

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0680052

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED AUG 24 1978

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 **\*\***

H. H. Baxter Memorial Library

AND/OR COMMON

Rutland Jewish Center

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

96 Grove Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rutland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Vermont

VICINITY OF

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Rutland

CODE

021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Rutland Jewish Center, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

96 Grove Street

CITY, TOWN

Rutland

STATE

Vermont

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

1 Strongs Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rutland

STATE

Vermont

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

September, 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Rutland Jewish Center is a 1-story, gable-roofed, stone structure, built in 1889 as a library in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The cruciform-plan building is constructed of load-bearing, rock-faced grey marble quarried in West Rutland and laid in random coursing, with grey-tinted mortar used throughout. Erected from designs by Brunner & Tryon of New York, New York, the former library combines the geometrical shapes characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque style with hand-carved marble ornament and detailing.

The arched entrance portico has a corner pier and Romanesque column between the two bays on the Kendall Avenue (north) elevation. On this elevation is a centered tower with an open, upper level, whose two arches are carried on short Romanesque columns, and a pyramidal cap detailed with marble modillions. A large, semi-circular wing balances this tower on the opposite side. With the exception of those in the wing, all windows are set in arched openings. Through the arched entrance portico is an elaborate door surround, outlined with large, marble voussoirs. The arched door has wood side panels, hand-carved wood detailing, and a lighted archway above. Red slate tile roofing is used throughout the original structure. The slopes of the gable roof have eyebrow dormers, and the raking eaves are detailed with marble coping crowned by a carved finial.

Dedicated in 1927 as the Rutland Jewish Center, the former Baxter Memorial Library has since undergone two changes. One, evident in the photograph, is the inscriptions on smooth marble panels on the building's facade, including "Rutland Jewish Center." The second change is a 1956 cinder block addition to the rear of the structure to accommodate the need for a social hall. Except for these two alterations, the original design of the building is preserved, as is the highly-finished interior, featuring golden, quartered oak paneling and hand carving throughout. The building is well-sited on a corner lot in a residential section near downtown Rutland.

# 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 checked="" 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 1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Brunner & Tryon

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The H. H. Baxter Memorial Library, now the Rutland Jewish Center, is historically significant to the Rutland Community both as a building constructed to memorialize a leading 19th century citizen and as a building dedicated fifty years ago as a house of worship for the Congregation Adath Israel formed in Rutland in 1911. Architect-designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, popular at the time of its construction in 1889, the library is a fine example of period architecture, executed in locally-quarried marble.

Mary E. Roberts Baxter survived her husband, Horace Henry, for eleven years following his death in 1884, after a long career as a financier in New York City. She had the library built in his memory. Although Baxter had sold his interest in the Rutland Marble Company by 1863 and taken up residence in New York, he continued to spend summers in Rutland at his mansion, formerly located across Kendall Avenue from the library and since demolished. He was extremely active in local civic affairs while residing in Rutland. His widow engaged Walter Pomeroy to select the books for the planned library which task he completed in 1891. Apparently the library was opened to the public around 1895, the year of the opening of Library Avenue.

There is no known record of how the library fared following the death of Mary Baxter in 1895. In 1927 the Jewish community of Rutland purchased the library and changed the name of their congregation from Adath Israel to the Rutland Jewish Center, Inc. The domed wing was made the synagogue itself with the addition of the ark and new oak benches, the latter being replaced in 1948. Various improvements to the interior were made subsequently, including the addition of lighting fixtures in the synagogue in 1946.

The Rutland Jewish Center is an excellent example of a sympathetic re-use of a formal, quasi-public building. The structure is significantly reflective of its 19th century origins and its 20th century present use.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Catalogue of the Books in the H. H. Baxter Memorial Library of Rutland, Vt. n.p.:1892. Pp. V and VI of "Introduction."

Constitution and By-Laws of the Rutland Jewish Center, Inc., Rutland, Vermont: 1961. Pp. 1-4 of "Historical Data."

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Rutland Quad

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5'

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 6,62 9,00 4,83,0 57,0

B                  

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of the property of the Rutland Jewish Center, Inc., located at the southeast corner of Grove Street and Kendall Avenue in the City of Rutland.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathlyn Hatch/Emma Jane Saxe, Architectural Historians

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

April 8, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

(802) 828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier,

STATE

Vermont

## 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

*William B. Pinney*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

July 13, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/24/78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

8.24.78