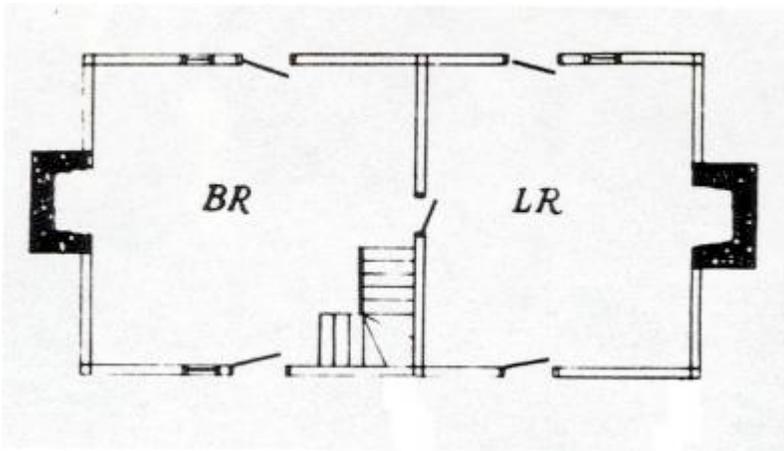




Warren Roberts has written about a house type that he considered unique to southern Indiana. The most general way to describe it is to call it a two-cell plan, that is, two adjacent enclosures, approximately square, with no interval between them. If constructed in part or entirely with logs, this is frequently called a double

pen plan. Characteristic of this plan type are two front doors, as may be seen in this house west of Ferdinand, Indiana, and also one or two gable end chimneys, usually external to the gable wall. Here we find one gable chimney on the left side.



Since Warren did not include a floor plan with this set of pictures, the plan of the Whittaker-Wagoner house in Morgan County, Indiana will have to stand in for it. One room is usually a little larger than the other, and because of this, the two front doors are not symmetrically placed on

the house façade. Because these are each representative of the same house type, it is possible to use the plan of one house to predict the interior of the other with considerable assurance.

English settlers moving up from Kentucky and Tennessee, and from Virginia and Pennsylvania, were among the first to settle and build on inexpensive land in southern Indiana. This is an English plan-type. Germans came two and three decades later in the 1840s and 1850s. Were it built by Germans and they remained true to their customary house type, the fireplace would be centrally located in the plan, and there would be three rooms distributed around the central fireplace.



This house is stone on the first floor and has probably four courses of logs resting on the stone to form the upper half story. Unique to this house type is the detail that supports the overhang of the roof. One transverse log at each gable was extended by 4 to 5 feet, sometimes on one façade and sometimes both front and back.

This is called a cantilever beam. Interestingly, though seen here on an English building, the cantilever was widespread among the Pennsylvania Germans wherever they settled and used for the purpose of supporting a cantilevered forebay on the front of their barns. It can be seen on barns as far away as the limestone hill country north of San Antonio Texas, where they settled in large numbers.



The window frame is of interest because it has evidence of earlier material. The Venetian style shutter is modern, but behind it in the post of the window frame is what is called a pintel. It is a right-angled iron piece driven as a spike into the wood window frame. At the right angle it supports a post that fits into a socket on the shutter. There are two for each shutter and on them the shutter swings open and closed.

Depending on the economic resources of the original dweller, there might have been glass, isinglass, which is a sheet form of mica, or even oiled sheets of paper at first. Given that this is a house built mostly of stone, it is likely that the window originally had glass.



We can close this tour with a puzzle that can only be resolved by getting into the house. The gable chimney is shaped to form the back of a fireplace in what was probably the larger of the two rooms.

By the period in which this area was settled, it was not at all uncommon for the heating and cooking to be done entirely with a stove, though at this time they were expensive and hard to come by.

This chimney has been roofed over, and there is set a little further into the roof a smaller chimney. Did this additional chimney serve a stove added at a later date? And the round black mark centered on the chimney suggests a stove pipe inserted into the chimney at this point. What activities of the daily economy might have been carried out at this location next to the chimney that were aided by the drawing power of a large chimney?