

**DENDERMONDE**

**BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER DE SMET**

**(VICTOR DRIESSENS)**





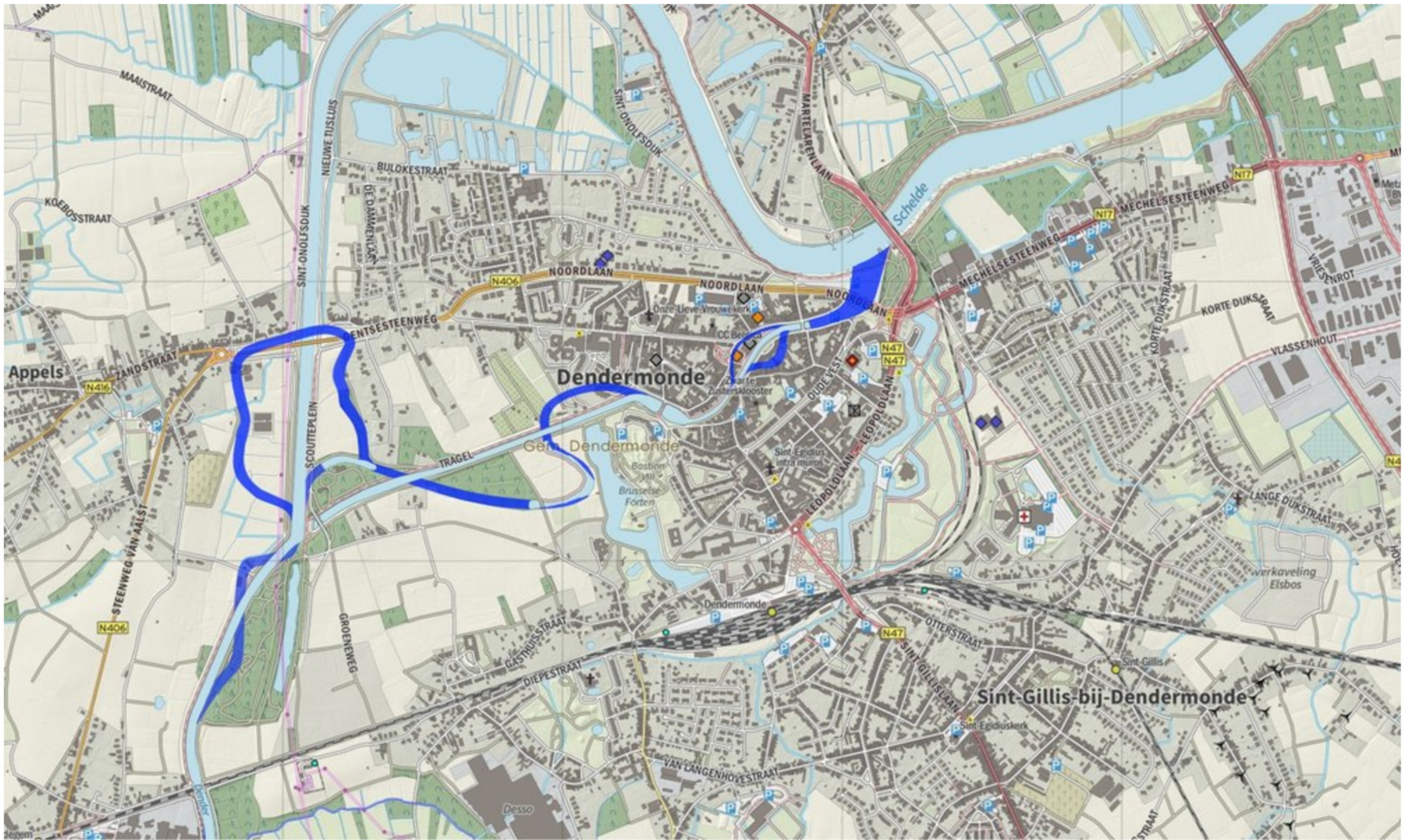
1649 - Dendermonde by Jan Willem Blaeu (1599-1673)





