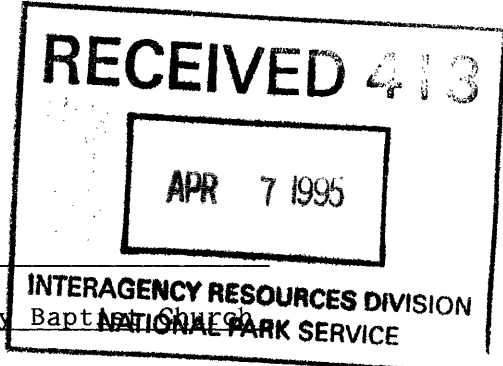


USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form, Multiple Property Listing  
Historic Synagogues of Connecticut



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Agudath Sholem Synagogue  
Other Name/Site Number: Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 29 Grove Street Not for publication: NA  
City/Town: Stamford Vicinity: NA  
State: CT County: Fairfield Code: 001 Zip Code: 06904

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property	Category of Property
Private: <u>x</u>	Building(s): <u>x</u>
Public-Local: <u>   </u>	District: <u>   </u>
Public-State: <u>   </u>	Site: <u>   </u>
Public-Federal: <u>   </u>	Structure: <u>   </u>
	Object: <u>   </u>

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u> Total

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

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: Historic Synagogues of Connecticut



Agudath Sholem Synagogue, Stamford, CT

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

Historic: religious structure Sub: synagogue  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current: religious structure Sub: church  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. DESCRIPTION**

Architectural Classification: 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN  
Mixed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: Foundation: CONCRETE  
Walls: BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roof: built-up  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.**

**Exterior**

Agudath Sholem Synagogue is sited close to the street near the center of downtown Stamford, surrounded by hotels and office buildings in an area of high traffic. An eclectic rectangular brick building on a high basement, it is approached by wide steps that originally were rounded toward the street. (Photograph 25)

Now the steps are separated from the street by a high parapet wall, perhaps required because of reduction in the space available when the street was widened. The steps lead up to an original central paneled double-leaf door between semi-octagonal piers. The piers have capitals and rounded terminals above the capitals. Over the doorway is a rose window, still with central Magen David design. The gable roof line is supported by deep corbeling in the manner of machicolations. This central section of the facade is flanked by large piers that divide at their tops, below the roof line. Narrow flat-roofed sections of the building extend left and right beyond the piers. (Photograph 26)

A string course of soldier bricks divides the high basement from the main section of the building, running across the facade and along the side elevations. Narrow vertical windows at the corners, part of the facade return, are followed by five tall tripartite windows between pilasters on the side elevations. A frieze above the pilasters includes a dentil course under the cornice moldings.

Agudath Sholem Synagogue, Stamford, CT

**Interior**

The consultant was unable to gain access to the interior of the synagogue.

**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>1933 1945</u>	<u>1933</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: NA

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

**Architectural Significance**

Agudath Sholem Synagogue is significant architecturally because it is an eclectic building which brings together features from several periods into a successful composition. The first impression of red brick with white trim suggests the Colonial Revival, and the pilasters and dentil course of the side elevations support this impression. But the eclectic design incorporates other modes in a unusual combination that nevertheless works. For example, the piers flanking the front door are medieval, as are the machicolations on the front gable, reminiscent of the Romanesque or Romanesque Revival. The wide front piers that divide at the top are an anomaly. Nevertheless, the building has the sense of cohesiveness and unity that marks a successful design.

Agudath Sholem Synagogue, Stamford, CT

The addition of the parapet wall between the front steps and the road creates an over-scaled mass of steps and wall that now visually dominates the facade to a degree not intended by the original plan.

### Historical Background

Agudath Sholem Synagogue is associated with the oldest Jewish congregation in Stamford. Incorporated on September 7, 1889, the Orthodox congregation, according to a newspaper account, was able to buy a lot on Greyrock Place in 1901 for its first synagogue building; the cornerstone was laid August 7, 1904. However, the date is uncertain because the Stamford Land Records indicate land for the synagogue was bought in 1905. The building was dedicated September 15, 1908. It burned in 1932.

Ground was broken for the present Grove Street building on September 12, 1933. Construction was completed in stages, as funds permitted, during the Depression, final dedication taking place on April 27, 1941. The building was sold when the congregation moved west of downtown to a new building on Strawberry Hill Avenue, c. 1960.

While Congregation Agudath Sholem was the first organized Jewish body in Stamford, Jewish people resided there in small numbers continuously from 1859. By the turn of the century, the community had grown to about 125 families. From this group developed not only Agudath Sholem but also the Hebrew Institute, its successor the Jewish Center, Temple Beth El, and other organizations.

### Registration Requirements

Agudath Sholem Synagogue qualifies under Criterion C for inclusion in this multiple property listing as an urban building constructed as a synagogue in Connecticut by meeting the following requirements:

- Constructed as a Jewish house of worship
- Located in an urban setting
- Exhibits integrity of design and workmanship
- Constructed prior to 1945

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Jewish Voice," supplement, The Stamford Jewish Historical Society, March 17, 1988.

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.

Stamford Advocate, Tercentenary Edition, 1941, 102:2, il.

Stamford Assessor's Records.

Stamford Land Records, volume 71, page 63, September 7, 1889; 106/259, October 7, 1905; 2230/61.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Agudath Sholem Synagogue, Stamford, CT

████████████████████  
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreeage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4545680</u>	<u>623220</u>	B	__	_____	_____
C	__	_____	_____	D	__	_____	_____
E	__	_____	_____	F	__	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in the Stamford Land Records at volume 106, page 259 and volume 2230, page 61.

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: August 29, 1994

Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street

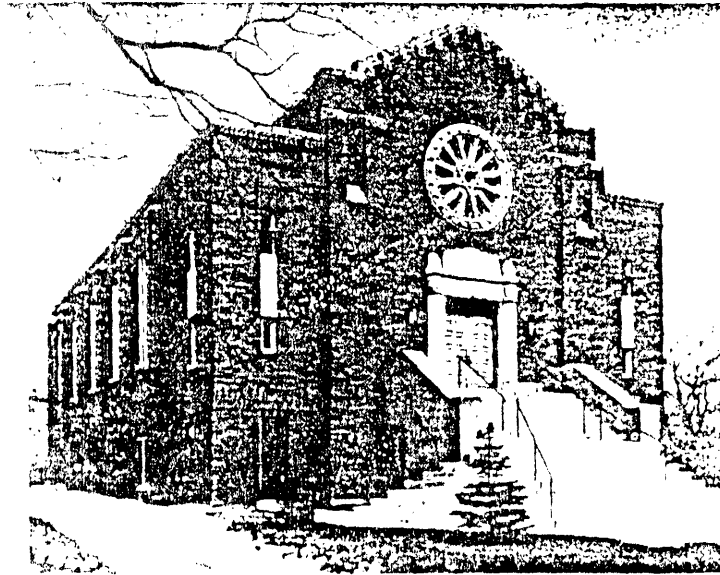
City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 203 566-3005





Grove Street Synagogue before alteration  
to front steps - Stamford Advocate,  
Tercentenary Edition, 1941.

Photograph 25  
Agudath Sholem Synagogue  
Stamford, CT  
Historic photo