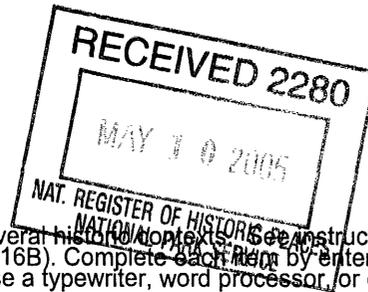


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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form



This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic properties. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each section by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

The Architecture of Jules Jacques Benois Benedict in Colorado

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

The Architecture of Jules Jacques Benois Benedict in Colorado, 1909-1942

C. Form Prepared by

name/title R.Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, Historians (17 March 2005)

organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc., for Historic Denver, Inc.

street & number 3635 W. 46th Ave. telephone 303-477-7597

city or town Denver state Colorado zip code 80211

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Heverquinia Cortez State Historic Preservation Officer 2/21/05
Signature and title of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Edson H. Beall 6.20.05
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheet in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

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Primary location of additional data:

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The Architecture of Jules Jacques Benois Benedict in Colorado, 1909-1942

Benedict's Life and Education



**Jules Jacques Benois Benedict
(1879-1948).**

Jules Jacques Benois Benedict, described as “one of the most flamboyant personalities in Denver’s architectural history” and its greatest master of the Beaux Arts style, was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 22 April 1879. The outline of events in the architect’s early life is somewhat unclear, as differing versions of his story were recorded over time. Bernard M. Benedict, his father, was a native of Vienna, Austria, who moved to the United States in 1867, became a naturalized citizen, and grew to manhood in Chicago. He reportedly established a successful career in real estate, although the 1900 U.S. Census listed him as a salesman in a clothing store. Census records indicate that the architect’s mother, Martha Horn Benedict, was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1856. She identified herself as a “landlady” in 1900. At that date the household included a black servant who worked as a “butler.”¹

J.J.B. Benedict was the elder of the couple’s two sons; his brother, Herbert, was born in 1883. The boys attended public schools in Chicago and reportedly had a comfortable home life. Benedict later described himself as a “bad boy” with “an overwrought nervous system.” At the age of nine, he traveled with his mother and brother on an extended tour of Europe, where he attended classes in Switzerland and Germany. His subsequent college education included courses at the Boston School of Technology and Chicago Art Institute.²

By age twenty, Benedict was pursuing a career as an architect, having entered the employ of the large and successful Chicago firm of Frost & Granger in 1899.³ His employers, Charles Sumner Frost (1856-1931) and Alfred H. Granger (1867-1939), who had established their partnership the previous year, were among the city’s finest architects. Charles Frost had

¹ U.S. Census, 1900; Artha Paca Frickel, “Jules Jacques Benois Benedict,” in Thomas J. Noel and Barbara S. Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful and Its Architects* (Denver: Historic Denver, 1987), 188; Wilbur Fiske Stone, *History of Colorado*, v. III, (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1918), 535-36; Robert McPhee, “Jacques Benois Benedict: A Leading Denver Architect of the Twenties,” March 1984, manuscript in the files of Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department.

² Benedict apparently preferred “Jacques” to “Jules,” but used “Jules B. Benedict” and “J.B. Benedict” in articles appearing in journals. Dan W. Corson, “Architect J.J.B. Benedict and His Magnificent Buildings,” *Colorado Heritage* (Summer 1997): 17; Stone, *History of Colorado*, v. III, 535.

³ Benedict’s occupation was identified as “architect” in the 1900 U.S. Census.

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trained at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and worked in the Boston office of Peabody & Stearns before moving to Chicago and forming an earlier partnership with Henry Ives Cobb. Frost was considered an expert in the field of construction methods and an architect of national reputation. Granger also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He had worked in the Boston office of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge before being assigned to supervise the construction of the Chicago Art Museum and the Public Library. Frost and Granger, who were brothers-in-law through marriage to daughters of the president of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, specialized in the design of large railroad terminals in the Midwest, as well as working on a variety of other important buildings.⁴

During 1902-06 Benedict studied architecture in Paris, where he attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, considered the most prestigious architectural school in the world. Aspiring students were required to pass a rigorous entrance examination, study prescribed subjects, and participate in increasingly difficult competitions. The school emphasized training in classical theory and design rather than actual construction. Students were encouraged to gain knowledge of historic architecture and to develop their own original ideas. Experience after certification was expected to provide necessary practical skills. Despite the demanding classes, Benedict reported that he enjoyed "the gay life of the boulevardier" and achieved distinction during his stay for being the only student with a personal valet. More seriously, he judged that he received "thorough training as an architect and designer" and was taught by some of the most prominent architects of Europe. Benedict studied in Paris during the peak years of the Ecole's influence, 1897-1921. The October 1900 *Architectural Record* paid homage to the Ecole for the "immense services it had rendered to modern architecture" in training architects and "in the holding up of sound principles and generally wise and safe standards of taste The movement means that our architects of the future will apply to the art in this country, the same logical reasoning, and that they will have the same careful preparation for the work that helps the Frenchmen to lead the world in fine arts."⁵

After leaving the Paris school, Benedict returned to the United States and established a residence in New York City. There he began to work for the distinguished architectural firm of Carrere & Hastings in 1906. John M. Carrere (1858-1911) and Thomas Hastings (1860-1929) also had attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, and both subsequently worked for the illustrious firm of McKim, Mead & White. They soon decided to establish their own office and benefited from the social connections of Hastings, which provided the partners with many well-to-do

⁴ Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970; republished Detroit: Omnigraphics, 1996), 224 and 247.

⁵ Benedict is listed as one of the "architects eleves" of the school in 1905. Stone, *History of Colorado*, v. 3 (1918), 535; Corson, "Architect J.J.B. Benedict," 17; *Rocky Mountain News*, 16 April 1943; David de Penanrun, *Les Architects Eleves de L'ecole des Beaux-Arts, 1793-1907*. 2nd ed. (Paris: Librairie de la construction moderne, 1907), 52; James P. Noffsinger, *The Influence of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts on the Architects of the United States* (Washington: Catholic University of American Press, 1911), 50-51.

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clients. One of the firm's specialties was the design of large residences and country homes for wealthy clients, a staple for many successful architects of the pre-income tax period. Carrere & Hastings had a vigorous practice, working on hotels, churches, theaters, government and college buildings, for which they received many awards. The firm completed such prestigious projects as the design of the House and Senate Office Buildings in Washington, the Manhattan Bridge, and the New York Central Public Library, a French Renaissance building which took twelve years to complete and was considered their most outstanding achievement. Jacques Benedict reportedly supervised construction of the library for the firm.⁶

In 1909, apparently desiring to pursue what he felt were promising opportunities in the developing West, Benedict opened his own architectural office in Denver, becoming the first graduate of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts to work in the city. His son-in-law, Robert McPhee, noted that Benedict combined the skills of talented design and articulate communication, ensuring that his practice flourished almost immediately. The architect's training in Paris had prepared him to teach others and to expect high quality work using only the finest materials. Benedict's high expectations and strong opinions soon earned him the reputation of being difficult to deal with. Those who employed the architect faced a test of wills if they sought to change his plans. A. Reynolds Morse observed that Benedict often overruled the wishes of his clients in design matters. In addition, the craftsmen who worked to make Benedict's plans a reality were held to exacting standards. Grandson Mike McPhee judged, "Benedict's designs could be extraordinarily difficult to build, and Benedict could be extraordinarily difficult in his demand for attention to detail."⁷

The *Rocky Mountain News* reported that when he first came to Denver the architect had a disagreement with a plumber over a business matter. Ever the gentleman, Benedict invited the plumber to settle the argument with fisticuffs at the Denver Athletic Club. Following the fight, the two men entered the club's Turkish bath, where they developed "a lasting friendship." The most respected local companies participated in projects designed by Benedict, including F.J. Kirchof Construction, Hallack & Howard (lumber and woodworking), Denver Pressed Brick Co., the Denver North West Terra Cotta Co., Sechrist Manufacturing Co. (lighting fixtures), Tritch Hardware Co., Stephen J. Slattery (plumbing and heating), and Carstens & Timm (interior design and painting). Much of the stone used for exterior walls on his projects was acquired from the S.T. Hathaway quarry in Del Norte.⁸

⁶ An index to New York City building permits for the 1900 through 1986 period does not list any designs credited to Benedict. Office for Metropolitan History, New York City Building Permits Database, 1900-1986, website, www.metrohistory.com, November 2004; Withey and Withey, 269-71; "Architects of the Payne Estate," ecommerce.marist.edu, 7 October 2004; "The Work of Messrs. Carrere & Hastings," *Architectural Record*, 27(January 1910).

⁷ A. Reynolds Morse, "J.J.B. Benedict," Manuscript in the Files of Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department; Mike McPhee, "Architecture Extraordinaire," *Colorado Expression* (Winter 1998); Thomas J. Noel, *Denver Landmarks* (Niwoot, Colo.: University Press of Colorado, 1996).

⁸ Frank Kirchof's company appears repeatedly in building permits and other sources as general contractor for

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Architect G. Meredith Musick recalled Benedict's appearance: "He was a short, rather handsome, swarthy man with a small, neatly-trimmed mustache." John K. Monroe, Jr., whose father was associated with Benedict for eighteen years, characterized Benedict as a very talented, very temperamental, very handsome "society architect." Benedict's manner led many, including Musick, to believe that he had been born and educated in Europe, and his social graces earned him acceptance in Denver society. On 20 February 1912 Benedict married the wealthy June Louise Brown, whose father, Junius F. Brown, was a prominent Denver merchant, cattleman, and railroad developer. Educated in Denver and abroad, June Benedict was described as "prominent throughout her lifetime in Denver social, club and philanthropic circles." Talented in her own right, she identified herself as an author and poet, and one of her poems graced the inside cover of her husband's 1925 architectural portfolio. The couple had two children: a son, Peter, and a daughter, Ursula. Jacques Benedict interrupted his comfortable home life during World War I for military service.⁹

The Benedicts acquired part of the historic Gallup Ranch on the outskirts of Littleton and created a small farm they named "Wyldemere."¹⁰ The property featured an existing Dutch Colonial style brick residence which Benedict redesigned and significantly expanded with a "luxurious addition." Artisans were hired to decorate ceilings, and the large fireplace ornamented with Asian motifs had a large statue of Buddha on the mantle. Reached by a winding lane, the property was remarkable for its Saco DeBoer-designed landscape that included Windermere Lake,¹¹ a reflecting pool, a swimming pool, and a walled garden. Here Benedict established a reputation as a gentleman farmer who bred blooded hogs, livestock and bull terriers. The couple entertained frequently at their farm and they were described as "very prominent socially in Denver."¹²

The 1910 and 1911 city directories listed Benedict's office in Downtown Denver in the Ernest & Cranmer Building at 17th and Curtis streets. Like many architects, including his mentors at Carrere and Hastings, Benedict devoted much of his professional life to residential design. The earliest building in the Denver area attributed to the architect is a residence (3939 W. 46th

Benedict projects. Robert McPhee, "Jacques Benois Benedict," 1; *Rocky Mountain News*, 18 January 1948, 18; J.B. Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict, Architect* (Denver: [s.n.], 1925).

⁹ G. Meredith Musick, "Wayfarer in Architecture: An Autobiography," Manuscript in the files of the Denver Public Library, Western History/Genealogy Department; John K. Monroe, Jr., Delta, Colorado, telephone interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 16 November 2004; Colorado Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard, "Roster of Men and Women Who Served in the World War from Colorado" (Denver: Colorado National Guard, 1941), from Ancestry.com website; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*.

¹⁰ The house and part of the grounds are now the site of a Carmelite convent.

¹¹ Now known as Ketring Lake.

¹² Morse, "J.J.B. Benedict;" LeRoy Hafen, *Colorado and Its People: A Narrative and Topical History of the Centennial State*, v. IV, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1948), 713-14; Stone, *History of Colorado*, v. III, 535-36; *Denver Post*, 30 October 1945, 4; Thomas J. Noel, *Buildings of Colorado* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997); Mary E. Manley, "Flamboyant Architect Jacques Benedict Left Legacy of Impressive Catholic Sites," www.archden.org/dcr/news, 2 June 2004.

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Avenue) in North Denver, completed in early 1910. The following year, the Benedict-designed Central Savings Bank, a \$300,000 building at 15th & Arapahoe streets in Denver was completed.¹³ The successful design of the Classical Revival style bank propelled the architect to the forefront of his profession in the city. Benedict moved his office to the bank building. Up-and-coming architects worked in Benedict's office, including G. Meredith Musick in 1913, John K. Monroe during 1914-32, Paul Atchison and Gilbert C. Jaka in the 1920s, and Edwin A. Francis.¹⁴

Early in his career Benedict was engaged to work on several buildings for the City of Denver, which was riding the crest of the City Beautiful movement. The architect provided plans for a pavilion for Sunken Gardens Park (1911), the Roger W. Woodbury Branch Library in North Denver (1912), and the Washington Park Boating Pavilion (1913). During the 1910s and 1920s, a steady stream of Benedict-designed buildings was erected in Denver's mountain parks, among them the Bergen Park Pavilion (1915), the Chief Hosa Lodge (1917), and the Fillius Park Shelter and Pumphouse (1918). George Cranmer, Denver's Manager of Improvements and Parks in the 1930s, admired Benedict's work so much that he hired the architect to draw up plans for his own house (200 Cherry St.) completed in 1917.

Although buildings in Denver represented the bulk of his output, Benedict also worked on projects in other communities of Colorado. For the University of Colorado campus in Boulder he designed the Denison Memorial Building in 1914. In 1919, he planned a remodeling and expansion of the residence of brewing heir Herman Coors in Golden. Littleton contracted with Benedict for the design of its Carnegie library in 1917. His other work in Littleton included a magnificent Town Hall (1920) and the Littleton Presbyterian Church (1929). In 1923 Benedict was appointed the town's unpaid municipal architect. In the Broadmoor area of Colorado Springs he prepared plans for large estates in the late 1920s and early 1930s.¹⁵

One of the principal sources of work for Benedict throughout his career was the planning of large urban and mountain residences for the well-to-do. A 1918 publication stated that Benedict had "become famous as an architect and designer of fine buildings and residences of the modern type. . . . Comfort, utility and beauty are combined in the buildings which he erects and these become a matter of architectural adornment to the cities in which they are located."¹⁶ Benedict's interest in designing large mountain residences stemmed from an association with John Brisben Walker, publisher of *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, who was actively promoting the construction of a "Summer Whitehouse in Colorado." The partially-completed summer home for presidents was destroyed by a lightning-induced fire in 1918. The commission for Walker stimulated a period in Benedict's life that his friends referred to as his "castle stage." Mike McPhee wrote that during this five-year period, the architect would "sit

¹³ The bank was demolished in the early 1990s after a lengthy battle to save it.

¹⁴ Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 186, 200, 208, and 213.

¹⁵ Doris Hulse, "Jules Jacques Benedict," www.littleton.org/lcn/government/museum/history, 16 January 2000.

¹⁶ Stone, *History of Colorado*, v. III, 535-36.

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with pencil and paper and sketch the most elaborate fantasy castles, complete with flying buttresses, turrets, and long arches and bridges between buildings. They would be situated on the wildest cliffs or steep escarpments. He would produce 10 or 12 a year, sign them with 'Merry Christmas' and mail them off to his favorite friends."¹⁷

Benedict designed the 1916 Flat Iron Building at 1669 Broadway (demolished), which would house his second-floor office until his retirement in 1942. A. Reynolds Morse recalled that Benedict stored his records there in "heavy black Spanish-style cabinets."¹⁸ The architect's famously mercurial and contradictory personality continued to add to accounts of his eccentricity. Benedict refused to join the American Institute of Architects and was not invited to participate in the "alliance" of architects that designed Denver's City and County Building (1924-25). In response, he prepared his own drawings for the building and extensively criticized the plans prepared by the alliance.

G. Meredith Musick described Benedict as "a character unique in my experience." He refused to allow the windows of his office to be opened, even in warm weather, fearing that a drawing might blow outside. At times he would look out at the city, "muttering about what a dismal vista lay outside," and fondly remember scenes in Europe. Musick observed that Benedict achieved a national reputation and was a talented architect, whom eastern critics referred to as "the able Jacques Benedict." John K. Monroe, Jr., reported that his father, who apprenticed with the architect from about 1914 to 1932, respected Benedict as a "very talented society architect, even though he could be quite moody."¹⁹

The 1920s represented the height of Benedict's career in terms of number of commissions. The architect produced drawings for the mansions of such prominent local families as the Phipps (1919), the Kistlers (1920), the Warings (1922), and the McFarlands (1927), as well as a wing for the Richthofen Castle in Montclair. In 1922 Benedict's park work and experience in the design of mountain homes resulted in an invitation from the American Institute of Architects to appear as a guest speaker on the topic of Alpine architecture at its national convention. Benedict designed a \$1.5 million lodge for Denver Ice Co. president William Baehr in what he called the "Colorado Alpine" style, and he continued to plan buildings of the Denver Mountain Parks system during the 1920s. The lavishly-ornamented Collegiate Gothic style Rosedale School was produced for Denver Public Schools in 1924. Benedict worked on

¹⁷ Benedict sent cards to architects around the country. Colorado Springs architect Thomas MacLaren received one and, in a letter to Benedict, described the drawing as "your excellent allegorical composition, which is the only term offhand I can think of to describe it. You certainly possess a vivid imagination to produce such a drawing." Unnumbered Scrapbook, Box 2, Benedict Collection, University of Colorado, Western Historical Collection and University Archives, Norlin Library, Boulder, Colorado (hereafter cited as Benedict Collection-CU); Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 189; Robert McPhee, "Jacques Benois Benedict," 5; Mike McPhee, "Architecture Extraordinaire."

¹⁸ Morse, "J.J.B. Benedict."

¹⁹ *Rocky Mountain News*, 18 January 1948, 18; Robert McPhee, "Jacques Benois Benedict," 5; Mike McPhee, "Architect Extraordinaire;" Musick, "Wayfarer," 23; Manley, "Flamboyant Architect."

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several Denver-area religious buildings, including the rectory of St. Joseph's Catholic Church (1926), the First Church of Divine Science (1922), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church clergy house (1928), and Littleton Presbyterian Church (1929). He undertook the design of what would be considered his ecclesiastical gem at St. Thomas Theological Seminary (completed during 1926-31). Benedict also prepared drawings for the Gothic-style Cullen Thompson Motor Co. Building (1926) at Broadway and E. 10th Avenue in Denver.

After seeking a divorce in 1932, June Benedict retained the farm, while the architect lived in Denver and spent substantial time traveling to exotic locales. His extensive travels, cosmopolitan airs, and graceful repartee won him favor as an entertaining guest at society dinner parties, where he mingled with the wealthy citizens who were among his principal clients. Robert McPhee stated, "his popularity among Denver social leaders was not so much because of his professional artistry as it was his immense charm and wit at social gatherings." He also attracted attention with his "immaculate" appearance, which included wearing white gloves and spats and carrying a cane.²⁰

Despite the profound downturn in construction in the Denver area during the Depression, Benedict received a number of important commissions. In Lakewood he designed Belmar, the home of May Bonfils Berryman, a fabulous estate that was modeled after the Petit Trianon at Versailles. The mansion was constructed at a cost of more than \$1 million in the 1930s.²¹ Benedict prepared plans for the Tudor Revival style remodeling of Frank Kistler's ranchhouse, later the headquarters building of Highlands Ranch, completed in 1932. Ella Weckbaugh hired him to create a twenty-five room house with marble trim and Tiffany windows that was completed in 1933. Benedict also worked on plans for a monastery and prayer garden at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church in Denver, funded by May Bonfils Berryman in 1936, and the St. Catherine Chapel at Camp St. Malo built in 1934-36. He designed and donated a children's fountain to the Denver park system in 1932. One of his most acclaimed projects of the decade was the redesign of the 1891 Hayden, Dickinson & Feldhauser Building at 16th and California streets into the gloriously-ornamented Art Deco style Colorado Building (1935). The 1937 Steinhauer Field House at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden was the last commission by Benedict identified by this study.

When Benedict retired in 1942, some said that it was because his career began to interfere with his social life. A profile of the architect written in 1943 found him living at the Colburn Hotel in Denver. He was described as "an intellectual in the highest sense," and "a man who has lived widely and well." In his later years Benedict burned many of his drawings, leaving few documents for future study. Benedict's reason for destroying his plans is unknown; however, his grandson Mike McPhee has opined that the purge may have been motivated by

²⁰ Colorado Secretary of State, Colorado Divorce/Dissolution Search, Docket #006093, 29 February 1932; Corson, "Architect J.J.B. Benedict," 18; *Rocky Mountain News*, 18 January 1948, 18; Robert McPhee, "Jacques Benois Benedict," 5; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 127; Hulse, "Benedict."

²¹ Belmar was demolished about 1971.

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a desire to keep competing architects from copying his designs. During his last illness the architect left the Episcopal faith to become "an ardent Catholic." Lauded at the end as a "noted Denver architect and widely known man-about town," Jules Jacques Benois Benedict died at Mercy Hospital in Denver on 16 January 1948.²²

Overview of Benedict's Works

Jules Jacques Benois Benedict began his Colorado practice in 1909 and did not retire until 1942. His identified designs in Colorado span the period from 1910 through 1937. Benedict's practice was concentrated in Denver, Colorado, with a few buildings produced in the surrounding metropolitan area, the mountains to the west, and a handful in Colorado Springs. The bulk of his work consisted of large, elegant, single family residences. Benedict's known output is relatively modest, with slightly more than eighty attributed buildings over a thirty-three-year period. Over half (50.6 percent) of his designs date to the 1920s. Twenty-seven (33.7 percent) fall into the 1910s, while only thirteen (15.7 percent) date to the 1930s.²³

In terms of sheer numbers, Benedict focused overwhelmingly on residential designs. Residences accounted for more than 57.8 percent of the architect's commissions. Park and recreation resources represented nearly a fifth (18.1 percent) of his output, reflecting his extensive involvement with the Denver Parks system. Religious properties constituted nearly 10 percent of Benedict's designs, followed by public and educational buildings with 8.4 percent. Commercial buildings (6.0 percent) completed his known body of work.

Geographically, the City and County of Denver formed the epicenter of Benedict's work. Over 65 percent of his known works are located there. Many are found in upscale residential areas such as the Country Club neighborhood and Morgan's Addition. Nearly a fifth (19.3 percent) of his designs were built in neighboring Jefferson County, primarily due to Benedict's involvement in Denver's Mountain Park system. Small numbers of resources are found in a handful of other Colorado counties: Arapahoe, four; El Paso, three; and Boulder, Clear Creek, and Douglas, two each (See Section G). Two of his El Paso County designs were executed in the Broadmoor area of Colorado Springs, a milieu similar to the affluent areas of Denver where Benedict designs are found.

Jacques Benedict produced buildings in a wide variety of architectural styles, including many

²² Over his career, Benedict completed several projects for the Catholic Church and many of his prominent clients were of that faith, as was Frank Kirchof, who served as general contractor for many of the architect's designs. Artha Paca Frickel, "Jules Jacques Benois Benedict," in Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 189; Robert McPhee, "Jacques Benois Benedict," *Rocky Mountain News*, 16 April 1943; Mike McPhee, email to Ira Selkowitz, 21 March 2005; *Rocky Mountain News*, 18 January 1948, 18; Manley, "Flamboyant Architect."

²³ The statistics provided in this section include known completed or initiated designs and do not include unbuilt designs. Thus, the Summer Home for the Presidents is included (since its foundation was constructed), while Benedict's design for the Denver City and County Building is not included, as it was never undertaken.

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of the period revival forms learned at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, such as Italian and French Renaissance Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, Classical Revival, and Tudor Revival. He generally eschewed other twentieth century styles, due to his training and his preference for ornament in architecture. Nonetheless, Benedict demonstrated that he was an able master of the Art Deco style in his 1935 remodeling of the Colorado Building in downtown Denver. Many of Benedict's designs were situated on corner locations, permitting two street exposures for each design.

The following discussion deals with known Benedict designs, as identified through the process described in "Identification and Evaluation Methods." As no checklist of Benedict designs exists, and since no comprehensive survey has been undertaken to identify and record his works, considerable effort was expended in attempting to identify and assemble information on resources designed by the architect. The process was hampered by Benedict's own destruction of many of his records. The enumeration is almost certainly incomplete and future research will undoubtedly identify additional Benedict designs. A chronological table of known Benedict designs appears at the end of this section.

Benedict's Beginnings in Colorado, 1909-1919

Jacques Benedict's arrival on the Denver architectural scene in 1909 was followed by a decade of designs embracing significant commercial, public, park, educational, and residential buildings. The thirty-year-old designer secured commissions for important buildings shortly after moving to the city. His practice was undoubtedly aided by his wealth and social connections, which facilitated his entrance into Denver society. Such connections were strengthened by his 1912 marriage to June L. Brown, daughter of prominent merchant J.F. Brown. However, Benedict's popularity over the years was based on a real talent, which had been developed during his formal training in Paris and honed over several years of experience with top New York and Chicago architectural firms.

The architect's earliest known Colorado work was the McDonough House in North Denver, which was completed early in 1910. The Mayer House in Park Hill and the Turner House in Capitol Hill were completed later that year. Four other buildings date to the following year: the Central Savings Bank; Sunken Gardens Pavilion; Walker House; and the Summer Home for the Presidents. The 1910s also saw two Benedict-designed libraries erected, Woodbury Branch Library (1913) in Denver and the Carnegie Public Library (1917) in Littleton. The Denison Memorial Building was completed in 1914 on the University of Colorado campus in Boulder. Benedict's commercial buildings from this period included three in downtown Denver: the Central Savings Bank (1911), the Albany Hotel annex (1912), and the Flat Iron Building (1916).

Benedict contributed several park designs during Denver's City Beautiful period of the early twentieth century. In addition to the Sunken Gardens Pavilion (1911), Benedict's work on

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Denver parks included the Natural History Museum Esplanade at City Park (1911) and the Washington Park Boating Pavilion (1913). He also developed plans for several resources within the municipality's extensive system of mountain parks, such as Chief Hosa Lodge (1917). A number of other residences, many located within the Country Club neighborhood, were designed by Benedict during this early period. Benedict's involvement with publisher and developer John Brisben Walker on the ill-fated summer White House project occupied the architect throughout much of the 1910s.

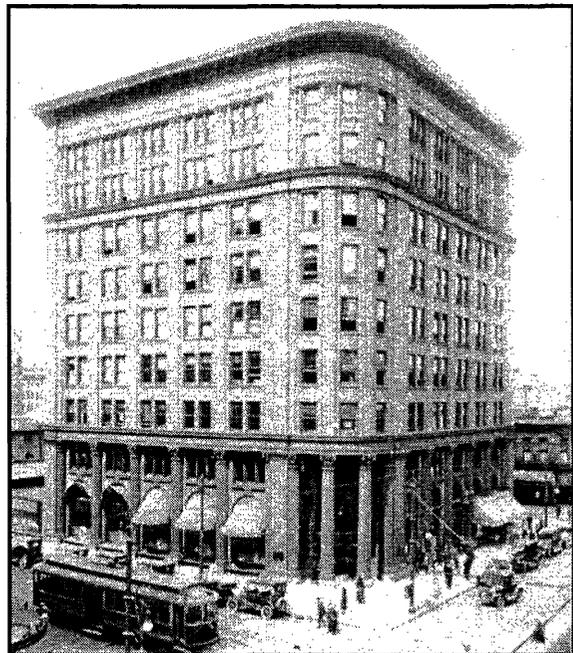
Commercial Resources

Benedict produced few designs for commercial buildings during his lifetime, but those he did execute were notable for their style and quality. His business buildings of the 1910s exhibited the architect's Beaux-Arts training in their classical references and attention to detail. All were brick buildings lavishly ornamented with terra cotta and featured elaborate entrances. The success of Benedict's early commercial designs laid a solid foundation for success in acquiring future projects. None of Benedict's commercial buildings from the 1909-19 period survive today.

