

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

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

For HCRS use only

received MAY 8 1980

date entered JUL 3 1980

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

## 1. Name

historic Perry Mc Adow House

and/or common First Unitarian Universalist Church

## 2. Location

street & number 4605 Cass Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Detroit \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 13

state Michigan code 026 county Wayne code 163

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name First Unitarian Universalist Church

street & number 4605 Cass Avenue

city, town Detroit \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state 48201

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City County Building

street & number 2 Woodward Avenue

city, town Detroit \_\_\_\_\_ state Michigan

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Michigan State Register of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Michigan History Division, Dept. of State

city, town Lansing \_\_\_\_\_ state Michigan 48918

## 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The McAdow House is located on the northwest corner of Cass and Prentiss Avenues in Detroit about one-and-three-fourths miles from the central business district. It is set back from the corner about thirty feet behind a landscaped lawn. The neighborhood was previously an upper class residential area of large Victorian single-family houses built in the 1880s and 1890s. Most of these have been replaced with light industrial buildings, old tenements and educational facilities. A block north of the house is the campus of Wayne State University. The former garden of the McAdow house is occupied by the Neo-Gothic style Universalist Church of Our Father built in 1914. The house is used as the church parish house.

The McAdow House is a 2 1/2-story, hip-roofed, red-brick-and-brownstone, rectangular building of Renaissance Revival design. The essentially boxy shape is articulated on the exterior with bay windows, corinthian-columned porches and loggias, stone belt courses, parapet balustrades and a modillion cornice. The fenestration consists of large round-head, single sash, plate glass windows with transoms on the first floor, similar square head windows on the second floor, both with contrasting brick quoin surrounds, and large brick dormers in the steep slate roof topped with elaborately carved, classically ornamented, shell-topped pediments.

The entrance facade facing Cass Avenue is composed of a large canted bay window surmounted by an open brownstone loggia corbelled over the first story. Above the modillion eaves cornice is an open, lattice-work, parapet railing fronting a narrow shell-topped dormer. Balancing the bay window is the recessed entrance porch sheltered by a pilaster-flanked, arched opening and surmounted by an Ionic-ordered loggia in antis. Between the entrance and the bay window is one bay of simple, sash fenestration.

The south elevation has a similar composition to the entrance front. A two-level bay window at one end is balanced by a side entrance surmounted by a loggia-in-antis motif near the other end. Between these two features is a shallow, curved bay window surmounted by two bays of simple, plate glass, sash windows with transoms.

Attached at the rear of the house is a two-story, red-brick-and-limestone, parapet gabled, Tudor style, church hall built in 1917 with limestone window surrounds, coping, and quoins. The facade of this addition contains a massive, central, gabled, stone entrance flanked by single windows and surmounted by a bank of casement windows at the second story level. The original entrance is now permanently glazed for use as a window.

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Continuation sheet

DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

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The major feature of the north elevation is the brick-and-red-sandstone porte-cochere. Adjacent to this is the wide, two-story, leaded-glass, stair window.

The interior is elaborately decorated in the English Renaissance style with massive carved wooden fireplace breasts, an open, Elizabethan-inspired staircase with beaded openwork railing, and beamed ceilings. The floor plan is Queen Anne inspired with large formal rooms opening from a spacious living hall.

On the first floor, the mosaic-tile-floored vestibule off the recessed entrance porch opens into the living hall. This elaborately decorated space is divided into two areas by means of a panelled wooden arcade. The broad Elizabethan style staircase rises in a short flight to a spacious landing, lit by a two-story leaded-glass window, and then reverses on itself ascending in a long flight to the second floor. The principal decorative features of the entrance hall are the fine, stained-glass, lunette window of a young woman's face by Taylor Studios of New York entitled "Unshed Tears"; the oak mantel piece with mirrored overmantel; the lunette panels over each door painted with scenes appropriate to the function of the room: cupids (over the entrance), books and scrolls over the library door, classic vases and flowers (over the drawing room door), fruits (over the dining room door), a hunting scene (over the door to the service wing), and a palette and brushes (over the door to the former elevator). The ceiling is divided by molded wooden beams into rectangular panels in the Elizabethan manner with a loszenge-shaped center panel containing a scrolled chandelier medallion.

The library to the left of the entrance in the front of the house contains a fine, large, carved, wooden mantel of Federal design faced with an African marble surround. The fireplace is fitted with an iron firebox of Elizabethan design and has a tri-partite mirrored overmantel ornamented with Adamesque festoons. All of the cherry woodwork has been painted white.

The large drawing room in the front of the house has a carved wooden mantel with a mirrored overmantel and a Mexican onyx surround. The windows are surmounted by cherry wood frieze boards ornamented with Adamesque festoons.

The focus of the dining room is the oak mantel with an overmantel of three shell-topped niches. There is also a wide, shallow, bowed, bay window, panelled wainscoting and a beamed ceiling. The floors of both the dining room and drawing room have oak and mahogany inlaid borders.

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Continuation sheet

DESCRIPTION

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The balance of the first floor is devoted to a kitchen, pantries, a service hall and a secondary staircase.

The second floor contains three large bedrooms, all with period mantels, and two sitting rooms. The bath is still wainscotted in its original gray marble inset with a large bevelled mirror. There is an old ceramic tile floor and early 1900s plumbing fixtures.

The third floor is divided into small bedrooms with polished floors and simple mantels with tiled surrounds. The billiard room and an adjoining room were sometimes used as a ballroom by opening the wide connecting doors to make them one large chamber. In all, the house contains twenty-two rooms and twenty-three closets.

The 1917 McCollester Hall adjoining the rear of the house occupies the site of the former carriage house. It was remodelled several years ago to provide modern classrooms and function rooms.

## 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 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 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** 1891 **Builder/Architect** Martin Scholls & Son - contractor

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McAdow House is of architectural significance as a well-preserved Victorian mansion with elaborate, period interiors.

The house was built in 1891 for Mr. and Mrs. Perry W. McAdow on then fashionable Cass Avenue. The architect remains unknown although it is almost a certainty that a professional was employed to design the house. The McAdows were a colorful pair. Not unlike other nouveaux riches of the period, the McAdows built this house in Detroit as an entrée into Detroit society. Perry W. McAdow had made a fortune gold-mining in Montana. By all accounts a shrewd and ambitious woman, Mrs. McAdow managed the couple's business interests from their modest beginnings in the 1860s and was instrumental in accumulating their great wealth. Late in life, Mrs. McAdow evidently aspired to a greater social sphere than was available to her in Billings, Montana. In 1891 she came to Detroit and acquired the half block between Prentiss and Forest on Cass Avenue and began the construction of her new home. Her husband remained temporarily in Montana. The new house was sited at the Prentiss Avenue end of the 800 foot lot and elaborate gardens were laid out extending north to Forest Avenue. The house and carriage house reportedly cost \$65,000 to build and were extensively described in a feature article written in 1894 and published in the Detroit Sunday News Tribune shortly after the mansion opened. The detailed description of the house makes it clear that a decorator was employed to finish the interior, although Mrs. McAdow is credited with the decorating in the newspaper article.

Little is known about the McAdows social career in Detroit, but in 1897 the house was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Stoepel who, in turn, sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Hovey in 1904. The Hovey's occupied the property until 1913 when they sold it to the Universalist congregation who acquired it with the intention of using the house as a temporary church while a new edifice was erected in the garden to the north.

The Universalists had been located downtown at the corner of Bagley facing Grand Circus Park since about 1880. In 1913 they sold this property and acquired the McAdow site. The congregation met in the McAdow House until the new church was completed in 1916. Since then, the house has been well cared for as the parish house.



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The McAdow House is architecturally significant for its well preserved interiors and its handsome Renaissance Revival design. The house is a fine example of the solid, conservative dwellings popular with Detroit's upper class at the turn of the century. Only the flamboyant, shell-topped dormers and the projecting loggia over the front bay window enliven the otherwise rather austere exterior.

