

HISTORIC ASSET RECORD (HAR)

Template version 1.0

DATA SHEET

TITLE / ADDRESS St Annes Hebrew Congregation Synagogue			Asset number HA
<u>National Grid Reference</u>	<u>County</u> Lancashire	<u>District</u> Fylde	zone HZ3 St Annes South
Grade: Local			
Summary of Significance Byzantine style post-war (1959) synagogue by Jewish architect, A. Maxwell Caplan of Southport, which adopts a non-standard plan form			
Historic Asset Description Byzantine style post-war synagogue by Jewish architect A. Maxwell Caplan of Southport which adopts a non-standard plan form. Constructed from brick (very pale brown for show, red elsewhere) with concrete dressings. The rectangular schul and synagogue are separated by a shared entrance corridor, with the Ark on the same wall as the entrance. Blocky tripartite front elevation with parapets and a taller centre bay containing a tall, round arched window with very wide two-tone concrete dressings, flanked by projecting bays with lesser similar windows. To the left the arched entrance to the schul has a three-stepped brick surround – the schul conceals the south side of the synagogue. The rear elevation has a shallow gable with five stepped lancets with concrete arched heads, and two very shallow buttresses. The north elevation is a regimented line of similar windows and buttresses. Internally the ceiling is barrel-vaulted, running down into the window heads. Instead of a ladies' gallery there is simply a raised area behind the men's seating, fronted by an openwork screen in flowing Festival of Britain sort of design. The Ark is flanked by curved walls clad in pink marble, and the Bimah has similar ironwork. Most windows contain coloured glass panels showing biblical landscapes, etc. set in palest pastel glazing. The chandeliers are reportedly identical with those found at Manchester's Higher Crumpsall Synagogue, built at the end of the 1920s. Cited in the 2009 edition of Pevsner's influential 'Buildings of England' series which describes it as a 'striking composition, wholly of its day,' and draws attention to the quality of material used throughout. It is also mentioned in the recent publication 'The Synagogues of Britain and Ireland' by Sharman Kadish, which emphasises the interest of the plan form.			

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Source: Historic England Assessment Report 2016

Criteria: Age [] Architectural merit [X] Historic interest [X] Group value [] Setting [X]
Rarity [X] Designed landscape [] Archaeological interest [] Landmark quality [X]

Comment: e.g. materials, features of particular note

The building has a really distinctive architectural style and there are no other synagogues in the borough so the rarity adds to the special offer for the town. The loss of the synagogue building would be of severe detriment to the town.

Any further comment e.g. recommend for national listing

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Date of expert panel decision

9/12/2016