



## DENVER LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

This form is for use in nominating individual structures and districts in the City and County of Denver. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." Questions about the application or designation process can be directed to Denver Landmark Preservation staff at [landmark@denvergov.org](mailto:landmark@denvergov.org) or (303) 865-2709.

**Property Address:** 1272 N. Columbine Street

The following are required for the application to be considered complete:

- Property Information
- Applicant Information and Signatures
- Criteria for Significance
- Statement of Significance
- Period of Significance
- Property Description
- Statement of Integrity
- Historic Context
- Bibliography
- Photographs
- Boundary Map
- Application Fee (please call Annie Levinsky, Historic Denver's Executive Director to take payment over the phone)



# 1. Property Information

## Name of Property

Historic Name: Stahl House

Other or Current Name: N/A

## Location

Address: 1272 N Columbine Street, Denver, CO 80206

Legal Description: L 39 & 40 BLK 13 ROHLFINGS SUB

## Number of resources:

<u># Contributing</u>	<u># Non-Contributing</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Primary Structures</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Accessory Structures</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Features</u>

## Contributing and Noncontributing Features or Resources

*Describe below how contributing and non-contributing features were determined.*

The legal boundaries encompass the house and a concrete driveway in the rear. There are no accessory structures. A sandstone walkway and low steps in the front are within the boundaries of the property but are not a contributing feature.

## General Property Data

Date of construction: 1889

Architect (if known): William A. Lang

Builder (if known): Wheelon & Hall

Original Use: Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Use: Domestic: Single Dwelling

Source(s) of information for above: City and County of Denver Building Permit No. 800, July 5, 1889

## Previous documentation

*List previous historic survey and/or if property is listed or eligible for listing in the State or National Register of Historic Places.*

The property was surveyed on October 16, 2018 as part of Discover Denver. There have been no previous determinations regarding eligibility for listing in the State or National Register of Historic Places.



## 2. Owner/Applicant Information

An application for designation may be submitted by:

- Owner(s) of the property or properties, or
- Member(s) of city council, or
- Manager of Community Planning and Development, or
- Three residents of Denver, if they are not owners of the property or properties

### Owner Information

Name: Gerald B. Fitzgerald and JoVonne P. Fitzgerald

Address: 955 N Pearl St., Denver, Co 80203

Phone: 303-830-8629

Email: gbjpfitzgerald@msn.com

### Primary Applicant (if not owner)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Researched and initial writing by

Name: Scott E. Crotzer

Address: 4327 E. 95<sup>th</sup> Drive, Thornton, CO 80229

Phone: 720-301-9428

Email: [ScottCrotzer@gmail.com](mailto:ScottCrotzer@gmail.com)

### Organized and edited by

Name: Leslie Mohr Krupa

Address: 125 N. College St., Schenectady, NY 12305

Phone: 303-941-0971

Email: [leslie.krupa@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.krupa@gmail.com)



Owner Applicant:

I / We, the undersigned, acting as owner(s) of the property described in this application for landmark designation do, hereby, give my consent to the designation of this structure as a structure for preservation.

I understand that this designation transfers with the title of the property should the property be sold, or if legal or beneficial title is otherwise transferred.

Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Owner(s) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

For individual designations, if the owner does not support the designation, the applicants must conduct outreach to the owner. Describe below the efforts to contact the owner to discuss designation and other possible preservation alternatives. Please provide dates and details of any communications or meetings with the property owner, or the property owner's representatives.

### 3. Significance

#### Criteria for Significance

To qualify as a Landmark, a property must meet at least three significance criteria. Check the applicable criteria from the following list.

- A. It has a direct association with a significant historic event or with the historical development of the city, state, or nation;
- B. It has direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society;
- C. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type;
- D. It is a significant example of the work of a recognized architect or master builder;
- E. It contains elements of design, engineering, materials, craftsmanship, or artistic merit which represent a significant innovation or technical achievement;
- F. It represents an established and familiar feature of the neighborhood, community or contemporary city, due to its prominent location or physical characteristics;
- G. It promotes understanding and appreciation of the urban environment by means of distinctive physical characteristics or rarity;
- H. It represents an era of culture or heritage that allows an understanding of how the site was used by past generations;
- I. It is a physical attribute of a neighborhood, community, or the city that is a source of pride or cultural understanding;
- J. It is associated with social movements, institutions, or patterns of growth or change that contributed significantly to the culture of the neighborhood, community, city, state, or nation.

#### Statement of Significance

**B. Have direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society:**

1272 N. Columbine was constructed for John Seward Stahl, a well-known Denverite and an influential business leader with a robust commitment to civic life. Stahl had the ability to see opportunity, not only in monetary pursuits, but also in ways to be influential in the community. He contributed to the expansion of the mining industry in Colorado during his earliest years in Tin Cup and Buena Vista, and once he arrived in Denver, he built the city's leading typewriter business. In fact, his success in the typewriter business had local journalists nicknaming him the 'type-writer' man, and he supplied the means for the production of several local papers, leaving an indelible mark and perhaps explaining the many reports of Stahl family activities and actions in the newspapers of the day. Stahl's political activities were as strong as his civic, and he served as a booster for Denver at a critical time in its development. Stahl hosted dignitaries as they toured the city and his name was a draw to gain community support and attendance at functions, charity events, and political meetings. The family was so well known by the late 1880s that when Stahl purchased the lot for the family's future home at 1272 N.

Columbine it made the newspapers. As further evidence of his status, Stahl hired architect William Lang, a preferred architect among Denver high society. Stahl's children also became known within elite Denver social circles, and their lives and deaths were also documented in articles and headlines in the local papers. The Stahl family resided in the home on Columbine for more than forty years, as John Stahl died at age 90 in 1930, and his son George remained at the home until he passed prematurely in 1932. George's wife held onto the home for another eleven years before it was sold, for the first time, to someone outside the Stahl family.

C. Embody the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type:

1272 N. Columbine is one of the earliest examples of the Queen Anne/late Victorian homes built in what is now Congress Park. The architect of the home, William Lang, often designed in the Queen Anne style with Richardsonian Romanesque flourishes or details. 1272 N. Columbine illustrates the Queen Anne style in its asymmetry, patterned brickwork, and ornately detailed gable end featuring shingles, brackets, and decorative bargeboards. A focal point of the home's front façade is a large round-arched window featuring a heavy stone arch commonly used in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. This window is cited as an excellent example of a Richardsonian window in Richard Brettell's book *Historic Denver, The Architects and Architecture 1858-1893*.<sup>1</sup> The window features more Queen Anne detailing, with ornately carved stone capitals atop paired columns which flank the lower sash. The upper, rounded sash is of stained glass bordered by small individual panes. These distinctive attributes clearly mark the home as a Lang design, and as a fine example of the Queen Anne style. The home is substantial in size and stature, and while there are other examples of Queen Anne design in the western-most blocks of Congress Park, and even a few other Lang designs, 1272 N. Columbine retains the best integrity and is a significant example of the signature combination of details that were specific to Lang's design aesthetic.

