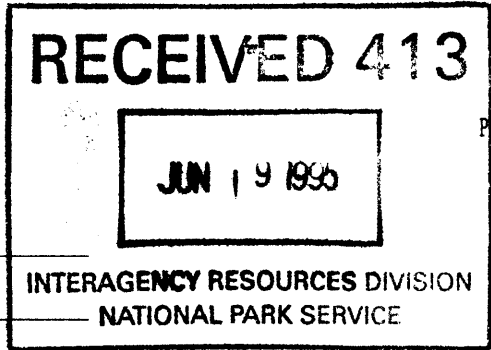


850

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form, Multiple Property Listing
Historic Synagogues of Connecticut



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont

Other Name/Site Number: NA

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 15 Edgefield Avenue, 17 Edgefield Avenue

Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Milford

Vicinity: Woodmont

State: CT County: Fairfield Code: 001 Zip Code: 06460

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Category of Property

Private: x
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Building(s): x
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing
 1

 1

Noncontributing
 buildings
 sites
 structures
 objects
 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: NA

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: Historic Synagogues of Connecticut

Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, Milford, CT

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

John W. Shannahan June 14, 1995
Signature of Certifying Official Date

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain):

Edson H. Beall 7.21.95

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

for

Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, Milford, CT



6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	<u>religious structure</u>	Sub:	<u>synagogue</u>
	_____		_____
Current:	<u>religious structure</u>	Sub:	<u>synagogue</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____



7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
<u>20TH CENTURY REVIVAL</u>	Foundation: <u>BRICK</u>
<u>Colonial Revival</u>	Walls: <u>WOOD/Weatherboard</u>
_____	<u>STUCCO</u>
	Roof: <u>ASPHALT</u>
	Other: _____

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Exterior

The Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont consists of two white one-story buildings, the clapboarded synagogue, built in 1926, and the stucco social hall or community room adjoining to the south, built about ten years later. (Photograph 35) The property is on the north side of the main street in the center of the summer community of Woodmont in the town of Milford on the shore of Long Island Sound.

The synagogue is approached by two flights of steps, left and right, which rise to the floor of its portico. Corner columns support a shallow entablature and molded cornice below the flat roof of the portico. A parapet on the roof displays the words "Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont." Above the cornice of the main front wall of the building there is a broken pediment which has a Star of David as its central motif. A second parapet is behind the broken pediment, in front of the main low hipped roof of the building. Fenestration consists of front windows which flank the portico, two windows on each side elevation, with double doors, and two windows in the rear elevation. (Photograph 36)

Interior

The interior of the synagogue is divided by a central aisle with bench pews on either side. At the front the bimah is on a platform surrounded by railing of natural

Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, Milford, CT

wood. The ark, a broken-scroll Colonial Revival design in white (reminiscent of the broken pediment over the front portico), is flanked by plain pilasters and supports a Decalogue. A curtain covers the Torah scrolls. Above the ark an eternal light is burning and the ceiling is embellished with stars. (Photograph 37) A plaque on the south wall, which gives the names of the architect, builder, and first president of the congregation (Samuel Eskin), states that the congregation was incorporated July 2, 1926, and the synagogue dedicated July 4, 1926. Several memorial windows are of colored glass in shades of beige and red. (Photograph 38) Some windows are Colonial Revival 12-pane in the upper sash over colored-glass memorial in the lower sash. Window surrounds are natural finish oak.

Social Hall

The social hall, 40' x 80', is larger than the synagogue, which is 25' x 50'. The hall was used for services on High Holy Days because it could accommodate 150 people, but its main function is as a social hall. The front portico imitates that of the 1926 building and it is white, but in other respects the hall is different from the synagogue. Exterior walls are stucco rather than clapboard, and windows are industrial steel sash. The interior is a large room set up with tables under a dropped tile ceiling. Walls are covered with a particleboard dado with a fabric-pattern finish above. A kitchen is in the back.

Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, Milford, CT

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:___ Statewide:___ Locally: x

Applicable National Register Criteria: A___ B___ C x D___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A x B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance		Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1926</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): _____

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: Charles H. Abramowitz/Jacob Schiff

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Architectural Significance

The 1926 building is significant architecturally because it is an example of a historic Connecticut synagogue built in the Colonial Revival style at a resort location. As was often the case in rural and resort areas, a popular contemporary style was chosen for a place of Hebrew worship. The absence of change since time of construction and the fine state of preservation enhance the architectural significance of the both the synagogue and community hall.

Historical Background

The Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont is significant historically because it is one of the three known congregations in the state at shoreline resort locations. Summer

Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, Milford, CT

residents, mostly from New Haven, formed the congregation and built the buildings. It is an Orthodox congregation; women are seated behind the men, there being no galleries. Services are conducted regularly in the summer months.

Registration Requirements

The Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont qualifies under Criterion C for inclusion in this multiple property listing as a country or resort synagogue in Connecticut by meeting the following requirements:

- Functioned before 1945 as a Jewish house of worship
- Located in a rural setting relatively separate from other buildings, or along the Connecticut shoreline
- Exhibits integrity of design and workmanship
- Constructed prior to 1945

Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, Milford, CT

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Milford Assessor's Records.

Milford Land Records, volume 288, page 587.

David F. Ransom, "1843*1943 - One Hundred Years of Jewish Congregations in Connecticut: An Architectural Survey - 5603*5703," Connecticut Jewish History, 2(Fall 1991)1.

George Schechter, Treasurer of the Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, interview, August 13, 1992.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register.
- Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other: Specify Repository: _____

Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, Milford, CT

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: less than three

UTM References:	Zone	^E Northing	^N Easting	Zone	Northing	Easting
		667580	665540			
	A 18	<u>4565340</u>	<u>667380</u>	B	_____	_____
	C	_____	_____	D	_____	_____
	E	_____	_____	F	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in the Milford Land Records at volume 288, page 587.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property encompasses land that has gone with the building since it was erected.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: September 4, 1994

Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street

City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 203 566-3005