

5-15-73

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Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 20 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Benton House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
312 South Downey Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE: Indiana CODE: 18 COUNTY: Marion CODE: 097



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Community Use</u>
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Irvington Historic Landmarks Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
312 South Downey Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Marion County Recorder's Office, Plat Book 4, page 18

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 721, City-County Building

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 46204 18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: January 27, 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D. C. 20006 STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

* The house is a stately well-preserved two-story brick residence of French-mansard design with a picturesque tower entrance and mansard roof. Erected on a rugged stone foundation, the house has fine woodwork, oak flooring, and ornate windows. The house has twelve rooms in all with a well drained basement. The second floor includes a private apartment and is occupied by a caretaker.

It has been restored to its original appearance both inside and out with only such alterations as necessary for use by the public such as heating, air-conditioning, rest rooms, cloakroom, and modern kitchen equipment on both floors.

*or of the French baroque stage of the Renaissance in architecture

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1873 -

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Center of cultural interest</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Preservation of community heritage</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Benton House has been the home of only two families since 1890. The house was built in 1873 by Nicholas Ohmer, and F. R. Kautz was the owner when Dr. and Mrs. Benton purchased the home in 1890. Dr. Benton sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Willis K. Miller on August 7, 1907. Mr. Herschel Miller, son of W. K. Miller, sold the property to the Irvington Historic Landmarks Foundation, Inc. in June of 1966. The joint boards of the Irvington Union of Clubs and the Irvington Historical Society, sponsoring organizations, elected the first Board of Directors of the Irvington Historic Landmarks Foundation which is a self-perpetuating board. The Benton House has been restored as a community landmark, and as a museum of the Victorian period. It is used as headquarters for the two sponsoring groups and for meetings by cultural groups in the community.

The home is located in Irvington, which was a suburb of Indianapolis, founded in 1870. The area was known as a seat of culture, especially when Butler University was located in Irvington. Dr. and Mrs. Benton became residents of Irvington in 1887 and soon occupied the house at 312 South Downey Avenue. Dr. Benton was twice president of Butler University, and his home was one of the showplaces of Irvington. Famous people from all over the world were his guests for Dr. Benton was prominently identified with the early educational history of Indiana, Ohio and Nebraska.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Indianapolis News, "Benton House Reflects Old Irvington Charm," by Mary Walden, November 23, 1969, p. 4, Sec. 6.
 Beloved City: Indianapolis, 1970, A publication of the Creative Writing Committee of the Indianapolis Public Schools, p. 23.
 The Indianapolis Star, October 18, 1970, p. 4, Sec. 3. "Citation Awards"
 An American Heritage Guide--Historic Houses of America, 1971, p. 75.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		39°	45'	54N"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		86°	4'	35W"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

UTM
 16/57911C
 4401860
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.66 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Janet C. Hildreth, Director

ORGANIZATION: **Irvington Historic Landmarks Foundation, Inc.** DATE: **May 31, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
5626 East Michigan Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Indianapolis** STATE: **Indiana 46219** CODE: **18**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *A. Donald Dyer*
 Title: **State Liaison Officer**
 Date: **September 19, 1972**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *3/20/73*

ATTEST:
J. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: *3/15/73*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Indiana	
COUNTY Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 20 1973

(Number all entries)

9. Additional References

The Indianapolis News, Monday, November 17, 1969, p. 15, "Parties That Were"

The Indianapolis News, March 3, 1969, p. 15, "Irvingtonians View Fashions, Chandeliers," by Kathleen Van Nuys

The Indianapolis News, "Benton House Will Be Site of Union of Clubs Parties," by Marilyn Shapiro

The Indianapolis Star, March 18, 1970, p. 10, "Station Spruced Up For Ball"

The Indianapolis News, April, 1970, "Station Ball Is Centennial Kick-Off" by Wayne Guthrie

East Side Herald, April 16, 1970, "Last Call - Station Ball"

The Indianapolis Star, April 5, 1970, "Elegance To be Recaptured," by Mary Walden