The interiors reflect the rich, but somber decor popular at the period. The fine stained-glass window in the hall and the painted lunettes over the hall doors are representative of the artistic movement of the late nineteenth century and added aesthetic interest to the original rather dark interiors of stained wood and deep-toned wall treatments of antiqued paint in pale green shading to rose and yellow at the ceiling, simulated leather wall covering, and burlap tinted in metallic paint trimmed in bronze rope used with ceilings colored in metallic shades grading from copper to silver. Although the original wall treatments have disappeared, the woodwork, mantels, plasterwork, parquet floors and other decorative features have been meticulously maintained.

Today the house is one of the finest dwellings of its type remaining in Detroit. The First Unitarian-Universalist Church values the house for its historic and architectural merit and has carefully maintained the property by properly repairing the slate roof, employing experts to restore the stained glass windows and continuing a program to refurbish the interior by installing period light fixtures and appropriate furnishings.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

For HCRS use only  
received **MAY 8 1980**  
date entered **JUL 3 1980**

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Manuscripts, Detroit Archives Index to Building Permits

Unitarian Universalist Church  
Abstract and Church Papers  
Tract Index  
City County Building  
Detroit

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Continuation sheet Geographical Data

Item number 10

Page 2

McCollester Hall structure, the intent being to include all of these structures but to exclude the church building from this nomination.

Property *McAdow Perry House*

80004405

State *MI, Wayne* Working Number *5.8.80.1289*

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 11  
Maps 1

HISTORIAN

1891 Renaissance Revival style house ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  
(2 1/2-story, brick + brownstone) w/ 1917 Church Hall  
attached in rear. ~~the~~ Bldg. is architecturally  
significant as well-preserved example of a late  
Accept.  
Safe  
7-1-80

19th C. grand residence of the Victorian period ARCHEOLOGIST  
and represents Detroit's conservative architectural  
tastes of at the turn of the 20th century.

Also notable for intact, period interiors with artistically  
designed stained glass panels, Queen Anne plan and  
decorative, wood interiors in English Renaissance style. OTHER  
Carriage house demolished in 1917 when new owners  
of 1913 erected church hall to complement their use

of house as the parish house. 1916 Church itself HAER  
is not included.  
Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Church hall addition does not compromise  
architectural integrity of McAdow House.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

