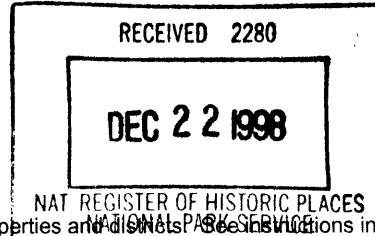


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1645

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 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Temple Sinai
other names/site number Congregation Sinai

2. Location

street & number 11 Church Street not for publication
city or town Sumter vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Sumter code 085 zip code 29150

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 12/15/98
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 1-21-99
 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): _____

Temple Sinai
Name of Property

Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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)

Category: RELIGION

Subcategory: Religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: RELIGION

Subcategory: Religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Moorish Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Metal
other Glass

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

Temple Sinai
Name of Property

Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

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)

- 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.
- 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.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a 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)

ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION

Period of Significance

1912 - 1932

Significant Dates

1912-1913
1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Temple Sinai Archives; Sumter County
Museum Archives, Sumter, S.C.

Temple Sinai
Name of Property

Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 560380 3753460</u>	3 <u> </u>
2 <u> </u>	4 <u> </u>

 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 Katherine H. Richardson
 organization Heritage Preservation Associates date 2 June 1998
 street & number 26 Harby Avenue telephone (803) 775-6682
 city or town Sumter state SC zip code 29150

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Congregation Sinai
 street & number 11 Church Street telephone (803) 773-2122
 city or town Sumter state SC zip code 29150

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

Section number 7 Page 5

Temple Sinai
Name of Property
Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

Temple Sinai, at 11 Church Street in Sumter, S.C., is a two-story brick building with Moorish Revival detailing constructed in 1912-13. Its central entrance is flanked by castellated towers featuring domed roofs. The shallow entry portico is supported by cast stone Moorish octagonal columns, surmounted by cast stone spheres. The synagogue is adorned by ten Moorish stained glass windows. A circular stained glass window pierces the wall above the central entry portico. The cornice of the building features brick stringcourses. The synagogue has a flat roof with a metal clad dome containing a lantern at its peak. The Barnett Memorial Addition, a two-story brick auditorium addition built in 1932, is adjacent to the rear of the synagogue and also features Moorish detailing in the doors and windows and repeats the brick stringcourse around the cornice. The Hyman Brody Building, a one-story brick addition on the south of the auditorium wing built in 1956, is used for Sabbath school classes and offices. The building is in a good state of repair and is an important landmark in the city of Sumter.

Temple Sinai rests on a brick foundation clad in stucco. The original portion of the building--the sanctuary section--is a two-story brick building constructed in 1912-13. Though this high-style building was almost certainly designed by an architect, no known documentation substantiating this supposition has been discovered. The building committee responsible for the construction of the original sanctuary in 1912-13 was Isaac Schwartz, H.D. Barnett, and Julian H. Levy.¹ This building replaced an earlier wooden temple probably constructed in the 1890s.

The interior of the sanctuary features plastered walls which rise two stories to the domed ceiling. The ten stained glass windows in the sanctuary are believed to have been made in Germany in 1912. The upper, or circular portions of the windows feature Old Testament symbols and the lower, or rectangular, windows depict Old Testament stories. The sanctuary also contains an organ bought from Henry Pilcher's Sons, of Louisville, Kentucky, in 1920; the organ was restored in 1982 in memory of Shirley Ness Housen. The Ark of the Covenant in the sanctuary was rebuilt in 1967-68 by architects Upshur, Riley, and Bultman as the gift of the Reuben Brody family, members of Temple Sinai.² The raised pulpit features a carved wooden lectern, two large menorahs, and four cushioned wooden chairs. The pews contain scrolled arm rests and paneled supports.

The two-story brick auditorium addition, built in 1932, was designed to repeat the architectural features of the 1912-13 sanctuary. Its facade faces north on West Hampton Avenue, and it features a recessed section with a central door, approached by a double set of brick steps ascending to a central landing. The door is constructed with an applied panel of Moorish motif and is topped by an elliptical stained glass transom. Above the door on the second floor are two small Moorish stained glass windows. To the left of the doorway is a full length two-story stained glass window which is the same size as those in the sanctuary. The stringcourses at the cornice of the temple are continued

¹Minutes of Congregation Sinai, 1911, pp. 78-79, Temple Sinai, Sumter, S.C..

²Minutes of Congregation Sinai, 1969, 1982.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

 Temple Sinai
Name of Property
 Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

around the cornice of the addition. The building also contains a large auditorium/banquet hall on the first floor. The second floor contains classrooms and offices. The other facades of the addition have two-over-two sash windows. Access to the auditorium was originally by a door on the western elevation, one which was flanked by windows. When the 1956 addition was constructed a hallway was extended to the auditorium. A new door was installed several feet in front of the original door. A second floor door on the southern elevation of the addition provides fire escape access. The addition has a flat roof.

In 1956, the Hyman Brody Building was attached to the southern end of the 1932 addition. This building provided additional school rooms, restrooms, and office space for the synagogue. It is a one-story brick building resting on concrete footings. It has a flat roof and is very simple in design, yet carries the Moorish motif in the brick surround to the recessed entry porch on the building's western elevation. The 1956 addition has a central door flanked by sets of casement windows. Casement windows pierce the other elevations of the building as well. This addition extends on the southern side of the 1932 addition from a few feet from the sidewalk to the rear of the 1932 addition, where a kitchen in the 1956 addition abuts the auditorium/banquet hall.

