

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

AUG - 3 1988

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Beth Joseph Synagogue

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Corner of Lake & Mill Streets

not for publication

city, town Tupper Lake

vicinity of

state New York

code 36

county Franklin

code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	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
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 Trustees of Beth Joseph Synagogue, c/o Mr. F. Futterman

street & number Lake Street

city, town Tupper Lake

vicinity of

state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Clerk's Office

street & number Main Street

city, town Malone

state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NYS State-wide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date May 1987 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza

city, town Albany

state New York

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date

NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Beth Joseph Synagogue is located in the town of Tupper Lake in Franklin County. The synagogue is situated at the corner of Lake and Mill Streets, one block west of the community's central business district. The edifice completely fills the eastern half of its original residential size building lot. The western half of the lot is occupied by a two and one half story frame dwelling built to house the congregation's rabbi. This house was constructed at the same time as the synagogue and is considered a contributing building.
(2 contributing buildings)

Beth Joseph Synagogue, constructed in 1900, is a two and one-half story, three-bay by five-bay, vernacular Italianate style building. The frame structure is constructed upon a mortared stone foundation, sheathed in clapboards and is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. A false front facade, which hides the steep gable roof, extends several feet above its peak.

The principal or eastern facade of the synagogue is dominated by a pair of square pilasters, which flank the central bay of the facade and terminate in a fully pedimented entablature. The central bay is also the location of the main entry to the edifice. Located between the pilasters on the ground level are a pair of five panel oak doors. Located above the entry is a "sun dial" arch inscribed with a Biblical quote. Above the arch is a rose window containing stained glass. The date 1881, which appears in a panel above the rose window, signifies the arrival of the first members of this congregation to the area rather than the construction date of the building. On either side the central bay is flanked by a single double-hung sash round-arched window containing two-over-two lights and a fixed transom. Above these windows, on the second story of this elevation, are small, fixed three-light windows. The principal elevation terminates at either end with engaged square corner tower, capped by a triangular pediment and surmounted by a Star of David. The entire facade of the synagogue is sheathed in narrow clapboards with the towers and pilasters clad in decoratively applied flat wood siding. A bracketed cornice carries the false roofline of the building, helping to create the illusion of a more formidable facade.

The northern and southern elevations are similar in design and fenestration. As the property slopes toward Tupper Lake at the rear, it exposes the foundation level of the

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Beth Joseph Synagogue
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synagogue. This portion of the elevation, up to the wooden water table, is sheathed in wood shingles. On both elevations this level is punctuated by five, square single sash windows containing four lights. The street level story of these elevations are each five bays in width and punctuated by five evenly spaced double-hung sash arched windows containing two-over-two-lights and transom. A broad frieze and molded cornice separate the main story from the roof above.

The rear or western elevation of the building is highlighted by a rose window located in the upper portion of the gable end. Directly below the window, the center bay is extended outward to create a niche on the interior. The protrusion is carried down to the foundation level where a door to this level is located. To either side of the protrusion is a single double-hung sash arched window containing two-over-two lights. A chimney is also situated on the exterior of this elevation.

The interior of the synagogue is accessed by the doors located on the eastern elevation. These doors open into a shallow vestibule which runs the width of the building. A stair leading to the loft or women's gallery is situated in the western end of the vestibule. A pair of five panel oak doors, opposite the entry doors, lead from the vestibule into the main worship space. The main worship space of the synagogue measures 60 feet by 25 feet. Three rows of simple wooden pews face the western wall of the interior. At the head of the pews, on the western wall, is a raised platform with stairs leading up to it from either side. The platform and stairs are surrounded by a balustrade. Located between the platform and the pews is a reading stand or bimah. A second bimah is situated on the platform. To the rear of the platform, built into the western wall, is a niche where the Torahs are kept. This repository, or Ark, is finely crafted of wood in a tripartite form. To either side of the scrolls is a series of raised panels which is flanked by single Corinthian columns. Above the niche is a wooden relief carving of the commandments on two tablets. To either side of the tablets are raised panels flanked by Corinthian columns supporting an entablature. Walls throughout the synagogue are sheathed in matchstick wainscoting. The lower portion of the walls feature a vertical application while the remainder of the wall surface is covered by a diagonal application. Window trim and architraves are simple in design and, as with all the interior elements, retain a high level of integrity.

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The loft or women's gallery, accessed through the vestibule, is situated above the vestibule space to the rear of the worship area. The space is occupied by two rows of three pews. A balustrade spans the western edge of the loft. The ceiling of the synagogue is vaulted in design and clad in matchstick wainscotting.

The basement of the synagogue is accessed through the vestibule or by an exterior door on the western elevation. A kitchen, large dining hall and restrooms occupy this space.

Beth Joseph Synagogue, with the exception of routine maintenance, has remained remarkably intact and retains a high degree of integrity of original design and materials.

Located to the west of the synagogue, on the same lot, is a two and one-half story residence. The house, which was constructed between 1906 and 1910, was built as the residence for the congregation's rabbi. The house is of frame construction and rests upon a mortared stone foundation. The residence is sheathed in clapboards and is covered by a fully hipped roof. The southern and eastern elevations of the dwelling are highlighted by a single story wrap-around porch that shelters the residence's two entries, located on the eastern and southern elevations. The western half of the porch, on the southern elevation, is enclosed creating additional living space. Windows through the residence contain double-hung sash with single lights. The interior of the residence is typical of this style and period of construction featuring four rooms on the first floor and three chambers on the second level. The residence retains complete integrity of materials and design.

8. Significance

AUG 3 1988

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Beth Joseph Synagogue is historically and architecturally significant as a distinctive intact example of an early twentieth century Hebrew house of worship, a type that is rare in the Adirondack Region. Built in 1906 with donations from Jewish and Christian residents of Tupper Lake as well as from wealthy Jewish families that vacationed in the Tupper-Saranac Lake Region, Beth Joseph is the oldest synagogue in the Adirondacks. The building retains complete integrity of design and materials, including a distinguished wainscoted pine interior. The significance of the property is further enhanced by the survival of an adjoining residence. The house was constructed between 1906-1910 as a home for the congregation's rabbi and like the synagogue, it retains complete integrity of design and materials. The history of its congregation reflects the presence of Jewish families in the resort and commercial life of this area at the turn of the century.

Tupper Lake was settled in 1840 by Michael Cole, who erected the first year-round home on the Raquette River. Previous to Cole's arrival, this area of the Adirondack wilderness had been frequented by surveyors, sportsmen and lumbermen but no permanent settlements had been erected. In 1850, the Pomeroy Lumber Company commenced logging at Tupper Lake. This industry brought some new development to this area, but the 1860 census still showed only a sparse population of 30 residents. In 1890, the first major steps toward the development of a village center near Tupper Lake was taken. William McLaughlin, who had come to the area as a forman with Pomeroy Lumber Company, began selling lots of land along the lake. The area which McLaughlin sub-divided would develop into the current village of Tupper Lake. During this same period a spur of the Northern Adirondack Railroad was extended south from Santa Clara into the center of the Tupper Lake settlement. In the later portion of the nineteenth century, as a result of numerous logging and milling ventures along the Raquette River and the new rail line, Tupper Lake would emerge as the largest producer and supplier of lumber in the state. Although the settled community of Tupper Lake can be attributed to industrial development along the Raquette River, the area had also emerged as a major resort. In the later nineteenth century the Tupper-Saranac region was well known to sportsmen and health

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Tupper Lake

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A 118 541271210 41896740
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attached Site Map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

NA

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John A. Bonafide, Historic Preservation, Program Assistant

organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & HP date June 30, 1988

street & number Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza telephone 474-0479

city or town Albany state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

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 *John A. Bonafide*

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

date 7/19/88

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/1/88

John A. Bonafide
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Beth Joseph Synagogue
Tupper Lake, Franklin Co., NY

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seekers who came from all areas of the state. This resort economy had developed in the 1860's and grew rapidly as the logging and railroad created easier access to the region. By 1900, the town of Altamont\Tupper Lake area had grown from an negligible number of inhabitants in the 1870's to over 3000 residents.

As the Tupper Lake area boomed, itinerant Jewish peddlers, who had followed the lumber camps into the area, began to set up shop. At first, in the 1870's, these Jews would travel into the region as the weather permitted. As winter approached and the camps shut down, the peddlers would move on until the following year. With the coming of a permanent logging operation in 1890, some of these early businessmen opened small shops near the camps to service the needs of the lumbermen year round. With the opening of the railroad and the development of the village of Tupper Lake, the number of permanent shops run by these early Jewish peddlers grew.

In the early 1890's, northern Adirondack settlers of the Jewish faith began conducting religious services in their homes. People would travel from all parts of the Tupper-Saranac area in order to constitute a minyon, the minimum of 10 men required for services. The first congregation, Ashney Beth Joseph, was organized in the late 1881 and represented the first Jewish congregation in the Adirondack Region. In August of 1903 the congregation purchased a one-quarter acre parcel of land in the village of Tupper Lake. The congregation began the construction of a synagogue on this site in 1905 and completed construction in 1906. In that same year the congregation filed a certificate of incorporation under the name of congregation Beth Joseph.

The founders, members and contributors associated with the construction of the synagogue represented the confluence of two distinctly different social and cultural streams of Jewish life in New York during the period. The first group, the members and founders of the congregation, represent the early resident merchants of eastern European extraction, many of whom had emigrated in the 1880's and 90's to escape the pogroms and reactionary attitudes in Russia and Poland. Many of these early peddlers had arrived in New York City and had ventured north to take advantage of the business which was being generated by the proliferation of lumbering camps in the Adirondack Region. The second social class of Jews associated with the construction of the synagogue are the German Jews who had emigrated to New York

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City in the early and mid-nineteenth century and had developed successful businesses there. This group included successful bankers and brokers who summered in the Tupper-Saranac area. Built from funds raised through these two distinctly different Jewish cultures, the Beth Joseph Synagogue recalls the range of Jewish contributions to the development of the Adirondack Region as a commercial and resort center.

The Beth Joseph Synagogue is also significant as a representative example of Jewish ecclesiastic architecture in the Adirondack region. As built, the synagogue reflected the combination of traditional synagogue design features and details with the rustic resort architecture and materials associated with the Adirondack region. In design, Beth Joseph Synagogue exhibits several elements which can be associated with a synagogue building tradition that had evolved during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in America and Eastern Europe. During this period Jewish congregations had begun searching for architectural forms which would not reflect the same architectural trends employed by Christian churches.

The earliest American synagogues were executed in the prevailing architectural style of the day. By the mid-nineteenth century a number of distinctive motifs began to recur in synagogue design. The most dominant of these features was the use of engaged corner towers to frame the principal elevation of the building. This design was first utilized in 1846 at the Baltimore Synagogue and subsequently became known as the Medieval Twin Tower Scheme. In addition to this plan, other design elements began to recur, including traceried rose windows, pointed and rounded archs and the Shield or "Star" of David. Elements of this tradition are evinced in the design of Beth Joseph Synagogue's formidable false facade. The use of these design elements in synagogues can be distinguished from the use of similar elements in Christian architecture by their repetition throughout the nineteenth century, even as other stylistic expressions were changing.

The synagogue's utilization of these traditional design elements is enhanced by their execution in locally abundant materials. The use of wood as the predominant material for both exterior and interior finishes is representative of the Adirondack building tradition which was dominated by this abundant building material as both a structural and design element. The synagogue's use of decoratively applied exterior

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sheathing on the front pilasters and towers and the interior usage of match-stick wainscotting to cover all surfaces is indicative of the North Country building tradition, which used this material in such diverse buildings as the Adirondack Great Camps and public halls as well as churches.

Beth Joseph Synagogue is a distinctive example of traditional synagogue design executed in the prevailing popular style of the day. Retaining complete integrity of setting, design and materials, in addition to the intact residence of the Rabbi located on the property behind the synagogue, Beth Joseph Synagogue represents an important phase in the development of the Jewish culture in the North country and recalls the early twentieth century history of Tupper Lake.

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Beth Joseph Synagogue
Tupper Lake, Franklin Co., NY

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Initial research and draft by:

Robert and Sharon Berzok
53 Mill Road
Stamford, CT 06903

AUG 3 1988

BETH JOSEPH SYNAGOGUE TUPPER LAKE, FRANKLIN COUNTY



MILL STREET

RABBI'S RESIDENCE
(Contributing)

BETH JOSEPH
SYNAGOGUE

LAKE STREET

KEY

Boundary

Photo Key ...

SCALE
1" = 50'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Joseph, Beth, Synagogue

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Franklin

DATE RECEIVED: 8/03/88 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/16/88
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/01/88 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/17/88
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88001441

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/1/88 DATE Entered in the National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS SIDE)

Decision: _____
Date: _____
Signature: _____
Title: _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification ___materials ___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

___criteria	___criteria considerations	___areas of sig.
___periods of sig.	___significant dates	___cultural affl.
___sig. person	___architect/builder	___sig. statement

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning the nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone _____



Beth Joseph Synagogue
Tupper Lake, Franklin
County, New York

Photo By: Sharon Berzok
Neg.: OPRHP, Albany, NY
Photo No. 1: Eastern &
Southern Elevations

5/88



Beth Joseph Synagogue
Tupper Lake, Franklin
County, New York
Photo By: Sharon Berzok
Neg.: OPRHP, Albany, NY
Photo No. 2: Western
Elevation

5/88



Beth Joseph Synagogue
Tupper Lake, Franklin
County, New York
Photo By: Sharon Berzok
Neg.: OPRHP, Albany, NY
Photo No. 3: Interior
looking east

5/88



Beth Joseph Synagogue
Tupper Lake, Franklin
County, New York
Photo By: Sharon Berzok
Neg.: OPRHP, Albany, NY
Photo No. 4: Interior
looking west

5/88



Beth Joseph Synagogue
Tupper Lake, Franklin
County, New York

Photo By: Sharon Berzok

Neg.: OPRHP, Albany, NY

Photo No. 5: Rabbi's house
(contributing building)

Southern elevation 5/88



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TUPPER LAKE QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK - FRANKLIN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES PLANIMETRIC

441743 DP



Prepared and published by the New York State Department of Transportation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Bureau of Public Roads.

