

**Architect:** Biscoe, Maurice B.

**Birth/Death Dates:** 18??-1953

**Practice Dates:** ????-1953 (Colorado: 1905-1920; 1921-1924)

**Firms:** Gordon, Tracy & Swarthwout (New York)

Maurice Biscoe, Architect (1906-1907; 1912-1919)

Biscoe and Hewitt (1908-1911)

Andrews, Rantoul & James (1920-1924, Boston)

Andrews, Jones, Biscoe & James (1924-1953, Boston)

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## Biographical Information

Maurice B. Biscoe moved to Denver from New York in 1905 to supervise the construction of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral for the New York architectural firm of Gordon, Tracy & Swarthwout. Biscoe enjoyed immediate acceptance within the artistic and social circles of Denver. He helped organized the Denver Cactus Club, a male society with literary and artistic interests, and served as its president for the first three years. Biscoe also became the second president of the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He worked alone and in partnership with Henry Harwood Hewitt during his decade-and-a-half in Denver.

Rutherford Witthus described Biscoe's work as exemplifying "some of the best elements of the design philosophy propounded by the Beaux-Arts Institute. His attention to detail, his thorough knowledge of historical styles, his awareness of the special needs of his clients, and his sense of beauty in architecture were the special aptitudes which brought him clients who demanded exacting architectural services."

While working in solo practice, Biscoe designed many Denver residences for fellow members of the Cactus Club. He designed the Dickinson Branch Library, one of Denver's eight Carnegie-funded branch libraries. Biscoe designed several college buildings, including Bemis and Cossitt Halls for Colorado College and the Physics Building on the campus of Colorado A&M in Fort Collins. In partnership with Hewitt, he designed the multi-building campus of Clayton School for Boys in Denver. Biscoe was also responsible for the Myron Stratton Home for children and the elderly in Colorado Springs

Biscoe relocated his practice to Colorado Springs in 1917 and then returned to Boston in 1920 to join the firm of Andrews, Rantoul & James. A partnership between the Boston organization and the Denver architectural firm of Fisher & Fisher brought Biscoe back to Denver in 1921 for the design and construction of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Hospital. He returned to Boston after the completion of the project where he remained in active practice until his death in 1953.

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**Credited Buildings**

<b>Building Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Site No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral (supervising architect)	1313 Clarkson St. Denver	5DV171	1905-11	National Register
Bushee House	1207 Aurora Ave. Boulder	5BL3379	1906	
Biscoe House	320 Humboldt St. Denver		1908	
Bemis Hall, Colorado College	920 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP3954	1908	National Register
Brecht Candy Company (Biscoe & Hewitt)	1333 Wazee St. Denver	5DV482	1909	Local District
Wood-Morris-Bonfils House (Biscoe & Hewitt)	707 Washington St. Denver	5DV179	1909-11	National Register
Clayton School for Boys (10 buildings with Hewitt)	3607 Martin Luther King Dr., Denver	5DV310	1909-11	
Livermore House	901 Race St., Denver		c. 1910	
Banister House	849 Race St., Denver		c. 1910	
Kassler-Dunklee House (Biscoe & Hewitt)	727 Washington St. Denver	5DV2115	c. 1910	
Ringold House (Biscoe & Hewitt)	100 Humboldt St. Denver		1910	NR District
Egelston House	121 Lafayette St. Denver		1913	NR District
Myron Stratton Home	Colorado Springs	5EP453	1913	
Porter House	975 Grant St., Denver	5DV946	1913	Local Landmark
Cossitt Memorial Hall Colorado College	906 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs	5EP3955	1914	National Register
Dickinson Branch Library	1545 Hooker St. Denver	5DV8164	1914	NR/SR pending
Quine House	140 High St. Denver		c. 1914	NR District
McGugan House	1640 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Denver		1916	NR District
Kistler-Sinsheimer House	190 High St. Denver		1917	NR District
Physics Building, Colorado A&M	Building #66 CSU campus Fort Collins	5LR2080	1919	

**COLORADO ARCHITECTS  
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

University of Colorado School of Medicine and Hospital (with Fisher & Fisher)	4200 E. 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Denver	5DV935	1921-24	
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**Information Sources**

Massey, Drew and Tracy Lee Hartmann. Dickinson Branch Library, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, August 29, 2001. Collection of the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

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

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

State Business Directories, 1905-1920

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