

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JUN 12 1979

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NOV 5 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC *RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE*

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4905 Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

STATE

*Pennsylvania*VICINITY OF
CODENOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Allegheny

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Rodef Shalom Congregation

STREET & NUMBER

4905 Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

VICINITY OF

STATE

*Pennsylvania***5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, County Office Building

STREET & NUMBER

Forbes Avenue at Ross Street

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

STATE

*Pennsylvania***6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

DATE

1967☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS*Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation*

CITY, TOWN

One Landmarks Square, Pittsburgh

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rodef Shalom Temple stands on an elegant block in Pittsburgh's Shadyside district at the corner of Fifth & Morewood Avenues, just east of the pre-World War I "Civic Center". Designed in 1906 by Henry Hornbostel, this masonry building is composed of two parts: the square sanctuary, measuring 92 feet on a side, and a rectangular vestibule projecting out to Fifth Avenue. Broad lawns flank both sides of the building. The vestibule's elaborate terra cotta banding, and grand arch divided into 3 sets of doors below and a large Syrian-arched window above expresses the building's public function. The grand arch seems to respond to the gently heaving arch of the vestibule's roof-line. Colorful terra cotta banding swirls over the facade of the vestibule, giving it an oriental cast while at the same time evoking the spirit of Louis H. Sullivan. The side walls of the sanctuary are relatively stark compared to the rich and hierarchically more important vestibule facade. Each is ornamented only by two color bands and pierced by two sets of triple lancet windows. The walls support a squared dome of bright green tiles by Raphael Gustavino. Hornbostel achieves a magnificent plasticity in articulating the dome as well as contrasting the colorful terra cotta and tiling with the cream colored brick.

Entrance into the building provides a tightly controlled spatial hierarchy: reception by the embracing walls next to the sidewalk, transition up the steps and into the vestibule movement through the inner vestibule, and projection through 3 sets of embossed leather doors into the exuberantly vaulted hall of the sanctuary. The focal point of the sanctuary is the grand apsidal arch which cuts into the dome. The centerpiece is a fanciful gilded ark framed by 2 sets of paired Corinthian columns. Higher up on the ark wall is an open choir loft with a fine turn-of-the-century organ and casing.

The sanctuary is organized about four identical arches opening on to each wall. The gallery arch above the entrance tunnels light into the sanctuary from the southern window in the vestibule. The side wall arches are filled with triple lancet stained glass windows transferred here from a mid nineteenth century temple. The dome rises above the rich sanctuary panelling over the four giant wall arches on a squinch loading system. It is rusticated with acoustic panelling and terminates about 50 feet from the floor in a large sky light of dazzling stained glass. Four large bronze menorah chandeliers hang from the four corners of this sky light to give measure to the vastness of the sanctuary volume.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED 11/7/79

DATE ENTERED

Rodef Shalom Temple
Allegheny County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

Two additions have been made to the Rodef Shalom Temple both are tasteful and do not affect the integrity of the building has not been affected. The first addition was made in 1938, at that time attempts were made to match the decorative features of the original building. The second addition was made in 1956.

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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Hornbostel

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rodef Shalom congregation was chartered in 1856 as the first permanent synagogue of a Jewish community which had existed in Pittsburgh since pre-Revolutionary times. The first temple was built in 1861 on Eighth Avenue in the downtown commercial district. In 1906 the congregation moved to the elegant Civic Center then being laid out on large esplanades in Oakland. It remains one of the fine examples of Beaux-Arts planning. The temple became famous from the broadcasted sermons of Rabbi Solomon B. Freehof in the 1930's and remains one of the most pre-eminent Jewish centers in America.

