

Exhibit Brief

It's time to gather information about your exhibit

1. Exhibit Title

The Jews of Bridgetown Barbados

2. Era(s) Exhibit Covers

Check all that apply.

1492-1762

1763-1835

1836-1912

1913-1945

1946-present

Other: _____

3. Geographic Location

Bridgetown, Barbados

4. Target audience

My target audience would be anyone who knows very little about jews in the Caribbean (particularly Barbados) but who would like to get a base understanding of their presence and impact in that region.

5. Thesis statement--what is the "so what" of your exhibit?

Although they were a persecuted people in south America (brazil), the jews of Bridgetown established a strong jewish community with its own customs and established individuals. Bridgetown is an important city to learn about in the context of jewish history because it tells the story of jews that isn't well recognized, including jews of color and women, and because of the historic impact, like the involvement in sugar trade, that the citizens had on both jewish and American history.

6. Three themes that support your thesis

established a central jewish community (through nidhe israel)

unconventional jewish and societal customs (mikveh and cemetary, jewish women standing up for themselves in society)

the impact of “whiteness” on the community (sugar trade, rich status etc.)

7. What are 1-4 key things you want visitors to learn from your exhibit?

1. Jewish life exists in Barbados and its story is part of a larger picture (in the Americas and for jewish history)

2. a reflection on the themes previously mentioned

8. Why do you think this exhibit will be popular?

I think that this exhibit might not necessarily be popular, but might be intriguing for the same reason I took this class: there is a lot known history about Jews in Europe and the middle east. However, the history and presence of jews in the Carribbean isn't a super well known topic. I think people will be very interested in learning about how a very resilient people made community in a place such as bridgeport, barbados and how the fleeing of persecution, establishing a presence and the topic of race plays into jewish and American history.

9. Do you have a range of types of objects. Check all you have included (aim for at least 3)

Check all that apply.

- Portraits
 Typed Documents
 Manuscripts
 Newspaper column or advertisement
 Photographs
 Map

Other: _____

10. What is the mood or tone of your exhibit?

I think the tone of my exhibit will be informational, not too playful or serious, but to leave room for the conversation of race to be had without too much distraction.

11. Complete List of Items that Will Be Included

1 point

1. map of barbados, 2. map nidhe israel complex, 3. pictures of mikveh bath, 4. pictures of cemetary, 5. portrait of Rodriguez Brandon, 6. miniatures of the Brandon siblings, 7. the rebecca valverde gomes mahamad minutes regarding her son's status, 8. rebecca gomes chocolate ad, 9. article about the Limmud school + the progress of education, 10. a letter to the occidental, 11. an obituary, and 12. marriage announcement.

12. Theme One & How it Supports Your Thesis

It is important to highlight that the Jews of Barbados were refugees from Brazil that established a central jewish community and built nidhe israel as its home. Despite having been through several natural disasters (hurricanes, floods, etc.) the community continued on, rebuilt, and remained essential. Nidhe israel included several important jewish components: synagogue, school, mikveh, and cemetery. I also want to highlight some of the more mundane moments/people in the community.

13. Items that go with Theme 1

Check all that apply.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

14. Theme Two & How it Supports Your Thesis

For my second theme, I want to focus on some of the more non normative conforming aspects of the jews/jewish community in Bridgetown because they truly stand out. The first is regarding the nidhe israel complex: it is highly unusual that a cemetery and mikveh be so close together, let alone on the same grounds. This choice truly stands out in the context of jewish customs (regarding the purity vs. impurity). As for the unusual role of women, Rebecca Valverde Gomes was a Jewish woman who had a baby out of wedlock, protested the mahamad's judgements of her and her son, and became a business woman in the early 1800s. this theme connects to my thesis by going into more depth into the impact of Jews(and their customs) in Barbados, and larger America.

15. Items that go with Theme 2

Check all that apply.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

16. Theme Three & How it Supports Your Thesis

For my third theme, I would like to assess the role of 'whiteness' in the jewish community of Bridgetown because in this given time period whiteness was related to how people were identified in the jewish community, in the context of rights in different parts of America, status, wealth, etc. This relates to my thesis by discussing race (debating jews were considered white or not) and jews of color, because jews of color are under represented and neglected when discussing jewish history.

17. Items that go with Theme 3

Check all that apply.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

18. Sources for Your Objects (put items numbers in parenthesis after each source)

1 point

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms