

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

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

For HCRS use only

received **MAR 23 1982**
date entered **APR 22 1982**

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

1. Name

historic Henry W. Baker House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 233 South Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Plymouth N/A vicinity of congressional district 2

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 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 Baker House Limited, Michigan Co-Partnership

street & number 233 South Main Street

city, town Plymouth, N/A vicinity of state Michigan

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wayne County Records

street & number City-County Building

city, town Detroit state Michigan 48226

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1980 federal state county local

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

city, town Lansing, state Michigan 48918

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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	Tower removed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henry W. Baker House is located about two blocks north of downtown Plymouth on one of the town's principal thoroughfares. The surrounding area was once one of the town's finest residential areas built-up with fine houses constructed between 1860 and 1920 sited back from the street on large, well-landscaped lots. Today all of the houses have been converted to commercial or office use.

The Baker house is a brick, two-story, mansard-roofed house of fanciful Italianate design with cut stone foundations. It is asymmetrical and consists of a rectangular two-story front section articulated with bay windows, porches, and gables with a one-and-a-half-story, mansard-roofed kitchen wing extending to the rear. Various structures have been adjoined to the back of the kitchen wing including an old board-and-batten carriage shed and a two-stall, flat-roofed, concrete block garage. A clapboarded stair enclosure is cantilevered from the second floor of the kitchen wing over the roof of the carriage shed.

The facade of the house and the south elevation are the most elaborately articulated. The two-bay, sidehall plan facade contains a double-door entrance sheltered by a small porch with chamfered, incised posts and an elaborate modillion cornice. The segmentally-arched door head is enframed by a brick hood mould. Over the porch at the second floor level is an attenuated window with a wide panelled surround terminating in a gabled pediment that breaks through the bracketed eaves cornice of the house and extends into the mansard roof.

Balancing the door and pedimented window on the facade is a canted, wooden, bay window with a modillion cornice surmounted by a paired window with a wide surround terminating in a boldly-profiled bracketed cap. Above this window, a tall flaring gable carries the brick walls above the mansard roof to a small, flat deck, which originally supported an elaborate, wooden, two-tier, pagoda-like tower. In the center of the gable, which is outlined by lacy, pierced bargeboards, is an ocular window with a keystone-enriched surround.

The south elevation contains a sideporch, originally similar to the front porch, but now enclosed with glazing, which abuts a canted, two-story, brick bay window. The windows on the first floor have bracketed caps while the second-story window is treated in the same manner as the window over the front porch, with a pediment that breaks through the eaves cornice into the mansard roof. The low, mansard roof of the kitchen wing is broken by an ocular dormer with a broad metal surround made to resemble resticated masonry.

The interior of the Baker House is divided into four rooms on each of the first and second floors with the attic unfinished. The only architecturally enriched spaces remaining in their original state are the front and rear parlors, stair hall and bedrooms.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

DESCRIPTION

Item number

7

Page 2

The front hall extends about half the width of the dwelling and contains a fine curving staircase with turned balusters and a molded handrail. At the ceiling are bold Tuscan-profiled, moldings. The wide molded architraves and panelled doors are made of fine hardwoods. Recently a black-and-white marble tile floor was installed.

The front parlor adjoins the hall through a pair of panelled double doors. It is trimmed in boldly profiled butternut mouldings and has a gilded cornice. The original mantel is a very elaborate, Eastlake-influenced, gilded and simulated marble piece fitted with a painted cast-iron firebox cover and complete with the original brass piping and pierced fender. The original polychrome tile hearth is also intact. Panelled pocket-doors lead into the rear parlor.

The back parlor is a simply finished room with a bay window and gilded plaster ceiling moldings. Another room behind the front hall was probably originally used as the dining room. This room has been modernized over the years and contains no architecturally significant original features with the exception of the door and window casings. The three bedrooms on the second floor are also simply finished, although they retain their original wood trim and five-panel doors. The kitchen and the room over it on the second floor have vertical, tongue-and-groove board wainscoting and simple woodwork. The house has a full cellar with exposed rubble and brick walls.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"It's a Daisy". Cass S. Hough, Library of Congress Catalog No. 76-18629
1976 by Daisy Division, Victor Comptometer Corp., Rogers, Ark. 72736
"The Story of Plymouth, Michigan, a Midwest Microcosm", by San Hudson
Plymouth Historical Society, Plymouth, Michigan 1976.
1890 H.W. Baker, Manager.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Wayne

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

1	7	2	9	6	8	4	0	4	6	9	3	8	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lot 222 of Assessor's Plymouth Plat No. 9 with the following exception: Part of Lot No. 222 of Assessor's Plymouth Plat No. 9, as recorded in Liber 65 of Plats, Page 7, Wayne County Records. Beginning

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Vollmert

organization Michigan History Division date January, 1981

street & number Department of State 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 Martha M. Bigelow

title Director, Michigan History Division date 3/3/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 4/22/82

for Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet SIGNIFICANCE Item number 8 Page 2

the elderly Anna Baker sold the house in 1943. The new owners Mr. and Mrs. Claude Buzzard, updated its plumbing and conveniences, but otherwise maintained the dwelling essentially as it was. The major alteration made during their ownership was the removal of the tower.

