Further Online Research
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This guide explains how to use free online resources to further research Warsaw addresses from Appendix 2 and their owners. It is not intended to be legal advice or a guide to pursuing claims. The author has no expertise in those areas; this guide is based on a familiarity with the use of historical directories in genealogy.

1) Overview

We tried to find homeowners for Appendix 2 addresses using the 1939/1940 Homeowners Directory, the latest available from before the War. When that failed, we used the 1930 Homeowners Directory, the latest we have before that. We looked for the addresses as written in Appendix 2 and also, when necessary, used a more complicated procedure involving maps to account for street name changes and construction since 1939. The result was that we found about 65% of the Appendix 2 addresses in the 1939/1940 or 1930 Homeowners Directory.

You can research Appendix 2 addresses further online (for free), the recommended approach depending on what we found.

In the homeowners database and spreadsheets, if there is a note for an address that it is "not in the 1939/1940 or 1930 directory," then it means the address is one of the roughly 35% for which we could not find a homeowner, and we recommend you proceed with the additional research in Section 2, then the research in Section 3.

Otherwise, we found a homeowner in the 1939/1940 or 1930 Homeowners Directory and recommend you proceed with the additional research in Section 3. If there is no note for the address, or if the note does not indicate otherwise, the homeowner was found in the 1939/1940 Homeowners Directory. The 1930 directory is always mentioned explicitly in a note, if used. Note that there is no guarantee the owner remained the same between 1930 and 1939/1940, or that the 1939/1940 owner was the last prior to the claim being filed.

In addition to researching addresses, if we or you found the name of a homeowner, or if you have a possible homeowner's name from another source, then we recommend you proceed with researching that person's name as described in Section 4.

Finally, traditional genealogical research might tell you much more about a homeowner, but is outside the scope of this guide. For a few basic pointers, see Section 5.

2) How to research whether Appendix 2 addresses were different before the War

Due to renaming of streets and construction since 1939, many buildings or plots of land today have different addresses than they did then. This is a reason, but not the only one, why some Appendix 2 addresses are not found verbatim in the 1939/1940 or 1930

Homeowners Directory. We tried the following procedure to find pre-War addresses corresponding to those in Appendix 2. When we failed to find a homeowner this way, we recommend repeating this procedure yourself as a starting point to further research. You might learn additional information, short of the homeowner, that could be useful, or you might find the homeowner even though we did not.

The main idea is that there is another way to identify a property besides its street address, the mortgage number (numer hipoteczny). The 1939/1940 and 1930 Homeowners Directories include mortgage numbers for many addresses, and there is a 1936 map showing mortgage numbers, so, by comparing the location of an Appendix 2 address on a modern map with the 1936 map showing mortgage numbers, we can sometimes determine the mortgage number and find a corresponding address and homeowner in the 1939/1940 (ideally) or 1930 Homeowners Directory. Note that there is no guarantee the mortgage number did not change from 1936 to 1939/1940 or from 1930 to 1936, but it often did not.

To begin, go to http://www.mapa.um.warszawa.pl/mapaApp1/mapa?service=mapa_historyczna, a website that can display Warsaw maps, overhead photography, and overlaid street name data from many different years. You might see a window in the middle with an "OK" button, click "OK" to close it. Then, near the top right, click the button that says "zdjęcia" and select "1936" in the list that appears. This displays an orange/yellow map from 1936 with mortgage numbers, which will become legible later when you zoom in. On the left, click the check box next to "Ulice z 1939 roku," then click "+" next to that and click the check boxes that appear below next to "Place, skwery projektowane w 1939 roku" and "Ulice projektowane w 1939 roku," so that all three check boxes under "Ulice z 1939 roku" are checked. Then, click the "+" next to "Współczesne dane" and click the check box below next to "Adresy współczesne." Now, both the modern and 1939 street names will be displayed when we examine the map.

Next, you will use the website's search feature to find an address from Appendix 2 on this map. On the right, there are two boxes, "nazwa" and "nr," next to a blue icon of a magnifying glass. Type the street name in the "nazwa" box, the numeric part of the address in the "nr" box, and press the "Enter" key on your keyboard (clicking the magnifying glass icon does not always work). If the website finds the address, it will appear in a list below where you just typed it, and you can click on it to jump to the corresponding part of the map, with the location indicated by a red marker (sometimes, more than one address will be listed because they are all similar to what you entered, so be sure to click the correct one). Note that you should use the Polish spelling of the street name, with Polish letters, or else a match might not be found. If you use the Polish spelling and no match is found, try searching for just the street name and leaving the "nr" box empty – once you find the street, you can examine the map to try to figure out where the specific number should be by looking for nearby numbers (remembering that, typically, buildings are numbered even on one side of a street and odd on the other).

After clicking on your address, you will probably need to zoom in on the map to see the mortgage numbers clearly, so click the "+" symbol in the left of the map window a few times until you can read the text and numbers near the red marker.

Now, you can look on the map for three things: the 1936 mortgage number, one or more 1939 street names at this location, and one or more 1936 building numbers (i.e., the numeric part of the street address, also called the police number, numer policyjny). But first, you should verify that the site's search result is accurate by using Google Maps. In another tab of your web browser, go to https://maps.google.com, and, in the search box on the left, type the Appendix 2 street address followed by "Warsaw, Poland" and click the magnifying glass icon. This will display a modern overhead map of Warsaw with the address indicated by a red marker. After switching to satellite imagery (click "Earth" in the lower left), and possibly zooming in ("+" in the lower right), compare the locations on the two maps by looking at the building outlines and street locations, to confirm that the map with the mortgage numbers shows the correct location and not, for example, an adjacent building. On the Polish site, you can also switch the display to a 2016 satellite image by selecting "2016" under "zdjęcia" on the right, then change it back to "1936" when done.

However, since Google Maps itself sometimes shows the marker in the wrong location, to be certain you need to switch it to Street View (by dragging the orange person icon from the bottom right to the red marker, or by clicking the photo of the building in the top left) to see street-level photos so you can verify that the blue number plaque on the building displays the numeric part of your street address. Sometimes, if the building no longer exists (e.g., it is now a park), you can view adjacent buildings' numbers to gain evidence that this location is correct. To "move" in Street View, you can click and drag your mouse, click on streets, and zoom in and out. In our experience, when Google Maps shows the marker in the wrong location, it is often because the address from Appendix 2 no longer exists and Google will display a numerically close address that does exist – in that case, you cannot always verify the accuracy of a location on the Polish map site with this approach.

If you are sure that the red marker on the old orange/yellow map is in the correct location, or, if it is not, that you can see where the correct location is, then you are ready to look for the 1936 mortgage number, 1939 street name(s), and 1936 building number(s).

There are two colors of ink on the orange/yellow map, dark blue and black. One or both might be used to outline the property, and, inside the outline, there will often be dimensions written in blue ink and, in the center, the mortgage number in black ink. If the mortgage number is difficult to read, compare with adjacent properties' mortgage numbers to help decipher digits, but note that mortgage numbers for adjacent properties can differ greatly.

Inside the outline, near the street, there will sometimes be another number in black ink, the building number, which might or might not be the same as the number in the

Appendix 2 address. Sometimes, it is instead or additionally written in pencil outside the outline (the date of the penciling is uncertain). Finding this number can be helpful, but it is not always necessary. Note that a property surrounded by more than one street or a large property might have more than one such number (sometimes visible in Google Maps' Street View as multiple blue number plaques).

Finally, look at the overlaid text showing street names near this location. You should see the modern street name in white-outlined black text and the 1939 street name in purple-outlined white text. Note the 1939 street name. You might also see a street name in red-outlined white text, indicating that, in 1939, it was planned – but it might not have actually been built, or it might have been built in a different location.

If you do not see a 1939 street name, you can try consulting other sources about street names changes, though none of these is comprehensive: http://warszawa.wikia.com/, http://www.trasbus.com/histzmianyulic.htm, https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zmiany_nazw_ulic_i_plac%C3%B3w_w_Warszawie, and Googling for the street name followed by "Warszawa" (you might find a website in Polish describing the history of the street). Usually, this is not necessary.

Now you should have at least a 1936 mortgage number and 1939 street name(s), possibly also one or more 1936 building numbers. If you are unsure whether you have followed the correct procedure above, test yourself with the Appendix 2 addresses Okrzei 13 and Wyzwolenia 14. You should find that Okrzei 13 was mortgage number 403, Brukowa 13, and, a little more difficult, Wyzwolenia 14 was mortgage number 5927, fronting both 6-go Sierpnia at number 22 and Natolińska at number 1 (for Wyzwolenia, you can see that the layout of buildings and streets has changed, not only the names and numbers).

With the above information, you are ready to consult the 1939/1940 Homeowners Directory, and, if that fails, the 1930 Homeowners Directory. Since we already tried this, you should not expect to find a match, but there is a chance you might, if we made a mistake with this procedure. Even if not, the old mortgage number, street name(s), or building number(s) you found might help with additional research (the old street name(s) and building number(s) especially with the research described in Section 3, the mortgage number possibly if you pursue offline research in Warsaw archives, yourself or through a local researcher, outside the scope of this guide).

