

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Minnesota	
COUNTY: Hennepin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.8.37.0004	DATE 8/26/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
American Swedish Institute

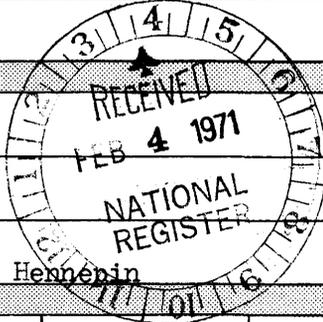
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Swan J. Turnblad Residence

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2600 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Minneapolis

STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27 COUNTY: Hennepin CODE: 053



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
American Swedish Institute

STREET AND NUMBER:
2600 Park Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Minneapolis STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hennepin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
. 3rd Avenue and East 3rd Street

CITY OR TOWN: Minneapolis STATE: Minnesota CODE: 27

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Minnesota

COUNTY: Hennepin

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.8.37.0004

DATE: 8/26/71

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Swan J. Turnblad residence is a three story residence, approximately 75'x 85', connected by tunnel to a two story carriage house which is approximately 30'x 70'. The property, Lots 1, 2, 3, 22, 23, and 24, Block 1, Home Addition, is entirely ringed by a stone and iron fence that merges with the carriage house and the porte-cochere on the residence.

The construction of the mansion began on July 14, 1903, required seven years for completion at a reported cost of \$1.5 million. The design by architects Boehme and Cordella (Minneapolis) approximates a French Chateau style. It contains 33 rooms. Dramatic effects are gained by means of arbitrary asymmetry and through irregularities in plan that mask the basically simple mass of the structure.

The facade of cut Bedford stone (Indiana Limestone) features three turrets, five chimneys (14 flues), glazed solarium over the porte-cochere, entrance portico and terraces edged with stone balustrade. The exterior is in good condition with recent repair of the original slate roofing.

The heart of the interior is the two story grand hall. The room, paneled in African mahogany, is dominated by a fireplace decorated with rich handcarved woodwork. The secondary orientation exposes the grand stairway, again decorated with mahogany figures, leading to a broad landing and returning up to an open gallery ringing the grand hall. The stair landing opens to the solarium under a picture window depicting a historic Swedish event. The window, approximately 10'x 5' is painted on cathedral glass and baked, creating a transparency and lucidity of color. Mr. Turnblad paid the Neuman and Vogal Glass Company of Stockholm \$27,000.00 to create the dramatic piece.

Other significant rooms on the first floor include the music room with Honduras mahogany woodwork, and the formal dining room, the most ornate room in the house. Oak is used throughout the dining room with carving of bleached mahogany. The room has a wood coffered ceiling, contains built-in cabinets using concave and convex glass, fireplace with wood carved decoration, dining table capable of seating 24, and heavy chairs, all integrated with the style of the room.

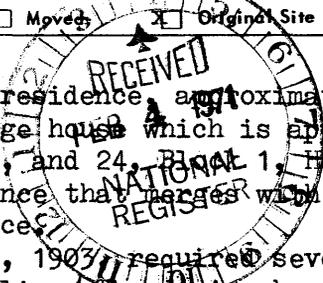
The paneled library on the second floor uses walnut to contain the Turnblad book collection. The other rooms on the second floor, originally sleeping rooms, are presently used for exhibition space.

The third floor ballroom and ancillary spaces are in basically original condition. The basement, originally gymnasium, billiard and smoking rooms, has been converted to auditorium space retaining the two fireplaces.

The major rooms throughout the house have individually sculptured plaster ceilings and the original oriental rugs over wood flooring. Many rooms contain specially designed tiled fireplaces even though the building is centrally heated. The thermostats on all three floors are original.

The condition of the interior is very good. The modifications have been minor ones with the addition of display paneling covering some windows and wall surfaces. Moisture damage is evident on the plaster ceilings and walls in a few locations. The original elevator has been replaced.

The original carriage elevator and turntable have been removed from the carriage house and the first floor space converted to office and classroom space. The second floor retains living quarters for service help. The exterior limestone of the carriage house is unchanged.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1903-1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Swan J. Turnblad was the owner of the Svenska Amerikanska Posten, a Swedish language newspaper published in Minneapolis. The circulation of his weekly newspaper by 1897 was said to be the largest of any Swedish language newspaper in the United States. The "Biggest and Best" motto in large type on the front page of his newspaper seemed to be the aim of Mr. Turnblad. He introduced many printing innovations and owned the first electric automobile in Minneapolis.

After proposals from at least three architects, Mr. Turnblad initiated construction of his home based on the design of Boehme and Cordella of Minneapolis. The exterior carving and all of the interior plaster decoration were done by Herman Schlink, an architectural sculptor.

Eighteen woodcarvers worked on the mansion dominated by the efforts of Ablin Polasek, a Bohemian trained in Vienna; and the Swiss trained Ulrich Steiner. The Mahogany Association of America considers the African mahogany paneled grand hall to be the finest installation in North America.

Mr. Turnblad collected tile fireplaces known as "kakelugnar". The collection is probably the largest outside Sweden. The Swedish fireplace in the breakfast room had won first prize at the Paris Exposition in 1902. Other than the "kakelugn" in the library, which is of German origin, all were made uniquely different by the Rorstrand Company in Sweden. The Rorstrand Company also made the large urns placed on either side of the fireplace and the formal china with its royal blue and 24 carat gold design.

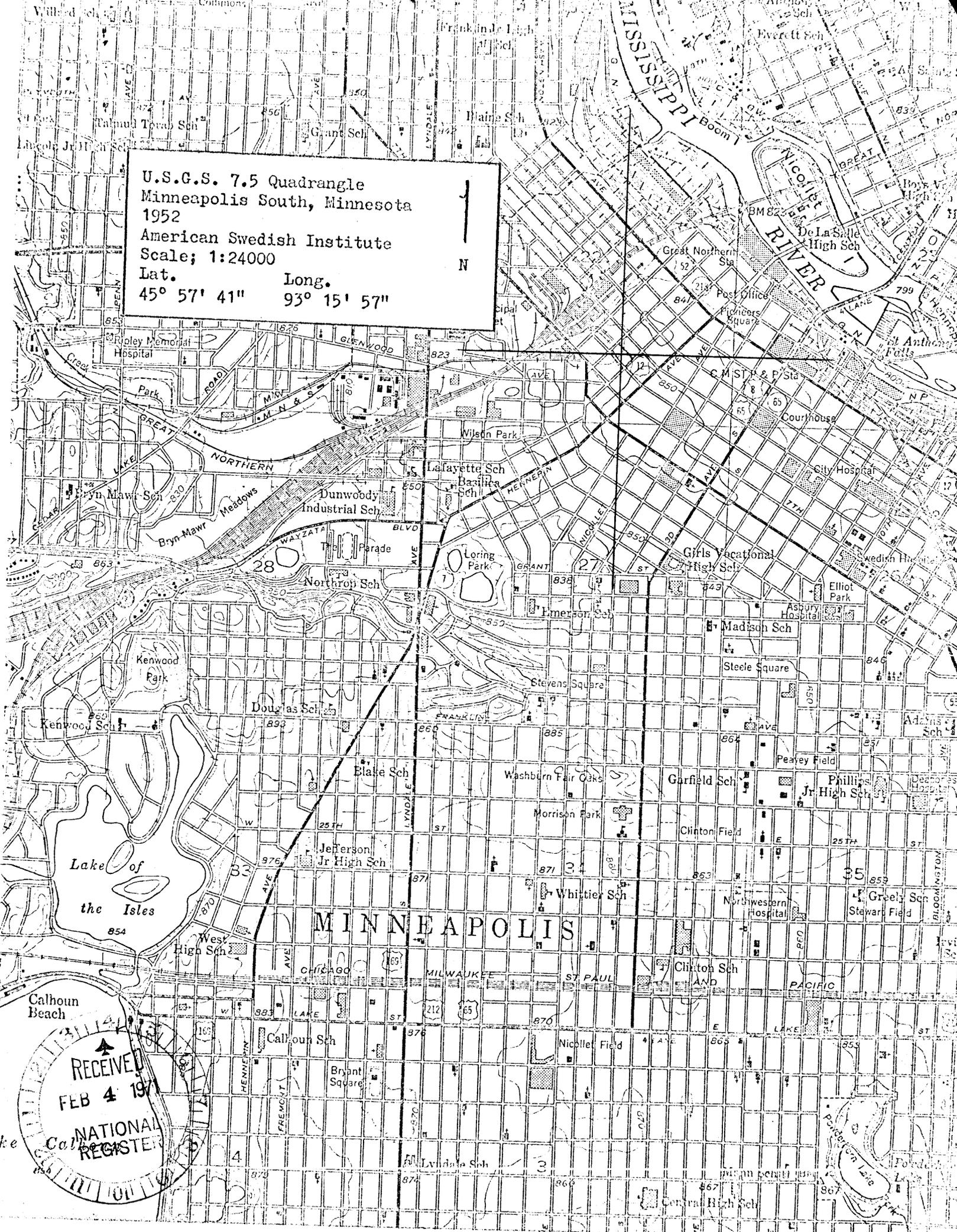
On December 9, 1929, Mr. Turnblad founded the American Institute of Arts, Literature and Sciences with his donation of the mansion, the newspaper, his book collection and all artifacts which he collected in his lifetime. Mr. Turnblad said, "It has been my lifelong ambition to foster and preserve Swedish culture in America."

Known today as the American Swedish Institute, the building houses an extensive collection of Swedish and Swedish-American exhibits.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle
Minneapolis South, Minnesota
1952
American Swedish Institute
Scale; 1:24000
Lat. 45° 57' 41" Long. 93° 15' 57"



RECEIVED
FEB 4 1952
NATIONAL
REGISTER

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

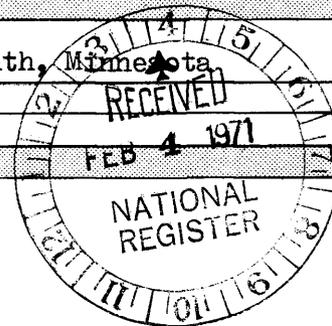
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Minnesota	
COUNTY Hennepin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.8.27.0004	DATE 8/66/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: American Swedish Institute			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Swan J. Turnblad Residence			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2600 Park Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Minneapolis			
STATE: Minnesota	CODE 27	COUNTY: Hennepin	CODE 053
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 Quadrangle Minneapolis South, Minnesota			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1952			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

**Note: These changes apply to
American Swedish Institute in
Hennepin County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 71000436

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Hennepin

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Turnblad, Swan, House

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date