Two of Pittsburgh's foremost citizens were members of the congregation: Edgar J. Kaufmann, the patron of Frank Lloyd Wright's "Fallingwater" and a prime sponsor of the Pittsburgh Renaissance, and Jonas Salk who in 1953 discovered his polio vaccine at the University of Pittsburgh,

Aside from its congregational history, Rodef Shalom has architectural significance. Hornbostel established the function of the building unequivocally in its brooding Beaus-Arts massing and eastern motifs, without falling into stereotypes of Jewish architecture such as minarets. But the temple stands out from the church architecture nonetheless. In the richness of materials and subtlety of spatial articulation, Rodef Shalom is undoubtedly one of the two or three first products of the Beaux-Arts movement in Pittsburgh. But its historical and artistic significance by no means overshadows its present and future importance as home to a strong and viable congregation in an exciting urban context.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Aaron, Marc L. : One Hundred Twenty Years; Pittsburgh, 1976

Schuyler, Montgomery: "The Modern Auditorium Church", The Architectural Record; New York; September, 1911; Vol.30, pp. 255-259.

Van Trump, James and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.; Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County, PA Pittsburgh; 1967, P. 90.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Pittsburgh East, Pa.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES 580 800

A 17 580 660 44 77 720

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ellis L. Schmidlapp

ORGANIZATION

Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

One Landmarks Square

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Pittsburgh,

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Ed Weintraub

TITLE

Ed Weintraub

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6-4-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol Shull

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-5-79

ATTEST:

Lynda A. Beebe

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

Nov. 2, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

RODEF SHALOM TEMPLE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER *10* PAGE *1*

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Beginning at a point on the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Devonshire Street; thence northwardly along the easterly side of Devonshire Street a distance of 403.31 feet to the line of Block 52-F, lot 92, now or late of Allen Berkman; thence eastwardly along the southerly line of said lot a distance of 197.57 feet to a point; thence northwardly along the easterly line of said lot a distance of 20.79 feet to the line of Block 52F, lot 132, now or late of Leo Sheedy; thence eastwardly along the southerly line of said lot a distance of 195.54 feet to the westerly side of Morewood Avenue; thence southwardly a distance of 416.25 feet along the westerly side of Morewood Avenue to the northwest corner of Morewood Avenue and Fifth Avenue; thence westwardly a distance of 422.67 feet along the northerly side of Fifth Avenue to the place of beginning.

Property

Rodef Shalom Temple

State

PA. (Allegheny)

Working Number

6.12.79.1388

79002162

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

5

U+M correct

CONTROL

6.12.79

HISTORIAN

CARL

Joe Forman 7-2-79

No statement of significance for history. See attached.

Significant as ~~early~~ ~~Beaux Arts~~ creative articulation of Beaux Arts style. ~~was~~ Said to be one of earliest + finest examples in Pittsburgh. See attached notes for technical questions.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

CARL

Accept
L. Beeke
8/4/79

ARCHEOLOGIST

SHPO staff provided photos + dates for rear additions - The 1938 section was consciously designed to be compatible. The 1956 section was not. All told, the additions

are quite large in area, although are low in scale, are set behind the old, + do not encroach upon the integrity of the historic resource, the temple itself. The 1938 section could be said to contribute, in terms of hist. evolution of the property —

OTHER

Accept
L. Beeke
11/2/79

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
L. Beeke
11/2/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

12-5-79

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered NOV 5 1979



Rodef Shalom Temple

Allegheny County *PA*

PD: 1979

JUN 12 1979

PC: Pgh. Hist. & Landmarks Foundation

PV: front facade, looking north

#115

OC NOV

5 1979



Rodef Shalom Temple

Allegheny County, PA

PD: 1979

PC: Pgh.Hist.&Landmarks Foundation

PF: side elevation, looking west

DOE NOV 5 1979

#295

JUN 12 1979



Rodef Shalom Temple
Allegheny County, PA

PC: Steve Kibert NOV

PD: October 1979

PV: View of rear
(north side)

DOE
5 1979

#395

SEP 28 1979
10-30-79



Rodef Shalom Temple
Allegheny County, Pa. ^{DOE} NOV 5 1979

PC: Steve Kibert

PD: October 1979

PV: View of east entrance

OCT 30 1979

#445



Rodef Shalom Temple
Allegheny County
PC: Steve Kibert
PD: October 1979
PV: View of west entrance

