

## Alexander Chapoton House

511 Beaubien.

|              |   |          |
|--------------|---|----------|
| Local        | v | 10/24/86 |
| State        | v | 4/21/80  |
| State Marker | v | 6/22/87  |
| National     | v | 3/10/80  |



Alexander Chapoton House

### **Historic overview:**

The Alexander Chapoton House is one of the last remaining examples of Queen Anne style row houses in Detroit. Alexander Chapoton is a direct descendant of one of the oldest families in Detroit dating to 1719. He succeeded in his father's business as a mason and inherited a fortune. Later he was to acquire more land and be known as an important contractor helping to build several commercial blocks and residences in the city. He also served on the Detroit Board of Public Works. His son, Alexander Jr. joined his father in his business and inherited a greater fortune than his grandfather's.

Alexander originally built the house in the late 1870's as rental property but lived in the house until his death in 1893. It is a three story brick building built at the edge of the sidewalk. It has an asymmetrical façade with mismatched lower and upper floors. The interior floor plan is unusual as that it accommodates a Victorian Living hall. The interior changed little over the years retaining its original trim, staircase and parlor fireplace.

Over the years the area was cleared for commercial development especially in the 60's and 70's and only a few row houses, including 511 Beaubien, remained. The house served as a rooming house for several decades. It was eventually bought in the 1980's and underwent restoration. The first floor is now used as an art gallery, studios in the basement and offices on the upper floors.



