

Firm: Patterson Bridge Company
Other Firm Names: Patterson-Burghardt Construction Company
Office Location: Denver
Operating Dates: 1895-1916
Principals: Marcus J. Patterson
 Karl Burghardt

Information

Marcus J. Patterson was born in Chatham, Massachusetts, in 1862. After graduating from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1885, he worked as a bridge engineer, first for the Chicago extension of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and then for the Edge Moor Bridge Company in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1890, he moved to Denver as the local representative for the Lane Bridge Company of Chicago, and in 1895 he formed the M.J. Patterson Bridge Company. In 1900 Patterson was joined by Karl Burghardt, a Minnesota-born engineer who came to Denver that year after working for the mammoth Gillette-Herzog Iron Works of Minneapolis, the L. Schreiber & Sons Company of Cincinnati, and the Colorado Fuel & Iron Works of Pueblo. Later known as the Patterson-Burghardt Construction Company, the firm designed and erected steel bridges. Patterson-Burghardt also contracted for construction of steel buildings, designing and erecting the steel framework for structures such as the Daniels and Fisher tower in Denver. W.F. Stone described the firm in his 1918 *History of Colorado*:

They rank with the most prominent in their line in the west, their operations exceeding in volume and importance those of a great majority of firms in the same line in the state. Progressive methods, keen business insight, close application and indefatigable energy on the part of Mr. Patterson have contributed largely to the result achieved.

Among Patterson-Burghardt's more noteworthy commissions were the Lacombe and the Metropolitan buildings in Denver, steel work for the State Capitol and the City Park museum, as well as head frames for several Cripple Creek mines and numerous railroad and vehicular bridges, including the National Register-listed Fruita Bridge.

Credited Projects (partial list)

Project or Development	Location	Site Number	Date*	Status
State Capitol Building	200 E. Colfax Ave. Denver	5DV.6000	1894- 1908	Civic Center NR Hist. Dist.
Natural History Museum City Park	Colo. Blvd. and Montview, Denver	5DV.50	1901	Extant with major additions
Fruita Bridge (Pinned Parker through truss)	County Rd 17.50 over Colorado River Fruita	5ME.4532	1907	National Register
Daniels and Fisher Store	1101 16 th St. Denver	5DV.118	1911	National Register
Lacombe Building	Denver			Demolished
Metropolitan Building	Denver			Demolished

Prewitt Bridge (1) (Steel rigid-connected Pratt pony truss)	County Road 57 Messex vicinity	5WN.142	1912	Extant
Prewitt Bridge (2) (Steel rigid-connected Pratt pony truss)	County Road 36 Hillrose vicinity	5WN.142	1912	Extant
Prewitt Bridge (2) (Steel rigid-connected Pratt pony truss)	Abd. County Road 57 Hillrose vicinity	5WN.142	1912	Extant

*Completion date or construction span is stated if known. Plan, building permit, or assessor dates are used if completion date or period is unknown.

Reference Material

Colorado Department of Transportation Historic Bridge Database, accessed 3-13-2002.

The Colorado State Business Directory. Denver: Gazetteer Publishing Co.

41st Volume, 1915

42nd Volume, 1916

43rd Volume, 1917

Fraser, Clayton B. *Highway Bridges of Colorado*, National Register of Historic Places multiple property documentation form, March 30, 2000.

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

Revised: August 22, 2006