



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us

March 17, 2014

Deacon Ann Staples
Coal Country Hangout Youth Center
1102 Maple Avenue
Northern Cambria, PA 15714

Re: B'nai Israel Synagogue, Northern Cambria Borough, Cambria County, Key #042989

Dear Deacon Staples:

The above-named property has been reviewed by the Bureau for Historic Preservation. It is our opinion that the resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. An Evaluation is enclosed. We will add the information to the Bureau's Historic Resource Inventory for permanent record.

If you wish to proceed with a National Register nomination, please prepare a complete nomination and we will submit it to the Historic Preservation Board for review with our comments.

If additional information which could change your property's eligibility becomes available, please contact our office for re-evaluation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea L. MacDonald".

Andrea L. MacDonald, Chief
Division of Preservation Services

Enclosure
ALM/kh

Evaluation

Name: B'nai Israel Synagogue
Location: Northern Cambria Borough, Cambria County
Key number: 042989

National Register Criteria

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

N/A A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

N/A B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

N/A C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

N/A D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Area(s) of Significance: N/A

Period of Significance: N/A

Comments:

Based on the information submitted, it is BHP's opinion that the B'nai Israel Synagogue is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In terms of its historical association with the Jewish community in the region, it does not appear that this synagogue played a significant role in that community in the region. Based on the documentation submitted, this building played only a religious role in the community, providing worship services, weddings, and services on high holy days. Since the National Register is a Federal program, it cannot appear to endorse a particular set of religious beliefs; therefore, to be eligible, this resource must have played a significant role in the community outside of its religious role. In addition, the removal of the stained glass windows, removal of interior features, and apparent demolition of the basement social hall appear to have compromised its ability to convey any potential historical significance. In terms of its architecture, although it is a very nice building it does not appear to be distinctive architecturally. In addition, the removal of the stained glass windows and interior features appear to have compromised its ability to convey any architectural significance.

It is important to note that the Bureau for Historic Preservation is always willing to revisit its decisions when presented with **new** information. If you choose to present new information that may demonstrate the significance of this synagogue, BHP will review it. For historical significance, additional information would need to demonstrate that this synagogue played a significant role in the Jewish community, outside of its religious role, and that it retains the features necessary to