

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Dane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.12.55.0014	DATE 12/29/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Synagogue

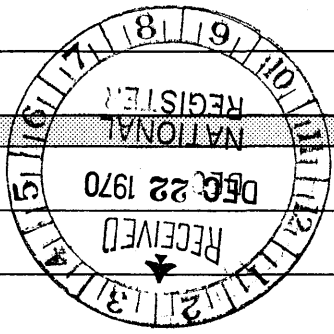
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Shaare Shomaim (Gates of Heaven) Synagogue

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
214 West Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55 COUNTY: Dane CODE: 025



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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	To be razed
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Abandoned	if not removed
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		from site.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Fiore Coal and Oil Company

STREET AND NUMBER:
4716 Verona Road

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Dane County Registry of Deeds, City-County Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 Monona Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: Wisconsin

COUNTY: Dane

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.12.55.0014

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DEC 22 1970

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A 28-by 51-foot, one-story, sandstone and buff brick structure reflecting a degree of Victorian eclecticism, with Gothic influences and facade ornamentation reminiscent of old Spanish mission architecture of the southwest. The Old Synagogue is an attractive and unique landmark. Designed by August Kutzbock, a prominent Madison architect of the 1850's to mid-1860's, it was built in 1863. Principal exterior features include an ornate battlemented facade with parapets at the front gable end and a central elevation of the facade which rises several feet higher than the roof ridge and terminates in a triangle whose sides parallel the slope of the roof. The triangular portion is capped with stone coping. In the center of the triangle is a large, circular, stone-framed opening which once contained a decorative light with several obovate panes radiating from a central round pane to resemble a daisy-like flower. The opening no longer contains glass but is closed with woven wire fencing for protection.

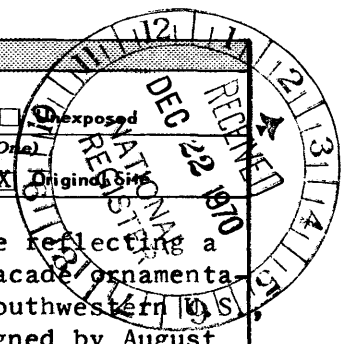
roofed

In front of the main facade is a small, gable-/vestibule, about two-thirds of a story, whose own facade also rises as a triangle covered with stone coping but terminates in a flat, square cap. There is a pilaster at either side and a doorway with a denticulated lintel and stone sill. The original doors and framework have been replaced with a modern metal frame and glass doors. The original steps have been replaced with concrete, and handrails of metal pipe have been placed on either side of the stairs, probably to meet local code requirements.

Fenestration includes tall, narrow, muntined, round-arched windows on the sides of the vestibule and high on either side of the main facade. The latter are set within a decorative recessed panel and enframed in stone arches, with a narrow portion of stone separating the window pairs, but with a stone sill common to the pair. Side windows are wider, mullioned and round-arched, having semicircular transoms with three panes separated by radial muntins.

Gable ends and foundation and basement wall are of tooled local sandstone, while the sides of the building above floor level are buff brick. Pilasters divide the sides into three bays. Below the cornice is a broad frieze with a series of Greek crosses extending from one gable end to the other. Along the lower edge of the frieze is a series of brick dentils. There are four brick chimneys near the edge of the roof on the right and three on the left side. At the rear gable end an outdoor stairway leads up to a doorway at the right of the small apse. Immediately below this doorway, at ground level, is a round-arched doorway leading into the basement. The building is set into the side of a hill, with the front entrance just above street level and basement entrance at ground level part way down the hill.

The original appearance of the much-altered interior is not definitely known. The building was used as a synagogue for only sixteen years after which it was used by a succession of other denominations and eventually converted into commercial use. The interior is currently partitioned into offices and little remains unchanged. The basement is less changed and there are some doors left which are probably original. At the front there are simple wood-partitioned rooms and a stairway leading to the vestibule. The original huge oak joists and other parts of the framework are still firm and solid.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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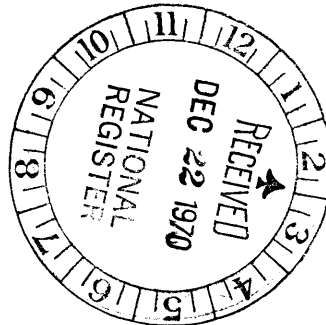
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Dane	
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70.12.5510014	12/29/70

(Number all entries)

OLD SYNAGOGUE

7. Although the exterior of the building has sustained considerable deterioration, especially in erosion of the fairly soft Madison sandstone blocks, the brickwork is much less seriously deteriorated, and there is a reasonably good possibility of adequate exterior repair and restoration sufficient to return the synagogue to its original appearance. It is planned that such restoration will be done faithfully, which will be an undertaking of some proportion.



See letter, in part, "one of the earliest in the state"

SIGNIFICANCE

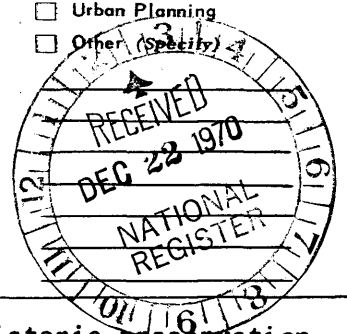
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1863**

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) <i>311</i>
<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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Taychopera Foundation, a local group devoted to historic preservation, has designated the Old Synagogue as a Madison landmark which should be preserved. The building was the first synagogue erected in Wisconsin and has figured prominently not only in association with Madison's first Jewish congregation but also with several congregations of other faiths.

