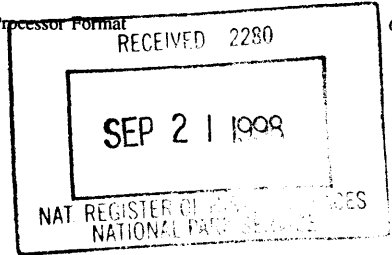


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1282

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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" on the appropriate line 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 WEITZ, CHARLES H. AND LENA MAY, HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1424 5th Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Des Moines N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50314

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 Thurman DSHPO 9-14-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
State or 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)

Edson H. Beall 10/22/98
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Towards a Greater Des Moines

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

foundation Brick

Colonial Revival

walls Asbestos

roof Asphalt

other Glass

Narrative Description

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

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House
Name of Property

Polk County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines 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

1891-1913

Significant Dates

1891

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Charles H. Weitz

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography 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):

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House
Name of Property

Polk 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 | 15 | 447990 | 4605850 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | |

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 William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth, Project Associate

organization River Bend Neighborhood Association date March 31, 1995

street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue telephone 515-243-5740; FAX 515-243-7285

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313

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 Glenn K. Eaton

street & number 1442 Royer Street telephone 515-277-1988

city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50316

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This is a 1-1/2 story, balloon-frame single-family dwelling. Constructed in 1891 by Charles H. Weitz, a contractor-builder of Des Moines, it features a gable-front-and-wing configuration with a 1-story porch situated in the ell of the facade. Architectural embellishments include a dormer window on the facade, a 1-story bay window on the south elevation, and steeply pitched roofs. This property also possesses a 2-story, brick building situated at the rear of the property. Probably constructed at about the same time as the house, this building provided a workshop for Weitz' business.

HOUSE

Roughly speaking, the footprint of this house consists of a two-story main block, which measures approximately 30' x 20' (width by depth) and a rear wing, also constructed of wood and measuring approximately 24' x 12'. A 1-story, front porch is located in the ell of the facade and partially under the main roof. It contains about 12 square feet, is now enclosed (although originally open), and is covered with a flared hip roof.

The main block of this house is covered with a side gable roof intersected on a lower level with a front gable roof. The pitch of these roofs is steep, and they are covered with asphalt shingles. The rear wing is covered with a front gable roof, also clad with asphalt shingles. The roof also features a dormer, situated on the facade of the building. This dormer is covered with a hip roof. This dormer extends beyond the main roof, covering a portion of the front porch roof.

A brick chimney is situated near the center of the house and rises above the ridge of the main roof. This chimney is now parged with stucco.

Architectural embellishments include the one-story bay on the southern elevation of the building and double hung sash fenestration. Several of the building's windows are paired, including the first and second stories of the facade and the second story of the southern elevation. Because cover-up siding now clads the building, the building's original cladding materials are not exposed. Although this is visually distracting, the gable ends of the building are covered in a different colored-material than that of the main walls, suggesting that the original materials underneath might include decorative siding materials in the gable ends.

The rear wing of this house is unusually massive. Measuring approximately 24' x 12' in dimension, this size is larger than most rear wings encountered in North Des Moines. The rear wing's steeply pitched roof also contributes to this visual impression.

At the present time, a California-type wood deck is situated on the western elevation of the building. This feature also possesses a flight of steps to the second floor. Although these features are visually distracting to the building, they are not visible from the front of the building and are reversible.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

On the interior, this house features hardwood floors on the first and second floors, and plaster wall finishes. There are four rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor. The basement features a concrete floor and unfinished walls.

Overall the house is in good condition. It is counted as one contributing building to this property.

WORKSHOP

This is a 2-story, brick outbuilding constructed circa 1891. It features exterior walls of yellow-orange colored brick, cast concrete sills, parapets on the eastern, southern, and northern elevations, and a flat roof sloping to the west. The northern elevation of the building possesses a vehicular entrance on the first floor and a door to the second floor accessed by a flight of steps.

As the workshop for a contractor-builder, this building housed power tools and flammable materials. Its masonry construction provided a measure of safety against the threat of fire. This accounts for the fact that it is one of the few masonry outbuildings in the River Bend neighborhood.

A modern, wood frame wing has been constructed on the east side of this shop. One-story in configuration and clad with vinyl cover-up siding, it is used as a two-bay garage and is covered with an asphalt roof. Although this wing is visually distracting from the shop, the wing is reversible.

This building is located near the southwestern corner of Lot 2. It is accessed from the alley at the rear of the lot.

Overall this shop is in good condition. It is counted as one contributing building to this property.

AUTOMOBILE GARAGE

An automobile garage stands at the rear of the house. This is a 1-story building constructed of wood, built circa 1980, and presently clad with aluminum cover-up siding. It is covered with a front gable roof and contains space for two vehicles, although the interior is accessed by only one over-head door. This building faces west and is accessed by the alley at the rear of the property.

This automobile garage is in good condition. It is counted as one noncontributing building to this property.

SITE

This property is situated on Lot 2 in Bates Addition to the City of Des Moines. This lot measures 60' x 137'.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

The immediate site of this property is generally level in topography. Sixth Avenue, an artery to and from downtown Des Moines is situated one block to the west of the Weitz House. The Sixth & Forest Historic District (NRHP) is located at its intersection with Forest Avenue, which stands nearby. An alley is situated at the rear of the Weitz House. It runs north and south and forms the eastern boundary of that historic district.

The immediate surroundings of the Weitz House are residential in feeling. Most of these dwellings are single-family houses (original use). An apartment building is situated directly east of the Weitz House. Although this is the only multiple-family building in the immediate neighborhood, some of the single-family houses have been converted to multiple. Most of these buildings are constructed close to one another and give the visual impression of densely built-up.

The Des Moines City Assessor's Office describes this site as within a "blighted area." The federal Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) has designated this neighborhood as "slum blight."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

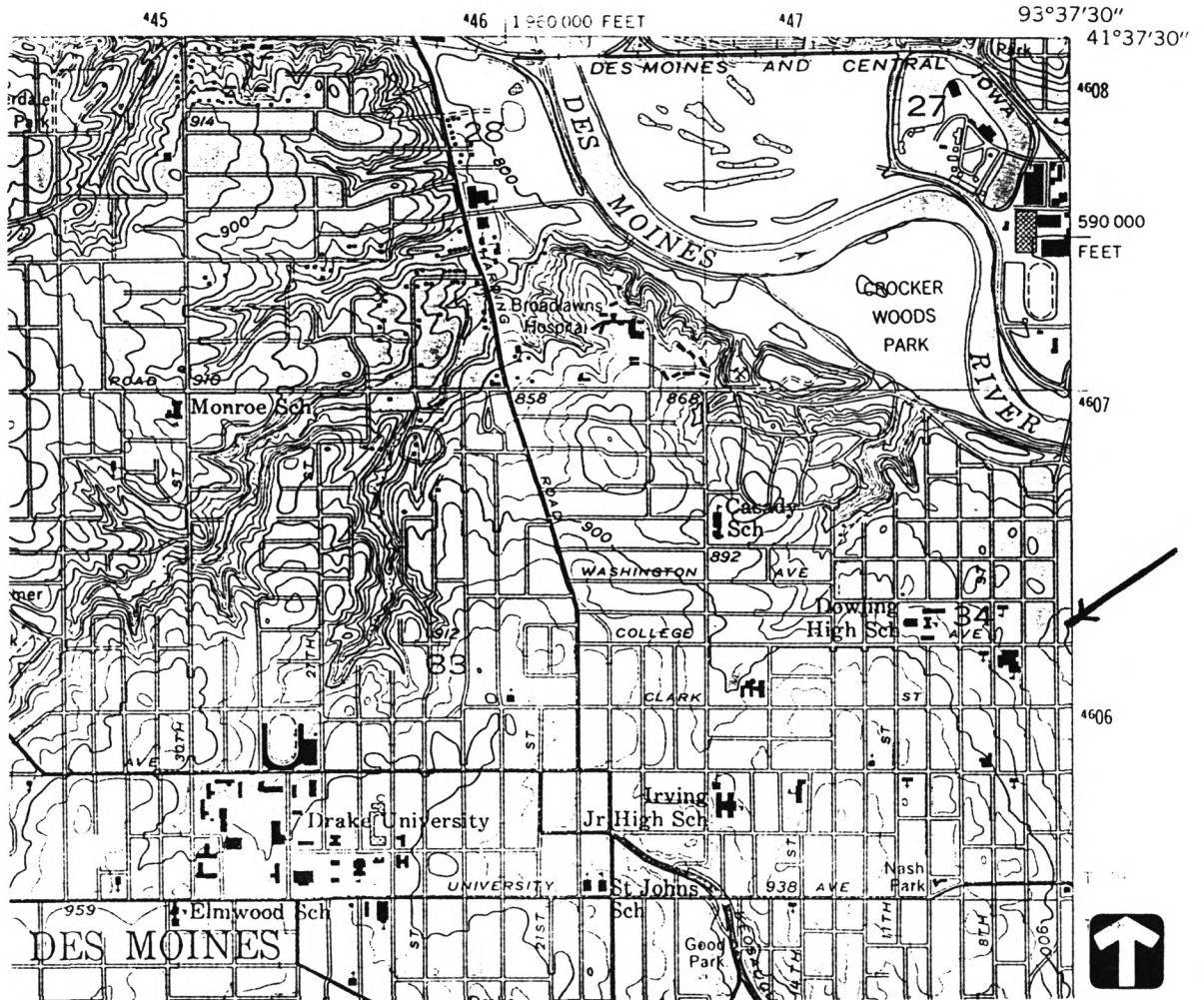
Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