Scans of the 1939/1940 directory used to be available from the Zbrojownia digital library of the Central Military Library (Centralna Biblioteka Wojskowa), but, as of today, due to changes to their website (http://cbw.wp.mil.pl), the digital library is not accessible. Instead, you can download a copy from the Polish Genealogical Society at http://poczekalnia.genealodzy.pl/pliki/Inne/TaryffyWarszawskie/1939_OCR_pdf/KAMSW-wy-Cz3E-SpisWlascicieliDomow-1939.pdf. The Central Military Library deserves tremendous thanks for having acquired and digitized this important book, and hopefully their digital library will be back online soon. You can view the 1930 directory at

http://genealogyindexer.org/frame/d219/212/d, after installing a DjVu plugin for your web browser, as described in Section 3.

Once you have downloaded the directory, find the street name, which should appear in alphabetical order (according to the Polish alphabet, so Ą comes after A), though some streets are slightly out of order. If the street name has more than one word and you cannot find it, try looking under a word other than the first. Under each street name, the addresses are ordered by building number, showing the owner's name with the mortgage number in parentheses. If you have the old building number, check that the mortgage number matches what you found. If you do not have the old building number, examine all entries on the street for the mortgage number you found. Note that some mortgage numbers appear more than once and some addresses, unfortunately, do not have mortgage numbers listed.

3) How to use other directories to research addresses

In addition to the 1939/1940 and 1930 Homeowners Directories, there are many other directories (business, telephone, etc.) with Warsaw coverage, including about 50 for 1935-1948 that are full-text searchable online. Although these 1935-1948 directories almost never explicitly identify homeowners, you might want to search them for other reasons, such as: finding the full given name of a person listed in the 1939/1940 or 1930 Homeowners Directory with no given name or only a first initial, finding the occupation of a homeowner to help identify him/her, finding earlier and later dates when the homeowner was at the same address, or finding the names of everyone at an address for which you could not find a homeowner (hoping one is the homeowner, even if not identified as such).

You can search all these directories for free in a few seconds at http://genealogyindexer.org. Examining the search results, however, might take considerably more time. If you are searching for everyone at an address that was an apartment building, for example, you might find many entries in each of many directories. Below are tips for searching and instructions to get started.

If you have never used http://genealogyindexer.org before, you will likely need to first install a piece of software on your computer. The reason for this is that search results link to scanned images of the matching directory pages, but those images, when hosted by Polish digital libraries, are usually in a file format (.DjVu) that your computer does not know how to display by default. The type of software you need to install to view the images is called a DjVu plugin for your web browser. The plugin used by the author and recommended for PC users is available for free at https://www.cuminas.jp/en/downloads/download/?pid=1. It seems to work best with the Firefox web browser. Some Mac users have reported problems with this plugin, but no general solution for Mac is known to the author – if you use a Mac, try the plugin with different web browsers, and, if all else fails, perform this research on a PC.

Once you have installed the DjVu plugin, you are ready to search. Go to http://genealogyindexer.org and, in the search box at the top, type the street address you are looking for, surrounded by double quotes, and followed by {claims1}, like this:

"brukowa 13" {claims1}

The quotes mean that the text inside, the street address, should be matched as a phrase, and {claims1} means that the search should be restricted to the directories with Warsaw coverage for 1935-1948, plus the 1930 Homeowners Directory. Without {claims1}, the search would instead be performed on all 1400+ directories and 600+ other sources at genealogyindexer.org, most either not covering Warsaw or from an earlier date.

Press the "Search" button to see the search results. If any matches are found (and, sometimes, many matches may be found), they will be shown as text snippets from the matching pages, with the matching directory's title being a link to show you an image of the matching page (if you have a working DjVu plugin for your web browser).

You should always examine the actual image, not rely only on the text snippet shown in the search results. The formatting of the snippet might be incorrect, there could be errors (the text was generated by Optical Character Recognition, which is not 100% accurate), or the match might be associated with a place other than Warsaw. You can only know when you examine the image. Some of the directories included in the {claims1} search, while covering Warsaw, also cover other territory (e.g., all of Poland), so not all matches in those directories are guaranteed to be for Warsaw. This is true even when you are searching for a street address, since some street names are repeated in multiple towns.

