

# The Congregation Emanuel Preservation Fund



**Where History Shapes the Future**



Mounted on the hand-carved wooden ark, two wooden tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments

## The Congregation Emanuel Preservation Fund:

**Documents the rich history** of Congregation Emanuel and of Statesville's Jewish community.

**Safeguards the legacy of a thriving Jewish community** through historical documents, memorabilia, and more.

**Ensures the preservation** of Congregation Emanuel's building and religious objects.

**Sustains Congregation Emanuel's Jewish community**, an integral part of Iredell County for well over a century.



“The walls of the Jewish synagogue on the corner of Water and Kelly streets, are above the ground. The **corner stone** was laid Tuesday. A **tin box** containing a **Bible**, copies of **The Landmark**, the *New York Times* and several Jewish papers was placed in it.”

*Source: The Landmark [Statesville, N.C.],  
29 October 1891*

## The Congregation Emanuel Preservation Fund documents the history of Congregation Emanuel and Statesville's Jewish community.

**Since 1883**, Congregation Emanuel of Statesville, N.C. fulfills an integral role in both the local community and in the greater religious landscape of North Carolina. Notwithstanding the addition of modern conveniences and a few expansions, the synagogue building stands much as it did when it was originally built in 1892.

**1883:** Congregation Emanuel first met in the Isaac Wallace home, until the need for a larger space led to renting space in the Fire Department.

**1890 – 1892:** Founders Benjamin Ash, David Wallace, Isaac Wallace, Louis Pinkus, and John Stephany, along with the Hebrew Ladies Aid Society (Sisterhood) and other members, oversaw the synagogue building.

### May 1892: Synagogue Dedication

Dr. Benjamin Szold\* remarked on this “magnificent building” in “America, the glorious land of liberty where every man can worship after the manner of his own faith.”

*\*father of Hadassah founder, Henrietta Szold*

**1899:** History records that a cyclone hit Statesville, leveling a local church. For more than a year, Temple Emanuel shared its building: “When our church was destroyed, the kind tender of your temple was the first bird note of Hope.” ... “so that coming generations may know the brotherly feeling existing between us... hope that as time goes on it may even grow stronger.”

*Source: “Letters to the Editor.”*

*The Landmark [Statesville, N.C.], May 1900*



Hanging from the center of the elaborate, original fresco, the wrought brass chandelier has illuminated the sanctuary since its dedication in 1892.



“The skillfully painted fresco on the ceiling lends elegance and balance to the wrought brass chandelier which hangs from a point in its center.

The fresco is thought to be the work of artist G. Karcher. Mr. Karcher, a Swiss-born furniture craftsman, was said to be ‘the most skillful man in town and a frescoer of no mean order.’”

*Source: Jeannie Krider, “History Reflected by Temple,”  
The Statesville Record & Landmark [Statesville, N.C.],  
16 October 1971, p. 3-A*

## **History is the Foundation.**

**Join us to preserve and sustain  
Congregation Emanuel.**

Visit us: [congregationemanuelinc.com](http://congregationemanuelinc.com)

or

Email us: [cestatesville@gmail.com](mailto:cestatesville@gmail.com)



Graduating seniors preparing to be honored on Shabbat

## Please join us in preserving and sustaining Congregation Emanuel's building and religious objects.

The Congregation Emanuel Preservation Fund will **preserve**:

- a history that cannot be replicated,
- a **proud and glorious legacy** of Statesville's Jewish community, and
- a **treasure** within Statesville's Historical District.

The Congregation Emanuel Preservation Fund will **support** our plans to create a historical and archival presentation.

The Congregation Emanuel Preservation Fund will **sustain** our synagogue's standing as:

- a **beacon** of Jewish education and interfaith dialogue in the community,
- a welcoming home, with a **contemporary** and **inclusive** approach to Judaism, to its congregants, newcomers, and visitors, and
- a vital partner within the local community and in the greater religious landscape of North Carolina.

**For more information: visit us at [www.congregationemanuelinc.com](http://www.congregationemanuelinc.com) or email us at [cestatesville@gmail.com](mailto:cestatesville@gmail.com)**



## Join these supporters who have generously invested in Congregation Emanuel's preservation and future:

<b>Ner Tamid – Eternal Light</b>	<b>\$100,000+</b>
Anonymous	
<b>Chazon – Visionary</b>	<b>\$50,000 - \$99,999</b>
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<b>Chaverim – Friends</b>	<b>\$360 - \$499</b>
<b>Kehillah – Community</b>	<b>\$180 - \$359</b>
<b>Maimonides</b>	<b>up to \$179</b>

## Show your commitment to preserving and sustaining Congregation Emanuel by adding your name to this list.

Congregation Emanuel's Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 145, Statesville, NC 28687

Opportunities to create a **Jewish Legacy**, that provides future support to Congregation Emanuel, are also available. For more information about **Creating a Jewish Legacy**, contact Phil Warshauer, Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community, at 704.973.4544 or via email [pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org](mailto:pwarshauer@charlottejewishfoundation.org).

### Special thanks to:

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Visit us at [congregationemanuelnc.com](http://congregationemanuelnc.com)

Email us at [cestatesville@gmail.com](mailto:cestatesville@gmail.com)

Attend services or events:

206 Kelly Street, Statesville, NC

