

# STÄDTEATLANTEN

VIER JAHRZEHNTE ATLASARBEIT IN EUROPA

herausgegeben von  
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BÖHLAU VERLAG KÖLN WEIMAR WIEN

## FROM THE 1839 CADASTRE TO THE 1417 LAND BOOK

About the method of the reconstruction of the spatial structure  
of the Old Town of Elblag in the Middle Ages

by Roman Czaja

### 1. The subject of research

The Elblag settlement system in the Middle Ages consisted of three elements: the castle of the Teutonic Order and the Old Town of Elblag set up in 1237 as well as the New Town of Elblag established by the Teutonic Order in the 1340s (Fig. 1).<sup>1</sup> The Old Town of Elblag belonged to the biggest towns in the Teutonic state in Prussia. The sea trade within Hansa constituted the base of its economic development. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Elblag settlement system included 10,000 inhabitants. The spatial scope of research presented here concerns the Old Town and its suburbs.

### 2. The method of reconstruction of the spatial system of the Old Town of Elblag

The starting point for the reconstruction of the spatial system of the Old Town Elblag was the cadastral map made in the years 1839/40 as commissioned by the local authorities.<sup>2</sup> The spreadsheets of compact building structures were made in scale 1 : 500 (Fig. 2), while the remaining part of the territory was presented in 1 : 1000. It is the first map of the town based on geodesy surveys. The map was published as a part of "The historical atlas of Polish towns" in two versions. The white-and-black

<sup>1</sup> Roman CZAJA, *Socjotopografia miasta Elblaga w średniowieczu* [The social topography of Elblag in the Middle Ages], Toruń 1992, pp. 18–24; Tadeusz NAWROLSKI, *Gebäude und topographische Strukturen des 13. und 14. Jahrhunderts in Elblag*, in: *LübSAK* 20 (1990), p. 159; Antoni KAŚINOWSKI, *Ein Blick auf die mittelalterliche Raumdisposition von Elblag und ihre Realisierung: Stadt – Baukomplex – Bauparzelle*, in: *Archaeologia Elblagensis* 1, ed. by Antoni CZACHAROWSKI/Tadeusz NAWROLSKI, Gdańsk 1992, pp. 67–78; Karl HAUKE/Horst STOBBE, *Die Baugeschichte und die Baudenkmäler der Stadt Elblag*, Stuttgart 1964, p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> *Archiwum Państwowe w Gdańsku (APGd.)* [State Archive Gdańsk], V/65, no. 888 "Flurkarten der Stadt Elblag".

map was printed in scale 1 : 5000; the coloured version in scale 1 : 2500.<sup>3</sup> The most substantial problem in the reconstruction of the medieval urban system was combining the numbers of land parcels on the cadastral map with the names of owners of plots

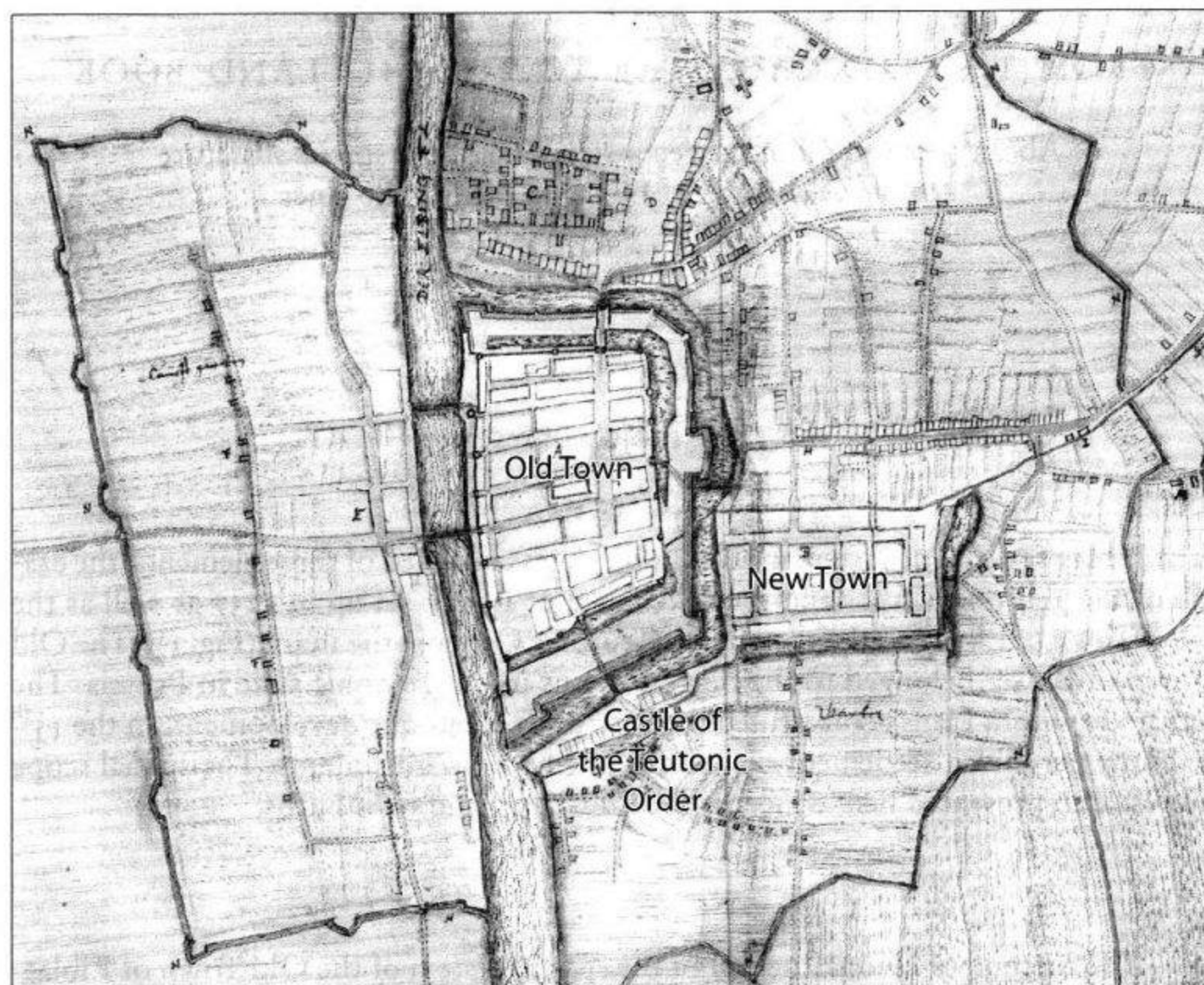


Fig. 1: Elbing. The map by Heinrich Thome 1626

Source: Kungliga Krigsarkivet, Stockholm, Handritade kartverk 12, fol. 6

recorded in the 1417 land book, which included all estates within the walls (Fig. 3).<sup>4</sup> The problem was solved later thanks to a series of meadow books. In 1421 municipal meadows were divided in the Old Town of Elbląg (Fig. 4). By means of drawing, three pieces of meadow located in different parts of Elbląg land were joined to every plot situated within the city walls. Every piece of meadow belonging to a given land parcel was granted a certain number code which did not change until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The last meadow book from the 1790s included the list of plots with

<sup>3</sup> Atlas historyczny miast polskich [Historical Atlas of Polish Towns], vol. I: Prusy Królewskie i Warmia, hg. v. Antoni CZACHAROWSKI, fasc. 1: Elbląg, author: Roman CZAJA, cartography: Zenon KOZIEŁ, Toruń 1993, no. 1, 2.

<sup>4</sup> APGd., 369,1/117.

