

Swedish Methodists in Old Milwaukee

_By Harry H. Anderson

Early in the 20th century there were three Swedish language churches serving Milwaukee's Swedish-American community—Lutheran, Methodist and the Mission Friends (later the Evangelical Covenant Church), all three located on the city's south side.

Although locally organized some years earlier, the Swedish Methodists held services in rented quarters until 1908 when the congregation purchased property on Scott Street, between South 21st and South 22nd Streets with the intention of building their own house of worship. Permits were obtained to construct a frame structure costing approximate \$5,000 and designed by a local Scandinavian architect, P. M. Christianson. In 1924 a parsonage was built immediately to the west of the church for use by the congregation's clergy. The site remained in use for Methodist worship purposes for a number of years, although after the late 1930's it no longer featured a recognizable Swedish identity. In 1967 both the church and parsonage were purchased by the City of Milwaukee, the buildings torn down, and the property used for expansion of the adjoining Henry W. Longfellow public school.

Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin Inc.

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