

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Jewish Community Center

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Gale (Levi H.) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
89, Touro Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Trustees of Congregation Jeshuat Israel

STREET AND NUMBER:
89, Touro Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02840

CODE
44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
1st Street and Independence Avenue, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Jewish Community Center was designed by Russell Warren and built for Levi H. Gale as a large, elegant private residence c. 1833-1835, during the height of the Greek Revival. It is a frame building, fifty feet square, with a formal central-hall plan, two-and-a-half storeys high with a hipped monitor roof. (The monitor is actually cruciform in plan, its rectangular central portion having extensions running to the eaves-line of each façade, where they appear as three-bay panelled and windowed attic employed as ornamental and capping features--a favourite architectural device of Warren.) The exterior walls are covered with horizontal boarding with deeply grooved joints. The square mass of the house is strongly articulated, with rusticated pilasters at the corners; and the five-bay façades on two adjoining sides (north and east) are marked by four Corinthian pilasters on each. At the eaves is a deep entablature scaled to the proportions of the pilasters. Each of the two principal, pilastered façades has a centred one-storey entrance porch with Corinthian columns (whose capitals may be of cast iron, though this has not yet been verified).

Two of the principal first-floor rooms adjoin on the east side of the central hall; they meet with curved end walls having curved double-doors in an enframing of Corinthian columns. Across the hall are the other two main rooms of this floor, separated by the hallway of the west entrance, which is now at basement or pavement level. Interior detail throughout is large in scale, strong in form, classical in derivation, wholly characteristic of the Greek Revival. Original black marble mantels have been retained on fireplaces otherwise rebuilt or closed.

In 1925 the Gale house was moved to its present site from the head of Washington Square, where the Court House is located. It was sawn in two for moving and then placed upon a much higher foundation due to the slope of Touro Street. A good part of the interior was necessarily remodelled for new institutional uses. The exterior survives in large and fortunate measure, although photographs taken before the house was moved show parapets on attic, eaves and porches (as well as extremely awkward window shutters), which are no longer in place.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1833-1835**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Decorative <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This house has distinction in the fact alone that it was designed by Russell Warren, a Rhode Island native and one of the state's most distinguished and prolific architects of the XIX Century--now generally advanced to an important place in national architectural history also.

The Gale house, with its strong cubic shape, its monitor-attic feature and its rich Corinthian decorations inside and out, is by size and style imposing, impressive. It is an important example of the Greek Revival applied with intentional monumentality to domestic architecture.

It is a most valuable remnant of Warren's now-diminished oeuvre. Cramped as it may be on its new site, without former front or rear lawns and side garden, it nevertheless takes a place (with the Touro Synagogue opposite) as a dominant feature of Touro Street, a memorable landmark. Although serving purposes for which it was not designed, it has been well maintained--with all possible respect for its form and fabric--by the present owners. However, there are thoughts that it no longer practicably accommodates their needs and activities, leading to contemplation of demolition and replacement.

In the city of Newport it is one of only three surviving monumentally scaled and classically detailed dwellings of the Greek Revival period, and one of the other two (this also by Warren) is irreparably mutilated. Newport may be rich in architecture, but it is not rich in examples of this particular period; neither does Rhode Island remain rich in extant works of an important native architect.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette F., and Scully, Vincent J., Jr.: The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1915, 2nd ed. (New York, 1967); pp. 118, 119, 348, 349.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 29 ' 20 N	71 ° 18 ' 45 W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Osmund Overby, Project Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Historic American Buildings Survey--Newport Project

DATE: September, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
90, Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

