

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

PH 0037362

STATE: Idaho	
COUNTY: Ada	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 3	1972

1. NAME

COMMON:

Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1102 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boise

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY:

Ada

CODE

001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:

Congregation Beth Israel

STREET AND NUMBER:

1102 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boise

STATE:

Idaho

CODE

16

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Ada County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Boise

STATE:

Idaho

CODE

16

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .5 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

State Sites Survey, Boise

DATE OF SURVEY:

1970

Federal ☐State ☒County ☐Local ☒

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Idaho State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

610 North Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Boise

STATE:

Idaho

CODE

16

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Idaho
COUNTY:	Ada
ENTRY NUMBER	NOV 3 1972
DATE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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 Romanesque 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.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☐20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1995

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☒Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☒ArchitectureAgriculture ☐Invention ☐Science ☐Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐Commerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

Communications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

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.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Minutes of Congregation on Beth Israel, in American Jewish Archives,
Cincinnati, Ohio.
Idaho Daily Statesman



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

HR
NO
UTM

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Idaho	16	Ada	001
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Arthur A. Hart, Director		
ORGANIZATION Idaho State Historical Museum	DATE Feb. 24, 1972	
STREET AND NUMBER: 610 North Julia Davis Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Boise	STATE Idaho	CODE 16

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Merle Wells

Title

State Liaison Officer

February 24, 1972

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

11/3/72

ATTEST

William M. Montague
Keeper of The National Register

Date

11.1.72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPERTY

Congregation Beth

Israel Synagogue

STATE

Idaho

DATE OF RECEIPT 3-9-72

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER NOV 3 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

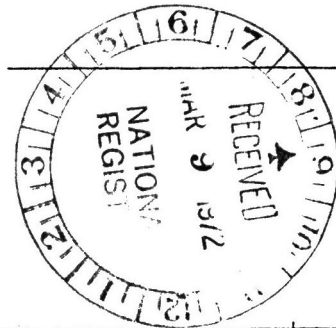
MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE 3-10-72

RESUBMIT



REVIEW

HISTORIAN

OK. *Chambers*
9/28/72

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT Re. number 3, "Classification" - someone may want to tell them
that architecture is not a use. Good blog. Writers should mention
Moorish influence.

ASST. KEEPER

OK *Chambers*
10-2-72
OK *Ra*
10/31/72
Wm
11-1

KEEPER

WRITER/EDITOR

OK *Rowland*
9-27-72

DIRECTOR, OAHF

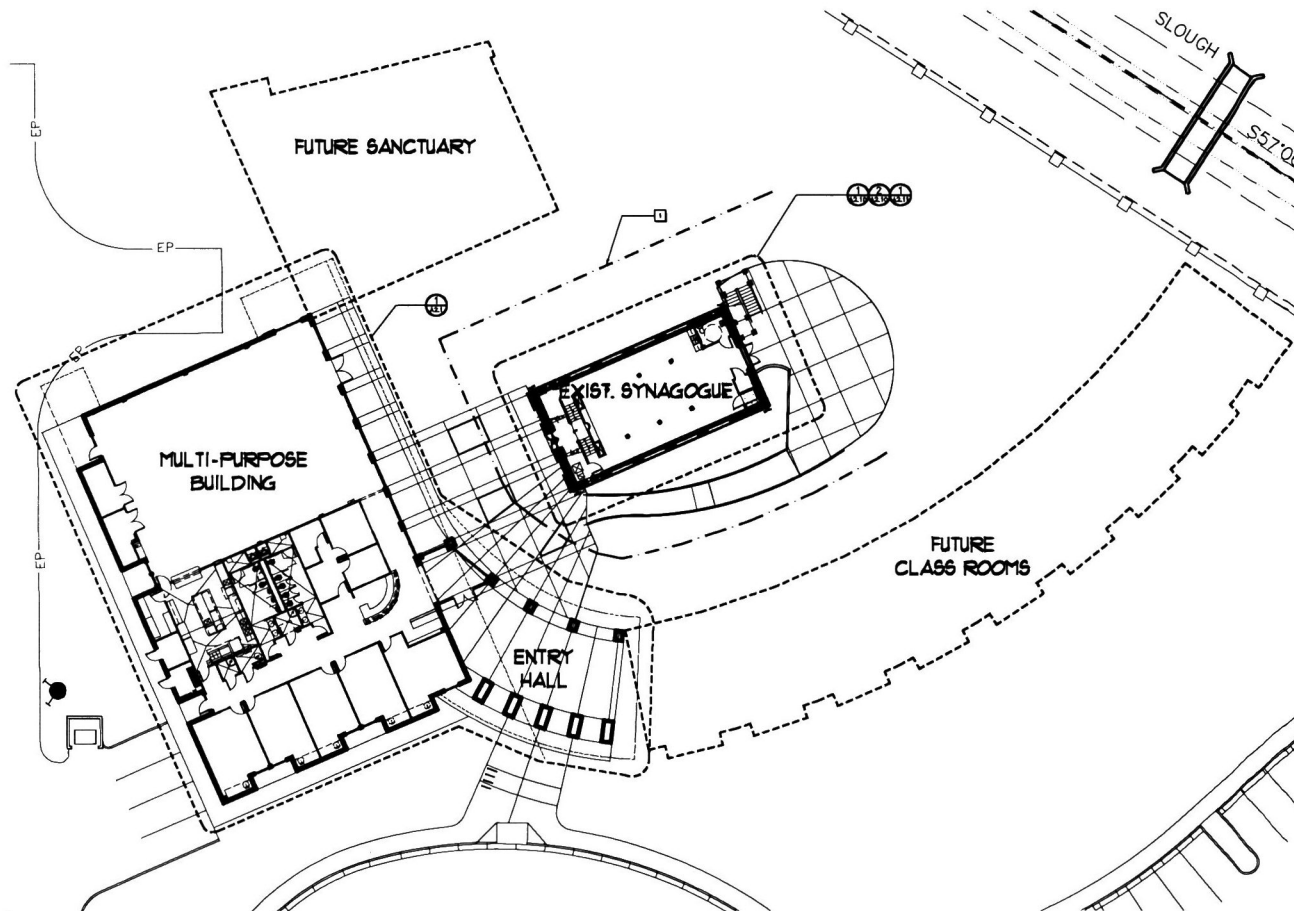
EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

