

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name George Rewerts House  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 306 8th Avenue N/A not for publication  
city, towns/site number Defiance N/A vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Shelby code 165 zip code 51527

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>      </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

*David C. ...* Signature of certifying official  
Date 8/13/91

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I  hereby, certify that this 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 for the National Register.  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*Bob Boland* \_\_\_\_\_  
10/5/91 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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## Historic Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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## Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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## Architectural Classification

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

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LATE VICTORIAN/Stick

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## Materials

foundation ceramic tile

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walls wood/weatherboard

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wood/shingle

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roof asphalt

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other glass

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The George Rewerts House is situated on a open lot just north of 8th Avenue. The building faces west and is a 2.5 story side-passage dwelling set upon a combination brick and clay tile block foundation and is irregular in ground plan. The architectural design of the dwelling is influenced by elements of the Late Victorian styles commonly known as the Queen Anne and Stick styles. The hipped roof has pent gabled eels and is covered with asphalt shingles. A hipped roofed dormer, one window wide, is present on the south roof slope above the side porch entry. A single brick chimney ascends from the hipped roof near its apex. This chimney is a replacement of the original chimney. The walls of the dwelling are clad with narrow weatherboard with crown mold on the eaves, a wide friezeboard under the eaves, and a wide board at the water table. The cornerboards have capitals, while the window surrounds are plain. The gable peaks have asphalt shingled pents with decorative woodwork, scroll-sawn brackets, and fishscale shingle siding above. The windows in the gable peaks include a small rectangular window surrounded by radiating decorative woodwork on the west side and paired multi-pane over single pane windows on the south side. The overall emphasis of the house style is on the horizontal which is evidenced in the massive closed gables, the triangular top sections in the gable peaks which extend forward and are covered with shingle siding and supported by brackets, and the wide band of paneled trim beneath the friezeboard on the south side, much of which is reminiscent of the Stick style.

The formal entry is inset and offcenter to the right on the west facade and covered with an open, half-width porch which has a canted pent-gabled entry to the right. The porch retains its original canted entry and turned spindleposts, but the original spindlefrieze, brackets, and turned balustrade have been removed. A weatherboard-sided closed rail replaced the balustrade. The only other modifications include the enclosure of the south side porch which originally had the same detailing as the front porch, the insertion of a small air conditioner unit in the west ell facade underneath the porch roof, and the blowing of insulation into the walls.

The windows include the original 36/1 colored glass double-hung windows in the south gable end and the hipped dormer. Other windows include fixed-light cottage windows with etched headers and stepped windows in the front entry stairwell. All of the windows are the originals except for the replacement of the colored glass panes in the stepped stairwell windows with clear single panes. Notable interior features include the decorative woodwork on the front stairway, the egg-and-dart molding, the large hutch ordered specifically for this house, and the wood wreath decorative detailing on the front door.

The dwelling is situated approximately 67 feet north from the north edge of 8th Street and 48 feet east of the east edge of an alley to the west. The lot is

XSee continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>ETHNIC HERITAGE/European</u>	<u>1902</u>	<u>1902</u>
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	
_____	<u>N/A</u>	
_____	_____	
_____	_____	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
<u>N/A</u>	<u>Rewerts, George</u>	
_____	_____	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The George Rewerts House is locally significant under National Register Criterion C within the multiple property historic context of German Immigrant Settlement, 1872-1940s: Construction Trades and Industries because it exemplifies the work of a German immigrant designer/craftsman and the influence of the local building industry developed by German immigrants. Rewerts' skills in carpentry and design are best illustrated in the nominated property which he constructed in 1902 with the assistance of local carpenters Nels Gregersen and Lee Hulsebus. The period of significance of the nominated property is the date of construction, 1902.

The German-influenced lumber industry was of particular importance in the towns of Earling and Defiance, where prominent German immigrants operated the only long-term lumberyards in these towns and were largely responsible for much of the construction in these communities. As noted in the multiple property document, the lumberyard in Earling was established early in the town's history by German immigrant John C. Heese. That lumberyard remains in operation and is still owned by the Heese family. In Defiance, the lumberyard was also established early in that community's history, with the large lumber shed/office being built in the 1890s by J. F. Loudenslager, a German immigrant.

George Rewerts was born in 1867 in Rysum, Ostfriesland, Germany, and immigrated to the United States in 1882 settling first in Council Bluffs before migrating to Defiance in 1887. Rewerts was skilled in carpentry and when he first settled in Defiance he worked as an employee of the Defiance Lumber Company. In 1902 he purchased the company, and it remains in operation by the Rewerts family to the present day. George Rewerts assisted in the construction of "many homes in the Defiance area including a beautiful large home of his own" (Shelby County Historical Society 1976:677). Rewerts designed the house likely following pattern book designs with his own embellishments. Unfortunately, no blueprints or working drawings have survived.

That he was successful in the lumber business is evidenced not only by this fine home but also by the durability of the family-run operation. His son, Rhinehart worked in the business with his father and took over the operation upon his father's death in 1947.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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History Book Committee. Defiance Century Review, 1882-1982. Odebolt, Iowa: Miller Printing and Publishing, 1982.

Rewerts, Selina. Personal communication, 1991.

Shelby County Historical Society. Past and Present of Shelby County, Iowa, Volume III. Harlan: Shelby County Historical Society, 1976, p. 677.

State of Iowa. 1915 Population Census: Shelby County.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):	<u>See continuation sheet</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	Primary location of additional data:
<input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office
<input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Local government
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> University
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	Specify repository:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Historic Preservation

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A	<u>15</u>	<u>305470</u>	<u>4633260</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is bounded by the legal description as recorded in the Shelby County Recorder's Office: West half of Block 5 in Hain's Second Addition to the Town of Defiance, Iowa.

See continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property includes the parcel historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title	<u>Leah Rogers, Project Director</u>	date	<u>June 30, 1991</u>
organization	<u>Preservation Partnership Phase III</u>	telephone	<u>319-849-1271</u>
street & number	<u>520 Franklin</u>	state	<u>Iowa</u> zip code <u>52213</u>
city or town	<u>Center Point</u>		

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   3   Page   1  

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Name of related multiple property listing:

The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

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well manicured with several large pine and shade trees around the lot and near the house. A concrete sidewalk angles from the canted porch entry to the southwestern corner of the lot. A small rectangular garage is located approximately 20-30 feet east of the rear of the house. This garage was built in the 1920s-1930s and is considered a noncontributing building to this property because it post-dates the period of significance but is situated on the lot historically associated with the nominated property. It does not, however, impact or obscure the view of the nominated property nor does it detract from the integrity of that property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

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The period of George Rewerts' ownership of the lumberyard, particularly during the first two decades of the twentieth century was of tremendous importance to the architectural development and growth of the Town of Defiance as these were boom years in the town's construction. Rewerts was also a community influential and served Defiance for nearly 30 years as a town councilman and for eight years as mayor. In addition, he was township clerk for 46 consecutive years. The property remained the Rewerts family home until 1984. The present owners have a demonstrated interest in the preservation of this dwelling.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1

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George Rewerts House  
Defiance, Iowa  
Original negatives at Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Description</u>
#1	House Leah Rogers, photographer 2/23/91 view to NW		
2	House Roslea Johnson, photographer 6/27/90 view to E		
3	House Leah Rogers, photographer 2/23/91 view to SE		
4	Historic photo of house unknown photographer 1902 original photo in Selina Rewerts' possession, Defiance, Iowa view to NE		

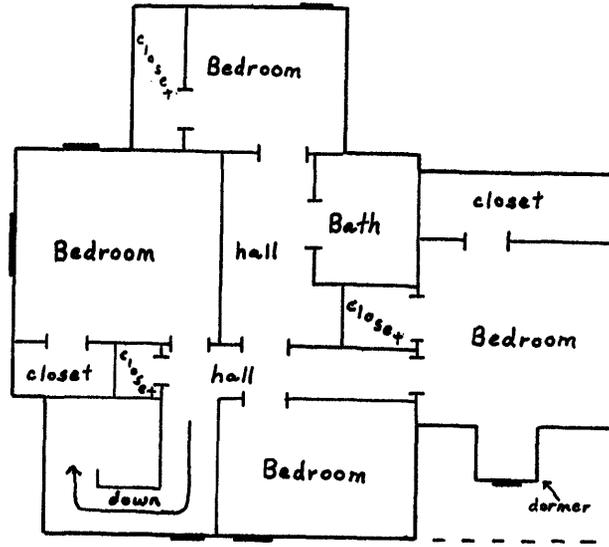
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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Floorplan Page 1

George Rewerts House, Defiance, Iowa.

Second Floor



First Floor

