

710-714 East Main Street (Row Houses)
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-133

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

710-714 EAST MAIN STREET (ROW HOUSES) HABS No. IN-133

Location: 710-714 East Main Street, Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Farnsley

Present Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bibb, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, and vacant.

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: These three row houses were built of rubble masonry prior to 1839, and were stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar. The row houses may have been built by John Marx and Frederick Jahries, who owned a partial interest in the property. Marx was a stone mason; Jahries, a marble cutter.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: 1837-39. The tax list of the City of Madison for 1839 shows that Philip Pfaff, George Wehrle and John Marx were taxed for "43 feet on Main (Cross) when extended" for which they were assessed \$645 for the lot and \$2,000 for improvements. These improvements, as well as the names of Pfaff, Wehrle and Marx, do not appear in the corporation list of 1837.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The legal description of the property is Lot 3 of block 11 in John McIntyres Addition east to the City of Madison, parcels 21, 22 and 23. No deeds may be located prior to 1841 that deed the property from John McIntyre, the original proprietor, to either Jahries, Wehrle, Pfaff or Marx, who owned it later, as is shown in the tax list of 1839. According to the tax duplicate of 1841, five partners divided the western two-thirds of the property, while Frederick Jahries controlled sole interest in the eastern one-third. The following chain of title is incomplete.

1837 Warranty Deed, dated January 5, 1837, recorded in Deed Book M, page 350, on January 7, 1837.

Edward Shannon to John McIntyre, 30 feet front on East Main Cross Street (being the present 710 and half of 712), for \$300.

1841 Conveyance, dated May 7, 1841, recorded in Deed Book S, pp. 502-503, on May 12, 1841.

John McIntyre to Frederick Jahries and John Marx, 65 feet front on East Main Cross Street (the whole lot, comprising the present 710, 712, 714), for \$948.

1841 Conveyance, dated May 10, 1841, recorded in Deed Book S, p. 504, on May 12, 1841.

John Marx and Frederick Jahries to John Wehrle, George Wehrle, and Phillip Pfaff, the present 710 and 712, for \$650.

1842 Warranty Deed, dated May 6, 1842, recorded in Deed Book T, pp. 570-571, on May 27, 1842.

John Marx and Frederick Jahries to Caleb Schmidlapp, the present 710, 712, 714, for \$1,000.

1848 Warranty Deed, dated February 24, 1848, recorded in Deed Book 3, pp. 290-292, on May 19, 1848.

Caleb and Susannah Schmidlapp to Frederick Jahries, the present 710, 712, and 714, for \$1,100.

1858 Executor's Deed, dated November 12, 1858, recorded in Deed Book 16, pp. 102-104, on December 23, 1858.

George Klein, Executor of the estate of Phillip Pfaff, to George Wehrle, the present 710 and 712, for \$235.

710 East Main Street

1873 Quit-Claim Deed, dated November 5, 1873, recorded in Deed Book 35, p. 259.

George Wehrle to Catherine Wehrle, heir at law and widow of John Wehrle, for \$1 and other considerations.

1901 Warranty Deed, dated September 27, 1901, recorded in Deed Book 71, p. 343, on October 7, 1901.

Catherine Wehrle to Nicholas Horuff for \$700.

712 East Main Street

1888 Warranty Deed, dated September 13, 1888, recorded in Deed Book 54, p. 300, on September 13, 1888.

George and Agnes Wehrle to Mary Louisa Wehrle, for \$700.

1895 Warranty Deed, dated October 11, 1895, recorded in Deed Book 64, p. 409, on October 19, 1895.

George and Madeline Wehrle, et al., as heirs of the estate of Mary Louisa Wehrle, to Nicholas Horuff, for \$800.

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1888 Warranty Deed, dated October 5, 1888, recorded in Deed Book 54, p. 339, on October 9, 1888.

Dorothea Jahries, widow and heir of Frederick Jahries, to Frederick A. Jahries, her son, for \$900.

1899 Warranty Deed, dated October 19, 1899, recorded in Deed Book 69, p. 163, on October 19, 1899.

Frederick A. Jahries to Anna M. Jahries, for \$1 and other considerations.

1910 Warranty Deed, dated February 9, 1910, recorded in Deed Book 82, p. 136, on February 9, 1910.

Anna M. Jahries to Nicholas Horuff, for \$1,000.

710, 712, and 714 East Main Street

1936 Quit-Calim Deed, dated February 6, 1936, recorded in Deed Book 101, p. 435, on February 17, 1936.

Nicholas Horuff and Sons, as Executors of estate of Nicholas Horuff, to Charles N. Horuff, for \$1 and other considerations.

1971 Warranty Deed, dated November 23, 1971, recorded in Deed Book 155, p. 918, on December 3, 1971.

Vincent Capasso, et al., as heirs of Charles N. Horuff, to Charles and Nancy Farnsley for \$1 and other considerations.

4. Builders, contractors, suppliers: The original owners of the building were probably involved in its construction. John Marx was a mason, Frederick Jahries was a mason who later became a marble cutter, and George Wehrle was a drayman or teamster. Phillip Pfaff's profession is not known. All four men first appeared in the tax list of 1839, shortly after construction of the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad incline up the valley

walls of the Ohio River. As that was an excavation project, these men's skills would have been needed in that work, and they may have been employed there.

5. Original plans and construction: The three dwelling units were constructed as entirely separate residences behind a continuous facade. The plan of the individual units is mostly uniform, consisting of a basement of two rooms (one of which was the kitchen, as seen in 714); the first floor of two rooms, with a side stairhall on the western side of each unit; and the second floor repeating the first. The walls that divide each floor contain the fireplaces.
6. Alterations and additions: Each unit has had a kitchen added to the rear, probably ca. 1870. These additions now also contain bathroom facilities which were probably added ca. 1905 after the acquisition of each property by Nicholas Horuff in 1895 to 1910. Many of the doors and woodwork are a product of a ca. 1870 remodeling of each unit, featuring wood graining and arched panels. Coal grates were added to the fireplaces about this time, and most are still in place today.

B. Historical Context:

Frederick Jahries was a stone mason who was born at Dresden in Saxony on May 2, 1811. Jahries arrived in Madison in 1838, possibly to work on the railroad excavations west of the city. It is believed that Jahries was involved in the building of this home ca. 1838-39, with John Marx, George Wehrle, John Wehrle, and Phillip Pfaff, possibly associated under the name of Marx and Co. as described in the tax list of 1840. Jahries lived in Madison for the rest of his life at 714 East Main Street, working as a stone mason and marble cutter for James Falconer's Cemetery Monument Company. He also was a member of the Washington Fire Engine Company #2, the German Union Support Society and the Odd Fellows. Jahries died December 27, 1883.

John Marx was also a stonecutter by trade, who was born in Germany in 1807, before immigrating to this country around 1837. Very little else is known about Marx except that it is believed that he was involved in the construction of this house in 1838-39, as mentioned above. Marx was a member of the Washington Fire Engine Co. #2, and served as the sexton of Springdale Cemetery in Madison from 1844 to 1849 and from 1850 to 1852. Marx died on July 25, 1855.

John Wehrle was born in 1813 in Baden, Germany, and had immigrated to this country and to Madison by 1839. Little is known about him, except that he was a member of the German Union Support Society, a financial institution, and the Washington Fire Company #2. He died July 10, 1857.

George Wehrle, brother of John, was a drayman who was born in Baden, Germany, in 1810, and had immigrated to Madison by 1839. George Wehrle remained in Madison for the rest of his life. The 1867 Directory of Madison shows that he was working as a driver for Belser's Madison Brewery.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Tax Lists and Assessments of the City of Madison, 1837-1850. These records are presently kept in the basement of City Hall, Madison, Indiana.

2. Secondary sources:

Madison city directories, published by various companies.

Madison Daily Courier, July 25, 1855; July 10, 1857; and December 27, 1883.

United States Census for 1870, Jefferson County, Indiana.

Prepared by: John Linn Hopkins
Project Historian
Summer, 1978

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Row houses constructed of rubble stone, which has been stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two-and-a-half-story structure measures approximately 62' (nine-bay front) x 42', with rear additions of varying sizes.
2. Foundation: Rubble stone, painted white, forming a watertable on the exterior.

3. Walls: Rubble stone, stuccoed and scored on the front to resemble ashlar. There is a projecting stone string course along the front at the second-floor line. On the northwest corner there is scoring to simulate quoins. Other facades are stuccoed also, and all walls are painted a beige color. Additions on the rear are common-bond brick.
4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing stone walls with wood framing. There is a load-bearing stone wall between each unit. Large stone piers in the cellars support the chimneys.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: There is a concrete stoop with concrete steps at each rear door. At the rear of the center unit is a stone bulkhead, covered with wood and having wooden steps. There is an iron grate at the front of each unit, flush with the concrete sidewalk, that is the coal access to each cellar.
6. Chimneys: There are three large brick chimneys at the ridge, projecting from the center of each unit. Each of the additions also has a chimney.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance to each unit has deeply recessed wooden surrounds, stone sill and wooden threshold.

710: The door has two horizontal double-raised wooden panels in the lower portion with a glass panel above. The glass panel has a drip molding at the bottom. Above the glass panel are three double-raised square panels. There is a letter slot in the rail between the lower panels and an escutcheon for a bell on the lock rail. Above the door is a two-light transom window.

712: The door has two double-raised wooden panels with three square panels above on the lower portion of the door. The three square panels have carvings on them. The rail between these panels has carvings and a letter slot in the center. There is an escutcheon for a bell on the lock rail. The nine-light glass panel above is banded by deeply grooved pilaster molding, capped by a cornice molding and a drip molding below. There is a side-hinged, one-light transom window above, the ends of the glass being rounded.

714: The door has a large double-raised wooden panel, with applied wreath design, and two panels above this. There is a letter slot in the rail separating the panels, and a hand-bell in the lock rail. The nine-light glass panel above has a cornice trim at the top and a drip molding at the bottom. There is a small applied leaf design at each side under the cornice molding. Above is a one-light transom window. There is an aluminum storm door on the exterior.

Doorways on the rear have wooden surrounds, wood sills and thresholds, and wooden panel doors. Some doors have wooden-framed screen doors and others have aluminum screen doors. A doorway on the west end has deeply recessed wooden surrounds, wooden sill and threshold. The wooden panel door has two glass panels in the upper portion and a two-light transom window above.

- b. Windows and shutters: Wooden windows in the original building have two-over-two-light single-hung sash. There are wooden louver shutters on the front. Wooden windows in the additions have six-over-six-light single-hung sash. There is a similar window in the attic on the west end. All windows have wooden surrounds, the front windows having stone sills.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof over the original structure has asphalt shingle covering. The additions have shed roofs covered with standing seam metal.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There is a projecting stone cornice with cyma recta molding, painted white, extending across the front facade. It has a built-in gutter. Along the rear facade is a simple projecting stone cornice with no moldings, metal gutter and downspouts.. The gable end has wooden rake boards. There is a wooden fascia with metal gutters on the additions.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Cellar: Two rooms in each unit, dirt floors. In 714, there is a large stone cooking fireplace in the center with a brick hearth. Also in this unit, there is a cellar under the addition with a brick bee-hive cistern, with the opening on the outside. Coal chutes are at the front of

each cellar. The cellar in the two end units is entered from the inside only, while the center unit is entered by the bulkhead only.

- b. First floor: Side-hall plan, two rooms. The fireplaces are located on the wall between the two rooms. Kitchens are located in the rear additions.
 - c. Second floor: Similar to the first floor. A small room in the front over the stairway has been converted to a bathroom in 710 and 712. Number 714 has a two-story rear addition, which contains a bathroom and bedroom.
2. Stairways: The open-string bracketed stairway leads straight up to the second floor in 714. The molded wooden handrail extends from a large square wooden newel post at the first floor up the stairs and around the opening. The trim board around the opening is bracketed.

The stairway is similar in 710 and 712. There are no brackets on the trim board around the opening. There are two turned balusters at each tread.

The rear stairway in 714 is a simple enclosed wooden stair with an iron pipe railing on the wall. Stairways to the cellar have closed-string stairs and no handrail.

3. Flooring: Wooden flooring in 714 is covered with linoleum and carpet. Wooden flooring in 712 has narrow boards on the first floor and second-floor hallway, with wide board flooring on the second floor. In 710 there is wide-board wooden flooring on both floors, some covered with linoleum and rugs.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings are plaster with wallpaper in all units, with the exception of the kitchen in 710, which has modern wood paneling.
5. Doorways and doors: Doorways have wooden surrounds and double-raised wooden panel doors. There is a side-hinged one-light transom window above some doors. Doorways and doors on the first floor of 710 are grained.
6. Special decorative features and trim: The fireplaces in the living and dining rooms of 714 have large wooden mantelpieces with iron breastplates for the coal burners and stone hearths. Similar fireplaces are in the second-floor bedrooms.

Fireplaces in the living and dining rooms of 712 have small wooden mantelpieces with iron breastplates and stone hearths. The second-floor fireplaces have large wooden mantelpieces with round-arched metal breastplates and stone hearths.

Fireplaces in the living and dining rooms of 710 have large wooden mantelpieces, wood-grained, with iron breastplates and covers and stone hearths. The mantel shelf in the living room is gently curved in the corners with a cyma in the center. Second-floor fireplaces are similar to other units.

Cupboards on the side of the fireplace in the dining room and second-floor bedroom of 712 have a pair of small lower and large upper doors that have been attached together as one. The wooden doors have raised panels.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: Modern heating by gas furnaces. Iron floor grills in the second-floor bedrooms are still used to heat upper floors.
- b. Lighting: Modern lighting fixtures. Some pipes of former gas fixtures exist in some ceilings.
- c. Plumbing: Plumbing is modern, with early twentieth-century cast-iron footed bathtubs.

- D. Site: The building faces north. Adjoining 714 on the east end is another town house. The neighborhood is predominantly residential. There is a large tree at the curb on the east end. A concrete sidewalk extends across the property at the edge of the house. There is a depression in the walk for drainage from the downspouts, which extends to the curb. Between the curb and the sidewalk is a grassy area. At the rear yard, there is a low wire fence extending from each unit and running to the rear of the site, separating the yards. There are several large trees in the rear yards.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
July, 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. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1978 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office in Madison, Indiana, by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor, Texas Tech University); John Linn Hopkins, Project Historian (Skidmore College); and Student Assistant Architects Richard Berliner (Rhode Island School of Design); John Lourie (University of Maryland); Eric Swanson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); and Peter Whitehead (State University of New York at Buffalo). The written data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.

ADDENDUM TO
710-714 EAST MAIN STREET (ROWHOUSES)
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-133

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