

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____ 1 _____

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100003674

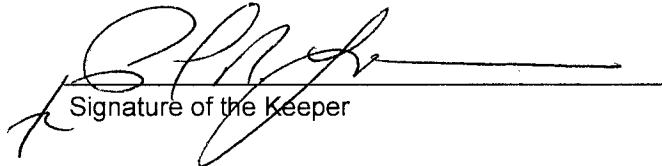
Date Listed: 5/2/2019

Property Name: Congregation B'nai Israel

County: Bernalillo

State: NM

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation


Signature of the Keeper

5/2/2019
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Description:

The non-contributing buildings are located to the north of the education/social hall building along the edge of the parking area and are of very recent construction and materials. [Provided by SHPO.]

The NEW MEXICO SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

3674

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

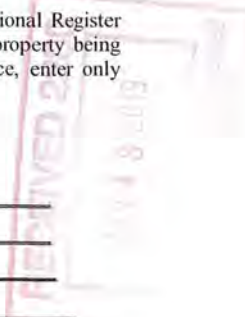
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Congregation B'nai Israel

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A



2. Location

Street & number: 4401 Indian School Rd. NE

City or town: Albuquerque State: NM County: Bernalillo Zip Code: 87110

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B X C ___ D

	<u>2/22/19</u>
Jeff Pappas, Ph.D., New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	
_____ Date	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

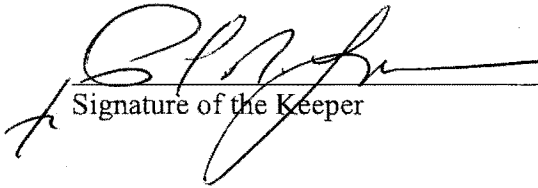
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

5/2/2019
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: religious facility; church school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion: religious facility; church school

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Late-Modern Expressionism

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stucco, Glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Congregation B'nai Israel is a late-20th-century Expressionist-style synagogue located on the East Mesa at the northeast corner of Washington Street and Indian School Road in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Completed in 1971, the synagogue was designed in two sections: the sanctuary on the east side and, to the west, the educational wing, which also provides space for education and social activities. The sanctuary is an Expressionist interpretation of the Biblical tent of Jacob, designed in the form of twelve radiating, curved segments that meet at a small skylight at the apex. Architect E. George Wynn created a large, unsupported interior sanctuary with twelve laminated wood arches enclosed by a circular brick wall. The roof is formed by convex, tapered vaults constructed of tongue-and-groove strips of wood. The educational wing appears modern with its brown-brick walls, plain, geometric forms, ribbon windows, and minimal ornament. This part of the synagogue includes shed and flat roofs, a result of its split-level design. In 2001, the bimah, or reading desk, was rebuilt, improved lighting, and improved handicapped accessibility was added and the gift shop was expanded. In 2012, the roof above the sanctuary was repaired with a new surface, which resulted in the change in color from gold to tan. The educational wing was expanded in 1990 to include a larger social hall and new kitchens and spaces for education.

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Narrative Description

Congregation B'nai Israel synagogue is located on a four-acre site at the northeast corner of Washington Street and Indian School Road in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Architect E. George Wynn designed the synagogue in two sections: the sanctuary on the east side and, to the west, the educational wing, which also provides space for education and social activities. Completed in 1971, the synagogue, with its sanctuary, is an Expressionist interpretation of the biblical tent of Jacob¹, designed in the form of twelve radiating, curved segments that meet at a small skylight at the apex. The complex includes the sanctuary, educational wing that includes educational and social activities, and a parking lot for 200 vehicles. The property is bounded to the north by Interstate 40, with commercial development on the north side of the interstate. Commercial and educational properties extend along Indian School Road to the east. The development to the south and west is mostly single-family residences.

The rectangular-shaped site slopes gently downward from south to north. The property is entered and exited from Indian School Road. The site is minimally landscaped and most surfaces are covered with gravel. Plantings are limited to juniper shrubs, scattered around the site, evergreen, and deciduous trees along the perimeter and the east side of the building. The playground is fenced for the preschool and includes small storage buildings, and a sukkot arbor. The two principal components of the synagogue are the sanctuary and the educational wing. The synagogue is a large circular-plan sanctuary that joins the two-story, rectangular-shaped educational wing. Both sanctuary and educational wing are constructed of wood frame clad in oversize Summit six-inch utility brick. The brown brick is laid in running bond and capped with a blonde-colored concrete sill. Soffits and the cornice extend are roughly two-feet deep and finished with tan-colored stucco. The tent-like ceiling of the sanctuary is composed of twelve arched segments covered with sprayed rigid foam. The classroom area is delineated by a stucco band between the first-and-second-floor ribbon windows. The windows are tinted and set in bronze-colored aluminum frames. The classroom addition, built in the 1990, also of Summit brown brick, incorporates includes large expanses of unadorned walls enclosing the kitchens and social hall.

The architecture of the sanctuary is an Expressionist interpretation of the biblical tent of Jacob. It was designed by architect E. George Wynn. Twelve radiating, convex tapered vaults joined at the compression ring at the apex. Originally gold colored, the current roof is tan-colored. This 7,800-square-foot central space is free of interior supports. The twelve laminated wood arches, stained a dark brown, pierce the curved wall, which is constructed of over-sized brown bricks. The compression ring at the apex is covered with a skylight. The skylight floods the sanctuary with sunlight. The ceiling is formed of tongue-and-groove wood strips that form tapered wood vaults. The large, arched windows are formed in the spaces between the brick wall on the bottom and, on top, the curved roof vaults.

¹ See Numbers 24:5.

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The sanctuary, as designed and constructed in 1971, consisted of the raised bimah at the top of five stairs. The wall surrounding the ark was a gold color with dark wood vertical strips matching the dark color of the laminated arches. The doors to the ark were covered with woolen tapestries as was the bimah. High above the ark is a large bronze sculpture by Taos Modernist Ted Egri, which depicts the word "Israel" in Hebrew, and the eternal light, just above the doors to the ark, which was also designed by Egri. Lighting within the sanctuary was provided by a series of twenty-four pendant lights and six spotlights directed on the bimah. Artist Ted Egri also designed eight bronze sculptures mounted on the walls of the sanctuary, which depict stylized scenes of Chanukah, Pesach, Rosh Hoshanah, Tu B'Shvat, Purim, Shabbat, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot.

The educational wing includes offices, educational, and social spaces west of the sanctuary. The offices are located at the main (rear) entrance and include the general office, rabbi's and cantor's offices. The entrance to the synagogue is on the same level as the sanctuary. When the synagogue was completed in 1971, the entrance was located on Indian School Road, but was subsequently relocated to the north, or rear façade, which featured a handicapped ramp. The rectangular-shaped wing is clad in the same oversized brown brick used for the walls of the sanctuary. The office area between the sanctuary and the educational wing includes a gift shop and storage space for religious items used during worship. The floor is buff-colored brick tiles laid in a herringbone pattern.

The split-level plan includes a double-loaded corridor with stairs down to the chapel, two kosher kitchens, a social hall, and preschool. The upper level includes the library and the religious school. Classrooms on the east side, both upper- and lower-story, are illuminated by windows that span the length of the classroom and are covered with a flat roof. The west side houses the chapel and community spaces, none of which include windows. The upper-level rooms facing north include broad expanses of glass and are covered with a flat roof. The south-facing upper-level rooms have high ceilings that reflect the shed-roofed clerestory, which brings in natural light.

