

Architect: DeMordaunt, Walter
Birth/Death Dates: ??-1962
Practice Dates: 1920-1962 (Pueblo)
Firms:

Biographical Information

Walter DeMordaunt was a prolific architect during the period 1926 to 1962. Educated in Salt Lake City at the University of Utah, he followed graduation with a short apprenticeship in Butte, Montana. He came to Pueblo about 1920 and served as an associate in the office of architect William H. Stickney. DeMordaunt established his own firm in 1926. Over the next four decades, DeMordaunt and his four- to six-person staff generated hundreds of designs, many of which were constructed. He worked primarily in Pueblo, but other Colorado examples of his work may be found in Cañon City, Grand Junction, Lamar, Las Animas, Meeker, and Salida.

An important commission during his first year of practice was the *Star Journal* Model Home, sponsored by the Pueblo newspaper. Widely-read in southern Colorado, the newspaper's management hoped to promote the concepts of "modern living," as defined in the late 1920s. The house was to be built of the finest materials, displaying the talents of the most prominent individuals working in the design and building construction trades, and to include the most modern conveniences then available. DeMordaunt utilized an "English County style" for the house. J. C. Roy, the project stone cutter, worked on several later structures for DeMordaunt.

The DeMordaunt architectural firm consisted variously of four to six staff members. A former staff member describes DeMordaunt as being more interested in structure than style, delegating decorative elements to others. Stanley Ladd designed many of the firm's terra cotta tiles. These were fabricated by the Northwest Terra Cotta Company in Denver.

During the 1930s, the firm stayed busy in part by completing designs for projects partially funded by the New Deal-related Public Works Administration. Some of these projects were done in collaboration with another Pueblo architect, John Gray. Pueblo PWA projects included eight dormitories and two dining halls for the Colorado State Hospital and a building for the West Orman Campus at Pueblo Junior College.

DeMordaunt designed numerous school and college buildings. His credited works include several adobe buildings for the Pueblo Community College, the Carlile and Bessemer schools in Pueblo, the central portion of Pueblo's Pleasant View High School, the Lincoln School in La Junta and unnamed schools in Buena Vista, Eads, Hooper, Meeker, Mosca, Ouray, Pinon, Ridgway, San Luis, and Sheridan Lake. The firm also designed additions to numerous schools. In addition to the Columbian School, projects include additions to the Park School in Fowler, Avondale School, the Boone High School, the gymnasium in Walsh, and numerous school projects in the city of Pueblo.

DeMordaunt worked in a both revival and modern styles. One of his best known and most widely viewed buildings is the 1936 Pueblo home of the Young Women's Christian Association. The building exhibits clay tile roofing, an arcaded walk and bracketed eaves. Its lack of curvilinear gables and parapets and its irregular plan positions it in the locally defined style of Mediterranean Revival.

Several DeMordaunt buildings have received historic designation. These include National Register-listed Lincoln School in La Junta, the Y.W.C.A. Building, *Star Journal* Model Home, and McClelland Orphanage, all in Pueblo, and the U.S. Post Office in Lamar. The Art Deco style Chaffee County Courthouse in Salida is listed in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

DeMourdan died on April 7, 1962, and was buried at the Roselawn Cemetery in Pueblo.

Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
<i>Star Journal</i> Model Home	2920 High St. Pueblo	5PE.4216	1927	National Register
Pleasant View High School	Pueblo			
Maxwell Hospital	Lamar			
Colorado State Fair Exposition Building	Pueblo			Exposition building
First Presbyterian Church	Las Animas			
Whitman Hotel	Pueblo			
Railway Savings Building	119 W. Fifth St. Pueblo	5PE.565	1928	Extant
Sheridan Lake School	Sheridan Lake	5KW.46	1929	Extant
Colorado State Fair Grandstands	Pueblo		1930	Grandstands
Walsh Gymnasium	Walsh		1930	
Baxter School	Pueblo		1930	
Chaffee County Courthouse	104 Crestone Ave. Salida	5CF.850	1932	State Register
Mosca School	Mosca		1932	
YWCA Building	801 N. Santa Fe Ave. Pueblo	5PE.504	1935	National Register
McClelland Orphanage	415 E. Abriendo Ave., Pueblo	5PE.4217	1935	National Register
Buena Vista School	Buena Vista		1935	
Columbian School addition	1026 W. Sixth St. Las Animas	5BN.381	1936	National Register pending
Lamar Post Officer	300 S. Fifth St. Lamar	5PW.43	1936	National Register
Boyd School	Alamosa		1936	
Maxwell Hotel	Lamar		1936	
Lutheran Hospital	Alamosa		1936	
Lincoln School	300 N. Third La Junta	5OT.95	1937	National Register
Ouray High School	Ouray		1937	
Ridgway High School	Ridgway		1937	

San Luis School	San Luis		1937	
Central School	Alamosa		1937	
Eads School	Eads		1938	
Holy Trinity School	Trinidad		1944	
Rice Junior High School	Trinidad		1946	

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

Information Sources

McLeod, Paul J. "Walter DeMourant," 1983, unpublished manuscript, 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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