

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received OCT 14 1980

date entered

1. Name

historic Thomas A. Parker House

and/or common Parker House

2. Location

street & number 975 E. Jefferson Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Detroit N/A vicinity of congressional district 13

state Michigan code 26 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input 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:

4. Owner of Property

name The Parker House Group

street & number 975 E. Jefferson Ave.

city, town Detroit N/A vicinity of state Michigan

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wayne County Register of Deeds

street & number City County Building

city, town Detroit state Michigan

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Detroit Urban Conservation Study has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Department of State

city, town Lansing state Michigan

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Parker House is a Gothic Revival style building built in 1868 on Jefferson Avenue, once one of Detroit's most fashionable residential avenues. Detroit architect, Gordon W. Lloyd chose Kelly Island, Lake Erie, grey limestone as the primary building material with Amherst, Ohio, sandstone for trim. Located just east of Detroit's central business district, the Parker House is partially obscured from view due to its position between the later-built Automotive News Building and Lakeside General Hospital, both extending to the limits of their south (street) lot lines. The exterior retains its original Gothic Revival form though the steeply pitched, imbricated slate-covered intersecting hipped and gabled roof has been covered with asphalt roofing and two shed dormers were added in the 1920s. A rear corner brick addition housing an elaborately paneled dining room was added between 1868 and 1888. The interior of the building has recently been rehabilitated for office use, retaining all original features extant including decorative paneling, woodwork, floors and staircases.

Only the main (south) facade is visible from Jefferson Avenue due to the later construction of buildings on either side. This main facade is divided into three bays, with double transverse gables over the east and west bays. Each gable end is punctured with one double-hung sash window with a hood molding above. The facade is asymmetrical in design with the east bay exhibiting a first-floor, three-sided bay window with a decorative parapet above. A Tudor arch opening with double doors, transom and sidelights conforming to the arch shape comprises the entranceway in the central bay. Double French doors lead onto a balcony with a decorative parapet on the second floor above the entrance. The west bay, projecting less than the east bay, has one pair of double-hung windows on each floor. The second story of the east bay also has a paired window. The central bay is surmounted by a slender gabled dormer. The original imbricated slate roof has been covered with black asphalt roofing and the iron roof cresting was removed and stored in the building.

An early two and one-half story brick rear addition to the Parker House has a three-level porch and fire escape staircase attached.

The interior of the Parker House was remodeled several times for various uses including art studio, office, and apartments use. However, its tall ceilings, decorative cornices, woodwork, floors and paneling and staircase remain and have been restored in a recent rehabilitation of the building for office use.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1868 **Builder/Architect** Gordon W. Lloyd

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Parker House, built in 1868, is significant as a rare example of Gothic Revival style of residential architecture surviving in Detroit. Thomas Augustus Parker, a successful wholesale grocer and a real estate developer, commissioned well-known Detroit architect Gordon W. Lloyd to design his residence on prestigious Jefferson Avenue. Lloyd, born and trained as an architect in England but reared in Canada, was influenced by northern Gothic architecture and English Victorian Gothic. He came to America in 1858 at a time when A. J. Downing was espousing his and his friend A. J. Davis' philosophies on the virtues of the Gothic villa, resulting in the romantic, asymmetrical appearance of residential architecture and landscape design which swept the country in the 1840s, 50s and 60s. Lloyd's propensity towards the medieval fit right in with this American architectural fashion. The Parker House is an excellent example of the high quality Gothic Revival designs Lloyd produced during that period. Parker and Lloyd's association did not end with the Parker House, for in 1883 Parker hired Lloyd to design the cast-iron front Parker Block at the southwest corner of Woodward and State in Detroit.

The Parker House site was originally part of the Antoine Rivard Farm which was subdivided in 1841. Lot one, which includes this property, was allotted to Catherine Rivard Bellaire in that year and was transferred to Armand Gibbs Carpenter in 1866 at a cost of \$6,500. A year later Carpenter sold it to Thomas A. Parker for \$9,500 and Parker had the house built the next year.

Thomas A. Parker was born in Sacketts Harbor, New York and came to Detroit in 1845 with his older brother, F. F. Parker. Together they formed F. F. Parker and Company on Woodward Avenue and became very successful merchants in the wholesale grocery trade. In the meantime, Thomas Parker married Elizabeth Jane Maxwell, the daughter of a prominent Quebec banker, in 1853, and together they raised five children. Parker wisely chose to invest the bulk of his profits in real estate after his retirement from the wholesale grocery business in 1888. His holdings, according to the 1895 edition of the News-Tribune, were three stores on the north side of Jefferson between Brush and Beaubien Streets; the Desnoyer block of three stories on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Bates; a block on the northwest corner of Woodbridge and Bates, in which his son continued the wholesale grocery business; stores on the south side of Larned between Bates and Randolph; the cast-iron front Parker Block on the southwest corner of Woodward and State, which was occupied by Mabley, Harvey and Company in 1895, who paid rentals of about \$16,000 a year; a store on the west side of Woodward Avenue just south of Clifford; his own residence on the north side of East Jefferson; sixteen small lots on Hall, Scott, Watson, and Illinois streets on the Joseph Campau Farm; a valuable subdivision fronting on Jefferson and Van Dyke Avenues and 160 feet of land on the north of Franklin Street between Hastings and Rivard, used by Christ Church. He was said to hold property worth \$750,000 in 1895.

Parker died in Detroit at the age of 78 on April 27, 1901. At the time of his death he was president of the Detroit Range Boiler Company and had extensive real estate holdings. His heirs, Charles M. Parker, Arthur M. Parker, Edward H. Parker and his wife Eleanor, transferred the property at 975 East Jefferson to Julia Parker (1865-1930), Thomas A. Parker's daughter, in June of that year. Elizabeth Parker, wife of the late Thomas, died in 1904. Julia Parker, listed as secretary of the Parker Estate Company, Ltd., in the city directories, resided in the house for many years after her father's death, but leased it to the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ferry, W. Hawkins, The Buildings of Detroit, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 1968.
Rascher Atlas 1888
Bulletin of Detroit Institute of Arts, Vol. 22, No. 6. March, 1943

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Detroit, Mich-Ont.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

17	3	32	3	30	46	88	5	60
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 Lot 1 Plat of claim #181, north of Jefferson Avenue, for the heirs of Antoine Rivard, 1841, as divided into lots as recorded in L 12, pages 348, 349, 350, and 351 Deeds, Wayne County Recorder. This includes only 101.29' deep lot the building retains.

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

state N.A. code county code

state N.A. code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian D. Conway, Architectural Coordinator

organization Michigan History Division

date 7/14/82

street & number 208 N. Capitol

telephone (517) 373-0510

city or town Lansing

state Michigan 48918

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

Maureen M. Bigelow

title Director, Michigan History Division

date 7/30/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 11/12/82

for *Shelton Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

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

Continuation sheet Item number Page

Significance

8

2

Advertisers Bureau and moved to a house at 1764 Seminole in the upper middle class, eastside subdivision of Indian Village in 1920. Julia, the last surviving child of Elizabeth and Thomas, was active in charity work and was a member of the Board of the Protestant Orphan Asylum for fifteen years.

The house was sold to the Bureau Building Company in 1928; the Bureau Advertising Company and Russell Legg, artist, continued to occupy it. In 1927, the interior was altered to better accommodate the art studios and offices. The First National Bank obtained the property in 1937; in 1939 it was sold to Herman F. Scharfenberg and Joseph Faust, who, in 1943, converted the commercial building into an apartment building and art studio. Another major change in occupancy came in 1957, when the Parker House was converted from an art studio and eight apartments to offices, a reading room and a hospital record room and four apartments. Doors to the adjoining hospital building were installed at that time. In 1981 the property was purchased by a group of attorneys and rehabilitated for office use under the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Parker, Thomas A., House
Wayne County
MICHIGAN

Ref# 82000552

Working No. 10/14/82-2858
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 11/11/82 - 11/28/82
Action: ACCEPT 11/12/82
 RETURN
 REJECT
Entered in the National Register
Federal Agency: _____

- 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	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input 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

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USMT Reference _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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 _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



*view: camera facing North
photo: 1 of 7*

Thomas A. Parker House
975 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

Photographer: Katherine Barnhart
Date: 1982
Negative: Katherine Barnhart, 975 E. Jefferson,
Avenue, Detroit, MI 48207
View: Camera facing north.
Photo: 1 of 7



The Parker House 1868

A RESTORATION PROJECT
LAW OFFICES OF
KATHERINE L. BARNHART P.C. BEVERLY CLARK P.C.
CAROLE L. CHAMPE P.C. LISA WOOD P.C.

*view: camera facing north
photo: 2 of 7*

Thomas A. Parker House
975 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

Photographer: Katherine Barnhart
Date: 1982
Negative: Katherine Barnhart, 975 E. Jefferson,
Detroit, MI 48207
View: Camera facing North.
Photo: 2 of 7



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T
LY CLARK P.C.
WENG

975

Thomas A. Parker House
975 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

Photographer: Katherine Barnhart
Date: 1982
Negative: Katherine Barnhart, 975 E. Jefferson,
Detroit, MI 48207
View: Main entry, camera facing North.
Photo: 3 of 7

view: main entry, camera facing north
photo: 3 of 7



Thomas A. Parker House
975 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

Photographer: Katherine Barnhart

Date: 1982

Negative: Katherine Barnhart, 975 E. Jefferson,
Detroit, MI 48207

View: Interior of main entry, camera facing South.

Photo: 4 of 7

view: interior of main entry, camera facing south
photo 4 of 7



Thomas A. Parker House
975 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

Photographer: Katherine Barnhart
Date: 1982
Negative: Katherine Barnhart, 975 E. Jefferson,
Detroit, MI 48207
View: Stairhall, camera facing South.
Photo: 5 of 7

view: stairhall, camera facing north
photo 5 of 7



Thomas A. Parker House
975 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

Photographer: Katherine Barnhart

Date: 1982

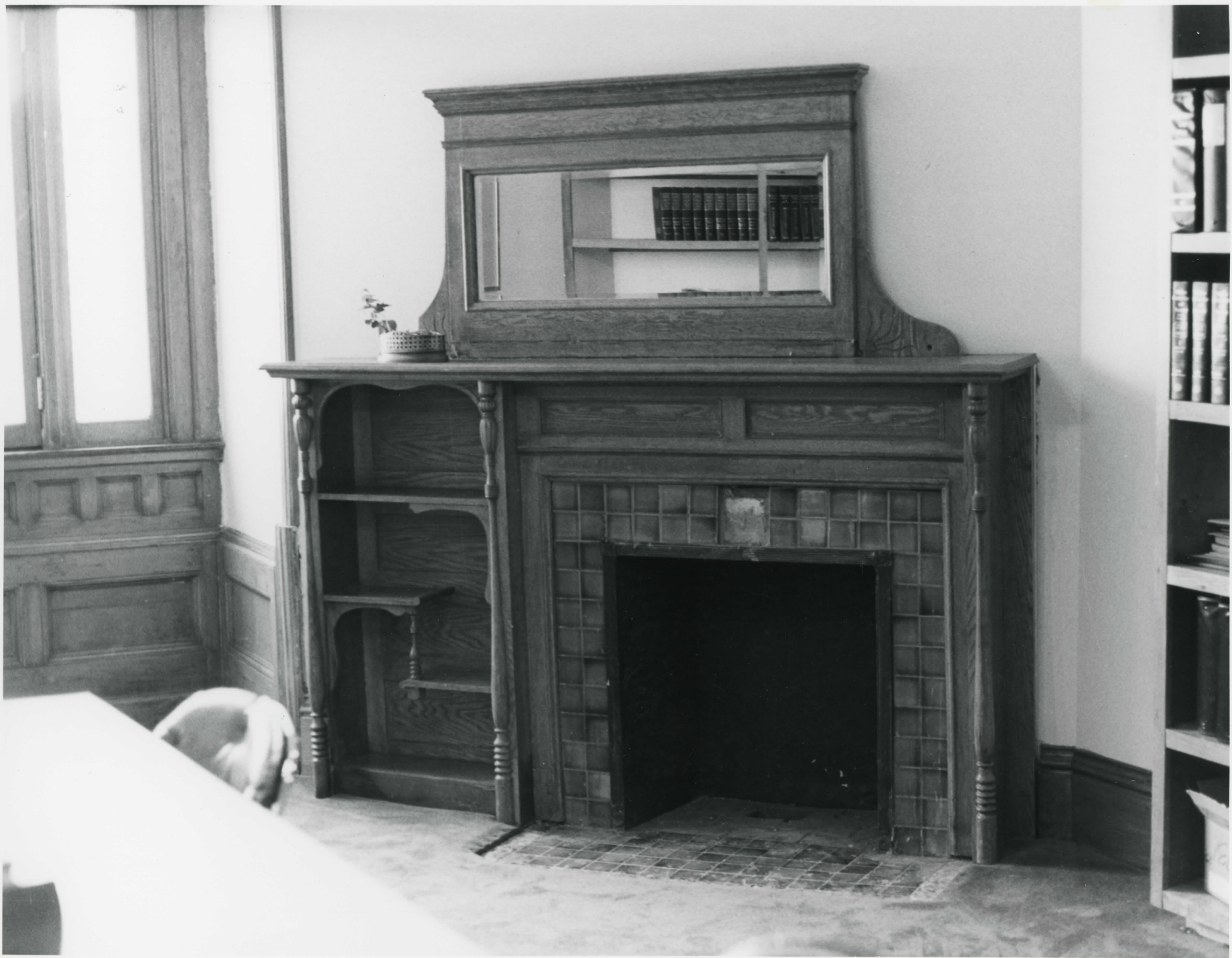
Negative: Katherine Barnhart, 975 E. Jefferson,
Detroit, MI 48207