D. Be a significant example of the work of a recognized architect or master builder:

1272 N. Columbine is a significant example of the renowned architect, William Lang, who was one of the city's most prolific residential architects in the 1880s and early 1890s, but whose period of influence came to a sudden close with the 1893 Silver Crash. The Stahl home is a very early example of Lang's proclivity to add Richardsonian details to the Queen Anne style, and is one of the few remaining in Congress Park that can be so clearly recognized as Lang's work with considerable integrity.

When William Lang arrived in Denver in 1885, he was a young, locally inexperienced, and enormously energetic architect who gained notoriety and success quickly in the booming city of Denver. Two of his best-known designs include the Molly Brown House at 1340 Pennsylvania and St. Mark's Parish at 12<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln. It is estimated he designed over 250 structures in the city during his relatively short career.<sup>2</sup> Lang was known for making a name for himself and became a favorite among Denver's early elite. Denver lore has it that Lang became so popular among the city's high society that the local influential group, the 'Sacred 36,' included him as a member.<sup>3</sup> As a respected and recognized architect, William Lang's name appears as one of the members of the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Architects, established in 1892 in Denver. Lang's designs were mimicked, copied, and challenged by his contemporaries.<sup>4</sup> His legacy exists in a number of structures surviving in

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<sup>1</sup> Brettell, Richard R., *Historic Denver. The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pg. 156.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pg. 64.

<sup>3</sup> Vintage Homes of Denver, "Denver Architects – William Lang" (available from <https://www.vintagehomesofdenver.com/artman/publish/denver-home-styles/Denver-Architects--William-Lang.html>). (Accessed 7/31/20).

<sup>4</sup> Brettell, Richard R., *Historic Denver. The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pg. 31.



Denver, each reflecting the wishes of their original owners, and containing a part of his “retardataire brilliance”.<sup>5</sup> The fact that Stahl commissioned Lang to design his family home reflects both Stahl’s stature in the city and success in business, as well as Lang’s rising popularity.

#### Period of Significance

Period of Significance: 1889-1943

The Stahl House was among the first built in the Rohlfing subdivision and an excellent example of the Queen Anne style popular before the Silver Crash of 1893. The period of significance starts with the home’s construction in 1889 and continues through 1943 when the widow of George Stahl, the son of John S. Stahl, sold the home, ending the family’s association with the structure.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., pg. 145.

## 4. Property Description

- a. *Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, materials, setting, size, and significant features.*

1272 N. Columbine was built in the Rohlfling Subdivision, platted in 1887-1888 in what was then known as Capitol Heights, but is now known as Congress Park. The 1995 Congress Park Neighborhood Plan presents the boundaries of the current neighborhood as York Street on the west, Colfax Avenue on the north, Colorado Boulevard on the east, and Sixth Avenue on the south. When platted, the area was seen as an escape from the pollution and noise of the city, but with convenient access to downtown on cable cars, which stopped at key nodes in the area.<sup>6</sup> Today, Congress Park is a walkable neighborhood with accessibility to schools, commercial businesses, and restaurants. It has mature trees and a mix of architectural forms and styles, including Queen Anne and Dutch Colonial Revival, Foursquares, and Craftsman bungalows.

1272 N. Columbine occupies lots 39 and 40 of block 13 in the Rohlfling subdivision. It is a 2 ½ story cross-gable residence built in the Queen Anne style with Richardsonian details and set back from the sidewalk near the north end of the block. The home has a Denver hill the sloped hill in the front yard, which is common in the neighborhood, and is accessed via a sandstone walkway and stairs. The historic stone sidewalk remains intact in front of the house, an increasingly rare attribute. The residence is of brick construction, with rough-cut stone details. The structure features William Lang's trademark mix of the Queen Anne style with Richardsonian flourishes. Significant features of the house include a Richardsonian window on the front facade, Romanesque detailing in the decorative window surrounds, and decorative bargeboards. Other notable features include two large decorative chimneys on the right exterior, and a porch with Queen Anne detailing.

- b. *Architectural Description – Describe the architectural features of the structure(s) (i.e. building) in a logical sequence, from the ground up or façade by façade. Identify the key visual aspects or character-defining features of the structure.*

**North (Top right to bottom left)** – The northern wall is painted brick with a rusticated stone foundation approximately three feet high. The eaves are slightly overhung and boxed, with a metal drainage gutter running 1/3 length of the façade to a masonry bay halfway down the wall, where it empties to another gutter system on the first floor that then leads to the ground. A second-floor fixed stained-glass window is about 12 ft. from the corner. It has a brick segmented arch and stone sill. Centered on this façade is a square masonry bay that projects approximately four feet from the north façade. The bay has a front-gable roof, thus creating a cross-gable with the primary roof. There are decorative shingles under the masonry bay gable, with decorative painted fascia board dividing the shingles from the brick façade below. Two decorative brackets frame either end of the gable bargeboard at the corner of the bay. The bay has one over one sash windows on both the first and second floors, with segmented arches and stone sills. On the first floor of the west-facing side of the bay there is a single door with a 2-foot-high iron gate affixed to the lower half to block access. The glazed door dates to the period of significance and has a segmented brick arch above. The foundation immediately below it is painted brick rather than stone, but there is no indication of a porch or stairs that may have been there. Above the

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<sup>6</sup> Denver Public Library, "Congress Park", (available from <https://history.denverlibrary.org/congress-park-0>)



door there is a hipped roof with asphalt shingles and boxed eaves. The roof wraps around to the left almost to the point of the window facing north. There is a window above this roof and below the eaves, facing west like the door. This one over one sash window has a segmented brick arch and stone sill. Facing north on the bay are two windows, one on each floor and both centered about four feet from either side of the masonry bay wall. The one over one sash window on the upper story is immediately below a decorative wood fascia dividing the brick from the shingled portion of the wall. Set within the shingles is a fixed fully divided wooden window. On the first floor about a foot above the foundation are a pair of one over one sash windows with a brick segmented arch and stone sill. The segmented window frame below the brick has scrolled decorative cutouts within the wood, and a decorative mullion dividing the paired windows. To the left of the bay about 1 ½ feet is a lower floor window. Like others, this is one over one sash window with a brick segmented arch and stone sill. Directly under the eaves on the second floor, and about three to four feet to the left of the masonry bay is another one over one sash window with a stone sill. All windows are the original wood, with metal storm windows.

