

AL-IV-A-110
B'er Chayim Temple
Corner of Union and South Centre Street
Cumberland, Maryland
1866

B'er Chayim Congregation was chartered in 1853. In 1866 the Synagogue at Union and Centre Streets was completed by John B. Walton, the builder. Mr. Walton was one of Cumberland's earliest builders whose accomplishments include working on the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, the Allegany County Academy, and the Gordon House. The original Temple building is constructed in a Greek Temple style with brick pilasters and a shallow pediment. It is architecturally effective yet retains a simplicity of form and decoration that reflects the orthodoxy of the early congregation that built it. Although the appearance of the original has not changed over the years, the character of the congregation has changed progressively with the times.

22

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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
B'er Chayim Temple
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Corner of Union and South Centre Streets

CITY, TOWN
Cumberland

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF
Sixth

COUNTY
Allegany

CODE
24

CODE
001

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Sixth

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Hebrew Congregation B'er Chayim / c/o Dr. Benjamin Felman

STREET & NUMBER
100 South Centre Street

CITY, TOWN
Cumberland

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF
108 Harrison Street

STATE
Maryland

21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Allegany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Cumberland

STATE
Maryland

21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DESCRIPTION

AL-IV-A-110

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The B'er Chayim Temple is located on the southeast corner at the intersection of Union and South Centre Streets in Cumberland, Maryland.

The temple is a two-story brick building laid in common bond on a low foundation of rock faced, coursed ashlar with a smooth faced stone cap, except on the south which has a brick foundation. It has a three-bay front on South Centre Street and a five-bay elevation along Union Street. A three-bay, 2½-story addition facing onto Union Street stretches across the rear of the synagogue, and a smaller, one-story addition stands on the south side to the rear.

The west facade has a pediment in the gable ^{and} a cornice, both decorated with modillions. This facade is divided into even bays by four brick pilasters; each bay contains a round-arched window on the second floor. The center bay on the first floor has double doors in an enclosed brick portico that sits on a brick base of flat basket weave pattern with molded brick steps. There is a pediment broken at the bottom above the doors and a small round-arched window in each side of the portico. These contain translucent glass etched with a Star of David. The doors are tall, and each leaf is paneled with two horizontal two vertical panels below two square lights. On either side of the entrance is a stained glass window with segmental arch. Above each of these windows is a larger stained glass window with semicircular arch. The central window on the second floor contains two narrower, round-arched windows under one semicircular brick arch. All the windows on this facade have drip moldings from the arches and tin-sheathed wooden sills. There are two openings in the pediment, a horizontal stained glass window with segmental arch and a ventilator in the peak.

The north facade has five recessed bays, each with an opening on both floors. The five on the second floor are windows like those in the north and south bays of the front facade (the westernmost window has been bricked in). The westernmost bay on the first floor contains a flat-arched stained glass window. The fourth bay from the front contains a recessed doorway with transom. The others have 1/1 light, double-hung sash of translucent glass. There are ventilation holes and one very small, barred basement window in the foundation. The south facade is almost identical to the north facade.

The building has a gable roof covered with tar paper over metal roofing. There is a brick cornice below the eaves. The small lawn in front is enclosed with a wrought iron fence with heavy posts and delicate arrow-like railings. Each panel of the double gate carries an arched iron plaque reading "Synagogue."

The addition on the rear hides the east end of the synagogue. It is a 2½-story brick structure that resembles a residence. There are several basement windows in the rock-faced stone foundation. An arched opening leads into a deeply recessed doorway in the west bay of the first floor; to the east of this is a three-part window with large wood lintel. On the third floor are three windows; a thin belt course runs around the building at the level of the sills of these windows. A double, hipped-roofed dormer is centered between corner parapets in the mansard roof. Seven similar windows recessed slightly with segmental arches are located on the first two floors of the east facade and two smaller windows are located in the third floor; six star-shaped tie rod ends are also located here. A corbeled cap chimney rises from the south side of the building; the roof is flat except for the mansard on the north. Another door and

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

B'er Chayim Temple
Allegany County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, Continued)

windows are located on the south. The south addition was added against the temple wall and is currently used as a kitchen.

The building has a meeting house plan with stairs on either side of the first floor vestibule leading to a hall and the temple itself on the second floor. The north stair has one flight with a winder; the south stair has two flights with an open well and one landing. Both stairs are lighted by stained glass windows and have plain balusters, chamfered newels, and closed strings.

The hall on the second floor has a stair -- one flight with winder and enclosed with recessed paneling -- at the north end that leads to the choir loft. The temple is entered from this hall through a round-arched opening with plain wooden trim. The ceiling consists of a plastered four centered arch vault. The choir loft has recessed panels and is trimmed with a cornice, frieze, and bed molding. A large set of organ pipes is situated in the center of the loft.

On either side of the central aisle in the temple are eleven curved pews. In front of these are curved rails with recessed, round-arched panels. Two bowl-shaped lamps hung on chains provide indirect lighting for the temple area. On the side walls are three ceramic lamps shaped like a benitier basin that tapers down to a pendant. These lamps project from the walls; each has a bead and reel and a fret band with an acanthus leaf pendant.

The most ornamental part of the Temple, which for the most part is simply decorated, is the Ark, or closet, in which the Laws are stored. This wooden, symmetrica structure extends from the platform to the ceiling. On either side are two rectangular pilasters, with caps, mounted on square pedestals. Each pedestal has a recessed architr panel. These pilasters and two Doric columns on similar pedestals support a three-part entablature with bed moulding. A metallic Hebraic inscription is on the frieze. The columns support an overhanging portion of the three-part entablature. Below this entablature and between the columns are a baseboard, two recessed panels with egg and dart trim and four foliated scrolls and a cornice. Above this cornice are amber glass doors with a small, capped cornice on either side. An iron grate on the door has scrolled decoration connecting the bars at the top, middle, and bottom; the center of each door is decorated with a wrought iron wreath with a Hebraic letter in the center. The small pilasters support a semicircular amber glass transom with heavy wooden trim, cornice, and frieze. Above this transom, at the bottom of the three-part entablature is bed moulding. Between the frieze of the transom and this bed moulding is a large wooden, acanthus leaf, scrolled bracket with bed moulding around its base.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

B'er Chayim Temple
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Atop the three-part entablature is a decorated pediment, mostly Moses' Tablets of the Ten Commandments in metallic Hebraic characters. These tablets are part of a large semicircular panel topped with semicircular cornice. At the top of the entire structure is an acanthus-leafed cartouche with foliated scrolls on either side. On either side of the tablets are foliated scroll moulding and on either side at the base are recessed architrave panels. On either side of the entire tablet ensemble are two small pilasters each with a raised architrave panel, a cornice, and an urn atop it. The sides of the decorated pediment extend back to the wall with curved moulding extending to the edge of the entire structure. An iron "candle" lamp hangs by a chain from the overhanging portion of the three-part entablature.

ADDENDUM TO DESCRIPTION

Additions to the 1866 B'er Chayim Temple:

- 1) Rabbi's house. This large brick structure was added to the east end of the synagogue in October, 1900 at a cost of \$2,409.17. It served as the rabbi's home until 1920, when it was converted to a Temple House. (Cumberland Evening Times, January 31, 1926.)
- 2) Kitchen. This small rectangular addition was built in 1913. (City Cumberland Building. Permit #3536.)
- 3) Entrance. The entrance projecting from the east end echoing the front pedimented gable was added in 1925. (City of Cumberland Building Permit #7756.)

The entrance matches the style of the original building with a pediment echoing the main one and round-arched windows on the sides. The rabbi's house (now Temple Hall) is of similar scale and has a round-arched doorway echoing the windows in the Temple. The kitchen is not visible from the main street facades and does not have any particular style.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

B'er Chayim Temple
Allegany County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

As some of the old dissidents moved away or passed onto their eternal reward, the Congregation became more conscious of itself as an American Jewish Institution instead of a European adaptation."¹¹

After the turn of the century, changes in "old forms and the old rituals" were more pronounced.¹² The Rabbi with the longest term of service to B'er Chayim Congregation was Dr. Morris Baron, a graduate of Harvard and Columbia Universities. He was rabbi from 1906 to 1921, when he became a lawyer. In addition to his rabbinical duties Dr. Baron taught ancient languages, German, and history at the Allegany Academy.¹³

The impressive western facade features a pedimented box cornice with modillions. Four brick pilasters, with corbeling and caps, define and give depth to this main facade. The original portion of the Temple is architecturally effective yet retains a simplicity in form and decoration that reflects the orthodoxy of the congregation that built it. Conversely, the turn of the century addition, with decorative mouldings, double row brick arches, mansard facing, and umbrage porch, is a reflection of the more liberal attitudes of reform Judaism practiced by subsequent congregations. Here it can be seen that although the earliest part of the temple retains much of its original appearance, the congregation which it serves has changed with the times. The building as it stands today is a monument to the early Jewish residents of Cumberland and to the changing character of religious beliefs over the last century and a quarter.

¹James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland (Philadelphia: L.R. Titsworth and Co., 1923), pp. 460-1.

²The Anniversary Story, 1853-1953, Centennial publication, B'er Chayim Congregation, Cumberland, Maryland, 1953, Ch.I.

³Ibid.

⁴The Occident and American Jewish Advocate, Vol. XL, pp. 327-8, August 1853 as quoted in The Anniversary Story.

⁵Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971 -- Reprint of the 1878 edition.), pp. 477-79.

⁶The Anniversary Story, Ch. II.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

16-7004
1/78

AL-IV-A-110

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

B'er Chayim Temple
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The B'er Chayim Temple is a good example of a building in stylistic transition from the Greek Revival to the Romanesque Revival. Constructed in 1866, it is dentiled form with a late use of the Greek Revival, exhibiting the temple pediment facing the street and a main facade divided into three bays by Doric pilasters. The window treatment is representative of the Romanesque Revival with its round-arched heads and label moldings.

Several German congregations built places of worship in Cumberland in the mid-19th century. The Jewish congregation that built this temple was one of these and as such is part of the settlement patterns of the City of Cumberland.

The temple was built by John B. Walton, the earliest known builder in Cumberland. The 1925 entrance is believed to have been designed by a local architect, George Sansbury. The identification of these men adds to the knowledge of their work and the history of building in Cumberland.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

AL-IV-A-110

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

B'er Chayim Temple
Allegany County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland . ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

- ⁷Allegany County Land Records, 24/62.
- ⁸The Anniversary Story, Ch.II.
- ⁹Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland, p. 478.
- ¹⁰Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, p. 472.
- ¹¹The Anniversary Story, Ch. II.
- ¹²Ibid.
- ¹³Thomas and Williams, History of Allegany County, pp. 1275-76.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Footnotes, Significance Statement.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 40' x 102'

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	6,9,2	1,4,0	4,3	9,1	1,7,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

1 km

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

December 2, 1977

TELEPHONE

County Office Building, Pershing Street

CITY OR TOWN

(301) 777-5967

STATE

Cumberland

Maryland 21502

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

Nancy Mills

9/14/78

TITLE

ACTING 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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC B'er Chayim Temple
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER Corner of Union and South Centre Street
CITY, TOWN Cumberland VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth
STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Hebrew Congregation B'er Chayim Telephone #: 722-5688
STREET & NUMBER 100 South Centre Street
CITY, TOWN Cumberland VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland, 21502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Allegany County Courthouse Liber #: 24
Folio #: 62
STREET & NUMBER 30 Washington Street
CITY, TOWN Cumberland STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-II-K-110

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The B'er Chayim Temple is located at the intersection of Union and South Centre Street, Cumberland, Maryland.

The building basically consists of a two and one half story, three bay wide, rectangular structure. Wall construction is brick, laid in american common bond using random variations. Wall features include brick pilasters with corbeling and caps located on western facade. The building is supported by a low, stone foundation of rockfaced, coursed ashlar bond with a smooth faced stone cap. (brick on south). Ventilation holes are found along the border of the stone foundation. Water table is beveled. The roof is gable front, replaced with metal roofing covered with tar paper. Top of gable is sheathed in tin. Snowbirds are exhibited on the roof. Eaves of the roof feature an original brick cornice. No chimneys are found on the main part of the temple. Pot-bellied heating stoves were the source of warmth in the beginning.

On northern facade the basement window consists of one small iron grate with iron bars. First floor has three double hung, one-over-one light windows with translucent glass, wooden lugsills, and plain wooden trim. Another window is one light, fixed, made of stained glass with wooden lugsill and plain wooden trim. A recessed entrance with architrave cyma reversa moulding is located here with a one paneled, vertical boards door with a translucent glass light pane. Transom above door has been boarded up. Second floor features four semicircular arched, stained glass windows of three lights each (bottom light of each is pivotal) with wooden lugsills, semicircular brick arches with drip moulding and plain wooden trim. Another of these windows has since been bricked shut with only the semicircular brick arch with drip moulding remaining.

Southern facade has a basement window same as northern facade. First floor has two double hung, one-over-one light windows of translucent glass with wooden lugsills sheathed in tin and plain wooden trim. Also here, is one stained glass window of one light, fixed, with a wooden inner sill sheathed with tin and an outer brick slipsill. Second floor windows are identical to those on second floor northern facade plus the fact that the wooden lugsills here are sheathed with tin. (Scenes depicted on windows are different.)

Western facade on the first floor has two segmental arched, stained glass windows of two lights each, (bottom lights pivotal) with wooden lugsills sheathed in tin, segmental brick arches with drip moulding, and plain trim. Second floor features two semicircular arched, stained glass windows of three lights each, (bottom light pivotal) with wooden lugsills sheathed in tin, semicircular brick arches with drip moulding and plain trim. One on either side of one large semicircular three window ensemble containing one double semicircular arched, stained glass window of two lights each side (bottom lights pivotal) connected by mullion with plain trim. This window has a wooden lugsill, semicircular brick arch with drip moulding.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 **1866**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John B. Walton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first documented mention of Jewish settlers in Cumberland was in 1816 when the Episcopalian and Presbyterian congregations asked for donations towards building a church. Among those who gave generously were "... three Roman Catholics and one Hebrew..." 1

" By 1853 twelve Jewish families were known to be in Cumberland, which then had a population of 6,150. This was enough to warrant the establishment of a congregation and on April 27 of that year, this little group first met for that purpose." 2 On May 23, 1853 the legislature of Maryland incorporated the B'er Chayim Congregation. 3

