

JEWISH WELFARE ASSOCIATION NEW DELHI

CENTRE FOR JEWISH & INTER-FAITH STUDIES

JUDAH HYAM SYNAGOGUE, 2 HUMAYUN ROAD, NEW DELHI—110003

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“Behold how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity”

Ps. 131-1.

LIST OF

SYNAGOGUES AND PRAYER HALLS

IN

INDIA, BURMA AND PAKISTAN

“And let them make Me a sanctuary, that
I may dwell among them”

(Exodus 25 : 8)

CENTRE FOR JEWISH AND INTER-FAITH STUDIES, NEW DELHI

List of Synagogues in India, Burma and Pakistan was compiled by Late Mr. Ezra Kolet, New Delhi and Mr. Daniel Etjah Benjamin (Gadkar) Pune and issued on 1st May, 84 as Bulletin No. 11 "OHR" Publication, by Jewish Welfare Association, New Delhi.

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Photographs of the Synagogues by courtesy of Mr. Daniel Elijah Benjamin (Gadkar) Pune
Photographs of the Synagogues at Nos. 6 & 45 by courtesy of Mrs. Carmel Berkson Bombay

Photographs of the Paradesi Synagogue at No. 21 (b) by courtesy of Mr. Than Wyenn, USA
Photograph of the Karachi Synagogue at No. 43 by courtesy of Mr. Sam Daniels, U.S.A.
Photograph of the Paradesi Synagogue at No. 47 by courtesy of Mr. Henning Schroedter Albers, New Delhi

INDIA

1

Name and address of the
Synagogue/Prayer Hall

Photo

When
Established

Notes

AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT)

1

Magen Abraham Synagogue
Bukhara Mohalla, Opp. si
Parsi Agiari, Ahmedabad

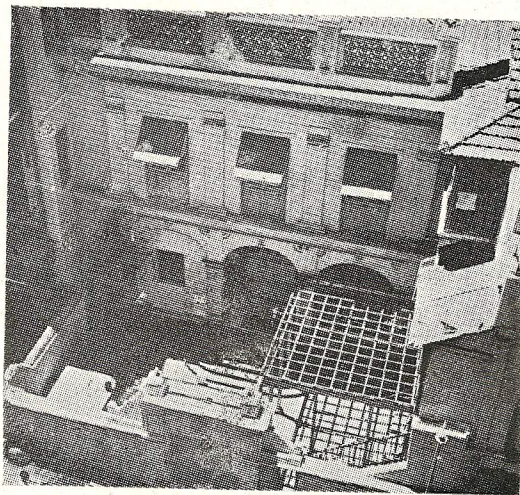


1933 A Prayer Hall was established in hired premises in the seventies of the last century. In 1906 Dr. Solomon Abraham Erukar donated a plot of land measuring 750 sq. yards in the locality known as Bukhara near the Parsi Agiari (Fire Temple) in the heart of the city. The cornerstone of the building was laid on 19.10.1933 and the consecration ceremony took place on 2.9.1934. The name commemorates the founder of the prayer hall, Dr. Abraham Erukar. The synagogue is in keeping with the high architectural standard of Public and State buildings in Ahmedabad.

BOMBAY (MAHARASHTRA)

2

Gate of Mercy Synagogue
(Shaar Ha Rahamim)
254, Samuel Street,
(Israel Mohalla),
Mandvi, Bombay-400003



1796 Known as Samaji Hasaji Synagogue or Juni Masjid till 1896. The establishment of the first Bene Israel Synagogue in 1796 has an interesting history. It was constructed and endowed by Samuel Ezekiel Divekar (Samaji Hasaji Divekar) after his retirement from the Bombay Army with the rank of Native Commandant (Subedar Major). He was one of five brothers, all of whom became officers in the Bombay Army and his family seems to have been one of the leading families that had moved to Bombay from the mainland. The Bene Israels believe that he was taken prisoner with a number of other Bene Israel officers and men when the whole Bombay contingent capitulated to Tipu Sultan of Mysore at Bednur in 1783,

during the Second Mysore War. The prisoners were reprieved when they said they were Bene Israels, on the intervention of Tipu Sultan's mother who pleaded for their lives because the Bene Israels are mentioned with favour in the Koran. Divekar is believed to have made a vow that he would, on release, build a synagogue in Bombay as a thanks-offering. The prisoners were released in 1784 on the termination of the war and Divekar did build a synagogue as soon as he retired from army service. In 1797 he went to Cochin to procure a Sefer Torah, but died there without being able to do so.

The street on which the synagogue stands was named Samaji Street in his honour and is at present known as Samuel Street. The railway station Masjid Bundar in Bombay named after this Synagogue. The Synagogue celebrated its centenary in the year 1896 and on that occasion it was renamed "SHAAR-HA-RAHAMIM". The Synagogue celebrated its 198th anniversary on 6-12-1994.

