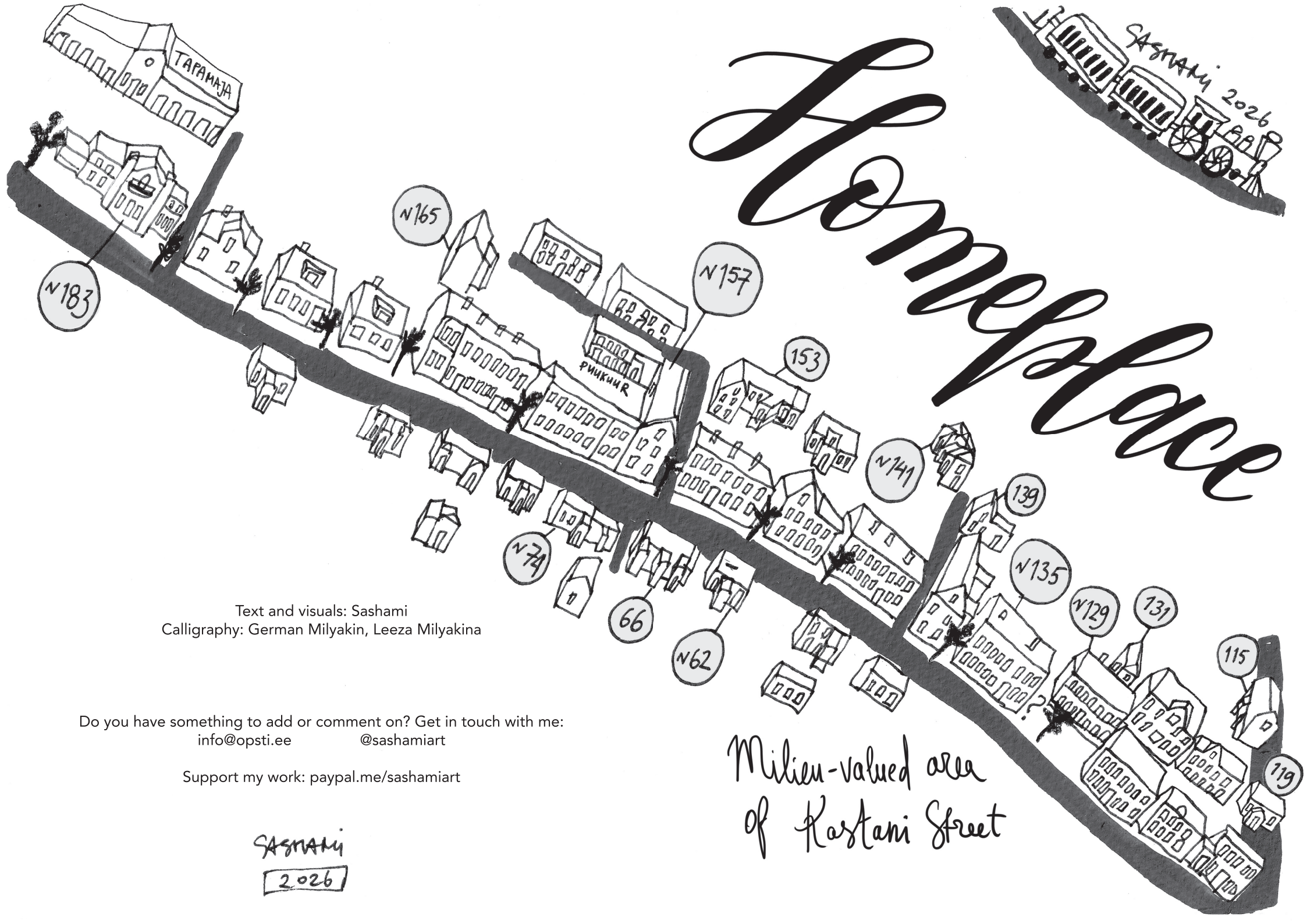
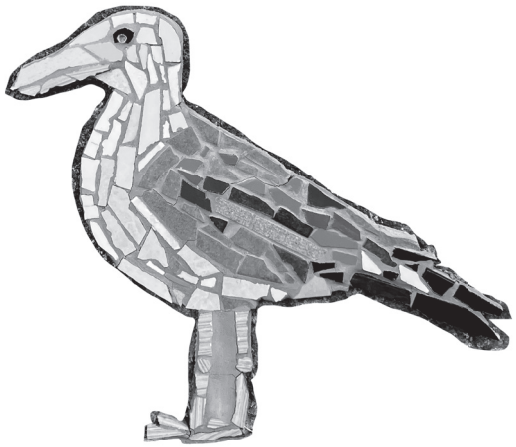