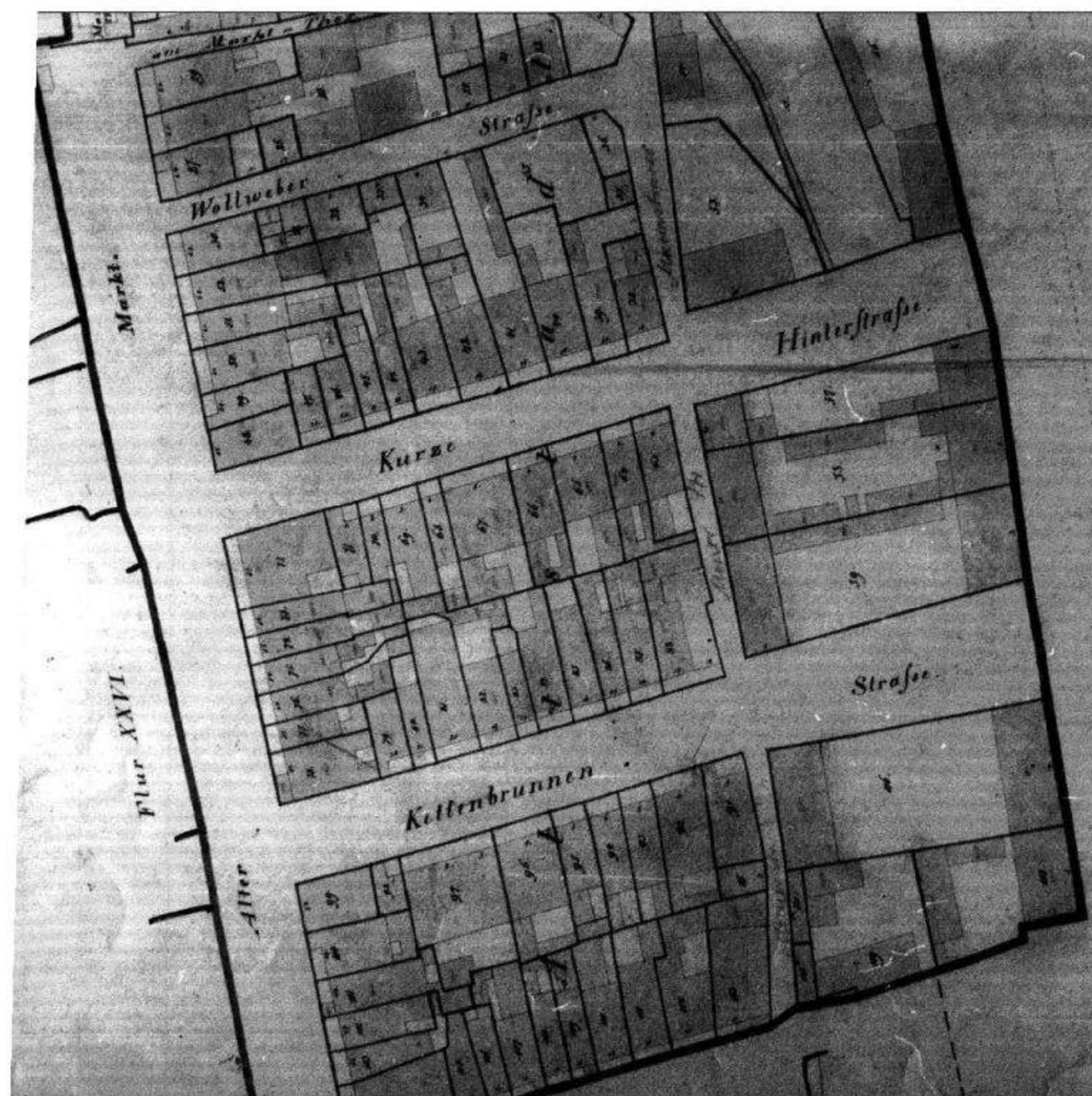


Fig. 2: Elbing 1839–1840. The spreadsheet of the cadastral map

Source: Archiwum Państwowe w Gdansku [Staatsarchiv Danzig], Sign. V/65, 800

numbers of meadows – the same as in 1421 and the ordinal numbers of land parcels (*Servisnummer*).<sup>5</sup> The list of the owners of land parcels, made a few years before, included the concord of the ordinal numbers (*Servisnummer*) with the mortgage numbers (*Hypothekennummer*) (Fig. 5),<sup>6</sup> which were put on the map created in 1806 and on the cadastral map. Owing to the meadows' numbers it is possible to combine the 1839/40 map with the meadow book from 1421 and the land book, which was made in 1417 and included identical surnames.

<sup>5</sup> Ebd., 369,1/126, 127, 128, 1372.

<sup>6</sup> Ebd., 369,1/3002.


<p><b>Dy huunnele</b>          Das ist die boebunden mit dem andri erde          hunele folget also bis die stat quise bey</p>	<p>Lorentz Jurge  </p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Madel          Rex Ansel Engelke</p>	<p><b>Ute</b></p>	
<p>Landes 17 130 für mich geue          Martinus Bann 3. Februar          das ist die erde</p>		

Fig. 3: Elbląg Old Town. The land book (*Grundbuch*) from 1417  
 Source: Archiwum Państwowe w Gdansku [Staatsarchiv Danzig], Sign. 369,1/118

<p>18  <b>HE</b></p>	<p><b>Sors</b></p>
<p>• <b>HAN</b></p>	<p>Lans sternbete. erne Wurtz vor ein fide geracht Im          ersten teyle hiel 1/2, doro 1 morgen, und ist xxxij Futenlang          und ix Futen breit</p>
<p>• <b>HAN</b></p>	<p>Antonius Rabinsberg, von erne fide Im ersten teyle sunderst          1 morgen, die lunge xxxij Fute, die breite ix Futen</p>
<p>• <b>HAN</b></p>	<p>Johan Krebs von erne eate, ym andri teyle fetenboznstrok          und von die elyren biden in Pungen Schomach gasse, ist          die Rechtenhand, alman zu den maßen geet, doro allampt          1 morgen, al Futen lang und vij fute breit</p>
<p>• <b>HAN</b></p>	<p>Hans blante von erne fide Im andri teyle butzstrok          1 morgen, die lunge xl Futen und die breite vij Fute</p>
<p>• <b>HAN</b></p>	<p>Artz tonelens Witwe klans scholze und hans schauffenoch          von erne fide Im ysten teyle beleyest gasse 1 morgen          die lunge xlvj Futen, die breite vij fute</p>
<p>• <b>HAN</b></p>	<p>Her Wades halbestat cum omne erbe by Wass byssig          ist hans anelhyfen und hans boznobu, auch ein 1/2 fide          doselbst bym Wass, die imittenand 1/2 mozt, und ist l Fute          lang an ein fute, und lx fute an d andri fute, und hat          in die breite by fute und in fute</p>

