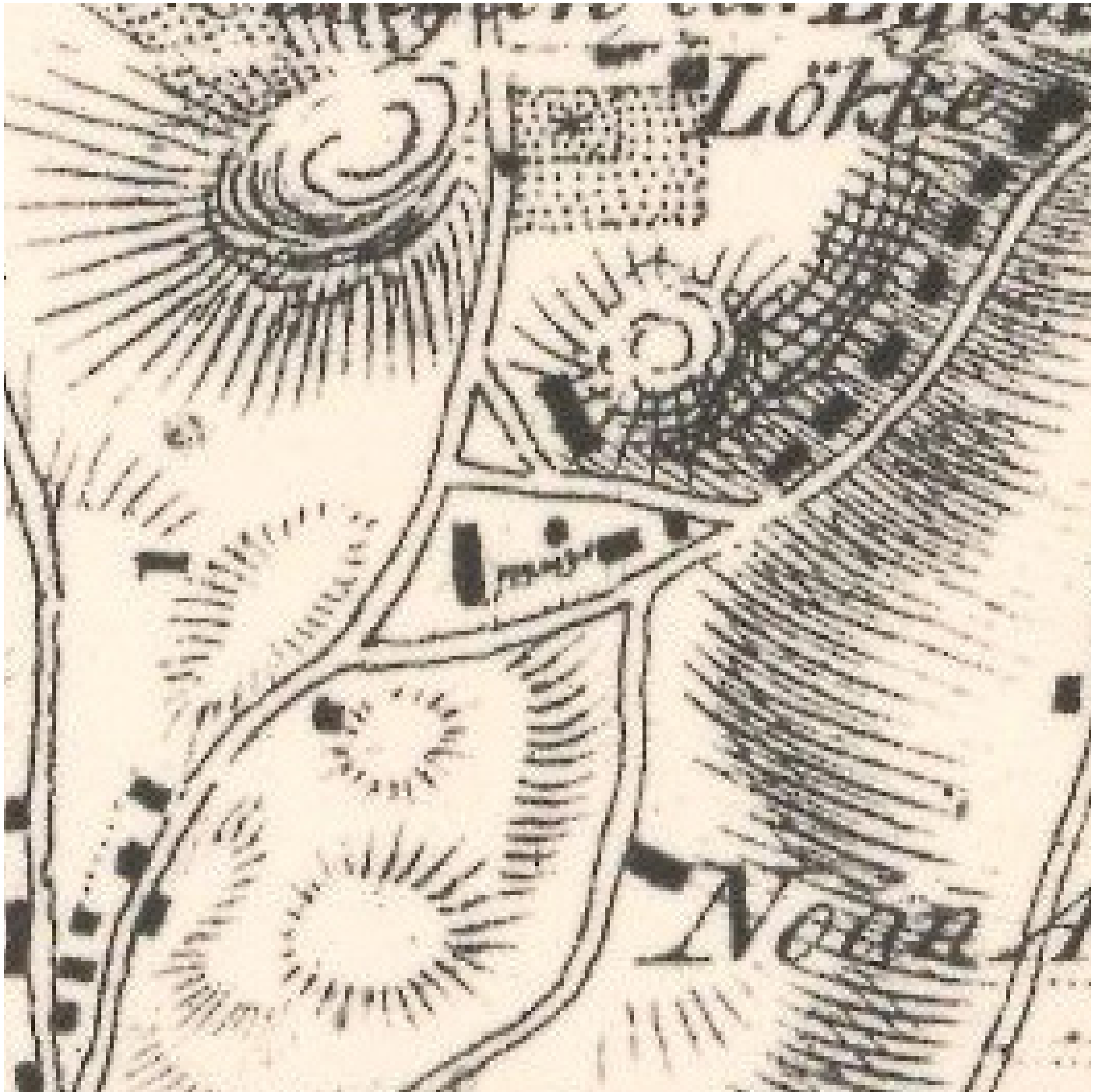


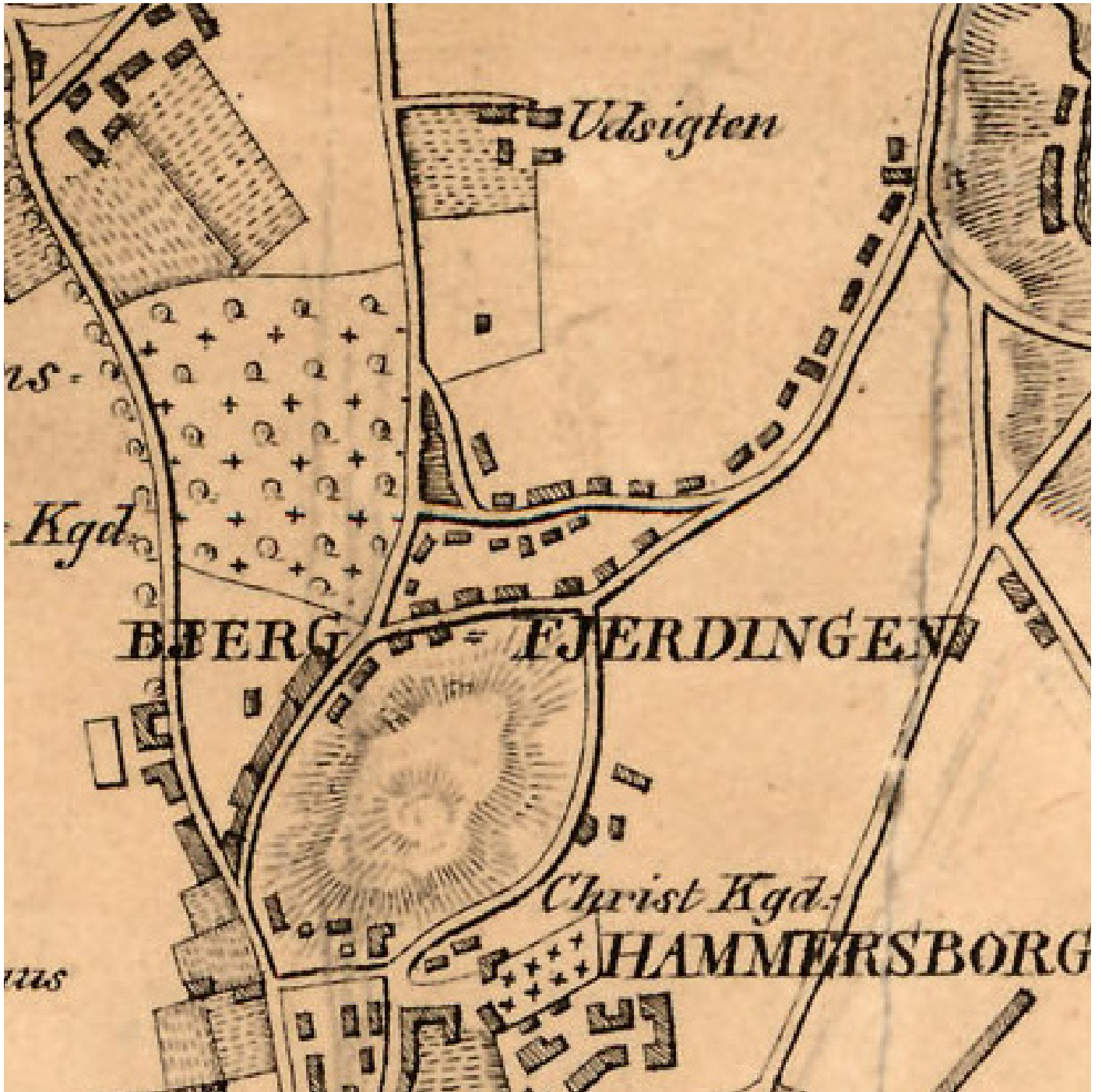
BERGFJERDINGEN HISTORY







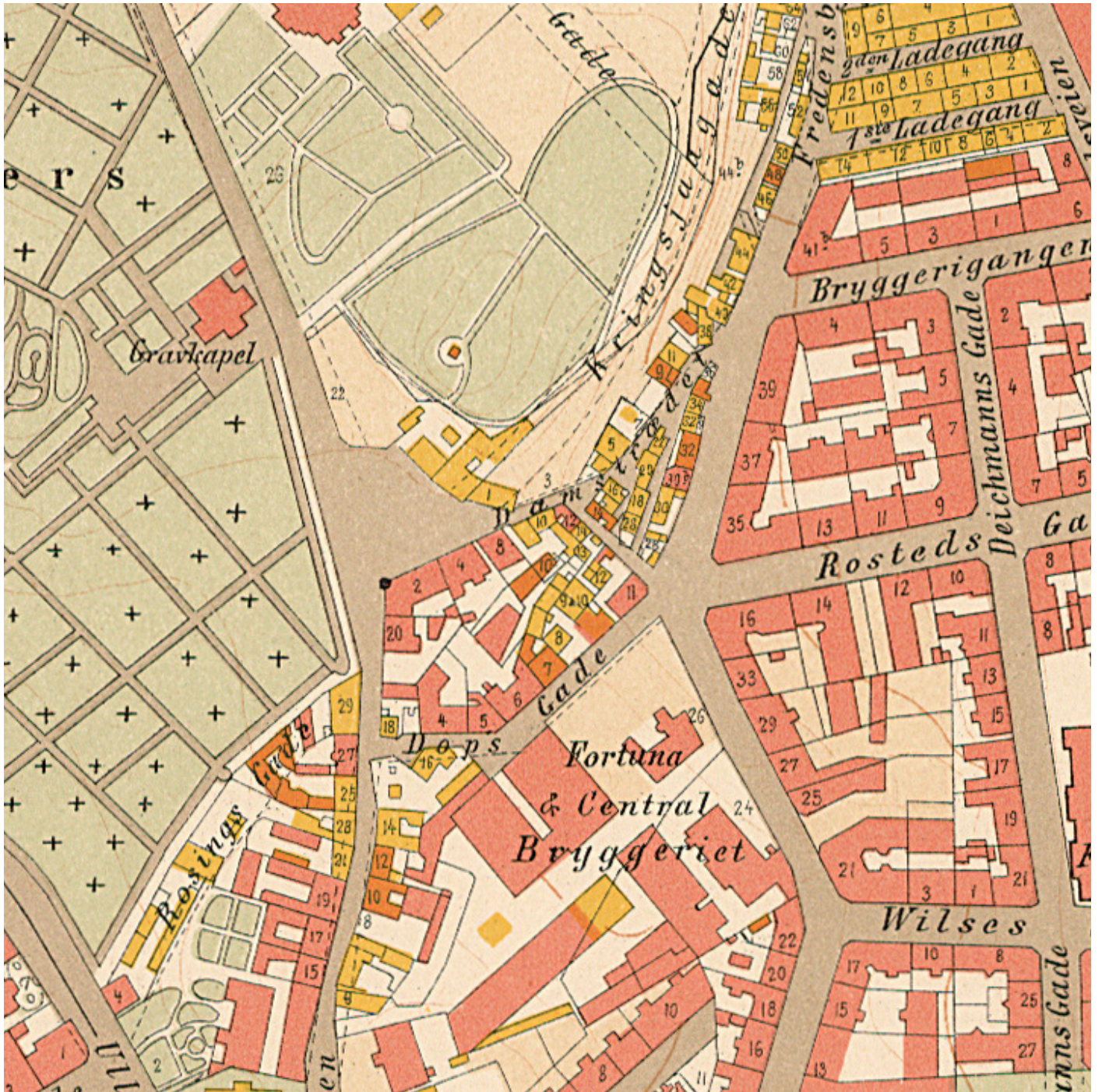


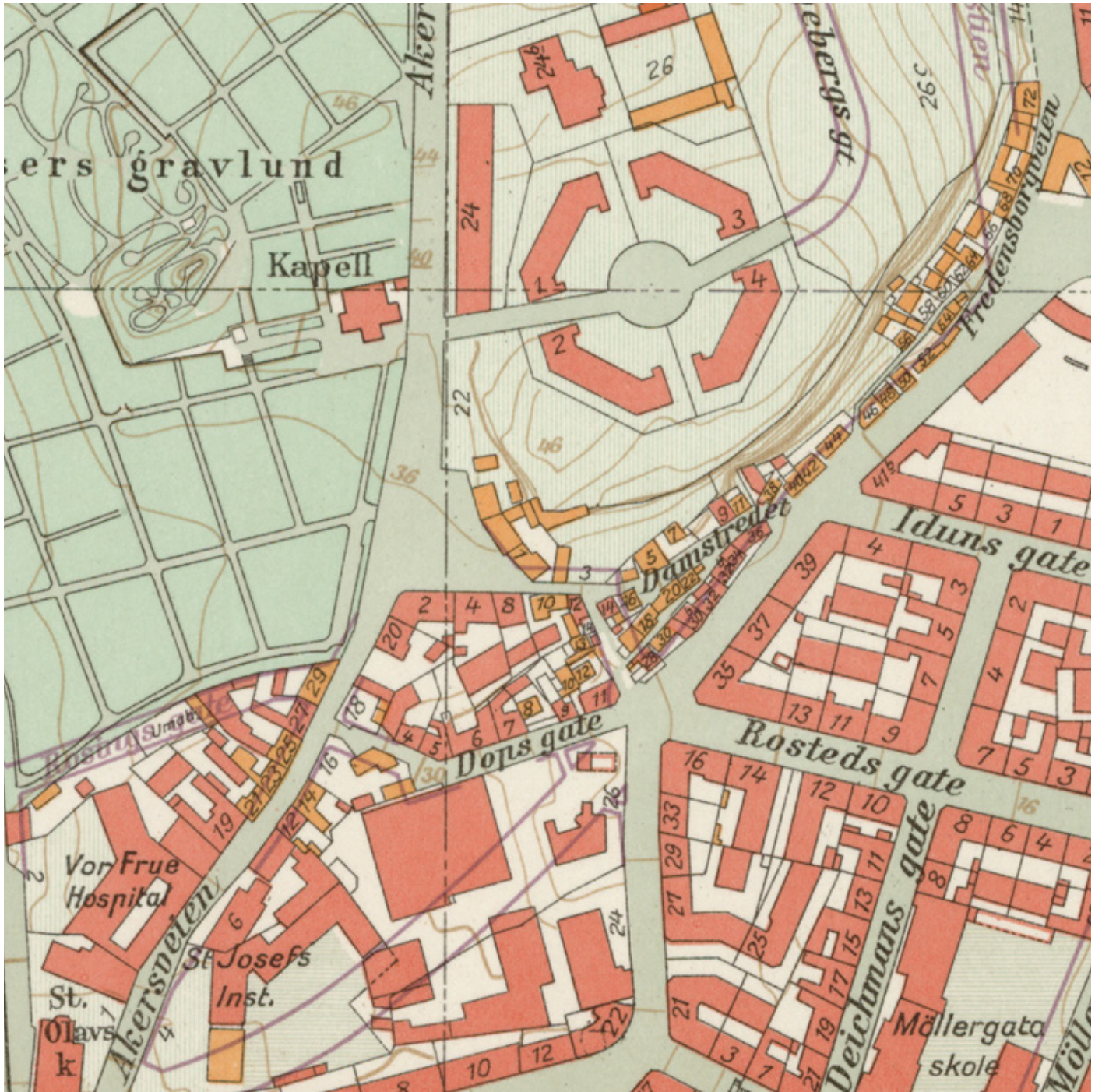












THE ORIGINS OF BERGFJERDINGEN

The settlement of Bergfjerdningen dates back to the late 1700s, when it was illegally established as a suburb to Christiania. Workers moved to the city to find work and put up simple wooden cabins. Shortage of building lots and enforcement to build in brick made housing in the city too expensive for workers. The area was, with a few exceptions, inhabited by the poorest groups in the society.

During the industrialisation Christiania had an enormous growth of inhabitants from 9000 inhabitants in 1801 to 230.000 in 1900. This resulted in a very high density of inhabitants in the area. In the 1865 census Damstredet 22 had fourteen inhabitants in a 35 square meter cabin. The area was allowed to grow unregulated, with a few attempts to regulate the growing density. In 1815 the area was regulated to building sites for the poorest, which offered little effect on the increasing density.

A large fire in 1858 ruined the settlement from Akersveien to Damstredet 8 and Dops gate 7. Regulations enforced brick as building materials for the new buildings and changes the characteristics of the buildings in the area.



Anders Beer Wilse, 1917



K. Almås, 1923



THE ARTISTS

During the 1930s the social structure of Bergfjerdings changed, when artists gained interest in the qualities of the area. Many artists and creative professionals started to move in.

The settlement was in decay and the city's authorities for heritage wanted strategies for conservation and needed to regulate the area to a public purpose, to be able to conserve it. Similar poor areas were demolished and redeveloped as a solution for slum areas and poor living- and light conditions for large parts of the city's inhabitants.

To avoid demolition - the first plans for conservation was determined in 1946 and regulated the area to a public park where the settlement should be conserved.



Sverre Adolf Hennum, 1933



Arne Hjersing, 1920



Gunnar Jørgensen, early 1900

RENOVATION & CONSERVATION

From 1960 large renovations were done by the new inhabitants in the area. These renovations were not regulated by law and a lot of improvement and changes were made to the original buildings.

Regulations made in 1958 once again threatened with demolishing to expand infrastructure of roads through the area. Luckily Bergfjerdingsgen did not end up being redeveloped as most suburban settlements, much because of the improvement made by the new inhabitants.

In 1994 a plan for conservation was accepted to avoid future destruction of the area and its unique character.



Top: Hans Holmboe Vogt, 1908

Bottom : Foto Film AS, ca 1960-70