

Vilna Shul Everyone250 Historic Marker

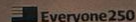
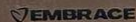
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The Vilna Shul

Built in 1919

The Vilna Shul began in the 1880s as a *landsmanshaft*, a mutual aid society formed by the growing number of Jewish immigrants who came to Boston to escape persecution in Eastern Europe. Named for Vilnius, a center of Jewish life in what later became Lithuania, The Vilna was one of many hubs of Jewish life in downtown Boston at the turn of the 20th century. It is the only early-twentieth-century synagogue remaining in Boston, and one of few buildings left standing after urban renewal demolished much of the West End in the 1950s. By 1985, most of its congregants had migrated to the suburbs and the synagogue closed its doors. Saved from demolition in 1995, the building was reimagined as a cultural center. The Vilna Shul has offered a unique window into Jewish life—alive with creativity, rooted in tradition, and open to all.



This site is a part of the Everyone250 Historical Marker program

The sign will be affixed to the front gate temporarily (example here: the Memorial to Enslaved Persons). To be removed by July 15, 2027.