Fig. 4: Elbląg Old Town. The meadow book from 1421  
 Source: Archiwum Państwowe w Gdansku [Staatsarchiv Danzig], Sign. 369,1/126

No. 1. In 200 Dinst

1	1	Samuel Möller	41	41	Matth. Meyer
2	2	Carl Heinrich Nipper	42	42	Joh. Dan. Abegg
3	3	Joh. Jac. Bösch	43	43	Wita Baumgärtel
4	4	Jacob Möller	44	44	Thammany Hainp
5	5	Thammany Hainp	45	45	Matth. Braun Hainp
6	6	Johan Jacob Bösch	46	46	Carl Hainp
7	7	Jacob Albrecht	47	47	Phil. H. Spörlein
8	8	Joh. Mich. Krause	48	48	Jacob Albrecht
9	9	Joh. Dan. Abegg	49	49	Phil. Jac. Neumann
10	10	George Schmidt	50	50	Jacob Rüdell
11	11	Joh. Dan. Abegg	51	51	Matth. Hörmel
12	12	Chr. Reychl	52	52	Hospitale H. Spörlein
13	13	Jacob Jallfeld	53	53	Jaspalben
14	14	Joh. Gott. Lehmann	54	54	Joh. Dietrich Formin
15	15	Hospitale H. Elizabeth	55	55	Joh. Dietrich Formin
16	16	Carl Grünau	56	56	Joh. Gottf. Wimmer
17	17	Carl Panner	57	57	Chr. Gottlieb Pöwe
18	18	Christ. Rörner	58	58	Gottfried Keller
19	19	Jacob Haecker	59	59	George Haehle
20	20	Hosp. Corp. Christi	60	60	Jacob Albrecht
21	21	Matth. Krumm	61	61	Matthias Schmidt
22	22	Carl Möller	62	62	Heinrich Krüger
23	23	Joh. Gottf.	63	63	Joh. Dietrich
24	24	Samuel Schlichter	64	64	Salomon Hobb
25	25	Samuel Schlichter	65	65	Joh. Dan. Hainp
26	26	Gabriel Frommelt	66	66	Christ. Abraham
27	27	Christoph Panner	67	67	Joh. Fried. Hermann
28	28	Thammany Hainp	68	68	Andreas Wallin
29	29	Matth. Hainp	69	69	Ernst Rüdell Panner
30	30	Nicolaus Hainp	70	70	Gottfried Schmidt
31	31	Matthias Hainp	71	71	Christoph Schlichter
32	32	Joh. Dan. Abegg	72	72	Matthias Hainp
33	33	Carl Panner	73	73	Carl Albrecht Schlichter
34	34	Joh. Dan. Abegg	74	74	Jacob Rüdell
35	35	Matthias Hainp	75	75	George Haehle
36	36	Matthias Hainp	76	76	Christ. Rüdell
37	37	Joh. Gottf. Schlichter	77	77	Christ. Rüdell
38	38	Joh. Gottf. Schlichter	78	78	George Haehle
39	39	Joh. Gottf. Schlichter	79	79	Christ. Rüdell
40	40	Joh. Gottf. Schlichter	80	80	George Haehle
			81	81	Christ. Rüdell
			82	82	George Haehle
			83	83	Christ. Rüdell
			84	84	George Haehle
			85	85	Christ. Rüdell
			86	86	George Haehle
			87	87	Christ. Rüdell
			88	88	George Haehle
			89	89	Christ. Rüdell
			90	90	George Haehle
			91	91	Christ. Rüdell
			92	92	George Haehle
			93	93	Christ. Rüdell
			94	94	George Haehle
			95	95	Christ. Rüdell
			96	96	George Haehle
			97	97	Christ. Rüdell
			98	98	George Haehle
			99	99	Christ. Rüdell
			100	100	George Haehle

369,1/3002

Fig. 5: Elblag Old Town. List of landowners with ordinal and mortgage numbers (Servis-/Hypothekennummer) from about 1790



Fig. 6: Map of Elblag by Israel Hoppe 1642 (fragment)  
Source: Archiwum Państwowe w Gdansk [Staatsarchiv Danzig], Sign. V/65, 22

3. Other cartographical sources used to reconstruct the layout of land parcels in the Middle Ages

The retrogressive method required using the cartographical sources from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest map of the town made around 1626 by a Swedish engineer Heinrich Thome is of great value in the reconstruction of the spatial system of suburbs, because it shows the system before the construction of fortifications (Fig. 1). It is very useful to compare this map with another map made by the same person in 1635, which was created after the construction of fortifications.<sup>7</sup> Both maps made

<sup>7</sup> Kungliga Krigsarkivet Stockholm, Handritade kartverk, 12 fol. 4, 6; Gerhard EIMER, Die Stadtplanung im schwedischen Ostseereich 1600–1715, Stockholm 1961, p. 13; Ludvig W. MUNTBE, Kungliga fortifikationens historia, Stockholm 1902, no. 17.

