CIECHENAOW CEMETERY, POLAND

POL-06487

You are at the Jewish cemetery – the burial place of Jews from Ciechanów and surrounding villages. The cemetery was established in the 19th century and, at that time, it was located outside of the town.

The cemetery was established because there was no more space for burials at the so-called old Jewish cemetery on Tylna and Zagumienna Streets, and also in order to conform with regulations introduced in the 19th century that required that cemeteries be located outside of built-up areas.

Several thousand people were buried in the cemetery. The exact number of burials is unknown. Between 1900 and 1910 alone, the records of the local Jewish community recorded 621 deaths. A funeral home was located in the northwest corner of the cemetery.

During World War II, victims of German crimes were shot and buried in the cemetery. Among the persons who were also buried at the cemetery were 68 Jews, who were murdered in the hospital on Zagumienna Street on November 7, 1942, and four members of the Home Army, who were hanged at Ciechanów Castle on December 17, 1942. During the war, the cemetery began to deteriorate. This process continued in the following decades.

In the second half of the 1940s, activists from the Jewish Committee and the Jewish Religious Association cared for the cemetery. They recovered some of the tombstones taken from the cemetery by the Germans who then used the matzevot to pave streets; they erected monuments; and, they exhumed the graves of the bodies of Shoah victims that were buried elsewhere within the town and surrounding areas, and then they transferred those bodies to this cemetery. Over time, the survivors – in 1946, the town had 39 Jewish residents – left Ciechanów.

In 1962, the Ciechanów Jewish Homeland Association in Paris erected a monument at the cemetery to commemorate the victims of the Shoah.

Since 2016, the cemetery has been owned by the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland, which, in collaboration with the descendants of Ciechanów's Jews and Friends of Jewish Heritage in Poland, strives to restore its dignity.

This is one of over 150 cemeteries owned by the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland. Please help us maintain this burial place of Jews from Ciechanów. Get in touch with us to discuss the form of your support: fodz@fodz.pl.

The cemetery should not be entered during Shabbat (from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday) and during other Jewish holidays. Men should wear head coverings.