Biographical Information

Denver Architect George F. Harvey Jr. was born August 31, 1866, in Salem or Lawrence, Massachusetts, according to the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News obituaries dated January 5 and January 6, 1931. His father, George F. Harvey, was noted in the two obituaries as a Denver “pioneer contractor” who “built some of the first residences in East and South Denver.”

George Jr. apparently received his architectural education within an unknown Denver firm in the early 1890s. Considering the 1893 Silver Crash halted construction in Denver, employment must have tenuous; but it put him in a good position to work as an architect in the recovery beginning in 1897. Subsequently, he received his architectural registration, as his stamp on the 1911 construction documents for 1728/1732 Gilpin Street indicates he was State of Colorado Licensed Architect No. 53. At this time he maintained his office in the Commonwealth Building, located at 15th and Stout streets.

George F. Harvey Jr. continued to live at 308 South Alta with his wife, Mary A., and four children: George, James, Elizabeth, and one other daughter. He remained at the same address through the 1910 and 1920 census takings, where he was noted as an architect. The 1930 census indicated he was retired and a widower living at 308 South Alta with his daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Earl Muse.

Newspaper obituaries stated he was a “noted architect” and “widely known architect” who “drew plans for a large number of business buildings” in Denver. Unfortunately, none were identified and few have been identified since. However, in 1904 George F. Harvey Jr. was in partnership with William Cowe (1863-1930). According to Denver, A City Beautiful, together they designed primarily Foursquare style residences in Capitol Hill and Park Hill. With Cowe, George F. Harvey Jr. seems to have honed his skills in designing so-called “Denver Squares” typified by the construction of the 1728/1730 Gilpin Street duplex in 1911-12. Cowe and Harvey also designed the Mission Revival-style Hamilton apartment building at 1475 Humboldt Street in 1902 and the Colonial Revival-style Highland Christian Church at 2601 West 34th Avenue in 1903. Other buildings outside of Denver credited to George F. Harvey Jr. include the Arts and Crafts style Warshauer Mansion in Antonito and the Monte Vista Cemetery Chapel, both completed in 1912.

George F. Harvey’s obituaries indicated that during World War I, he donated his services for $1.00 to the U.S. Government to help design several large projects, including multiple hospitals. The Denver Post also stated he helped with planning the
“Muscle Shoals project.” Following the war, George F. Harvey “held an important position” with the federal government in Washington, D.C., until ill health forced his retirement and return to Denver in 1929. The nature of the projects with which he was involved suggests he worked for the Veterans Administration.

George F. Harvey Jr. died at home on Ogden Street on January 5, 1931, “after a long illness.” Services were held at home and he was interred in Crown Hill Cemetery.


Credited Buildings (partial list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Site No.</th>
<th>Date*</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton Apartments (with William Cowe)</td>
<td>1475 Humboldt Street, Denver</td>
<td>5DV.2658</td>
<td>1902 or 1908</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Christian Church (with William Cowe)</td>
<td>2601 W. 34th Avenue, Denver</td>
<td>5DV.85.25</td>
<td>1903</td>
<td>Within National Register Historic District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuella C. Walters Duplex</td>
<td>1728 &amp; 1730 Gilpin Street, Denver</td>
<td>5DV.2253</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>National Register pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warshauer Mansion</td>
<td>515 River Street, Antonito</td>
<td>5CN.69</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>National Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monte Vista Cemetery Chapel</td>
<td>4927 County Road 27, Monte Vista</td>
<td>5RN.646</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>State Register</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Information Sources


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


Revised: September 2009