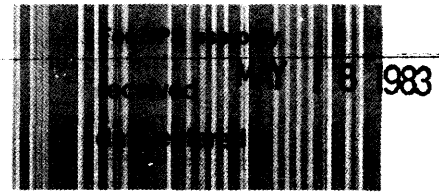


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Swayzee, Aaron, House

and/or common Swayzee-Love House

2. Location

street & number 224 N. Washington Street N/A not for publication

city, town Marion N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Indiana code 018 county Grant code 053

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Love

street & number 223 N. Adams Street

city, town Marion N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46952

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Building, Recorder's Office

street & number 401 S. Adams Street

city, town Marion, state Indiana 46952

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1968-1969  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records United States Dept. of the Interior

city, town Washington state D.C.

## 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

One of the oldest houses in the area of Marion and Grant County, Indiana, is the Swayzee-Love House, an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. Although built by Aaron Swayzee, it was Horace Miller who enhanced its beauty. Extensive research has failed to establish the architect's name.

The house, of locally made brick and now painted white, sits close to its east boundary. The front yard, nearly a block long, gently slopes to busy North Washington Street on the west. The north street boundary bears the name of the builder, Swayzee. The property consists of three lots totaling over an acre.

The plan of the house is L-shaped, with the front segment being the older part (1855, photo 1). This section is five bays across, with a two-story, pedimented portico sheltering the center entrance bay. Windows on this section are six-over-six double-hung, with stone sills and lintels. A simple entablature and boxed cornice underscore the gabled roofline, wrapping around the corners at the ends. A flat area on the ridge of the gable formerly supported a widow's walk.

Two 22' Corinthian columns majestically support a truss and small balcony over the front entrances. Panels of stained glass flank the main entrance, and another panel is over the top. Two doors, which have leaded, cut glass panels, open onto the second story balcony. A large, one-story porch once extended the width of the front of the house, but this was removed, along with the widow's walk, in the 1950's. The original slate roof has been replaced with shingles.

Encompassing the rectangular back portion of the house (originally of wood—burned in 1905) is a large concrete porch with twelve 9' Corinthian columns supporting the roof. The porch projects over the circular driveway on the south side, providing a porte cochere (photos #3, #5).

The 14 rooms, including the front foyers, are of comfortable proportions. The foyers contain the three story, free-standing, circular staircase. A stained glass skylight provides illumination. A large 1200 crystal chandelier appoints the staircase (purchased in Chicago by the Loves in 1966). Off to the south is the parlor with a fireplace and molded plaster ceiling. On the north, the library has leatherlike wallpaper and two Venetian glass round windows set in pewter. The fireplace was covered by ornate bookcases, installed by Mr. Miller. The original plain bookcases continue around the room. Back through the foyer and through the round arched, Mediterranean-style door with panes of old glass, is the living room. This has unique, hand-painted designs on the upper walls, and a molded plaster ceiling. Next to this is the dining room with unique wood-like plaster paneling on the walls. Oak beams are on the ceiling. A large, oak sideboard with mirror, shelves, gingerbread and a pass-through into the Butler's Pantry fill the east wall. A bent glass and brass lamp hangs on the looped brass chain in the center of the room. Stained glass panels are above the windows. The kitchen is small and opens to the back stairway, basement, and east outside entrance. The basement has three rooms under the back section, only.

On the second floor, and in the front, a bedroom, north side, still has its 12' ceiling. The bedroom on the south had its ceiling lowered in 1965. A 4' wide hallway extends 40' to the back stairway and three additional bedrooms and the bath open onto it. Two finished rooms are on the third floor with closets and alcoves for storage. These rooms housed servants in the early 1900's.

## 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** 1855 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (~~in one paragraph~~)

The Swayzee-Love House is perhaps the best example of Greek Revival style in Marion. The leaded and stained glass added later have only increased the house's architectural significance, making it one of the city's most noted showplaces. In addition, the house has served as the residence for several of Marion's more prominent early citizens.

The Swayzee House was built near the center of a 47 acre farm. This farm was located north of the Mississinewa River on a main road which was to become Washington Street. It was procured in 1854, 22 years after the founding of Marion. The refinements of the house evolved through the years with each of the five owners contributing to its development.

The house is included in Wilbur Peat's Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, 1962, pg. 42, plate 34, which describes the structure as "one that shows exceptional taste in proportion and detail, as well as having a strong Grecian flavor". It is the only Marion residence included in the book.

The home was built by Aaron Swayzee (1817-1878), a true pioneer who moved to Marion in 1837 from Ohio. He owned a shoe store in which his handmade shoes were sold. Devout and active in the Methodist Church, he was also active in politics and elected as Joint Representative in the General Assembly, representing Grant and Blackford Counties in the State Legislature. His wife, Minerva, remained at the house after her husband's death in 1878 until her death in 1890. Their daughter, Marietta, was married to George W. Steele, and moved into the house with their children in 1893, after their home on Spencer Avenue burned.

Major Steele is perhaps the most notable personality to have lived in this property. He was a Civil War Veteran and served several terms in Congress, representing Marion from the Eleventh District. Mr. Steele was instrumental in getting Congress to pass an appropriation to build the local Soldiers and Sailors Home for Civil War Veterans on July 23, 1888. Mr. Steele served as its first administrator and moved to the grounds in 1906. During his active political career, George Steele was appointed by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890, to serve as Oklahoma's first territorial governor, and he served 19 months, organizing and establishing county lines in preparation for its statehood. Thereafter, he carried the title of Governor.

In 1902, Horace M. Miller purchased the house and was responsible for making it a showplace. Mr. Miller was a businessman and developed one of the first large department stores in the area, called the Boston Store. In his extensive travels, he purchased the stained, leaded and Venetian glass windows and doors. He also built the back portion of the house, making it of brick after this section, originally made of wood, burned in 1905.

In 1920, Henry L. Erlewine (1878-1958) purchased the property. He was an industrialist, managing one of the most important manufacturing plants in Marion known as the Marion Machine Foundry Supply. Erlewine's wife resided in the home until 1963. It was during his ownership that the large front porch and widow's walk were removed.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Peat, Wilbur D., Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, (Indianapolis, 1962) p.42, plate 34.  
 Marion Chronicle Tribune, Newspaper Library, Files on Historic Buildings.  
 Marion Public Library, Files on: Swayzee (Erlewine) Love House. Marion Historical Buildings.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Just over one acre

Quadrangle name Marion

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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4	4	9	1	0	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Starting at the intersection of North Washington Street and East Swayzee going Eastward 290½' to North Adams St.; South 225.5'; West 137'; North 106.5'; West 153.5' to Washington Street and North 121'4½" to beginning intersection.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edwin and Barbara Love, Owners

organization date January, 1983

street & number 223 N. Adams Street telephone 317/662-8384

city or town Marion state Indiana 46952

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *James M. Redman*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 21, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6/16/83

*Alfred Byers*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Aaron Swayzee House

Item number 7

Page 1

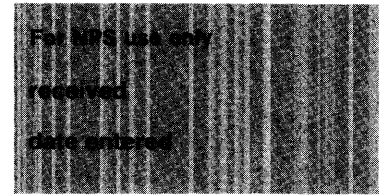
Parquet flooring, with each room a different design, demonstrates the quality of craftsmanship found in the house.

A cistern is in the north yard with an electrical pump in the basement to draw the water. Three large porcelain sinks must have made a laundry facility to be envied.

The Loves replaced the front columns in 1965. These were procured from Pennsylvania. Restoration, love, and devotion continues.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



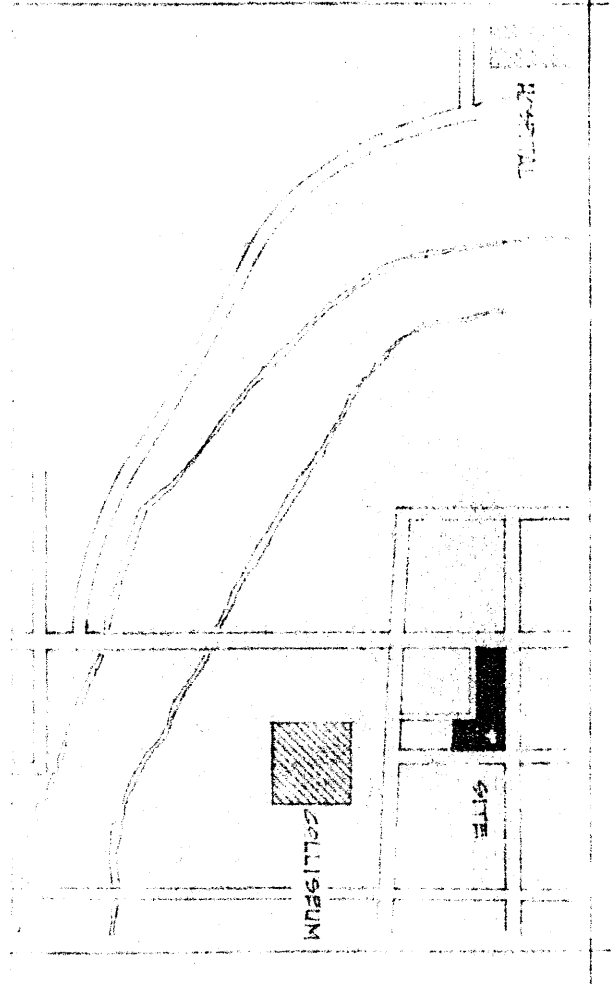
Continuation sheet Aaron Swayzee House

Item number 8

Page 2

In 1968-1969, three architectural students attending Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, researched the property and made detailed sets of blueprints, two of which were given to the Love family. A Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory Report is believed to have been recorded in Washington, D.C., by the School of Architecture at Ball State University.

Restoration and preservation have been the objectives of the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Love, who acquired the home in 1965. Mr. Love was a funeral director and owner/operator of Diggs Funeral Home, which had been a family endeavor for many years. (The funeral home had been established in 1885 with its predecessors dating back to 1841). The first priority of Mr. Love was to replace the larger columns on the front, which had been damaged by the March, 1956, tornado. Refurbishing the property remains a constant challenge and full-time job for the now retired owner.



WASHINGTON STREET

LOVE LANE

SWAYZER STREET

ALLEY

GARAGE

ADAMS STREET

