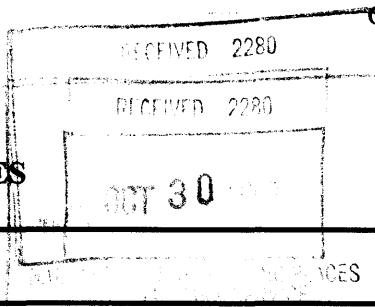


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Adath Israel Temple  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number 201 South Bolivar Avenue not for publication N/A  
city or town Cleveland vicinity  
state Mississippi code MS county Bolivar code 11 zip code 38732

**3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul  
Signature of certifying official

OCTOBER 28, 2002  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register
  - other (explain):

Edson R. Ball 12/12/02

for  
Signature of the Keeper                      Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Non-contributing
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
—	— sites
—	— structures
—	— objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the NR**

N/A N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: religious structure

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: religious structure

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Byzantine

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
 roof composition  
 walls concrete  
 other

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

- 
- 
- 

**Period of Significance** N/A

**Significant Dates** 1926-27

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)** N/A

- 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
- Name of repository  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Adath Israel Temple

County and State Bolivar, Mississippi

Page #4

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Easting</i>	<i>Northing</i>
<u>16</u>	<u>710800</u>	<u>3735780</u>

   See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Joan Embree

organization Preservation Consultant

date June 18, 2002

street & number 1364 Lake Valley Road

telephone (662) 324-0410

city or town Starkville

state MS zip code 39759

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Adath Israel Temple, Attn: Barbara T. Levingston, 1203 Farmer Street, Cleveland, MS

street & number 201 South Pearman Ave. telephone (662) 843-2791

city or town Cleveland

state MS zip code 38732

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of property Adath Israel Temple

County and state Bolivar, Mississippi

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DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Adath Israel Temple at 201 S. Bolivar St., in Cleveland, Bolivar County, Mississippi, is a one-story, irregularly massed brick building in a mid-20th century Academic Revival Byzantine style. The roofs of the temple and its additions are flat, not visible from ground level except for the copper-covered central dome and a pair of copper domes above facade "towers." The temple faces west on the corner of Bolivar and Shelby Streets in a residential area of Cleveland at the edge of the downtown district.

The temple, built of buff-colored brick, sits in a shallow "yard," with shrubbery and a narrow swath of grass between it and the street. Additions to the original building, in materials and style similar to the original, have extended the building so that it covers most of its city lot. Originally rectangular, the building's eastern and southern extensions have resulted in a sideways "U" shape.

The Temple's western-facing facade is its most dramatic. A wide, recessed, three-bay central entry is flanked by taller, blank "towers" distinguished by decorative brickwork and multiple planes, and copper domes above the concrete coping that hides the temple roof. The central area has double-leafed entry doors under a wide, shallow, intricate stained glass window. The replacement doors are centered between pilasters with battered, decorative brickwork "capitals," of "Egyptian" design and original metal and glass lanterns. Wide concrete steps with concrete walls and replacement metal railings. Flanking the pilasters in the entry are single stained-glass, double hung windows. The three central bays are further articulated by decorative brick panels above the doors and windows. The foundation for the building is poured concrete on both the original building and the additions. (See photo #1.)

On the Temple's southern elevation additions for the Rabbi's study (1961), at the west corner and the annex (1949-50), at the east corner, flank the original congregational space with its large memorial stained glass windows. The Rabbi's office is windowless on the southern and eastern elevations, creating blank buff brick walls on the exterior. The annex, containing classrooms, a kitchen, and a reception area, also veneered in buff brick, has four double-hung, wood-framed windows. Its cornice and windows details match those on the western facade. (See photo #2.)

The eastern elevation is hidden behind a neighbor's high wooden fence. It is faced with the same buff-colored brick as the other elevations and has matching brickwork and foundation details. Ten double-hung windows light the interior. (See photo #3.)

The northern elevation faces Shelby Avenue. A shallow, landscaped side yard separates the building from the sidewalk and street. At its eastern end, this elevation continues the double-hung windows of the addition and the irregular outline and Byzantine brickwork details of the original building and its addition. Fenestration on the north elevations includes two double-hung windows and a paneled street door in the annex, three large, round-arched, stained glass memorial windows and a smaller, double-hung, stained glass window in the main temple. On both this and the southern elevation, the westernmost corner is anchored by a multiple-planed "tower" feature capped by a hemispherical copper dome. The central copper dome over the original temple is visible on this and all other elevations.

