

Joanna Dąbal

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7325-2282>

The History of the Muscate Family's Mansion at 5 Dominikswall Street in Gdańsk

Historia nieruchomości rodziny Muscate
przy ul. Dominikswall 5 w Gdańsku

Abstract: The paper discusses the possibilities of interpreting the remains of twentieth-century architecture in the historical context based on the archaeological research results presented. Analysis of archaeological sources concerns a location in today's Wały Jagiellońskie Street in Gdańsk. The discovered walls have been identified as the historical address 5 Dominikswall Street. The text presents the forty six years of history of the discovered property based on historical sources. The data collected constitutes a fragment of the common history of two wealthy Gdańsk families – Muscate and Rosenbaum.

Keywords: Gdańsk, Muscate, Rosenbaum, archaeology, 20th century

Urban archaeology provides material evidence of the development and renewal of settlements as a continuous process. In the context of the archaeological publication concerning Gdańsk area, subjects of exhaustive analysis are usually results of large-scale excavations of single site referring to residential or industrial buildings (for example: Polak 2002; 2004; Wilczak-Dąbrowska, Dąbrowski 2004; Dąbal et al. 2013; Dąbal 2018; Ignasiak 2020). Contrary to this practice, this paper presents a narrative referring to archaeological data acquired during supervision of construction work on Wały Jagiellońskie Street in Gdańsk, which uncovered the remains of masonry residential buildings from the first half of the twentieth century.

The published results of the excavations conducted in Gdańsk to date mostly refer to large-area sites, with complete outlines of buildings or structures. Trenches, despite locations that are frequently of great significance for the history of the city, rarely become subjects of comprehensive academic analyses. Moreover, data on the contemporary history of the city is frequently marginalised or omitted in such

analyses. Within this framework, the main objectives of the paper are to indicate the potential of excavations on a smaller scale, limited with building ordinate and to interpret the data in the historical context, which is often divided in Polish monographs into two substantive parts (historical and archaeological) without any complementing narrative.

The Sources

The basis for the issue in question are the remains of masonry buildings uncovered in the northern part of the redevelopment of Wały Jagiellońskie Street in Gdańsk (Fig. 1). Archaeological activities limited to supervising constructing works were conducted by Jakub Prager from August 1, 2021, to November 30, 2021. Field documentation of the trench and interpretation of the results were made by the Author of this paper. The investment area is located in a heritage protected area of the archaeological site AZP 12-44/202, Gdańsk-Śródmieście no. 85. Furthermore, considering the urban boundary of the city of Gdańsk, the excavation area is located within the limits of outline of modern fortifications, listed in the Register of Historic Monuments of the Pomeranian Province under no. 15 (previously no. 8, Decision of October 11, 1947), granted historic monument status by Ordinance of the President of the Republic of Poland of September 8, 1994.

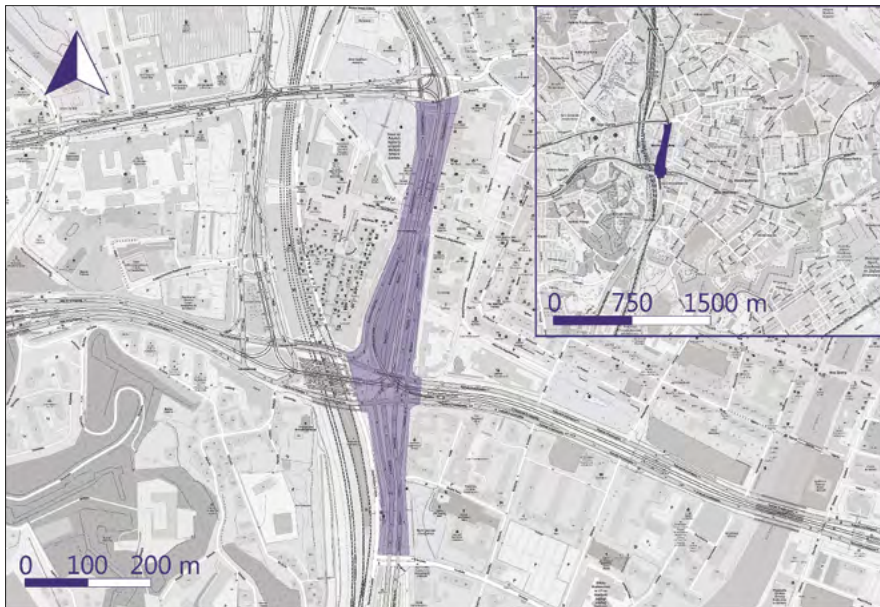


Fig. 1. Gdańsk, Wały Jagiellońskie Street, the investment scope (prepared by J. Dąbal).

Analysis of the uncovered architectural remains was carried out in the context of archival data including maps as well as textual and iconographic sources. These data were supplemented with the information from the historical literature (Anton 1908; Stephan 1911; Muscate 1940; Berendt 1997; Omilanowska 2010; Schenk 2014; Daniluk 2019). Significant effects in iconographic sources analyses were gained from the published collections of pre-war photographs and postcards (Krupa 1997; Popiński, Hirsch 2002; Szymański et al. 2010). The research also covered the archival maps of Gdańsk concerning the period related to the masonry remains uncovered during the excavations in Wały Jagiellońskie Street. The bases for the identification of the remains uncovered were the maps of D. Buhse from the years 1866–1869 and a map from 1927 (BG PAN ref. no. CIII.610). The archival survey contained the Records of the Construction Inspection in Gdańsk (Akten des Baupolizeiamts zu Danzig) (APGD 15), which, according to the indexation, were to include information about the address 5 Dominikswall Street. These resources were verified negatively as the record described as Elisabethwall/Dominikswall concerns a property in Elisabethwall Street (APGD 15/7310). Source analysis also encompassed units of The Address Books of Gdańsk, which, depending on the publication date, are divided into parts containing personal and address data and catalogues of companies by industry or address. Analysing these archival data, all parts from 1897 to 1942 were examined (Adressbuch: 1897–1942).

Dominikswall Street (today's Wały Jagiellońskie Street)

The no longer existing Dominikswall route was designed as a street towards the end of the nineteenth century. Due to construction projects carried out on a large scale by the Prussian administration as part of the demilitarisation of the city, the street ran along the levelled moat (Omilanowska 2010). The street was named in 1897 (Stephan 1911: 27). The road was approximately 220 metres long. In the south, at An der Reitbahn Street, its extension was Karennwall Street, and in the north, it ran at right angles to Silberhutte Street and was extended by Elisabethwall Street (Fig. 2). Dominikswall Street was a part of the main artery leading from the centre of Gdańsk to Gdańsk Wrzeszcz. The eastern frontage of the street (6–13 Dominikswall Street) had a compact development pattern, while the western frontage (1–5 Dominikswall Street) consisted of only five buildings integrated into the gardens on the Raduni Channel (Irrgarten). Buildings in this section of the street were elegant, including three- or four-storey tenement houses with decorative elevations, while its western end was a market square with a monument of Emperor Wilhelm (Fig. 3). From the perspective of the Prussian administration, there were strategic facilities in the vicinity, such as the office of the Commander for Prisoners of War, *Generalkommando*, and the Bank von Danzig (Daniluk 2019: 159).



Fig. 2. Gdańsk, the plan of Dominikswall Street on a map from 1866/1869 (with later changes) showing the course of the moat (BG PAN file no. CIII.610).

In Dominikswall Street (examples from Adressbuch 1929), institutional users of the buildings included *Deutsch Generalkonsul* (3 Dominikswall Street), Hotel Danziger Hof. (6 Dominikswall Street), British and Polish Trade Bank (6 Dominikswall Street), Giro Bank (7b, 12 Dominikswall Street), Kaiser Café and Restaurant (7 Dominikswall Street), Danziger Glashutte A.G. (11 Dominikswall Street), and *Portugiesisches Konsulat* (12 Dominikswall Street) (DE 1929: 59). In terms of the professional structure of the residents or users of properties in Dominikswall Street, there were, for example: officials, bankers (1 Dominikswall Street), a municipal counsellor (2 Dominikswall Street), an office assistant, a medical doctor (3 Dominikswall Street), a construction master (4 Dominikswall Street), female clerks (5 Dominikswall Street), a barber, a bank director (6 Dominikswall Street), a domestic help, a photographer (7 Dominikswall Street), a carpenter, an electrician (8 Dominikswall Street), a factory worker, an architect, a carpenter (9 Dominikswall Street), a restaurant owner, a smith (10 Dominikswall Street), a smith, an architect (11 Dominikswall Street), a teacher, a waiter, a musician (12 Dominikswall Street), and a manager and a seamstress (13 Dominikswall Street) (DE 1929: 59). Generally, the professional structure of property users can be broadly divided into the following sectors: administration, services, trade, and craft. However, it is worth noting that they also included persons occupying higher positions in these sectors.



Fig. 3. A postcard with a view in the direction of Dominikswall Street. In the foreground, to the right, there is Wilhelm's monument, slightly behind it, in the foreground, to the left, there is the property at 5 Dominikswall Street (the collection of J. Dąbał).



Fig. 4. Gdańsk, Wały Jagiellońskie Street, as seen from Hucisko Street in the southern direction (photograph by J. Dąbał).

The buildings in Dominikswall Street were destroyed by bombs in 1945 (Daniluk 2019: 456–457). After the war, the course of the route was redesigned. Today's Wały Jagiellońskie Street was widened beyond the line of the previous western frontage, while the green areas on the Radunia Channel were not developed. Today's Wały Jagiellońskie Street is a section of the main artery running through whole Tricity (Fig. 4). In the south, its border is limited by perpendicular Bogusławskiego Street, which is what remained of the historical main road An Der Reitbahn. In the north, today's road includes two historical routes: Dominikswall and Elisabethwall.

The Results of archaeological excavations

The remains of masonry buildings of the western frontage of historical Dominikswall Street were uncovered on a surface area of approximately 116 square meters during construction work, the depth of which was limited by the ordinate of 0.4–0.6 m below ground level. Over the walls, there was a layer of gravel and sand constituting a bedding layer for the contemporary roadway. No finds were found in this layer. The discovered masonry structure was indexed: M7–M11, M16–M19, and registered spatially (Fig. 5). Individual spaces delineated by the walls were given additional numbers: S1–8. Also descriptive and photographic documentation of units was prepared. The composition of mortar used for bonding the materials was analysed (Sobkowiak, Orłowska 2022). The data obtained enabled preliminary interpretation of the remains. After the documentation had been prepared, the walls were protected with geotextile and levelling layer.

The masonry structure was registered on the ordinate of 7.40 m above sea level. The walls had to be demolished to align with the common level during the construction of the contemporary road (after WW2). In the rooms sectioned off between the walls, one can see traces of burning and related darkening. The remains discovered were identified as a high ground floor of a villa. The perimeter walls of the building along the NS axis (axis misalignment of 11°) include M11, M17, M18 (from S), and M19 (from N). Their thickness was approximately 0.64 m (2½ bricks). The scope of excavations determined by the investment area did not allow to register the foundations of the front (E) or back (W) walls. The mortar structures were made of wire-cut bricks measuring 60–65 x 120 x 250–255 mm. For bonding bricks, poor cement and plaster mortar was used (the ratio between the amount of binder and the amount of filler was about 1:4; Sobkowiak, Orłowska 2022). On the ground floor, the building was divided by the load-bearing wall (M7) along the NS axis (upright to the front). The wall thickness was determined as approximately 0.51 m (2 bricks). The rooms inside the building were outlined with partition walls (M8–M10) along the WE axis. The thickness of the partition walls was approximately 0.25 m (1 brick). The internal walls, similarly to the perimeter walls,