A writer for a Jewish newspaper attended the celebration of the congregations incorporation and noted thirty men and twenty women meeting in a Baltimore Street building that was "neatly arranged" and "suitable for the object in view." 4 In the same year as their incorporation the congregation purchased land for a cemetery on Baltimore Pike. 5

In 1858 the congregation moved to Senne's Law Building on Washington Street. 6 (See AL-IV-A-002) Land for a Temple at Union and South Centre Streets was purchased by the congregation in October of 1865. 7 John B. Walton, a locally "prominent contractor" built the synagouge in 1866. 8

Lowdermilk wrote in 1877 of a membership of twenty and eighty "pew holders." 9 Thomas and Williams, in 1923, noted the steady growth of Cumberland's Jewish community that numbered one hundred families. 10

"Although the early Jewish community no doubt started as orthodox, the movement of reform then abroad in the land was early felt in Cumberland, and old customs and symbols were gradually discarded...the separation of men and women at services was no longer felt necessary even before 1867.... As time went on the definite dissatisfaction with the old forms and ceremonies of the service produced many changes. Yet, at all times Sabbath observance was insisted upon and generally practiced. The question of covering the head during divine services was argued bitterly and with zeal until about 1875, when it was voted to discontinue the practice."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records Cumberland, Maryland
 Thomas James, W., and Williams, T.J.C. History of Allegany County, Maryland. Philadelphia: L.R. Titzworth and Co., 1923.
 Lowdermilk, Will H. History of Cumberland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., reprint of the 1878 edition.

The Occident and American Jewish Advocate
 as quoted in The Anniversary Story, 1855-1955, Centennial publication, B'er Chayim Congregation, Cumberland, Maryland, 1953.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

40 x 102

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William Pratt and Dave Dorsey

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

12/2/77

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, Pershing Street

TELEPHONE

777-5967

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Between double window and brick arch of ensemble is one semicircular arched, stained glass filler (bottom is formed to fit atop semicircular arched double windows). Second and a half floor has one fixed, segmental arched, stained glass window with brick lugsill, segmental brick arch and architrave trim. Located in the peak of the gable is one pentagonal louvered ventilator with wooden lugsill sheathed in tin. Located above the brick pilasters on this facade rests a pedimented boxed cornice with bed moulding and wide soffit. Modillions are located underneath the soffit. Leading into the temple on this front facade is a small brick enclosed portico which sits on a brick base of flat basket weave pattern with moulded brick steps. Portico is constructed mostly of stretcher bond except for soldier courses at top and bottom and tilted brick slipsills under the windows and semicircular brick arches over the heads. It has a gabled roof of asphalt shingles with boxed cornice, (with returns sheathed in tin), frieze, bed moulding, soffit with modillions underneath. Architrave, recessed paneled trim is on the door jambs. The front double doors are three paneled, vertical boards with one light each. Etched into the glass panes among other things is the Star of David. There are two fixed, recessed, semicircular arched windows of one light each (one on either side of doors) with translucent and etched glass (Star of David) and cyma reversa moulding. The lawn in front of the temple is enclosed by a heavy, decorative wrought iron fence and gate with iron plaques that read "Synagogue."

The Synagogue has two additions. First and foremost is the large, two and one-half story, four bay wide, brick, rectangular one that joins the main building on the eastern facade. It had a flat roof except for mansard face and hipped dormer on northern facade. Mansard roof is covered with shingles while parapets located there feature terra cotta coping and their sides are sheathed in tin. An umbrage porch is also featured here. A false gable is located on top center of western facade. Wall features include a brick belt course on the southern, northern and eastern facade. Eastern facade also has six, star-shaped tie rod anchors. Raised ashlar joints highlight this additions high, stone foundation. For further details concerning this hodgepodge addition please consult attached field sheets. A second smaller, rectangular, one story addition joins the temple on the southern facade. It is now being used as a kitchen.

"As some of the old dissidents moved away or passed onto their eternal reward, the Congregation became more conscious of itself as an American Jewish institution instead of a European adaptation." 11

After the turn of the century changes in "old forms and the old rituals" were more pronounced.¹² The Rabbi with the longest term of service to B'er Chayim Congregation was Dr. Morris Baron, a graduate of Harvard and Columbia Universities. He was Rabbi from 1906 to 1921 when he became a lawyer. In addition to his rabbinical duties Dr. Baron taught Ancient Languages, German, and History of the Allegheny Academy.¹³

The impressive western facade features a pedimented box cornice with modillions. Four brick pilasters, with corbeling and caps, define and give depth to this main facade. The original portion of the Temple is architecturally effective yet retains a simplicity in form and decoration that reflects the orthodoxy of the congregation that built it. Conversely, the turn of the century addition, with decorative mouldings, double row brick arches, mansard facing, and umbrage porch, is a reflection of the more liberal attitudes of reform Judaism practiced by subsequent congregations. Here it can be seen that although the earliest part of the Temple retains much of its original appearance, the congregation which it serves has changed with the times. The building as it stands today is a monument to the early Jewish residents of Cumberland and to the changing character of religious beliefs over the last century and a quarter.

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1. James W. Thomas and T.J.C. Williams, History of Allegheny County, Maryland (Philadelphia: L.R. Titworth and Co., 1923) pp. 460-1
 2. The Anniversary Story, 1853-1953, Centennial publication, B'er Chayim Congregation, Cumberland, Maryland, 1953. Ch. I.
 3. Ibid.
 4. The Occident and American Jewish Advocate, Vol. XL pp. 327-8, August 1853 as quoted in The Anniversary Story, 1853-1953 Centennial publication, B'er Chayim Congregation, Cumberland, Maryland, 1953.
 5. Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971) Reprint of the 1878 edition. pp. 477-79.
 6. The Anniversary Story, 1853-1953 Ch. II.
 7. Allegheny County Land Records, Liber 24, Folio 62.
 8. The Anniversary Story, 1853-1953, Ch. II.
 9. Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland, p. 478.
 10. Thomas and Willimas, History of Allegheny County, Maryland, p. 472.
 11. The Anniversary Story, 1853-1953, Ch. II.
 12. Ibid
 13. Thomas and Williams, History of Allegheny County, Maryland, pp. 1275-76.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The building is made in a meeting house plan with stairs on either side of a first floor vestibule. The northern stairs are one flight with a winder, the southern stairs are two flights, open welled with one landing. Both stair wells are lighted by stained glass windows, have plain balustrades, chamfered newells, closed strings, and handrails.

The stairs lead to a hallway on the second floor. On the northern end of this hallway is a one flight stairway with a winder, enclosed by one tier of recessed paneling, closed string, chamfered newell, plain balustrade, handrail, that leads to the choir loft. Entrance to the Temple from this hallway is a semicircular arched opening with plain wooden trim. The ceiling of the Temple area is a four centered arched vault, the walls are plaster with no features other than lights described below. There are four semicircular arched windows with plain wooden trim on each wall. The scenes depicted on these windows are all different. A plain baseboard runs along the sides walls, the baseboard on the eastern wall has an additional piece of plain moulding projecting slightly from atop it.

The choir loft has recessed architrave panels on the facing, This facing also has a cornice, frieze, and bed moulding. A large set of organ pipes are situated in the center of the loft.

On either side of the central aisle are eleven curved pews. In front of the front pews are wooden rails, also curved, the face of these rails have recessed panels that have semicircular arched tops and beveled flat bottoms. Two bowl shaped lamps, hung on chains, provide indirect lighting for the Temple area. In both the northern and southern walls there are three ceramic lamps shaped like a benitier basin that taper down to a pendant. These lamps are in relief, projecting from the walls. Each has a bead and reel and a fret band, the bottom of each has own acanthus leaf decorated pendant.

The main worship area of the Temple, the Bimah, is a platform raised about two feet above the floor. This platform has a semicircular projection in the middle where the pulpit is located. The face of this platform is decorated with recessed panels with a rounded square base and a semicircular arched top.

The most ornamental part of the Temple, which for the most part is simply decorated, is the Ark, or closet, in which the Laws are stored. This wooden, symmetrical structure extends from the platform to the ceiling. On either side are two rectangular pilasters, with caps, mounted on square pedestals. Each pedestal has a recessed architrave panel. These pilasters and two Roman Doric columns, also on square pedestals, with recessed architrave panels, support a three part entablature with bed moulding. The columns support an overhanging portion of the three part entablature. A Metallic Hebraic inscription is on the frieze. Below this entablature and between the columns, are, beginning at the bottom, a baseboard, two recessed panels with architrave eqq and dart trim, each with four foliated scrolls, all topped with a cornice. Above this cornice are amber glass doors with a small capped cornice on either side. An iron

grate on the door has scrolled decoration connecting the bars at the top, middle, and bottom, the very center of each door is decorated with a wrought iron wreath with a Hebraic letter in the center of each. The small pilasters support a semicircular amber glass transom with heavy wooden trim, cornice, and frieze. Above this transom, at the bottom of the three part entablature is bed moulding. Between the frieze of the transom and this bed moulding is a large wooden acanthus leaf scrolled bracket with bed moulding around its base.

Atop the three part entablature is a decorated pediment, mostly Moses' Tablets of the Ten Commandments in metallic Hebraic characters. These tablets are part of a large semicircular panel topped with a semicircular cornice. At the top of the entire structure is an acanthus leafed cartouche with foliated scrolls on either side of it. On either side of the tablets are foliated scroll moulding. On either side of the base of the tablets are recessed architrave panels. On either side of the entire tablet ensemble are two small pilasters each with a raised architrave panel, a cornice, and an urn atop it. The sides of the decorated pediment extend back to the wall with curved moulding extending to the edge of the entire structure. An iron "candle" lamp hangs by a chain from the overhanging portion of the three part entablature.

WINDOWS

ORIGINAL BUILDING

Northern Facade -

Basement - One small iron grate with iron bars.

First Floor - Three double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash, translucent glass, plain wooden trim, wooden lugsills. One stained glass, one light, fixed, plain wooden trim, wooden lugsill. One entrance recessed, one panel, one translucent glass light, vertical boards, transom boarded up, architrave cyma reversa moulding.

Second Floor - Four semicircular arch, stained glass, three lights, bottom light pivotal, plain wooden trim, wooden lugsills. semicircular brick arches with drip moulding. One bricked up, same size, semicircular brick arch with drip moulding.

Western Facade -

First Floor - Two segmental arched, stained glass, two lights bottom lights pivotal, plain trim, wooden lugsills sheathed in tin, segmental brick arches, with drip moulding.

Second Floor - Two semicircular arched, stained glass, three lights, bottom light pivotal, plain trim, wooden lugsills sheathed in tin, semicircular brick arches with drip moulding, one on either side of one large semicircular three window ensemble, wooden lugsill, semicircular brick arch with drip moulding, containing one double semicircular arched, stained glass, two lights each side, bottom lights pivotal, connected by mullion, plain trim, Between double window and brick arch of ensemble, one semicircular arched stained glass filler, bottom formed to fit atop semicircular arched double windows.

Second and a Half Floor - One segmental arched stained glass, fixed, architrave trim, brick lugsill, segmental brick arch. In peak of gable one pentagonal louvered ventilator, wood lugsill sheathed in tin.

Southern Facade -

Basement - One iron grate with iron bars.

First Floor - Two double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash translucent glass, plain wooden trim, wooden lugsills sheathed in tin. One stained glass, one light, fixed, wooden inner sill sheathed in tin, brick slipsill.

Second Floor - Four semicircular arched, stained glass, three lights, bottom light pivotal, plain wooden trim, wooden lugsills sheathed in tin, semicircular brick arches with drip moulding. One window, same size, bricked up, semicircular brick arch with drip moulding.

Southern Facade -

Basement- One hopper, four lights, recessed, architrave cyma reversa moulding, concrete lugsill, gauged flat brick arch, spiralled fancy grillwork, flat pieces of iron connect bars.

First Floor - One segmental arched, double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash, translucent glass, decorative wooden moulding between window and arch, architrave cyma reversa moulding, wooden slipsill, double row header brick segmental arch. One double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash, plain wooden architrave moulding. One recessed entrance, door with three horizontal panels, one light, horizontal boards, decorative wooden moulding between door and arch, plain moulding, double row header brick segmental arch.

Second Floor - Two segmental arched, double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash, one narrow, decorative wooden moulding between windows and arches, architrave cyma reversa moulding, brick lugsills incorporated into belt course, double row header brick segmental arch. One entrance (not original, was window, part of window is visible, bricked up with double row header brick segmental arch) three horizontal panels, one translucent light, horizontal boards, plain trim.

Second and a Half Floor - One casement, two lights each side, cyma reversa moulding wooden slipsill sheathed in tin.

SMALL ADDITIONSouthern Facade -

First Floor - Two segmental arched, bricked up, double row header brick segmental arches. One smaller, segmental arched, recessed, louvered glass winds out, cyma reversa moulding, decorative wooden moulding between windows and arches, double row header brick segmental arch.

PORTICO ADDITION

Two semicircular arched, one light, fixed, translucent and etched glass star of David, recessed, cyma reversa moulding, tilted brick slipsill, semicircular brick arch, one on northern side of addition, one on southern side of addition.

WINDOWS

ADDITIONS
LARGE

Northern Facade -

Basement - Two hopper, four lights, recessed, architrave cyma reversa moulding one with original wooden slipsill, one with concrete lugsill, gauged flat brick arches, spiralled fancy grill work, bars connected by iron rings.

First Floor - Three window ensemble, three double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash, two narrow, one on either side of one large, connected by two fluted mullion, wooden slipsill. One entrance in wooden umbrage porch, outer opening is a triple row header brick semicircular arch, door has three horizontal panels, one light, vertical boards, cyma reversa moulding, double row segmental header brick arch.

Second Floor - Three double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash, plain architrave moulding replaced, wooden slipsills incorporated into brick belt course.

Second and a Half Floor - In dormer, with hipped roof, box cornice, soffit and shingled sides, two double hung, 6/1 light, two wooden sash, plain wooden architrave trim, connected by fluted mullion.

Eastern Facade -

Basement - Three hopper, four lights, recessed, architrave cyma reversa moulding, one has bottom two lights boarded up, concrete lugsills, gauged flat brick arches, spiralled fancy grill work, bars connected by pieces of flat iron.

First Floor - Four segmental arched, double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash, decorative wooden moulding between windows and arches, architrave cyma reversa moulding, wooden slipsills, sheathed in tin, double row header brick segmental arches.

