÷., Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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FOR NPS US	SEONLY	
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RECEIVED		1776
		SEP 1 8 1978
DATE ENTE	BED	3CL 1 0 1910

DATA CHEET

#### SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

# **1** NAME

HISTORIC

Temple Zion and School

AND/OR COMMON

The History Workshop (Outagamie County Historical Society)

## **2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

320 N. Durkee Stree	t (school: 309 E. Harris Street)	NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN Appleton	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Eighth
state Wisconsin	CODE 55	county code Outagamie 087

# **3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	X_MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)		UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

<b>4 OWNER O</b>	F PROPERTY				
NAME Outagamie	County Historical S	ociety, Inc			
STREET & NUMBER 320 North	Durkee Street				
city, town Appleton		VICINITY OF	W	STATE State	54911
5 LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DES	CRIPTION	N		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS	,ETC. Outagamie Cou	nty Registe	er of Deeds		
STREET & NUMBER 410 South	Walnut Street		uyunu ™u, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
сіту.тоwм Appleton			W	STATE State	54911
6 REPRESEN	NTATION IN EXIS	<b>STING SU</b>	RVEYS		
TITLE Wisconsin	Inventory of Histor	ic Places			
DATE 1977			FEDERAL XSTATE	COUNTY	LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	State Historical	Society of	Wisconsin		
CITY, TOWN		,		STATE	5070 <i>(</i>

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

# 7<sup>•</sup> DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
EXCELLENT _XGOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE	

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Temple Zion is a 42 by 67 foot frame structure with a gable roof. The main (west) facade is dominated by a squat center-front tower with a mansard roof and a jerkinheaded dormer. The tower is flanked by gable-roofed entrance wings. The main block of the temple is four bays deep with an apse-like structure at the rear. The building rests on a rubble foundation.

All facades incorporate stick-style elements. Clapboarded surfaces are taut, framed with vertical and horizontal "stickwork"; below the windows are panels of thin vertical boards. Windows and doorways all are in the form of Gothic lancets. Other embellishments to the building are a frieze on the tower with a rinceau motif, carved brackets in all eaves, curved truss design with rosettes and imbricated shingling in the entrances' gable ends, and gable hoods incorporating the lancet motif and supported by ornate carved brackets over the doors.

Although the exterior of the building looks substantially as it did when constructed, a number of decorative elements have been lost over time. Cresting has been removed from the tower and the gable entrances. Stained glass casement windows, with the exception of a single panel above the southernmost front door, have been lost, most of them having been sold during the Depression. Ornate carved doors have been replaced with plain ones. A circular stained glass window emblazoned with a pair of Torah scrolls, which was centered above the pair of lancets on the tower, was removed, and along with it some of the tower's "stickwork." Graceful stone stairs at both entrances also have been lost.

Little remains of the temple's original interior, apart from hardwood floors and a Felgemaker organ donated by the Zion Ladies Sewing Circle in 1907. The First Assembly of God's 1950's renovation project covered the walls and ceiling with fiberboard, and added a full basement to the building.

The Outagamie County Historical Society is committed to the preservation of the building. The society has done little to the interior of the building and uses the main floor as a museum. The choir loft is enclosed and used for office space. The basement will house a research library, darkroom, and a publications department. Last summer the society gave the building a much-needed paint job, rendering it appropriately in a polychromatic scheme.

Temple Zion school is a simple frame building 16 by 30 feet with a gable roof. The school is clapboarded and painted white. Stylistic embellishments include molded architraves and a triangular hood on brackets with a bell-shaped motif over the door.



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SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1883, 1884	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Henry G. Ash	man / Charles Hove
		INVENTION		association with im- portant individuals.
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS		POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_OTHER (SPECIFY) ethnic;
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	2LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X_RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Temple Zion and its school are significance to the history of Appleton as the focus of the city's important early German-Jewish community. Architecturally, with its exposed vertical and horizontal framing and taut surfaces, Temple Zion is a fine Wisconsin interpretation of the characteristically American exploitation of the qualities of wood in construction. Remaining buildings which resemble the east coast stick style are rare in Wisconsin, especially in religious architecture. The building's design reflects the liberality of Zion Congregation and the congregation's desire to be an integral part of Appleton society; the history of the building's construction and dedication testifies to the Jewish community's acceptance in that society. Temple Zion is also interesting for its association with three important individuals: Mayor David Hammel, Harry Houdini, and Edna Ferber.

Zion Congregation was formed in the 1850's by a group of German-Jewish immigrants to Appleton. In following decades the German-Jewish community grew and became established, and members of the congregation achieved positions of importance and responsibility in Appleton. Most notable among them was David Hammel, a horse-andcattle dealer who served repeatedly as mayor of the city in the 1890's; Hammel was president of the congregation and chairman of the building committee when the temple and school were constructed in 1883 and 1884.

In 1874 the congregation hired its first rabbi, Mayer Samuel Weiss. Weiss had emmigrated from Hungary that same year, and he brought with him a wife and an infant son, Erich. Young Erich grew up in Zion Congregation; later he would earn world-wide renown as the great escape artist and illusionist, Harry Houdini. Rabbi Weiss remained with the congregation less than ten years, and although Temple Zion was planned during his tenure, he left for Milwaukee before its dedication. Weiss was not well suited to Zion Congregation which found his religious views too orthodox; moreover, the liberal congregation wanted a rabbi who could preach in English and Weiss could not.