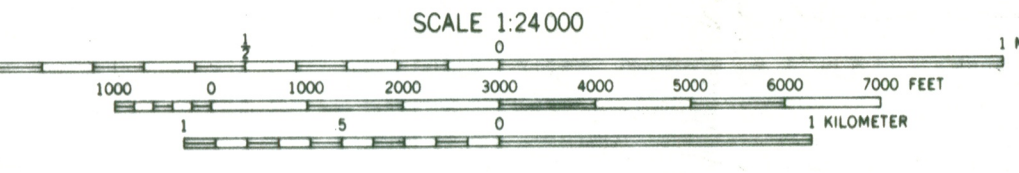
Map base, physical and cultural details compiled from U.S. Geological Survey 15-minute quadrangle, edition of 1955; highways and drainage related to highway construction compiled in 1969 from construction plans, aerial photography dated 1969, and various other sources; road and street names and boundaries compiled from D.O.T. surveys and public records.

Map does not necessarily comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.

Official changes in boundaries, names and planimetric features should be reported to: Map Information, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, N.Y. 12226

SPECIAL TOPOGRAPHIC EDITION

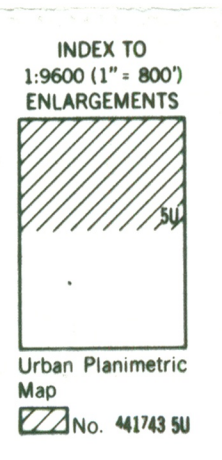
Contours, at 20-foot intervals, shown unrevised from 1955. U.S. Geological Survey map. Datum is mean sea level.



Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.

5,000-meter graticule based on U.T.M. grid, Zone 18

10,000-foot ticks based on New York State Plane Coordinate System, East Zone



BOUNDARIES:

- State
- County
- Town
- City or Incorporated Village
- Federal-aid approved Urban Area
- Supplemental map enlargement limit

ROADS:

- Interstate route
- U. S. route
- State route
- County Road
- Private roads

Divided highways:

- Mail more than 25 feet
- Mail 25 feet or less

Undivided highways:

- 4 or more lanes
- 2 or 3 lanes

State Highway number and limit

441743 DP

Mrs. ALBERT OTTEN

547 NORTHUMBERLAND ROAD

TEANECK, N. J. 07666



June 14, 1988

John Bonafide
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
NY State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Mr. Bonafide,

After a number of years, I returned to Tupper Lake for a vacation this past week. Tupper had been my childhood home and my parents, Harry and Esther Berney, were among the first Jewish families to settle here. In the synagogue in Tupper Lake, I saw a Torah for the first time and was introduced to my heritage, the Jewish religion.

I have learned that Beth Joseph Synagogue on Mill Street is under consideration for designation to the NY State Register of Historic Places. Because of its past history and in view of the fine building, despite the need for restoration, it seems fitting that Beth Joseph Synagogue should be recognized for its unique location and the part it played in the lives of these early Jewish immigrants, many who escaped from the tyranny of the czar to become true American citizens in the State of NY.

I trust you will give this request your most thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Mildred Otten

Mildred Berney Otten

VILLAGE OF TUPPER LAKE

53 PARK STREET

TUPPER LAKE, NEW YORK 12986

EARL J. FLETCHER, MAYOR

KENNETH M. HOLLENBECK, VILLAGE CLERK

June 20, 1988

New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation, & Historic Preservation
Attn: John Bonofide
Agency Bldg. #1 - Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12238-0001

Re: Beth Joseph Synagogue
Mill Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986 - Franklin County

Dear Mr. Bonofide:

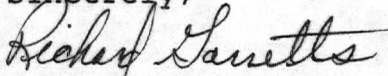
Please be advised that I would wish that Beth Joseph Synagogue, located on Mill Street in Tupper lake, NY, be nominated to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Because of the growth of our community and the ever increasing demand for land the significance of our community history is disappearing. We are concentrating on progress so desperately we are, I confess, losing touch with our history and structures such as Beth Joseph that contributed so much to our present way of life. Most of our early Jewish settlers have passed on. a very few survive and I would like to join them in their efforts to preserve what is a very important part of our community.

A loss such as this in our small community affects our history and, in turn, the history of New York State as well as our Nation.

I would like to thank you and your organization in advance for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,



Richard Garrelts

Assessor

Equal Rights Opportunity Officer
NYS Building & Fire Code Administrator

RG/dc

