

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

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

For HCRS use only

received FEB - 7 1984

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Owre, Oscar Dr. House

and/or common Newhart, Elwood H. Residence

**2. Location**

street & number 2625 Newton Avenue South N/A not for publication

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Minnesota code 22 county Hennepin code 053

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Elwood H. Newhart and Others

street & number 2625 Newton Avenue South

city, town Minneapolis N/A vicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number 300 South Sixth Street

city, town Minneapolis state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A  federal N/A  state N/A  county N/A  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Dr. Oscar Owre House is located at 2625 Newton Avenue South in the lake district of Minneapolis. Designed in the Prairie School style by the prominent architectural firm of Purcell, Feick and Elmslie, the residence is sited to provide a view of Lake of the Isles.

Constructed in 1912, the two storey frame building features a central cube which is extended by the use of porches and projections into a rectangular plan. The walls of the house are faced with plaster veneer with a horizontal frame skirting. The broad, modified hip roof is sheathed in wooden shingles and has a centrally located chimney. Casement windows form horizontal bands across wall surfaces.

A glassed-in porch projects from the primary facade while the main entrance is recessed and secluded on the north side of the house. The entrance is covered by an open latticework frame with design motifs suggesting an Oriental influence. A one-storey sunporch is located at the rear of the house.

In 1917, a detached garage designed by Purcell and Elmslie was constructed at the rear of the house. Alterations to the house and garage include a 1965 kitchen remodeling project which replaced original windows in the sunporch and kitchen. At that time a small addition was also built on the garage. The Owre House in in excellent condition and, with the exception of minor alterations, has retained its original integrity.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1912 ~~Builder~~ Architect Purcell, Feick and Elmslie

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Dr. Oscar Owre House is significant for its Prairie School design by the prominent Minnesota architectural firm of Purcell, Feick and Elmslie. The house was constructed in 1912 for Dr. Owre, a University of Minnesota professor in the School of Dentistry. The design for the Owre House focuses on a central cube form which is extended through the use of porches and extensions into a rectangular plan. The massing of the plan, use of surface materials and fenestration all reflect the Prairie School design tradition. The architectural partnership of William Grey Purcell and George Feick was formed in 1907. In 1909, they were joined by George Grant Elmslie who had come from the offices of Louis Sullivan. Feick left the firm in 1913, and Purcell and Elmslie continued the Minneapolis practice until the 1920's. The architectural team of Purcell and Elmslie played a significant role in the development of the Prairie School in the early twentieth century. Using a design vocabulary originally developed by Louis Sullivan and expanded by Frank Lloyd Wright and others, the firm of Purcell and Elmslie created their own interpretation of the Prairie School style. The Owre House is an important local example of the interpretative design tradition established by the Prairie School architects - Purcell and Elmslie.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cowles, Linn Ann and Johnson, Peter. The Work of Purcell and Elmslie in Saint Paul and Minneapolis. Hopkins, MN.: Greenwich Design, 1978. Telephone Interview with Alan Lathrop, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota. March 2, 1982.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Minneapolis South

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UMT References

A 

1	5	4	7	5	9	0	0	4	9	7	8	1	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet, Page 2.

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Kudzia

organization City of Minneapolis  
Heritage Preservation Commission

date March 1982

street & number 210 City Hall

telephone 612-348-6655

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota

## 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 2/1/84

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Dolores Byers  
Keper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3/8/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Dr. Oscar Owre House, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Additional information to be included in Item #8 - Significance.

The Oscar Owre House is an outstanding example of the ability of the Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie firm to produce an excellent design while working with young cost-conscious clients. In 1911, Dr. Oscar Owre was in the early stages of what proved to be a distinguished and successful medical career. He was "scared to death" that the house would eventually cost more than he could afford if he hired the architects. Purcell assured him it could be built for the estimated \$17,000 if Owre cooperated. On completion, the house came in \$35 under budget.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Oscar Owre began his career as an instructor in oral surgery at the University of Minnesota in the School of Dentistry from 1907-12 where his older brother Alfred Owre was dean. From 1910-13, Oscar Owre was also an instructor in "gen-ito urinary diseases" at the University. He then affiliated himself with the Minneapolis College of Physicians and Surgeons, and eventually served as a staff surgeon specializing in urinary and venereal diseases in the Swedish and Lutheran hospitals in Minneapolis.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Purcell and Elmslie parabiographical file, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

<sup>2</sup>Oscar Owre file, Walter Library, University Archives, University of Minnesota.

