

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000257

Date Listed: 3/29/00


Lachmund Family House
Property Name

Sauk
County

WI
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: The Lachmund Family House is significant under National Register Criterion A. Therefore, there should be no name in the "Significant Person" blank. The correct entry for that blank is "N/A."

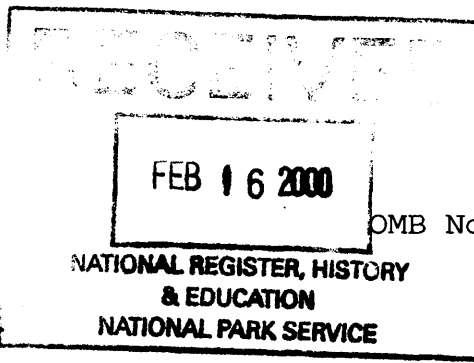
This information was confirmed by Daina Penkiunas of the WI SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(January 1992)

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



OMB No. 10024-0018

257

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lachmund Family House

other names/site number Halasz/Lachmund House

2. Location

street & number 717 Water Street n/a not for publication

city or town Sauk City n/a vicinity

state WI code 55 county Sauk code 111 zip code 53583

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alicia Z. [Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

2/3/2000
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

Lachmund Family House
Name of Property

Sauk County, WI
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 — See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 — See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 — See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Beth Poland 3/29/00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within as the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian-Queen Anne

Mid-19th Century-Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

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Section 7 Page 1 Lachmund Family House
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

The Lachmund Family House is a two-story, cream brick house with an irregular footprint, wrap-around front porch and complex roof shape. It is notable for its location, being the only residence of its size and type in the business district of the village of Sauk City, Wisconsin. The setting of the house is highlighted by a wrought iron fence which is a restoration of an historic feature, and a spacious lawn. The house is significant for its association with four generations of the Lachmund family, who were among the leading citizens of the village in its formative years and up to World War II. Paul Lachmund inherited it from his mother, Bertha Lachmund Halasz, in 1877. He was an important figure in the development of the village and also in the organization of the retail lumber business in the Midwest. The location and size of the house recall the social and economic importance of the Lachmund family in the formative years and during the most prosperous period of the village history. The house displays characteristics of the Gothic and Queen Anne styles executed with exceptional materials, design and workmanship.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

A pre-existing stone cottage on this site was the home of Charles Halasz, cousin to a Hungarian count, Agoston Harazthy, the nearly mythical founder of the village. Because of this association, the house is known as the Charles Halasz house as well as the Lachmund house. It is referenced as the Charles Halasz home in Lives Lived Here, a history compiled in 1992 from the files of long-time Sauk City historian Myrtle Cushing, even though no trace of the Halasz stone cottage is visible in the house today, except for the marks of a repair to the south wing where the roof of the stone cottage once intersected its northeast corner.

The house as it appears today was built in two stages. The L-

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shaped section to the south was built as an addition to the stone cottage, most likely soon after 1878 (when Paul Lachmund returned to Sauk City to run the family lumber company), and certainly by 1883.¹ The features of this section of the house include a one-story, three-sided brick bay extending from a south-facing, two-story gabled wing, brick hoods with pointed pendants over the arched windows, pointed brick ornamentation connecting the brick window hoods on the paired second floor windows, bracket trim and ornamented bargeboards in the gables, and a fairly steep pitch of the roof, all suggestive of the Gothic styles in vogue in the 1870s and 80s.² This section of the house was originally attached to the

¹ An earlier building on the site was a stone cottage, occupied by Charles Halasz, whose daughter, Bertha, married Paul Lachmund in 1870. The significance of the Halasz-Lachmund link is discussed in Section 8. Paul Lachmund moved back to Sauk City to direct the lumber company left by his father-in-law in 1877. The stone cottage appears alone in the 1870 bird's-eye view of Sauk City, and with the two-story addition in an 1883 view.

² A picture, reproduced in Lives Lived Here, shows the brick cross-gabled section attached to the stone cottage. The one-and-one half story cottage has a wooden, front-facing cross gable trimmed with an ornamental bracket framing a rosette and a bargeboard with pendants, that matches the trim which still adorns the gables of the brick south section. There is a front porch, in the same configuration as the present porch, but with trim and a roof shape in Gothic style. A couple stands in front of the house; the man appears to be Paul Lachmund. The gable is not present in a painting of the cottage, in the possession of Carl Lachmund, done by a son of Charles Halasz prior to his death in 1870. The date given for the house in Lives Lived Here is 1861, but this is clearly erroneous, although it may be the date of the stone cottage.

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pre-existing stone cottage which pre-dates 1870 and may have been built in 1861 or before.³ (The property was conveyed to Bertha Elizabeth Halasz in 1849. The price, \$100, suggests that it was an empty lot at the time. The marriage of Bertha to Paul Lachmund occurred in 1870.⁴) The one-and-one-half story north section, with a third-story attic under its steep roof, was probably built in 1903-04.⁵ The wooden trim on this section of the house, including machine-cut shingles, scrolled ornamentation over the windows and classical gable returns on the front and rear-facing attic gables are consistent with this date. A photo belonging to the present owner shows the house after the destruction of a row of elms that the city fathers had taken down when they decided to widen the street in 1903.⁶ The street construction appears in the foreground.

³ The cottage is seen on the bird's eye view of 1870 and again, with a brick 2-story addition to the south, in an 1883 view. The stone wing is indicated in the 1892 Sanborn-Perris map, and again on the 1900 map. The 1915 map shows the present configuration of the house, in brick.

⁴ Abstract of title, Sauk County Abstract Office, Baraboo WI.

⁵ There is a postcard, postmarked 1908, in possession of Carl Lachmund, showing the house with the stone cottage. However, the picture was probably taken earlier, before 1903. There is also a possibility that the village may have forced the demolition of the stone cottage as a part of the street widening, since it projected well forward of the 1878 wing, and the setback of the porch on that wing is only 12'.

⁶ This is the date of a petition against destruction of the trees, a transcription of which was given to the author by Ralph Marquardt in 1987. New electric poles in the picture

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The north wing of the house appears to be under construction, and the lighter brick of the north section extends over the north wall of the south section, formerly attached to the stone cottage. In the photo, the outline of the cottage eave, still visible today, stands out clearly on the front (east) wall of the older section. The Gothic front porch seen in an earlier photo of the house is still in place, and from the north wall of the new section, beams extend over the area now occupied by a modern garage, indicating that the screened porch, remembered by Carl Lachmund from his childhood, was under construction. An iron picket fence, with brick pillars marking entrances to the front and side doors of the house, seen in the photo, is the authority for the present, restored fence. The present porch, with an almost level roof supported by round columns with Doric capitals and enclosed by a plain spindled wooden balustrade with turned newel posts topped by spherical ornaments, was probably the last stage of the remodeling shown in progress in the 1903 photo.⁷

To summarize the stages in the development of the house:

- 1861 Probable date of the Charles Halasz stone cottage.
- 1870 Marriage of daughter, Bertha Halasz to Paul Lachmund.
- 1877 Death of Charles and Emma Halasz. Paul Lachmund returns

correspond to the date electricity was installed in Sauk City, i.e. 1903.