by Heinrich Thome include a simplified picture of the Old Town of Elbląg as they present only the network of streets omitting the division of building blocks into plots. The 1642 map by Israel Hoppe (copperplate engraving) includes pictures of buildings, but it is impossible to reconstruct the borders of plots with this map (Fig. 6).<sup>8</sup> Another drawback of the map is that the number of buildings shown on the map only partly corresponds to the real number of houses. In some streets some buildings were omitted, for instance the eastern part of Wasserstraße or the southern part of Alter Markt between Fischerstraße and Spieringstraße (Fig. 7). Supposedly, the intention of the Author of the map was to show the type and general picture of urban buildings, but not real divisions of the urban space. The appearance of some public buildings like the town hall, the parish church, the church of Virgin Mary, the hospital of Holy Spirit was reflected on the map quite accurately. Other constructions faithfully presented on the map are for example front entrance terraces (*Beischlag*) or a ridge building next to the parish church. The map of Christian Kretschmer from 1709 is even less accurate than the map made by Israel Hoppe.<sup>9</sup> The divisions of the urban space presented there have nothing to do with the reality. The first map to show the number and boundaries of land parcels is Manteuffel's map made in 1806/10 on the ground of the Friederici's map from 1785 (Fig. 8).<sup>10</sup> The map reflects also a varied width of plots. There appear certain simplifications in presenting boundaries between land parcels.

To recapitulate the above-presented characteristics of cartographical sources it can be concluded that existing maps from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century cannot serve as a basis to analyse changes in the structure of land parcels of the Old Town of Elbląg. More information on the subject can be found in meadow books or the land book, where the facts of combining or dividing land parcels were recorded. It can be concluded that between the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century there were no significant changes in the functional structure of the Old Town. As a result of the process of combining land parcels and removing small houses next to walls and gates, which started in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the number of dwellings decreased from 658 in 1417–1421 to 583 in 1839.<sup>11</sup>

The cadastral map helps to reconstruct the spatial system of the Old Town of Elbląg at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century accurately but the boundaries of plots are not so clear. However, in Elbląg in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century the majority of brick neighbour walls was erected (the so-called “fire walls”).<sup>12</sup> They cemented the

<sup>8</sup> APGd., V/65, no. 22; Atlas historyczny miast polskich (see note 3), no. 9.

<sup>9</sup> APGd., V/65, no. 28; Atlas historyczny miast polskich (see note 3), no. 10.

<sup>10</sup> APGd., V/65, no. 7; Winfried BLISS, Zwei Karten von Elbląg aus der Zeit um 1800, in: Elbląg 1237–1987, ed. by Bernhart JÄHNIG/Hans-Jürgen SCHUCH (Quellen und Darstellungen zur Geschichte Westpreußens 25), Münster 1991, pp. 281–282.

<sup>11</sup> Roman CZAJA, Anmerkungen zur Sozialtopographie der Stadt Elbląg im Spätmittelalter und in der Frühen Neuzeit, in: Kulturgeschichte Preußens königlich polnischen Anteils in der Frühen Neuzeit, ed. by Sabine BECKMANN/Klaus GARBER, Tübingen 2005, p. 81.

<sup>12</sup> Grażyna NAWROLSKA, Domestic Architecture in Elbląg, in: Der Hausbau, ed. by Manfred GLÄSER (Lübecker Kolloquium zur Stadtarchäologie im Hanseraum 3), Lübeck 2001, pp. 475–481; Roman CZAJA, Entwicklung des bürgerlichen Backsteinbaus in der Altstadt Elbląg in der 1. Hälfte des 14. Jahrhunderts nach historischen Quellen, in: Archaeologia Elblagensis (see note 1), pp. 82–85.

