

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 16 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Mahnke House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2707 High St. not for publication

city, town Des Moines vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Polk code 153

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | n/a | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Milton and Helen Young

street & number 2707 High Street

city, town Des Moines vicinity of state Iowa 50312

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Polk County Courthouse

city, town Des Moines state Iowa

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 Mahnke House (1909) is a local application of the popular Prairie school of architecture. Prairie school elements include the brick veneer, the low double pitch roof, the wall screen in front of the house, the continuous strips of windows, the geometrical designs on the wall masses and in the casement windows, and the projecting eaves.

The house is rectangular on plan (29' by 36'), two stories tall, and has a double pitched hipped roof with ridge, and flared projecting eaves. A small single story breezeway projects from the west side, and has a band of casement windows on three sides. In the rear, the original small back porch has been enlarged and an enclosed entryway has been added. The exterior wall is brick veneer, laid in English bond with slightly darker header bricks.

The main facade sits upon a slight elevation and presents a symmetrical design to the street. Two shallow piers frame the recessed flat porticoed entrance, and support a band of five windows on the second floor. The windows have stone sills and lintels and the four stone mullions descend beyond the second floor sill level belt course to the portico below. Wrap around stone rectangular designs at each corner of the second floor break up the wall mass and add to the horizontal thrust of the house.

Two pairs of windows are located on each side of the house on the second floor. The breezeway on the west side has parapet front and rear walls which terminate in projecting piers, and which are separated by a shed roof and eaves. The parapet walls have a stone coping continuation of the belt course. A line of bushes and a low brick wall with stone coping in the front add additional horizontal feel to the plan. The wall surrounds the raised front terrace. The windows of the central mass are double hung, being 6/1 upstairs and 10/1 downstairs. The breezeway windows and front door incorporate geometric shapes and designs.

The house is generally well preserved. There is a settlement problem with the front portico and the front terrace wall is deteriorated.

Inside the house a wealth of Prairie School built-ins, woodwork trim, and original electrical fixtures are preserved. A small vestibule is tiled with one inch square red and white tile in a pattern that includes reversed swastikas. The hall of the house, which is centered between the dining room (right-hand side) and the living room is flanked by two porticos which are largely filled with heavy posts and beams and paneling, leaving a single width door and an open transom on each side of the hall. The dining room features a built-in buffet/hutch (originally with a pass-through to the kitchen behind) which has four cabinet doors with plain art glass set in a wheat design in lead. Similarly in the living room, built-in bookcases along the north wall flank a central window and radiator. The same art glass is arranged in combinations of squares and rectangles. The fireplace is faced with gray brick and features a heavy wooden beam for a mantel. A pair of doors with art glass inserts lead into the solarium. The solarium floor is tiled with multi-colored rectangular tile. Original bronze light fixtures are found in the living room (a central ceiling light with central pendant and four corner lights on chains), dining room (side lights flanking the buffet), and in the vestibule (a single side light). The original door bell chime is extant, and the stairwell is open with a side railing on the second floor.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Des Moines SW

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|----|---|----|----------|---|---|-----|
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 45 | 5 | 50 | 46 | 0 | 3 | 940 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | |

C

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | |

D

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | |

E

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | |

F

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | |

G

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | |

H

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 45 and the east half of Lto 46, Ingersoll Place, City of Des Moines.

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

organization Iowa SHPO date 31 May 1983

street & number Historical Building
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 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 Adrian A. Anderson

title _____ date 9/7/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/13/83

Joel Alcorn Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Des Moines, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1920/43.