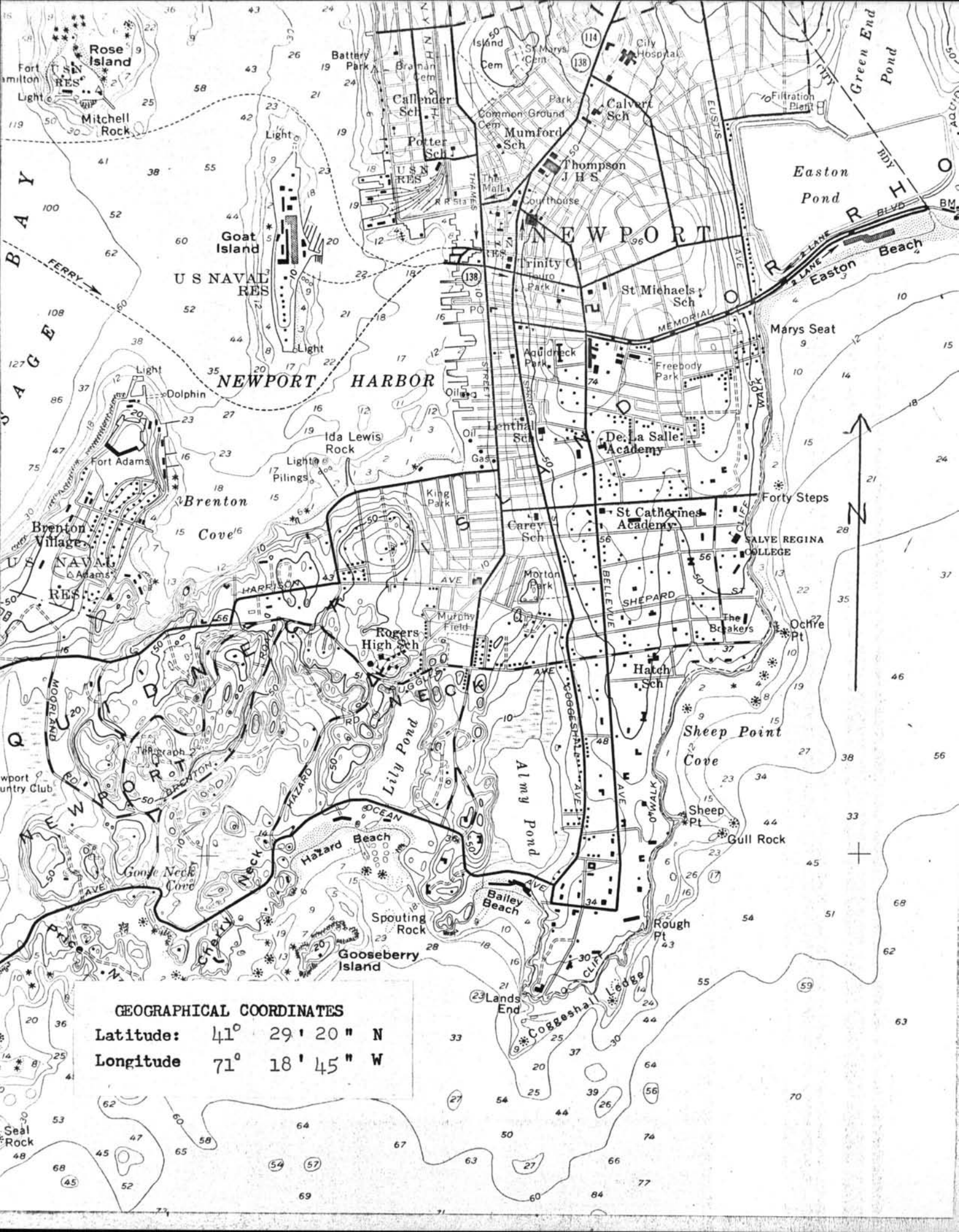
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 12,000

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E.,
Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Doorway and column treatment between main parlours on east side
of first floor, showing also smaller doorway to east entry.



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Detail of typical marble mantel (showing later brickwork and
hearth opening).



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PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Central hall and main (north) doorway.
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4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior from south-west.



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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior from north-east.



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2. LOCATION			
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CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 141	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, 1st Street and Independence Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior from north-west, showing main entrance façade (north).			