

Map Corner

Nadwórna 1847 Field Sketch

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GESHER GALICIA RECENTLY acquired new digital scans of the 1847 cadastral field sketch of the eastern Galician town of Nadwórna (present-day Nadvirna, Ukraine). This acquisition gives us the opportunity to better study the town and its evolution over a century and a half of development and change. Genealogists and historians are already using [this newly assembled map](#), published this month on Gesher Galicia's free online Map Room, to connect a wide variety of records and other data to create a multidimensional picture of Nadwórna across time, and as a basis for further research.

Field Sketches: Rough but Ready

Like other field sketches, the Nadwórna map illustrates the first walking survey of the town, drawn from visual estimates and forming the framework for progressively refined plane table and chain measurements. As drawn, the map only approximates the features of each section of the town; in some instances, the sizes and locations of those features are wildly inaccurate. By the end of the survey process, final maps were produced with remarkable accuracy, but for many towns like Nadwórna, copies of those final maps did not survive to the present. With these caveats in mind, the interpretation of a field-sketch map like this one can be quite challenging for technicians and users alike.

On the other hand, field sketches include an important feature which is valuable to family historians with ancestral roots in the town: all taxable property is directly labeled with the house number of the property owner—the same residential address that appears in vital registers, censuses, and other records. Outside the dense central part of the town, the names of property owners are written directly on many land parcels. All this information can be used to create a spatially informed historical timeline for individual households and for an entire town.

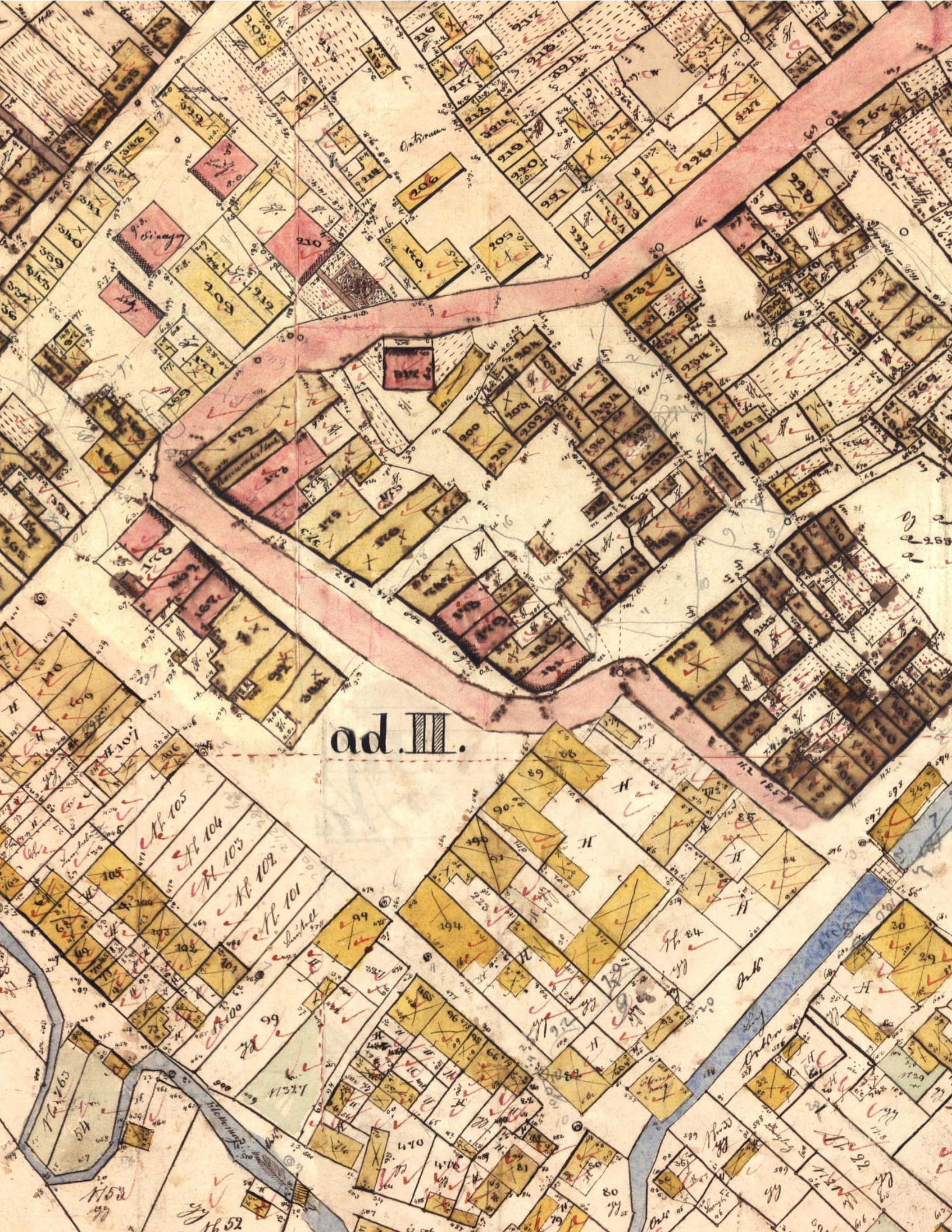
Despite the challenges, a coarse geographic alignment of the 1847 map sheets was possible because some features of the Nadwórna town center and its major roads are still largely intact 170 years later.

