

WPA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 21 1978

DATE ENTERED AUG 10 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 Beth Israel School

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1230 SW Main St.

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
Portland

--- VICINITY OF  
3rd

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Gilbertson, Brownstein, Sweeney, Kerr & Grim

STREET & NUMBER  
522 SW Fifth Avenue, 1100 Yeon Building

CITY, TOWN  
Portland

--- VICINITY OF

Oregon STATE  
97204

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
1021 SW Fourth Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Portland

Oregon STATE  
97204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Portland Historical Landmark

DATE  
1978

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Portland Bureau of Planning, 424 SW Main Street

CITY, TOWN  
Portland

Oregon STATE  
97204

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Beth Israel School building is a three-story structure occupying a site at the southwest corner of SW 13th Avenue and Main Street. It was built by the congregation of Temple Beth Israel and was attached to the west end of the old temple which occupied lots immediately to the east until it was destroyed by fire in the course of this new construction. Construction of the religious school began in September of 1923 and was completed one year later, in September of 1924. The design and plans were completed by Sutton and Whitney, Architects, and the building contractor was Lorenz Brothers. The cost of construction was approximately \$100,000. Fred Fritsch, of the Sutton and Whitney firm, has been credited with the design.

The building was originally designed to house the congregation's religious school, and ultimately to provide religious, educational and social services to the congregation as well as the entire Portland community. Subsequent sale of the building to a local radio station in 1945, and the resulting remodeling by the office of Pietro Belluschi significantly altered the internal spacial organization and use. In 1961, the building was returned to educational use by the Mutlnomah College, and is presently occupied by the County Juvenile Parole Services.

STRUCTURE -- The Beth Israel School is basically rectangular in plan, 57'x94'. The structure is divided into seven bays running along the east/west axis. The bays are symmetrical about the axis, but vary in width; the center three having a 13' width, then an 11'6" wide and a 16' wide bay on each side.

The center five bays are divided into two bays running north/south. The east bay is 12' long, with the east exterior wall being bearing. The west bay is 42' long clear, with the span being supported on 20" square concrete columns. The west exterior wall of the building is highly perforated and not loadbearing. It is this 42'x62' clear area which housed the general auditorium on the first floor.

The north bay is divided into three bays of unequal length: the east bay 12', which is typical; the center 21'; and the west 24'. The south bay is divided into four: the east 12' again; then 8'; 17'6"; and 17'. These intermediate columns vary in size from 18" square to 12" square.

The stairwells are located at the northwest and southwest corners.

The three center bays are not roofed from the first column line west of the bearing wall to 20' west to form a lightwell in the center of the third floor. Originally, this area was skylit to the second floor with three skylights centered over each of the three 13' bays. These skylights served to illuminate the library which was located directly below them on the second floor. At the time of the 1946 remodel, the skylights were removed and openings roofed over.

The structure is reinforced concrete throughout with the exception of the bearing wall which is clay masonry. All other exterior walls are clay masonry with brick facing and ornamental cast stonework.

The foundation is reinforced concrete and the first floor is a concrete slab below grade. "The building will be easy of access as the first floor will be below the level of the sidewalk, making the second floor a short and gradual approach." Scribe, 28 September 1923, p. 9.

INTERIOR -- Originally, the internal spaces were organized along a 12' wide corridor (corresponding to the east bay) that ran along the east wall from stairwell to stairwell. The main entry opened directly into this corridor from Main Street.

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On the first floor, the auditorium was just west of this corridor, with three pairs of doors opening on to it. The stage was at the south end of the auditorium, and a kitchen and movie or stereopticon projection room at its north end.

The second floor contained the skylit library just west of the corridor. On the north and south sides of the library ran secondary corridors, with a classroom on the north side of the building, and two classrooms on the south side. Two additional classrooms were next to the library on the west.

The third floor housed six classrooms grouped around the central lightwell with a circulation plan similar to the second floor.

The interior was finished in "simple but permanent materials, all stairways, windows, etc. being of the best construction." Scribe, 23 September 1923, p. 9. Concrete members were plastered and trimmed with moldings.

In 1946, the building was remodeled to house the KEX radio station. While the new plan retained the basic north/south corridor organization, spatial requirements generated a more complex plan.

On the first floor, the need for restricted access altered the entry area by introducing a receptionist lobby. The original auditorium was split into two large radio studios with an east/west orientation. The kitchen/projection room became observation and prop rooms, and the stage area housed mechanical equipment and a mail room.

The second floor library area was divided into four smaller studios with monitor booths, sound locks and equipment rooms. Classrooms became management offices.

The third floor plan was altered only slightly, with classrooms now serving as office space.

Accoustical requirements necessitated considerable alterations in interior finishes. The skylight was removed and roofed over. New walls and platforms were built for low sound transmission and observation windows were triple plate glass. Studio interiors were finished to minimize sound reflection with absorptive materials and diffusing panels on the walls.

The building has been altered only slightly since the 1946 remodel. The receptionist lobby has been removed and a kitchen added in one of the first floor studios. However, other than the exchange of furniture for broadcasting equipment, the interior organization and finishes have remained intact.

EXTERIOR -- Except for "modernizing" the main entrance, and the placement of wood panels over many of the first floor windows, the original exterior is intact and in good condition.

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The Main Street and 13th Avenue facades reflect the corridor organization of the interior. At both the primary corridor on Main Street and the two secondary corridors on 13th Avenue, the exterior face of the building is articulated by vertical projections approximately the widths of the corridors. Each projection has a gable making it a distinct element in the facade.

The first floor is polychromatic with alternating wide and narrow bands of "cast" stone and light colored brick. The west elevation is penetrated by six full height arched windows grouped between the vertical articulation described above. The round brick arches spring from the top band of cast stone on shared pilasters in a manner not unlike the Romanesque. The main entry has a round arch of similar size and construction. It was originally covered by a round projected pedimental element which was replaced by a flat granite panel in 1946. The secondary corridors terminate in arch windows of smaller size and narrower proportion. These windows are repeated in two pairs centered on the north elevation. The top of the windows is traced by a continuous narrow band of cast stone. The first story is delineated by two narrow stone bands and a dripstone course.

The second and third story facing is exclusively brick separated by a dripstone course. The windows on the second floor also have round arches and are of similar proportion to the narrower first floor windows, only shorter. They are grouped in threes on the west elevation and centered over each two first floor windows. They are paired on the north side and spaced evenly across the face of the building. The windows at the corridor projections are of similar size, but are topped by flat rather than round arches.

The third floor window treatment is similar to the second, only all arches are flat. Above the arches is a dripstone course; however, the ornamental stonework depicted on the rendering was never executed. However, the Romanesque ornamentation is unique to the downtown Portland area. The building has a ribbed seam metal roof. The metal is fashioned to resemble tile on the gables.

ARCHITECTS -- Albert Sutton was trained in architecture at the University of California Berkeley. After graduating he worked in Tacoma, and in 1902 he moved to San Francisco where he worked in association with Charles Peter Weeks. Weeks, who attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts, is noted for the Mark Hopkins and St. Francis Hotels in San Francisco. In 1916 Sutton returned to Portland, where he joined Harrison Whitney in partnership.

Upon graduating from the Boston School of Technology in 1904, Harrison Whitney moved to Portland and joined the firm of Whidden and Lewis. By this time Whidden and Lewis had become prominent in the city, and had established eastern architectural styles as current in Portland. Whitney practiced with Whidden and Lewis until he entered into his partnership with Albert Sutton. His work there includes acting as superintendent of construction on the Oregon Forestry Building at the Lewis and Clark Exposition.

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The firm of Sutton and Whitney acquired a considerable practice and became prominent in the Pacific Northwest. They developed substantial work in Tacoma and subsequently opened a branch office there. The firm also acquired significant work in California including remodeling the State Capitol at Sacramento and the John A. Roebling's Sons Company Building in San Francisco, said to have been one of the best examples of fire-proof construction in the county. The firm's other Oregon work includes the Multnomah County Hospital, the Hood River Library and the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Portland. It should be noted that by the 1920s Sutton and Whitney acquired two partners and operated under the firm name Sutton, Whitney, Aandahl and Fritsch. The younger of these, Fred Fritsch, is understood to have been the partner responsible for the design of the Beth Israel School. It was Fritsch who specialized in the application of fine brickwork and several years later produced the Fruit and Flower Day Nursery, one of the acknowledged masterpieces of Pre-Modern architecture in Portland.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS -- Following is a brief summary of the scope of work currently proposed for the Beth Israel School Building. Any modifications or alterations in the building, or its surroundings, will be reviewed and approved by the Portland Historical Landmarks Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office.

I. Interior

- A. Remove all non-load-bearing partitions, suspended ceiling systems, raised floors and all remaining finishes, except for interior stairs which will remain. Provide open, loft-type office space with new mechanical and electrical service as required. Provide new finishes throughout.
- B. Retain original interior stairs (but refinish concrete floors and steps), windows and window trim. Repair and/or replace window sash, trim, and hardware as required. Other than a small amount of wood base there is no other trim, etc. extant. This base could be reused in public spaces depending on exact quantity available.

II. Exterior

- A. Unblock, clean and reglaze windows as necessary. Remove wire mesh from first floor windows. Repair and paint trim.
- B. Remove imbedded items, clean, repoint and patch brick and cast stone work. Repair or replace and paint gutters and downspouts.
- C. Possible addition of mechanical and electrical service core (to include restrooms and elevator) to the east of the existing building.
- D. Restore remodeled main entrance. In the opinion of the owners, some alteration of the existing condition is required, but specific proposals are yet to be developed.
- E. In order to improve the building's "setting," the adjacent parking area to the east will be upgraded and landscaped. The addition of street trees along north and west property lines is proposed.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 September 1923 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Sutton, Whitney, Aandahl & Fritsch

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Beth Israel Religious School building lies in the fact that it was the first Jewish religious school in the Pacific Northwest, and may in fact have been one of the first such Jewish religious schools on the West Coast. In addition, the building also housed the first Portland home of Lewis and Clark College as a four-year liberal arts institution. The building is further significant in its meaningful association with the Congregation Beth Israel and serves as a watermark in that church's evolution in the Portland religious community, Beth Israel being the oldest Jewish congregation in Portland. In this regard, the building served as a place from which Rabbi Jonah B. Wise launched his rise to national prominence. In a very real sense, then, the building occupied a significant place in the religious and educational development in Portland from 1923 to the present.

Construction on the religious school began in September of 1923, and the building was completed one year later, in September of 1924. The building contractor was Lorenz Bros., and the architects Sutton and Whitney.

The basic purpose of the religious school building was to expand the school facilities which had been housed in the basement of the old temple of 1889 (designed by Warren H. Williams), located on the corner of 12th and Main. Furthermore, the building was designed to be the first unit of a general synagogue and to become an integral part of a synagogue complex which would provide religious, social and educational services to the congregation and to the Portland community. The religious school was attached to the west end of the temple and occupied the 60'x100' lot immediately west of the synagogue.

The building was a three-story structure, the first floor having a general auditorium with a stage, which could also be used as a large social and ballroom. It was also completely equipped with a kitchen and dining room and facilities for motion pictures. The second floor contained the office of the synagogue, the Rabbi's study, a library, five classrooms and storerooms. The third floor of the building contained six classrooms.

On August 29, 1924, Beth Israel announced the opening of the public reading room in the religious school which was to be open for the free, daily use of the public. The library and reading room in the religious school housed a fine collection of Jewish history and religious texts as well as numerous Jewish periodicals donated by Rabbi Jonah B. Wise. On September 12, 1924 the religious school was formally opened for Sunday morning classes under the charge of Professor H.M. Barr.

Upon the beginning of construction of the religious school, The Scribe, a weekly Jewish news publication edited by Rabbi Wise, carried the following account regarding the significance of the religious school building:

"At present it [the religious school] is the only building of its kind on the Coast, although other congregations contemplate erecting similar ones. Temple de Hirsch in Seattle has its plans well under way and will probably build this year. Temple Emanu'El in San Francisco has a small school building but does not expect to occupy it after it builds its new synagogue." The Scribe, September 28, 1923, p. 9.



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All available sources indicate that the religious school was in fact the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and, as indicated by the above quote, may have been one of the first Jewish religious schools on the West Coast.

The Congregation Beth Israel is the oldest Jewish organization in the Pacific Northwest. It was organized in 1858. Its first synagogue was built in 1861 on the corner of Sixth and Oak Streets in Portland. The site was given up as the congregation moved to property located on 12th and Main Streets and the temple building was started there in 1888. That temple was finished and dedicated in 1889. The following account was given in the New Year's edition of The Oregonian on January 1, 1890:

"The Hebrews of Portland during the year completed and dedicated the handsomest temple to be found in the Northwest. It is located at 12th and Main and its lofty minarets tower above the city and can be seen from any point..."

At about 9:15 PM, on Saturday, December 29, 1923, the temple was destroyed by fire. At that time, construction on the religious school building was underway. However, the fire did little damage to the religious school. In the aftermath of the fire, it seemed to be the general feeling of the Portland community that the city had lost an important landmark. As an indication of the Congregation Beth Israel's significance to the Portland community, the following account was carried in The Scribe, on January 4, 1924, p. 4:

"Congregation Beth Israel has a unique position in the city in that it is one of the few Jewish congregations whose name is known to Jew and non-Jew alike. Almost everyone knew where Beth Israel was and for what Beth Israel stood."

During the interim between the time of the fire and the completion of the religious school building, the congregation met in the B'nai B'rith Center and held its services there. Beginning on June 6, 1924 the congregation began holding its services in the religious school building. The congregation continued to hold services in the religious school building until the completion, in 1928, of its new temple located at 19th and Flanders in Northwest Portland.

One of the moving forces behind the concept of a Jewish religious school and the construction of a new building to house such a school was Dr. Jonah B. Wise. It was Rabbi Wise who recognized the need for expanded religious school facilities, and who urged the construction of the religious school building. Dr. Wise served as rabbi of the Temple Beth Israel for 19 years, from 1906 to 1925. It was Rabbi Wise who served as rabbi for the Congregation Beth Israel during the period between the destruction of the old temple and the construction of Beth Israel's new temple at 19th and Flanders in Northwest Portland. In 1925 Dr. Wise moved to New York City to become rabbi of Central Synagogue, the oldest Reform temple in continuous use in New York City. (The Central Synagogue was founded in 1870 by Dr. Wise's father, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise.) Upon Dr. Wise's death on February 1, 1959, the New York Times carried an article praising Dr. Wise's accomplishments. The following is quoted from that article:



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"A famous son of a famous father, Dr. Wise, was called in his last years an 'elder statesman of religion'--long a leader of Reform 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, February 2, 1959, p. 25.

Shortly after Hitler took power, Dr. Wise went to Germany and helped to establish a program of temporary relief to the Jewish community. He organized the demoralized Jews and arranged for financial help for those who had fled Germany.

Rabbi Wise was the founder of the United Jewish Appeal in 1939, when it was decided that the national philanthropic organizations concerned with the relief and rehabilitation of Jews overseas should be merged for a united effort to raise maximum aid in this country. He served continuously as National Chairman of United Jewish Appeal from its founding until 1958, when he was named Honorary National Chairman. Under his leadership the United Jewish Appeal raised several hundreds of millions of dollars to help needy and oppressed Jews in many parts of the world.

As a result of Rabbi Wise's early concern for, and contributions to, the cause of the refugee, Dr. Wise was chosen by President Roosevelt in 1938 as Delegate to the International Refugee Conference held at Evian-les-Bains in France.

Dr. Wise was also a pioneer in Jewish religious broadcasting. He founded the Sunday morning "Message of Israel" radio program in 1934, and continued conducting that program until two weeks before his death in 1959.

Thus, it was the Congregation Beth Israel, the old temple and the Beth Israel Religious School which served as the place from which Dr. Jonah B. Wise launched his career as a figure of national prominence both as a spiritual leader in the Jewish church and the spearhead of the United Jewish Appeal.

Upon completion of Beth Israel's new temple at 19th and Flanders in Northwest Portland in 1928, the religious school building continued to be used as a Jewish school for the Congregation Beth Israel. This was apparently the exclusive use of the building until May of 1937, when the building was leased to Albany College, the predecessor of Lewis and Clark College. The building was thus the first Portland home of Lewis and Clark College as a four-year liberal arts institution. The building's association with Albany College, and thus Lewis and Clark College, is significant in that occupation of the building by Albany College was during the period critical to the evolution of Lewis and Clark College.

Albany College was founded in 1867 in Albany, Oregon by the Presbyterian Church. From that date forward, the college continued to grow and flourish as a leading liberal arts institution in the Pacific Northwest. During the Depression, the college met with serious financial difficulties, as did all educational institutions, and further faced declining enrollment. However, the college weathered the storm of the Depression, and in the winter of 1933-34 began contemplating the development of a junior college in

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Portland. During that time some of the members of the Board of Trustees recognized that there were students in the Portland area who desired to attend college but were hindered by financial conditions of the time. These Trustees were also aware that there had been tentative explorations on the part of other institutions in the area to establish a junior college in Portland and the time seemed right for such a venture. Thus, in June of 1934 the plan to establish a junior college in Portland was approved by the Board of Trustees. In the following month, the Presbyterian Synod confirmed this decision.

The Allen Preparatory School building at S.E. Salmon and 12th Streets was rented and in September, 1934 the Portland unit opened under the direction of Walter Shaw and William H. Norris, former Principal of Allen Preparatory School. Freshman courses were offered the 74 students, with several of the regular faculty coming from Albany two days each week to aid the two Portland teachers. At the close of the first school year, in June, 1935, the Trustees voted to continue the unit for another year, adding sophomore courses.

The Portland unit had not been included in the accreditation of the college in Albany but had been given provisional accreditation as a junior college in 1935. This status would continue until 1938. By the end of the second year of operation, the unit had outgrown its small quarters and the administration began searching for a better location. In the spring of 1937, on the recommendation of Aaron Frank, Albany College signed contract with Temple Beth Israel for the use of its educational building at S.W. Main and 13th Streets, and with the First Nazarene Church, across the street, for the use of the basement to house the college library. In May, with the assistance of the students, the equipment was moved to the new location.

Leaders of the Portland Presbytery were anxious that the third year of college work be added to the Portland unit in 1936. They were hoping for a permanent four-year college which might in the near future replace the parent institution in Albany. In July, 1936, a committee on Albany College was set up to:

" . . . cooperate with the Board of Education in a survey of the whole Presbyterian educational situation in the Synod, particularly in regard to the Portland unit. This committee shall be composed of four members of the Board of Trustees of the college chosen by the Board of Trustees and four others, one elected by each of the four Presbyteries." Martha F. Montague, Lewis & Clark College 1867-1967, (1968).

During the winter of 1936-37, a thorough survey was conducted of the educational needs of the State, as well as of the entire educational and spiritual program of Albany College.

In July of 1937, the committee reported that the survey results showed the majority of Oregon Presbyterians believed there was definitely a place in the State for a Christian college of Albany's type, but that it should be continued with a change of location preferably to Portland.

In December of 1937, the Trustees voted to add the third and fourth years to the Portland school. On February 28, 1938, the final step was taken. Operations in Albany

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were to cease at the close of the academic year in June. In September, 1938, the institution began classes in the Beth Israel School in Portland as a four-year liberal arts college. On April 25, 1937, an editorial in the Oregon Journal carried the following story:

"Today the Oregon Journal carries a story of the move of an educational plant to new quarters. Its exodus from a frame dwelling to one of brick is likened to the emergency of the little red schoolhouse into the modern well-equipped institution of today."

....

"Reasons for continued advancement of Albany College at Portland, beginning with its accreditation by the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools at a meeting held in Spokane this month, and culminating with its leasing of the Sunday School building of Congregation Beth Israel, are not hard to find. Neither are arguments for its continued maintenance difficult to set forth. Most potent of them all is the spirit of events that made possible the fusion of two such great interests as those of Congregation Beth Israel and the Presbyterians of the city. Dr. Perry C. Hopper declared that Prebyterian pastors are behind their college here, morally and financially. Rabbi Henry J. Berkowitz said his people are glad to share their school building with so worthy and dignified a group as Albany College at Portland."

The lease arrangement with Temple Beth Israel was essentially one of joint occupancy. This arrangement allowed the Temple Beth Israel to conduct religious school meetings on Sundays, and the remainder of the time was used by Albany College for college instruction.

Thus, September, 1938 marked the beginning of Albany College as a four-year liberal arts college in Portland. However, the college opened without the services of a President or academic accreditation.

"The move from the attractive small-town campus, with three modern buildings, into portions of three rented buildings and no campus meant the withdrawal of accreditation from the four-year institution and the junior college status from the Portland unit, until the specifications of salaries, buildings, and equipment were met." Montague, supra, at 135.

Thus, the Board of Trustees was immediately faced with four major problems: finding a new President; securing an adequate campus and buildings; regaining accreditation and membership in the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools; and putting the college on a sound financial basis. The first major problem was solved by hiring Dr. Clarence W. Greene, who had served as President of Albany College from 1923 through 1928 as President of Albany College in Portland.

Reorganization of the curriculum to meet new conditions followed the consolidation o

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the two branches but no radical changes were made. The new program consisted largely of expansion of departments already in operation.

Albany College's enrollment continued to expand during the years of its lease of the Beth Israel School. However, the unsettled state of world affairs began to effect enrollment in 1940-41.

"Military preparedness programs drained away many of the men. Some went into the Oregon National Guard and others volunteered for special branches of military service. In the spring of 1941, Albany College entered into a contract with the Civil Aeronautics Administration of the United States Department of Commerce for participation in the collegiate phase of the Civilian Pilot Training Program. The academic subjects such as meteorology and navigation were supervised by the mathematics department of the college, and aircraft training was handled under an independent contract between the C.A.A. and the Bessie Holladay School of Flying on Swan Island. Albany was the only Oregon college to enter this field on instruction, which was an important part of the school's war effort. When war was declared in December, 1941, the Pilot Training Program was transferred inland to Ontario, Oregon." Montague, supra, at 137-8.

Under Dr. Greene's leadership, Albany College continued to grow and continued to attract a highly respected teaching staff. However, President Greene and the Board of Trustees were beginning to realize that if the college were to survive, acquisition of a campus was imperative.

President Greene's term of office expired October, 1941. He was asked to remain until a successor was chosen, but no definite financial arrangements were made, and on December 6, 1941, he gave notice that he was severing his connection with Albany College. Professor B.A. Thaxter was appointed acting President to take over administrative duties until a successor was elected.

