

Architect: James M. Hunter
Birth/Death Dates: 1908-1983
Practice Dates: 1936-1973
Firms: Huntington, Jones and Hunter
James M. Hunter and Associates

Biographical Information

James M. Hunter, prominent Boulder architect and Fellow, American Institute of Architects, was born in 1908 in Omaha, Nebraska. Hunter studied architectural engineering at Iowa State University and received his degree from the University of Illinois in 1936. That same year he came to Boulder to work as a draftsman for Glen H. Huntington. By 1940, Harold Stuart Jones had joined the same company and the firm Huntington, Jones and Hunter was born. This firm remained active until 1945. They designed a number of buildings in that short time, including the Citizens National Bank Building in Boulder as well as a number of houses in Floral Park, a Boulder subdivision.



After service in World War II, Hunter formed his own Boulder-based firm. As firm principal he worked on numerous academic complexes. Hunter served as planner and architect for Colorado A & M College (now Colorado State University), Fort Collins; Fort Lewis College, Durango; Regis College, Denver, and Tarkio College in Missouri. Hunter also was a member of the advisory board of local (Boulder) architects who helped establish an accredited degree program in Architecture at the University of Colorado at Boulder. This new major was approved in 1949. In honor of Hunter's contributions both to education and to architecture, the AIA Colorado chapter established the James M. Hunter Scholarship. This Hunter scholarship is awarded for graduate study or travel within the continental United States specifically for the study of American architecture.

Hunter designed many civic, commercial, organizational, educational, and residential buildings in Boulder. Key commissions included the original Boulder Public Library, Baseline Junior High School, Boulder Medical Center, the Nelson House and the Boulder Municipal Building. In addition to his practice, Hunter was interested in architectural research, especially solar design. He was highly regarded for his early efforts to use active solar design in his architecture. He served as a consultant on the utilization of solar energy and was a member of the advisory board for the Association of Applied Solar Energy. In collaboration with George Löff, a noted authority on active solar design, Hunter designed residences for Löff in Boulder in 1949 and in Denver (Cherry Hills Village) in the early 1950s. The Nelson House in Boulder embodies many of the principles of solar design, albeit passive as opposed to active solar design. Further research is needed in order to better understand Hunter's contributions to solar design and his role in the then-new technology.

Hunter retired from practice in 1973. He died at the age of 75 in 1983 at his home in Boulder. He is interred at Danforth Chapel on the campus at Colorado State University, a building of his own design.

Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Huntington, Jones & Hunter				
Weihofen House	Boulder	5BL.1453	1940	
Allen House	Boulder	5BL.1454	1940	
Swisher House	Boulder	5BL.1455	1940	
Garnsey House	Boulder	5BL.1456	1940	
Harrington House	Boulder	5BL.1457	1940	
Parker House	Boulder	5BL.1458	1940	
Geck House	Boulder	5BL.1459	1940	
Thompson House	Boulder	5BL.1460	1940	
James M. Hunter House	Boulder	5BL.3719	1940	
House	Boulder	5BL.3720	1941	
Spackman House	Boulder	5BL.3594	1941	
George Lof House	Boulder	5BL.3725	1940s	
Public Service Company Warehouse and Office	Boulder	5BL.4677	1941 or 1950	
James M. Hunter & Associates				
Masonic Lodge	Boulder	5BL.6040	1948	
University Hill Elementary School	Boulder	5BL.8220	1949	
Seventh Day Adventist Church	Boulder	5BL.6206	1949	
Academic Building, Fort Lewis College	Durango		1950s	
Danforth Chapel, Fort Lewis College (also McPherson Chapel)	Durango		1950s	
Allison Hall, Colorado State University	Fort Collins		1950s	
Brighton City Hall	Brighton		1950s	
Nelson House	Boulder	5BL.8232	1951	State Register
City of Boulder Municipal Building	Boulder	5BL.6039	1951	
Nomad Playhouse	Boulder	5BL.6281	1952	
Mercantile Bank & Trust	Boulder		1953	
Baseline Junior High School	Boulder		1954	
Boulder Medical Center	Boulder		1954	
Danforth Chapel, Colorado State University	Fort Collins	5LR.2096	1954	
Colorado Insurance Building	Boulder	5BL.5913	1955	
Commonwealth Industrial Bank (also Boulder	Boulder		1955	

Industrial Bank)				
George Lof Residence	Cherry Hills Village		1955-1957	
Engineering Building, Colorado State University	Fort Collins	5LR.9988	1957	
Charles A. Lory Student Center, Colorado State University	Fort Collins	5LR.9987	1961	
Boulder Public Library/ Boulder Library and Community Center	Boulder	5BL.6065	1961	
First National Bank	Fort Collins	5LR.9997	1961	
McClelland Public Library	Pueblo	5PE.4270	1965	
Norton House	Boulder		By 1953	
Citizens National Bank	Boulder			
Boulder Chamber of Commerce	Boulder			

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

Information Sources

“Architecture of James M. Hunter and Associates,” undated brochure.

Boulder Daily Camera, “James M. Hunter,” obituary, September 13, 1983.

Cole, Estella. Nelson House State Register nomination, August 20, 2005.

Hunter, James M. Architects files, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

New York Times, “Denver Family Set for Winter in Solar-Heated Home,” November 10, 1957, p. 313.

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

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