

## Historical Marker - S303 - Stearns Telephone (Marker ID#:S303)



### Front - Title/Description

#### ***Stearns Telephone***

On September 22, 1877, a Bell telephone was installed on this site in the drugstore operated by Frederick Stearns. An iron wire strung along rooftops connected the store with the Stearns laboratory a half-mile away at the foot of Fifth Street. This service, only eighteen months after Alexander Graham Bell patented his invention, was the first to be offered by the organization which eventually developed into the Michigan Bell Telephone Company. A placard in the store window invited the public to drop in every hour on the hour to speak over the amazing new device. Other private lines followed, but it was a year before the first telephone exchange was constructed with fifteen or twenty subscribers on each party line.

#### ***Significant Date:***

Industry and Invention (1875-1915)

***Registry Year:*** 1970    ***Erected Date:*** 1972

### Marker Location

***Address:*** 511 Woodward

***City:*** Detroit

***State:*** MI    ***ZipCode:***

***County:*** Wayne

***Township:***

***Lat:*** 42.32965200 / ***Long:*** -83.04572100

***Web URL:***

### Back - Title/Description