

Collection #  
M 1448  
BV 5455-5459

**TEMPLE ISRAEL, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA  
COLLECTION, 1888-2001**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 2 manuscript boxes; 5 bound volumes; 4 folders color photographs

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1888-2001

**PROVENANCE:** Temple Israel, West Lafayette, Indiana, August, 2007

**RESTRICTIONS:** Items listed as being in Cold Storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2007.0216

**NOTES:** This forms part of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society Archives

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Temple Israel traces its origins back to 1849 when twenty Jewish families in the area formed the first congregation, Ahavath Achim (brotherly love) in April of that year. In November 1849, they purchased the land for a cemetery called The Hebrew Burial Ground of Tippecanoe County. Early lay leaders included Moses Amberg, Harris Frank, Samuel Kuhn, and Martin Hollstein. J. Sutman led the services and served as cantor. A rabbi did not arrive until 1855 when B. Goodman was brought in. Goodman was followed by N. Emmich and Dr. H. Loventhall. Initially the congregation followed the traditional orthodox teachings but by the 1860s some of the old rituals were abolished.

The congregation met in halls of businesses until a location for a temple could be found. The synagogue was located at South 7<sup>th</sup> and Alabama streets and was completed in 1867. In 1874 the congregation joined the new liberal Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The temple has been served by a number of rabbis, most of whom only stayed a few years. The longest serving rabbi was Burton E. Levinson, 1966-1982

In 1919 the congregation adopted a new constitution and changed its name to Temple Israel. A site for a new temple was chosen in 1964, and a site was chosen on Cumberland Avenue in West Lafayette and completed in September, 1969.

Sources:

Information in collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Temple Israel materials include ledgers, minutes, and financial books, 1888-1983; anniversary booklets, 1949-1999; board minutes, 1971-1973; Ladies Aid Society Due Book, 1888-1892; and correspondence and printed items for the Lafayette Jewish Community Religious School, 1961-1964.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

History, n.d.

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1949

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1999

25<sup>th</sup> Building Anniversary, 1995

Dedication Booklets, 1979; 1995

Board Minutes, 1971

Board Minutes, 1972 (1 of 2)

Board Minutes, 1972 (2 of 2)

Board Minutes, 1973

Temple Bulletins, 1972-1973

Rabbi Retirement, 1981 (1 of 2)

Rabbi Retirement, 1981 (2 of 2)

Jewish Community Religious School, 1961

Jewish Community Religious School, 1962

Jewish Community Religious School, 1963

Jewish Community Religious School, 1964

Ladies Aid Society, Dues Book, 1888-1892

High Holiday Prayer Book, n.d.

Prayer Book, n.d.

Prayer Book, 1931

Prayer Book, n.d.

New Temple Ground Breaking, 1969

### CONTAINER

Box 1 Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

Box 1, Folder 17

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 4

Color Photographs:  
Folder 1 of 4

Jewish Cemetery, Lafayette, 2001

Color Photographs:  
Folder 2 of 4

Jewish Education, ca. 1970s

Color Photographs:  
Folder 3 of 4

Reception, ca. 1970s

Color Photographs:  
Folder 4 of 4

Board Minutes, 1923-1941

BV 5455

Board Minutes, 1941-1953

BV5456

Cash Book, 1894-1917

BV 5457

Cash Book, 1918-1937

BV 5458

Cash Book, 1955-1956

BV 5459