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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic	Mahnke House					_	
and/or common			andar Filip and a state				
2. Loca	ition		· · ·				
street & number	2707 High 5-	т .,	·				not for publication
city, town	Des Moines		vici	nity of			
state	Iowa	code	019	county	Polk		code 153
3. Clas	sification				· [·		
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public X private both Public Acquisition in process being considere n/a		Status X occupie unoccuj work in Accessible X yes: res yes: unr no	pied progress tricted		ulture nercial ational ainment nment trial	museum park park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prop	ert	ty	· · · · · · · · · · · ·		,	
name Milto	n and Helen Y	oung	· · ·				· · ·
street & number	2707 High					:	
city, town	Des Moines		vici	nity of		state	Iowa 50312
5. Loca	tion of Le	ega	l Desc	riptio	on		
courthouse, regis	try of deeds, etc.	Co	ounty Cle	erk's O	ffice		
street & number		Ро	lk Count	y Courl	nouse		
city, town		De	s Moines	5		state	Iowa
6. Repr	esentatio	n i	n Exis	ting \$	Survey	S	
n/a title			h	as this pro	perty been det	ermined eli	gible? yes no
date					federa	nl stat	e county local

7. Description

 Condition
 Check one

 ______excellent
 _______deteriorated
 _______x unaltered

 _______sgood
 _______ruins
 _______altered

 _______trair
 _______unexposed
 _______altered

Check one <u>X</u> original site moved date

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 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 rectanglar 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.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	Indscape architecture Iaw Iterature Iterature military music philosophy politics/government	<pre> religion science social/ theater transportation other (specify)</pre>
Specific dates	1909	Builder/Architect Fr	ed W. Weitz, Buil	der

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mahnke House is a fine representative of the Prairie school of architecture, incorporating many elements of that school with traditional Prairie school materials.

George Mahnke, a salesman in Des Moines was the first owner of the house, and occupied the residence between 1909 and 1952. George and Emma Mahnke transfered the property to the Des Moines Annual Conference of the Methodist Church and the district superintendents of that organization, including Rev. Raoul Calkins and Rev. Howard P. Buxton lived in the house.

Fred W. Weitz (1867-1935) who with his brothers Charles and Edward organized under the firm of Charles Weitz Sons in 1904, was the builder of the Mahnke House in 1909. Fred Weitz became president of the Weitz Company Inc. in 1933. This firm was responsible for many notable Des Moines buildings, including the Hotel Fort Des Moines, the Hubbell Building, several schools, the Wallace-Homestead Building, the Hoyt Sherman Place Auditorium, the Orpheum Theater, St. Gabriel Monastery, Grace Methodist and St. John Churches. The firm constructed the Camp Dodge Contonment during the First World War, and some forty post offices and federal buildings throughout the country. Mr. Weitz was also director of the Des Moines National Bank, the Iowa-Des Moines National Bank and Trust Company and for forty years was vice president of Century Lumber Company.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

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treet & numbe	er E. 12th	& Grand	Ave.		telephone	515-2	81-4137	
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12. St	ate His	toric	Pres€	ervati o	on Offic	er C	ertifica	ation
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