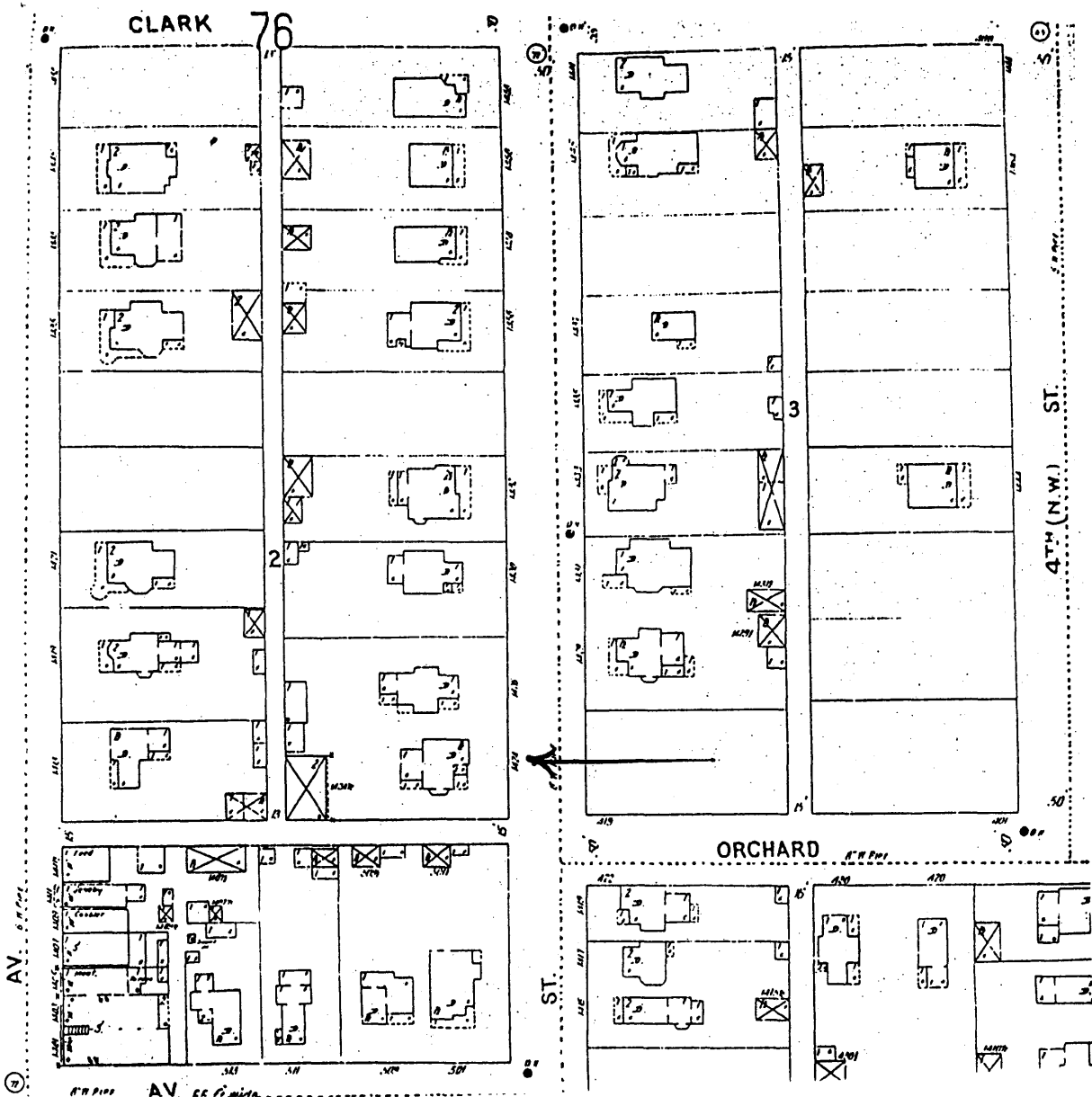
Section number 7 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

1901 PLAT MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

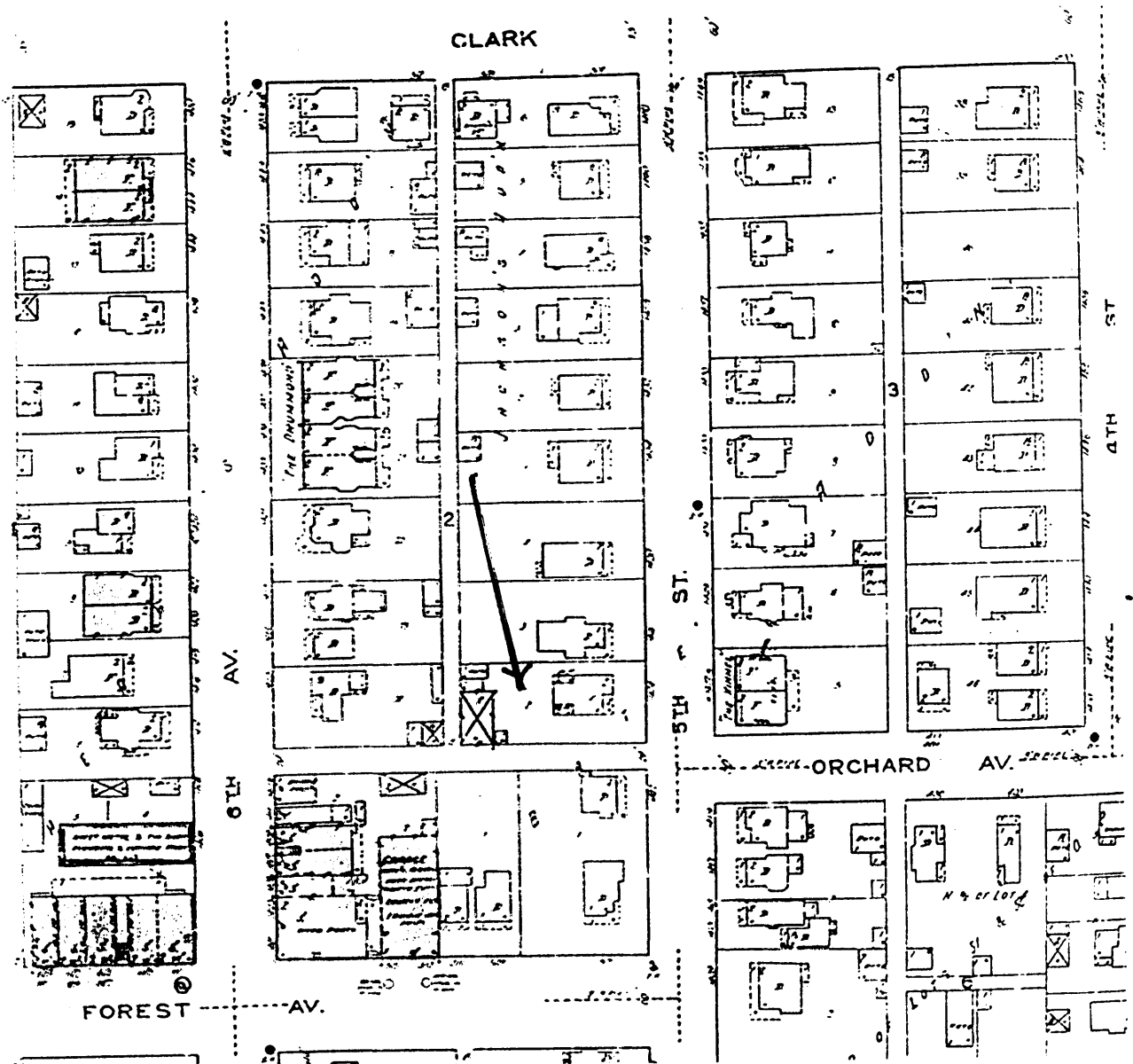
Section number 7 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

1920 PLAT MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: Sanborn Map Company, Des Moines, 1920, p. 315.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

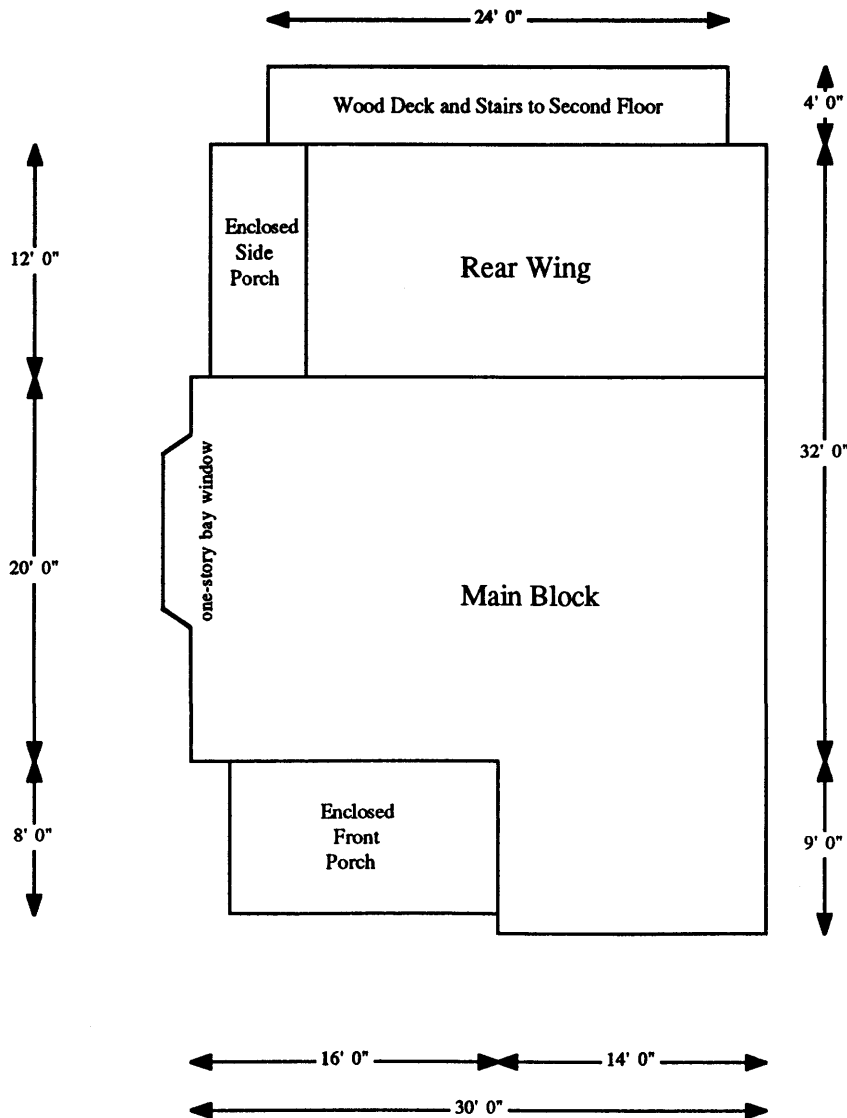
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 7

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

HOUSE FOOTPRINT



Source: Des Moines City Assessor Office measurements,
William C. Page, computer drawing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1891 as a single-family dwelling, the Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House possesses historical significance, under Criterion A, because of its association with Charles Weitz & Sons, an important construction firm in Des Moines during the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries. As a partner in the firm and the elder son of its founder, Charles H. Weitz introduced modern methods of construction to this family business, thereby assuring its potential for growth. The firm is now a full-service general contractor of national rank. The Weitz House is significant within this context because it served as the residence of Charles H. and Lena May Weitz from 1891 to 1913, a critical period of time for the firm's growth. A 2-story brick workshop, located at the rear of this property, also possesses historical significance. Charles H. Weitz used it in the business. The Weitz House possesses local architectural significance, under National Register Criterion C. The building calls attention to the influence of Colonial Revival styling on its design, particularly as practiced in the Victorian suburb of North Des Moines, and to Charles H. Weitz' role in popularizing that mode within the community.

The period of significance, under Criteria C and A, for the Weitz House is 1891-1913, the year 1891 when the building was completed and the years 1891-1913 when Charles H. Weitz lived there.

The property contains two contributing resources for this nomination--the house and the workshop--and one noncontributing resource--a modern garage.

WEITZ

Introduction

The Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House is significant because of its historical association with Charles Weitz & Sons, an important firm of building contractors in Des Moines. It included Charles ("Charley") Weitz, the founder, and three of his sons, who succeeded their father in the business--Charles H. Weitz, Frederick W. Weitz, and Edward W. Weitz.

According to one family historian:

The energy with which the young men approached their job [of continuing their father's business] created a new asset for the company. Although Weitz & Sons had a certain amount of tradition and valuable experience behind them, they were not afraid to be the innovators of a new technique. Charles, Sr., even though he had always accepted the new, was always somewhat hesitant to stick his neck out. In this respect his sons differed. During the 1890's the impact of [an] increasing standard of living hit Des Moines as it never had before. As "modern conveniences" (including a few automobiles), became more common, the lives of the people changed dramatically. Obviously the construction trade was affected as well; now Weitz hired a variety of electrical

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

subcontractors, [and] ordered the most modern elevators to be installed in his buildings. . . The sons organized modern construction techniques that the elder Weitz would never have needed earlier in the century. Their forward looking attitude complemented by the stability of a 50-year old firm was highly beneficial. (Ankeney Weitz:42)

During this critical period of transition for the firm, Charles H. Weitz resided at 1424 5th Avenue in Des Moines.

Although no longer family-owned, the Weitz firm has continued to grow and prosper. For example, the *Des Moines Register* reported in 1998 that:

Weitz Co., Inc. of Des Moines was the 66th largest contractor in the United States in terms of annual revenue last year, according to rankings by Engineering News Record, a construction industry publication.

In the general building sector of the industry, Weitz ranked 40th, putting it among the top 50 general builders. (*Des Moines Register* 1998)

The Firm of Weitz

The firm of Charles Weitz was a family business. In 1899, it included Charley Weitz (1826-1906), its founder; Charles H. Weitz, foreman; Frederick W. Weitz (1868-1935), foreman; and other relatives. (City Directory 1899:737) Charles H. and Frederick were two of Charley's sons. Edward W. Weitz, a third son, later joined the firm. Charles H. frequently used his middle initial to distinguish him from his father. (*Ibid.*) (Evidently Charley did not use his middle initial, which was also "H".) This source of potential confusion was compounded when Charles, Charley's son, married a woman named "Lena." Charles' mother's name was Helena and she, too, was frequently called "Lena."

In 1903 the company legally became a partnership among Weitz' sons under the name "Charles Weitz' Sons, General Contractors." Charley died in 1906. His three sons continued their father's business as partners in the firm. Charles H. headed the contracting firm and served as president of the Century Lumber Company. Frederick served as a partner in the contracting firm and treasurer of the Century Lumber Company. During the 1880s, Frederick had studied architecture with the local firm of Foster & Liebbe. (City Directory 1886-87) Edward also served as a partner in the contracting firm and secretary of the Century Lumber Company. (Andrews:265) In 1933 the Weitz company was incorporated. It remained a family-held business until 1995, when Fred Weitz sold The Weitz Company to key employees. Weitz continues in Des Moines today as one of Iowa's largest building contractors.

The Weitz firm built some of Des Moines' most notable buildings. They included the Des Moines Municipal Building (NRHP), the Hotel Fort Des Moines (NRHP), Iowa-Des Moines National Bank

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

Building (currently Firststar Bank) (NRHP), the Drake University Fieldhouse and Stadium, and the Lexington Apartments (NRHP).

Charles H. Weitz

Charles H[einrich or Henry] Weitz (1865-1937) was born in Des Moines, Iowa. He grew up in his father's contracting firm, serving as a foreman, and, later as a proprietor of the firm with Frederick and Edward, his brothers. Together the brothers also established the Century Lumber Company, another successful business.

In 1890 Charles married Lena May Vote of Fairfield, Iowa. To this union were born Carl (born 1893) and Harold (born 1896), who both subsequently became associated with the Century Lumber Company. The Weitzes built this house at 1424 5th Avenue and moved into it soon after their marriage.