Federal Registry Entry 12-5-72 Annual Edition EntryLogged NOV 3 1972 Card NOV 3 1972

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER 3.9.72 308

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:



1 OVERALL FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/16"=1'-0"



KEYNOTES

- 1 ASSAILED PROPERTY LINE. REFER TO CODE ANALYSIS A0.1

GENERAL NOTES

- CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY EXISTING CONDITIONS AND REPORT ANY DISCREPANCIES WITH THE DRAWINGS TO THE ARCHITECT, PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF STUD OR BLOCK UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. FIELD VERIFY ALL CRITICAL DIMENSIONS.
- ELEVATION +80'-4" = 3732.63' MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING FRESH FLOOR = +100'-0".
- CONTRACTOR TO MAINTAIN BUILDING IN WEATHER TIGHT CONDITION DURING CONSTRUCTION.
- CONTRACTOR TO COORDINATE WITH OWNER FOR LOCATION OF ALL SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND SPECIAL POWER REQUIREMENTS. ALL EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED PER MANUFACTURER'S REQUIREMENTS AND ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING CODES.
- SEE SHEET A8.0 FOR WALL TYPE DETAILS.
- SEE SHEET A3.0, A3.1 AND A3.10 FOR DOOR SCHEDULE, DOOR TYPES AND WINDOW TYPES.
- SEE SHEET A3.0 AND A3.10 FOR ROOM FINISH SCHEDULE.
- SEE SHEET A4.0, A4.10 AND A4.11 FOR REFLECTED CEILING PLANS.



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e-mail: coa@colearch.com

LOCKED
ARCHITECT
AR-1726

STANLEY A. COLE
STATE OF IDAHO

new building for:

AHAVATH BETH
ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Multi-Purpose Building

317 N. LATAH ST.
BOISE, IDAHO

PHASE 1

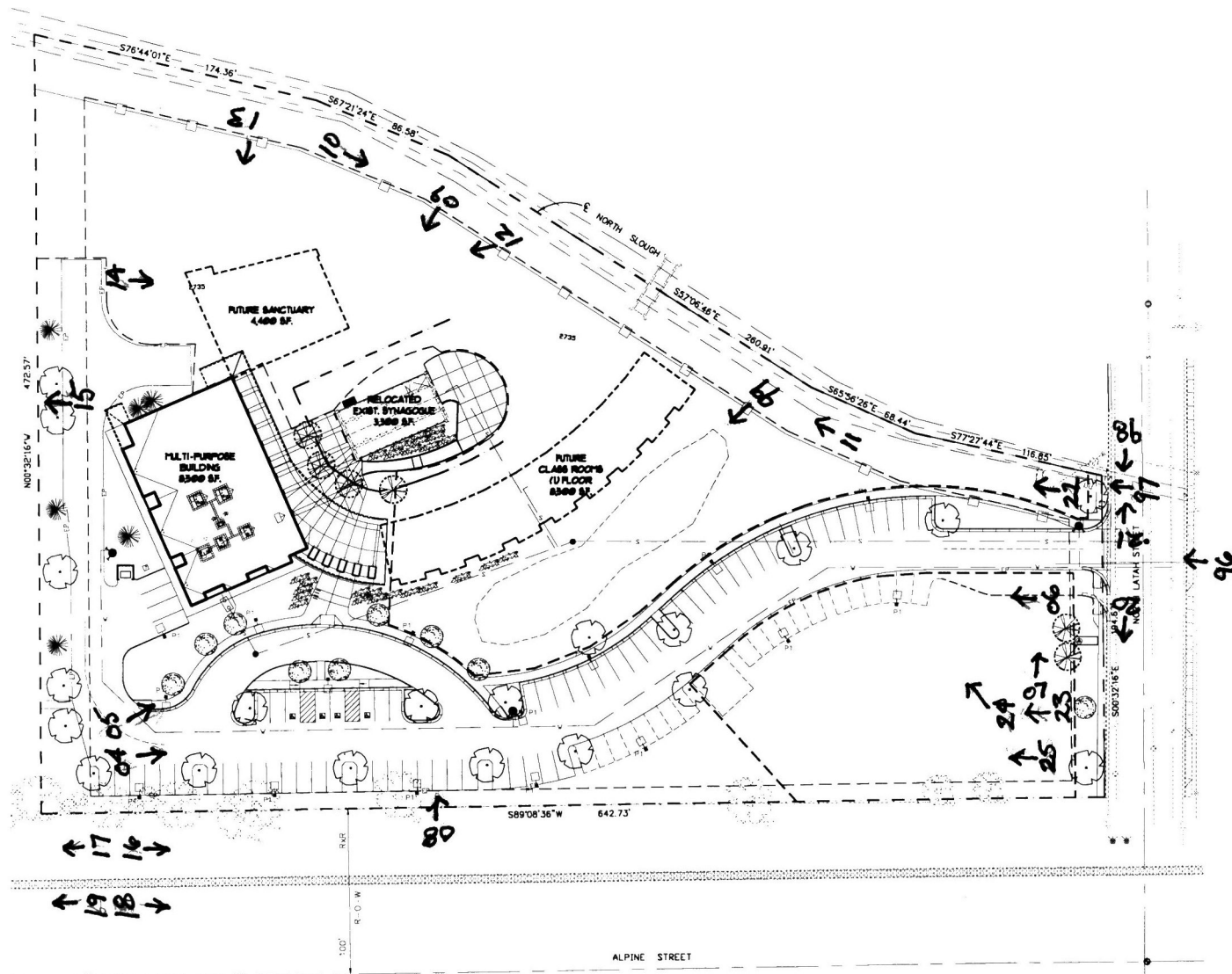
DATE: April 25, 2003
PROJECT NO: 02-071
DRAWN: CR, JPM
CHECKED: SAC/JM
FILE: 027120.dwg

