



**Front - Title/Description**

**Paradise Valley**

As Detroit's manufacturing base boomed during two world wars (1917-18 and 1941-45), large numbers of African Americans moved here to work in the factories. Detroit's African American population increased from 5,000 in 1910 to 300,000 by 1950. Throughout this period segregationist policies restricted where blacks could live, own businesses, and spend their free time. During the 1930s a commercial center emerged in the area roughly bounded by Adams, Brush, Alexandrine, and Hastings Street (replaced by I-75). Known as "Paradise Valley," it had black-owned medical offices and retail shops as well as swank restaurants and hotels. Some nightclubs, called "black and tans," were frequented by blacks and whites alike. African Americans owned and operated all of the businesses in the valley.

**Significant Date:**

Two World Wars and the Depression (1915-1945)

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

**Marker Location**

**Address:** St. Antoine

**City:** Detroit

**State:** MI     **ZipCode:**

**County:** Wayne

**Township:**

**Lat:** 42.33978100 / **Long:** -83.04360000

**Web URL:**

**Back - Title/Description**

**Paradise Valley**

Formerly the intersection of Adams Avenue and St. Antoine Street, this site was once part of Paradise Valley, Detroit's African American business and entertainment district. From the 1930s into the 1950s Paradise Valley bustled around the clock. Nightspots like 606 Horseshoe Lounge, Club Plantation, and Club 666 featured entertainers such as Duke Ellington, Dinah Washington, the Ink Spots, and Sarah Vaughan. Blacks who performed elsewhere in Michigan were excluded from white hotels and stayed in the valley. Beginning in the 1940s, urban renewal projects, the construction of freeways, and new development devastated African American neighborhoods, including Paradise Valley. The valley's last three structures, located along St. Antoine Street, were demolished in 2000.