⁷ This date would make the house a precursor of the "beautiful homes" mentioned in Lives Lived Here, pp 201-206. These were large houses built by the merchant families of Sauk City in the pre-World War I period, and located on the streets just west of the Lachmund house. They were distinguished, as was the Lachmund house after the c1903 addition, by their size, and plumbing, central heating, and electricity.

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- to Sauk City to run the family lumber company.
- 1878 Probable date of the south section of the house, attached to the stone cottage.
- 1903 Probable date when the stone cottage is replaced by the brick north wing, the Gothic front porch on the south wing is replaced, and the screen porch on the north wall is built.
- 1908 Marriage of Edwin Lachmund to Lillian Cunradi.
- 1910 Birth of Carl Lachmund, son of Edwin and Lillian, who grows up in the house.

DESCRIPTION

The Lachmund house faces east onto Water Street, the main business street of Sauk City. The house as it exists presently has two sections, built, respectively, c1878 and c1903, and a modern, brick, attached double garage extending north from the north wall and opening toward Water Street. Both sections of the house are built of cream brick⁸ which has weathered to a nearly uniform yellow-gray, although the lighter shade of the 1903 brick is visible where repair work to the north section was needed following the demolition of the stone cottage. The foundation of the house is rusticated blocks. The roof is covered with asphalt tile. There is a chimney near the center of the north section, to the rear of the roofline.

The south section of the house, built c1878, is one and one-half stories, although its height and steep roof pitch give the appearance of a full two stories. It is L-shaped, consisting of two

⁸ The cream brick is notable because it was unavailable in Sauk City in 1878 except by river from the rail line at Portage. The Lachmund house appears to be the only residence built of cream brick in Sauk City in this period.

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gabled wings. A front-facing gable is enclosed by a wide, one story porch with three columns evenly spaced along its 30' length. At the left (south), the porch wraps around the front wing and leads to an entry vestibule in the L formed by a side-facing gabled wing. The south end of the porch ends at a clapboard insert (with an octagon window) which encloses its south end to form a vestibule which opens into the parlor. The door has paired arched panels. Above it is a semicircular light with radiating leaded panes. Facing onto the porch in the south wall is a large window with an upper section with leaded glass panes in a flower pattern and topped by a scrolled lintel with a center ornament consisting of a square panel topped by a spherical knob. Above the porch roof, under the eave of the front-facing wing, is a small window with triangular leaded glass panes. To the right of the front-facing wing, the porch wraps symmetrically around its north side and meets the wall of the north section of the house. The front-facing wing of this section is approximately 19' wide. Identical Gothic brackets which enclose spindle rosettes, and bargeboards with pendants decorate the east- and south-facing gables in this section of the house. Except for the bargeboards, rosettes and wide freize and architrave on the eaves, the wooden ornamentation described above, including the large window with scrolled lintel, were probably added during the 1903 remodelling. It blends well, however, with the earlier, Gothic, bargeboards.

Each gable has a pair of segmentally-arched windows with brick hoods. The hoods are joined by a raised brick panel, above which is a pattern in raised brick, consisting of a pointed arch filled in with vertical stiles. On the ground floor, two windows with segmental arches and brick hoods overlook the front porch. The side (south-facing) gable is also 19' wide (east to west) and has an 8' bay window which projects 4' from its south wall. Below each window in the bay is a decorative panel of raised brick stiles. The bay has a curved roof and three segmentally arched windows. On the rear

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(west) wall of this wing is a modern fireplace with an outside brick chimney. (Before 1903 this section of the house had a chimney rising from its north wall, between it and the stone cottage.) There is an arched window with a brick hood on either side of the chimney. The arched frame of a single second floor window in the rear (west) wall breaks the line of the wide frieze under the eave. Each of these windows has a panel of raised brick stiles below it. There are two basement windows, on either side of the chimney. All of the windows in this section of the house retain their original 2/2 glazing.

Each wing of the south section contains a single room on the ground floor.

The rectangular north section of the house, built c1903, is identical in height, with a roofline that is continuous with the roofline of the south-facing gable in the older section, thus forming a cross-gable. The north-facing gable has a very steep slope, enclosing a second floor with large wooden dormers facing east and west, and an attic with windows in the peaks of the wooden dormers and in the brick, north-facing gable. This section of the house extends it approximately 25' to the north. In each of the wooden gabled dormers is a ribbon of three windows, and above them, a small attic window topped by a wooden lintel with scroll-like ornamentation centered on two wooden disks. On the first floor, a wooden bay window projects slightly from the front wall. It is trimmed with wooden panels embossed with a star pattern below its three windows. Below the bay are two basement windows. To the left of the bay window is another window topped by a scrolled lintel. In the rear wall is a very large triple window with an ornamental scrolled lintel. The shorter, side openings in this window have been filled in with glass block. Below this window is a row of three segmentally arched basement windows, which rise above the stone foundation.

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In the north-facing wall is a single ground floor window topped by a wooden, scrolled lintel. The rest of this wall is enclosed by the garage. On the second floor is a row of symmetrically placed windows, also decorated with scrolled wood lintels. The center window has been converted to a door giving access to the deck above the garage. In the peak of the gable is a third floor window with a plain wooden lintel. With the exception of the door to the deck and the glass block, all of the windows in the north section retain their original 1/1 glazing. The roof of the north section has a slight upturn at the eaves, which have a deep overhang above a wide frieze.

The front (east) wall of the north section is set back approximately 8' from the south section and extends an equal distance west beyond its west wall. It contains two main rooms on the ground floor. A complex of closets, hallways, stairs to the second floor and the cellar, a bath and a hall kitchen are placed on both sides of the wall between the two sections and between the front and back rooms of the north section. In the corner formed by the rearward extension of the north section of the house, an entrance has been cut into the rear wall of the south section, leading to a vestibule and a stair to the second floor. Repairs to the brickwork indicate that it was created when the north section was added, c1903. The entrance is sheltered by a hood which radiates in two sections from the corner between the north and south sections of the house. The hood is decorated with spindle trim depending from its eave. (The trim is modern but is based on fragments found by the present owner.) Above the hood, in the west wall of the south section of the house, a vertical opening, covered by a board panel, gives access to the pipes to a bathroom that was probably installed when the north section was added.