1649 - detail





old course of the Dender





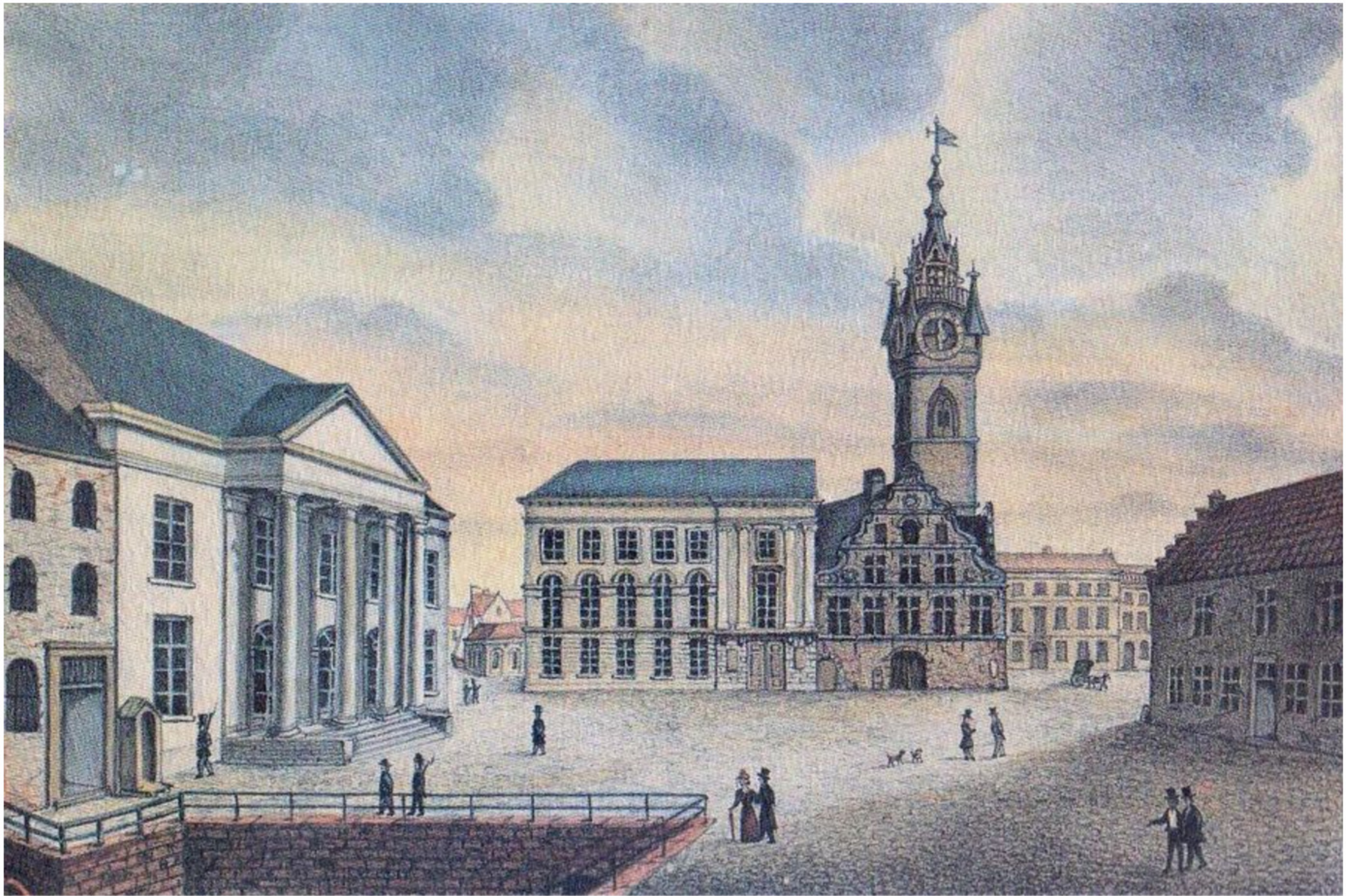
2023 - Dendermonde today





1801 - quay of the Dender





