

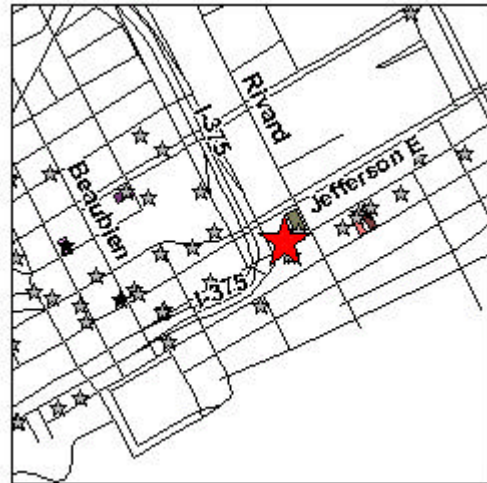
Thomas Augustus Parker House

975 East Jefferson

Local	v	2/18/83
State		
State Marker		
National	v	11/12/82



Thomas Parker House, 2003



Historic overview:

The Parker House is a rare example of Gothic Revival style residential architecture surviving to the present day in Detroit. Originally part of the Antoine Rivard Farm, which was subdivided in 1841, Thomas Parker purchased the land in 1867. The original address was 433 E. Jefferson, and was a very prestigious location. Parker was born in New York to a family of ancient lineage in England. He came to Detroit with his brother in 1845, and they became very successful merchants in the wholesale grocery trade. He invested most of his grocery profits in real estate after retirement. He owned over two dozen properties, and was said to be worth \$750,000 in 1895.

Gordon Lloyd was commissioned to construct the Parker residence in 1868. Lloyd was predominately influenced by northern Gothic architecture and English Victorian Gothic. He came to America in 1858, and received some early important commissions. Parker also employed Lloyd to design the Parker Block at the southwest corner of Woodward and State, now the last cast-iron façade building in Detroit. Better known as the B. Siegel Company, this block has been a landmark for generations, as has Parker's house, one of the oldest freestanding mansions on East Jefferson.

Parker died in 1901, and the house was leased to the Advertisers Bureau in the 1920s, by Parker's daughter. In 1928 it was sold and subsequent uses included an artist studio, offices and an apartment building. In 1957 it was sold for use as offices, a reading room, a hospital record room and four apartments. Doors to the adjoining Lakeside General Hospital building were installed at that time.