The orange tones of the brick garage addition attached to the north wall are distinct from, but blend well with the original house; its

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scale is sympathetic to the original building, while its setback from the north section of the house repeats the setback of that section from the south section and lessens the impact of the garage on the overall impression of the front facade. The garage has a flat roof which forms a deck enclosed by a low spindle railing with posts topped with spherical knobs. There are scrolled ornamental lintels that match those on the north section of the house over the front and rear pedestrian doors to the garage and the two windows on the back (west) wall.

The garage encloses the original side entrance, which was used by the Lachmund family after 1903 as the everyday entrance to the house. It was reached via a screened porch. On the original wall of the north section, now inside the garage, next to this entrance, is an area of pencil inscriptions. Carl Lachmund remembers that it was customary for guests, especially relatives returning for the summer "homecoming" that was an institution in Sauk City for many years, to write their names in this spot. Although some of the inscriptions are dated earlier than 1903, these must represent a joke or perhaps an anniversary or birthday date. The side entrance is centered in the north-facing gable wall. To the rear of the entrance, also enclosed by the garage, are a closet which opens into a rear bedroom in the north section, and a cellar stairs and entryway. The front and rear pedestrian entrances to the garage are placed next to the north wall of the house.

SETTING

The house faces east at a bend in Water Street. Across the street is a one-story brick building, formerly a bank and now the village hall. Behind it is the Wisconsin River. Commercial buildings of various sizes and in a pastiche of styles line both sides of Water Street to the south and for the remainder of the block to the

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north. The Lachmund Lumber company, which was founded in 1846 by Charles Halasz and was continued by the Lachmunds until 1968, was located a few yards north of the house, on the same side of Water Street. It is now the site of a new bank building in an aggressively historical "classical" style. Between the house and the site of the lumber yard is a wood frame two-story building that was the home and store of the town photographer. In 1890 it became the furniture store and undertaking business of William Dresen, a carpenter who "literally built Sauk City" according to the description in Lives Lived Here.⁹ Immediately to the south of the Lachmund house is a small frame building occupied by the Sauk Prairie Eagle. August Derleth identifies it as the Fuchs home.¹⁰ South of that is the harness shop of William Schwenker, immortalized by August Derleth as the home of his companion, Sim. The real Sim, Hugo Schwenker, still lives on the second floor of this frame building, which was built in 1866 to house a saloon and the saloon keeper's family, according to Lives Lived Here.

On the streets west of Water Street are a number of large and small homes built between 1840 and World War I. This is the original plat of Sauk City; the streets are narrow and the earliest houses are built close to the street, reflecting the German heritage of the village. Among these are the "beautiful homes" mentioned in Lives Lived Here, for which the 1903 expansion of the Lachmund house probably served as a stimulus. These, too, are built quite close to the sidewalks. Even the Lachmund house, although surrounded by a garden much larger than that of most of its contemporaries, is

⁹ p, 143. This book, although based upon the research of Myrtle Cushing, was written by Micheal Goc and his employee at New Past Press, Carol Ann Huber Podoll. It describes Sauk City and its history in a house by house, building by building format.

¹⁰ Return to Walden West, p. 8

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closer to the street, about 10 feet, than seems normal for its scale. The stone cottage which was its beginning would have opened directly onto the street. Behind the house is a large garden and an alley. As described by August Derleth, who was a boyhood playmate of Carl and his brothers Paul and Edwin, "Lawn and flowers surrounded it, and behind the house ranged a walk arbored over with vines of Delaware, Concord, and Niagara grapes that led to a garden bordered by two of the largest asparagus beds in the county, a vegetable garden, and various outbuildings--an old carpenter shop used as a playhouse...a garage, a combination tool and woodshed. The Lachmund two-holer stood north of the asparagus beds, and was masked with an American beauty rose bush, which accounted for reference to it as the 'house of roses', and north of the house itself was another building divided into a woodshed, the 'Wilhelm's Zimmer'--once the abode of the hired man who gave his name to it--and quarters for boating and fishing equipment. South of the house, along the wall of the Burleigh Fuchs home...stood a bark-roofed sandbox, in the middle of a flower bed and not far from a rock garden of ferns and wild flowers, arbored over by trees and, to the west, a great old elm tree with limbs spread so widely as to shade the entire house on a summer day. There were other elms along the front at the south of the property, and there had once been a magnificent row of fine old trees all along the east face of the house, but the village fathers had condemned them and cut them down in order to widen the street, at which old Mrs. Paul Lachmund had wept inconsolably for days."¹¹ Today the grounds are well tended, with flower borders and a shady back yard. Of the buildings mentioned, only the combination tool and woodshed remains. It is a small clapboard building, about 7' by 7' and 8' high, with gable returns and machine cut shingles in its south-facing gable and a diminutive, east-facing cross gable, matching the dormers in the north section of the house.

¹¹ Return to Walden West p. 7-8

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The setting of the house is remarkable for the survival of many neighboring and adjacent structures that were in place during the period of significance.

Lachmund Family House

Sauk County, WI

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Social History

Period of Significance
1878-1944

Significant Dates
c1878* c1903**

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Lachmund, Paul

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

*Notes in poss. of Carl Lachmund
Sauk City, by his aunt, Irma L.
**From a photo showing street
in front being paved.

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder
unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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INTRODUCTION

The Lachmund Family House is locally significant in the social history of Sauk City under Criterion A as the home of the owners of the Lachmund lumber company, one of the major businesses in the village from 1846 until 1968. Paul Lachmund also played an important role in the organization of the retail lumber industry in the Midwest, and was a pillar of the economic and social life of the village from 1877 to 1906. The location of the house is also associated with a famous figure among the founders of the village; although no part of it survives from that period. Up to 1944 the site was continuously occupied by descendants of Charles Halasz,¹ whose daughter married Paul Lachmund. Halasz was one of the '48ers, the original group of political refugees whose institutions and customs defined the character of the village for its first 100 years.

THE HALASZ/LACHMUND LUMBER COMPANY

While his famously romantic cousin, Agoston Harazthy, was trying to start a wine industry, establishing a ferry and having the village platted, Charles Halasz was quietly settling down and establishing a business. A "panorama" drawn in 1846 by Father Maximilian Gaertner and reproduced in The Heritage of Sauk City includes "the new stone house of the Hungarian Carl (sic) Halasz, the Count's companion." (This stone house was on the present site of the Lachmund Family House, and as described in Section 7, continued to exist as the north wing of the present house after its south wing was built, about 1878, up to 1903.) When Harazthy left in 1848 for

¹ Spelled in various sources either Halasz or Hallasz.

