

# Bendigo Synagogue

1853 280 Jews in Bendigo

Situation - Allotments 2 & 3 Section 16  
now known as Hope & on St-

Grant 10/5/1858 RS 2924 & 391

1853 First services in Tent - <sup>S. Moses</sup> <sub>J.P. Joseph</sub> officiated

First services 1854 for High Holidays  
at 'base of Good Hope Stores' kept by Mr Helbrun

(These stores near the present side Bgo Advertiser

Bendigo Jews sought financial assistance  
of the Melbourne Jews for erection of Synagogue  
but unsuccessful

1856 Sandhurst Hebrew Synagogue  
consecrated for divine worship

This was a wooden building and no  
photo survives as far as known

1858 Rev J. Friedman appointed Minister  
and carried on for 10 years.

The New Synagogue was erected in 1871

and consecrated in 1872 by Rev J. Stone.

It was <sup>at the same day as St. Michael's Synagogue</sup> a square building <sup>735' square</sup> and the neat  
effect produced, by the free use of white  
bricks. It was built in the Byzantine style

It had thin square turrets on each corner  
rising from the base to about 20 feet above  
the roof - a large octagonal lantern tower  
rises from the centre of the roof.

each turret and <sup>the</sup> lantern were surmounted  
with the 'Shield of David'

The fittings were a gift of Morris  
Samuel in 1875 at the cost of nearly \$300-00

The building was erected by Vabland  
& Getzschmann + cost a little over £2000



+ held 200 on the ground floor + nearly 100 in the gallery. The Rev J. Myers is the Minister. Another report (Bgo Advertiser 30/9/72) says the Synagogue was built for £1300 + would hold 500.

The consecration service was as follows  
(~~all~~ from Bgo Advertiser 30/9/1872)

The Officers of the Synagogue bearing the Torahs to the door saying:

"Open unto us the gates of Righteousness. We will enter therein + Praise the Lord.

This is the Lords gate the righteous shall enter therein. The doors opened + on entering said "How beautiful are thy tents oh Israel - O. Lord - Above the habitation of thy House and the dwelling place of thy Glory. We will enter into thy Sanctuary + worship at thy Footstool. The procession having advanced the reader repeated these words. -

Blessed He who cometh in the name of the Lord - We bless you from the House of the Lord. The procession headed by the Minister + each carrying a Torah chanting psalm walked ab around the Synagogue 7 times.

Suitable prayers were then offered - The Queen + Royal Family and then the scrolls were deposited in the Ark.



The last minister to officiate was  
Rabbi Joseph Goldstein who died in 1902  
In 1925 a Passover Service was  
held at the Synagogue attended by  
members of the Jewish community in B'yo  
& former members who travelled  
from Melbourne.

The building was demolished  
between Nov 1926 & Jan 1927 and the  
fittings destroyed - some of the  
sent are in the Masonic Hall in  
V'no St Berkeg.

Unfortunately all the Trustees are  
dead and all <sup>the</sup> records - I have been  
unable to discover. Perhaps one day  
they will turn up in some attic.

The building was sold for between  
£800 - £900 and deposited with  
Cohen & Hurby Solicitors in Berkeg  
The interest to be used for any  
Jew in distress or pay for a funeral  
I understand that only once was  
there a call for a small amount  
and about 1950 in conjunction to  
with Mr P. Goodman, myself and  
the Solicitor Mr Bush decided that  
(the money) as it had been dormant for so  
many years it would do a lot more  
good if given to the Montefiore Home  
This was arranged by the Solicitor  
& thus closed the epoch of the Berkeg  
Synagogue.



Prominent Jews from the early days.

S. Strunkin. F.B. Lewis. A. Moses.  
A. Alexander. M. Samuel, Jacob Heroin  
Strawkey, Friedlander, & Harris.  
Benjamin Farjeon. J.P. Joseph, E. Cohen.  
H. Marks. (no relation to me) J. Farjeon  
P. Hart, Valentine, Myers, A. Fox  
Barneth, Lazarus.  
later Sydney Meyer. Jacob John  
bert Levy, Solomon Kest, Joseph.

L.J. Friedman appointed Minister & Shochet  
in Aug 1853 - He stayed 10 years  
then Isaac Stone of Hobart. 1870-3 and 1875-80  
then Isadore Myers B.A. for E. Kell. He stayed 5 years?  
then Rev. Goldstein for a short time? 1880-1883  
1883-1904  
then Rev. Bernstein who left early 1920 1904?  
still live  
went to Ballant?  
then to Mungah.  
but evidently carried on for the forties  
with visiting clergy for a few years  
then finish.

Note Sandhurst District Directory  
Published by Jones & Co Sandhurst 1875  
Jewish Synagogue open in Bowling St  
Sandhurst and at Eaglehawk but  
without resident ministers  
I have no information regarding Synagogue in Eaglehawk