United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Temple Israel 8DA 5124

and or common Temple Israel of Greater Miami Determined eligible 1-3-89

2. Location

street & number 137 N. E. 19th Street not for publication

city, town Miami vicinity of

state Florida 33132 code FL county Dade code FL 025

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_ building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_ structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_ site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_ object</td>
<td>_ in process</td>
<td>x yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_ being considered</td>
<td>y yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
<td>military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>private residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>religious</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>scientific</td>
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<td>transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>other</td>
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4. Owner of Property

name Temple Israel of Greater Miami

street & number 137 N. E. 19th Street

city, town Miami vicinity of

state Florida 33132

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 75 W. Flagler Street

city, town Miami

state Florida 33130

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

FMSF-Miami Multiple Resource Historic Preservation Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June, 1985

_x federal _x state _x county _x local

depository for survey records Bureau of Historic Preservation

city, town Tallahassee

state Florida 32399-0250

3
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Condition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>ruins</td>
<td>altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>unexposed</td>
<td>original site</td>
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</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
## 8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
<th>Specific dates</th>
<th>Builder/Architect</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Robertson &amp; Patterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700–1799</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>X, 1900–1939</td>
<td>communications</td>
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see Bibliography for Cover Nomination

10. Geographical Data

- **Acreage of nominated property:** Less than 1 acre
- **Quadrangle name:** Miami
- **Quadrangle scale:** 1:24000

**UTM References**

```
A 1 7 5 8 1 0 3 0 2 8 6 3 0 3 0
  Zone   Easting   Northing
B   
  Zone   Easting   Northing
C   
D   
E   
F   
G   
H   
```

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Miami, Lots 9 and 10 and a portion of lot 8 (bounded by east facade of original temple) of Block 2 of the plat of SAN JOSE (PB 3-158)
contains only that portion of Temple that is historic

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
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<th>county</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

- **name/title:** Sarah Eaton /Vicki L. Welcher, Historic Sites Specialist
- **organization:** Bureau of Historic Preservation
- **date:** October, 1988
- **street & number:** 500 South Bronough Street
- **telephone:** (904) 487-2333
- **city or town:** Tallahassee, Florida
- **state:** Florida
- **code:** 32399-0250

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**

**Title:** State Historic Preservation Officer

**Date:** October 17, 1988

For NPS use only

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

**Keeper of the National Register**

**Attest:**

**Chief of Registration**
DESCRIPTION:

Condition: Good

Temple Israel is a large two-story building executed in the Moorish Revival style of architecture. The temple was erected in 1927 according to plans provided by Robertson and Patterson. The temple is a symmetrical block of reinforced masonry construction characterized by applied ornamentation delineating the central entrance arch and the horizontal parapet walls of the building's tiered massing.

The exterior of Temple Israel is characterized by a central pointed arch set within a slightly projecting central bay. There are three bays that comprise the principal elevation: the slightly projecting central bay and two shorter and narrower end bays. The end bays contain simple entrances leading to the lower story of the building. The central arch is approached by a set of eight masonry steps leading from the sidewalk. At the end of the steps is a large landing from which two opposing stairs rise to the main level of the building. The stairs are set within barrel vaults whose sides are characterized by a stylized fluted surface. The spandrel area of the central arch is filled by a screen made up of cast masonry "Stars of David" arranged about in a decorative pattern.

The exterior of the principal elevation is sheathed in stucco except for the decorative ornament found at the surround of the arch and at the cornice line of the central and end bays. The central bay is capped by a cast panel depicting the tablets which comprise the Ten Commandments. A rusticated lower level serves to anchor the large expanses of stucco surfaces to the ground. The sides of Temple Israel are characterized by a rhythmic fenestration pattern which accentuates the two-story division of the building. A gable roof extends the length of the building in a north-south direction.

The upper story of Temple Israel is taken up by the sanctuary, while the lower story is occupied by an auditorium and classroom space. The sanctuary is a rectangular assembly hall with aisles leading to the altar in a north-south direction. The door and
window surrounds on the interior of the sanctuary contain decorative ornament which depicts various stylized Moorish elements. A cross section of the interior of the sanctuary reveals a "basilica-like" elevation with a taller ceiling height at the center of the sanctuary and lower shed-like ceilings at the end bays. The windows at the sanctuary level contain stained glass with depictions of religious scenes and/or symbols relating to the Jewish faith. The interior of the sanctuary has not been altered since the day it was completed.