revisions:

sheet number:

A2.0

Overall Floor Plans

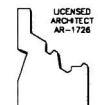


1 SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1"=30'-0"



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e-mail: cao@colearch.com



STANLEY A. COLE
STATE OF IDAHO

new building for:

AHAVATH BETH
ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Multi-Purpose Building

317 N. LATAH ST.
BOISE, IDAHO

PHASE 1

DATE: April 25, 2003
PROJECT NO.: 02-071
DRAWN: CH, JPM
CHECKED: SAC, KM
FILE: 027110.dwg

revisions:

sheet number:

A1.0

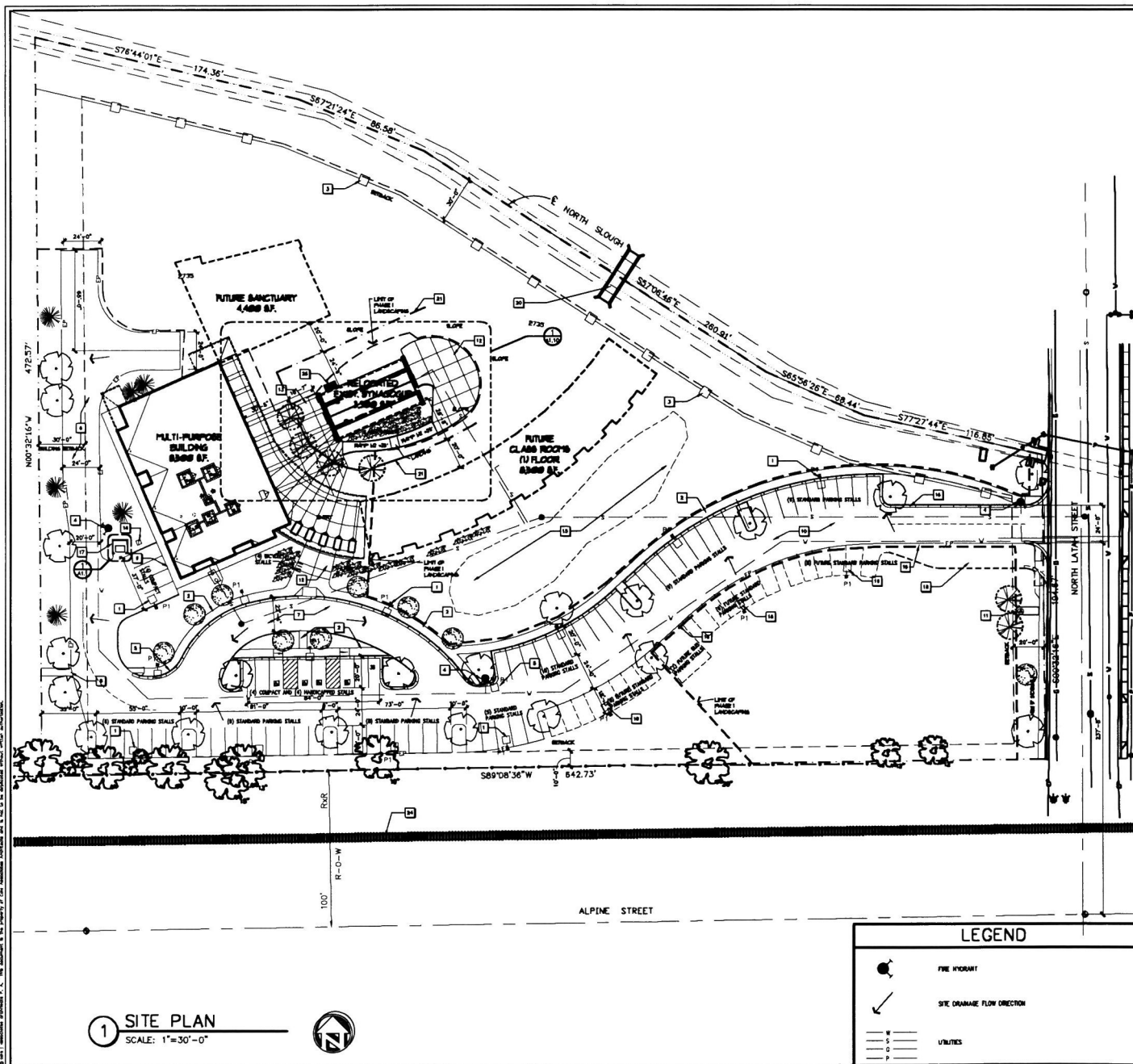
Site Plan



CURRENT LOCATION

PROPOSED LOCATION





KEYNOTES

- 1 NEW SITE LIGHTING.
- 2 NEW 5'-0" WIDE CONCRETE SIDEWALK. SEE DETAIL 8/A1.1.
- 3 NEW FENCE.
- 4 FIRE HYDRANT.
- 5 FIRE TRUCK TURNING RADIUS MINIMUM.
- 6 FIRE LANE. ASPHALT PAVING.
- 7 ONE-WAY DROP-OFF LANE. ASPHALT PAVING.
- 8 PARK ACCESS.
- 9 LOADING/UNLOADING AREA.
- 10 DRIVE LANE. ASPHALT PAVING.
- 11 NEW ILLUMINATED MONUMENT SIGN.
- 12 OUTER COURT. CONCRETE. SEE PLAN SHEET A1.3.
- 13 INNER COURT. CONCRETE. SEE PLAN SHEET A1.3.
- 14 TRANSFORMER.
- 15 ON-SITE DRAINAGE SWAL PER CIVIL DRAWINGS.
- 16 EDGE OF PAVING.
- 17 NEW CMAI TRASH ENCLOSURE. SEE DETAIL 1/A1.1.
- 18 FUTURE SITE LIGHTING.
- 19 FUTURE TURNING LANE AND CURB CUT.
- 20 FUTURE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PENDING APPROVAL FROM BOISE PARKS AND REC. AND Nampa-Meridian Irrigation District.
- 21 ASSUMED PROPERTY LINE. REFER TO CODE ANALYSIS.
- 22 H/C PARKING STALL. SEE DETAIL 4/A1.1.
- 23 H/C PARKING STALL SIGN. SEE DETAIL 5/A1.1.
- 24 EXISTING RAILROAD TRACKS.
- 25 MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT CONC. PAD. SEE MECHANICAL DRAWINGS AND 12/A1.1.

SITE NOTES

- A. CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY EXISTING CONDITIONS AND REPORT ANY DISCREPANCIES WITH THE DRAWINGS TO THE ARCHITECT, PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION.
- B. SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS FOR ADDITIONAL SITE INFORMATION.
- C. CONTRACTOR TO REPAIR/REPLACE DAMAGED FINISHES MATCH TO EXISTING.
- D. CONTRACTOR TO MAINTAIN BUILDING IN WEATHER TIGHT CONDITION.
- E. CONTRACTOR TO COORDINATE WITH OWNER FOR LOCATION OF ALL SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND SPECIAL POWER REQUIREMENTS. ALL EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED PER MANUFACTURERS REQUIREMENTS AND ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING CODES.
- F. SEE STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
- G. SEE ELECTRICAL DRAWINGS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
- H. SEE MECHANICAL DRAWINGS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
- I. SEE LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
- J. CONTRACTOR TO COORDINATE WITH LOCAL UTILITY COMPANIES FOR THE LOCATION, ROUTE AND CONNECTION OF ALL UTILITIES FOR THIS PROJECT. ALL WORK TO CONFORM TO UTILITY COMPANY STANDARDS, LOCAL CODES AND ACCEPTED CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES.
- K. SEE SHEET A1.3 FOR COURTYARD PLAN.

