

Suggested venues

For the design and realisation of the work, the Contracting Authority provides a free choice of the following locations owned by the Municipality of Budapest:

The area of Topographical No. 6835/17 in Városmajor, confined by Csaba Str. – Ignotus Str. – Szamos Str. – Maros Str.



Originally it belonged to the citizens of Buda, then between 1703 and 1713 to General Pfeffershoven, who then sold it to the city of Buda, but in 1717 his successor, Count Regal, challenged the transaction, which led to years of legal dispute. Commander Count József Henrik Daun built a manor house here in 1720 and a summer house in 1724 (today 59 Városmajor Street in District XII). The city of Buda bought the area back from the castle commanders in 1729, when Daun was transferred, together with the summer house and garden, and from 1731 it was leased to gardeners.

Between 1742 and 1785 there was also a cemetery in Városmajor. The Városmajor cemetery, also known as the old Water Town cemetery, was the common graveyard of the quarters called Water Town and Stage-Road, enclosed by a ditch. It was closed in 1785 because it was full. In the same year, in 1785, Joseph declared Városmajor a public garden. In the 19th century it was a popular place for excursions and amusement. At the beginning of the century, the butchery of Buda moved here, which significantly deteriorated the area and in the 1850's it was described as neglected: *"The Városmajor ("City Manor") quarter, located at the end of Christina Town, used to be a favourite entertainment place for the people of Buda, but now it is neglected, and only on summer Sundays and holidays does the tenant give dance parties for the lower classes."*(Imre Palugyay, 1852).

Until the 1910's, this section of the Ördög-árok (Devil's Ditch), which flows through Városmajor, was unvaulted. The landscaping of the area started in the 1920's, when the parish church of Jesus' Heart was built in Városmajor according to the plans of Aladár Árkay.

In September 1942, Soviet planes bombed Budapest, causing [extensive damage](#) to the parish church.

At 37 Városmajor Street, the Arrow Cross House of the City Major was in operation during the final days of World War II (now a parking lot, standing about 300 metres from the proposed site of the monument as the crow flies).

During the siege of Budapest, the area of Városmajor was the scene of intense fighting, and at the end of December 1944 it became one of the main theatres of the fighting. Városmajor was occupied by the Soviets after 22 January 1945; on 29 January a counter-attack was launched under cover of German assault guns to retake Városmajor, the unit was organised from high school students, conductors and detachments, but their aim was not achieved.

The events of the 1956 revolution had little impact on the Városmajor area. It is alleged that at the time of the ceasefire, three employees of the State Security Authority fired from the roof of a house in Városmajor on a bread delivery truck, and the fire was returned by the National Guardsmen in the truck; at the same time, the rebels occupied the parish church in Városmajor.

The park is home to the World War I mountain hunters' memorial, as well as statues of Tom Thumb and of Beethoven, the latter by János Horvay. The memorial column of architect and painter Aladár Árkay is also located here.

In recent years, extreme right-wing groups have often commemorated the breakout of German-Hungarian troops from the Castle during 1944-1945 siege of the capital in the Városmajor (or rather in its western part).



The Városmajor cemetery in 1749. ([BFL XV.16.a 203/cop1](#))



On the 1760 map of Buda, the former Városmajor cemetery was located on today's Széll Kálmán Square, south-west of the brick kilns ([BFL XV.16.d.241/cop14](#))

The following areas of Margaret Island:

- o The strip adjacent to the Pest-side area of the section of Schulek Promenade crossing the part of Topographical No. 23800/2 north of the Water Tower



- o The Rose Garden, the area of Topographical No. 23800/3 named Rose Garden in the vicinity of Rezső Soó Promenade



- o The Bercsek Garden, the area of Topographical No. 23800/4 north of Alfréd Hajós National Swimming Stadium



The island has numerous medieval monuments: Franciscan and Dominican monasteries (the tomb of Princess Margaret lies here), a Premonstratensian convent, the Archbishop of Esztergom's castle and the castle and spital of the Knights Hospitaller.

