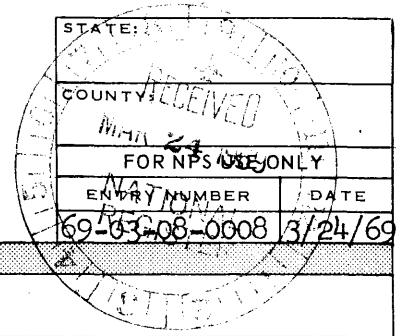


PH0001597

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
Adas Israel Synagogue

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
619 6th Street, N. W. (S. E. corner of 6th and G Streets)

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08** COUNTY: **District of Columbia** CODE: **001**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Closed	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:
950 South Building, L'Enfant Plaza

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
6th and D Streets, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1,556 square feet**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by Joint Committee on Landmarks**

DATE OF SURVEY: **March 7, 1968** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
726 Jackson Place, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER DATE
69-03-08-0008 3/24/69

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Adas Israel Synagogue faces west on the S. E. corner of 6th and G Streets, N. W. It is a common-bond red-brick two-story building with a gable roof which measures 25 feet (3 bays) from north to south x 60 feet (4 bays) from west to east.

Although the ground floor has been altered substantially to accommodate commercial usage, the second story exterior is largely original. The narrow second floor windows topped by fan-shaped lunettes are unevenly spaced on the sides and vary in size from 2/2 light double-hung to 4/4 light double-hung, with wooden sash and sills, and brick archivolt. Built into the east (rear) wall is an enclosed wooden bay, painted green, which forms part of the Ark of the Synagogue. Also remaining is the small roof cupola. On the front of the building, above the central window, is set a semi-circular stone which is inscribed with the words "Adas Israel Congregation" in Hebrew and "erected 5636" in English.

The ground floor, which originally contained classrooms (divided by movable partitions), an office and a week-day chapel, has been altered into stores, and only traces of the original windows and doors remain. There are photographs showing the windows and doors of this level as well as the iron fence surrounding the building. First floor windows were similar in design, although shorter, to those of the second floor, with fan-shaped lunettes and side shutters. The street level has also been graded down since the synagogue was constructed.

The upper floor contained the synagogue proper. It has long been used as a storage room and has survived relatively intact. The outstanding feature is the original Ark of the Law in the eastern end of the hall which combines a classical pediment with Victorian side braces. The original platform and steps of this area (the Bima) remain, although the reading desk, circular surrounding rail, and semi-circle of chairs are no longer in the building. In the wall above the Ark there is a small blue glass window.

The back (west) portion of the special gallery for women (who in the orthodox synagogue must be separated from the men) remains intact. Although the side galleries have been removed, the bases of their supporting columns are still discernible on the floor which is also original. The skylight has been closed over and the ceiling area under the cupola roughly sealed.

The building appears to be structurally sound and could readily be restored to its original design, once it has been moved to a new site. The Historic American Buildings Survey has recently prepared a set of measured drawings of the building. Extant period descriptions and photographs of the interior of the synagogue proper should also facilitate reasonably accurate restorations.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

8. SIGNIFICANCE

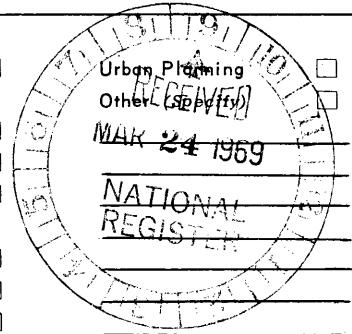
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1873-1876**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the old Adas Israel Synagogue a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The building was the first synagogue erected in the District of Columbia. This significant link with Jewish beginnings in the Nation's Capital should be preserved.

The history of the Adas Israel Congregation dates back to the years immediately following the Civil War. When the first Hebrew Congregation organized in Washington instituted certain liturgical reforms, the more conservative members withdrew and established the Adas Israel Congregation in 1869.

During its early years, the Adas Israel Congregation, composed of thirty-five families, met and worshipped in the homes of its members or in rented quarters. On August 16, 1870, the congregation's trustees recorded in the deed as Manasses Oppenheimer, L. Abraham Nathan Gotthelf and Leopold Oppenheimer purchased the property at 6th and G Streets, N. W. Construction of the synagogue was begun in 1873. Max Kleinman was the draughtsman and J. William and Company, the contractor. The dedication ceremony on June 9, 1876, was attended by President Ulysses S. Grant, Vice-President Ferry, and other federal and civic officials.

The building was in continual use as a synagogue until 1907 when Adas Israel moved to larger quarters at 6th and I Streets, N. W. The property was sold to Steven Gatti in 1905 and remained in the Gatti family until 1968. After Adas Israel moved out, the building was used as the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Sophia (now on Massachusetts Avenue) and then by the evangelical Church of God. From 1946 until recently, a carry-out shop, market and barbershop have occupied the ground floor of the building, while the synagogue area on the second floor has served primarily as a storeroom.

The building, now owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, is threatened by the proposed subway line and must be moved if it is to be preserved. A joint Committee of the Adas Israel Congregation (now at Connecticut and Porter Streets, N. W.) and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington has been working with Federal and District government agencies in an effort to move the building to a new site and restore it as a museum and headquarters for the Society. A tentative relocation site at the N. E. corner of 3rd and G Streets, N. W. has been selected and awaits final approval from the Federal Bureau of Public Roads which originally provided 90% of the purchase price of the land under the Federal Highway Act.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Daily Critic, The Washington Chronicle, Evening Star, all of June 10, 1896.

The Washington Post, August 8, 1903.

The Record, Publication of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, Volume 3, Nos. 1 & 3, March & November 1968.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 53 ' 53 "	77 ° 01 ' 12 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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 AND TITLE:
Nancy C. Taylor, Landmarks Historian

ORGANIZATION: **National Capital Planning Commission** DATE: **Feb. 26, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
726 Jackson Place, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u><i>[Signature]</i></u></p> <p>Title <u>Deputy Mayor-Commissioner</u></p> <p>Date <u>March 24 1969</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>March 24, 1969</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>April 3, 1969</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS