

**COLORADO ARCHITECTS
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Architect: Thomas, Charles E.

Birth/Death Dates: 1876 - 1957

Practice Dates: 1894 - 1957?

Firms:

MacLaren and Thomas (1906-1917)

Thomas & Sweet (1946-1957?)

Biographical Information

Charles E. Thomas was born in Columbus Ohio, March 3, 1876. His father was a British born expert in stone masonry. In 1881 the Thomas family moved to Denver where the father had been put in charge of construction of St. John's Cathedral (later destroyed by fire) at 19th and Welton. There young Thomas received his basic education and in 1893 he began his architectural training in the office of Dick Phillips. In 1894, he became associated with the architect and author, Frank E. Kidder. Thomas was responsible for many of the drawings for Kidder's book on construction. Thomas was sent by Kidder to work for Robert Roeschlaub, who later sent him to Colorado Springs to work for Thomas MacLaren.

Thomas worked under MacLaren until 1904, when he took a year of study in Boston and New York. Returning to Colorado Springs in 1906 for health reasons, Thomas joined MacLaren in a partnership which lasted until 1917. MacLaren and Thomas designed numerous homes for prominent members of the Colorado Springs community, including the Turkey Creek Ranch for Spencer Penrose, and Claremont, an adaptation of the La Grande Trianon. During his partnership with MacLaren, Thomas spent most of 1909 in Europe studying classical architecture.

Thomas served as mayor of Colorado Springs beginning in 1917 and continued a private architectural practice though the wartime years. Spencer Penrose retained Charles Thomas to design the Shrine of the Sun (Will Rogers Shrine) on Cheyenne Mountain beginning in 1934. In 1936, Thomas was preparing drawings for alterations to the Penrose residence, El Pomar. His plans lead to the construction of a third floor addition to the house. In 1946, Thomas joined Gordan Sweet in the partnership of Thomas & Sweet.

Thomas was a long time member of the Colorado Board of Architect Examiners having first been appointed in 1914 and serving continuously from 1926 until 1949, six years as president. He also served a term as vice president of the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Asked to enumerate some of his most outstanding buildings, Thomas named the Baldwin House in Broadmoor (Claremont/Trianon), Penrose Stadium in Broadmoor, the Shrine of the Sun (Will Rogers Shrine) on Cheyenne Mountain, the Shepard's Citation building in Colorado Springs, and the Holy Rosary Chapel in Cascade.

Charles Thomas died at the age of 81 and is buried in Colorado Springs.

Credited Buildings

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date	Assessment
MacLaren and Thomas (1906-1917)				
Claremont/Trianon (Baldwin House)	21 Broadmoor Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP186	1906	National Register
Carnegie Library	1125 Pine St., Boulder	5BL365	1906	National Register
Manitou Springs Post Office	727 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs	5EP530.104	1907	Manitou Springs HD
Orchard House, Chambers Ranch	3202 Chambers Way, Colorado Springs	5EP188	1907	National Register
Salida Public Library	405 E St., Salida	5CF346	1907-09	National Register
Masonic Temple	Colorado Springs		1908	
Modern Woodman of America Sanatorium	Colorado Springs		1909	
Ferguson Building (Opera House)	28½ N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs		1910	
Manitou Springs Public Library	701 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs	5EP530.29	1910	Manitou Springs HD
Masonic Temple	509-513 Main St., Montrose	5MN1682	1911	
Bandstand Monument	Valley Park, Colorado Springs	5EP613.5	1911	
Asa T. Jones Hall, Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind	33 N. Institute St., Colorado Springs	5EP2740	1912	State Register
Jones Building, Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind	33 N. Institute St., Colorado Springs	5EP2740	1912	State Register
Turkey Creek Ranch	Fort Carson, Colorado Springs	5EP836	1912	
Stratton Building	31½ S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs		1914	
Large Pavilion (Penrose Pavilion)	Monument Valley Park, Colorado Springs	5EP613.6	1914	
Dairymen's Quarters, Modern Woodman of America Sanatorium	Colorado Springs		1915	
Male Help Dormitory, Modern Woodman of America Sanatorium	Colorado Springs		1916	
El Pomar Chauffeur's Cottage	1661 Mesa Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP377	1916	National Register
Municipal Pool Bathhouse	Monument Valley Park, Colorado Springs	5EP613.7	1916	

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Durango High School	201 E. 12th St., Durango	5LP3443	1916	
United Brethren Church	Nevada & Vermijo St., Colorado Springs	5EP640	1917	
Unnamed House	4585 Hagerman Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP446	c.1920s	
Thomas H. Powers Cottage	Colorado Springs			
Charles E. Thomas, Architect (1917-1946)				
Table-Rock School District #18	El Paso County		1918	
R. J. Reiss Residence (additions)	Colorado Springs		1919	
Consolidated School District #49	Falcon		1920	
Wigwam School	El Paso County		1920	
Thomas & Elinor Cusack House	Hwy 24, Cascade	5EP3176	1922	
Colorado Springs City Auditorium (with MacLaren & Hetherington)	231 E. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs	5EP628	1922	National Register
Bank of Manitou	814 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs	5EP530.118	1924	Manitou Springs HD
Wiley Blair, Jr. Lodge	Farish Memorial Recreation Area, Woodland Park	5EP2540	1924	
Whiteside House	4615 Hagerman Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP422	c.1925	
Unnamed House	4590 Hagerman Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP421	c.1925	
Pillar of Fire Church	229 S. Weber, Colorado Springs	5EP642	1924	
Cañon City Sanitarium	Cañon City		1925	
Public Library (expansion program)	Colorado Springs		1926	
First Lutheran Church (addition)	301 E. Platte Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP636	1928	State Register
Mamie H. Clarke House	Colorado Springs		1929	
Perkins-Shearer Clothing Store	20-24 E. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs	5EP730	1929	
Sheridan Lake School	619 E. Burnett St., Sheridan Lake	5KW46	1929	
Holy Rosary Chapel	4454 Fountain Ave., Cascade	5EP2210	1930	State Register
Shrine of the Sun (Will Rogers Shrine)	4250 Cheyenne Mtn. Zoo Colorado Springs	5EP2175	1935	National Register
El Pomar Estate (additions)	1661 Mesa Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP377	1936	National Register

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Emory E. Smiley Junior High	1309 E. 3rd Ave., Durango	5LP1411.56	1936	E. Third Ave. HD
Central School Auditorium and Gymnasium	612 First Ave., Monte Vista	5RN521	1937-38	National Register
Apartment House for Benjamin Lefkowsky	624 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs	5EP612.8	1938	
Summit House, Manitou and Pikes Pikes Peak Peak Railway Co. (addition)	Pikes Peak, Colorado Springs vicinity	5EP341	1939	
Colorado State Capitol Annex Building and Boiler Plant (Associated Architects for the State Capitol Annex; Charles Thomas member)	1341 Sherman, Denver	5DV3844	1939	National Register
Thomas and Sweet (1946-1957?)				
Most Precious Blood Parish Rectory & Daily Prayer Chapel	508 E. Church Pl., San Luis	5CT47.74 5CT47.78	1948	San Luis HD
Most Precious Blood Vocational School Training Building	508 E. Church Pl., San Luis	5CT47.79	1948	San Luis HD
Durango Public Library (addition)	1188 E. Second Ave., Durango	5LP3037	1950	Durango Local Landmark
Elks Lodge #701 (addition)	119 Colorado Ave., La Junta	5OT548	1950	State Register
Penrose Stadium	Colorado Springs			
School for District #23	Peyton			
Manitou Springs High School	Manitou Springs			

Information Sources

Shrine of the Sun National Register Nomination, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

First Lutheran Church, Colo. Springs. State Register Nomination, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Colorado Springs Gazette, July 25, 1928.

Original Architectural Drawings for Turkey Creek Ranch, Penrose Public Library, Colo. Springs.

Original architectural drawings for Monte Vista Auditorium, Monte Vista.

Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, February ____, 1930.

Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, July 22, 1957, p. 1.

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Civic Center Historic District, National Register Nomination, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Charles E. Thomas Papers, Penrose Library, Colorado Springs.

Site Form 5KW46, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Site Form 5CT.47.74, 78, 79, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

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