

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Chevry Lomday Mishnaves Synagogue

Other Name/Site Number: Temple of Prayer and Worship for the House of God, Which Is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar Ground of Truth, Without Controversy/House of God Church

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 148-150 Bedford Street Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Hartford Vicinity: NA

State: CT County: Hartford Code: 003 Zip Code: 06120

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  
      
      
      
1

Noncontributing

     buildings  
     sites  
     structures  
     objects  
     Total

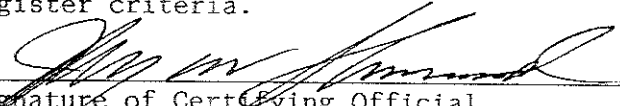
Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: NA

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: Historic Synagogues of Connecticut

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue, Hartford, CT

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

  
Signature of Certifying Official

3/29/95  
Date

John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

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

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue, Hartford, CT

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: religious structure Sub: synagogue  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current: religious structure Sub: church  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:

Materials:

20TH CENTURY REVIVAL  
Neo-Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_

Foundation: CONCRETE  
Walls: BRICK  
\_\_\_\_\_

Roof: built up  
Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Exterior

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue is a three-story rectangular yellow brick structure located at a busy street intersection in Hartford's densely built-up North End. The building faces west on the southeast corner of Bedford and Mather streets. It is sited close to the streets and occupies most of the lot. Nearby apartment buildings are similar in size and age. (Photograph 11)

The materials, size (34' x 62'), and architectural style (Neo-Classical Revival) of Chevry Lomday Mishnayes give it the appearance of characteristic Hartford apartment houses of the era. Among the standard features of such buildings represented in the synagogue are the yellow brick on the front elevation only, with more economical red brick for the sides and back, soldier courses of dark orange brick around the windows, and stilted peaked pediments along the street-elevation roof lines. On the other hand, round-arched windows with keystones and the fanlight transom over the front door of the structure tend more toward the Georgian Revival style than is common in the standard apartment house version of the mode.

The apertures of the building are informative. The height of the second-floor windows indicates an auditorium at this level. An oculus with a Magen David on the front and rear elevations and the 1 3/4-story apse projecting from the rear, to provide

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue, Hartford, CT

space for the ark, identify the structure as a synagogue. (Photograph 12) A second round window on the front is now filled by a panel with a raised cross. Originally, first- and second-floor windows were glazed with small panes, 8-over-8, while second-floor window transoms were radially glazed. The front door transom is still a fanlight. Third-floor windows were small-pane casements.

The date of construction is variously documented in the years 1924-1927. Silverman, the premiere authority on Hartford Jewish history, uses 1927, citing Hartford Land Records, volume 620, page 407 (see Silverman, page 109, footnote 48). Merle Kummer in Hartford Architecture, Volume Three: North and West Neighborhoods, page 32, gives the date of 1924, presumably taken from the Hartford Architecture Conservancy's actual examination of land records. The Jewish Ledger, May 6, 1965, states that the Bedford Street building was completed and occupied in 1925.

### Interior

The consultant was unable to gain access to the interior of the synagogue.

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue,

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
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>ca.1924</u> <u>1945</u>	<u>ca.1924</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: NA

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

Architectural Significance

The Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue building is significant architecturally because it is a good example of resourceful adaptation of a commercial building type to a religious purpose. The standard brick apartment house, characteristic of Hartford construction at the time, was altered to accommodate the synagogue in demonstration of the Judaic tradition that prayer conducted in the building is what is important, rather than the building itself.

It was relatively inexpensive and straightforward for the congregation to erect the apartment house brick shell that it did, for such buildings were going up by the dozens in Hartford in the 1920s. Harry H. Beckenstein is one of several architects who designed them, as did Berenson & Moses. But the absence of an architect's name on the building permit for this structure indicates that possibly a standard building was constructed without services of an architect.

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue, Hartford, CT

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes fits the apartment house norm with its use of soldier-course bricks in a contrasting color, here orange against yellow. The peaked low gables at the roof-line also are in accordance with standard practice. What is unusual is the shape of the window apertures, which normally are rectangular. Here they are round-arched at the second and third floors, an important distinction. The shape, of course, was related to the glazing, small paned and radial (as also seen in the front entrance), in fulfillment of the designer's objective of being in tune with the Colonial Revival mode popular in the 1920s and here characteristically made part of the synagogue.

### Historical Background

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes (Society for Study of Mishnah [core of the Talmud - Judaic law]) is significant historically because the Orthodox congregation was organized by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia. The first meeting place on May 1, 1918, was an empty store on Windsor Street, followed over the next several years by separate quarters at Adas Israel Synagogue, Lipman Hall, and the Hebrew Institute, before the building on Bedford Street was erected. In 1963 the congregation relocated to a house at 191 Westbourne Parkway.

