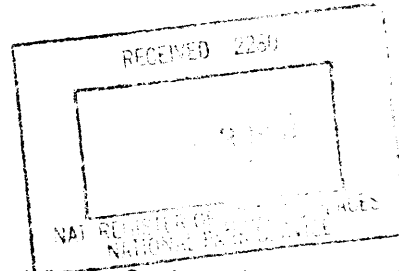


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1289

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 Schulein, Ben and Harriet, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2604 Jackson St. N/A not for publication

city or town Sioux City N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Woodbury code 193 zip code 51104

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.)

Patricia Omerkin DSAPO 9-22-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State of 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 or Federal agency and bureau

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.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall 10/30/97
Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as 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 previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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 or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1913

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Steele, William LaBarthe

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical 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:

Schulein House
Name of Property

Woodbury County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 115 7113460 47110280
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

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 Timothy T. Orwig

organization SiouxLandmark Corp. date 2 Feb. 1997

street & number 30 Stewart Ave. telephone (712) 274-5104

city or town Sioux City. state Iowa zip code 51104

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 Marilyn Cozad Mayer

street & number 2604 Jackson Street telephone

city or town Sioux City state Iowa zip code 51104

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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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Schulein House
Woodbury County, Iowa

Descriptive Summary The Schulein House is a symmetrical 2-story frame building with a brick foundation, clapboard siding, and a hipped roof with a wide coved overhang, designed in Prairie Style in 1913 by William LaBarthe Steele. The Schulein House contains strong horizontal lines characteristic of Prairie style, most notably in the substantial overhang of the roofline and wide front porch with porte cochere, ground floor window sills tied to the unbroken line of the brick foundation, and lintels of the second floor windows tied into the unbroken line of the fascia. The short, wide attic dormers with their banded windows add to the effect. A small contemporary garage northeast of the house shares the same roofline and solid construction. The house is located on a pair of prominent corner lots on Jackson Street, a major residential thoroughfare dotted with other substantial homes designed by Steele. The property slopes away on the southern and eastern sides, where high retaining walls and fences mark the boundary of the property. Both buildings are in good condition and have had little alteration since their construction.

Architectural Description The Schulein House is a nearly symmetrical two-story Prairie School house with basement and attic. The foundation is brick while the frame structure has a narrow clapboard siding. The low-pitched, asphalt-shingled hipped roof has a wide overhang, with eaves, that is coved instead of boxed, with wide coved dormers on three facades and banded dormer windows. The one-story $3/4$ length porch extends to the north as a porte cochere, and its long hipped roof with wide boxed overhang rests on bracketed massive squared brick pillars. The exterior wall of the porch rises to the same level as the foundation and is capped with a contrasting coping that matches the cap of the foundation. A wide front step with five risers ascends from the sidewalk to the porch.

The front facade of the house itself is nearly symmetrical. On the first floor, paired double-hung 1/1 windows flank the front door, which although it breaks the line of the foundation, is flanked by sidelights which rest on the foundation and extend up to the fascia. The doorway and northernmost pair of windows are slightly offset to the north, along the lines of the porte cochere. On the second story, paired double-hung 1/1 windows flank a smaller single window.

The south facade has a wide brick chimney which corresponds to an interior fireplace, flanked by windows on both levels, before tapering and penetrating both the main and dormer roofs. A wide rectangular single-story ground-level oriel projects with a band of three double-hung windows. A number of the side facade windows are casements with varying numbers of small square panes. The southeast corner on both levels has a continuous band of windows which wraps the corner and extends half of the length of the eastern facade. The northeastern corner is doubly-recessed on the ground level for the north-facing back door and step. The northeastern corner of the second floor is further recessed, allowing windows on three sides of the southeastern enclosed

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Schulein House

Section number 7 Page 2

Woodbury County, Iowa

sleeping porch and a small porch balcony on the northeastern corner accessible by a door from a bedroom.

The porte cochere wraps the northwest corner of the ground floor. Two coal chutes pierce the north-facade foundation at ground level. An oriel bay with windows on three sides, corresponding to a stair landing, projects above and shelters a ground-level side entrance.

Many of the interior elements of the house, particularly on the ground floor, have been altered, including the fireplace mantel. The space least altered is the second floor hallway, which has all the original woodwork, most notably a built-in linen closet and a deeply-recessed doorway to the master bedroom. The stair banister and paneled windowseat on the oriel landing between the floors also appear little altered. Original flooring evident is the mosaic tile in the front entryway and terrazzo in the upstairs bathroom; other original flooring may still exist under later carpeting.

When the current homeowners inquired about replacing the Arco Ideal Water Boiler furnace, their repairman said it was significant and should be retained. One repairman said that the basement floor was initially heated by hot water. A photo of this furnace unit is included in the documentation. The clinker door has been sealed. American Radiator Company of Chicago, makers of American Radiators and Ideal Boilers, regularly advertised in the *Sioux City Daily Tribune*. A 1915 advertisement, for example, touts the long life of both the radiators and the boilers: "We advertised them as life-long investments, and they are proving so in more than a million buildings at home and abroad."¹ The Ideal boiler pictured in this contemporary advertisement appears similar to the boiler in the Schulein House.

The Schulein House is notable for its contemporary garage, in the same style as the house. The one-story rectangular single-bay clapboard structure has an asphalt-shingled hipped roof with coved rather than boxed eaves, which brings the roofline down to the level of top of the garage entry. Possibly because of the scale, the garage roof seems higher pitched than the house. Pairs of double-hung 1/1 windows are centered in the north and south facades. The interior of the garage was finished with tongue-and-groove boards on the sides and even across the ceiling. A clapboard-sided playhouse from the late 1950s attaches to the south facade of the garage, but may soon be removed.

¹ "A Life-long Investment," advertisement for American Radiator Company, *Sioux City Daily Tribune* 8 October 1915, pg. 3.

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Schulein House
Woodbury County, Iowa

The Schulein House contains strong horizontal lines characteristic of Prairie School, most notably in the substantial overhang of the roofline and wide front porch. Ground floor window sills are tied to the unbroken line of the brick foundation, while the lintels of the second floor windows tie into the unbroken line of the fascia. The sills of the second story windows on the northwest corner facades tie into the roofline of the porte cochere. The short, wide dormers with their banded windows add to the effect.

Alterations Since Construction Exterior alterations to the structure are relatively minor. The second-floor window west of the chimney in the south facade has long been covered over; the seam is hardly noticeable from the outside. Two air-conditioning units are hung just below the fascia on the west facade, and a third on ground-floor level on the recessed east facade. The base of a television antenna remains on the roof, and the railing on the northeast balcony is a later addition. Aluminum combination storm windows have been added. Otherwise the structure is intact and in relatively good shape.

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Schulein House
Woodbury County, Iowa

Statement of Significance The Schulein House is significant under Criterion C as one of the earliest successful Prairie School designs by William LaBarthe Steele, a prominent architect in Sioux City for three decades, and known nationwide for his Prairie School Woodbury County Courthouse, a National Historic Landmark. The house is located on a pair of prominent corner lots on Jackson Street, a major residential thoroughfare dotted with other substantial homes designed by Steele. Although its design falls halfway through Steele's career and within the last decade of Prairie Style's national popularity, the Schulein House represents one of Sioux City's earliest Prairie School designs in a group of buildings constructed before 1930. Although the house postdates Steele's Sullivan-esque 6-story quarter-block Davidson Building (1912-13), it predates Steele's better-known large Prairie School designs, such as the Livestock National Bank (1914-15), Everist House (1915-17), Woodbury County Courthouse (1915-18), S.S. Kresge Building (1917; razed), First Congregational Church (1917-18), Haftor Sve House (1922), Knights of Columbus Hall (1925), Fairmount and Smith Villa branch libraries (1926-27), Jacobson House (1928), Fire Station #3 (1929), and Williges Store (1930-31). Wilson and Robinson noted that Steele "provides the most interesting case of individualization of the Prairie Style after 1915, both in Iowa and the Midwest as a whole."² The success of the Schulein House may mark a turning point in Steele's career, representing as it does his abandonment of other architectural styles and acceptance of Prairie as the style of choice whenever circumstances and budget would accommodate it. The period of significance coincides with the date of construction, 1913.

The Schulein Family The Ben Schulein family lived in the Schulein House for its first four decades. Ben's father, Sigmund "Sig" Schulein (1844-1926), "one of Sioux City's oldest and best known business men"³ was an early Sioux City resident, and one of the founders of Sioux City's Jewish community. Born in Germany, Sigmund arrived in Iowa in 1858 and came to Sioux City in 1869, when there were less than 25 Jews in Sioux City. He opened a general store with his brother on Pearl Street.⁴ The first wave of Jewish immigrants to Sioux City, including Sioux City's first Jew, Godfrey Hattenbach, who arrived in 1857, were from Germany. Bernard Shuman

² Richard Guy Wilson and Sidney K. Robinson, *The Prairie School in Iowa* (Ames: Iowa State UP, 1977), pg. 24.