**South (Top right to bottom left)** - The southern wall is painted brick with a rusticated stone foundation approximately three feet high, except near the front of the house where repairs have been made and concrete exists for a length of about three feet. The eaves are slightly overhung and boxed, with two metal drainage gutters running on the outside of the eaves from the masonry bay to each end of this façade. All windows on this façade (unless otherwise described) are one over one wood sash windows with brick segmented arches and stone sills. There is a window approximately ten feet from the rear façade on the first floor with a slightly smaller window above it on the second floor, immediately under the eave. This latter window does not appear to have a segmented arch like the others. About six feet to the left of the first-floor window is a single door with a high concrete stoop and wrought iron enclosure. Like the north façade there is a masonry bay projecting approximately four feet from the primary south façade. The bay is located midway down the wall and has a front-gable roof, thus creating a cross-gable with the primary roof. There are decorative shingles and two fixed, fully divided, triangular windows wedged between the eaves and brick chimney. The chimney runs up the exterior wall of the bay from the ground to 6-10 feet above the roofline. The brick chimney is about four feet wide, has decorative corbeling along its entire length and appears to have multiple flues. There is heavy corbeling at the top. Flanking this chimney are four windows on both the first and second floors. Like others on this wall, they are one over one sash wood windows, and segmented. The left side of the bay has two similar, but slightly narrower one over one sash windows on each floor that faces west. Approximately five feet to the left of the masonry bay there is another chimney, identical to the one located on the bay's exterior wall. It is approximately four feet wide and runs from the ground to above the roofline approximately 6-10 feet. This chimney has been stabilized with an iron tie bar. Below the iron tie bar there are two rectangular modern skylights placed in the roof side-by-side.

**East (Top right to bottom left)** – All windows on the east façade are one over one wood sash windows with stone sills. The entire wall is painted brick with a stone foundation approximately 4 feet high. The eaves are slightly overhung and boxed. The primary roof over this wall is hipped, with a projecting hipped dormer centered. The dormer has plain shingle cladding and a one over one sash window centered within the shingles. On the eastern wall there is a second-floor window about one foot from the right wall directly under the eaves. Below this window and about 1 ½ feet to the left is a first-floor one over one sash window with a segmented brick arch. Immediately below this window set in the foundation is a subterranean entrance accessed by a concrete stairway flanked by wrought iron railing and balustrade. This entrance has a non-

historic solid door. Immediately left of this entry and above the foundation is a single partially glazed, paneled historic door. The door has a transom window and segmented brick arch, and a metal storm/security door. It is accessible by a high concrete stoop with a wrought iron balustrade enclosure. About three feet to the left of the door and on the second floor there is another window with a segmented arch. About 1 ½ feet to the left and a foot higher is another one over one sash window with no arch, flush to the eaves on the top. Centered below these two windows is another one over one sash window on the first floor with a brick segmented arch. There are utility wires affixed to the brick wall about three feet to the left of this window and two feet from the left end of the wall. Below the utilities are two basement windows set in the foundation, likely awning windows that have been painted over.

**West (Top right to bottom left)** – The west wall has a front gabled roof with decorative bargeboard. Approximately half of the façade on the right side is a projecting bay that is slightly shorter than the primary structure, with its own front gabled roof projecting below the primary roof. Both gables have a section of board and batten siding affixed to the inside edge of the bargeboard extending up immediately below the gable, with scalloped wooden shingles flush to the wall below the board and batten. A decorative wooden frieze divides the shingles from the primary brick cladding below. There are decorative brackets attached to the brick below the frieze on the corner of each gable. The foundation on this façade is the original stone covered with concrete and is approximately two feet high from the ground. There is a window centered on the projecting bay immediately below the frieze, about three feet from either side of the bay. The window is a one over one wood sash window with a stone sill. Below this window about 1 ½ feet is the most notable window on the home, a large sash window made of original materials. The window has a rounded arch, the upper sash is stained glass bordered by divided lights of leaded glass. On either side of the window there are paired Corinthian engaged columns complete with a base and carved stone capitals. These columns rest on a rusticated stone sill below the window. Above the window and resting on the columns there is rusticated stone rounded arch with a band of painted masonry on the outer edge. A row of star tie-ins (unknown if decorative or structural) flank the window in an arch from the windowsill up. The base of the windowsill is directly on top of the stone foundation. The outside of the window is about 2 ½ feet from either edge of the masonry bay. Approximately 2 1/2 feet left of the masonry bay is the primary door, this door is equal distance to the left side of the wall as well. The door is historic, partially glazed, with paneled wood. The outer edge of the glazing is divided into a leaded glass frame. There is a transom window above the door and a surround of paneled wood. The wooden porch projects about six feet from the primary door and on the right extends beyond the masonry bay by approximately 3 feet. The porch is in the Queen Anne style, with turned wooden post supports and a turned wooden post balustrade. There are four wooden steps from the yard to the porch, located in the center of the porch. These stairs have the same wooden balustrade continuing from the porch. Under the porch is wooden latticework. The porch has slight boxed eaves and directly under the eaves is a hanging row of turned posts resting on decorative brackets. Above the eaves there is a compound porch roof consisting of a gable front with a flat enclosure or parapet clad in asphalt shingles. Within the porch gable there is decorative wooden latticework. Above the porch is a one over one sash window centered the same as the front door – about 2 ½ feet from the masonry bay on the right, and 2 ½ feet from the end of the wall on the left. This window ends immediately under the decorative frieze and the porch roof is immediately below it. Set in the primary gable of this façade (within the shingles) is a tripartite window. It is asymmetrically set within the façade, about 2 ½ feet from the left gable, and one foot from the roof of the projecting bay roof on the right. The window is made of original wood and is still operational. The outer two portions of the window appear to be one over one sash, and the

center window is a four-light casement window. Immediately above the window there is a curved eave with decorative woodwork that extends about a foot up to the board and batten section set immediately below the gable.

*c. Major Alterations - Describe changes or alterations to the exterior of the structure and dates of major alterations, if known.*

1272 N Columbine retains significant integrity, and anyone who knew it during the Stahl years would certainly recognize the home. There have been no major exterior alterations. The brick and stone have been painted, and in the case of the brick it has been painted to mimic a red brick color. The original open back porch has been replaced with a concrete stoop. The front porch appears to be original and aligns with the one-story footprint on historic Sanborn maps from 1903 and 1951, but a flat roof has been added on top of the porch gable with asphalt shingles, creating a mansard or parapet effect on top of the original porch.

In 1986 the home was converted from a single-family home into two side-by-side units. Despite the conversion, the interior retains much of the original trim and its main staircase. At this same time skylights were added to the south side gable and on the north, concurrent with the attic space's conversion to a finished space.

## **5. Integrity**

Describe the structure's integrity, using the seven qualities that define integrity: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The Stahl House retains integrity of location, association, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling, although changes along the block have slightly compromised the setting. The property remains in the location Stahl selected and where it was originally constructed. While the property was originally constructed as a single-family residence, later owners often rented rooms to boarders, and in 1986 the home was divided into a two-unit dwelling. These alterations have not affected the integrity, especially on the exterior. Architect William Lang's design, in the form, plan and detailing, is intact, exhibiting the workmanship and materials employed at the time of its construction, and all the prominent exterior features, along with a number of interior features, remain from the period of significance. Together, these elements support the property's integrity of feeling. The setting, which originally consisted of large single-family residential properties set back from the sidewalk, has been partially compromised by a few multi-family apartment blocks dating from the early to mid-twentieth century.

## 6. Historic Context

*Attach a sheet that describes the history of the structure, including events, activities and associations that relate the structure to its historic, architectural, geographic, or cultural significance. Examine how patterns, themes, or trends in history affected the property and how it relates to the surrounding community, neighborhood, city, and/or nation.*

Criteria B: Have direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons, which had an influence on society.

Pioneer businessman John Seward Stahl and his family's influential journey to 1272 N. Columbine started in Lockport, New York where John was born in 1840. John married Frances Caroline Moss in 1868. According to a representative of the History Center of Niagara in Lockport, the Moss' family was well-known in Lockport, and are still recognized in local public history programs as supporters of the abolition movement with possible ties to the Underground Railroad through Fannie's uncle, with whom she lived for a time prior to her marriage.

John and Fannie Stahl had a busy life in Lockport, where John was a partner in Cook & Stahl, shirt manufacturers, and was active in the local school board. The couple had their four children while still in Lockport, but in 1879 Stahl left his business and headed west in pursuit of new business interests. He arrived in Tin Cup, Colorado, not far from Leadville, in 1880. Mrs. Stahl and their children joined him there in 1882. John saw great potential in Tin Cup, which was on the verge of a mining boom. In Tin Cup, Stahl met the first of his two business partners, Frank Campbell. The two jointly opened a successful general hardware store in Tin Cup, later expanding to St. Elmo and Buena Vista. In Buena Vista, another business partner, Wilbur S. Raymond, joined the pair. It is interesting to note that Frank Campbell and W.S. Raymond were also from Lockport, New York and so it is likely the association between the men pre-dated their time in Colorado. Campbell, Stahl, Raymond, & Company quickly became the most "extensive hardware establishment" in the area<sup>7</sup>. J.S. Stahl and family went on to have lifelong relationships with the Campbell and Raymond families. In fact, Raymond was co-developer of the Rohlfig's Subdivision where Stahl later built his Denver home, and both Campbell and Raymond also hired Lang to design their Denver homes nearby.

Before their time in Denver, however, Stahl and his partners established themselves as the experts in mining supplies for the area. Local publications such as the *Tin Cup Record* and *Garfield Banner* frequently featured large ads (Figure 1) promoting their thriving business as having the "Largest and best selection of hardware in the city, at Campbell, Stahl and Co."<sup>8</sup> The *Garfield Banner* was devoted to the development of the Tin Cup Mining District and advocated for forming Garfield County.



Figure 1: Hardware Ad, Buena Vista Democrat, 1884

<sup>7</sup> Buena Vista Democrat, November 27, 1884, pg.4.

<sup>8</sup> Garfield Banner, March 18, 1882, pg.4.

J.S. Stahl's interest in the mining profession and his involvement in the industry never left him. For decades after his departure from the trade, former associates sought his opinions. In 1923, he gave his opinion to the *Creede Candle* that "already the [mining] industry in the state had shown a modest revival and [he] predicted that mining would soon be conducted on a larger scale in Colorado than ever before... 50% increase over 1922."<sup>9</sup> Stahl's opinions and influence on the industry was noted publicly, even long after he had moved to Denver to pursue other interests.

J.S. Stahl was not just well-regarded professionally or individually in Colorado's mining towns, as the Stahl family's daily life was chronicled, and admired, in almost daily articles in and around Tin Cup. Articles announced the smallest schedule variations, including each time a family member left for an extended period, fell ill, attended a tea, or when the family received a visitor. An official announcement was published in the local *Tin Cup Banner* reading: "and now (Mrs. Stahl) is nicely ensconced in their beautiful new home on Oak Street," showing the community's interest in the Stahl's activities.<sup>10</sup> Their arrival at their new home was marked with a serenade by the Go-as-you-Please Club.

J.S. Stahl eventually decided on a new future for his family and, in 1884, Stahl, "believing Denver had a greater future than Tin Cup, Colorado" moved to Denver.<sup>11</sup> The next year Stahl and his partners dissolved the hardware store business to fully pursue other ventures. In Denver, Stahl opened a typewriter business, J.S. Stahl and Company, at 1631 Champa Street (Figure 2). Stahl developed

his small business as likely the first typewriter dealer in Colorado. His reputation with stenographers was impeccable and he quickly became the preferred vendor for local newspapers needing Densmore Typewriter service or training.<sup>12</sup> The *Denver Post* declared that, "Mr. Stahl is known all over the West and is the type of businessman that made Denver what it is."<sup>13</sup> Other articles mention that Stahl was the "First Friend of the Local Typewriter" and



Figure 2: MSS Collection 1120 JS Stahl Collection, 1896

<sup>9</sup> Candle (Creede), September 22, 1923.

<sup>10</sup> Tin Cup Banner, Volume 1, Number 47, July 29, 1882

<sup>11</sup> Rocky Mountain News, March 1, 1930, pg.3

<sup>12</sup> Rocky Mountain News, 1938 pg. 3

<sup>13</sup> Denver Post, December 11, 1906, pg. 4

“Opened the first shop in Denver.”<sup>14</sup> The “Denver Press”, according to a 1895 article in the *Denver Post*, “and many prominent delegates to the N.E.A. [National Education Association] are under obligation to J.S. Stahl, the representative of the Densmore typewriter, for many favors conferred.”<sup>15</sup> The same article also alludes to his headquarters in the Brown Palace Hotel and commends him on his use of ‘local Denver Talent’ rather than operators from ‘foreign’ experts.

It was during the early years of the type-writer business that Stahl bought the plot of land at 1272 N Columbine Street and hired William Lang to design their family residence, which was completed in 1889. He continued to reside in the home for the rest of his life.

Toward the end of his life, to show gratitude for his work and as a “testimonial of their friendship,” an event was held with local stenographers at 1272 N. Columbine commemorating Stahl’s achievements.<sup>16</sup> His closest friends, family, and business colleagues came to the family home for a surprise gathering to present him with a “handsome library chair and a gold watch chain” as tokens of appreciation for his work as the Denver agent for the Densmore Typewriter Company. Words of appreciation poured in from all over the country, including a telegram from J.W. Sturdevant, treasurer and manager of the Densmore Typewriter Company of New York City. The telegram stated, “Mighty glad to congratulate Mr. Stahl on his success and enviable reputation. Never dealt with an abler typewriter man.”<sup>17</sup> Many influential businessmen had things to say on Stahl’s behalf, including a speech made a by well-known professor, W.A. Woodworth, who was member of the National Education Association and local committee member for the department of education.<sup>18</sup>

Mr. Stahl expressed his appreciation for the recognition, saying, “the words that came from the heart meant even more to him than the handsome gifts.”<sup>19</sup>

The family’s continued influence in mining, politics, society, and business were well documented in over two thousand articles published in local newspapers during Stahl’s time in Colorado from 1880 through his death in 1930. Throughout the family’s time in Denver, their societal influence was marked in columns in the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Post*, with J.S. Stahl’s name often being the first one listed among names of outstanding guests attending weddings in

<sup>14</sup> Denver Post, December 11, 1906, pg.4

<sup>15</sup> Deserved Praise. A Typewriter Firm Which Is Very ‘Accommodating’.” *Denver Post*, 9 July 1895, p. 4.  
[www.genealogybank.com/doc/newspapers/image](http://www.genealogybank.com/doc/newspapers/image).

