

JUN 27 1985

Utah State Historical Society

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. \_\_\_\_\_

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 355 S. 300 East  
Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah

UTM: Salt Lake City North Quad  
12 425600 4512430

Name of Structure: Congregation Montefiore Synagogue

T.1 S R.1 E S.6

Present Owner: Congregation Montefiore  
355 S. 300 East

Owner Address: Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Year Built (Tax Record):  
Legal Description

Effective Age:  
Kind of Building:

Tax #: 16-06-329-004-0000

Commencing 9.5 feet N from SW corner Lot 3 Block 36 Plat B Salt Lake City Survey,  
thence N 40 feet, E 10 rods, S 40 feet, W 10 rods to beginning.  
0.16 acre

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Congregation Montefiore

Construction Date: 1903

Demolition Date:

Original Use: religious

Present Use: religious

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

- |  |                                |   |   |                                     |  |   |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> Site  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant | <input type="checkbox"/> Not of the | <input type="checkbox"/> National Landmark | <input type="checkbox"/> District       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor Alterations | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributory           | Historic Period                     | <input type="checkbox"/> National Register | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Resource |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated    |                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Alterations            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Contributory       |                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> State Register    | <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic       |

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1985 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1985 Photo No.:

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers                    | <input type="checkbox"/> U of U Library |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plat Records/Map  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utah State Historical Society | <input type="checkbox"/> BYU Library    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax Card & Photo  | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Encyclopedias  | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interviews                      | <input type="checkbox"/> USU Library    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Permit   | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary Index              | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Church Archives                      | <input type="checkbox"/> SLC Library    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Permit                 | <input type="checkbox"/> County & City Histories     | <input type="checkbox"/> LDS Genealogical Society                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other          |

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

- Brooks, Juanita. History of the Jews in Utah and Idaho. Western Epics: Salt Lake City, 1973.
- Deseret Evening News. 1903.
- Jacobson, Moses P. (Rabbi). "Sketch of the Jewish Community in Utah," in World's Fair Ecclesiastical History of Utah. George Q. Cannon & Sons: Salt Lake City, 1893.
- Zucker, Louis C. "The Jews of Salt Lake City--Our Background." n.p. n.d.

Researcher: Phil Neuberg

Date: 1985

Architect/Builder: Carl Neuhausen/unknown

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: unknown/Moorish Revival influences

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:  
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The synagogue is a long rectangular building, the primary portion of which is defined by brick gabled walls facing east and west. The north and south walls, also of brick which appear to have been painted from the start are divided into nine bays--each containing a tall round arched window--by projecting pilasters. It is not known whether the pilasters serve to brace load bearing walls or whether they conceal steel columns which in turn might be attached to steel roof trusses. At both ends of the west facade are square towers with onion shaped domes atop broad bracketed cornices below which are arcades of Assyrian arches on columns. The tower shafts are brick; their bases and the entire original building base is of rusticated Ashlar stone, to the water table. In the center of the east gable wall is a metal plaque with a raised Hebrew inscription. Below the plaque is a round window with a six-pointed star pattern. Below this is a projecting entry vestibule with a flat roof and parapet walls. The west wall of the vestibule has an elaborate entrance composed of double doors surmounted by a transom and flanked by Byzantine columns which support a projecting semi-circular pediment. The Tympanum is glass, with diagonal and horizontal divisions. The rear addition is of masonry construction, probably with a steel frame. There is a flat roof on steel bar joists. The brick is the same color as the painted brick on the original building. The brick vestibule on the facade is an early, well-matched addition.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1903

The synagogue of the Congregation Montefiore is significant for its association with Utah's conservative Jewish population. The third Jewish house of worship to be constructed in two decades, the 1903 Moorish Revival synagogue is testimony to the diversity in religious practices within Utah's Jewish community. The conservative or 'Modern Orthodoxy,' as it was then known, grew in numbers as a direct result of Utah's development from territory to statehood. As Utah became part of the nation, national trends in emigration acted towards augmenting Utah's Jewry, particularly in the conservative fold.

Since 1884 when Issidore Morris left the congregation B'nai Israel in disagreement over the adoption of the Reform practices, tradition oriented Utah Jews have met to celebrate festivals and holidays. Usually they met in members' homes because their numbers were too few to support a synagogue. An 1892 estimate placed the entire Utah Jewish population at 1,050, over half of which were conservatives.<sup>1</sup> The conservatives appealed to the Board of B'nai Israel to use their new synagogue for traditional services to no avail. Yet, the financial situation at B'nai Israel was so desperate by 1895--they had gone through three rabbis in three years and were then without one--that a motion to dissolve the congregation was raised.<sup>2</sup> The incident is indicative of the animosity, real or imagined, which existed between the two groups. With their numbers growing as a direct result of the influx of Russian and eastern European immigrants, who were more likely than not to be traditional, the conservative population met in 1895 to incorporate as the Congregation Montefiore.

