Historical Marker - S754 - Martin Luther King Jr. In Grosse Pointe / Martin Luther King Jr. In Grosse Pointe (Marker ID#:S754)

Significant Date:
Post WWII (1945-1970)

Registry Year: 2018   **Erected Date:** 2019

Marker Location

Address: Fisher Road

City: Grosse Pointe Farms

State: MI   *ZipCode:* 48236

County: Wayne

Township:

Lat: 42.39056000 / Long: -82.90377200

Web URL:

Front - Title/Description

Martin Luther King Jr. In Grosse Pointe

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the Grosse Pointe High School auditorium on March 14, 1968, to a crowd of more than two thousand people. In a speech entitled "The Other America," King depicted two worlds within the nation: one where white families flourished, and another where black families struggled due to inequality. Nearly two hundred protestors from Breakthrough, an anti-communist group based in Detroit, picketed outside the high school and heckled King during his speech. The protestors criticized King for his opposition to the Vietnam War. King allowed a few hecklers to voice their opinions during his presentation. At the end of the speech he received a standing ovation. Just three weeks after he visited Grosse Pointe, King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

Back - Title/Description

Martin Luther King Jr. In Grosse Pointe

Speaking here in 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. described "two Americas": "One America is beautiful for situation…. In this America children grow up in the sunlight of opportunity. But there is another America. This other America has a daily ugliness about it that transforms the buoyancy of hope into the fatigue of despair…. Thousands of young people are deprived of an opportunity to get an adequate education … the schools are so segregated … that the best in these minds can never come out…. "However difficult it is to live amidst the constant hurt, the constant insult and the constant disrespect, I can still sing we shall overcome … because the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice."