

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex  
Other names/site number: Colony and Fisher Arms Apartments  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 9303-9333 East Jefferson Avenue  
City or town: Detroit State: MI County: Wayne  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

_____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>		_____ <b>Date</b>
<u>MI SHPO</u>		
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*John Edward H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

8-25-14  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Limestone

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex consists of two, nearly identical garden court apartment buildings with flat roofs sitting side-by-side at the northeast corner of East Jefferson and McClellan Avenues, about three miles east of downtown Detroit. Both buildings have red brick walls and are four stories tall on a raised basement. The use of Neo-Classical and Commercial Brick/Arts and Crafts elements in an asymmetrical way on the two buildings creates a symmetric appearance. The neighborhood to the north of the complex contains a mix of single and multi-family homes and small-scale apartment buildings generally constructed in the early-1900s. The surrounding neighborhood buildings are in fair condition and there are numerous vacant lots resulting from demolition. The Donaldson and Meier designed Church of the Annunciation (now the Good Shepherd Catholic Church) built in 1912, is located to the northeast, on Parkview. To the south, across Jefferson, is the Berry Subdivision neighborhood, a historic district. To the east and west on East Jefferson Avenue are some small scale commercial buildings. About five blocks west is the national register listed Hibbard Apartment building.

**Narrative Description**

The Puritan and Pilgrim complex faces south on Jefferson Avenue and the site is mostly flat with a slight uphill rise along McClellan. There is a shallow, flat grassy lawn between the buildings' facades and the



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Jefferson Avenue sidewalk, while the west wall of the Puritan abuts the McClellan Avenue sidewalk. A paved public alley runs behind both buildings and there is a vacant lot to the east of the Pilgrim. The lot originally contained a third matching building called the Plymouth that was demolished in the mid-1980s and is not included within the boundaries of this nomination. Between the two buildings a half-story tall limestone wall projects from the side of each building toward each other. The wall has a heavy base with a panel relief in the center and an angled scroll along the top. The terminus of each wall is a rusticated stone pier with a shield relief near the top. A metal fence connects the two walls. Behind the walls and fence is a small grassy lawn extending to the alley. The Puritan retains two stone columns connected by a wrought iron gate and fencing at the entrance to the courtyard. The Pilgrim has replacement metal fencing and a gate in the same location.

Puritan

The Puritan is the western building, located at the intersection of East Jefferson and McClellan Avenues. The combination of brick, limestone and cast stone details creates varied wall surfaces throughout the building. The southernmost walls of the front façade are identical four-bay wide ends of the inverted U-shaped footprint. The raised basement is clad with limestone, and the red brick walls above are rusticated at the first floor. The limestone beltcourse at the sill line of the second-floor windows is supported by triglyph-like brick details with small stone accents. A brick soldier course interspersed with small decorative stone pieces runs at the lintel line of the fourth-floor windows. A small cast stone entablature runs above the soldier course. A row of decorative brick panels each with a small decorative cast stone block in the center run across the façade above the entablature resembling triglyphs and metopes. The end bay of each end of the inverted U projects slightly and has a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills at each floor. Their second through fourth floor window openings are framed with stretcher and soldier brick bands. Between each end bay's sets of paired windows, there are two decorative brick spandrel panels between the floors with cast stone diamond medallions centered in each. A larger cast stone diamond medallion is centered above each of the end bays at the top of the parapet. The two center bays of the end of the inverted U each have a shorter one-over-one double-hung window with limestone sills and soldier brick head at each floor. In the parapet there is a cast stone rectangular plaque centered above each of the center bays.

The east and west walls of the deep courtyard are treated similarly to the building's facade, although the basement level is rusticated brick with a stone water table and a stone-clad foundation. The rusticated brick walls at the first floor are capped by a limestone beltcourse supported by more of the triglyph-like brick corbelling with stone accents. The wall surface at the second through fourth floors is plain red brick interrupted by one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills. The windows are spaced regularly across the wall and in the pattern of two single windows between each pair of windows. The parapet wall begins with a soldier course above the fourth floor windows – it appears the original soldier lintel course and stone above were replaced with plain brick. Brick with regularly spaced tall narrow stone blocks separates the lower soldier course with an upper one.

