

Croul-Palms House

1394 East Jefferson Avenue

Local	v	3/26/84
State		
State Marker		
National	v	12/20/83



Croul-Palms House circa 1895.

Historic overview:

The Croul-Palms House is named after its first two owners, Jerome Croul and Francis F. Palms. In 1881, Jerome Croul commissioned William Scott to design this 2½-story Queen Anne style residence. This red brick building which originally cost \$25,000 to build, features three-story bay windows, projecting gables, decorated chimney caps, multi-planed roof, rock-faced stone foundations and curved stone details, ribbon work and window hoods. He built a two-story brick barn at the rear of the property a year later. William Scott was an architect, civil engineer and railroad engineer. He also designed other Detroit buildings such as the Detroit Stove Works, now demolished and the Sprague House at 80 W. Palmer.

Jerome Croul came to Detroit with J. E. Parsons and started the firm of Parsons & Croul, Woolens and Sheepskins. Later known as Croul Brothers with the help of his brother William, they added leather tanning to their services. Jerome's biggest interest was in the fire department. He was Commissioner from 1872-88 and President from 1895-97.

In 1887 Jerome sold the house to Celimene, wife of Francis F. Palms. His father, Francis Palms was the largest landowner in the northwest and heavily invested in Detroit property, primarily constructing large business blocks. In 1880, Francis F. joined his father in Detroit to help manage the estate. At the time of his father's death the estate was valued at \$7,000,000, which Francis F. now managed. After his death in 1905, Francis F.'s third wife continued to live in the house until 1914. At that point the house was converted into a boarding house with 25 rooms and three apartments. In 1954 the garage was demolished and the house was converted again into eight apartments and 12 sleeping rooms. The Palms family had an interest in the building until 1945 through the Palms Realty Company.