In 1990 the Albuquerque firm Lewis Schlegel Architects designed additions to the secondary north, south, and west sides of the educational wing. The north addition is an extension of the religious school and includes classrooms along a double-loaded corridor. The windowless, brown-brick addition on the south side contains two, larger kitchens for events. The west-side addition extends the social hall and is also finished in brown brick. The additions provide entrances to the playground and the preschool parking area.

In 2001, the Albuquerque architectural firm Dent & Nordhaus designed renovations to the sanctuary to accommodate universal design and to provide more light to the interior. The renovation reduced the height of the bimah from five steps to two; constructed a new wall behind the bimah to incorporate white natural stone to evoke the walls of Jerusalem; replaced the doors to the ark from tapestry to cherry wood; pendant lights replaced with two light bridges; and

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ramps to the bimah were added. The aging roof was repaired, which resulted in a tan-colored roof in place of the original gold color.

Historic Integrity

Congregation B'nai Israel synagogue retains a high level of historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Alterations to the sanctuary in 2001 by Dent & Nordhaus Architects were minor and have not diminished the sense of space or altered the complex design of the sanctuary. Later additions to the classroom building have obscured the lesser north, south, and west facades. The circular sanctuary and its sophisticated roof plan are of primary importance and mostly remain unaltered.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

Congregation B'nai Israel synagogue is counted as one contributing building.
Sculptures in the sanctuary by Ted Egri are counted as one contributing object.
Parking lot and drives are counted as one contributing structure.

Storage buildings (2) are counted as two noncontributing buildings.
Sukkot arbor is counted as one noncontributing building.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Art

Period of Significance

1971

Significant Dates

1971—B'nai Israel synagogue completed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wynn, E. George (architect)

Lewis Schlegel Architects

Dent & Nordhaus Architects

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Congregation B'nai Israel Synagogue is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Late Modern Expressionism, which is exemplified by its tent-like vaulted roof. Congregation B'nai Israel Synagogue significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of art because the synagogue includes ten bronze sculptures by Taos sculptor and painter Ted Egri, who was one of the original founders of the Taos Art Association and a member of the Taos Moderns. These abstract sculptures depict major events in the history of Judaism. Congregation B'nai Israel meets Criteria Consideration A for properties for religious properties and Criterion Consideration G for properties less than fifty years of age because its exceptional significance derives from its innovative architectural design and because of the bronze sculptures produced by Ted Egri.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Congregation B'nai Israel Synagogue is eligible for listing in the National Register at the local level of significance under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture because its Expressionist tent-like roof is among the best examples of Late Modernism in Albuquerque in the last decades of the 20th century. The synagogue roof is exceptional because it is among the best surviving examples of its type in the city. It is exceptionally significant because, while similar folded-plate roofs in Albuquerque were routinely cast as thin shells of concrete, the B'nai Israel roof is formed by laminated-wood arches that support a dozen tapered wood vaults. Difficult to build, the wood vaults appear on the exterior as curved segments, which appear as an abstraction of the biblical "ten of Jacob. The roof provides an unsupported span of roughly seventy feet, which provides the congregation with unobstructed views of the liturgy.

Expressionism in Albuquerque is seen in a small number of examples throughout the city, including the soaring, parabolic roof of St. Paul's Lutheran Church (1971) and the three barrel vaults that form the Boys Club Building (1954). Folded-plate roofs constructed of thin-shell concrete, a subset of Expressionism, appear in in different forms and constructed of varying materials throughout the Albuquerque. Rectilinear folded-plate roofs appear in numerous public schools constructed after the Second World War. Bel-Air Elementary School (1960) is a rectangular block covered with more than dozen concrete corrugations. Mitchell Elementary School (1962), another rectilinear building, comprises three separate buildings, each covered with a concrete folded-plate roof. In Albuquerque folded-plate roofs constructed in a circular, or tent-like form, were built less frequently. These include Acoma Elementary School (1960), Grant Junior High School (1961), the Kiva Lecture Hall at the University of New Mexico

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(1963), and Galles Chevrolet (c.1960).² These unsupported roof forms provided large, open interior spaces that did not require interior supports. In Acoma Elementary School and Grant Junior High School, the folded-plate roof covers only the cafeteria, a small portion of the school. The thin-shell concrete roof at Galles Chevrolet, for example, covers the entire automobile showroom.

Congregation B'nai Israel Synagogue significant at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of art because the synagogue includes ten bronze sculptures by Taos sculptor and painter Ted Egri. As one of the original founders of the Taos Art Association in 1952, Egri was an active member of the Taos community and Taos County. That same year, an important show at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center reestablished the vibrancy of the Taos Art Colony. The exhibition, "Taos Painting Yesterday and Today," featured nine of the original founding artists and twenty-one contemporary and modern artists, including Ted Egri. Four years later, Egri introduced the term "Taos Moderns" and worked with Raymond Jonson to create their first exhibition at the Jonson Gallery at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.³ The show then traveled to the Museum of New Mexico and to Los Alamos. This new group consisted of "essentially nonfigurative artists, unconcerned with specific subject matter. Their focus was "on motif and the manner in which an artwork is developed."⁴

Ted Egri, profoundly influenced by the Taos landscape and the diversity of cultures, began to focus on his own sculpture. He developed the concept of abstract form in space as he experimented with a variety of durable, outdoor substances such as ground glass mixed with polyester resin as well as Corten steel. During this artistically expansive period from the 1970s to the 1980s, Egri developed large-scale sculptural commissions for corporate and private clients in Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico. He began working in bronze and traveled to Pietrasanta, Tuscany to cast several works at the Tommasi Founderia. Throughout the United States, he was featured in numerous one-person exhibitions that were sponsored by galleries and museums.⁵ The bronze sculptures at Congregation B'nai Israel derive from this period of Egri's work when he began casting sculptures in bronze. The synagogue includes eight wall-mounted sculptures in the sanctuary, each depicting important holidays and historical events. Egri also cast the Eternal Light located above the bimah.

National Register Criteria Considerations

Congregation B'nai Israel meets two National Register Criteria Considerations in the areas of architecture and art. Criterion Consideration A states that a religious property is eligible if it derives its primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.

² The status of many folded-plate roofs in Albuquerque is uncertain: Acoma Elementary School is vacant, the folded-plate roof at Grant Junior High School has been obscured, and the roof covering the showroom at Galles Chevrolet was mostly concealed by additions in c.2010, and has been vacant since the dealership moved in 2018.

³ David L. Witt, *Taos Moderns: Art of the New* (Santa Fe: Red Crane Books, 1992), 33-34.

⁴ Elise Waters Olonia, "Biography of Ted Egri," <http://fineartservices.info/gallery/ted-egri/biography-of-ted-egri>

⁵ Ibid.

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Congregation B'nai Israel is eligible because it draws its primary significance in the area of architecture as an excellent example of Late Modern Expressionism and because of the sculptures in sanctuary produced by Taos artist Ted Egri.

