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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	MAR 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	OCT 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 Temple Emanuel

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 2400 Curtis Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Denver

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Denver

CODE

031

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

— DISTRICT

— PUBLIC

— OCCUPIED

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

— BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

STRUCTURE

— BOTH

— WORK IN PROGRESS

— EDUCATIONAL

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— OBJECT

— IN PROCESS

— YES: RESTRICTED

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— NO

— MILITARY

OTHER warehouse storage

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Eugene X. Tepper

STREET & NUMBER

2323 Champa Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80202

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

City and County Building

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Denver Inventory of Historic Structures

DATE

September 1974

— FEDERAL — STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Denver Landmark Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original physical appearance of Temple Emanuel was eclectic Victorian with Moorish and Romanesque fenestration and detailing. The three story structure, two asymmetrical towers, and exposed buttresses were constructed of a light color brick with a contrasting dark stone trimwork around doors, windows, foundation and belt courses. The principal facade, serving as the primary entrance to the building, was dominated by a large Moorish window element and smaller scaled Romanesque arched windows and main entrance doors. Of the two towers on the principal facade, the smaller, left hand tower was originally more ornate than it appears today with a hipped roof and overhanging fascia and trim. The larger right hand tower with its hipped roof became the dominant element of the facade as it anchored the corner of the block with its height and mass. Both towers rose above the main roof of the building, a gable roof structure, achieving a balance between the horizontal and vertical components of the building. The exposed buttresses on each side of the building supported the main roof and established a rhythm that helped provide human scale to the entire structure. The building became the dominant physical element in its immediate neighborhood, symbolizing its spiritual significance to the community.

The present physical appearance is very similar to the original appearance as described above. The smaller left-hand tower has been removed above the roof line, and the stone trim work around the windows, doors and belt courses has been painted to match the brick walls. The large moorish window on the principal facade has been modified and painted with the result being a more simplified, subtle design element. Most of the original design elements are still present, with minor cosmetic changes only.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Architect
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1882-1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank E. Edbrooke

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Temple Emanuel, located at 24th Avenue and Curtis Street, became the first major Jewish synagogue in the Denver area when it was built in 1882, serving the Beth Emanuel Congregation.

The minutes of Temple Emanuel's board of trustees' meeting, January 19, 1882, indicate the board voted for a new temple to be built for \$20,000. The board instructed the building committee that the sanctuary was to include 150 pews, each to seat four persons; one vestry room to serve as a meeting room for the congregation; sufficient school rooms; a basement not less than twelve feet high; and a gallery for the choir opposite the pulpit. The board then invited four leading Denver architects to present their plans to the congregation, and W. J. Edbrooke was selected. On March 23, 1882, the lowest bid for construction was submitted by Alexander Brothers who became the contractor. The Temple was completed for the dedication date of September 1, 1882.

According to the Rocky Mountain News, the Temple Emanuel was a beautiful structure, the style a modified Moresque constructed of hard pressed brick with buttresses, stone trimmings, and a foundation of stone and concrete. On the corner, the tower was ninety feet high, surmounted by a golden ball. The auditorium was 54' by 74', with a seating capacity of 500. The altar was of fine polished walnut, inlaid with woodcuts, and over the shrine were Hebrew characters written in gold.

On November 5, 1897, a fire occurred, almost destroying the Temple, auditorium and contents, with only the lower floor remaining. Rebuilding took place in 1902 with a building permit taken out on June 2, 1902, for \$70,000 by the contractor, J. M. Lambert. The architect was Frank E. Edbrooke, a brother of W. J. Edbrooke who was the architect of record for the original structure; although, in fact, Frank E. Edbrooke was the actual architect. The reconstruction of the building as viewed today still reflects most of the original design of 1882, with only minor changes.

The building became a dominant physical feature for its immediate neighborhood which symbolized the spiritual significance as well. Today the synagogue is adjacent to the Curtis-Champa Streets District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in April of 1975, and remains as a significant feature of the community.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Temple Emanuel of Denver A Centennial History by Marjorie Hornbein  
The Centennial History of the Jews of Colorado 1859-1959 by Allen  
duPont Breck  
Denver Public Library (Western History Department)  
Colorado State Historical Society

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .21 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	3	5	0	1	3	5	10	4	4	0	0	3	0	10
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 14 to 16 inclusive, Block 116, Stiles Addition to the City and County of Denver, State of Colorado. Lot 14 and 15, Block 116, Tappans Addition to the City and County of Denver.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

