



Detroit's impressive skyline

## DETROIT, MICHIGAN

During the quarter-century prior to the Civil War, Detroit served as a major terminal on the Underground Railroad. The city's location attracted thousands of escaped slaves on their way to Canada and freedom. From several points along the Detroit River, abolitionist and other sympathizers helped smuggle the runaways across to Canada. Historians have identified several crossing points between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie.

### MUSEUMS & HISTORIC SITES

#### •Museum of African American History 313 833-9800

The Museum of African-American History, formerly the Afro-American Museum of Detroit, was established in 1965 by Dr. Charles H. Wright and 33 local citizens. The museum serves as a repository for collecting and documenting the contributions of African-American people and has a learning and resource center for all ages and ethnic groups. The museum also promotes, through permanent and traveling exhibitions, African-American contributions to the humanities and the creative works of African-American artists. The museum maintains a research library, gift shop and offers membership opportunities.

The museum's main exhibit is "An Epic of Heroism: The Underground Railroad in Michigan, 1837-1870." The graphic and interactive display depicts the history of the slave trade and the persistent struggle for freedom, featuring the network of homes and individuals set up in Michigan to shelter and convey fugitive slaves to freedom.

#### •Motown Museum 313 875-2264

The Motown Museum stands today as a tribute to those earlier days of music magic. Motown's founder Berry Gordy Jr. brought the two-story house in 1959, when he was a songwriter with ambitions of managing singers. By the 1960s, the company was flourishing with seven more houses and scores of top music acts.

Today, this declared Michigan historic site remains very much like it did in the early 60s. Its displays include the actual primitive music studio, recording equipment, sheet music and piano used by the stars. Photographs and gold records from the early years grace the walls, costumes worn by the

stars are also on display, while schedules from the grueling Motown Review Tour are exhibited.

During the month of April, the Museum holds the "Annual Motown Celebration," paying tribute to Motown legend Marvin Gaye. This gala affair is Motown Museum's annual fund raising event and usually consists of a live concert by one of the Motown greats.

#### •The Detroit Institute of Arts 313 833-7900

One of the largest art museums in the country, the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) first opened in 1885. Works by famous African-American artists such as Romare Bearden and Detroit artist Charles McGee are on permanent display. The museum also has part of its extensive African art collection on display.

#### •George Washington Carver Memorial 313 271-1620

Born into slavery in Missouri in 1864, George Washington Carver became the first African-American man to graduate from Iowa State University in 1896. As a scientist and educator based at Alabama's Tuskegee Institute, Carver won international distinction for his advocacy of soil conservation and crop diversification and for his experiments with alternative uses for farm crops. He is most widely known for developing more than 300 uses for the peanut.

The George Washington Carver Memorial was built in Greenfield Village in 1942 as a tribute to one of America's leading agricultural scientists, this log cabin commemorates the Missouri birthplace of its namesake. The interior walls are lined with wood panels contributed by the governors of the then-48 states in Carver's honor.

#### •Graystone International Jazz Museum 313 963-3813

In the 1920s and 30s, Paradise Valley was one of the few Detroit areas where unsegregated groups could enjoy music together. Paradise Valley, located in the heart of the Black community in Detroit, included the great Graystone Ballroom.

The Graystone was the only ballroom around that regularly hired local Black jazz bands. The development of jazz took off as Black and white locals would dance and play to all the latest sounds. Top bands such as Fletcher Henderson and Duke Ellington played at the Graystone and inspired the improvisational style that is associated with the jazz tradition.

In addition to housing a display of musical instruments, records and other jazz memorabilia, the Graystone promotes and conducts research which traces the development of jazz from its beginning African rhythms to its modern forms.

#### •Elijah McCoy Home Site 5730 Lincoln

This site, between Stanley and the railroad tracks, was the location of the home of Elijah McCoy, an African-American inventor who made significant contributions to industry. The high quality of his craftsmanship gave rise to the phrase "The Real McCoy."

In 1872, McCoy patented his first invention, a lubrication cup. Elijah McCoy is credited with seventy-eight patents on lubrication devices.

#### •American Black Artist Museum 313 872-0332

Michigan's only Black art museum features works by LeRoy Foster and local artists as well as live jazz

concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings.

### RESTAURANTS

•Edmund's Place  
69 Edmond Street  
313 831-5757

•East Franklin  
1440 Franklin Street  
313 393-0018

•Steve's Soul Food  
8443 Grand River  
313 894-3464

### ENTERTAINMENT/ NIGHTLIFE

•Emanuel Steward's Place  
1940 E. Jefferson  
313 567-777

•Club Penta (Fisher Bldg.)  
3011 W. Grand Boulevard  
313 972-3760

•Flood's Lounge  
733 St. Antoine Street  
313 963-1090



Hitsville USA, Motown Museum



Quilting Time, 1986, by Romare Bearden can be seen at the Detroit Institute of Arts