³ "S.C. Business Veteran Dies: Sigmund Schulein Passes Away from Stroke of Apoplexy," *Sioux City Sunday Journal*, 12 Dec. 1926, pg. 27.

⁴ "Sigmund Schulein, Pioneer Business Man, Celebrates His 80th Birthday: Early Day Merchant Still Is Active in Business Life of City," article with no source information, vertical file, Sioux City Public Library.

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dates the beginning of the "Jewish community" to 1869, when the newly-arrived Schulein brothers "were instrumental" in founding the Jewish Cemetery Association.⁵

The Schulein family had employed Steele at least once before. Sig Schulein bought and sold several properties, eventually making a fortune in real estate. The Pelletier Fire, Christmas 1904, destroyed two-and-a-half blocks of Sioux City's business district.⁶ The rubble was quickly cleared and the Schulein Block, a three-story white brick structure, was completed by October, 1905, at 506-508 Fourth. William Steele was the architect.⁷ In 1878 Sigmund and his wife moved to a house at 622 Jackson St. (razed), where he lived until his death. He was a 33rd degree Mason and a member of the Abu Bekr Shrine. Sig Schulein was the first president of the Mount Sinai Congregation, and the board met in his office to plan the building of the synagogue. His will left \$3000 yearly to his widow Tillie, with the rest of the \$1,000,000 estate going to his four children, three of whom had moved to New York City.⁸

Ben Schulein (1875-1953), owner of the Schulein House, was the eldest of two Schulein sons, and ran the shoe business founded by his father, in the east half of the Schulein Block at 508 Fourth Street, for 35 years.⁹ According to Shuman, Ben was "believed to be the first Jewish son

⁵ Bernard Shuman, *A History of the Sioux City Jewish Community 1869-1969* (Sioux City, Jewish Federation, 1969), pg. 7.

⁶ Scott Sorensen and B. Paul Chicoine, *Sioux City: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk, VA: Donning, 1982), pp. 126-27.

⁷ According to "Vital Statistics and Professional Record of Wm. L. Steele, Architect, Omaha, Nebraska, Sept. 1941," a copy of ten-page typescript obtained from Northwest Architectural Archives, Steele also designed, with Wilfred Beach, the H & H and American Express Building, 510-512 Fourth Street, another white three-story store with a prominent parapet and curtain of patterned terra cotta, which stands between the Schulein Building and the alley. The \$40,000 Schulein Block is pictured and mentioned in "Four and One-Half Millions for Improvements: Sioux City's Remarkable Building Record for the Season Sets New Mark for City of its Class," *Sioux City Journal* 29 October 1905. However, according to "The Architects of Sioux City Are Well Known Over A Wide Range of Territory," *Sioux City Journal Gateway to the Northwest* Number (ca. 1911), Sioux City Public Library, Beach designed the Schulein Block. The tale grows more complicated if you examine the Sioux City Directory for 1907, which lists 3 addresses for the "Schulein Block." However, the Old Schulein Block, at "4th s w cor Jones" (razed) appears in the 1898-99 Directory and thus predates the arrival in Sioux City of either Beach or Steele. The New Schulein Block ("4th n w cor Pierce") (razed) appears in the 1902-03 Directory, and is likely the structure designed by Beach. This leaves the Schulein Block at 506-508 Fourth as the likely Steele design and possibly his first commission as a full partner.

⁸ "Million Dollar Will Is Filed in Schulein Estate," *Sioux City Journal* 14 January 1927, pg. 16.

⁹ "Schulein Rites Are Set Today," *Sioux City Journal* 14 Jan. 1953, pg. 16.

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born in Sioux City."¹⁰ Ben Schulein was active in Kiwanis, Masons, and the Abu-Bekr Shrine Temple. Like his father, he was especially active at Mt. Sinai Temple, serving as treasurer and on the board of trustees. His wife Harriet died in 1950, and there were apparently no children. A special memorial editorial in the Journal called him a "quiet, unassuming, modest and affable" man and mused,

Throughout his long life, Mr. Schulein watched this community grow from a small western Iowa river town to a metropolitan area which is now the second largest city in the state. . . . His birth followed by only seven years the arrival of the first train in Sioux City. Thus in one man's life span he was privileged to see vast progress and to have a part in making that progress an accomplished fact. . . . Sioux City has lost a valued citizen, a member of one of its pioneer families.¹¹

Currently there are no Schuleins listed in the Sioux City phone book or directory.

