

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

For NPS use only

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

received MAY 30 1985

date entered JUN 27 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Richardson-Jakway House

and or common

2. Location

street & number R.R.#1 not for publication

city, town Aurora xx vicinity of 1.75 miles south and 1/8 mile west of Aurora

state Iowa code 019 county Buchanan code 019

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Buchanan County Conservation Board

street & number R.R.#1, Box 268

city, town Hazleton vicinity of state Iowa 50641

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Buchanan County Courthouse

city, town Independence state Iowa 50644

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Richardson-Jakway House (1851) calls attention to the beginnings of settlement in Buchanan County and to the location of an early per-railroad hamlet known as Buchanan or Mudville. The house is a well preserved example of an early vernacular house.

This one and a half story vernacular heavy timber framed house exhibits the following "vernacular" qualities. It lacks a single facade focus, it's plan is more function oriented than style oriented, its fenestration and door placement is somewhat asymmetrical, its materials (structural members, lath, stonework) were locally procured and processed using on-site finishing techniques.

The house framing is formed using large dimension hewn timbers, these being corner braced and even double braced, with mortise and tenon joints. Exposed tenons in empty mortises on the first floor of the upright indicate the removal of some interior support members. Of further interest is the accordeon or hand split lath which survives in some parts of the house.

The house exhibits two facades, neither of which is a complete front in terms of symmetry. The upright, with its south facing facade, has a single off-center door, set amidst a band of three asymmetrical first floor windows. Four eyebrow windows are evenly placed below the eaves line. The ell wing front, facing east towards the former public road, has an unusual recessed porch entrance roughly in the middle of the single east side wall plane. Eyebrow windows above, tie the two facades together. Paired windows on the first floor, and two double hung windows (all full-sized windows are double hung sash, 6/6) on the second floor, constitute end wall fenestration on the upright. The two wings are gabled, roof with wooden shingles, and share the same roof ridge level. The ell is offset to the east with the result that the east wall of the ell and that of the wing are in alignment. A rectangular shed roof side porch, along the rear of the ell, fills the plan (28 x 48'6") to that of a broad rectangle.

The house has a gabled upright (28' x 22'6") that has a full basement, one and a half stories. The basement foundation is composed of coursed rubble stone, and is continued to a level several feet above the ground level. A single basement level window pierces the foundation at the southwest corner. A cellar entrance on the west end of the upright provides access to the basement. Centered within the basement are the remains of a large fireplace/chimney base. This has been removed to a level of four feet, and now supports a brick flue. This flue pierces the roofridge at the junction of the two ridgelines. The basement support system consists of 8" x 8" square hewn posts on stone footings with beams of the same dimension running longitudinally. The first floor interior presently consists of a single "kitchen room." A corner stairwell, set along the northwest wall, leads to the floor above. The second floor has an open stairwell, two south side bedrooms, a central hall, and a corner closet. The loft has four foot side walls and originally the ceiling consisted of a combination of ceiling and angled side walls. The upright roof consists of 4" x 4" oak rafters set into a roof ridge. The present exterior siding, consisting of narrow softwood siding, is not original.

The ell has no basement. Its ground level floor plan includes the rectangular recessed porch, a rear bedroom, and a central square room. A second brick flue is centered within the bedroom wall, and penetrates the roof ridge of the ell. Two interior doors connect the center room and kitchen. A single door leads to the rear side porch. A stair leads to the second floor. There a "great hall" extends above the first floor entryway area. Two bedrooms fill the north end of the plan, their doors flanking the brick flue. Again the

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ceiling is a combination of flat ceiling and plastered side rafters. The roof on the ell is framed using 2" x 4" pine rafters, which join to a ridgepole. A plastered vertical south end wall encloses an area between the roof plane of the upright and the roofridge of the ell.

Alterations are somewhat difficult to pin down in terms of degree and time. There is evidence that the south entrance has been changed in some manner, but nothing is known in detail. The siding on this same part of the house differs from that on the ell, the latter composed of walnut siding of the same scale. The first floor floorplan in the upright has been changed (indicated by the presence of open mortices in structural members), this having been the site for the post office early in the house history. The original broad central chimney was removed sometime in the 1930's. The stairs in the upright were according to previous owners, reversed. Much original interior finish, particularly in the upright portion of the house, was removed between 1967 and when the county took over the house. Since 1969 apparently in a search by owners for "buried treasure", the Buchanan County Conservation Commission has put on a new wood shingle roof, repaired or temporarily sealed damaged windows, and repaired some flooring. The house was originally painted barn red and this color survives in the gable ends of the building.