The design of the *Central Savings Bank, 1108-16 15th Street, Denver (1911, razed)*, Benedict's most significant commercial building, occurred shortly after he opened his practice in Denver. It is

unclear how he acquired such a prestigious commission with no track record in the Mile High City. Based on newspaper accounts, Benedict produced the plan for the bank during 1909, construction began in early 1910, and the building was opened in October 1911.²⁴ The Central Savings Bank was an elegant nine-story brick and terra cotta Classical Revival style building located in downtown Denver. The two-story base was clad in fawn colored terra cotta and featured a series of round arch windows separated by engaged terra cotta columns with Corinthian capitals. The five intermediate stories were composed of brown brick, while the two upper stories were of brick and terra cotta, crowned by a massive terra cotta cornice.²⁵

The bank, with a curved corner entrance facing the intersection of 15th and Arapahoe streets, displayed "a monumental interior made attractive by the use of marble, bronze and stone, the ceiling being gorgeously illuminated . . . the lobby being vaulted in the style of the Roman



Central Savings Bank (1911).

²⁴ Newspaper Clippings, 10 December 1919 and 17 December 1909 Box 2, Scrapbook Number 5, Benedict Collection-CU; *Rocky Mountain News*, 2 October 1911.

²⁵ *Rocky Mountain News*, 1 January 1911 (drawing); *Rocky Mountain Herald*, 19 November 1910, 1.

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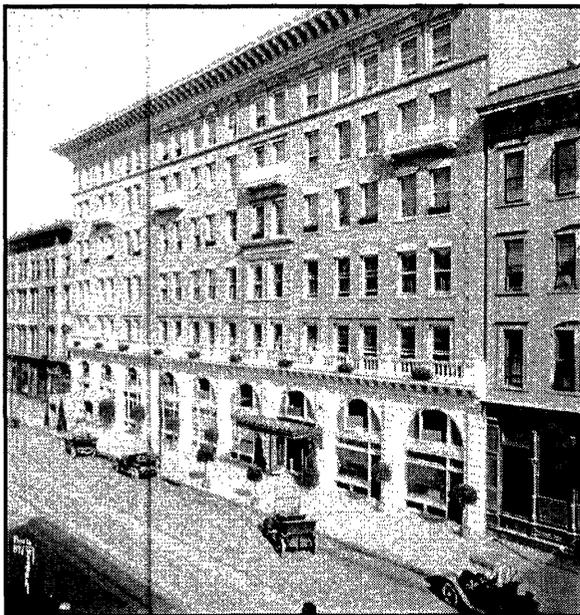
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empire, with rich iron-work and marble embellishments." The U-shaped building contained two-hundred offices, and its center light court provided "abundant natural light to every room." The *Rocky Mountain Herald* discussed design:

Mr. J.B. Benedict, the architect, while giving great attention to the convenience and comfort of the tenants, has devoted much study to the esthetic requirements of this building. The style of the columns on the first two floors is the same as used for the Bank of England. The bronze and marble work and all other materials have been tested for strength and harmonize in color.



Albany Hotel Annex (1912).

Upon completion of the building, Benedict moved his offices to the bank.²⁶

Benedict's second commercial design in Denver was the creation of an annex to the *Albany Hotel*, 1746-48 Stout Street, Denver (1912, 5DV514, razed). The original portion of the hotel, financed by C.H. Nix & Co., dated to 1885 and was considered one of the city's finest hostleries in its early days. A six-story addition had been completed in 1906. In the 1910s, tourism was the fourth largest industry in the state, producing greater revenues than gold mining. The city's downtown hotels were considered major assets of the tourist and convention business and continually expanded and updated their facilities to keep pace with new demands. In 1912, Benedict was hired to design a six-story annex to

the hotel along Stout Street adjoining the east end of the 1906 addition. The annex partially replicated the appearance of the 1906 addition, which had been produced by another architect. Benedict created an original design for the first story of the annex (which also was carried across the width of the addition) that included an arcade of large arched openings and a bracketed cornice topped by a continuous balustrade above the first story.²⁷

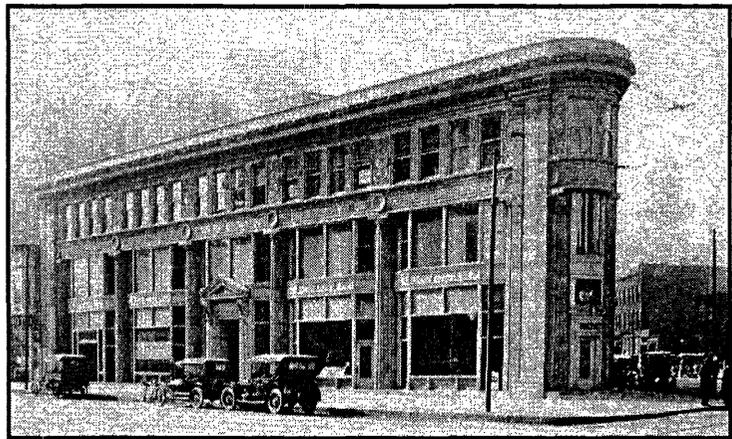
²⁶The bank's demolition in 1990 led to changes in Denver's Historic Preservation Ordinance, including a provision mandating a one-year moratorium on requests for razing designated individual landmarks. *Rocky Mountain Herald*, 19 November 1910, 1.

²⁷ The hotel was razed as part of the Skyline Urban Renewal Project. Jerome Smiley, *History of Denver* (Denver: Times Steam Publishing Co., 1901, reprint, Denver: Old Americana Publishing Co., 1978), 954; "Denver as a Convention and Hotel City," *The City of Denver* 2(27 June 1914)18: 3-4; *Denver Republican*, 1 January 1907, 5; Scrapbook Number 8, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Sanborn Map Co., "Denver, Colorado," fire insurance map, 1929.

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In 1902 Chicago architect Daniel Burnham created a sensation in New York City with his Flatiron Building, a tall commercial building which took its shape from its triangular site and became a symbol of corporate pride. Jacques Benedict designed Denver's 1916 *Flat Iron Building*, (1669 Broadway, razed) funded by attorney James H. Brown. During the initial construction period, the edifice was identified as the James H. Brown Building, but as the structure neared completion it became known as the Flat Iron Building. The building was wedge-shaped, conforming to the parcel formed by the intersection of Court Place and Broadway.²⁸

The \$50,000 Flat Iron Building was a Classical Revival style three-story concrete and steel frame building clad with elaborately ornamented terra cotta. The building was crowned by a projecting cornice featuring a series of small lion's heads. Third-story windows were separated by ornamental terra cotta panels, and those on the curved corner facing the intersection had curved glass. A continuous terra cotta fretwork band decorated with plain medallions divided the second and third stories. Fluted Doric columns divided the two lower stories into bays, which featured bay windows with paneled bases on each story. The corner had a pediment above the entrance, and there was a central, projecting, main entrance with pedimented entablature. Benedict moved his offices from the Central Bank to the Flat Iron Building, where he stayed until his retirement in 1942.²⁹



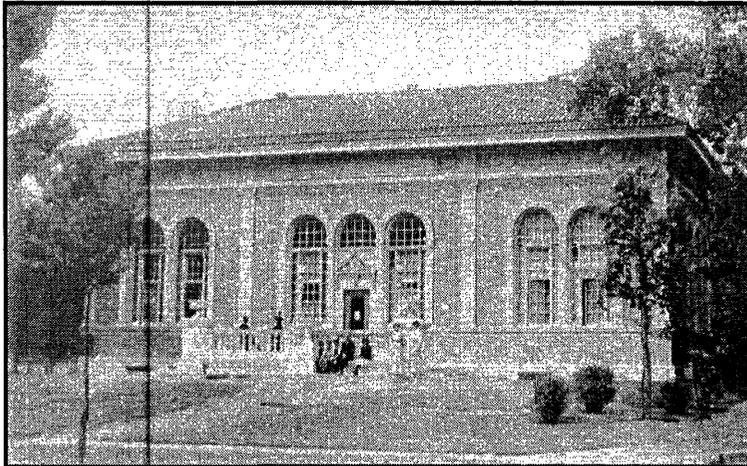
Flat Iron Building (1913).

Public and Educational Resources

Two libraries and an academic building for the University of Colorado were among the work Benedict completed in the 1909-19 period. The buildings were considered small gems when completed due to the excellence of their designs and craftsmanship. Period revival styles, which allowed the architect to demonstrate his expertise, were employed for the buildings. All of the buildings continue to be utilized today, although one (Littleton Carnegie Library) has undergone alterations and a change in function.

²⁸ It is not known if James H. Brown was a member of Mrs. Benedict's family. Sarah B. Landau and Carl W. Condit, *Rise of the New York City Skyscraper, 1865-1913* (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1996), 301.

²⁹ The building was remodeled into a Trailways Bus Center in 1953 and was later demolished. Undated newspaper clippings, Scrapbook Number 8, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; *Denver Post*, 22 May 1951, 1 and 21 April 1953; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*.

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Jules Jacques Benois Benedict in Colorado**Woodbury Branch Library (1913).**

The growth of Denver during the early twentieth century required construction of new facilities to serve the expanding population. Since the turn of the century, library services for people in outlying neighborhoods of Denver consisted of traveling boxes of books and small rented rooms. By the 1910s, neighborhoods wanted the convenience of permanent branch libraries. Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated \$80,000 for this purpose, and four branch libraries were completed in 1913. Benedict

was selected to design the *Woodbury Branch Library, 3265 Federal Boulevard, (1913, 5DV5320, Denver Landmark)*, which was built facing Federal Boulevard in Highland Park in North Denver. The \$22,000 branch was named for city library founder and first library board president, Roger Woodbury. It has been reported that Benedict felt that an adequate building could not be erected for the price set by the city and therefore raised an additional \$4,000 himself. Designed in what was called a "Florentine Renaissance" style, the building had a hipped tile roof sheltering buff brick walls with brown brick trim. The symmetrical façade featured a frieze ornamented with medallions, and tall arched windows were elaborated with cream-colored terra cotta window trim. The pedimented main entrance was flanked by pilasters with Ionic capitals. The interior woodwork, including the exposed trusses of the ceiling, was birch treated with acid to produce a soft silver-gray finish. The library received national recognition for its pleasing design.³⁰

On the campus of the University of Colorado in Boulder, Ella Strong Denison of Denver provided funds for the construction of the *Denison Memorial Building, Broadway and 15th Street, University of Colorado, Boulder (1914, 5BL1021)*, in memory of her physician son, Henry, who had been an instructor in the university's medical school. The \$100,000 building included medical laboratories and housed a school of medical research. The small, rectangular, two-story brick building was described by the architect as "English Tudor" in style³¹, and included wall buttresses and a decorative frieze, and cream-colored terra cotta window trim for the large Tudor arched windows and other ornamentation. The building was

³⁰ Denver Public Library, *The Denver Public Library: 100th Anniversary Celebration* (Denver: Denver Public Library, 1989), 13-14; *Denver Public Library, Woodbury Library: 75th Anniversary* (Denver: Denver Public Library, 1988); Scott R. Spiegle, "Jacques Benois Jules [sic] Benedict: 1879-1948," Student Paper, 1988, 12, in the files of the Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation; Undated Newspaper Clipping, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 106; "Art in Denver," *DPL Lookout*, vol. 1, 1928, 34.

³¹ The style of the building also has been called English Collegiate Gothic.

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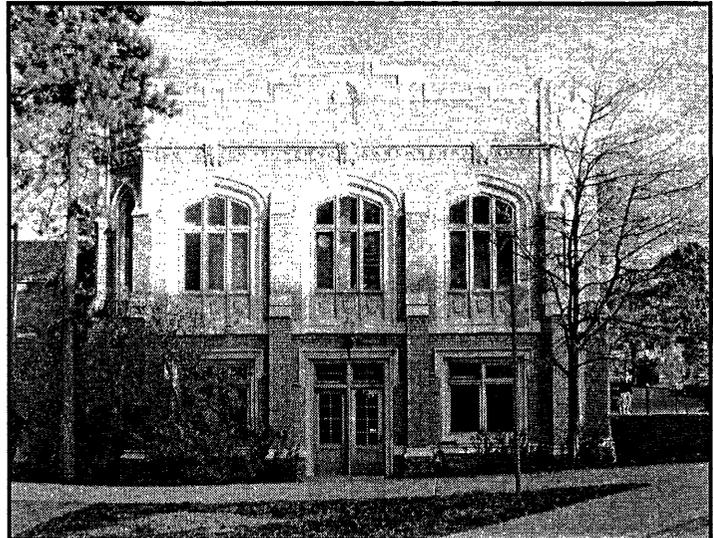
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described as "one of the most beautiful and uptodate [sic] structures of its kind in the country."³²

Benedict worked on a second Carnegie library that was erected in 1916-17 in Littleton, his hometown south of Denver. When the town sought financial assistance for the construction of its library, the Carnegie Foundation required that an experienced architect be selected for the project. Benedict's successful completion of Woodbury Library in Denver made him a logical choice, although he had to agree to reduce his fee from six percent to five in order to secure the commission. His original design apparently was considered excessively elaborate and was rejected by the Carnegie Foundation as unsuitable. *Littleton Carnegie Library, 2707 W. Main Street, Littleton (1917, 5AH234; Littleton Landmark)* was in some ways a smaller version of his successful Woodbury Library design. Located at the western end of the town's Main Street, the library had a hipped tile roof with overhanging eaves sheltering a classical frieze. The symmetrical façade included a central, oversized, arched, inset entrance enframed by fluted Ionic columns and flanked by large multi-light arched windows with terra cotta hood molds. The town was well pleased with the building, as evidenced by journalist Houstoun Waring's comment, "What an exquisite library we got for that money."³³



Denison Memorial Building (1914).

Park Resources

Parks within the City

Sunken Gardens Park along the west bank of Cherry Creek was part of Mayor Robert Speer's City Beautiful plan for Denver. Built on a reclaimed dump, the park featured formal plantings and a large reflecting pool. An initial frame pavilion facing the reflecting pool was destroyed by high winds in late 1910. To avoid a similar fate, Benedict's \$7,000 *Sunken Gardens Pavilion, Elati Street (1911, razed)* was built of concrete. The Florentine style building consisted of a series of round arch openings with a low hipped roof clad with tile. The architect donated his

³² Undated Newspaper Clippings, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; *Denver Post*, 16 October 1913, 4.

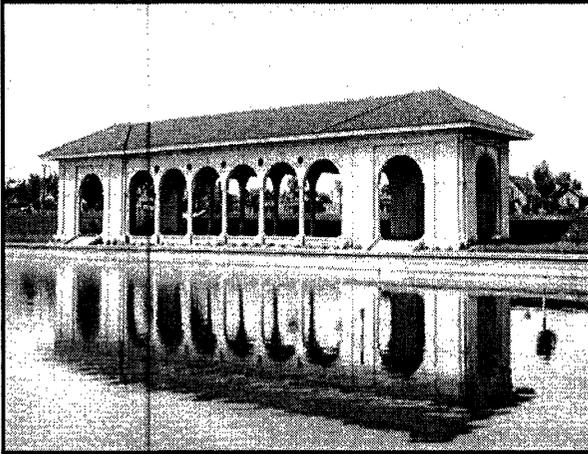
³³ Houstoun Waring, *Hous's Littleton* (Littleton: Littleton Independent, 1981), ch. 20; Robert McQuarie and C.W. Buchholtz, *Littleton From Settlement to Centennial* (Littleton: Littleton Historical Museum, 1990), 59; Littleton Historical Museum Library, Benedict: Biography file; *Rocky Mountain News*, 13 November 1990; *Denver Post*, 18 October 1965; *Littleton Independent*, 22 July 1938.

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Sunken Gardens Pavilion (1911).

services for the project. Denver architect Alan Fisher opined in 1969 that the Sunken Gardens pavilion was “one of the best things Jacques Benedict designed.” The pavilion was demolished in the late 1930s after planners concluded that it blocked the view of West High School from the park and Speer Boulevard.³⁴

After the completion of the Denver Natural History Museum in the eastern section of City Park in 1908, a movement arose to provide suitable landscaping between the museum and City Park Lake to the west. Jacques Benedict proposed a grassy esplanade on three levels flanked by

double rows of trees extending westward from the museum and connected by stairways; adjacent to the museum would be an ellipse with a center octagonal pool with fountain flanked by two smaller pools with fountains. The design for the *City Park, Denver Natural History Museum Esplanade, Denver (1911, no longer extant)* was said to be “fashioned somewhat after the style of one of the parks in Paris.” The landscaping effort was completed by October 1911, although it is not clear if all of the elements of the plan were actually executed.³⁵

The *Washington Park Boating Pavilion, Washington Park, south shore of Smith Lake (1913, 5DV5333, Washington Park National Register Historic District)* is the only one of Benedict’s urban park designs that is still extant. Built on the shore of the lake, the building appears to be one-story when viewed from the south, but is two-stories on the lake side. The lower level was used for boat storage, a ticket office, general storage, and concessions, while the upper story was an open pavilion with a five hundred person capacity for picnics or other events. The rectangular building was stucco on the exterior and displayed an eclectic mix of Italianate, Prairie, and Arts and Crafts elements.³⁶

The Denver Mountain Parks

In September 1910, John Brisben Walker proposed to the Denver Chamber of Commerce that the city develop a system of mountain parks in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the west. The concept, including a one-half mill property tax levy for land acquisition, was

³⁴ *Denver Municipal Facts*, 19 August 1911, 3-4; Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; *Rocky Mountain News*, 26 January 1969, 5.

³⁵ Jules B. Benedict, “The Denver Park System,” *National Architect* (November 1914):174; Newspaper Clipping, 24 October 1911, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU and *Denver Municipal Facts*, undated clipping.

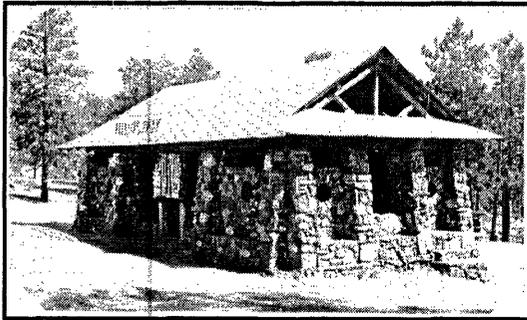
³⁶ Washington Park Pavilion/Boat House, Denver Landmark No. 231, Denver Landmark Preservation Commission files; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 111.

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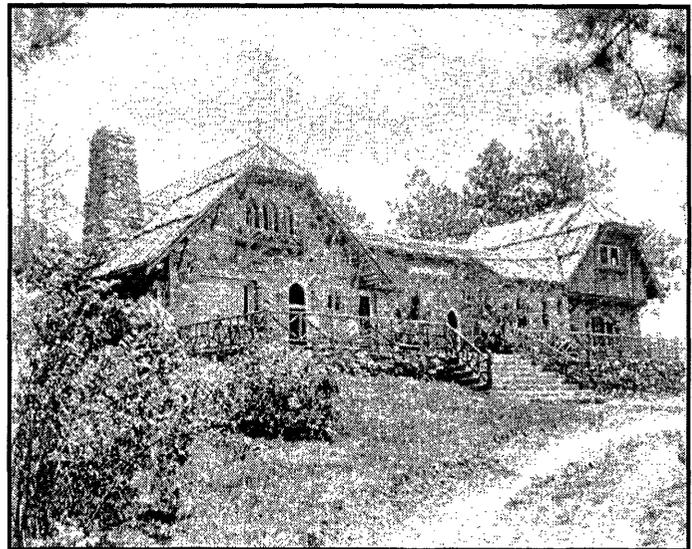


Fillius Park Shelter (1918).

approved by voters in May 1912. Writing of the system in the November 1914 *National Architect*, Benedict asserted that “surely there is nothing being created in other cities quite so unique, so distinctive as the Mountain Park Idea.” Over the next two decades, Denver would acquire more than 10,000 acres of mountain park land in Jefferson, Clear Creek, and Douglas counties. Jacques Benedict designed most of the stone and log buildings within the new parks. Benedict apparently felt a great affinity for the

mountains west of Denver and used Psalms 88:1 as an epigraph to his 1925 *The Work of J.B. Benedict* publication: “My foundation is in the holy mountains.” Buildings for visitors were completed in Bergen, Fillius, and Genesee parks during the 1910s.³⁷

The *Bergen Park Pavilion, Colorado Highway 74, Evergreen vicinity* (1915, 5JF290, *Bergen Park National Register Historic District*) was the earliest design completed by Jacques Benedict in the mountain parks. The Rustic style open shelter was constructed of native stone and logs and was reportedly especially admired “for the artistic use of white quartz, many of the stones being covered with the grey lichen of the hills.” A similar style was employed by Benedict for the *Fillius Park Shelter and Pump House, Colorado Highway 74, Fillius Park* (1918, 5JF976; *Fillius Park National Register Historic District*) and for the *Genesee Ski Club, Genesee Mountain* (pre-1922, no longer extant).



Chief Hosa Lodge (1917).

Chief Hosa Lodge, 26771 Genesee Lane, Golden vicinity (1917-18, 5JF590, *Genesee Park National Register Historic District*) was Benedict’s largest and most significant work for the Denver Mountain Parks. The building was planned to house a restaurant for park visitors. Benedict shared his view on the building’s design in a 1919 *Denver Municipal Facts* article:

Hosa Lodge was always there. It lay about before one’s eyes as surface rock and spruce trees growing on the very ledge upon which it stands today, as a sort

³⁷ Edgar C. MacMechen, ed., *Robert W. Speer: A City Builder* (Denver: Robert W. Speer Memorial Association, 1919), 71; Benedict, “The Denver Park System,” 199.

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of collection of waste material at hand. We simply piled up the rock in layers, leaving some openings for light. When we had enough rock and openings we laid the felled trunks across the top and called it a lodge, and it suffices. Its interior is no better than its front or back, so it does not have the fault of disappointing one on further acquaintance. It remains rock and red bark like its setting.³⁸

Residential Resources

J.J.B. Benedict's practice focused heavily on producing designs for large, single-family residences for wealthy clients. Quality materials and skilled craftsmanship were employed on Benedict-designed dwellings. Most houses featured lavish architectural ornamentation, executed in stone, terra cotta, wrought iron, and/or tile, and used in such applications as door and window elaboration, arcades, cornices, friezes, balconets, and lanterns. Nearly all Benedict residences were of large scale, and many were oriented with the long axis of the building parallel to the street. Many residences were located on corner sites, permitting two street elevations over which the architectural imagination might flow.

An essential characteristic of Benedict designs was his utilization of "permanent" building materials, such as brick, stone, or terra cotta, and masonry construction. Hipped roofs with clay tiles also were characteristic. Stucco dwellings had the material applied over brick, not wood framing. With the exception of his Alpine designs for mountain homes, where native log timbers were employed, and the half-timbering of English style houses, the architect included relatively little exposed wood on the exterior of residences. Benedict is not known to have designed any multi-family buildings, and his lone documented hotel design has been demolished. It is possible that there are yet unknown representatives of such domestic buildings.

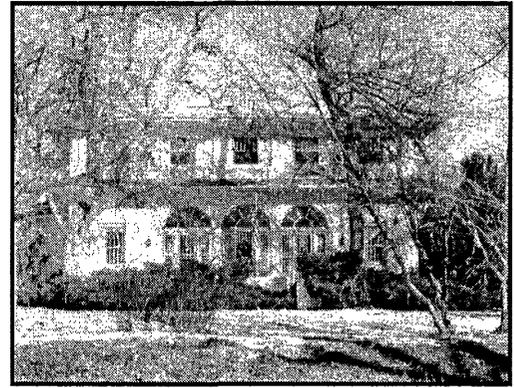
Many of the residences created by Benedict in the 1910s (and later) are found in affluent areas of east Denver, such as the Country Club neighborhood. There were scattered Benedict designs in Capitol Hill, Park Hill, Hilltop, and Montclair during this period. Benedict has often been described as a "society architect." Only wealthy clients were able to afford his large, elaborate designs, which specified expensive materials and intricate detailing. The areas described above were home to many of Denver's power elite during the first half of the twentieth century, including leaders in business, finance, the professions, and government.

This said, however, J.J.B. Benedict's first completed design in Colorado was located in North Denver: the *McDonough House, 3939 W. 46th Avenue, Denver (1910)*. John McDonough, a native of England, was a real estate agent, capitalist, and Denver civic leader, who was described as "one of its [Denver's] greatest workers for the upbuilding of the city." He served as a director of the Central Savings Bank, officer of the First National Bank, and owner of a

³⁸ J.B. Benedict, "Impressions and Reveries of a Mountain Motorist," *Denver Municipal Facts*, March 1919, 17.

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bank in Creede. A building permit was issued on 1 October 1909 for his house, and a newspaper article in April 1910 described it as recently completed. The McDonoughs were still living in the residence when John McDonough unexpectedly died in August 1912.³⁹ The \$33,000 Italian Renaissance Revival style house was situated on a full block of land, which included an entrance gate and a windmill. The two-story stucco dwelling had a hipped red tile roof with broadly overhanging bracketed eaves. A one-story front porch featured triple entrance arches and was topped by a balcony balustrade. Two one-story wings (one housing the kitchen and the other the billiard room) extended at forty-five degree angles from the sides of the house. The house was described as "one of the most beautiful residences in the city" in 1912.⁴⁰



McDonough House (1910).

Country Club

The Country Club area, extending from the Denver Country Club on the south (E. 1st Avenue) to E. 6th Avenue on the north, and from University Boulevard on the east to Downing Street on the west, was the site of at least four Benedict-designed houses during the 1910s. The earliest house completed here was the *Huff House, 120 Humboldt Street, Denver (1912, 5DV167.141; Country Club National Register Historic District)*. This house was designed by Benedict for William H. and Madge Huff and cost \$11,200. The two-and-a-half-story Tudor Revival style residence featured a half-timbered upper story, a two-story entrance bay with angled corners, and leaded glass windows.⁴¹

Two other Country Club dwellings were finished in 1912 and another in 1919. The *Snyder-Dorsey House, 330 Gilpin Street, Denver (1912, 5DV167.169; Country Club National Register Historic District)* was commissioned by Irving T. Snyder, vice-president of the Vindicator Consolidated Gold Mining Company. In about 1915, the house was sold to prominent attorney Clayton C. Dorsey, a founding partner in Hughes and Dorsey. The two-and-a-half-story brick residence was designed in an English style, with a Tudor arch entrance topped by a balcony with quatrefoil balustrade. The *Ellis House, 1700 E. 3rd Avenue, Denver (1912, 5DV167.175,*

³⁹ *Denver Republican*, 3 August 1912, 1; Ruth E. Wiberg, *Rediscovering Northwest Denver* (Denver: Northwest Denver Books, 1976), 166-69 and 185-87; City and County of Denver, Building Permit Number 2610, 1 October 1909; 18 April 1910 Newspaper Clipping, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU.

⁴⁰ *Denver Republican*, 14 November 1910 3 August 1912, 1; Ruth E. Wiberg, *Rediscovering Northwest Denver* (Denver: Northwest Denver Books, 1976), 166-69 and 185-87; City and County of Denver, building permit number 2610, 1 October 1909; Newspaper Clipping, 18 April 1910, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU.

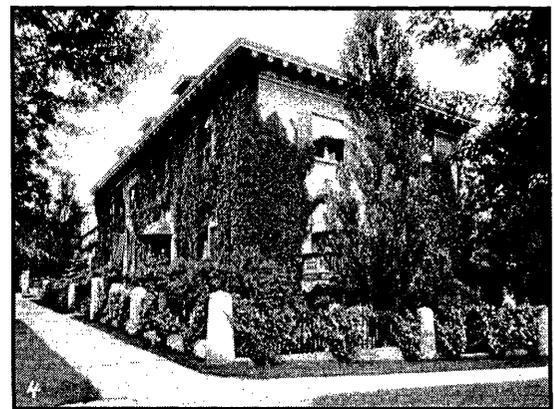
⁴¹ Scrapbook Number 9, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Alice Millet Bakemeier, *Country Club Heritage* (Denver: Country Club Historic Neighborhood, Inc., 2000), 60-61.