Later Residents After the death of Ben Schulein, the house changed hands several times in several years. According to city directories, Everett & Evelyn Gunsolley lived there in 1954, Kenneth L. & Hiltrude Estee in 1955 and 1956, and Dr. Ambrose J. & Marie Callaghan beginning in 1957. The Callaghans owned the Schulein House through 1975. The 1976 directory lists it as vacant. James & Jacqueline Waite purchased the house in 1977, living there until the house was sold to its current owners, Gary Ham and Marilyn Mayer, in 1991.¹²

Construction of the Schulein House The Schulein House is probably the best documented of Steele's smaller domestic designs. It was mentioned at least twice during 1913 in *American Contractor*, the second version being the most detailed:

*Residence: 2 sty. & bas. \$10,000. 26th & Jackson sts. Archt. W.L. Steele, United Bank Bldg. Owner B. Schulein, 508 Fourth st. Preparing plans. Frame, brick foundation, shingle roof, oak finish, oak, cement & tile floors, gas and electric fixtures.¹³

¹⁰ Shuman, pg. 7.

¹¹ "Ben Schulein," *Sioux City Journal*, 15 Jan. 1953, 6:1.

¹² The directories mistakenly list Ham and Mayer as first living in the Schulein House in 1994.

¹³ *American Contractor* 34.1, 12 April 1913, pg. 76.

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Schulein House
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The home was finished by the next summer, as a photograph in the Tribune showed.¹⁴ Ben Schulein was also one of the contracting owners listed in the 1941 inventory of Steele's designs.¹⁵ The date of construction of the garage is unknown, although the similarity of roofline and materials argues for a contemporaneous origin. However, some of the residences built by Steele and listed in *American Contractor*, such as a Haftor Sve house at Jackson and 29th,¹⁶ list the garage with the house in the contract.

William LaBarthe Steele (1875-1949) The Schulein House is one of dozens of buildings in Sioux City designed by the prominent Prairie School architect William L. Steele. Born in Springfield, Illinois, Steele earned his B.S. in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1896. The most detailed discussion of his architectural training and experience prior to Sioux City is found in Allen:

He next entered the office of Louis Sullivan, of Chicago, who had gained considerable note as the architect for the Chicago Auditorium, the Chicago Stock Exchange Building, the old Schiller (now the Garrick) theatre and other important buildings. Mr. Steele served three years [1897-1900] as draftsman in that office, and then went to the office of S.S. Beman, of Chicago, the architect who designed the Pullman building and laid out the town of Pullman. Later Mr. Steele went to Pittsburgh and spent two years [1900-01] in the office of Thomas Rodd, who was the architect for the Westinghouse people. While there the Westinghouse buildings for Manchester, England, were designed, and Mr. Steele was one of the factors in drafting the plans. Subsequently he went with Alden & Harlow, of Pittsburgh, who were drafting plans for the Carnegie Institute, in which work he took an active part. Mr. Alden, of this firm, had been a pupil of Henry H. Richardson, the first American architect to gain a national reputation. From there Mr. Steele went into the office of Sidney F. Heckert [from 1902 to 1904], also of Pittsburgh, who specialized in church architecture, and here Mr. Steele was made head draftsman. In 1904, feeling that he had made sufficient preparation, Mr.

¹⁴ "One of the Fine Residences Adding to the Beauty of City," *Sioux City Daily Tribune*, 18 July 1914, pg. 14. The photo is captioned, "New Home of Ben Schulein, 2604 Jackson Street."

¹⁵ "Vital Statistics and Professional Record of Wm. L. Steele, Architect, Omaha, Nebraska, Sept. 1941."

¹⁶ *American Contractor* 34.1, 12 April 1913, pg. 76.

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Steele came to Sioux City and for a time was associated with Wilfred W. Beach, under the firm name of Beach & Steele.¹⁷

Steele arrived in Sioux City to work for Beach in 1904, and was a full partner by 1905.¹⁸ In 1907 he set up an individual practice. Steele began a brief association with George B. Hilgers in 1926, and in 1928 became a partner in Kimball, Steele, and Sandham of Omaha. In 1946, he formed Steele, Sandham, and Steele with his son William La Barthe Steele, Jr. Steele was active in numerous community and professional organizations, serving as president of Iowa Society of Architects and the Iowa Chapter of AIA, and vice president of the national AIA. Steele contributed articles to *Architect*, *Ecclesiastical Review*, *House Beautiful*, and *Journal of the American Institute of Architects*. He died in Neillsville, Wisconsin.