Criterion Consideration G states that properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years are eligible if they are of exceptional importance. Congregation B'nai Israel meets Criterion Consideration G because it is an exceptional example of modern architecture in Albuquerque and because it includes important work by the artist and sculptor Ted Egri, who incorporated his sculptures into the design of the synagogue. Congregation B'nai Israel is among the best examples of Expressionism in Albuquerque.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Congregation B'nai Israel was formed by Jews who arrived in Albuquerque as immigrants from Eastern Europe in the early 1900s. These new arrivals were more conservative than their established counterparts in Albuquerque. They found that, although welcome to worship in Reform temples, the services, including that of the Reform Congregation Albert, did not meet their needs. As early as 1915, members of the future Congregation B'nai Israel were conducting religious services in private homes. Acting on a desire for both a house of worship and a Hebrew School for their children, these Eastern European immigrants founded Congregation B'nai Israel in 1920 as an Orthodox congregation.⁶

Congregation B'nai Israel served as an important community-gathering place for Eastern European Jews. Prior to its establishment in 1920, there were no conservative or orthodox congregations in Albuquerque. Earlier migrations of German Jews in the mid- to late 1800s had led to the development of a thriving Reform community, but with the arrival of Eastern European immigrants beginning in the early 1900s the composition of the Jewish population in Albuquerque shifted slightly toward more devout Jews. These immigrants, dissatisfied with the services offered by the Reform congregations, founded Congregation B'nai Israel as a Conservative synagogue.

In its early years, the congregation found it difficult to establish a permanent home. Initial meetings were irregular and held in private homes, hired halls, and sometimes even in the back of stores. Despite these early difficulties, by 1934 the congregation had grown large enough to move into a rented space at 116 West Central, over the Rio Theater.⁷ By this time, the congregation identified itself as Conservative. In 1937, the Ladies Auxiliary Club purchased a property at the corner of Cedar and Coal, with the intention of constructing a new synagogue on the site. Despite difficulties in raising funds for the building, construction of the new synagogue was completed in a few months in 1941. In addition to a sanctuary for worship, space was

⁶ Morris Freedman, "The Jews of Albuquerque: A Southwestern Community," *Community* July (1959): 59–60; Naomi Sandweiss, *Jewish Albuquerque: 1860 - 1960* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 41.

⁷ Urith Lucas, "Dedication Sunday for New Synagogue," *Albuquerque Tribune*, December 9, 1971, sec. G.

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dedicated to a Hebrew School. The congregation believed that the education of their youth members was essential to the continuation of Congregation B'nai Israel.

Congregation B'nai Israel membership increased from 60 members in 1941 to 195 in 1955. By 1980, the congregation was supported by 410 members. By 1995, it has risen to only 485 and by 2000 it had declined to 383 members. Its recent decline in membership notwithstanding, its rate of growth after the Second World War increased six-fold.⁸

By 1950, the congregation had grown sufficiently to warrant several additions to the synagogue at Cedar and Coal. This expansion, completed in 1951, consisted of a larger kitchen, three new classrooms, and a social hall.⁹ In 1959, with an eye towards the future, the congregation purchased property on the East Mesa at the corner of Indian School Road and Washington Street for construction of a new synagogue. By this time, the congregation consisted of approximately 200 families and 100 religious school students, with annual dues of \$75 per family.¹⁰

In 1964, the congregation expanded the synagogue at 415 Cedar Street, SE by purchasing an adjoining house, which they used as additional classrooms to accommodate an ever-growing Hebrew School enrollment. By 1967 a fundraising campaign was begun for construction of a new synagogue. This effort was abruptly cut short by the outbreak of the Six Days War. The congregation donated construction funds to the defense of Israel.¹¹ Fundraising efforts were resumed the next year, and the goal of \$400,000 was reached. The congregation hired architect E. George Wynn to help realize their goal of a modern house of worship. Wynn, who received his architect's degree from the Pratt Institute of New York in 1961, had moved to Albuquerque in 1963 after a brief stint with the Philip Johnson firm in New York City.¹²

By the 1960s many Jewish congregations throughout America had begun to embrace new and modern forms of architecture in the design of their synagogues.¹³ E. George Wynn set about designing an Expressionist synagogue for his clients. Wynn, who was Jewish, devised a unique undulating rooftop design that referenced the biblical tent of Jacob.¹⁴ The building was designed to meet the needs of the congregation as a house of worship, a gathering space, and as a school for the continuing education of the congregation's youth members.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new synagogue was held on January 21, 1971. Construction proceeded rapidly, and by fall 1971 the building had been completed. The defining aspect of the synagogue, a golden roof, was designed specifically to evoke the symbolism of the tent of Jacob. In November 1971 the last service was held in the Cedar Street synagogue, and

⁸ Henry J. Tobias, *Jews in New Mexico since World War II* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008), 67.

⁹ "Congregation B'nai Israel | Southwest Jewish Archives," accessed October 5, 2017, <http://swja.arizona.edu/content/congregation-bnai-israel-0>.

¹⁰ Sandweiss, *Jewish Albuquerque: 1860 - 1960*, 41.

¹¹ "B'nai Israel History," accessed October 6, 2017, <http://www.bnaiisrael-nm.org/history.php>.

¹² "Architect Moves Here from N.Y.," *Albuquerque Tribune*, June 26, 1963.

¹³ Henry Stoltzman and David Stoltzman, *Synagogue Architecture in America: Faith, Spirit, & Identity* (Mulgrave, Australia: The Images Publishing Group Pty Ltd, 2004), 56.

¹⁴ Harvey Buchalter, Interview on the History of the B'nai Israel Congregation, October 17, 2017.

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the Torah procession was made to the new synagogue. The congregation then sold the Cedar Street property.

In 1976, a handicap accessible ramp was installed in the sanctuary to accommodate disabled members of the congregation. In 1990 the congregation commissioned the Albuquerque firm Lewis Schlegel Architects to expand the social hall, add two new kitchens, and additional classrooms. The additional classrooms underscored the importance that the congregation placed on the religious education of their youth. The newly added kitchens separated meat and dairy products, in keeping with the kosher practices of Conservative Judaism.

In 1960, an Anti-Defamation League report identified New Mexico as among the states with the fewest incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism. By the 1980s and 1990 synagogues in Albuquerque were desecrated. In 1982, swastikas were painted the doors of Congregation B'nai Israel. In 1994, the cemetery of Congregation of Albert, Fairview Cemetery, was vandalized with anti-Semitic images. In 1988, an ADL report placed New Mexico, along with Montana, as having the lowest rates of anti-Semitic vandalism in the nation.¹⁵

In 2001 Albuquerque architectural firm Dent & Nordhaus remodeled the sanctuary with light bridges to provide more light for reading; enhanced sound system; the bimah was altered with a new lectern; hand-carved chairs; a new ark with hand-carved lettering by local artist Harvey Buckalter. In 2012 the aging roof was repaired, which resulted in a tan-colored roof in place of the original gold color.

¹⁵ Tobias, 109.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“Architect Moves Here from N.Y.” *Albuquerque Tribune*. June 24, 1963.

“B’nai Israel History.” Congregation B’nai Israel of Albuquerque, 2015. <http://www.bnaiisrael-nm.org/history.php>

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<http://swja.arizona.edu/content/congregation-bnai-israel-0>

Freedman, Morris. “The Jews of Albuquerque: A Southwestern Community.” *Community* (1959): 55-62.

“Public Open House Ends Dedication Activities,” *Albuquerque Journal*, December 10, 1971.

Tobias, Henry J. *Jews in New Mexico since the World War II*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008.