The central entrance is located in front of the three bay wide north wall of the courtyard in a stone-clad one-story entrance pavilion. The front wall of the pavilion has a three-sided projecting bay with the entrance doors in the middle. Narrow windows are located in the angled sides of the bay and in the flat walls on either side. A decorated frieze runs across the entire pavilion above the windows and doors and "PURITAN" is engraved in the stone above the door. Above the simple entablature the stepped parapet has a shield and swags. The brick wall of the main building rises behind the entrance pavilion and has one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills at the second through fourth floors of each bay. The brick parapet wall extends above the decorative brick and stone band which is above the soldier course above the fourth floor windows. A stone diamond medallion is centered in the parapet and two small stone accents are located on either side, aligning with the center of the windows.

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The building's west elevation fronting McClellan Avenue is separated into eleven unequal sections. The end bays and dividing bays project slightly and each has a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills at every floor. Their second through fourth floor window openings are framed with stretcher and soldier brick bands. Between each end bay's sets of paired windows, there are two decorative brick spandrel panels between the floors with cast stone diamond medallions centered in each. A larger cast stone diamond medallion is centered above each of the end bays at the top of the parapet. The two outside recessed sections are four bays wide, the next sections in are three bays wide, and the center section is two bays wide. The four-bay wide sections have a large cast stone panel flanked by rectangular medallions in the center of the parapet. The three-bay wide sections each have two square medallions in the center of the parapet.

As the street slopes upward across the west elevation the raised basement narrows to elimination and there is limestone cladding at the foundation. Across this elevation the first floor walls have rusticated brick banding and a limestone beltcourse at the sill line of the second-floor windows that is supported by triglyph-like brick details with small stone accents. A brick soldier course with stone accents creates a fourth floor window lintel line which is capped by a limestone band. Above the band the brick parapet wall has small brick panels separated by vertical stone accents suggestive of triglyphs and metopes.

The east elevation is not easily visible due to the proximity of the Pilgrim building to the east. The façade wall treatment, including the limestone clad basement level, rusticated brick first floor, and decorative brick spandrel panels with stone accents between the second, third and fourth floor windows continues in the front section of wall. A pair of one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills is located at each floor and the parapet wall has a stone diamond medallion in the center. The remainder of the east elevation is of common brick and is set back from the first bay. One-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills are spaced regularly across the elevation, and some of the openings have paired windows.

The rear elevation has common brick walls and is divided into three sections. The western and eastern sections extend north slightly further than the wider center section, giving this elevation a U-shaped footprint. The western section is three bays wide with one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills at each floor. The eastern section is four bays wide with one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills at each floor. The center section has one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills at each floor.

The building's central entrance at the back of the courtyard leads to a vestibule with a hexagonal tile floor and decorative tile walls. The vestibule enters into the upper section of the main lobby, which has a decorative tile floor, decorative plaster walls and a raised ceiling with a dentil crown molding. At each end of the upper section are double doors under a plaster panel with a swag relief. The doors lead to stairways that in turn lead to the double-loaded corridors that follow the footprint of the building. The apartment units vary in floor plan; the building has studio, one and two-bedroom configurations. The units have painted gypsum board walls and ceilings and carpeted floors with modern ceramic tile floors in the kitchens and bathrooms.

A central set of marble-clad steps with iron railings leads from the upper section of the lobby to the lower level, which has a plaster coffered ceiling. There is a large modern glass skylight in the center. The plaster walls replicate wood paneling and the wall sections are divided by plaster Corinthian pilasters that line up with beams of the coffered ceiling. A fireplace is centered on the west wall of the lower lobby and a fountain is centered on the east wall. The fountain is framed with decorative plaster and has a limestone basin that, resting on the floor, has a curved front. The curved wall fountain is decorated with acanthus leaves and protrudes from a recessed arch. Above the basin is a relief of a male and female youth that are holding hands. A stylized relief of a lion head with a fish tail is centered above the youths. The water originally spouted from the lion's open mouth. The north wall of the lower lobby has three double-wide openings, each with a central cartouche and decorative plaster in the wall above. The openings lead to the elevator lobby which has a decorative tile floor, plaster walls and barrel vault ceiling.

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### Pilgrim

The Pilgrim is nearly identical on the exterior to the Puritan and is located just to the east. The inverted U-shaped floor plan is different because the lot is deeper and irregular which allows for a rear courtyard and necessitates a shallower northwest corner of the building. The decorative elements in the parapet wall are also different.

The combination of brick, limestone and cast stone details create varied wall surfaces throughout the building. The southernmost walls of the front façade are identical four-bay wide ends of the inverted U-shaped floor plan. The raised basement is clad with limestone, and the red brick walls above are rusticated at the first floor. The limestone beltcourse at the sill line of the second floor windows is supported by triglyph-like brick corbels with small stone accents. A brick soldier course interspersed with small decorative stone pieces runs at the lintel line of the fourth-floor windows. A small cast stone entablature runs above the soldier course. A row of decorative brick panels each with a small decorative cast stone block in the center run across the façade above the entablature to resemble triglyphs and metopes. The outer bay of each south end of the inverted U projects slightly and has a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills at each floor. The second through fourth floor window openings are framed with stretcher and soldier brick bands. There are two decorative brick spandrel panels between the floors with cast stone diamond medallions centered in each. Centered above each of the end bays in the parapet is a cast stone lozenge panel. Tall, thin vertical stone rectangles frame the edges of the bay in the parapet. The two center bays of the end of the inverted U each have shorter one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills and soldier brick heads at each floor. In the parapet there is a cast stone rectangular plaque centered above each of the center bays.

The east and west walls of the deep courtyard are treated similarly to the building's facade, although the basement level walls are rusticated brick with a stone water table and a stone-clad foundation. The rusticated brick walls at the first floor are capped by a limestone beltcourse supported by brick triglyph-like corbels with small stone accents. The wall surface at the second through fourth floors is plain red brick interrupted by one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills. The windows are spaced regularly across the wall and in the pattern of two single windows between pairs of windows. A brick soldier course runs at the lintel line of the fourth-floor windows. A small cast stone entablature runs above the soldier course. A row of decorative brick panels each with a small decorative cast stone block in the center resembling triglyphs and metopes runs across both walls.

The central entrance is located in front of the three bay wide north wall of the courtyard in a stone-clad one-story entrance pavilion. The front wall of the pavilion has a three-sided projecting bay with the entrance doors in the middle. Narrow windows are located in the angled sides of the bay and in the flat walls on either side. A decorated frieze runs across the entire pavilion above the windows and doors and "PILGRIM" is engraved in the stone above the door. Above the simple entablature the stepped parapet has a shield and swags. The brick wall of the main building rises behind the entrance pavilion. There are one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills at the second through fourth floors of each bay. The brick parapet wall extends above the decorative brick and stone band which tops the limestone band and soldier course lintel line of the fourth floor windows.

The west elevation is not easily visible due to the proximity of the Puritan building to the west. The façade wall treatment, including the limestone clad basement level, rusticated brick first floor, and decorative brick spandrel panels with stone accents between the second, third and fourth floor windows continues for the front section of wall. A pair of one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills is located at each floor and the parapet wall has a centered cast stone lozenge panel. Tall, thin vertical stone rectangles frame the edges of the bay. The remainder of the west elevation is of common brick



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and is set back from the first bay. One-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills are spaced regularly across the elevation, some of the openings have paired windows.

The southernmost bay of the east elevation repeats the façade wall treatment, including the limestone clad basement level, rusticated brick first floor, and decorative brick spandrel panels each with stone accents between the second, third and fourth floor windows. A pair of one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills is located at each floor. Centered above the bay in the parapet is a cast stone lozenge panel. Tall thin vertical stone rectangles frame the edges of the bay. The remainder of the east elevation is of common brick and is set back from the first bay. One-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills are spaced regularly across the elevation, some of the openings have paired windows.

The north (rear) elevation has common brick walls and one-over-one double-hung windows with limestone sills, and has four separate sections. Starting at the east end the wall is five bays wide with the center bay having doors at each floor. The two bays on each side have double-hung windows at each floor. Moving west the next section is deeply recessed and is three bays wide. A pair of double-hung windows and two single window openings are located at each floor. The next section is at the same plane as the first section, is narrow, and has a group of three double-hung windows at each floor. The western end is in line with the rear wall of the neighboring Puritan building. It is three bays wide with two single and a pair of double-hung windows at each floor.

The interior of the Pilgrim is nearly identical to the Puritan except that the decorative lobby elements are more deteriorated and missing in some cases. The building's entrance leads to a vestibule with a hexagonal tile floor and decorative tile walls. The vestibule enters into the upper section of the main lobby, which has a decorative tile floor, decorative plaster walls and a raised ceiling with a dentil crown molding. At each end of the upper section are double doors under a plaster panel with a swag relief. The doors lead to staircases which in turn lead to double-loaded corridors that follow the footprint of the building. The apartment units vary in floor plan; the building has studio, one and two-bedroom configurations. The units have painted gypsum board walls and ceilings and carpeted floors with modern ceramic tile floors in the kitchens and bathrooms.

Central marble-clad steps with iron railings lead from the upper section of the lobby to the lower level which has a suspended acoustical tile ceiling. The plaster walls are divided into sections by plaster Corinthian pilasters. A closed-in fireplace is centered on the west wall of the lower lobby and a fountain is centered on the east wall. The fountain is framed with decorative plaster and has a limestone basin that rests on the floor and is curved in the center. The curved wall fountain is decorated with acanthus leaves and protrudes from a recessed arch. Above the basin is a relief of a male and female youth that are holding hands. A stylized relief of a lion head with fish tail is centered above the youths and the water originally flowed from the open mouth of the lion. The north wall of the lower lobby has three double-wide openings, each with a central cartouche and decorative plaster in the all above. The openings lead to the elevator lobby which has a decorative tile floor, plaster walls and barrel vault ceiling.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
Social history  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Period of Significance**

1924  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1924  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Agree, Charles N.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex is significant under criteria A for its social history and C for its architecture at the local level of significance. During a time when this section of East Jefferson Avenue was being developed as Detroit's "Gold Coast" with luxury apartment buildings and apartment hotels such as the Whittier, Hibbard Apartments, Indian Village Manor and Detroit Tower, the Pilgrim and Puritan provided a housing opportunity for Detroit's growing professional and middle-class. It is the largest and most impressive of this housing type on East Jefferson Avenue. Constructed in 1924, it is significant for its architecture as an apartment building designed by Detroit architect Charles N. Agree and as a large and intact example of a courtyard style of apartment building complex of Neo-Classical/Commercial Brick styling not found elsewhere on East Jefferson Avenue.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex was developed in 1924 by Detroit contractor Harry Silverman (1886-1950) in partnership with Detroit real estate developer John B. Whitley (188-1947). The buildings were designed by Detroit architect Charles N. Agree (1897-1982). A third matching building, the Plymouth, was originally constructed to the east of the Pilgrim, for a total of 260 units. The Plymouth was demolished in the mid 1980s and the vacant site is not included with this nomination. Harry Silverman was a Romanian Jew who initially immigrated to Brooklyn, New York in 1905. After completing his education and training as a building contractor he came to Detroit in 1912. After working with the McClean Building Company and then the H.H. Jones Construction Company he founded his own construction company in 1913. Between 1913 and 1925 he constructed, and then quickly sold, at least eleven apartment buildings in Detroit and Highland Park, including the Pilgrim and Puritan. In 1925 he was involved with the development of Webster Hall, a bachelor apartment building in Detroit's growing cultural center that has since been demolished. Two of his other developments were Regent Court and Sheridan Court. The Tuxedo Apartments on Woodward in Highland Park contained a theater on the ground floor. Out of those eleven developments only five appear to remain, including the Pilgrim and Puritan. One of the five, a 403 unit building constructed on Woodward in Highland Park in 1925, Highland Towers, has suffered severe fire damage and is danger of being demolished. During World War II Mr. Silverman began constructing war worker housing and in 1940 founded the Harrman Construction Company with the intent to increase construction after the war.

John B. Whitley (1880-1947) was a native of Halifax, England and came to Detroit in 1915 after residing in Paris, France and Niagara Falls, Canada. Before launching his own real estate firm, the Whitley Company, he worked briefly for the H.A. Jones Company and the Dow-Gilbert Company. One of the Whitley Company's noted projects was the Harry Lauder Subdivision located in northwest Detroit that was platted in 1916 and named after Scottish singer Harry Lauder. The Whitley Company had its main office in downtown Detroit in the Book Building and had branch offices in Dearborn and Windsor, Ontario. In 1927 Mr. Whitley became president of a second real estate company, Waterford Corporation, with James C. Whitley listed as vice-president. In the 1930-31 *Polk's Detroit City Directory* The Whitley Company was not listed, and in 1932-33 the Waterford Company was no longer listed. No listing for John Whitley appears after the 1929-30 directory. John Whitley died in Detroit in 1947.

Charles N. Agree (1897-1982) was born in Connecticut and moved to Detroit with his family in 1909. He attended the Detroit Technical Institute and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1919, the same

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year he founded his own firm. He studied and made a specialty of apartment building design. The Neo-classical style Whittier Apartment Hotel located nearby on East Jefferson was one of his first major commissions, it was completed in 1923. The Pilgrim and Puritan immediately followed in 1924. In 1926 he went on to design a number of prominent apartment hotel buildings in Detroit including the Belcrest, Seville, and Belmont. One of Agree's most noted designs is that of the 1929 Art Deco Vanity Ballroom located in the Jefferson-Chalmers Historic Business District further east on Jefferson. Agree went on to design at least eight Detroit theaters between 1935 and 1945 including the Royal and Dearborn. In 1940 he reorganized his firm and in 1948 his son Alexander Arnold Agree began working there, becoming a member in 1953. After the war Agree designed the Holden Museum of Living Reptiles at the Detroit Zoo in 1960. Later he was responsible for a number of suburban shopping centers including the Flint Shopping Center in 1953-54, the Southgate Shopping Center in 1958, and the Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield and Oakland Mall in Troy, both in 1968.