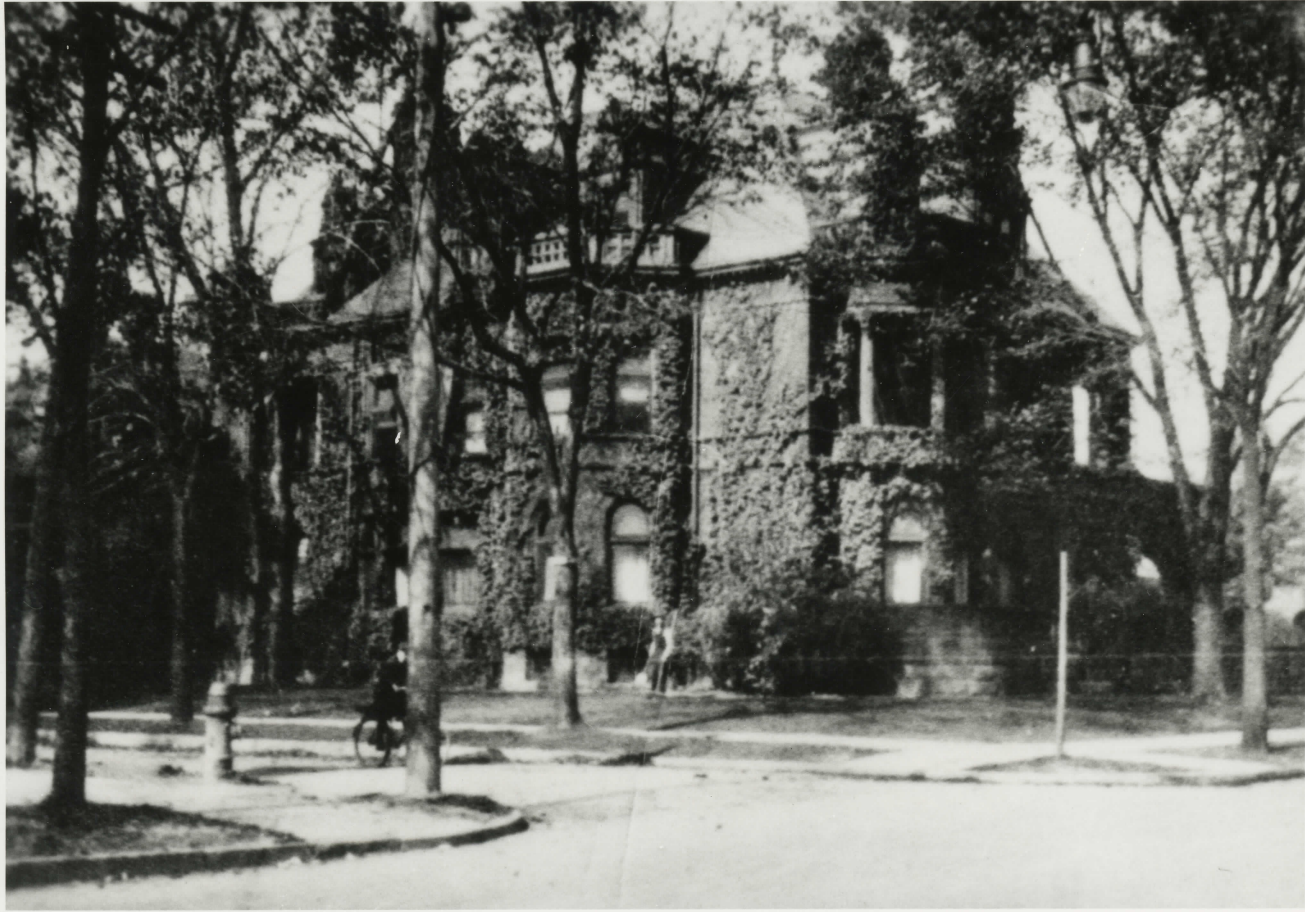
Accept.  
Safe  
7-1-80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Accept  
L. Becke  
by S. Graham  
7/3/80

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered JUL 3 1980  
Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_ Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



FERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: unknown

Date: c-1910

Negative: First Unitarian Universalist Church  
4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI. 48201

MAY 8 1980

View: Looking northwest on Cass Avenue at the corner  
of Prentiss Avenue.

photo #: 1 of 11

JUL 3 1980



CHURCH HOUSE  
1883

1883

2

PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: unknown

Date: Fall, 1979

Negative: First Unitarian Universalist Church  
4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI. 48201

View: Cass Avenue elevation looking west.

Photo #: 2 of 11

JUL 3 1980

MAY 8 1980



PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

MAY 8 1980

Photographer: unknown

Date: Fall, 1979

Negative: First Unitarian Universalist Church  
4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI. 48201

View: Looking northwest on Cass Avenue from Prentiss.  
Photo #: 3 of 11

JUL 3 1980



4

PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: Les Vollmert

Date: March, 1980

Negative: Michigan History Division

View: Detail of the bay window on the Cass Avenue  
elevation.

Photo #: 4 of 11

MAY 8 1980

JUL 3 1980



3

PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

JUL 3 1980

Photographer: Les Vollmert  
Date: March, 1980  
Negative: Michigan History Division  
View: Entrance hall fireplace.  
Photo #: 5 of 11

MAY 8 1980



PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: Les Vollmert

Date: March, 1980

Negative: Michigan History Division

View: The main staircase from the hall.

Photo #: 6 of 11

JUL 3 1980

MAY 8 1980



7

PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: Les Vollmert

Date: March, 1980

Negative: Michigan History Division

View: The stained glass window on the staircase  
landing.

Photo #: 7 of 11

JUL 3 1980

MAY 8 1980



8

PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: Les Vollmert

Date: March, 1980

Negative: Michigan History Division

View: "Unshed Tears", the stained glass window in  
the entrance hall.