SITE ANALYSIS

SITE: 218,000 S.F. (5 ACRES)
ZONE: A

PARKING REQUIREMENTS:

TOTAL FOR ALL PHASES:
(200) SOL. + (20) H/C + (10) COMPACT PARKING STALLS + (10) STANDARD H/C PARKING STALLS + (10) PARKING STALLS

TOTAL FOR PHASE 1:
(200) SOL. + (20) H/C + (10) PARKING STALLS

PARKING PROVIDED:

PHASE 1:
(10) SOL. + (20) H/C + (10) COMPACT PARKING STALLS + (10) STANDARD H/C PARKING STALLS + (10) PARKING STALLS

FUTURE PHASE PARKING:
(10) SOL. + (20) H/C + (10) COMPACT PARKING STALLS + (10) STANDARD H/C PARKING STALLS + (10) PARKING STALLS

LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS:

LANDSCAPING REQUIRED:
100 - 2,000 S.F.

LANDSCAPING PROVIDED:
0.00 - 147,000 S.F.

LEGEND

- FIRE HYDRANT
- SITE DRAINAGE FLOW DIRECTION
- UTILITIES



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STATE OF IDAHO

new building for:

AHAVATH BETH
ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Multi-Purpose Building

377 N. LATAH ST.
BOISE, IDAHO

PHASE 1

DATE: April 25, 2003
PROJECT NO: 02-071
DRAWN: CHL/PLM
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FILE: 027110.dwg

revisions:

sheet number:

A1.0

Site Plan

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

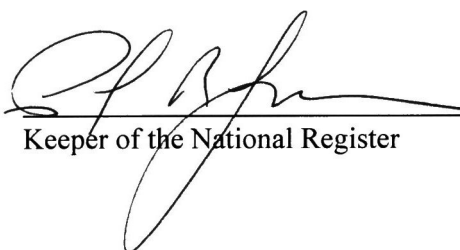
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue

**Boise, Ada County,
Idaho**

PROPOSED MOVE APPROVAL

 10/31/23
Keeper of the National Register Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: PROPOSED MOVE

PROPERTY Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IDAHO, Ada

DATE RECEIVED: 9/25/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/09/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 72000432

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

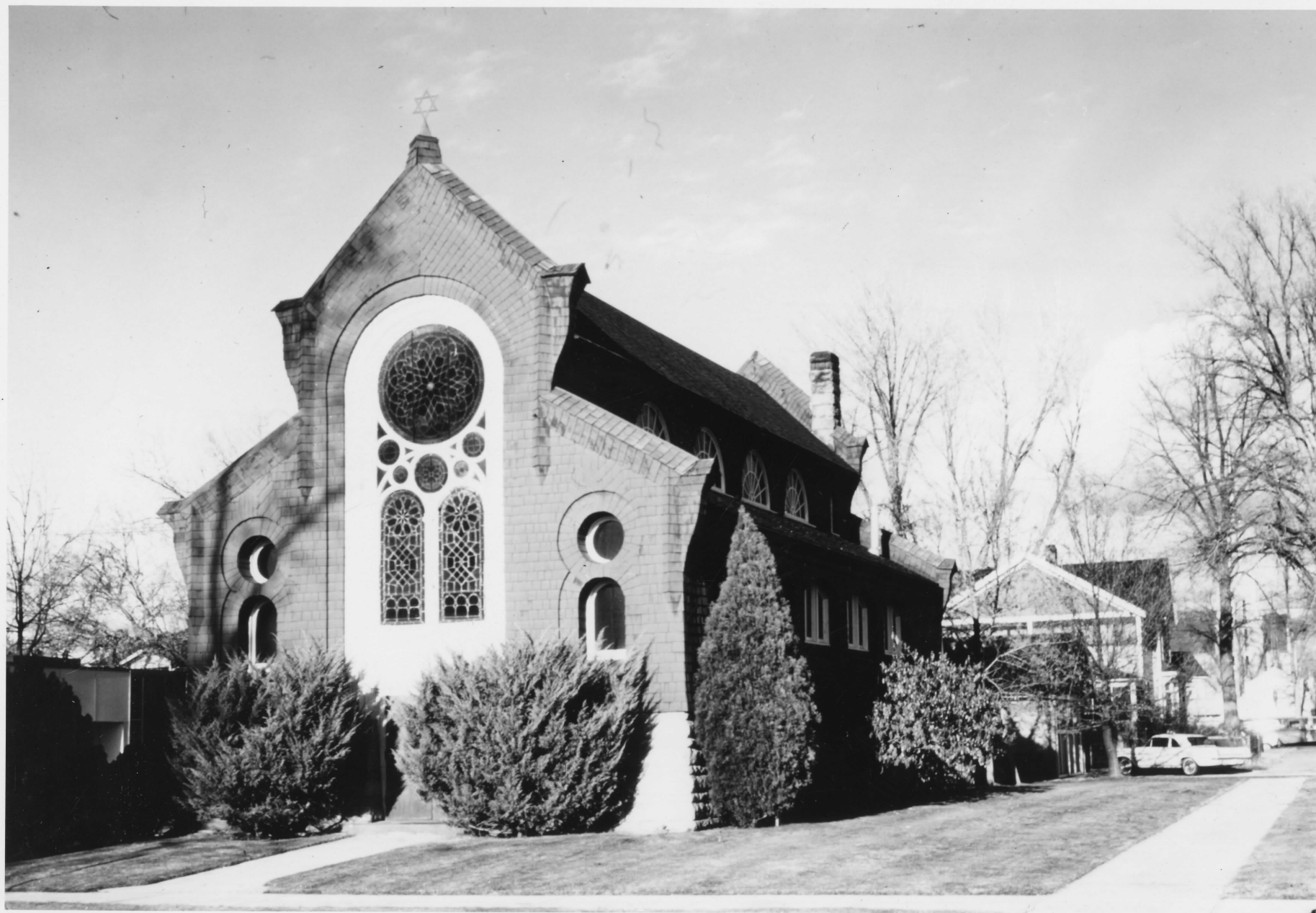
The information provided by the SHPO documents the fact that the proposed move, if conducted as described, will not adversely affect those qualities for which the Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue was originally listed in the National Register. The synagogue is significant under Criterion C and A for its architectural design and historic function as a important center of Jewish cultural and religious activity in the local community. The property's integrity of setting and feeling have already been compromised to some degree by changes to the character and scale of the surrounding Boise neighborhood. The proposed site contains no known significant architectural or archeological resources. The owners should be cautioned to take great care in assuring that the building's architectural features and historic integrity (design, materials, workmanship) are not adversely affected by the physical relocation of the building. Much of the post-move significance will rely on the distinctive architectural character of the building. Caution should also be taken in the placement the building within its new site, assuring to the extent possible that the building does not become a mere "stage artifact" within the larger complex. As an original stand alone building, the synagogue should not be fashioned into a historic display object, but should still convey its original character and integrity.