In 1790 it became the property of Archduke Lipót Sándor, and after his death in 1795 it became the property of his successor, Palatine Joseph (then in 1908 it became the property of the Metropolitan Fund, administered by the Council of Communal Works). In addition to the names "Island of Hares", "Margaret Island" and "Palatine Island", the names "Great Buda Island" and "Small Buda Island" (or "Painter Island") were also used, as it was then still made up of two parts. The horticultural development of the island began with the acquisition of the property by the palatine.

The Bercsek Garden is partly located on the area of the former Little Buda Island, which was formed during the two islands were united by filling the river between them. The Rose Garden and the Great Meadow were meadows and wooded areas with footpaths in the 19th century.

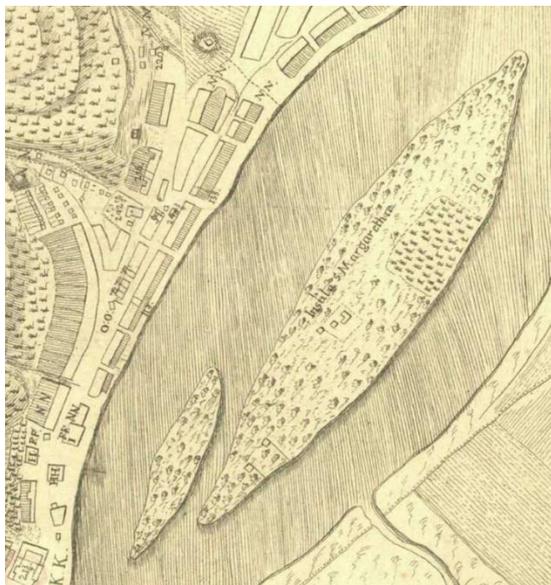
In the 18th-century depictions, the two islands are not under cultivation; only the central and north-eastern side of Margaret Island was planted with vineyards. In the 19th century it was a popular place for excursions for the people of both Pest and Buda. The vineyard included in the surveys of the first half of the 19th century (in the area of Alsó-nagyrért [Lower Great Meadow]) was already established on the palatine's order.

After the successful drilling of Vilmos Zsigmondy in 1866-1867, it was decided to merge the two neighbouring islands (the former Bath Island on the northern side of Margaret Island had already become a reef, and the river regulation had finally removed it).

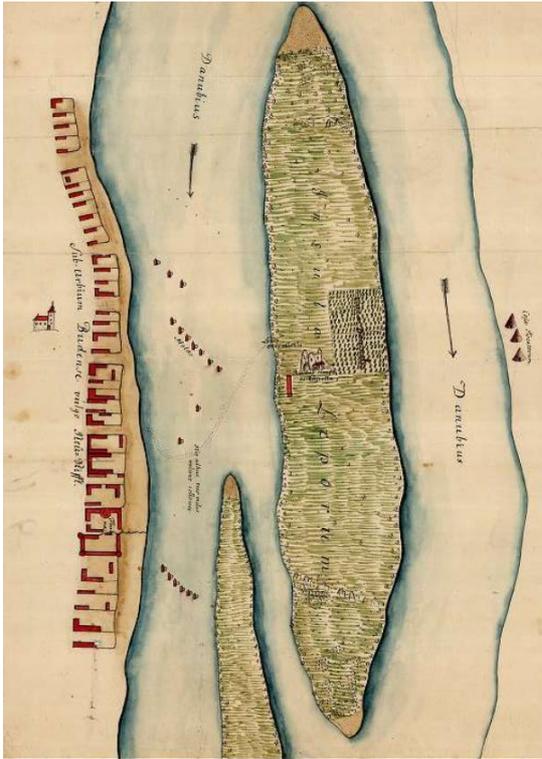
The island was first opened to the public in the days of the Soviet Republic of Hungary, until then admission had only been possible against payment of a fee. After the fall of the Soviet Republic, the ticket system was reinstated and only abolished in 1945.

In the final days of World War II, on 18 January 1945 during the siege of Budapest, the Soviets crossed to Margaret Island and took up a position between the concrete structures of the Árpád Bridge, which was then under construction. During the 12 days of fighting, the island fell to the besiegers with heavy Hungarian, German and Soviet losses.

