

Architect: Strong, Charles D.
Birth/Death Dates: 1895 - 1974
Practice Dates: 1922 - 1974
Firms: Charles D. Strong, Architect

Biographical Information

Charles Dunwoody Strong was born in Columbus, Ohio, on May 9, 1895. He studied architecture at the Georgia School of Technology, graduating in 1917. After serving as a second lieutenant in the army in World War I, he worked for the Georgia State Highway Dept. for two years. His wife contracted tuberculosis, so for her health they moved to Denver in 1922. Strong initially worked as a draftsman for architect John J. Huddart, then for the firm of Harry W. J. Edbrooke from 1923-26. In 1927, Strong began his own architectural practice. His wife died in 1929, and as the Depression began, his business folded.

The Depression of the 1930s saw Strong develop as a community activist. In 1932, he helped organize the Unemployed Citizens' League, modeled on a similar organization in Seattle. The organization sought to relieve the distress of the unemployed and under-employed through cooperative production. Meetings were held in mortuaries because schools were closed in the summer and churches were reluctant to open their doors to the unusual, and in some eyes, questionable organization.



Membership surged. In 1932, Strong met with the governor, labor leaders, and veterans' groups to plan an "economic takeover" of the state upon the reelection of President Hoover. With the election of Franklin Roosevelt, the initiation of his New Deal programs, and the subsequent relief of some economic suffering, interest and membership in the League wavered.

Strong became the head of the Subsistence Homestead Survey of Colorado in 1933 and also served as Assistant Regional architect for the Resettlement Administration. He restarted his architectural firm again in 1935. The following year he designed the Thomas Carlyle on Denver's Sherman Street, the first in a series of adjacent apartment buildings. In 1937-8, he served on the Governor's Housing Committee.

In 1938, he married Margaret Mower Baldwin in Cheyenne and the couple moved to 1569 Eudora Street in Denver. They raised two children, James E. Strong and Marilyn Strong Worthington. Charles Strong was a life-long lover of literature and poetry.

In 1939, Strong won election to the Colorado House of Representatives. He served one active term, during which time he introduced legislation on wide-ranging topics, such as water conservation, slum clearance, building safety regulations, and the creation of a State housing authority.

At the end of his term of office, he returned full time to his architectural practice. He had a long and varied career as an architect, designing many Denver homes, office buildings, shopping centers, stores, theaters, and university buildings. Apartment buildings, however, became his specialty. He also designed student apartments at the University of Denver, faculty dormitories at Colorado State University, the University of Denver Student Union, and the Modernist 1957 Petroleum Club Building on 16th Street in downtown Denver. His work spanned almost fifty years and extended from southern Colorado (a Parochial School in Trinidad) north to Casper, Wyoming (Standard Oil Building) and east to Sidney, Nebraska (Fox Theater). Limiting his practice in later years, Strong engaged in architectural consulting up to the time of his death on December 2, 1974, at the age of 79.

Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Golinsky and Melnick Building	2201 Market Street Denver	5DV.3331	1925	Ball Park Local Historic District
Residence and garage	111 Eudora Denver		1935	
Residence and garage	1360 Forest Denver		1935	
Warehouse and office	2150 Market Street Denver		1935	
Factory and office	200 Santa Fe Drive Denver		1935	
Parkview Apartments	1660-74 Monroe St., Denver		1935	
Thomas Caryle Apartments	1010 Sherman St. Denver		1936	Sherman St. NR Hist. Dist.
Parkview Court	1660-74 Monroe St., Denver		c. 1936	
Washington Irving Apartments	1029 Pennsylvania, Denver		c. 1936	
Robert Browning Apartments	1000 Sherman St. Denver		1937	Sherman St. NR Hist. Dist.
Mark Twain Apartments	1035 Sherman St. Denver		1937	Sherman St. NR Hist. Dist.
Nathaniel Hawthorn Apartments	1045 Sherman St. Denver		1938	Sherman St. NR Hist. Dist.
Eugene Field Apartments	1055 Sherman St. Denver		1939	Sherman St. NR Hist. Dist.