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Country Club National Register Historic District) was a two-story red brick Georgian-influenced residence designed by Benedict for David B. Ellis. The *Phipps House, 161 Race Street, Denver (1919, Country Club National Register Historic District)* was built by Lawrence C. and Gladys Phipps, Jr., who had Benedict design a two-story buff brick Spanish style residence with a tile roof on a one-and-a-half acre parcel. The dwelling boasted twenty-four rooms and cost \$30,000. Phipps was a Denver attorney, whose father served as U.S. Senator from Colorado from 1919 to 1931. In 1933 Benedict designed an addition to the rear and side of the house.⁴²

Other East Denver Designs

Jacques Benedict prepared plans for five residences in other parts of east Denver, as well as undertaking an extensive remodeling of another house during the 1910s. Two of the earliest designs were the Turner and Mayer houses completed in 1910. An April 1910 newspaper article reported that a residence, the *Mayer House, 4101 Montview Boulevard, Denver (1910)*, would be erected "this summer" for Ernestine Mayer at Montview Boulevard and Albion Street in Denver's Park Hill. The \$25,000 Italian Renaissance Revival style residence was two stories, with stucco walls and a tile roof. The 1911 City Directory listed Solomon Mayer at the address; he was a stockman and real estate developer.⁴³ In October 1910, the *Denver Republican* reported that the home of Bryant Turner (*Turner/Schuyler House, 300 E. 8th Avenue, Denver (1910, razed)*) was "nearing completion" at E. 8th Avenue and Grant Street. The steeply-sloping site, resulted in a house that was two stories tall along 8th Avenue and four stories on the south. The \$35,000 house was built in the Italian Renaissance style, with a hipped tile roof, stucco walls, and round arch windows. The *Denver Post* noted that the house was modeled after "ancient Roman villas." The house was later owned by the Karl Schuyler family and is no longer standing.⁴⁴



Turner/Schuyler House (1910).

In 1914, Benedict designed the *Peet House, 1717 E. Arizona Avenue, Denver (1914, 5DV4219)*. The two-and-a-half story Tudor Revival design featured a brick first story, striking stucco and half-timbered upper stories, multiple steeply-pitched gables, and a rare false-

⁴² Bakemeier, *Country Club Heritage*, 114 and 143-44; Undated *Rocky Mountain News* Clipping, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU.

⁴³ Newspaper Clipping, 18 April 1910, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Thomas J. Noel and William J. Hansen, *The Park Hill Neighborhood* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 2002).

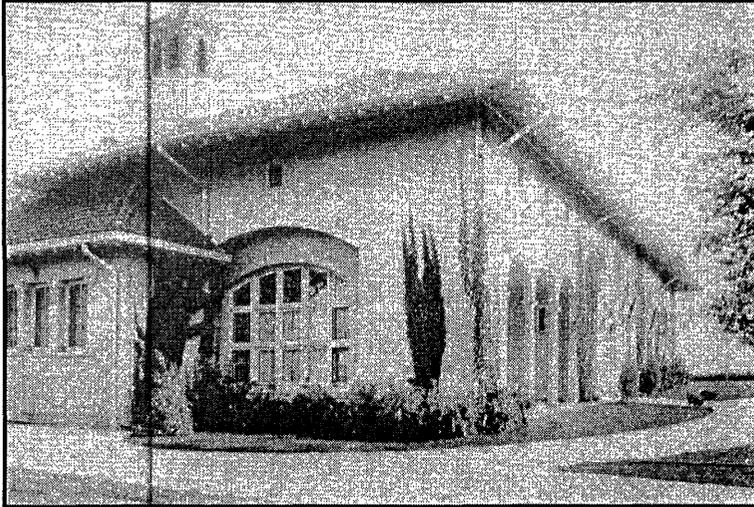
⁴⁴ *Denver Post*, 2 January 1910; *Denver Republican*, 23 October 1910; Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Benedict, *Work of J.B. Benedict, Western Architect* (May 1921), photograph.

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Cranmer House (1917).

thatched roof.⁴⁵

George Cranmer, an intimate friend and colleague of Benedict's, commissioned the architect to design his home (*Cranmer House, 200 Cherry Street, Denver, 1917*), which enjoyed an unobstructed view of the Front Range over Mountain View (later Cranmer) Park to the west. Cranmer, a Princeton graduate and broker, later served as Denver Manager of Improvements and Parks from 1935 to 1947. Newspaper accounts covering the home's

construction listed steadily increasing costs for the building, from \$25,000 to \$60,000. The one-and-a-half-story dwelling was 121' wide and 85' deep, with twenty-two rooms and brick walls covered with stucco topped by a variegated Spanish tile roof. Benedict believed that the resulting Italian Renaissance Revival villa was one of his best designs, "both attractive for domestic and artistic purposes and characteristic of what he believes to be the spirit of Denver's architecture." Photographs of the Cranmer residence appeared in *Western Architect* in May 1921.⁴⁶

Benedict is known to have executed one significant remodeling project during the period in East Denver. The *Wilson-Wilfley House, 770 Olive Street, Denver (1917, 5DV709.3, remodel)* was built in 1890 and nearly destroyed in an explosion in 1907. In 1917, Albert E. and Mabel Wilson acquired the ruins and hired Benedict to rebuild the house in a Tudor Revival style. The reborn dwelling was two stories in height and featured stucco walls with half-timbering, clipped gables, and a projecting one-story entry topped by a crenellated balcony.⁴⁷

Designs Outside Denver

The most grandiose residential project that occupied Benedict during the 1910s was John

⁴⁵ Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, File Search, 5DV4219, Surveyed May 1990; Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 50.

⁴⁶ The Cranmers used architect Burnham Hoyt to make alterations to the house a few years after its construction. Undated and Unnamed Newspaper Clippings, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 94; Denver Foundation for Architecture, *Guide to Denver Architecture* (Englewood, Colo.: Westcliffe Publishers, Inc., 2001), 247; Bakemeier, *Hilltop Heritage*, 8-12 and 46-48; Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 57; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*.

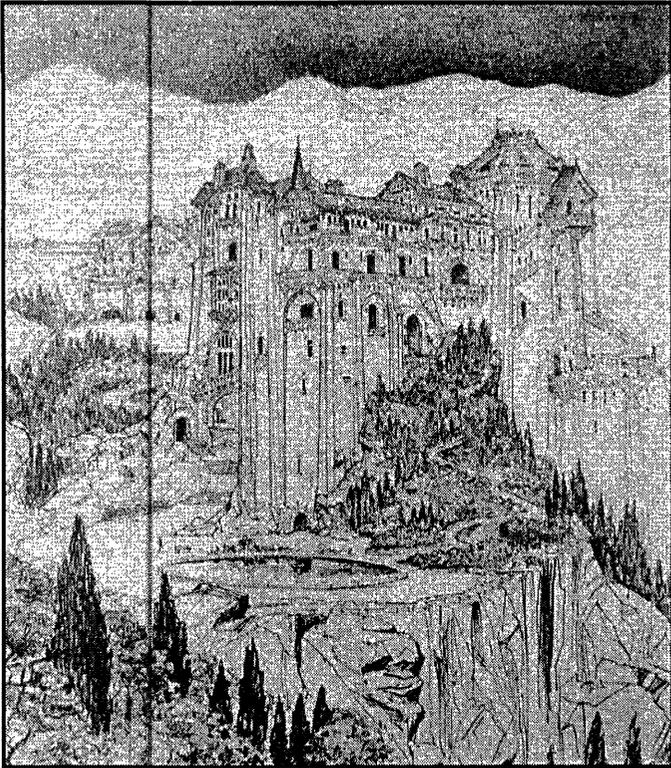
⁴⁷ Thomas J. Noel and William J. Hansen, *The Montclair Neighborhood* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1999), 56-57; Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, File Search, 5DV709.3, Surveyed December 198; Denver Foundation for Architecture, 233; Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 50.

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Summer Home of the Presidents (1911).

Brisben Walker's scheme to construct a *Summer Home for the Presidents*, Mt. Falcon, Morrison vicinity (1911, foundation only, 5JF2190) in Jefferson County. Historian Thomas J. Noel called the Germanic Romanesque design a "marvel based on Prince Ludwig's castle in Bavaria." Walker donated the land for the project, and Benedict reportedly provided his services without a fee. Writing in the *National Architect*, Benedict explained that "existing rock formations have been used as bastions; virtually the whole granite quarry being blasted and set back in its own foundation in another form, fantastic, gigantic, but still as much a part of its native mountain as it was before." A foundation and cornerstone were installed in August 1911. By September 1914, the architect produced additional drawings showing the proposed residence as a castle perched on the slope of the mountain, with towers, a

bridge and sally port, a five-story rotunda, and a state dining hall capable of seating three thousand persons. The March 1912 issue of *Architectural Record* carried a sketch of the proposed residence. Walker gained considerable local support for the concept and advanced various fund-raising schemes into the 1920s. The project was never completed.⁴⁸

Benedict also designed a mountain home for Walker on Mt. Falcon. The *Walker House*, Mt. Falcon, Morrison vicinity (1911, 5JF399) was a large stone residence that was under construction in the spring of 1911. The building was destroyed by a fire (possibly started by lightning) in 1918. Ruins, including stone walls, are now included in Jefferson County's Mt. Falcon Open Space Park.⁴⁹

After Benedict's marriage to June Brown in 1912, the couple purchased part of the farm of Perry Gallup, located southeast of the small town of Littleton: *Wyldemere Farm* (*Benedict House*), 6138 S. Gallup Street, Littleton (1912 remodel, razed in part). Benedict undertook extensive remodeling and expansion of the existing Dutch Colonial Revival farmhouse. Among his improvements were a living room that featured a hand-decorated painted ceiling and Italian mosaic tile above the fireplace. Saco DeBoer consulted on the landscaping for the

⁴⁸ Corson, "Architect J.J.B. Benedict," 18-23; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 160-61; *Architectural Record*, 31(March 1912):272; Benedict, "The Denver Park System," 199.

⁴⁹ *Denver Post*, 25 September 1914, 1.

