Temple Mizpah Abilene, TX

Robert P. Davis, Architect Houston, Texas June, 1997



During WWII Abilene suddenly became host to 30,000 new military residents. The small local Jewish community marshalled scarce war-time resources to build a synagogue for its expanded population. The name "Mizpah" (watch tower) was stamped on a popular set of charms made to look like a single medallion split zig-zag in half--each to be kept by parting sweethearts, husbands and wives, etc. until they were re-united after the war.

והמצפה אשר אמר יצף ה' ביני ובינך כי נסתר איש מרעהו



"And as for the Mizpah--because he said, May God keep watch between me and you when we are out of each other's sight." (Genesis 31:49)



This simple, handsome structure is constructed of local stone. Flanking the foyer are the kitchen, restrooms, and lounge, and beyond which is the sanctuary seating as many as 250.

