

Architect: Fuller, Montezuma, W.

Birth/Death Dates: 1858-1925

Practice Dates: 1881-1925

Firms:

Montezuma Fuller, Architect,
M. W. Fuller and Sons, Architects, 1906 – 1925

By: Virginia L. Bennett

Biographical Information

Montezuma Welesley Fuller was a well-known and prolific architect in and around the Fort Collins area from 1881 until his death in 1925. He was born in 1858 in King's County, Nova Scotia, the fourth child of Elisha Leonard and Eliza Ann Fuller. He was the first to survive to adulthood, as his three older brothers had died in the diphtheria epidemic that struck the area soon after his birth. His parents went on to have a daughter (Amelia Ann, b. 1860) and two more sons (Fred Sumner, b. 1862 and Stanley Osborn, b. 1865).¹

As a young man in Nova Scotia, Fuller worked as a ship's carpenter, before traveling to New York in 1879, where he met his first wife, Eliza Ann Graham.² He traveled west to Greeley and Denver, ultimately settling in Fort Collins by 1880. During this period of his professional life, he worked mainly as a carpenter,³ improving his skills by working under other, more experienced contractors.⁴ In order "to improve his educational background, Fuller enrolled as a special student at the college [Colorado Agricultural College, now CSU] in the fall of 1883."⁵ Also in 1883, the college hired him to "convert the college barn into a laboratory and scientific classroom."⁶ In 1885, he "invented a circular swing...which was shown at the Old Soldiers' Grand Encampment at Cheyenne and at county fairs. It was 16 feet in diameter, had twelve arms eight feet long, and 16 seats covered by an awning."⁷ He became a US citizen in 1890.⁸

By 1892, Fuller was listed in the *Colorado State Business Directory* "as an architect, contractor, builder, or a combination thereof,"⁹ although he did not become a fully licensed architect until 1910.¹⁰ He built primarily residences, schools, business blocks, and churches.¹¹ He did not appear to adhere to any particular architectural style and his designs tended to be representative of the styles that were popular at the time, such as Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival.¹²

He and his first wife Anna had seven children, one of whom, Robert, also worked as an architect. In 1906, Robert joined the family business and the architectural firm was renamed M. W. Fuller and Son,

¹Fort Collins History Connection Local Biographies, http://history.poudrelibraries.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?

²Elizabeth A. Bacon, "Montezuma Fuller: A History of His Life and Architectural Practice" (CSU History 695: Independent Study, 1979), 3, 5.

³Evadene B. Swanson, "Montezuma: Chief of Fort Collins Builders," Undated Newspaper Article, Unknown Newspaper.

⁴Bacon, 5.

⁵Ibid., 6.

⁶Swanson.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Bacon, 5.

⁹Ibid., 9.

¹⁰Ibid., 16.

¹¹Bacon, 9.

¹²History Colorado COMPASS, http://gis.co.gov/compass/OAHP/M_Display.asp

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Architects.¹³ However, the joint venture was short-lived, as Robert left the firm in 1910 to work in Denver for Robert S. Roeschlaub. Fuller also occasionally collaborated with local architect Arthur M. Garbutt on larger projects.¹⁴

After Anna died suddenly in 1902, Fuller first married Mrs. Anna M. Wallace in 1908 (whom he divorced in 1910), and then Alvina Carolina Koeper in 1912. Fuller designed the August and Alvina Koeper house in 1903, which was located on the Bingham Homestead – Koeper Farm. August died shortly after the completion of the house. Alvina and Fuller stayed in touch. Fuller’s third marriage to Alvina lasted until his death.¹⁵ Fuller died in 1925 of stomach cancer. Although he had been feeling ill for some time, he delayed seeking medical treatment and he died following surgery.¹⁶

Along with his son Robert, Montezuma Fuller also had two grandsons (Quentin and Kenneth), and one great-grandson (Robert K. Fuller II) all who became architects.¹⁷



Montezuma Fuller, circa 1907
Image H12483, Courtesy of Fort Collins Local History Archive

Credited Buildings – alphabetical by location

Building Name	Location	Site Number	Date	Status
Business Blocks	Ault		1906-8	
Grover Grade School	Ault		1912-19	
D. M. May House	Mountain Ave., Ault		1903	
August and Alvina Koeper Farmhouse (on the Bingham Homestead)	Bingham Hill Road Bellvue vicinity	5LR.774	1903	Extant, National Register
United Brethren Church	500 4 th St., Berthoud	5LR.839	1904	Extant, State Register

¹³Bacon, 15.

¹⁴Ibid., 18.

¹⁵Ibid., 11, 16, 20.

¹⁶Ibid., 23.

¹⁷Ibid., 27.

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Baptist Church	Delta		1905-6	
Apartment Building	Denver		1908-9	
Church	Denver		1907	
IOOF (Odd Fellows) Hall	Eaton		1906-8	
School (either new or remodel)	Greeley		1907	
Dos Dios Ranch-Hartman Mansion	Gunnison	5GN.1517	1880	Extant
C. R. Welch Building	129-131 S. College Ave. Fort Collins		1901-2	
Joe I. Alpert Block	140-142 S. College Ave, Fort Collins	5LR1987	1924-25	Extant
The Colorado Building	133-147 S. College Ave. Fort Collins	5LR.1986	1906	Extant
Dr. George L. Hoel House	208 S. College Ave. Fort Collins		1903	Demolished
Methodist Episcopal Parsonage	Olive and College Ave. Fort Collins		1901	Demolished
Methodist Episcopal Church Addition	Olive and College Ave. Fort Collins		1905-6	Demolished
C. R. Welch House	Mulberry and College Ave. Fort Collins		1899-1900	Demolished
William Welscher and George Draper House (The Wellness Center)	1304 S. College Ave. Fort Collins	5LR.1590	1924	Extant
L. C. Moore House	1307 S. College Ave. Fort Collins		1907	
W. C. Moore House	1315 S. College Ave. Fort Collins		1907	
Colorado Agricultural College (now CSU)	Barn converted into lab and science classroom, Fort Collins		1883	Demolished
Colorado Agricultural College	Depot Remodel Fort Collins		1892-93	
Walter Parker and Howard Wyndam-	E. Drake Road Fort Collins	5LR.785	1894	Extant

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Manor Stock Farm-Rigdan Farmhouse	Moved to County Road 30			
Henry Burdorf House	121 Garfield St. Fort Collins		1923-24	
M. W. Fuller House	S. Howes St. Fort Collins		1889	
R. Loveland House	S. Howes St. Fort Collins		1895	
R. Loveland Barn	S. Howes St. Fort Collins		1895	
Peter Anderson House	300 S. Howes St. Fort Collins	5LR.474	1901	Extant, National Register
H. R. and Narsa Lovett House	316 S. Howes St Fort Collins		1924	Demolished
M. W. Fuller House	320 S. Howes St. Fort Collins		1904	Demolished
M. W. Fuller Apartments	322 S. Howes St. Fort Collins		1905	Extant
Carl Anderson Barn	612 S. Howes St. Fort Collins		1903	
<i>Courier</i> Building Extension	Jefferson St. Fort Collins		1908	
La Porte Avenue School	700 La Porte Ave. Fort Collins		1907	Demolished
Laurel Street School, now Centennial High School	330 E. Laurel St. Fort Collins		1906	Extant
	318 W. Laurel St. Fort Collins	5LR.1646	1905	Extant
Dr. A. W. Roth House- Portner House	322 W. Laurel St. Fort Collins	5LR.1599	1905	Extant
Edward S. Miller House	500 W. Laurel St. Fort Collins		1905	
E. W. Reed Block	Linden St. Fort Collins		1892	
E. W. Reed House	Linden St. Fort Collins		1892	
P. Bernard Block	Linden St. Fort Collins		1905	

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A. L. Rohling Block- addition	127-131 Linden St. Fort Collins		1903	
Trimble Brothers Block- Trimble Court	127-131 Linden St. Fort Collins	5LR.462.40	1903	Extant
C. B. Andrews- addition to business block	142 Linden St. Fort Collins		1903	
M. W. Fuller House	226 W. Magnolia St. Fort Collins	5LR.468	1894	Extant, National Register
Fuller Arms- Fuller Flats	228 W. Magnolia St. Fort Collins	5LR.1580	1905	Extant
B. W. Fairbanks House	1110 Matthews St. Fort Collins		1924	
Mrs. Trimble House	117 S. Meldrum St. Fort Collins		1906-7	Demolished
Alfred Parker House	129 S. Meldrum St. Fort Collins		1906-7	Demolished
Dr. J. W. Downey House	325 S. Meldrum St. Fort Collins		1906-7	Demolished
Fort Collins High School	401 S. Meldrum St. Fort Collins		1903	Gym is left
Fort Collins High School- Addition	401 S. Meldrum St. Fort Collins		1912-1919	
J. A. C. Kissock and C. J. Murray Block	115-121 E. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins		1889	Burned down in 1895
Odd Fellows Hall- Kissock Block	115-121 E. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins	5LR.505	1895	(Site of above) Extant, National Register
C. O. Hunter House	260 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins		1901	Demolished
Edgar D. Avery House- Moore House	316 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins	5LR.1576	1901	Extant
A. A. Edwards House	402 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins	5LR.529	1903	Extant
F. A. Somerville House	424 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins	5LR.2027	1908	Extant
C. V. Benson House	614 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins		1906-7	Extant

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N. C. Garbutt House	703 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins		1901	Extant
Mrs. A. C. Koeper House	1101 W. Mountain Ave. Fort Collins		1907-8	Extant
Dr. J. H. Setzler House	1412 W. Mountain Ave., Fort Collins		1906-7	Extant
Baker House-Panache Hair Salon	304 E. Mulberry St. Fort Collins	5LR.469	1896	Extant, National Register
D. G. Brooks House	320 E. Mulberry St. Fort Collins		1901	Extant
T. W. Secrist House	119 W. Mulberry St. Fort Collins		1906-7	Demolished
Duplex	221-223 W. Mulberry St. Fort Collins	5LR.1550	1909	Extant
Duplex	227-229 W. Mulberry St. Fort Collins	5LR.1551	1908	Extant
YMCA	140 E. Oak St. Fort Collins		1906-8	Demolished
William Metcalf House	322 E. Oak St. Fort Collins		1893	Extant
Andrews House-William O. Mosman House	324 E. Oak St. Fort Collins	5LR.473	1881-2	Extant
Frank Chaffee House	Fort Collins		1892	
C. B. Andrews House-McHugh House	202 Remington St. Fort Collins	5LR.467	1889	Extant, National Register
Senator William A. Drake House	409 or 415 Remington St. Fort Collins		1907-8	Demolished
Walter Laidlaw House	527 Remington St. Fort Collins		1908-9	
Frame Building	Laurel and Remington St. Fort Collins			
George Dixon House	715 Remington St. Fort Collins		1901-2	
Myron House-Garbe House	1003 Remington St. Fort Collins	5LR.463.29	1895	Extant
Brick and Frame Building	Elizabeth & Remington St. Fort Collins			

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M. Connors House	Sherwood St. Fort Collins		1903	
John Riddle House	530 Smith St. Fort Collins		1903	Extant
O. S. and Clara Smith House	610 Smith St. Fort Collins		1924	Extant
Cassell C. Forrester Block	204 Walnut St. Fort Collins		1907	Extant
John Whitton Block	233 Walnut St. Fort Collins		1905-6	Extant
German Evangelical Congregational Church	Oak and Whedbee St. Fort Collins		1905-6	Extant
Chauncey Goodrich House	Fort Collins		1889	
Henry A. Crafts House	Fort Collins		1889	
F. Millington House	Fort Collins		1890	
Larimer County Fair Association, Art Hall	Fort Collins		1890	
T. M. Robinson House, addition	Fort Collins		1892	
George Black House, addition	Fort Collins		1892	
Frank Watrous House	Fort Collins		1892	
Albert Damm House/ Bakery	Fort Collins		1892	
Charles Garbe House	Fort Collins		1892	
Old Episcopal Church, addition or alteration	Fort Collins		1892-3	
A. E. Plummer House	Fort Collins		1893	
Kissock and Wheat Building	Fort Collins		1895-6	
Mosman and Galbraith Building	Fort Collins		1895-6	

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Smith, Soult, and Smith Building	Fort Collins		1895	
Larimer County Abstract Office	Fort Collins		1898	
A. J. Starlen House	Fort Collins		1898	
Mrs. B. F. Hottel House	Fort Collins		1898	
B. F. Hottel House	Remington and E. Magnolia, Fort Collins		1901	
Robert Miller, store front	Fort Collins		1903	
Charles and Ida Sonders House	Fort Collins		1919	
George Oschner House	Fort Collins		1920	
August Peterson House	Rural Route 2 Fort Collins		1922	
Martha and Frank R. Williams House	Fort Collins		1923-24	
Chris and Alice Thompson House	Fort Collins		1924-5	
Halley House	302 E. Magnolia St. Fort Collins	5LR.2808	1901	Extant
LaPorte Consolidated School	LaPorte		1912-1919	
Methodist Episcopal Church	5 th and Lincoln Loveland		1895-1905	
Baptist Church	6 th and Cleveland Loveland		1895-1905	
United Presbyterian Church	4 th and Jefferson Loveland		1905-6	
School – name unknown	Loveland		1906-8	
School, Sunny Side District	Weld County		1903	
Queen Anne-Style Residence	Wellington		1903	

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Henry Schaefer House	Windsor		1903	
Country Work	Unclear Location		1898	
F. C. Grable- five houses, two barns	Unclear Location		1903	
Edward F. Brown House	Unclear Location		1903	
Laundry Addition to House	Unclear Location		1903	
Gibbons Brothers Farm House	Unclear Location		1905-6	
2 Room School House, District 35	Unclear Location		1906	