

Architect: Balcomb, Robert G.

Birth/Death Dates: ?

Practice Dates: 1886 - ?

Firms:

Balcomb and Rice 1886 - 1897

Biographical Information

Unfortunately, there is no readily available information about the early life or death of Robert G. Balcomb. He first appeared in the 1885 Denver City Directory, identified only as a carpenter. By March 1886, Balcomb formed a partnership with Cornell University graduate, Eugene Remich Rice. The newly formed firm of Balcomb and Rice opened their first office in the now demolished Tabor Block at 16th and Larimer Streets. The firm went on to design some of Denver's most elaborate examples of the Queen Anne style that still stand today. The Flower-Vaile House at 1610 Emerson St., the Bouvier-Lathrop House at 1600 Emerson St., the John S. Flower House at 1618 Ogden St., and the Dragon House at 1542 Williams St., are all examples of Balcomb and Rice's exuberant interpretation of the Queen Anne style. The first three are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the last in the locally designated Wyman Historic District.

The firm's prosperity extended beyond the residential market to include a wide variety of buildings and structures throughout the city. The Denver Building Permit records credit the firm with a church addition, stores, terraces, barns, stables and grand stands. Regrettably, only the residential designs are currently identified in the list below.

The partnership of Balcomb and Rice continued until 1897, when Rice went into business for himself. It is unknown what happened to Balcomb after the partnership dissolved.

Credited Buildings

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date	Assessment
Unnamed House	2737 High St., Denver		1886	
Unnamed House	1430 Gilpin St., Denver		1889	Wyman Local HD
J. Wallin Boot House	1441 Gilpin St., Denver		1889	Wyman Local HD
J. Wallin Boot House	1447 Gilpin St., Denver	5DV2671	1889	Wyman Local HD
Barney Lancelot Ford House	1569 High St., Denver		1889	Wyman Local HD
A. Gustafsen House (The Dragon House)	1542 Williams St., Denver	5DV2199	1889	Wyman Local HD
George W. Zint House	2829 Lafayette St., Denver	5DV7039	1889	
Silas S. Kennedy House	W.27 th & Federal Blvd., Denver		1889	Demolished

**COLORADO ARCHITECTS
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Osmyn Parker House	2096 Emerson St., Denver	5DV202.6	1889	San Rafael HD
Flower-Vaile House	1610 Emerson St., Denver	5DV659	1889	National Register
Henry C. Babcock House	2344 Race St., Denver	5DV7016	1889	
Bouvier-Lathrop House	1600 Emerson St., Denver	5DV154	1890	National Register
Unnamed House	456 Clarkson St., Denver	5DV6624	1890	
Unnamed House	457 Clarkson St., Denver	5DV6625	1890	
Unnamed House	541 Washington St., Denver	5DV6564	1890	
Unnamed House	454 Washington St., Denver		1890	Demolished
Unnamed House	538 Pearl St., Denver		1890	Demolished
Unnamed House	2118-20 W. 28 th Ave., Denver	5DV1480	1890	Stonemen's Row HD
Jeannie McDailey House	2076 Ogden St., Denver	5DV202.8	1891	San Rafael HD
William J. Ryan House	2311 High St., Denver	5DV6989	1891	
Albert Sechrist House	2361 Vine St., Denver	5DV7019	1891	
W.H. Briggs House (Sherman House)	1337 Race St., Denver	5DV2449	1891	Wyman Local HD
John S. Flower House	1618 Ogden St., Denver	5DV156	1891-92	National Register
W.C. Nevin House	1453 Race St., Denver	5DV2724	1892	Wyman Local HD
Reverend Thomas N. Haskell House	1651 Emerson St., Denver	5DV1702	1892	National Register
Arthur E. Pierce House	24 E. Ellsworth, Denver		1892	Denver Landmark
Unnamed House	2140-42 W. 28 th Ave., Denver	5DV1480	1892	Stonemen's Row HD
Unnamed House	2753-55 Umatilla St., Denver	5DV1480	1893	Stonemen's Row HD
Unnamed House	2112-14 Umatilla St., Denver	5DV1480	1893	Stonemen's Row HD
McAllister House (Remodel)	1619 Pine St., Boulder	5BL1483	1894	Boulder Local Landmark
Dodge House	590 Pine St., Boulder		1895	
Undated Buildings				
Masonic Temple	Boulder			Demolished

Information Sources

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

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

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

Wilk, Diane. The Wyman Historic District. Denver: Historic Denver Inc., 1995.

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