

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0667862

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 1 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 1 1978

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  
BETH HILLEL SYNAGOGUE  
AND/OR COMMON  
Beth Hillel Synagogue

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Irving Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Carmel  
STATE  
New Jersey  
VICINITY OF  
Millville  
COUNTY  
Cumberland  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second  
CODE  
011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Congregation Beth Hillel  
STREET & NUMBER  
Irving Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Carmel  
VICINITY OF  
Millville  
STATE  
New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Cumberland County Court House  
STREET & NUMBER  
Broad and Fayette  
CITY, TOWN  
Bridgeton  
STATE  
New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Cumberland County Register of Historic Structures and Sites  
DATE  
March 1977  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS  
Cumberland County Planning Board  
CITY, TOWN  
Bridgeton  
STATE  
New Jersey  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
X

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## Beth-Hillel Synagogue

The Beth-Hillel Synagogue was built during the period 1901-1909 in a classical vernacular style. A description of this structure is as follows.

### Exterior:

The Synagogue is a rectangular, 2 1/2 story common bond brick structure with corner and central pilasters. It rests upon a stone foundation and is surmounted by an asphalt shingled mansard roof with eyelid dormers.

Entrances are located on the north and west facades. Each of the entrances contains plain wooden double doors. Located above each of these doors is a Star of David, designed of brick, placed against the wall. The main entrance (north) has a 1 story, 1 bay, brick two step porch surmounted by an asphalt shingled gable roof. The side entrance (west) has a concave, gabled hood which rests upon two plain wooden columns and a four step concrete stoop.

All windows in this unit are round arched with radiating visors, 2 over 2 double hung sashes and overhead 3 light, mullion.

### Interior:

The interior height is approximately 21' from floor to ceiling. On plan, the Synagogue has one large room with end hall on the first floor and a balcony at the second floor level.

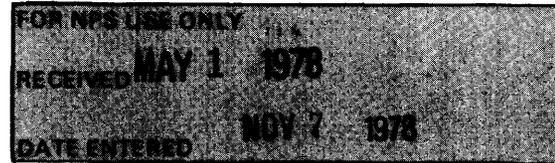
Located centrally on the east wall between two windows is the ark (a repository traditionally in or against the wall of a Synagogue for the scrolls of the Torah) which in turn surmounts the bema. The ark is a paneled wooden cabinet approximately 6' high. Adjoining each of the cabinet's sides is a carved, gilded, peacock, the plumage of which extends three-quarters of the side's length. Surmounting the ark is another gilded carving incorporating a replica of the Torah and Commandments of God.

All of the above rest upon the bema which is a 2 stage podium surrounded by a banister comprised of turned newel posts, balusters and cyma, fillet handrails. Access to the bema is made by means of a pair of 3 step stairs located centrally to the north and south of the podium.

Located directly above the ark and bema is the eternal light which symbolizes the timeless presence of God.

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7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

An open 3 run stair (to the balcony) is located in the main (eastern) hall.

The balcony extends across the interior (at the 2 nd floor level) on the northern, eastern and southern walls. The balcony contains seating traditionally used by the women in the congregation and a wainscotted rail with simple rounded handrail.

All walls in the Synagogue are 1/4 paneled. Most of the original fabric of this structure still remains in tact.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beth-Hillel Synagogue is of local significance for the following reasons. Architecturally the Synagogue is of a classical vernacular type of the period. Furthermore, it is the only extant structure associated with the first Jewish settlement of Carmel and thus the religious and local history of Cumberland County.

### Architecture:

The Beth-Hillel Synagogue, erected during the period 1901-1909, stands as a fair example of the classical vernacular style architecture in Carmel Township and outlying areas. It exemplifies the way in which religious edifices incorporated details from major styles of the time. Notable exterior features include: corner and central pilasters, round arch windows with radiating visors, inset with a pair of 2 over 2 double hung sashes and overhead mullion. The interior features are the most noteworthy aspect of the Synagogue. These features include: paneled wooden ark with carved gilded peacocks and carved replica Torah, 2 stage bema with turned newel posts, balusters and cyma, fillet handrails, 1/4 paneling and upper gallery.