Text and visuals: Sashami
Calligraphy: German Milyakin, Leeza Milyakina

Do you have something to add or comment on? Get in touch with me:
info@opsti.ee @sashamiart

Support my work: paypal.me/sashamiart



FROM THE AUTHOR

Kastani street is a small world, a true city within a city (or rather, a village within a city). I remember how, on one particularly sunny day, a neighbor asked: “Did you go into town? It’s so hot there, not like here!” At one time, our street really was outside the city limits — these lands were once the fields of Tähtvere Manor. Today, people no longer ride horses or keep chickens here, but traces of those memories remain in some places.

I enjoy exploring my neighborhood and discovering its secrets, noticing small details, and admiring the people who left them behind. This work is a highly subjective, incomplete, and at times inaccurate summary of the Kastani heritage district. It is somewhat a guidebook, somewhat a graphic novel, but above all, a love letter.

This work is based on Nõmmemaa’s study “Architectural and Historical Survey of the Buildings in the Heritage-Valued Building Area of Kastani street in Tartu,” for which the author expresses sincere gratitude.

History

Тыдресо Ирьевсяа нац. горюма.

Gäshtvere
söösamaa

Mõisahoone Eebelfer

After the abolition of serfdom and the enactment of the Passport Law in 1863, peasants gained greater freedom of movement and could more easily change their place of residence. The railway, opened in 1876, encouraged migration to Tartu. The city's population grew from 12,400 inhabitants in 1847 to nearly 40,000 by 1897. To provide housing to the new citizens, tähtvere manor began selling and granting leases on land behind the railway for construction. The most active development of Kastani street took place mainly during the 1880–1890s and the early 20th century.

Kaumamaobar aaeea Kastanien Allee

Kastani uul.



