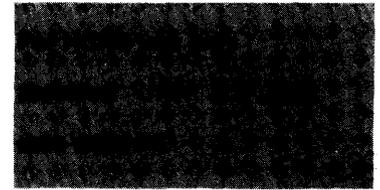


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Baird, George W., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4400 West 50th Street not for publication

city, town Edina vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Minnesota code 22 county Hennepin code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u> </u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Jack Curtis

street & number 4400 West 50th Street

city, town Edina vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Hennepin County Government Center

street & number 300 South Sixth Street

city, town Minneapolis, Minnesota state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The George W. Baird House is situated on a large lot on the north side of West 50th Street in Edina. It is a two story brick residence done in the Queen Anne style of architecture. Features typical of the Queen Anne style appear throughout the residence including a square corner tower with pyramidal roof, projecting attic gables, patterned shingles, carved wood panels, windows with small square lights and tall sculptured brick chimneys.

The foundation of the house is of native Plattesville limestone with a water table course of Mankato stone directly above. Mankato stone also appears as a belt course over the paired first story windows of the tower and over the landing windows on the east elevation. Window sills throughout the house are also of Mankato stone as well as the lintel inscribed "1886" over the second story tower window.

The brickwork throughout the house is of a red pressed brick laid with thin buttered joints.

Very few changes have been made to the exterior of the house. The multi-colored slate roof on the tower has been replaced with black asphalt shingles. An attic dormer on the front of the house has been removed. The scrollwork on the front porch has similarly been removed, however, the porch roof with carved wood gable remains intact. A wood frame summer kitchen at the rear of the house was replaced in 1969 with a one-story family room addition which is sympathetic with the details and materials of the original house.

Ancillary structures including a barn and windmill have been removed.

On the interior very few changes have been made and much of the interior woodwork is intact. Original hardware and light fixtures also remain.

The woodwork in the front entryway and dining room wainscot is of brown ash. The stairway to the second floor is of white oak. The woodwork in the parlor is of cherry. Light fixtures in the dining room as well as the upstairs hall are original to the house. All radiators are also original except for the kitchen and upstairs rear bathroom. The house was one of the earliest to have steam heat.

The kitchen has been remodelled several times, most recently in 1963.

The house was acquired by its present owner in 1960 and has been carefully preserved.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1886

Builder/Architect Charles S. Sedgwick

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George W. Baird House is a fine example of a Queen Anne style residence and the only structure of its kind in Edina. Designed by the noted Minneapolis architect, Charles S. Sedgwick (1856-1922), the original plans for the house are in the possession of the present owner.

Sedgwick established an office Minneapolis in 1884 and designed a large number of buildings, the majority of which were residences. His buildings were characterized by complex plans and agitated outlines. "They make use of many materials, are strongly chromatic, profusely ornamented and incorporate details from a great variety of stylistic sources."¹ Sedgwick's residential designs tended to be pretentious with little regard to their size or cost. The Baird House represents one of the earliest houses he designed in this area.

George W. Baird was an important figure in the early days of Edina. A native of Pennsylvania, he came to Minnesota in 1857 and purchased a farm of 120 acres in what was the rural township of Richfield (now Edina). In the spring of 1860 he imported the first Spanish Merino sheep brought into the state. He sold the first fleece of fine wool in Minneapolis receiving 95 cents per pound. Later he concentrated his efforts in raising fine Cotswold and Lincoln grades of sheep receiving first prizes at the Minneapolis Exposition of 1880.

Both George W. Baird and his wife, Sarah (Gates) Baird were active in the Grange. They were charter members of the Minnehaha Grange No. 398 formed in Edina in 1873. Both served at various times as Masters of this Grange (George W. Baird, 1877-79, 1900-04, 1908, Sarah G. Baird 1894-97). Sarah G. Baird also served as State Master of the Minnesota Grange for 18 years.

In 1888, George W. Baird was one of the members of a committee of five who were responsible for the formation of the Village of Edina when it seceded from Richfield.

¹. Donald R. Torbert, "Minneapolis Architecture and Architects" (Doctoral thesis, University of Minnesota, 1931) p. 444.

PLEASE NOTE: The manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Neill, Edward D., History of Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, North Star Publishing Co., 1881.
- Torbert, Donald R., Minneapolis Architecture and Architects, 1848-1908, Doctoral Thesis, University of Minnesota, 1931.
- Baird, Sarah G., Papers, 1870, 1882-1918, Manuscripts Division, Minnesota Historical Society.

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 1.17 **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle name Minneapolis South Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

South 295 feet of east 200 feet of west 630 feet of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ except road section 18, T28 R24. (I.D. # 18-028-24-13-0001)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Foster W. Dunwiddie, Architect

organization Edina Historical Society date December 6, 1977

street & number 4801 West 50th Street telephone (612) 926-3008

city or town Edina state Minnesota 55424

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley
Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-24-80