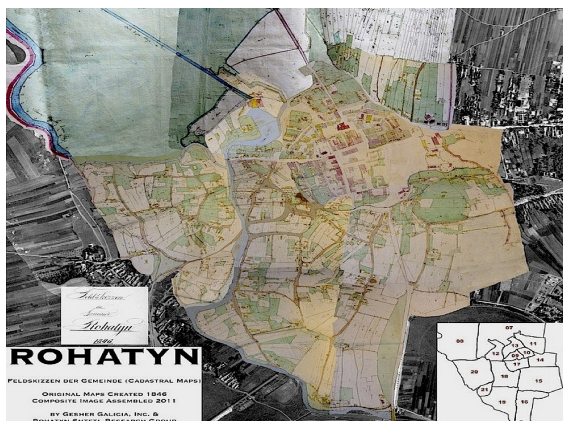


Historic Cadastral Maps as a Resource for Genealogists: Rohatyn 1846 Map as Example



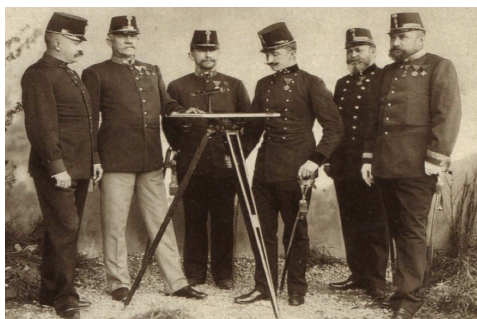
Introduction

The term *cadastral* is used to describe the registers and maps which record locations and features of real property and information about a property's owner and often its value. The cadastral registration system has been in use for about 2000 years, and in many countries today still forms the basis for legal documentation of land and immovable property.

Under the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the creation of a cadastral map for a particular town involved a series of steps, beginning first with a rough field sketch (*Feldskizzen*), through one or more intermediate drawings (*Indikationsskizzen*), to a carefully drafted, multi-colored, and lithographed final cadastral map (*Katasterkarte*). The final map shows property in great detail (land and buildings) and other man-made elements (roads, canals, bridges, orchards), as well as natural features (rivers, creeks, forests, waste land). *Feldskizzen* and *Indikationsskizzen* also often have hand-written annotations of the names of property owners and identifying land or buildings owned by religious communities (such as monasteries, cemeteries, hospitals, and synagogues).

Cadastral Surveys in Galicia

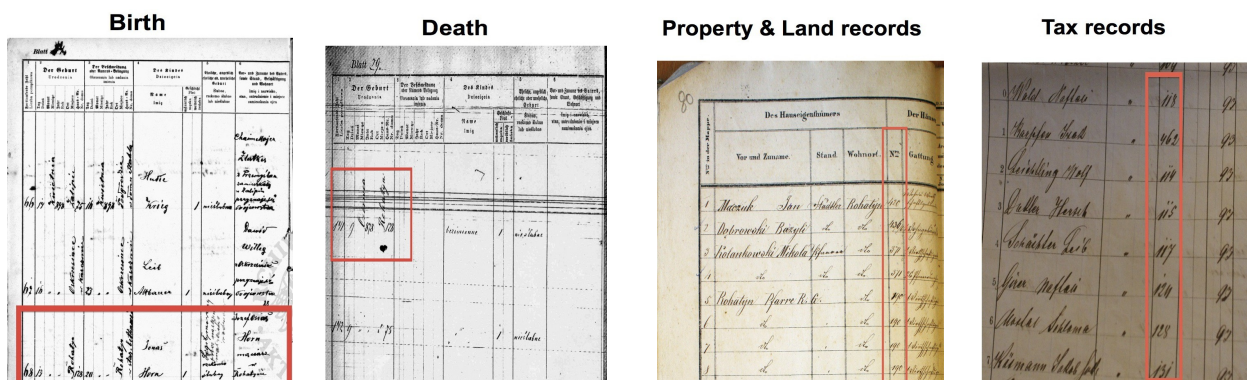
A series of cadastral land surveys, valuations, and mappings were made throughout the Austrian Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries, with the purpose of making property taxation more equitable. Galicia was surveyed progressively from west to east beginning in 1824. The effort was massive: the land survey area (including the Kingdom of Hungary) measured almost 700,000 square kilometers, included about 50 million properties, and as many as 40,000 map sheets for Galicia alone.