Photo #: 8 of 11

JUL 3 1980

MAY 8 1980



9

PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: Les Vollmert  
Date: March, 1980  
Negative: Michigan History Division  
View: Mantel in the library.  
Photo #: 9 of 11

JUL 3 1980

MAY 8 1980



10

PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: Les Vollmert

JUL 3 1980

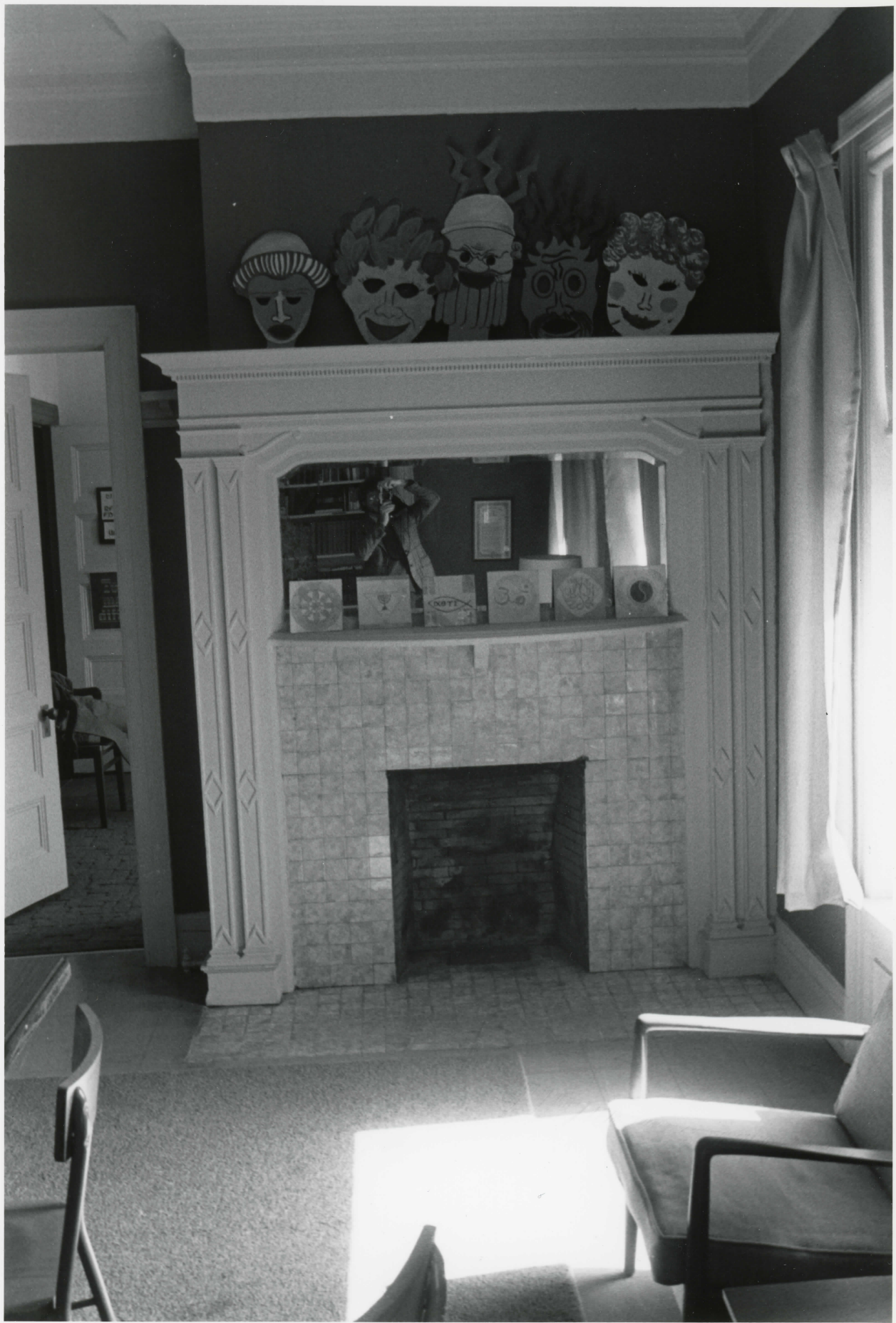
Date: March, 1980

Negative: Michigan History Division

View: View of the drawing room looking toward the  
front bay window.