Named after the 19th Century British Jewish philanthropist, trouble shooter and financial adviser to the queen, Moses Montefiore, the congregation planned to raise another synagogue in Utah. They were given a parcel of land  
(See Continuation Page)

Congregation Montefiore Synagogue  
History (Continued):

by their fellow congregant, Morris Levy, located on Third East between Third and Fourth South in Salt Lake City. With the cornerstone laid in August, 1903, in the presence of L.D.S. Church President Joseph F. Smith, it was largely completed by the end of the year. The building was designed by local Salt Lake architect Carl Neuhausen and cost \$9,000.<sup>3</sup> The benign respect extended by Mormon authorities towards particularly Montefiore's members was a way of thanking the Jews for Issidore Morris' key role in securing the release from the federal penitentiary of Mormon polygamous Bishop William Smith. The congregation was financially aided by the Mormon church which gave \$2,000 toward the construction of this building. Built without central heat, the basement was also unfinished. The congregation joined the United Synagogues of America National Union in 1966. Finally in 1972 the congregation voted for merger with B'nai Israel.<sup>4</sup> An addition housing religious school activities was added to the rear after World War II.

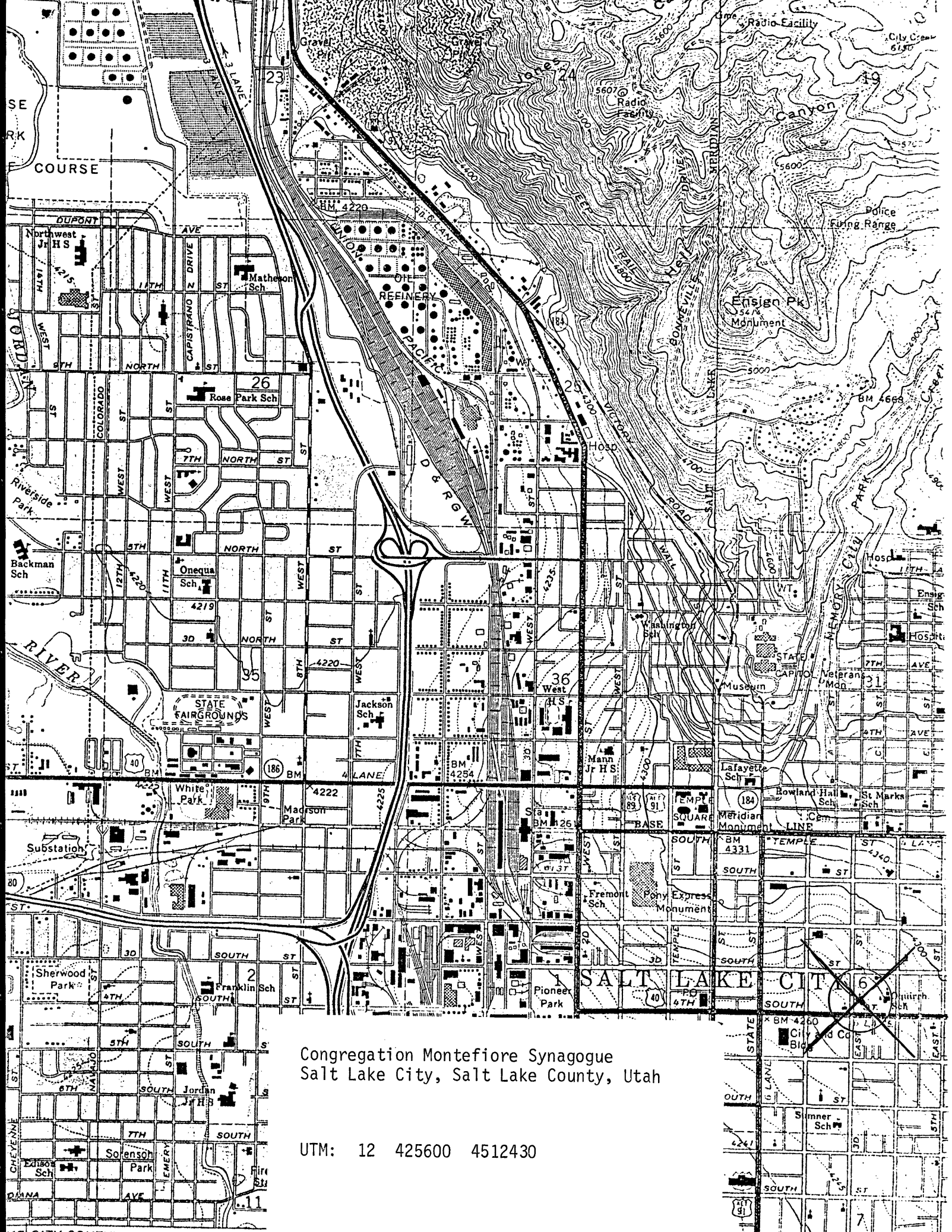
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1 Jacobson, pp. 304-306.

2 Brooks, Juanita: History of the Jews in Utah and Idaho, Western Epics: Salt Lake City, 1973, p. 105.

3 Salt Lake City Building Permit Index 1900-1904 - #3164. Deseret Evening News, Dec. 19, 1903.

4 Zucker, Louis C. "The Jews of Salt Lake City Our Background," A Monograph Date Unknown, Salt Lake City.



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