Fotis EFA.197.0.29578

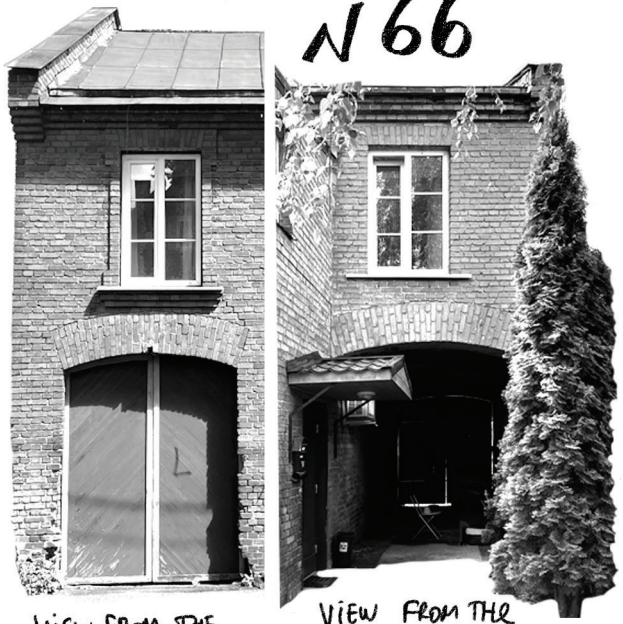
Distinctive traits



Daria

Large gates, through which carts could enter the courtyard

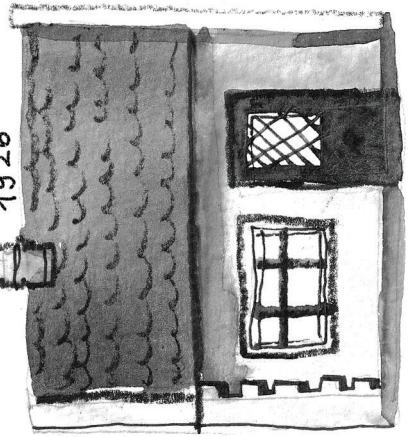
N 66



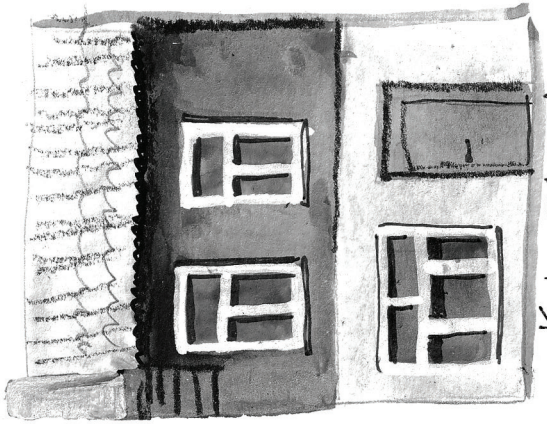
VIEW FROM THE STREET

VIEW FROM THE COURTYARD

KASTANI 74



Milk shop project 1926



Kastani 74 today

N 62



BEFORE 1917, this was a Bolshevik party meeting spot

1908 project for a woodstove-heated greenhouse (never built)

KASTANI 135

Historicist wooden lacework



1895



Memorial plaque at N 117 (installed in 1985, currently missing)



N 115

4-winged house

141



THE BUILDING WAS ORIGINALLY RECTANGULAR, the wings WERE added OVER TIME

Kastani street









"ONES OF THE BEST-PRESERVED HOUSES IN THE WHOLE SECTION OF THE STREET"

Four dead ends branch off this section of Kastani st. Only one of them briefly had its own name in the 1910s — Monopoly St — due to the nearby state alcohol monopoly factory & warehouse.

Monopoly Str

Kastani St

Merchant's houses

Wealthy Tartu businessman Alexander Mandson purchased the property in 1907. Kastani 129 is a historicist villa with rich wooden decor.

THE "COLD STORAGE" BUS STOP STILL EXISTS



The Tartu Slaughterhouse* was established in 1903 in the area of Võru & Kastani Streets. Mainly cattle, calves, pigs, chickens, and horses were slaughtered there.

IN 1941-1944, THE TARTU CONCENTRATION CAMP WAS LOCATED IN THIS AREA



STAMPED BRICKS



& GATE

THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE GUARD'S HOME

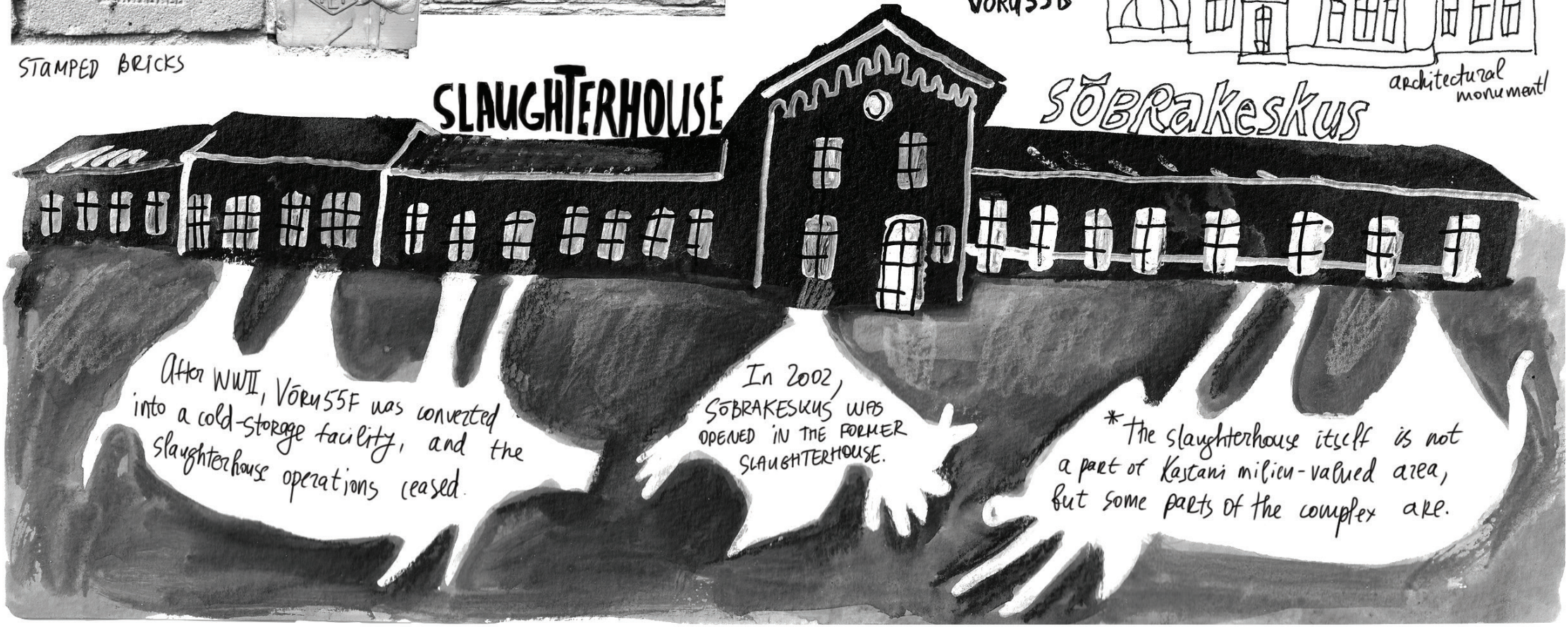
THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE COMPLEX also includes:









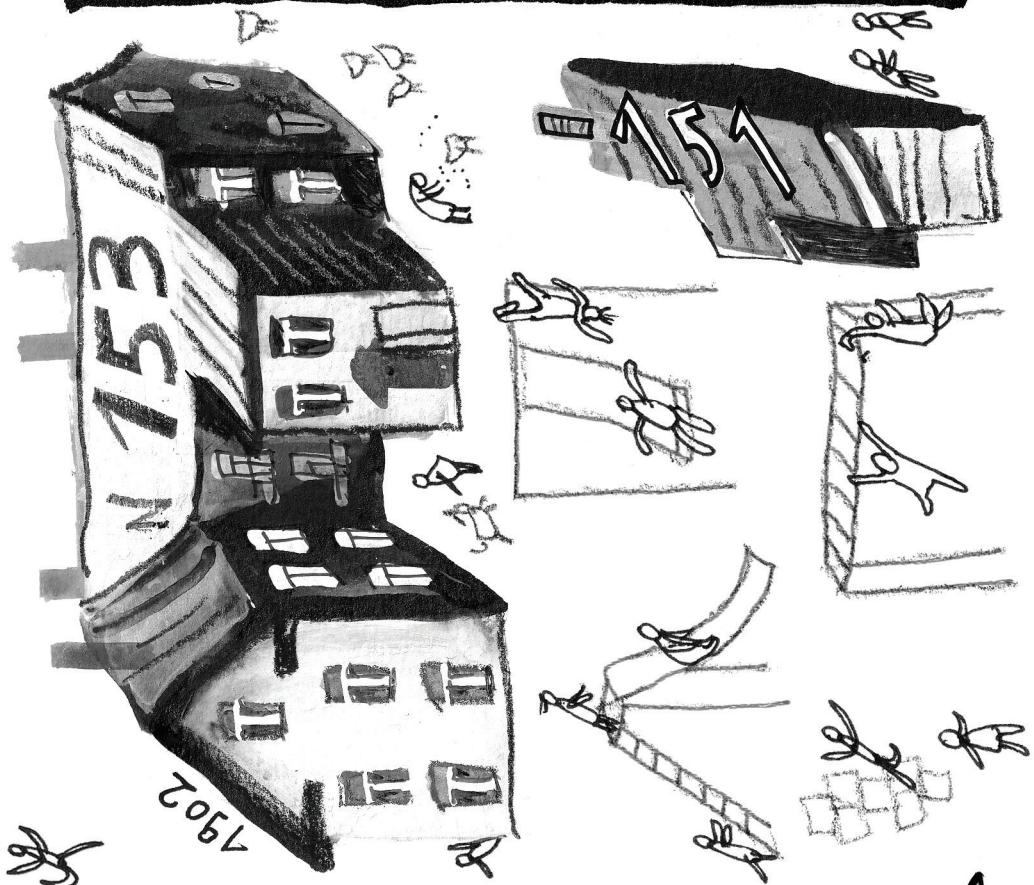


After WWII, VÕRU 55F was converted into a cold-storage facility, and the slaughterhouse operations ceased.

In 2002, SÕBRAKESKUS was opened in the former SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

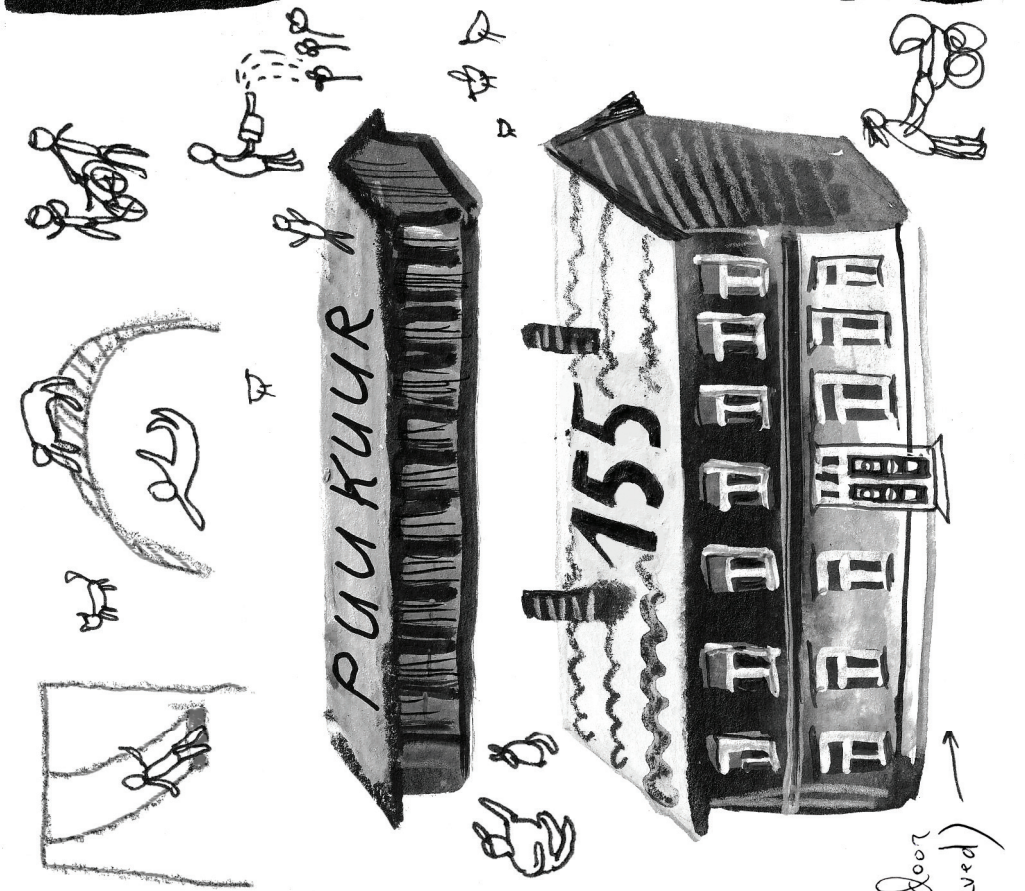
*The slaughterhouse itself is not a part of Kastani milieu-valued area, but some parts of the complex are.

In 1933, the famous Estonian national awakening figure MATHIAS WÜHNER purchased the property at the age of 81. He bequeathed 3 houses to the BERGMANN ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, which supported talented university students.



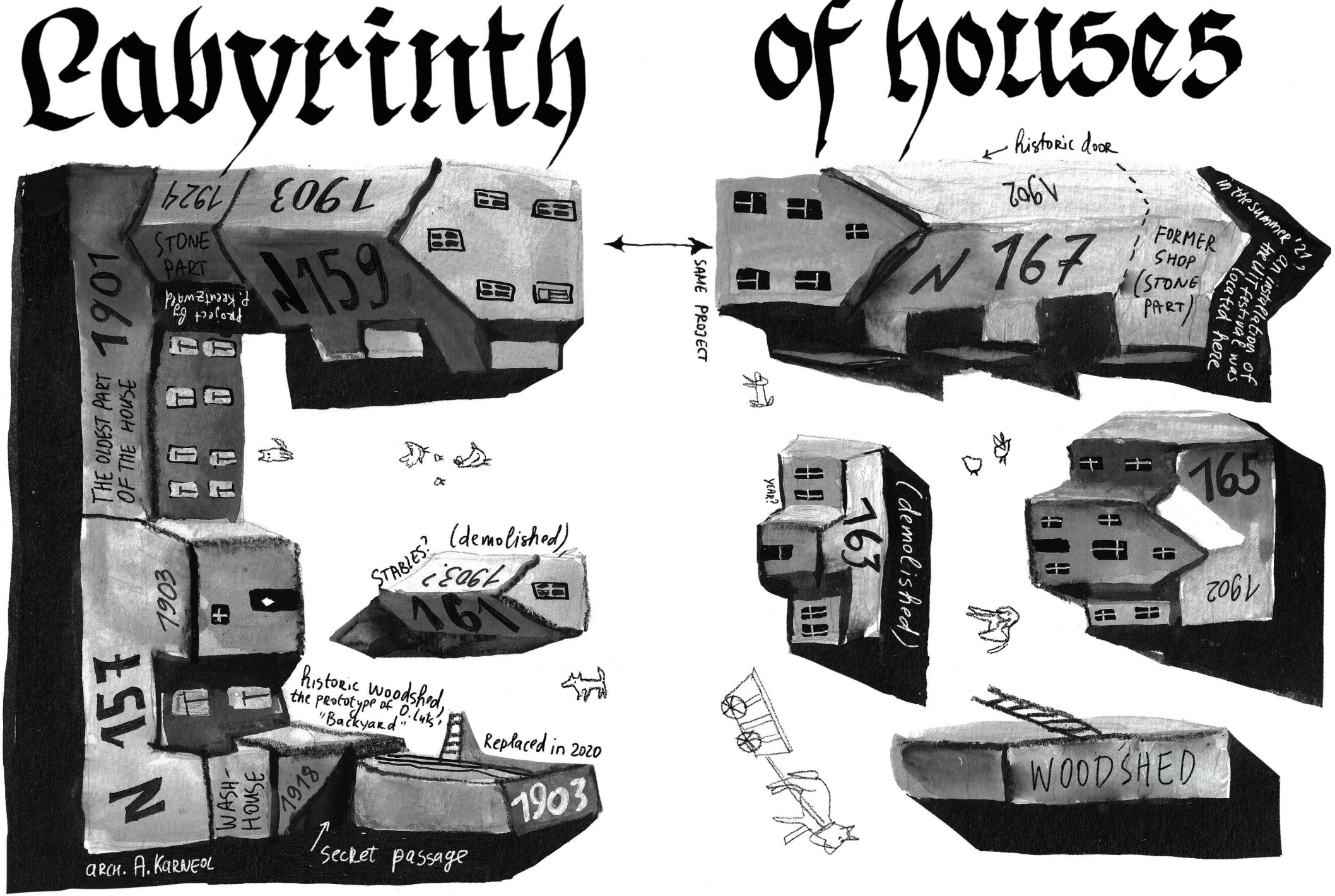
Courtyard

In 1938, the foundation organized an open-house day that was covered by the newspaper "Postimees". Ninety people lived in the 3 houses, including 25 children. A playground had also been built for them.



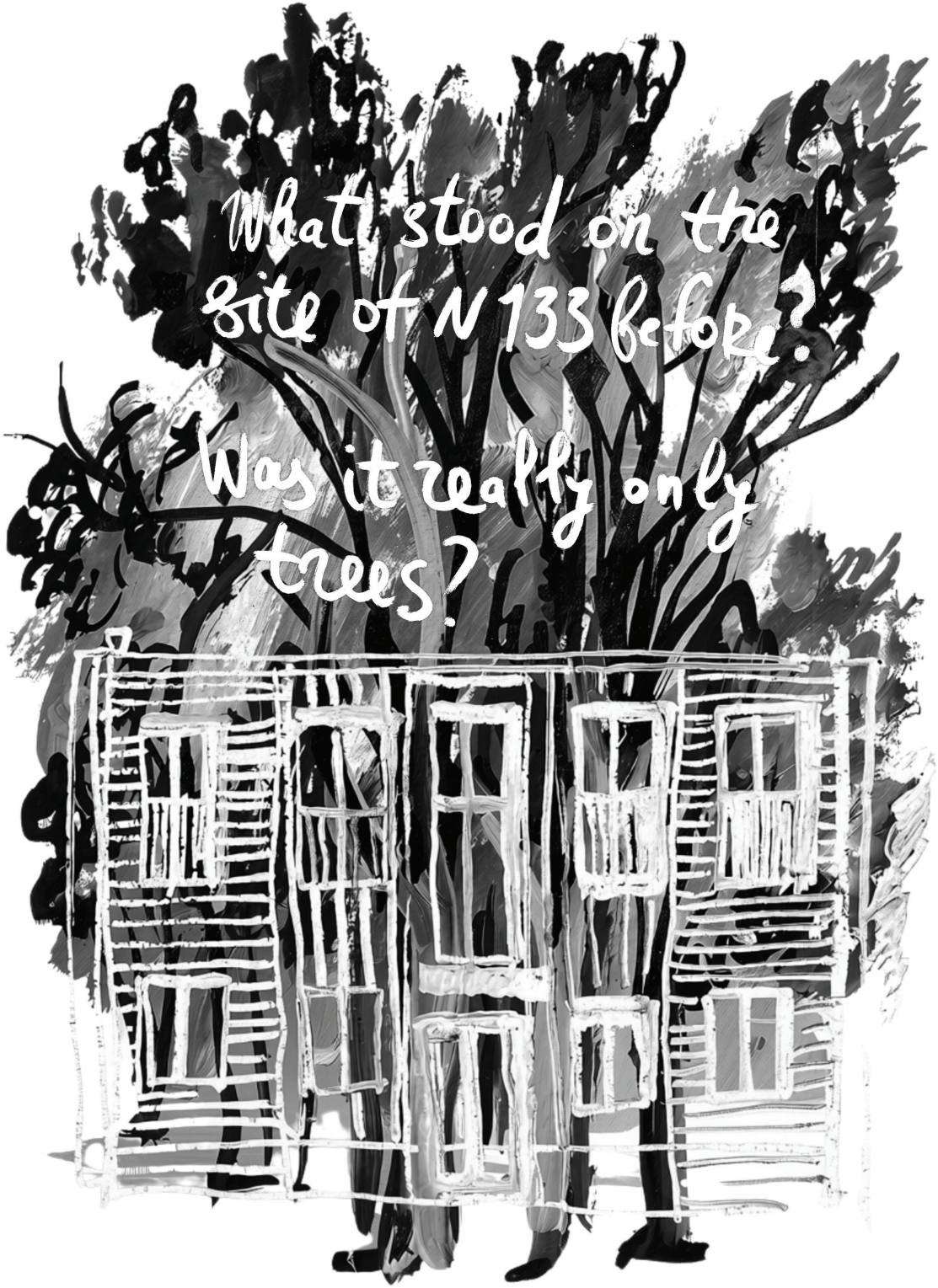
# of 25 kids

Labyrinth of houses




Our courtyard
HISTORIC RAFTER ENDS
WASH-HOUSE
LILAC & ROSEHIP
SWEET POTATO
WILD STRAWBERRY
SEE KRDI KASS!
A TAME TIT LIVES HERE
FOSSILS


In the Summer 2026, the road on our street got renovated, and the last bushes and patches of grass disappeared beneath the asphalt. And this is how Kase St looked like even earlier, before the shed was expanded in 2020
Source: Google Street View
Kase St
in the 2014


What stood on the site of N 133 before?
Was it really only trees?

Käse