Most of the original fabric of the Beth Hillel Synagogue remains intact.

### Religion and History:

The following narrative depicts the origins of the first Jewish Carmel Settlement and the profound effect it had over the religious and local (social, economic) history of the Community of Carmel.

The Jewish settlement of Carmel began in 1882, when a group of Russian families emigrated to the area, with the help of one Michael Heilprin, to escape the large scale pogroms stimulated by the Russo-Turkish War and the assassination of Czar Alexander II.

Michael Heilprin, was born in Piotrkow Poland in 1823, where he lived until 1842. At this time he fled to Hungary, to escape Polish oppression, from whence he came to the United States setting in Carmel where he died in 1888.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A. Posthumously printed autobiography of Louis Mounier, a private publication left by his will to the persons designated therein. A copy is owned by Mrs. Lillian April, who is preparing this form, and by her daughter, Miriam April; permission to quote from same was obtained from Louis Mounier's daughter, (Mrs. Paul) Louise Eggleston, now of Denver, Colorado.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.3

UTM REFERENCES

18 <del>589220</del> <sup>770</sup> 4364800			
A	4189220	4364800	
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C			
B			
D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Deerfield Township, Cumberland County, Block 69, Lot 5, Map Page 142.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George A. Chidley IV, Research Historian 12/5/77

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Office of Historic Preservation 292-2024

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 West State Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Trenton New Jersey

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL XXX

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *George A. Chidley IV*

TITLE Deputy, State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 4-15-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *BLO* *Belovich*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/2/78  
 DATE 10/23/78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The settlement was found in a little known section of South Jersey located on the crossroads; where the Bridgetown to Vineland Roads intersects the Philadelphia to Cape May highway. During the early 1800's this parcel was known as Bever Dam. It serviced one tavern and several small farms owned and operated by a group of Pennsylvania Germans. This land proved to be poor for farming the result being that the property was willingly sold to the emigrating Jewish families. The community name was changed by its new inhabitant from Bever Dam to Carmel after the Har Carmel in Palistine.

Michael Heilprin who had become the mainstay of the settlement, spent the 5 years following 1882 establishing an economic base for the community. He procured sewing machines and set up small "sweat shops" in each home, which did piece work brought from Philadelphia. Other occupations in the community included shoemaker, tanner, saddler, locksmith, tailor, cigarmaker, carpenter and farmer.

When Michael Heilprin died in 1888, Rabbi Sabato Morais (trustee of the Baron de Hirsch Fund) became interested in the colony. At the request of one Moses Klein, of Philadelphia, Morais visited Carmel and reported his findings in the "Migdal Zophim". The above document was placed in the Library of Congress collection in 1889. According to this work there were only 30 homes to service a population of 286 Jews. As a direct result of Rabbi Sabato Morais's report the colonists received \$5,000 from the Baron de Hirsch Fund for the purchase of 36 new homes and other necessary objects.

In the early 1890's the sewing work had increased in size to the point where a 3 story factory was built and several related businesses (clothing) were instituted. By the turn of the century Carmel had grown from 36 families to 89 and several more factories were put into operation, these provided the main source of income for the colonists.

However, Carmel's prosperous outlook only lasted for a time, for the community could not stay the pace of the rapidly advancing techniques of industrialization. Gradually the factories closed and many of the families moved leaving the town much as it is today.

The present Synagogue, erected during the period 1901-1907 and named Beth-Hillel, is the only extant structure soley connected with the first settlement of Carmel. It was built by means of contributions of the citizens of Carmel as a focal point to identify their past.

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9. BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)
- B. Souvenir Booklet of 75th Anniversary of Carmel, New Jersey, copy is in possession Mrs. Lillian April, information concerning Migdal Zophim appears therein.