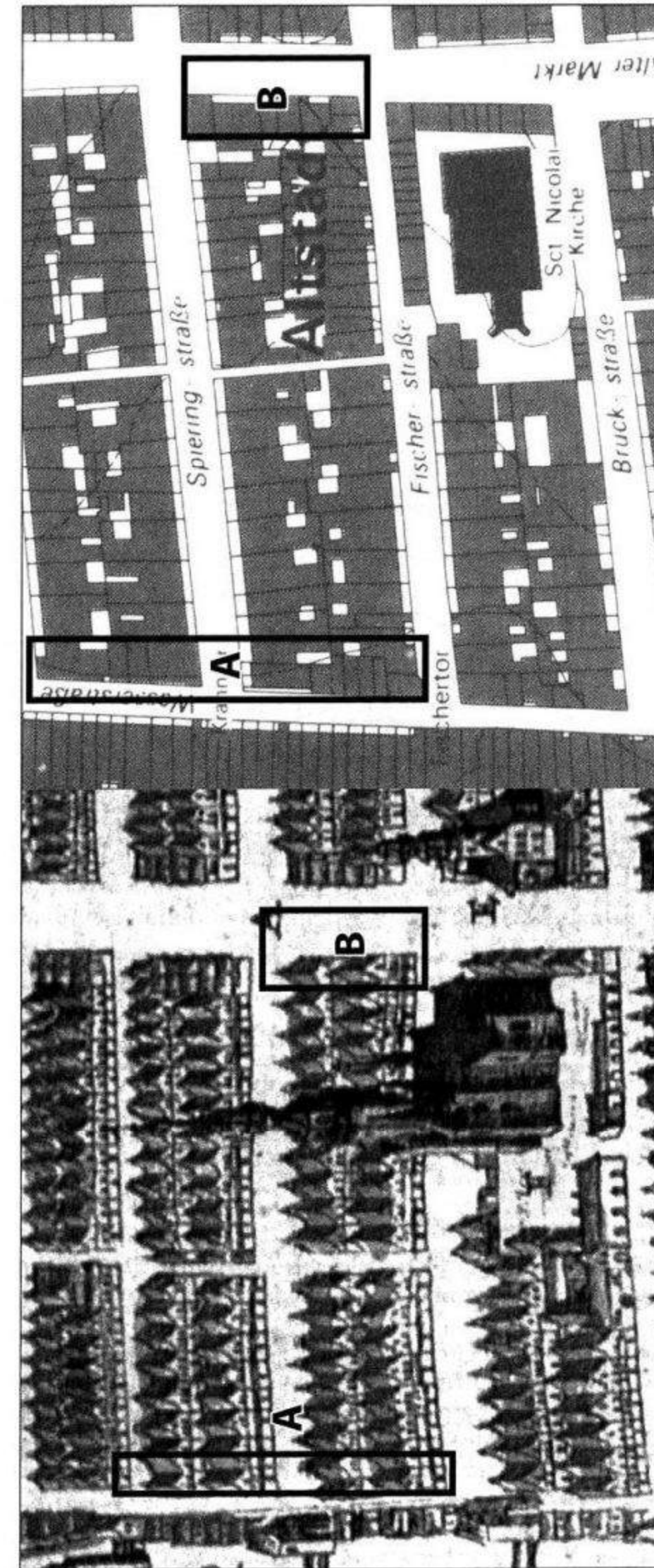


Fig. 7: The map from 1642 (left) and the cadastral map from 1839/40 (right)

A – Wasserstraße, B – Alter Markt

Source: Archiwum Państwowe w Gdansk [Staatsarchiv Danzig], Sign. V/65, 22; CZACHAROWSKI (ed.), Atlas historyczny miast polskich, IV, 1: Elbląg (see note 3), map 1

boundaries between land parcels. The comparison of the foundations discovered in the archeological research with the cadastral map show significant similarities of the land plots' boundaries.<sup>13</sup> The Old Town was destroyed during the Second World War,

