

Now that it has been at last determined that the time was now to begin the effort to construct the synagogue building, the members of the newly formed corporation known as Base Israel faced one major problem; that universal problem where and how to obtain the funds necessary to begin and complete the project.

Little is known as to whether or not the members themselves contributed. It is known the fund raising was a way of life. We have all ready seen that the community had of ten raised funds for various Jewish charities of the day. We have also seen that some fund raising projects were presented with the specific aim to raise money for the synagogue.

First there was the matter of obtaining the land upon which to construct the building. The manner that was chosen was somewhat unusual but proved to be sound. There was at the time a house at 862 Washington street in Bath, which had an occupied lot of land next door just south of the

house. The lot was not wide. The portion upon which the house stood was forty -two feet wide. The length of the lot ran some eighty feet in a westerly direction to the railroad track. Thus the land was fronted by Washington street and the rear line was said tracks. The remaining lot was some thirty feet wide and the same eighty feet deep.

The method of obtaining this lot was as follows.: The entire parcel house and land was purchased from one Thomas Slavin on July 1st 1920. The exact price is not known. What is known is that on July 6th of the same year a group of members of the congregation headed by their President Solomon K. Greenblatt borrowed \$3300.00 from the Bath Trust Company. Those who signed the mortgage deed were in addition to Mr. Greenblatt, Harry Brown, vice president, Joseph (unreadable) treasurer, M. S. Povich Financial Secretary, Morris Cohen Recording Secretary, Samuel Mank, Simon Shinborn, and B Gediman Trustees. Just a year before Slavin had paid off the sum of \$3500. Which owed the Bath Trust Company.

We know from the contract that the building finally cost \$5340.65. (which included \$2.00 for a trip to Rockland.)

Subsequent to the purchase of the land and buildings on Washington Street the building which was a one family home at the time was sold to congregation member Harry Arenstam. The price which Arenstam paid was for the house only leaving the lot for the construction of the synagogue building. Once again it is not known ~~whatz Arenstam paid~~ how much Arenstam paid but presumably the difference between he paid and the cost of the entire purchase lot and building and the selling price for the house was not too great thus the lot was obtained cheaply.

To review : \$340.645 was needed for the building (bare) and whatever the difference in the land cost was. That was what was needed, quite a sum in the '20s. We know that \$3300.00 was borrowed