Langdon Morris & Associates, Architects

DATE

June 1977

STREET & NUMBER

720 East 18th Avenue

TELEPHONE

(303) 861-0812

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

Colo S H R O

DATE

1/14/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: 

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

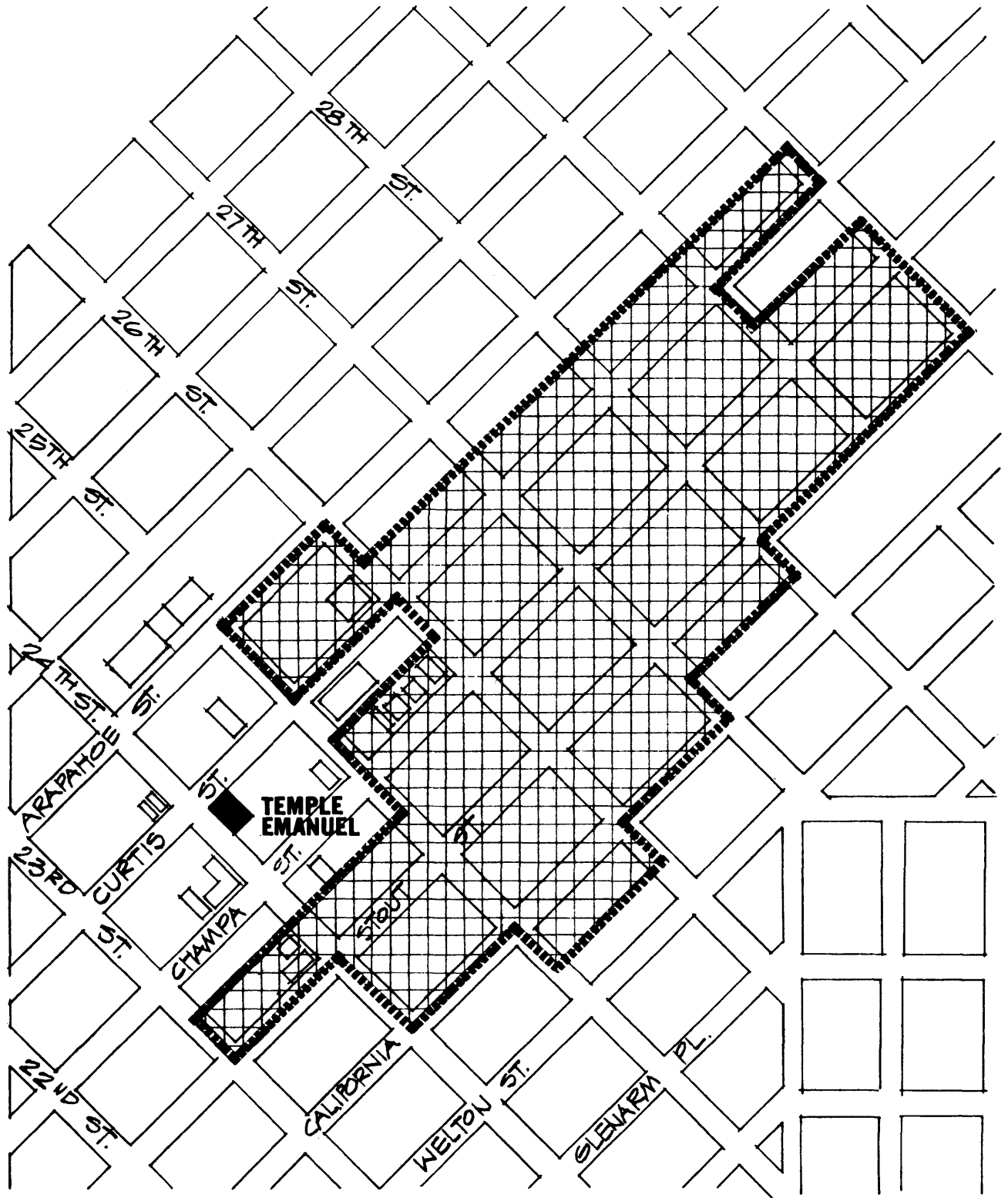
DATE

10/10/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Oct 4, 1978



□ SIGNIFICANT ADJACENT STRUCTURES

▨

**THE CURTIS-CHAMPA STREETS DISTRICT BOUNDARY**  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

