

Bachman House  
Lonesome Hollow  
Madison Vicinity  
Jefferson County  
Indiana

HABS No. IND-121

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IND-121

BACHMAN HOUSE

Location: Lonesome Hollow, four-tenths of a mile south of Telegraph Road, approximately 2.3 miles from the center of Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana.

USGS Madison West Quadrangle; Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16.642650.42891020.

Present Owner: Tom Barber.

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Present Use: Residence, under renovation.

Statement of  
Significance:

The Bachman House is believed to have been built ca. 1825 for Alois Bachman, a German immigrant and tavern keeper. The house is built into an embankment, similar to many early Pennsylvania stone houses, with the first floor level with the top of the embankment and the lower floor facing out from the hillside. The house, constructed of two square stone pavilions and connected by a wide overhanging roof and central breezeway, is similar to the dogtrot plan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Unknown. It is believed that the house was built for Alois Bachman, who acquired the property in 1825. The property was valued at \$190 in 1825; when Bachman sold it in 1850, the value had increased to \$3125. This marked increase indicates that the property was improved, probably by the construction of a house.

The tax records for the years 1828, and 1831-34, which might indicate a property improvement, such as the building of a house, do not reveal any substantial information in this case. Bachman was assessed for "73-3/4 acres of second rate land." In 1828 the property was valued at \$1.80, in 1832 at \$2.07, in 1833 at \$4.16, and in 1834 Bachman was taxed \$2.04 for the property. Because there is no consistent increase in the property's value, the house may have been erected after 1834.

2. Architect: No information available.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The legal description of the property upon which the structure stands: Part of the south-eastern quarter of Section 36, Township 4 north, Range 10 east. The following references to the chain of title are in the Office of the Recorder, Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison.
  - 1825 Sheriff's Deed, June 25, 1825, recorded June 29, 1825 in Book D, page 207. Jefferson County Sheriff, James H. Wallace, sold the 75-acre plot to Alois Bachman for consideration of \$190.
  - 1850 Deed, December 2, 1850, recorded July 8, 1851 in Book 7, page 275. Alois and Emily Bachman sold the property (75 acres) including a right-of-way to the Versailles Road (now Telegraph Hill Road) to Samuel G. and Virginia R. Hass, Ann M. Shotwell, and Julia A. Pierce for \$3125.
  - 1853 Deed, January 29, 1853, recorded February 28, 1853 in Book 8, page 713. Eden and Ann Shotwell, Samuel G. and Sarah H. Hass, et al sold the property to Josephine Mansfield for \$1800.
  - 1865 Deed, April 14, 1865, recorded in Book 25, page 438. John L. and Josephine A. Mansfield sold the property and right-of-way to Benjamin and Jacob Reynard for \$3500.
  - 1865 Deed, April 26, 1865, recorded in Book 25, page 453. Benjamin and Jacob Reynard sold the property to William Culp for \$4000.
  - 1865 Deed, November 6, 1865, recorded on November 10, 1865 in Book 27, page 169. William and Mary S. H. Culp sold the property to John Dietz for \$3800.
  - 1866 Deed, October 19, 1866, recorded in Book 27, page 587. John and Mary Dietz sold the property to Oscar Hunger for \$4300.
  - 1868 Deed, April 8, 1868, recorded April 10, 1868 in Book 28, page 385. Oscar and Frederina Hunger sold the property to Daniel E. Doherty for consideration of \$4800.
  - 1868 Deed, September 8, 1868, recorded December 21, 1868 in Book 30, page 30, Daniel E. and Sarah Doherty sold the property to Lurana R. Taylor for \$4000.

