

Architect: William Ellsworth Fisher, Arthur Addison Fisher, Alan Berney Fisher
Birth/Death Dates: William (1871-1937), Arthur (1878-1965), Alan (1905-1978)
Practice Dates:

Firms:

William Fisher, Architect (1892-1901)
Fisher & Huntington (William Fisher and Daniel Huntington; 1901-1905)
William Fisher, Architect (1905-1907)
William Fisher Architect and Brother (William and Arthur Fisher; 1907-1910)
William E. Fisher and Arthur A. Fisher, Architects (1910-1937)
Arthur A. Fisher and Alan B. Fisher, Architects (1937-1956)
Fisher, Fisher and Davis (Arthur A. Fisher, Alan B. Fisher, and Rodney S. Davis; 1956-1959)
Fisher and Davis (Alan B. Fisher and Rodney S. Davis; 1959-1967)
Fisher, Reece and Johnson (Alan B. Fisher, John D. Reece, and Hilary M. Johnson; 1967-1978)

Biographical Information

Architects by Design: The Fisher Legacy

Few families have impacted the look of Denver as the architects of the Fisher family. The careers of three Fisher architects have spanned nearly six decades and their cumulative designs represents some of the most prominent and acclaimed work in the state. Allen S. Fisher moved his family from Canada to Denver in 1885. His son William Ellsworth Fisher (1871-1937) was the first to enter the field of architecture.

William began as a draftsman for the Denver firm of Balcomb & Rice in 1890. Two years later, after a brief period of study with the New York firm of C. Powell Karr, Fisher opened the firm of William Fisher, Architect. The firm evolved in name and partnership several times over the next 57 years in name and partnership, however, for the next 57 years an architect of the Fisher family would continue to offer services to the citizens and businesses of Denver and the Rocky Mountain Region.

For ten years Fisher worked alone, designing mostly residents, particularly starter homes for young couples. In 1901 Daniel Riggs Huntington, a fellow draftsman from Balcomb & Rice formed a partnership with Fisher that lasted five years. Their work included increasingly expensive residences as well as apartment and commercial buildings until Huntington moved to Seattle in 1905. After two years again on his own, William formed a partnership with his brother, Arthur Addison Fisher (1878-1965) who had studied at the Beaux-Arts Atelier Barber in New York and apprenticed in the New York offices of Don Barber and Benjamin Morris. This pairing lasted thirty years until William's death. The firm prospered, constructed the majority of the known remaining designs which included several prominent homes, churches, hospitals, and schools as well as commercial designs such as the Denver City Tramway Building at 1100 14th Street and the A. C. Foster Building at 912 16th Street. Both listed in the National Register. Arthur served on the Denver Planning Commission and gained recognition for his hospital designs. In 1937 William's son, Alan B. Fisher (1905-1978), already working for the firm became a partner with his uncle. Alan had completed his schooling at the University of Pennsylvania and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Until Arthur's retirement in 1956 the designed

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numerous commercial buildings including several hospitals out of state, worked on the State Capital Annex, and the Denver Public Library with Burnham Hoyt.

Rodney Davis joined the Fisher partnership in 1956 and continued with Alan for 11 years. Alan Fisher then formed a partnership with John D. Reece and Hillary M. Johnson until his death in 1978. Alan became active in historic preservation, was a founding member of the Denver Landmark Commission, and served as chairman from 1970 to 1973.

Of 67 existing buildings in Denver that can be credited to the Fisher firm, 50 of them are either individually listed, within districts, or have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In other words some 75% of the firm's identifiable remaining work in Denver retains enough of its integrity to be deemed worthy of recognition. It is doubtful that many architectural firms have left such a legacy. Certainly there is no other in Colorado.

Credited Buildings

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date	Assessment
William Fisher, Architect (1892-1901)				
Unnamed House	1763 High St., Denver	5DV2749	1893	
Unnamed House	1364 Franklin St., Denver		1895	Wyman Local HD
Unnamed House	1455 Gaylord St., Denver		1895	Demolished
Reed House	1040 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV166.7	1899	Humboldt St. HD
Iliff House	2145 S. Adams, Denver	5DV433	1899	
McDonald House	1800 Gilpin St., Denver	5DV2451	1899	
Fisher & Huntington (1901-1905)				
Smith House	1801 York St., Denver	5DV907	1902	National Register
Unnamed House	1368 Gaylord St., Denver		1902	Wyman Local HD
Unnamed House	1345 Race St., Denver		1902	Wyman Local HD
Unnamed House	2202 E. 14th, Denver		1902	Wyman Local HD
Mulvihill-Gurtler House	4209 W. 38th Ave., Denver	5DV636	1904	
Unnamed House	1133 E. 3rd Ave., Denver	5DV6338	1905	
William Fisher, Architect (1905-1907)				
Fred A. Thompson House (Cheesman Park book credits both W. Fisher and A. Fisher as architects)	801 Humboldt St., Denver		1905	

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Fred A. Thompson House (Cheesman Park book credits both W. Fisher and A. Fisher as architects)	809 Humboldt St., Denver		1905	
Uriah Hellister House	103 Franklin St., Denver	5DV167	1906	Country Club HD
West House	100 Franklin St., Denver	5DV167	1906	Country Club HD
William Fisher Architect and Brother (1907-1910)				
Durango Public Library	1188 E. Second St., Durango	5LP.3037	1907	Local Landmark
Sullivan-Cosgriff House	1130 E. 7th Ave., Denver	5DV344	1907	
Bethuel Webster House	370 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV167	1907	Country Club HD
Unnamed Apartment Building	820 Humboldt St./1515 E. 8th Ave., Denver		1908	
Warren United Methodist Church	1630 E. 14th Ave., Denver		1908	Wyman Local HD
Liva Kountze Brown House	135 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV167	1908	Country Club HD
Arthur Fisher House	128 Gilpin St., Denver	5DV167.14	1909	County Club HD
National Safety Vault Co.	1536 Welton St., Denver	5DV501	1909	Demolished
St. Stephens Episcopal Church	2552 Williams St., Denver	5DV7024	1909	
Parker House	120 Franklin St., Denver	5DV167	1909	County Club HD
Wolff Manufacturing Company Building (Rockmount Ranch Wear Building)	1626 Wazee St., Denver	5DV47.16	1909	Lower Downtown Certified HD
William E. Fisher and Arthur A. Fisher, Architects (1910-1937)				
William E. Fisher House	110 Franklin St., Denver	5DV167	1910	County Club HD
Railway Exchange Building (Addition)	1715 Champa St., Denver	5DV526	1910	National Register
Denver City Tramway Building	1100 14th St., Denver	5DV140	1911	National Register
A.C. Foster Building	912 16th St., Denver	5DV142	1911	National Register
Isaac Solomon Synagogue, Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society	6401 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood	5JF178	1911	National Register
Wright House	345 Gilpin St., Denver	5DV167	1911	Country Club HD

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Katherine Wolcott Toll House	919 Race St., Denver		1912	
Blount House	314 Lafayette St., Denver	5DV167	1912	Country Club HD
J.C. Penney Building	21-39 Broadway, Denver	5DV60	1912	
Unnamed Building	2-10 Broadway, Denver	5DV58	1912	
Bethuel Webster House	140 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV167	1912	Country Club HD
Unnamed Bank Building	2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver		1913	Demolished
McPhee & McGinnity Building	2301 Blake St., Denver	5DV1490	1913	National Register
Lafayette Hughes-William V. Hodges House	300 High St., Denver	5DV167	1913	Country Club HD
Railway Exchange Building (Addition)	1715 Champa St., Denver	5DV526	1913	Champa Street HD
Broadway National Bank Building	100 Broadway, Denver	5DV54	1914	
Colonel William E. Hughes-Gerald Hughes House	320 High St., Denver	5DV167	1914	Country Club HD
Abbott House	160 Downing, Denver	5DV167	1915	Country Club HD
Colorado National Bank Building	900-918 17th St., Denver	5DV524	1915	
Foster-Buell Mansion	2700 E. Hampden, Englewood	5AH222	1915	
Lorraine Lodge/Charles Boettcher Summer Home	900 Colorow Rd., Golden	5JF323	1916	National Register
H.C. Van Schaack House	323 High St., Denver	5DV167	1916	Country Club HD
McCartney House	350 Gilpin St., Denver	5DV167	c. 1916	Country Club HD
Weicker Transfer	1700 15th St., Denver	5DV47.43	1918	Denver Local Landmark
Daniel A. Millet House	860 Vine St., Denver		1919	Morgan's Subdivision Local HD
McPhee & McGinnity Building (addition)	2301 Blake St., Denver	5DV1490	1919	National Register
Holloway-McKenzie House	180 Lafayette, Denver	5DV167	1920	Country Club HD
U.S. National Bank/Guaranty Bank Building	817 17th St., Denver	5DV843.16	1920	National Register