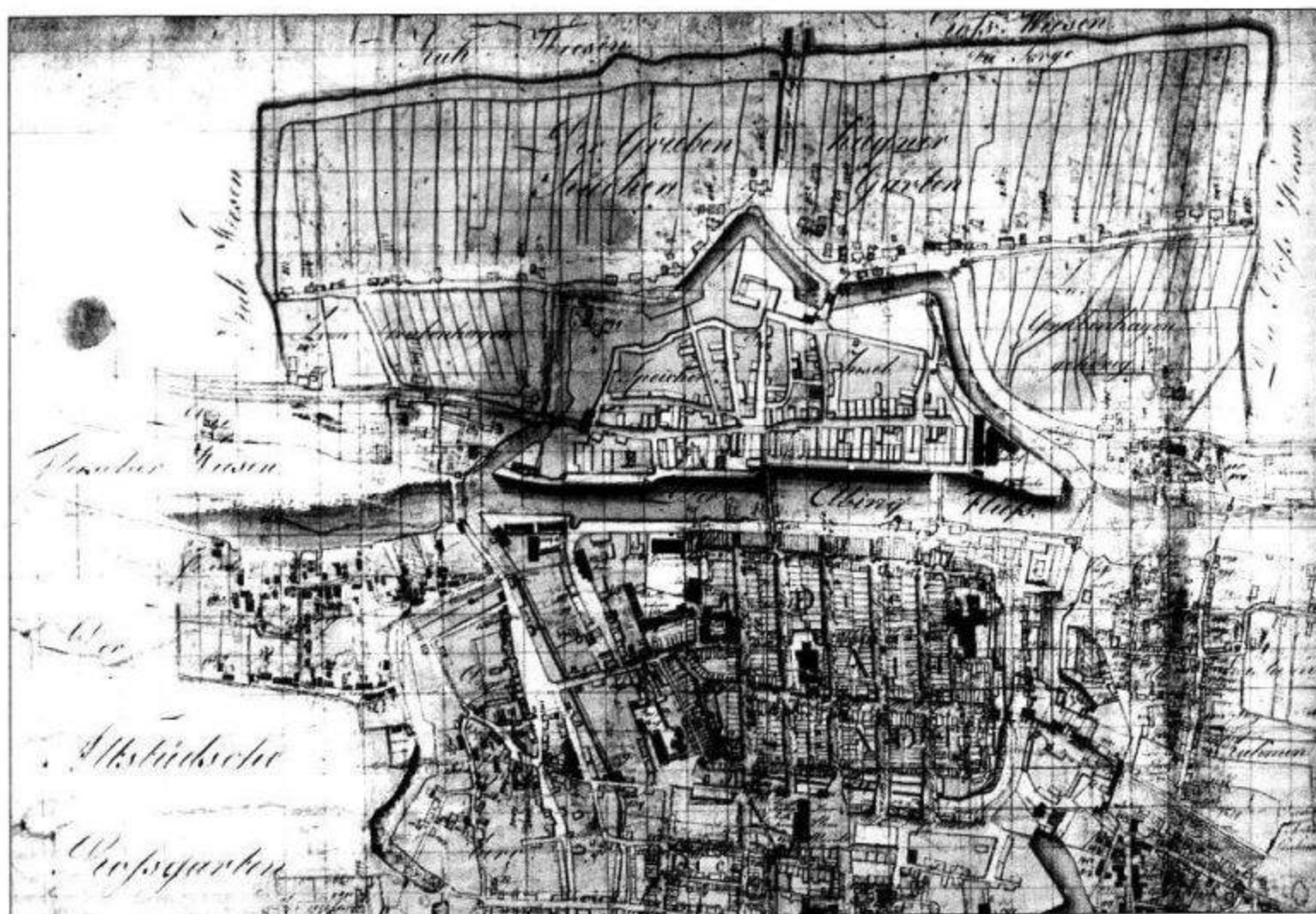


Fig. 8: The map of Elbląg 1806–1810 by Friederici/Manteuffel (fragment)  
Source: Archiwum Państwowe w Gdansk [Staatsarchiv Danzig], Sign. V/65, 25

in 1945 and in the first years after the war. The area of the medieval town remained uninhabited until the 1970s, which allowed carrying out extensive archeological research in the 1980s.<sup>14</sup> More noticeable changes took place only within the town hall area – after the fire of the town hall in 1788 new plots were created and dwellings were erected.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Grażyna NAWROLSKA, *Początki Elbląga w świetle źródeł archeologicznych* [The Beginnings of Elbląg in the Light of the Archaeological Evidence], Elbląg 2012, p. 97; CZAJA, *Socjotopografia* (see note 1), p. 15.

<sup>14</sup> Tadeusz NAWROLSKI, *Probleme archäologischer Untersuchungen der Altstadt in Elbląg*, in: CZACHAROWSKI/NAWROLSKI (eds.), *Archaeologia* (s. note 1), pp. 45–49; Maria LUBOCKA-HOFFMANN, *The Old Town in Elbląg – Research and Purpose*, in: ebd., pp. 35–38; Wiesław ANDERS, *Probleme der Stadtplanung beim Wiederaufbau der Altstadt in Elbląg*, in: *75 Jahre Historische Kommission für Ost- und Westpreussische Landesforschung: Forschungsrückblick und Forschungswünsche*, ed. by Bernhardt JÄHNIG, Lüneburg, 1999, pp. 381–404.

<sup>15</sup> Roman CZAJA, *Nowy Rynek w Elblągu. Przyczynek do historii przemian urbanistycznych w miastach pruskich w drugiej połowie XVIII w.* [The New Market in Elbląg. Contribution to the town-planning in the Prussian Towns in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century], in: *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej* 41, 2 (1993), pp. 321–326.

#### 4. The reconstruction of the spatial layout of suburbs

The reconstruction of the spatial layout of the Old Town of Elbląg's suburbs is much more difficult. Estates in the suburbs did not possess meadows. There survived only a record of owners of suburban houses from the 1420s, on the basis of which we can

