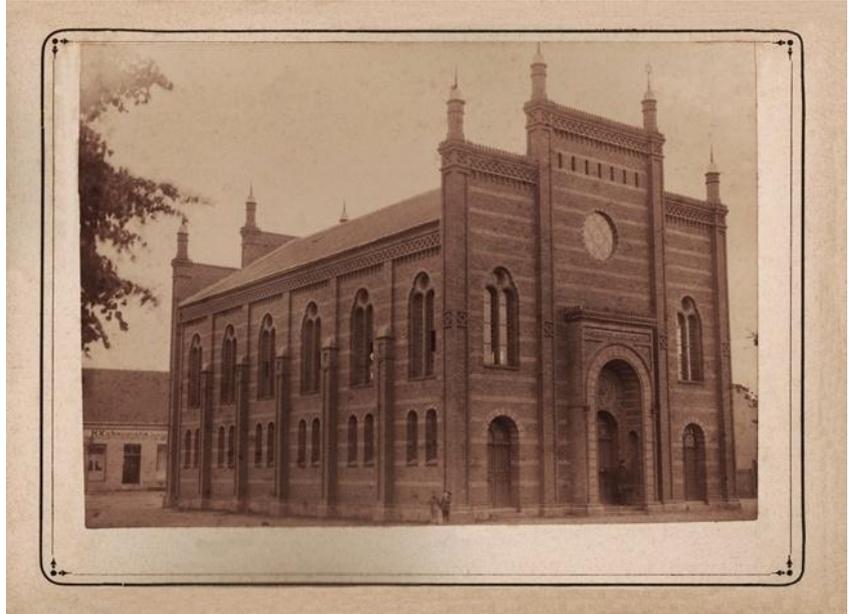


Synagogue

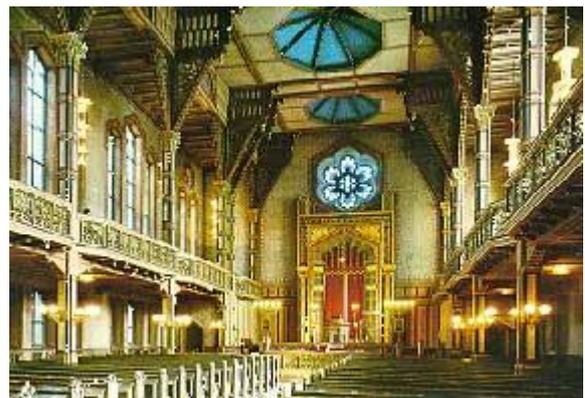
Many legends and parables are associated with the synagogue in Złotów, but they are not always true. According to the one of them the building survived with no damages and changes up to autumn 1938 (only 59 years). The situation of Jewish people in Germany after Hitler's authority accession affected the synagogue. It was sold by Jewish community and destroyed before Kristallnacht (which happened at night on 9-10 November 1938). This fact made this synagogue outstanding among other European synagogues, especially German ones. The Jewish community in Złotów, counting in 1938 about 50 members was not able to preserve such a big construction. In the situation of increasing pressure and rebellion of Jewish economy (when Hitler became the leader of The Germans), Jewish community in Złotów was forced to make a radical decision. It had been decided to ruin the synagogue.

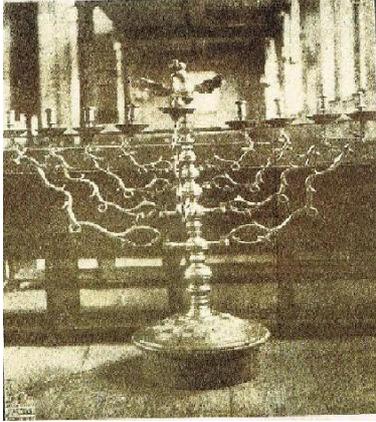


It's not known who gave the idea about realisation selling-buying of the temple. Someone said that the mayor of Złotów, Otto Heidemann, asked residents of the town to collect money for buying the synagogue. He promised that he would remake it on a public place. The beginning of the devastation of the building dates on 18th October 1938, but finally it was pulled down at Crystal Night. From Erich Hoffman's chronicle and from relations of deceased witnesses, we know that devastation of the synagogue started in October (precise day isn't known yet). It was done by soldiers from 32 sappers' battalion in Szczecin-Podjuchy. Finally, the devastation was done at Crystal Night on 9th November 1938.

The building of the headquarters of the Jewish community was located on Paderewski Square. A half-timbered synagogue was raised in the middle of the square in XVIII century. This edifice was replaced with a new brick synagogue built in years 1878 - 1879. It's size was 15m x 24.20m, the thickness of the foundation was 0.70m. The synagogue was destroyed by the Nazis at Kristallnacht (Crystal Night) which took place in November 1938.

The interior of the synagogue in Złotów was similar to a decor of a synagogue in Stockholm. It contained many ornaments made of wood.





Brass Hanukkah candlestick - gift from the Polish king August II for the Jewish community, in the background the interior of the synagogue.

The current memorable place of the synagogue in Złotów.



Source: Z.Korpusik-Jelonkowa, M.Nowicka, J.Jelonek, K.Tyranowicz, Pozdrowienia ze Złotowa, pocztówki z lat 1898-1945, Muzeum Ziemi Złotowskiej, Złotów 2007