Silverman, Whitley and Agree were all members of the Masons, and Agree and Silverman both attended Congregation Shaarey Zedek. It is presumably these connections that brought the team together for the design and construction of the Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex. The length of Silverman and Agree's association is unknown. Silverman used Detroit architect Maurice H. Finkel for design of the Sheridan Court Apartments in 1921, and the designers of his other apartment buildings are currently unknown. The partnership between Silverman and Whitley ended shortly after the Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex was constructed. Silverman sold his interest to Whitley in 1925, ending the partnership.

#### **EAST JEFFERSON AVENUE**

East Jefferson Avenue began as a trail running along the Detroit River that was first used by Native Americans and then by the French in the early 1700s to travel between the ribbon farms and the French outpost Fort Ponchartrain du Detroit. It was called Ste. Anne Street which connected to the River Road. In 1805 the Territory of Michigan was created with Detroit as the territory's capitol. As a result of the 1806 Woodward Plan, Ste. Anne Street was renamed Jefferson Avenue. The section of East Jefferson where Puritan and Pilgrim Apartment Complex is located was part of the Township of Hamtramck that was established in 1818. The area was annexed to the City of Detroit in 1891. The property was likely part of the land originally owned by the Beaubiens and Campaus who owned the land directly south of East Jefferson that is now the Berry Subdivision.

In 1863 horse-drawn streetcars began operating in Detroit, the population was just over forty-five thousand people, and most lived in or near what is presently the central business district. As manufacturing increased and the streetcar lines expanded it allowed more affluent residents to construct houses further out. By 1900 when Detroit was the thirteenth most populated city in the United States there were over ninety-nine miles of street car lines. One of the major lines ran from downtown Detroit out East Jefferson Avenue to Grosse Pointe and the line was electrified in 1892. That same year East Jefferson Avenue was one of four Detroit streets paved with asphalt. By 1920 motor buses ran on East Jefferson in addition to the streetcars (Davis, *Residential Buildings on East Jefferson Avenue*, section 8, p. 1).

Just to the west of the Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex the Indian Village neighborhood (national register listed) was platted about 1894, with most of the homes constructed between 1905 and 1928. Subdivision restrictions required large houses and many were designed by Detroit's leading architects of the time. Just to the south of the Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex the Berry Subdivision was platted in the 1910s and large single-family houses were constructed between 1914 and 1940. Manufacturing in the area was generally to the west and east, along the river closer to downtown and along the Detroit Terminal Railroad which ran near Conner Creek, both areas were easily accessible from the Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex by streetcar and motor bus.

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Detroit's first apartment building was designed and constructed by Detroit architect Almon C. Varney in 1892. Located at Park and Montcalm, the north part of downtown, it was a four-story walk-up and contained sixteen units. It was predicted to fail because Detroit's residences at the time were overwhelmingly freestanding houses, made prevalent by the amount of land available for expansion. However, Detroit's subsequent population boom due to the influx of immigrant workers drawn to jobs created by the burgeoning auto industry and the on-going production of stoves, pharmaceuticals, and tobacco processing created significantly more demand for apartments and Varney's apartment building soon became a huge success: Apartment living became an acceptable housing alternative by the turn of the century. The first types of apartment buildings constructed in the Detroit were small-scale buildings, designed in the popular architectural styles of the period that were three to four stories tall, rectangular in shape, and contained one or two spacious flats per floor (Florek, *South Cass Corridor Intensive Level Survey*, p. 44).

Detroit experienced unprecedented growth and expansion in the 1920s. After the population rose 113 percent from 1910 to 1920, it increased another sixty-three percent between 1920 and 1930 according to the United States census figures. Detroit increased dramatically in its land area, the physical size of the city more than tripled between 1910 and 1930. The influx of people created a severe housing shortage and increased the demand for apartment buildings and apartment hotels. The apartment buildings constructed in the 1910s and 20s were large-scale, high density buildings that occupied the entire depths of the lots and had unit sizes from one-room efficiencies to two-to-four room suites. The buildings were constructed in twentieth century revival styles, such as Neo-Georgian, Colonial Revival, and Neo-Tudor. Following the trends of the time and advancement in building technology across the country, the exterior architectural detail was applied and the use of manufactured materials such as cast stone in place of limestone was prevalent (Florek, *South Cass Corridor Intensive Level Survey*, p. 46).

The majority of Detroit's large-scale and notable apartment buildings were constructed during this period. On East Jefferson Avenue Detroit's Gold Coast was created, the section of East Jefferson Avenue between East Grand Boulevard and Waterworks Park. The area was developed for upper income residents wanting luxury apartments with river views. Six high-rise luxury apartment buildings were constructed in the Gold Coast area between 1920 and 1931 including Alden Park Towers (1922-23), Indian Village Manor (1920), Detroit Towers (1925), Whittier Apartment Hotel (1922, 1926), Kean Apartments (1931), and Hibbard Apartments (1924).

Although lacking a view of the Detroit River and not as tall as the others, the Puritan and Pilgrim Apartment Complex was constructed at the eastern edge of the Gold Coast. The one- and two-bedroom apartments (five or six rooms) provided a housing option for Detroit's growing professional middle class that was easily accessible to downtown by streetcar and automobile and in the midst of upper class apartment and single-family residences. The first residents of the Puritan and Pilgrim Apartment Complex included a number of salesmen, executives, clerks, teachers, doctors and nurses. Some of the more notable residents included George Crouch, vice president of Horace E. Dodge Boat Works; George Minnich, vice president Peninsular Paint and Varnish; Harry A. Greenwood, vice president of family owned regalia manufacturers Greenwood-Atkinson-Armstrong Company; Edith Crossley, physiotherapy at Harper Hospital, and her roommate Laura Dobie, stenographer at Hudson Motor Car Company; Margaret Lafayette, a model; Harry Eckman, an artist with an office in the Lafayette Building; Malcolm McColl, physician; and Frederick Auch, with the George W. Auch Company. The George W. Auch Company was a construction firm founded in 1908 and built numerous homes and schools in Detroit, including houses in nearby Indian Village. In the 1920s the firm expanded its interests into a car dealership and the Belle Isle Creamery. Frederick Auch may have been one of George's nine children. By 1929 at least two Pilgrim and Puritan residents were US Customs officials. The residents included single persons as well as married couples and families.

The building has continued in use as an apartment building since its construction. It was renovated in the mid-1980s and there are plans for a second rehabilitation.

Pilgrim & Puritan Apartment Complex  
Name of Property

Wayne County, MI  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Pilgrim & Puritan Apartment Complex  
Name of Property  
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2012, Accessed September 16, 2013: <http://detroit.curbed.com/archives/2012/06/charles-n-agree.php>

Wayne County, MI  
County and State

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Zachary and Associates. *North Cass Corridor Intensive Level Survey*. University Cultural Center Association, 2000.

Zachary and Associates. *Warren-Prentis Historic District, Willis-Selden Historic District, and West Canfield Avenue Historic District Boundary Increase*. Nomination forms, National Register of Historic Places, 2000.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**   N/A  

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property**   about 1.1

Pilgrim & Puritan Apartment Complex  
Name of Property

Wayne County, MI  
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 336580 | Northing: 4691390 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the intersection of northerly line of Jefferson Avenue and easterly line of McClellan Avenue in the City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, said intersection being also the southwesterly corner of Lot 1, Block 1, of Yeman's and Sprague's Subdivision of part of Private Claim 152 lying North of Jefferson Avenue; thence North 40 degrees 43 minutes East, along the northerly line of Jefferson Avenue, 255.79 feet to a point; thence North 31 degrees 00 minutes West, 175.42 feet to a point on the southerly line of the public alley; thence South 59 degrees 00 minutes West along the southerly line of the public alley 7.76 feet to a point; thence North 31 degrees 00 minutes West, along the westerly line of the public alley 18 feet to a point; thence South 59 degrees 29 minutes west, 81.87 feet to a point; thence South 31 degrees 10 minutes East, 74.69 feet to a point; thence South 59 degrees 07 minutes west, along the southerly line of the public alley, 153.06 feet, to a point in the easterly line of McClellan Avenue; thence

Pilgrim & Puritan Apartment Complex  
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south 30 degrees 53 minutes East, along the easterly line of McClellan Avenue 200 feet to the place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the two parcels historically associated with the apartment buildings. The vacant parcel to the east which originally contained the matching Plymouth Apartments is not included in the nomination as it does not contribute to the historic significance of the complex.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kristine M. Kidorf  
organization: Kidorf Preservation Consulting  
street & number: 451 E. Ferry Street  
city or town: Detroit state: MI zip code: 48202  
e-mail kristine@kidorfpreservationconsulting.com  
telephone: 313-300-9376  
date: January 2014