1811 - square in front of the Courthouse





1822 - army warehouse and first Courthouse

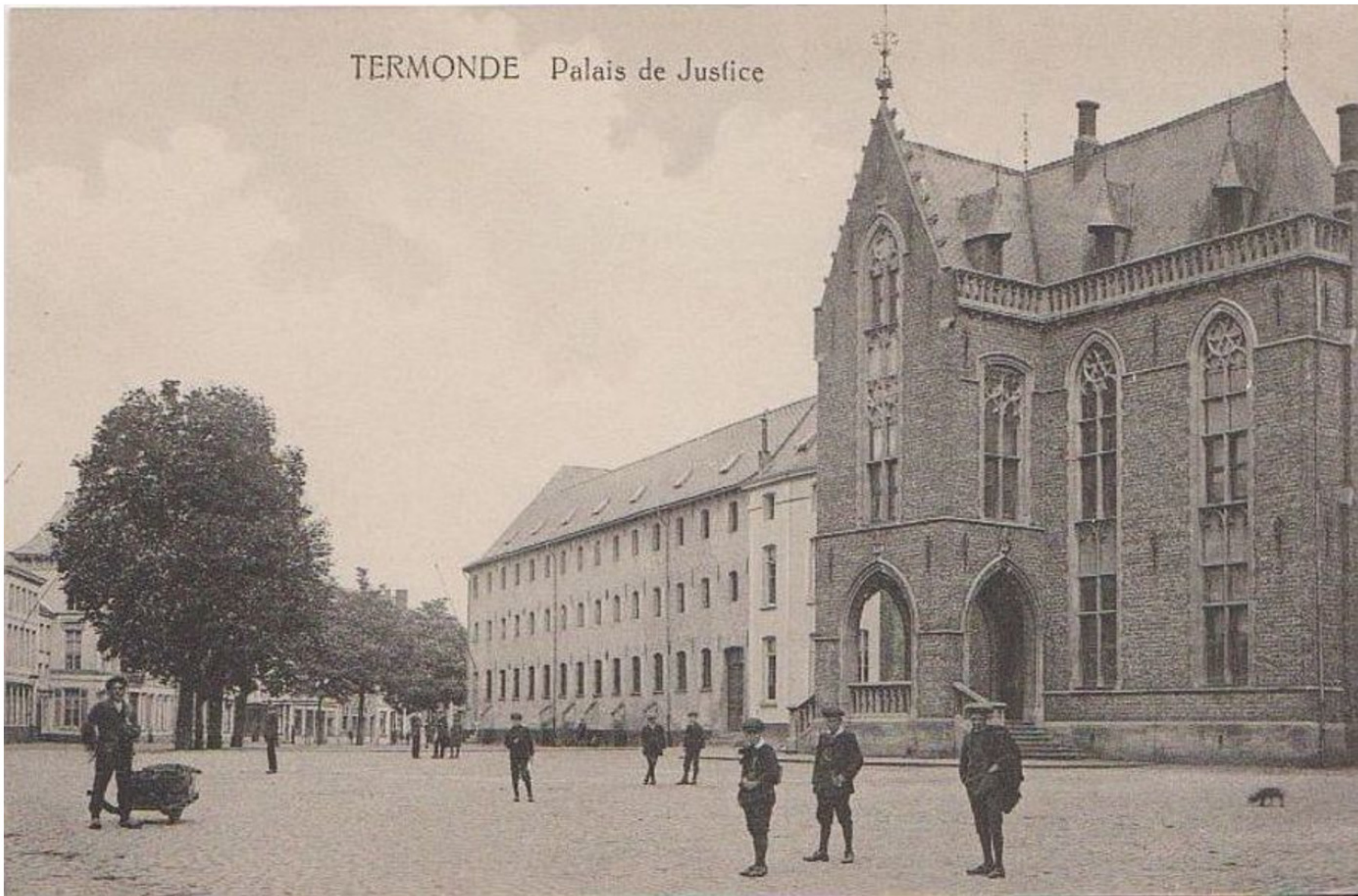




1825 - Dutch troops on their way to the barracks

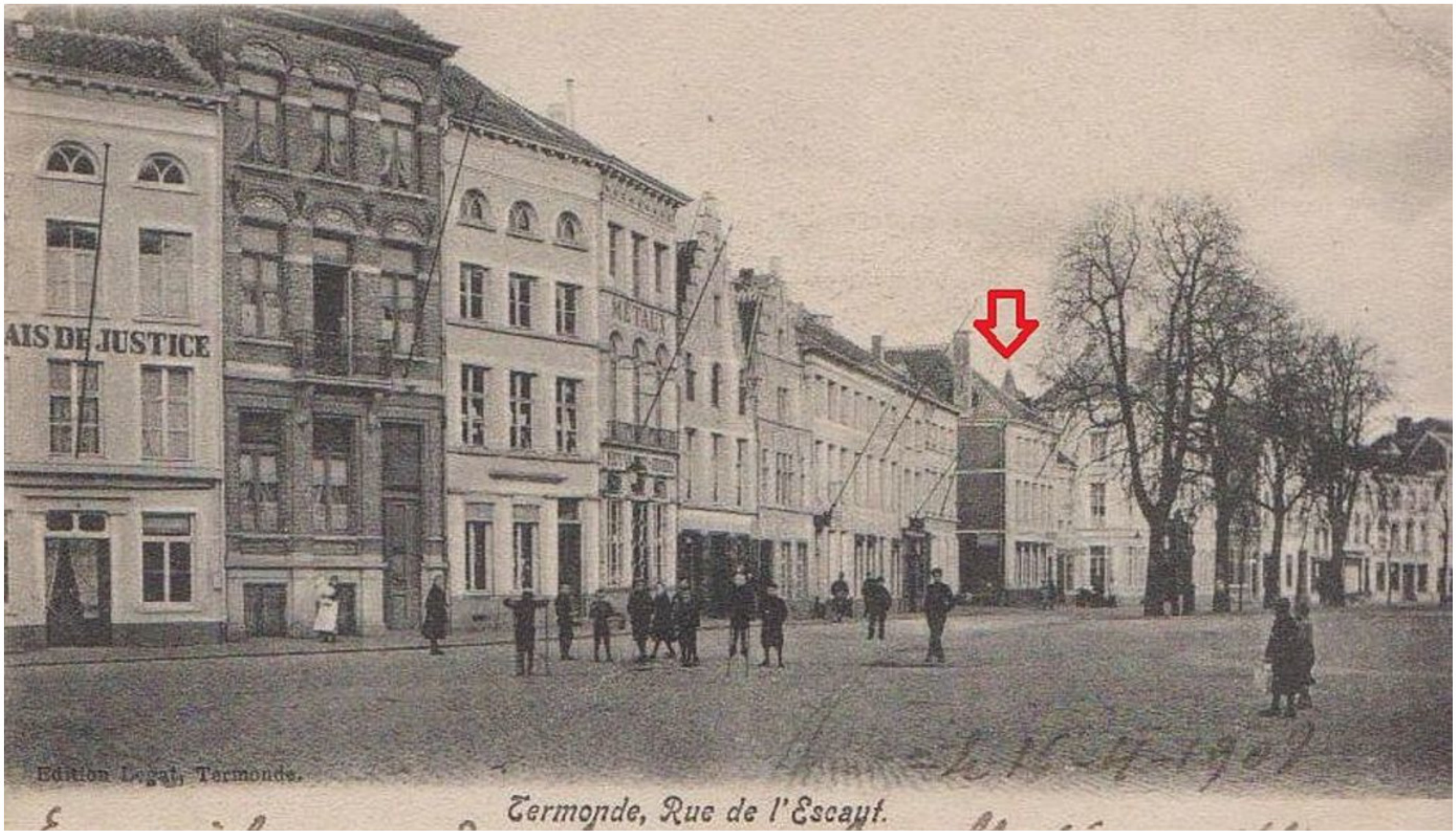


TERMONDE Palais de Justice



1882 - the second Courthouse





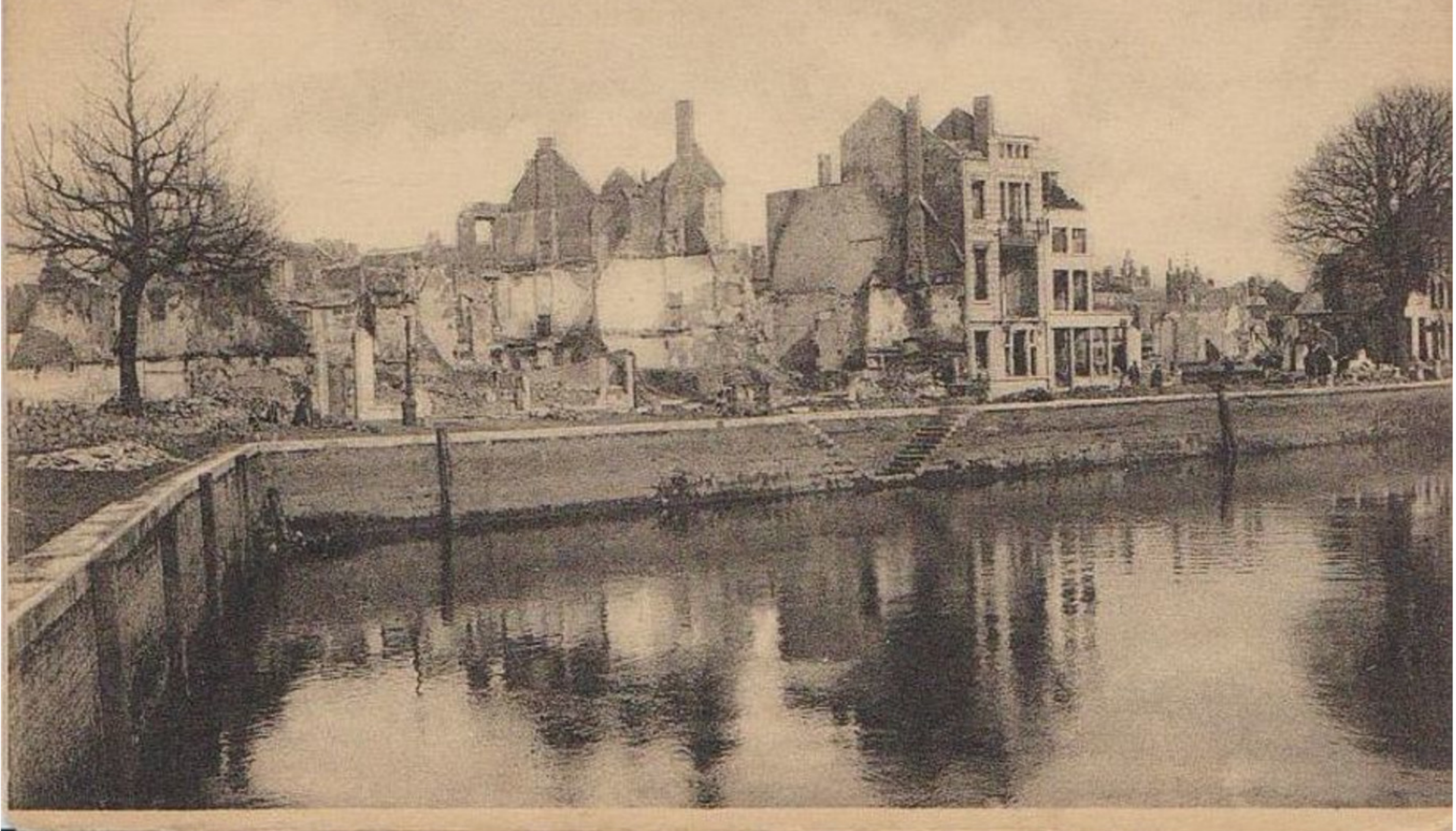
1900 - the Schel(de) Street





Termonde-Ruines

Rue Franz Courtens.  
Franz Courtens street.



1914 - World War I - Franz Courtens Street





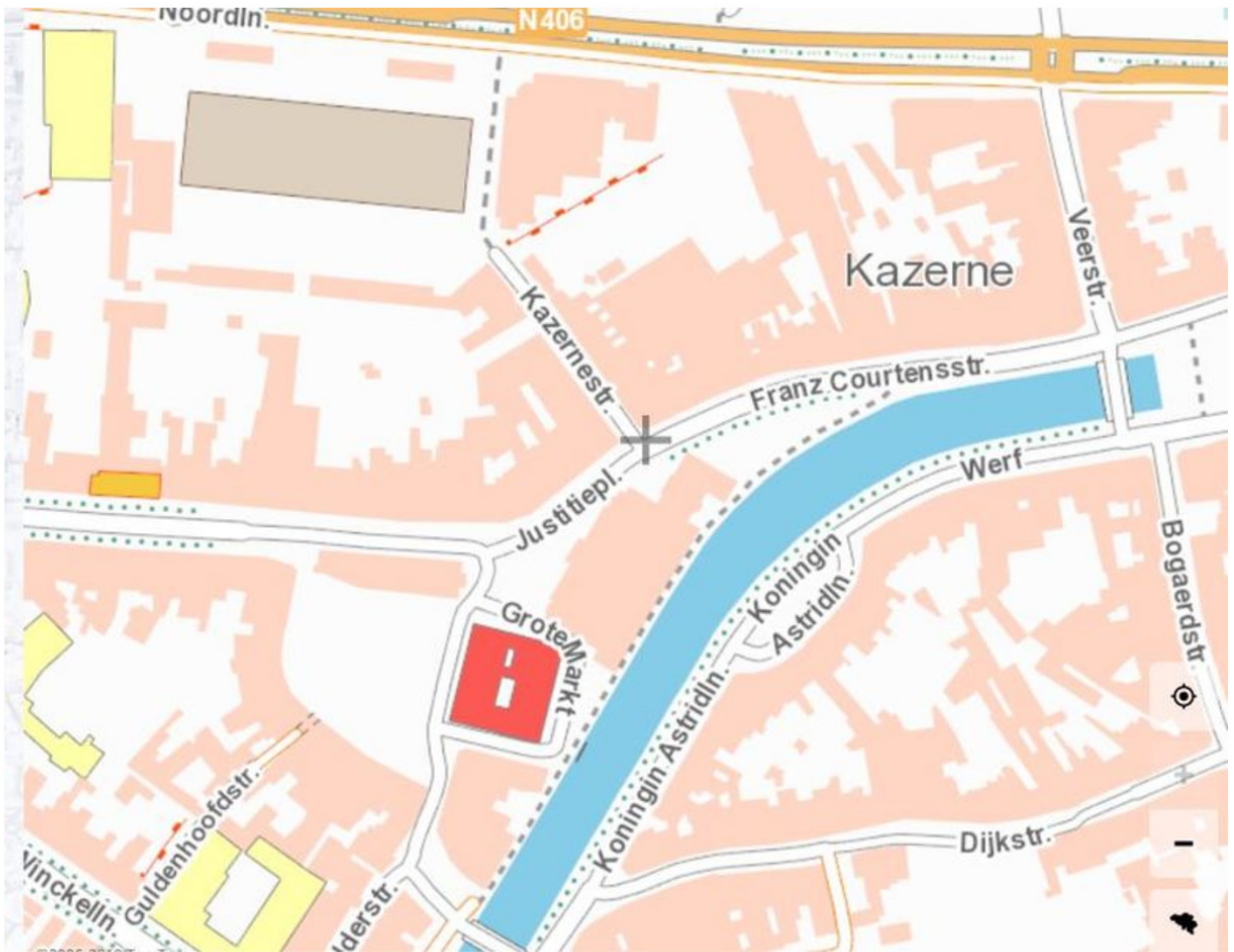
1914 - World War I - Dendermonde in ruins





