

Internship to Help Preserve Temple Aaron Spring 2018 Internship

We seek a historically minded, web and social media savvy intern to help us with outreach and fundraising in Boulder for the preservation of Temple Aaron in Trinidad, CO. The intern would learn about the law of historical preservation from the intern's main contact, David London, a Boulder-based attorney who is part of the group working to save the historic synagogue. The intern would also work with the Rubin family, who has lovingly overseen the building and the congregation for over thirty years. Field trips to Trinidad will be arranged as needed. We also hope to create an expanded community and membership for Temple Aaron, ranging from Boulder to Albuquerque, and to create a programming plan so that the building is used approximately once per month for Jewish and appropriate secular purposes.

Temple Aaron is a historic synagogue located in Trinidad, Colorado. Trinidad is a small town of about nine thousand people located approximately 200 miles south of Denver and about fifteen miles north of the New Mexico border. There has been a Jewish presence in Trinidad since at least the 1860s, and the town's first mayor, Samuel Jaffa, was Jewish. The congregation was officially formed in 1883 and the Temple Aaron building was built in 1889 and has been used as a synagogue ever since. The building is an architectural gem and was designed by the renowned architects the Rapp brothers. Google " Temple Aaron Trinidad Colorado" to see numerous pictures of the building.

While Temple Aaron has not had a full-time rabbi since 1916, it had sufficient funds to support the small but dedicated Jewish community of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico until 2016, when the painful decision was made to cease most activities in order to conserve its dwindling resources. 2016 was the first year that High Holiday services were not held since the building was constructed. Temple Aaron 's closure was front page news in the Denver Post and the building was put up for sale (but since been taken off the market). Notwithstanding these dire circumstances, a small group of dedicated individuals is working to save Temple Aaron and keep it in Jewish hands.