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs

Pilgrim & Puritan Apartment Complex  
Name of Property

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to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex

City or Vicinity: Detroit

County: Wayne State: MI

Photographer: Kristine M. Kidorf

Date Photographed: February 11, 2014 (#1-12), August 1, 2013 (#13)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 13. Looking northeast at complex.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0001
- 2 of 13. Looking northeast at front of Puritan.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0002
- 3 of 12. Looking southeast at west and north elevations of Puritan.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0003
- 4 of 13. Looking north at Puritan entrance and courtyard.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0004
- 5 of 13. Looking north between Puritan on left and Pilgrim on right.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0005
- 6 of 13. Looking north at Pilgrim.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0006
- 7 of 13. Looking northwest at south and east elevations of Pilgrim.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0007
- 8 of 13. Looking southwest at east and north elevations of Pilgrim.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0008
- 9 of 13. Looking north in Puritan lobby.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0009
- 10 of 13. Looking south in Puritan lobby.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex \_0010

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11 of 13. Looking west at fountain detail in Puritan lobby.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex\_0011

12 of 13. Looking north in Pilgrim lobby.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex\_0012

13 of 13. Looking north between two buildings, Puritan on left, Pilgrim on right.  
MI\_Wayne County\_Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex\_0013

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**Property Owner:**

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name Dennis Quinn, Colony and Fisher Arms BB LDHA LP

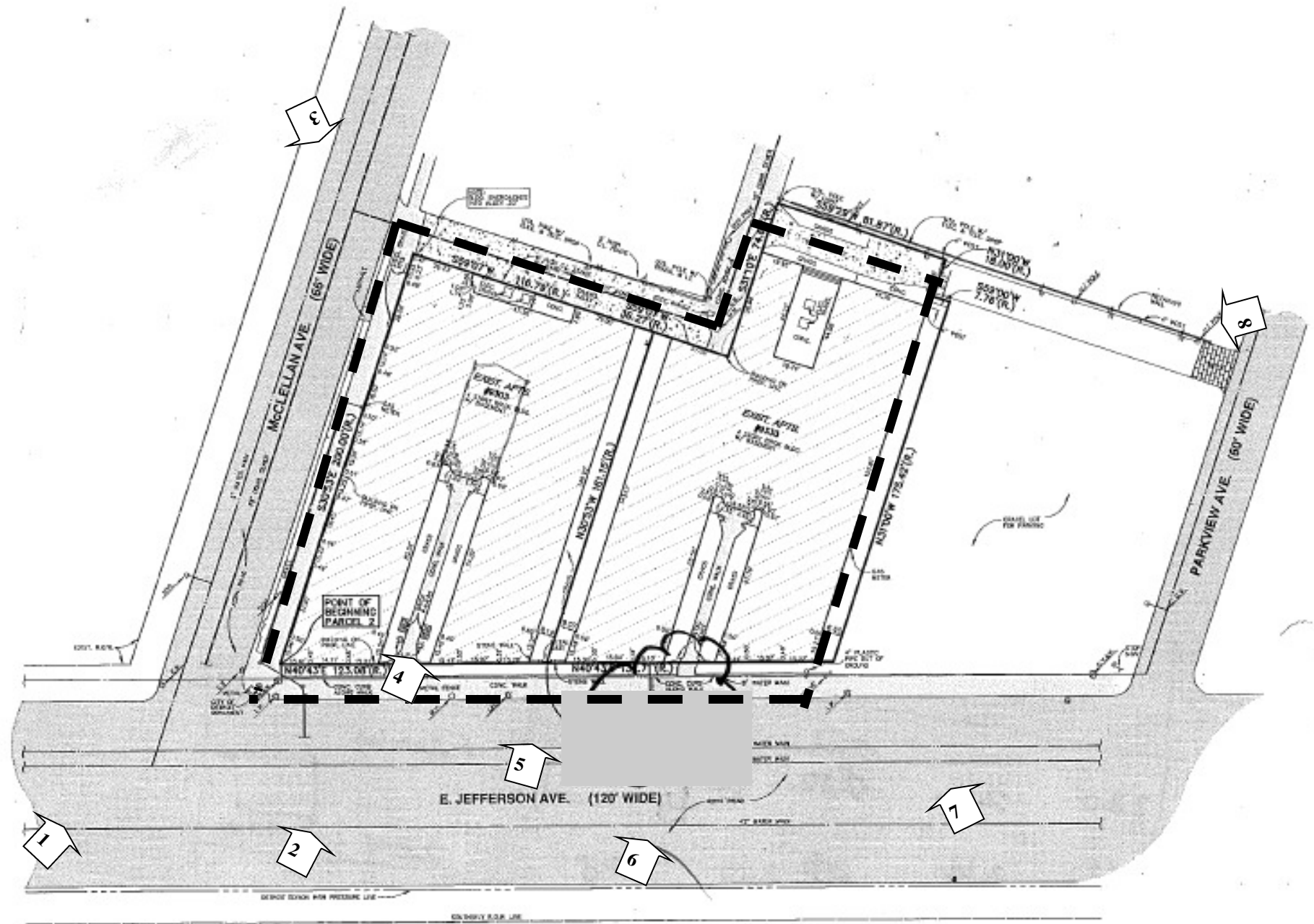
street & number 1906 25<sup>th</sup> Street telephone 313-820-6939

city or town Detroit state MI zip code 48216

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

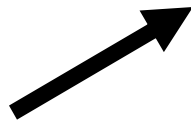




Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex  
 9303-9333 East Jefferson Avenue  
 Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan  
 Sketch Map



N



Photograph Number



Complex Boundary Line



PURITAN PILGRIM  
APARTMENT COMPLEX  
930 3/33 E JEFFERSON AVE  
DETROIT, WAYNE CO, MI

17 20 NE  
336580 E  
4691390 N



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 1967. Field checked 1968. Canadian portion copied in part from Riverside quadrangle (1:25,000) 1960, Army Survey Establishment, R. C. E. Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey Charts 41 and 42 (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.

UTM GRID AND 1980 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 8 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

SCALE 1:24,000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET IN THE UNITED STATES AND 10 FEET IN CANADA  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS RIVER SURFACE AT FOLLOWING STAGES: LAKE ST. CLAIR—571.7 AND LAKE ERIE—568.6

THE U.S. PORTION OF 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. Canadian portion not revised.

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

State Route

BELLE ISLE, MICH.-ONT.  
N4215-W8252.5/7.5  
1968  
PHOTOREVISED 1973 AND 1980  
DMA 4468 IV SW—SERIES V862

USGS  
Historical File  
National Mapping Div.

MAR 25 1981

2150





A large, multi-story brick building with a classical architectural style. The building features a prominent corner section on the left and a series of connected wings extending to the right. The facade is composed of red brick with decorative elements, including diamond-shaped motifs and horizontal bands of lighter-colored bricks. The windows are arranged in a regular grid pattern across the upper floors. The ground floor appears to have a different material, possibly stone or concrete, and features a recessed entrance area. The building is situated at a street corner, and the surrounding area is covered in snow.

LEFT TURN ONLY

A vertical traffic light with three lenses. The top lens is illuminated red, the middle lens is yellow, and the bottom lens is green. The light is mounted on a black pole.

A vertical traffic light with three lenses. The top lens is illuminated red, the middle lens is yellow, and the bottom lens is green. The light is mounted on a black pole.

A vertical traffic light with three lenses. The top lens is illuminated red, the middle lens is yellow, and the bottom lens is green. The light is mounted on a black pole.

A silver SUV parked on the street in front of the brick building. The car is facing towards the left of the frame.

A silver SUV parked on the street in front of the brick building. The car is facing towards the left of the frame.

A silver SUV parked on the street in front of the brick building. The car is facing towards the left of the frame.

A dark-colored sedan parked on the street in the foreground. The car is facing towards the left of the frame.

A yellow and black building, possibly a commercial structure like a gas station or convenience store, located in the background on the right side of the image. The building has a prominent yellow facade with black accents.













9303

PURITAN









9333





Now Leasing





Now Leasing

WE SNAKE  
DRAINS  
354-0149























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Wayne

DATE RECEIVED: 7/09/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/04/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/19/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/25/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000514

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 8-25-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR



July 2, 2014

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is a national register nomination form for the Pilgrim and Puritan Apartment Complex in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. The property is being submitted for listing in the national register. No written comments concerning this nomination were submitted to us prior to the submission of the nomination to you.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Robert O. Christensen, national register coordinator, by phone at 517/335-2719 or email at [christensenr@michigan.gov](mailto:christensenr@michigan.gov).

Sincerely yours,

Brian D. Conway  
State Historic Preservation Officer