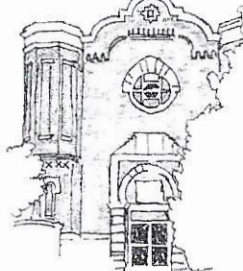


BEHIND CLOSED DOORS - OCTOBER 18, 1991



The Temple B'nai Sholom
427 North Ninth Street
Construction Date: 1870 Exotic Revival Style
Builder: Larkworthy & Burge
Architect: Robert Bunce

The Temple B'nai Sholom is significant to Quincy for several reasons. The structure has played a major role for the local Jewish community. The building is one of the last remaining designs of the early Quincy architect, Robert Bunce. The Temple is also significant as an example of a rare architectural style.

The first Jewish Temple, organized in Quincy in 1856, was located on Hampshire Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. The Reform Congregation broke from the original in 1864. The current Temple building was built in 1870 by this Reform Congregation because of the growing number of Jewish families in Quincy. The Temple still serves 45 families today, about 450 less than at the Congregation's height in the 1870's.

Like many architects of the late 19th century, Bunce designed in many different architectural styles such as the Gothic Revival, the Italian Renaissance, and the Second Empire styles.

Although the revivalist movement characterized late 19th century American architecture, the Moorish style chosen by Bunce for the design of the Temple was quite an unusual choice. Among the elements that are clearly influenced by Moorish architecture are the paired keyhole windows of stained glass, the curvilinear parapet, the stages of progression of the corner towers and the shape of the original domes and spires which were removed after sustaining damage in the tornado of 1945. Members of the congregation will be available to answer questions about the sanctuary and building.