RECOM./CRITERIA APPROVE Move Plans

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 10/31/03

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Beth Israel

NPS Number

Nov 3, 1972

Title

Conception Beth Israel Synagogue

Loc.

Ada, Idaho

Front view of Synagogue looking

north.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Congregation Beth Israel
Synagogue

11-3-72 doe.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Idaho	
COUNTY Ada	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 3 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:		1102 State Street	
CITY OR TOWN:		Boise	
STATE:	Idaho	CODE 16	COUNTY: Ada
			CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Idaho State Historical Society	
DATE OF PHOTO:		1972	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Idaho State Historical Society	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Front view of synagogue looking north			



PHOTOGRAPH FOR

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

by JACK E. BOUCHER, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

DATE _____

PERSPECTIVE CORRECTION
WITHIN ONE DEGREE

Ada Co.,
IDAHO, : BOISE 1975
Photo Credit: CONG. ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

9

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Idaho	
COUNTY Ada	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 3-9-72-308	DATE 3-10-72

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

NOV 3 1972

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1102 State Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise			
STATE: Idaho	CODE 16	COUNTY: Ada	CODE 001

3. MAP REFERENCE	
SOURCE:	United States Geological Survey - Boise South Quadrangle
SCALE:	1: 24,000
DATE:	1954

4. REQUIREMENTS	
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS	
1. Property boundaries where required.	
2. North arrow.	
3. Latitude and longitude reference.	