1923 - third Courthouse





Franz Courtenis Street today





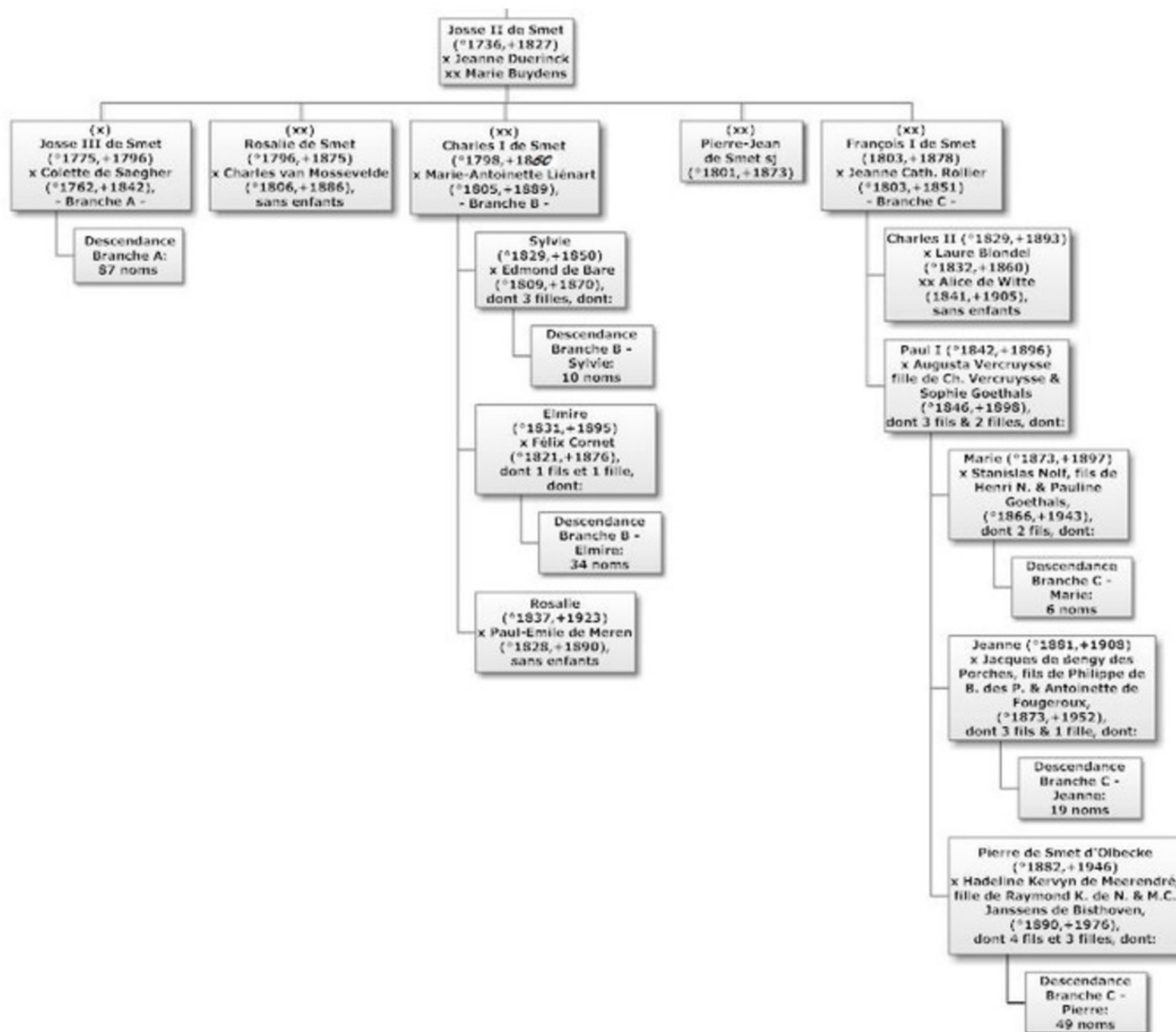
Franz Courtens Street

Corner House, after a design from 1922 by architect Hubert De Maen from Lokeren.

Commissioned by the widow J. Van Mossevelde, who also had an adjoining row of houses built along Kazernestraat number 6-18, to a design by the same architect.

Rebuilding of an older house, birthplace of Father Pieter-Jan De Smet (°1801), see commemorative plaque.





the De Smet family





Joost De Smet (1736-1827)





Petrus Joannes De Smet (1801-1873)





Pieter-Jan De Smet S.J. (young)





Pierre-Jean De Smet S.J. (by Nicaise De Keyser)





Peter John De Smet S.J. (old)





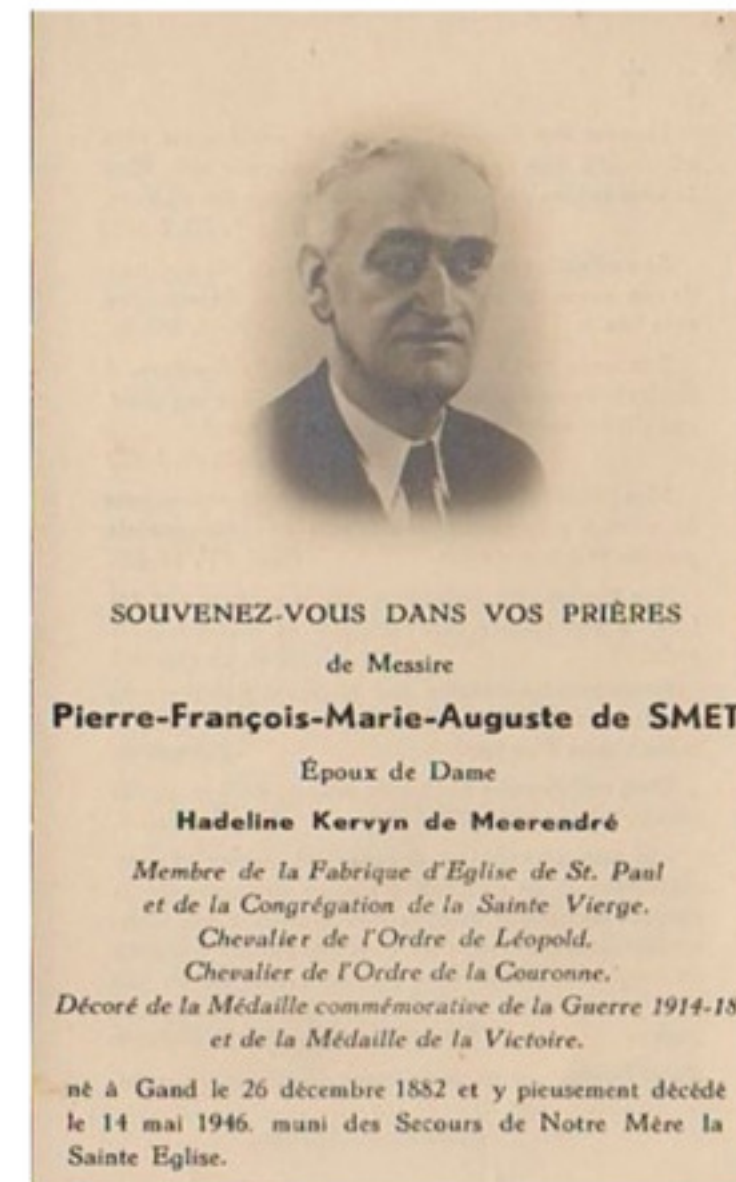
Charles Desmet (1798-1860)



François De Smet (1803-1878)



Paul De Smet (1842-1896)



Pierre De Smet (1882-1946)





OLV-church (1910-1940)



OLV-church (1940-today)



Statue of Father De Smet (1878-1982)



Statue of Father De Smet (1982-today)



FORTITER ET SUAVITER

PETRUS . JOANNES . DE SMET

E. SOCIETATE . JESU

PERPETUITATE . LAUDIS . VIVET

QUOD . XXX . ANNORUM . LABORIBUS

INDOS . ULTRA . MONTES . SAXOSOS

A . BARBARIE . AD . RELIGIONEM . CIVILEMQUE

. CULTUM

TRADUXIT

DENDERMONDE

1801

ST. LOUIS U.S.A.

1873



Inscriptions - Left: Ste Ame ELECTRO – METALLURGY / BRUSSELS –HAEREN 1878 - Right : C.A. FRAIKIN.

Restoration plate on the right side of the base : Michaël Peleman / next to model van C.A.Fraikin 1984

On the pedestal with restored relief: scepter (with initials J.S.) and crossed crosses under an open gospel book with burning torch.

FORTITER ET SUAVITER (With strength and gentleness)

PETRUS . JOANNES . DE SMET (Petrus Joannes De Smet)

E. SOCIETATE . JESU (of the Society of Jesus)

PERPETUIATE . LAUDIS . VIVET (Forever praise will live)

QVOD . XXX . ANNORUM . LABORIBUS (That 30 years of Indian labor)

INDOS . ULTRA . MONTES . SAXOSOS (beyond the Rocky Mountains)

A . BARBARIE . AD . RELIGIONEM . CIVILEMQUE (has led from barbarism to religion and civil worship)

. CULTUM

TRADUXIT

DENDERMONDE 1801 ST LOUIS U.S.A. 1873

Shortly after the death of Father Pieter-Jan De Smet (1801 - 1873), the city council of Dendermonde decided to erect a statue, for which an executive committee was formed in 1875. The sculptor Charles Auguste Fraikin (Herentals) has been entrusted with the project following a competition. The monument was inaugurated in 1878. For the inauguration in 1878, a bronze medal was struck with the image of the missionary.

In 1982, the statue fell from its pedestal and was found to be damaged beyond repair. A faithful copy was made in polyester by Michaël Peleman, based on the original model from the Fraikin Museum in Herentals.

The original statue due to Charles-Auguste Fraikin consisted of a thin layer of copper, obtained by the galvanoplastic method, then reinforced with lead on the inside. The different parts were then welded together and fixed internally on a wrought iron frame anchored in the blue stone base.

A faithful copy was made in polyester by Michaël Peleman, based on the original model from the Fraikin Museum in Herentals. A new wrought iron gate is also installed, the base is repaired, sandblasted, recut and the inscriptions gilded.