

Map Corner

1825 Cadastral Map of Obertyn

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OBERTYN (also Обертин and אוברטין) is a small town of 3,000 people near Kolomyia (Коломия, Kolomea) in western Ukraine. Roughly the same number of people lived there when the [1825 cadastral map of Obertyn](#) was made by the Austrian Empire almost 200 years ago. Before WWII it was twice that size, with roughly equal populations of Ukrainian, Polish, and Jewish residents.

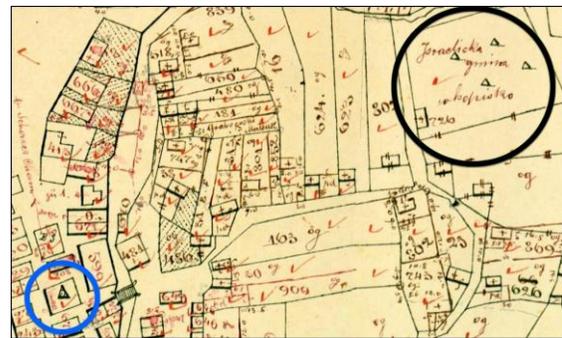
Like all cadastral maps, this map documents fixed property for tax purposes: land parcels and buildings by type, roads, waterways, and a few other features. The typical mapping process in the Empire began with a field sketch and a complete, accurate land survey; one or more intermediate-stage maps were then drawn from those measurements and field-checked to correct errors; finally, a precise map was lithographed as the official record, and all properties were value-assessed in separate registers. The final maps were drafted at high scale (typically 1:2880), showing tremendous detail and usually spanning over several large paper sheets.

The 1825 map is an example of the intermediate stage of development: it is accurate enough to recognize the layout of the town, but map sheet edges do not align well across property lines and other land features. The map already shows numbers of buildings (in black) and parcels (in red), allowing today's researchers to correlate other records (vital, school, land, tax, census, etc.) to specific houses and places in town. As a bonus for genealogists and historians, this map (like many intermediate examples) includes hand-

written landowner names where the parcels are large enough to carry them.

This map also demonstrates the miraculous survival of early Galician cadastral maps through time, wars, and change: neither the initial field sketch nor the final lithographed map from this 1825 survey has survived, and other intermediate-stage maps may also have been lost. Only two sheets still exist of what was probably a 15-sheet set. Those two sheets were quarter-cut so they could be hard-backed and folded for transport into the field by the surveyor. Despite the damage and loss, this fragment covers most of the market and residential center of the town, the most important parts for many researchers.

In the map excerpt on p. 22, I have added colored circles to highlight feature types which will interest many researchers: the market square (red), main church (yellow), main synagogue (blue), Jewish cemetery (black), and the labeled land and house of resident Magdalena Szymańska (violet).



Many towns were surveyed and mapped more than once under Austrian rule (some five or more times over a period of more than 80 years); for Obertyn, [the 1877 cadastral map](#) (see [segment above](#)) covers the entire town, including the synagogue and Jewish cemetery from 50 years earlier. Both maps and many more are on Geshet Galicia's online [Map Room](#) for free use.

Map on page 22: A town center excerpt from the [1825 cadastral map of Obertyn](#); original paper map preserved in the [Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv](#)

Markt Obertüpi