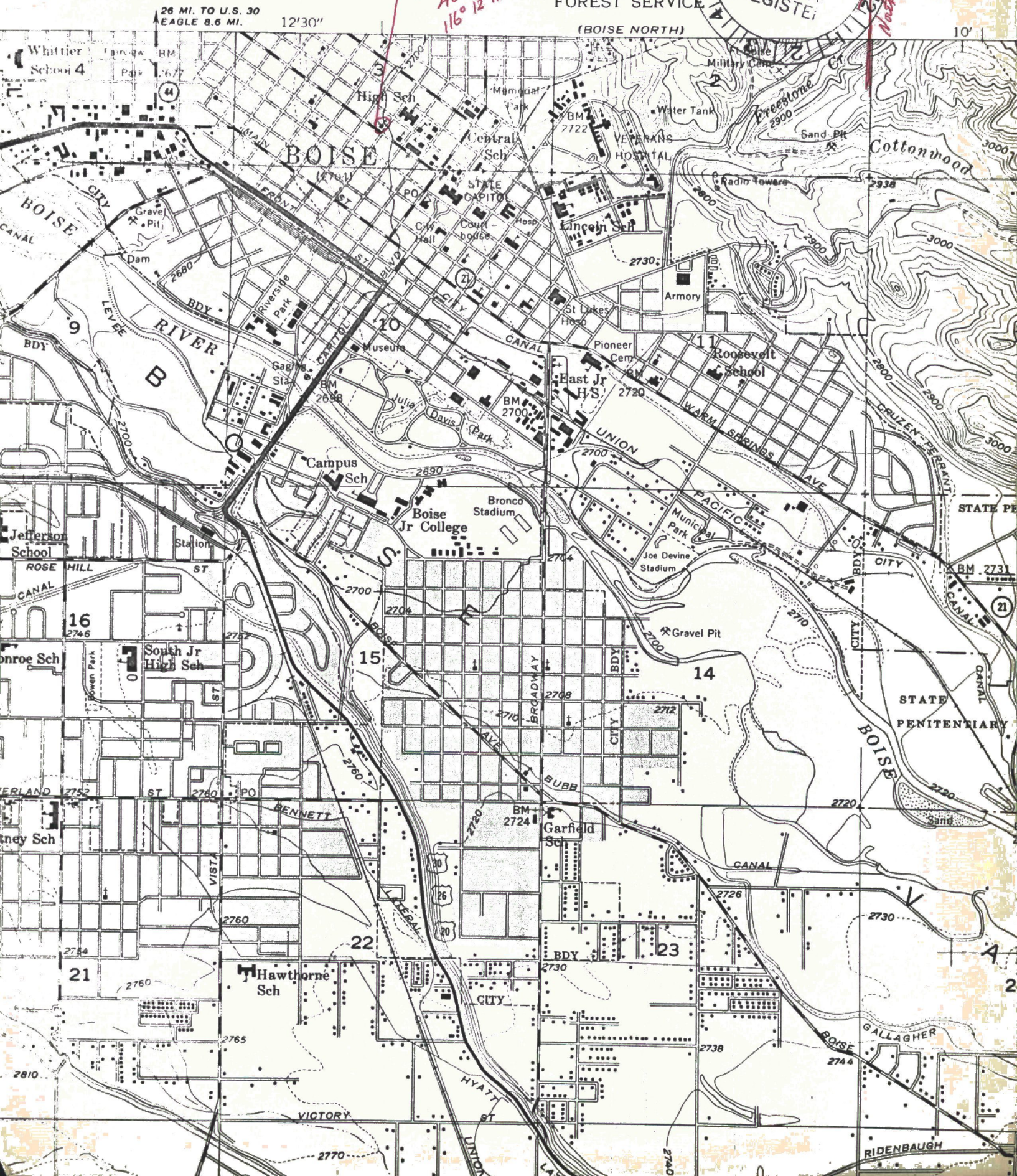


SEE INSTRUCTIONS

*Congregation
Beth Israel
43° 37' 18"
116° 12' 11"*

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

RECEIVED
MAR 9 1972
NATIONAL
REGISTER



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE IDAHO

Date Entered NOV 3 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Pierce Courthouse	Pierce Clearwater County
Nampa Depot	Nampa Canyon County
Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue	Boise Ada County

Also Notified

Hon. Frank Church
Hon. Len B. Jordan
Hon. James A. McClure

Director, Pacific Northwest Region

PHR Mowland:mm 11/3/72

State Liaison Officer
Dr. Merle W. Wells
Director
Idaho Historical Society
610 North Julia Davis Drive
Boise, Idaho 83726



Our mission: to educate through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of Idaho's cultural heritage.

Dirk Kempthorne
Governor of Idaho

Steve Guerber
Executive Director

Administration
1109 Main Street, Suite 250
Boise, Idaho 83702-5642
Office: (208) 334-2682
Fax: (208) 334-2774

Archaeological Survey
210 Main Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-7264
Office: (208) 334-3847
Fax: (208) 334-2775

Capitol Education Center
Statehouse/P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0001
Office: (208) 334-5174

Historical Museum and Education Programs
610 North Julia Davis Drive
Boise, Idaho 83702-7695
Office: (208) 334-2120
Fax: (208) 334-4059

Historic Preservation Office
210 Main Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-7264
Office: (208) 334-3861
Fax: (208) 334-2775

Historic Sites Office
2445 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, Idaho 83712-8254
Office: (208) 334-2844
Fax: (208) 334-3225

Library/Historical and Genealogical Collection
450 North Fourth Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-6027
Office: (208) 334-3356
Fax: (208) 334-3198

Oral History
450 North Fourth Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-6027
Office: (208) 334-3863
Fax: (208) 334-3198

Memberships and Outreach and Development
1109 Main Street, Suite 250
Boise, Idaho 83702-5642
Office: (208) 334-3986
Fax: (208) 334-2774

Publications
450 North Fourth Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-6027
Office: (208) 334-3428
Fax: (208) 334-3198

State Archives/Manuscripts
2205 Old Penitentiary Road
Boise, Idaho 83712-8250
Office: (208) 334-2620
Fax: (208) 334-2626