Photo #: 10 of 11

MAY 8 1980



11

PERRY MCADOW HOUSE, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne County, MI.

Photographer: Les Vollmert

Date: March, 1980

Negative: Michigan History Division

View: A bedroom mantel on the second floor.

Photo #: 11 of 11

JUL 3 1980

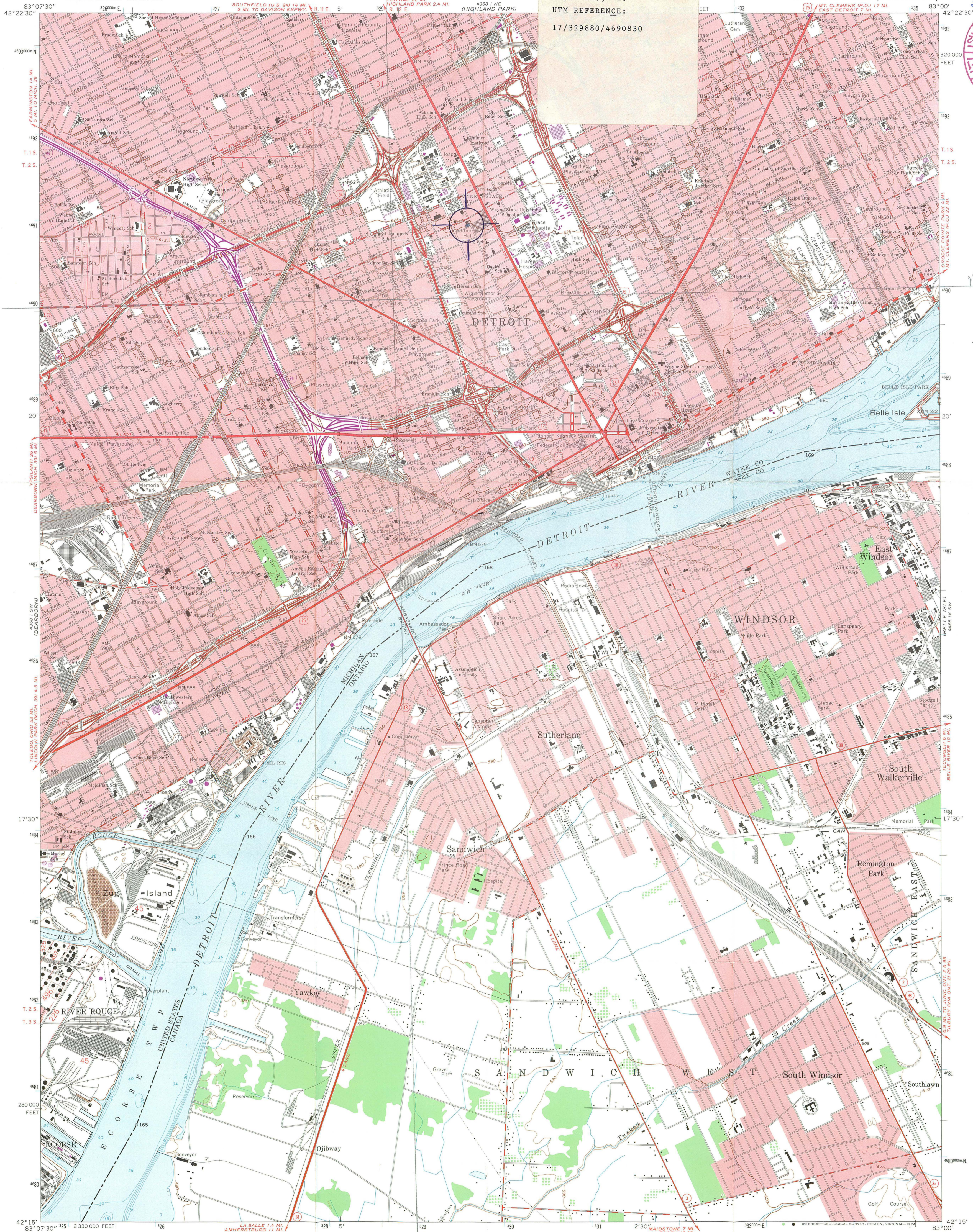
MAY 8 1980

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PERRY McADOW HOUSE  
4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit,  
Wayne Co., Mi.

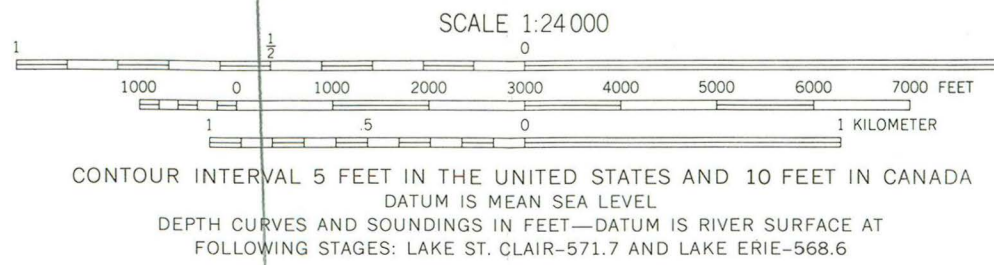
DETROIT QUADRANGLE  
MICHIGAN-ONTARIO  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

UTM REFERENCE:  
17/329880/4690830



McAdow  
House  
4690/830  
329/880

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Michigan agencies  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, U. S. Lake Survey, and City of Detroit  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
Topography by planetable surveys 1938. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966-67. Field checked 1968  
Canadian portion copied in part from Windsor quadrangle (1:25 000) 1960, Army Survey Establishment, R. C. E.  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey Charts 41 and 412 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET IN THE UNITED STATES AND 10 FEET IN CANADA  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET - DATUM IS RIVER SURFACE AT FOLLOWING STAGES: LAKE ST. CLAIR-571.7 AND LAKE ERIE-568.6

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

   Interstate Route   
    U. S. Route   
    State Route

THE U. S. PORTION OF THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked. Canadian portion not revised

DETROIT, MICH.-ONT.  
N4215-W8300/7.5  
1968  
PHOTOREVISED 1973  
AMS 4368 I SE-SERIES W862



MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION  
ADMINISTRATION, ARCHIVES,  
HISTORIC SITES, AND PUBLICATIONS  
3423 N. Logan Street  
517-373-0510  
STATE MUSEUM  
505 N. Washington Avenue  
517-373-0515

May 6, 1980

Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
DOI  
W434  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

I am submitting for your review three National Register nominations prepared by the Michigan History Division of the Michigan Department of State:

Perry McAdow House, Detroit, Wayne County;  
Randolph Steet Commercial Buildings Historic District,  
Detroit, Wayne County; and Smith-Turner House,  
Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan

Would you kindly direct any requests for clarification to Kathryn Eckert, Supervisor of the Historic Sites Research Unit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha M. Bigelow".

Martha M. Bigelow  
Director, Michigan History Division  
and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

enc.

MMB/cp



80004405

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MICHIGAN

Date Entered JUL 3 1980

Name

Location

McAdow, Perry, House

Detroit  
Wayne County

Grand Trunk Western Rail Station  
(Lansing Depot)

Lansing  
Ingham County

Van Riper, Andrew J., House

Shaftsbury  
Shiawassee County

Also Notified

Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr.  
Honorable Carl Levin  
Honorable Jack Barthwell  
Honorable M. Robert Carr

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Dr. Martha Bigelow  
Director  
Michigan History Division  
Department of State  
Lansing, Michigan 48918

NR

Byers/mjd

7/18/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.