Synagogue Timeline

Reform Congregation - Temple Israel

February 1878
The City of Leadville is incorporated.

November 9, 1879
B'nai B'rith establishes Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 322 in Leadville and celebrates with a banquet at the Windsor Hotel.

January 1880
The Hebrew Benevolent Association establishes the Hebrew Cemetery in the southwest corner of Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery.

January 24, 1884
The Reform Congregation Temple Israel is founded.

February 23, 1884
The congregation hosts a Purim Masque Ball to raise funds for the construction of a synagogue.

July 13, 1884
Horace Tabor donates land for the construction of a synagogue to David May as trustee for the Congregation Temple Israel.

August 11 - September 19, 1884
Workers set the synagogue's cornerstone on August 11 and complete construction in 33 days for $4,000. Rabbi Morris Sachs dedicates the Temple Israel Synagogue at 7:30 PM on September 19 in conjunction with Rosh Hashanah.

June 3, 1904
Temple Israel hosts a funeral for Jacob Heimberger, one of the largest such services with nearly 250 mourners in attendance.

November 1, 1912
The funeral service for Ausios Meyer Zeiler is one of the last recorded services to be held at the Temple Israel Synagogue.

August 23, 1937
Steve Malin purchases the Temple Israel building, converting it into a radiator repair shop and a residence for his family.

1941 - 1945
The Temple Israel building serves as a dormitory for miners during World War II.

July 25, 1955
The Malin family sells the Temple Israel building to the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado which converts it into a vicarage and Sunday school.

April 6, 1966
The Hatwig family purchases the Temple Israel building from the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado and adds additional living space.

1970s - 1990s
The Temple Israel building serves as a multi-family dwelling and an additional apartment is added, bringing the total number of units to four.

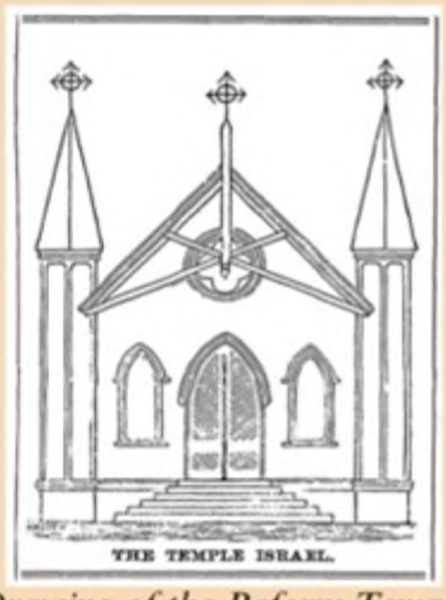
October 15, 1992
The Temple Israel Foundation acquires the building with the intent of restoring the structure to its original configuration.

October 2001
The Temple Israel Foundation completes the restoration of the building's front facade.

May 4, 2006
An electrical fire causes extensive damage to the building. Work to fully restore the structure commences.

December 2008
The Temple Israel foundation completes the full restoration of the building.

June 2012
The Temple Israel Synagogue and Museum opens to the public.



Drawing of the Reform Temple Israel Building from 1884

Temple Israel building circa 1894

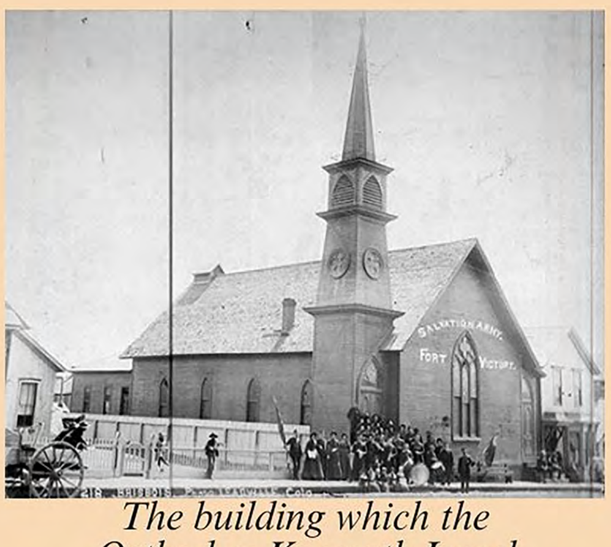
Temple Israel building circa 1929

Temple Israel building circa 1964

Temple Israel building before restoration efforts began

Front facade restored in 2001

Orthodox Congregation - Knesseth Israel


The building which the Orthodox Knesseth Israel purchased in 1892

September 25, 1888
In the first of a series of schism meetings, a yet-unnamed Orthodox congregation, led by Zundel Greenwald, gathers separately from Temple Israel's Reform congregation for Rosh Hashanah services at Leadville City Hall.

November 3, 1892
The Orthodox congregation, now known as Knesseth Israel, purchases a Presbyterian church at 119 West 5th Street for $1,050.

1911 - 1937
Knesseth Israel, the Orthodox congregation, falls into obscurity by 1922, hosting only bi-annual events. After 1922, the Knesseth Israel building is likely only used for personal worship. The structure is sold and demolished in 1937.

For more information about the Temple Israel reform congregation click here
For more information about the Temple Israel building history click here
For more information about the Knesseth Israel orthodox congregation click here
For more information about the Knessth Israel building history click here