Planning for the temple began in 1879. The building committee, composed of Marcus Lyons, Gabe Ullman, and David Hammel as chairman, engaged Charles Hove, a local architect, to design the edifice. Hove maintained an office in Appleton during the 1880's and designed the Volksfreund Building on the corner of Morrison Street and College Avenue (NRHP, 12-27-74). The committee accepted a design which reflected the congregation's liberal outlook. The temple is squat, like other nineteenthcentury Wisconsin synagogues, although its Gothic lancet windows, more at home in a church because of their verticality and their medieval christian connotations, seem out of place.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet.

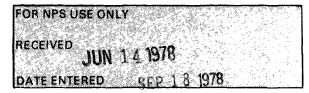
<b>10</b> GEOGRAPHICAL I		_		
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER	approximately 0.	2 acres		
QUADRANGLE NAMEApp	leton, Wis.		QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:2	4,000
A 116 3 8 8 0 9 0 ZONE EASTING C	4191012101210 NORTHING	B L L L ZONE EAS	TING NORTHING	
ELLI		FLI LL		
GL   L L		н		
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCR The north 60 feet of lot 2 in block 44, Ap Wisconsin.	lot 1 and the west appleton Plat, City of	f Appleton, O	utagamie County,	
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES	S OVERLAPPING S	TATE OR COUNTY BOUNDA	RIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
<b>11</b> FORM PREPARED NAME / TITLE David Donath, Histori ORGANIZATION		ndt, Architect	tural Historian DATE	
State Historical Soci	iety of Wisconsin		April 1978	
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
816 State Street			608/262-3390	
CITY OR TOWN		<u></u>	STATE	
Madison			Wisconsin 53706	
<b>12 STATE HISTORIC</b>	PRESERVATION	OFFICER C	بصرائب مسالا ملك متوالا سنان بالأمرية فماري المتكرب معاملة المراجع	
THE EVAL	UATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TH	IIS PROPERTY WIT	HIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	STATE		LOCAL X	
As the designated State Historic P hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth by	inclusion in the National Reg			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF	FICER SIGNATURE	(K,	relience 11 En	uly
TITLE Richard A. Erne	y, Director			198
FOR NPS USE ONLY	1966, M. A.GAR, S. GROCCE A, 1977, 60060, 6006, 600, 8667, 11, 601, M. 1975, 578, 5661, 1178, 787	997 J. 1997 P. 1998 P. 113 J. 1997 P. 1997 P. J. 1997	EGISTER , 1	
R.B. Kett	: 		DATE 9/8/	78
ATTAST KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL	- Debouch		DATE Sect 17	51978
$3\Omega$ CHIEF OF REGISTRATION			<b>4</b>	· · · · · ·

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

CONTINUATION SHEET

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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The citizens of Appleton lent appreciable encouragement to the building project. The list of subscribers to the building fund contains the names of several gentile pillars of the community. The new temple was completed by September 1883, and Appleton's citizenry, Jews and Gentiles both, turned out for the dedication ceremony; Mayor Richmond "opened the portals" at the event. The evening of Temple Zion's dedication "a crowd of Appleton's best and worthiest citizens" attended a festive banquet in celebration of Zion Congregation's new edifice. Rabbi Moses, who had delivered the dedication sermon, and the Reverend Mr. Banks, a member of Appleton's christian clergy, exchanged toasts to "the catholicity of true religion," to the demise of "the <u>odium theologicum</u> of the past," and to "religious liberty in America."<sup>1</sup>

The following year Zion Congregation erected a small one-room school building directly to the rear of the temple, hoping to avoid the costs of heating the larger building when classes in Hebrew and biblical studies were being conducted.

Notable among the scholars who attended the school and temple was Edna Ferber. Ferber's family had moved to Appleton about 1897, when she was ten years old. Edna found the ecumenical atmosphere of Appleton to be a bright contrast to the anti-Semitism she and her family had experienced in their previous home, Ottumwa, Iowa. David Hammel was then mayor of the city, and in later life she remembered Appleton as "the American small town at its best." In her autobiography, <u>A</u> <u>Peculiar Treasure</u>, she devoted an entire chapter to her recollections of Temple Zion, which she called Temple Emanu-El.<sup>2</sup>

By the late 1920's, Zion Congregation was in decline. In 1932 the congregation sold the edifice to the First Assembly of God, which undertook major remodeling of the interior in the 1950's. In 1977 the Outagamie County Historic Society bought the buildings to house their museum, history workshop, and offices. The society is adeptly working a historical interpretation of Temple Zion into their reuse of the buildings, and Temple Zion will remain a visual focus of local history in the Appleton area.

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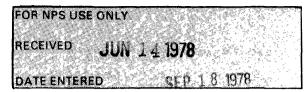
<sup>1.</sup> Appleton Weekly Crescent, September 8 and 22, 1883.

<sup>2.</sup> Edna Ferber, <u>A Peculiar Treasure</u> (Garden City, New York, 1960), p. 68 and chapter 6.

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