1. Name
   Historic - Ohev Sholem (Ohave Cholum) Synagogue
   Other - Centro De-Lad Comunidad
2. Location
   109 Blinman Street
   New London, CT
3. Classification
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
5. National Park Service Certification
6. Function or Use
7. Description
8. Statement of Significance
9. Major Bibliographical References
10. Geographical Data
    Geographical Survey
    Photographs
1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Ohev Sholem (Ohave Cholom) Synagogue

Other Name/Site Number: Centro De-La-Comunidad

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 109 Blinman Street
City/Town: New London
State: CT County: New London
Code: 011 Zip Code: 06320

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X
Public-Local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s): X
District:
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

_____ buildings
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects
_____ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: NA

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: Historic Synagogues of Connecticut
4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action
6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: religious structure Sub: synagogue

Current: religious structure Sub: church

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:
20TH CENTURY AMERICAN Neo-Classical Revival/
Colonial Revival

Materials:
Foundation: CONCRETE
Walls: BRICK
Roof: built-up
Other: 

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Exterior

Ohev Sholem Synagogue faces south close to the street and close to its neighbors in a dense neighborhood just west of downtown New London. The 40' x 67' building is sited on a plot of 53' x 89', a close fit. The surrounding area developed as a late-19th-century residential area. Commercial inroads have occurred.

The synagogue is a two-story Neo-Classical Revival/Colonial Revival building in red brick with white trim. The brick is laid in Flemish bond. A flight of wide steps leads up from the sidewalk to two round-arched double doors which are separated by an engaged column. Above the doors is a large round window, which originally may have been glazed in a Magen David pattern. The roof line is in the shape of a stepped segmental pediment flanked by small low towers that terminate in truncated-pyramid pinnacles. A central rectangular panel at the top of the pediment may have been the location of a Decalogue. (Photograph 23)

On the side elevations the lights in the 4-over-4 windows are elongated rectangles, taller for their width than usual.

Interior

On the interior, the foyer or narthex at the front of the synagogue is four feet wider than the main block of the building. Stairways rise to right and left, lighted by
the narrow windows seen in the facade. The sanctuary is a two-story space with galleries on three sides. It appears that the walls above the gallery fronts are an alteration for the purpose of converting the balconies to office space. (Photograph 24) Whether the front stairways to the (now) offices are original is uncertain. The central chandelier may be original. The arched space in the rear wall was the location of the ark and other Judaic symbols and objects. The round outline in the wall may mark the location of an original window and, if so, the window probably was filled with a Magen David pattern.
8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: ___ Statewide: ___ Locally: x

Applicable National Register Criteria: A ___ B ___ C x D ___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A x B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___

Areas of Significance: Period(s) of Significance Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE ca. 1920 1945 ca. 1920

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder:

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Architectural Significance

Ohev Sholem Synagogue is significant architecturally because it is a good example of the Neo-Classical Revival/Colonial Revival style adapted for synagogue use. The basic design of broad steps leading up to multiple round-arched doors is a continuation of late-19th-century Romanesque Revival practice commonly found in historic Connecticut synagogues. The small windows flanking the central entrance at first and second floors and the finials on piers above them at the roof line create a vertical thrust reminiscent of the traditional flanking towers capped by domes.

The red brick with white trim and the segmental pediment, on the other hand, reflect
Ohev Sholem Synagogue, New London, CT

The 20th-century preference for the Neo-Classical Revival/Colonial Revival. The elongated panes of the sash also are a Colonial Revival feature, clearly identifying the building with the years following World War I.

The masonry details are well-executed and are of design interest. The Flemish bond of the brickwork is perhaps unique in Historic Synagogues of Connecticut. The use of headers only within the arch is distinctive. The entranceway is notable for the single engaged column between the doors; flanking columns to left and right, normally expected, are not there.

The interior space is relatively plain and its original appearance unconfirmed.

Historical Background

Ohev Sholem Synagogue is associated with an early Jewish congregation which has now lost its identity. New London Land Records show that Ella Hudson Crocker Atwood on September 9, 1916, sold the land and buildings at this address to the Ohev Cholom (spelling varies) Sick Benefit Society, indicating the earlier existence of an organization pre-dating the congregation. In the schedule of priorities that existed for a group struggling to establish itself, it was not unusual for immigrants first to organize to care for the sick and to provide burial arrangements, before forming a congregation for public worship.

Although the land was purchased in 1916, Congregation Ohev Sholem does not appear in the New London directories until 1921; presumably it took several years to finance and construct the building.

In 1974, the Ohave Cholum Society, Inc., merged with Congregation Beth El, Inc., Beth El being the surviving organization. At that time the Blinman Street property was sold to Spanish-American Cultural Real Estate, Inc., with the help of a mortgage that was released in 1976. That corporation continues to be the owner, operating under the name - Centro De-La-Comunidad.

Registration Requirements

Ohev Sholem Synagogue qualifies under Criterion C for inclusion in this multiple property listing as an urban building constructed as a synagogue in Connecticut by meeting the following requirements:

- Constructed as a Jewish house of worship
- Located in an urban setting
- Exhibits integrity of design and workmanship
- Constructed prior to 1945
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


New London Assessor's records.


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: Specify Repository: ____________________________
Ohev Sholem Synagogue, New London, CT

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

<p>| | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4581600</td>
<td>742640</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in the New London Land Records at volume 368, pages 104, 105.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property encompasses land that has gone with the building since it was erected.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant, reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: August 26, 1994

Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street

City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 203 566-3005