Charles and Lena resided at that address about 21 years. Their two sons were born there. This property is additionally significant because Charles' workshop, which survives at the rear of the property, provides a visual reminder of his occupation. In 1913, the Weitzes moved to a prestigious new dwelling at 5105 Waterbury Road in Des Moines. The house on 5th Avenue is a middle-class residence, whose design and scale was commensurate with the financial capability of the Weitz family at the time of its construction. It provides a benchmark in gauging Charles' success in the contracting and retail lumber trades when compared with the Weitz House at 5105 Waterbury Road, an upper middle-class residence. (Edward and Alice Weitz also built a new house at 5231 Waterbury Road during the same period.) (*Who's Who in Des Moines*:268)

"Charley" Weitz

Charles H. Weitz (1826-1906) was born near Frankfort-am-Main, Germany. "Charley," as he was known in Des Moines (Andrews:263), completed his apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker in his native county. Following military service during the Revolution of 1848, Weitz emigrated with his brother to the United States. From Ohio, where they had settled and Charley had married, the three relocated to Des Moines in 1854. (Weitz:3)

Because he found no builder ready to employ him as a carpenter in Des Moines, Charley established his own business. It was originally known as "Charles Weitz, Carpenter and Building." (*Ibid.*:7) Business stationery survives from 1855 and styles the enterprise as "Charles Weitz, Practical Builder & Contractor." (Weitz Archives) Des Moines was in its infancy at the time, and Weitz's business as a contractor-builder grew with the city. According to one local history, quoted on the following page, Charley:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 11

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

erected many of the beautiful and substantial structures which are now an ornament to the city and which are enduring evidences of his skill and reliability in his chosen calling.
(Brigham:II-1051)

Although "residences by the hundreds" are ascribed to him (Andrews:265), the identification of these buildings is yet to be made. No doubt many are nonextant, having been obliterated by downtown Des Moines' expansion, urban renewal, and the construction of the MacVicar Freeway. By the 1880s Charley was speculating in local real estate. For example, one book among his papers survives, "describing several property transactions and buying of mortgages." (Brown:62)

In 1854, Charley married Helena Kinnel, also a native of Germany. Seven children were born to this union: Lizzie, Charles H., Amelia, Rosa, Frederick W., Emma, and Edward. As Weitz' business flourished, his sons entered into it with him.

Throughout their long residence in Des Moines, Charley and Helena lived at 567 8th Street. They built a succession of three dwellings on this city lot. All are nonextant. The third was a large and elaborate brick dwelling.

STYLE

The Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House shows the early influence of Colonial Revival styling in North Des Moines and illustrates how Charles H. Weitz helped popularize this mode of architecture in that Victorian suburb. The date of its construction--1891--stands at the advent of Colonial Revival styling in North Des Moines. For example, the well-known "Three Sisters"--single-family dwellings designed by George E. Hallett on 9th Street--were built in 1897. (Page and Walroth 1996:I-95) As a contractor-builder, Weitz was cognizant of construction trade literature and naturally wished his own residence to be stylish and up-to-date. Colonial Revival subsequently became one of the most popular styles for residential architecture in North Des Moines.

The front porch is partially inset under the main roof of the house and the dormer window on the facade is tightly held within the building's massing. These characteristics show how Colonial Revival styling integrated architectural features into the main block of a building and lent a more tailored look to its overall design than previous styles. The flared roof of the front porch is another characteristic of the Colonial Revival influence on the building.

On another note, the rear wing of the building is unusually wide in relation to the main block of the house. It is covered with a front gable roof, which provides additional massing to the west elevation of the building. The substantial volume of this wing might be related to Germanic building traditions, as carried over to Iowa. In the Amana Colonies, for example, one finds homes possessing a block-shaped footprint, larger in size than the more attenuated rectangles associated with mainline American residences.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 **Page** 12

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

The following comment, included in a Weitz family history, strengthens such an assertion:

Despite the engagement of the sons [Charles H. and Fred] in larger projects and buildings they continued to build a large number of residences of high quality. Some of these houses, were quite traditional, usually in the classical style of red brick or white clapboard. It is said that Fred Weitz built his home in the style of a German farmhouse, although he had never seen one. However, at the beginning of the century the tudor style of architecture came into style and many of the wealthier inhabitants had their residences designed in this fashion. Charles Weitz Jr.'s house on [5105, ed.] Waterbury Road is a large tudor house surrounded by others of the same vintage. (Weitz:47)

The new house Fred Weitz built in 1898 for himself and his bride was located at 403 42nd Street in Des Moines. Edward Weitz built a house at 5231 Waterbury Road. All these locations remain prestigious residential sections of Des Moines to the present day.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

This building was surveyed in 1994 as part of the "Towards a Greater Des Moines" reconnaissance survey of Des Moines' Victorian suburbs. As one resource within the intensive survey of the River Bend neighborhood, another part of this project, this building was evaluated as individually eligible, under Criterion A and C, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The State Historical Society of Iowa concurred in this determination.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Although the site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated, there appears to be little if any in this regard. By the time this house was constructed, much of North Des Moines was supplied with public water supply. This fact reduces the likelihood of identifying privy remains on the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The massive rear wing of this house deserves further research. The dimensions of its width are unusual in North Des Moines. Although the author of this report cannot cite "chapter and verse," he has seen in German-settled sections of Iowa numerous houses with similarly "wide" side elevations. Perhaps the Weitz House relates to what appears to be a trait in the vernacular architecture of Germans in Iowa. Further research and survey are recommended to define this phenomenon and its significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 **Page** 13

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

Two of Charles H. and Lena Weitz' descendants--Elizabeth Johnson, a granddaughter living in Des Moines, and Charles Weitz, a grandson living in Maine--survive and may be able to provide more information about their grandparents. Elizabeth and Charles are the children of Carl Weitz.

The Kinnel Apartments, located at 1427 5th Avenue (City Directory 1920:724), is situated directly across the street from the Charles H. and Lena Weitz House. According to a family historian, this apartment building was constructed by the firm for a special purpose.

The Kinnel Apartment Building, named after his [Charley's] wife's family, was given to his two maiden daughters, Lizzie and Rosa, before his death. (Ankeney Weitz:49)

The potential for this building's eligibility for nomination to the National Register deserves evaluation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 14

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please refer to Section I of the Multiple Property Documentation Form for complete bibliography.

PRIMARY

Des Moines City Directories for 1873, 1899, 1920.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1901 and 1920.

Weitz, Rudolph W.; *Pioneer Building Industry of Polk County*; Typewritten manuscript; 1969. Speech to the Pioneer Club of Des Moines.

Weitz, Sarah [Sally] Stevenson; *Biography of Sally Weitz*; Typewritten manuscript. Archives of Weitz Corporation, Des Moines, Iowa. Sarah Stevenson Weitz married Rudolph Weitz. This account is an autobiographical sketch of her life.

SECONDARY

Andrews, L. F.; *Pioneers of Polk County, Iowa*; Baker-Trisler Company; Des Moines, Iowa; 1908. Volume I, historical sketch of Charles Weitz, pp. 263-268.

Anonymous; Typewritten manuscript. Archives Weitz Corporation; Des Moines, Iowa. Quotes an uncited local newspaper article about the Weitz business.

Brown, Greta Weitz; *The Weitz Genealogy from Germany to Iowa*; Typewritten manuscript; 1976. Archives of Weitz Corporation, Des Moines, Iowa.

Brigham, Johnson; *Des Moines, the Pioneer of Municipal Progress and Reform of the Middle West together with the History of Polk County, Iowa, the Largest, Most Populous and Most Prosperous County in the State of Iowa*; Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company; 1911; 2 volumes.

Des Moines City Assessor's Office, City Assessor's Property Card for 1424 5th Avenue.

Des Moines Register; "Weitz ranked 66th-largest contractor"; June 10, 1998, Business Section, p. 10.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 15

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee; *A Field Guide to American Houses*; New York: Alfred A. Knopf; 1984.

Page, William C., and Joanne R. Walroth; *Towards a Greater Des Moines: Early Suburbanization and Development, circa 1880-circa 1920*; Intensive cultural resources report prepared for and on file at the Des Moines Historic District Commission and State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; 1992.

Weitz, Ankeney; "Weitz Family History"; Typewritten manuscript. Archives of Weitz Corporation; Des Moines, Iowa.

ORAL INFORMANTS

Weitz, Fred, with William C. Page; October 9, 1997. Weitz is the great-nephew of Charles H. and Lena Weitz and the great-grandson of Charles H. and Helena Weitz. He shared genealogical information about the Weitz family and opened his office files for research.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 16

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2 in Bates Addition to the City of Des Moines, Iowa.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary contains all land associated historically with this resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 17

CFN-259-1116

Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House, Polk County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House
1424 5th Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50314
House
Looking northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
November 24, 1997
2. Charles H. and Lena May Weitz House
1424 5th Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50314
Workshop
Looking northeast
William C. Page, Photographer