



**Architect:** Morse, Stanley Y.  
**Birth/Death Dates:** 1906 –1968  
**Practice Dates:** 1933 - 1968  
**Firms:** Fisher and Fisher  
Stanley E. Morse Architect  
Morse, Dion and Champion Architects and Planners

Research compiled by Quinn Strommer, UCD Student, 2022

### **Biographical Information**

Stanley Morse was born July 14th, 1906, in Mancos, Colorado. He was the son of Wilton L. Morse, an architect and carpenter, and Hattie B. Morse. In 1929 he earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from Kansas State University. In his freshman year, and again in his senior year, he received the American Institute of Architects medal for excellence.

After graduation, Morse's first work would be as a draftsman and commercial designer at Fisher and Fisher, he would work with them on and off from 1929-1935. He provided renderings for several sites at the University of Denver, including the Mary Reed Library, the biological sciences building, the Margery Reed Social Sciences building, and the gymnasium. He also did design detailing and supervision for the Ship Tavern and Casanova Room at the Brown Palace Hotel. In between projects at Fisher and Fisher he worked for the Public Works Administration as a supervisor at Mesa Verde. He oversaw the mapping and photographing of the cliff dwellings known as Far View House and Cliff Palace.

In 1933, Morse would earn his license, and establish his own firm named Stanley E. Morse, A.I.A, Architect. He would also earn his license in Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico. In 1934 he met Burnham Hoyt, who would become one of Morse's closer professional connections. Their first project was remodeling the interior of the Park Lane Hotel in Denver, which lasted from 1934 to 1935. In 1935 the last of his work under Fisher and Fisher would conclude.

The next year, 1936, would see him begin on one of his most notable projects, working with Burnham Hoyt to construct Red Rocks Theatre in Morrison, Colorado. His job on the project was as the architect leading surveys and creating working drawings of the site. This would last until 1939. Later in his career he would return to Red Rocks to work on alterations to the stage area as well as designing a number of other utility structures (1957, 1959-1960).

After his initial work on Red Rocks in 1939, he would go to work for several military contractors until 1944, where he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the navy where he would serve in the South Pacific. In 1943 he married Martha Patterson in Portland, Oregon. He took a while after the war to stay in Portland and work with Pietro Belluschi, a fellow architect on designs for a housing project in Tacoma, Washington.

It wasn't until 1947 that he returned to Denver and reestablished his practice. His first designs would involve five firehouses in Denver (1948-1960), and Pueblo Central Fire House in 1948. For the next decade he was the principle architect of Bears Stadium, home of the AAA baseball team the Denver Bears. While working on Bears Stadium, he would work extensively to design a number public schools and school additions throughout the state, from the early 1950s to the 1960s. In 1962 he built Whatley Chapel for the Colorado Women's College. The project broke ground in January of 1961, and by August the school was outfitting the associated tower with 30 bronze bells made in the Netherlands and donated to the institution by Mrs. Virginia Hill. The stained glass on each wall was designed by Gabriel Loire and made in Chartres, France. Lindsay Amphitheater to the south of the chapel was a monument to George Lindsay, with a seating capacity of 1,200. The freestanding carillon tower to the immediate east of the building was dedicated in October of 1961 in honor of George W. Olinger, local mortician, and the Chapel itself was dedicated in April of 1962. Throughout the early 1960s Morse built



several buildings at the Colorado Women's College, including the chapel and tower as well as Dutton and Dunklee Halls.

In 1963 he would enter a partnership with Joseph G. Dion and William J. Champion, and rename his firm to Morse, Dion and Champion, Architects and Planners. In 1967 they began work on the Houston Center of Fine Arts for the Colorado Women's College, where Morse would die after tragically falling off the building's roof during an inspection on January 13th, 1968.

### Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Ries House (with Henry Eggers)	737 Franklin Street, Denver		1935	
Red Rocks Theatre	Morrison	5JF.442	1941	National Historic Landmark
Mancos Elementary School	395 West Grand Avenue, Mancos	5MT.11432	1948	
Bears Stadium	2755 West 17 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Denver		1948	Demolished
Denver Fire Station 6	1300 Blake St, Denver		1950	
Denver Fire Station 24	2695 S. Colorado Blvd, Denver		1952	
Livermore Elementary	360 Red Feather Lakes Rd, Livermore		1953	
Nucla High School	225 W 4th Ave., Nucla		1955	
Olathe High School	410 Highway 50, Olathe		1955	Radically altered
Mapleton High School	6400 North Washington St., Denver		1956	Demolished
Office Space	835 Delaware St, Denver		1958	
Johnson Elementary	1850 S Irving Street, Denver		1960	
United Church of Broomfield	825 Kohl St, Broomfield		1961	Major addition
Wilmot Elementary School	5124 S Hatch Dr, Evergreen		1962	
Whatley Chapel	Colorado Women's College Campus (former)		1962	
Dutton Hall and Dunklee Hall	Colorado Women's College Campus (former)		1963-1964	Contributing: Colorado Women's College NR District
Houston Fine Arts Center	Colorado Women's College Campus (former)		1968	
Deviny Elementary	1725 South Wright Street, Lakewood		1964	



Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Steamboat Springs High School	45 Maple St, Steamboat Springs		1964	
Everitt Middle School	3900 Kipling St, Wheat Ridge		1966	
Dunstan Middle School	1855 South Wright Street, Lakewood		1967	
Houston Center of Fine Arts	7111 Montview Blvd, Denver		1968 (completed after Morse's death)	
Goddard Middle School	3800 W. Berry Ave, Littleton		1968 (completed after Morse's death)	

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

### Information Sources

Colorado's Mid-Century Modern Schools, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 2016

[https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/MPDF\\_MidCSchools.pdf](https://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/media/document/2017/MPDF_MidCSchools.pdf)

Colorado Women's College Historic District/Treat Hall Expansion National Register Nomination. Miniello Consultants, 2022.

Local Landmark Designation List, City of Boulder.

Noel, Thomas J. *Buildings of Colorado*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Noel, Thomas J. and Barbara S. Norgren. *Denver: the City Beautiful and its Architects, 1893-1941*. Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1987.

Palmer, Joan and Ilene Bergsman, "Architects of Colorado: Database of State Business Directory Listings, 1875-1950." Denver: Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 2006.

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

Stanley E. Morse architectural records, WH889, Western History Collection, The Denver Public Library.

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