



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Anshei Israel Synagogue

Other Name/Site Number: NA

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 142 Newent Road - State Road 138 Not for publication: NA
City/Town: Lisbon Vicinity: _____

State: CT County: New London Code: 011 Zip Code: 06

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

Anshei Israel Synagogue, Lisbon, 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 *Edson H. Beall* *7.21.95*
- Determined eligible for the _____
- Determined not eligible for the _____
- Removed from the National Register _____
- Other (explain): _____

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature] _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Anshei Israel Synagogue, Lisbon, CT

6. FUNCTION OR USE

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

7. DESCRIPTION

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

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Exterior

Anshei Israel Synagogue is a small gable-roofed clapboarded building with central projecting tower. Facing south near the highway about half a mile west of Jewett City, it is closely surrounded by trees and brush, visually isolated from other structures. (Photograph 34)

The white 20' x 30' building is identified as a synagogue by its tall projecting 5' x 9' tower with Magen David at the top. The front door in the tower is glazed with a large pane over square and horizontal panels. Above it is a small hemispherical window with simple radial glazing. Under the eaves the Magen David is fixed in place an inch or two out from the clapboards. The gable roof of the tower is pitched at a slope about the same as that of the main roof, but perhaps not quite as steeply. The tower is flanked by single 2-over-2 windows and there are two of the same windows on each of the side and rear elevations. Paint remnants indicate that the sash once were a bright blue color.

Interior

The interior is not accessible, but Leonard Goldberg describes it as one room with a platform and an ark at the front. Seating for men and women was on benches or chairs, some at tables, an unusual arrangement in historic Connecticut synagogues. The Torah scrolls have now been removed from the ark for safekeeping.

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>1936</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1936</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): _____

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: /George Allen & Sons

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

Architectural Significance

Anshei Israel Synagogue is significant architecturally because it is a good example of a small country Jewish house of worship. The architecture is the epitome of simplicity, but, due to its tall projecting tower, undeniably in the Colonial Revival tradition. At present, the building is sound and in a good state of preservation, but unused. Nestled close to the road among trees and encroaching underbrush, it is visually distinguished by its setting, which is unique among historic Connecticut synagogues.

Anshei Israel Synagogue, Lisbon, CT

Historical Background

Anshei Israel Synagogue is associated with the small country congregation that built the structure and used it until recent years. The land for the building, a corner of his farm, was given by Harry Rothenberg, a member of the congregation, ca.1936. Another abutting property owner, Oscar Silverleib, was a member of the congregation as well.

Jerome Zuckerbraun, son of Issac Zuckerbraun, a founder, recalls that the 15 founding families came from several towns in Poland and Russia. They lived in Plainfield, Lisbon, Prescott, Griswold, and Jewett City. Since their homes were too far from the synagogue to make walking to services a practical matter, they rode to a point and then had a long walk to the synagogue. He recalls that the early members were easily identifiable by the way they looked. They wore "Russian clothes," "suits that didn't fit," and "big hats." After World War II the congregation was kept going by new refugees. The last of the founding members died in 1990. Some part of the congregation now attends services at the synagogue in Danielson.

Jerome Zuckerbraun's cousin, Ethel Batnick, whose father also was a founder, recalls the carving by a member whose name was Sakowitz which graced the front of the interior, including two doves, in color, which she believes are still in place. The separate women's seating was at a table on the right near the door.

Registration Requirements

Anshei Israel Synagogue 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

Anshei Israel Synagogue, Lisbon, CT

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ethel Batnick, daughter of a founding member of the congregation, interview, June 7, 1991.

Leonard Goldberg, "Lisbon Synagogue," entry in an undated, unidentified publication.

Lisbon Land Records, volume 17, page 126, April 29, 1936.

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.

Jerome Zuckerbraun, son of founder Issac Zuckerbraun, interview, May 8, 1991.

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: _____

Anshei Israel Synagogue, Lisbon, CT

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreeage of Property: less than one

UTM References:	Zone	North ^{East} ing	North ^{East} ing	Zone	North	East
		<u>250485</u>	<u>4609785</u>			
A	<u>18</u>	<u>4609800</u>	<u>250460</u>	B	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___
E	___	___	___	F	___	___

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in the Lisbon Land Records at volume 17, page 126.

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 3, 1994

Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street

City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 203 566-3005