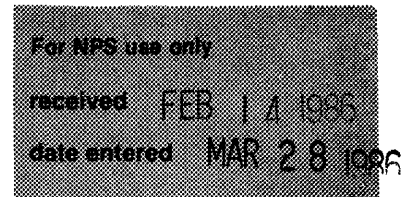


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Owensboro Multiple Resource Area/Temple Adath Israel
Continuation sheet Daviess County, Kentucky

Item number

Page

<u>Name:</u>	Temple Adath Israel (DA-OB-61)	<u>Location:</u>	429 Daviess Street
<u>Owner:</u>	Temple Adath Israel Congregation Lee Goldstein, President 429 Daviess Street Owensboro, Kentucky 42301	<u>Classification:</u>	Building
		<u>Specific Date:</u>	1878

Description: This one-story brick and stone temple is built on a nave plan and has a three-bay facade with a central Gothic entrance and lancet windows. Classical pilasters support a simple cornice. The front parapet wall is decorated with elaborate windows and panels and topped with Moorish ogee domes. The front windows and side wall four bays are filled with turn of the century stained glass imported from Europe. A one-story addition has been built onto the rear of the structure. The interior is very simple and does not clearly follow any style.

Significance: Temple Adath Israel is significant as an outstanding example of eclectic architecture incorporating Classical, Gothic and Moorish details. It is also significant because of its association with the settlement, organization, and continuation of Owensboro's Jewish community. Temple Adath Israel was constructed in 1878 by the congregation of eighteen families who had been organized about two or three years before the Civil War. Most of the adults had been born in various European countries and English was their secondary language, although Hebrew was spoken at the Temple. Many of the men were merchants on Main Street and their names have been important to the development of the area as a retail center. As a group, the Jewish families enjoyed a higher standard of living than the average citizen probably due to their hard work and appreciation for a country where they were not persecuted for their religion. Until the 1970s the Jewish families were not accepted in Owensboro's social circles. In 1883 there were 37 families who worshiped in the 200-seat Temple. The architecture is a fanciful combination of styles and details, possibly reflecting the various cultural backgrounds of the congregation. The elaborate building must have been very important to this tiny group as a statement to the community which provided them a good livelihood yet remained separate outside of business.

Acreage: .149 acre

Verbal Boundary Description: The Temple Adath Israel is designated on the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission's Computerized Land Use File - Census Tract 3, Traffic Zone 5, Block Number 506, Parcel Number 6.

UTM Reference: (Owensboro East) 16/490370/4180290