- 1874 Deed, December 11, 1874, recorded December 12, 1874 in Book 39, page 341. Lurana R. and Joseph B. Taylor sold the property to Peter Zapp for \$4000.
- 1899 Deed, January 5, 1899, recorded January 6, 1899 in Book 68, page 94. Peter and Elizabeth Zapp sold the property to his son Philip Zapp for \$3000.
- 1909 Deed, April 6, 1909, recorded in Book 81, page 245. Philip and Amelia Zapp sold the property to Thomas A. Joyce for \$3000.
- 1919 Deed, August 14, 1919, recorded August 16, 1919 in Book 89, page 544. Thomas and Nellie Joyce sold the property to their father, Elijah Joyce.
- 1964 Deed, November 17, 1964, recorded in Book 136, page 571. Thomas H. and Nellie Joyce and Kathryn J. Stiver, as heirs to the estate of Elijah Joyce, sold the property to Robert M. and Marianna Gourley and John and Francis Thacker.
- 1975 Deed, June 13, 1975, recorded June 16, 1975 in Book 159, page 688. Robert M. Gourley and Marianna Gourley and John and Francis Thacker sold the property consisting of 14.14 acres to Merritt O. and Martha Alcorn.
- 1977 Deed, November 3, 1977, recorded November 8, 1977 in Book 161, page 1631. Merritt O. and Martha E. Alcorn sold the property consisting of 3.8 acres to Thomas and Julia Barber. Included in the deed is a preservation clause, ensuring the buildings which are standing on the property will remain.
4. Builders, contractor, suppliers: No information available. The house stands directly upon bedrock and some of the stone for the house may have been quarried from the building site.
5. Original plan and construction: The house is constructed on a dogtrot plan, consisting of two square sections with a breeze-way between and connected by a wooden plank floor and a wide overhanging roof. What distinguished this structure from others of its kind is its peculiar construction: It is constructed with stone and the foundation is built deep into the side of an embankment. The first floor is level with the top of the embankment and the lower floor faces out from the hillside. An outside stone chimney is built against each of the two end walls, serving a fireplace on each level. Originally, the first floor rooms were probably the family's main living quarter, and the lower level was used for the kitchen area and storage.

The dogtrot plan is one of several varieties of the one-room log enclosure with an outside end chimney, which originated in the region of Pennsylvania settled by German immigrants. The one-room plan was enlarged as needed additional space became economically feasible, and altered to accommodate environmental conditions of the different regions as new territories in the Virginias and Carolinas and Kentucky were settled. The dogtrot is distinguished by the breezeway connecting the two one-room sections. This plan type acquired the name "dogtrot" and "possum-trot" by travel guides who thought the purpose of the open passageway was for sheltering animals; actually, it is an exposed central hallway.

6. Alterations and additions: A two-story section covered by a low-pitched roof was added at the north, creating two additional rooms which probably housed a bedroom on the first floor and a storage area on the lower level. This section was constructed in the same manner and with similar materials as the original house, indicating that it was probably constructed soon after the main house. A hewn summer beam extends the depth of the lower-level room, resting on the stone foundation of a chimney which has subsequently been removed. According to local sources, this addition was completed ca. 1865, but this date is questionable. The stucco coating that once covered all exterior wall surfaces, sealing the stone mortar has been removed. The original mortar is being replaced by cement. The house is presently being restored and renovated, and will eventually be a usable domestic space.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Alois Bachman was born in the "Canton of Nufchatel" in the principality of Fusstenburgh, Germany. During his early life he apparently left Germany for Switzerland, which is the country from which he emigrated to the United States. Upon his arrival in Madison in 1816-17, Bachman opened a bakery and saloon with John Buhler. [The saloon was possibly The Lighthouse Tavern which was located on Vaughn Drive, east of Mulberry Street.] In 1830 Bachman sold his interest in the bakery and saloon to Caleb Schmidlapp, the man who owned the business for the next twenty years. By 1840, Bachman had acquired many commercial and real estate properties in Madison. Since no information is known to exist which indicates that Bachman actually lived in the stone dwelling on the 75-acre property, he may have had the house built for speculative purposes, and was the landlord of the property. The Census of 1850 listed his personal estate as \$30,000, establishing him as one of Madison's wealthiest men. He died on November 10, 1861 at the age of seventy-one.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Jefferson County Deed Records, Office of the Recorder,  
Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison.

Jefferson County Tax Lists and Assessments, Office of the  
Auditor, Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison.

Record of the Court of Common Pleas, Jefferson County, Indiana.  
Order Book B, page 411, August 27, 1824. Office of the Clerk,  
Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Swaim, Doug, editor. Carolina Dwelling. North Carolina State  
University Press, 1978.

United States Census of Jefferson County, Indiana, 1840, 1850.

Prepared by John L. Hopkins  
Team Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Bachman house is believed to have been built ca.1825, an early stone dwelling in the area. It is built into an embankment, with the first floor level with the top of the embankment and the lower floor facing out from the hillside. The house, constructed of two square stone pavilions and connected by a wide overhanging roof and central breezeway, is similar to the dogtrot plan.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor; presently undergoing renovation.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The rectangular structure is two stories and measures approximately fifty-one feet (southwest front) by twenty feet.
2. Foundation: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Random-range, quarry-faced ashlar stone. The corners are constructed with larger stones

which have a margin draft.

4. Structural system, framing: Load bearing stone walls with wooden mortise-and-tenon framing. Some of the large timber beams are hand hewn.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: A narrow balcony extends across the northeast rear facade at the first floor. The balcony's wooden board flooring is laid upon first-floor joists which are integral members of the stone structure, extending beyond the main wall. A wooden handrail which once encompassed the balcony has been removed. The central breezeway connecting the two sections has wooden board flooring and exposed frame ceiling construction. An open-string wooden stairway to the attic is built against the southeast wall of the passageway with a hand-rail formed by vertical boards which extend from the tread to the ceiling. There is a small enclosure under the stairway.
6. Chimneys: A broad, exterior stone chimney on the southeast end extends from the lower floor, rising above the roof. The stack of the end chimney at the northwest has been removed.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Doorways with wooden surrounds and vertical boarded doors are on each of the inside walls of the breezeway. In the center bay of each of the two section's southwest (front) elevations is a doorway with wooden surrounds, a stone sill and a wooden threshold. The door to the right of the breezeway has been removed; the paneled frame door to the left has a glass panel on the upper half. In the center bay of each of the northeast (rear) walls is a doorway with a vertical boarded door opening out to the balcony. The openings are framed by wooden surrounds, a wooden threshold and a large stone lintel. A doorway opening with a wooden threshold and surrounds is on the northwest wall, near the front. At the lower level in the center bay of the northeast facade is a doorway with wooden surrounds, stone sill, wooden threshold and a vertical boarded door.
  - b. Windows: Nine-over-six light double-hung sash windows on the first floor and six-over-six light double-hung sash on the lower level. There are wooden six-light casements in the attic. All window openings have wooden surrounds, wooden sills and a stone lintel.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with standing seam metal covering.

- b. Cornice, eaves: The four-foot overhang is boxed with beaded board soffits. There is a wooden fascia on the front and rear facades, and a rake board at the gable ends.
- C. Description of Interior:
- 1. Floor plans:
    - a. Lower level: Two end rooms with a storage room and large wooden enclosure in the center.
    - b. First floor: One room sections on each side of the breezeway.
    - c. Attic: Attic extends the full length of the house.
  - 2. Flooring: Wooden board flooring on the first floor and attic, and earthen floor on the lower level.
  - 3. Walls and ceiling finish: The plaster ceilings have been removed from all rooms, exposing the structural framing. Walls on the lower level are stone and partially plastered. On the first floor, the plaster has been partially removed from the walls.
  - 4. Doorways and doors: Vertical board doors with wooden surrounds, wooden threshold and molded wooden trim.
- D. Site: The house faces southwest and is built into the side of an embankment. The ground line slopes sharply to the northeast down to the creek. Set in an undeveloped rural area, the house is surrounded by large trees. The gravel drive connects the house with Telegraph Hill Road.

Prepared by John P. White  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1978

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with Historic Madison, Inc. and the Indiana Historical Society. The recording project was completed during the summer of 1978 under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect; and John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor, Texas Tech University; with student assistant architects Richard Berliner (Rhode Island School of Design), Jon Lourie (University of Maryland), Eric Swanson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and Peter Whitehead (State University of New York at Buffalo); and project historian

John L. Hopkins (Skidmore College), at the HABS Field Office in Madison, Indiana. The drawings were edited in the HABS Washington office in February 1979 by architect Rudy Massengill. The written data was edited and expanded in February 1979 by Jan E. Cigliano, a staff historian in the HABS office.

ADDENDUM TO:  
BACHMAN HOUSE  
Lonesome Hollow  
Madison vicinity  
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*HABS IND,39-MAD.V,1-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001