Sadly, only a fraction of these maps for Galicia survive today, scattered across several different state and local archives, predominantly in Ukraine and Poland.

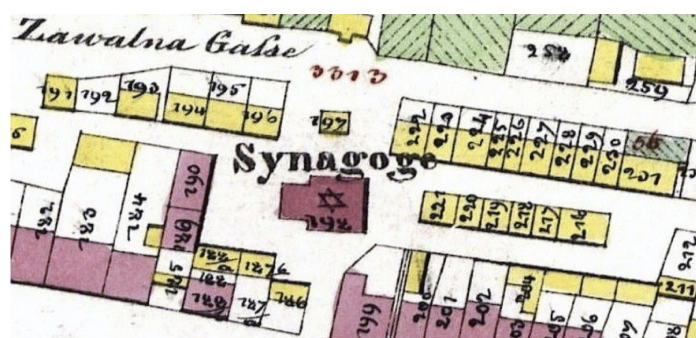
Why Important to Genealogists

Although many types of maps can be useful to genealogists, cadastral maps are particularly valuable because house numbers are usually listed on the vital records (birth, marriage, death) which we obtain from archives.



Thus, it may be possible to establish or confirm relationships between individuals and families where, for example, the same house number appears for different individuals.

Where the land and tax records also exist, less apparent family details can emerge (such as whether the head of household owned or rented the family property and the value of that property). Such details can shed light on a family's economic position in the broader community.



Once a house number is known and the house located on the cadastral map, an even more complex picture emerges. For example, a house located across the street from a synagogue may mean the family living there was particularly religious; a teacher living adjacent to the local high school may provide a research lead where she exercised her profession.

In the bigger picture, community changes can also be revealed where cadastral maps and records exist for multiple years: more businesses appearing on a later map around the rynek (market square) may suggest more prosperous times for the community; likewise for a new neighborhood opening in a new section of town. A later map may reveal buildings now missing, the result of community redevelopment, fire, or wartime destruction. Such broader changes may also be reflected within individual families, when, for example, a family shown living in one house on an earlier map is now living in another house on a later map - a change which may be the result of a death or re-marriage, economic conditions, or lifestyle choice.

Rohatyn 1846 Cadastral Map

As mentioned, cadastral maps were produced often on multiple paper sheets. Practically speaking, this means that the individual sheets need to be reunited if the whole town is to be viewed at once.

Depending on the size of the town, the number of sheets can range from 2 to 100, and they are usually held in an archive as such, loosely layered within a large stiff folder.

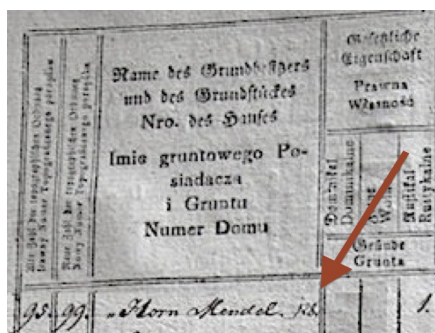
Rohatyn's 1846 map had all 20 of its original sheets.



My Horn Family of Rohatyn As Example

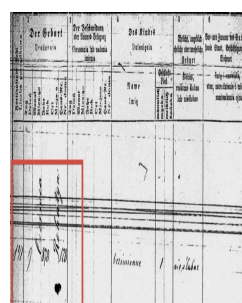
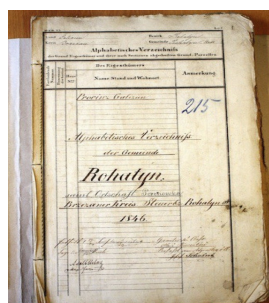
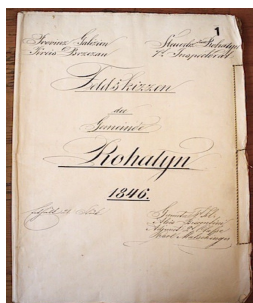
Locating a family within a town often begins with a vital record or a land/tax record. For Rohatyn, there is an 1820 land record register, but unfortunately no corresponding cadastral map.

The 1820 register lists a *Mendel Horn* as owner of House 128, suggesting this man is somehow related to me. Why? Because I own several early 20th century vital records for Horn family members also living in House 128 (discussed in detail below).



