his colony of modern houses in Galician Stanislawow, or later his work in British Mandate Palestine/Israel, which he left for as an active Zionist in 1934. The Functionalist Yadin villa in Haifa, which is still standing today, ranks among the most significant buildings he designed in Israel.



18 APARTMENT BUILDING OF HERMANN BRACH Žižkovo náměstí 3

Hermann Brach moved to Oloмоuc from Přerov at the turn of the 1890s. This son of a successful Přerov businessman married Ernestine Graus, and the family gradually grew by seven children, six of whom lived to adulthood. Hermann first rented and later bought W. Scholten's factory in the Oloмоuc district of Běláda and together with his brother Leopold was able to build it over time into one of the largest export malting plants in Austria-Hungary. Hermann was also an active member of the Jewish religious community. He became an official of the committee for the construction of the synagogue, where he had the opportunity to meet the future architect of his own tenement building, Jakob Gartner. The construction of the Neo-renaissance building took place during 1895–1896 on today's Žižkovo náměstí (square). The original owners are still commemorated up to this day by the monogram of the capital letters H and B hidden in the ornament of a decorative lattice above the entrance door.



19 JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN OLOMOUC Komenského Street 7

The building on Komenského Street 7 is currently the seat of the Jewish religious community in Oloмоuc. The Jewish religious association was founded in Oloмоuc in 1865, while the burial society Chevra Kadisha came into existence 4 years earlier. It became a full-fledged, independent Jewish religious community with a rabbi in 1894, and successfully functioned until the beginning of World War II. This included the judicial districts for the city of Oloмоuc, the Oloмоuc surroundings, Šternberk and Dvorce. While membership in the synagogue association was voluntary, after the establishment of the religious community, membership became mandatory for Jewish residents. In 1942, all the Jewish communities in Bohemia and Moravia were officially disbanded, and almost four thousand people were deported to Terezin and to various concentration camps. After the end of World War II in 1945, the Jewish community was reestablished when about 200 Jewish survivors returned to Oloмоuc. The independent Jewish community in Oloмоuc functioned up until 1962, and once again since 1991. Petr Papoušek has been its chairman since 2004, and the Jewish religious community has currently over 160 members. In addition to the prayer room, a kosher kitchen was built in the Jewish religious community centre.

20 JEWISH ASSOCIATIONS IN OLOMOUC Komenského Street 7

The expansion of the association activities began first after the enactment of a new law concerning associations in 1867, and the Constitution granting Jews the same rights as the rest of the monarchy inhabitants. At the end of the nineteenth century, secular associations gradually began to gain ground. Associations focused on physical education were particularly popular. In 1901, the first Jewish sports association was founded in Oloмоuc, which changed its name to TJ Maccabi in 1927. Zionist associations were also popular. In 1897, the first branch of the Zion association was founded in Oloмоuc, whose activities were expanded by a youth organization Maccabi Hacair, a youth tourist association Techelet Lavan, and a student association Geullah. All the activities of the associations were forcibly ended with the beginning of the German occupation. Currently, the sports club Maccabi Oloмоuc is very active again, with its members participating in the world Maccabiah games.

EGON REDLICH

Egon Redlich (1916–1944) was one of the important members of the Oloмоuc branch of Maccabi Hacair. His family declared not only the Jewish faith, but also Jewish nationality after the establishment of Czechoslovakia. When he was 17, he became a madrich (group leader, tutor). When he turned 18, he had to leave the association because of its statutes, as he had not submitted his compulsory application to move to British Mandate Palestine. He did not stop working, however, with youth even during his law studies at Charles University in Prague. After he was forced to interrupt his studies in 1939, he began to work as a deputy headmaster of the Jugendlehre in Prague, which prepared Jewish youth for emigration to Palestine. In 1941, he was selected as a member of the staff preparing the conditions for the functioning of the Terezin ghetto, to which he was deported. Many facts about his activities are known thanks to his diary, which was discovered in the attic of one of the houses in Terezin in 1967. The notes in his diary end on 16 October 1944, when Redlich was deported with his wife and six-month son to Auschwitz.