The temple stands at the corner of Church Street and West Hampton Avenue in downtown Sumter. It helps to anchor one end of the local historic district known as the Hampton Park Historic District, a ca. 1870-ca. 1915 residential neighborhood of primarily Victorian and Craftsman/bungalow-style houses. The land upon which Temple Sinai stands was originally a single lot on the corner of Church Street and West Hampton Avenue and subsequently grew to encompass four lots on the corner, allowing for expansion and parking.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Temple Sinai
Name of Property
Sumter County, South Carolina
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Temple Sinai is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C for architecture, as a significant example of a sanctuary designed in the Moorish Revival style. It is also significant under Criterion A for religion, as a visible symbol and tangible reminder of the substantial and influential Jewish community in Sumter from the early nineteenth century to the present. As the center of that community, its impact and influence were widespread. Outside the coastal cities of Charleston and Georgetown, where there were well-established and significant Jewish populations dating to colonial days, Sumter's Jewish community was one of inland South Carolina's largest.³

Congregation Sinai grew out of the formation of several societies in Sumter in the mid-nineteenth century. Mark Solomons, the first Jew to settle in Sumter District, arrived from Charleston--where there was already a long-established Jewish community--between 1815 and 1820, followed soon thereafter by Frankin J. Moses and his brother, Montgomery Moses.⁴ Several families followed them there; other Jewish families who settled in Sumter were Germans and middle Europeans or their descendants. An organized body of Jews was established in Sumter no later than the 1870s, as the Hebrew Cemetery Society purchased land for a cemetery there in 1874. By 1881 that society and the Sumter Hebrew Benevolent Society united, with the following members of the new Sumter Hebrew Benevolent Society present: M. Furstenberg, Horace Harby, C.H. Moise, C.H. Moise, Jr., E.W. Moise, Jr., H.D. Moise, Marion Moise, Abe Morris, Altamont Moses, Perry Moses, A.C. Phelps, D. Rosendorf, Harry Ryttenberg, M.G. Ryttenberg, Herman Schwerin, Dr. Ed Solomons, J.E. Soares, and Isaac Sulzbacher.⁵

This society rented the Masonic Hall for its meetings, and Rabbi E.S. Levy of Augusta offered to hold religious services and to help establish a Sabbath school, which occurred in May 1881. The Sabbath school also sponsored the development of other programs, including public lectures and the establishment of a library and reading room. The Sumter Hebrew Benevolent Society also collected donations for charitable causes and maintained the town's Hebrew Cemetery.⁶

By 1895, when the Sumter Hebrew Benevolent Society and the Sumter Society of Israelites merged under the name of the Sumter Society of Israelites, Rabbi David Levy of Charleston had been conducting regular services in Sumter for four years, and his visits led to the formation of a regular congregation of Jews there.⁷

³Barnett A. Elzas, The Jews of South Carolina (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1905), pp. 247-253.

⁴Ibid, p. 247.

⁵Morris Mazursky, A History of Congregation Sinai (Sumter: n.p., 1985), pp. 3-4.

⁶Ibid., pp. 5-6.

⁷Ibid., pp. 7-8.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Temple Sinai
Name of Property
Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

Between 1895 and 1904 the Society of Israelites purchased a lot on the corner of Church Street and West Hampton Avenue as the site for a synagogue. A wood-frame building was constructed there by 1906, but more likely before 1900, as Alfred S. Eichberg, architect of Savannah, Georgia, had as early as 1892 produced plans for a synagogue in Sumter costing \$5,000.⁸ The first records of Congregation Sinai date to 1905, when Rabbi Jacob Klein came to serve the congregation; by 1907 the congregation had adopted a constitution and began to flourish. Rabbi David Sessler served as the congregation's second permanent spiritual leader and was later succeeded by Rabbi David Klein, who served Congregation Sinai from 1910 to 1917, the period during which the second--and present--sanctuary was built; other prominent rabbis include F.K. Hirsch (1919-1929), Samuel R. Shillman (1931-1949) and J. Aaron Levy (1949-1972).⁹

⁸ John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary (Richmond, Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 49-50.

⁹ Mazursky, pp. 8-10.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 9

 Temple Sinai
Name of Property
 Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MAJOR SOURCES

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Elzas, Barnett A. The Jews of South Carolina. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1905.

Mazursky, Morris. A History of Congregation Sinai. Sumter: n.p., 1985.

Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary. Richmond, Virginia: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10

Temple Sinai
Name of Property
Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as Sumter County Tax Map Parcels, 228-12-29, 228-12-30, and 228-12-33.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The property nominated is restricted to the historic synagogue and its immediate setting.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 11 Temple Sinai
Name of Property
Sumter County, South Carolina
County and State

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Temple Sinai
Location of Property: 11 Church Street, Sumter
Sumter County, S.C.

Name of Photographer: Katherine H. Richardson
Date of Photographs: 3 June 1998
Location of Original Negatives: Sumter County Museum Archives, Sumter, S.C.

1. Facade, facing east
2. Facade, facing east
3. Facade entrance detail, facing east
4. Left elevation, facing southwest
5. Left elevation detail, facing southwest
6. Rear elevation, facing west
7. Right elevation, facing north
8. Interior, stained glass windows
9. Interior, dome light fixture
10. Interior, altar
11. Hyman Brody Building, facing east