

Architect: Hoyt, Merrill H.
Birth/Death Dates: 1881-1933
Practice Dates: 1910-1933

Biographical Information

Merrill H. Hoyt began his career as a draftsman for the firm of William E. Fisher in 1899. A Denver native born in 1881, Hoyt worked for the Fisher firm as a draftsman and superintendent until 1915 when he started his own practice. Merrill's practice prospered and was respected in Denver business circles. In 1908, with Merrill's encouragement, his younger brother, Burnham, a draftsman at another Denver firm, went to attend the Beaux-Arts Institute in New York City and receive further training with renown architects of the day.

The Delta National Bank represents one of the earliest known Merrill Hoyt designs. It was built in 1910, thus its design predates by at least five years the formal establishment of his own practice. There is no mention of the Fisher firm in any of the records regarding the design or construction of the bank. It appears that Hoyt was moonlighting. It is not known if this extracurricular work was done with the approval of the Fisher firm.

Burnham returned to Denver and joined his brother's practice in 1919. However, Burnham received commissions in New York during the 1920s and he traveled again to Europe. Merrill's career was cut short in 1933 when he died of a heart attack at the age of 52. Burnham returned to Denver in 1936 where he became one of Colorado's foremost Modernist architects of the mid-20th-century. Denver projects during Merrill's lifetime include the 1929 addition to the Steele Elementary School, 320 S. Marion, Douglass Undertaking, 2745 Welton (1915), and the Fourth Church of Christ Science, 3101 W. 31st Ave. (1920).

Hoyt served as the president and vice president of the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He was the secretary of the Allied Architects Association, the collation of architects responsible for the design of the Denver City and County Building, and he served as vice president of the Denver Building and Loan Association. An avid sportsman and member of the Denver Athletic Club, Merrill Hoyt was also interested in art and literature and was prominent in the work of the local Masonic lodge.

Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date	Status
Delta National Bank	360 Main St., Delta	5DT423	1910	State Register
Douglass Undertaking Building (La Paz)	2745 Welton, Denver	5DV75	1915	Denver Local Landmark
Fourth Church of Christ Science (with Burnham Hoyt)	3101 W. 31st Ave, Denver	5DV611	1920	
Park Hill Branch Library (with Burnham Hoyt)	4705 Montview Blvd., Denver		1920	Denver Local Landmark
Hendricks House	457 Williams St. Denver		1922	Driving Park Local HD

Unnamed House	860 Gaylord St., Denver		1923	Morgan's Subdivision Local HD
Owen Estate	3901 S. Gilpin St., Cherry Hills Village	5AH1569	1923	National Register
Denver Press Club (with Burnham Hoyt)	1330 Glenarm Pl., Denver	5DV601	1925	Denver Local Landmark
Lake Junior High School (with Burnham Hoyt)	1820 Lowell Blvd., Denver	5DV668	1926	Denver Local Landmark
Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Education Wing	1980 Dahlia St. Denver	5DV9034	1927	National Register pending
St. Martin's Chapel at St. John's Cathedral (with Burnham Hoyt)	1313 Clarkson St., Denver	5DV171	1928	National Register
Steele Elementary School (addition)	300 S. Marion Pkwy., Denver	5DV2087	1929	Denver Local Landmark

Information Sources

Denver Business Directories. 1905-1912.

Loftis, Linda. "Delta National Bank," Colorado State Register of Historic Properties nomination, February 14, 1995. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Noel, Thomas J. and Barbara S. Norgren. *Denver: The City Beautiful and its Architects, 1893-1941*. (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc.), 1987.

Student, Annette L. *Historic Cheesman Park Neighborhood*. Denver: Historic Denver Inc., 1999.

Widmann, Nancy. "Driving Parking Historic District," Denver Landmark application, 2002.

Revised: January 2, 2004