Survey of Jewish History and Holocaust-Related Sites in Moldova

Initiated by Stuart Saffer, JDC Country Director for Moldova and Ukraine, in 2004.

Donated to CJA in 2021.

Jewish Cemetery in Gershunovka

The Town: Present Circumstances

1. Present name of town in which cemetery is located: Gershunovka

2. Address of cemetery: Gershunovka

3. Alternate names of town:

Yiddish: Gershunovka Russian: Gershunovka

4. Distance from larger towns or centers (specify)

Town	Distance
Rybnitsa	25 km

5. **Present total town population**: under 1 000

6. **Present Jewish population**: none

II. Contact people

Name	Addres	Phone	Function
Sign! S	Ribnita, Kirov street.	2 20 07	Chairman of the Jewish
Sigal S.	137, ap. 48		Community

III. Location, Markers, Access, Security

9. **The cemetery location:** between fields and woods

10. **The cemetery is located:** on a hillside

11. **The cemetery is:** isolated

12. **The cemetery is marked by:** no sign or marker

13. **The cemetery is reached:** turning directly off a public road

14. Access to the cemetery: open to all

15 **The cemetery is surrounded by:** no wall or fence

16. The cemetery has: no gate

IV. Appearance and Condition of cemetery

- 17. **Present size of cemetery in square metre:** aproximate 10000 square metre
- 18. Approximate number of gravestones in original locations, regardless of condition: 500-5000
- 19. Approximate number of stones in cemetery, but not in original locations: 500 5000
- 20. Approximate percentage of surviving stones toppled or broken, whether or not in original locations: less than 25%
- 21. Is the location of stones that have been removed from the cemetery known?
- 22. **Vegetation overgrowth in the cemetery is:** a constant problem, damaging stones
- 23. Water drainage at the cemetery is: a constant problem
- V. Tombstones and Memorial Markers
- 24. Is the cemetery divided into special sections: impossible determinate
- 25. **Tombstones in the cemetery are datable from:** 19h century
- 26. Tombstones and memorial markers are made of:
 - limestone
 - sandstone
 - slate
- 27. The cemetery contains tombstones that are:
 - rough stones and boulders
 - flat shaped stones
 - finely smoothed and inscribed stones
 - flat stones with carved relief decoration
 - double tombstones
- 28. The cemetery has tombstones:

with traces of painting on their surfaces

- 29. Inscriptions on tombstones are in:
 - Hebrew
 - Yiddish
 - Russian

30. The cemetery contains special memorial monuments to:

- a. Holocaust victims
- b. pogroms victims
- c. epidemic victims
- d. Jewish soldiers
- e. no special monuments

VI. Current Use of Cemetery Site

31. The present owner of the cemetery property is:

- a. the local Jewish community
- b. the national Jewish community (Lithuanian Jewish Community)
- c. the municipality
- d. a regional or national governmental agency
- e. private individual (s)

unknown

32. The cemetery property is now used for:

- a. Jewish cemetery use only
- b. agricultural use (crops or animal grazing)
- c. recreational use (park, playground, sports field)
- d. industrial or commercial use
- e. storage
- f. waste dumping
- g. residential
- h. out of use Jewish Cemetery

33. Properties adjacent to cemetery are:

- a. recreational
- b. commercial or industrial
- c. agricultural
- d. residential
- e. other: ___

34. Compared to 1939, the cemetery boundaries enclosea:

- a. the same area
- b. a larger area
- c. a smaller area
- d. not known

34 a. If the boundaries are smaller, they have been reduced as a result of:

- a. new roads or highways
- b. housing development
- c. commercial or industrial development

d. agriculture

gravel-pit

35. The cemetery is visited:

- a. frequently
- b. occasionally
- c. rarely

36 The cemetery is visited by:

- a. organized Jewish group tours or pilgrimage groups
- b. organized individual tours
- c. private visitors (Jewish and non-Jewish)
- d. local residents
- e. other

VII. Care and Restoration of the Cemetery

37. The cemetery is known to have been vandalized:

- a. never
- b. prior to World War II
- c. during World War II
- d. never in last ten years (1981-1991)
- e. occasionally, between 1981 and 1991
- f. frequently, between 1981 and 1991

between 1945 and 1981

38. What care has been taken of the cemetery:

- a. re-erection of stones
- b. patching of broken stones
- c. cleaning of stones
- d. clearing of vegetation
- e. fixing of wall
- f. fixing of gate
- g. no maintenance

1	. 1		
h	other		
11.	Outlot		

39. If restoration has been carried out, who has responsible for the work:

- a. local non-Jewish residents
- b. other individuals or groups of non-Jewish origin
- c. local/municipal authorities
- d. regional/national authorities
- e. Jewish individuals within country
- f. Jewish individuals abroad
- g. Jewish groups within country
- h. Jewish groups abroad

i. Lithuanian Jewish Community

40. If restoration work was carried out, when was it done:

40 a. If restoration work was carried out, has there since been vandalism:
a. yes
b. no
c. not known
C. HOURHOWH
41. How is the cemetery cared for now:
a. not at all
b. occasional clearing or cleaning by individuals
c. occasional clearing or cleaning by authorities
d. regular caretaker
e. other
42. If there is a caretaker, how is he paid:
a. not paid
b. paid by the Jewish Congregation of
c. paid by local contribution
d. paid regularly by Jewish survivors (specify:)
e. paid by contributions from visitors
f. paid by the government
g. other
h. n/a. (no caretaker)
VIII. Structures
43. Within the limits of the cemetery:
a. there are no structures
b. there is a pre-burial house
c. there is an <i>ohel</i>
d. there is more than one <i>ohel</i>
e. there is a well

IX. Survey Background

44. Name, address and telephone numbers of persons completing this survey and visiting the site:

there are other structures (specify: ______)

Name	Address	Phone	Function

X. Basis for completing the survey

45. Was the site visited for this survey:
yes
no
45. a If yes, give the date of the visit:
45. b Who visited the site:
46. Were interviews conducted for this survey:
yes
no
IX. Recommendations

X. Comments and additional observations about the site