Site Inventory Form New Supplemental State Inventory No. <u>09-00902</u> State Historical Society of Iowa Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 09-00962 Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing (November 2005) Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries National Register Status: (any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE 9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____ Non-Extant (enter year) 1. Name of Property historic name Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House other names/site number 2. Location street & number 407 3rd St SE city or town Waverly vicinity, county Bremer Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name Township No. Range No. Section Quarter of Quarter Block(s) FR 9 Lot(s) S 55' Lot 2 (If Urban) Subdivision Original Town 3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section] 4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section] 5. Classification Category of Property (Check only one box) Number of Resources within Property \boxtimes building(s) If Non-Eligible Property If Eligible Property, enter number of: district Enter number of: Contributing Noncontributing □ site buildings buildings <u>1</u> 1 □ structure sites sites object structures structures objects objects 1 1 Total Total Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination). Historical Architectural Data Base Number Title Waverly's NW & SE Neighborhoods Historical & Architectural MPD 09-028 6. Function or Use **Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) **Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) 01A Single Dwelling 01A Single Dwelling 01C05 Garage 01C05 Garage 7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) **Materials** (Enter categories from instructions) 09D03 Gambrel Roof foundation 10A Concrete Block 06B Colonial Revival walls (visible material) 02A Weatherboard; 02 B Shingles 08A Asphalt/Shingle roof other **Narrative Description** (X) SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED) 8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria) Yes No More Research Recommended Property is associated with significant events. А \Box Yes \boxtimes No \Box More Research Recommended В Property is associated with the lives of significant persons. Yes I No I More Research Recommended С Property has distinctive architectural characteristics. ☐ Yes ⊠ No ☐ More Research Recommended D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County City	<u>Bremer</u> Waverly	Address 407 3 rd St S	<u>E</u>					Number <u>09-00902</u> Number <u>09-00962</u>
□ A □ B □ C	for religious	religious institution or used ourposes. m its original location.	🗌 F	A comm	emorativ In 50 yea	e property.	ject, or structure. r achieved signifi	cance within the past
	of Significa CHITECTUR	1Ce (Enter categories from instructi	ons)	Cons 1909		ate	circa or estimate vation	d date
(Complet		gister Criterion B is marked above) ent of Significance (⊠ SI	EE COI	Archi Leith Builde Leith	n <u>a, John</u> er na, John		/HICH MUST B	E COMPLETED)
		phical References				· · ·		,
	-	continuation sheet for citations of th	ne books,	, articles, a	nd other s	ources used	in preparing this for	orm
	ographic Da							
UTM Ref Zone 1 3	erences (OPT Easting	ONAL) Northing		2 4	Zone	Easting		Northing
	See contin	uation sheet for additional UTM refe	rences o	r commen	ts			
11. For	m Preparec	Ву						
organiz street & city or t	ation <u>for Cit</u> anumber <u>Na</u> own <u>Sarona</u>		vation (S	tate <u>WI</u>	telephon	e <u>9/2012</u> e <u>715/469-3300</u> e <u>54870</u>
		UMENTATION (Submit the fol	lowing it	ems with	the comp	leted form)		
 Maj Site Photocomposition curation need 	e plan: showin otographs: m ator of the neg eds to be prov	e property's location in a town/cing position of buildings and struct epresentative black and white platives or color slides, a photo/ca ded below on this particular inver- Roll/slide sheet # Roll/slide sheet # fon sheet or attached photo & sl tions without negatives are also	ctures or notos. If atalog si entory si Frai Frai Frai ide cata	n the site f the phot heet need ite: me/slot # me/slot # <i>log sheet</i>	os are ta ds to be i	ken as part ncluded wit Da Da Da	of a survey for with the negatives/state Taken	
FOR C 1. Far 2. Bar	ERTAIN KIN mstead & Dia rn:	IDS OF PROPERTIES, INCL strict: (List of structures and buildin he frame/truss configuration in th	UDE T	THE FOL	LOWIN ated year	built, and co	ntributing or nonco	ntributing status)
b.	A photograp	n of the loft showing the frame c	onfigura	tion along	g one sid	e.		fact
		r plan of the interior space arrar					or aimensions in	ieet.
		servation Office (SHPO) Us survey opinion on National R						arch Pocommandad
		y designated property or part						arch Recommended
Comme	ents:							
Evalua	ted by (name	o/title):					Date:	

