

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 14 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 26 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Temple Beth Israel

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1931 N.W. Flanders St.

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Multnomah

CODE

051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Trustees
Congregation Beth Israel

STREET & NUMBER

1931 N. W. Flanders

CITY, TOWN

Portland

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Oregon

97209

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1021 S. W. 4th

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE
Oregon

97204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Portland Historical Landmark

DATE

January 14, 1972

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Portland Bureau of Planning
424 SW Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE
Oregon

97204

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Temple Beth Israel is the home of the Beth Israel Congregation, the oldest Jewish congregation in the Pacific Northwest. The Modernistic structure based in Byzantine architectural tradition was completed in April of 1928 after a year and a half of construction. It was designed by two very prominent architects in Portland, Morris H. Whitehouse and Herman Brookman, with John V. Bennes and Harry A. Herzog acting as consulting architects. After 50 years of use, the temple is in excellent condition throughout and has undergone only very slight alteration.

The temple is located in Section 33, T. 1N., R. 1E., of the Willamette Meridian, on Lots 1 through 14 of Block 274 of Couch's Addition to Portland. The site, nearly a full block in area is bounded by 19th Street on the east and Flanders and Glisan Streets on the south and north. The structure stands alone on the 200 by 360-foot site, its 100-foot high double dome looming high above the surrounding wooded grounds. The westerly end of the block, composed of four lots measuring 50 x 100 feet each, is occupied by the Congregation education building and a separately-held apartment building. This westerly portion of the block is excluded from the nomination.

Basically, the temple is an octagonal, dome-topped structure, on an elongated octagonal base running lengthwise from east to west. Cross shaped rectangular rooms adjoin the base or first level on the east elevation, above which is a smaller square room which connects to the main octagon. A two story, vaulted, rectangular wing housing the main entry and balcony projects from the west elevation. On either side of this wing are two square towers with domed turrets. The main entry faces west (away from the surrounding streets) in order that the congregation may face east, the direction of prayer. Projecting from the south side of the south entrance tower is a single-story vaulted side porch or loggia.

The structure, overall, is built of reinforced concrete with a facing of stone, brick, and terra cotta. Walls of the first level have a base of Mankato stone from Mankato, Minnesota, followed by Ohio sandstone laid in broken course. All other stonework, with the exception of the Norwegian granite steps leading into the building, is of this sandstone. Salmon-colored Willamina brick in three lengths laid randomly makes up the remainder of the facing except for terra cotta tiles, which are used for decoration.

The sloping roofs, the main dome, tower domes, main entry, side entry and east elevation vaulted roofs, are all shingled with handmade terra cotta tiles. Tile exposure on the dome decreases from eight inches at the bottom to four and one half inches at the top giving the dome the illusion of greater height. The few places on the building where the roof is flat are covered with tar and gravel. All rain gutters are made of copper. Copper bonnets cap the smaller piers between the west end of the entry wing and the towers at either corner. To let light through the top of the main dome for the stained glass below, there is a round, steel/lead bar reinforced leaded glass window surrounded by lead flashing.

The facade of the entrance wing is constructed basically of sandstone and brick with decorations of terra cotta. The portal is framed by fluted pilasters surmounted by seated lions and an entablature in which Hebraic inscriptions are carved. Smaller pilasters superimposed on the entablature reach up to frame the molding around the round

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 26 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

stained leaded glass window in which the menorah, the candelabrum used in Jewish worship, is the principal motif. There is a matching window on the east elevation behind the altar area. A decorative terra cotta band trims the round arch of the barrel-vaulted roofline of the end of the entrance wing. A wide strip of terra cotta carved in an arabesque design forms a continuous frieze around the entire west elevation and wraps around each tower.

Three granite steps lead up to two sets of oak double doors with brass hardware. The small vestibule into which the doors are recessed is faced with terra cotta forming decorative panels on either side and ceiling. On both sides of the main door are copper lanterns.

The towers flanking the entrance achieve a height of four stories, with each succeeding square "story" smaller in area. Corners are chamfered on the top three levels. The first level is of sandstone laid in broken course. The next level is of brick and has leaded stained glass steel casement windows facing north and east on the north tower and south on the south tower. These windows have terra cotta moldings and spandrel and decorative pilasters. The windows on the north tower have no glass below the spandrels. The third level is made of sandstone with terra cotta grillworks on the three outside faces using a pyramid as the central motif supported by leaf and scroll designs. The top level is also of sandstone finished with a terra cotta band and a course of square-cut sandstone.