With national recognition of the Woodbury County Courthouse growing, Steele's importance to the history of the Prairie School is currently being reassessed. But as early as 1964 his integrity and dedication to the ideals of Louis Sullivan and the "Chicago School" were recognized. Mark L. Peisch characterized Steele as "one of Sullivan's most devoted followers,"¹⁹ and argued, "With the departure of Purcell in 1921 for the West Coast and the gradual withdrawal of Elmslie from practice, it was left chiefly to Steele to carry on the ideas of Sullivan."²⁰ Steele "remained faithful to the traditions of the Chicago group when many others reverted to traditionalism."²¹ Of Steele's Fairmount Public Library, Peisch wrote:

[Steele] continued to wage the battle for modern architecture during those difficult years when so many lost their courage. . . . Here again, the significant feature is the combination of specific function and general social service. . . . To be sure, it is not great architecture; but it represents a victory in the battle for a new architecture,

¹⁷ Arthur Francis Allen, "William LaBarthe Steele," *Northwestern Iowa: Its History and Traditions 1804-1926* (Chicago: Clarke, 1927), vol. II, pp. 1042-43. The bracketed dates are from "Steele, William La Barthe," *Who Was Who in America*, vol. 2 (1950).

¹⁸ "Steele, William La Barthe," *Who Was Who in America*, vol. 2 (1950). See also *Who's Who in Iowa* (Sioux City, 1922), pg. 72.

¹⁹ Mark L. Peisch, *The Chicago School of Architecture: Early Followers of Sullivan and Wright* (New York: Random House, 1964), pg. 80.

²⁰ Peisch, pg. 81.

²¹ Peisch, pg. 81.

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which was fought not only in Chicago but in a number of other Middle Western cities, even though without the drama and excitement which characterized it in the Loop and at Oak Park.²²

Steele's Buildings in Other Styles While Steele is best known for his Prairie School designs, dozens of other structures dot Sioux City's landscape, ranging from water pumping stations and horse barns in the stockyards to monuments in local cemeteries to a host of buildings for the Catholic Church, from churches (Immaculate Conception, St. Casimir's (1915-16), and St. Michael's) to convents and rectories, to schools and a college, Trinity (all 3 buildings now razed). Major Sioux City structures in styles other than Prairie School include the National Guard Armory, the Commercial-style Crane Co. Warehouse (ca. 1910; razed), the Neoclassical First National Bank (1911; razed), the Gothic-influenced St. Vincent's Hospital (1916-17), the Italian Renaissance-style Woodbury County Poor Farm (1917-18), Hawkeye Truck Company day-light factory (1918), the Italian Renaissance-style Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (1925), and the Tudor Revival-style Northside Branch Library (1929).

Domestic Architecture by William L. Steele An intriguing statement by Steele of his architectural philosophy exists in a scrapbook at the Sioux City Public Library:

American domestic architecture has many worthy examples. The old colonial style as it sprung into being in response to actual living conditions was beautiful and distinctive. As it exists today, it represents more or less of anachronism, a conservative sophisticated lack of faith in the frank solutions of the more modern conditions of the problem. The most truly American homes nowadays are being designed along the lines of the Chicago renaissance. This term was applied in fun by eastern architects to the work of the young men of the west who have been following Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. Theirs has been an attempt to work out architectural problems in absolute fidelity to the fundamental canons of art but unhampered by a slavish adherence to details which are taken arbitrarily to determine style.²³

No comprehensive survey exists of Steele's residential designs, dozens of which were completed in Sioux City. Thirty-six homes are listed in the 1941 inventory, followed by the phrase "and

²² Peisch, 137-38.

²³ Quoted in Mrs. Lewis Worthington Smith, "Creative Artists in Iowa," a series of articles published in the [Des Moines?] *Sunday Register*. Undated.