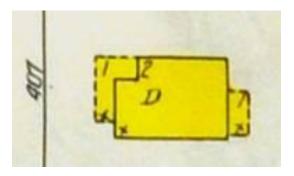
Page 1

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly
Address	City

7. Description

This 2-story single-family house is estimated to have been built in 1910 according to Bremer County Assessor records. Property transfer records show the property acquired by Wm. F. Reinecke on April 19, 1909. Newspaper accounts during the spring and summer identified John Leitha as the contractor and designer for the \$3,800 house. By the time the 1913 city directory was published, William and his wife Minnie were in residence. Together, this information confirms a construction date of ca.1909-1911.

This 2-story frame house is an example of a vernacular Gambrel Cottage with Colonial Revival detailing. It has a moderate pitched gambrel roof with the gambrel end facing the street. The building footprint is slightly irregular and has gabled wall dormers on centered on the north and south facades. A modified flat-roof porch (low shed roof section added) wraps the northwest corner as it did on the 1927 Sanborn Map (right). The south slope of the gambrel roof is extended over a 1-story rectangular building section at the southwest corner giving the house a rectangular shape as shown.



The Reinecke House has a rock-faced concrete block foundation with alternating rows of narrow and wide blocks. Narrow-width wood clapboard covers the first and second levels with no cornerboard trim or belt course separating levels. The front façade's gambrel peak-attic level projects slightly with modillions lining the under edge. This section is clad in alternating rows of diamond-cut and fish-scale wood shingles with a keystoned oval window set horizontally beneath the peak. Similar modillions line the north and south eaves of the gambrel slopes. The wall dormers have wide returning cornices and ocular keystoned windows in their peaks. The porch has a matching block foundation with a concrete deck and four full-block pedestals placed evenly along the outer edge. The steps are at the northwest corner and retain the original block for their low, stepped balustrades. Smooth half-height columns rest on the pedestals and have simple capitals and no other decorative detailing. The wood balustrade spans between the pedestals have widely spaced scroll-cut spindles that are replacements of the original closely spaced square spindles and curved upper rail (see 2009 photos).

Fenestration includes various sized 1/1 double-hung windows and several feature windows and window groups. On the front façade, a cottage window with a large square light topped by a narrow horizontal sash is to the right of the recessed entrance. On the upper level, a large 1/1 double-hung windows is flanked by tall and narrow 1/1 units. An angular bay window group on the north façade is set mid-way between the first and second floors, most likely at the staircase landing level. It has a hipped roof and a single bracket beneath it for support above the basement entrance. This upper window group includes a 1/1 clear-glass, double-hung window in the center face with decorative slightly shorter stained glass windows on each side. On the south façade, windows on the first and second floors were replaced in between 2005 and 2007. On the rectangular 1-story section at the west end, the horizontal sash on the south wall has a 2-light clear window; this might replace an earlier stained glass or leaded-light window.

Page 2

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer	
Name of Property	County	
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly	
Address	City	

The gabled wall dormer section of the south façade has an angular bay window group with 1/1 units on the lower level and a pair of 1/1 double-hung units on the dormer level. Like the north wall dormer, an ocular window is in the peak.

According to the current owner, the interior of the house retains much of the original oak millwork including oak columns at room openings, an oak built-in buffet in the dining room, and wood paneled ceilings. Other original features include stained glass windows and chandeliers.

The house has a detached 1-story single-bay garage located east of the house and accessed from the east-west alley. Built in 1940 according to Bremer County Assessor records, it has a moderate-pitched front-gable roof with beveled wood siding and cornerboard trim. An extended roof slope forms an open shed-roof storage area along the west side. The garage and roofed storage area have a corrugated metal roof and the roof supports are simple 4x4 inch posts. The entrance bay opens to the north.

Alterations: south façade windows (2005-2007); change in porch balustrade (between 2009 and 2011).