Name and address of the
Synagogue/Prayer Hall

Photo

When
Established

Notes

3

Shaare Rason Synagogue
90, Tantanpura Street,
3rd Road, Don Tad, Israe
Mohal a, Khadak.
Bombay-400 009



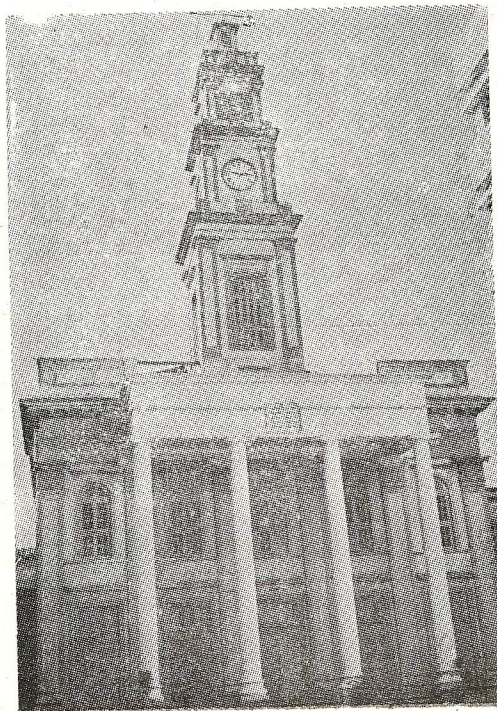
Entrance to the Synagogue premises

1840

The Synagogue is also popularly known as "The New Synagogue". In the year 1839 Mr. Samuel Jacob Divekar and Mr. Haem Isaac Garsulkar raised funds with the object of establishing a new synagogue in the City of Bombay.

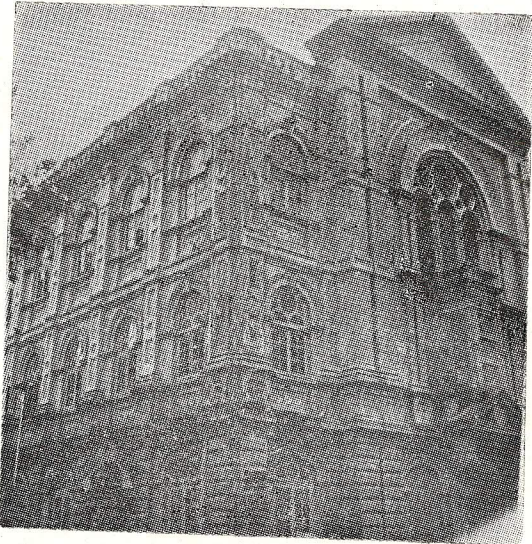
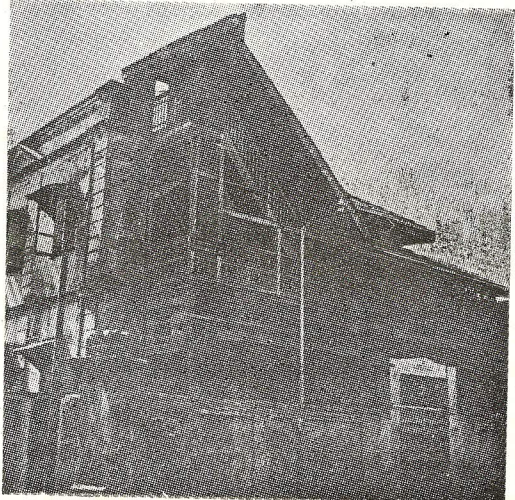
4

Magen David Synagogue
Opposite Richardson and
Cruddas,
Byculla, Bombay-400 008



1861

This Synagogue was an important contribution from the House of Sassoon, having been built by David Sassoon. It is also known as "David Sassoon Synagogue."

Name and address of the Synagogue/Prayer Hall	Photo	When Established	Notes
<p>5</p> <p>Kneseth Bene-Israel Prayer Hall (Malavarchi Masjid) Tantapura Street, Opposite Shaare Rason Synagogue, Bombay-400009</p>		1872 Since closed.	
<p>6</p> <p>Kneseth Eliahoo Synagogue. Dr. V.S. Gandhi Marg, Forbes Street, Fort, Bombay-400001</p>		<p>1884 This Synagogue was built and endowed by Mr. Jacob Sassoon (late Sir Jacob Sassoon) in memory of his father. It is popularly known as the Fort Jewish Synagogue.</p> <p>In 1985, the Synagogue held its centenary celebrations which were inaugurated by the President of India, Giani Zail Singh. Messages of felicitations were received from the Prime Minister, Government dignitaries and Jewish celebrities all over world.</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 92, K.K. Marg Jacob Circle Bombay-40 0011</p>		<p>1886 A prayer Hall popularly known as "Jacob Circle Jewish Prayer Hall" was established in the year 1886 in the rented premises of a building known as Talegaoker Building. Mr. Benjamin Samson Astamkar and Mr. Solomon Benjamin Ghosalkar and their friends were mainly responsible for establishing the Prayer Hall. It was given the name of Tifereth Israel Prayer Hall in 1896. It was consecrated as a Synagogue on 23.3.1924 in a building of its own and celebrated its Golden Jubilee on 10th and 11th March, 1974.</p>	

