



Translocation plan, Loštice 1727, colored drawing, unknown author, collection of VM Šumperk

The translocation plans in the Lands of the Bohemian Crown were drawn up on the basis of the so-called *Translocation Rescript*, which was issued by Emperor Charles VI in 1726. This decree ordered the separation or relocation of Jewish dwellings from the vicinity of Christian churches, as well as from the streets and places through which religious processions passed. Three solutions were most often offered – the construction of a high wall between Jewish houses and Christian objects, or at least the walling up of the windows and doors facing the church. Another solution was a complete eviction of the Jews from the vicinity of the churches and concentrate their dwellings in separate city quarters called ghettos.

This resettlement order also applied to Loštice. Then owner of Loštice, which was the royal town of Uničov, initially ignored this decree. However, the state administration began to threaten the Uničov City Hall with severe punishment. So the idea arose that if the Jews could not live near the church, the church should be moved. Request for relocation of the church was emphatically rejected by the catholic dean of Mohelnice. Therefore, another solution was taken, which consisted in the exchange of houses between Christian and Jewish owners. Jewish families lost their houses near the church but acquired houses on the western outskirts of the town, especially on today's Žádlovice and Ztracená Streets. Christians from these houses moved into originally Jewish houses near the church. The exchange was carried out in a dignified manner,

and each owner was even entitled to compensation in the event that he or she would acquire a house of lower value in this exchange. At the same time, a new synagogue was rebuilt in the new location. (Still exists there)

In the lower right corner of the plan you can see the parish church of st. Prokop, The church is surrounded by seventeen blue-colored, numbered Jewish houses and a synagogue (a longitudinal building with three small windows behind the main row of numbered houses). It is the original Jewish settlement.

In the upper left part of the plan there are seventeen numbered Christian houses to which the Jews were moved. It also depicts the two gates that separated the ghetto from the rest of the city. The gates prevented Jews from entering the town square during holidays and church festivals.

In the upper right corner there are the names of all the owners of the Jewish and Christian houses that were included in the house swap project.

The *Translocation Rescript* and similar restrictive measures were based on the re-Catholicization pressures that arose in our country in the period after the Battle of White Mountain (1620). Towns also played an important role, as they in many places considered Jewish craftsmen and merchants undesirable competition.

After a spectacular introduction, with the passage of time, the *Translocation Rescript* gradually became quite ineffective and neglected. By coincidence, the town of Loštice was one of the few localities where this imperial order was fully implemented.

Originally, more than 200 translocation plans were made. Approximately 150 of them have been preserved. They represent a unique testimony to the appearance of the towns of that time. That is why the whole set of these plans was declared an Archival Cultural Monument. Negotiations are also underway to register them in the UNESCO *Memory of the World Register*. We can only be pleased that the above-mentioned Loštice plan is considered by experts to be one of the most valuable from the entire set.



Drapery, Loštice synagogue 1752,
collection of Jewish Museum in Prague