“Taos Artist Ted Egri Dies at 97.” *Albuquerque Journal*. December 10, 2010.

Sandweiss, Naomi. *Jewish Albuquerque: 1860-1960*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 2011.

Stoltzman, Henry and David Stoltzman. *Synagogue Architecture in America: Faith, Spirit & Identity*. Musgrave, Australia: Images Publishing Group, 2004.

Urith, Lucas. “Synagogue to Have a House of Prayer.” *Albuquerque Tribune*, May 13, 1967.

_____. “Dedication Sunday for New Synagogue.” *Albuquerque Tribune*. December 9, 1971.

Witt, David L. *Taos Moderns: Art of the New*. Santa Fe: Red Crane Books, 1992.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 4 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.102629 Longitude: -106.594588
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary appears in red on the sketch map drawn to scale and corresponding with the point of latitude and longitude in Section 10.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register boundary includes the intact property historically associated with Congregation B'nai Israel.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Leslie Naji, Nicolas Hlatky, Samuel Fantaye, Margaret Menache
organization: University of New Mexico, School of Architecture and Planning
street & number: 1 University of New Mexico
city or town: Albuquerque state: NM zip code: 87131
e-mail: N/A telephone: N/A
date: December 2017

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title: Steven Moffson, State and National Register Coordinator
organization: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
street & number: 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
city or town: Santa Fe state: New Mexico zip: 87501
email: steven.moffson@state.nm.us telephone: 505.476.04444
date: November 4, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

Bernalillo, New Mexico
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Congregation of B'nai Israel

City or Vicinity: Albuquerque

County: Bernalillo

State: New Mexico

Photographer: Harvey Kaplan

Date Photographed: October 15, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 20. Educational wing (left) and sanctuary (right), photographer facing north.
- 2 of 20. Main Entrance (no longer in use), photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 20. Sanctuary, photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 20. Sanctuary, photographer facing west.
- 5 of 20. Laminated timber arch leg (detail) and Summit utility brick, photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 20. Synagogue (left) and educational wing (right), photographer facing south.
- 7 of 20. Rear entrance and patio, photographer facing south.
- 8 of 20. Educational wing, photographer facing north.
- 9 of 20. Parking lot, photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 20. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing southwest.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

Bernalillo, New Mexico
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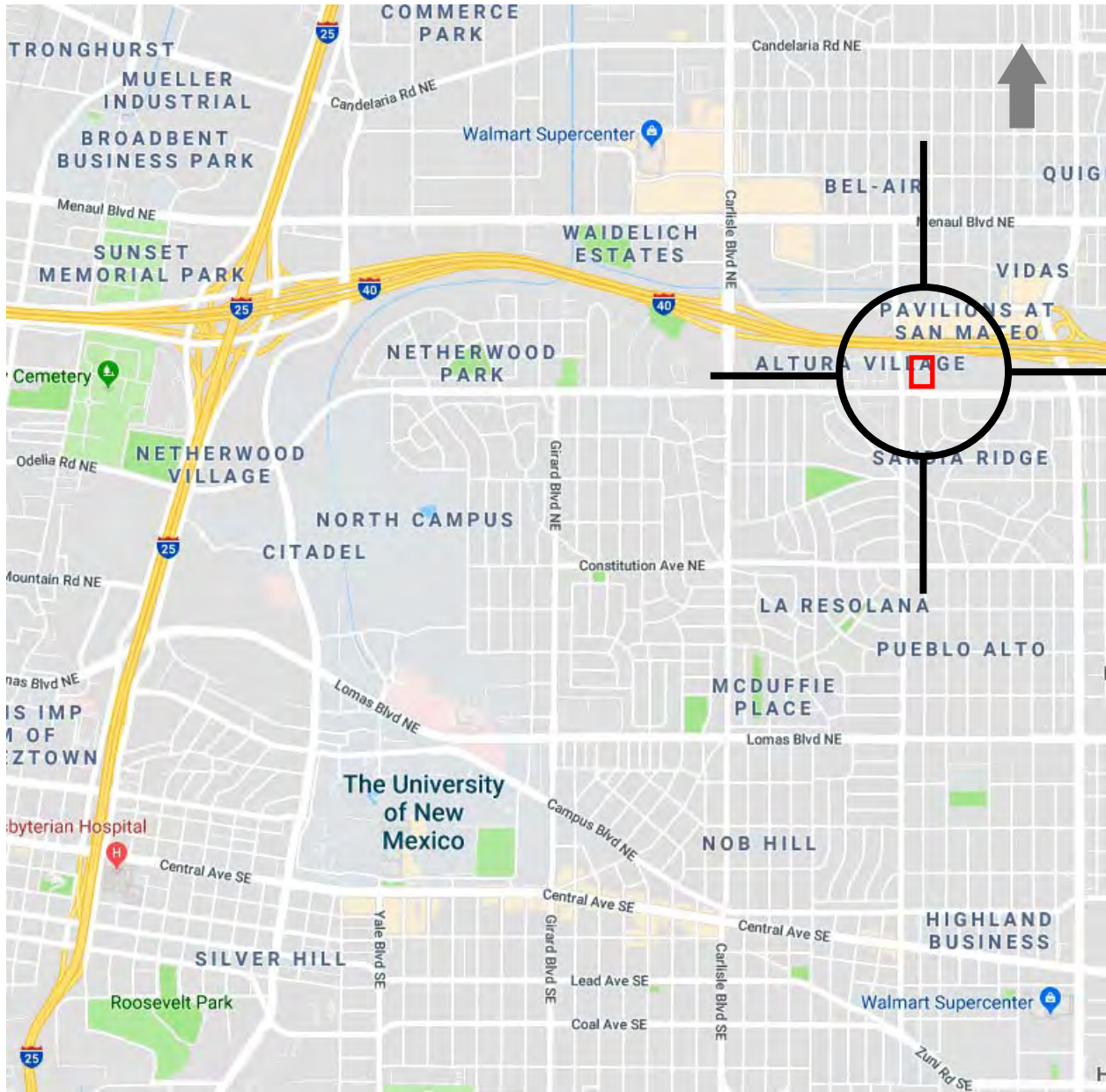
- 11 of 20. Interior, sanctuary, detail of bimah, photographer facing southwest.
- 12 of 20. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing northeast.
- 13 of 20. Interior, sanctuary, *Purim* sculpture, photographer facing north.
- 14 of 20. Interior, sanctuary, detail of wood vaults and laminated arches and purlins.
- 15 of 20. Interior, sanctuary, detail of arches, compression ring, and skylight.
- 16 of 20. Interior, educational wing, split-level stair, photographer facing northwest.
- 17 of 20. Interior, educational wing, first floor, classroom, photographer facing east.
- 18 of 20. Interior, educational wing, second floor, photographer facing south.
- 19 of 20. Interior, educational wing, first floor, social hall, photographer facing south.
- 20 of 20. Interior, educational wing, second floor, library, photographer facing south.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

Bernalillo, New Mexico
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Congregation B'nai Israel
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

