

MIKVEHS IN CREGLINGEN

The house at Lindleinstr. 30 where the oldest known of the ritual baths in Creglingen was located

1953

Heuwinkel 2001

The basic requirement of every Jewish community is a mikveh for the purpose of ritual immersion, for instance after coming in contact with a corpse, for women after menstruation or childbirth, and also for purifying utensils used for food. In Creglingen several mikvehs are verifiable at various locations through the centuries. In 1766 the house at Lindleinstr. 30 is owned by Eysig Jacob (1735-1804). He rediscovers Hebrew characters on the window frames and a mikveh in the basement. The house of stone and wood already was in Jewish possession from 1636 to 1716.

Site plan of the women bath at the basement of the synagogue building

Minutes of the meeting of the municipal council Creglingen

June 16, 1891

Bad Mergentheim City Archive

By 1883 there were complaints by the parish council office because the water of the ritual bath became polluted by the dung heaps of the Tauber miller Wellhoefer, as well as by urban sewage. The Jewish community therefore was forced to establish a newly constructed mikveh outside of town.

“...the local women’s bath consisted only of a bordered cold well, which so far has been warmed by a hot water boiler. The most obedient signer therefore must carry out modifications according to the requirement and instruction by the higher authority...”

Salomon Amson, „churchwarden“ in Creglingen to the Royal Israelite High Consistory office, Creglingen

June 11, 1848

Ludwigsburg State Archives

“...against which (is) Rabbi Mainzer in Weikersheim, allegedly because it might be against the ritual laws, at this place, where tempers are still raised anyhow ... so that the meanwhile established bath was for a while threatened by danger of demolition...”

Report by the district office Mergentheim to the Royal Israelite High Consistory office, regarding the establishment of a women’s bath in Creglingen

July 29, 1848

Ludwigsburg State Archives

“...I only can point out that I cannot imagine a location in the whole town of Creglingen that is more unfit for the sourcing of water than the hole brought up for discussion...”

Expert report by Dr. Pflueger regarding the Jewish women’s bath

June 20, 1891

Bad Mergentheim State Archives

Blueprint for the building application for a new women's bath

May 25, 1893

Creglingen City Archive

In 1895 on a piece of land at the Herrgottsbach (lit. *creek of God the Lord*) according to the plans by master builder Kauffmann from Niederstetten, a new women's bath was built from bricks. The plans show that a vestibule with a privy and a two-part main room was scheduled.

In the back room there was the embedded diving basin and a bathtub coated with zinc for sanitary cleansing. The water in a vessel containing 640 liter was heated by an oven.

Use of the so called "Jews bath":

Now as the acquisition of the so-called Jews bath is permitted, the question is raised as to what purpose the building is used for. Generally it is expressed that the lodge is a disfigurement of the townscape, and also the architectural style is rather reminiscent of the bygone Jewish time.

The mayor intends to sell the building for demolition and to use the land and property for municipal purposes, particularly for the use of the fire department, because the hose-drying tower ...

Municipal council protocol regarding the demolition of the mikveh at the Hergottsbach

June 22, 1939

Creglingen City Archive

In 1939 the Israelite community is forced to sell the synagogue as well as the mikveh. The municipal council orders the demolition on June 22, 1939.