For more information about Margaret Island and the history of its gardens, click [here](#).



Margaret Island and the Small Buda Island, 1760 ([BFL XV.16.d.241/cop14](#))



The two islands on another map also in 1760 ([MNL OL S 12 Div. XVI. N. 42.](#))



The two islands in 1872 ([OSZK TK 1838](#))



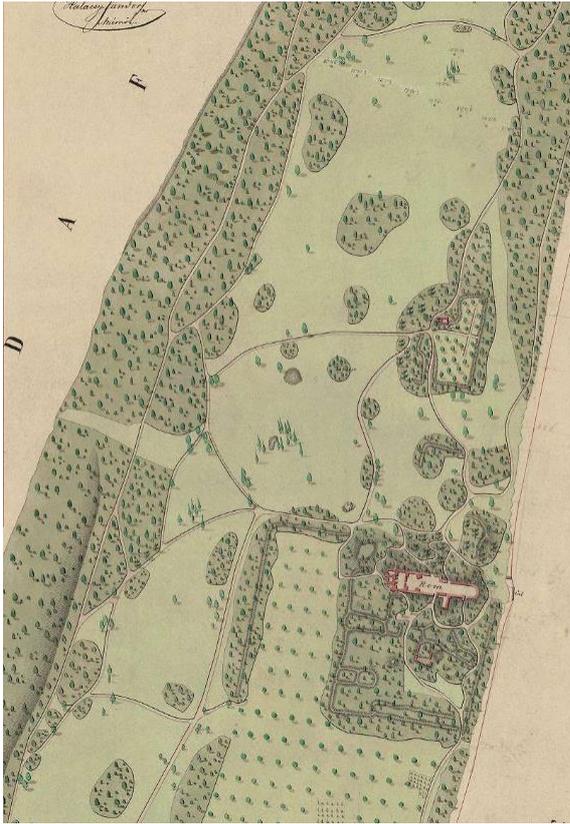
Margaret Island and the Small Buda Island, (1793) And the part of the Island now (with the Bercsek Garden).



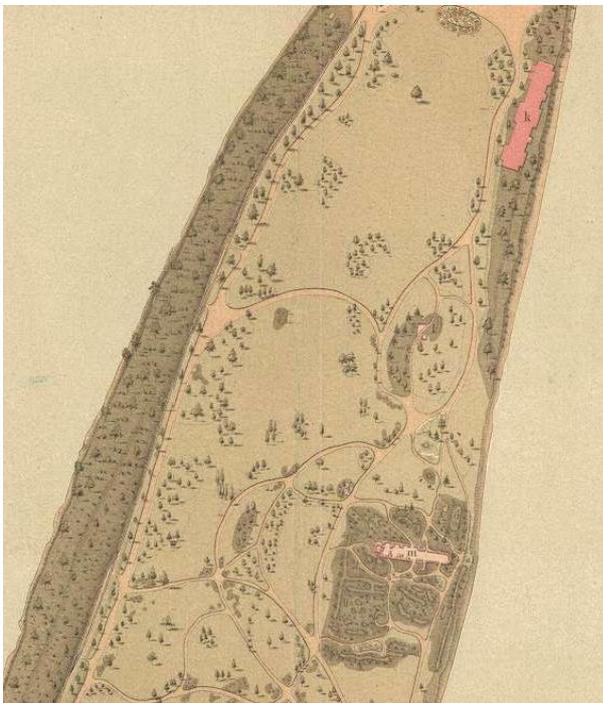
In 19th century surveys the present Bercsek garden is marked as a submerged area, see e.g. the 1838 flood damage survey ([BFL XV.16.d.241/4a](#)).



The place of the Rose Garden and the Great Meadow on the military city map of Pest-Buda-Óbuda 1823. ([BFL XV.16.d.241/cop1](#))



The island in 1867 (detail, [BFL XV.16.d.241/10](#)). The survey includes the Dominican Monastery and St Michael's Chapel.



The medieval monastery (m) and its surroundings in 1872. Footpaths and grassland in the area of the Rose Garden and the Great Meadow ([BFL XV.16.d.241/cop17](#)).

Archaeology: Margaret Island: the entire area of the island is a registered archaeological site (no. 66805), with the Schulek Frigyes Promenade being perhaps the only one of the sites listed here that is not an individually protected site.

The following areas of the Gellért Hill:

- The designated part of Topographical No. 5692/1: the strip of the area beneath the Garden of Philosophy towards Hegyalja Road



- The area of the Jubilee Park, Topographical No.: 5309/3



Below the Garden of Philosophers

Roughly the areas bounded by SÁNCZ Street, Flórián/Floriani Street and Felsőhegy (Upper Hill) Street, and the area bounded by Hosszú Street, Felsőhegy Street, Alsóhegy (Lower Hill) Street and Hírnök (Herald) Street, as shown on the 1873 cadastral map.

It was an inhabited area from the 18th century until Tabán was demolished. There were no public buildings, only private houses in this part of Rácváros (Serbians' Quarter), forming the western-south-western boundary of the suburb's inner area (e.g. the detached building marked as 903 at the end of the former Hosszú Street on the 1790 map of the quarter was one of Buda's customs houses). To the south-south-east of the area were vineyards, and the inhabitants of the former streets were mostly poorer day labourers.

The Gellért Hill reservoir was built here in 1904. Tabán was a vacant lot after its demolition in the 1930's, and was landscaped in the 1960's. On 1 May, 1968, the first pop music festival was held in the area, which has been hosted on the Tabán side of Gellért Hill ever since.

Above the reservoir, a group of bronze and granite sculptures by the Hungarian sculptor Nándor Wagner, who lived in Japan, was unveiled in 2001, depicting Pharaoh Akhenaten, Jesus, Buddha, Lao Tzu and Abraham in a circle with a glowing sphere in the centre, representing the common deity. The sphere symbolizes the link between religions: it is a symbol of the supreme world, which man can only encounter outside of his earthly existence. The statues of Mahatma Gandhi, the Buddhist monk Bodhidharma and St Francis of Assisi stand in the background of the statues positioned in a circle.

Street names:

SÁNC (Rampart) Street: Schanz Gasse (1720–1850), Schantz Gasse (1723–1732), Kálvária Útsza (1833), Calvarien Gasse (1838), Station Gasse (1854). Named after the Golgotha that once stood on top of Gellért Hill.

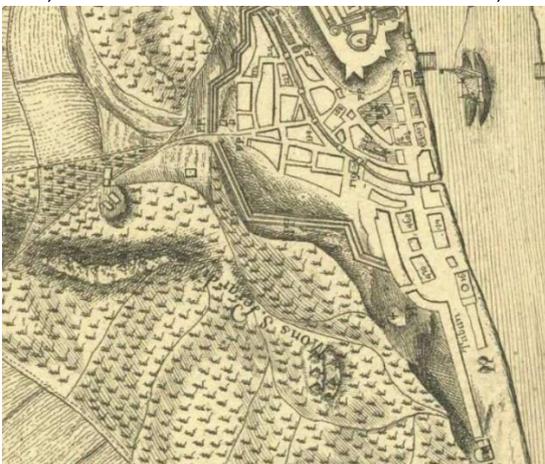
Hosszú (Long) Street (the front part is today's Hadnagy [Lieutenant] Street, and Hegyalja [Foothill] Street partly follows the former Hosszú Street), its former names were: Lange Strasse (1699), Lange Gasse (1701–1840)

Jubilee Park

Between the 1686 recapture of Buda from the Turks up to the destruction of vines by the Phylloxera epidemic in the late 19th century, it was under vine cultivation, the first development being carried out in 1954.

The Jubilee Park was opened in 1965, on the twentieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

The following statues stand in Jubilee Park today: The three-figure group of sculptures "Horseys" by János Barta, which also functions as a toy for children; István Tar's "Budapest Girl" or "Sitting Girl"; József Somogyi's "Girl with a Colt"; György Segesdi's "Windcock"; Ödön Metky's "Amphorae", Miklós Melocco's "Pelican Fountain"; Tibor Szervátius' head sculpture of Dezső Szabó, a Hungarian writer, critic, publicist and teacher from Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca, Romania). The sculpture entitled "Past and Present" by István Kiss, also known as the "Liberation Relief", can also be found here.