The loggia, or covered side porch projecting from the south tower, has a vaulted roof supported by six columns of cut sandstone laid in broken course. A decorative aluminum hood supported by S-shaped wrought iron brackets shelters the end of the side porch. From its stucco ceiling two wrought iron lanterns are suspended. Leading to the oak door is a walkway with a number of steps made of brick. The oak double doors are painted dark brown. Molding on the doors form several panels and rows of decorative studs also of wood. Brass hardware finishes the door. Doors of similar design are used also for the exits located at the northwest, northeast, southwest, and southeast corners of the building. Each of these exits have slightly recessed vestibules with Hebrew Talmudical incriptions carved into the stone above.

The door leading to the offices on the east end of the south elevation is also an oak molded panel door with brass hardware, but it is not painted. In the transom above the door is an oak-framed, leaded stained glass window. The door molding and entablature are of terra cotta. On either side of the office door are leaded, tinted glass casement windows. This type of window is used exclusively on the first level of the structure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 14 1979

JUL 26 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

In each of the six north and south-facing facets of the sanctuary volume are tall riple arched, leaded stained-glass memorial windows in carved terra cotta frame-ments.

The grounds are forested with elms, firs, and maples left from the old Flanders estate, and are planted with a variety of shrubs and bushes which screen the temple from the surrounding roads. Once inside the grounds, the building is encircled by lawn and light gray sandstone walks from Wilkeson Quarry near Olympia, Washington. Outside the office door is an octagonal terrace made of the same sandstone. In the center of the terrace is a stone marker with the 1888 construction date of the pre-decessor temple, built at 12th and Main, which was destroyed by fire in 1923.

The interior of Temple Beth Israel is dominated by its spacious central auditorium with gallery, or balcony on the west end and choir loft on the east. The main entrance to the auditorium is through the foyer on the west. The foyer is a rectangular room with a vaulted ceiling. The walls and ceiling are stucco and plaster. Marble and terrazzo in a circular pattern form the floor and base. Cast stone architraves surround the doorways leading to the stair hall on the south and women's lounge on the north. Just inside the front door is an ornate candelabrum, one of the very few relics saved from the old temple. The foyer is brightened by the stained glass window above the front door. Triple doors covered in Spanish red leather with bronze studs lead from the foyer to a sub-foyer and the auditorium. Two American black walnut columns with marble bases reach from the oak parquet floor to the walnut paneled ceiling above. Small commemorative plaques with lights line the walls of the sub-foyer. Each plaque bears the name of someone in the congregation who had died and is lit in the memory of that person on the anniversary of his death.

The two towers, flanking the foyer, house the women's lounge and stair hall with stairs leading up to the balcony. The women's lounge has plaster walls and ceiling with seats built into the walls and a fireplace. The fireplace is one of three decorative fireplaces in the temple constructed out of pony brick with levanto marble architraves and front hearths and covered by ornate iron shrouds. Carpeting is laid over a wood base floor, and wood trim is out of hemlock. The stair hall has hand finished plaster walls, a beamed ceiling and a terrazzo tile floor. The three-flight open-well stairway has a wrought iron railing with an oak handrail and carpeted steps. A lantern hangs down into the center of the room. The tower room, on the balcony level, has stucco plaster walls and ceiling with walnut trim and a carpeted cement floor. The luminescent stained glass windows are separated by ornamental terra cotta tiles.

On either side of the pulpit at the east end of the auditorium are doorways which lead to the council room, study, choristers' locker room and offices--all of which lie

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 26 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

behind the rostrum. Both the study and council room have California stucco plaster wall and ceiling and treadlite floors. Hemlock is used as the paneling in the study and trim and wall base in the council room. Each has a decorative fireplace. Adjoining the study is the vault, finished exactly in the same manner without the wood work. The choristers locker room and the unassigned room, now office space, also have plaster ceilings and walls with wood around the base and treadlite floors. The choristers' locker room also has steel lockers.

The auditorium is made octagonal by having the four corners of the rectangular base of the structure filled with storage rooms and exit vestibules. The exit vestibules have stucco and plaster walls and ceilings as well as tile floors. The three-inch oak doors facing onto the auditorium are the same type as those which are used on the exterior. On the west end of the auditorium, the spaces are also filled with toilet rooms. Skylights give additional illumination from outside the structure.

