

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky
COUNTY: Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Temple Adath Israel

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Adas Israel

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
834 South Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
03

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Jefferson** CODE: **031**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Congregation Adath Israel

STREET AND NUMBER:
834 South Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisville

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
517 Court Place

CITY OR TOWN:
Louisville

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historical Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)

DATE OF SURVEY: **Sept. 1974** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Temple is a most fitting example of the work of W. J. Dodd, (1862-1930), one of the finest and most influential architects in Louisville's history, who seems from much indirect evidence himself to have been Jewish. Dodd gained his early architectural experience in Chicago at a crucial time for the development of "modern architecture," the early 1880s, during the second wave of construction after the great fire of 1871. Dodd worked with two of the most influential architect-engineers of the period, Major William LeBaron Jenney, often considered the inventor of the steel skeleton skyscraper, and Solon S. Beman, one of those who adapted the manner of H. H. Richardson to the new Chicago commercial structure. Dodd is said to have worked with Beman on one of his major accomplishments, the planned city of Pullman, Illinois.

About 1886 Dodd came to Louisville, where he is believed to have worked first with O. C. Wehle. He soon, however, became associated with Mason Maury, one of the more prolific architects of the period in Louisville. It is possible that Dodd was responsible for the introduction of the "Chicago Style" to Louisville, although whether he or Maury deserves that credit remains unclear. In any case, the two worked together on many important early buildings influenced by Chicago, including the magnificent Richardsonian former Louisville Trust Company Building (1889-90), considered by a contemporary visiting Chicago architect better than most commercial structures of his own city. About 1890, however, Dodd seems to have begun moving away from the Richardsonian vogue toward a Beaux-Arts manner, utilizing a variety of classical elements from archaeological Greek and Roman to American Colonial. A recently discovered brochure illustrating the firm's work documents this transition. The first plate shows the Kentucky Building at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, presumably designed by Dodd, and perhaps a stepping stone in his transition to the Beaux-Arts approach like so many architects at the turn of the century.

From about 1895 to 1905 Dodd worked in partnership with Arthur Cobb (of whom nothing is known). This is the only time in his Louisville career that Dodd's name was placed first in a firm name; it may be significant that it was at this time that he designed some outstanding buildings for Jewish clients, including several of the greatest mansions in the city's history, evoking such designs by Richard Morris Hunt as "The Breakers," the Vanderbilt "cottage" in Newport, Rhode Island.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1905-1906**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Temple Adath Israel is immediately adjacent to and one of the most important historical buildings in Old Louisville, including the Louisville Free Public Library, Calvary Episcopal Church, Spalding College, First Christian Church, and First Unitarian Church.

Congregation Adath Israel is the oldest and largest Jewish Congregation in the five-state area of Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Alabama, and Illinois, having been founded in 1843. The cornerstone for the first Synagogue was laid, with impressive ceremonies, at a site purchased on Sixth Street between Chestnut Street and Broadway. However, many members of the Congregation felt that this was too far from the business and residential centers of the time and a lot was obtained in the center of the city on Fourth Street between Green Street and Walnut Street. The Synagogue was finally consecrated in January 1849.

Adath Israel was the Jewish headquarters of all secular and communal work, including that of charity. Besides caring for its poor, contributions to worthy causes were made with great generosity.

In 1866 the Synagogue was consumed by fire and the growing congregation purchased a lot at the southeast corner of Sixth Street and Broadway, on which a new Synagogue was completed in 1868. At that time the Resolution of 1849 making German the official language of the Board was repealed and English services were introduced.

Adath Israel Sisterhood was organized in 1903, and the present lots on Third Street between York Street and Breckinridge Street were bought in 1904. The cornerstone for the Temple was laid in July of the following year. The new Adath Israel Temple was constructed in the pure Grecian Ionic architectural style by architects William J. Dodd and Kenneth McDonald, Sr., of the McDonald Brothers firm. The Temple was dedicated in ceremonies on September 9, 10, and 11 of 1906.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maury & Dodd brochure, ca. 1895. (Louisville: The Standard Printing Company).

History of the Jews of Louisville (Louisville, ca. 1905).

Booklet published by Adath Israel Congregation at the time of the Dedication of the Temple (September 1906).

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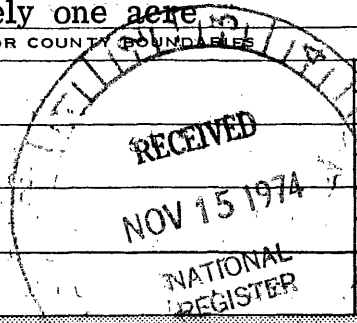
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	°	14	'	35	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	85	°	45	'	28	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James M. Rosenblum, Chairman, Long Range Planning Committee

ORGANIZATION: Congregation Adath Israel DATE: Aug. 29, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 3929 Leland Road WL

CITY OR TOWN: Louisville STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Clared W. Melton

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 11-8-74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12-31-74

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 31 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

Temple Adath Israel (Adas Israel)

7. Description (continued)

Page 2

About 1900 Dodd apparently also became associated with the architectural and engineering firm of the McDonald Brothers, one of the most successful Louisville-based firms from the 1870s on, noted for their public buildings all over not only Kentucky but the South. Among Dodd's outstanding works in conjunction with the younger brother, Kenneth McDonald, was the former Presbyterian Theological Seminary (now Jefferson Community College) in Louisville (1903-1909), an ingenious adaptation of an almost Venetian Gothic style to the concept of the Oxford quadrangle. In the first decade of the century Dodd was also teamed with McDonald in the design of several important churches, notably the First Christian Church (1910-11). The minutes of the latter indicate that the vestry chose the firm partly because of their admiration for the newly completed Adath Israel. The 1912 catalogue of the First (and only) Annual Exhibition of the Louisville Chapter of the American Institute of Architects includes several photographs of the library of Dodd's own house on St. James Court in Louisville, particularly a Cosmatesque marble mantel featuring a Star of David. Shortly after this exhibition Dodd moved to Los Angeles, where he practiced for a number of years before his death with William S. Richards.

Throughout all these partnerships Dodd remained quite an independent and recognizable figure. An architect who knew him recalled that he was always essentially the designing partner, leaving the seeking of commissions and administration of the office to others. He was, however, active in professional organizations, being one of the early members of the Western Society of Architects, as well as the Louisville Chapter of the A. I. A.

Dodd was also a member of the Standard Club, a Jewish institution whose club building he designed. The Maury and Dodd brochure illustrates the entrance to the Jewish Cemetery in Louisville. An advertisement for Dodd and Cobb in the History of Jews in Louisville lists not only residences and office buildings for several prominent Jewish businessmen, but also two synagogues and alterations and additions to the earlier Adas Israel.

It would seem therefore that Dodd probably had a special interest in the commission for the new Temple Adath Israel in 1905. It is one of the more austere of his designs, with an almost ponderous quality to its adaptation of the Greek Ionic order on Roman Imperial scale.

Originally the temple was set between somewhat parvenu post-Civil War

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 3 1974

(Number all entries)

Temple Adath Israel (Adas Israel)

7. Description (continued)

Page 3

mansions, already obsolete by 1900. These, however, have been replaced by parking lots and an underscaled educational building, leaving the Temple to loom over the traffic of Third Street, the major north-south thoroughfare of the downtown area.

The building is both impressive as a whole and beautifully detailed. The six fluted columns of the portico have prominent entasis and are spaced to frame the three doorways. They are coupled at the ends to increase the sense of density. Above a correct molded architrave is a frieze, unadorned except for circles over the outer pairs of columns and the inscription " Mine House Shall Be an House of Prayer for All People." The narrow moldings that form the capitals of the pilasters behind the outer columns are continued below the architrave around the sides of the building. This, combined with the superimposed dentils and modillions of the cornice, creates a very emphatic belt below the plain parapet of the roof. The bare walls are of fine Bedford, Indiana, limestone. They are broken only by two ranges of windows with restrained frames, although the upper ones lighting the auditorium are rounded and have keystones abutting the entablature. Under the portico the three entrances have individual aediculae with pediments on delicate brackets. The three round-arched windows above rest on a band of fretwork (ironically, evoking a swastika pattern). There are handsome candelabra on the massive pedestals flanking the broad low steps. Otherwise, there is virtually no exterior ornament.

The interior is basically a single large auditorium on a modified Greek cross plan. The central square is extended by bays on three sides, each with a gallery. There is a narthex or vestibule measuring 21 x 45 feet under the gallery at the rear. Behind the platform with speaking desk and shrine is a wide segmental arched recess containing the choir loft and exposed organ pipes. The dimensions of the sanctuary are 72 feet deep by 100 feet wide. Again, the ornament is kept to a minimum, although there is a rich series of moldings around the arch: rope molding, latticework interspersed with rosettes, modified egg-and-dart. There is a shell motif or cartouche at the apex of the arch, and implied capitals on the pilasters that pretend to support the flat ceiling. There are handsome original bronze chandeliers and pews laid out as if radiating from the pulpit. The windows are amber glass, except for three magnificently colored panels, one in the center over each of the galleries. The overall effect of the auditorium is substantial yet lucid, restrained without being severe.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

Temple Adath Israel (Adas Israel)

7. Description (continued)

Page 4

Parlors and stairs to the balconies flank the vestibule. Behind the sanctuary are located another large auditorium, library, rabbi's study, and other minor rooms. This portion of the building, originally used as a religious school, is clad in brick.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DEC 9 1974

(Number all entries)

Temple Adath Israel (Adas Israel)

8. Significance (continued)

Page 2

At its present site, in spite of the pressures of the urban environment and the movement of most of the members to the suburbs, the Temple remains the focal point of an historic, active, and influential Congregation. Every effort is being made to retain the downtown location and maintain the building, which is not only impressive in its own right, but also a particularly representative example of the work of one of the outstanding architects in Louisville's history.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

Temple Adath Israel (Adas Israel)

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Page 2

Frederick, Warren Keller. "A History of the Churches in Jefferson County" (1932).

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles, 1956).

[Langsam, Walter E.] Metropolitan Preservation Plan (Louisville: Falls of the Ohio Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1973).

