



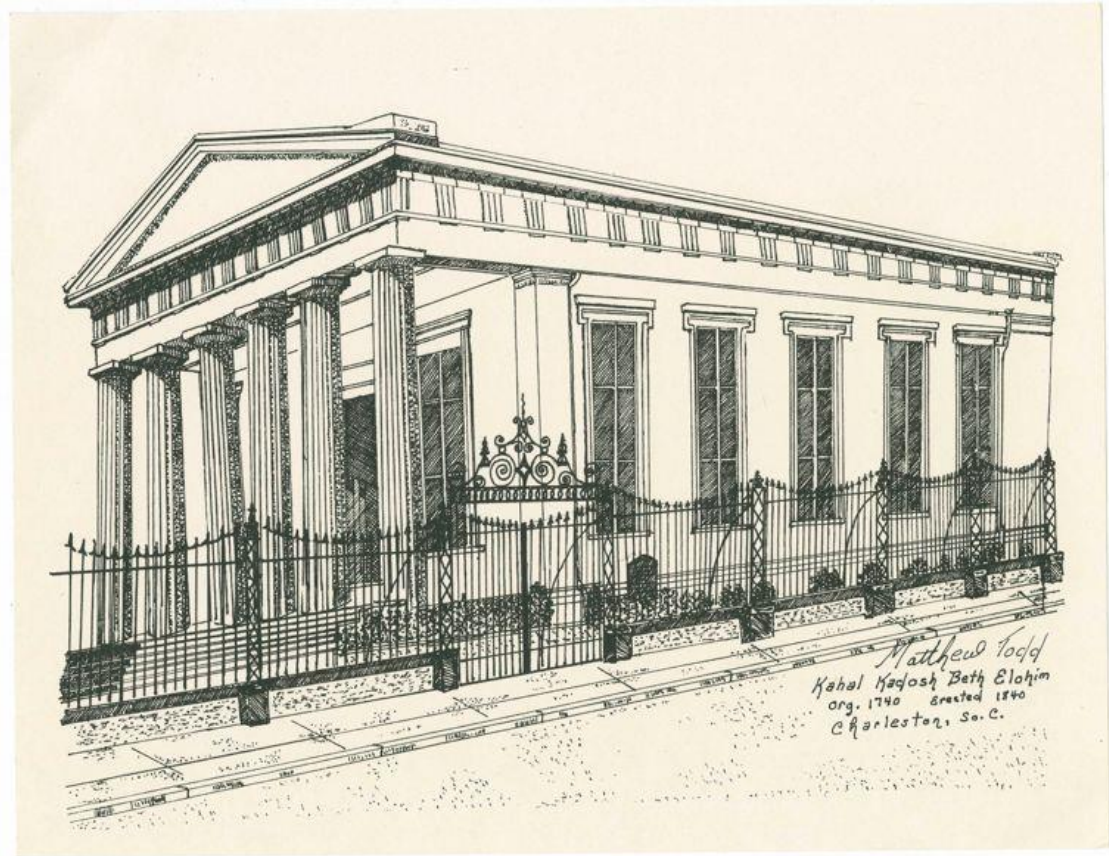
The American Synagogue Revolution

Zev Eleff

Rule VIII: No person or persons shall be sanctioned to combine for the purpose of erecting any other Synagogue or for uniting in any other unlawful Minyan, within five miles of Charleston; nor shall any person or persons, under the jurisdiction of this Congregation, be permitted, under any pretense whatever to aid, join, or assist at any such unlawful Minyan or Combination.

Rule IX: There shall be one Congregational Burial Ground only, wherein all the deceased members of the Congregation shall be interred.

-- Constitution, Hebrew Congregation of Kaal Kadosh Beth Elohim, Charleston, 1820



Constitution of the Reformed Society of Israelites, Charleston 1825

"Whereas, a correct understanding of Divine Worship is not only essential to our own happiness and a duty we owe to the Almighty Disposer of events but is well calculated, at the same time, to enlarge the mind and improve the heart: And whereas, also, with a view to this desirable end, a respectable Convention of Israelites met on the 21st day of November, 1824, in the City of Charleston, State of South-Carolina for the purpose of petitioning the Vestry of the Hebrew Synagogue for such alterations and improvements in the present mode of Worship as would tend to perpetuate pure Judaism, and enlighten the rising generation on the subject of their Holy Religion, and whereas, also, said petition, upon being submitted to the Vestry was rejected by them as unconstitutional, inasmuch as the constitutionality of said petition depended upon the signatures of a certain number of subscribing members of the Congregation, which number it was impracticable to obtain, without including a large portion of the very body before whom was to be laid ..."



*As the good shepherd gently leads
His wandering flocks to verdant meads,
Where winding rivers soft and slow,
Amid the flowery landscape flow,*

*So God, the guardian of my soul,
Doth all my erring steps controul
When lost in sin's perplexing maze
He brings me back to virtue's ways.*

*Though I should journey through the plains
Where death in all his horror reigns,
My steadfast heart no ill shall fear,
For thou, my God! art with me there.*

*Thine ever watchful Providence
Is my support and my defence,
With thee I am of all possess'd
And in thy favour fully blest'd.*

*O bounteous God! my future days
Shall be devoted to thy praise,
And in thy house thy sacred name,
And wondrous grace shall be my theme.*



Article XXXI: Any Israelite whatsoever, who makes a donation or leaves a legacy of not less than fifty dollars (today, \$1,014) for the benefit of this Society, shall receive every mark of respect, have the right of burial, and be entitled to every religious attention to which members are entitled.

-- Constitution of the Reformed Society of Israelites, Charleston, 1825