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Schulein House
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many others." Because the brief popularity of Prairie Style for residences corresponded with a period of steady, sustained growth for Sioux City, there are probably over a hundred houses in the style, ranging from pale pattern-book vernacular copies to Steele's best. Certainly the spare design of the Schulein House is one end of a scale that peaks in Steele's grandest Prairie residential design, the brick Everist House, with its 90 ft. long ground floor interior space, tile roof, porches with widely overhanging roofs, leaded art glass windows and doors, built-in cabinets and benches, and bands of casement windows. Hubert H. Everist, the owner, knew of Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in Chicago and "wanted a similar solution, using modern materials and based on an open and convenient living space for his family."²⁴ Wilson and Robinson characterized the Everist house as Steele's "most noteworthy. Long horizontal volumes of space are stacked together, and tied to the site by outstretching terraces and pergolas. Forms basically Wrightian in origin are articulated by Sullivan-derived ornament."²⁵

Two confirmed Steele designs are visible from the Schulein House along Jackson Street. The Hood House (1921), 2608 Jackson, has traditional Prairie elements including the low-pitch hipped roof and bands of window with their lintels at the fascia. It has a shorter brick foundation and is also clapboard above. As a later version, it doesn't have the dormers or brackets, but there is a grand front entry with classical Doric pillars. Steele's own home at 2512 Jackson is a cross-gabled roofer's nightmare with ribbons of prairie windows in what almost seems like a Cubist Colonial. The Schulein House bears interesting similarities to another smaller-scale Steele design, the demonstration-model Home Practical (3100 Valley Drive), which was advertised extensively in the *Sioux City Journal* in 1925.²⁶

The Woodbury County Courthouse William L. Steele's claim to national architectural note stems from his masterwork, the Woodbury County Courthouse (1915-1918), which is "the only major civic building built by the architects of the prairie school."²⁷ Steele won the competition, then executed the design in association with William G. Purcell and George Grant Elmslie. All

²⁴ *Sioux City, Iowa: An Architectural View* (Sioux City: Sioux City Art Center, 1983), pg. 36.

²⁵ Wilson and Robinson, pg. 25.

²⁶ An architect's rendering is in the issue of 16 August 1925 ("What to See at the Home Practical," pg. 12) and a floor plan followed on 30 August 1925 ("Real 'Reason-Why' in Home Practical Main Floor Plan," pg. 9). At the same time, the competing *Sioux City Daily Tribune* was featuring large spreads (12 pages on October 3) on its William Beuttler-designed "Ideal Home."

²⁷ H. Allen Brooks, *The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries* (Toronto: U of Toronto Press, 1972), pg. 298.

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had worked in Sullivan's office and learned Prairie style from the originator, although Elmslie is often given the greatest credit for the Woodbury County Courthouse design. Prairie School historian H. Allen Brooks wrote in 1972, "The Woodbury County Courthouse is a landmark which has never--due to its geographical isolation--received the notice it so richly deserves. In many respects it summarizes the best in midwest architecture of the previous quarter century."²⁸ After a return visit to Sioux City in 1993, Brooks wrote a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors. Excerpts published in the *Journal* argued that the Courthouse was "certainly [Elmslie's] best work," and added, "There are few public structures anywhere in the United States that can match or surpass the quality of the Woodbury County Courthouse. . . . Had the courthouse been located in a major metropolitan center, I'm sure it would be mentioned in every history of American architecture."²⁹

Recently a number of national honors have been bestowed upon the building. In 1993, Gebhard and Mansheim featured it on the cover of their hardback edition of *Buildings of Iowa*, and Sydney LeBlanc identified it as one of the 200 key American buildings of this century, "a model of progressive architecture at a time when most prominent American designers sought inspiration in the past."³⁰ In 1996, G.E. Kidder Smith chose it as one of the 500 most significant buildings constructed in America, and characterized it as:

One of the United States' freshest public buildings of the early twentieth century. . . . The rotunda (square) is, indeed, a triumph of terra-cotta; used with unity and appositeness, it produces a symphony, not a cacophony. . . . One of the finest examples of its architecturally groping time, and, indeed, the present.³¹

The Woodbury County Courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, and in 1996, the National Park Service designated it a National Historic Landmark.

²⁸ H. Allen Brooks, pg. 301.

²⁹ "Powerful Ally Joins County Effort to Have Courthouse Recognized," *Sioux City Journal* 8 December 1993, pg. A18.

³⁰ Sydney LeBlanc, *The Whitney Guide to 20th Century American Architecture: 200 Key Buildings* (New York: Watson-Guptill, 1993), pg. 31.

³¹ G.E. Kidder Smith, *Source Book of American Architecture: 500 Notable Buildings from the 10th Century to the Present* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996), pg. 343.

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Who's Who in Iowa 1920-21 ed.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 and 2, Block 7, Higman's Park Addition, Sioux City, Iowa.

Boundary Justification

The property included in this nomination is the property that is historically associated with this house and its garage.

Photographs

1. South and west facades. Looking northeast. Photograph #1 was published with the caption "One of Fine Residences Adding to Beauty of City" in the *Sioux City Daily Tribune*, 18 July 1914, pg. 6. No photographer credit is given and the original and negatives are presumed lost; this is a photo of a copy of a microfilmed article.

Tim Orwig was the photographer for 2-6 and has the negatives. All photos date from 16 November 1996, and depict the Schulein House, 2604 Jackson Street, Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa.

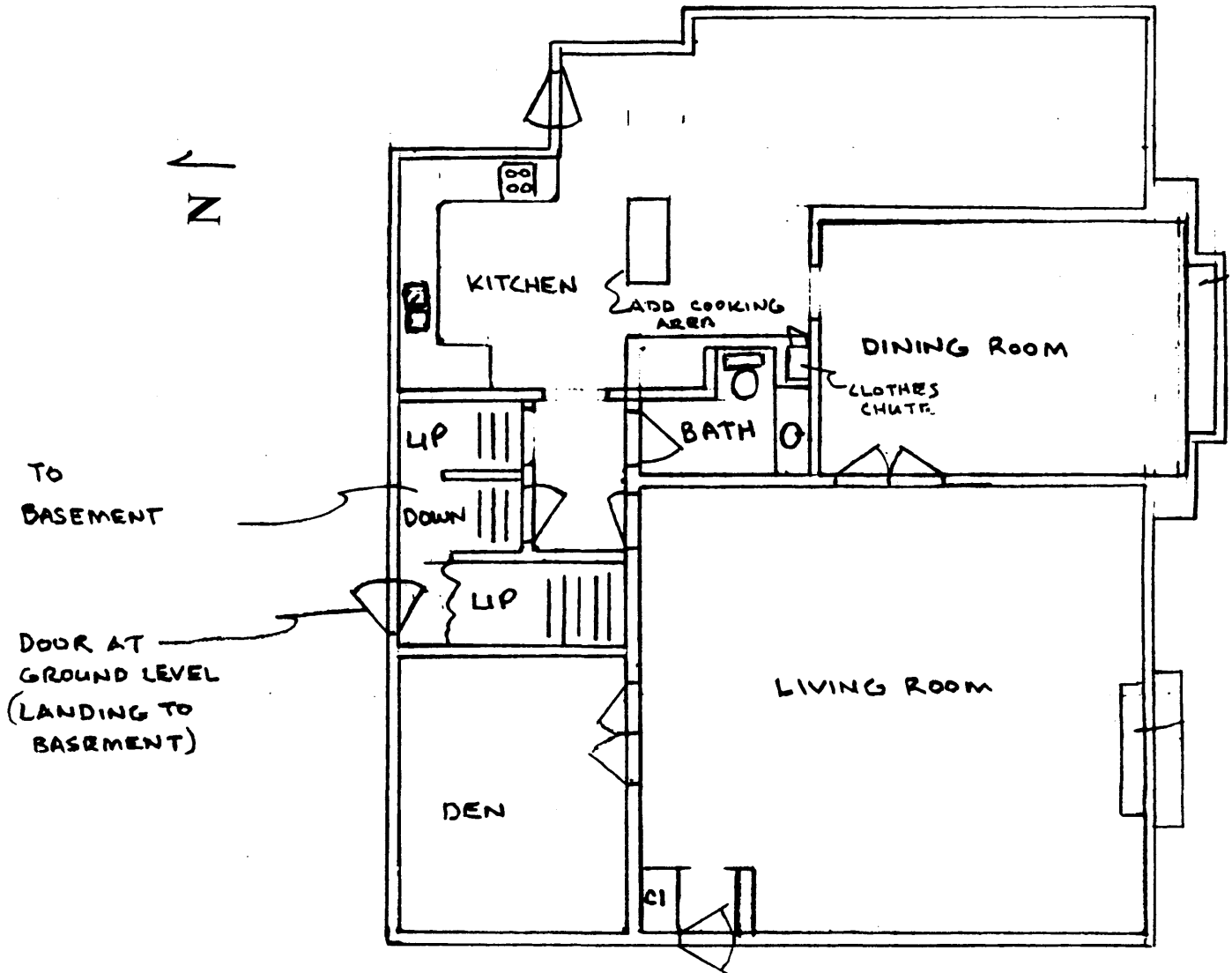
2. Front (west) facade. Looking east.
3. South facade. Looking northeast.
4. East facade. Looking northwest.
5. North and west facades. Looking southeast.
6. Interior detail: Furnace.
7. Garage: West facade. Looking east.