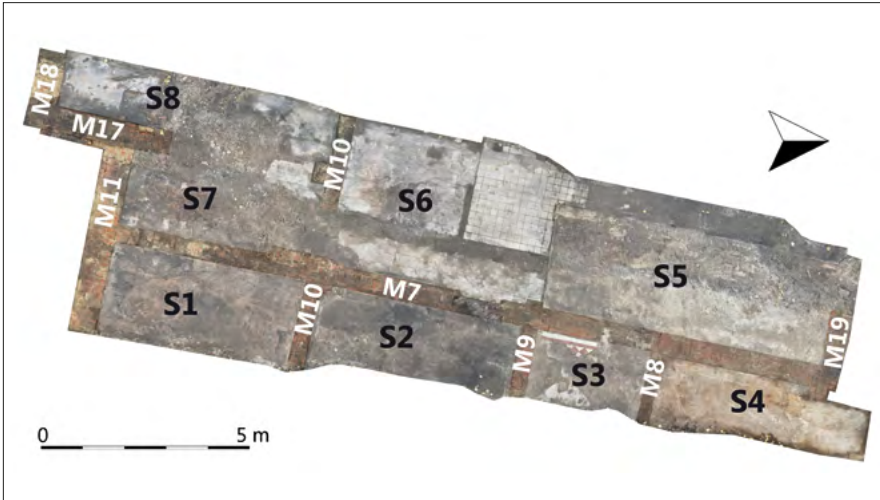


Fig. 5. Gdańsk, Wały Jagiellońskie Street, uncovered walls of the property at 5 Dominikswall Street (prepared by J. Dąbał, P. Muntowski).



Fig. 6. Gdańsk, Wały Jagiellońskie Street, uncovered walls of the property at 5 Dominikswall Street as seen from the north (photograph by J. Dąbał).



Fig. 7. Gdańsk, Wały Jagiellońskie Street, negatives of the burnt herringbone pattern wooden flooring in room S2 (photograph by J. Dąbal).



Fig. 8. Gdańsk, Wały Jagiellońskie Street, the ceramic floor in room S6 (photograph by J. Dąbal).



Fig. 9. Gdańsk, Wały Jagiellońskie Street, the ceramic floor in room S3 (photograph by J. Dąbal).



Fig. 10. Gdańsk, Wały Jagiellońskie Street, the septic system and wall tiles in room S3 (photograph by J. Dąbal).

were made of wire-cut bricks bonded with poor cement and plaster mortar. The internal walls delineated the area of each room, functionally identified based on historical building plans and the preserved furnishings (S1–S8). The finish of wall edges (the bonding patterns or emphasised edges) allowed to identify the traffic routes of the rooms. Room S1 had a passage to room S7, which was approximately 1.15 m wide (Fig. 5). Moreover, it was possible to go from room S7 to rooms S8 and S6. Room S8 offered a passage to rooms S2 and S5. Room S5 had a passage to room S3. No passage from room S4 to any other space was registered, but the concrete surface led outside the building. In rooms S1–S2, S5–S8, partially damaged concrete panels were registered (Fig. 6).

Moreover, remains of a burnt herringbone pattern wooden flooring were registered in room S2 (Fig. 7). In the following two rooms (S3 and S6), the surface was finished with sand-coloured (S6) and brick-red and white (S3) stoneware floor tiles (Fig. 8–9). The inscribed maker marks on tiles in room S3 allowed to identify the origin factory: Otto Kauffmann Chemische Fabrik, which operated in the years 1871–1911 (Anton 1912). Diagonally grooved tiles, like the ones from room S6, were also produced by Kauffmann's factory (Anton 1912: 16). Moreover, in the eastern profile of the trench in room S3, there were a cast-iron pipe and small fragments of white wall tiles (Fig. 10).