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Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

California, Halasz stayed behind in Sauk City. "Charles Hallasz, the cousin and companion of Augustin Harazthy,..lived a highly respectable citizen in Sauk City for many years. For several terms he was justice of the peace, was the first president of the Old Settler's Association, and was, in commercial life, a lumber merchant...Charles Hallasz became known to the citizens of Sauk City as Squire Hallasz, and it is amusing to know that many of the older townsmen relate how the people railed at the Squire as justice of the peace, yet always re-elected him. He married Emma Rendtorff, and started..the first lumber yard in Sauk City, which passed into the hands of Paul Lachmund (who had married his daughter) at his death...Squire Hallasz is described a small man. He wore a small mustache, was sharp featured and wore glasses when he read. He was intelligent, and fairly prosperous in business. He himself attended the Catholic church, though his wife was a Lutheran.² He entertained a great affection for his wife, and her death in the seventies resulted in his, for in his deep sorrow he returned from her interment and died quietly at his desk the same day."³ In 1906 his daughter wrote Victor S. Pease, the biographer of Harazthy: "You remarked that you intended to write a book about my father-Charles Halasz-but I would like you to give up this idea-father was a good honest man with a noble heart, a good father-but

² This is surely an error, for a letter by Bertha Halasz, in the possession of Carl Lachmund, states "Squire Halasz takes his civic duties seriously especially his duties on the school board and on the board of our Free Congregation."

³ Harazthy is described in a pamphlet, The Heritage of Sauk City, published in Sauk City in 1931 by the Pioneer Press, pp 1-16. Charles Halasz was only 18 when the two set out from Hungary to America. The description of Halasz is on pp 17-18.

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Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

his life was altogether too quiet for an interesting book."⁴

Richard N. Current says that, "...by 1860 (forest products) produced more than one fourth of the state's (industrial) output. By 1870 it accounted for some 30% of the industrial production and nearly 45% of the industrial employment," and that, "From the mills along the tributaries of the Mississippi the lumber went to market in rafts, each of them consisting of several cribs and each of these consisting of twelve to twenty layers of boards."⁵ That the Lachmunds were a part of this historical event, the conversion of the northern pinery into "industrial product," is evident from a letter written by Bertha Lachmund Halasz, probably about 1855:⁶ "A few days ago there was great excitement on the river. A raft had broken up against the Narrows at the Dells, and logs and shingles came floating down. Everybody who had a boat was out trying to catch something and haul it in. Luckily the raft was not one of ours. Our rafts snubble the cable on the river bank across the street from the lumber office. We received many this summer. The last one was the cook raft, and the yard man, Willem, is bringing up the rough table and benches for me to make use of. Every time the raftsmen are paid off there is a wild night in town. Women keep off the streets and children scamper indoors. I hope Willem can dismantle the raft quickly, for I worry so that the boys may be swept under the raft by the swift current and drown when they play on it and swim around it...Settlers are streaming in, at present mostly German speaking, from Mecklenburg in the North of Europe,

⁴ MS in the archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

⁵ History of Wisconsin, Vol. II, The Civil War Era, p 464, 467.

⁶ Letter, op.cit.

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southward to Switzerland and the Tyrol. We are happy to see the fine farmers and trained carpenters, masons and bricklayers settling here, as well as doctors, druggists, merchants, cabinet makers, teachers, and musicians..." Clearly it was a good time to be in the business of supplying building materials, and the business Charles Halasz built was providing a good income.

The migration of the Lachmunds to Sauk City started in Hanover, Germany in 1854. They came first to Sigourney Iowa, where Paul learned English in the public schools. They moved to Sauk City in 1857.⁷ A memoir by Ella Naffz⁸ states that Paul's father, Heinrich Gottfried Lachmund was the son of a village schoolmaster and Kantor. "With the financial assistance of a neighboring doctor and by almost superhuman efforts, he managed to acquire a University education and a medical diploma." At Gottingen University he became friends with Eduard Schroeter, later to become the speaker and guiding spirit of the Free Congregation in Sauk City. Lachmund at first avoided the persecution visited upon young liberals in Germany, but after his marriage and birth of his three sons Carl,⁹ Paul and Gustav and daughter Agnes, he decided to come to America. "After two years in Iowa, they decided to come to the more

⁷ From a biographic sketch of Paul Lachmund in the Retail Lumberman and Scout, undated clipping (1913) in the possession of Carl Lachmund.

⁸ Presented to the State Historical Society archives by Josephine Merk, May 12, 1931

⁹ Carl Lachmund relates that his great uncle, Carl V. Lachmund, had been a pupil of Liszt. Among his mementos is a flyer advertising his piano studio in New York city, with a testimonial from Liszt. Another relative, Lorna Lachmund, became a famous coloratura soprano in Hamburg.

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civilized Sauk City," at the invitation of his old friend, Eduard Schroeter. There he was the village's valued doctor until he left to join his son Carl in St. Louis. He returned to Sauk City and died in 1890: "Winning out through an almost unbelievable struggle for an education to a position of trust and honor in the community."

After the death of Charles and Emma Halasz, the following notice appeared in The Sauk County News of December 11, 1877: "The undersigned begs leave to announce to friends and the public in general that he will continue the well known lumber yard of the late Chas Halasz, Esq. at Sauk City. I hope by honest dealing to merit a continuance of the liberal patronage enjoyed by my predecessor in business and shall aim to keep up the high standard of the articles on sale of which the old Squire's yard can so justly boast. Mr. Adam Class (sic: the correct spelling is Clas) a man well known for integrity, will have charge of the yard until my return, and customers can feel assured of being justly served by him. Those indebted to the estate are kindly requested to prepare for an early settlement of their accounts. Mr. J.T. Tripp is authorized to accept payment in settlement of accounts and receipt of them. --P. Lachmund."

The social position of the returning family can be guessed from an editorial that appeared in the same issue of the Sauk County News: "By the death of our worthy and respected fellow citizen, Charles Halasz, one of the old landmarks has been removed. Mr. Halasz was one of the first settlers on the west side of the Wisconsin River, and had resided in Sauk City more than thirty-seven years. Of the founders of Sauk City and first settlements of Sauk County few remain, and the time will not be long before their removal will be put on record. The hardship they endured, the patient toil, the sound principles of their lives, and unselfish aims to lay broad and deep the foundation of the social structure, are all matters of

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Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

history which their descendants will read with grateful pride."

Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol II, "Industry" 5-11, states: "Beginning in the late 1860s...the railroads ...released the lumbermen of the upper Midwest from their dependence on the always uncertain elements of weather and nature." The railroad reached Sauk City quite late however, in 1881, and lumber rafts were still tying up there early in this century. The Lachmund house, located across the street from the riverbank, with the lumber company only a few yards to the north, was still an advantageous location for a lumber dealer.

Yet, according to a memo left by his daughter Irma, in the possession of Carl Lachmund, "Father was never quite happy in the lumber business I am sure. But when Grandmother and Grandfather Halasz died within a few days of each other in December 1877, just before Bob was born, there was nobody but Paul Lachmund to take over, so the family moved back to Sauk City, in February 1878." Paul Lachmund had built a life in Milwaukee, where he was secretary of the Milwaukee Mechanics Insurance Company. Other fragments at the end of the memo, which appears to have been transcribed, indicate that he was a member there of the Germania Club and the Northwest Kindergartenverein, and that it was upon his return to Sauk City (c1878) that the cream brick addition was made to the Halasz stone house.