National Register boundary



Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

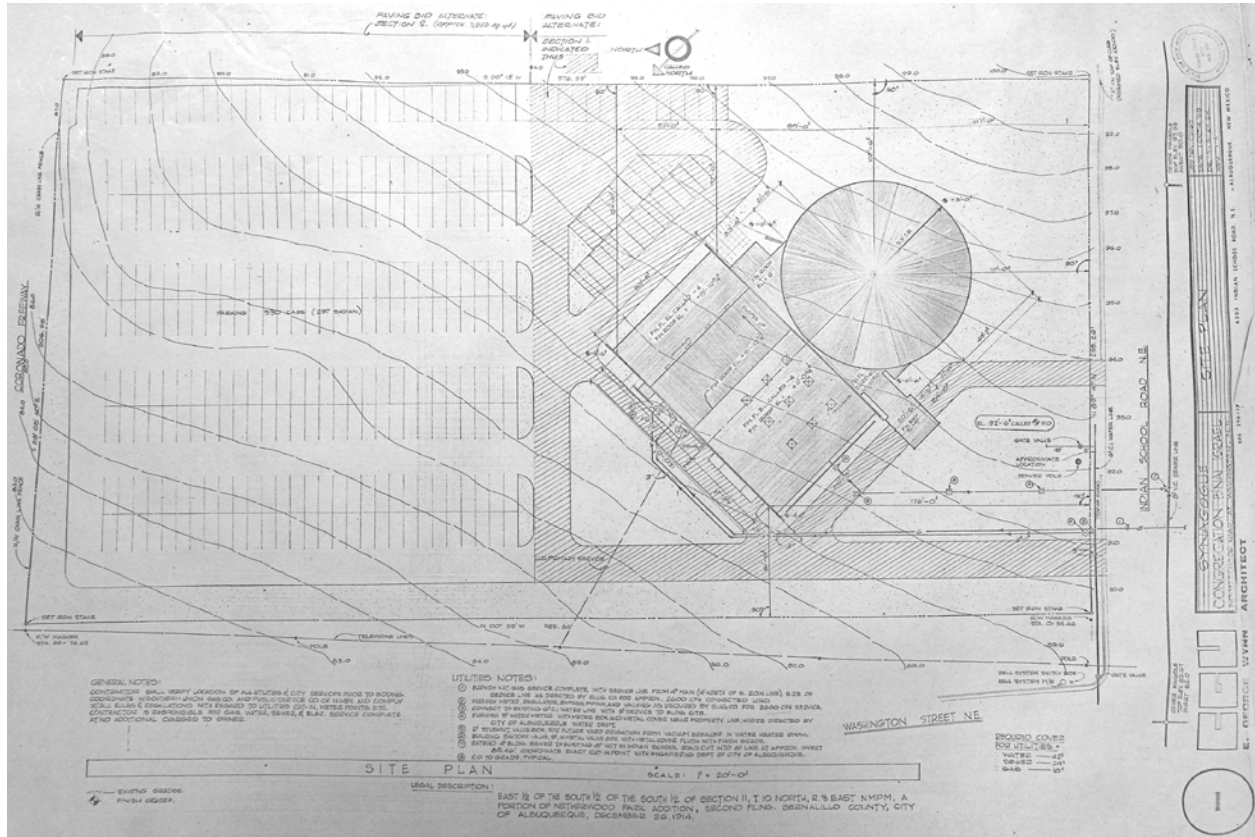
Bernalillo, New Mexico
County and State



Congregation B'nai Israel
Bernalillo County, New Mexico
National Register boundary —————

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

Bernalillo, New Mexico
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Congregation B'nai Israel
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

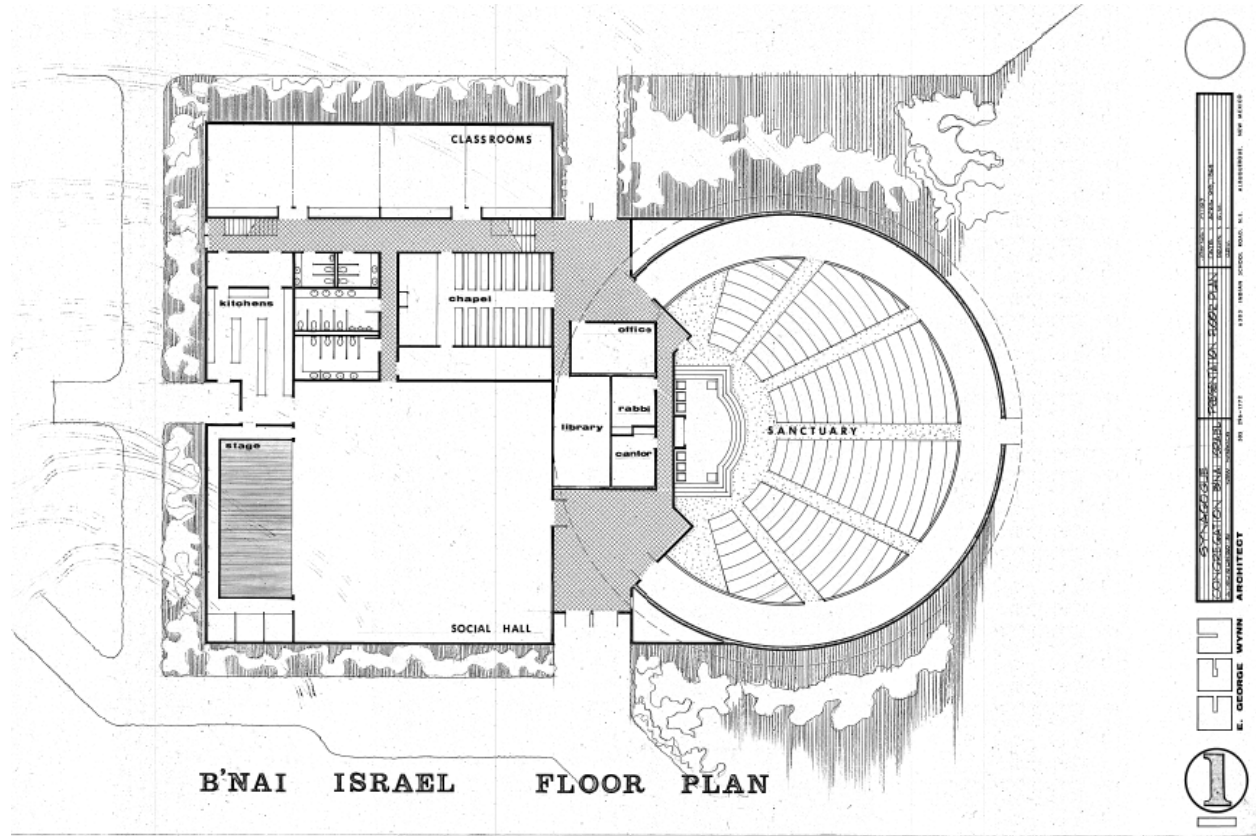
Site Plan, 1969

No scale



Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

Bernalillo, New Mexico
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Congregation B'nai Israel
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

