

Harry James Manning

Like many architects of this period, Manning designed in a wide variety of historical revival styles, including Spanish Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Collegiate Gothic and Neo-classical Revival. He traveled extensively in later years and this first-hand exposure to various architectural types is reflected in his work. His prolific body of work, distinguished by his knowledgeable use of details and materials, has been described as “graceful, well-proportioned, and above all, in good taste” (Noel & Norgren 1987:210).

Born in Peoria, Illinois in 1877, Manning received his architectural training on the job, as was the custom of the day. He worked as a draftsman in the Peoria-based architectural firm of Reeves and Bailey. He moved to Denver in 1904 and formed a partnership with F. C. Wagner. The firm of Manning and Wagner became interested in sanitarium design, no doubt prompted by Colorado’s reputation as a haven from tuberculosis. In 1908, the firm received the Roosevelt Medal of the International Congress of Tuberculosis for an innovative sanitarium design to be built in Washington, D.C. that featured a pavilion with open air rooms connected by moveable partitions to heated inner rooms. That same year, the firm designed the Spanish Colonial style St. Thomas Episcopal Church. The firm dissolved in 1912 with Wagner’s death.

Manning continued to design sanitariums in the 1920s, including several buildings for the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society in Lakewood and the Bethesda Sanitarium. He also began to specialize in the design of educational buildings. Some of Denver’s finest examples of the Collegiate Gothic style are his school buildings. These include several buildings on the Regis College campus, Byers Junior High School, Fairmount Elementary School, Mary Reed Library on the University of Denver campus, and the Margery Reed Mayo Day Nursery. The latter commissions reflected Manning’s position in Denver society and his personal relationship with the prominent Mrs. Verner Z. Reed. Manning designed many opulent homes for Denver’s elite, including a residence for Mrs. Reed, considered the city’s finest example of Tudor Revival, and Oscar Malo, one of the city’s best Spanish Colonial Revival specimens (Noel & Norgren 1987:51, 59). Unfortunately, several have been demolished, such as the mansions of David H. Moffat and Charles Boettcher.

Manning was also a member of the Allied Architects Associations, which was responsible for the design of the 1932 Denver City and County Building. He died the following year at the age of 56.



Cover Illustration: Grant Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Denver, in about in 1920.
Photo to right: Entry to the Capitol Life Insurance Building, Denver, in 1996.
Source: Colorado Historical Society

Architects of Colorado

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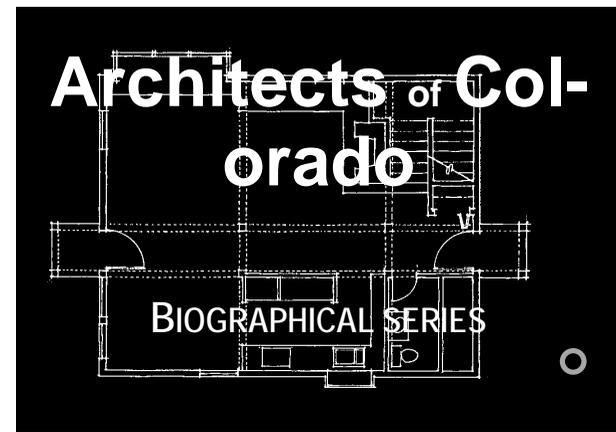
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Harry J. Manning

1877-1933



OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY
and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Buildings Credited to Harry Manning (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status**
St. Thomas Episcopal Church	2201 Dexter St., Denver		1908	Denver Local Landmark
Grant Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church	216 South Grant St., Denver	5DV.8141	1908	State Register
Moffat Mansion	808 Grant St., Denver	5DV.5341	1909	Demolished
Frederick Ross House	300 Gilpin St., Denver	5DV.167.168	1910	Country Club NRHD
J.K. Mullen Home for the Aged	West 29 th , Denver	5DV.622	1910s	
Saguache Elementary School	605 Christy St., Saguache	5SH.1393	1915	State Register
Hicks House	1050 Humboldt, Denver	5DV.166.10	1920	Humboldt NRHD
Shrine of St. Anne Catholic Church	7555 Grant Pl., Arvada	5JF.435	1920	
Methodist Episcopal Church	Akron		1920	Extant
Elyria Library	East 47 th & High, Denver		1920	Denver Local Landmark
Olin Hotel	1420 Logan, Denver	5DV.49	1921	Extant
Schleter-Hicks House	1050 Humboldt, Denver		1921	
Mullen-Malo House	500 East 8 th , Denver	5DV.6953	1921	
Byers Junior High School	150 S. Pearl St., Denver		1922	Denver Local Landmark
Blount House	165 High St., Denver	5DV.167.88	1923	Country Club NRHD
Fairmont School	520 West 3 rd Ave., Denver	5DV.51.33	1924	Baker NRHD
Capitol Life Insurance	1600 Sherman, Denver	5DV.2686	1924	National Register
Bethesda Sanatorium	Denver		1920s	
Buildings on Jewish Consumptive Relief Society Campus (JCRS)	Lakewood		1920s	JCRS NRHD
Buildings on Regis College Campus	West 50 th Ave. & Lowell Blvd., Denver		1920s	
Kalmus House	177 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV.167.10	1929	Country Club NRHD
Mrs. Verner Z. Reed Mansion	537 Circle Dr., Denver		1931	
Mary Reed Library	2199 University Blvd., Denver (DU)	5DV.726	1930s	

UNDATED BUILDINGS				
Boettcher Mansion	777 Washington, Denver			Demolished
Margery Reed Mayo Day Nursery	1128 28 th , Denver			Denver Local Landmark
Cathedral High School				
Simson Home	150 Vine, Denver			
John T. Barnett Home	Englewood			
South Dakota Sanatorium for Tuberculosis	Custer, South Dakota			
South Dakota State Sanatorium	Lead, South Dakota			

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

**NRHD=National Register Historic District

Information Sources

Christensen, Kris and Downey, Linda. "Grant Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church." State Register Nomination, 2001. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

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

Wray, Diane. "Capitol Life Insurance Building," National Register Nomination, 1996. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

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

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Methodist Episcopal Church, Akron, in 2005.

