

**Architect:** Barber, Thomas P.  
**Birth/Death Dates:** 1862 – 1932  
**Practice Dates:** c. 1888 – c. 1930  
**Firms:** Pease and Barber (1888-1897)  
 Barber and Hastings (1898)  
 Thomas P. Barber (1899-1901)  
 Thomas P. Barber and Brother (1902-1911)  
 Thomas P. Barber (1912-1927)

## Biographical Information

Thomas P. Barber was born in England and came to the United States as a boy. His family first settled in Illinois and then moved to Colorado Springs, where Thomas received his education. By the late 1880s, he practiced architecture in the city in affiliation with L.A. Pease. St. Mary's Catholic Church (listed in the National Register of Historic Places), erected in Colorado Springs during 1889-1902, was designed by Pease & Barber. They were also supervising architects for the First Baptist Church (1890). With Frederick R. Hastings, Barber worked on such buildings as the Alamo Hotel (1890), the redesign of the El Paso Club (1891), and the National Register-listed DeGraff Building (1897). In 1900 Barber worked alone, but by 1902 his younger brother, William, joined him in a partnership (Thomas P. Barber and Brother), resulting in the design of buildings in Colorado Springs and around the state. The firm specialized in church architecture, producing religious buildings in Denver, Longmont, Montrose, Palisade and Trinidad. Colorado Springs designs included several buildings on the campus of the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, a store building for Hibbard & Company (1914), and the Acacia Park Bandstand (1914). The firm also planned several school buildings in Boulder and Greeley. Thomas Barber collaborated with other architects on public buildings, most notably the National Register-listed Colorado Springs City Hall with Thomas MacLaren in 1904.

By 1920, Thomas Barber worked alone once more. He designed Argo Hall at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind in 1923. The Ida Rice House, for which Barber completed drawings in June 1927, is his last documented work in Colorado Springs. Barber moved to Los Angeles, becoming well known as an ecclesiastical architect. Among his most important designs was the Hollywood Methodist Church, on which construction began in 1927. He also planned churches in Pasadena and Ventura. Barber died in Glendale, Arizona, on December 27, 1932.

*From R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons. "Ida M. Rice House," National Register of Historic Places registration form, May 26, 2006.*

## Credited Buildings (partial list)

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date*	Status
Unnamed house	315 N. Weber Colorado Springs		1889	
First Baptist Church (Pease and Barber supervising architects)	Colorado Springs		1890	

El Paso Club (redesign with Frederick Hastings)	Colorado Springs		1891	
Unnamed house (Barber and Hastings)	615 N. Corona Colorado Springs		1891	
DeGraff Building (Barber and Hastings)	116-118 N. Tejon Colorado Springs	5EP.608	1897	National Register
St. Vrain Court Apartments	Colorado Springs		1900	
St. Mary's Catholic Church (with James Murdoch and L.A. Pease)	26 W. Kiowa Colorado Springs	5EP.208	1902	National Register
Colorado Springs City Hall (with Thomas MacLaren)	Colorado Springs	5EP.652	1904	National Register
Administration Building Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	33 Institute St. Colorado Springs	5EP.822	1906	Extant
Industrial Building Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	33 Institute St. Colorado Springs	5EP.824	1907	Extant
Methodist Episcopal Church	365 Main St. Palisade	5ME.2470	1907	Extant
Morgan County Courthouse	Fort Morgan		1907	Demolished
University Memorial Chapel	Denver		1910	
First Methodist Episcopal Church	216 Broom St. Trinidad	5LA.10365	1911	National Register
Cameron United Methodist Church	1600 Pearl St. Denver	5DV.825	1913	Extant
Hibbard & Company Department Store (Barber and Brother)	Colorado Springs	5EP.729	1914	Extant
Arcadia Park Bandstand	Colorado Springs	5EP.625	1914	Extant
Hidden Inn, Garden of the Gods Park	Colorado Springs	5EP.365.1	1915	Demolished in 1998
Palmer Hall Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	33 Institute St. Colorado Springs	5EP.827	1918	Extant
Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose (construction began in 1909)	19 S. Park Ave. Montrose	5MN.4493	1920	National Register
Argo Hall, Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	33 Institute St. Colorado Springs	5EP.823	1923	Extant
Ida Rice House	1196 N. Cascade Colorado Springs	5EP.5098	1927	National Register pending
Hollywood Methodist Church	6817 Franklin Ave. Hollywood, CA		1927	Extant

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

## Information Sources

“Architects of Colorado: Database of State Business Directory Listings, 1875-1927,” Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, August 7, 2006.

Front Range Research Associates. *Selected Colorado Springs Architects and Builders of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*. August 2004.

*Rocky Mountain Contractor*, January 11, 1933, p.6.

Simmons, R. Laurie and Thomas H. Simmons. “Ida M. Rice House,” National Register of Historic Places registration form, May 26, 2006.

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

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Facsimile of 1956 original publication. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

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Cameron United Methodist Church ca. 1950