

Traces of Jewish life in Sighetu Marmatiei, Romania

JEWISH HOUSES

In the early years of the 20th century, between 1920- 1930 the Jewish households around Sighet looked just like the Romanian ones. One difference was that the Jews built their basements far from the house because of the Kashrut laws (the ones referring to food). Later, in the villages, as the Jews became merchants, they began to build their houses with the front walls directly to the street.



Jewish houses in the early 20th century



Jewish house from Barsana

THE JEWISH HOUSE OF BARSANA

It belonged to a religious Jewish family. The house is made of wood, plastered with clay in specific traditional techniques. Its construction is that of a "blockbau", adapted to the local system "in saranci" (vertical pillars filled in with horizontal ones).

In every room on the right vertical upper part of the door frame in a small protective wooden or metal box there was a MEZUZA - a parchment (of kosher animal leather) on which were written by a scribe, called SOFER, two sections of TORA. The roof is in two slopes. The house was located near the street where access to the commercial spaces was made by two entrances. The access of the family was through the yard where the house has a wide corridor disposed along the construction, covered, that is, by the traditional porch.

JEWISH HOUSES SIGHET

In the town, the majority of the houses were built in the same way, but this is not necessarily a sign of Jewish architecture. One interesting detail is that on the front walls of some houses, the family seal was carved on 4 big stone plates in 4 different languages.



Deitch von Lammittel-Mitglieder des J. D. I. Bau einer Trigonometrie in Sighet.



Family seal in four different languages



House of a very rich and influential Jewish family.

THE JEWISH HOUSE FROM POIENILE IZEI

The house we refer to belonged to a wealthy Jewish family - which becomes clear from the dimensions of the house - much bigger than the Romanians' houses in the locality. To the length 1m of the porch behind the house and the corridor in front of the house must be added. It's layout is atypical plan for the Romanian peasant constructions, but it is specific for Jews. The porch, the hall and the front rooms were destined for trade, while two large rooms in the back, as well as the porch with direct access were destined for the family. The construction is made of common spruce wood in "blockbau" system, that is in horizontal "cununi" (wooden structures supporting the roof).

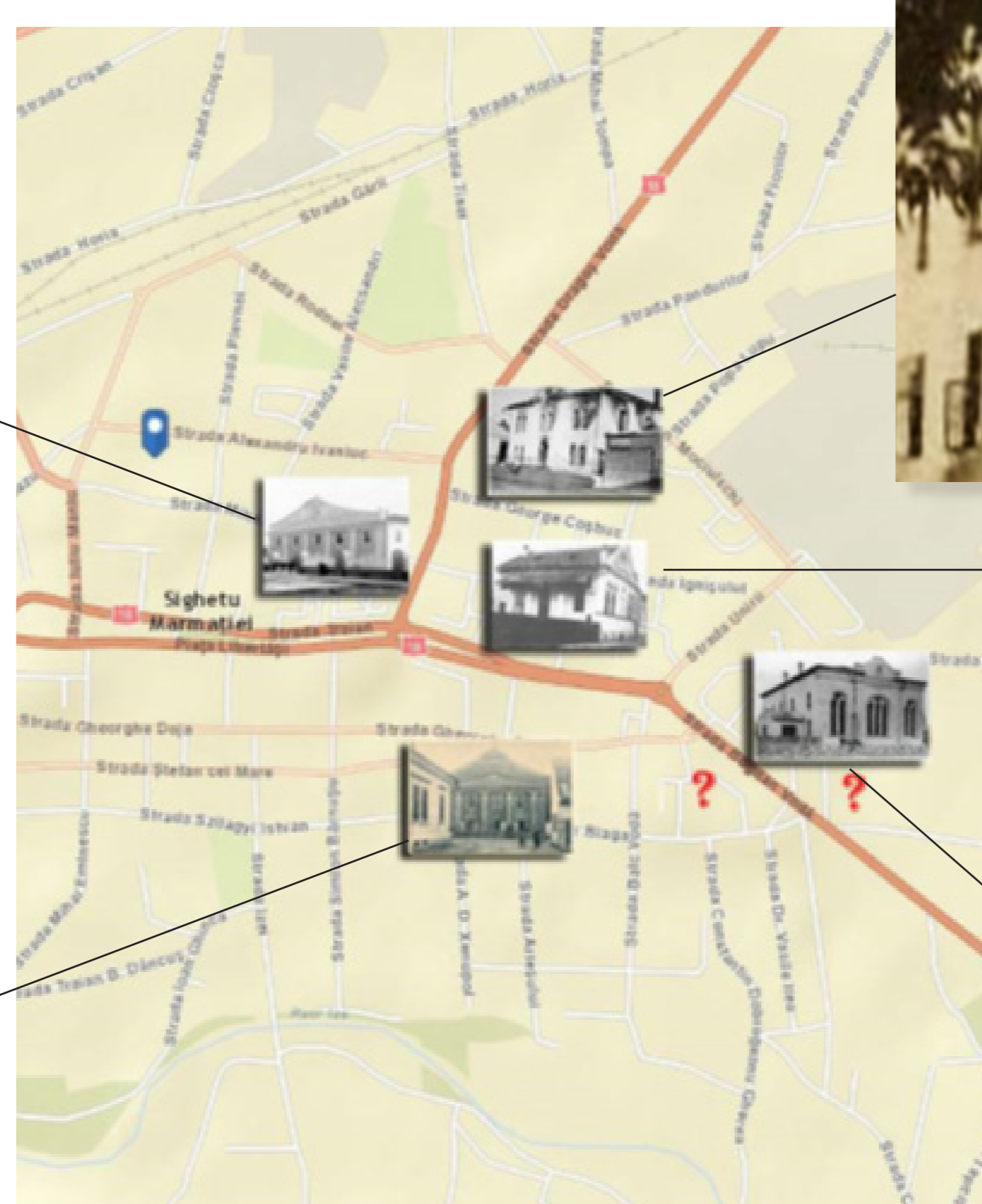


The roof is four-sloped as most wooden houses in Maramures. On a wooden structure (round beams bound with slats) the cover is made of shingles fixed in two rows. Since the house was purchased from a family of Christian peasants, at that time the rooms were used exclusively for living. The construction has been restored in the museum and will be part of a special exhibition of the Jewish culture in the region which we have proposed.

SYNAGOGUES IN SIGHET



Great orthodox Synagogue Georghie Şincai street.



The Talmud Tora Synagogue



The old Sephardic Synagogue - Basarabia street



The new Sephardic Synagogue