OCT 30 1979

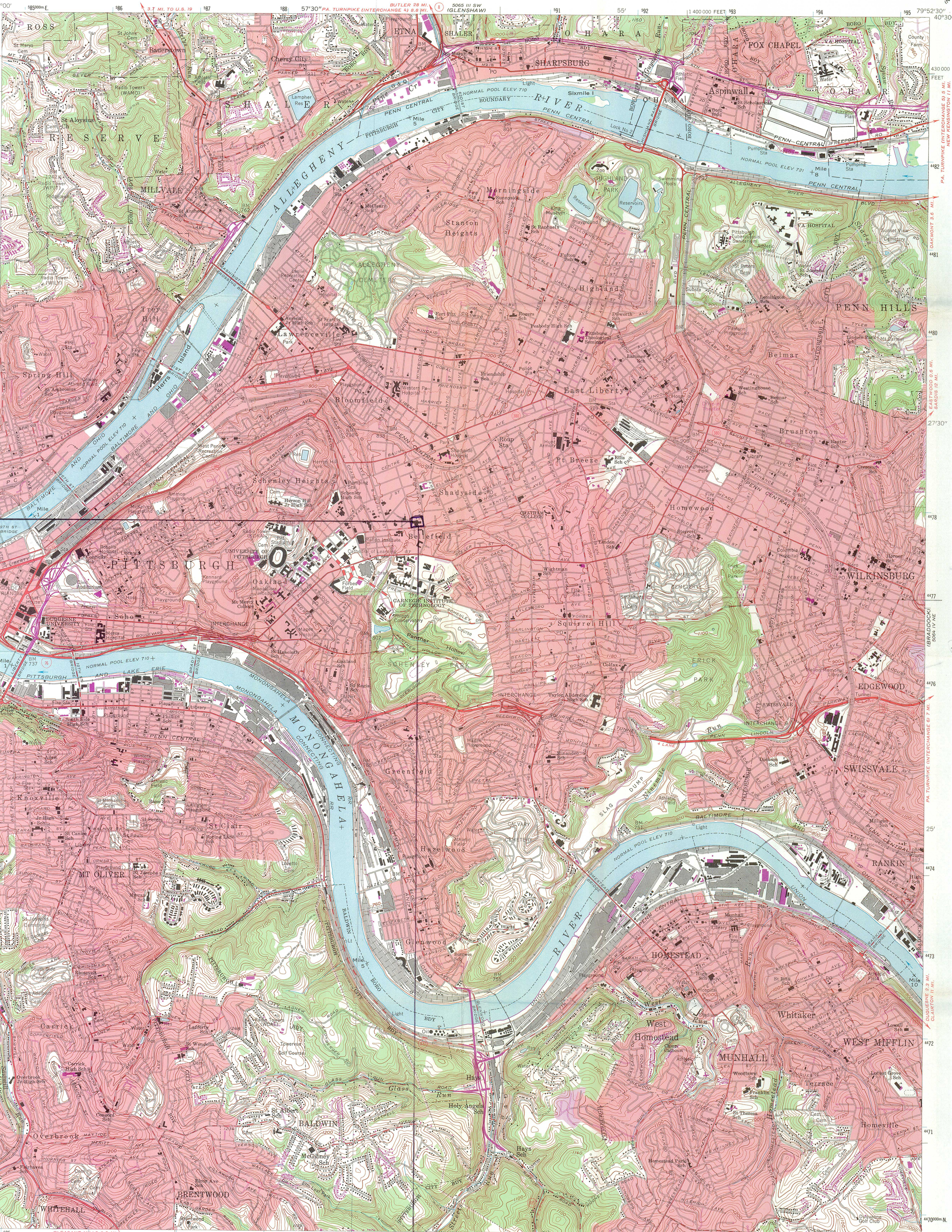
#545

NOV

5 1979

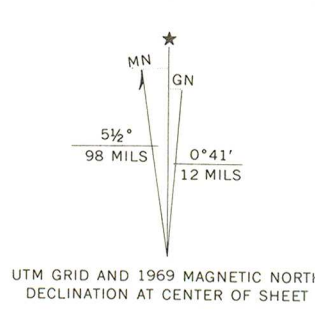
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PITTSBURGH EAST QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA—ALLEGHENY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

