

## Adath Israel of the Bronx / Congregation House of Learning / New Beth Hamidrash Hagadol

1589 Washington Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457

*(Now Iglesia Mision Cristiana)*

Lot size 50' by 140.36' Building size 50' by 130' 3 stories EMV \$2,160,000

This white and cake-icing blue building is precious, and there are hardly any indicators of a Christian presence here. The church, in fact, seems to have highlighted the Judaica, painting the several Jewish stars a hue of bright blue. They even painted the “5688” to make it more noticeable.

There are lots of Romanesque windows, as well as panels of stained glass (although those need some better maintenance). The recessed entrance is framed well by the columns and pilasters in front of it. “Gadol Adat Yashar” (Great Congregation of the Righteous) is still easily read for those who know Hebrew. It is a curious thing that the Latino church has gone out of its ways to maintain the Jewish material so painstakingly. Even the five doors leading inside are topped by half-rose windows that are in very good shape.

The first rabbi here was Rabbi Wiener of Palestine, 1909–1925. Later they were led by Rabbi Abraham I. Shuchatowitz, 1925–1937. According to *History in Asphalt*, by John McNamara, “Washington Avenue was famous for its churches, social halls, synagogues, fine homes and gardens” in the past, and part of it was formerly known as Elton Avenue.

