

Fair Play Fire Engine and Hose Company #1
405 East Main Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IND-90

HABS
IND,
39-MAD,
16-

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

FAIR PLAY FIRE ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY #1

HABS
IND.
39-MAD,
16-

Location: 405 East Main Street (north side of street), Madison,
Jefferson County, Indiana.

USGS Madison East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16.641210.4288570.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Fair Play Fire Engine and Hose Company #1.

Present Use: Firehouse.

Statement of
Significance: The building was originally constructed ca. 1875 as
a simple trolley barn for the Madison Street Rail-
way Company, and was purchased by the Fair Play
Fire Engine and Hose Company in 1888 for use as the
third and present home of Indiana's oldest volun-
teer fire company. The three-and-a-half story bell
tower was added during the 1888 rehabilitation for
the fire company, and topped by the weathervane
"Little Jimmy," the company's trademark.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The original structure was erected ca. 1875; the tower and other additions were completed in 1888 when the building was adapted for use as an engine house. The first mention of a building being located on this site was in the 1875 Madison City Directory, listed as the Madison Street Railway Company. The Railway Company occupied the building until 1888, when it moved its headquarters to 1026 Walnut Street, and the property was acquired by the Fair Play Company. According to the Minutes of the Fair Play Company's Fire Meetings, construction of the tower began immediately.
2. Architect: The architect is unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The structure is located on part of Lot 52, parcel 99 of the northeast section of the original plat of the Town of Madison. The following deed references are in the Office of the Recorder, Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison.

FAIR PLAY FIRE ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY #1
HABS No. IND-90 (Page 2)

- 1863 Deed, September 12, 1863, recorded in Book 21, page 445. M. G. Bright sold the title to Lot 52 to John Kirk for \$3000.
- 1886 Deed, January 26, 1886, recorded February 3, 1886 in Book 50, page 508. John and Sarah Greiner, Frank Kirk and Vincent and Nellie Kirk, heirs of John Kirk, conveyed the property to William and Nettie Kirk.
- 1888 Deed, April 13, 1888, recorded in Book 54, page 36. William and Nettie Kirk sold the title of Lot #52 to Charles Gibbs, Thomas Wolfe and William Petery, Trustees of the Fair Play Fire Engine and Hose Company, for \$8000.
- 1899 Deed, January 4, 1899, recorded January 5, 1899 in Book 68, page 96. The Trustees of the Fair Play Fire Engine and Hose Company conveyed the title of Lot #52 to the Fair Play Fire Engine and Hose Company.
4. Builders, contractor, suppliers: The builder of the original Street Railway structure is unknown. When the Fair Play Fire Company acquired the property, it erected the corner tower and renovated the interior for use as an engine house. Below is a list of contractors who were employed by the Fire Company, as recorded in the Fair Play Company's Minutes.
- S. Liggett: Liggett was awarded the contract to lay the stone foundation of the tower and was paid \$58 for his work. (May 21, 1888; July 2, 1888)
- B. F. Calloway and Sons: The firm was awarded the contract for "building the tower" and other work. Calloway was paid \$470.09 for work on the tower, and \$43.65 for other work. (June 17, 1888; August 6, 1888; September 3, 1888)
- James White: White, partner in the architectural firm of Rankin & White, was paid \$305.48 for the "building" and \$16.20 for "work." (September 17, 1888; August 6, 1888)
- John Adams: Adams' metalsmith firm provided the weathervane "Little Jimmy" for which it was paid \$28.85.

FAIR PLAY FIRE ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY #1
HABS No. IND-90 (Page 3)

5. Original plan and construction: As originally constructed, the Street Railway's trolley barn was rectangular in plan and used for housing the horse-drawn trolleys. Large, brick round-arched doorways for the trolleys were at the south (front) and north (rear) ends. A round-arched doorway, opening into the engine room, was to the right of the front entrance, and an arched window pierced the gable of the south facade.

In 1888, when the Fair Play Fire Company acquired the building, the fifty-two foot square tower at the southwest corner was constructed. Additional changes were completed in the interior to adapt the building to its new use. Following is a list of these alterations, taken from the Minutes of the Fair Play Company's Fire Meetings.

- March 19, 1888 Meeting regarding the purchase of the "Kirk Property" for the new firehouse.
- April 16, 1888 Meeting announcing the purchase of the property. A discussion followed, concerning the construction of a tower, and it was voted 16 to 2 to build it fifty-two feet high, with a twelve-foot door at the front.
- July 2, 1888 "The Building Committee was instructed to leave an arch in the east side of the Tower large enough to take in the Bell." Also, "the Building committee was instructed to use some white brick in the tower and front of the engine house providing the cost is the same."
- July 16, 1888 The Building Committee was instructed to put down a wooden board floor in the engine house, including the floors of the horse stalls.
- August 6, 1888 C. B. Blassingham was paid \$5.00 for "Work." James White was paid \$16.20 for "work." City Planning Mills Company was paid \$56.85 for "work."
- August 20, 1888 The Building Committee was instructed to build an iron ceiling in the engine house.

FAIR PLAY FIRE ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY #1
HABS No. IND-90 (Page 4)

- September 3, 1888 C. B. Blassingham was paid \$10.00 for "work."
- September 17, 1888 James White was paid \$305.48 for "building."
- October 1, 1888 C. B. Blassingham was paid \$28.65 for "work."
- February 14, 1889 John Adams was paid \$28.85 for "repairing and weathervane."
- June 17, 1889 A bill of \$470.09, owed to B. F. Calloway, was paid in three installments, beginning on this date.
6. Alterations and additions: The Minutes of Fire Meetings provide a record of many of the changes completed between 1888 and 1978. Following is a chronology of these changes:
- February 1890 A stable to the rear of the engine house was begun and completed by the end of April.
- May 2, 1892 The Standing Committee reported that doors of the engine house would not close due to the interference of the round arch. James McIntyre was paid \$14.00 for work on the arch.
- July 6, 1896 The Company decided to lay brick on the sidewalks surrounding their property. The star pattern brick was purchased from the Nelsonville, Ohio Sewer Pipe Company for \$61.66. The work was complete by September 1896.
- November 1, 1901 Electric lighting was installed in the engine house.
- July 3, 1905 The Scofield Contracting Company was awarded the contract to install a water closet. The company was paid \$62.00.
- June 21, 1915 Robert David laid concrete flooring in the engine room; he was paid \$48.50.

FAIR PLAY FIRE ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY #1
HABS No. IND-90 (Page 5)

- July 18, 1927 The stables at the rear of the engine house were reportedly being used as automobile garage spaces.
- February 3, 1930 The windows and the door on the west elevation were bricked in by Thomas Potter for \$29.20.
- August 21, 1933 The contract for work on the tower was awarded to Thomas Potter. Specifications were drawn up by the Fire Company.
- September 2, 1946 Edward Selig was paid \$82.50 to repair the tower which was damaged during a storm.
- May 7, 1951 The Company voted to renovate the horse stalls as a club room.
- October 6, 1952 The Trustees reported that the horse stall's walls were being repaired and concreted, and two windows had been bricked.
- April 19, 1954 The contract for widening the engine house's front doors was awarded to the Lichlyter Construction Company for \$998.00. The work was completed August 16, 1954.
- April 2, 1956 Electricity was installed in the engine house.
- July 7, 1958 The contract for further repair of the tower was let to Charles Requet for \$1521.75. Requet added the canopy roof, reinstalled "Little Jimmy," and completed other miscellaneous work.
- June 5, 1967 A metal stairway was installed at the rear of the old stables.
- January 17, 1969 The metal segmental arch with the inscription "Help One Another" was added over the equipment doors.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The Street Railway Company was organized in 1873, locating its Trolley barn near the corner of Walnut and Main Cross Streets by

1875. The Madison Directory of this year listed the officers as William Wymon, president; J. M. Todd, secretary; J. C. Smith, treasurer; William Collins, vice-president; and William Kirk, superintendent. By 1887, the Street Railway had moved from its Main Street site to #1026 Walnut Street. The company continued until 1894, when it was replaced by the Madison Electric Light and Railroad Company.

In 1831, a group of men organized a volunteer fire company, the forerunner of the Fair Play Fire Company, established on September 15, 1841. The Company was granted a private charter in September 1849, standing as one of the earliest volunteer fire companies in Indiana.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Minutes of Fire Meetings, Fair Play Fire Engine and Hose Company, Number 1, 1885-1978.

"Standing Committee Report," August 3, 1896, in the Company's Minutes.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Madison City Directory, 1872-73; 1875; 1887-88.

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

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building was constructed ca. 1875 as a trolley barn, and renovated in 1888 as a fire engine house. The three-and-a-half story bell tower was added during the 1888 remodeling, and topped by the weather-vane "Little Jimmy."
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The one-story structure is rectangular in plan with a three-story corner tower, and measures 40' (three-bay front) x 75'.
2. Foundation: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Brick laid in common bond. The west wall is painted gray.
4. Structural system, framing: Wooden king post trusses of steel rod, and wooden framing.
5. Chimneys: A brick chimney topped with a metal cap is on the west slope.
6. Porches, stoops: There is a metal stair on the rear of the building which leads to the attic.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: At the south (front) facade's eastern end is an arched doorway which opens into the engine room. The arch is formed by two rowlock courses, and a wooden transom is overhead. Wooden molding and a stone sill surround the glass paneled frame door. A similar doorway is on the base of the tower's south facade. On the north facade, a doorway with wooden surrounds, a concrete sill, and a flush paneled door leads into the recreation room. The expansive central doorway has wooden surrounds set into stone jambs with a stone sill. The original round arch has been bricked in to form a square opening.
 - b. Windows: The eight-light casement windows on the west facade have been altered and partially bricked in. They have steel sashes and stone sills. A small arched opening on the west wall has been bricked in, and a single vertical row of opaque glass blocks has been installed. Arched two-over-two light windows with wooden surrounds, stone sills and row lock heads are at the second and third story of the tower's south and west facades. Above the engine room door on the south facade is an arched two-over-two light window.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof on the main block is covered with standing seam metal sheathing. A shed roof with asphalt shingles covers the rear addition.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed wooden cornice is trimmed with metal gutters and downspouts.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: A heavy timber frame structure which houses the bell sits atop the brick tower. The structure consists of four corner posts with cross bracing, and covered by a hip roof. At the peak of the hip is a metal weathervane, "Little Jimmy."

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The entrance on the south opens into the large engine room which extends approximately three-quarters the length of the building. A long storage room is to the west side of the engine room and a bathroom in the northwest corner. Access to the tower is through the storage room. Across the back of the engine room are three doors, all leading into the recreation room. There is an entrance into the kitchen on the north wall.
- b. Attic: An attic room above the recreation room is used for storage.

2. Flooring: Exposed concrete floors except in the kitchen and bathroom, which are covered with linoleum. The attic has wooden board flooring.
3. Walls and ceiling finish: In the engine and recreation rooms, wooden paneling covers the walls and acoustical tiles are on the ceilings. Kitchen walls are covered with plaster and wooden paneling; acoustical tiles are on the ceiling. In the attic, brick walls and structural framing are left exposed.
4. Doorways and doors: The doorway to the storage room near the entrance has a wooden louvered door with wooden surrounds. The doorways from the engine room to the recreation room have wooden surrounds with a pedimented head trim, and a wooden door with two beaded panels below four-light panels. The doorway

to the bathroom has a hollow-core flush paneled door with wooden surrounds and a metal threshold.

5. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating: A forced air gas furnace is in the engine room, and a gas space heater is in the recreation room.

b. Lighting: Electrical fixtures.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building sits on the north side of East Main Street, facing south. Across the intersection at the southwest corner of East Main Street and Walnut Street is the Jefferson County Courthouse. To the east of the building are offices and residences; across the street are commercial and residential building. The sidewalk in front of the building has glazed brick in a herringbone pattern, divided into two equal parts, bordered with a six-point star in the center.
2. Outbuildings: A rectangular, brick garage stands at the rear of the site. The building, in fair condition, is partially covered with aluminum siding and has a gable roof covered with standing seam metal.

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 Massengil. The written data was edited and expanded in February 1979 by Jan E. Cigliano, a staff historian in the Washington office.

Addendum to
Fair Play Fire Engine and
Hose Company No. 1
405 East Main Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-90

HABS
IND,
39-MAD,
16-

PHOTOGRAPHS

ADDENDUM TO
FAIR PLAY FIRE ENGINE AND HOSE COMPANY NUMBER ONE
405 East Main Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-90

HABS
IND,
31-MAD,
16-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013

ADDENDUM TO:
FAIR PLAY FIRE ENGINE & HOSE COMPANY NO. 1
405 East Main Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS IN-90
HABS IND,39-MAD,16-

COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

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