Jewish museum in Warsaw now half-complete

The Associated Press
Thursday, December 9, 2010; 10:59 AM

WARSAW, Poland -- Officials say construction of a major new Polish museum on the history of what was once Europe's largest Jewish community is now half-finished.

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews is a skeleton of concrete walls and white winding tubes on a vast square in what was once the heart of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Warsaw Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz and Finnish architect Rainer Mahlamaki said at a news conference in the unfinished structure Thursday that the project - which has faced delays - should be completed in March 2012. The museum will narrate the 1,000 years of Jewish life in Poland.

Poland's Jewish community numbered 3.5 million before World War II, but most were murdered during the Nazi Holocaust. Only since the fall of communism has Jewish life revived. ###