Weltzheimer-Johnson House

This one-story Usonian house, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, has low, narrow proportions and a cantilevered roof. The house has an L-shaped floor plan, and the flat roofline has brick masses on the east side. The interior spaces are warm with an abundance of redwood, also found on the exterior. A row of carved, wooden balls sits on the roof's edge and geometrically perforated panels, also in redwood, cover each clerestory window along the front and sides of the house. The rear walls of the house have glass doors and floor-to-ceiling windows that blur the distinction between the interior and exterior. This motif is furthered in the continuance of the ceiling panels from inside to outside on the overhanging roof. The house has been, after earlier alterations, (cont.)

In 1947, Oberlin graduate student, Margaret Boesche Weltzheimer wrote a letter to Frank Lloyd Wright that asked him to design a house for a lot the couple owned on Morgan Street. She was a student, he owned a local implement company, and they had three (later four) children. The Weltzheimer's presented Wright with a limited budget of $15,000 and a request for one of his Usonian houses. When completed in 1950 final cost exceeded $50,000. The house was the only Usonian house for which Wright designed a complete landscape plan. The house also has decorative touches unique for Usonian houses. (cont.)

When built this house was on a larger lot, today new construction around it has decreased its isolation. But screening and significant set back retain its sense of isolation.

43. History and Significance

In 1947, Oberlin graduate student, Margaret Boesche Weltzheimer wrote a letter to Frank Lloyd Wright that asked him to design a house for a lot the couple owned on Morgan Street. She was a student, he owned a local implement company, and they had three (later four) children. The Weltzheimer's presented Wright with a limited budget of $15,000 and a request for one of his Usonian houses. When completed in 1950 final cost exceeded $50,000. The house was the only Usonian house for which Wright designed a complete landscape plan. The house also has decorative touches unique for Usonian houses. (cont.)

44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (see #52)

When built this house was on a larger lot, today new construction around it has decreased its isolation. But screening and significant set back retain its sense of isolation.

45. Sources of Information


46. Prepared by
M. Fedelchak-Harley; L. Previll

47. Organization
O.H.I.O. and H.P.C.

48. Date Recorded
8-10-2000

49 Revised by

50a. Date Revised

50b. Reviewed by
### 51. Condition of Property
- [ ] Excellent
- [ ] Ruin
- [x] Good/Fair
- [ ] Destroyed/Burned
- [ ] Deteriorated

### 52. Historic Outbuildings and Dependencies

#### Barn Type(s)
- [ ] Corn Crib or Shed
- [ ] Summer Kitchen
- [ ] Silo
- [ ] Smoke House
- [ ] Spring House
- [ ] Ice House
- [ ] Designed Landscape Features
- [ ] Privy
- [ ] Garage

#### Archaeological Feature:
- [ ] Observed
- [ ] Expected on Basis of Archival Research
- [ ] Well
- [ ] Privy
- [ ] Cistern
- [ ] Foundation
- [ ] Structural Rubble
- [ ] Formal Trash Dump
- [ ] Other

### 54. Farmstead Plan

#### OAI Completed?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

### 42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued from page 1)

After Mrs. Weltzheimer's death, and an interim owner in the mid 1960s, the house was purchased by a developer who made some significant changes. Most notably, he added a driveway onto Woodhaven Place. In 1968, Ellen H. Johnson, professor of art at the college, purchased the house. Professor Johnson began a careful restoration to its original form and condition.

After professor Johnson's death in 1992, the house was given to the college. The college uses the house in varied ways including housing for visiting art faculty; the house is part of the college museum collection and is available for tours (Allen Memorial Art Museum).

The house is significant for its architect and architecture, both of which are unique in Oberlin. It is also significant for its association with Oberlin College through faculty and a part of the college museum. This house was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin Historic Landmark in November 1997.