

**COLORADO ARCHITECTS
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Architect: Williamson, George H.
Birth/Death Dates: 1872-1936
Practice Dates: 1905-1935
Firms: Fred A. Hale 1888-1890
Varian and Sterner 1890-1901
Frederick J. Sterner 1901-1905
Sterner and Williamson, Associated Architects 1905-1914
George H. Williamson, Architect 1915-1935

Biographical Information

George Hebard Williamson was born in Brighton, Colorado, on August 15, 1872. His family moved to Denver where he attended public schools, graduating from the old East High School in 1893.

In 1888, at the age of 16 and while still in school, Williamson became an apprentice to Denver architect Fred A. Hale. In 1890, he continued his apprenticeship with the prestigious architectural firm of Ernest Varian and Frederick Sterner. He received a promotion to draftsman in 1896. Three years later Williamson married Allene B. McCallin.

Varian and Sterner terminated their partnership in 1901. Williamson continued in the employment of Frederick Sterner, becoming his chief draftsman in 1904 and a full partner the following year. Together the partnership designed the Daniels and Fisher Department Store building in Denver and the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs.



Architect's rendering of the Metropolitan Building.
Source: Western History/Genealogy Department,
Denver Public Library.

In later years, Sterner spent much of his time in New York, increasingly leaving management and design responsibilities to Williamson. Sterner retired about 1924 and moved to London. Williamson completed many of his most important commissions after Sterner's departure. These major works included several Denver Public Schools buildings: Teller Elementary in 1920; East High School in 1924; and Smiley Junior High in 1928. He also designed the three-story rooftop addition to the firm's previously designed Metropolitan Building.

Williamson served as treasurer of the Allied Architects, the consortium of architects formed in 1924 to design Denver's City and County Building. When the Public Works Art Administration was established as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's many New Deal Depression-era programs, George Williamson was appointed regional director for the five-state region including Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, North Dakota, and South Dakota. With the creation of the Federal Housing Administration in 1934 under the National Housing Act, Williamson assumed the position of Chief Architectural Supervisor for Colorado. He was also vice-president of the

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Denver City and County Zoning Board and he served on the State Board of Architectural Examiners.

Williamson served two terms as president of the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Architects, in 1914 and again in 1932-36. In 1934, his fellow architects elected him to fellowship status in the A.I.A.

Following a long illness, Williamson died on October 10, 1936, in his Denver home at 1600 E. Colfax.

Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
David W. Brown House	2303 E. Dartmouth, Englewood	5AH.162	Ca. 1900	National Register
Quereau House	379 Marion St. Denver	5DV.167.28	1905	County Club NR Historic District
Lincoln Elementary School	Denver	5DV.2070	Ca. 1905	Extant
Bridaham House	350 Humboldt St. Denver	5DV.167.9	1905	County Club NR Historic District
Governor William Sweet House	1075 Humboldt St. Denver	5DV.166.4	1906	Humboldt Street NR Historic District
Augustus Fisher House	301 Humboldt St. Denver	5DV.167.53	1908	County Club NR Historic District
Woods-Bishop Irving Johnson House	165 Gilpin St. Denver	5DV.167.77	1910	County Club NR Historic District
Metropolitan Building	16 th and Court Pl. Denver		1910	Demolished
Daniels & Fisher Building	1101 16 th St. Denver	5DV.118	1911	National Register (surviving tower)
Quereau House	141 Gilpin St. Denver	5DV.167.75	1912	County Club NR Historic District
Metropolitan Building (3-story rooftop addition)	16 th and Court Pl. Denver		1915	Demolished
Teller Elementary School	1150 Garfield St. Denver	5DV.2094	1920	Extant
East High School	1545 Detroit St., Denver	5DV.2091	1924	Local landmark

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Smiley Junior High School	2540 Holly St. Denver	5DV.2089	1928	Extant
Whittier Elementary School addition	2480 Downing St. Denver	5DV.9037	1931	Extant
Oakes Home	Denver			Demolished
Antlers Hotel	Colorado Springs			Demolished
Glen Eyrie additions	3820 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP.189		National Register

*Completion date is stated if known. Plan, building permit, or assessor date is shown if completion date is unknown.

Information Sources

Frickel, Artha Pacha, "Williamson, George Hebard," biography in Thomas J. Noel and Barbara S. Norgren, *Denver, the City Beautiful and its Architects, 1893-1941*. Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1987.

Photography collection, Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

Simmons, R. Laurie and Thomas H. Simmons. "Historical and Architectural Survey of Selected Denver Public Schools, 2003." August 2003.

Site Files Database, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Originally published in 1970. Detroit: Omnigraphics, 1966.

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