The Bedford Steet building presently is owned by the Temple of Prayer and Worship for the House of God, Which Is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar Ground of Truth, Without Controversy. Efforts to establish contact with this group have been unsuccessful; consequently, the extent and nature of present use of the former synagogue are unknown.

### Registration Requirements

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes 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

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue, Hartford, CT

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hartford Assessor's records.

Hartford Land Records.

The Jewish Ledger, May 6, 1965; Aug. 7, 1980; Jan. 12, 1984.

Merle Kummer, Hartford Architecture, Volume Three: North and West Neighborhoods (Hartford: Hartford Architecture Conservancy, 1980), p. 32.

David F. Ransom, "1843\*1943 - One Hundred Years of Jewish Congregations in Connecticut: An Architectural Survey - 5603\*5703," Connecticut Jewish History, 2(Fall 1991)1.

Morris Silverman, Hartford Jews, 1659-1970 (Hartford: The Connecticut Historical Society, 1970), pp. 16, 109.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Chevry Lomday Mishnayes Synagogue, Hartford, CT

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4627680</u>	<u>692500</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
E	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	F	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The nominated property is described in the Hartford Land Records at volume 1436, page 319.

**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 21, 1994

Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street

City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

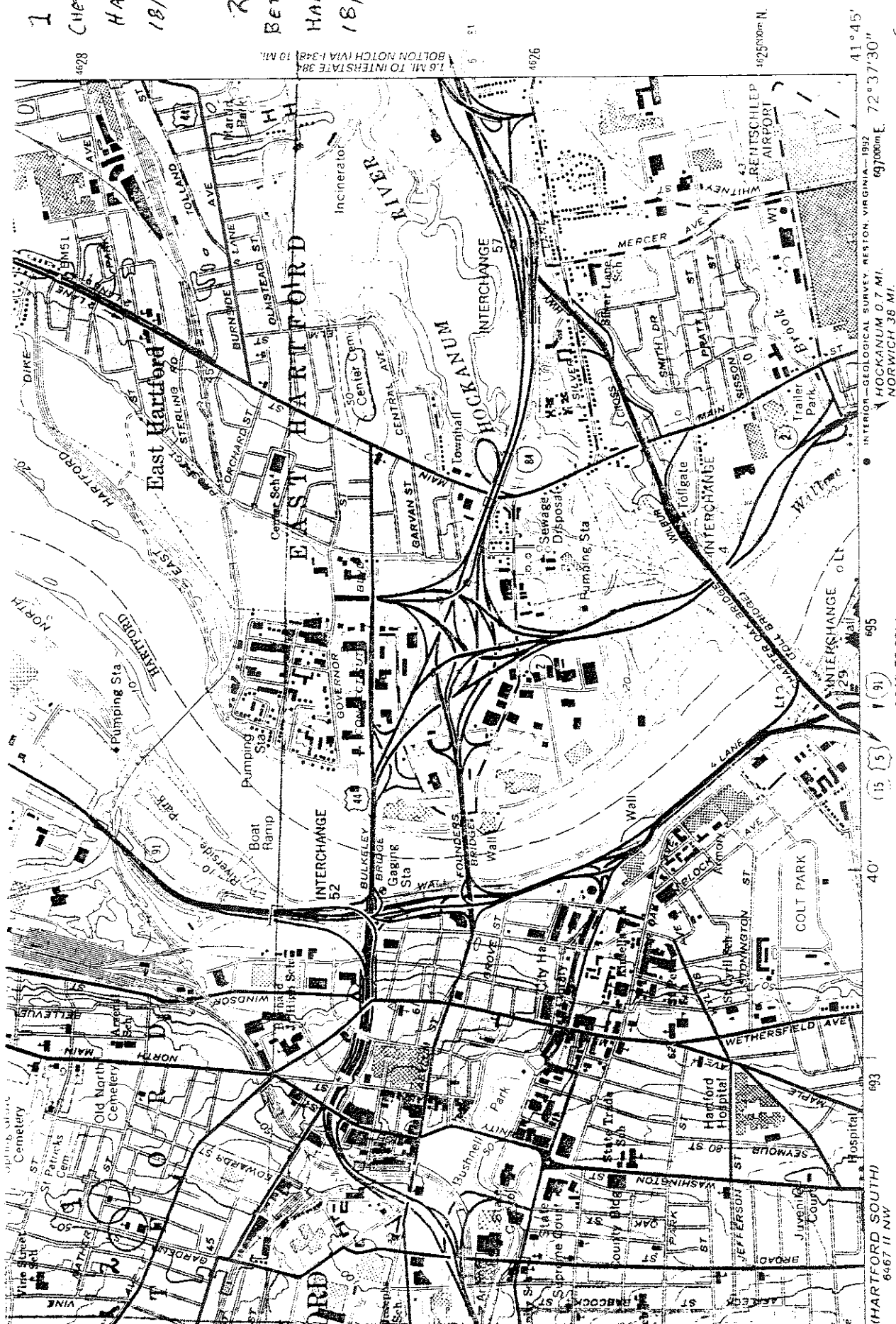
ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 203 566-3005



