

**COLORADO ARCHITECTS
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Architect: Cowe, William

Birth/Death Dates: 1863 - 1930

Practice Dates: 1895 - 1919

Firms:

William Cowe, Architect (1895-1902)

Cowe and Harvey (1903-1904)

William Cowe, Architect (1905-1919)

Biographical Information

William Cowe was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, and emigrated with his wife to the United States in 1892. He came to Denver around 1894, working briefly as a draftsman before establishing his own practice. Two of Cowe's early buildings were featured in *American Architect and Building News* in 1896. During most of his career he maintained an office in the Mack Building on California Street. He belonged to the Colorado Chapter of American Institute of Architects and served as its secretary in 1901. During 1903 and 1904 Cowe went into partnership with George F. Harvey, Jr. After 1904 Cowe maintained his own practice until his retirement in about 1919. After a long period of failing health, Cowe died in Denver on August 8, 1930.

William Cowe designed primarily residential buildings. Most of his commissions were for single family residences in Denver, though he also designed several terraces and apartment houses. Examples of the latter include the Avery Apartments, at 2514 Champa, and the Hamilton, at 1475 Humboldt. He designed two houses for his own use. The first at 1330 Race (1901) and the second at 1420 Humboldt (1908). The house at 765 Marion (1904) is typical of the his work. Two prominent non-residential buildings designed by Cowe are the Highland Christian Church at 2601 W. 34th, in Denver's Potter Highlands Historic District, and the 1918 Carnegie Public Library building in Sterling.

Credited Buildings

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date	Assessment
William Cowe House	1330 Race St., Denver		1901	
The Hamilton	1475 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV2685	1902	
Highland Christian Church	2601 W. 34 th , Denver	5DV85.25	c. 1903	Potter Highlands HD
Avery Apartments (Cowe and Harvey)	2514 Champa St., Denver	5DV103/.94	c. 1904	Curtis Park HD
B.M. Webster House (Cowe and Harvey)	765 Marion, Denver		1904	
William Cowe House	1420 Humboldt St., Denver		1908	
Sterling Public Library	210 S. Fourth St., Sterling	5LO469	1918	NR eligible

Information Sources

Denver Building Permit Files, Western History Department, Denver Public Library.

Denver City Directories, 1894-1930.

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

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

Revised: June 8, 2001