The following day came the attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States entered the war. Although enrollment was affected, the interim administration carried on and the year closed with a graduating class of 31, the largest in the history of Albany College.

Student and faculty morale was affected by the national war tension, and more specifically by the uncertainty as to whether Albany College could continue. In 1942, acting President Thaxter analyzed the situation:

"There has been much uncertainty and unrest among both students and faculty--uncertainty about the war and their relation to it, uncertainty about their work, and uncertainty even about the continuance of the college, and whether or not it could hold its group together and find a home where it could renew its life . . . .

"One of the most serious handicaps to our promotion program is the fact that

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we have as yet been unable definitely to say that we will be on a campus of our own this fall . . .

"Faculty and students alike believe that if we do not act speedily in acquiring this property [the Frank Estate on Palatine Hill Road], the college is lost. Faculty and students respectfully urge the Board of Trustees to acquire the Frank Estate for a new college home with the least possible delay." As quoted in Montague, supra, at 143.

On May 21, 1942, the college announced the probable purchase of the Lloyd Frank Estate and the election of Dr. Morgan Samuel Odell, professor of philosophy and religion at Occidental College, as President of Albany College. On June 30, 1942, the purchase of the Lloyd Frank Estate for the nominal price of \$50,000, was completed.

In September of 1942 the faculty and students of Albany College moved into their new campus of Palatine Hill Road, and, on September 11, 1942, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to change the name of the college to Lewis & Clark College.

Thus, the occupation of Albany College in the Beth Israel School building is central to the evolution of Lewis & Clark College. The Beth Israel School building served as the first Portland home of Lewis & Clark College as a four-year liberal arts institution. Had it not been for the generous spirit of the Congregation Beth Israel, and the availability of its religious school building, Albany College may have ended as a religious institution and its progeny, Lewis & Clark College, may never have been born. As it was, however, the Beth Israel School building served as a convenient and highly useful facility during the transition from Albany College to Lewis & Clark College.

Lewis & Clark College continued to lease the religious school building, on a month-to-month basis, during its move to the campus on Palatine Hill Road. This lease arrangement continued until July of 1943. During the months of July and August of 1943, the Temple Beth Israel leased the building facilities to the Central Bible Church. Subsequently Temple Beth Israel began looking for a purchaser of the building, while it continued to use the building for Sunday School purposes.

In June, 1945 Beth Israel sold the religious school building to Westinghouse Radio Station KEX for the sum of \$75,000. The building was occupied by KEX from 1949 to 1960 and thus the building is sometimes known as the "KEX Building". For the years 1961 through 1969 the building was owned and occupied by the Multnomah College and housed its electronics division. On August 1, 1969, Multnomah College merged with the University of Portland. The building was vacant from August 1969 until 1975 when the University of Portland leased the building to the Multnomah County Juvenile Parole Services Regional Office. In September 1977 the current owners, Gilbertson, Brownstein, Sweeney, Kerr, and Grim, purchased the building and retained the lease agreement with the Juvenile Parole Services Office.

A less apparent, but nonetheless significant, justification for recognition of the Beth Israel School building is the need to retain, in the downtown area, an aura of "community" that once was predominant within the city. The Beth Israel School signifies the

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past existence of a closely knit religious ethnic "community" that lived in the section of town where the building stands. With the move away from downtown Portland of the Temple Beth Israel, as well as other Jewish religious organizations, that ethnic community began to disperse. Preservation of the Beth Israel School building will help Portland retain a sense of community and will conserve one of the traditional landmarks for the Jewish community in Portland.

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McColl, Kimbrek. The Shaping of a City (1976).

The Scribe -- Jewish weekly newspaper.

Minutes from Congregation Beth Israel.

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Beth Israel School, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

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Corrections:

Acreage of nominated property: 100' x 75'

Verbal boundary description: Westerly 75 feet of Lots 7 and 8,  
Block E, Portland Addition to Plat of Portland, Multnomah County,  
Oregon.