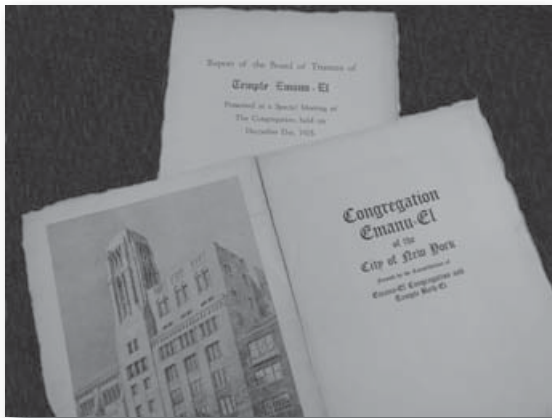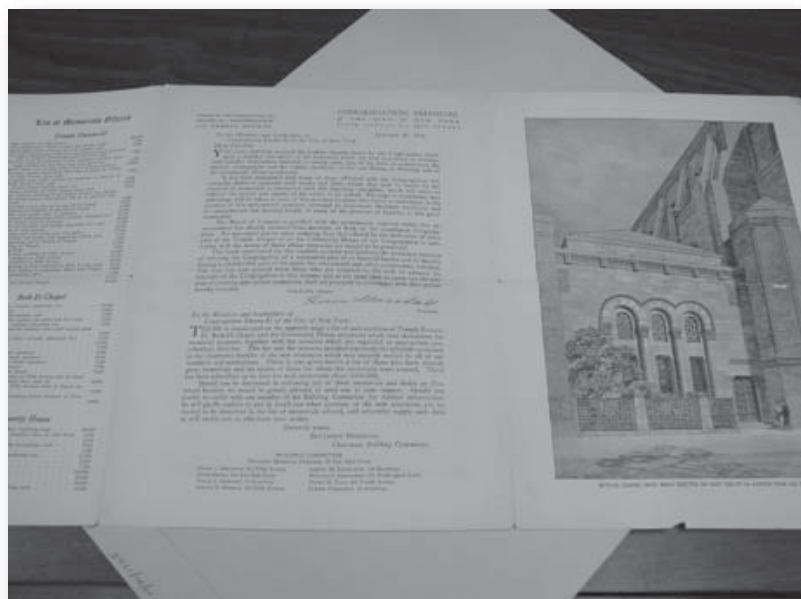# FROM THE ARCHIVES: MOVING FROM 43ʳᴰ STREET

In a report from the Board of Trustees dated December 21, 1925, members of Congregation Emanu-El were informed of the decision to sell the Temple property at 43ʳᵈ Street and to acquire a new site. The report stated, "Whatever action may be taken will mark a turning point not only in our history but in the life of the Jewish community of this great city and will have an important bearing upon the future of American Jewry."

Newspaper articles from the day announced Emanu-El's intent to sell, approval of construction plans at 65ᵗʰ Street and approval to consolidate with Temple Beth-El.

One article dated Nov. 25, 1925, in the *New York Herald Tribune* reported a proposal by developer Benjamin Winter to trade the Astor plot of land at 65ᵗʰ Street and Fifth Avenue for the existing Emanu-El property at the northeast corner of 43ʳᵈ Street and Fifth Avenue. Winter previously had purchased property at 52ⁿᵈ Street and Fifth Avenue that had been owned by William K. Vanderbilt.

Tax assessments of the day valued the Temple Emanu-El property at 43ʳᵈ Street at $3 million. However, based on real estate sales at the time of $350 per square foot, actual market value was closer to $6.7 million. In fact, one newspaper article reported that the Temple Emanu-El site was "considered by real estate experts to be one of the most valuable corners on Manhattan Island and probably in the world."

Photo left: An original copy of the Board of Trustees report announcing the decision to seek a new property for Temple Emanu-El and a fold-out brochure from January 1928 detailing plans for the new building at 65ᵗʰ Street.

Photo right: In addition to a letter addressed to Temple members and images of the Beth-El Chapel, Main Sanctuary and Community House, the January 1928 brochure included a list of memorials offered at the time: Rose Window; Banquet Hall beneath the Temple [currently I. M. Wise Hall]; Organ; Gentlemen's Lounge in the Community House; Ladies' Lounge.