

THE BUILDINGS AND ORGANISATIONS OF THE BULAWAYO JEWISH
COMMUNITY

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As I was given very short notice to prepare for this paper, I am only able to give you a very superficial and sketchy survey. It would require a considerable amount of research to provide an in-depth history of our buildings and Jewish institutions.

BULAWAYO HEBREW CONGREGATION:

It is almost one hundred years ago, when on 12th August, 1894, twenty-two persons met together in a tent belonging to Messrs Moss and Rosenblatt and formed the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation. Their first services were held in the dining-room of the Charter Hotel. Having constituted themselves as a Congregation, they soon received a grant of two stands in Abercorn Street for a synagogue, and some ground on the road to Sauerstownship to be used as a burial ground.

The foundation stone of the proposed Synagogue was laid on the 21st June, 1897 by the Administrator of Matabeleland, Captain Arthur Lawley. However, as the lowest tender for the building was £3 800, the project had to be held over for a while owing to the shortage of the necessary funds. When it was completed on the site of the present Guild Hall, it served as both a Shul and a school-room.

In 1899 the Rev. M.I. Cohen was appointed Minister to the Congregation, and served the community for thirty-nine years until his death in 1939.

This Shul was later demolished, and replaced by our present Shul over the road. The foundation stone was laid in 1910 by Mr. Emanuel Basch, who was the President of the Congregation and also Mayor of Bulawayo at the time. The Shul was then extended to its present size in the early 1960's.

CHEVRA KADISHA: