

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

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Old Ohavi Zedek Synagogue

AND/OR COMMON Ahavath Garem Synagogue

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Archibald Street, Corner of Hyde Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Vermont

STATE

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Chittenden

CODE

007

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ahavath Garem Synagogue

STREET & NUMBER

Archibald Street

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

STATE

Vermont

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burlington City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont State Register of Historic Places

DATE

3/71

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

 EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED

DATE _____

 FAIR UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ahavath Garem Synagogue and its mortuary occupy a corner site in Burlington's North End, an area of mixed residential and commercial use. The 35' x 60' synagogue is a high one-story gable-roofed, wood-frame structure which is clad with a brick veneer on the front and side elevations and clapboarded on the rear elevation.

Main window and door openings in the three-bay by sevenbay building are in the form of pointed arches. The front gable elevation contains a central door with a pointed-arch transom which is flanked by double-hung pointed-arch windows. An oculus inscribed with a Star of David muntin pattern is set in the gable peak. The double-hung pointed arch windows on the side elevations are interspersed with four oculi in the first, second, third, and sixth spandrels from the front (those on the west elevation are boarded over). Segmental-arched basement windows extend above the rubblestone foundation interrupting the base of the brick apsidal structure cantilevered beyond the rear wall plane, flanked by double-hung pointed-arch windows and a Star of David - inscribed gable oculus.

The synagogue has been substantially altered twice since the original structure was occupied in 1885. In 1902, the structure was enlarged and given its present brick veneer. In 1928, the two rear most bays were added to the building making use of materials and techniques identical to the 1902 construction, save for the use of a poured concrete foundation on the newer portion. Additional minor alterations include gable-roofed clapboarded basement entrances on the east and west elevations and an exterior brick chimney on the west elevation.

The main meeting room of the synagogue has a beaded wooden dado, while its walls and barrel vaulted ceiling are clad with acoustical tile staggered to resemble stonework, a feature dating from the 1928 remodeling or later. A woman's gallery runs along the rear and a portion of the sides of the room, supported by metal columns. The room is dominated by a copper Ark of the Torah in the center of the north wall. The Ark, which was constructed by a local artisan at the time of the 1928 enlargement, is of a pedimented classical design and is decorated with tablets containing the Ten Commandments flanked by gilded lions and pincapple finials. A bimach or reading platform stands in front of the Ark. In addition, an earlier octagonal bimah stands in the center of the sanctuary. Dark stained wooden pews complete the major appointments of the room.

The basement of the synagogue contains a small meeting room, a mikvah or ritual bath, and a furnace room.

The clapboarded, wood-frame, one-room mortuary abuts the synagogue's eastern elevation at the rear. The one-story building is three bays wide, has a porch across the front elevation, and is topped with a flat roof which feeds a cistern supplying the mikvah according to biblical requirements.

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 checked="" 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 1885-1902, 1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Spear Brothers Construction Co. (for 1902 alterations)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Aharath Garem Synagogue was built in 1885 as the original home of Ohavi Zedek, the oldest continuing Jewish congregation in Vermont, founded in 1876. The synagogue building was remodeled and enlarged over the span of the next fifty years resulting in what is today a striking and well-preserved cultural document exhibiting a juxtaposition of Eastern European liturgical architecture with American vernacular construction.

The community of immigrant peddlers and merchants who founded Ohavi Zedek held services in private homes and commercial lofts until the time of their 1885 purchase of a former stone cutter's shed near Burlington's French Canadian cemetery. The appearance of the sanctuary which was created out of the shed is not recorded. In 1902, a major remodeling of the original frame structure resulted in the present vernacular Gothic style exterior. In additional building programs undertaken in 1928 brought the building to its present appearance.

In 1952, the congregation Ohavi Zedek built a new sanctuary for itself. A group of members chose, however, not to move to the new synagogue and formed the congregation Ahavath Garem, which today continues to occupy the historic structure.

Architecturally, the synagogue reveals both the inventiveness of its members, as well as the effects of relative isolation from the major urban centers of American Jewish culture. Thus one finds such typically European features as the bimah and horseshoe-shaped woman's gallery. The exterior of the synagogue with its unique interpretation of the Gothic design vocabulary - oculi interspersed among pointed arches - functions both as a way of architecturally distinguishing the unique identity of the synagogue and as a practical means for lighting the woman's gallery. The abilities of a synagogue member, a local tinsmith, are amply displayed in the outstanding Ark of the Torah. Finally, the synagogue's everyday importance in Burlington's Jewish community is underlined by the presence of the mortuary building next to the main sanctuary.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	6 4 2 5 0 0	4 9 2 7 4 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies lots 27, 28, and 29 of Dodds and Stevens' plan of city lots (1884) and is approximately 60' x 90' in size.