Bahama Apartments	1160 Sherman St. Denver		1941	Sherman St. NR Hist. Dist.
Jamacia Apartments	1180 Sherman St. Denver		1941	Sherman St. NR Hist. Dist.
Panama Apartments	1075 Sherman St. Denver		1942	Denver Local Historic District
Fox Theater	9900 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora		c.1949	Theater, Local Landmark
Three Sisters Appeal Store and Walgreens Drugstore	801-813 16 th St. Denver		1949	Drugstore
Central Business College Girls' Dormitory	1177 Grant St. Denver		1949	Commercial offices
University of Denver Student Union	Denver		1949-50	
University of Denver Student Apartments (7)	Denver		1949-50	
Palmer Park Gardens	1304 E. San Miguel Colorado Springs		1949-50	Apartments
Mayfair Shopping Center	13 th & Krameria St. Denver		c. 1950	Shopping center
Lake Shore Drive-In	Edgewater		1951	Demolished
Unnamed apartment	635 Washington St. Denver		1951	
Rozell Apartments	1135 Grant St. Denver		1951	Apartments
Fox Theater	Sidney, NE		1951	
Petroleum Club Building	110 16 th Street Denver	5DV.1880	1954-57	Office Building
Denver Wax Museum (rehabilitation)	919 Bannock St. Denver		1964	
Writers Center III	1780 S. Bellaire St. Denver		1969	Demolished
American Beauty Macaroni Co. Factory	4500 Lipan St. Denver			
Cherry Street Apartments	831 Cherry St. Denver			
Cambridge Apartments	1560 Sherman			Apartments
Three-story apartment for Dr. L. Glenn Cody	Denver			
Belcaro Park Gardens	E. Exposition and E. Kentucky on S. Harrison Lane, Denver			
Bean Apartments	21 st and Franklin St., Denver			
Parkaire Apartments	1310 Franklin St. Denver			

University of Denver Fieldhouse	Denver			
Community Hall at Buchtel Village Veterans' Housing, University of Denver	Denver			
Center Theater	16 th and Cleveland St., Denver			Demolished
Eaton Apartments	301 _____ Denver ?			
Hangar, Lowry Army Air Force Base	Denver			
Bachelor Officers' Quarters (3), Lowry Army Air Force Base	Denver			
X-Ray Laboratory, Rocky Mountain Arsenal	Denver			
KLZ Radio Station				
Wolhurst Country Club				
Standard Oil Building (4-story)	Casper, WY			
University of Denver, Stadium lighting	Denver			
Faculty Dorms (2), Colorado State University	Fort Collins			
Seifert Pontiac-Cadillac	6200 E. Colfax Ave. (?), Denver			
Westwood Homes Denver Housing Authority	Denver			
Audubon Gardens Apartments	1921 E. Van Buren, Colorado Springs			Apartments
Colorado Theater	Greeley			
Midwest Theater	Scotts Bluff, NE			
G.E. Warehouse	Denver			
C.F.&I. Warehouse & Office	Denver			
Parochial School	Trinidad			
Flint Ink Co.	Denver			
La Rosita Court	485 S. Logan St. Denver			
Park Washington Apartments	669 Washington St., Denver			Condominiums
Golden Theater (remodel)	Golden			Retail
Teller House rehabilitation	Central City			

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

Information Sources

Dorward, Rebecca C. "Sherman Street Historic District," National Register of Historic Places registration form, February 20, 2004.

Labode, Modupe. "Unemployed Citizens' League of Denver," *Colorado History Now*, July 2002, p.3.

Rocky Mountain Contractor

May 8, 1935.

July 10, 1935.

July 24, 1935.

November 27, 1935.

December 11, 1935.

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

"Strong, Charles D.," Colorado Architects File, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Revised: August 16, 2006