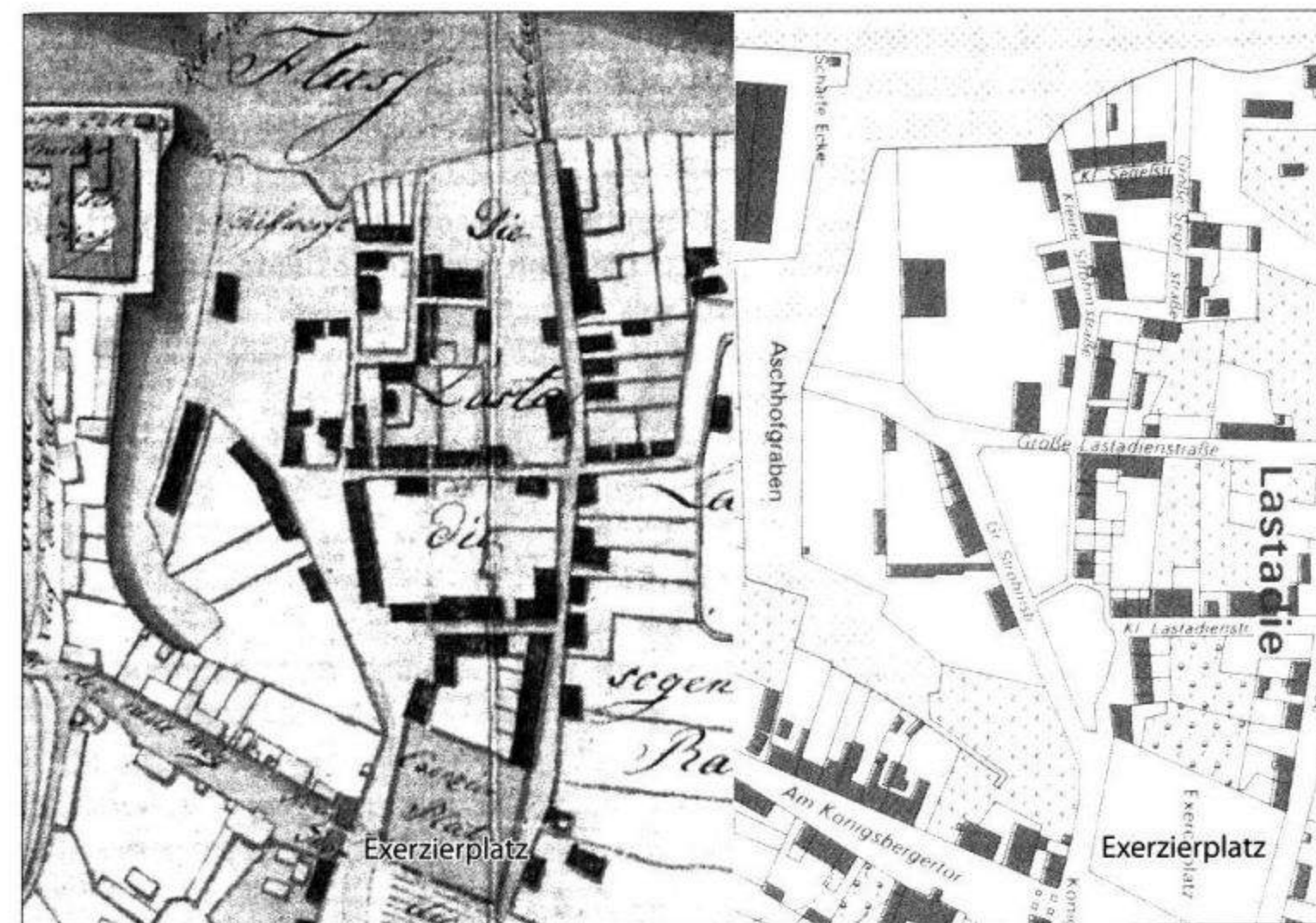


Fig. 9: The location of buildings and plots in Elbing's suburbs.  
The map by Friederici/Manteuffel 1785–1806 (left) and the cadastral map 1839–1840 (right)  
Source: Archiwum Państwowe w Gdansk [Staatsarchiv Danzig], Sign. V/65, 25;  
CZACHAROWSKI (ed.), *Atlas historyczny miast polskich*, IV, 1: Elbląg (see note 3), map

define their number.<sup>16</sup> The development of settlement and the construction of fortifications (1626–1635) led to drastic spatial changes, which involved an increasing number of estates. Using the retrogressive method it is impossible to join houses shown on the 1839 cadastral map with the names of their owners at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. As far as the structure of buildings and the boundaries of land parcels in the suburbs are concerned, the cadastral map shares common elements only with the map of Friederici/Manteuffel 1785/1806.<sup>17</sup> The comparison of the content of the

<sup>16</sup> APGd., 369,1/1929, 1931.

<sup>17</sup> APGd., V/65, no. 25; *Atlas historyczny miast polskich* (see note 3), no. 11; BLISS, *Zwei Karten* (see note 10), pp. 283–294.

maps both in the high-density housing area (between Exerzierplatz and the Elbląg river) (Fig. 9) and in the area of gardens and fields demonstrates certain similarities in the shape and location of buildings. However, differences resulting from dividing and combining estates prevail. The location of buildings and the boundaries of land parcels shown on older maps have little to do with reality. Even two maps made by Heinrich Thome show significant differences.

The network of streets in the suburbs did not change substantially. New fortifications erected by the Swedish (1626–1635) combined the Old Town and the New Town into one defence system. Nevertheless, the network of streets and buildings in each unit remained unchanged. The project to arrange the scattered settlement in the suburbs and to integrate it with the New Town, prepared during the construction of the fortifications, was never carried out. Demolishing medieval walls (after 1772) and the construction of the New Market (1773–1788) on the site of the former suburbs brought about many more significant changes to the system of streets.