Tabán and Gellért Hill, covered with vineyards on a map of Buda from 1760 ([BFL XV.16.d.241/cop14](#))



The area on the cadastral survey of Buda in 1873 ([BFL XV.16.a.201/9](#))

Gellért Hill in World War II - the scene of the penultimate major Soviet assault on Budapest

In the last weeks of World War II, after the fall of Pest, the German troops fortified the Citadel, numerous machine-gun emplacements were set up, and several anti-aircraft guns and machine guns were installed on Gellért Hill. By 7 February 1945 only Gellért Hill and the Castle had remained in the hands of the German-Hungarian troops, the last two resistance areas. The Soviet siege of Gellért Hill started on 9 February: against the Soviets, who attacked mainly from the sloping western direction, the Germans barricaded themselves in the villas of the hill, retreating house by house; and the last assault took place on 10 February 1945. On the 11th, the Soviets opened a gap in the fortress wall, entered the fortress and captured it in a two-hour close-quarters combat.



The blocks on the 1790 survey of Tabán ([OSZK TK 2153](#))



Ont he map of Pest-Buda, 1854 ([BFL XV.16.d.241/18](#))



The area on the cadastral survey of Buda in 1873 ([BFL XV.16.a.201/9](#))

Archaeology:

Gellért Hill (the part below the Garden of the Philosophers and the Jubilee Park) a) the Garden of the Philosophers and the Jubilee Park, located below the former, comprise a registered archaeological site (no. 72919), and b) the Jubilee Park: is a specially protected archaeological site (no. 14984) due to a Celtic eraviscus settlement found here.

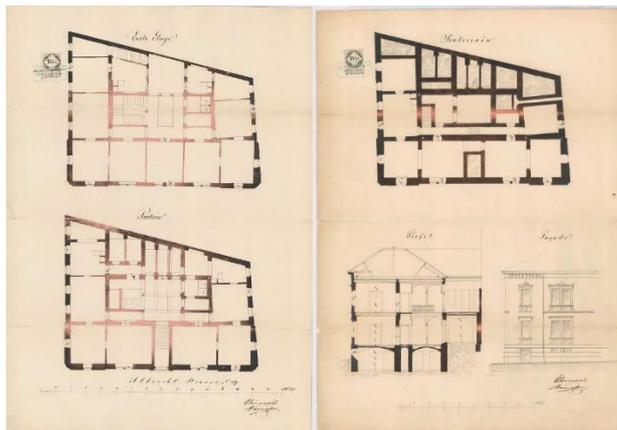
Free lot on János Hunyadi Road (Topographical No.: 14342)

According to a 1695 survey of the water-town *"Ein Haus in der Schlangen gassen gelangt bis an das wasser gassl [A house in Snake Street reaches to the water passing-place]"*. According to 18th century land registrations, the property measured 10x13 acres.

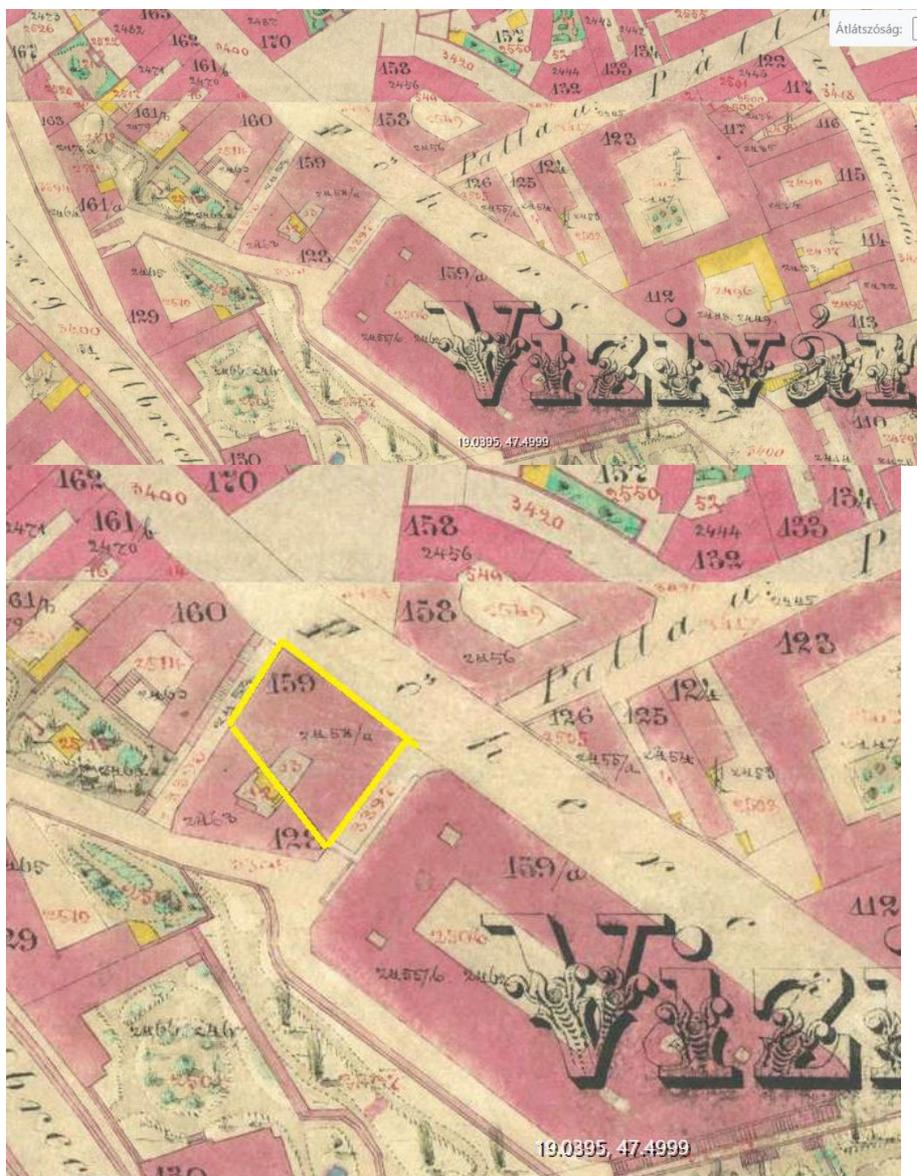
Previous numbers assigned to this house: no. 87. (1695), no. 90. (1714), no. 111. (1739), no. 103. (1771), no. 149. (1786), no. 165. (1794), no. 172. (1804), no. 164. (1814), no. 166. (1822), no. 163. (1844) in Schlangen Gassen, and no. 159. (named Albrechtstrasse in 1853 and 1871), 2458a (1882), 2513 (1894) in Festungsauffahrt. Its owners were: Rupert Hölbacher was a mason (from 1697, he probably built a house on the plot, as the property is listed as a house in his ownership record, but as a house in the next one); Paul Zwibel (from 1700); Balthasar Riedl, compass maker (1701); Daniel Sanfftleben, master goldsmith (1718); János Benyó, goldsmith (1743); Johann Csernabek/Crnabek, day labourer (1764), his daughter Elisabetha Csernabek, married Petzel (1808), Melchior Krach, locksmith (1808); Michael Krach, locksmith (1885); Catharina Veronica, née Seemann widow Kantz (1837).

From the 1860s it was owned by the engineer Alajos Stettner, who had the one-storey building converted in 1865. The house was sold in 1880 to Antal Verderber, a merchant, Katalin Verderber, Gyula Verderber, a civil servant of the capital city, and Rozalia Verderber.

This building was destroyed during the siege of Budapest in 1944-1945, and the site has been empty ever since.