Second Floor - Three segmental arched, double hung, 1/1 light, two wooden sash, decorated wooden moulding between windows and arches, architrave cyma reversa moulding, wooden slipsills, incorporated into brick belt course, double row header brick segmental arches.

Second and a Half Floor - Two segmental arched, double hung, 2/2 light, two wooden sash, decorative wooden moulding between windows and arches, architrave cyma reversa moulding, wooden slipsills, double row header brick segmental arches.

INVENTORY NO: AL-IV-A-110

DATE: 12/2/77

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: B'er Chayim Temple (Additions) (Both brick)

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: _____

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: _____

NAME OF OWNER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

STORIES: 1() 2($\frac{1}{2}$) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3() 4(X) 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Large rectangular abuts original building on east. Small rectangular addition on southern facade, small square portico on western facade.

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- (X) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. Random
- () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- () LOG
- () OTHER: Coverings Brick Belt course on East, South, North, six star shaped tie rod anchors on East.

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Gables

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone Random rockfaced ashlar with thick raised ashlar joints.

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
(See separate page) pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: Northern facade in umbrage porch. Northern facade has mansard face
(For description see additions windows HARDWARE: original() replaced() with one hipped dormer (see windows)
Northern and Southern Facades.) FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN parapets at mansard are sheathed in tin. Mansard covered with shingles.
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards Brick cornice on eastern facade, western

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) box cornice on northern facade.
original(X) replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

Parapet with terra cotta coping on east and west, small false gable on center of west.

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers # One hipped

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; Tar original() replaced(X) roof.
Bed moulding on southern facade.

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable() Umbrage.

CHIMNEYS: Number: 1 Brick(X) Stone() Corbeled(X) Cap original(X) replaced()
Location: Flush end(X) Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

DOOR: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular Rectangular, one story, small, southern addition - common bond brick 7/1 variation low cement foundation. Be-

MENTS: veled water table, gutter board guard, tin capping, shed roof, tar covering, used as kitchen (see windows). Small enclosed portico - Western facade, sits on brick base with flat basket weave pattern and moulded brick steps. Brick stretcher bond,

DECORATION: except for soldier courses on top and bottom. Gabled asphalt shingle roof,

CONSTRUCTION: boxed cornice, soffit, frieze, modillions, with returns sheathed in tin

DETAILS: bed moulding, ornamented architrave trim on door jamb (see original building entrances and additions windows)

FLOOR PLAN:

- CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; double parlor; one side
- SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- IRREGULAR

STAIRWAYS:

- ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- OPEN: Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- DOG-LEG
- DOG-LEG with WINDERS
- SPIRAL
- ROUNDED
- SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- PLASTER
- paneled: original; replaced
- BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

NUMBER _____

LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal

MANTELS: wood moldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush

HARDWARE: original; replaced

DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

- PLAIN
- ARCHITRAVE
- SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
- FLUTED
- FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS
- ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor

NOTES:

INVENTORY NO: AL-IV-A-110

DATE: 12/2/77

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

24 / 62

40 x 102

NAME OF PROPERTY: B'er Chayim Temple

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Corner of Union and South Centre Street

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: West

NAME OF OWNER: Hebrew Congregation B'er Chayim

ADDRESS: 100 South Centre Street

Cumberland, Maryland 21502

STORIES: 1() 2(1/2) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3(X) 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: (See separate page)

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- (X) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. Random
- () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- () LOG
- () OTHER: Coverings

Brick

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others On western facade

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone Rockfaced coursed ashlar, smooth faced stone cap is beveled, brick on south.

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick
Ventilation holes in stone.

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
(See separate page) pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: Center western facade, double doors, one light each is etched
HARDWARE: original() replaced(X) glass star of David. (See additions)
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
3 Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

Brick

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)
original(X) replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

Snowbirds

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original() replaced(X)
(metal roof covered with tar paper)

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable(X) (See addition)

CHIMNEYS: Number: None Brick() Stone() Corbelled() original() replaced()
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular Main facade (western) 4

DETAILS: Greek Temple Form brick pilasters with corbeling and caps. Box cornice pedimented with wide soffit. , and bed moulding. modillions on soffit. Top of gable is sheathed in tin. Front on Center Street enclosed by heavy decorative wrought iron fence and gate, iron plaques on gate read "Synagogue"
Synagogue
AFFILIATION: Religion/Architecture
DATE FIRST NOTED: 1866
CONDITION: Good

FLOOR PLAN:

- () CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; double parlor, one side
- () SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- () IRREGULAR

STAIRWAYS:

- () ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- () OPEN: Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- () DOG-LEG
- () DOG-LEG with WINDERS
- () SPIRAL
- () ROUNDED
- () SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- () PLASTER
- () PANELED: original; replaced
- () BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

NUMBER _____
 LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal
 MANTELS: wood mouldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush
 HARDWARE: original; replaced

DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

- () PLAIN
- () ARCHITRAVE
- () SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
- () FLUTED
- () FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS
- () ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor

NOTES:

AL-IV-A-110

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany TOWN Downtown VICINITY Downtown STREET Cumberland South Centre & Union Streets ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE Jewish Congregation WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES 2	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY AL-94(99)
	2. NAME B'er Chayim Temple Reformed Jewish DATE OR PERIOD 1865 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC **Yes**

B'er Chayim means "Well of Life".

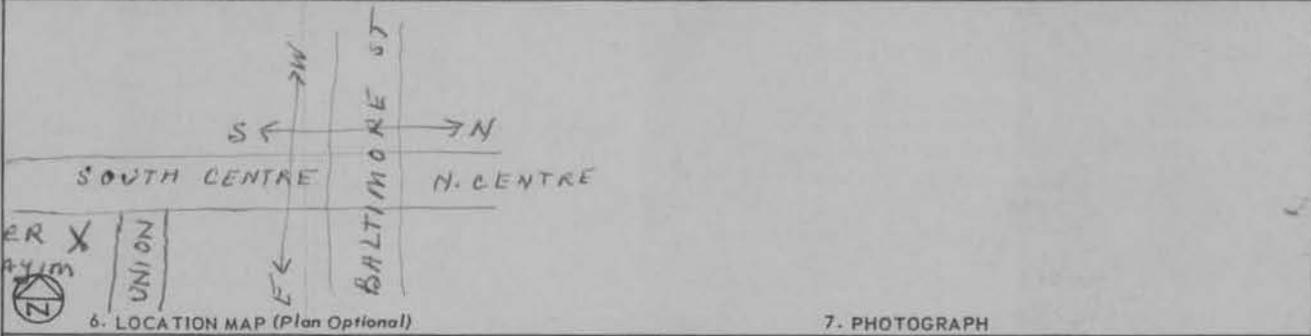
The building symbolizes the faith and strength of the handfull of Reformed Jews who settled in Cumberland in 1853.

Simple yet elegant sanctuary.

Stained glass windows showing Biblical events.

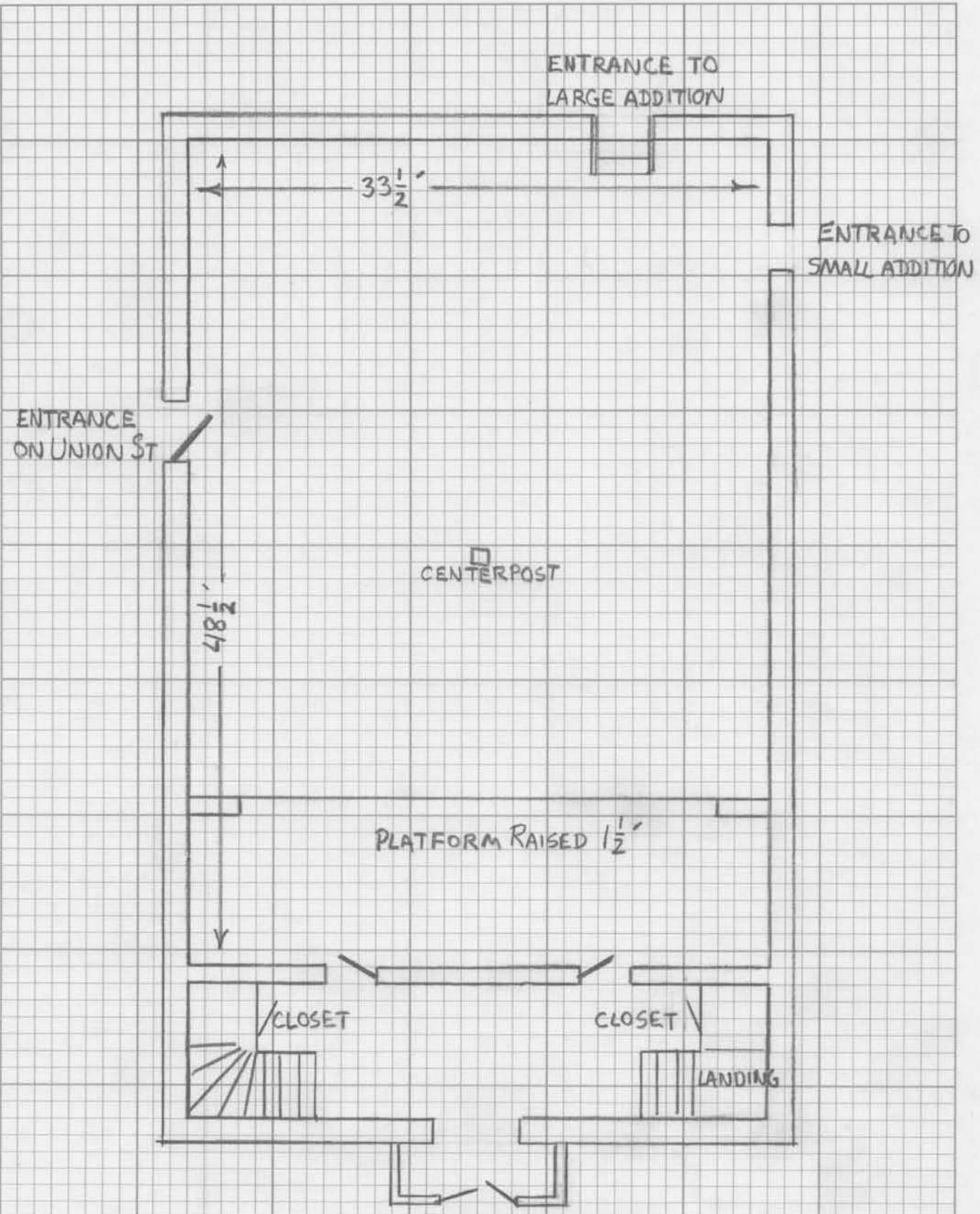
1964--Religious School rooms renovated.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior **V. Good** Exterior **Excellent**



8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Newspaper write-up May 10, 1964. Gift: Helen S. Hinkle	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Hazel Groves Hansrote, Chairman Maryland Historical Trust Sec. Preservation Society Allegany County DATE OF RECORD Oct. 9, 1970
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

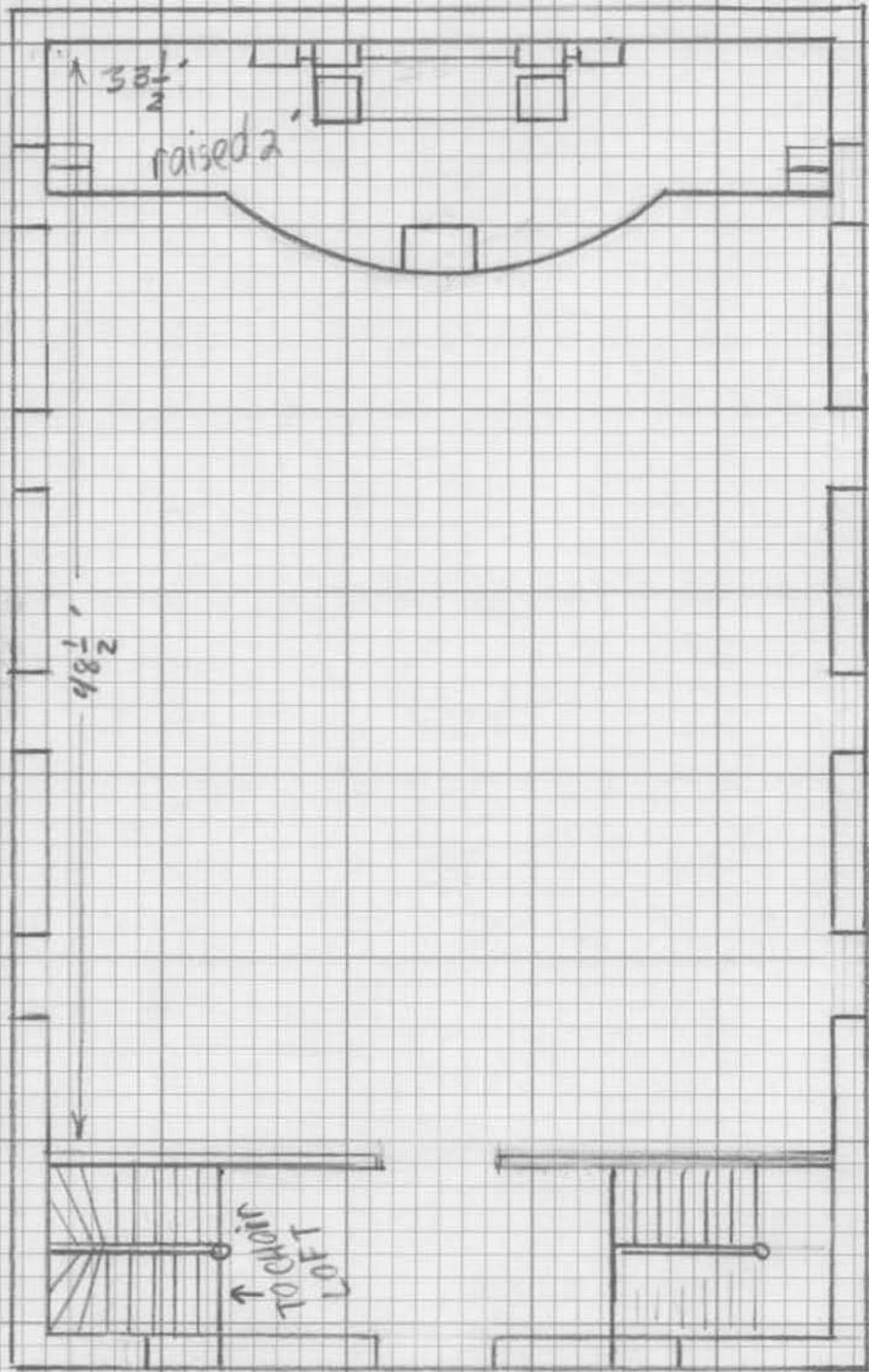


B'er Chayim Temple

First Floor

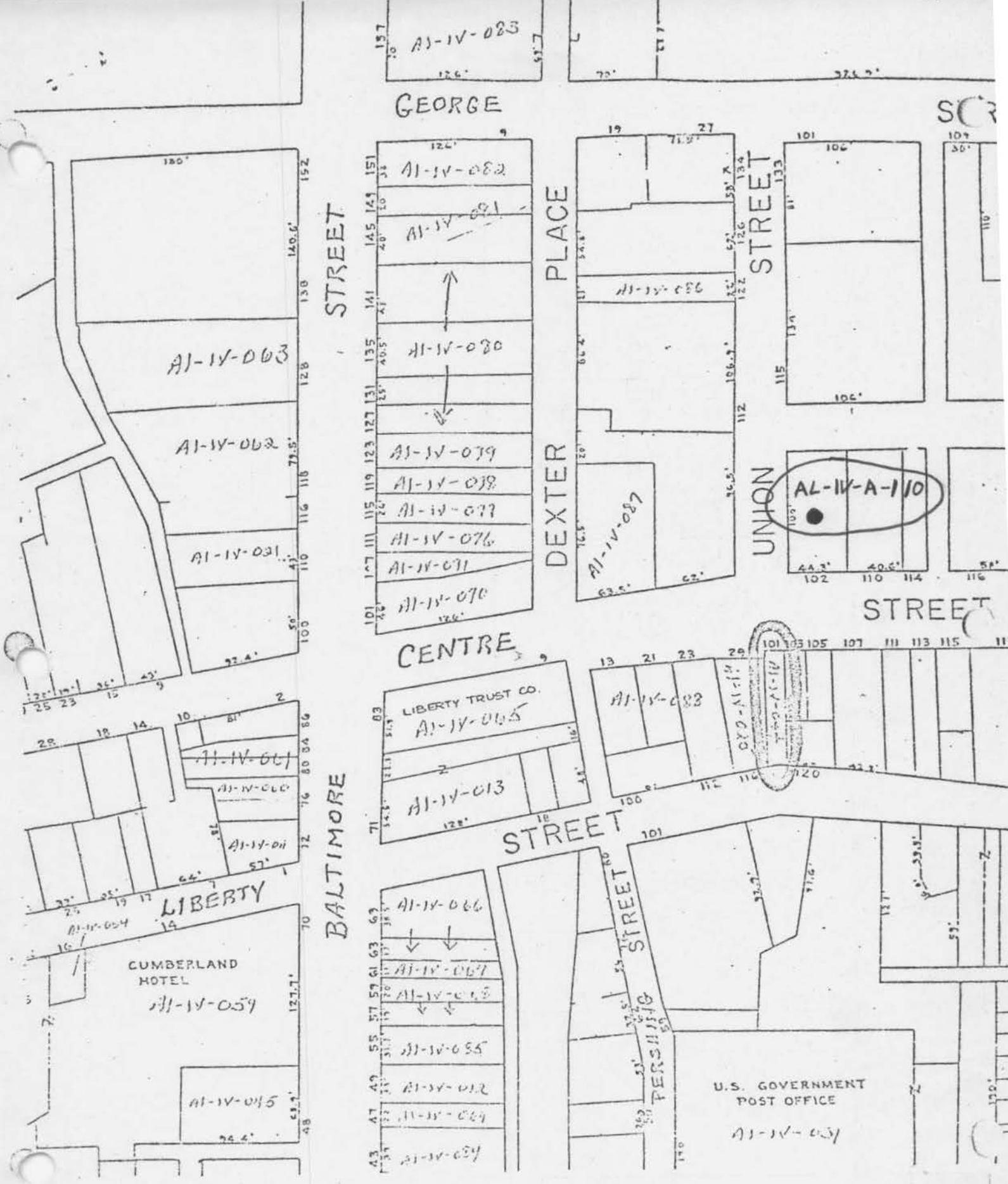
$$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$$

AL-IV-A-110



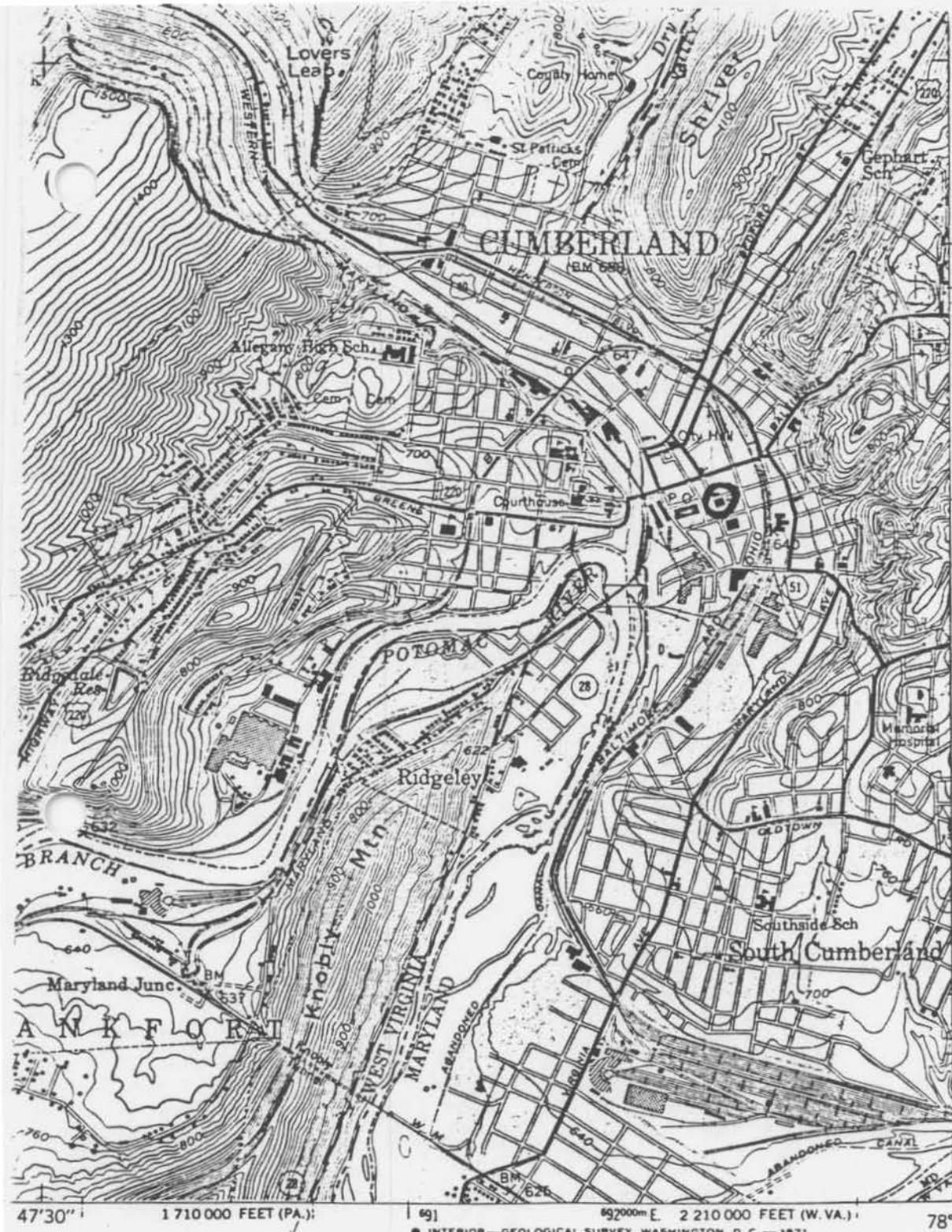
B'er Chayim Temple Second floor

$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$



Cumberland, Maryland
 Allegany County
 Tax Map 29 (1972)
 scale: 1"=100'

