

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. _____

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 2750 Grant
Ogden, Weber County, Utah

Name of Structure: Congregation B'rith Sholem Synagogue

Present Owner: Congregation B'rith Sholem
2750 Grant

Owner Address: Ogden, Utah 84403

UTM: Ogden Quad
12 418480 4562920
T. 6 N R. 1 W S. 32

Year Built (Tax Record): _____ Effective Age: _____ Tax #: 01-04-0031
Legal Description: _____ Kind of Building: _____

Beginning at a point 50 feet S of the NW corner of Lot 5 Block 4 Plat A Ogden City Survey, thence E 8 rods to the E line of said lot, S 50 feet, W 8 rods to the W line of said lot, N 50 feet to place of beginning.
Less than one acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Congregation B'rith Sholem Construction Date: 1921 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 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 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.

Architect/Builder: unknown

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: undefined

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

This is a single story brick building with gable ends facing east and west. There is a broad overhang, on all sides. The east wall has a projecting semi-circular apse, the ark inside. The north and south walls are divided into four bays with industrial steel frame sash, six over six lights in most bays. Pilasters divide the bays. There are ornate steel grilles containing the Star of David in front of steel frame windows on the west wall either side of the door. The door is flanked by two Byzantine columns which support a wide frieze and a projecting semi-circular pediment. There is a Jewish Star from which rays burst forth like spokes from a wheel carved in the Tympanum. "Congregation B'rith Sholem" is engraved into the stone frieze. There are three steps to the front doors which are recessed in an elaborate surround. The building has a concrete basement containing a floor furnace. The building is virtually unaltered except for the possible addition of the metal grills over the front windows.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1921

The synagogue of the Congregation B'rith Sholem, built in 1921, is significant as the only Jewish house of worship in Utah built outside of Salt Lake City. As such, it represents the only successful attempt to expand the base of Jewish religious activity from the capital city to other urban areas of the state. The congregation has been in existence for over 65 years and still uses the building as a place for weekly Friday night services.

Ogden's Jewish population began meeting under the name Ohab Sholem in 1890. Meetings took place at Ben Oppman's Clothing Store (352 25th Street) and later in rented quarters.¹ Before 1917 there were no meetings beyond the major holiday services. From 1917 to 1918 Rabbi H. Alcott officiated over services. Evidently this spurred the membership into thinking about a synagogue, for in 1917 a parcel on Grant between 27th and 28th streets was purchased² for \$1,600. The building was dedicated August 21, 1921 in a style described as "mainly American, but shows a slight Grecian influence."³ The congregation is self-led having no rabbi. They still conduct Friday night services there.

¹ Brooks, p. 182.

² Weber County, Utah, Deed Book #82, pp. 52-53.

³ Brooks, p. 183.