Thus, I can work backwards using land records and house numbers. I can push my research to earlier generations. While these records will not tell me *how* Mendel Horn is related to me - or if he is in my direct line - they at least strongly suggest that (1) he is a family relation, and (2) there was continuity in where the Horns lived in Rohatyn (House 128) over multiple generations.

Only one cadastral map of Rohatyn is known to survive and it is from 1846. But, fortunately, for this year we have *both* map and land record register.



The 1846 land register shows a *Mender Storn* on the list living in House 128.

Is *Mender Storn* of 1846 and *Mendel Horn* of 1820 the same person? Probably.

The script for "H" and "St" appear similar in both 1820 and 1846 entries. Perhaps the surveyor's field notes were incorrectly transcribed, or a subsequent re-writing introduced an error?

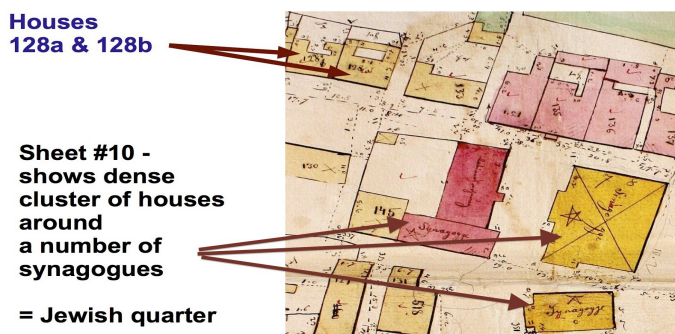
N ^o in der Mappe.	Des Hauseigenthümers			Der Häuser	
	Vor und Zuname.	Stand.	Wohnort.	N ^o	Gattung.
15	Katz	22 Itzig	st.	22 st.	1284 Hofgebäude
16	Storn	Mender	st.	st.	1284 Hofgebäude

What is perhaps more interestingly with this 1846 record is that House 128 now appears to have been split into two residences, *a* and *b*: *Mender Storn* is in House 128a and an *Itzig Katz* is in House 128b.

Is the splitting of House 128 into two separate units an indication of hard economic times for the Horn family by 1846?

My early 20th century vital records no longer show House 128 as broken into *a* and *b*; the residence is back to being a single, undivided House 128 (see 1898 birth record, below, for Jonas Horn).

And, the Rohatyn cadastral map of 1846 reveals that this was a neighborhood which was predominantly Jewish with multiple synagogues and community buildings.



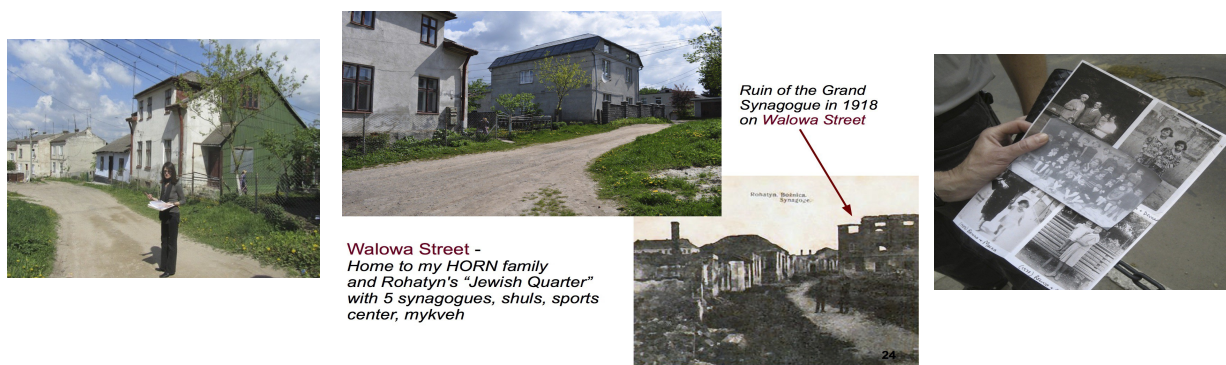
Here is the 1898 birth record for Jonas Horn (my grandmother's uncle). It shows not only House 128, but also that Jonas was *named* one week later in Rohatyn's "Old Bethlehem" synagogue.