There are four buildings which comprise the entire temple complex today. A two-story religious school building constructed in 1955 is located east of the historic building and is connected to it by a covered breezeway. In 1961 a two-story community house was added to the western wall of the main sanctuary. This addition continues the same materials and some of the details of the main building, but is distinctly new. The newest structure, added in 1969, is a contemporary chapel and auditorium. This building is located east of the newer religious school building. All four buildings are interconnected. A landscaped garden is located between the chapel and N.E. 2nd Avenue. Only the main sanctuary building is considered a contributing building in the National Register nomination.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Specific Date: 1927
Architects: Robertson and Patterson

Temple Israel is architecturally significant because it represents an excellent expression of the Moorish Revival style of architecture in Miami. The temple is also significant for its historical associations with the oldest Reform Jewish congregation in South Florida.

The exterior of Temple Israel embodies the distinctive physical characteristics of the Moorish Revival style of architecture, a popular design expression for Reform Jewish houses of worship in the United States throughout the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The excellence of the building's design, craftsmanship, and detailing is evident in the treatment of the entrance arch, the decorative screen set within the arch, and the decorative ornament found within the sanctuary interior. The configuration of the principal elevation is noteworthy for its adaptation to the area's climate through the utilization of a wide surface of white stucco and the deep recess of the central arch. The original fenestration pattern of the sanctuary also allowed for natural ventilation to cool the interior of the temple during services held in the summer months.

Temple Israel houses the oldest Reform Jewish congregation in South Florida. The Temple Israel Reform Jewish Congregation of Miami was founded in 1922 to serve the needs of an increasing Jewish population in South Florida. During its early years, the congregation held services at various locations in downtown Miami until 1927, when the present temple was formally dedicated. The congregation acquired large sums of money to build the present temple by selling another parcel of land it owned, for a large sum of money, at the height of Miami's Boom. Throughout its existence, Temple Israel has served the religious and humanitarian needs of Miami’s Jewish community. It has been said that at the time of its completion, Temple Israel comprised the largest Reform Jewish congregation south of New York.

The architects for Temple Israel have been identified as
Robertson and Patterson, in association with Robert Chananie and Ralph J. Freedburg. L. R. Patterson and M. L. Robertson, who formed a partnership in 1923, were responsible for designing such buildings as the Dallas Park Apartments, the Alcazar and Alhambra Hotels, and the Rivera Theater in South Miami.

NOTES
3. See note 2 above.
4. See note 2 above.
TEMPLE ISRAEL
137 N.E. 19 STREET

location

site plan
April 5, 1988

Mr. George W. Percy
State Historic Preservation Officer
Florida Department of State
Bureau of Historic Preservation
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

RE: Historic Designation for Temple Israel of Greater Miami
137 N.E. 19th Street
Miami, Florida 33132

Dear Mr. Percy:

Please be advised that I have been requested by the Board of Directors of Temple Israel of Greater Miami to advise you that Temple Israel objects to the listing of all or any part of its property as a State and National Historical Site.

Please acknowledge receipt of this notification.

Very truly yours,

Alan B. Heilig
Administrator

This is to certify that I am the Administrator of Temple Israel of Greater Miami and that I am authorized to write this letter.

Alan B. Heilig

ABH/ek

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA
BY COMMISSION EXPIRED JUNE 26, 1991
LICENSED UNDER GENERAL INS. DIV.
To:  
Division of Historical Resources  
Department of State  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-8020

The Department of the Interior is pleased to inform you that the historic property on the enclosed sheet has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The property was nominated for listing in the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Officer but cannot be listed at this time. The National Historic Preservation Act and Federal regulations 36 CFR 60 provide that owners of private properties nominated to the National Register must be given an opportunity to concur in or object to listing. If the owner of an individually nominated property, or the majority of owners in the case of a nomination which includes multiple ownership, object to the listing, the nomination cannot be entered in the National Register. Such objection has occurred in this case. Federal agencies are required to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect properties determined eligible for the National Register.
**DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**STATE** FLORIDA

**DATE DETERMINED** 1/3/89

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Church of Christ, Scientist (Downtown Miami MRA)</td>
<td>Dade County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrine Building (Downtown Miami MRA)</td>
<td>Dade County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizens Bank (Downtown Miami MRA)</td>
<td>Dade County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkhardt, Wilford H., House and Office (Downtown Miami MRA)</td>
<td>Dade County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaille Block (Downtown Miami MRA)</td>
<td>Dade County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple Israel (Downtown Miami MRA)</td>
<td>Dade County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Also Notified**

Florida Division of Historical Resources
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, DC
National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)272-3504.