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

John R. Axtell, Architectural Historian

June 2, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

802-828-3226

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Pavilion Building, Montpelier

Vermont 05602

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE XX

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

William B. Pinney

6-15-77

TITLE

William B. Pinney
Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

SURVEY

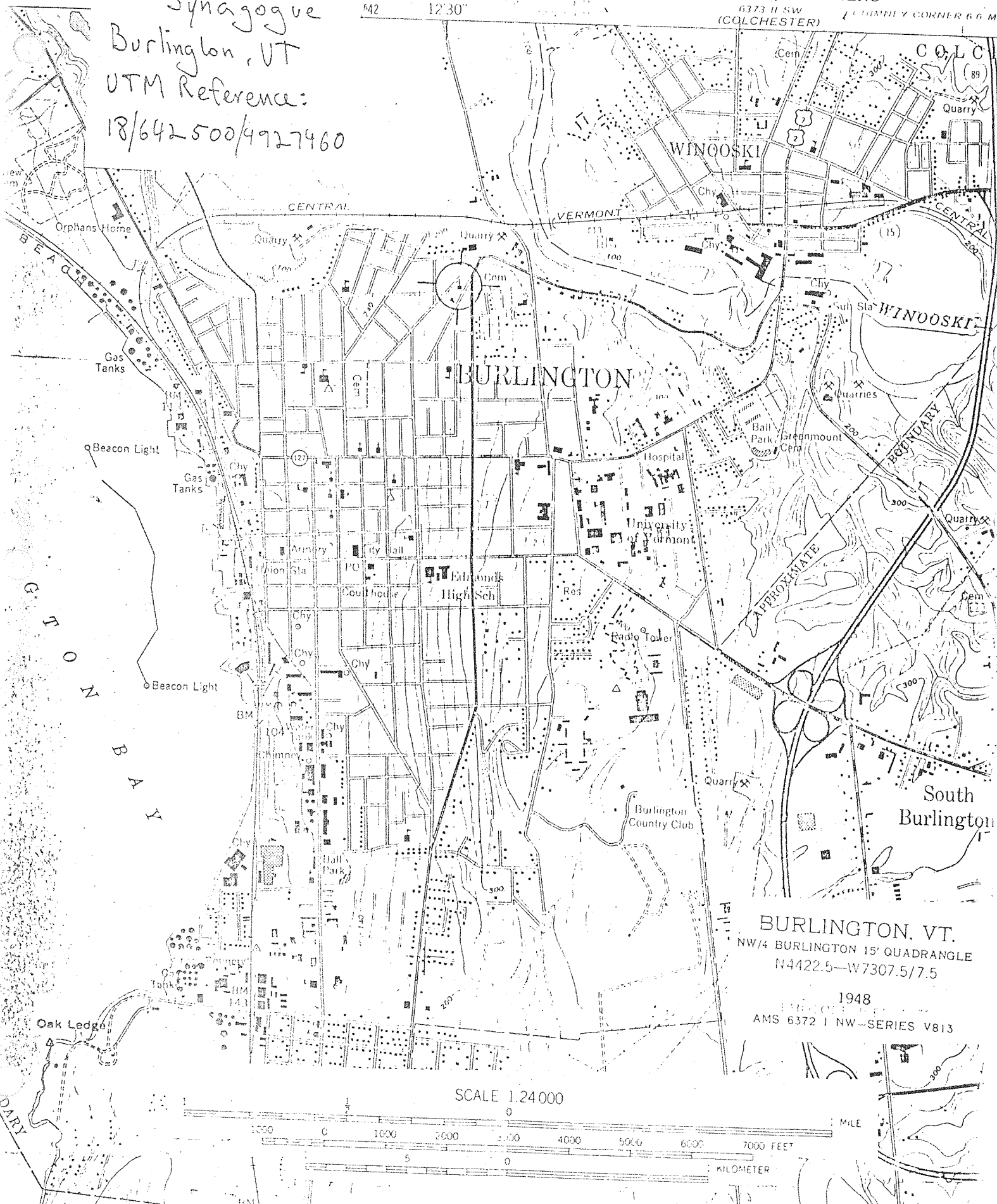
Ahavath Garem
Synagogue
Burlington, VT

UTM Reference:
18/642500/4927460

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

6373 II SW
(COLCHESTER) 1/4 CHIMNEY CORNER 6 6 M

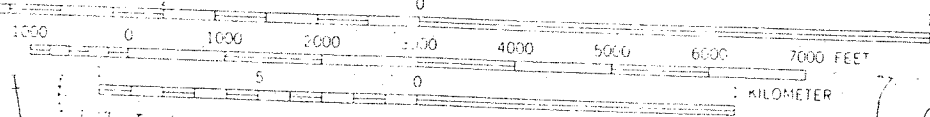
42 12°30'



BURLINGTON, VT.
NW/4 BURLINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N4422.5-W7307.5/7.5

1948
AMS 6372 I NW-SERIES V813

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET