

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	JUN 25 1980
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JUN 4 1980

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ernest LeNeve Foster House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2105 Lafayette Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Denver

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Denver

CODE

031

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

—DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
—STRUCTURE  
—SITE  
—OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

—PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
—BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
—IN PROCESS  
—BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
—UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
—YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
—NO

**PRESENT USE**

—AGRICULTURE  
—COMMERCIAL  
—EDUCATIONAL  
—ENTERTAINMENT  
—GOVERNMENT  
—INDUSTRIAL  
—MILITARY  
—MUSEUM  
—PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
—RELIGIOUS  
—SCIENTIFIC  
—TRANSPORTATION  
—OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

David & Gail Vila

STREET & NUMBER

2105 Lafayette Street

CITY, TOWN

Denver

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80205

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City and County Building, Annex #1

STREET & NUMBER

1445 Cleveland Place

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (16/01/0299)

DATE

Ongoing

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

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

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

Located at 2105 Lafayette Street in Denver, the LeNeve Foster House is a single, detached, three storey Queen Anne structure with Shingle-Style massing. The plan is nearly apsidal save that the rear projection is slightly to the left. The basic building material is brick which was stuccoed early in the 20th century. Cut stone, both sandstone and flagstone, ornate woodcarvings, and mouldings form the trim. The roof consists of cross gables. The house is surrounded by a cast iron fence set into a two-course wall of flagstone.

The east or main facade along the Lafayette Street side is divided into three vertical planes which are defined by their window groupings and the setback of the wall. The most dominant feature is the formal porch which sports a large carved gable supported by fluted classical columns, crowned with carved urns and curls. This section sits slightly forward. To the north of the porch are large double-hung windows trimmed in half-round sandstone columns, rusticated sandstone blocks, and intricate leaded-glass windows. Over both the porch and front parlor are multi-paned windows which pull the two vertical planes into visual balance. The southern third of the front facade is divided nearly in half on the horizontal. The top portion is a visual solid created by the cross gable and interrupted only by a small whimsical balcony off the third floor. The lower half is made light with a single massive arched window overlooking the rose garden.

The south facade along 21st Street is a massive flat surface beneath an asymmetrically placed roof line. The mass is broken up by three main architectural features. The staircase window is actually a complex of features supporting one another and trimmed out as one large arched opening. The stained glass window, eight feet long, is supported by a pair of twenty-four paned windows, which in turn are supported by a hand carved lion's head and wooden shutters faced out as small wooden panels. The staircase window spans the space between the first and second floors, creating a suspended room inside and a balanced exterior. No less impressive on this side is the bay window roofed in copper, and the upper storey windows which frame a substantial carving of an urn and humming birds.

The rear of the house has a two-storey, four sided bay with windows almost four feet wide and six feet tall. These beautiful bays were clearly designed to overlook downtown Denver and the mountain range from Long's Peak to Pike's Peak. Or could they have been intended as passive solar collectors?

Wood shingle gables complete the exterior, and are framed by paneled bargeboards. Each gable has large multi-paned windows set off by individually adapted classical pediments. In the front, back, and sides the gables are supported above the masonry by corbels with carved acanthas leaves.

The Foster House has eighteen rooms plus a flagstone half basement. The structure was designed to accommodate an active social life plus the utmost privacy in the family areas. The main social rooms are trimmed in heavy red oak woodwork. Most rooms in the house are approximately thirteen by sixteen feet in size.

The interior of the house is intact. The structure still has all the stained and

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description                      ITEM NUMBER 7                      PAGE 2

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leaded glass, all of the wooden carvings, all the original Cambridge tile on the three fireplaces, the brass doorknobs, lyncrusta-walton, plaster picture mould, French curved glass windows (now protected by Lexan) and excellent examples of the original imported wallpapers which we hope to reproduce in the ballroom, front parlor, and staircase. Original 1894 and 1917 photographs have been located to document these items as original.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Lang

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ernest LeNeve Foster House is significant for its association with Ernest LeNeve Foster, a significant figure in the development of the minerals industry in Colorado. The structure is also significant for its architectural features and for its association with its architect, William Lang.

Ernest LeNeve Foster was born in London, England, in 1849. He studied mining engineering at the Royal School of Mines in London and later at the Konigliche Bergakademie at Freiberg, Saxony, at that time the world's leading mining school. After completing his education he took his first jobs in Europe, but in 1872, at the age of twenty-three, he emigrated to the United States to continue his career in Colorado. Over the next four decades he managed many major mines in Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Summit counties, notably the Snow Drift, Fletcher, Colorado Central, and Saratoga properties, among many others. He also held a number of public posts, the most important of which was that of State Geologist. He died in Denver in 1925.

The architect of the home was William Lang, probably the best known of Colorado's architects. Lang's background is largely unknown though it is suspected that he served an architectural apprenticeship in Chicago. He arrived in Denver in the 1880s, formed a partnership, and immediately began to design large commercial and residential structures. Many of these have unfortunately been demolished, but of those that remain several are now listed in the National Register, including St. Mark's Church, the Zang House, Ghost Building, Bailey House, all in Denver, and the Orman-Adams Mansion in Pueblo. Lang died under mysterious circumstances in Illinois in the mid-1890s.

From an architectural perspective the Ernest LeNeve Foster House is a fine execution of Lang's approach to the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture. According to his notebook this was the next to the last structure that he designed in Denver, and as the last structure has been demolished, the Foster House is the final representation of his work still in existence. This building reflects the maturation of his aesthetic challenge in its function, scale, texture, and design. Although the building faces Lafayette Street, all sides provide a visual interest, most notably the east and south which face the street.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Western Architect and Building News, various issues.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity, Colorado.

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .14

QUADRANGLE NAME Englewood, Colorado

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 113 502520 4399630  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 16 and 17, Block 47, Schinners Addition to the City and County of Denver

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David and Gail Vila

ORGANIZATION

Quakers

DATE

February 29, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

2105 Lafayette

TELEPHONE

(303) 831-9206

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80205

# 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

William C. Townsend June 16, 1980

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles D. Shull  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-4-80

ATTEST:

Mark Stone Reed  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

8/23/80