The Pionier am Wisconsin¹⁰ reported on February 1, 1878, "Eight days ago the Paul Lachmund family moved to Sauk City and this city thereby gains an ambitious, good citizen." In April 1879 the paper reported that he had bought some lots in a new addition, and in

¹⁰ As translated by Rae Onstine, in the Sauk City Public Library.

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July 1879, "Paul Lachmund has built in his lumberyard a roomy warehouse where he will store building material of all sorts in dry conditions and under a roof," and in January 1880, "Paul Lachmund's planing mill is now in use."¹¹ On September 17, 1880, "Six citizens have been named to consult with the railroad, (it was finally completed in 1881) Paul Lachmund, C. Obrecht, W.F. Cooper, M.H. Keysar, J.B. Quimby and J.S. Tripp." On March 11, 1886, the paper reported, "The Sauk City Elevator and Farm Produce Company is incorporated. Directors (include) Paul Lachmund and Julius Buro..." In May of that year Paul was Mayor when he was arrested for selling beer at the Park Hall (the home of the Free Congregation) by the marshal, Martin Leichem, "to settle an old score." In October, 1890, the paper reported that Paul Lachmund had

¹¹ Richard N. Current, in History of Wisconsin, Vol. II, The Civil War Era, p. 101 notes that by the 1850s, "The state was...acquiring the rudiments of a sophisticated woodworking industry which turned out such things as doors, sashes, blinds...furniture, tubs, buckets, barrels, wagons and sleighs." Accounts from Sauk City indicated that by the 1850s the village had a wagon shop, a cooper and a number of carpenters. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II, "Industry," 5-3 states that, "...the lumber industry began its first period of truly steady growth and development in the middle decades of the 1800s...the Wisconsin River forest district was the first to be exploited on a large scale..." However, "The length of the Wisconsin River and its numerous rapids made rafting and supply transportation an expensive undertaking." Page 5-11 notes that "By 1850, great lumber rafts floated on all of the major inland streams...The process continued well into the turn of the century. Unlike the often chaotic movement of raw timber from the logging camps to the mills, the shipment of sawn lumber was more highly organized..."

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been elected president of the local German Society, and in September, 1892, that "Lachmund and Son received 10 carloads of lumber..." business was so good the preceding year that they "sold all they had." On January 24, 1895, Paul was reported to be a member of the committee that was looking for a site for a canning factory. In May, 1895, the paper reported the death of Lachmund's long time rival in the lumber business, Christian Obrecht, adding that he was the richest man in the village but "It is doubtful he will leave any to the city in which he got so rich..." Obrecht had been in the lumber business for 30 years.

Paul Lachmund's daughter, Irma, wrote these sentences about her father: "...It was hard indeed for Bertha Doelle (his mother) who had grown up in comfortable circumstances as the daughter of the successful, long established newspaper family of Doelle...It must have been from Grandmother Lachmund that dad inherited his sense of humor and his stock of Low-German anecdotes, and from H.G. Lachmund his favorite Latin quotations--de gustibus non est disputandum...or perpedis a postulorum--and his fine baritone....pa enjoys the American Lumberman or the Cosmopolitan and the Freidenker, or goes over to Buro's for a game of sixty-six or politics with Julius Buro, one of the few Republicans in Sauk City. Paul Lachmund is an ardent fisherman and hunter..."

Paul started work at age 14, clerking in his father's pharmacy. Later he clerked in a store in Cross Plains and then went to Milwaukee to study bookkeeping. He married Bertha Halasz in February 1870.¹² For a time he had a general store in Sauk City, but

¹² Clipping in the archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, dated February 27, 1913, publication not specified, and a biographical sketch which appeared just before his death in the Retail Lumberman and Scout, Kansas City, from Carl Lachmund.

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when the hops growing industry failed, and a beet sugar plant in Black Hawk closed, farmers in the area were "poverty stricken," and the store failed in 1875, sending him back to Milwaukee, only to be called back to Sauk City in 1878 to run the family business. In 1906, he moved back to Milwaukee, leaving his son, Edwin, in charge of the lumber company. He was at the time secretary of the Wisconsin Retail Lumber Dealers' association and a mutual insurance company of retail lumber dealers; the growth of these organizations "...demanded the removal of the secretary's office to some business center...and he, from that time, made Milwaukee his home." Bertha died in 1909, but Paul at 68 was still working. He died three days after his retirement due to ill health, in 1913.

The obituary notes that, "During his thirty years' business career as a retail lumber dealer (in Sauk City) Mr. Lachmund was honored by election to the office of school clerk, justice of the peace, president of the board of village trustees, and representative of the village on the county board of Supervisors, and served as chairman of the board. He also took a lively and active interest in the political affairs of the state and nation, and was at various times elected to represent the republican voters of this city at state and congressional nominating conventions, and was elected as one of the McKinley electors at large in 1896."

The sketch in the Retail Lumberman and Scout states: "No Wisconsin retail lumberman more thoroughly deserves a place in the list of old time leaders in the industry in Wisconsin...than does Paul Lachmund, for many years secretary of the Wisconsin Lumber Dealers' Association and of the Allied Mutual Insurance Companies. It is now over fifteen years since he first became secretary of the state organization, and his interest in the lumber business dates back to the time when he was married in southern Wisconsin to the daughter of a family famous in those days for its participation in the early problems of the lumber industry."

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Paul's children were Victor, Edwin, Herman, Robert, Bruno, Irma, and Clara. It was Edwin who became manager of the lumber company, (and freed his parents to return to Milwaukee at last.) Irma remained in Sauk City and was a figure in the Free Congregation. August Derleth portrayed her as an almost sinister figure in a sketch titled "Poosey Lachmund"¹³ According to Derleth, this younger sister, (Clara?) "Once, long ago,...had been the baby of the family, the youngest of seven, and her autocratic old father had gazed upon her with unaccustomed fondness..." This, according to Derleth, created antagonism in Irma, and this caused Poosey to disappear for years, coming back only a year before her death, a year in which she never spoke of her years away, but was "unperturbed at her sister's neurotic recklessness as a driver." When Carl took over as secretary treasurer of the lumber company in 1944, it was his aunt Irma who was president of the corporation.¹⁴

THE LACHMUND LUMBER COMPANY IN THE 20th CENTURY

The 1900 and 1915 Sanborn Perris maps of Sauk City show the lumber yard located on Water Street in its historic location, and the lumber stock given as 800,000 feet (1900) and 600,000 feet (1915). In 1913 the Wisconsin River was dammed at Prairie du Sac, ending any advantage to the riverside location, and the 1930 map shows a second location, of the "Lachmund Lumber and Coal Company," next to the railroad tracks, although the original yard continued on Water Street up to 1968. The family continued to live in the house on Water Street until the death of Edwin Lachmund, in 1944.

