

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 16 1982  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic McAllister, James G., House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 306 Douglas Street not for publication

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Brent C. James

street & number 306 Douglas Street

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake County Recorder's Office

street & number Salt Lake City and County Building

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Salt Lake City Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Salt Lake City Planning and Zoning Department

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The James G. McAllister House, constructed in 1915, is a fine Utah example of the Prairie Style of architectural design. H. Allen Brooks' description of the Prairie Style in 1972 provides an excellent starting point for describing the McAllister house:

... it affected virtually every aspect of the residential design -- the disposition of the single mass or composite massing, the shape of the low, long hipped or gable roof, the horizontal banding of the windows, the emphatic belt course or shelf roof between the storeys -- which often continued on one side as a lateral porch -- and the broad, often forward-set foundation upon which the building was securely placed. The continuity of line, edge, and surface -- an inheritance from the earlier Shingle Style -- lent horizontal unity to the design, and against these horizontals a spirited interplay was established with short vertical accents, such as piers, mullions, and subsidiary masses.

The home consists of a central rectangular mass, 40 feet wide by 28 feet deep and two stories high, topped with a low-pitched hip roof with wide overhanging eaves. The lower one and one-half stories of triple-course red brick are capped by a wide band of grey cast stone which runs horizontally around the entire house, forming the sill of the second storey windows. These windows are of the sliding casement type, reaching from the cement sill to the hip roof. They are symmetrically grouped in twos and threes to further emphasize the horizontal nature of the entire building, while the intervening wall space between the sill and the roof is covered with textured stucco over metal lathe. Flat three inch wood slats are imbedded in the stucco to form a simple decorative rectangular pattern, again emphasizing the horizontal theme of the exterior.

The ground floor of the home is asymmetrically extended northward by a single story sun porch. The porch mimics the second story: a cast stone band, capping the brick exterior wall, runs at the lower window sill level entirely around the porch's circumference, while a low-pitched hip roof caps the extension. It differs, however, in that casement windows fill all available space between the sill line and the eaves. The resulting southward view of the house typifies the entire design: a broad horizontal line at ground level is provided by the light-colored foundation. A dark masonry wall rises from the foundation only to quickly end in another light-colored horizontal band at the level of the porch window sill. The verticality of the casement windows is balanced by their wide horizontal expanse, which is again topped by the horizontal line of the porch roof. This roof slopes slowly upward to yet another horizontal band of cast stone, while the final horizontal eave line caps the upper casement windows.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered \*

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 2

Masonry pillars and piers support the main entrance; similar pillars support the sun porch roof, and notch the corners of the otherwise blandly rectangular porch boundary. Twin chimneys arise from the rear of the house, while the casement windows and second story wood trim add a vertical dimension of their own. Together these provide a vertical counterpoint to the design's basic horizontal nature, and give a pleasing horizontal/vertical interplay to the structure as a whole.

While many classic Prairie Style homes are spatially arranged around a large fireplace and chimney, the McAllister home has as its central core a large double staircase. These stairs rise to the second floor from the main entry foyer. After the three initial risers a landing marks a right-hand 90-degree turn as the stairs begin to wind around two sides of the foyer. The result is an openness to the entry-way, as it extends up the wide stairs, to the left through double French doors into the dining room, and to the right through a large rectangular arch into the living room. Double French doors in the living room extend the flow of space to the sun porch. The final effect is that the entire lower floor of the house, with the exception of the kitchen, breakfast room, and pantry, forms a single large, flowing room. The feeling is thus one of spaciousness and a lack of enclosure. Two large eastern windows and the wide expanse of sun porch windows carry the feeling of openness further. Even the main entry door is a single sheet of thick beveled glass, flanked by wide beveled sidelights matching the door in height.

The stairs, on rising toward the second story, make a second right-hand turn at a second landing. Here a separate service staircase, running parallel to the master staircase but separated from it by a wall, begins its descent to the kitchen. From the landing the master stairway must still climb three stairs before finally terminating on the second floor. A door separates the two stairways at the landing.

The interior design of the McAllister house is Arts and Crafts. Decoration and trim are of hardwoods in angular designs, finished to display their natural grains.

All floors on the lower story are of two-inch wide tongue and groove oak (including the sun porch) while the flooring of the upper story is entirely of maple of a similar dimension. A fairly hard gum wooden trim is used extensively, being stained a medium dark brown then varnished. On the lower floor the wooden trim shows extensive decorative angular machine shaping. The living room features a small tile fireplace flanked by built-in wood book cases. The cases' glass doors are overlaid by thin gum wood slats in a square pattern. The fireplace mantel, also of gum wood, is surmounted by two small casement windows.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 7

Page 3

While none of the windows in the house demonstrate the angular leaded and stained glass sometimes found in other Prairie Style homes, Arts and Crafts influence is found in other more unusual detailing. For example, the paneled doors used throughout the house are darkly stained and often have geometrically ornate solid brass door knobs. The entry foyer displays a hanging brass and stained glass angular hanging lamp, while the sun porch receives lighting via a fixture of cast brass and molded white glass.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>H. Allen Brook, The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972), p. 5.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1915 **Builder/Architect** probably Ware and Treganza

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The James G. McAllister house, built in 1915, was identified in a comprehensive survey of Salt Lake City's central-southern area as one of several excellent examples of the Prairie School style.<sup>1</sup> Others in this portion of the city include: the Hyrum T. and Almon A. Covey houses (listed in the National Register); 962 Windsor St.; Elmer Pett house, 627 East 900 South; and the Niels Christensen House, 631 East 900 South, (all potentially eligible for the Register). As Salt Lake City grew, around the turn of the twentieth century, new neighborhoods developed to the east and south of the city center. Architecturally, the Prairie Style became popular with examples found in the Avenues Historic District (listed in the National Register), the Federal Heights area (east of the Avenues and a potential source for future Prairie style nominations to the Register), and the central-southern region. These neighborhoods represented distinctive periods of growth, and within them the Prairie Style became an important feature of their landscapes. The McAllister house is significant for its Prairie Style architecture. It possesses the composite massing, low hipped roof, horizontal banding of windows, and the pronounced shelf roof between the upper and lower stories that characterizes the style. In comparison to other examples, the James G. McAllister house remains in excellent original condition, thus retaining its historic integrity.

The turn of the twentieth century found the young State of Utah in an era of rapid change. The LDS Church's long battle with the Federal government had, in historical terms, only recently been resolved, and Utah was just beginning to enter the mainstream of American political and economic life. During the early years of the new century the state saw a series of periods of rapid growth, with concomitant surges in building activity.

The early years of the new century saw the development of a new American school of architectural thought: Sullivan, Spencer, Wright, Maher, Griffin, Drummond, Mahoney, and others associated with Chicago's Steinway Hall and Wright's Chicago Studio sought a new architectural expression based on simplicity of form, functional design, and the horizontal emphasis of the prairie from which it arose. What would come to be called the "Prairie School" in fact represented a family of related designs springing from a group of architects, and proved to be a popular style in Salt Lake City during this period.<sup>2</sup>

Home Beautiful, Craftsman, and other architectural magazines that were available to the Utah building community enthusiastically proselytized the new Midwestern style in their pages. Salt Lake City architectural firms (including Ware & Treganza, and Pope & Burton) soon were beginning to

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet 6

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Fort Douglas, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	4	2	7	8	5	0	4	5	1	2	5	4	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the NE Cor of Lot 22, Block 2, Ehrich's Subdivision of Block 23, Plat F, Salt Lake City Survey, thence W 45 feet; thence S 100 feet; thence E 45 feet; thence N 100 feet to the place of beginning.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brent C. James, Owner/Tom Carter, Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date June-Sept. 1982

street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah

# 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 Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-27-82

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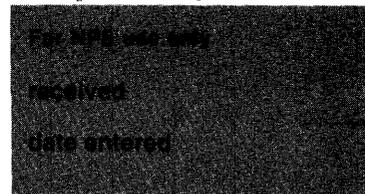
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Beth Grosvenor date 10/17/82  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 3

Item number 8

Page 2

experiment with the new style in their own designs. The Prairie Style movement was near its height in 1914 when construction began on the James G. McAllister home. The original building permit,<sup>3</sup> issued on October 26, 1914, lists "Builders Loan and Trust company" as both the owner and the builder of the property (the "architect" entry on the permit is unfortunately left blank but other evidence points out that it was probably the firm of Ware and Treganza). A survey of the surrounding University of Utah/Federal Heights neighborhood reveals at least two other houses of apparently identical internal and external design (with the exception of cosmetic and remodeling differences) located at 24 Virginia Avenue and 1417 Butler Avenue. Both list "Builders Loan and Trust Company" on their building permits as both owner and builder, while listing no architect.<sup>4</sup> It seems possible that all three homes were built speculatively for an upper income market. Only the McAllister house retains its original historic appearance.

The James G. McAllister home was completed on August 24, 1915<sup>5</sup> and Mr. McAllister was known to have moved from 351 Earls Court to his new residence in the same year.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, a building permit for the garage associated with the home was issued in the name of "J.G. McCallister" on September 24 1915,<sup>7</sup> indicating that if McAllister did not commission the house, he at least was closely associated with it before or very shortly after its completion.

John D. T. McAllister<sup>8</sup> (James G. McAllister's father) converted to the Mormon faith in his native Delaware. He soon became a close companion of Brigham Young and, after the death of Joseph Smith, came to have positions of importance both within the church and in the secular state which grew up following the move to Utah. McAllister was a carpenter and is credited with the construction of many buildings in the valley and mills in the surrounding canyons. He served as president of the St. George Temple, president of the newly constructed Manti temple, and finally as a president of the First Quorum of Seventies. At his death John McAllister could claim nine wives, the second of whom was Angeline Sophrina Goforth.

James G. McAllister, born in 1860 in Salt Lake City, was one of thirty-two children.<sup>9</sup> He served a carpenter's apprenticeship and worked on the tabernacle, helping to build the famous pipe-organ. He also followed farming, teaming, and carpenter contracting. As he grew older and the metal mines opened in Park City, he became actively engaged in teaming and freighting, having a contract to haul the machinery for the Marsac mill, which was one of the first mills built in Park City. He served an apprenticeship as a wagonmaker and blacksmith, and during 1887-88 he engaged in mining in Marysvale, Utah, going from there to Ophir and then to Bingham Canyon. He became head salesman and assistant manager of the Studebaker Bros. Co., 1897-1906, and in 1902 organized the McAllister Bros. Sheep Co. (John D. H. and James G. McAllister), which in 1911 was incorporated as the McAllister Land and Live Stock Company, of which he was the president. In 1907 he associated with Frank Esshom in the beginning of the history of the "Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah," being the first president and director of the company, and a director until the completion of the work. He and C. B.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

4

Item number 8

Page 3

Stewart were the originators, promoters and the organizers of the Farmers and Stockgrowers Bank, which was incorporated Jan. 20, 1913, when he was elected director and member of the executive board. As one of the members of the board, he purchased the ground and arranged for the construction of their banking house at 123-125 South Main Street. He was director and chairman of the executive board of the Bird's Eye Marble Company and director and adviser in other manufacturing, mercantile and industrial companies. McAllister was a member of the committee that organized the first Republican party in the state, and remained constantly with the party.

Official records currently indicate only that James G. McAllister married Emily Marinda Chase on October 15, 1889. Emily Chase was at the time a widow of ten years with two young children, having previously been married to H. W. McKee. Family records, however, also note a marriage to Minnie Erwin on September 7, 1879. John D. T. McAllister recorded in his journal that he performed a "sealing" ceremony for his son James on the stated date. It is noteworthy that John D. T. McAllister was an active polygamist, and that he presided over the Salt Lake Endowment House at the time of his son's purported first marriage.

In about August, 1915, James G. McAllister moved with his wife Emily and son James G. McAllister, Jr. from 351 Earls Court to his new home on Douglas Street. The property was recorded in the name of Emily M. McAllister under an original mortgage of \$6000.00. On July 14, 1920 the home was sold to F. L. Cowan, an "engineer for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad", with a mortgage for \$9000.00 at 7 percent per annum interest. At that time the McAllisters moved to Los Angeles, California where James was prominent in real estate and served as a Los Angeles city councilman up to the time of his death on September 9, 1933.<sup>10</sup>

Mr. Cowan retained the property for only two years, transferring it on April 4, 1922 to John V. Dawson and his wife Flora. John V. Dawson, "whose Activities...placed him among the leaders of the lumber business in the west", died July 16, 1924 from appendicitis in a Salt Lake hospital.<sup>11</sup> He was vice-president of the Overland Lumber Company and treasurer of the George E. Merrill Company.<sup>12</sup> His widow Flora continued to occupy the house until January 25, 1937, when it was sold to Jedediah F. Woolley, Jr. Mr. Woolley and his family lived in the house until Mr. Woolley's death in 1979. The house was sold on July 1, 1980 to Dr. Brent C. and Karen S. James, who are its present tenants.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>See, Peter L. Goss, "Style Supplement to Salt Lake City Architectural Survey--Central/Southern Area," (unpublished, 1982).

<sup>2</sup>Peter L. Goss, "The Prairie School Influence in Utah," Prairie School Review, 12:1 (1975), pp. 5-22.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet 5

Item number 8

Page 4

<sup>3</sup>Salt Lake City Building Permit Records, October 1914, p. 70, #6479.

<sup>4</sup>Building Permit Records, November 1914, #6498, and September 1915, #7550 respectively.

<sup>5</sup>Salt Lake Engineers' Office.

<sup>6</sup>Polk's Salt Lake City Directory, 1916.

<sup>7</sup>Building Permit Records, September 1915, p. 99, #4358.

<sup>8</sup>See, Lucille McAllister Weenig, John D. T. McAllister (Orem: Impressive Printing, 1980), Andrew Jenson, LDS Biographical Encyclopedia (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1901), p. 334, and Frank Esshom, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah (Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1966), p. 1053.

<sup>9</sup>Esshom, p. 1054.

<sup>10</sup>"Former Political Leader in Salt Lake Dies On Coast," Salt Lake Tribune, October 11, 1933, p. 22.

<sup>11</sup>"J. V. Dawson, Veteran Lumber Dealer, Dies," Deseret News, July 17, 1924, p. 8 of sec. 2.

<sup>12</sup>Polk's Salt Lake City Directory, 1923; listing for 306 Douglas Street.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 6

Item number 9

Page 1

Salt Lake City Records

Brook, H. Allen. The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and his Midwest Contemporaries. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972.

Polk's Salt Lake City Directory, 1916.

Weenig, Lucille M. John D. T. McAllister--Utah Pioneer. Orem: Impresseve Printing, 1980.

Esshom, Frank. Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1966.