The walls of the auditorium have a base of mulberry-colored Italian fomosa marble followed by courses of large blocks of a stone-like material called zenitherm up to the balcony level. The smooth cement floor is carpeted and slopes toward the rostrum in order that everyone seated is given an equal view. The 700 seats are individual theater type in curved rows with aisles running along the outside and down the center. Twenty-two chandeliers hang down above the seats on long chains from the dome. Several steps lead up to the open pulpit or rostrum. The back of the pulpit is paneled in walnut with the focal point being the cast bronze doors of the ark designed and executed by noted Oregon sculptor Frederick Littman to represent the burning bush. Behind the ark doors are the Torah scrolls and several other important religious items.

Above the ground story level, the sanctuary is essentially an eight-sided sail vault. At the impost of each supporting pier are ornamental medallions of the shield of David and the signs of the 12 tribes of Israel painted on low relief plaster. Each arcuated wall panel between the piers is then broken down into an arcade of three recessed panels, the outer two of which have painted decorations while the larger center panel contains the triple arcaded stained glass memorial windows which encircle the auditorium.

Within the exterior dome (a steel-ribbed cage with concrete and terra cotta shingle covering) the interior dome of steel and plaster is suspended. It is surfaced with Guastavino accoustical tile varying in color from buff to blue laid in herringbone fashion. The oculus, or leaded stained glass sunburst window at the apex of the dome is made up of four different patterns with the Star of David in the center. For maintenance of the dome, there are ladders between the inner and outer domes accessible from outside doorways at the roof line.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

26 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

At the west end of the temple, over the foyer, is the balcony or gallery with a 200 person seating capacity. The walls are paneled in walnut. Above the paneling, the walls are covered with special acoustical plaster, as is the barrel vaulted ceiling. Four round lights on long chains hang down above the wooden pew-like seats flanked by carpeted steps. The front of the balcony is enclosed by an ornate walnut barrier. The back (west) wall is brightened by one of two round stained glass windows with the recurring menorah motif. An identical wheel window is located directly opposite in the east wall behind the choir loft.

Above and behind the pulpit on the balcony level is the choir loft with decorative organ pipes behind. Like the gallery, it is enclosed on the front by a beautifully crafted walnut railing. Covering the barrel vault ceiling are more ornamental medallions of the same type which decorate the walls of the auditorium between the memorial windows. The organ, located behind the decorative brass pipe grill, is a four manual electro pneumatic type with 3081 pipes. It was made by the Reuter Organ Company in Lawrence, Kansas, at a cost of \$25,000.

Beth Israel Temple, as it stands today, is virtually the same as when it was completed. Through the years, only two minor changes have taken place. A carved walnut and oak railing which enclosed the rostrum has been removed, thus opening up the pulpit area. Replacement of the sub-foyer floor is the other change. The temple has been very well cared for through the years and remains one of Portland's more remarkable architectural achievements.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1926-1928	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Morris H. Whitehouse and Herman Brookman, with John V. Bennes and Harry Herzog, Consultants
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

Temple Beth Israel, a Modernistic landmark rooted in Byzantine architectural tradition, is significant to the city of Portland and to the state as one of the acknowledged masterpieces of Herman Brookman, a leading Portland architect whose work was characterized by richness of detail and "perfection of appointment." While the synagogue design clearly was a collaborative effort, Brookman's influence on it is understood to have been fundamental. Upon its completion in 1928, a local newspaper hailed it as "one of the most brilliant architectural accomplishments on the Pacific Coast and unique among synagogues of the country" (Oregon Journal, 22 April 1928, p. 1). In the early 1970s it was declared a Portland Historical Landmark. In addition, the landmark has been for fifty years the home of the oldest Jewish congregation in the Pacific Northwest. It is the more widely known of two structures standing in Portland today which are associated with the congregation from which Rabbi Jonah B. Wise began his rise to national prominence (the other is Beth Israel School, entered in the National Register in 1978).

Congregation Beth Isreal was organized on May 2, 1858, by M. Mausfield, Jacob Mayer, Samuel Levy, David Simon, L. Cohn, S. M. Lyon, and B. Simon. The first meeting was held at the National Hotel on First and Washington streets in Portland. At that time there were approximately thirty Jewish families in Portland.

In 1861, the congregation purchased a 100 square foot lot at Fifth and Oak streets for \$750. On this site the congregation built its first synagogue at a cost of \$4,500. The structure was described by the Jewish Messenger as "a neat frame building, well fenced around, built in the Gothic style with an English-Gothic porch in front."

During these early years there was a high Rabbi turnover and a great deal of dissension within the church because of theological differences. Jacob Mayer, a charter member and Rabbi of Beth Israel, came to Portland in 1857 and was involved in Masonic circles. He was also one of the founders of the Oregon Historical Society.

By 1887, the congregation had grown sufficiently large to justify the building of a larger temple. The property at 12th and Main streets was acquired for this purpose. A temple was built on the property, in 1888, at a cost of approximately \$100,000. The building was a combination of semi-Gothic and Mooresque styles and was used until it was ravaged by fire on December 29, 1923. Plans were made immediately to build a new temple as a replacement. A new site was sought, however, to avoid the encroachment by businesses in the area. Beth Israel School, constructed adjacent to the burned synagogue site in 1923-1924, served temporarily as the congregation's place of worship and was the congregation's religious school from 1928 to 1937.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one.

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0	5	2	4	2	4	0	5	0	4	1	2	4	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 - 14, Block 274, Couch's Addition to Portland.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jon Horn and Reed Elwyn

ORGANIZATION

Lewis and Clark College

DATE
July 18, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

L. C. Box 1172

TELEPHONE
(503) 244-6161

CITY OR TOWN

Portland

STATE
Oregon 97219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 3, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

W. Ray Jones
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-26-78

DATE July 23, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 26 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

During the years that the congregation met in the old temple, the congregation had two particular Rabbis whose accomplishments merit further discussion. The first was the Rabbi Stephen Wise. Wise served for six years, beginning in 1900. He had a profound impact on the Beth Israel congregation as well as on the community at large. Rabbi Wise developed the philosophy of "liberal Judaism" and designed a new pattern for synagogue work. In addition, Stephen Wise was a social reformer and one of the leaders in the fight for Oregon's first Child Labor Law. After the resignation of Stephen Wise in 1906, Dr. Jonah B. Wise took over as Rabbi.

Dr. Jonah B. Wise was the Rabbi at Temple Beth Israel from 1906 until 1925. Wise developed the philosophy of "Classical Reform Judaism" and it was largely due to his efforts that the Beth Israel School was constructed. In 1925, Dr. Wise moved to New York City to become Rabbi of Central Synagogue. In the 1930s, shortly after Hitler took power, Dr. Wise went to Germany to help establish a program of temporary relief for the Jewish community. Wise organized the Jews and arranged for financial assistance for those who fled Germany. In 1939, Rabbi Wise founded the United Jewish Appeal, an agency which raised funds for the relief and rehabilitation of Jews overseas. From its founding until 1958, Dr. Wise served as the national chairman for the agency. Under his leadership, the United Jewish Appeal raised several hundred million dollars to help needy and oppressed Jews in several parts of the world.

Following Dr. Wise's death on February 1, 1959, an article appeared in the New York Times praising his accomplishments. An excerpt from the article read: "Famous son of a famous father, Dr. Wise was called in his last years an "elder statesman of religion"--- long a leader of Judaism, long a champion of inter-faith relationships, long one of the wizards of a worldwide philanthropy that has brought refuge and relief to millions of distressed Jews." (New York Times, 2 February 1959, p. 25).

The new temple, now called Temple Beth Israel, sits on a 360 by 200 foot lot at 19th and Flanders streets in Northwest Portland. The lot was purchased in 1924 for \$65,000. Construction of the temple began in October of 1926 with the majority of it being completed by April, 1928. The remainder was completed in October, 1946, with the dedication of 18 memorial windows. The finished structure measured 143 by 90 feet, was set back 40 feet from the sidewalk and had a 900 person seating capacity.

The completed building was an architectural masterpiece. Referring to the temple, a local newspaper reported that "the edifice may be taken as a tribute to Portland art as well as to the foresight of those who planned it." (Oregon Journal, 22 April 1928, sec. 1, p. 1) This octagonal-shaped temple was constructed from a variety of materials, most of which were from Portland. The exterior materials included terra cotta, sandstone, brick and stone. These materials were used to form decorative bands, motifs, inscrip-

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 26 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

tions, and carvings. On the inside, the decoration includes cast plaster designs, medallions, bronze doors, metal lighting fixtures, and an exposed screen of pipes for the organ. The architects did a remarkable job in combining the vast array of materials into a structure with pleasing aesthetic designs.

