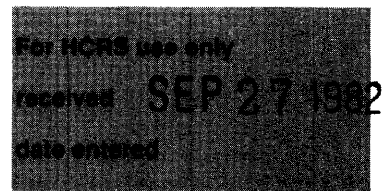


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Keneseth Israel Synagogue

and/or common Calvary Cathedral

2. Location

street & number 232-236
232-6 W. Jacob ST. na not for publication

city, town Louisville na vicinity of congressional district 3 & 4

state Kentucky code 021 county Jefferson code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>n/a</u> district	<u>n/a</u> public	<u>x</u> occupied	<u>n/a</u> agriculture
<u>x</u> building(s)	<u>x</u> private	<u>n/a</u> unoccupied	<u>n/a</u> commercial
<u>n/a</u> structure	<u>n/a</u> both	<u>n/a</u> work in progress	<u>n/a</u> educational
<u>n/a</u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>n/a</u> entertainment
<u>n/a</u> object	<u>n/a</u> in process	<u>n/a</u> yes: restricted	<u>x</u> religious
	<u>n/a</u> being considered	<u>x</u> yes: unrestricted	<u>n/a</u> scientific
		<u>n/a</u> no	<u>n/a</u> transportation
			<u>n/a</u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Calvary Cathedral

street & number 232-6 W. Jacob

city, town Louisville na vicinity of state Kentucky 40203

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Court House

street & number 517 W. Jefferson

city, town Louisville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ky Survey of Historic Site has this property been determined eligible? na yes xx no

date 1981 na federal xx state na county na local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Commission

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<u>X</u> excellent	<u>na</u> deteriorated	<u>na</u> unaltered	<u>X</u> original site
<u>na</u> good	<u>na</u> ruins	<u>X</u> altered	<u>na</u> moved date <u>n/a</u>
<u>na</u> fair	<u>na</u> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Keneseth Israel Synagogue is located just east of the Old Louisville Historic District (National Register, Feb. 1975) and south-east of the central business district.

Keneseth Israel Synagogue is a two-story structure with an orange, glazed brick facade. The facade has three bays. The end bays are pierced on the first and second stories by rectangular stained-glass windows set between narrow twisted engaged columns with Corinthian capitals. An incised wood panel articulates the windows horizontally. The upper window has an arched crown. The extrados of the arch end in volutes. The central bay has two fluted Corinthian columns and two matching pilasters attached to brick piers marking the entry. Three sets of double wood doors are capped by transoms which are ornamented by a screen of interlacing, round arch motifs. The door crown consists of a panel ornamented by a menorah and olive and oak branches. This element is surmounted by a stained-glass window flanked by the twisted columns. The window has a round-arch crown decorated with an urn and rinceaux designs. The columns support a simple, classical entablature which extends across the facade. An area of brick separates the entablature from the cornice which has modillions and dentils. The cornice caps the end bays, but a parapet rises above it over the center section. A stone Star of David adorns the center of the parapet which has a stone coping.

The educational building is connected to the rear of the sanctuary, facing Floyd Street. This three-story, five bay building has regular fenestration between pilasters. The building is capped by a pedimented parapet. This structure matches the main building in scale and materials.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<u>na</u> prehistoric	<u>na</u> archeology-prehistoric	<u>na</u> community planning	<u>na</u> landscape architecture	<u>na</u> religion
<u>na</u> 1400-1499	<u>na</u> archeology-historic	<u>na</u> conservation	<u>na</u> law	<u>na</u> science
<u>na</u> 1500-1599	<u>na</u> agriculture	<u>na</u> economics	<u>na</u> literature	<u>na</u> sculpture
<u>na</u> 1600-1699	<u>XX</u> architecture	<u>na</u> education	<u>na</u> military	<u>na</u> social/
<u>na</u> 1700-1799	<u>na</u> art	<u>na</u> engineering	<u>na</u> music	<u>na</u> humanitarian
<u>na</u> 1800-1899	<u>na</u> commerce	<u>na</u> exploration/settlement	<u>na</u> philosophy	<u>na</u> theater
<u>XX</u> 1900-	<u>na</u> communications	<u>na</u> industry	<u>na</u> politics/government	<u>na</u> transportation
		<u>na</u> invention		<u>na</u> other (specify)

Specific dates 1928, 1929 **Builder/Architect** Joseph & Joseph

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Keneseth Israel Temple is a handsome example of twentieth century Classical Revival architecture utilizing the then popular building material of glazed brick. The structure is one of a few ecclesiastical works of the prominent local architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph (founded 1908).

The Keneseth Israel congregation was formed in 1926 by the merging of the B'Nai Jacob and Beth Hamadrash Hagodel congregations, making the body the largest Jewish congregation in the city. The congregation constructed the Temple in 1928, and an adjoining religious center in 1929. The interior of the structure was damaged by wind in 1954, knocking out the ceiling of the sanctuary and breaking a one ton chandelier. The building was sold to Calvary Cathedral in 1965.

The structure is marked by a striking monumentally due in large part to the prominence of the portico, the massiveness of the columns and the surmounting parapet. Another interesting feature is the rich use of color and texture in its surface detailing. The orange tones of the bricks are a colorful mix with the predominately green tints of the stained glass. The richness of the terra cotta ornament contrasts with the gleaming surface of the glazed brick.

The design of the building by Joseph & Joseph is typical of their use of richly colored materials and lavish use of terra cotta ornamentation. The firm was responsible for some of the city's finest buildings in the 1920s, including the Rialto Theatre (destroyed) Kentucky Theatre, Commodore Apartments, Willow Terrace and Darthmouth Apartments and the Breslin (Fincastle) Building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architecture and Engineering by Joseph & Joseph.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa: French Stamats, 1940.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .34 acres

Quadrangle name Louisville West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	0	9	3	6	0	4	2	3	4	3	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

City of Louisville Block 30B, Lot 19-100'x150'. The church and Education building occupy almost the entire lot.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	na	code	na	county	na	code	na
	na		na		na		na
state		code		county		code	

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marty Hedgepeth, Director of Research

organization Landmarks Commission

date 7-23-82

street & number 727 W. Main Street

telephone 587-3501

city or town Louisville

state Kentucky

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Corman O'Neil

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Sept. 20, 1982

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/29/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Kenesth Israel Synagogue
Louisville, Jefferson Cty., KY.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

"Calvary Church Buys Old Synagogue,"
Louisville Times, 23 November, 1965.

"Ceiling Fall Litters Sanctuary," Louisville Times, 6 May 1954

"Opening of Center is Set," Louisville Times, 30 May 1929

"Stone for New Temple is Laid", Louisville Herald Post, 5 November 1928

"Synagogue Here. is Among South's Best," Louisville Hearld Post, 29 September 1929

Keneseth Israel Synagogue
232-6 W. Jacob
Louisville, Jefferson Cty. KY
Sanbon Map Co. Pellam, N.Y. 1974
Map 2

Keneseth Israel Synagogue
232-6 W. Jacob
Louisville, Jefferson Cty. KY
~~Real~~ Estate Atlas of Jefferson
Cty. Real Estate Data,

Miami, Florida, 1979
Map 3