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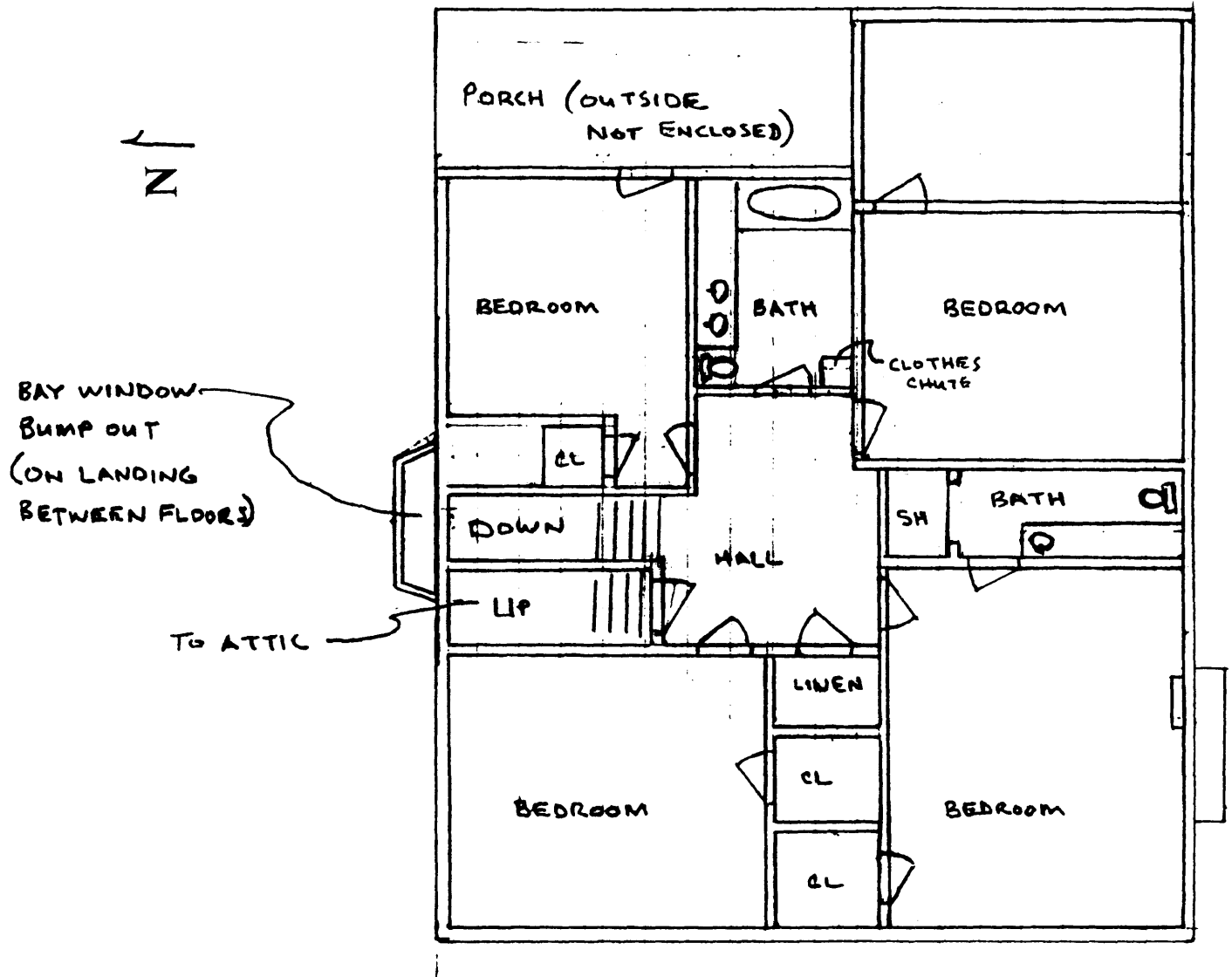
Ground Floor
Schulein House
2604 Jackson St.
Sioux City, Iowa
Drawing by Gary Ham
January 1997

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Second Floor
Schulein House
2604 Jackson St.
Sioux City, Iowa
Drawing by Gary Ham
January 1997

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