Under new ownership in the 1970s the house was converted to commercial use. During this period changes were made in the house and it was allowed to deteriorate.

The present owner acquired the building about two years ago and has been meticulously restoring it to house his law practice. Current plans call for a complete restoration of the exterior during 1981-82, including the reconstruction of the tower reusing some of the surviving original elements.

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MAR 23 1982

date entered

MAJOR

Continuation sheet BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE Item number 9

Page 2

"Historical Data of Plymouth Twp., Wayne County, Michigan" by
Mrs. Nettie L. Dibble, 1930-31

Norma Cassady, niece of Henry Baker, Plymouth, Michigan

Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 South Main, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

"History of Detroit, Chronicle of Its Progress, Its Industries, Its
Institutions, and the People of the Fair City of the Straits, Volume III."
Lewis Publishing Company, 1912, Burton Historical Collection of the
Detroit Public Library, by Paul Leake.

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Item number 10

Page 2

at the Northeast corner of said Lot No. 222, running thence S. 34 degrees 49 minutes 51 seconds West, along the East line of said Lot, a distance of 63.00 feet to the Southeast corner thereof, thence along the South line of said Lot North 53 degrees 25 minutes 33 seconds West 99.45 feet; thence North 34 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds East 63.50 feet to the North line of said Lot, thence South 53 degrees 08 minutes 00 seconds East, 99.38 feet to the point of beginning. Part of Lot No. 223 of Assessor's Plymouth Plat No. 9, as recorded in Liber 65, Page 7 of Plats, of Wayne County Records described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the North line of said Lot with the East line of South Main Street as shown on said Plat; running thence S 53 degrees 25 minutes 33 seconds East along the North line of said Lot, a distance of 120.00 feet; thence North 54 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds West, 119.95 feet to the East line of Main St.; thence North 34 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds East along the East line of Main St., a distance of 2.60 feet to the point of beginning;

more commonly known as 233 South Main.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

82002922
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Baker, Henry W., House
State, County: MI WAYNE
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3.23.82.848

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 4-22-82 / 5-7-82

Action: ACCEPT 4/22/82

Entered in the National Register RETURN REJECT

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

photos
maps

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: excellent deteriorated good fair
Check one: unaltered altered
Check one: original site moved date _____
 unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

for NPS use only

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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References

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

Site _____ 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



HENRY W. BAKER HOUSE
233 South Main Street
Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

PHOTOGRAPHER: Les Vollmert

DATE: May, 1981

NEGATIVE: Michigan History Division
Dept. of State
Lansing, Michigan 28918

VIEW: Looking north on the east side of
South Main Street showing the Baker
House with the Public Library and
City Hall beyond.

PHOTO: 1 of 6





2

HENRY W. BAKER HOUSE
233 South Main Street
Plymouth, Wayne County, Mich.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Les Vollmert
DATE: May, 1981
NEGATIVE: Michigan History Division
Dept of State
Lansing, Mich. 48918
VIEW: Looking east at the facade of
the Baker House
PHOTO: #2 of 6



3

HENRY W. BAKER HOUSE
233 South Main Street
Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

PHOTOGRAPHER: Les Vollmert
DATE: May, 1981
NEGATIVE: Michigan History Division
Dept. of State
Lansing, Mich. 48918

VIEW: Detail of the porch and bracketing
on the facade of the Baker House

PHOTO: # 3 of 6



4

HENRY W. BAKER HOUSE
233 South Main Street
Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

PHOTOGRAPHER: Les Vollmert

DATE: May 1, 1981

NEGATIVE: Michigan History Division
Dept. of State
Lansing, Mich. 48918

VIEW: Looking east in the entrance hall
toward the rear of the house

PHOTO #4 of 6



5

HENRY W. BAKER HOUSE
233 South Main Street
Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

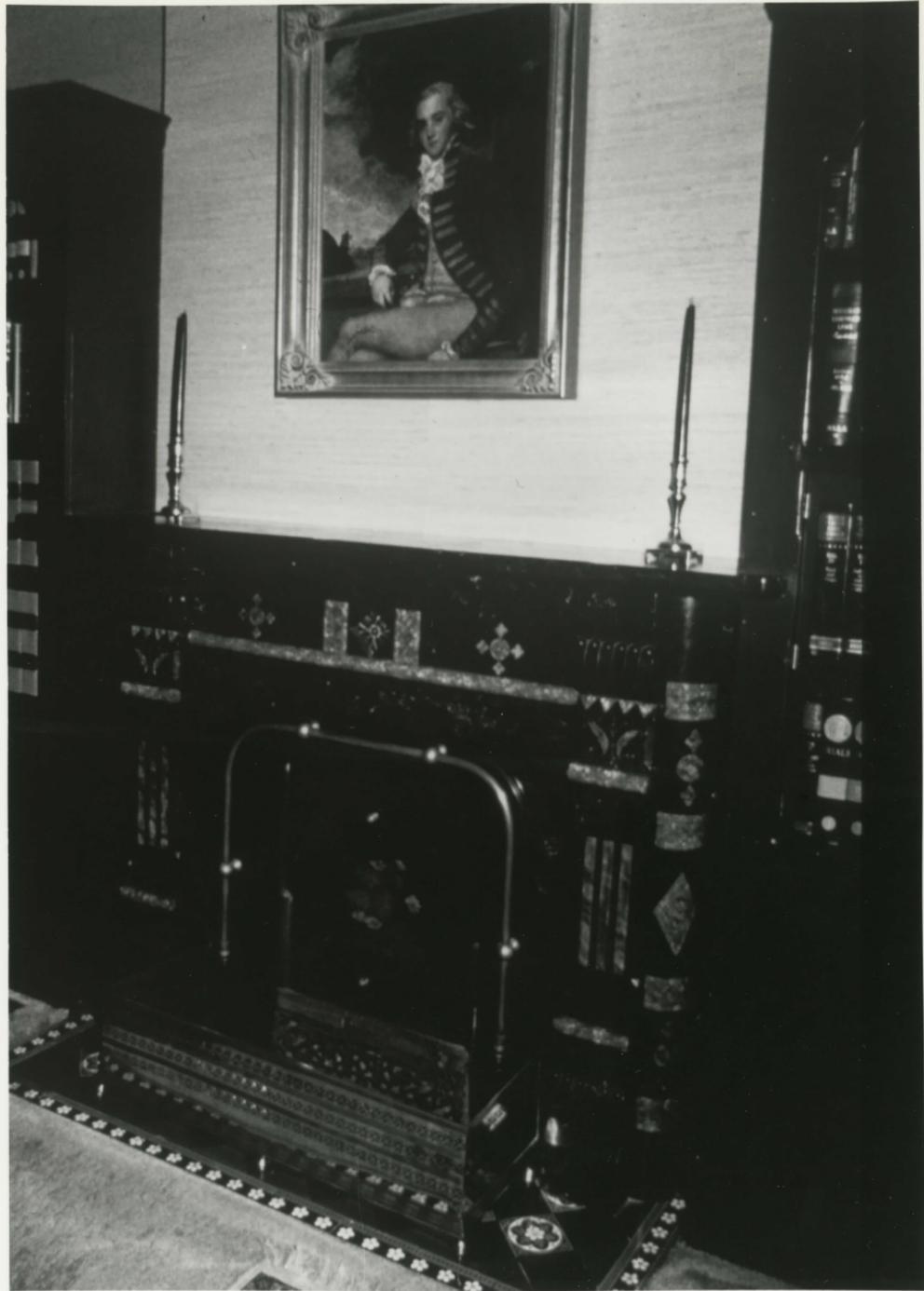
PHOTOGRAPHER: Les Vollmert

DATE: May 1, 1981

NEGATIVE: Michigan History Division
Dept. of State
Lansing, Mich. 48918

VIEW: Detail of the parlor doors from
the hall

PHOTO: #5 of 6



6

HENRY W. BAKER HOUSE
233 South Main Street
Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan

PHOTOGRAPHER: Les Vollmert

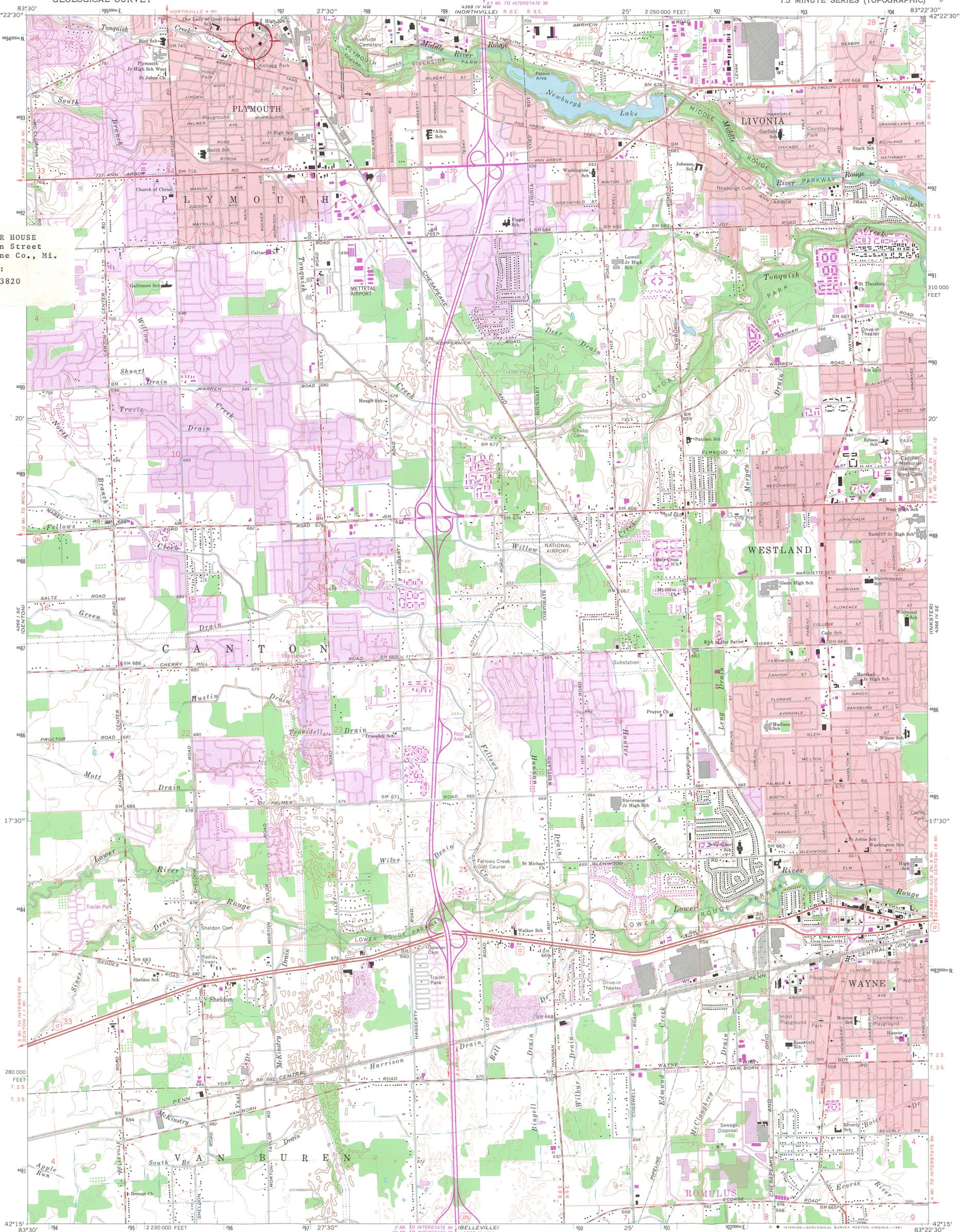
DATE: May 1, 1981

NEGATIVE: Michigan History Division
Dept. of State
Lansing, Mich. 48918

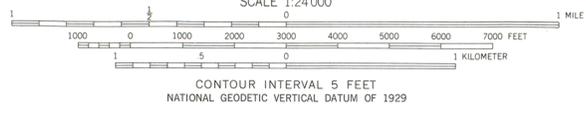
VIEW: Detail of the parlor mantel

PHOTO: #6 of 6

HENRY W. BAKER HOUSE
233 South Main Street
Plymouth, Wayne Co., Mi.
UTM REFERENCE:
17/296840/4693820



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Michigan agencies
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Wayne County Highway Commission
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planetable surveys 1940-41. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966-67. Field checked 1968
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
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters west as shown by
dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, unpaved road, fair or dry hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unpaved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1973 and 1978. Map edited 1980
This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

WAYNE, MICH.
N4215-WB322.5/7.5
1968
PHOTOREVISED 1973 AND 1980
DMA 4368 IV SW-SERIES V862





MICHIGAN HISTORY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION, PUBLICATIONS
RESEARCH, AND HISTORIC SITES
208 N. Capitol Avenue

STATE ARCHIVES
3405 N. Logan Street

STATE MUSEUM
208 N. Capitol Avenue

March 4, 1982

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Acting Keeper
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 Henry Baker House in Plymouth, 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, Regional Historic Preservation Coordinator (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:ROC:mjr

enc.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MICHIGAN

Date Entered APRIL 22, 1982

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Harris Hall	Ann Arbor Washtenaw County
✓ <u>Baker, Henry W., House</u>	Plymouth Wayne County
Thomas, Dr. Nathan M., House	Schoolcraft Kalamazoo County

Notified

Honorable Carl D. Pursell
Honorable Howard E. Wolpe
Honorable Donald W. Riegler, Jr.
Honorable Carl Levin
Midwest Regional Office, NPS

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