View: Fireplace, main floor in addition
constructed before 1888.

Photo: 6 of 7

view: fireplace, main floor in addition, ^{constructed} before 1888, 88

photo: 6 of 7



Thomas A. Parker House
975 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48207

Photographer: Katherine Barnhart

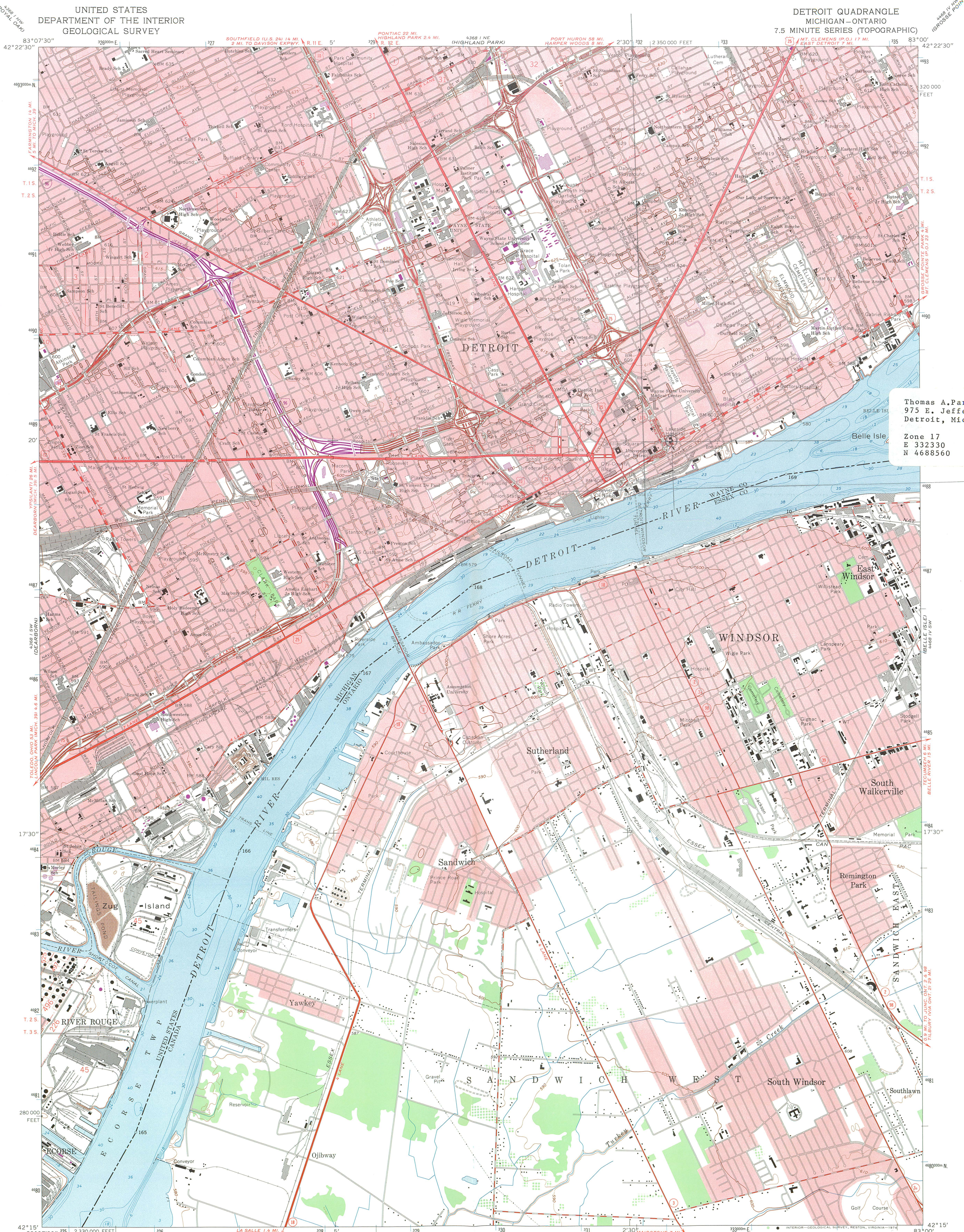
Date: 1982

Negative: Katherine Barnhart, 975 E. Jefferson,
Detroit, MI 48207

View: Fireplace, second floor; in addition
constructed before 1888.

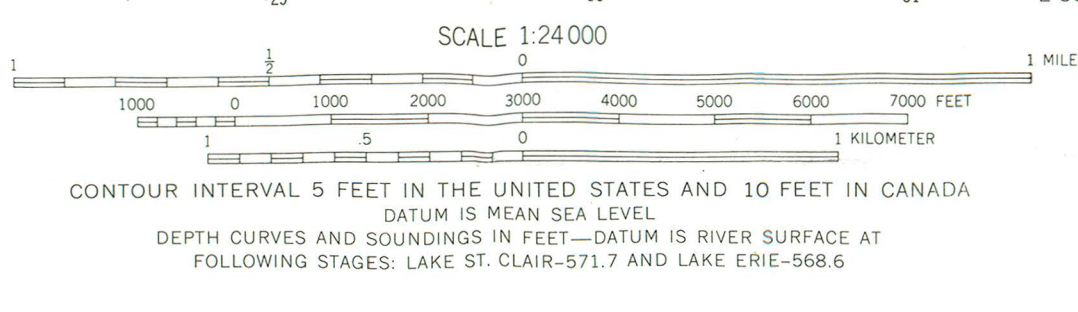
Photo: 7 of 7

View: fireplace second floor in addition constructed before 1888



Thomas A. Parker House
975 E. Jefferson
Detroit, Michigan
Zone 17
E 332330
N 4688560

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



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



DETROIT, MICH.—ONT.
N4215—W8300/7.5
1968
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 4368 I SE—SERIES V862

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

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

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD H. AUSTIN

SECRETARY OF STATE



LANSING

MICHIGAN 48918

MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

**ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS
RESEARCH, AND HISTORIC SITES**

208 N. Capitol Avenue
517-373-0510

STATE ARCHIVES

3405 N. Logan Street
517-373-0512

STATE MUSEUM

208 N. Capitol Avenue
517-373-0515

September 30, 1982

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are National Register nomination materials for the Thomas A. Parker House, 975 E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan. I certify that the intent-to-nominate notification requirements have been fulfilled. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register.

All waiver-of-right-to-object forms, notarized statements of objection, and written comments concerning this property submitted to us during the commenting period are enclosed.

Please direct all questions concerning this nomination to Brian D. Conway (517/373-0510).

Sincerely,

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

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

MMB/BDC/s1

enc.

cc: Kathryn Barnhart

