

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Svenska Mission Kyrka i Sodre Maple Ridge

COUNTY: Isanti 80062077

CURRENT NAME: Swedish Mission Church of South Maple Ridge

CITY/TWP.: Maple Ridge

LEGAL DESC.: Begin at the SE corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 28,
T37R24. Commence west 14 rods, north 18 rods, east 14 rods,
south 18 rods to beginning.ADDRESS: Highway 1, north of
Springvale

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent _____	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Settlement</u>
Structure _____	Good <u>X</u>	State _____	Secondary <u>Religion</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others <u>Architecture</u>
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes ___ No ___ Restricted ___
 VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No ___
 OCCUPIED: Yes ___ No X

PRESENT USE:
Vacant

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1897

ORIGINAL USE: Church

ORIGINAL OWNER: Congregation

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: South Maple Ridge Cemetery
Association; c/o Mrs. Albin Olson; Stanchfield, MN 55080ACREAGE: Less than one acre
approx. 1.5LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Isanti County Historical Society,
Box 525, Cambridge, MN 55008

UTM REFERENCE:

Springvale Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

15 / 474460 / 5056790

DATE: December 1980

DESCRIPTION:

The Swedish Mission Church of South Maple Ridge is located in a picturesque setting on the west side of County Road 1 in section 28, Maple Ridge Township. The surrounding area is a sparsely settled region of the county where agricultural land uses predominate.

The simple Gothic Revival building was constructed in 1897. The gable roof is broken by a central chimney. Double hung, five over four light windows are evenly spaced on the east, west and south facades; The pointed upper sash of the windows are the building's primary decorative features. This pointed motif is repeated above the double four-panel doors. Three steps and a metal railing lead to the dooreay. The one story building is sheathed in narrow clapboard and painted white.

A water pump is located near the northeast corner of the building, and the South Maple Ridge Cemetery is immediately north of the church.

The simple interior of the church includes original woodwork and benches. Some of the furnishings have been removed for safekeeping. Electricity was added in 1942.

The building is no longer being used, but it is maintained by the Maple Ridge Cemetery Association.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Swedish Mission Church of South Maple Ridge is significant as a well preserved example of the small non-Lutheran churches organized by the Swedish population of Isanti County. The Swedish Mission Church, or Evangelical Covenant Church, grew out of a reform movement protesting the formalism and domination of the Swedish State (Lutheran) Church. While the Swedish Lutheran Church dominated the county, the numerous congregations that broke off from the State Church have played an important part in Isanti County's settlement and development. Among the non-conformist churches of Isanti County were the Baptists, Evangelical Free Churches, and Swedish Mission Churches. The Swedish Mission Church of South Maple Ridge was an organization which was established in 1884. For the next thirteen years services and Sunday School were held in homes of area residents. In January 1897 it was decided that a church building was needed, and construction began that summer. The congregation was never large enough to afford a full-time pastor, but shared pastors with other rural congregations, a common practice in the more sparsely settled regions of the county. The simple lines and modest proportions of this somewhat primitive structure reflect the more pietistic beliefs and dislike of religious formalism shared by church members. The church records end in 1943, and regular services ended shortly after that time as well. The building, however, continues to be maintained and is an outstanding and well preserved example of the non-conformist rural churches organized and built by the Swedish immigrants to Isanti County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**Note: These changes apply to
Swedish Mission Church of South
Maple Ridge in Isanti County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002077

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Isanti

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Svenska Mission Kyrka i
Sodre Maple Ridge

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Brahm

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 1

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

Date