



Architect: Read, Margaret
Birth/Death Dates: 1892-1982
Practice Dates: 1920s-1960s
Firms: Glen H. Huntington
 Huntington, Jones & Hunter
 Jones & Hunter
 James M. Hunter & Associates



Research compiled by Roman Smith, UCD Student, 2022.

Biographical Information

Margaret Read was born in Iowa in 1892, she moved to Boulder in 1910 with her parents. They moved to the city for its educational advantages. Read attended the University of Colorado, University of California School of Architecture where she was one of five women in the class. She later did graduate work at Columbia University. John Galen Howard was head of Berkeley’s architecture department while Read attended there. He was a big supporter of women in architecture and worked with Julia Morgan for a time. After receiving her degree in architecture, Read taught engineering drawing at the University of Colorado in Boulder and architecture in Los Angeles.

Margaret Read was Boulder’s first female architect. Over the course of her career she worked as an associate for prominent Boulder architect Glen H. Huntington and had a hand in many of his most notable works, designed several major projects around the city on her own. In the 1930s Read was part of the Boulder parks and planning board. In the early 1940s, she became an architectural inspector for the Federal Housing Administration. According to the *Boulder Daily Camera*, Read designed many homes, sorority, and fraternity houses in the University Hill neighborhood of Boulder. Besides Boulder, where much of her work took place, she is also associated with projects in Aspen, as well as in Florida and California.

Read’s residence at 730 14th Street was one of the first buildings in Boulder to have insulated walls and ceilings, as well as colored bathroom fixtures. The 1928 Mediterranean style house features white stucco walls, red tile roof, and wrought iron grilles.

During WWII she taught drafting to women and was the senior draftsman at Lowry Field in Denver. Read was still working part-time for the University, in the early 1960s, mostly doing straight drafting jobs. She died in 1982 and was buried in Green Mountain cemetery.

Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Macky Auditorium Seating Plan	University of Colorado, Boulder		1920	
Pi Beta Phi Sorority	890 11 th Street, Boulder		1927	
Platt’s Residence	750 11 th Street, Boulder		1927	
Trinity Lutheran Church	2200 Broadway, Boulder	5BL.1137	1929	Boulder Local Landmark



Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Margaret Read Residence	730 14 th Street Street, Boulder	5BL.3218	1928	
Boulder Day Nursery (with Glen Huntington)	1518 Spruce Street, Boulder	5BL.240.87	1930	
Alpha Omicron Pi	1015 15 th Street, Boulder		1930	
Pi Kappa Alpha	914 Broadway, Boulder		1931	
Boulder County Courthouse (with Glen Huntington)	1325 Pearl Street, Boulder	5BL.1553	1933	National Register
Balch Fieldhouse	University of Colorado, Boulder		1933-39	
Chemistry Building	University of Colorado, Boulder			

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

Information Sources

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Carnegie Library for Local History. Hunter and Colleagues Photographs, 1952. Boulder, 1952.

Carnegie Library for Local History. 740 13th Street Historic Building Inventory Records. Boulder, 1991.

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"Margaret Read was first female architect in Boulder," Boulder Daily Camera, March 25, 2012

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.

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Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Originally published in 1970. Detroit: Omnigraphics, 1966.

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