The two major architects responsible for the designing of the Temple Beth Israel were Morris H. Whitehouse and Herman Brookman. Whitehouse attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology, graduating in 1905. For the next two years he studied at the American Academy in Rome. In 1909, Whitehouse established an office in Portland with Andre J. Foulhoux, who later became nationally known through his work in New York City. Notable examples of Whitehouse's work include: the Waverly Country Club, Multnomah Club, First Presbyterian Church, University Club, and the Elizabeth Clark home in Oregon City.

Herman Brookman (1891-1973), a native of New York, came to Portland in 1923. He had gained his professional training after completing High School by serving an apprenticeship with Harry T. Lindeberg (Allbro and Lindeberg), who specialized in the design of estates and mansions for wealthy Long Islanders. He toured Europe in 1922. After launching his career in the Pacific Northwest with the M. Lloyd Frank project on Palatine Hill in 1924, Brookman remained in Portland and centered his practice there for over forty years. He died in California in November, 1973. Brookman was elected a Fellow of the AIA in 1950 and was named president of the Portland Chapter of the same year. The Frank Estate and Temple Beth Israel are Brookman's acknowledged masterpieces. Another of his better-known works is "Menucha," the 1930s retreat of Governor Julius Meier in the Columbia River Gorge near Corbett.

Several other craftsmen, architects, and designers contributed to the construction and design of Temple Beth Israel. The consulting architects were John V. Bennes and Harry Herzog. The seats for the sanctuary were made by the American Seating Company of Walla Walla, Washington, at a cost of \$15,000. The iron work on the shrouds for the building's three decorative fireplaces and the wrought iron railing on the stairway to the balcony were made by I. K. Tuerck of Portland. The terra cotta work was made by Gladding-McBean Company of Los Angeles. The exterior sandstone of the temple was obtained from the Briar Hill Sandstone Company of Glenmount, Ohio, and the bronze ark doors were executed by noted Oregon sculptor Frederic Littman. Lighting fixtures were designed by Fred Baker, and a consultant from Oregon State University composed the color scheme of the interior. Finally, the designs for the stained glass windows were submitted from several places, including Tiffany in New York, with Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz playing a major role in the development of their motifs. Albert Gerlach of Portland did the stained glass work for all the memorial windows in the temple.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 14 1979

JUL 26 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Throughout Portland's history, members of the Beth Israel Congregation have been among the city's most prominent citizens. There were 100 Jewish residents listed in the Portland City Directory for 1863, many of whom were among the town's foremost builders and real estate developers. Examples of other citizens important to Portland's history include former Governor Julius Meier, former Senator Richard L. Neuberger, Federal Judge Gus J. Solomon, Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court Herbert Schwab, and current Portland Mayor Neil Goldschmidt.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 26 1979

Temple Beth Israel, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- Vaughan, Thomas, and McMath, George A., A Century of Portland Architecture (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967), 154-157.
- Nodel, Rabbi Julius, The Ties Between: A Century of Judaism on America's Last Frontier (Portland: Temple Beth Israel, 1959).
- Oregonian. "Temple Beth Israel Reaches 90th Year.", 18 April 1948, p.1.
- Oregon Journal. "Fire Destroys Temple Beth Israel.", 30 December 1923, sec. 1, p. 1.
- Oregon Journal. "Jewish Temple to be Rebuilt without Delay.", 1 January 1924, p. 4.
- Oregon Journal. "Beth Israel will Erect Synagogue to Cost \$400,000.", 30 December 1924, p. 2.
- Oregon Journal. "Cornerstone of New Temple to be Laid Sunday.", 4 June 1927, p. 2.
- Oregon Journal. "Beth Israel to Fete 95 Years of Growth.", 23 April 1953, p. 2.
- Oregon Journal. "Temple Marks 120th Anniversary.", 7 April 1978, sec. 2, p. 9.
- Sunday Oregonian. "Temple Beth Israel puts a full symphony, not just a song, in 120th anniversary fete.", 23 April 1978.
- Sunday Oregonian. "Jewish Synagogue Will Open Friday.", 22 April 1928, p. 1.
- Miscellaneous newspaper clippings in the vertical file at Oregon Historical Society.