

Holocaust Memorial Site Survey



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BOARD

APRIL 13, 2017

Background



- A congregant made a generous offer to donate money for a Holocaust Memorial and education.
- A team was formed to develop the strategy to implement this offer, and to then do the implementation.
- Our first task was to identify where a memorial should go.
- This is the report of the team, for approval by the board (and the congregation).

Who are we?



- Amy Gewirtzman
- Robert Goldberg-Alberts
- Vivian Kane
- Ami Kardos
- Mike Oswald
- Carolyn Savitzky
- Dan Schwarz
- Doug Smithman
- Warren Young, Project Manager

Other Participants



- Jay and the Rabbi were involved as needed and provided feedback and input to the team.

Charter



Informally developed, our team charter:

- The Holocaust Memorial Team is chartered to develop a recommendation for a holocaust memorial, and to develop recommendations for adult and children's education programs and their ongoing maintenance.
- The team will submit the recommendations to the project owner for acceptance by the donor and the Investment Committee.
- The team's second phase activity will be to implement the approved recommendations.
- The Project Manager is expected to keep the support the team activities, maintaining team minutes, developing work rules with the team, identifying team roles. The Project Manager is responsible for communication with the Project Owner, Jay.
- The project owner is responsible for communication with the Project Sponsor, the Executive Board, and the Finance Committee.
- No time limit was identified for the project, but there should be a connection to Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2017 or 2018.

Process



- Before we can implement the memorial, we must select a proposal.
- Before we can select a proposal, we must solicit proposals.
- Before we can solicit proposals must identify the site to use and the themes we wish to capture.
- Before we can identify the site, we must have approval for the site.
- Before we can get approval, we must recommend the site, and that is where we are.

We're asking for your approval of the site.



- We need to proceed with the Request for Proposals, and we need to be able to identify the site.
- We are preparing a document with the themes we want to convey.

Overview



- We considered interior and exterior space.
- In general, interior space offered somewhat more security, offered the ability to move it later if needed, and are easier to implement.
- In general, exterior space was less secure, had more implementation effort, and would be harder to move later if needed.
- We had a favorite from each category.

Our recommendation



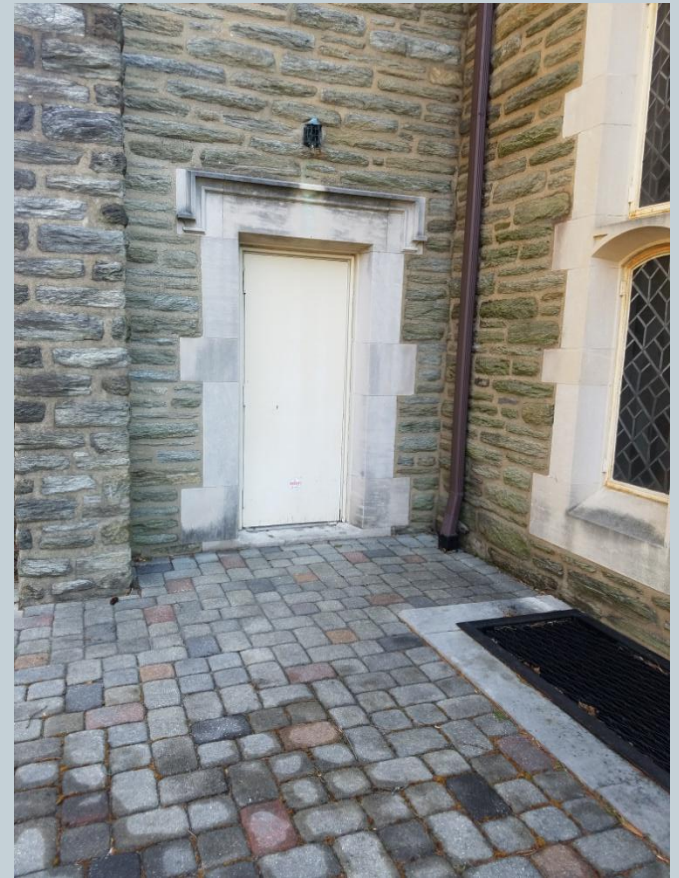
By the healing garden – Long View



By the healing garden – Corner



- Adjacent to the Healing Garden
- Note the availability to electricity
- The door is not used – a door to nowhere.
- We rejected this location because of the grate and the downspout.



By the healing garden – from the bldg



- But this space works for us!
- Adjacent to the Healing Garden
- Could be placed on or in front of the wall.
- If needed, electricity is available, as it is in the healing garden.



By healing garden – on the pavers.



Pros

- Large space .
- Accessible for viewing by large groups.
- Lots of natural light.
- Accommodates a variety of memorial options.
- Central to the building without intruding.
- Nicely ‘framed’ now by stone wall and the building as a back drop.
- Electricity available.

By healing garden – on the pavers.



Cons

- It is on the path to the healing garden so could give a mixed message.
- Possible security since it is visible from the outside, making theft a risk.

Interior Favorite



- The team interior favorite was the right hand arch in the Ante room for the memorial site:



Some details



- Use the right hand arch for the memorial space.
- Open up the Arch.
- Close off the back side, facing the sanctuary.
- Light the space.
- Implement a covering for use when celebrations occur in that space.

Some details



- Build a back wall to cover the space from the sanctuary view, similar to this existing implementation:

We could possibly use the wood currently framing the door as the part of a new back side, facing the sanctuary.



Considerations / Constraints



- While the ramp passes this space, the rail currently blocks off access to this space. In other words, it is dead space.
- While the inclusion committee had considered using this space, that plan was declined.
- The sanctuary light switches are in this space. However, only one or two of the switches are functional. We should be able to move them, but leaving them is not a big issue.
- While we have to build a back side for the space, we may be able to use the existing arch and woodwork from the front side.

Pros / Cons



Pros	Cons
Accessible / central to, but not intruding on the sanctuary or the community room	We have to ensure that the Handicapped access to the bathroom and Bima is not impacted.
Minimal maintenance issues (Indoor and convenient)	Lighting upgrade needed as part of the exhibit space.
Can be closed off for celebrations using the ante room.	Ante room is used as a serving area during Mitzvahs and other celebrations and for Chanukah crafts and other school / children activities.
Can support 2 – or -3 dimensional pieces.	Should move the light switches.
Can design portability into it.	Covering the memorial for events may cast our tribute in a negative light.
Because of the office, heated / cooled most of the time.	

But we agreed this site would not work.



- Because this space is central to festivities of all sorts within the synagogue, a holocaust memorial here would be inappropriate.
- The holocaust memorial by definition, will invoke thoughts of the event itself.
- Covering it during festivities is inappropriate for the memorial purpose.

Other sites we considered



- These are the other interior and exterior sites we considered in our effort.
- Pros and cons are identified for each.

Community Room



- The room has lots of wall space, but we agreed that this was a room for celebrations and would be inappropriate for use as a holocaust memorial.

The Art Gallery Stair Well



- The Art Gallery has ample wall space, windows and a bench seat.

Cons

- Fire evacuation route, so any object in them may be cited by the fire marshal during our annual inspections.
- Not suitable for a large gathering.
- No Air Conditioning.
- Out of the way (Dan walked into Beth Or and asked where their holocaust memorial was. The staff didn't know they had one.)

Various School Classrooms - Pros



Ample Wall Space

Interesting rooms –

- 207 has a mantel piece and windows.
- 205 and 204 are interesting
- 203 is a very large room

Various School Classrooms - Cons



Out of the way – as noted earlier - Dan had noted in the Beth Or implementation – would people find it? 203 is very functional for the school and should not be moved.

This would require moving classrooms to the basement, which many would find to be objectionable.

No air conditioning.

School Stair Well



Ample Wall Space, BUT,

- Not suitable for a large gathering.
- Fire evacuation route, so any object in them may be cited by the fire marshal during our annual inspections.
- Heating
- Wiring
- Out of the way (as noted earlier - Dan had noted in the Beth Or implementation – would people find it?)
- Even less space to gather than the gallery.
- Not insulated, unheated.

Organ Loft - Pros



- Potentially Ample Wall Space
- Visible from the Sanctuary
- Viewed from the Sanctuary could accommodate large groups
- Could be integrated with the tapestries in place (a horror and hope message)

Organ Loft - Cons



- In the past, congregation objected to having anything in the sanctuary that would conflict with the ritual space.
- Could detract and distract from the tapestries.
- We would need a door and would need to address safety with the low railing.
- Not heated or cooled during the week and for long periods in the summer. Heat and humidity may be a concern.

Vestibule / Foyer - Pros



- Wall space on one wall.
- Minimal maintenance issues (Indoor and convenient)

Vestibule / Foyer - Cons



- Out of character. This is the entrance, and would change the spirit from warm and uplifting to greet congregants.
- Finding space for the existing ceramics would be an issue – they were designed for the space.
- Possible security since it is visible from the outside, making theft a risk.
- The door is often propped open and will obscure anything on that wall.
- Kids are often running through there with balls and other toys.

Solarium



- Large space.
- Accessible for viewing by large groups.
- Lots of natural light.

But:

- Out of character. This is the entrance, and would change the spirit from warm and uplifting to greet congregants.
- Environment could mean maintenance is an issue. The Heat Pump is no longer working, and heat and cold are problems (may be fixed anyway).
- Possible security since it is visible from the outside, making theft a risk.

Main Entrance, on by the facing wall



- This was our consensus exterior location favorite.



Main Entrance, on by the facing wall



Pros

- Moderate space .
- Accessible for viewing by large groups.
- Lots of natural light.
- Accommodates a variety of memorial options.
- Central to the building without intruding.
- Nicely 'framed' now by stone wall and brickwork.
- A positive memorial would offer hope to those entering the sanctuary.

Main Entrance, by the facing wall



Cons

- It is by the entrance so could give a mixed message. (Our theme may emphasis hope and horror – tbd). (Note that focus could be as your are looking away from the building, mitigating this issue).
- Possible security since it is visible from the outside, making theft a risk.
- This space is used for gathering while entering the building.
- The top of the stone wall by the entrance is flaking and the stones need to be demolished and replaced. That cost would need to be included.

Yard space by the community room



The yard space to the right of the stairs as you approach the building offers an nice size green space not currently used.

Pros

- Large space .
- Accessible for viewing by large groups.
- Lots of natural light.
- Accommodates a variety of memorial options.
- Prone to thistle and poison ivy.

Yard space by the community room



Cons

- Conflicts with the storage unit recently built. It would have to be moved or covered up.
- Possible security since it is visible from the outside, making theft a risk.
- Doug Commented: Moving the shed can be done but doing so will create a security risk for the shed contents.

Patio space by the community room



Pros

- Large space .
- Accessible for viewing by large groups.
- Lots of natural light.
- Accommodates a variety of memorial options.

Patio space by the community room



Cons

- Currently used for our barbecue, the Sukkah, and other events.
- Possible security since it is visible from the outside, making theft a risk.
- Conflict with Sukkot, annual barbecue, and other events.