Der Geburt						Der Taufhandlung oder Namens-Belegung						Des Kindes					
Urodnenia						Obnazheniye lub. imeniam						Dziwiecznia					
Tag	Monat	Jahr	St.	Ort	St. d. Ort	Tag	Monat	Jahr	St.	Ort	St. d. Ort	Name	Imig.	St.	Monat	Jahr	St. d. Ort
13		1898		Rohatyn		13		1898		Rohatyn		Jonas					
												Horn					



By comparison, his younger sister Sime - born in 1900 - was *named* in Rohatyn's "Great" synagogue. For some of Jonas' and Sime's other siblings, only "*synagogue*" is listed, leaving me to wonder which of the 5 Jewish buildings in the neighborhood of House 128 was the actual location.

In 2011, I used Rohatyn's 1846 cadastral map to walk this neighborhood where my family lived for generations.



Making Cadastral Maps More Useful to Genealogists

As mentioned, it is not uncommon for cadastral maps to include multiple individual sheets. Rohatyn had 20 individual sheets that - when re-united - give an historic snapshot of the town.

The process of digitally reuniting individual sheets to create a single image map is time-consuming and technical. Each individual sheet needs to be aligned and stretched to each other, and then all the sheets stitched together. Roads, rivers, and borders often do not match because of distortions in the photographing process in the archives where the maps are located, or because of errors in surveying and drafting by the original map maker. Many of these distortions, if not too severe, can be corrected in the blending process, but it requires a special software program and a lot of patience. The process is demonstrated in these slides.

Below, Rohatyn's complete 1846 map layered over (1) a current google satellite image of the town, and (2) a 1944 German aerial photo of the town:



By adjusting the transparency, we can see how Rohatyn changed between the 1846 map and modern google:

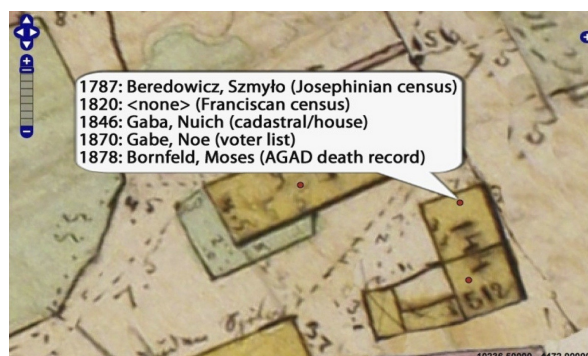


Cadastral Maps: Other Great Uses Today.....and Tomorrow

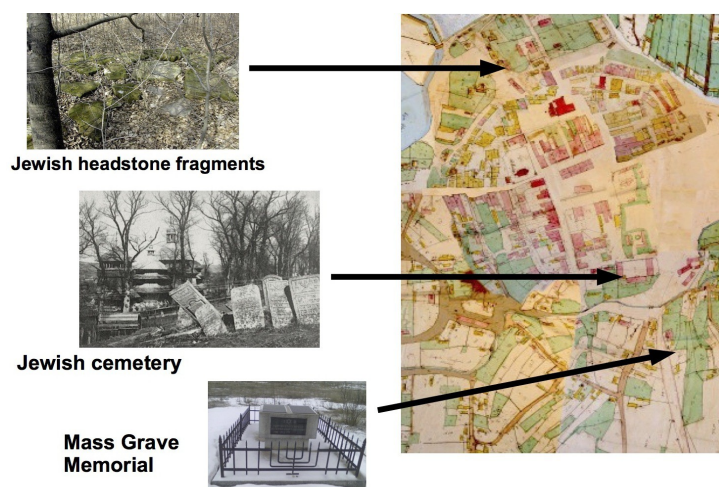
Interactive capability for locating specific family houses and Jewish buildings such as synagogues:



Layering of photos, data, and records: one *click* shows everything known for a single location:



Visualizing the Shoah and identifying Jewish heritage sites & preservation projects:



Accessibility of Cadastral Maps

Unfortunately, there is no coherent index to European cadastral maps and registers, in paper or digital form. A handful of EU countries and organizations are attempting to organize an index, and a few countries, state archives, or land survey offices have digitized a majority of their historical cadastral maps and published them for free viewing. This is the case for the Czech Republic and for Hungary. In the UK, major survey maps are held by the map division of the National Archives, but many town records are held in local repositories. In Poland and Ukraine, cadastral maps are divided between national and regional archives, plus some libraries, with sometimes confusing overlap. The Rohatyn 1846 cadastral map and land records for 1820 and 1846 were found in the