AL-IV-A-110
 B'er Chayim Temple
 100 South Centre Street
 Cumberland, Maryland 21502



*Biru Cayim
Temple
AL-110*

AL-II-A-110

SEP 20 1978

SHORT GAP 6.2 MI.
FORT ASHBY 11 MI

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty —————
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route (rectangle symbol)
- State Route (circle symbol)



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CUMBERLAND, MD.-PA.-W.V.A.

NE/4 FROSTBURG 15' QUADRANGLE
N3937.5—W7845/7.5

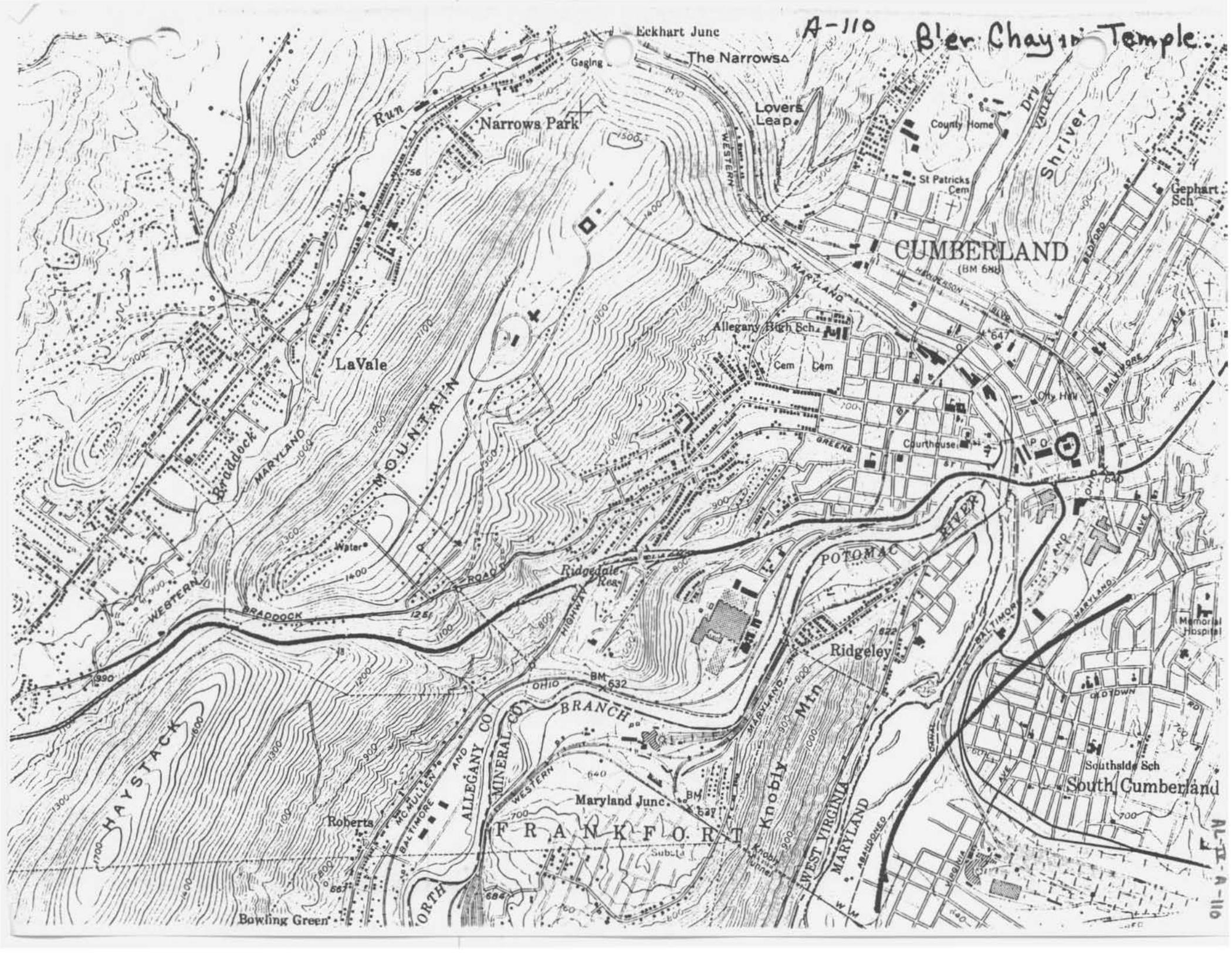
1949

AMS 5263 III NE—SÉRIES V833

*(PATTERSON CREEK)
5263 11 SW*

A-110

Bler Chay in Temple



Eckhart June

The Narrows

Gaging

Lovers Leap

Narrows Park

County Home

St Patricks Cem

Gephart Sch

CUMBERLAND
(BM 684)

Allegany High Sch

Cem Cem

Courthouse

City Hm

LaVale

Braddock

MARYLAND

MOUNTAIN

Ridgeley

POTOMAC RIVER

Ridgeley

OHIO

BRANCH

Ridgeley

HAYSTACK

Roberts

Maryland Junc.

FRANKFORT

Knobly Mtn

South Cumberland

Bowling Green

ORTH

ALLEGANY CO
MINERAL CO

WEST VIRGINIA
MARYLAND

OLDTOWN

Southside Sch

AL-110



AL-1U-A-110

B'ER CHAYIM TEMPLE

UNION & S CENTRE ST
CUMBERLAND

DAVID A DORSEY

8/31/79
NORTHEAST



AL-14-A-110

BER CHAYIM TEMPLE

UNION & S CENTRE ST.

CUMBERLAND

8/31/79

NORTHWEST



AL-IV-A-110

B'er CHAYIM TEMPLE

UNION + S. CENTRE ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

12/2/77

SOUTHEAST



AL-10-A-110

B'ER CHAYIM TEMPLE

(RABBI'S HOME)

UNION & S. CENTRE ST, CUMBERLAND

DAVID A - DORSEY

8/31/79

~~100~~ 1074 WEST



AL-IV-A-110

B'er CHAYIM TEMPLE

UNION + S. CENTRE ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

12/2/77

SOUTHWEST



AL-IV-A-110

B'er CHAYIM TEMPLE

UNION + S. CENTRE ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

12/2/77

NORTH



AL-IV-A-110

B'ér CHAYIM TEMPLE

UNION + S. CENTRE ST, CUMBERLAND

WILLIAM J. PRATT

12/2/77

NORTHWEST



City - Helen Straw Hinkle - 1970

AZ-IV-A-110