Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

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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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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The synagogue is basilican in shape, without transepts. It has a clerestory and side aisles, round-arched windows, and a circular "rose" window in the facade, much in the manner of traditional Romanesque churches. The foundation is of stone, with alternating courses of tan and pinkish local sandstone, but the bulk of the structure is of wood.

Shingles are applied with regard to both decoration and imitation of the stone-work below. Corners of the facade are flared outward at the top, offsetting the stone base, which is slightly battered.

A rhythm of circles is effectively employed in the front of the building, there being five small ones in the tracery supporting the "rose", and a round window in each aisle-ending flanking it. On the interior, nave ribs have been extended into Moorish arches before cutting back to supporting columns.

The general impression conveyed by this building is of pleasing unity of forms and textures, and of somewhat exotic variations on the typical Romane que forms, suggesting a touch of the East altogether appropriate for a synagogue. The structure is virtually unaltered since its erection in 1895, and has been well maintained.



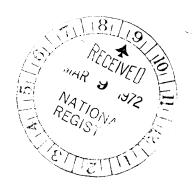
8.

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)  Pre-Columbian	SIGNIFICANCE							
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

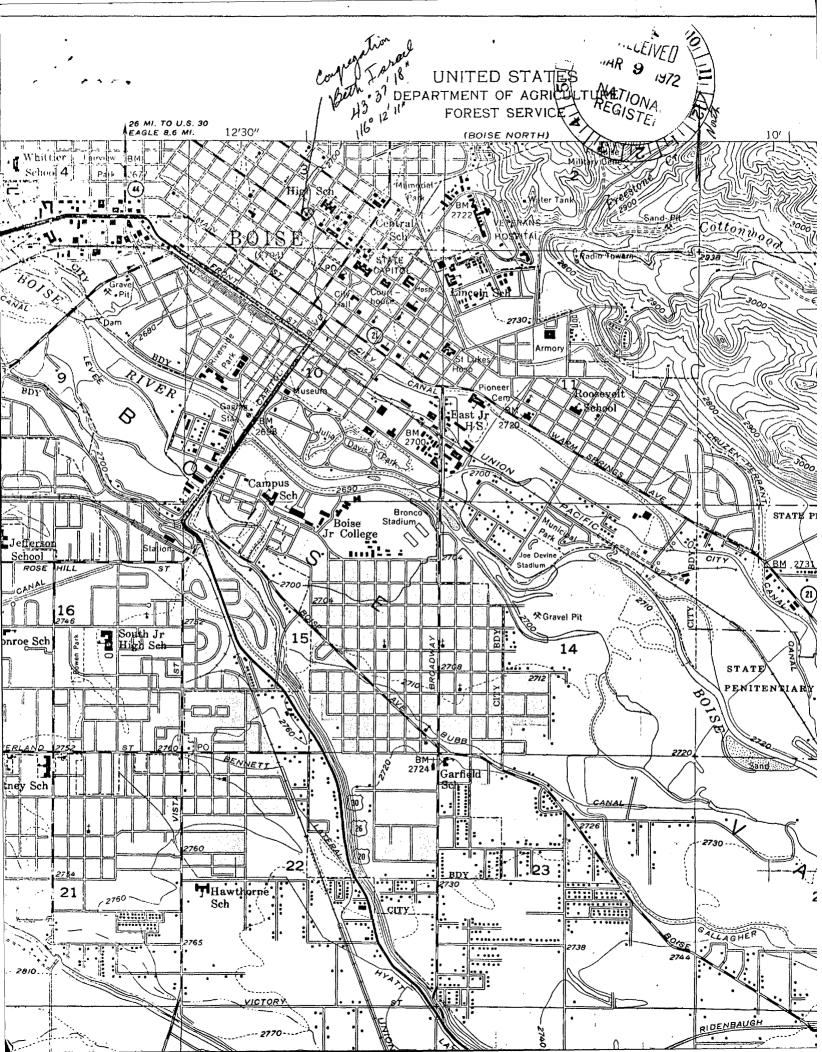
The Beth Israel synagogue is the oldest in Idaho. According to Jewish sources, none of the older congregations in the western United States still occupies its original building. Until 1895, when this congregation was formed, Boise's small Jewish community worshipped in private homes or in rented halls. Jews were among the city's earliest settlers and leading citizens.

The first president of the congregation was David Falk, a pioneer merchant and leading citizen of Boise. His brother Nathan, partner in the firm of D. Falk and Brother, was elected second president of the congregation in January, 1896. Moses Alexander, one of the founders, was vice president the first two years, and was elected as the congregation's third president for the year 1897. He was also elected Mayor of Boise that same year for the first of two terms, and in 1915 began the first of two terms as Governor of Idaho.



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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number	Page

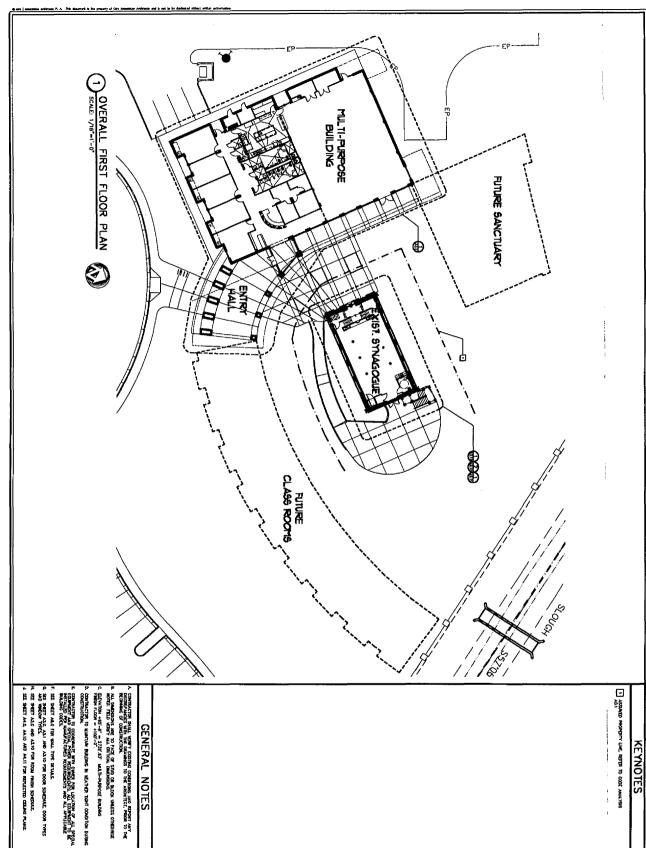
**Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue** 

Boise, Ada County, Idaho

PROPOSED MOVE APPROVAL

Keeper of the National Register

Date



Overall Floor Plans A2.0



PHASE 1	30 N. LATAH ST. BOSIE, IDAHO	Multi-Purpose Buil
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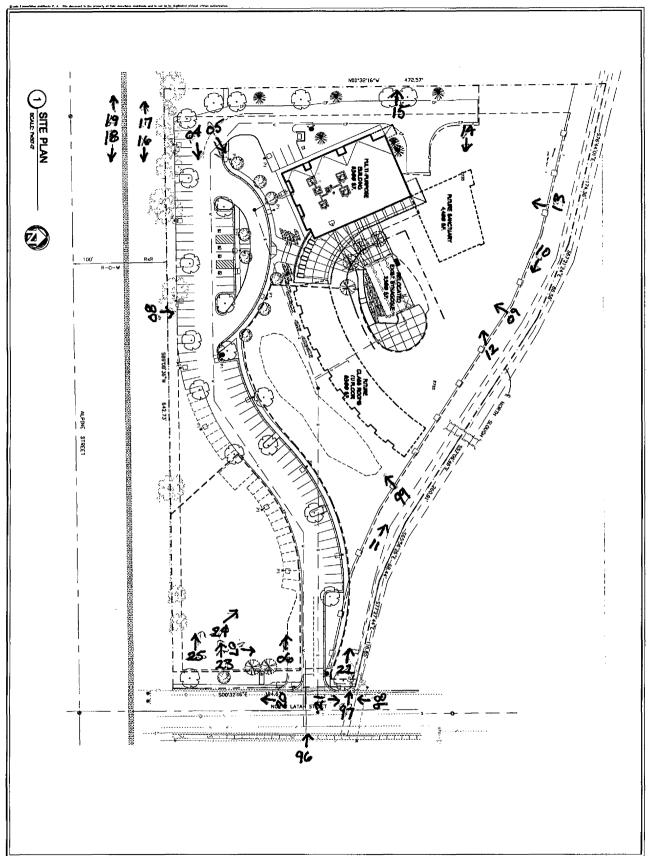
PHASE 1	BOSE DAHO	Multi-Purpose Building	AHAVATH BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
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new building for:









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