In the composite map shown on page 28 and in greater detail on the Map Room online, the precise location of former structures between permanent geographical markers is not known, but at least, the relative placement of buildings and land parcels should be correct. This makes a virtual walk through the historical town possible, whether online or in person.

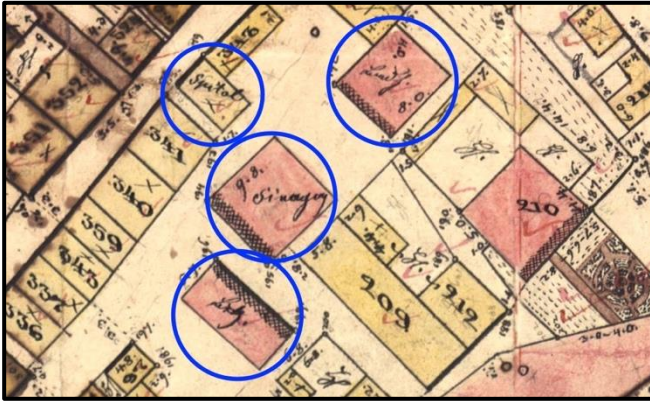
The Town and Its People

In 1847, Nadwórna exhibited an unusually complex town “square,” which suggests expansion of the business district over decades, or even centuries, from an original small *rynek* (town square) to a larger nested grouping of buildings to serve the growing and diversifying population of the town.

On the northwest side of the center, the map shows a dense block of Jewish community buildings. They include at least one synagogue, a hospital, and other structures serving religious functions, recognizable by labels in place of house numbers (*for details, see the image on page 29*).



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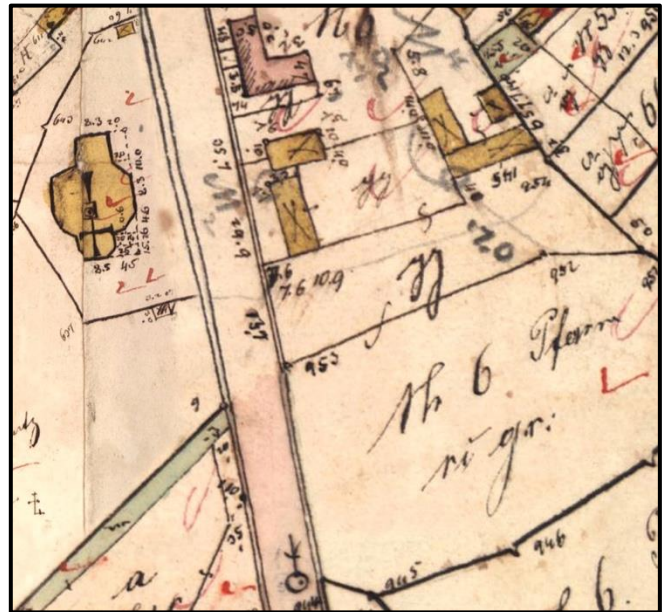
Four Jewish community buildings in 1847 (circled)

