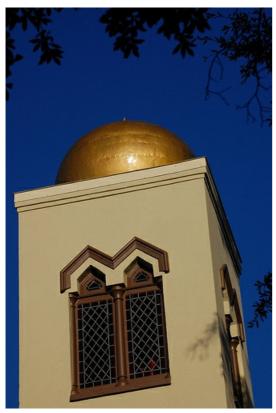
# Temple of Israel [1]

# Temple of Israel

by Janet K. Seapker, 2006



One of the Temple of Israel's golden onion domes, Wilmington, N.C. February 19, 2011.

Image from Flickr user Donald Lee Pardue. [2] The Temple of Israel, begun in 1875, is the oldest Jewish [3] house of worship in North Carolina. Jews, mainly of German descent, had been a prominent part of the Wilmington [4] population since the eighteenth century but had not had a permanent place to worship. The Jewish population of Wilmington increased during the Civil War [5]. In 1867 an Orthodox congregation, the Wilmington Hebrew Congregation, was organized by Rabbi E. M. Myers of Charleston. This group was short-lived, but a Reform congregation was organized in 1872 and three years later began building the Temple of Israel.

Recently discovered information ascribes the design of the temple to Philadelphia architect<u>Samuel Sloan. [6]</u> Previously it had been attributed to Alex Strausz, a local builder and congregation member. If Sloan was the designer, the Temple of Israel is the third Wilmington house of worship he designed. The others are the current <u>First Baptist Church</u> [7] and the previous <u>First Presbyterian Church</u> [8], both begun in 1859. The temple's <u>Moorish-style</u> [9] building, which was restored in 1982 and 2000, features twin towers with onion domes painted gold. The main body of the building is covered by a gable roof and spans the two towers.

### Reference:

Tony P. Wrenn, Wilmington, North Carolina: An Architectural and Historical Portrait (1984).

### **Additional Resources:**

Temple of Israel official website: http://www.temple-of-israel.org/ [10]

"Temple of Israel." North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program. https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=D-44 [11] (accessed July 12, 2012).

"Sol Bear's cane, May 12, 1876." Cape Fear Museum.http://www.capefearmuseum.com/index.php? flag=collection&cat=Pray&id=222 [12] (accessed July 12, 2012).

"Overview-north carolina-Wilmington." Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities, Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of

1

Southern Jewish Life. 2006. http://www.isjl.org/history/archive/nc/wilmington.html [13] (accessed July 12, 2012).

Smith, Marjorie. "100 years of proud history." *Wilmington Star-News*. May 16, 1976. <a href="http://news.google.com/newspapers?">http://news.google.com/newspapers?</a> id=qXU0AAAAIBAJ&sjid=DhMEAAAAIBAJ&pq=2037%2C3087463 [14] (accessed July 12, 2012).

Steelman, Ben. "What is the oldest Jewish house of worship in North Carolina?" MyReporter.com, StarNews. <a href="http://www.myreporter.com/?p=726">http://www.myreporter.com/?p=726</a> (accessed July 12, 2012).

Steelman, Ben. "Temple of Israel to install 20th rabbi." StarNews Online. February 4, 2012. <a href="http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20120204/articles/120209854">http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20120204/articles/120209854</a> [16] (accessed July 12, 2012).

### **Image Credits:**

"Temple of Israel." February 19, 2011. Wilmington, N.C. Flickr user Donald Lee Pardue. <a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/oldrebel/5466302327/">https://www.flickr.com/photos/oldrebel/5466302327/</a> [2] (accessed July 12, 2012).

### Subjects:

Places [17]

Religion [18]

Authors:

Seapker, Janet K. [19]

Origin - location:

Wilmington [20]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[21]

1 January 2006 | Seapker, Janet K.

#### Source URL: <a href="https://ncpedia.org/temple-israel">https://ncpedia.org/temple-israel</a>

#### Links

[1] https://ncpedia.org/temple-israel [2] https://www.flickr.com/photos/oldrebel/5466302327/ [3] https://ncpedia.org/judaism [4] https://ncpedia.org/geography/wilmington [5] https://ncpedia.org/history/cw-1900/civil-war [6] https://ncpedia.org/biography/sloan-samuel [7] http://www.firstonthird.org/ [9] http://www.nyc-architecture.com/STYLES/STY-MoorishRev.htm [10] http://www.temple-of-israel.org/ [11] https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx? sp=Markers&k=Markers&sv=D-44 [12] http://www.capefearmuseum.com/index.php?flag=collection&cat=Pray&id=222 [13] http://www.isjl.org/history/archive/nc/wilmington.html [14] http://news.google.com/newspapers? id=gXU0AAAAIBAJ&sjid=DhMEAAAAIBAJ&pg=2037%2C3087463 [15] http://www.myreporter.com/?p=726 [16] http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20120204/articles/120209854 [17] https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/places [18] https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/religion [19] https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/seapker-janet-k [20] https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-39 [21] https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-