

**A**FTER A GREAT DEAL of lobbying by the Charles River Synagogue, the landmark designation of the Vilna Shul, located on Beacon Hill, was vetoed by the Boston City Council on January 31st at the synagogue in Boston, constructed in 1919 by an immigrant Jewish community that once flourished on Beacon Hill and the West End. According to the landmark legislation, either the Mayor or the City Council can veto a designation made by the Boston Landmarks Commission. Councillors Bolling, Menino, Salerno and Scondras fought vigorously to uphold the landmark designation.

The opposition to the designation came from the Charles River Synagogue who, via litigation, have become the major beneficiaries of the proceeds from the sale of the Vilna Shul on Beacon Hill.

As of this writing, the petitioners and Historic Boston continue their efforts to purchase the building and are reviewing options for insuring the preservation of the Shul.

*Vilna Shul. Credit: Laureen Victor*



*This photo is believed to show an old West End shul and is part of the collection of the American Jewish Historical Society in Waltham (campus of Brandeis). The librarian doesn't think it's Vilna Shul, although Vilna Shul was built circa 1920. Sam Katz (pronounced Kates) apparently did the interiors of a large number of synagogues, including the Adams Street Synagogue in Newton. He was a cabinetmaker by trade.*