The first Jew to settle in Madison was Samuel Klauber, who came in the late 1840's near the time of Wisconsin's establishment as a state. By 1856 there were seventeen Jewish families in Madison and they met to form a congregation. This was first named Ahavath Achim (Brother Love) but later changed to Shaare Shomaim (Gates of Heaven). The members, rather than having come west from the east coast, were German Jewish immigrants who had come directly from Europe to Wisconsin and therefore represented a distinct cultural transplant in the midwest.

During its early years, while trying to save for a synagogue, the congregation met for services in the home of Samuel Klauber. In October 1862 they purchased a small lot for their synagogue building and in 1863 erected their synagogue, which was designed by August Kutzbock, a prominent Madison architect of the day. The dedication was held on September 5, 1863 and attended by the Wisconsin Governor, the Madison Mayor, members of the State Supreme Court, the clergy of the city, and the architect, August Kutzbock.

In 1865 it was at this synagogue that the Wisconsin Legislature gathered for a public memorial meeting after President Lincoln's assassination.

The small Jewish congregation had a persistent problem in securing the services of a permanent rabbi and in 1866 issued a call to Joseph M. Thuringer, the brother of one of its members, who was then living in Germany. He was a well educated layman rather than an ordained rabbi, but he came and served the congregation until the latter 1870's. Money was a constant problem for the small congregation, which at no time exceeded twenty families, and when members left Madison for other places, there was insufficient replenishment by new immigrants. Eventually the congregation had dwindled to five members. In 1879 the congregation rented the synagogue to the Unitarian Society and held its own meetings in the homes of its members. Meetings became only occasional and were devoted largely to the renting of the synagogue. Over a period of about thirty years the building was occupied by the Unitarian Society, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and the English Lutheran Church. Finally in 1916 the property was sold. For many years thereafter it was used as an undertaking parlor.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Swarensky, Manfred, From Generation to Generation, The Story of the Madison Jewish Community, 1851-1955, Madison, Wisconsin 1955, passim.
 Holmes, Fred L., Ed., Wisconsin, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1946, (Vol 2), 564-565.
 Custer, Frank, "City's First Synagogue, Recently Dentists' Office, Is Sold Again," Madison, Wis. The Capital Times, July 12, 1962.
 Kutzbock, August, "Leaves from a record book, 1855-1868 /1852-1868", kept by A. Kutzbock, Madison architect." Manuscripts Collections, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.

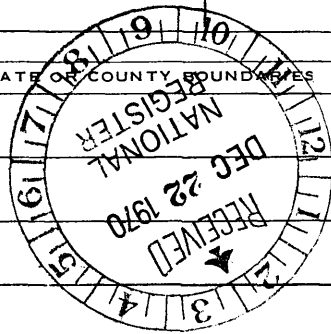
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		N 43° 04' 23"	W 89° 23' 04"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.05**

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **12/17/70**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** 53706 CODE: **55**

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 James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date December 17, 1970

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

Arrest Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 29 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Smeagles
 Keeper of The National Register

DEC 23 1970

Date _____

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OLD SYNAGOGUE

8.

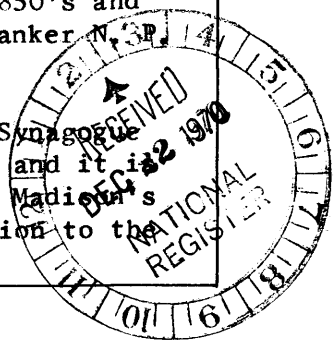
In 1944, the Church of Christ bought the building and once again, for a brief time, it was used for religious purposes. Early in World War the federal government had leased the building for storage of books and papers. Since the middle 1940's the Old Synagogue has been used for a succession of professional and business ventures, the last being a veterinary clinic. It was abandoned early in 1970.

The synagogue now faces demolition in early 1971 to make way for a new bank building. A local group has established a fund drive to raise money for moving the synagogue to a new location. If the drive is successful, the building will be given to the City of Madison, which has assured that it will accept the synagogue and has tentative plans to place the building in a city park within a mile of its current location, where it can be placed in a setting very much similar to its current one. The building will then be faithfully restored exteriorly and interiorly. It will not be possible to move the present basement, but a new one similar to the original will be constructed.

The existence of the Shaare Shomaim congregation did not actually end until 1922, and the Minute Book of the congregation, covering the period of its official history from 1856 to 1922 is the only existing complete record of any Jewish organization in Madison. It is housed in the archives of the American Jewish Historical Society in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Considering the synagogue's history as a religious and philosophical center for a period of over thirty years beyond the sixteen years of its use as a synagogue, many prominent and well qualified Madisonians feel that the little building is both a landmark and a historically significant cultural center which deserves preservation. As a professor of archeology at the University, one of the members of the State Consulting Committee on Historic Preservation, has put it, "If a building becomes a symbol of significance in a community, no matter what its architectural character, but does reflect the heritage of the community, then it does become significant and should be preserved." While architecture has not been indicated as an area of significance, numerous local professional historians, art historians, artists and various other members of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin share the above quoted view and regard the building as a unique and artistically significant as well as historically significant property. Its architect, August Kutzbock, was the designer and supervisor of the wings of the second Wisconsin Capitol, the old Madison City Hall, and the homes of a number of prominent Madisonians of the 1850's and 1860's, including Governor Leonard Farwell, Mayor W. T. Leitch, banker Van Slyke, and others.

In almost every respect, the history and significance of the Old Synagogue parallel those of the Adas Israel Synagogue in Washington, D. C., and it is felt that on that basis, along with its own merits as a symbol of Madison's older heritage, the Shaare Shomaim Synagogue is worthy of nomination to the National Register.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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9. Postal, Bernard and Lionel Koppman, A Jewish Tourist's Guide to the U. S., The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 1954 - 5715, pp. 651-652.

