

Architect: Simon, Walter H.
Birth/Death Dates: 1892-1986
Practice Dates: 1915-1965 (Denver: 1925-1976)
Firms: Walter H. Simon Architect
Simon and Hipp

Biographical Information

Walter H. Simon was born in Quincy, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Illinois School of Architecture in 1915 and first practiced in Eldorado, Kansas. He married Clara Johanna Loos in 1916 and the couple moved to Denver by the early 1920s. Simon worked as a draftsman in 1922 at the architectural firm of William E. Fisher and Arthur A. Fisher. By 1925, he established his own firm. Simon maintained a sole proprietorship for the majority of his practice. In the 1960s he entered into a brief partnership with John B. Hipp.

One of Simon's first major projects was the 1925 design of the Pencol Apartments. Several other apartment commissions followed, including the Aromor Apartment Hotel, the 1928 Casa Grande Apartments, and the 1931 Leetonia Building. Simon is credited with establishing, designing, and constructing the Geneva Glen Camp, a children's summer camp west of Denver. Among Simon's other notable designs are the Stanley Arms (National Register); the Art Deco style Fort Morgan Municipal Fire and Police Building; the Rio Grande County Courthouse; Del Norte Grade School; and the Mission Revival style Ertel Funeral Home in Cortez (National Register).

Simon served on the Colorado State Architect Board of Examiners and was national president of the Society of American Registered Architects. He was active in the Denver Lions Club, the Masons and the Shriners. The Simons were members of Park Hill United Methodist Church, for whom he designed a major addition in 1956.

Simon retired in 1976. He died of pneumonia on December 30, 1986, at the age of 94. He and his wife were interred at Denver's Fairmount Cemetery.

Partial List of Credited Buildings

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Pencol Apartment Building	504-518 E. Colfax Ave., Denver		1925	Apartments/retail
Aromor Apartments	1309 Grant St., Denver	5DV3269	1928	Apartments
Casa Grande Apartments	1009 Grant St. Denver		1928	Local Landmark District – offices
Leetonia Building	1515 Vine St. Denver		1931	Local Landmark District - retail and apartments

**COLORADO ARCHITECTS
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Unnamed store	1035-1043 E. 17 th Ave., Denver		Ca. 1933	Unknown
School, Grand Valley Dist. 29	5 miles south of Rocky Ford		Ca. 1933	Unknown
School remodel	Simla		Ca. 1933	Vacant
KOA Radio Station (remodel of 1924 building)	18500 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora	5AH314	Ca. 1934	CDOT office
Residence	2128 E. 4 th Ave., Denver		Ca. 1934	Unknown
Residence	6435 17 th Ave. Parkway, Denver		Ca. 1934	Unknown
Residence and garage	4343 Montview, Denver		Ca. 1934	Unknown
NBC studios and offices	Btwn. 16 th and 17 th on California St., Denver		Ca. 1934	Unknown
Utopia Flats (alterations to 1902 building)	420-440 E. Colfax Ave., Denver		1935	Retail
Apartment building	935 Colorado Blvd., Denver		Ca. 1935	Unknown
Apartment building	South Logan and Virginia, Denver		Ca. 1935	Unknown
Apartment building	485 S. Logan, Denver		Ca. 1935	Unknown
Store	E. Colfax and Gaylord, Denver		Ca. 1935	Unknown
Ertel Funeral Home	42 N. Market, Cortez	5MT6925	1936	National Register
High school building	LaPorte		Ca. 1936	Unknown
Four-unit apartment, Pig'n Whistle Village	W. Colfax and Wolfe St., Denver		Ca. 1936	Vacant
Fort Morgan Fire and Police Building	116 Main St., Fort Morgan	5MR458	1937	Fire and Police Bldg.
Stanley Arms	1321 E. 10 th Ave., Denver	5DV5743	1937	National Register - apartments
Rio Grande County Courthouse	16 th and Cherry St., Del Norte	5RN706	1939, completed 1954	County courthouse
Del Norte Grade School	Oak St., Del Norte		1942	School
Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad Depot	1 Depot Street, Helper, Utah		Ca. 1943	Depot
Park Hill United Methodist Church (addition)	5209 Montview Blvd., Denver	5DV9152	1956	State Register

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

Information Sources

Ertel, Kennan and Beverlee Ertel, "Ertel Funeral Home," National Register of Historic Places registration form, May 30, 1995.

Hernandez, Nicole. "Park Hill United Methodist Church," Colorado State Register of Historic Properties Nomination, February 11, 2004. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Lacy, Margaret. "Stanley Arms" National Register of Historic Places registration form, August 28, 1998.

Rocky Mountain Contractor, 1933 through 1935.

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

Thompson, Patrick. Email communication, January 9, 2020.

Widman, Nancy. "Utopia Flats," Historic Preservation Certification Application, May 28, 2004. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

Revised: November 30, 2020