1  
CHEVY LOMDAY M  
HARTFORD, CT  
18/4627680/692

2  
BETH HAMEDRASH  
HARTFORD, CT  
18/4627600/691



1625000m N  
41°45'  
72°37'30"  
697000m E  
1625000m N  
41°45'  
72°37'30"  
697000m E  
1625000m N  
41°45'  
72°37'30"  
697000m E

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

INTERSECTION—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1992  
HOCKANUM 0.7 MI.  
NORWICH 38 MI.

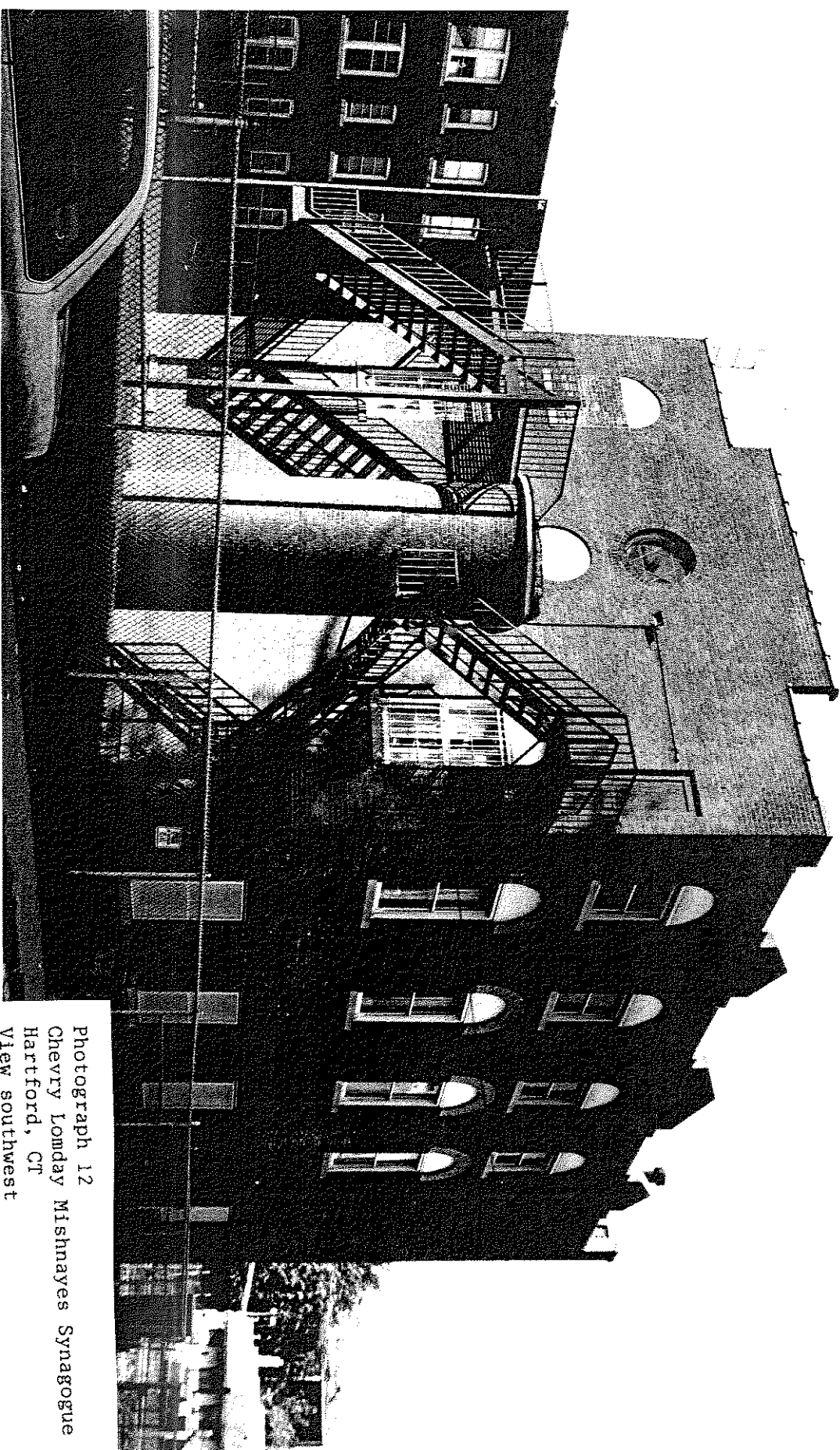
1 MILE  
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
0 1 KILOMETER