8. Significance

The Reinecke House is an example of a well-preserved vernacular Gambrel Cottage with Colonial Revival detailing. The house was part of the main wave of homebuilding in the neighborhood that extended from the 1880s through World War I. Its owners, William F. Reinecke, a professional photographer, and his wife Minnie, built the house in 1909. The house was designed by local contractor-architect John Leitha. The house qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places both individually and as a contributing resource in the historic district under Criteria A and C. The garage is considered noncontributing.

According to property transfer records, William F. Reinecke and his wife Minnie acquired this parcel in Fractional Block in April 1909. Newspaper accounts from April through August 1909 reference Reinecke's house under construction for a cost of \$3,800 based on a design prepared by Waverly contractor John Leitha. His crew had commenced work on his house design by April 22, 1909 according to the *Waverly Republican*.

Reinecke was a professional photographer who opened a studio in Waverly in 1898. His work over the next decade is well represented in surviving historic photographs. Construction of the house in 1909 and the removal of his studio from N. Water Street (1st Street NE) to 120 1st SE in 1910 were signs of the success of the Reinecke Photo Gallery, one of four professional photograph studios in Waverly by 1913. In 1914, disaster struck when the Woodring Furniture Store next to Reinecke's relocated studio burned. The photo studio was destroyed as well. The stress brought on by the conflagration, the loss of his equipment, and unrelated eye problems, led to a nervous breakdown. After a brief hospitalization at Hill Sanitarium in Des Moines, William returned to Waverly to re-establish his business. He died on September 21, 1915 just a few days before he planned to re-open the business. Minnie Reinecke and her daughter Dorothy moved to California after William's unexpected death. The house had been sold March 31, 1914 to W.A. Watkins. W.A. Watkins and his wife Rose resided here until the mid-1920s.

 Page 3
 Bremer

 Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House
 Bremer

 Name of Property
 County

 407 3rd St SE
 Waverly

 Address
 City

Unpublished research completed by Jan Nash Full , Tallgrass Historians, Iowa City, Iowa for John F. Leitha, March 2012.

<u>Architect John F. Leitha (1880-1937</u>): John F. Leitha was born near Vienna, Austria, in 1880, and the following year immigrated with his family to the United States. Details of his family and early life remain unknown, but a 1924 passport application reveals that from 1881 to 1909, when he was from age 1 to 29, Leitha annually traveled between Oklahoma and Waverly, Iowa, living half the year in each location.¹ The census of 1900 shows Leitha in Waverly, boarding in the home of Christopher Arns, a German immigrant and house carpenter. Just 19 years old, Leitha was described as a house carpenter, as well, and perhaps was Arns' apprentice. In 1905, the state census taker found Leitha still living in Waverly, but now with his wife May (also spelled Mae), and daughter Lucille. In 1907, Leitha received what was perhaps his first big construction project. He was hired to build the parsonage (extant) for St. Peter's Evangelical Church in Tripoli, a small town approximately 16 miles northeast of Waverly.² Leitha's parsonage was a commodious two-story Queen Anne house (free classic variation), with a two-story front bay.³ This was a vernacular house of a design commonly seen in and around Waverly and surrounding communities. Dozens if not hundreds of similar houses still stand in Waterloo, lowa, a much large city a few miles to the south.

In 1911, Leitha joined with another Waverly builder, Leo Stenzell, to construct the two-story brick Waverly city hall (nonextant), which also served as fire station and jail. The Stenzell and Leitha team also was the contractor for a two-story brick storefront on the east side of Waverly's business district in 1913. By at least 1912, however, Leitha also was referring to himself as an architect and was designing larger buildings for some of Waverly's institutions. His design work included a new boys' dormitory and teachers' residence at the Iowa Lutheran Children's Home in 1912; a large addition to the Sisters of Mercy Hospital in 1913; and also in 1913 a dormitory building (extant) at Wartburg Seminary and Teachers' Academy, now known as Wartburg College (see Table 1 below).⁴

In 1914 Leitha designed the Waverly Savings Bank in the classical style popular for banks in Iowa at the time. Built on the business district's main intersection on a prime corner lot, the brick and glazed terra cotta bank is a "temple of finance" with an inset main entrance flanked by Ionic columns holding up a bold entablature, though capped by only a modest pediment. The next year, 1915, Leitha was hired to design a large addition to the Sumner High School built in 1901. Leitha's two-story addition to the Sumner High School built in a school architectural theories as he designed his addition, as well as in modern school room and equipment requirements.⁵

¹John F. Leitha, Passport Application, August 29, 1924. Accessed at *www. Ancestry.com* on October 17, 2011. ²*Waterloo Daily Courier*, November 12, 1907.

³U.S. Population Census, 1900; Iowa Census, 1905; U.S. Population Census, 1910.

⁴Sumner Gazette, October 19, 1911; Sumner Gazette, July 25, 1912; American Art and Architecture 103 (June 18, 1913): 10; American Art and Architecture 103 (March 5, 1913):10; Waverly, Rich in History: A Photo History (Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing, 1996), 32.

⁵"History of the Buildings in the Main Street Area of Waverly, Iowa - West Side." Vol. 1. Information compiled in part for Main Street–Waverly survey, 1990. Waverly Public Library Collection, Waverly, Iowa; "Two School Districts Were Here When Town Started," *Sumner Gazette*, June 29, 1972.

Page 4

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly
Address	City

As both architect and superintendent of construction for the new Washington School in Osage, Leitha was in control of most aspects of the project and he appears to have moved semi-permanently to Osage. After the contracts were let in August 1916, his wife Mae and daughter Lucille (aka Lucy) joined him, as the construction of the school would "keep him in that city for some time,"⁶ and the Leithas soon made Osage their new home.⁷ An advertisement from the 1916 *lowa State Gazetteer*, published on the eve of the school's construction, lists Leitha's office in Waverly but suggests the architect was anticipating considerable success with his Washington School project. The ad announces the services of "J.F. Leitha, Architect and Personal Superintending of all Classes of Buildings," and features Leitha's rendering of the Washington School about to be built in Osage.⁸

Washington School represents a peak in the career of John F. Leitha, but perhaps not the only one. Following the Osage school commission in 1916, Leitha's commission's no doubt slowed during the construction hiatus of World War I. Service in the military certainly had an effect on his professional career also. Leitha's 1918 draft record indicates he was in the service at that time, working as a carpenter at Camp Dodge near Des Moines. That draft card describes the 38-year-old Leitha as of medium height and "stout" build, with gray eyes and dark hair. By 1920, Leitha was once again selfdescribing as an architect.⁹ In that year, 1920, he joined with another architect, Louis Rust, to open an office in Dubuque, Iowa, the riverport city on the Mississippi River. Leitha and Rust worked together for almost two years, first remodeling the Dubugue High School and then drawing plans for the Dubugue Coliseum.¹⁰ After the partnership ended, Leitha continued to practice in Dubuque for two more years. In 1924, he applied for a passport indicating he would stay two months in Spain and France doing "architectural work." While this is not specific, Europe had been at war and was still rebuilding. In late 1927, Leitha moved to Freeport, Illinois, perhaps prompted by the Iowa architectural registration law that went into effect the same year. Newspaper ads and short notices suggest Leitha focused on residential building in Freeport. The same newspaper notices refer to him as an architect; however, in Leitha's own ads he was careful to only claim to be a designer. The state of Illinois also had a registration requirement that had been in effect since at least the 1890s and it is likely Leitha would have used the title of architect if he had been able to register with the state. Personal problems and the Great Depression appear to have taken a toll on both Leitha's career and his health. After moving to Boscobel, Wisconsin, to supervise work on a Catholic school building, he died suddenly at age 57 in 1937.¹¹

⁶Waterloo Evening Courier, August 17, 1916.

⁷Waterloo Evening Courier, April 14, 1919.

⁸ Gazetteer clipping contained in the John Leitha architect file, Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, Iowa. ⁹U.S. Population Census, 1920.

¹⁰ The Bridgemen Magazine 20/8 (August 1920): 428; The American Contractor 41 (September 4, 1920): 42. Rust designed, for example, the Waverly Community Building/Palace Theatre in 1925. See "History of the Buildings in the Main Street Area of Waverly, Iowa - West Side." Vol. 1. Information compiled in part for Main Street-Waverly survey, 1990. Waverly Public Library Collection, Waverly, Iowa; U.S. Population Census, 1920.

¹¹Wesley I. Shank, *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999), 1; "Dubuque, IA. Apt. Bldg.," The American Contractor 41 (December 25, 1920): 63; "Hazel Green to Have Town Hall," Wisconsin State Journal, December 26, 1923; Freeport [IL] Journal-Standard, November 17, 1927; February 9, 1929; April 10, 1929; March 5, 1930; and September 11, 1937.

Page 5

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer	
Name of Property	County	
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly	
Address	City	

9. Sources

Atlas of Bremer County, Iowa. Waverly, Iowa: Waverly Publishing Company, 1917.

Atlases of Bremer County. microfilm copies of atlases for 1875, 1894 and 1927, Waverly Public Library.

- Bremer County History Book Committee. *Bremer County History, 1985.* Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing, 1985.
- Full, Jan Nash, Tallgrass Historians, LLC. Unpublished research completed by re: John F. Leitha, March 2012.
- Grawe, Joseph F. *History of Bremer County, Iowa, Volumes I and II.* Chicago: S.J. Clarke Company, 1914.

History of Butler and Bremer Counties, Iowa. Springfield, Illinois: Union Publishing, 1883.

Sanborn Company Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1892, 1897, 1905, 1915, 1927, and 1927 updated to 1943.

Vertical file collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly building histories, miscellaneous bound volumes in reference collection, Waverly Public Library.

Waverly city directories, 1899 and 1913.

Waverly Heritage Days historical walking tour brochures for 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Waverly Historic Photo Collection, Waverly Public Library.

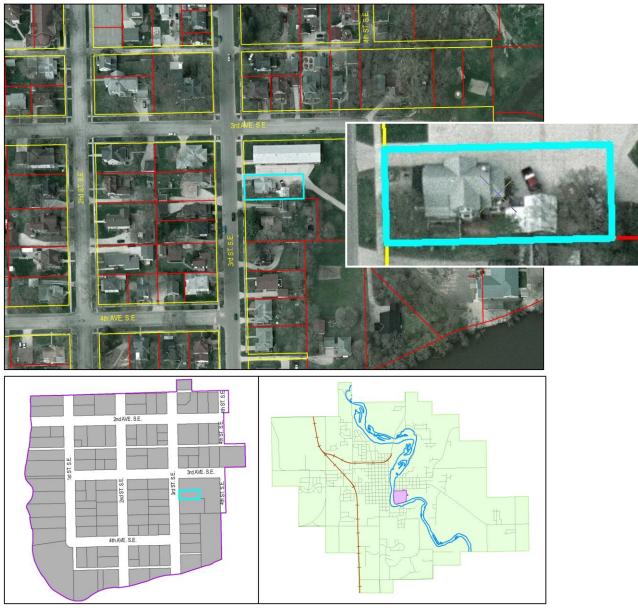
Waverly newspapers: *Waverly Republican -* 4/22/1909; unidentified newspaper - 7/15/1909 and *Bremer* Independent - 8/19/1909.

Site Map: Bremer County GIS Department, 12/2011.

Page 6

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly
Address	City

407 3rd St SE PIN 09-02-191-002



™ Bremer County GIS Department

Page 7

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer	
Name of Property	County	
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly	
Address	City	

Photographs: 407 3rd St. SE, looking southeast and east, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.





Page 8

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer	
Name of Property	County	
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly	
Address	City	

Photographs: 407 3rd St. SE, looking northeast and garage looking east, Marlys Svendsen, photographer, 11/3/2011.



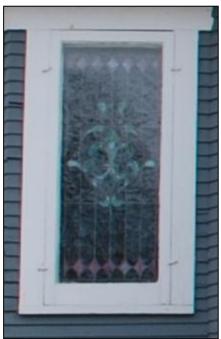


Page 9

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly
Address	City

Photographs: 407 3rd St. SE, looking southeast and stained glass window detail, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.





Page 10

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer	
Name of Property	County	
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly	
Address	City	

Photographs: 407 3rd St. SE, looking east and northeast, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.



Page 11

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly
Address	City

Photograph: 407 3rd St. SE, garage, looking northeast, Justine Zimmer, IHSEMD, photographer, 4/23/2009.

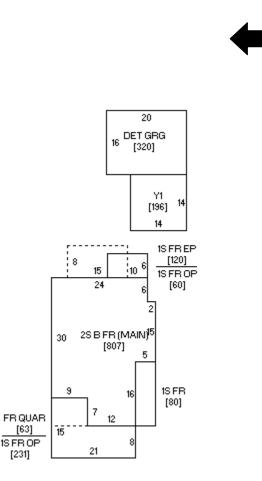


N

Page 12

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer
Name of Property	County
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly
Address	City

Floor Plan: Bremer County Assessor's website; available at: http://beacon.schneidercorp.com /PhotoEngine/Sketch.aspx?appid=330&keyvalue=0902191002&index=0&size=0; accessed 3/12/2012.



Sketch by www.camavision.com

[63]

[231]

Continuation Sheet

Page 13

Bremer
County
Waverly
City

Architect John F. Leitha (1880-1937): John F. Leitha was born near Vienna, Austria, in 1880, and the following year immigrated with his family to the United States. Details of his family and early life remain unknown, but a 1924 passport application reveals that from 1881 to 1909, when he was from age 1 to 29. Leitha annually traveled between Oklahoma and Waverly, Iowa, living half the year in each location.12[1] The census of 1900 shows Leitha in Waverly, boarding in the home of Christopher Arns, a German immigrant and house carpenter. Just 19 years old, Leitha was described as a house carpenter, as well, and perhaps was Arns' apprentice. In 1905, the state census taker found Leitha still living in Waverly, but now with his wife May (also spelled Mae), and daughter Lucille. In 1907, Leitha received what was perhaps his first big construction project. He was hired to build the parsonage (extant) for St. Peter's Evangelical Church in Tripoli, a small town approximately 16 miles northeast of Waverly 13[2] Leitha's parsonage was a commodious two-story Queen Anne house (free classic variation), with a two-story front bay.14[3] This was a vernacular house of a design commonly seen in and around Waverly and surrounding communities. Dozens if not hundreds of similar houses still stand in Waterloo, Iowa, a much large city a few miles to the south.

In 1911, Leitha joined with another Waverly builder, Leo Stenzell, to construct the two-story brick Waverly city hall (nonextant), which also served as fire station and jail. The Stenzell and Leitha team also was the contractor for a two-story brick storefront on the east side of Waverly's business district in 1913. By at least 1912, however, Leitha also was referring to himself as an architect and was designing larger buildings for some of Waverly's institutions. His design work included a new boys' dormitory and teachers' residence at the Iowa Lutheran Children's Home in 1912; a large addition to the Sisters of Mercy Hospital in 1913; and also in 1913 a dormitory building (extant) at Wartburg Seminary and Teachers' Academy, now known as Wartburg College (see Table 1 below).^{15[4]}

In 1914 Leitha designed the Waverly Savings Bank in the classical style popular for banks in Iowa at the time. Built on the business district's main intersection on a prime corner lot, the brick and glazed terra cotta bank is a "temple of finance" with an inset main entrance flanked by lonic columns holding up a bold entablature, though capped by only a modest pediment. The next year, 1915, Leitha was hired to design a large addition to the Sumner High School built in 1901. Leitha's two-story addition to the Sumner High School may have sparked his interest in progressive school architectural theories as he designed his addition, as well as in modern school room and equipment requirements.^{16[5]}

As both architect and superintendent of construction for the new Washington School in Osage, Leitha was in control of most aspects of the project and he appears to have moved semi-permanently to Osage. After the contracts were let in August 1916, his wife Mae and daughter Lucille (aka Lucy) joined

^{12[1]} John F. Leitha, Passport Application, August 29, 1924. Accessed at www. Ancestry.com on October 17, 2011.

