

B'Nai Israel to Unveil Historical Marker

B'Nai Israel Temple, a landmark in the Natchez community, will receive a historical marker during a May 4 ceremony.

Organized in 1843, the synagogue is the oldest Jewish congregation in Mississippi.

The ceremony at 2 p.m. will include remarks from Natchez Mayor Phillip Curtis West, Rabbi Debra Kassoff of the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, the Rev. Chip Davis, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Macy B. Hart, president of the Institute of Southern Jewish Life and Jerry Klinger, president of the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation.

Jews first arrived in Natchez in the 1780s, though it wasn't until 1843 that the community was large enough to organize a congregation. The congregation purchased property on Commerce Street in 1867, where they built their first synagogue in 1872. When this temple burned in 1903, B'nai Israel rebuilt on the same site.

April 28, 2006 The Clarion-Ledger – Jackson, Mississippi