¹³ Walden West, p 117-121.

¹⁴ "Salute to the 102-year-old Lachmund Lumber Company," American Lumberman, August 28, 1948. The article states that the company had 13 employees, had formerly been a general contractor, and was engaged in carpentry and kitchen remodeling.

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The Pioneer Press¹⁵ said of Edwin Lachmund, upon his death: "His death marks the passing of another familiar figure who has left his mark...His place in the village can never quite be filled yet he leaves many pleasant memories with those who knew him." The obituary noted that he lived in Sauk City his entire life, except for a short time in Chicago and as manager of the Lachmund Lumber Company in Black Earth. He married Lillian Clara Cunradi, granddaughter of Robert Cunradi, a cousin of the wife of Eduard Schroeter, thus weaving together several strands of Sauk City heritage going back to the era of the '48ers. They had three sons, Carl, who grew up to manage the lumber company, Paul, an accountant in Madison, and Edwin Jr., who was lost at Guadalcanal. Edwin Sr. was a lifelong member of the Free Congregation, president of the Union Cemetery Association, treasurer of the school board, member of the Modern Woodmen and the local Men's Club. "His home was a center of social activities and hospitality." He was an ardent fisherman, had a keen sense of humor, and was a raconteur. Sauk City natives (many of whom had been "homecoming" guests at the house) came from Chicago and other places to attend the funeral.

His son Carl recalls that the inscriptions that can still be seen next to the north entrance to the house were made by summer visitors--relatives from Chicago and Milwaukee and Saint Louis who would "descend on us--en masse." "One Labor Day we had twenty-six people--they slept in tents in the yard," he recalls.¹⁶

Edwin's son, Carl, continued the lumber company after his death. In this period the lumber company became more and more a building supply company, adding brick, sewer pipe, coal, nails, paint and a remodeling service. Carl retired due to a heart attack in 1968, and

¹⁵ May 14, 1944.

¹⁶ Interview, July 9, 1998.

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after 122 years, the lumber company was sold.¹⁷

By this time, the house was no longer the Lachmund residence. Edwin's estate was settled in October 1945, and in April 1946 the house was sold to William Spellman. In 1962 it was inherited by his wife. The upstairs had been converted to two apartments, and as the years went by the house fell into disrepair. It was saved from possible demolition when the present owner bought it with the intention of restoring it. With its woodwork newly painted, its fence recreated and the garden elegant again, the house again recalls its many years of occupancy by an important Sauk City family.

THE LACHMUND HOUSE AS AN EXAMPLE OF FINE BUILDING TECHNIQUE

As befits a house belonging to a family of lumber and building supply dealers, the Lachmund house presents a solid and pleasing appearance. Its blending of mid-nineteenth and early 20th century decorative styles into a unified design shows only upon close inspection that a quarter-century elapsed between construction of its two sections. No compromises appear on the facade, and only in the rear are adaptations, such as the doorway into a rear hall and the access opening for the bathroom pipes, visible. Except for the fireplace chimney on the rear (west) wall and the garage attached to the north wall, which replaces a screened porch, the house is exactly as it appeared upon completion of the 1903 wing. Its decorative details are also of outstanding quality; despite a period of neglect and over a century of exposure to severe weather

¹⁷ "Sauk Lumber Company in Lachmund family for 122 years to be sold to William Thompson, Dane," Capitol Times, December 21, 1968.

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the Gothic detail of the bargeboards is crisp and new-looking, as are the Queen Anne details added in 1903. The brick and stone work is also in like-new condition. The workmanship and materials are therefore of extremely high quality.

The interior has suffered somewhat over the years. The second floor has been converted to apartments. Some of the first floor woodwork was damaged in the period after 1944. Nonetheless, the restored parlor and dining room present a convincing 19th century appearance. In particular a large semi-elliptical arch between the two rooms in the south section gives this section of the interior a drama that was no doubt intended by the builder. The two ground floor rooms in the north section, now a bedroom and a "keeping room" or study, were originally a study and the kitchen, respectively. The present kitchen was a pantry. The 1903 plan is preserved, however, in the location of most of the walls and the openings between rooms. (See attached floor plans)

The Lachmund house is unique in its location, being the only large house in the business district. Its expansion in 1903 ushered in an era of home building in Sauk City that is still evident in the streets to the west of the house. To either side of it stand buildings, albeit somewhat modernized, which were there during the period of significance, while along both sides of Water Street near the house are other buildings which pre-date the house or were built during the period of significance. The feeling and association of the house are strong and contribute to its overall integrity.

CONCLUSION

The period of significance, 1878-1944, spans the years the house, as it appears today, was begun and terminates with the death of Edwin Lachmund. During this period the house was continuously

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occupied by the Lachmund family. The house in its association with the Lachmund family is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of social history. From 1846 to 1968 the Lachmund Lumber Company was one of the major businesses in Sauk City. Paul Lachmund also played an active role in other business pursuits, including the Sauk City Elevator and Farm Produce Company. In addition to his economic position in the community, Paul Lachmund also served in public and civic offices. He was president of the board of village trustees, served as a justice of the peace, represented the village on the county board, and was president of the local German Society. Edwin Lachmund continued the family lumber company and played an active role in community organizations. The Lachmund Family House is significant for its association with the many active years in the civic and commercial life of Sauk City by members of the Lachmund family.

Lachmund Family House
Name of Property

Sauk City, WI
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>2/7/9/1/8/0</u>	<u>4/7/9/4/4/8/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone Easting	Northing			Zone Easting		Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone Easting	Northing			Zone Easting		Northing

___ see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Eiseley
organization _____ date Sept. 15, 1998
street & number 3433 Richard Street telephone 608-249-8818
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53714

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Edward Keller, "A Pioneer Schoolboy Remembers," MS, Feb 4, 1930.
Advertisement, Carl V. Lachmund, "a pupil of Liszt," undated
Picture painted by Julius August Halasz (1851-1870) of the Halasz
home in Sauk City.
Picture, c 1900 of the Lachmund house
Letter, by Bertha Halasz, c1860

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 4 and 5, block 27 of the original plat, Sauk City.

Boundary Justification

This is the property conveyed to Elizabeth Hallasy (ie Elizabeth Halasz) in 1849 and subsequently by marriage to Paul W. Lochmund (ie Paul Lachmund) in 1870, to the heirs of Paul and Elizabeth Lachmund in 1914, to the heirs of Edwin Lachmund in 1944, to William Spellman in 1944, and subsequently to Charles Hall, a nephew of William Spellman, and currently owned by Rodney "Pete" Crapp. It is all the property historically associated with the Lachmund Family House.

Lachmund Family House
Name of Property

Sauk City, WI
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Rodney "Pete" Crapp and Eleanor Houtari
street & number 717 Water Street telephone (608) 643-4585
city or town Sauk City, state WI zip code 53583

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section _____ Photos _____ Page 1 _____ Lachmund Family House
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

Photo 1 of 6
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Photo by Jane Eiseley, August, 1998
View looking southwest

Photo 2 of 6
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Photo by Jane Eiseley, August, 1998
View looking north

Photo 3 of 6
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Photo by Jane Eiseley, August, 1998
View looking northwest

Photo 4 of 6
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Photo by Jane Eiseley, August, 1998
View looking east

Photo 5 of 6
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Photo by Jane Eiseley, August, 1998
Interior: south section, arch between east and west wings

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section _____ Photos _____ Page 2 _____ Lachmund Family House
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

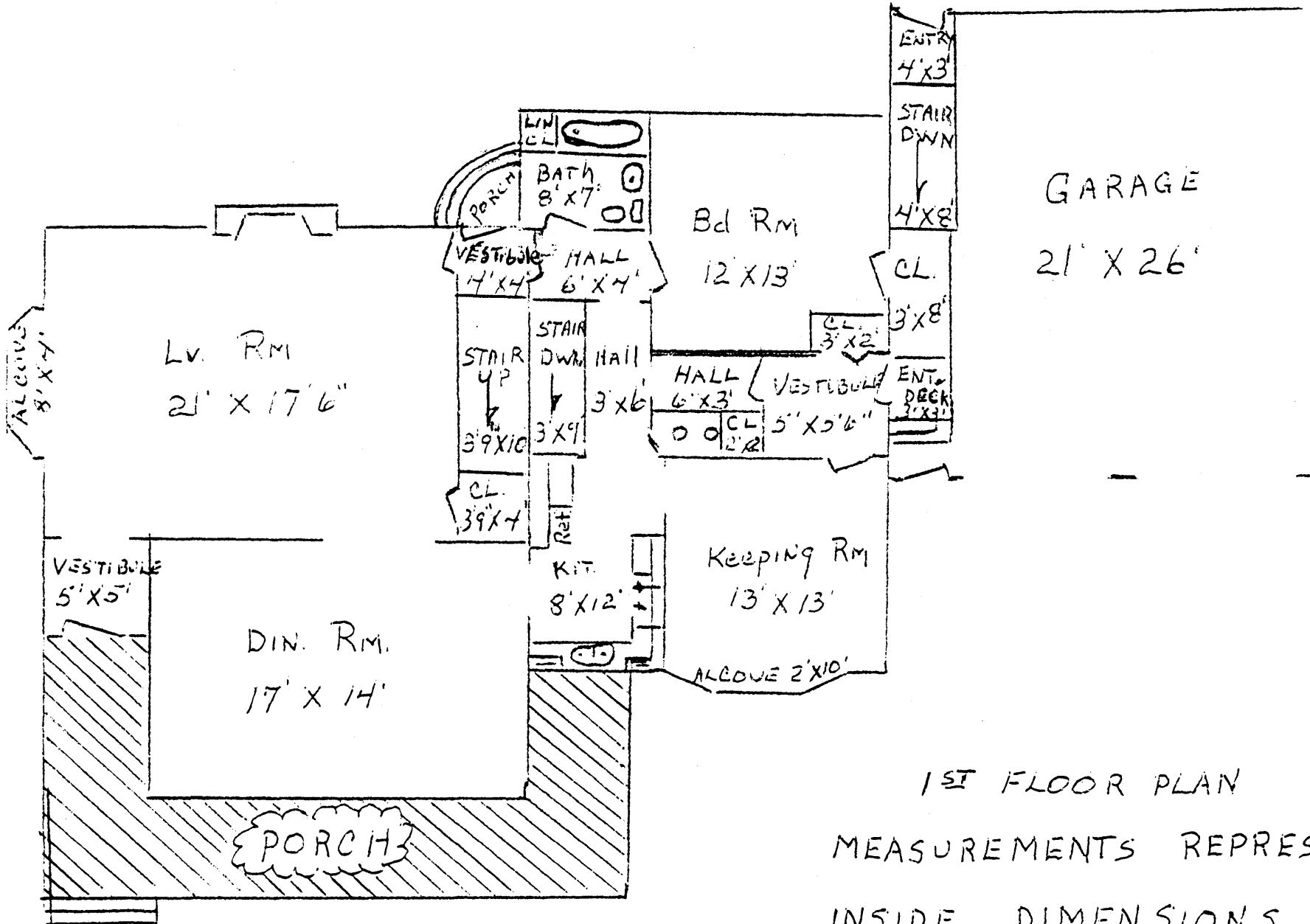
Photo 6 of 6
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI
Neg. at State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Photo by Jane Eiseley, August, 1998
Interior: south section, front vestibule from parlor

Exhibit 1
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Floor plan--3 sheets

Exhibit 2
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Portrait of Paul Lachmund

Exhibit 3
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sketch map of property

LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI



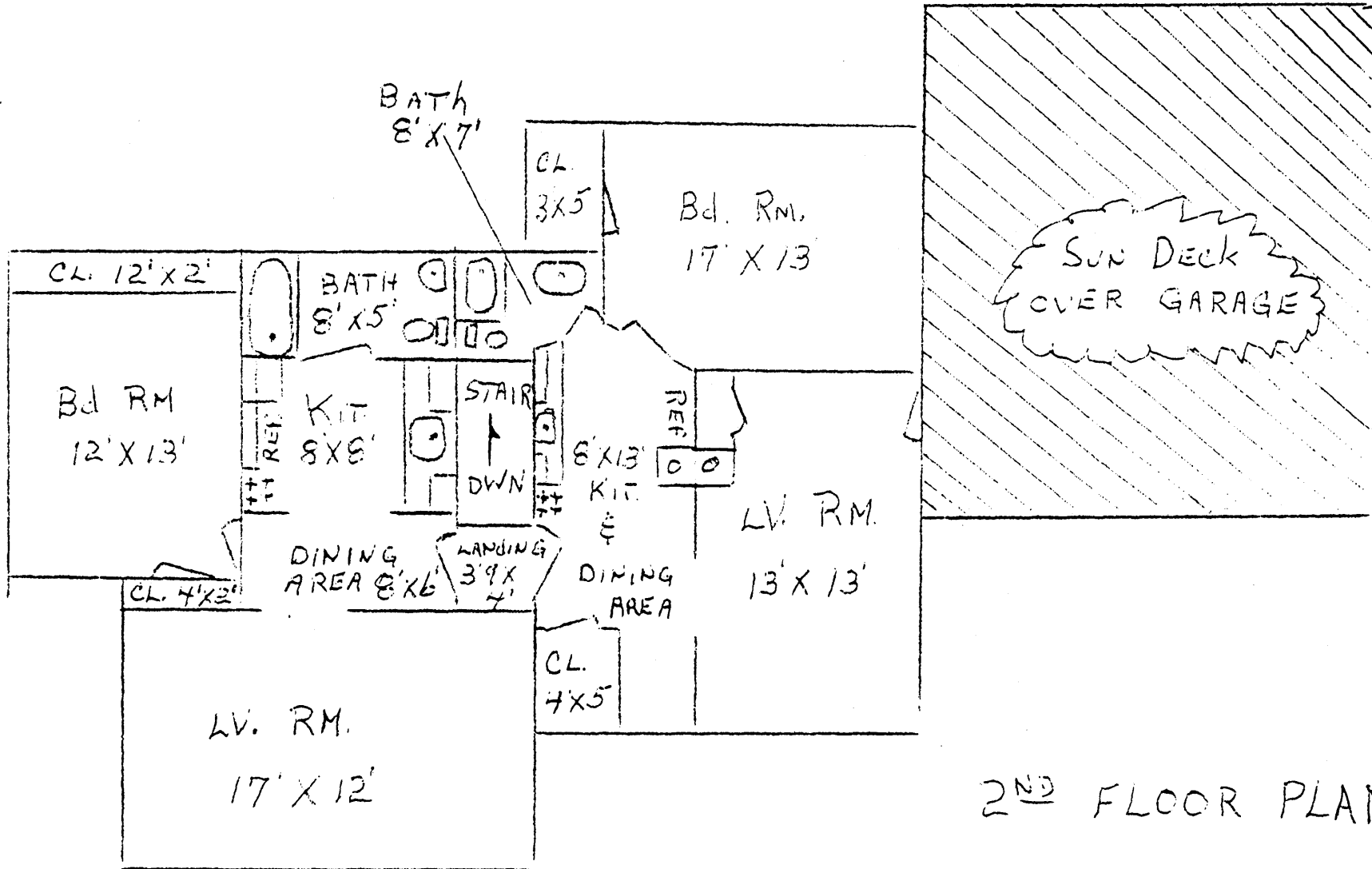
1ST FLOOR PLAN

MEASUREMENTS REPRESENT
INSIDE DIMENSIONS

Not to scale

Exhibit 1

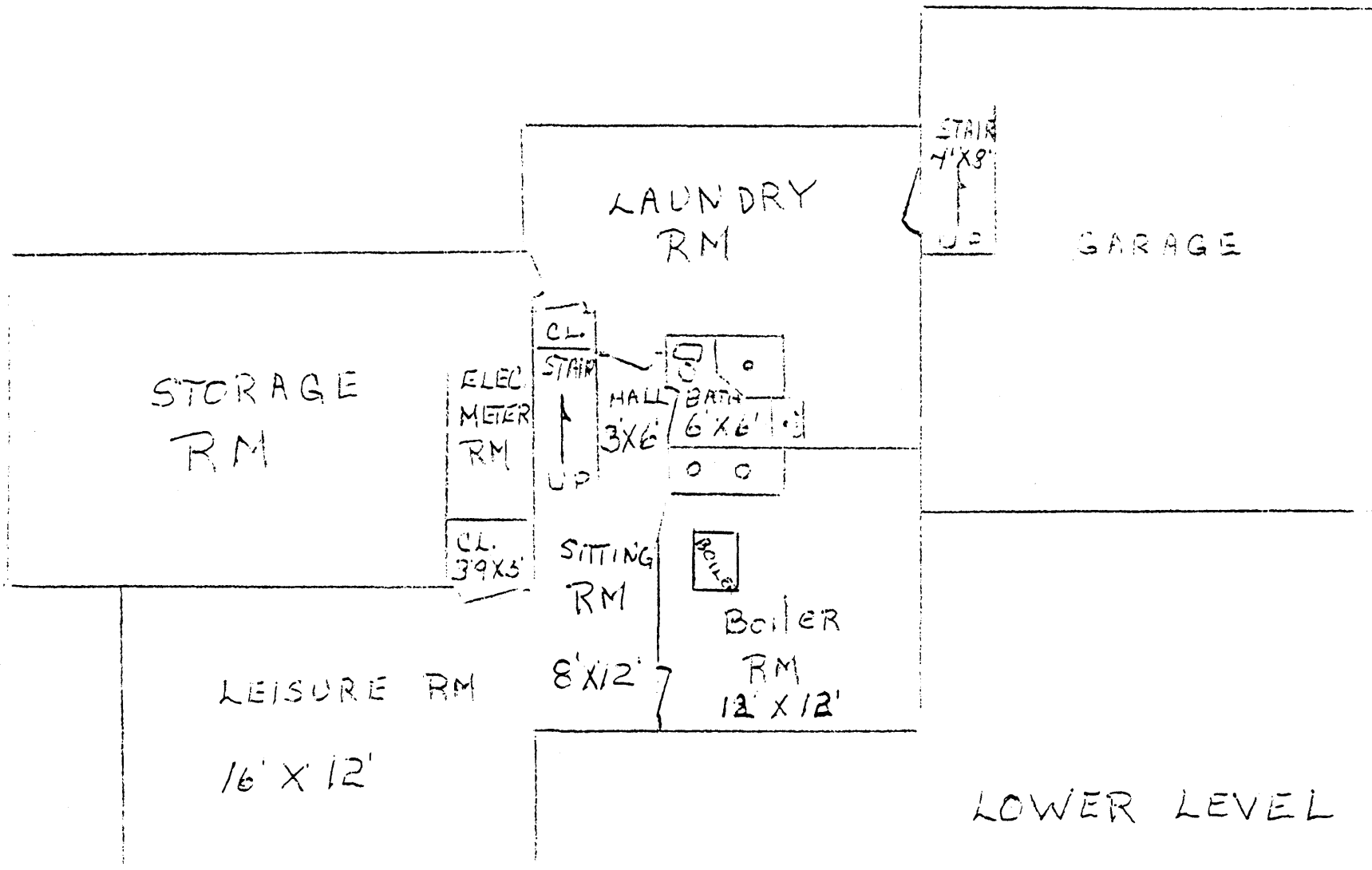
LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI



2ND FLOOR PLAN

MEASUREMENTS REPRESENT
INSIDE DIMENSIONS
Not to scale

LACHMUND FAMILY HOUSE
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI



LOWER LEVEL

MEASUREMENTS REPRESENT

INSIDE DIMENSIONS
not to scale

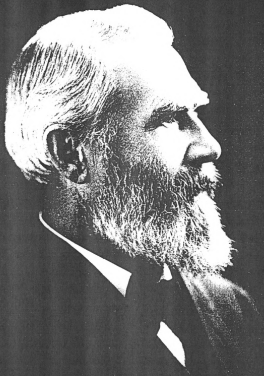


Exhibit 2

← N
no scale

Exhibit 3

Lachmund Family House Sauk City Sauk Co. WI