<sup>16</sup> Denver Rocky Mountain News, December 10, 1906, pg.4.

<sup>17</sup> Denver Post, December 11, 1906.

<sup>18</sup> Biennial Report, Colorado Department of Education, Issue 10.

<sup>19</sup> Denver Rocky Mountain News, December 10, 1906.

## J. S. STAHL, PIONEER BUSINESSMAN, DEAD

John S. Stahl, 90 years old, a pioneer Colorado businessman and father of George A. Stahl, prominent Denver mining man, died at his home, 1272 Columbine street, Friday



Figure 3: John S. Stahl Obituary, *Denver Post*, Feb. 28, 1930.

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the community and other functions. These were highly regarded ticketed social events, and the Stahl family's attendance at these functions was seen as influential. Their name, among other distinguished guests, would serve as a draw for others to not miss such highly respected galas. One event had J.S. Stahl listed as one of the first guests, and boasted that it was "attended by a large number of the best people on the North side and in Denver."<sup>20</sup> Societal influence was often coupled with political influence, and the J.S. Stahl and Company typewriter store was often listed as a location for complaints and petitions to be signed by the community.

J.S. Stahl was also involved in politics and was on the roster of several organizations, particularly those tied to the Democrat Party. He was often a distinguished host for Democratic politicians visiting the growing city. Numerous publications list Stahl as a chaperone to "Guests shown all over the city in carriages."<sup>21</sup> He supported functions lead by out-of-state groups, including when the "New Yorkers organize-Live Campaign Club formed by ex-residents of the Empire State". Stahl attended this event with his son, Frank W. Stahl in hopes of forming a Silver Club.<sup>22</sup> He was an advocate for his neighborhood, such as when "J.S. Stahl helped represent property owners of East side District #1 when they objected to the grading of the district. Remonstrances could be found for signature at J.S. Stahl and Co's, 1631 Champa Street".<sup>23</sup> Stahl contributed funds for developing community affairs such as the Festival of Mountains and Plains, and the papers used his name to spur others to donate more.<sup>24</sup>

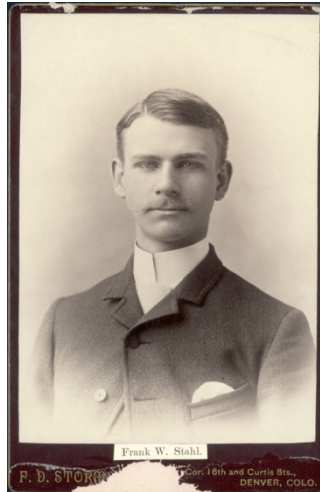


Figure 4: Frank W. Stahl, East High School, 1888



Figure 5: George A. Stahl, East High School, 1888

The Stahls had two sons, Frank W. (Figure 4) and George A. (Figure 5) and two daughters Gertrude (Figure 6) and Winifred (Figure 7).

<sup>20</sup> Denver Rocky Mountain News, Jan. 28, 1894, pg.17.

<sup>21</sup> Denver Rocky Mountain News, April 10, 1898, pg.6.

<sup>22</sup> Denver Post, Sept. 1, 1896, pg.8.

<sup>23</sup> Denver Post, July 11, 1896

<sup>24</sup> Denver Rocky Mountain News, Sept. 27, 1896, pg.12

Frank W. Stahl, the oldest son, was groomed to be his father's successor in the typewriter business. Following his graduation from East High School in 1888, Frank worked with his father and lived at the 1272 N. Columbine residence with his wife and father. However, he died tragically on April 29, 1925 in the Columbine Street home following a short illness.<sup>25</sup> Since Frank had passed, John Stahl later left the typewriter business to his 'faithful employee,' Louis Santangelo, who had started as an office boy.<sup>26</sup>



Figure 6: Gertrude Stahl, 1896

Second son George also graduated from East High School and his first job was at the German National Bank. George continued his banking career, becoming cashier of The Western Bank and Safe Deposit Company from 1891 to 1897. After working in banks, George went to work with his father's friend and former business partner, F.J. Campbell, who was general manager of the Vindicator Consolidated Gold Mining Company in Cripple Creek. George was Campbell's assistant from 1900-1922 and was general manager the last five years he was there.<sup>27</sup> George also served as the president of the Colorado Mining Association from 1922-1923.<sup>28</sup> In his obituary, George was described as an 'Old time Mining Man' and 'Veteran Colorado mining and businessman.' George died in 1932.

Daughter Gertrude Stahl was born in 1874 in Lockport and, like her brothers, graduated from Denver's East High School. After graduation she studied at the Detroit Training School of Elocution and English Literature, founded by Edna Chaffee

Noble. In 1903 she married William A. Kelley in a ceremony at her parents' home at 1272 N. Columbine. Kelly was a mining engineer and a former high school classmate. Due to William's job the couple moved frequently, living in South Dakota and Arizona before settling in Springfield, Ohio. William Kelley died in 1922, and Gertrude married another East High classmate, Frank Robert Hamilton, in 1926. Apparently the marriage did not last, as Gertrude was listed alone in Denver city directories by 1935. She died in Denver in 1966.



Figure 7: Winifred Stahl, 1897

Daughter Winifred was born in 1876 in Lockport, and like her siblings was a graduate of East High School. She married Saxe S. Reynolds in 1903 in a ceremony at her parents' home. After the wedding the couple moved to St. Louis, and then to Los Angeles for several years. They settled in Ohio where Saxe worked as the district manager for the Shell Oil Company. Winifred Reynolds died in 1944 after a long illness.

<sup>25</sup> Rocky Mountain News, 1925

<sup>26</sup> Denver Post, February 28, 1930 pg.11 & Rocky Mountain News, March 1, 1930 pg. 3

<sup>27</sup> Denver Post, September 30, 1932, pg.7

<sup>28</sup> Denver Post, 1932, Pg. 7



The passing of each of the Stahl family members was noted publicly, and each had a connection to the 1272 N. Columbine residence. This included Frances “Fannie” Stahl, as *The Rocky Mountain News* wrote that Mrs. Stahl’s services were “held from the family residence, 1272 N. Columbine street.” Frances Stahl died in 1918 only months after the Stahl’s celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.<sup>29</sup> She is buried at Riverside Cemetery in 1918 and eventually joined later by her sons (Frank W. in 1925 and George A. in 1932) and husband (John S. in 1930). As mentioned earlier, Frank W. Stahl died of a swift and deadly illness on April 29, 1925 in the Columbine Street home. In February of 1930 John S. Stahl died also while in the 1272 N. Columbine home, at the age of 90 from complications resulting from old age. His funeral services were held at Rogers Chapel and he was laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery.<sup>30</sup> In 1932 George Stahl died tragically at the age of 62 at 1272 N. Columbine, where he was residing at the time. The *Denver Post* painted a dramatic picture by saying, “His wife entered his room just in time to catch him in her arms as he reeled from a sudden attack.”<sup>31</sup> According to newspaper articles for each Stahl family death, there were memorials held at 1272 N. Columbine. Ultimately, George was buried with his other family at Riverside Cemetery with services at Rogers Chapel.