September 24, 2003

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20005



RE: **Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue, Boise, Ada County, Idaho**

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Congregation of the Ahavath Beth Israel Synagogue (historically known as the Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue) in Boise, Idaho, has made the decision to relocate its historic building. The Congregation based its decision on its growing numbers and programs and the inability of the historic building to meet all of their needs. The historic Synagogue building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 (72000432), and the Congregation would like the building to retain its National Register status after the move. The building was listed with the Areas of Significance of Architecture and Religion.

The Synagogue currently sits on a small parcel of land on the periphery of Boise's downtown core. There is a Subway restaurant immediately to the west; a YMCA building and parking lot are located across the street to the east; small scale commercial buildings are found to the south; and the Boise High School campus is on the north. The Synagogue was constructed in 1895; all other buildings are more recent construction.

Originally, the Congregation owned much of the property around the building, as well as 13 acres immediately south of Morris Hill Cemetery. Over the years, the Congregation sold off many pieces of their property (including the 13 acres) to use the proceeds to maintain their building and programs. Now, the Congregation has reacquired 5 acres of the original 13 adjacent to Morris Hill Cemetery and proposes to move the historic Synagogue to that site. This site is located approximately 2 miles from the building's present site. While the area around the current Synagogue location has been developed and filled-in, the 13 acres near the cemetery has remained undeveloped; the future plan includes the 5 acre Synagogue "campus" and an 8 acre city park. The setting for this site is primarily



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residential with the large cemetery to the north. The new site will incorporate a newly constructed “multi-purpose” building, classrooms and a new sanctuary. This new construction will form a courtyard, into which the historic Synagogue will be moved (see attachments).

