

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRRS use only  
received **OCT 5 1982**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic James and Susan R. Langton House  
and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 648 East 100 South not for publication  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
	<u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Rolee Corporation  
street & number Commercial Security Building, Suite 1570  
city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state Utah

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake City and County Building  
street & number 400 South State Street  
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 Dept.  
city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

\_\_\_ excellent  
XX good  
\_\_\_ fair

\_\_\_ deteriorated  
\_\_\_ ruins  
\_\_\_ unexposed

**Check one**

\_\_\_ unaltered  
XX altered

**Check one**

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

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

This large two-story house is an unusually well-designed eclectic version of the Box style house that was popular in Salt Lake City during the first fifteen years of this century. The Box style is a descriptive term applied to the large body of two-story, box-shaped dwellings, which were usually embellished with designer elements from one or more architectural styles.<sup>1</sup> The architect of this house, Bernard O. Mecklenburg, combined elements from Box, Tudor, and Classical styles to achieve the well-integrated eclectic styling that distinguishes this house. Its Box styling is evident from the two-story box-like shape, hipped roof, centered hip dormer, and full-width, one-story front porch.

Treatment of the exterior walls is unusual, but similar to that on another house designed by Mecklenburg at 164 South 1300 East. Brick in the quoins at the corners and around the windows and in the belt courses accents the textured stucco walls and divides them into geometric-shaped panels. The sandstone string course, belt course, and foundation were all stuccoed, if not originally, at least by the late 1920s, when the available tax-photograph was taken. The full basement is raised somewhat with windows that extend above the foundation.

The front porch is decorated with turned balusters and tudor arched openings. Impost cornices on the porch columns feature stamped metal dentil courses. Dentils also adorn the frieze board below both the porch and roof eaves which were originally decorated with paired modillions. Sidelights and leaded stained glass transoms frame the doorway. The front door, apparently original, is decorated with egg-and-dart moulding around the panels. The doorway on the eastern half of the facade replaces a bay window that was originally there, and was probably added around 1937 when the house was first converted into apartments.

The upper facade features two recessed slanted bay windows with diamond-shaped muntin patterns. Two bay windows on the eastern facade have stamped metal bases with pointed arch cut-outs. There are two more bay windows on the rear of the house. Original windows were all apparently casement windows (except fixed sash windows) with diamond-shaped muntin patterns. Replacement windows are all single pane and are usually double hung. A bay window on the western facade was removed and replaced by vertical siding and a double hung window flush with the wall. The frame two-story section on the rear is either original or an addition made before 1911.

The metal tile shingles on the roof are probably original. The attic dormer features a tiny three-part window and modillions on its eaves. Two of the three chimneys have tiled roof-like caps extended above the flues.

Originally a ten-room single-family dwelling, this house was completely altered on the interior when it was converted into apartments in the late 1930s. Stairways and fireplaces were removed, doorways were covered up, and many new walls and rooms were created. The current owner plans to convert the house into office space, but since no evidence can be found to indicate what the original interior looked like, restoration of the interior will probably be very limited. The exterior, however, will be repaired and restored to conform as much as possible to its original appearance.

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

## 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** 1908 **Builder/Architect** Bernard O. Mecklenburg

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As a result of an extensive survey conducted of Salt Lake City's central/southern area, the James and Susan R. Langton house was found significant as an unusually well-designed eclectic version of the Box style house. Built in 1908, this large, two-story, ten-room residence was designed by Bernard O. Mecklenburg, a noted Salt Lake architect. Best known for his work in completing the splended Cathedral of the Madeleine (National Register), Mecklenburg also designed many apartment and residential buildings of which this house is one of the more outstanding. Designed in a Box style, which was popular in Salt Lake City during the first fifteen years of the twentieth century, the Langton house possesses a scale and styling that distinguishes it as one of the important elements on Salt Lake's First South streetscape--a prominent residential area that served as an expansion (although less prestigious) of the opulent South Temple district (National Register), during a thirty to forty year period around the turn-of-the-century. The Langdon residence also reflects the architect's use of elements from the Box, Tudor, and Classical styles to achieve the well-integrated eclectic styling that distinguishes this house from other Box type designs. James and Susan Langton were both prominent in business, with their Langton Lime and Cement Company, founded in 1894, serving as one of the most enduring and successful businesses of its type in the city for over forty-five years. The wealth generated from this venture enabled them to construct a house of such style and scale on a prominent street of Salt Lake City.

The James and Susan R. Langton House was built in 1908 at an estimated cost of \$10,000 on a site previously occupied by a one-story adobe dwelling.<sup>1</sup> The large ten-room house was designed by Bernard O. Mecklenburg, a prominent Salt Lake architect. Mecklenburg, who was born in 1878 in Nebraska, came to Salt Lake City in 1898 and practiced architecture here until 1919 when he moved to Los Angeles. His work includes completion of the Cathedral of the Madeleine, additions on Holy Cross Hospital, The Ivanhoe and Mecklenburg (now Maryland) Apartment buildings, and many residential buildings in the city.<sup>2</sup>

James Langton, born in 1853 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, spent his early adulthood in Dodge City, Kansas, where he became involved in many of the early Indian wars there. He fought in the Adobe Wall Indian Battle on the Texas panhandle in June 1874, reportedly the most notable battle between Indians and civilians, as the Indians attempted to drive out the buffalo hunters. In 1889 James Langton came to Salt Lake City, apparently drawn like the thousands of other non-Mormons who came to the state during this period, by the opportunities that the burgeoning mining industry, with all its support services, had opened up in the state. He was soon employed as secretary of

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Salt Lake Tribune, April 20, 1938, p. 20.

Deseret News, July 21, 1913, p. 3; April 19, 1938, p. 16.

(See Continuation Sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one  
 Quadrangle name Fort Douglas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

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4	2	6	4	0	5
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4	5	1	3	0	4	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

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Zone      Easting      Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at the NW corner of Lot 7, Block 53, Plat B, Salt Lake City Survey, and running thence E 4.5 rods; thence S 125 feet; thence W 4.5 rods; thence N 125 feet to place of beginning; together with a right of way over a strip of land 8.25 feet wide adjoining said tract on East side thereof.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger V. Roper/Preservation Planner

organization A/P Associates Planning & Research

date April 28, 1982

street & number 182 South 600 East, Suite 200

telephone (801) 355-6982

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Melvin T. Smith*

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-20-82

For HCRRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Beth Grovenor</i>	date <u>11/19/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

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The Consumers Trading Company, dealers of lime, cement, plaster, hay, and grain. In 1894 when that company went out of business, James established his own company at 38 West 200 South that dealt in those same lines.

About that time, James became associated with James W. Ross, who became his partner in the business in 1897 when they incorporated the Langton Lime and Cement Company. James Ross had been involved in the flour and feed business in Ann Arbor, Michigan before coming to Salt Lake City in 1891, accompanied by his sister, Susan Amelia Ross. Susan Ross, born August 16, 1867 in Rochester, New York, married James Langton sometime around 1897 and became treasurer of the Langton Lime and Cement Company.

The company moved locations twice (221 South State and 341 South State) before settling at its permanent location at 346 South 300 West in 1910. The kilns were located near Beck's Hot Springs at the north end of town. Langton Lime and Cement Company became one of the leading wholesalers in the lime and building materials business in Salt Lake City offering over twenty products for a variety of construction needs.

The success of the business enabled the Langtons to build this fine large home in 1908, and move out of the house at 361 East 300 South, where they had been living for eight years. James Langton, however, lived in this new house for only five years. He suffered an untimely death in an automobile accident up Millcreek Canyon in 1913, while inspecting one of his lime kilns located there. Susan Langton, who sustained serious injuries from the accident, recovered and continued to head the family business for many years. At the time of her death on April 19, 1938, she was still serving as treasurer of the company, despite her seventy years.

During the twenty-five years between her husband's death and her own, Susan Langton lived here with her three daughters, Jessie B. (Birdie), Irene, and Inez, until their marriages in the 1920s, and afterwards shared the house with one or more of her married daughters at various times. In 1937 she created six apartments out of much of the house, but retained some of the floor space as a living area for herself. After her death in 1939, the house was sold to Thomas E. Towler, who transferred the title to Towler Investment Company and rented out the eight apartments that were then in the house. Towler Investment Company owned the house until 1975, and over the next seven years the house changed hands several times, but continued to be used as rental property. The Rolee Corporation, which purchased the house in April 1982, plans to convert the house into office space.

<sup>1</sup>Salt Lake City Register of Buildings, Sept. 2, 1908, Permit No. 755.

<sup>2</sup>Architect File, Utah State Historical Society.

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National Park Service**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

Page 2

Warrum, Noble, ed., History of Utah Since Statehood Vol III (Chicago-Salt Lake 1919),  
p. 342.

Salt Lake City Register of Buildings, 1908.

Salt Lake City Directories, 1889-1941.