

Summary

The borders of today's Silesian Voivodeship mark an area that is extremely diverse in terms of history, culture, religion, politics, society, and customs. An inseparable element of the cultural mosaic of the region is the Jewish culture, the relicts of which, unfortunately, in many cases have been erased from the landscape. Jewish cemeteries, in many towns and villages of the Silesian voivodeship, are the only remaining relicts of material evidence of the centuries-old contribution of Jews to the history of the region. They are an extremely valuable architectural and cultural heritage, necessary to preserve the cultural identity of the areas that form in the voivodeship.

The subject of research of this dissertation was the architectural and spatial heritage of the necropolises. Currently, there are 64 known Jewish cemeteries within the voivodeship, established from the second half of the 16th century to the first half of the 20th century. The group reflects the diversity of the voivodeship's territories - in the area of the study, there are cemeteries of various locations, sizes, compositions and architectural solutions. Nowadays, according to the research carried out, a significant number of cemeteries is in a state requiring urgent intervention in order to protect it. On many of them, no elements of the architectural and urban composition or only relicts of matzevot have survived, while individual ones have survived to the present day without significant damage.

The discussed topic is important and current due to the unique cultural value of the heritage, its state of preservation, and the urgent need for protection. An important impulse to raise an issue, defined as a scientific problem of the below study, was the incompleteness of the state of knowledge - the lack of comprehensive scientific studies on Jewish cemeteries in the field of architectural and urban heritage.

The scientific aim was to answer the scientific problem, to fill the knowledge gap. The work is divided into two parts, the first of which is devoted to general and detailed research, and the second contains cemeteries forms and selected mortuary houses forms. General research describes the cultural conditions of Jewish cemeteries, while detailed research presents the history of Jewish cemeteries on the background of the history of the Jewish community, location, and composition of complex. All elements of the composition were examined, i.e. cubature objects, fences, communication routes and burial quarters, tombstones, and greenery. The work also presents state of preservation and valorization of the necropolises and the funeral homes located on them. The research was completed with the formulation of conclusions and guidelines for the protection of cemeteries and preburial houses.

The work also realizes the methodological and application goals - the developed methodology and research tools can be used in the research of cemeteries outside the voivodeship, and the study itself may constitute the basis for detailed, profound conservation research. The territorial scope of the research is identical to the area of activity of the voivodeship conservator of monuments, so the work may contribute to the systemic protection of the cemeteries heritage.

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Keywords:

architectural heritage, cultural heritage, Jewish cemeteries, Jewish preburial houses, heritage protection