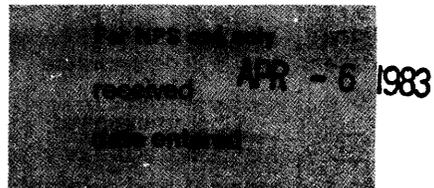


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Byram-Middleton House

and/or common Byram-Middleton House

**2. Location**

street & number 1828 North Illinois Street N/A not for publication

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Marion code 097

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. H.N. Middleton

street & number 3828 Rookwood Avenue

city, town Indianapolis N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46208

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana

street & number City/County Building; 200 E. Washington Street

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana 46204

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Survey Report For  
title Indianapolis/Marion County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 21, 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The house stands as one of the few remaining and best preserved Italianate houses built in Indianapolis, Indiana.

SITE & ENVIRONMENT

The house is located at 1828 N. Illinois Street which is a 4 lane, one-way thoroughfare. The area is a commercial and light industrial strip and the house stands as one of a very few examples of what this neighborhood was like when it was the fashionable north side of growing Indianapolis. It is particularly unique since it is along this Illinois street corridor.

The house sets on the original platted lot and has not been subdivided. This permits the passerby to view the building such as it was originally conceived with its deep setback from the street and limestone wall and iron fence. Although the area is primarily commercial, this building and its setting provide a reminder of previous times and a visual break from the commercial corridor.

EXTERIOR

The house is a very good example of a brick Italianate house with its irregular massing of the rooms and asymmetrical elevation. The roof is low pitched with double brackets and modillions in the cornice. The front elevation (East) contains a semi-circular arch with the recessed front door. The same arch and keystone motif is repeated on the windows of this elevation. The side elevations (North and South) have paired windows with a segmented arch. This "stilted segmented arch" is noted by Marcus Whiffen (American Architecture since 1780) as "one of the characteristic features of the style." The rear section of the house has functional brick arches on the openings. The original rear porch still remains but in bad repair. The house probably had a small porch located in the angle to the south of the front door. Although this is conjecture, this was a typical design element in this style of house. There is, however, the remains (slab and foundation walls) of the porch shown in an early photograph. This porch was probably added in the 1890's and removed by 1930. This same photograph shows 3 of the 4 large chimneys which have been removed. The iron cresting also shown on the flat roof has been removed, but this element had probably been added at the same time as the porch.

One major modification to the original house was the early addition of a room on the 1st and 2nd floor. This was located in the southwest corner of the house. This addition was quite early since the brick arches, cornice details and interior trim details of the original house have been repeated. There is also a hearth in this room that is relatively early. The addition may have been made to include the bathroom on the second floor when plumbing was introduced shortly after the house was built.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 1870 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Byram-Middleton house is significant for its architecture and for its association with two prominent Indianapolis residents. The house was constructed for Norman S. Byram, a well-known 19th Century Indianapolis businessman. It was later owned by Dr. Harvey Middleton, a noted black heart specialist.

This house is the only "brick mansion" remaining on Illinois Street south of Fall Creek Boulevard. It was also noted in Wilbur Peat's book, Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, as being the best preserved of many typical Italianate residences in Indianapolis. The house was also recorded in Indianapolis Architecture for its strong character in mixed use commercial corridor.

The land upon which the Byram-Middleton house stands was the farmland of Samuel Henderson from 1821 until 1849. Henderson was one of the city's early settlers and served as its first postmaster, the first President of the Board of Town Trustees and later the first mayor of Indianapolis. Henderson platted the land in 1849 and in 1868 the land passed into the hands of Norman S. Byram. Byram (1842-1902) came to Indianapolis at the age of twelve and worked for a local merchant. Byram, who first worked as a bookkeeper, became a partner in the firm of Tousey-Byram Company, a wholesale dry goods company. Eventually, the firm was known as Byram, Cornelius & Company and erected an office in the wholesale district of South Meridian Street in Indianapolis at the same time as Byram was building his Illinois Street residence. In addition to Byram's responsibilities in Byram, Cornelius & Co., he also served as President of the Capital National Bank, President of the Indianapolis Chair Company, President of the Byram Foundry Co., and as a member of the city council.



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INTERIOR:

The overall plan of the house is asymmetrical but the individual rooms are symmetrical, with a fireplace being the center of attention in the primary rooms on either side of the main entry hall. The entry hall has a unique grand circular stairway, and entrances to three of the major rooms from this grand entry space. The stairway is of unusual quality both in design and execution and is in good condition. The rear section, which originally held the kitchen and utility spaces, has been divided into several small rooms for use by the last owner. The second floor has also had some temporary partitions which have not disturbed the original fabric of the building.

The four downstairs rooms in particular have retained all their original details. These rooms have ceiling medallions and heavy crown moldings. The baseboard, door and window trim and the doors themselves are heavily molded and are generally in good shape. Five of the eight original fireplace mantels are still in place. These are the cast iron type that were often painted to simulate marble. They have all been painted several times. One of the fireplaces has been "modernized" and two mantels removed.

The basement is under all the house except the early addition noted above. It has both an interior and exterior entrance. The exterior walls are limestone and the interior walls are brick bearing walls. It is the same plan as the 1st and 2nd floor since all the primary walls are masonry to the attic floor line. The attic is accessible by an interior stair and is not improved. It does, however, have small windows which are visible in the frieze on the exterior, and which align with the windows on the 1st and 2nd floors. The rear section has an attic which is only accessible as a crawl space.

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Upon Byram's death the residence passed to his heirs and remained in the family's possession until 1935. The building was to serve many commercial uses including housing a nursing home, insurance office, and doctor's offices. In 1951, the property was purchased by Dr. Harvey N. Middleton, a noted heart specialist, who was the first black doctor on the staff of the Old City Hospital (now Wishard Memorial Hospital) and St. Vincent's Hospital. Dr. Middleton established his private practice at 1828 N. Illinois Street performing electrocardiograms and studying heart irregularities before he was allowed to practice at the local hospitals. Dr. Middleton was recognized for his work in the medical field by election as a Fellow in the American College of Cardiology, 1965; Who's Important in Medicine, 1952; and Who's Who in American Men of Medicine, 1961. Since Dr. Middleton's death in 1977 the house has remained the property of his widow.

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