NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Nat.: Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by enter the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architect: classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrat. items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic B'Nai Israel Synagogue

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 126 S. Main [N/A] not for publication

city or town Cape Girardeau [N/A] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cape Girardeau code 031 zip code 63701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Mark A. Miles 03/17/04

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/ Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
- [ ] entered in the National Register.
  - [ ] See continuation sheet.
- [ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
  - [ ] See continuation sheet.
- [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
- [ ] removed from the National Register.
- [ ] other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Name of Property
B'Nai Israel Synagogue

County and State
Cape Girardeau County,MO

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
[X] private
[ ] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
[X] building(s)
[ ] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
STUCCO
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property
B'Nai Israel Synagogue

County and State
Cape Girardeau County, MO

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:
[ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] **B** removed from its original location.

[ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.

[ ] **D** a cemetery.

[ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] **F** a commemorative property.

[ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage: European

Architecture

Period of Significance
1937-1954

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Barnett, T.P./architect

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:
[X] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal agency
[ ] Local government
[ ] University
[ ] Other
Name of repository:

Name of Property
B'Nai Israel Synagogue

County and State
Cape Girardeau County, Missouri

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1][6] [2][7][6][7][4][0] [4][1][3][1][2][6][0]
Zone Easting Northing

2 [ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
Zone Easting Northing

3 [ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]

4 [ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] [ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melinda Winchester

organization Historic Preservation Program/Southeast Missouri State University date 02-19-03

street & number 2285 County Road 316 telephone (573) 204-7339

city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63755

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Merriwether Investments

street & number 20 N. Spanish telephone (573) 651-1916

city or town Cape Girardeau state MO zip code 63701

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties to listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

SUMMARY:

Constructed in 1937, the B'Nai Israel Synagogue is a stuccoed brick, one-story, Spanish Colonial Revival style building with Islamic influences. It is located at 126 S. Main Street in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The white-finished building sits at the south end of the downtown business district and faces Main Street to the east. The floor plan is square, measuring 40 feet x 40 feet. The main entrance is within a stuccoed portico centered in the primary façade. The portico itself is entered through pointed horseshoe arches on three sides. The façade also features corner buttresses topped with red mission tiles. The synagogue has a flat sloping roofline with red tiles along the parapet. South of the synagogue and flush with the east façade, a set of wrought iron gates is flanked by square brick piers. The Star of David is molded into the wrought iron and centered on each of the gates. A painted brick chimney is at the southwest corner. A small brick building, originally a carriage house, sits directly at the northwest corner of the synagogue. Although the two buildings are on separate property tracts, with vertical metal flashing between them, from a distance they appear to be attached. The synagogue is in very good condition and has had very little alteration since its construction in 1937.

ELABORATION:

The B'Nai Israel Synagogue occupies one and a half lots in the downtown business district of Cape Girardeau. The landscape is level with a few cedar trees on the south side of the building. To the south of the synagogue is St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (NR April 12, 1982) and to the west are residential homes and small commercial business. The Mississippi River is one block to the east. Regional history murals that have been hand-painted on the city's flood wall can be seen from the front steps of the synagogue.

The building has been articulated in a simple Spanish Colonial Revival design but also reflects an Islamic influence in some of the architectural details. The focal point of the east facade is a stuccoed portico with battered sides and a dome. Measuring 7 feet by 8 feet, the portico provides primary access to the synagogue (see Photo 1). The dome is constructed of red painted sheet metal squares and is topped with a wrought iron finial. Decorative ceramic mosaic tiles form a symmetrical band at the base of the dome. Recessed Islamic pointed horseshoe arches provide openings on all three sides. Diamond pane casement windows with Islamic detail are symmetrically arranged in the side elevations of the portico. A red brick walkway is laid from the sidewalk to the front steps of the synagogue in a basket-weave pattern. There are four brick steps with

iron handrails on each side of the entrance. The main entry door is constructed of cypress wood divided into two panels with raised diamond patterns, painted with a red finish and adorned with an iron door knocker. Colorful ceramic tiles frame the top and sides of the entry door and an iron light fixture with frosted glass panes hangs from the center of the portico (see Photo 6).

The front façade has a series of four window openings with iron lintels centered on each side of the portico. Each opening is recessed into the exterior wall in the shape of an Islamic pointed horseshoe arch. The two outer openings contain diamond pane casement windows with red, green, yellow and blue stained glass. The inner openings are blind Islamic pointed horseshoe arches. The corners of the front façade are supported by angle buttresses (see Photo 2). Extending from the south corner of the front façade is a pair of wrought iron gates, each approximately 7 feet high and 8 feet wide. The Star of David is molded into the wrought iron and centered on each gate. Brick and stucco piers flank either side of the gates (see Photos 3, 5 and 7).

The south and north elevations contain four 10-foot bays and are identical with the exception of the fourth bay. A double casement window (each unit in the shape of an Islamic pointed horseshoe arch) is centered in the first bay (see Photos 4 and 7). They are constructed of red painted, metal frames and lintels with diamond pane stained glass. Bays are divided by approximately 6-foot pilasters topped with red tiles. The second bay consists of two square iron casement windows with 16 panes of clear glass, iron mullions and iron lintels. The third bay has one square iron casement window and a painted wood half-light door with a shed awning with red tiles. The fourth bay of the south elevation has one red wood half-light door and a brick chimney that extends about one foot above the parapet at the southwest corner. A low concrete porch with iron rails, a handicapped ramp and a set of three steps is located between the third and fourth bay. The fourth bay of the north elevation has two square iron casement windows instead of the door and the roofline is level to the back of the building (see Photos 3 and 4).

The west elevation is very plain with asymmetrical metal casement windows and white stuccoed walls. The roofline is level with no parapet wall. The electric utilities are mounted on the south end of this elevation (see Photo 5). On the northwest corner, a small vernacular brick building sits almost touching the synagogue. This building was a carriage house to a residence circa 1880 that was on the lot directly west of the synagogue (See 1893 Sanborn map). Between 1893 and 1900, the residence burned. Ruins of the home remained until 1915 but the carriage house has been kept on the property since its construction. It is located on a different tract and is not included in the nomination.

Interior:

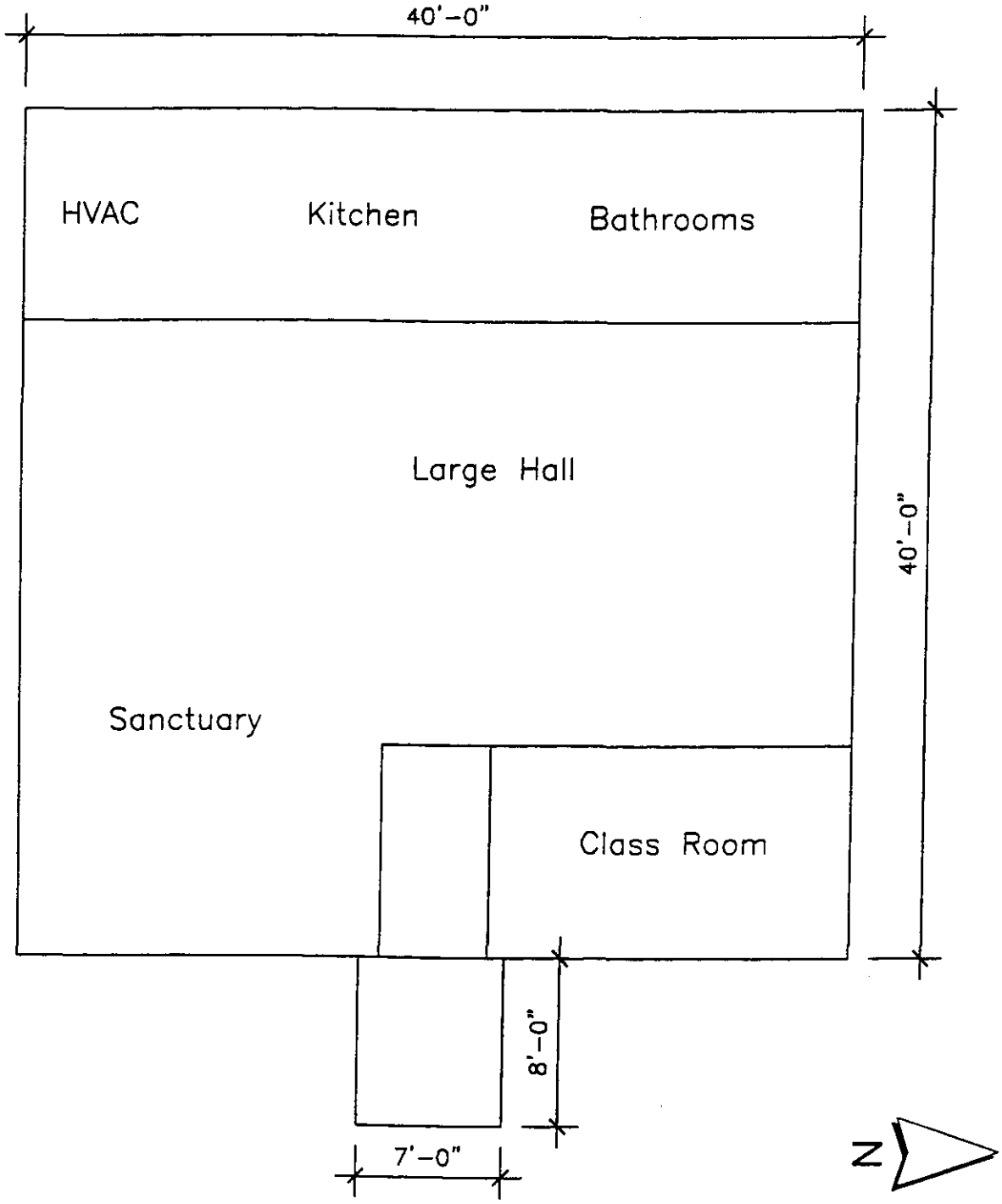
From the entry door, facing west the synagogue opens into a small vestibule area, with a large classroom to the north. This classroom was used for teaching. The vestibule opens into a large hall where banquets and social gatherings occurred. This hall converges into the sanctuary in the shape of an L. A small kitchen, two bathrooms and a boiler room are along the west side of the building. The sanctuary in the south portion of the building measures approximately 15 feet by 30 feet (see floor plan sketch).

Rows of red oak pews occupy the sanctuary and face a *bimah* (podium) that is used for reading the Torah scrolls or leading services. Between the stained glass windows on the inside of the front façade is an important feature of the sanctuary, the Ark of the Covenant (see Photo 8). The Ark, a cabinet or recession in the wall, holds the Torah scrolls which consists of the first five books of the Bible and constitute the Jewish laws, constitution and teachings. In front of and slightly above the Ark is the *ner tamid*, or Eternal Lamp. This lamp symbolizes the commandment to keep a light burning in the synagogue. Above the lamp, the Ark is adorned with David's crown and the lions of Judea (see Photo 8). To each side of it are menorah (candelabras). An American flag stands to the left corner of the Ark and a blue and white Israeli flag is to the right. The area directly above the *bimah* has a red oak plank ceiling with projecting beams resting on decorative bearing plates.[1] The large hall and classroom have white plaster walls and ceilings. Floors are red oak. The interior of the synagogue contains all of its original wood trim, floors and ceiling rafters. The plaster walls have some water damage around a few windows but are largely intact. All the window frames, exterior wood doors and stained glass are well preserved. The ceilings are plaster and wood and contain the original light and ceiling fixtures which are still functional. The décor retains high integrity and reflects the local Jewish culture of Cape Girardeau.

The B'Nai Israel Synagogue is architecturally unique in Cape Girardeau and is representative of the local experience of a prominent ethnic group in the city. Historically, it stands as a symbol of local Jewish culture not only in Cape Girardeau but Southeast Missouri, and architecturally it remains much as it did in 1937 when it was completed.

[1] Judaism 101: *Synagogues, Shuls and Temples*. http://www.jewfaq.org.

Floor Plan

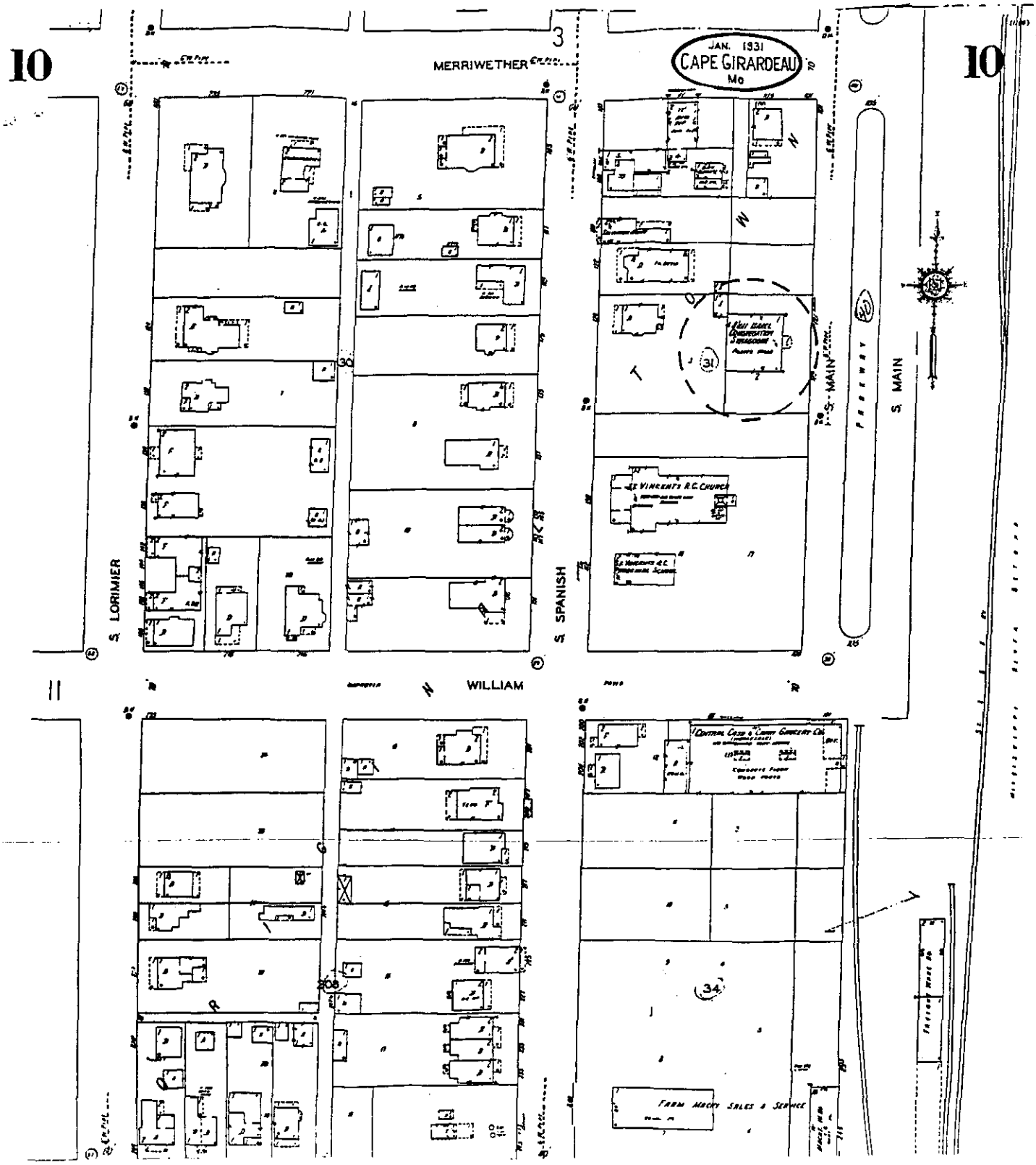

40'-0"
HVAC
Kitchen
Bathrooms
Large Hall
40'-0"
Sanctuary
Class Room
8'-0"
7'-0"
N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

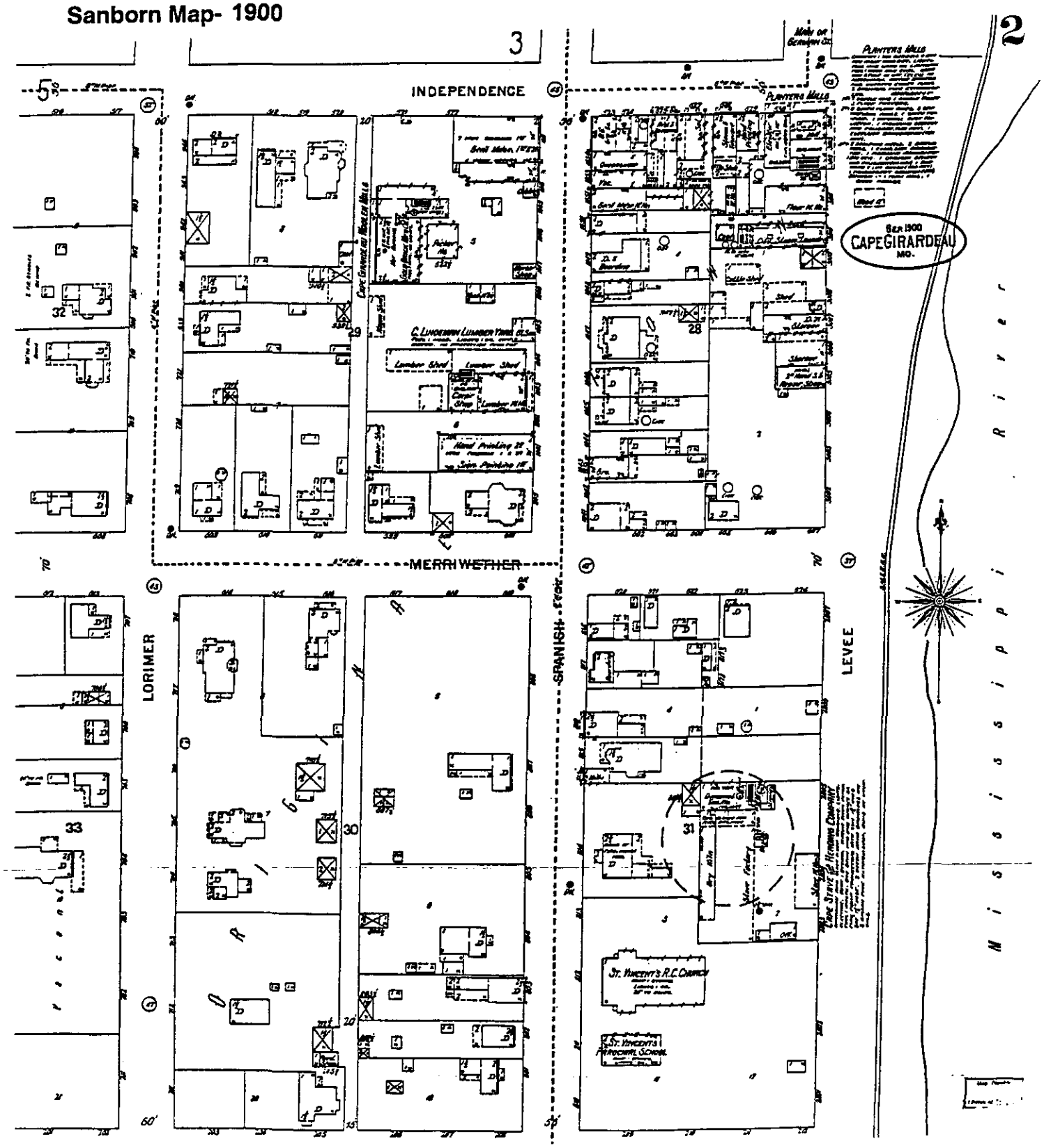
Section number 7 Page 5

B'Nai Israel Synagogue
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Sanborn Map (Revised 1931-1950)



Sanborn Map- 1900



SUMMARY:

The B'Nai Israel Synagogue in Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of ETHNIC HERITAGE: EUROPEAN and Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The building is locally significant for its association with the establishment and growth of the local Jewish community, symbolizing its determination to retain traditional identity while achieving inclusion in the larger community. Completed in 1937, it was jointly erected by members of Cape Girardeau's Jewish community, private citizens and local business owners solidifying a bond and acceptance between the community and one of its contributing ethnic groups. Architecturally, the B'Nai Israel Synagogue is significant as the only representative Spanish Colonial Revival style building with Islamic details in Cape Girardeau. The exterior of the synagogue remains unchanged with no alterations, additions or renovations since its construction in 1937. The interior retains remarkable integrity with the authentic Jewish sanctuary and original structural and decorative elements intact, thereby strongly conveying the building's past traditions. The period of significance is from the time of its completion in 1937 until 1954, the arbitrary cut-off date for the National Register of Historic places. The B'Nai Israel Synagogue functioned as a Jewish house of worship continuously until about 1999.

ELABORATION:

Prior to construction of the B'Nai Israel Synagogue, the congregation met in various locations throughout Cape Girardeau such as the Elks Lodge, the Presbyterian Church and the Community Building in Fairground Park. After fire destroyed the Community Building in 1937, the small congregation built its own house of worship. Since its construction, the synagogue has been used as a gathering place for Jewish religious and social life. Over the years it has conveyed the group's sense of tradition and contributed to its growth of the local Jewish community.

