This is a more detailed part of The Litvak Landscape, a route covering Kaunas as a whole. The long-running project aims to connect pictures and names, buildings and their residents, Litvaks and Lithuanians, the past and the present – and it’s also inviting to collaborate in the future. It’s a map mixing different chapters and layers of the history of Kaunas that’s open for improvements and further investigations.

**THE KAUNAS GHETTO**

Around 37 thousand Jews lived in Kaunas before the second world war. Only about 3000 of them survived. The Kaunas Ghetto was officially established on August 15th, 1941, a couple of months after the Kaunas pogrom during which approximately 800 people were killed. 10 thousand people from the ghetto were murdered in the Ninth Fort on October 29th of the same year. The ghetto was turned into a concentration camp. It was burned in July 1944. Around 5000 people were transferred to concentration camps, and only a few hundred managed to escape.

It was one of the longest-running ghettos in Lithuania. It was probably one of the most photographed one in Europe. The archives of the Kaunas ghetto Jewish police are kept in the Central State Archive of Lithuania.
on the 2 sq. km sized ghetto. It was separated to the main ghetto and the small ghetto (located in October 1941) – the two were connected by a bridge over Panerių street. In the 1940s, Petras Balčys served as the general manager of an orphanage, located in the same part of Kaunas as the ghetto. Between 1942 and 1944, the orphanage was used as a temporary place of refuge for Jewish children before they were moved to other locations. Tens of babies were admitted into the orphanage while only a few trusted members of the staff were aware of the existence. Balčys, a gifted and very popular pediatrician, tragically died in a plane crash in 1973 and was posthumously recognized as Righteous Among the Nations in 1977. An institution bearing his name is located at the foot of the Ninth Fort.

The original hospital was destroyed by the Soviets after the war. Now there is a memorial stone marking the place of the hospital. It is a yellow rhomb with the name of the hospital engraved on it. In the middle of the stone, there is a yellow rhomb with the name of the hospital engraved on it.