

**Historical Marker - S315 - Charles Lang Freer House / Merrill-Palmer Institute
(Marker ID#:S315)**



Front - Title/Description

Charles Lang Freer House

Detroit industrialist Charles Lang Freer prospered primarily as a railroad car manufacturer. This house, considered Michigan's finest example of the Shingle Style, was designed by Wilson Eyre Jr. of Philadelphia and built in 1890. Here Freer (1854-1919) assembled one of the most extensive Asian art collections in the world. He also collected Pewabic Pottery and the work of contemporary American artists such as Whistler, Dewing, and Tryon. A 1905 addition incorporated the "Peacock Room," decorated by James Whistler, which was removed from a house in England and transplanted here as part of Freer's art collection. In 1906 he donated his collection and the Peacock Room to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Significant Date:

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

Registry Year: 1970 **Erected Date:** 2003

Marker Location

Address: 71 East Ferry Ave

City: Detroit

State: MI **ZipCode:**

County: Wayne

Township:

Lat: 42.36166300 / **Long:** -83.06593300

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

Merrill-Palmer Institute

This house was built for industrialist Charles Lang Freer in 1890. Upon Freer's death in 1919, the executors of the will of Lizzie Merrill-Palmer purchased the house for use as a school devoted to improving the quality of parenting. This school became what is now known as the Merrill-Palmer Institute, one of the first institutes of child development established in the United States. Merrill-Palmer's model, combining study, research, and work with children, was widely copied in other locations nationally. Its preschool, opened in 1922, led the development of preschool education and childcare across the nation. In 1981 the Merrill-Palmer Institute became part of Wayne State University.