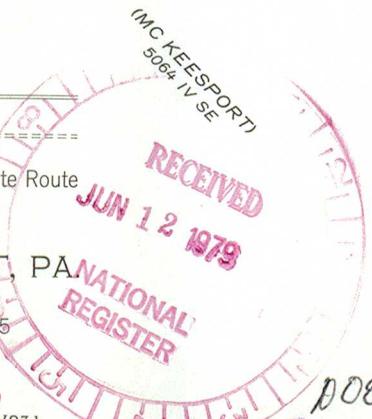
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and the City of Pittsburgh
Topography by planetable surveys 1925-1941, and 1948
Culture revised by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1959. Field check 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1969. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
5 89 680
EASTING

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route
PITTSBURGH EAST, PA
N 4022.5—W 7952.5/7.5
1960
PHOTOREVISED 1969
AMS 5064 IV NW—SERIES V831



NAME OF PROPERTY RODIE SHALOM TEMPLE STATE PA

Date Information Requested/Date Put in "Hold" Drawer: 8/8/79 ^{10/22}

Date to Be Pulled from "Hold" Drawer: 9/9/79 OCT 14 ^{11/22}
(30 Days from Date Requested)

Information Requested From: Susan Zacher

Information Requested/Reason Nomination Is Being Held:

9-14: Photos being sent

Joe

Not sent

L. Burke

Reviewer

OCT. 14

NOV. 22

10. 20. 17
~~SEP 28 1979~~

OA-501-A 10-66

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Oct. 24, 1979

SUBJECT: Rodef Shalom Temple
Allegheny County

TO: Lynn Beebe
National Register

FROM: Susan M. Zacher
OHP, Pennsylvania

Enclosed are the extra photographs you requested for the Rodef Shalom Temple, Allegheny County. I hope the complete the requirements.

^{LYNN -}
The photos clearly show the
large sections of the back of
the temple (which are not described
in the nomination)

however it is not explained
whether this part of the bldg. is
original or is a later addition.

Susan Zacher Patrick A.
717-787 4363 10.31.79

Also - did you request some
photos of the interior?

nomination form does not check its
present use

LOM TEMPLE — PA

requested dates of construction
- additions — also assessment
contributes to resource being
ed. Susan Zacher, Pa.

Patrick Andrews

MOLD

11/1/79 Requested dates of construction
for new addition — also assessment
re what contributes to resource being
utilized. Susan Zacher, Pa.

Patrick Andrus

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

DATE

11.1.79

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Susan Zacher

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

717-787 4363

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Rodel Shalom Temple - Pittsburg

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

She will find out the date of the construction on the sides and the back and decide whether it detracts. She will call back.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patrick Andrews

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: *Kodesh Shalom*

TO/FROM: *Susan Zacher*

DATE: *11/2/79*

ADDRESS: *Pa SHPO Staff*

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: *Beebe*

DIVISION: *NR*

REPORT:

Additions are 1938 + 1956.
1938 was designed to reflect certain design features of the original bldg.
1956 was not. SHPO staff feels it's not an intrusion, especially since it's out behind the ^{main} bldg., is low, + faces interior of block.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PENNSYLVANIA

STATE

Date Entered **NOV 5 1979**

Name

Location

Rodef Shalom Temple

**Pittsburgh
Allegheny County**

Also Notified

Honorable H. John Heinz, III

**Honorable Richard S. Schweiker
Honorable William S. Moorhead**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Ed Weintraub
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
Commission
P.O. Box 1026
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120**

NR Byers/bjr 11/6/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

8:05
7:55
10 min. or far

8:35
8:16
19

Interior photos? Emphasis of signif. on interior.

Rear addition? Note photo. Nothing in #7

#8: History is weak. Needs clarification of role of synagogue in Pittsburgh — esp 1906-1930! How does it relate to Civic Center? Urban change? Who were signif. members in period? What was its role in community? etc....

Review notes — L. Beebe 8/4/79

[No discussion of structural system]

- Call 8200 re VM change

- Interior photo should have been included

Arch. justification is brief but sufficient to carry this nomination w/out expansion of historical justification in form.

- Need clarification re: rear "wing" — photo seems to suggest there's a rear wing. If there is, it should be briefly described in part 1. If it is a dependent structure on the property it should also be discussed in 1.