George’s widow, Louise (nee Stone) managed to maintain the Stahl home through the Great Depression, but ultimately sold it to Charlotte Howe in 1943. Charlotte’s husband, Harry, was a salesman for the J.R. Watkins Company, a soap manufacturer. The couple lived at 1272 N. Columbine until Harry’s death in 1956. Charlotte lived in the home and remained its owner until 1982. Howe sometimes rented rooms in the house to make ends meet. In the 1960s a 24-unit apartment building went up to the west, and a 12-unit building next door. In 1970 another 26-unit building went up on the block, but Howe remained committed to the house calling it her “mini-mansion.” However, by the 1980s Howe’s health was in decline and she had lost her sight. According to the current owner, Howe was removed from the home and placed in the care of a court-appointed guardian in her last years. After she moved out the house, it required significant work to permit occupancy again. The current owners undertook the work and in order to maintain the house divided it into two rental units. They have been the stewards ever since, only the third family to own the house since 1889.

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<sup>29</sup> Denver Post, February 28, 1839, pg.11

<sup>30</sup> Denver Public Library Death Index, 1930-1934

<sup>31</sup> Denver Post, September 30, 1932, pg. 7

Criteria C: Embody the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type.

1272 N. Columbine occupies lots 39 and 40 of block 13 in the Rohlfig's subdivision. When J.S. Stahl purchased the lots in 1888, he contracted with local builders Wheelon & Hall and architect William A. Lang to build a home for \$8,000. 1272 N. Columbine was one of the first houses in the subdivision developed by William Porter and Charles Raymond. Raymond was Stahl's former partner in the mining supply stores, including the Buena Vista store.

Queen Anne style homes were the first style to appear in the Rohlfig's subdivision, and were highly popular in the late 1880s among Denver's well-heeled. Both the Stahl and Raymond homes were built at the same time and designed in the same style by Lang. This is once again evidence that the men had a long association beyond their early years in Colorado's mining communities.

William Lang worked in the Queen Anne style fashionable at the time but added his own Richardsonian flare to his more ornate and expensive designs. Queen Anne was one of the dominant styles of domestic buildings during the last two decades of the nineteenth century<sup>32</sup> By 1880 the style was spreading throughout the country by pattern books and the first architectural magazine, *The American Architect and Building News*. The expanding railroad network also helped popularize the style by making pre-cut architectural materials readily available in much of the nation.<sup>33</sup>

Lang included in Stahl's home classic Queen Anne details like steep cross-gabled roofs, numerous masonry bays, and ornamental, Eastlake-influenced incised verge boards. Fish-scale wood shingles adorn the front gables with highly decorative bargeboard. Detailed spindle work is included many Queen Anne style houses, and 1272 N. Columbine uses spindle work on its porch railing and in a trellis hanging from the porch eaves, as well as on the interior staircase which remains intact.

Queen Anne designs also used wall surfaces as a canvas for decorative elements, which Lang accomplished in two ways at the Stahl residence. First, Lang implemented architectural elements such as bays, asymmetrical layering, and wall projections. The Stahl residence has boxed eaves with brackets and decorative wooden frieze to divide the gabled section from the lower brick. The structure also uses a projecting gabled bay on the front façade to avoid planar, flat wall surfaces.

Second, Lang included sandstone and brick as wall materials of differing textures whenever large areas of planar wall occur, typical of the Queen Anne style. The construction also included numerous windows of various types and locations, with random changes in the horizontal

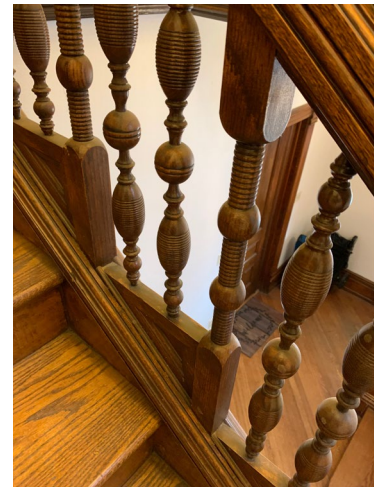


Figure 8: Interior detail of stair spindle work

<sup>32</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knop; Expanded, Revised edition, 2015), pg. 266.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., pg. 268.

continuity of the wall plane. *A Field Guide to American Houses* mentions that over half of the Queen Anne examples use decorative bargeboard on the upper stories, and the Stahl residence is no exception.<sup>34</sup>

The Richardsonian Romanesque detailed is more subtle at 1272 Columbine, but Lang often included some elements. The style was a popular style in 1880-1900 at the same time as Queen Anne. This style was attractive to architects in the West because its massiveness and austerity reflected the monumentality and splendor of the western landscape.<sup>35</sup> As McAlester & McAlester point out, “Henry Hobson Richardson’s followers were usually less inventive; most houses in this style merely add Romanesque detailing to the typical hipped-with-cross-gables shape of the then dominant Queen Anne.”<sup>36</sup> Perhaps to Lang, adding monumental Richardsonian details to already ostentatious Queen Anne homes was a way to boost the designs to create an even richer style. Lang added Richardsonian details in the oversized exterior chimneys, as an example.

Another focal point of the house is the large stained-glass window with paired decorative columns on either side, which is often characterized in the Richardsonian style.<sup>37</sup> Most commonly, Romanesque column capitals are a ‘cushioned’ capital with a square top and rounded off corners with the floral interlacing squat columns. The columns in the window for 1272 N. Columbine fit this form, squat but ornamented with floral. The rough faced stone surrounding the window, as well as the original rusticated stone foundation follow the square ashlar stonework found in the style’s design. As *A Guide to Denver Architectural Styles and Terms* points out, “Romanesque architecture in Denver is typically characterized by massive stone walls and rounded arches on otherwise Victorian or eclectic structures”<sup>38</sup> “Lang’s use of Romanesque style made for whimsical structures that speak the exuberance of the age.”<sup>39</sup> Like the Bailey House at 1600 Ogden, the largest surviving house by Lang, the wood detailing and asymmetry at the Stahl House are pure Queen Anne, with Richardsonian elements in the materials and details.<sup>40</sup>

Lang also typically used stained glass with “great abandon.”<sup>41</sup> As in the window at the Stahl residence, Lang’s windows displayed proto-art Nouveau leaf forms, flower forms, and others with geological forms and birds. The Stahl’s window is upheld as an exemplar Lang window in *Historic Denver the Architects & Architecture 1858-1893*.<sup>42</sup> Lang’s style weighed down and pushed up at the same time, as you can see in the squat columns on each side of the window, and the heavy rusticated stone pushing down on the rounded arch.

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid, pgs. 126, 175, and 264.

<sup>35</sup> Wilk, Diane, *A Guide to Denver Architectural Styles and Terms* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1995), pg. 18.

<sup>36</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knop; Expanded, Revised edition, 2015, pg. 302.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., pg. 301.

<sup>38</sup> Wilk, Diane, *A Guide to Denver Architectural Styles and Terms* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1995), pg.18.

<sup>39</sup> Vintage Homes of Denver, “Denver Architects – William Lang” (available from <https://www.vintagehomesofdenver.com/artman/publish/denver-home-styles/Denver-Architects---William-Lang.html>). (Accessed 7/31/20).

<sup>40</sup> Western Architect and Building News, October, 1889.

<sup>41</sup> Brettell, Richard R., *Historic Denver. The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pg. 65.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., pg. 156.

1272 N. Columbine is one of the best surviving examples of Lang's use of the Queen Anne style, with Richardsonian detailing, in the Congress Park area. A Discover Denver survey of the neighborhood in 2019 revealed that while there are other examples of Lang's designs in the neighborhood (particularly the 1300 block of Columbine Street), none retain the level of integrity and workmanship of 1272 N. Columbine. Many other neighboring single-family residences from the late nineteenth century have also been replaced by mid-modern apartment blocks.

Stahl's former partners, F.J. Campbell and W.S. Raymond also owned Lang designs, but in the nearby Wyman area, not Congress Park. Campbell's home at 13<sup>th</sup> & Race has been demolished, but the Raymond home at 16<sup>th</sup> & Race is now the Castle Marne.

Criteria D: Be a significant example of the work of a recognized architect or master builder.



Figure 9: William Lang

William Lang (Figure 8) was a young locally inexperienced and eccentric architect who became an overnight success in the booming city of Denver.<sup>43</sup> Lang was born in Ohio in 1846. His family moved to Chicago, and during the Civil War Lang served in the Illinois Light Artillery unit. After the war Lang picked up random jobs, with some historians finding he had experience in the building trades, but no formal training in architecture. Lang followed his family to Albion, Nebraska where he opened up a grocery business. He also married there in 1879. During his time in Albion, Lang tried his hand at designing buildings, including a commercial building. In 1885, he decided to move to the booming city of Denver where he would make a name for himself and his designs. Lang's natural design instinct took off in Denver and here "accumulated considerable wealth" at the beginning of his career.<sup>44</sup> Lang is often thought to be self-taught from architectural magazines, but no one knows exactly where his prowess in the trade originates. His enduring investment in the profession is evident in the over two hundred and fifty structures he completed in the Denver area, one hundred and fifty of them built between 1888 and the Panic of 1893. This period

includes the era of significance for 1272 N. Columbine, built in 1889. His self-made legacy is monumentalized in his creations sprinkled throughout Denver, including the 1889 historic landmark St. Marks Parish at 1160 Lincoln Street, 1889 Molly Brown House at 1340 Pennsylvania Street, and the 1889 Ghost building relocated to 800 18<sup>th</sup> Street.

<sup>43</sup> Brettell, Richard R., *Historic Denver. The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pg. 64

<sup>44</sup> Denver Post, August 23, 1897

Lang was an “architect who conceived of a building as a combination of architectural elements derived from many other buildings.”<sup>45</sup> His signature mixing of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne styles is excellently represented in the Stahl’s 1272 N. Columbine home. Lang never designed a building that strictly followed a “clear notable style,” but rather a style all his own.<sup>46</sup> The Stahl residence is characteristically Lang in the fusion of details. While there are other examples in the neighborhood of Lang’s designs, the Stahl Residence is the best reflection of Lang’s architectural legacy left in Congress Park. Many have been altered or torn down, such as the Jas H. Blood Residence (Figure 10), which used to sit northwest corner of Columbine and 13<sup>th</sup> Street, demolished long ago. Historian Richard R. Brettell, author of *Historic Denver, the Architects & Architecture 1858-1893*, wrote: “each of [Lang’s] houses was different and each had its own particular flavor”, and Lang “produced houses which suited the character, the budget, and the tastes of the client.”<sup>47</sup> Hence, Lang became known for creating homes exclusively for each client’s ethos. Thus, when Stahl hired Lang to build his house for \$8,000 he knew it would fit the spirit of the Stahl family, and would be one-of-a-kind.



Figure 10: Jas H. Blood Residence, 1300 Columbine

Lang’s houses, regardless of the family’s budget or the square footage of the home, contained a hall, front reception room, a parlor and dining room on the main floor, and a kitchen area of varying sizes and complexities at the rear of the house with a rear entrance and stairwell.<sup>48</sup> 1272 N. Columbine contains all of these elements. Lang also displayed a love of rich materials including woods of varying grains, colors, ages and patina.<sup>49</sup> The entrance stairway of the Stahl residence is solid wood with ornate carved details as seen in many of Lang’s designs such as the Molly Brown House. Brettell points out that “Each staircase hall is designed to complement the house for which it was constructed. Lang’s designed the most lavish, dark, and beautifully detailed interiors built in Denver in the 1880s and 90s.”<sup>50</sup> The arrangement that Lang had in mind for Stahl was no exception, with a beautiful paneled stairway, leaded stained glass Richardsonian arched window (Photo 6 in attachments), intricate wood carvings, and ornate glazed tiles around the fireplace featuring cherub angels and floral patterns -- all original for this family.

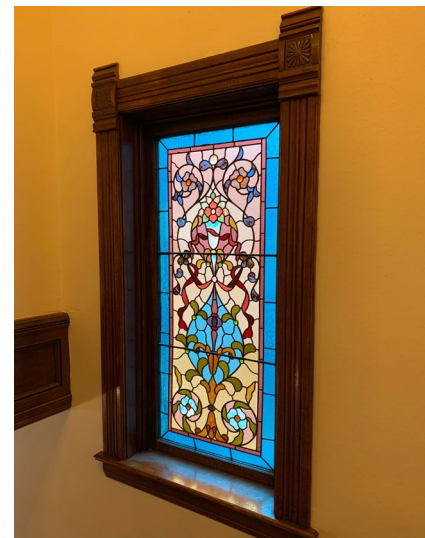


Figure 11: North façade stairway stained glass window

<sup>45</sup> Brettell, Richard R., *Historic Denver. The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pg. 64

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., pg.86 &89.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. pg.86.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., pg. 80.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid., pg. 85 & 86.

