

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

JUL 19 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Lang, William, Townhouse 5DV1704 *e*

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 1626 Washington Street<sup>c</sup> n/a not for publication

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 08 county Denver code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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"/> n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a 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 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 1626 Washington, a limited partnership, David Worstell, general partner

street & number 1626 Washington

city, town Denver n/a vicinity of state Colorado

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City and County of Denver Building

street & number 1445 Cleveland Place

city, town Denver state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Colorado Preservation Office

city, town Denver state Colorado

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

In the years 1889 and 1890, architect William Lang built five townhouses on the 1600 block of Washington Street in what is now one of Denver's older residential areas. Designed as a group, the buildings responded to one another "in calculated and subtle rhythms as one walked along the street. Lang began one end with rusticated asymmetry and ended at the other with perfect symmetry and superb balance."<sup>1</sup> The structure at 1626 Washington is one of the three which survives today. Despite the loss of Lang's original conception in the construction of the five contiguous buildings, the three that remain all reflect individual importance in their particular design, use of materials and detailing.

The front facade of 1626 Washington Street is a symmetrical composition of smooth sandstone. It has an unusual stepped gable featuring ornate sandstone carvings. (The upper portions of the gable has suffered from erosion and some repair work has been done using concrete to cap the sandstone stepped parapet.) The front facade is three stories in height and 22 feet in width. Arches over the front entry and window into the front parlor are Romanesque in style.

The structure has recently been used as a four-unit apartment house and thus some changes have been made to the interior; namely the insertion of walls on the second floor. However, the first floor is relatively intact, with much of the original millwork in terms of moldings and door frames remain. The two most significant features that survive include an ornately carved mantel on the first floor and a staircase which spirals gracefully up all three stories.

<sup>1</sup>Richard Brettell, Historic Denver, P. 76.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1890 **Builder/Architect** William Lang

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Lang Townhouse, constructed in 1890, has architectural distinction in Denver through its quality and uniqueness of design, use of materials and state of preservation. It also has historical importance in serving as the private residence of William Lang, "the most popular and prolific designer of domestic architecture in nineteenth century Denver."<sup>1</sup>

Lang began his career in Denver in 1886 and did the vast majority of his building between 1888 and 1892. "His houses ranged from cottages to mansions and were constructed in every part of Denver and in most of the city's nineteenth century suburbs."<sup>2</sup> He was considered Denver's most eclectic architect of the day. "He never built a building in a clear nameable style and was an architect who conceived of a building as a combination of architectural elements derived from a great many other buildings." His was an architecture of flamboyant complexity in direct opposition to the simplicity of the Richardsonian style popular at that time. His work has been termed "an architecture of the melting pot." "It was an egalitarian and unbiased architecture free from the imperialist imagery of the Second Empire. Its esthetic was one of complexity, confusion, and, as Robert Venturi would no doubt add, contradiction. Its enemy was classicism, rationality, and clarity."<sup>3</sup>

The William Lang Townhouse was constructed in 1890 and Lang lived there until his career came to an abrupt end with the great silver crash of 1893. There are no records of William Lang in Denver beyond 1893. The townhouse, a remarkable structure in itself, is part of an original group of five townhouses which as a whole is perhaps the best example of Lang's fantastic eclecticism.

Notable in the design of Lang's residence is the use of stone facing on the primary facade, the front stepped gable, a richly carved panel between the second and third floors, and the arched bays on the first floor.

<sup>1</sup>Richard Brettell, Historic Denver, p. 64.

<sup>2</sup>Richard Brettell, Historic Denver, p. 64. In 1890, the Western Architect and Building News listed forty-three houses designed by Lang and his partner Marshall Pugh.

<sup>3</sup>Richard Brettell, Historic Denver, p. 65.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brettell, Richard. Historic Denver. Denver: Historic Denver, Inc. 1973

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .0643

Quadrangle name Englewood

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	3	5	0	1	8	8	0	4	3	9	8	9	5	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

Lot 13, Block 335, Clements addition to the City of Denver and that part or portion of out-lot 4, Block 21, Park Avenue Addition to Denver, east of and adjacent to said Lot 13, City and County of Denver, State of Colorado Roughly 25'x112.4' in size

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bruce Beinfield, Architect

organization date

street & number 1065 S. York Street telephone 733-8833

city or town Denver state 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 Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer (Acting) date July 11, 1983

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5/18/83

Melora Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration