**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, 02810

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District:</td>
<td>Building:</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site:</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**OWNERS NAME:** Trustees of Congregation Jeshuat Israel

**STREET AND NUMBER:** 89, Touro Street

**CITY OR TOWN:** Newport

**STATE:** Rhode Island, 02810

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE,Registry of Deeds, Etc.:** City Hall

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Broadway

**CITY OR TOWN:** Newport

**STATE:** Rhode Island, 02810

**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

**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

[Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM (Type all entries – complete applicable sections)]
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 enframement 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 basement 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.
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 practically 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.
AFLFAT:

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEORGICAL DATA

- LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY
- LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41° 29' 20 N</td>
<td>71° 18' 45 W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE:</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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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:

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 [X] Local [ ]

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

Date

ATTEST:

Date
GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 29' 20" N
Longitude: 71° 18' 45" W
**Jewish Community Center**

**Gale (Levi H.) House**

**89, Touro Street**

**Newport**

**Rhode Island**

**U. S. Geological Survey**

**1: 12,000**

**1957**

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

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.
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph*

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detail of typical marble mantel (showing later brickwork and hearth opening).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Central hall and main (north) doorway.
# Jewish Community Center

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

**STATE:** Rhode Island  
**COUNTY:** Newport

**LOCATION**

- **STREET AND NUMBER:** 89, Touro Street  
- **CITY OR TOWN:** Newport  
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**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.

**IDENTIFICATION**

- **VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:** Exterior from south-west.
**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**  
**Rhode Island**  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Property Photograph Form**  
*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</table>

### 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  
  **Code:** 144  
  **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-east.
1. **NAME**
   - **COMMON:** Jewish Community Center
   - **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Gale (Levi H.) House

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** 89, Touro Street
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   - **STATE:** Rhode Island
   - **CODE COUNTY:** 005

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
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   - **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).