The interiors of the Temple and its additions have been modified somewhat since their construction, but retain the massing and most of the finishes of the original interiors. The paneled wooden replacement double entry doors open into a shallow vestibule with restrooms located at either side and double-leafed, paneled wooden entry doors into the main Temple. Inside the second set of entry doors the main Temple has a deep, full-width, open area with memorial plaques for Temple members on the western wall and an auditorium with three aisles and two ranks of upholstered, theater-style seats. At the eastern end of the Temple, a slightly-raised dais fronts the modern, walnut double doors leading to the Ark. A light burns continuously over the Ark doors. A lectern and two chairs furnish the dais. (See photo #4.) The classroom addition on the east forms a L-shape around the original building and provides seven classrooms separated by folding dividers and partial walls. Floors are covered with vinyl tile, walls with wood paneling. Ten windows on the east elevation provide light for the area, which can be used as an open space. A classroom on the southern elevation has a raised floor and curtains, allowing it to be used as a performance area.

United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Name of property Adath Israel Temple

County and state Bolivar, Mississippi

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Adath Israel Temple at 201 S. Bolivar Avenue in Cleveland, Bolivar County, MS, is significant on a local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its Byzantine style, rare in Mississippi, and exemplary materials and construction. The Temple was built in 1926-27, when the Jewish community in Cleveland and throughout the Delta was well-established and its members were serving as commercial and civic leaders. Though small, the Temple expressed, through its unusual architectural style and its modern materials, the Jewish community's belief in its substantial presence in local commerce, society, and religion.

Historical Context

Adath Israel Temple is the primary building remaining in Cleveland to mark the importance of the Jewish community in the economic and civic development of the Mississippi Delta town. Jewish merchants, many of whom got their start in America by peddling goods on and near the Mississippi River, helped create the towns that were instrumental in altering the local economy from plantation agriculture to commercial agriculture.

Beginning in the early-to-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jewish immigrants, many from Europe, came to the southern United States in pursuit of opportunities denied them in other parts of the world because of their religion. Many European countries restricted the kinds of professions available to Jews.

"In Alsace, fought over for centuries between the armies of France and Germany, Jews couldn't own land ... they could be trained in photography, but couldn't practice photography," said Pamela Dorn Sezgin, project director for the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience in a 1998 interview with Orley Hood, Senior Editor for the Jackson, Mississippi based Clarion Ledger newspaper. (Vertical file, "Jews," Special Collections Division, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, n.p., n.d.) The immigrating Jews were accepted in the deep south because they provided services not otherwise available in the ante-bellum and early post-bellum south: they became the merchant class of the changing southern economy. Many eventually rose to positions of civic and commercial leadership in their communities.

"As the South's first urban areas evolved," Hood's article said, "Jewish immigrants opened for business, from peddler with pushcarts to a middle class with small general merchandise shops to wealthy gentry with downtown department stores." (Ibid.) In Cleveland, Leon Kamien and his wife Rachel, from the Polish town of Kamien, were among the first Jews to settle. The Kamiens moved initially to Durant, Mississippi, but moved to Cleveland and established their first store in 1892. That was only six years after the timber industry and the railroads created the town. Their business, Kamien's has survived through four generations and continues today in Cleveland's downtown. (Turitz, Jews in Early Mississippi, p. 74)

I.A. Kamien, a descendent, wrote in a 50-year history of the Temple: "In the first quarter of this century [20<sup>th</sup>], the average town in our area had from 5 to 15 Jewish families." (Kamien, "Adath Israel Congregation, 50-Year Historical Report," p. 1, unpublished, 1974) As of the 1920s, he said, "there was no Sabbath School or religious activity of any kind (although) several attempts were made to organize local Sunday schools within the towns." (Ibid.) In May of 1922, during a Sunday afternoon visit, three men planned to start a Community Hebrew Sunday School. Their first meeting "was held in the club rooms of the Rotary Club (above the Cleveland State Bank) on the second Sunday in May, 1922. As a result...Rabbi S.A. Rabinowitz of Greenville was asked to organize the Sunday School and the Cleveland Consolidated School building was offered and accepted as the first facility." (Ibid.)

By the summer of 1926, adult and youth classes and regular rabbinical visits were ongoing. The "community" religious training concept "drew members... from towns within a radius of 50 miles," Kamien's "History" says. (Ibid., p. 2) The first confirmation of young Jewish congregation members, a class of 10 boys and girls, took place on May 23, 1926, he reported. Both Jewish and non-Jewish members of the Delta community responded when the group decided to raise money for a Temple. A buff-brick, Byzantine-style building costing \$22,000 was dedicated Feb. 6, 1927. (Ibid.) A celebration banquet followed at the Hotel Grover in downtown Cleveland.

United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Name of property Adath Israel Temple

County and state Bolivar, Mississippi

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED

The building follows traditional prescriptions for Temple-building: "Early synagogues represented the Temple in Jerusalem...always rectangular, and of great simplicity. At the eastern end was located the holy ark or sanctuary in which were deposited the scrolls of the law. The Ark was placed on a raised platform reached by steps with seats for elders in front or at the sides, and before it hung a perpetual lamp." (Brunner, Arnold, in Sturgis, *Dictionary of Architecture*, pp. 704-705.) The structure or some part of it "was to overtop the surrounding buildings," though there were no specific instructions regulating the number of windows, the position and size of the entrance, or other details. It was supposed to be desirable to have the temple floor at a lower level than the entrance and vestibules. (Ibid.) Sturgis's turn-of-the-20th Century "Dictionary" noted that contemporary European synagogues followed the traditional forms in that they : had rectangular plans, placed the Ark in the same position; avoided transepts and ornate decoration, including representations of the human face; and kept separate galleries for women. They had, however, removed a desk on a raised platform in the center of the temple, from which the law was read. (Ibid., p. 706)

In 1926, Adath Israel Temple was still following these traditional design prescriptions. The few embellishments inside the temple, such as the stained glass windows, the perpetual lamp, and the furnishings, hold to the recommendations to "avoid human representations, including sculpture and paintings, and to use, instead, symbols such as flowers, grapes, pomegranates, and lions." The congregation faces the Ark and the East. And Gothic-arched windows echo Gothic vaulting in European synagogues such as those at Worms and Prague. (Ibid., p. 706) Brunner commented in Sturgis' book that "Since the expulsion of the Jews from Spain, the Moorish style of architecture has frequently been employed by synagogue builders." (p. 709) He said "synagogues have no traditional lines of architectural expressions" and that no distinct synagogue style had developed, but "A vague but unmistakable Oriental feeling is nearly always evident." (Ibid.)

Original blueprints for Adath Israel Temple were not available, but the specifications for the 1949-50 "Annex," stored in the Rabbi's office, were from the late Harold Kaplan's architectural office in Greenville, Mississippi. (See plan.)

Adath Israel Temple, in its compliance with traditional Jewish synagogue and temple forms, and in its importance as the primary built symbol of the local Jewish community in the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century makes a significant contribution to the historical architecture of Cleveland. It is a link in the chain of evidence of the value of the Jewish community to the development of post-Civil War commerce in the Delta Region of Mississippi.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9,10 Page 4

Name of property Adath Israel Temple

County and state Bolivar, Mississippi

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**Section 9**

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bolivar County, Mississippi. Chancery Court and Land Deed Records, 1926-1977. Bolivar County Courthouse, Cleveland, Mississippi.

Brunner, Arnold W. "Synagogue," a description in Sturgis, Russell. A Dictionary of Architecture...& Building. New York: McMillan & Co., 1902.

\_\_\_\_\_. Cleveland: A Centennial History. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1974.

\_\_\_\_\_. Goodspeed's Historical and Biographical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. II. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891.

Hood, Orley. "Camp helps keep Southerners in touch with Jewish roots." Jackson, Clarion Ledger, p. 1B, Feb. 23, 1998.

Kamien, Isadore A. "A History of the First 50 years of the Adath Israel Congregation." Unpublished manuscript, 1974, in keeping of Adath Israel Temple, Cleveland, MS.

Levingston, Alfred. "Remarks Regarding Rabbi Moses M. Landau On His 20 Years at Adath Israel Congregation." Copy of unpublished text, Sept. 15, 1977, in keeping of Adath Israel Temple, Cleveland, MS.

Turitz, Rabbi Leo E. and Evelyn. Jews in Early Mississippi. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1983.

**Section 10**

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot Seven (7) of Delta Heights Addition to the City of Cleveland, Mississippi, according to a map or plat of said addition on file in the office of the Clerk of the Chancery Court of Bolivar County at Cleveland, MS.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries are the lines of the original lot purchased for the construction of Adath Israel Temple.



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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 5

Name of property Adath Israel Temple

County and state Bolivar, Mississippi

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Adath Israel Temple
- (2) Cleveland, Bolivar County, Mississippi
- (3) Joan E. Embree, preservation consultant
- (4) Feb., 2002
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

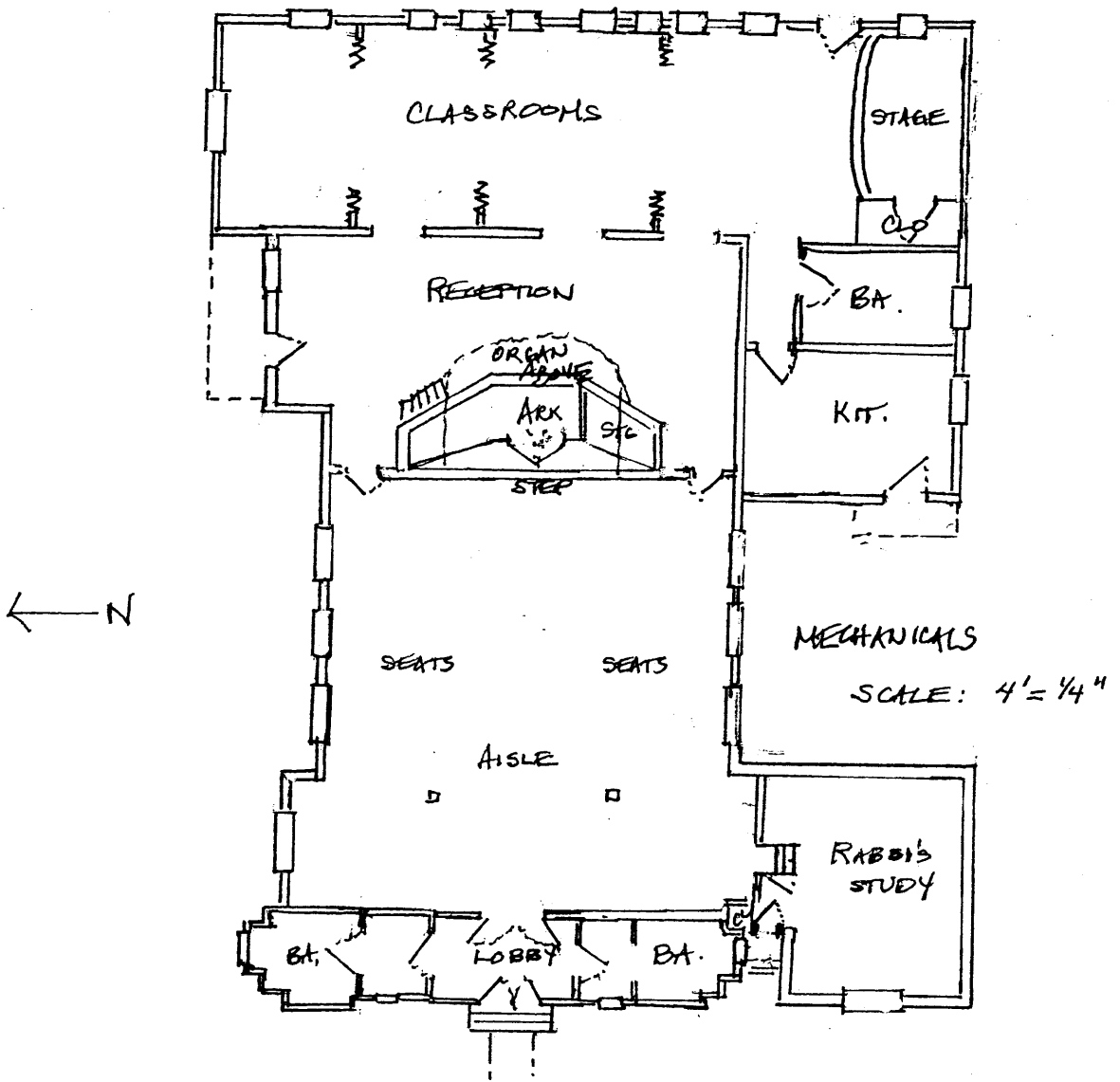
Photo 1-- View of the facade, view from west

Photo 2 -- View of entry portico, view from west

Photo 3 -- View of south elevation, view from southwest

Photo 4 -- View of interior, view from west

# ADATH ISRAEL TEMPLE



201 S. BOLIVAR ST.

CLEVELAND, BOLIVAR COUNTY

MISSISSIPPI