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Green House	149 Gilpin St., Denver	5DV167.15	1921	Country Club HD
Morey Middle School	840 E. 14 th Ave., Denver	5DV2090	1921	Denver Local Landmark
Voorhies Memorial, Civic Center West	Colfax & 15 th St., Denver	5DV161	1921	Civic Center HD
Acacia Apartments	429 E. 14 th Ave., Denver		1922	
Bernard Apartments	850 Humboldt St., Denver		1923	
The Waldman Apartments	1515 E. 9 th Ave., Denver	5DV2116	1923	
Company town of Parco (Sinclair)	Wyoming		1923-25	
Kuykendall House	380 High, Denver	5DV167	1924	Country Club HD
Neusteter Department Store	720-726 16 th St., Denver	5DV496	1924	National Register
Lion Hotel	1425-1433 Welton St., Denver	5DV1817	1924	
Wildo Building	1441 Welton St., Denver	5DV1826	1924	
Denver Country Club, Clubhouse (remodel)	First Ave. & University	5DV167	1925	Country Club HD
University of Colorado School of Medicine and Hospital	4200 E. 9 th Ave., Denver	5DV935	1925	
Weicker Warehouse	2100 E. Colfax, Denver	5DV716	1925	
Midland Savings Building	444 17 th St., Denver	5DV1733	1926	State Register
South High School	1700 E. Louisiana Ave., Denver	5DV2092	1926	
Presbyterian Hospital	Denver		1926	
B'nai B'rith Infirmary for National Jewish Hospital	Colorado Blvd. & E. Colfax Ave., Denver		1926	
Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society Max D. Neuster Rehabilitation Building	6401 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood	5JF178	1926	National Register
YWCA Building	1535 Tremont Pl., Denver	5DV505	1926	Demolished
Taussig House	1625 E. 3 rd , Denver	5DV167	1926	Country Club HD
Tower of Memories, Crown Hill Cemetery (with Charles A. Smith)	8500 W. 29 th Ave., Lakewood	5JF467	1926	National Register
Davis & Shaw Furniture Building	1434 Champa St., Denver	5DV843.1	1927	

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Ideal Building (addition & remodel)	821 17th St., Denver	5DV125	1927	National Register
Texas Pavilion for Women	6401 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood	5JF178	1927	National Register
Jewish Consumptives' Relief Power House.	6401 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood	5JF178	1927	National Register
Jewish Consumptives' Relief Security Building	650 17th St., Denver	5DV1729	1927	Demolished
St. Lukes Hospital	Boise, Idaho		1928	
Lawrence C. Phipps House	3400 Belcaro Dr., Denver	5DV168	1932	National Register
Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society TriBoro Dining Hall	6401 W. Colfax Ave., Lakewood	5JF178	1936	National Register
Arthur A. Fisher and Alan B. Fisher, Architects (1937-1956)				
New Railway Exchange Building	909 17th St., Denver	5DV525	1937	National Register
Colorado State Capitol Annex Building & Boiler Plant <small>(Associated Architects for the State Capitol Annex; Arthur A. Fisher member)</small>	1341 Sherman St., Denver	5DV3844	1939	National Register
Country Club Gardens Apartments	E. Ellsworth & S. Downing, Denver		1940	
Denver Public Library <small>(with Burnham Hoyt)</small>	10 W. 14 th Ave. Pkwy., Denver	5DV3520	1955	National Register
Fisher, Fisher and Davis (1956-1959)				
Colorado Department of Employment	251 E. 12th Ave., Denver	5DV4147	1956	
Undated Buildings				
International Trust Company Building	Denver			Demolished
University of Denver Stadium	Denver			Demolished
Greenlee Elementary School	1150 Lipan, Denver			
Chester Morey House	Denver			
John Evans House	Denver			
George B. Berger House	Denver			
Harold Kountze House	Denver			
A.C. Foster House	Denver			
George W. Gano House	Denver			
William B. Berger House	Denver			
Jarvis Johnson House	4150 Montview, Denver			
Hospital	Casper, WY			
Hospital	Sheridan, WY			

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Hospital	Cheyenne, WY			
Hospital	Thermopolis, WY			
Hospital	Pueblo			
Hospital	Colorado Springs			
Hospital	Greeley			
Hospital	Twin Falls, ID			
Katherine Mullen O'Connor House	Denver			
Donald N. Gilpin House	Broadmoor vicinity, Colorado Springs			
Church of the Ascension	Denver			

Information Sources

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

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