

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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: Woelk House
Other name/site number: _____

2. Location

615 Sunset _____ not for publication
Russell _____ vicinity _____
state Kansas code KS county Russell code 167 zip code 67665

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Richard D. Parkratz _____ 12-6-00 _____
Signature of certifying official Date

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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 from the National Register. _____
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Property Name Woelk House

County and State Russell County, Kansas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u> public-local	<u> </u> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u> public-State	<u> </u> site	<u> </u>	<u>2</u> structures
<u> </u> public-Federal	<u> </u> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<u> </u> object	<u>1</u> Total	

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

Lustron Houses of Kansas

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation CONCRETE

Walls METAL: Steel

Roof METAL: Steel

Other _____

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

Property Name Woelk House

County and State Russell County, Kansas

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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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

1949 c.

Significant Dates

1949 c.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brack Implements, Great Bend, Kansas (builder)

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

Property Name Woelk House

County and State Russell County, Kansas

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Ohio State Archives (Columbus); County Historical Societies

Record # _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property <1

UTM References

1	<u>1/4</u>	<u>5/1/2/8/4/5</u>	<u>4/3/0/3/6/9/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>

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 Elizabeth Rosin, Partner, and Dana Cloud, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Services, LLC date July 31, 2000

street & number 818 Grand Boulevard, Suite 1150 telephone (816) 221-5133

city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64106

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bobby and Lorraine Schulz

street & number 126 North Grant, PO Box 151 telephone (785)483-3586

city or town Russell state KS zip code 67665

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Woelk House
Clark County, Kansas

DESCRIPTION

The Woelk House is a one-story, two bedroom, front-gabled Lustron dwelling with a Westchester Deluxe Plan. The 31-foot by 35-foot house has "Desert Tan" walls with white trim and a dark green roof.

Resting on a concrete slab foundation, the dwelling has an west-facing, rectangular plan. Porcelain enameled steel panels clad all exterior surfaces. Two-foot by two-foot panels sheath the dwelling's four walls. Narrower, vertical panels, approximately one-foot wide, cover the gable ends. Square "shingles", approximately one-foot square, cover the roof. The eaves of the front-gabled roof overhang slightly on all sides of the dwelling. A Lustron panel clad chimney rises from the north roof slope just west of center.

One end of each gutter running along the long (north and south) sides of the dwelling terminates in a downspout that is angled slightly toward the house. A serpentine steel rod fills the space between the downspout and the dwelling wall to create a trellis.

Openings asymmetrically pierce the walls of the dwelling. The steel windows have enameled steel surrounds and appear in three configurations: 1) a tripartite bay window, featuring a large plate of fixed glass flanked by four-light aluminum casements, projects slightly from the south wall of the building in a paneled steel surround just west of the dwelling's northeast corner; 2) tripartite windows of the same configuration but flush with the body of the dwelling pierce the dwelling's north, west and south elevations; and 3) single and paired three-light casements pierce the east and north elevations.

The front porch is recessed below the front gable at the southwest corner of the dwelling, with the front door in the west elevation perpendicular to the street. The back door is approximately centered in the north elevation. Both openings appear to retain their original doors as well as aluminum storm doors of a modern vintage.

The interior of the dwelling retains most of its original Lustron materials and built-in features. Like the exterior, porcelain-enameled steel panels clad the interior walls and ceilings. The wall panels typically measure two-feet by eight feet, with some larger panels below windows, while the ceiling panels are eight feet square. Modern carpet covers the original asphalt shingle flooring.

The living room-dining area occupies the southwest portion of the dwelling, with the kitchen and utility room filling out the northwest corner. The bathroom and two bedrooms are located off a central corridor at the east end of the dwelling.

This dwelling retains much of its original kitchen cabinetry as well as the built-in china cabinet in the dining area with the pass-through between the kitchen and dining area. This latter feature distinguishes the dwelling as a Deluxe edition of the Westchester house model. Other built-in features that characteristic of Deluxe Westchesters include the mirrored vanity in the master bedroom and the closets and overhead storage throughout the dwelling.

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Woelk House
Clark County, Kansas

Sheds

Behind the dwelling along the north property line are two small, prefabricated, front-gabled metal sheds of a modern vintage. Neither contributes to the significance of the property. The shed at the northwest corner of the lot faces south, while the shed at the northeast corner of the property faces west.

Site

This property occupies a mid-block lot on the north side of Sunset Street. A gravel alley runs behind (north of) the dwelling. A curvilinear walk leads from Sunset to the front door. A concrete driveway extends to just behind (north of) the dwelling where it connects to a concrete walk leading to the back door.

Three mature evergreens, interspersed with smaller evergreen shrubs, obscure visibility of the front (south) façade of the dwelling. A mature deciduous tree is located north of the house near the east property line.

INTEGRITY

The Woelk House is in good condition. Although it suffers from minor rusting at the downspouts, corner panels, porch, and bay window, nearly all of its original features remain intact, including the windows, exterior and interior doors, kitchen cabinetry, and built-ins. Alterations have been very minor, affecting only interior cosmetic features, such as the installation of carpet over the original tile flooring. From the exterior, the property is an excellent example of the Lustron property type. The non-Lustron sheds are appropriately placed behind the dwelling along the rear property line. Overall, the property retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, feeling, association, location and setting.

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Woelk House
Clark County, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woelk House is significant under National Register Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. It is one of only one hundred Lustron houses documented in Kansas and one of four Lustrons extant in Russell. It is also an excellent example of the Westchester Deluxe Lustron, the original and most popular model.

Russell, Kansas, experienced a major economic boom following the discovery of oil in the county in 1923. From a population of 2,300 in 1923, the city grew to 5,513 residents in 1948. The City continued to grow during the following decade, reaching a population of 7,143 in 1955. Accompanying the growth in population was the development of new residential neighborhoods and community infrastructure. The community dedicated two new elementary schools in 1952 and built five new churches between 1950 and 1955. Also in the second half of the post-war decade the hospital was doubled in size with a \$400,000 addition. The Theron Addition, where all four of Russell's Lustron houses are located, was platted in 1938. The majority of dwellings in the Theron Addition, including the Lustrons, are typical of suburban expansion that occurred in communities across the country during and immediately after World War II (Rocky Mountain Directory Company 1948, 1952; ConSurvey 1955).

In an effort to solve the post-World War II housing crisis, the Lustron Corporation, lead by Carl Stradlund, applied porcelain-enameled steel technology to residential design, producing a pre-fabricated dwelling that was "...fireproof, ratproof, decay-proof, [and] termite proof. Will never deteriorate or stain, never fade, crack or peel, never need painting, refinishing or reroofing [sic]" (Lustron Corp). The Reconstruction Finance Corporation rewarded Stradlund's efforts with \$32.5 million in federal aid, plus the lease of a vacated airplane factory in Columbus, Ohio, for production of the dwelling components. Stradlund applied the tenets of automobile assembly-line mass-production to the Lustron. At the factory all of the components for each dwelling were loaded on a specially designed truck trailer and delivered to the building site, where company-trained builders erected the dwelling following the Lustron instruction manual. The company actively produced Lustron houses between April 1949 and June 1950. In Kansas Lustrons sold for around \$10,000. Dan Brack, the Great Bend dealer who built the Woelk's Lustron, sold the two bedroom Westchester Deluxe for \$10,500 (Puckett 2000). Stradlund targeted Lustron sales to middle-class, baby boom families. He hoped that these families, like the Woelks, would be attracted to the modern conveniences and low maintenance offered by the Lustron. However, sales of Lustron homes never exceeded 250 units per month, far short of the 17,000 units per month that the company promised. The RFC filed foreclosure in March of 1950, and the company ceased production in June of that year having shipped fewer than 2500 of these unique all-steel dwellings nationwide.

SITE HISTORY

Richard D. and Marva Beth Woelk purchased Lot 3, Block 5 in the Theron Addition in June 1949, and likely contracted with Great Bend Lustron dealer Dan Brack to build their two bedroom Westchester Deluxe that year. The Woelks only owned the property for two years, selling it in March 1951 to E.D. Bradstreet. Mr. Bradstreet and his wife, Edna, sold the property eighteen months later to George W. and Patricia Holland.

The Hollands were typical of the baby-boom families to whom Stradlund marketed the modern Lustron. George Holland was an attorney with the firm Holland Thompson and Holland as well as director of the Russell State Bank. Patricia Holland was a secretary and homemaker. This was the Holland's first home and they did not own a lot of furniture at the time, so they especially appreciated the many built in features as well as the Lustron's easy

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Woelk House
Clark County, Kansas

maintenance. They felt the Lustron was a good deal for the price and "ahead of its time" in terms of its design. However, as other owners found, Mrs. Holland did not like the combination dishwasher/washing machine. The Hollands also found that the dwelling retained heat, and installed window air conditioners. Shortly before their second child was born, the Hollands sold the Lustron and moved to a larger dwelling (Holland 2000).

The Hollands lived in the Lustron for seven years before selling it to Elmer and Leona Sauers. The Sauers owned the property for nearly twenty years. They sold it to the current owners, Bobby and Lorraine Schultz, in April 1977. The Schultzes have used the residence as rental property since acquiring it (Russell County Deed Records 66:606; 69:333; 74:124; 97:463; ConSurvey 1955; Puckett 2000).

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Woelk House
Russell County, Kansas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ConSurvey

1955 *Russell, Kansas, City Directory*. Vol. 1. ConSurvey: Chillicothe, Ohio.

Holland, Patricia

2000 Telephone Interview with Jon Taylor. June 19, 2000.

Lustron Corporation

[n.d.] *The Lustron Home*. Lustron Corporation Archives. Box 1, Folder 1. On file in the Archives of the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.

Puckett, Kelly

2000 Telephone interview with Dana Cloud, 25 February 2000.

Rocky Mountain Directory Company

1948 *Russell, Kansas, City Directory*. Rocky Mountain Directory Company: Colorado Springs, Colorado.

1952 *Russell, Kansas, City Directory*. Rocky Mountain Directory Company: Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Russell County, Kansas

Deed Records. On file at the Russell County Courthouse, Russell, Kansas.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 3, Block 5, Theron Addition, City of Russell, Russell County, Kansas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the city parcel on which the house and carport are located.

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Woelk Residence
Russell County, Kansas

Photographer: Dana Cloud
Date of Photographs: October and December 1999
Location of Negatives: Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas

- 1) South and west elevations of dwelling and garage. View looking north.
- 2) South and east elevations of dwelling. View looking northwest.
- 3) North and west elevations of dwelling. View looking southeast.
- 4) Kitchen cabinets.
- 5) Hallway with linen closet. View looking east.
- 6) Light sconce.

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Woelk Residence
Russell County, Kansas