In the early 1700s, America's small Jewish community contributed to the prosperity of the colonial states by providing traders, merchants, and shopkeepers. Like other pioneers in America, the Jews sought economic, financial and religious freedom. Many were fluent in several languages and had foreign contacts for overseas trading, an obvious advantage in the world of commerce. Jews became known for skills such as appraising jewels and obtaining special commodities. In early America many Jewish citizens were allowed to vote and hold office, own large plantations and deal in the slave trade. After the Revolutionary War, many took full advantage of the country's

economic independence and prospered greatly.[2] With all of these opportunities, the Jewish community established itself as an integral part of the new nation.

Due to the growing number of immigrants from Germany, Poland and Eastern Europe, the Jewish population in the United States which had grown to nearly 300,000 by the mid-1800s rose to approximately 4,500,000 in 1925. As a result of this influx, Jewish settlers traveled across the United States and developed flourishing communities on the banks of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. In 1877, Missouri's population included approximately 7,380 Jewish persons who were mainly concentrated around the St. Louis and Kansas City areas. The Jewish community was instrumental in the industrial and commercial development of St. Louis.[3] Seeking to build a sense of their traditional heritage, the Jewish community began to organize and create associations for worship and familiar social traditions. In 1836, the first Jewish public service in Missouri occurred on the top floor of a St. Louis grocery store. St. Louis' first synagogue, theTemple of B'nai-El, was constructed in 1855.[4]

Louis Hecht, whose family came to America from Poland in the mid-1800s, was of particular importance to Cape Girardeau. The Jacob Hecht family came to St. Louis where Jacob met his future wife, Anna. She had migrated from Germany with her parents at about the same time that Jacob escaped from Poland. They soon married in St. Louis where they operated a small retail clothing store prior to moving to Poplar Bluff in 1900.[5] The Hechts owned and operated two successful retail stores in Poplar Bluff, providing high quality items such as silk and wool dresses, hats, lingerie, corsets, Georgette coats and fine crepe waist jackets. For men and boys, Hecht's carried specialty suits, shirts and caps. Hecht's established a fine reputation of serving their community with dedication. Jacob's ten children followed in his retail footsteps and opened numerous successful stores throughout Missouri. Jacob's son, Louis, visualized a store along the Mississippi River in the thriving town of Cape Girardeau. In 1917, the local newspapers announced his arrival:

The Poplar Bluff Republican pays a nice compliment to Louis Hecht, who is preparing to

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[2] Fishman, Priscilla, The Jews of the United States, New York: Library of Jewish Knowledge, 1973, pp. 45-49.

[3] Dershowitz, Alan, The Vanishing American Jew, New York: Little, Brown and Company. 1997, pp. 162-163.

[4] Wiernik, Peter, History of Jews in America, New York: Hermon Press, 1972, pp.122-127.

[5] Southeast Missourian, October 22, 1988.

open a new store in Cape Girardeau. Louis Hecht, one of the most aggressive young business men. Will open a dry goods business in Cape in the next two weeks. He has for numerous Years been active here in connection with his father and has had a number of years experience in the mercantile business. The Hecht family is prominent in the merchant business in this part of the country.[6]

Shortly after arriving in Cape Girardeau, Louis Hecht became known as a loyal businessman and dedicated, patriotic citizen serving his community and country proudly and fairly. An example both of his clever business tactics and dedication came about when he was called to serve in World War I less than a year after he established his new business. Instead of selling his goods to a broker, he decided to place an ad in the paper, mark down all of the merchandise and sell it at low prices to the people of Cape Girardeau and the local community.

" I AM CALLED TO THE COLORS"--Louis Hecht

Within a few weeks I expect to become a member of the National Army, and
Anticipatory of my military service, I must dispose of the business I have
Built up in Cape Girardeau.

I have had two alternatives presented to me in this emergency. Either I could "lump"
My entire store off to a single purchaser— sacrifice to one man, or I could "sacrifice"
My stock to the people of Cape Girardeau.

I owe my success in the last year to the people of Cape Girardeau.
I am going to sell my stock to the people.[7]

Upon returning from the war, Louis Hecht reopened his business with even more success and acceptance from the local community. Soon his sons joined him in the family business and they expanded operations with several other locations. Hecht's retail stores continue to serve Cape Girardeau, providing the same high quality and dedication to the people.

In addition to its economic contributions to the business district of Cape Girardeau, the Hecht family was also known for dedication to its ethnic heritage and religion. The size of the local Jewish community was small in the early 1900s but its commitment was strong. In 1919, they congregated to worship for the High Holiday service in the local

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[6] Ibid., March 13, 1917.

[7] Daily Republican, March 13, 1917.

Elks Club building. In 1921, local Jewish leaders and businessmen David Minnen, Louis Hecht and Jake Pollack organized efforts to form a charter of the B'Nai B'Rith lodge in Cape Girardeau.[8] These men became instrumental in leading the Jewish congregation in its search for stability, acceptance and a sense of place within the community.

From 1921-1938, the Jewish community worshipped and socialized in various locations such as, the Sturdivant Bank, the Presbyterian Church and the Community Building in Fairground Park. Then tragedy struck on February 27, 1937 when the Community Building burned to the ground. The Southeast Missourian reported that the congregation not only lost its place of worship in the blaze but its sacred Hebrew scrolls as well.

FIRE DESTROYS PARK CLUBHOUSE
Community Building in Fairground park Wiped Out:
Jewish people in community say Jewish scroll lost.[9]

With undaunted faith, the congregation purchased property on Main Street next to the St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church and began preparation for a new synagogue in July 1937.[10] The congregation commissioned T. P. Barnett of the prominent St. Louis architectural firm Barnett, Haynes, and Barnett to design a traditional Jewish synagogue.[11] The firm had designed other prominent structures in Cape Girardeau such as Hecht's Store (NR 7/20/00 Cape Girardeau Commercial Historic District) and the Himmelberger and Harrison Building (NR 7/17/03). Tom Barnett, the youngest brother in Barnett, Haynes, and Barnett, had traveled throughout Europe as an artist and designer. Because of his fine reputation and renowned sense of style, Barnett had been hired to design many of Cape Girardeau's other prominent buildings.

Cape Girardeau boomed during the steamboat years but business slowed after the Civil War until the railroad arrived. Louis Houck was particularly instrumental in obtaining a railroad, without which Cape Girardeau might never have thrived. In 1900, Houck was credited with successfully connecting all of the small surrounding railroads and linking

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[8] Hechts's Store Business clippings collection, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

[9] Ibid.,February 11, 1937.

[10] Images of the Past In the City of Roses, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Southeast Missourian, 1993, page 93.

[11] Specifications for Synagogue Building for Beth-Israel Congregation. T.P. Barnett Company, Architect. St. Louis, MO

them to Cape Girardeau.

Houck also loved history and possessed a deep sense of the area's heritage. This was evident with his publication, *The Spanish Regime in Missouri,* in 1909. The book helped bring the significance of the area's heritage into the public eye.[12] Many of Cape Girardeau's citizens already felt a rich connection with its Spanish heritage. This connection was reflected through the use of Spanish style architecture in many of the prominent commercial structures such as the Marquette Hotel (NR 4/11/02), the Southeast Missourian Newspaper Building, Hecht's Store (Commercial Historic District, NR 7/20/00), the Surety Insurance Building (Broadway and North Fountain Street Historic District, NR 7/17/03) and Lueders Studios. One of the most unique, however, was the incorporation of this heritage by the local Jewish community with the construction of the B'Nai Israel Synagogue.

The synagogue featured a modest Spanish Colonial Revival design, a prominent style from about 1915-1940. Along with Mission, Mediterranean and Spanish Eclectic designs, the Spanish Colonial Revival style evolved from Hispanic roots and Spanish Colonial architecture in particular. Spanish Colonial Revival architecture became popular in California in the 1890s and migrated eastward. Railroads used this style in the construction of grand terminals in the Southwest, and by the 1920s picturesque Spanish motifs had become popular in hotels and commercial structures throughout America. The Spanish Colonial Revival style was popular in America until about the time of World War II.

The design of the B'Nai Israel Synagogue reflects such features of Spanish Colonial Revival and Spanish Eclectic styles as stucco walls with pilasters, a low-pitched red tile roof, parapet walls, a simple square floor plan and a symmetrical façade. An identifying feature of Spanish Eclectic is the use of decorative details from Byzantine, Moorish, or Gothic influences, and the B'Nai Israel Synagogue is a unique building in Cape Girardeau because of the additional presence of such details.[13] The synagogue's architect reflected the congregation's ethnic heritage by incorporating such Islamic elements as horseshoe shaped arches, stained glass windows, the dome on the front façade and colorful glazed ceramic wall tiles.

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[12] Stephens, Jane and Bonnie Stepenoff. "Style and Meaning: The Spanish Revival in Cape Girardeau 1924-1937." Missouri Valley Chapter Newletter. Vol.IV, Number 3, 1998.

[13] McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Knopf, Inc.. 2000, pages 129 and 417.

The style in which the synagogue was constructed portrays Cape Girardeau's Spanish heritage and a relationship to the Spanish colonists who blended the adobe building traditions of the Native Americans with similar building techniques from Spain while reflecting the traditional culture of the Jewish congregation. The B'Nai Israel Synagogue continues to retain its original 1937 setting, materials, workmanship, association and location.

Major Bibliographical References:

Cape Girardeau Daily Republican, Cape Girardeau, MO. Various issues.

Dershowitz, Alan, The Vanishing American Jew, New York: Little, Brown and Company. 1997.

Fishman, Priscilla, The Jews of the United States, New York: Library of Jewish Knowledge. 1973.

Hechts's Store business clippings collection, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

Images of the Past In the City of Roses, Cape Girardeau: Southeast Missourian. 1993.

Judaism 101: *Synagogues, Shuls and Temples.* http://www.jewfaq.org.

Marcus, Jacob Rader, Memoirs of American Jews, New York: KTAV Publishing House, Inc. 1974.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Knopf, Inc., 2000.

Sanborn fire insurance maps for the City of Cape Girardeau 1893,1900,Revised 1931-1950.

Silbermen, Charles, A Certain People, American Jews and Their Lives, New York, Summit Books. 1995.

Southeast Missourian, Cape Girardeau, MO. Various issues.

Specifications for Synagogue Building for Beth-Israel Congregation. T.P. Barnett Company, Architect. St. Louis, MO

Stephens, Jane and Bonnie Stepenoff. "Style and Meaning: The Spanish Revival in Cape Girardeau 1924-1937." Missouri Valley Chapter Newsletter. Vol.IV, Number 3, 1998.

Synagogue Building Fund Report and Exhibits, David Hoche, CPA. 1938.

(Provided by John and Gerianne Wyman).

Wiernik, Peter, History of Jews in America, New York: Hermon Press. 1972.

Personal Interviews:

Hecht, Martin, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, telephone interview by Melinda Winchester, March 25, 2003.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the nominated property is indicated by the dashed line on the accompanying Cape Girardeau City Plat Map (1978).

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the B'Nai Israel Synagogue.

Photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs:
B'Nai Israel Synagogue, 126 S. Main Street, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri
Photographer: Melinda Winchester
Location of negatives: Melinda Winchester, 2285 County Rd. 316, Cape Girardeau, MO 63755
Date: January 2004

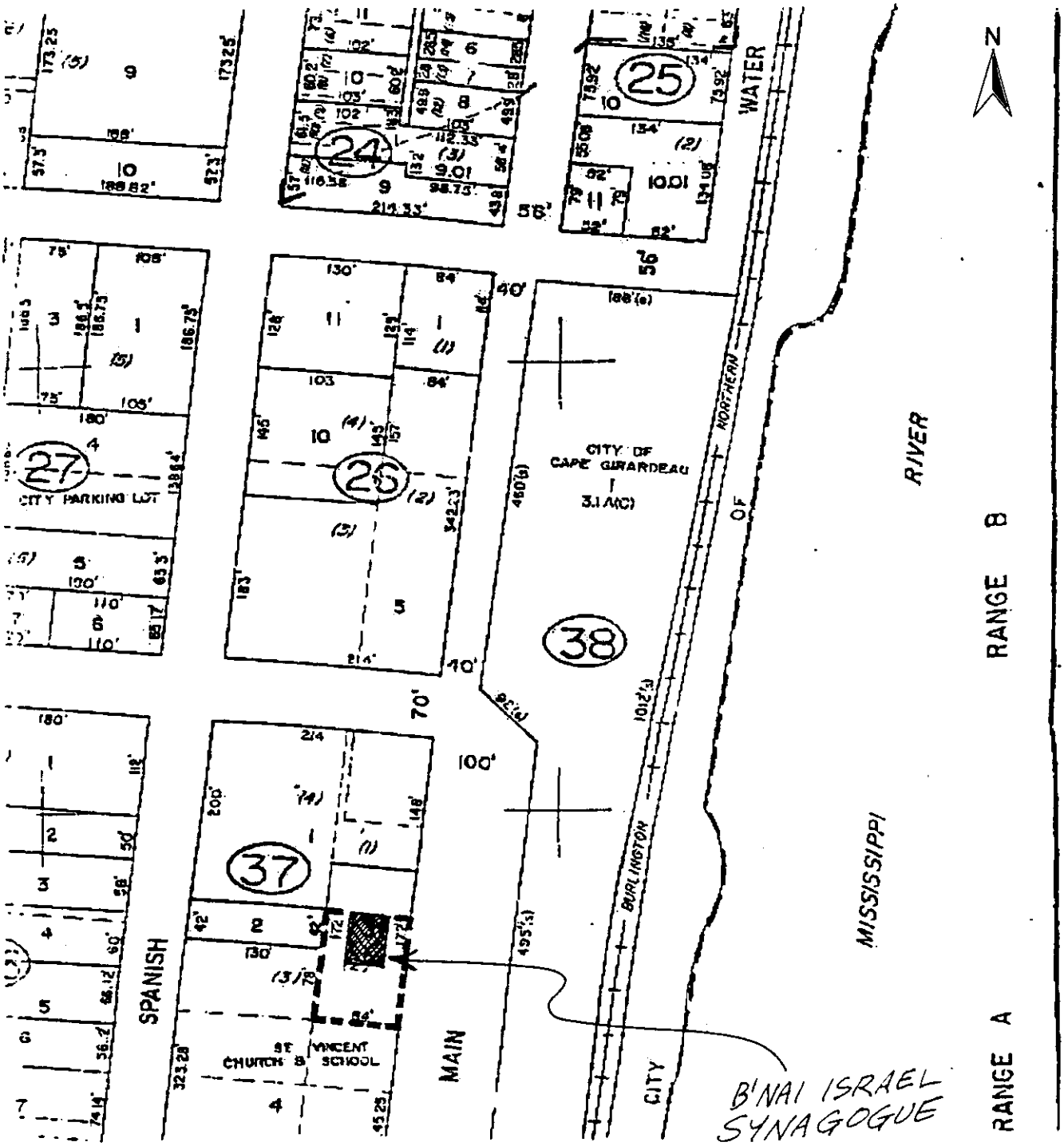
1. East (primary) elevation, facing west.
2. East and north elevations, facing southwest.
3. South elevation, facing north.
4. North elevation, facing south.
5. West and south elevations, facing northeast.
6. Entrance detail, facing west.
7. Detail of southeast corner, facing north.
8. Interior of sanctuary, facing east.

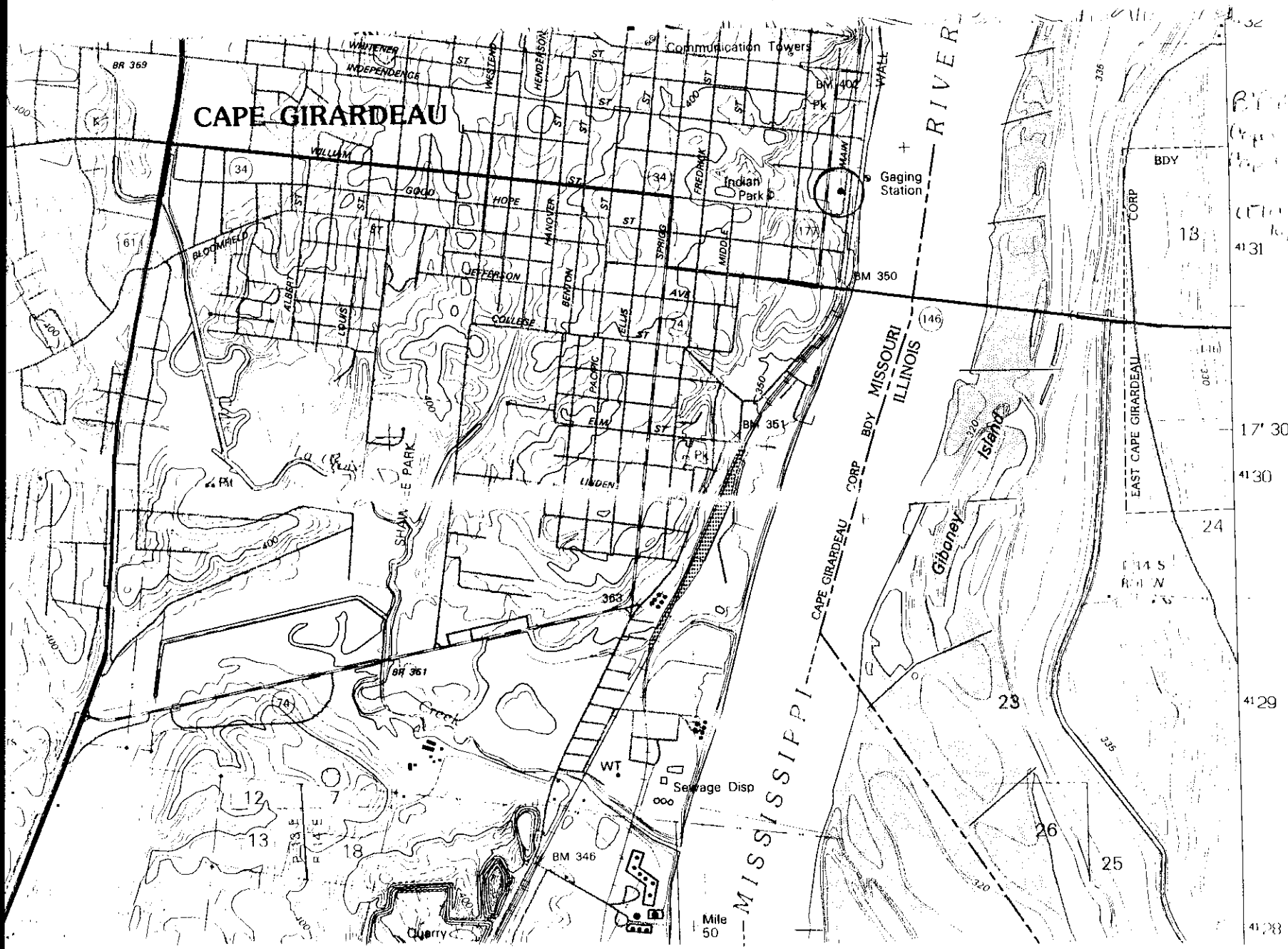
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number City Map Page 16

B'Nai Israel Synagogue
Cape Girardeau County, MO
City Plat Map- 1978




CAPE GIRARDEAU
Communication Towers
BR 369
WHITENER
INDEPENDENCE
WESTERN
HENDERSON
BM 400
Pk
WALL
MAIN
Gaging Station
Indian Park
FREDRICK
WILLIAM
GOOD
HOPE
HANOVER
SPRIGG
MIDDLE
BLOOMFIELD
JEFFERSON
AVE
BM 350
ALBERT
LOUIS
COLLEGE
BENTON
ELLIS
PACIFIC
ELM
BM 351
LINDEN
SHAWNEE PARK
BR 351
Creek
363
WT
Sewage Disp
BM 346
Quarry
Mile 50
MISSISSIPPI
RIVER
CAPE GIRARDEAU CORP BDY
MISSOURI
ILLINOIS
Giboney Island
BDY
CORP
EAST CAPE GIRARDEAU
13
24
23
26
25
12
7
18
17' 30"
4131
4130
4129
4128

STATE OF MISSOURI
Bob Holden, Governor • Stephen M. Mahfood, Director
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
www.dnr.mo.gov

May 17, 2004

Merriwether Investments
20 N. Spanish
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Re: B'Nai Israel Synagogue, 126 S. Main, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County

Dear Sir of Madam:

I am pleased to inform you that the B'Nai Israel Synagogue, 126 S. Main, Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 5, 2004.

Enclosed is a copy of the official National Register listing from the National Park Service.

A certificate in recognition of this honor will be prepared and forwarded to you in the near future. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102 or at 573/751-7858.

Sincerely,

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Mark A. Miles
Director and Deputy State
Historic Preservation Officer

MAM/ct

Enclosure: as stated

c: Mayor Jay Knudtson, City of Cape Girardeau
Mr. Kent Bratton, Historic Preservation Comm.
Ms. Melinda Winchester, preparer

EXTRA
PHOTOS