Although many of the homes in this area appear modest (small wooden structures, marked by the yellow shading), the home of at least one family of means is present. At least three buildings make up part of the property of house 169, behind one of the Jewish community buildings to the side of the main road through town (*visible in the full-page image on the previous page*). Today none of the original Jewish community structures are preserved, and the downtown area is much changed overall.

It may be tempting to view the town history through sepia-tinted glasses and label this area as *the* former Jewish neighborhood, but in reality, most areas of nineteenth-century Nadwórna would have had significant numbers of Jewish residents. In the 1880 population census of Galicia—the first Austro-Hungarian survey of the province to produce detailed demographic data for the religious affiliation of the empire's citizens at the settlement level—barely one in nine Galitzianers was recorded as Jewish. But in Nadwórna, some 4,182 Jewish residents were counted, out of a total population of 6,552. Thus, Jews made up more than 60 percent of the town at the time, and one would have found mostly Jewish neighborhoods in much of the central part of Nadwórna, like the one shown on the map excerpt above. These neighborhoods included residences and shops, as well as private prayer houses and other smaller religious spaces not specifically marked on this map.

Christians made up a minority of Nadwórna's residents, but their presence is also well recorded on the historical map, though it has changed in significant ways since 1847. On the map, three conspicuous churches are shown just outside the town center.

Of those, the wooden Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church to the north still stands in the same location, and it serves as an anchor point for overlaying the historical map against today's coordinates. Then to the southwest, the large creek-side Roman Catholic church remains in the same location but has been rebuilt with its nave on a different axis. Lastly, a wooden Greek Catholic church, which stood by the main road southeast of the town center in 1847, is gone today. It has been replaced by a larger church on what was labeled parish (*pfarre*) land on the historical map. The original adjacent Christian cemetery is still intact and has enlarged.



The Greek Catholic church at its original location in 1847

The map also records a large manor house (*dwór*) east of the town center, including many residential and service buildings, a decorative courtyard, and two large formal gardens. Historically, Nadwórna and the surrounding villages were a feudal

territory (demesne) owned by the Cetnar noble family. Modern internet maps tag the estate the “castle ruin,” which likely dates to the time when the Cetnars controlled the lives of Jews, serfs, and others living within their possession.



The manor house complex and gardens

The large estate passed to the Austrian treasury in 1787, and Nadwórna became a key center of salt distribution produced in nearby saltworks. In 1845, the properties were sold to Archduke John of Austria, the emperor’s brother, for a surprisingly large sum of money. The map bears annotations around the manor house referring to the estate of “Johann k.k. Hoheit Erzherzog von Oesterreich” (Archduke John of Austria), though in 1846 the property had already passed to Count Andreas Renard.

Current Work and Future Plans

At least five other historical maps of Nadwórna, with varying numbers of surviving sheets, are preserved in the archives but have not been inspected yet. Some of those may provide partial coverage and additional data for later years, illuminating intermediate geographic and historical changes between 1847 and the present day. The recent

reassembly of this 1847 field sketch brought color and clarity to the digital images, enabling much easier reading and interpretation of the map.

Descendants of Nadwórna are currently compiling a variety of historical records with house numbers from the [All Galicia Database](#) and other sources as part of a pilot Gesher Galicia data project, which aims to make selected maps interactive for advanced genealogical and historical research. We hope to report on this project in a Map Corner column in a future issue of this journal.

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The Gruberger sisters from Nadwórna, from left to right: Dina (1910–1979); Rechma (1915–2010); Feiga (1912–1997); circa 1918. Submitted by Teresa Pollin (Feiga’s daughter), Gesher Galicia member.