Lang climbed Denver's social ladder at incredible speed. Marshal Pugh joined William Lang as a partner in 1890 as Lang's popularity soared. Brettell notes, "Lang and Pugh were the architects for the new upper-middle class which emerged during the 1880s."<sup>51</sup> It was in the 1880s in Denver that the middle classes became the "great patrons of local domestic architecture."<sup>52</sup> Lang and Pugh were the beneficiaries and favorites of this patronage. The 1890s edition of the *Western Architect & Building News* reported that Lang designed 43 houses with his business partner, Marshal Pugh. The dynamic duo was successful in juggling multiple contracts simultaneously and had the influence of master architects of Denver's trendy neighborhoods of the 1880s. Local papers reported Lang's influential clients, with reports such as "J.R. Porter is having plans made by William Lang for a stone residence to cost \$30,000 which will be the largest and finest in the city."<sup>53</sup> J.S. Stahl was among these influential businessmen who hired Lang. Stahl wanted a house that was a 'life' home, well built, and the image of an ideal home. Lang's work delivered on all of these.

According to historian Brettell, Lang "exemplifies one of two types of architects; the eclectic that worshipped complexity and the Richardsonian who strove for simplicity."<sup>54</sup> Lang's aesthetic is one of complexity, confusion, and contradiction. His enemy was classicism, rationality, and clarity. Lang is recognized as one of the finest, most complex, and eclectic architects who worked in Denver. Lang is most identified for making a name for himself in a short time period and becoming 'the architect' among the elite of Denver, as evidence in the grand homes built for many of the rich Denverites. Denver lore has it that Lang became so popular among the city's high society that the local influential group, the 'Sacred 36,' included him as a member.<sup>55</sup>

With notoriety establishing him as a respected and recognized architect, William Lang's name appears as one of the early members of the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Architects established in 1892 in Denver. Lang appeared in the AIA list up until 1896.<sup>56</sup> Even with his early success and fame, William Lang was also designed smaller structures. According to the book *Denver The City Beautiful*, "even at the height of his career he designed \$600 dollar barns."<sup>57</sup> An interesting fact considering his designs would eventually be grouped with overindulgent practices that destroyed families after the silver crash of 1893. The best-preserved example of Lang's more modest work exists in the 200 S. Lincoln Street Historic District.

Post 1893, intentionally ornate styles and ruggedly rusticated stone walls almost completely vanished from Denver architecture.<sup>58</sup> The Queen Anne style came to be seen as an obscene display of wealth instead of as a trophy of status. Lang's perceived preference for this

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<sup>51</sup> Ibid., pg. 90.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., pg. 90.

<sup>53</sup> Denver Rocky Mountain News, July 14, 1889, pg.14.

<sup>54</sup> Brettell, Richard R., *Historic Denver. The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pg. 68

<sup>55</sup> Vintage Homes of Denver, "Denver Architects – William Lang" (available from <https://www.vintagehomesofdenver.com/artman/publish/denver-home-styles/Denver-Architects---William-Lang.html>). (Accessed 7/31/20).

<sup>56</sup> Brantigan, Charles O., MD. *Biography of William A Lang: Version 2.0* (<http://www.drbrantigan.com/history/LANGbio1public.pdf>, 2007), pg.18. (Accessed 7/31/20).

<sup>57</sup> Noel, Thomas J. and Barbara S. Norgen, *Denver The City Beautiful and Its Architects, 1893-1941*. (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., January 1, 1987), pg.209

<sup>58</sup> Brettell, Richard R., *Historic Denver. The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pg. 198

ostentatious style brought about the untimely demise of the highly acclaimed architect. “William Lang’s buildings came to be associated with the irresponsibility and careless opportunism which Denverites often wrongly considered to be their downfall”, says Brettell.<sup>59</sup> Not surprisingly, Lang and Pugh’s popularity took a steep dive with the 1893 Silver Crash and decline in overindulgent practices, and eventually they both left the city having lost their fortunes.

Lang’s legacy in Denver was mimicked, copied, and challenged by his contemporaries. From first appearing as an ‘architect’ in the Denver City Directory in 1887 to being listed as a ‘waiter’ in the 1896 city directory, William Lang’s career as Denver’s premier architect rose and fell in as little as nine years.<sup>60</sup> Lang, once billing alongside names such as Frank E. Edbrooke and Robert Roseschlaub as the three main architects of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Denver, lost it all. At fifty-one years of age, “The Panic of 1893 left him penniless and he worried about this until his mind weakened and he was sent to St. Luke’s Hospital.”<sup>61</sup> By 1896 Lang was suffering from severe alcoholism, financial difficulties, and poor health. He left his wife and daughter in Denver and went to stay with his brother in Chicago. Eight months later, in August of 1897, there were reports he went missing from his brother’s house, and Lang was found and fined for ‘drunk and disorderly conduct’ and forced out of town. Later that week it was reported that Lang was hit by a passing train and killed instantly.<sup>62</sup> Lang’s brother placed an ad in the Denver Post for funds for his funeral expenses.<sup>63</sup> Lang is buried in Marseilles, Illinois in a lot donated by the Grand Army of the Republic, with a simple stone marker that notes his grave.<sup>64</sup>

Lang’s only legacy now exists in the structures surviving in Denver, each unique to their early owners, and each containing a part of his “retardataire brilliance”.<sup>65</sup> 1272 N. Columbine is one of the few considerably intact examples of Lang’s early work in the Rohlfing’s subdivision, and thus is a fragment of Lang’s epitaph and must be protected. Part story of the Stahl family, and part story of Lang, their legacy is cemented in the stone, wood and glass. Designating this structure not only preserves the notoriety of a remarkable self-made architect but represents the architectural style and cultural excess of Denver’s mining boom and the Stahl family that played a part in the city’s growth and maturity.

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<sup>59</sup> Ibid., pg. 93

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., pg. 31

<sup>61</sup> Denver Post, August 23, 1897

<sup>62</sup> History Colorado, *Colorado Architects: Biographical Sketch of William A. Lang*.  
[https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/Architects\\_lang.pdf](https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/Architects_lang.pdf), (accessed 7/31/20).

<sup>63</sup> Rocky Mountain News, August 22, 1897, pg. 1

<sup>64</sup> Thomas J. Noel and Barbara S. Norgren, *The City Beautiful* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1993) pg. 209

<sup>65</sup> Brettell, Richard R., *Historic Denver. The Architects and the Architecture 1858-1893* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1973), pg. 145



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**Photograph Log**



Photo 1: 1272 N Columbine St., Southwest façade, looking northeast, Winter 2020



Photo 2: Northwest façade, looking southeast, Winter 2020



Photo 3: East facade, Winter 2020



Photo 4: West facade, Spring 2019



Photo 5: North façade, looking southwest, Winter 2020



Photo 6: Detail of west façade Richardsonian arched window, with stained glass, Winter 2020



Photo 7: Chimney detail on south facade, Winter 2020

Boundary Map



Application Fee

Find the correct fee from the below table. (Make check payable to Denver Manager of Finance).

Application for designation of a structure for preservation (owner applicant)	\$250
Application for designation of a structure for preservation (non-owner applicant)	\$875



