

Property Name Weinhold House

County and State Ellsworth 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>	<u>1</u> 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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

ASBESTOS

Roof METAL: Steel

METAL: Galvanized

Other WOOD

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

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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

Brack Implements, Great Bend, Kansas (builder)

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

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Weinhold House
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DESCRIPTION

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

Resting on a concrete slab foundation, the dwelling has a 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.

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 east of the dwelling's southwest corner; 2) tripartite windows of the same configuration but flush with the body of the dwelling pierce the dwelling's south, west and north elevations; and 3) pairs of three-light casements pierce the east and north elevations. Aluminum awnings cover the tripartite windows on the west and south elevations.

The front porch is recessed below the front gable at the southeast 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. An aluminum awning shelters the back stoop.

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 and sheet vinyl cover the original asphalt shingle flooring and some of the original kitchen cabinetry has been replaced.

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 three bedrooms are located 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 characteristic of the Deluxe Westchester include bookshelves in the living room, a mirrored vanity in the master bedroom, and closets and overhead storage throughout the dwelling.

Garage

A short distance north of the dwelling, at the northeast corner of the property, sits a two-car wood frame garage. Asbestos shingles clad the walls of the front-gabled structure. The roof is corrugated metal. A pair of horizontal

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wood overhead doors fills the openings in the west-facing front elevation. While the date of the garage is unknown, it was likely constructed at the same time as or shortly after the dwelling.

Site



INTEGRITY

The Weinhold 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, built-ins, and storage throughout the house. Appropriate alterations in recent years have been limited to replacing the kitchen sink and some of the original kitchen cabinetry and installing carpeting over the original asphalt tile floor. These limited modifications do not impact the overall integrity of the property and the original workmanship, materials, design, setting, and feeling of the property are readily apparent. Likewise, the garage is appropriately sited at the northeast corner of the property so that it is physically and visually secondary to the dwelling. Its materials differentiate it from the dwelling yet its form and massing complement the Lustron.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Weinhold 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 100 Lustron houses extant in Kansas. Although quite a few Lustrons remain extant in central Kansas, this is the only Lustron documented in Wilson and one of only three Lustrons documented in Ellsworth County.¹

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. Great Bend Lustron dealer Dan Brack sold the two bedroom Westchester Deluxe for \$10,500. 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

Frank and Ethel Weinhold appear to have been the original owners of the Lustron [REDACTED]. They purchased the property in April 1950 [REDACTED]. It is unclear which dealer constructed the Weinhold's Lustron, although it was probably the work of Dan Brack, Brack Implements, from Great Bend. The property remained in the Weinhold family until 1979 when the estate of the original owners sold the property to the current owners [REDACTED].

¹ There is rumor of a second Lustron in Wilson, although that property was not located during the 1999 Lustron survey. The rumor may refer to the Weinhold property or to a dwelling that is no longer extant.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ellsworth County, Kansas

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

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.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

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

- 1) West and south elevations of dwelling and west elevation of garage. View looking northeast.
- 2) East and north elevations of dwelling. View looking southwest.
- 3) Front porch. View looking northeast.
- 4) Garage. View looking northeast.
- 5) Dining room with built-in china cabinet, looking toward kitchen. View looking north.
- 6) Kitchen. View looking west.
- 7) Living room with built-in bookshelves. View looking southeast.
- 8) Master bedroom with built-in vanity and storage. View looking southwest.

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