

Historical Marker - S744 - United Sound Systems Recording Studios / United Sound Systems Recording Studios (Marker ID#:S744)



Front - Title/Description

United Sound Systems Recording Studios

In 1939 Italian American violinist and sound engineer James "Jimmy" Siracuse (1903-1988) converted this 1916 house into the new home for United Sound Systems, one of Detroit's first independent recording studios. He offered recording, transcription and production services for radio programs, record companies, musicians, singers and private citizens, including families who made recordings to send to soldiers during World War II. In 1946 the internationally broadcast Inter-Racial Goodwill Program was recorded here. Artists who created music here in the 1940s and 1950s included John Lee Hooker, Johnnie Ray, Dizzy Gillespie, Jackie Wilson and Alberta Adams.

Significant Date:

Two World Wars and the Depression (1915-1945)

Registry Year: 2017 ***Erected Date:*** 2017

Marker Location

Address: 5840 Second

City: Detroit

State: MI ***ZipCode:*** 48202

County: Wayne

Township:

Lat: 42.36234100 / ***Long:*** -83.07241500

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

United Sound Systems Recording Studios

James "Jimmy" Siracuse enlarged this studio to accommodate orchestras and motion picture production in 1956. Marv Johnson's 1959 song "Come To Me," recorded here, was the first single for Tamla Records (later Motown Records). African American guitarist, producer and entrepreneur Don Davis (1938-2014) bought the studio in 1972. He worked with new and established artists from all musical genres, but especially soul, disco, funk, and rhythm and blues. Among them was Johnnie Taylor. His 1976 song "Disco Lady" was the first single certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America. By the mid-2000s, United Sound had closed. It reopened in 2014.