Comparison of archival maps with a contemporary cadastral plan allowed to identify the uncovered mortar structure as the outline and interior walls of the property at the historical address 5 Dominikswall Street. In view of the cartographic data, the building at number 5 was a only villa within the western frontage of Dominikswall Street (Fig. 11). Furthermore, a plan of the mansion from before the year 1908 was identified (Fig. 12), before it was altered in the years 1913–1914, which allowed to determine the purpose of some of the rooms in greater detail (Anton 1908: 270–271; Muscate 1940: 174). As a result of the archival survey conducted, also an image of the property was found (Muscate 1940). A detailed photograph from the SE side, combined with spatial data and the results of archaeological excavations, allowed to interpret the functions of the rooms uncovered (Fig. 12–13).

The building was accessed from the north through the hall, registered partially as the room S4 (5.5 m²). Rooms S5 and S6 were a continuation of the hall with stairs leading to the upper floor. Rooms S1 (uncovered surface area of approximately 17 m²) and S2, originally with windows from the west and an octagonal turret in the south-western corner served as sitting rooms for women (S1) and for men (S2). The quadrilateral one-storey avant-corps with a terrace designed with baluster on the second-storey level was located in the central section of the southern wall of the building. The risalit was a part of the S wall of room S8, not recorded during the excavations (approximately 8 m² were registered). Despite the small surface area of S8 uncovered, the width of the space (approximately 6.6 m) indicates a considerable



Fig. 13. Gdańsk. The property at 5 Dominikswall Street (photograph by F. Muscate; source: Muscate 1940, no page numbers).

area corresponding with a sitting room. Based on the installation and surface finish elements found, room S₃ (the captured surface area of approximately 13 m²) was interpreted as a bathroom. The purpose of room S₇ was not determined with any certainty. Pursuant to the plans of the building from before its alteration, it was a part of a women's sitting room, which, as a result of the work performed in the years 1913–1914, was separated as an extension of the hall.

The History of the Muscate family's mansion at 5 Dominikswall Street in Gdańsk

Based on the analysis of data from Gdańsk address books from the years 1897–1942, owners and users of the property were preliminarily identified in individual years of the first half of the twentieth century (Table 1). These sources are supplemented with detailed information about different users found in historical studies.

Table 1. A list of users of premises at 5 Dominikswall Street (Adressbuch¹)

Publication year of the ADRESSBUCH	Part/page	OWNER/RESIDENT/INSTITUTION/OTHER
1903	III/37	Muscate, A., Arendt F. Diener, Liganowski A.
1907	III/41	Muscate, Ww. Arendt Diener
1909	III/44	MUSCATE Kommerzienrat, Arendt Diener, Muscate Frl.
1912	III/55	Muscate, Student – Muscate, Dr., Afm. Ardent, Diener. Birr, Wirtchafterin
1914	III/56	Muscate Dr
1927	II/55	Muscate Frank, Dr F. Hausmstr, Hans Senatsang, P. Elektromont, Elisab. u. Martha Kontoristinenn
1928	II/56	Muscate Frank Dr, Arendt F., Hauswerwalter, Arendt P., Elektromonter, Arendt Elizabeth und Martha, Kontoristinnen
1929	II/59	Rosenbaum Bernhard, Dr Rechtsanwalt u Notar, Arendt P., Elektromonter, Arendt F. Hausverwalter, Arend Hans Kfm., Arend Elisab. u. Marta Kontoristinnen,
1934	II/84	Rosenbaum Bernhard, Dr Rechtsanwalt, Arendt F. Hausverwalter, Arend Paul Ingenieur, Arend Elisab. u. Marta Kontoristinnen, Arend Rosenbaum Ruth, Studienassessorin
1935	II/96	Rosenbaum Elisabeth. Frau, F. Hausverwalter, Paul Ingenieur, Elisab. u. Marta Kontoristinnen, Rosenbaum Bernhard, Rechtsanw u. Notar, Rosenbaum Ruth
1937–1938	II/92	Rosenbaum Elisabeth, Rosenbaum Bernhard, Rosenbaum Ruth, Schott Gertrud
1939	II/90	Rosenbaum, Hausmstr.
1942	II/87	Reichspropagandaamt Danzig Westpr. Maroldt Otto Reg. Insp.