 ^[3]2] Waterloo Daily Courier, November 12, 1907.
 [14]3] U.S. Population Census, 1900; Iowa Census, 1905; U.S. Population Census, 1910.
 ¹⁵[4] Sumner Gazette, October 19, 1911; Sumner Gazette, July 25, 1912; American Art and Architecture 103 (June 18, 1913): 10; American Art and Architecture 103 (March 5, 1913): 10; Waverly, Rich in History: A Photo History (Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing, 1996), 32.

¹⁶[5] "History of the Buildings in the Main Street Area of Waverly, Iowa - West Side." Vol. 1. Information compiled in part for Main Street–Waverly survey, 1990. Waverly Public Library Collection, Waverly, Iowa; "Two School Districts Were Here When Town Started," Sumner Gazette, June 29, 1972.

Page 14

Reinecke, William F. and Minnie, House	Bremer	
Name of Property	County	
407 3 rd St SE	Waverly	
Address	City	

him, as the construction of the school would "keep him in that city for some time,"17[6] and the Leithas soon made Osage their new home.18[7] An advertisement from the 1916 *Iowa State Gazetteer* (Fig. 10), published on the eve of the school's construction, lists Leitha's office in Waverly but suggests the architect was anticipating considerable success with his Washington School project. The ad announces the services of "J.F. Leitha, Architect and Personal Superintending of all Classes of Buildings," and features Leitha's rendering of the Washington School about to be built in Osage.19[8]

Washington School represents a peak in the career of John F. Leitha, but perhaps not the only one. Following the Osage school commission in 1916, Leitha's commission's no doubt slowed during the construction hiatus of World War I. Service in the military certainly had an effect on his professional career also. Leitha's 1918 draft record indicates he was in the service at that time, working as a carpenter at Camp Dodge near Des Moines. That draft card describes the 38-year-old Leitha as of medium height and "stout" build, with grav eves and dark hair. By 1920, Leitha was once again selfdescribing as an architect.20[9] In that year, 1920, he joined with another architect, Louis Rust, to open an office in Dubuque, Iowa, the riverport city on the Mississippi River. Leitha and Rust worked together for almost two years, first remodeling the Dubuque High School and then drawing plans for the Dubuque Coliseum.^{21[10]} After the partnership ended, Leitha continued to practice in Dubuque for two more years. In 1924, he applied for a passport indicating he would stay two months in Spain and France doing "architectural work." While this is not specific, Europe had been at war and was still rebuilding. In late 1927, Leitha moved to Freeport, Illinois, perhaps prompted by the Iowa architectural registration law that went into effect the same year. Newspaper ads and short notices suggest Leitha focused on residential building in Freeport. The same newspaper notices refer to him as an architect; however, in Leitha's own ads he was careful to only claim to be a designer. The state of Illinois also had a registration requirement that had been in effect since at least the 1890s and it is likely Leitha would have used the title of architect if he had been able to register with the state. Personal problems and the Great Depression appear to have taken a toll on both Leitha's career and his health. After moving to Boscobel, Wisconsin, to supervise work on a Catholic school building, he died suddenly at age 57 in 1937 22[11]

20[9] U.S. Population Census, 1920.

^{21[10]} The Bridgemen Magazine 20/8 (August 1920): 428; The American Contractor 41 (September 4, 1920): 42. Rust designed, for example, the Waverly Community Building/Palace Theatre in 1925. See "History of the Buildings in the Main Street Area of Waverly, Iowa - West Side." Vol. 1. Information compiled in part for Main Street–Waverly survey, 1990. Waverly Public Library Collection, Waverly, Iowa; U.S. Population Census, 1920.

^{17[6]} Waterloo Evening Courier, August 17, 1916.

^{18[7]} Waterloo Evening Courier, April 14, 1919.

^{19[8]} Gazetteer clipping contained in the John Leitha architect file, Iowa State Historic Preservation Office, Des Moines, Iowa.

^{22[11]} Wesley I. Shank, *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999), 1; "Dubuque, IA. Apt. Bldg.," *The American Contractor* 41 (December 25, 1920): 63; "Hazel Green to Have Town Hall," *Wisconsin State Journal*, December 26, 1923; *Freeport [IL] Journal-Standard*, November 17, 1927; February 9, 1929; April 10, 1929; March 5, 1930; and September 11, 1937.