

The Ceres Hebrew congregation

A Jewish History

1903-2005

Ceres Hebrew Congregation.

- The Ceres Hebrew congregation was formed around 1903.
- It reached its peak of 30 families in the 1920s.
- The Ceres synagogue was built in 1923 on the corner of Porter and Munnik Street opposite the Belmont Hotel.
- The foundation stone was laid by Mr Baumann, chairman of the congregation at that time.
- In 1964 the Ceres-Wolseley Hebrew congregation numbered 17 families

Hebrew Congregation



Members of the Jewish
congregation during the
laying of the foundation
stone

First Grave...

- The Jewish cemetery in Owen Street was established by 1925, the first grave being that of Bertha Clare, buried on 1 July that year.
- By 1963, there were 45 graves, one without a tombstone.
- Jewish families from the surrounding towns were also buried in the Jewish cemetery



Ceres Hebrew congregation cont...

- By the 1930s, the synagogue served a large Jewish community.
- A hall was built in 1933 with the aid of a building fund established by the Ceres Zionist Association in 1925. The land had been purchased a year earlier with funds provided by the Ladies' Benevolent Society.
- The September 1969 earthquake badly damaged the synagogue and hall, which had to be condemned. The three *Sifrei Torah* were salvaged and housed in the original *Aron Kodesh*, which had been used before the shul was built. After the disaster, prayers were conducted in a temporary steel construction.
- A new Ceres-Wolseley synagogue and communal hall were consecrated on 31 January 1973.

Unveiling of 2nd Synagogue 1973

Left: Mr Isaac Kahn

Middle: Mr Abraham
Sheim

Right: Mr Louis Solsky



Unveiling of 2nd Synagogue...