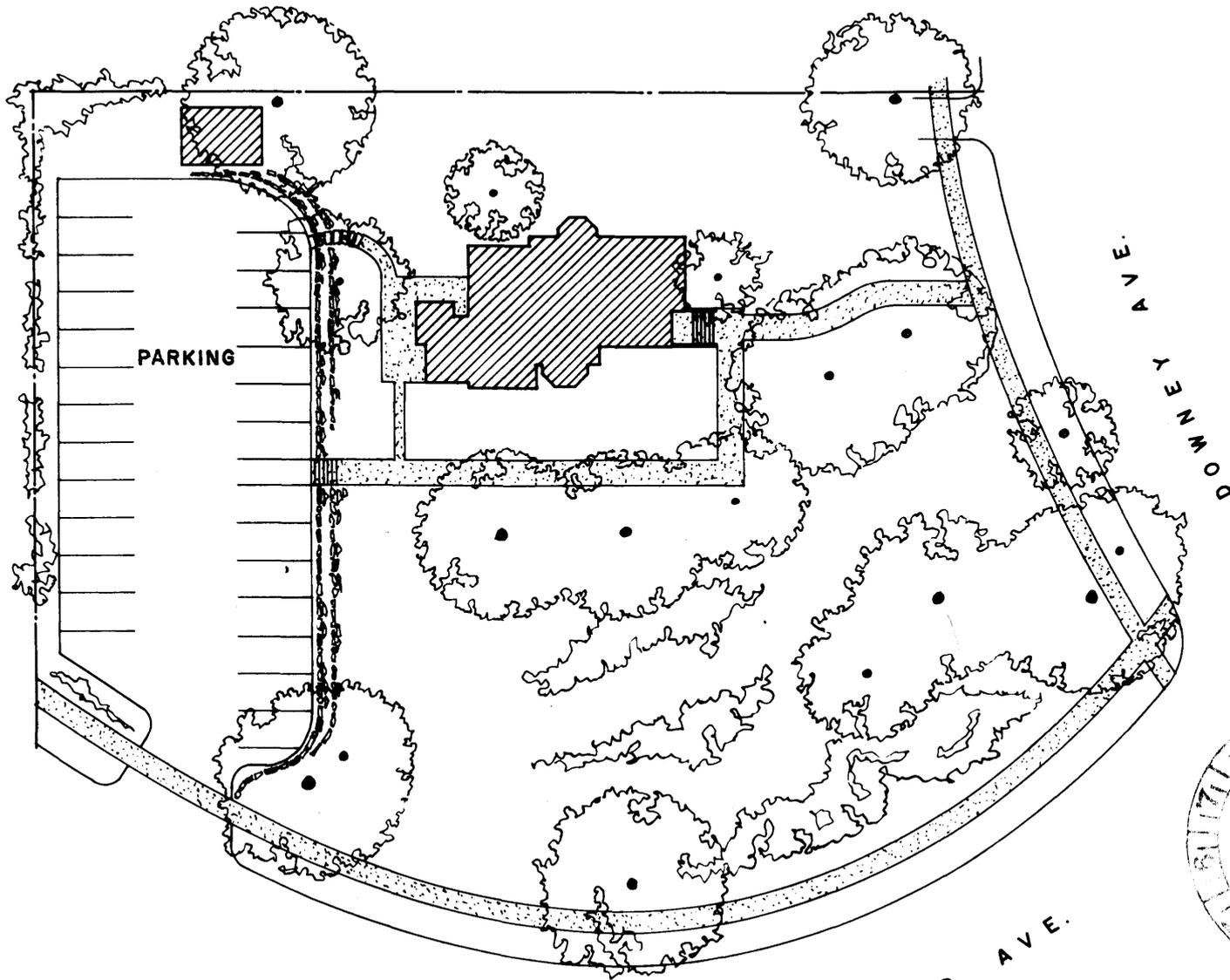
The Indianapolis Star, Feb. 4, 1971, "Restoration Awards" (with Star Photo)

The Indianapolis News, Jan. 2, 1914, Obituary of Dr. Allen R. Benton

Indiana History Bulletin

"The Irvington Benton House Project" by Howard C. Caldwell, March, 1966.





PLOT PLAN

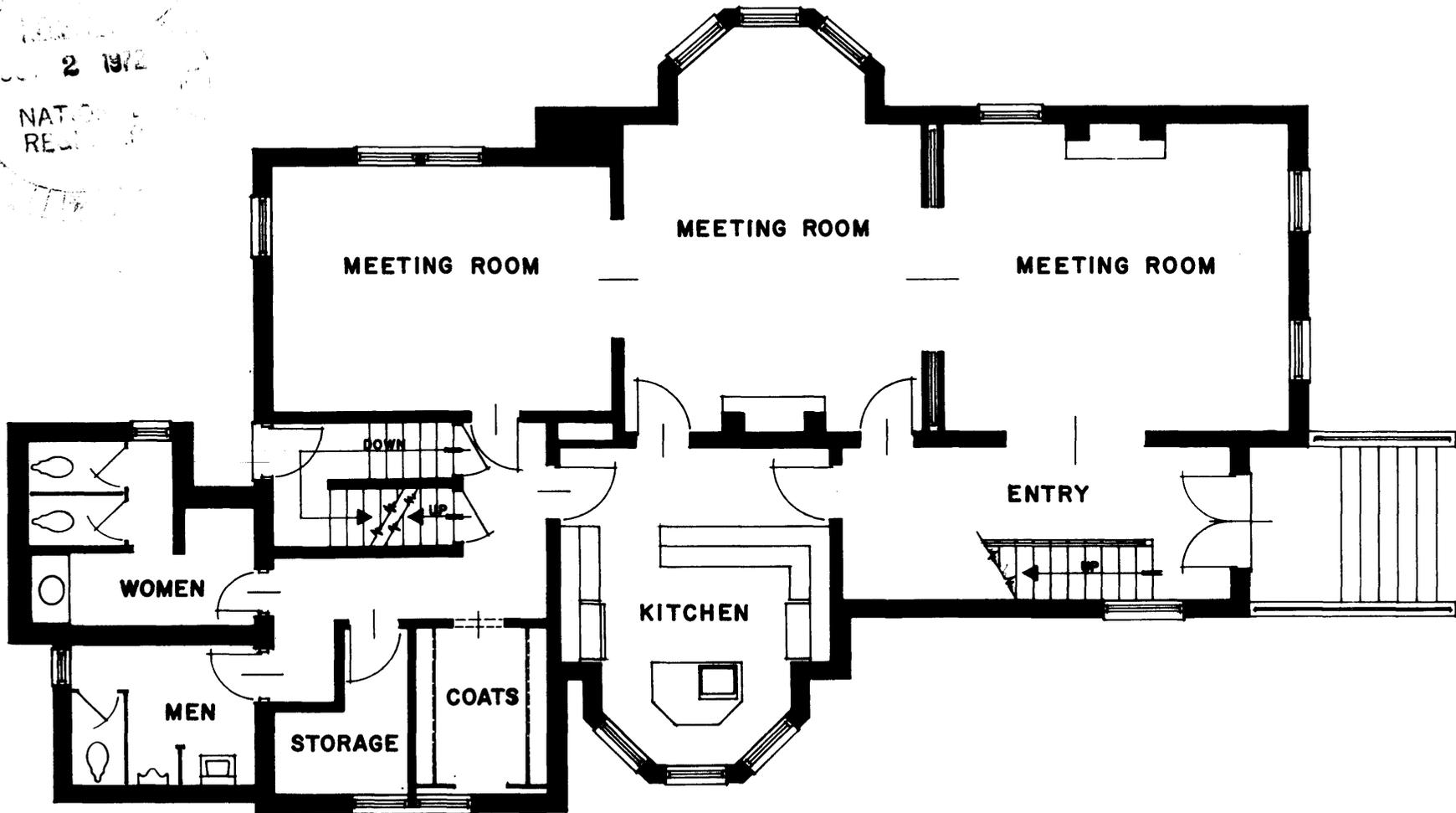
20 10 0 20 40 60 FEET GRAPHIC SCALE

OHMER AVE.

DAWNEY AVE.

BENTON HOUSE

DONALD D. DICK - Architect



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

5 0 5 10 15 FEET - GRAPHIC SCALE

BENTON HOUSE

DONALD D. DICK - Architect