Plans for the conversion from 1865 ([BFL XV.17.a.302 Nr. 418](#))



The building on the cadastral survey of Buda ([1873, BFL XV.16.a.201/9](#))



The intersection of Szalag Street, High Street and Hunyadi János Street, seen from Szalag Street. Ybl (Hatvany) villa at top left corner of the photo (Source: [Fortepan](#))

Archaeology:

District I, plots of land along Hunyadi János Street: an archaeological site of special protection, as was the site of the Water City, i.e. the medieval suburbs (nos. 39706, 39707)

Green area at the Tímár Street overpass, in the section farther from the Danube, confined by Árpád Fejedelem Road – Tímár Street, (Topographical No. 17929/13 in part and Topographical No. 17929/14)



Before 1848, there is no separate name for the street in the sources, the properties were numbered by *Haupt Gasse* (i.e. Main Street, today Lajos Street). On the survey of Óbuda by Lipót Varásdy, chief engineer of Buda (1858-1861) it is already listed as Gerber Street, while in the cadastral survey map of the district (in 1874-1876 and in 1884) as *Tobak (correctly Tobak) köz / Tanner Street*. The street was named after the tanners who settled near the Danube because of the water they needed for their work. As it is located along the main route between Buda and Óbuda (*Haupt Gasse* or Main Street), it was built up from the 18th century. In the area marked there were several dwelling houses (according to the pre-1873 house numbering, no. 11-14 - today's title deed numbers: bw. 17960 and 17965). The section of Lajos Street between Nagyszombat Street, the former border between Buda and Óbuda, and the Óbuda synagogue was the place where the majority of Óbuda's Jewish population settled from the first half of the 18th century, and where Christians and Israelites lived in mixed numbers. Before 1848, houses no. 10 and no. 13 were so-called contract Jewish houses in, whose owners were exempt from the burden of *corvée* and military quarterage, but according to the census of the first half of the 19th century most of the houses were inhabited by both Christians and Israelites.

At 2 Tímár Street there was a yellow-star house - now demolished - which probably stood on the plot under discussion.

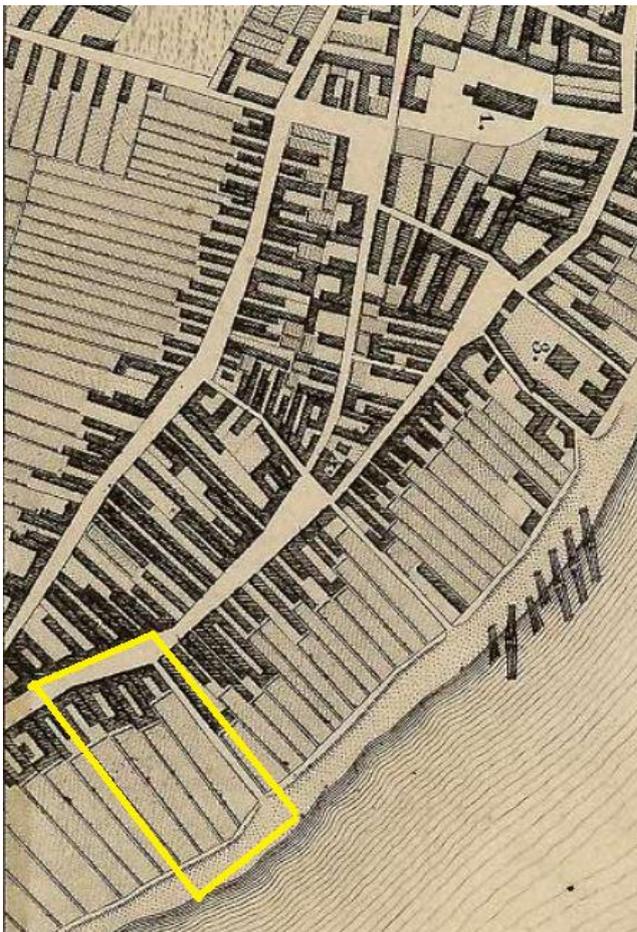
From 1896, the Kisfaludy Theatre of Óbuda stood in the vicinity of the planned site of the monument, in Imre Rupp Street (today Prince Árpád Road), but it was damaged during the siege of 1944-1945 and had to be demolished in 1945.

At 11 Tímár Street (300 metres west of the planned site of the monument), the Óbuda National Guard was organised during the 1956 Revolution.