For long street names in particular, such as Waszyngtona, you should try replacing the last several letters with the * wildcard, which will match any string of letters, to account for possible errors or alternate street endings. For example:

"waszyng* 57" {claims1}

Some of the directories included in the {claims1} search date from the Nazi occupation of Warsaw and partly use German street names. So, ideally, you should also search by the corresponding German street name, but finding it might not be easy. Try consulting these street name change sources: http://warszawa.wikia.com/, http://www.trasbus.com/histzmianyulic.htm, https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zmiany_nazw_ulic_i_plac%C3%B3w_w_Warszawie, and Googling for the street name followed by "Warszawa" (you might find a website in Polish describing the history of the street). For example, at http://www.trasbus.com/histzmianyulic.htm, we learn that Tyrolska became Tiroler.

Note that the 1939/1940 Homeowners Directory is included in this search, but matches do not currently link to the corresponding images due to the Central Military Library's

digital library being temporarily offline. To view the images, download the directory from the Polish Genealogical Society's website at http://poczekalnia.genealodzy.pl/pliki/Inne/TaryffyWarszawskie/1939_OCR_pdf/KAMSW-wy-Cz3E-SpisWlascicieliDomow-1939.pdf.

Separate from searching for an address in the directories, it could also be helpful to find historical photos of the property (e.g., if you have other family photos showing the same property). Many such photos are available at http://www.warszawa1939.pl/index_arch_main.php?r1=strona_bez.php?kod=indeksy. Click "Indeks według ulic" to see links to photos organized by street name and building number. You can also try searching at https://images.google.com for the entire address in double quotes. Note that modern photos, e.g., from Google Maps, might look different because of the large amount of post-War construction.

4) How to use directories to research known or suspected homeowners

Just as you can search directories by street address, described in Section 3, you can also search by a person's name. This might be especially useful if you believe someone was a homeowner, but do not know the address and cannot find his/her name in the 1939/1940 or 1930 Homeowners Directory. Unless the surname is very common, try searching for the surname only, like this:

pinkusewicz {claims1}

You can also search with a given name, first initial, or abbreviated given name, enclosing in quotes for a phrase match, but note that the order in which surname and given name appear varies by directory, so you should search both ways.

If you get too many results, you can narrow them if you know an address where the person lived, by combining both the address and surname search, like this:

"nalew* 40" goldberg {claims1}

or even:

"nalew* 40" "goldberg z" {claims1}

If you are lucky, searching by person will reveal an unusual occupation that can help you identify the same person in other sources. Some directories list occupations next to each person, while some list people grouped under a single occupation header (which could be on a previous page). If you do not know the meaning of an occupation, try translating it at https://translate.google.com. Also, the following websites show English translations of common Polish occupations: http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/PolishBusDirOccs.htm,

http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/PolishOccs.htm,
http://www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Krakow/other/occupations.htm.

If you are very lucky, you will find a person in a "medical directory," meaning he or she was a physician, dentist, nurse, pharmacist, veterinarian, etc. These directories often include the person's year of birth and year of degree, and, for married women, are more likely to include the maiden name in addition to the married name.

When searching by surname only, such as the above example pinkusewicz {claims1}, you should additionally try a search with the "Regular Match" option below the search box changed to "D-M Soundex." This will find any words that could sound similar, such as pinkusiewicz, pinkusowicz, pinchasowicz, etc., and can help to find people even if you don't know the precise spelling.

For an exhaustive search, you can also try changing "Regular Match" to "OCR-Adjusted," which will find words that look similar and might be mistaken by the OCR software that "transcribed" the directories, such as a poorly printed "e" looking like "c" resulting in "pinkusewicz" becoming "pinkuscwicz." This will catch about half of the OCR errors.

5) Other genealogical research

Separate from research in the directories, as above, much can potentially be learned about individuals through traditional genealogical research. Though details are beyond the scope of this guide, a few pointers:

For researching Jews, a good place to start is http://www.jewishgen.org/ — in particular, http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/, http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Poland/, and the mailing list at http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/WarszawaGroup.html. For known or suspected Holocaust victims, also see http://yvng.yadvashem.org/ and https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/person_advance_search.php.

For non-Jews, see http://www.sejm-wielki.pl/ (some parts not free), http://genealodzy.pl/, http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/index.php?op=gt&w=71wa, and http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/pow-59. These sites are in Polish, and, if you have difficulty understanding them, you can try using the built-in translation feature of the Google Chrome web browser or enter the URL into the text box at https://translate.google.com to get a link to a site translation.

For all, check FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, Geni.com, MyHeritage.com, and of course simply Google the name (if you encounter a paywall for results on any of these sites, note that your local public library or Family History Center, https://familysearch.org/locations/, might provide free access).

Non-free options for genealogical research, such as hiring a private researcher in Warsaw, ordering documents from archives, etc., are beyond the scope of this guide, but you can seek advice at some of the above sites.