

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 26 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 14 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Adolph J. Zang House

AND/OR COMMON "Gargoyle House"

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1532 Emerson Street

CITY, TOWN Denver, VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

STATE Colorado CODE 08 COUNTY Denver CODE 031

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Fred T. Steffens

STREET & NUMBER 1532 Emerson Street

CITY, TOWN Denver VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE Colorado

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Assessor's Office; City and County Building

STREET & NUMBER 1445 Cleveland Street

CITY, TOWN Denver STATE Colorado

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (16/01/0050)

DATE Ongoing  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN Denver STATE Colorado 80203

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 1532 Emerson Street in Denver, the Adolph J. Zang House is a single detached structure rectangular in shape and two and one-half stories in height. The main or west facade is built of cut stone blocks of various sizes laid in courses; the other sides consist of brick laid in courses of stretcher bond. The main facade has two bays located on the first level; a single, tri-partite bay on the second (along with an oriel on the southwest corner); and a large opening flanked by columns in the gable above. The roof is gabled and has several dormers. There are several chimneys that rise from the side walls.

Richard R. Brettell in his book Historic Denver has described the secondary and artistic qualities of the Zang House:

Its gabled facade elaborately plays symmetry against asymmetry. The ground floor is bilaterally divided by a centered buttress which supports the second floor bay window, and a deeply shadowed entrance porch pulls the viewer's attention to the right of the centered buttress. This pull is exaggerated on the second floor by a gnome-like corner tower above the entrance porch, but the viewer's attention is pulled left again by the gable and its mysteriously underscaled and recessed stone porch. The center of the house is defined by a beautifully detailed bay window on the second floor which reacts intensely with the center of the gable which has its own "symmetrical features"--porch, arched window, gargoyles, and an eagle perched on top. The viewer's eye darts about the facade, into the recesses and out along the tower and the bay window, in an attempt to balance, to compose, and to unify the disparate elements.

The interior still retains much of its integrity. The structure utilizes its original radiators and is steamheated from a gas-fueled boiler system. Each floor has a front-facing living area with wooden trim and wooden floors. The first two floors have ornate fireplaces. There is also a wooden staircase.

Ed. JEF 6/79

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Zang House is significant for its association with Adolph J. Zang, an important businessman in Denver; for its association with William Lang, one of the area's most important late nineteenth century architects; and for its architectural features which reflect a style of rowhouse few of which exist in Denver today.

Adolph J. Zang made many contributions to the growth and development of Colorado. Though born in Kentucky and educated partly in Europe, he emigrated to Denver in 1882. With his father, he purchased the Rocky Mountain Brewery, renamed it the Zang Brewery, and helped revitalize a foundering business. Adolph Zang eventually became president and general manager of the firm and retained these positions even after the business was sold to an English syndicate. He remained affiliated with the company until 1913 when he retired. After him, the business continued for a time, but eventually failed owing to prohibition. In addition to brewing, Zang made significant investments in mining, real estate, and banking, and drew a good portion of his wealth from those sectors of the economy.

The architect who designed the Zang House was William Lang, a man who remains very much a mystery though he designed many important structures in Colorado. Virtually nothing is known of his early life except that he was born in Ohio in 1846. He must have received some sort of formal architectural training somewhere for he arrived in Denver in the mid-1880s and immediately began designing large stone structures, most in the Romanesque style and some of which like the Bailey and Orman-Adams houses are now listed in the Register. It was during the midpoint of his career here that he designed a small number of stone row houses of which the Zang House is the best known, in part for its architectural features and in part because it has been featured on a brochure by the Denver Bar Association and has been used in the controversy regarding the preservation of Lang's Ghost Building (also listed in the Register). It is thought that Lang's business collapsed following the Panic of 1893. He then moved to Illinois and died under mysterious circumstances in 1897.

From an architectural perspective the Zang House is a fine example of late Victorian eclecticism. The structure manifests elements of Chateausque, Gothic, and Richardsonian Romanesque designs, all of which are assembled and interwoven in an aesthetically pleasing manner. Many of Lang's buildings have been razed, others seriously altered, but this one, the Zang House, retains much of its integrity and is one of the finest of late nineteenth townhouses remaining in Denver.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brettell, Richard R., Historic Denver: The Architects and the Architecture, 1858-1893 (Denver; Historic Denver, 1973).

American Biography (American Historical Society, 1929), Volume 38.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Englewood

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 502110 4398795  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 28 and the North 2.58 feet of Lot 27, Block 34, PARK AVENUE ADDITION TO DENVER, together with an easement over and across the North 2.58 feet of the South 22.42 feet of Lot 27, Block 34, PARK AVENUE ADDITION TO DENVER.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Fred T. Steffens

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 22, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1532 Emerson Street

(303)861-7157

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Denver

Colorado

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Arthur C. Townsend*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE Sept. 17, 1979

**FDR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles O. Shull*  
 KEOPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-14-79

ATTEST: *William H. Braham*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11.7.79