

**COLORADO ARCHITECTS  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

**Architect:** Marean, Willis Adams

**Birth/Death Dates:** 1853-1939

**Practice Dates:** 1880-1936

**Firms:**

Frank E. Edbrooke and Co. (1881-1895)

Marean and Norton (1895-1936)

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**Biographical Information**

Willis Adams Marean was born in Woodhull, New York, on May 24, 1853. Marean came to Denver in 1880 and worked for Frank E. Edbrooke and Co. from 1881 to 1895. The city directories listed Marean and Edbrooke as the firms architects. During his employment with Edbrooke and Co., Marean was involved in designing the Brown Palace Hotel, Interstate Trust Building, Central Presbyterian Church, Masonic Building, Earnest and Cranmer Building and the Cooper Building.

Marean left Edbrooke and Co. in 1895 and partnered with another former Edbrooke and Co. employee, Albert Julius Norton, to form Marean and Norton. The architects designed numerous residences, commercial buildings, and public facilities over the next four decades. Among their more notable structures are the Chamber of Commerce (National Register-listed) and YMCA buildings in Denver, Fort Morgan City Hall (National Register-listed), the Cheesman-Boettcher House (now the Governor's Mansion and a National Register property), the Greek Theater in Denver's Civic Center and the Cheesman Park Pavilion (both contributing resources in National Register districts). Other notable buildings no longer standing include Denver's Shirley Hotel, Shirley Hotel Annex, and the Plymouth Place hotel.

Marean was a member of the Denver Art Commission, Civic Center Commission and Mayor Speer's Parks and Parkway Commission. He retired from practice in 1936 and died of a stroke in 1939.

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**Credited Buildings (partial list)**

<b>Building Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Site No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Unnamed House	1373 Franklin, Denver		1896	Wyman Local HD
Unnamed House	1401 Williams, Denver		1896	Demolished
Plymouth Place (Plymouth Hotel) (Cory Hotel)	16th & Broadway, Denver	5DV1104	1898	Demolished
Cass House	733 E. 8th Ave., Denver		1899	Denver Local Landmark
Unnamed House	226 W. 3rd Ave., Denver		1900	Baker HD
Unnamed House	230 W. 3rd Ave., Denver		1900	Baker HD
Unnamed House	236 W. 3rd Ave., Denver		1900	Baker HD

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Unnamed House	240 W. 3rd Ave., Denver		1900	Baker HD
Unnamed House 1900	244 W. 3rd Ave., Denver		1900	Baker HD
Chittenden House	51 W. 4th Ave., Denver		1901	Baker HD
Stuart Hotel	76-96 Broadway, Denver	5DV55	1901	Extant
Denver Orphans' Home	1501 Albion St., Denver	5DV4448	1902	National Register
Shirley Hotel	17 <sup>th</sup> and Lincoln St., Denver		1902*	Demolished
Orpheum Theatre	1515 Welton St., Denver		1902*	Demolished
Kent House	1101 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV166.14	1904	Humboldt St. HD
Unnamed Building	1423-27 Emerson St., Denver	5DV2630	1904	
Shirley Hotel Annex	1660 Broadway		1905	Demolished
11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Hotel	11 <sup>th</sup> and Broadway		1905*	11 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Hotel
YMCA Building	25 E. 16th Ave., Denver	5DV2049	1906	YMCA
Robinson House	1225 Pennsylvania St., Denver	5DV4334	1906	Denver Local Landmark
Unnamed House	1436 Williams St., Denver		1906	Demolished
Telephone Exchange Building (addition)	30 W. Bayaud Ave., Denver		1907	Baker HD
Stoiber-Reed Mansion (Humphreys Mansion)	1022 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV166.3	1907	Humboldt St. HD
Colonial Hotel	1506 California St. , Denver	5DV1805	1901*	Republic Hotel
Republic Hotel (possibly Marean and Norton)	1508 California St., Denver	5DV1806	1905*	Republic Hotel
Fort Morgan City Hall	110 Main St., Fort Morgan	5MR622	1908	National Register
Cheesman-Boettcher Mansion (Governor's Mansion)	400 E. 8th St., Denver	5DV169	1908	National Register
Cheesman Park Pavilion	13th Ave. & High St., Denver	5DV5308	1908	Denver Local Landmark
Logan Court	1461 Logan St., Denver	5DV2621	1908	Apartment building
Chamber of Commerce Building	1726 Champa St., Denver	5DV527	1910	National Register
Unnamed House	818 Vine St., Denver		1911	Morgan's Subdivision Local HD

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Claude Sachs House	165 Franklin, Denver	5DV167	1911	Country Club HD
Robert Speer House	300 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV167	1912	Country Club HD
Brooks-James B. Grant House	111 Gilpin St., Denver	5DV167	1913	Country Club HD
Sarah Platt Decker Branch Library	1501 S. Logan, Denver		1913	Denver Local Landmark
John W. Finch-Arthur Boswoth House	301 High St., Denver	5DV167	1914	Country Club HD
Liebhardt Building (Cottrell Clothing Co.)	601 16th St. Denver	5DV842.6	1915	Downtown Denver Local HD
Kassler House	300 Lafayette, Denver	5DV167	1916	Country Club HD
Greek Theater and Colonnade of Civic Benefactors	14th Ave. & Acoma, Denver	5DV161	1919	Civic Center HD
Gloveville School	5100 Lincoln St.	5DV793	1925	Laradon Hall
<b>Undated Buildings</b>				
Alma Temple	Denver			
Chalets Hotel	Estes Park			
Wade Stacy House	Estes Park			
Washington Park Community Church	Denver			
Schwab House	2611 E. 7th, Denver			Seventh Ave. Local HD
Causey House	1190 S. Franklin, Denver			
Steele House	555 S. Downing, Denver			
Cordingly House	1601 E. 3rd Ave., Denver	5DV167		Country Club HD

\* Building permit date

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**Information Sources**

Building Permit Files, Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library.

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Noel, Thomas J. *Denver Landmarks & Historic Districts, A Pictorial Guide*. Niwot, CO: University Press of Colorado, 1996.

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

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