Division of Biological Sciences  
National Institute of Health  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare  
Washington, D.C. 20540

Contract No. 70-01-0-0000-0000-0000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Owre, Oscar Dr., House, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Commencing on westerly line of Lot 17 at a point 21.25 feet southwesterly from northwest corner thereof, southeasterly to a point on southeasterly line of said lot distance 17.75 feet southwesterly from northeast corner thereof, thence northeasterly along the rear lines of Lot 17, 18, 19 to a point in the rear line of Lot 19 distance 4.79 feet northeasterly from southeast corner thereof, thence westerly to a point on westerly line of said lot distance 5 feet northerly from southwest corner thereof, thence southerly along the westerly line of lots 19, 18, 17 to a point of beginning. Block 5 Island Park Addition.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Owre, Dr. Oscar, House  
Hennepin County  
MINNESOTA

Working No. FEB 7 1984  
Fed. Reg. Date: ~~2-5-84~~ 2-5-85  
Date Due: 3/8/84 - 3/23/84  
Action:  ACCEPT 3/8/84  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Owre House  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Photographer: Roger Potter  
Date: June 1982  
Location of Neg.: Mpls. Survey File  
View: Looking Northeast

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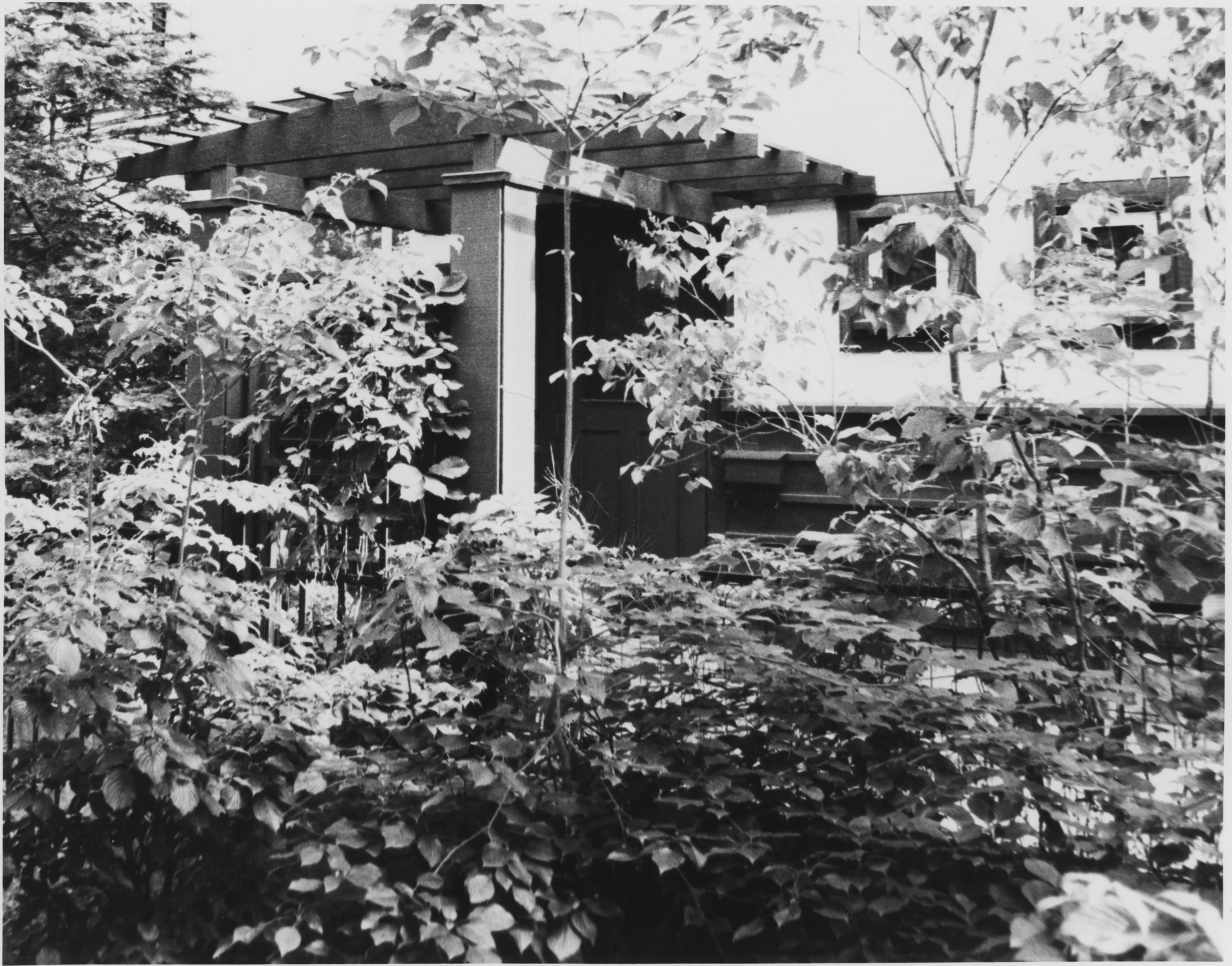
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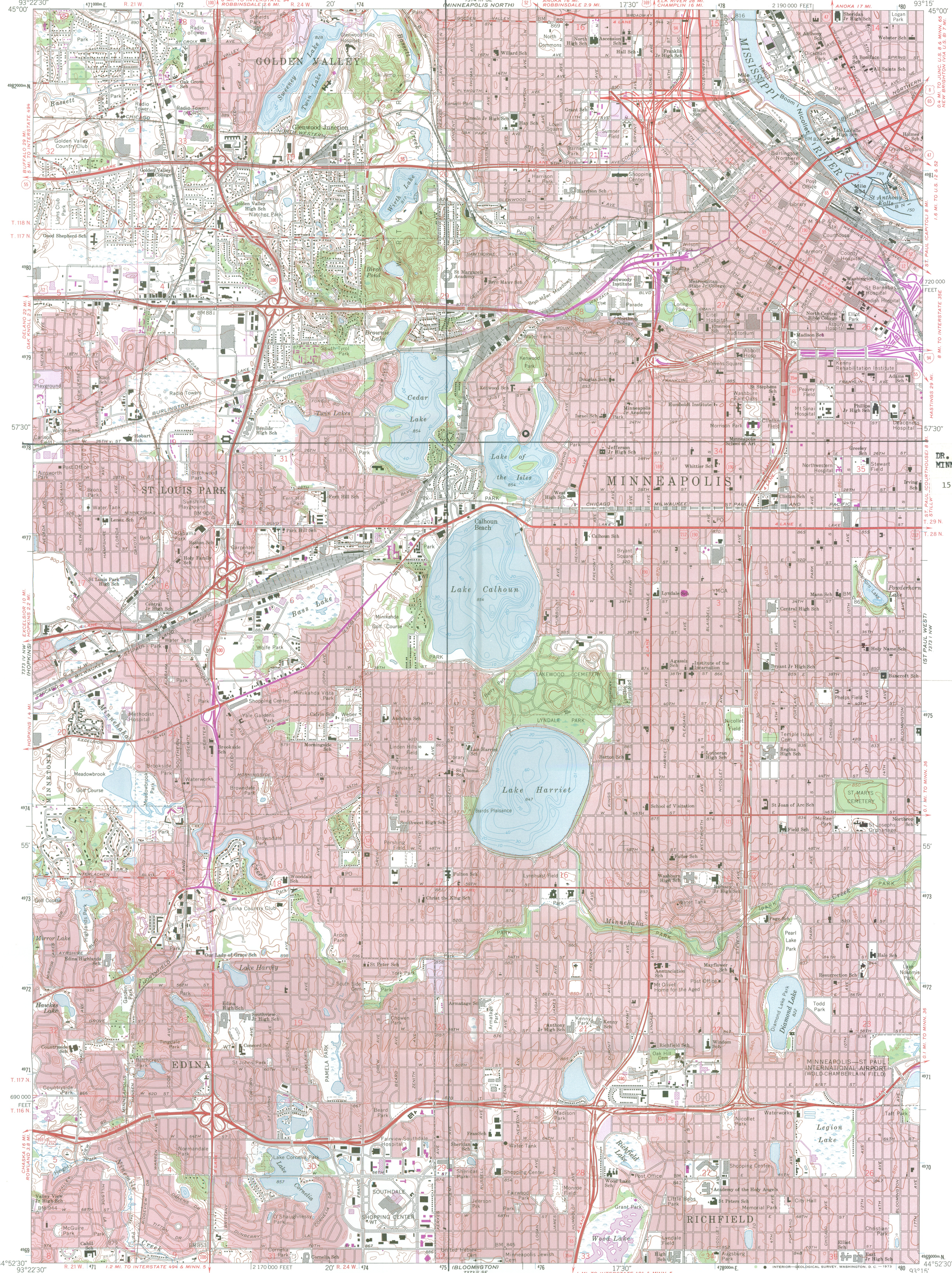
Owre House  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Photographer: Roger Potter  
Date: June 1982  
Location of Neg.: Mpls. Survey File  
View: Looking Southeast





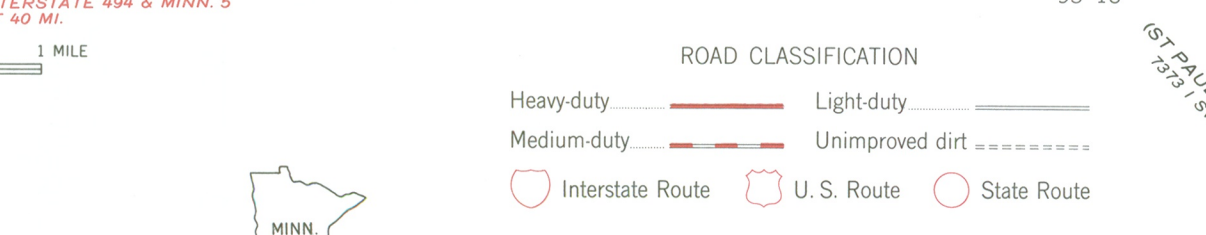
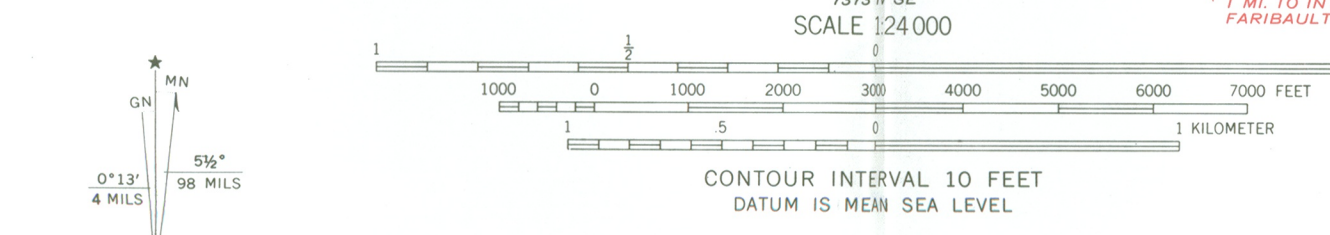
73° 31' 30" W  
1056000 E

73° 31' 30" W  
1056000 E



DR. OSCAR OWRE HOUSE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN., HENNEPIN CO.  
UTM REFERENCE  
15 / 475900 / 4978100

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1947. Field checked 1952. Revised from aerial  
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967  
Hydrography compiled from information furnished by  
Minnesota Department of Conservation  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Minnesota coordinate system,  
south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



MINNEAPOLIS SOUTH, MINN.  
NE 1/4 MINNEAPOLIS 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4452.5-W9315.7/7.5

A104

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1972. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 1972  
AMS 7373 IV NE-SERIES V872