1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Anshei Israel Synagogue

Other Name/Site Number: NA

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 142 Newent Road - State Road 138 Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Lisbon                     Vicinity: ________________


3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property              Category of Property

Private: x          Building(s): x
Public-Local: ___    District: ___
Public-State: ___    Site: ___
Public-Federal: ___  Structure: ___

Object: ___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing       Noncontributing

___ 1

___ buildings

___ sites

___ structures

___ objects

___ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: NA

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: Historic Synagogues of Connecticut
4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature]
June 14, 1995
Signature of Certifying Official

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature]  Date
Signature of Commenting or Other Official

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

[ ] Entered in the National Register
[ ] Determined eligible for the National Register
[ ] Determined not eligible for the National Register
[ ] Removed from the National Register
[ ] Other (explain): ______________

[Signature]  Date
Signature of Keeper  Date of Action
6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: religious structure Sub: synagogue

Current: religious structure Sub: vacant

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Materials:

20TH CENTURY REVIVAL Foundation: STONE/Fieldstone
Colonial Revival Walls: WOOD/Weatherboard

Roof: ASPHALT
Other: __________________________

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Exterior

Anshei Israel Synagogue is a small gable-roofed clapboarded building with central projecting tower. Facing south near the highway about half a mile west of Jewett City, it is closely surrounded by trees and brush, visually isolated from other structures. (Photograph 34)

The white 20' x 30' building is identified as a synagogue by its tall projecting 5' x 9' tower with Magen David at the top. The front door in the tower is glazed with a large pane over square and horizontal panels. Above it is a small hemispherical window with simple radial glazing. Under the eaves the Magen David is fixed in place an inch or two out from the clapboards. The gable roof of the tower is pitched at a slope about the same as that of the main roof, but perhaps not quite as steeply. The tower is flanked by single 2-over-2 windows and there are two of the same windows on each of the side and rear elevations. Paint remnants indicate that the sash once were a bright blue color.

Interior

The interior is not accessible, but Leonard Goldberg describes it as one room with a platform and an ark at the front. Seating for men and women was on benches or chairs, some at tables, an unusual arrangement in historic Connecticut synagogues. The Torah scrolls have now been removed from the ark for safekeeping.
8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: ___ Statewide: ___ Locally: x

Applicable National Register Criteria: A ___ B ___ C x D ___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A x B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___

Areas of Significance: Period(s) of Significance Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE 1936 1945 1936

__________________________  ______________________  ______________________
__________________________  ______________________  ______________________
__________________________  ______________________  ______________________

Significant Person(s): ______________________________
____________________________

Cultural Affiliation: ________________________________

Architect/Builder: /George Allen & Sons
____________________________

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Architectural Significance

Anshei Israel Synagogue is significant architecturally because it is a good example of a small country Jewish house of worship. The architecture is the epitome of simplicity, but, due to its tall projecting tower, undeniably in the Colonial Revival tradition. At present, the building is sound and in a good state of preservation, but unused. Nestled close to the road among trees and encroaching underbrush, it is visually distinguished by its setting, which is unique among historic Connecticut synagogues.
Anshei Israel Synagogue, Lisbon, CT

Historical Background

Anshei Israel Synagogue is associated with the small country congregation that built the structure and used it until recent years. The land for the building, a corner of his farm, was given by Harry Rothenberg, a member of the congregation, ca. 1936. Another abutting property owner, Oscar Silverleib, was a member of the congregation as well.

Jerome Zuckerbraun, son of Issac Zuckerbraun, a founder, recalls that the 15 founding families came from several towns in Poland and Russia. They lived in Plainfield, Lisbon, Prescott, Griswold, and Jewett City. Since their homes were too far from the synagogue to make walking to services a practical matter, they rode to a point and then had a long walk to the synagogue. He recalls that the early members were easily identifiable by the way they looked. They wore "Russian clothes," "suits that didn't fit," and "big hats." After World War II the congregation was kept going by new refugees. The last of the founding members died in 1990. Some part of the congregation now attends services at the synagogue in Danielson.

Jerome Zuckerbraun's cousin, Ethel Batnick, whose father also was a founder, recalls the carving by a member whose name was Sakowitz which graced the front of the interior, including two doves, in color, which she believes are still in place. The separate women's seating was at a table on the right near the door.

Registration Requirements

Anshei Israel Synagogue qualifies under Criterion C for inclusion in this multiple property listing as a country or resort synagogue in Connecticut by meeting the following requirements:

- Functioned before 1945 as a Jewish house of worship
- Located in a rural setting relatively separate from other buildings, or along the Connecticut shoreline
- Exhibits integrity of design and workmanship
- Constructed prior to 1945
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ethel Batnick, daughter of a founding member of the congregation, interview, June 7, 1991.

Leonard Goldberg, "Lisbon Synagogue," entry in an undated, unidentified publication.


Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ Previously Listed in the National Register.
___ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
___ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
___ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #_________
___ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #_________

Primary Location of Additional Data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State Agency
___ Federal Agency
___ Local Government
___ University
___ Other: Specify Repository: ________________________________
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: _less than one_

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting

Verbal Boundary Description:
The nominated property is described in the Lisbon Land Records at volume 17, page 126.

Boundary Justification:
The nominated property encompasses land that has gone with the building since it was erected.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator
Org.: Connecticut Historical Commission
Date: September 3, 1994
Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street
City/Town: Hartford
State: CT
ZIP: 06106
Telephone: 203 566-3005