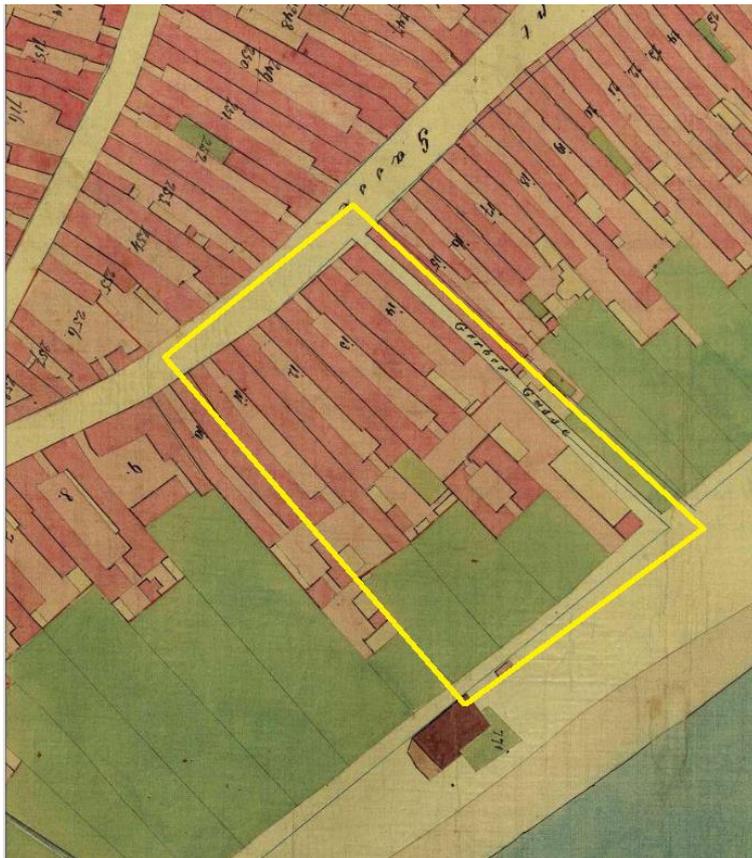
Today, the only building on the square is the former concrete-panelled District III headquarters of the Social Democratic Party, in an abandoned condition.



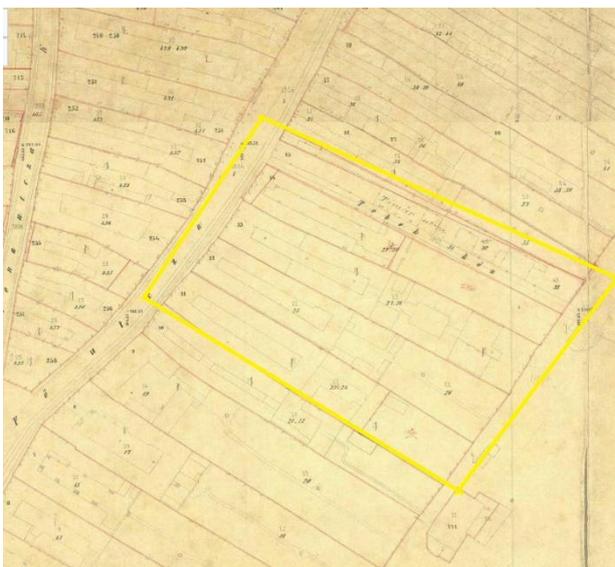
The street from Haupt Gasse (Lajos Street) and its houses in 1778 ([Andreas Kneidinger's survey, MNL OLS 11 N. 38.](#))



The former houses on the site of today's Tímár Street and the planned place of the monument, as depicted on the 1810 survey map by János Lipszky (St Peter and Paul's parish church is marked by no. 1, and the predecessor of the present synagogue is marked by no. 3, [HIM G I h 72.](#))



The houses of Gerber Gasse and Haupt Gasse on the survey of Lipót Varásdy (1858–1861, [BFL XV.16.c.211/20](#))



The cadastral survey of Tobak Alley and Tímár Street in Óbuda (1874-1876, 1884, BFL XV.16.c.211/3)

Archaeology:

District III, an area next to the Tímár Street flyover: an individually protected archaeological site (no. 45907), as part of the territory of the military town of Roman Aquincum.