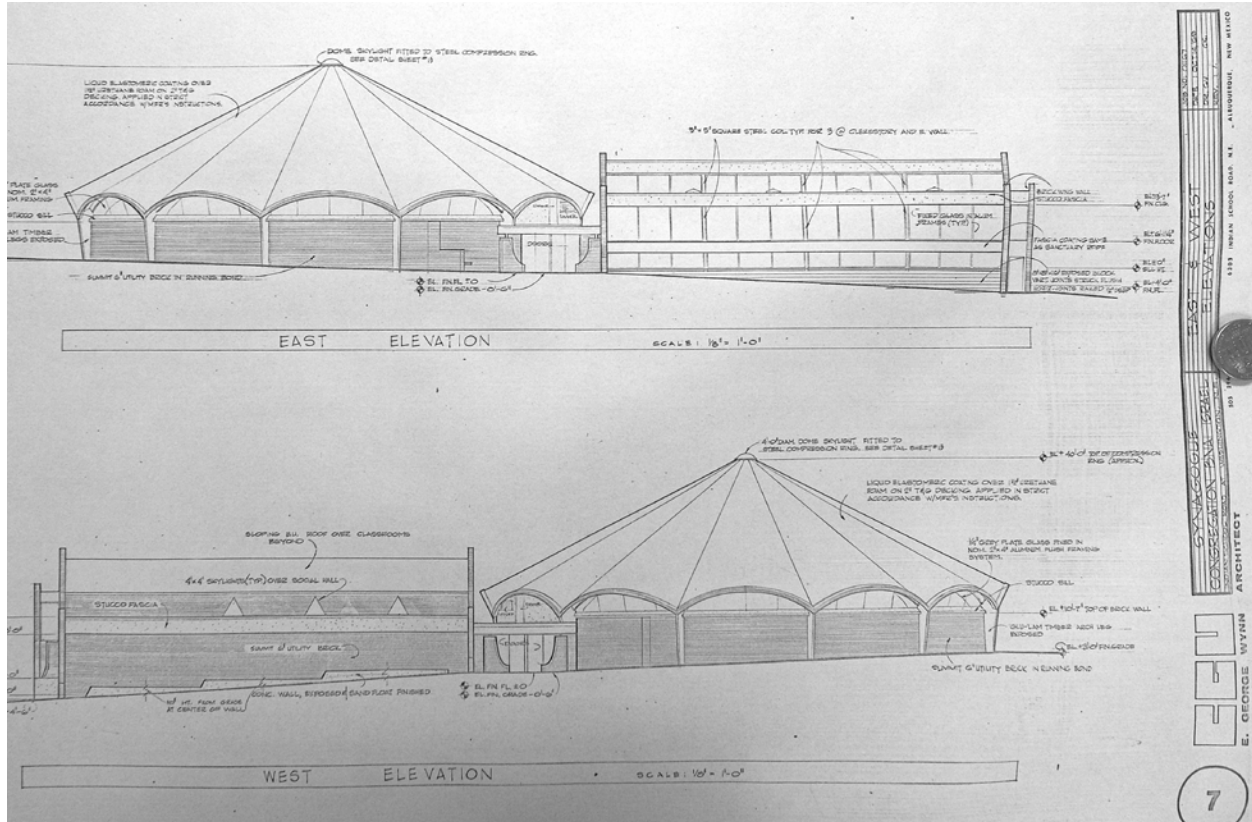
First Floor Plan, 1969

No scale



Congregation B'nai Israel
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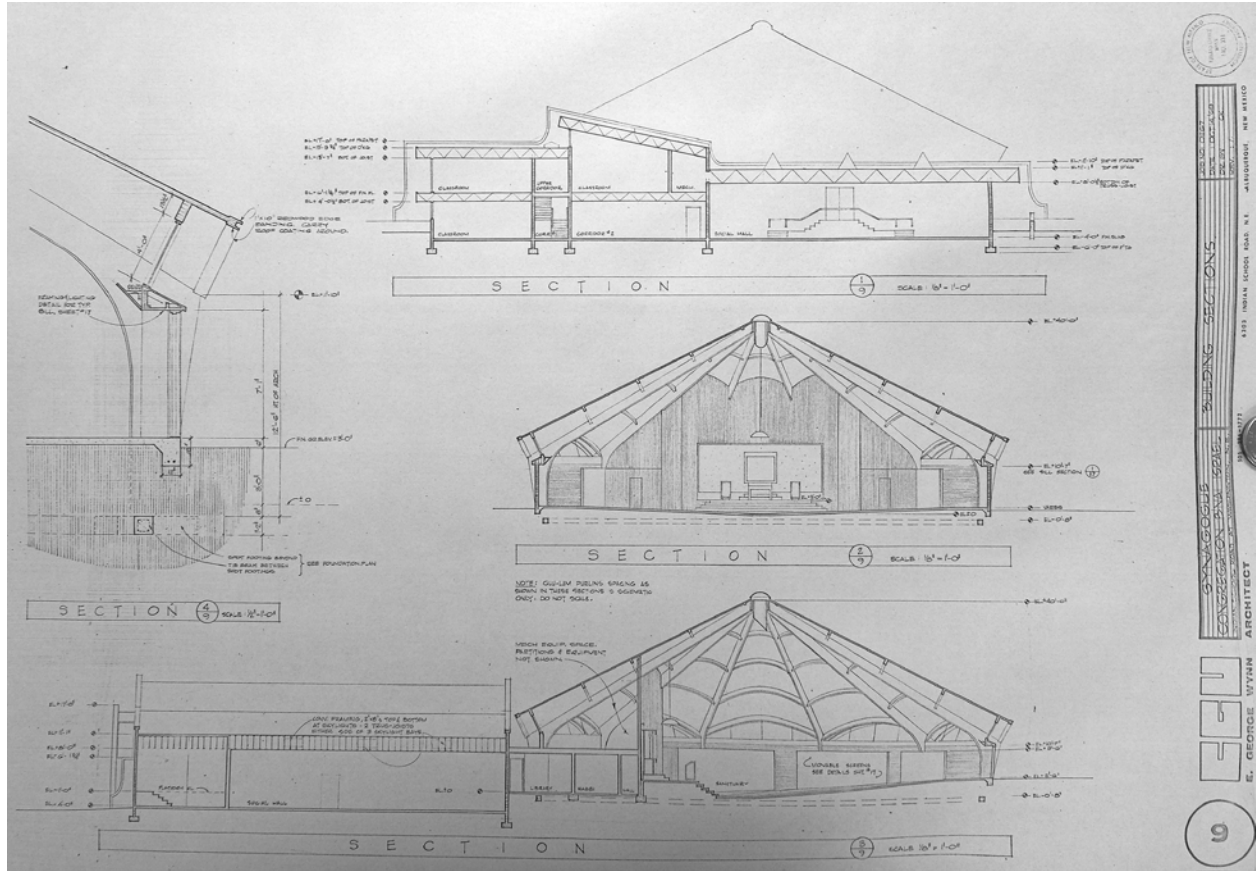
Congregation B'nai Israel
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

East and West Elevation, 1969

No scale

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Congregation B'nai Israel
Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Sections and Details, 1969

No scale

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

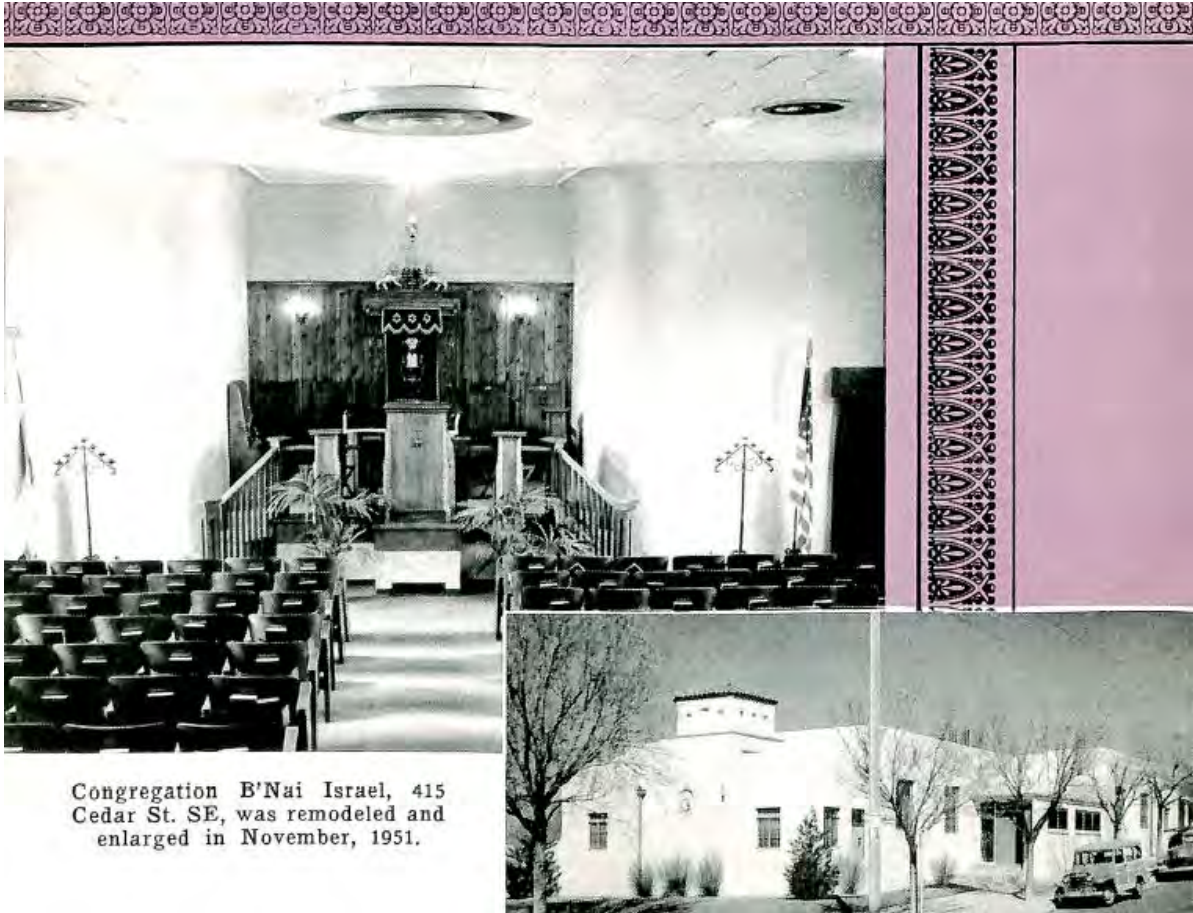
Bernalillo, New Mexico
County and State



By 1934 Congregation B'nai Israel had grown large enough to move into a rented space above the Rio Theatre (far left) at 116 West Central Avenue.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

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Congregation B'Nai Israel, 415 Cedar St. SE, was remodeled and enlarged in November, 1951.

The congregation built a synagogue at 415 Cedar Street, SE in 1943. In 1951 the congregation improved the building by adding a larger kitchen, three classrooms, and a social hall.

Congregation B'nai Israel
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(Staff photo)
VIEWING THE FUTURE: Jerald Friedman looks at a model of the new synagogue for Congregation B'nai Israel. The drive for \$400,000 to erect the building has passed the halfway mark.

By May 1967 Congregation B'nai Israel had raised \$400,000 for the construction of a new synagogue when they scrapped their plans and donated the money to Israel, which was engaged in the Six-Day War.

Congregation B'nai Israel
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Congregation B'nai Israel Ground Breaking Ceremony, January 21, 1970.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

Bernalillo, New Mexico
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Congregation B'nai Israel transferring the Torahs to the Indian School Road synagogue, 1971.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

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Photographs



1. Educational wing (left) and sanctuary (right), photographer facing north.



2. Main Entrance (no longer in use), photographer facing northwest.

Congregation B'nai Israel
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3. Sanctuary, photographer facing northeast.



4. Sanctuary, photographer facing west.

Congregation B'nai Israel
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5. Laminated timber arch leg (detail) and Summit utility brick, photographer facing southwest.



6. Synagogue (left) and educational wing (right), photographer facing south.

Congregation B'nai Israel
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7. Rear entrance (now main entrance) and patio, photographer facing south.



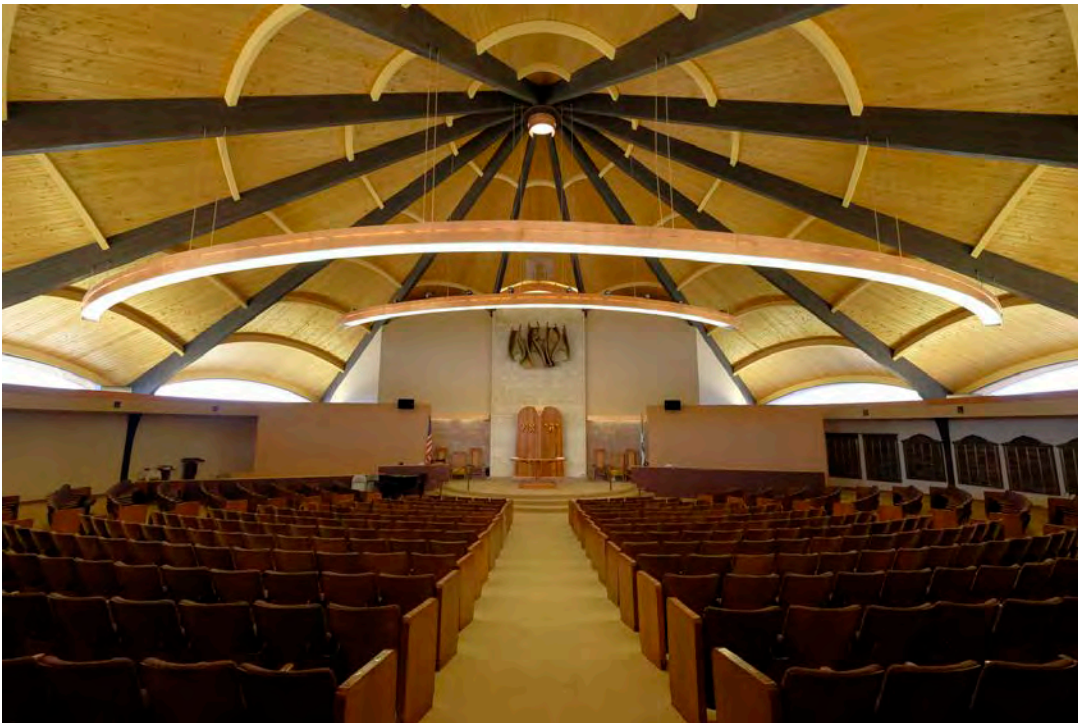
8. Social hall, photographer facing north.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

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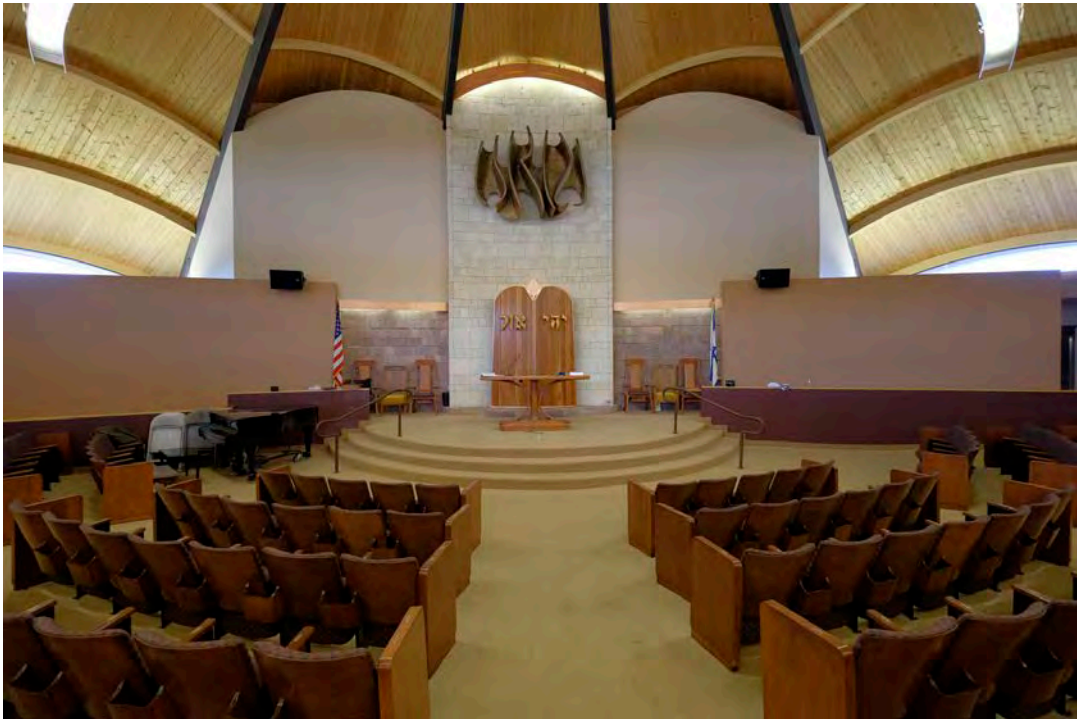
9. Parking lot, photographer facing southeast.



10. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing southwest.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

Bernalillo, New Mexico
County and State



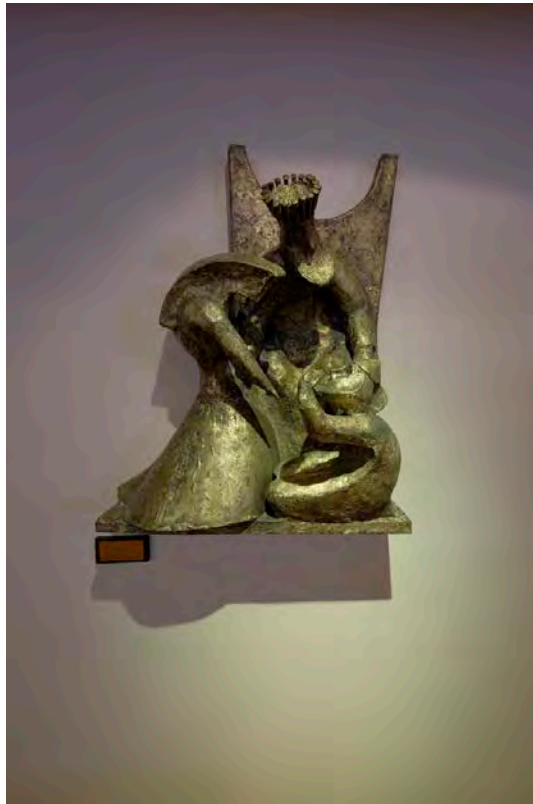
11. Interior, sanctuary, detail of bimah, photographer facing southwest.



12. Interior, sanctuary, photographer facing northeast.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

Bernalillo, New Mexico
County and State



13. Interior, sanctuary, *Purim* sculpture, photographer facing north.



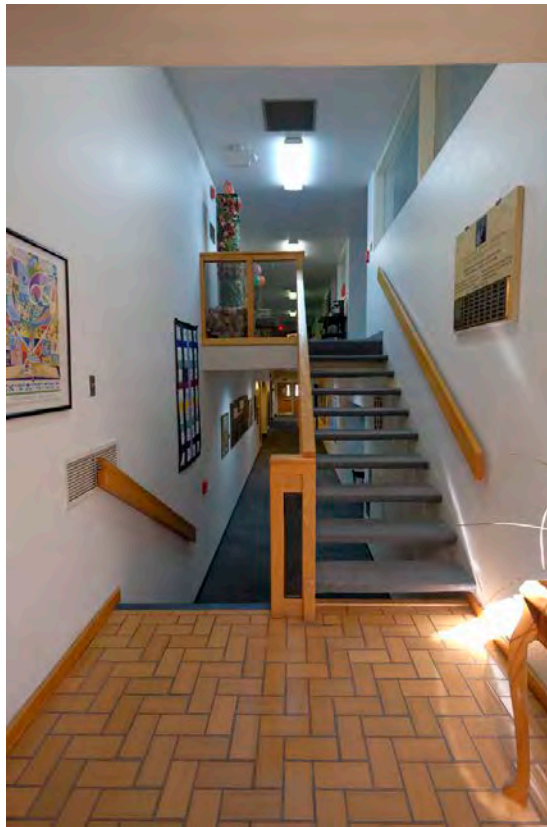
14. Interior, sanctuary, detail of wood vaults and laminated arches and purlins.

Congregation B'nai Israel
Name of Property

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15. Interior, sanctuary, detail of arches, compression ring, and skylight.



16. Interior, educational wing, split-level stair, photographer facing northwest.

Congregation B'nai Israel
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17. Interior, educational wing, first floor, classroom, photographer facing east.



18. Interior, educational wing, second floor, photographer facing south.

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19. Interior, educational wing, first floor, social hall, photographer facing south.



20. Interior, educational wing, second floor, library, photographer facing south.



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL

4401





CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL



CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL

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PARKING
ONLY















Les Femmes d'Alger (O. K. 1148)
Pablo Picasso
1911-12
Bronze















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Congregation B'nai Israel

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: NEW MEXICO, Bernalillo

Date Received: 3/18/2019 Date of Pending List: 4/5/2019 Date of 16th Day: 4/22/2019 Date of 45th Day: 5/2/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003674

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 5/2/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Congregation B'nai Israel is locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the areas of Art and Architecture. Completed in 1971, the synagogue is an exceptional local example of mid-twentieth century Expressionist design, by architect E. George Wynn. The circular-plan building features a sophisticated roof plan with 12 shallow wood vaults supported on large laminated wood beams all set atop of brown-brick base creating an open interior. The adjacent educational wing represents a more mainstream Modernist design. The interior of the worship space features the work of influential local artist Ted Egri.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 5/2/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338



February 15, 2019

Keeper of the National Register
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

To whom it may concern::

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination Congregation B'nai Israel in Bernalillo County, New Mexico to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- Disk with digital photo images
- Physical signature page
- Sketch map(s)/attachment(s) in hard copy
- Correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
- Special considerations: Property meets Criteria Considerations A and G.

Sincerely,

Steven Moffson
State and National Register Coordinator
Enclosures