SCALE 1:24 000  
HORIZONTAL INTERVAL 10 FEET  
VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

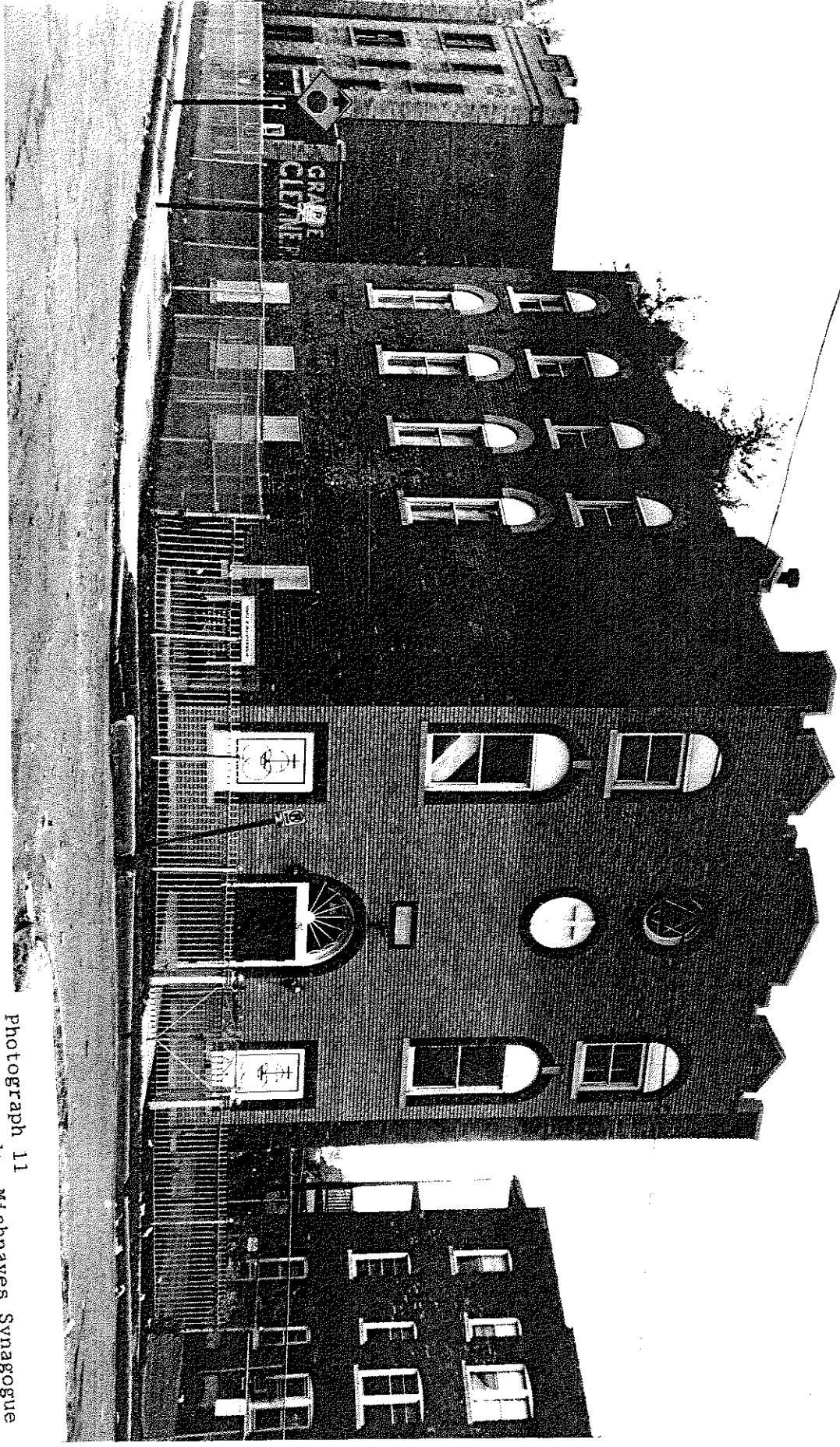
HARTFORD NORTH, CONN.

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
1:25,000 SCALE



Photograph 12  
Chevre Lowday Mishnayas Synagogue  
Hartford, CT  
View southwest



Photograph 11  
Chevry Lomday Mishnayas Synagogue  
Hartford, CT  
View southeast