UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL	REGISTER	OF HIST	ORIC PLA	CES
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FOR NPS U	SEONIV		
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			시간선물에 되어 그렇지만 되다.
	시하하다 수 없는다		
procure			
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DATE ENTE	DEA	5.5	그 승규는 이 사람이 하는데

SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T			S
NAME	TYPE ALL ENTRIES	COMPLETE APPLICAB	LE SECTIONS	
- HISTORIC				
	reet Temple (Isaac M	. Wise Temple)		
AND/OR COMMON K. K. B	nai Yeshurun			
LOCATION	J			
STREET & NUMBER	n' 141 1 n1	C 4		
S.E. COI	mer Eighth and Plum	Streets	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	NOT
Cincinna	nti	_ VICINITY OF	congressional distr	er er
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Ohio			Hamilton	
CLASSIFIC	CATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	SENT USE
V DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XXOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
_XBUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	XXRELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		_N0	MILITARY	OTHER.
NAME K. K. B'N STREET & NUMBER	F PROPERTY Nai Yeshurun Ston Avenue 452	20		
CITY, TOWN	Andrew Control of the		STATE	
Cincinnat		VICINITY OF	Ohio	
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS	ETC Hamilton County	Court House		
STREET & NUMBER	Court and Main S	tmoots		
CITY, TOWN	Court and Marin S	rieerz	STATE	
	Cincinnati		Ohio	
REPRESEN	ITATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
Invento	ry and Appraisal of H	listoric Sites, Bui	lldings and Areas	
1960		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Cincinnati City Hal	1. 801 Plum Street	-	
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
	Cincinnati		Ohio	

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT.

__DETERIORATED

XXUNALTERED __ALTERED

XX ORIGINAL SITE

__GOOD

__RUINS __UNEXPOSED __MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"A spectacular mixture of Gothic and Moorish or Near Eastern elements, both within and without, the result is quite fantastic and flamboyantly colorful."

The structure is of red brick with buff lime stone trim that is richly ornamented in low relief in the Moorish style. The facade is divided into three bays with the high central nave of a Christian basilica with deeply recessed doors. Two polygonal minarets rise 50 feet above the roof.

The plan includes the nave (34 x 100 feet), two side aisles (17 x 74 feet), two transepts (34 x 34 feet). There is a basement level used for school rooms, a kitchen facility and for the Rabbi's study. The main floor of the temple is 75 feet from the floor to the roof, the transepts 45 feet high and the side aisles 35 feet high. The two story nave is lighted by a clerestory level above whose windows are framed in pointed arches. The roof is supported on slender cast iron columns with Moorish capitals. The altar is at the east end of the building with a rose window above matching the west door, with its rose window. Over the four bays of the nave and side aisles and above the center of the transept rise 13 domes on octagonal bases. The whole interior is richly decorated with eastern ornament. This picturesque embellishment was painted on in 1874 by the German artist, Thien. Successive restorations have left the original work intact including the elaborate inscriptions in Hebrew in the cornice, over the arches and above the Ark. The last cleaning and restoration was carried out in 1969.

Patton, Glen <u>James Keys Wilson</u> Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians Vol. XXVI No. 4, December 1967

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	XXRELIGION	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION			
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1865 - 1866	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT James Keys W	ilson	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Plum Street Temple is important architecturally and to the history of the Reform Judaism in the United States. Beginning in the early 19th century in Germany, Reform Judaism was brought to America by immigrants and reached its zenith under Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, Wise became Rabbi at the Plum Street Temple in 1854 and guided that congregation for 53 years. During that period the Synagogue was the leading reform temple in the United States. Rabbi Wise was the first President of the Union of American Hebrew congregations and was the founder of Hebrew Union College.

The congregation was incorporated in 1842 and outgrew an earlier synagogue. In 1863 subscriptions were circulated for a new building and the present site was purchased in 1863 for \$35,000. Ground was broken that year. The Civil War halted construction but the cornerstone was laid on May 12, 1865 and the Synagogue opened August 24 of that year. Current news accounts noted "It is in the Byzantine style with two steeples...the building, according to the plan, will be truly grand, both in design and dimensions." Another booklet notes: "It is an Alhambra temple, with slender pillars and thirteen domes [perhaps to correspond to the famous passage in Exodus 34:6,7 with the thirteen attributes of God." ²

The origins of the congregation were central European and particularly Germany and the architectural style is based on the Romantic movement abroad documented by Rachel Wischnitzer in Synagogue Architecture in the United States. The search among the Jews for an architectural style that gave them a special identity may be derived from a group of central European monumental designs, Rabbi Isaac Wise identified this Moorish style with Reform Judaism and the Plum Street Temple was the first Moorish Synagogue in the United States. (Temple Emanu-El in New York was demolished in 1927, Central Synagogue in New York is another excellent example of this style)

¹May 6, 1864, <u>The American Israelite</u>

²50th anniversary booklet 1892, Isaac M. Wise and Max B. May

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Heller, James G., A Yesterday when it is Past, A History of the Isaac M. Wise Temple - K. K. B'nai Yeshurun - of Cincinnatti in Commemoration of the Centenary of Its Founding. Cincinnati, Copywrite 1942 by Isaac M. Wise Temple, 236 pp.
Wischnitzer, Rachel, Synagogue Architecture in the United States, Philadelphia

	cation Society of A		ed States, Filliaderphia.
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UTM REFERENCES			
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Hamilton County Plat ID Book 77, Parcels 63,64,65	page 1		
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERTI	ES OVERLAPPING STATE	OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NAME/TITLE Carolyn Pitts ORGANIZATION National Park Service STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street NW. CITY OR TOWN Washington.	ce - Historic Sites	s Survey	DATE 2/27/75 TELEPHONE STATE D.C.
12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATION  UATED SIGNIFICANCE OF T		
NATIONAL	STATE	-	LOCAL
	r inclusion in the National Re		on Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I mas been evaluated according to the
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNA	TURE		
TITLE			DATE
OR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	PROPERTY IS INCLUDED I	N THE NATIONAL REGIST	rer
DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ADOLE			DATE
	OLOGY AND HISTORIC BOL	ECEPVATION	·
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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Plum Street Temple

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The architect was James Keys Wilson (1828-1894) who had studied his profession under James Renwick and Martin E. Thompson. Wilson is better known for his buildings in the Gothic Revival style so he must have collaborated directly with Rabbi Wise. This New World "Alhambra" is one of the outstanding examples of the Moorish style.

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

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Plum Street Temple

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- Cincinnati Commercial, May 13, 1865, Description of the Design of the New Temple.
- Patton, Glen, <u>James Keys Wilson</u> (1828-1894), Architect of the Gothic Revival in Cincinnati. Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. Vol. XXVI No. 4 December 1967.
- Smith, S. Winifred, <u>Museum Echoes</u>: Plum Street Temple Published by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. September 1948.