21 VILLA OF VLADIMÍR MÜLLER Čermachova Street 6

The villa for the director of the Land Office, Vladimír Müller (1889–1967), bore significant traces of the architect Adolf Loos and Engelmann's lifelong role model and teacher. Engelmann met him in Vienna. After year-long studies at the Vienna University of Technology, he enrolled in Loos' private Bauschule, and soon became his closest coworker as a draftsman. In 1913, at the invitation of Paul Engelmann, Loos personally visited Oloмоuc and gave an enormously successful public lecture, entitled *On Walking, Sitting, Lying, Sleeping, and Drinking* in the German House of Culture. This was the only villa built according to Engelmann's design in Oloмоuc. The house was built in 1927–1928 and was designed in an austere style, which combined the cube of Loos and Engelmann's own refined sense for a 'poetically' tuned living space. Between 2012 and 2018, the villa was sensitively reconstructed by the Voda family under the guidance of the architect Michal Šborwitz.

22 TENEMENT BUILDING OF ALBERT REDLICH Pekařská Street 17

The tenement building of Albert Redlich on Pekařská Street 17 was designed by the architect Jakob Gartner in 1897, and represents many of Gartner's tenement architecture designs, which imparted a specific character to a number of streets in Oloмоuc. Jakob Gartner (1865–1821) was born in Přerov and graduated from the construction department of the Secondary Technical School in Brno. In 1886, he received the position of assistant to the architect Karel Korn in the Silesian region of Bielsk. He completed his education with a two-year period of study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, where he was fundamentally influenced by Karel von Hausenauer. Hausenauer's way of increasing the dramatic effect of the final form of the building, by freely mixing historical styles, represented a strong impetus for the work of the young architect. In 1888, Jakob Gartner opened his own architectural office in Vienna and immediately acquired several contracts. Thanks to his contacts with the Briess family, he also received commissions in Oloмоuc. He completed here a number of designs, especially for members of the newly established Oloмоuc Jewish religious community and private villas, he won the tender for the planned construction of the Oloмоuc synagogue. Due to the amount of work, Gartner even set up a second office in Oloмоuc on the Lower Square. He returned, throughout his life, to Vienna, where he died in April in 1921.



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1403–1454 ... the first localized Jewish settlement



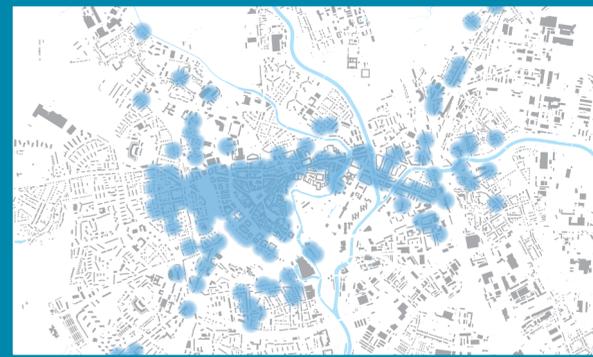
1454–1848 ... expulsion of Jews from Moravian royal cities



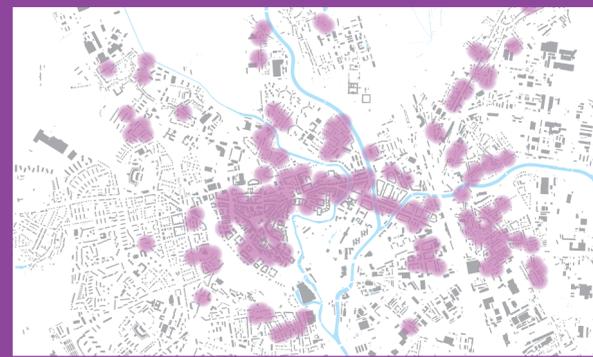
1848–1918 ... renewal and development of the Jewish community



1918–1939 ... the birth of an independent Czechoslovakia



1939–1945 ... World War II. and the Shoah



Legend for the map:

- Green circle: sites on the sightseeing tour
- Green building icon: synagogue
- Yellow building icon: private prayer house
- Red building icon: rabbinat, Jewish Religious Community
- Blue building icon: inn
- Orange building icon: orphanage, poorhouse, retirement home
- Red building icon: cemetery

Timeline of Jewish presence in Olomouc:

- 1403–1454
- 1454–1848
- 1848–1918
- 1918–1939
- 1939–1945
- 1945–1989
- 1989–2021

Inhabited area and its approximate boundaries (hatches represent illegal housing)

Scale: 0 100 200 300 m
1 : 10 000

