

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: Stradal House
Other name/site number: _____

2. Location

409 North 13th Street _____ not for publication
Wa Keeney _____ vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Trego code 195 zip code 67672

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 Stradal House

County and State Trego County, Kansas

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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)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<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 Stradal House

County and State Trego 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

1950

Significant Dates

1950

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dreiling Implements, Hays, Kansas (builder)

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

Property Name Stradal House

County and State Trego 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

Acres of property <1

UTM References

1	<u>1/4</u>	<u>4/2/4/5/4/0</u>	<u>4/3/1/9/9/4/0</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 June 30, 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 Terry and Tracey Berry

street & number 409 North 13th Street telephone (785) 743-5349

city or town Wa Keeney state KS zip code 67672

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Stradal House
Trego County, Kansas

DESCRIPTION

The Stradal 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 a south-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.

One end of each gutter running along the long (east and west) sides of the dwelling terminates in a downspout that is angled slightly toward the house. A wavy steel dowel 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 east wall of the building in a paneled steel surround just north of the dwelling's southeast corner; 2) tripartite windows of the same configuration but flush with the body of the dwelling pierce the dwelling's south, west and east elevations; and 3) three-light casements, arranged singly and in pairs, pierce the north and west elevations.

The front porch is recessed below the front gable at the southeast corner of the dwelling, with the front door in the south elevation facing the driveway. The back door is approximately centered in the west 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 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 tile flooring.

The living room-dining area occupies the southeast portion of the dwelling, with the kitchen and utility room filling out the southwest corner. The bathroom and two bedrooms are located at the north end of the dwelling.

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

Site

This property occupies a mid-block lot on the west side of Thirteenth Street. A concrete drive runs along the south side of the house with a walk extending perpendicularly from the end of the driveway to the back door. The concrete front walk runs adjacent to the driveway from the street to the front porch.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Stradal House
Trego County, Kansas

A chain link fence runs along the west (rear) property line. At the northwest corner of the lot is a small, modern shed with vertical metal siding and a front gable roof. Flowering shrubs dot the grassy lot and flowers are planted in beds along the foundation and in the back yard.

INTEGRITY

The Stradal House is an excellent example of a two-bedroom Westchester Deluxe Lustron dwelling. Well maintained since its construction, it is in excellent condition and retains the majority of its original features, such as windows, exterior and interior doors, dining room "pass-thru", and storage throughout the house. Appropriate alterations in recent years have been limited to replacing the countertops, overhead cabinet doors, sink and base cabinets in the kitchen, and installing carpeting over the original tile floor. These limited modifications do not impact the overall integrity of the property and the original workmanship, materials, design setting, feeling and association of the property are readily apparent.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8 Page 3

Stradal House
Trego County, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stradal House is significant under National Register Criterion C for the area of ARCHITECTURE. It is an excellent example of the Lustron House property type, and it is one of only one hundred Lustron houses extant in Kansas. The property is also an excellent example of the Westchester Deluxe Lustron, the original and most popular Lustron model. Although quite a few Lustrons remain extant in southwest and southcentral Kansas, this is the only Lustron in Trego County.

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). Available in two-and three-bedroom models, these dwellings resembled typical, wood-frame post-war dwellings. However, their steel frames clad on the interior and exterior with porcelain enamel-coated steel panels distinguished Lustrons from more traditional contemporary residential construction.

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 summer 1948 and June 1950. In Kansas Lustrons sold for around \$10,000. Sales of Lustron homes never exceeded 250 units per month, far short of the 17,000 units per year 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

John and Agnes Stradal were the original owners of the Lustron and 409 North 13th Street. Both were natives of Trego County. Married in 1942, they moved to Wakeeney in 1945 to raise their two children. Mr. Stradal was a farmer and later worked as a banker (Stradal 2000). The Stradal family fit the profile of the typical buyer to whom Stradlund marketed the Lustron house. Solidly middle-class with a baby boom family, the Stradals were attracted by the reasonable cost of building a Lustron, which was less than building a traditional wood-frame house, as well as by the modern conveniences and low maintenance offered by the Lustron. They purchased their house lot in December 1949, and after watching the company erect other Lustrons, contracted Leo J. Dreiling, the Hays Lustron dealer, to erect their two bedroom Westchester Deluxe dwelling (Stradal 2000; Trego County Deed Records 53:49).

Over 25 years after its construction, the Stradals sold their Lustron to First WaKeeney Investments, Inc. in September 1975. First WaKeeney used the house as rental property until selling it to Terry and Tracey Berry in August 1984 (Trego County Deeds 69:613; 73:443). Like many Lustron owners, Mrs. Berry appreciates the maintenance-free characteristics of the home.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Sections number 9, 10 Page 4

Stradal House
Trego County, Kansas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Berry, Tracey

1999 Personal Communication with Dana Cloud. December 2000.

Lustron Corporation

[n.d.] *Lustron Planning Guide*. Lustron Corporation Archives. Box 1, Folder 5. On file in the Archives of the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.

Stradal, John and Agnes

2000 Telephone interview by Dana Cloud, 22 February 2000.

Trego County, Kansas

Deed Records. On file at the Trego County Courthouse, Wa Keeney, Kansas.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 110 feet North of the Southeast corner of Block 1; thence North 50 feet parallel to US Highway No. 283; thence West along the South alley line 100 feet; thence South 50 feet; thence East 100 feet to the Point of Beginning, City of Wa Keeney, Trego County, Kansas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the city parcel on which the house is located.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section -- Photographs Page 5

Stradal House
Trego County, Kansas

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

- 1) South and east elevations of dwelling. View looking northwest.
- 2) North and east elevations of dwelling. View looking southwest.
- 3) West and south elevations of dwelling. View looking northeast.
- 4) Front porch. View looking northwest.
- 5) Kitchen. View looking south.
- 6) Master bedroom with built-in vanity and storage. View looking southeast.
- 7) Bathroom and hall closet. View looking west.

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Section -- Site Plan Page 6

Stradal House
Trego County, Kansas

