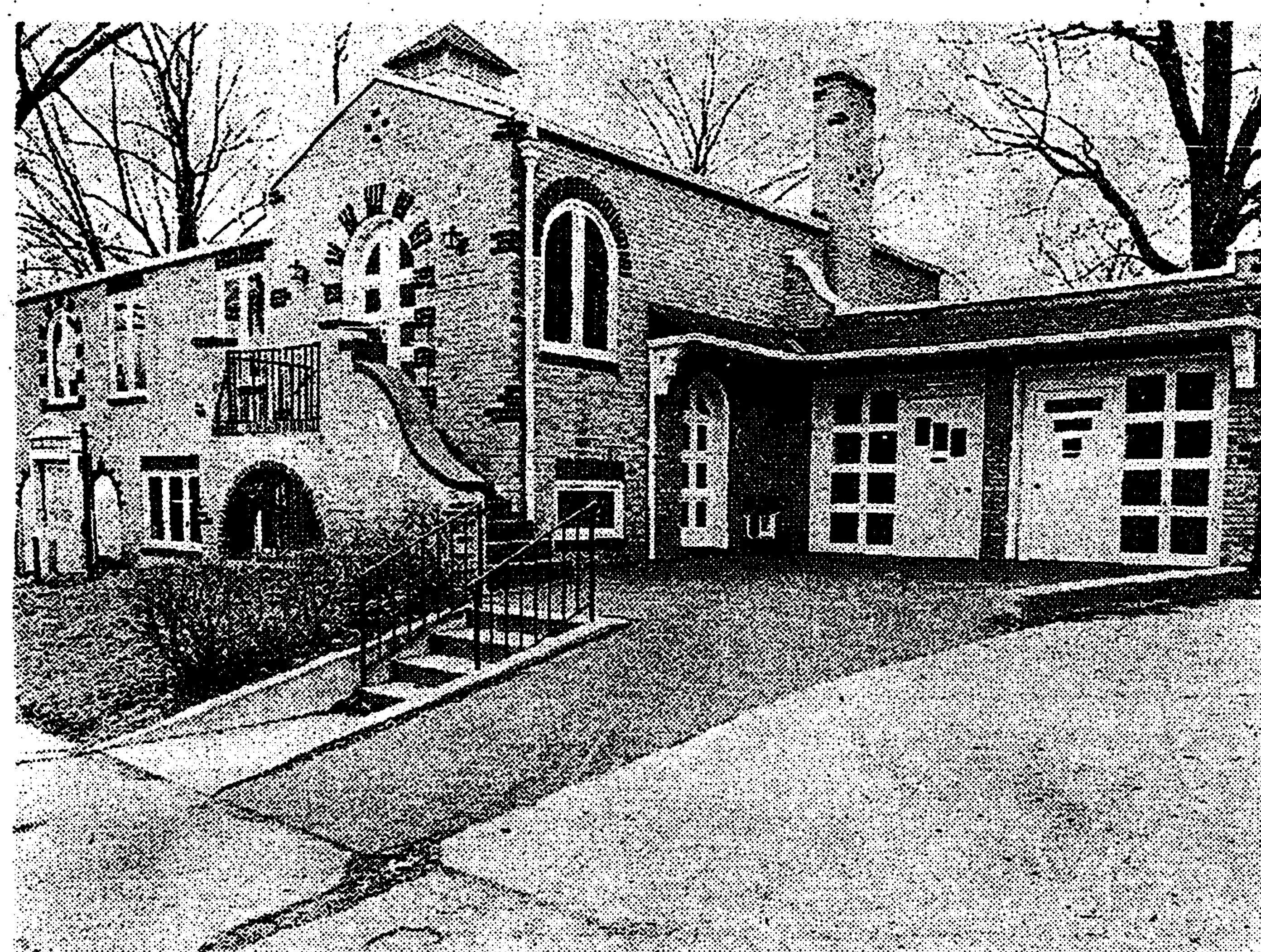


city's zoning laws that allow a one-week storage period. become a part of a new park, h



NEW SYNAGOG — This building formerly owned by Trinity Presbyterian Church, is to become the home of Beth Tikvah congregation. The church, an affiliate of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod, is erecting a new sanctuary on Snouffer Rd.

FIRST ON CITY'S NORTH SIDE

Synagog Is Readied

By CHARLOTTA BECKER
Of The Dispatch Staff

The first Jewish congregation to be founded outside of the East or South sides of Columbus will enter a "home of its own, on Sunday, March 3.

On that day, Congregation Beth Tikvah will walk in procession from its present assembly house at 3392 N. High St. to its new location at 3199 Indianola Ave.

THE congregation will carry the Torah, the sacred scrolls of Jewish law and teachings, and the ner tamid, the eternal light.

The building on Indianola Ave., purchased from Trinity Presbyterian Church, will be the first owned by Beth Tikvah. The congregation has rented the N. High St. house.

"Fortuitous—if not miraculous—circumstances," led to the purchase of the church building, Rabbi Bennett Hermann said.

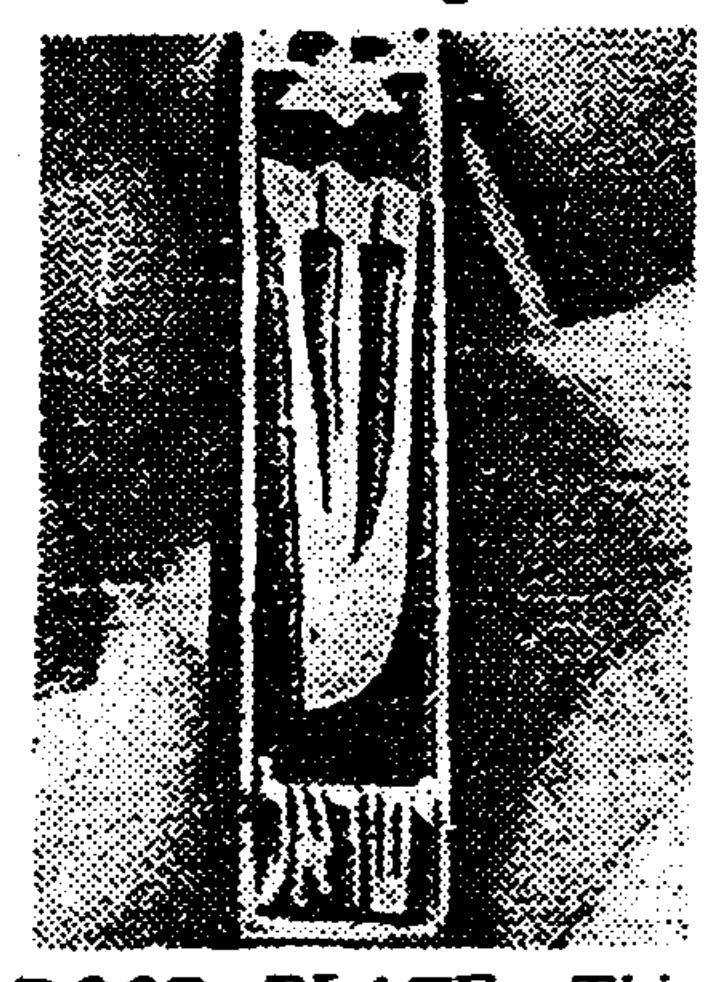
"I'D BEEN ADMIRING the church for about two years as I drove by," he said. When advised the N. High St. property would be torn down to make way for an office building, the congregation looked at some 20 to 30 properties, the rabbi said. And time was running out.

The rabbi related: "DRIVING BY the church on Indianola Ave. again, I decided to give them a call. This I did, asking 'do you know of a church that is for sale . . . or would yours be?'"

"The elder answering the inquiry said 'as a matter of fact ours will be available.'"

"They were deciding to build. Their elders and our board began to talk, and things have worked out very well."

TRANSFORMING A church building into a synagog creates no problems, Her-



DOOR PLATE—This mezuzah will be placed at the entrance of the new synagog.

mann said. Principally, he said, the change is in the sale . . . the deed whereby the church building is designated no longer a church . . . and the synagog goes ahead and constitutes the building as a synagog.

Proceeding with the Torah to the new building is a part of the act of constituting the synagog, the rabbi said.

The Rev. Richard D. Brinkley, minister of Trinity Presbyterian, said the church will remove its communion table, pulpit, and the like, but will leave the pews until its own building is completed.

THE CHURCH ANTICIPATES moving into its new building on Snouffer Rd., just off Sawmill Rd., sometime in November. In the meantime it will meet in Salem Elementary School. The final Sunday worship in the church on Indianola Ave. will be this weekend.

Rabbi Hermann said that ahead of the March 3 date the synagog will move its own pulpit furniture and prayer books to the new location.

Beth Tikvah's move also will call for the affixing of a mezuzah (the new one was made in Israel) to the right hand side of the synagog's doorpost, Hermann said.

HOUSED IN A SMALL case, the mezuzah is a tiny scroll and contains four sections from the Bible. The symbolism, he explained, is that a person upon entering the building fixes his own mind on the purpose of the place as a house of God and therefore should conduct himself properly.

The mezuzah is also used on homes, the rabbi said, signifying the home is converted into a type of temple, thus ideally promoting good and befitting conduct.

Beth Tikvah, organized in 1961 as the first new Jewish congregation in Columbus since 1910, met first at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and at Hillel Foundation on the Ohio State University campus before renting the N. High St. headquarters.

COMPOSED OF 70 families, many of them scientists or educators affiliated with Ohio State University or Battelle, Beth Tikvah is a Reform congregation, a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Dr. Walter Loeb is president of the congregation; Mrs. Jules LaPibus, president of Sisterhood and Dr. Milton Lessler, building chairman.

Rabbi Hermann, a native of Albany, N.Y., served Beth Tikvah as a student rabbi on a bimonthly basis while attending Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and was installed as the congregation's first fulltime rabbi in September, 1966.

HE AND HIS WIFE, Hayuta, who is a native of Israel and a teacher at Beth Tikvah, a branch of Columbus Hebrew Schools, and at the Jewish Center preschool, have two children, Deborah and Sivonne.

Beth Tikvah is a charter member of the Beechwood-Clintonville Interfaith Council, the rabbi said, and the March 3 ceremony is to be ecumenical, a community-type affair, with members of the Christian clergy invited to participate.

THE PROCESSION will start at 3 p.m. The dedication service with representative greetings from the Christian community will be at 4, a reception following.

Beth Tikvah will have its last Friday evening service at the N. High St. address this weekend, and on March 1 will have a joint service with Hillel Foundation at 7:45 p.m.



TORAH DISPLAYED—Rabbi Bennett Hermann holds Beth Tikvah's Torah, which will be moved to the congregation's new synagog at 3199 Indianola Ave. in a procession March 3. At left, the ner tamid, the eternal light, burns before the Ark which is used to house the sacred scrolls. (Dispatch Photos).