The house was originally a part of the town of Buchanan. This community, while at one time of some considerable scale, was physically moved north to the railroad at Aurora. Today the house, part of a farmstead, is isolated in a rural setting, within a park preserve. The public road to the east, is now a park lane. The farmstead retains a gambrel roofed barn of more recent date and a gable roofed shed, of heavy timber framing, with stripped sapling beams and rafters with no ridgepole. These are sited to the southwest of the house. A stone foundation or cave remnant is north of the house. Only the house is included in this nomination.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	xx architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
xx 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1851 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Richardson-Jakway House (1851) calls attention to the beginnings of settlement in Buchanan County and to the location of an early per-railroad hamlet known as Buchanan or Mudville. The house is a well preserved example of an early vernacular house.

Abiathar Richardson (1810-2.11.1872) was one of some twenty settlers living in the north half of Buchanan County by 1849. Born in Maine, he settled first in Wisconsin, then came to Buchanan County by 1849. He for a year occupied a log cabin, prior to constructing the subject house c. 1852. Townships were formed that same year, and included Buffalo or Buffalo Grove Township. The Richardson-Jakway House was the site of the first township election in early 1857. Richardson is credited with having been the first settler in this township and surveyed and platted a section of his land which was called Buffalo Grove (later Buchanan, and lastly Mudville). The platting was filed on 15 September 1857. Three original blocks ran north and south, and contained fifteen lots each. The subject property stood at the corner of State and Main streets, on lots one through 7. By 1880-1 the town retained two stores, two wagon shops, three blacksmith shops, broom factory, steam feed mill, steam sawmill, and a wind powered grist mill. The Free Will Baptist Church, constructed in 1857, served as town hall until its dedication as a church in 1877.

Richardson was the first postmaster, and was an early justice of the peace. The post office was by 1881 located in a local store with J. M. Price, postmaster. It is believed that the Richardson-Jakway house served as a post office in the early period. It is also believed that it served as a hostelry. The wood, oak frame and black walnut clapboard, for the house is said to have been constructed of wood hauled from Dubuque. The identical woods are locally available however.

The town of Buffalo Grove/Buchanan/Mudville disappeared rapidly in 1886 when the arrival of a nearby railroad resulted in the founding of nearby Aurora. The town's buildings were physically relocated to that new townsite, two miles distant. Today only the Richardson-Jakway House can be directly associated with the town. Even the cemetery was relocated in the 1880's. A house, partly built of logs, is south of the Richardson-Jakway house and might be original to the town.

Following Richardson's death in 1872, his son Ezra continued to occupy the house until 1895. His widow, Caroline Jewett Richardson, died in 1879. In 1881 the farmstead totalled 262 acres, and was then described as being "...finely located, and...not only a fine farm but a fine home" (History of Buchanan County, Iowa, (Cleveland; Williams Brothers, 1881, p. 360.)). Charles Jakway acquired the house in 1895 and that family occupied it through 1967. The Buchanan County Conservation Commission acquired it in 1969 and is currently restoring the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Lamont

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A 15 604720 41711521510
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a Point 1213.2 feet South and 538 feet West of the Northeast Corner of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 24, Township 90 North, Range 8 West of the 5th P.M. Thence South 90 feet, Thence West 175 feet, Thence North 90 feet, Thence East 175 feet to Point of Beginning, containing house only and .36 acres more or less.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

Office of Historic Preservation

organization Iowa State Historical Department date 30 April 1985

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state XX local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Towell G. Liske*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date May 9, 1985

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

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 6-27-85

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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Bibliography:

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Chappell, Harry Church and Katharyn Joella. History of Buchanan County, Iowa and its People. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914.

Percival, C. S. and Elizabeth. History of Buchanan County Iowa, Iowa With Illustrations And Biographical Sketches. Cleveland; Williams Brothers, 1881.

Watson, Jane. Buffalo Grove, Buchanan, Mudville: A Town With Three Names MS, n.p., n.d.

Works Progress Administration, Graves Registration, Buchanan County, Iowa, Des Moines, 1939, p. 89.

"Aurora Churches---First Baptist Church." The Winthrop News, 25 September 1975.

"An Ancient Landmark" (unidentified newspaper clipping, dates c. 1930's).

Plat, Town of Buffalo Grove, Records Office, Buchanan County Court House, Independence.