The Idaho State Historic Sites Review Board (ISHSRB) was asked to address the questions presented in 36CFR60.14(b), and below is a summary of their consensus responses:

- (A) **Reasons for the move?** The current Congregation of the Temple Beth Israel has outgrown the historic Synagogue building. The structure is fairly small and now completely land-locked with no room to expand its physical plant. The Congregation needs a larger sanctuary, classrooms and gathering spaces to accommodate its growing membership and programs. The Congregation considered abandoning the existing property and simply moving the Congregation - but not the building - to a new location. However, the Temple Beth Israel is believe to be the oldest, continually-in-use synagogue west of the Mississippi, and the Congregation feels a deep link to its historic building and does not want to physically disconnect itself from it. Therefore, they feel their only alternative is to move their building to a new location where they can also expand their facility. Recognizing this important spiritual connection to the historic building, the ISHSRB agrees that there was no other alternative for the Congregation.
- (B) **Will the new location affect the building’s integrity?** Certainly, the move will affect the building’s integrity of location and setting. But the ISHSRB feels that the integrity of the building’s current location has already been compromised. The historic setting was much more residential in nature but has evolved to commercial over the last century. Their opinion is that the current location on a busy downtown street, surrounded by modern commercial buildings reflects the original setting very little. In addition, the ISHSRB points out that the building is significant for its architecture, and these elements will not be altered by a move.
- (C) **Will the new site provide a compatible orientation, setting, and general environment?** Again, the ISHSRB makes the point that the new site should not be compatible with the existing site, as the existing site has, itself, been compromised. In addition, the ISHSRB points out that the original nomination did not mention the existing orientation, setting and general environment - coming to the conclusion that this was not of paramount importance to the building’s history and architecture. However, the ISHSRB does have mixed opinions about whether or not the new site would be compatible. Some feel it would compliment the building and its history, while others contrasted the current site – highly visible on a corner in a highly trafficked area – vs. in a park-like setting, within a courtyard, surrounded on three sides by a new multi-purpose building, and not very visible to the public.
- (D) **Will the addition of this building onto the new site adversely affect the new site’s existing setting and general environment?** The unanimous verdict of the ISHSRB is, no, the addition of this building to the new site would not adversely affect that site. The site sits adjacent to a cemetery and has historically been undeveloped. The

neighborhood surrounding it is not considered to be historically or architecturally significant at this time. There are no known archeological deposits on the site.

Ultimately, all ISHSRB members recommend that the Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue retain its National Register of Historic Places status.

For your review, we have included architectural drawings and renderings of the new location, as well as (digital) photographs of the existing and proposed site.

The Synagogue move is scheduled to occur in the near future; any assistance you could give to expedite this request would be appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Canaday in our office at (208) 334-3861, ext.102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzi P. Neitzel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Suzi" being more prominent.

Suzi P. Neitzel
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Idaho State Historical Society

cc: Bruce Poe, Cole Associates Architects, P.A.



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RENDERING OF NEW BLDG + SITE

facsimile

TRANSMITTAL

to: Tricia Canaday
fax #: 208-334-2775
re: Beth Israel proposed move
date: November 4, 2003
pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

Tricia,

I signed off on the synagogue move on October 31, 2003. A formal letter will be coming under separate heading.

Here is the comment sheet that I prepared. Please caution the congregation to proceed with the move as gently as possible. I feel that architecture will need to carry the burden of eligibility after the move and too much restoration or "selective renovation" could damage the building's integrity. Likewise the new setting could be better realized if the building looks less like a statue on a pedestal in a garden and more like a stand alone component of the complex.

From the desk of...

Paul R. Lusignan
Historian
National Register of Historic Places, National
Park Service
1849 C Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20240

202-354-2229
Fax: 202-371-2229

PKC
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H32(2280)

Mr. Steve Guerber
State Historic Preservation Officer
Idaho State Historical Society
210 Main Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-7264

Dear Mr. Guerber:

Thank you for your letter of September 24, 2003, concerning the proposed move of the Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue in Boise, Ada County, Idaho.

In accordance with Federal Regulations 36 CFR 60.14(b), the National Register approves the proposed move of the Synagogue. Based on the information in your letter and in the nomination file in Washington, the National Register has determined that the synagogue will not suffer an appreciable loss of integrity and will be placed in an suitable setting. Therefore, the building will remain listed in the National Register during and after the move unless integrity is destroyed.

After the Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue has been moved, please provide the National Register with the date of the move, photographs of the property on its new site, a revised U.S.G.S. map, acreage, and a verbal boundary description.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed move, and for your interest in maintaining the integrity of the National Register list.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register
of Historic Places

bcc: 2200
2250

Basic File Retained In 2280

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