

LUSAKA

In 1931 Lusaka, which was the farming and commercial centre of the country was chosen as the new capital of Northern Rhodesia. Among its commercial founders were Benjamin Glasser, who had come from Lithuania in 1908, and Edward Kollenberg, who arrived from Latvia in the following year. One of Edward's sons, Henrie, remained in Lusaka for many years as a farmer and cattle-trader. Also involved in the agricultural development of the area through their acquisition of Leopard's Hill Ranch in 1912 and later Kabulonga Farm were the Susman brothers; and Aaron Barnett Diamond, a pioneer of the Barotseland cattle trade to the Congo and Angola, settled at Diamondale near Lusaka.

Lusaka's commercial trade was dominated by four Jewish stores: Glasser's, Kollenberg's, Aberman's, and Fischer's. The major commercial entrepreneur and property developer in Lusaka in the 1920s and 1930s was Latvian-born immigrant Sam Fischer, who had arrived in 1923. His house, built in 1928, was the first in the town to have electric light and still stands in Cairo Road as does Fischer's Building, the first two-storey structure in Lusaka. Fischer also built Lusaka's first cinema, the Carlton.

Plans for the new capital involved moving the commercial centre from Cairo Road to the junction of Church Road and Independence Avenue but resistance from established Jewish traders defeated this proposal, so that Lusaka even now straddles the railway line. David Shapiro, who arrived in Lusaka from the then Palestine in 1923, played a major part in the building of the new capital, and its 'garden city'. He made bricks and tiles for the town and later he established a milling company.



An inside view of the Lusaka Synagogue



Glasser's Store, Lusaka, circa 1921



Kollenberg shop, Lusaka, circa 1930



Leopard's Hill Ranch, Lusaka



The butchery of Abe Galaun in Lusaka