1 NAD 1903: III/37; NAD 1907: III/41; NAD 1909: III/44; NAD 1912: III/55; NAD 1914: III/56; ADV 1927: II/55; ADV 1928: II/56; DE 1929: II/59; DE 1934: II/84; DE 1935: II/96; DE 1937–1938: II/92; DE 1939: II/90; DE 1942: II/87.



Fig. 14. Frank Muscate, author unknown (source: Muscate 1940, no page numbers).

In the analysed resources, the address 5 Dominikswall Street is not included in the 1899 edition (NAD 1899). In the following years, the main user/owner was A. Muscate. Then the name Dr Muscate appears, and ultimately – Frank Muscate (Table 1). There is a change in the books between the editions from 1928 and 1929. Starting in 1929, the address 5 Dominikswall Street was occupied by Bernhard Rosenbaum (Table 1). From 1934, also Ruth Rosenbaum was registered there. The situation remains the same until 1939, when the only name given is

Hausmstr. Rosenbaum. Then there is a gap of the records and in 1942 the name Reichspropagandaamt Danzig Westpr. Maroldt Otto Reg. Insp. appears at number 5. Analysis of this preliminary data allowed to study the history of the building in greater detail. The basic data found in the address books were then supplemented based on a historical survey. The property at 5 Dominikswall Street was built by Alfred Paul Muscate (b. September 1, 1844, in Stargard, d. March 6, 1905, in Gdańsk) (Muscate 1940: tafel I). The construction was raised in 1899–1900. The Muscate family was among the wealthy owners of shares in multiple investments and many properties in Pomerania and Brandenburg. Alfred Paul Muscate and his brother Willy held shares in the A.P. Muscate G.m.b.h. company manufacturing machines, which was based in Tczew and then had an office in Gdańsk, and in publishing and printing houses in Berlin, Gdańsk, and Elbląg (Muscate 1940: 144–147). In 1871, Alfred Paul Muscate married Clara Julia Claasen (b. November 27, 1849, in Gdańsk, d. April 15, 1910, in Gdańsk), and in 1889 their son Frank was born (Muscate 1940: 145, tafel I). After Alfred's death, Clara stayed at home, but a part of the property at 5 Dominikswall Street was rented (Table 1). After Clara's death, Frank Muscate moved in (Muscate 1940: 176). Frank Muscate (Fig. 14) obtained a PhD degree in philosophy in Heidelberg based on a dissertation "Industrialisierung des deutschen Ofens" ("Industrialisation of German Ovens") (Muscate 1940: 173). From his father he inherited shares in the A.P. Muscate company and publishing houses, including *Gazeta Elbląska* (Muscate 1940: 174). He was also an owner of a company dealing with mechanical parts in Landsberg (Muscate 1940: 174). While living in the villa at 5 Dominikswall Street, Frank Muscate renovated and remodelled it in 1913 and 1914 (Muscate 1940: 174). Then he employed a property manager and rented some of the rooms (Table 1). In 1928, he sold the property to Bernhard Rosenbaum (Adressbuch 1928–1929; Muscate 1940: 176).

The Rosenbaum family from the Jewish commune were members of the wealthy elite of Gdańsk. At 5 Dominikswall Street, Bernhard Rosenbaum, a legal advisor and notary, ran his office and lived with his wife Elizabeth and daughter Ruth (Table 1). As the address books indicate, he also rented some of the rooms, extending tenancy agreements concluded by Frank Muscate. Bernhard Rosenbaum was really involved in the activity of the Jewish commune in Gdańsk in terms of education (Berendt 1997: 94, 156). His daughter Ruth Rosenbaum was a teacher and ran a private Jewish *gymnasium*, which, in the years 1934–1935, was located at 5 Dominikswall Street (Berendt 1997: 178–180, 231–232). Ruth Rosenbaum's² *gymnasium* operated until February 21, 1939 (at a different address after 1935)

² Ruth Rosenbaum and the operation of the *gymnasium* were mentioned in the novel by Günter Grass *From the Diary of a Snail* (1991).

(Berendt 1997: 232). At the time (starting in 1937), the Gdańsk Senate's policy towards Jews toughened. For example, they were forbidden to conduct business activity on pain of financial penalties and imprisonment (Berendt 1997: 234–237). In 1939, Bernhard Rosenbaum was involved in talks with Mayor of Gdańsk Arthur Greiser concerning the emigration of Jews from the city and dissolution of Jewish organisations (Berendt 1997: 237). In the same year, the Rosenbaums' property at 5 Dominikswall Street was abandoned. Gdańsk address lists from 1942 do not include Bernhard, Elizabeth, or Ruth Rosenbaum (DE 1942: I, 319). From 1940, *Reichspropagandaamt Danzig Westpreussen* was located at this address. The propaganda office was concerned with, among others, publishing activity. It published a bulletin *Polnischer Blutterror: Dokumente einer Kulturschande* (1940), the editor of which was Albert Forster, Gdańsk Gauleiter, particularly involved in repression (Schenk 2014: 174–178). The last information about the address comes from March 20, 1945, and it is about evacuation of the office due to bombings (Daniluk 2019: 456–457)³.

Conclusions

As a result of contract archaeological research, while supervising of construction work, remains of masonry buildings are discovered. Due to the method and scope of the work conducted, such material evidence of the past does not receive much attention from researchers. In the Polish archaeological literature, analysis of the remains of buildings from the nineteenth or twentieth century is frequently limited to confirmation of the location of such structures on archival maps. This article attempted to show these remains as material evidence of previously unknown historical events involving two wealthy Gdańsk families. The space explored had already been modified during the construction of today's road (after WW2). On the ground floor level, no material sources that could be identified with the families occupying the villa were preserved. In the context presented, the results of archaeological excavations allow to visualise the interiors of some of the rooms (the colour of the walls, the surface type). The only evidence for the destruction of the building in 1945 are the traces of burning recorded in different rooms. The small fragment of the house of the Muscate family uncovered provided an inspiration for a narrative linking the fate of a German family living in Gdańsk to the history of the Jewish Rosenbaum family working for the Gdańsk community. An attempt was made to recreate all forty-six years of the property's history,

3 The author gives the address 8 Dominikswall Street, but based on the sources listed above and records from address books, the propaganda office was located at 5 Dominikswall Street. The information about the bombing and destruction of the office is valuable.

which started in 1899 and ended with a bombing in 1945. The construction of the villa in the representative section of Gdańsk's new traffic route designed in 1887 was the material evidence of social changes taking place in the city in the first half of the twentieth century. The rhythm of changes in the ownership of the house at 5 Dominikswall Street reflects the history of many properties and their residents in the city during the Second World War.

Abbreviations

ADV – *Adreßbuch für Danzig und Vororte*

DE – *Danziger Einwohnerbuch : mit allen eingemeindeten Vororten und Zoppot*

NAD – *Neues Adreßbuch für Danzig und seine Vororte*

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Streszczenie

Artykuł w świetle zaprezentowanych wyników badań archeologicznych podejmuje problematykę związaną z możliwościami interpretacji relikwów architektury z XX w. w kontekście historycznym. Analiza źródeł archeologicznych dotyczy lokalizacji przy współczesnej ulicy Wały Jagiellońskie w Gdańsku. Odkryte mury zidentyfikowano z historycznym adresem Dominikswall 5. W tekście przedstawiono czterdziestosecioletnią historię odkrytej nieruchomości na podstawie źródeł historycznych. Zebrane dane to wycinek dziejów dwóch zamożnych gdańskich rodzin Muscate i Rosenbaum, których losy odnoszą się do odkrytej nieruchomości.

Słowa kluczowe: Gdańsk, Muscate, Rosenbaum, archeologia, XX wiek

Joanna Dąbal

University of Gdańsk

Institute of Archaeology

e-mail: joanna.dabal@ug.edu.pl