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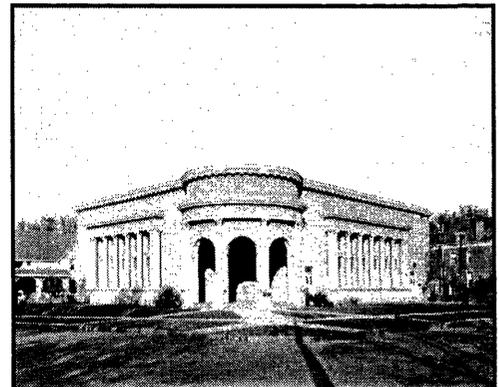
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extensive grounds. Mrs. Benedict continued to live on the farm after her divorce in 1932 until her death in 1945. In 1947, the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Colorado acquired the property for use as a monastery. In 1963, most of the Benedict-era portion of the house was demolished for new construction.⁵⁰

In Golden, Herman Coors, son of Golden brewing magnate Adolph Coors, commissioned Benedict to undertake a 1919 remodeling and expansion of his *Coors House, 1817 Arapahoe Street, Golden (1919, remodel, 5JF147; National Register and Golden Landmark)*. The project greatly enlarged and remodeled an existing 1912 bungalow. The resulting stucco and native stone Tudor Revival residence had an irregular plan and a steeply pitched slate roof. Mrs. Coors made trips to the nearby mountains to select stones for the project. The remodeling was a character-altering change which made the house a Benedict.⁵¹

Benedict's Most Productive Period, 1920-1929

The 1920s were the most productive period for Jacques Benedict in terms of numbers of completed projects. His residential designs flourished in upscale neighborhoods of Denver, and he began commissions in the Broadmoor area of Colorado Springs. The architect completed a number of designs for significant religious resources, among them the Church of Divine Science (1922), buildings at St. Thomas Seminary (1926-31), and the Presbyterian Church in Littleton (1929). Benedict's Littleton Town Hall of 1920 received national attention. Benedict devoted considerable efforts in the late 1920s to developing a design for the Denver City and County Building as an alternative to the thirty-nine member Allied Architects Association proposal. His Cullen-Thompson Motor Company Building, a terra cotta auto salesroom built in 1926, displayed a French Gothic style. Benedict also produced designs for two schools during this period: Rosedale (1924) and Graland (1928). He also prepared drawings for several Denver Mountain Parks structures during the 1920s.



First Church of Divine Science (1922).

⁵⁰ The only part of the Benedict house remaining in 2000 was the living room and two rooms above it. Mother Judith Hartford, Carmel of the Holy Spirit, to Littleton Historical Museum, Historical Preservation Board, 22 April 2000; *Littleton Independent*, 21 May 1948, 1; R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, 6138 S. Gallup, 5AH1899, Historic Building Inventory Record Form, May 2001; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 127.

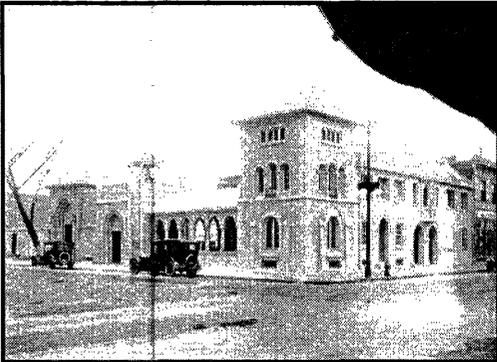
⁵¹ The associated gardener's house at 810 19th Street was built in 1928, when the Phinney family owned the property. It is not clear if Benedict was involved in the design of that building. Roy Cole, Herman Coors House, 5JF147, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 3 January 1997; "Mountain Park Architecture Admired," *Denver Municipal Facts*, May-June 1922, 8-9.

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Holy Ghost Church (1924).

Religious Resources

During the 1920s, Benedict designed six religious resources, including a seminary, three churches, a clergy house, and a rectory. The *First Church of Divine Science, 1400 Williams Street, Denver (1922, 5DV4689; State Register)* was the first religious building completed by Benedict in Colorado. This Classical Revival style church was planned to house the growing Divine Science congregation. The building had pebble textured stucco walls with a rounded colonnade entry at the

southwest corner. The colonnade, with terra cotta columns with Corinthian capitals, extended along the west and south walls, and the building was elaborately ornamented with additional terra cotta in a variety of classical details. According to a 1928 article on "Art in Denver," the congregation preferred "a style of architecture classic rather than Christian in origin," since their religion was "a philosophical religion, not ritualistic in form." A photograph of the church was featured in the January 1923 edition of the *Architectural Record*.⁵²

Half of Benedict's religious projects in the 1920s were for Roman Catholic facilities. Holy Ghost Catholic Church parish organized in 1905. By the early 1920s, the church attendance grew to such an extent that a larger building was necessary to accommodate Sunday Mass. Jacques Benedict was selected to produce plans for the new church, *Holy Ghost Church, 633 19th Street, Denver (1924, 5DV512)*. Due to limited funds, initial construction was limited to the basement and rectory; however, the foundation footprint was made as large as the site would accommodate, and Benedict produced a sketch showing how the superstructure would appear. The architect believed that the Lombard-Romanesque style he selected was appropriate for a downtown church hemmed in by commercial buildings. Benedict shared his general views on church architecture in the *Denver Catholic Register* in 1925:

Modern architecture has proved itself to be largely indifferent to symbol or allegory, as a means of expressing the idea which it wishes to present, or possibly the idea itself has become one of massive strength rather than one of spiritual aspiration. The fact remains, however, that unless the Church revives the practice of symbolizing its thought by means of the language of art, which all can read, and which has been evolved because of a spiritual demand, it will as completely pass away as a means of architectural expression as other formulas which were once of widespread interest to the laity.⁵³

⁵² Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict; Architectural Record*, 53 (January 1923)13-14; Diane Wilk, *The Wyman Historic District* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1995), 18-19; Christopher Craven, *First Church of Divine Science, 5DV4689, State Register of Historic Properties nomination form*, 29 March 1995; "Art in Denver," *DPL Lookout*, 1(1928):25.

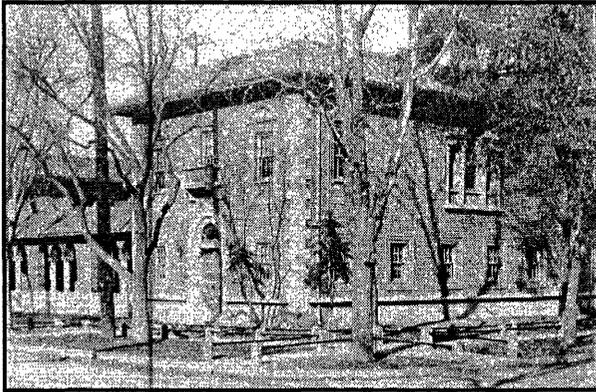
⁵³ *Denver Catholic Register*, 1 September 1925.

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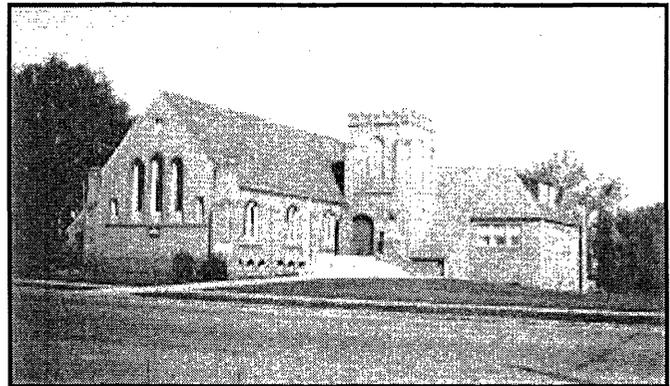


St. Joseph's Church Rectory (1926).

Joseph's Church Rectory, 605 W. 6th Avenue, Denver (1926, 5DV28). St. Joseph's Catholic Church had been erected in 1889, but the rectory for the Redemptorist brothers was not built until 1926. The brick two-story Renaissance Revival building featured a hipped tile roof and a long arcade along W. 6th Avenue.⁵⁵

In 1928, the congregation of St. Andrews Episcopal Church selected Jacques Benedict to prepare plans for a brick, tile roofed addition, which would serve as a clergy house: *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Clergy House, 2013 Glenarm Street, Denver (1928, 5DV116; National Register).* Famed Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram had designed the original 1909 church, located a few blocks east of downtown Denver.⁵⁶

The *Presbyterian Church of Littleton, 1609 W. Littleton Boulevard, Littleton (1929, 5AH1978; Littleton Landmark)* was the final known project completed by Benedict in Littleton. Founded in 1883, the Littleton Presbyterians were in need of a larger church by the 1920s and chose Benedict to prepare plans for a Gothic Revival building. The donors of the church site stipulated that the building should not cost less than \$35,000, a "competent architect" should be hired, and a suitable belfry should be included to hold the bell



Presbyterian Church of Littleton (1929).

⁵⁴ Monroe's son confirmed that his father was responsible for design. John C. Walsh, *The History of Holy Ghost Church* (Denver: Denver Catholic Register, 1975); *Denver Catholic Register*, 1 September 1925 and 22 May 1941; *Rocky Mountain News*, 9 July 1943; Monroe interview.

⁵⁵ Thomas J. Noel, *Colorado Catholicism and the Archdiocese of Denver* (Niwot, Colo.: University Press of Colorado, 1989), 358-61.

⁵⁶ Kay Lynn and William R. Jones, *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5DV116, National Register of Historic Places, Nomination Form, 25 September 1974; Noel, Buildings of Colorado, 55.*

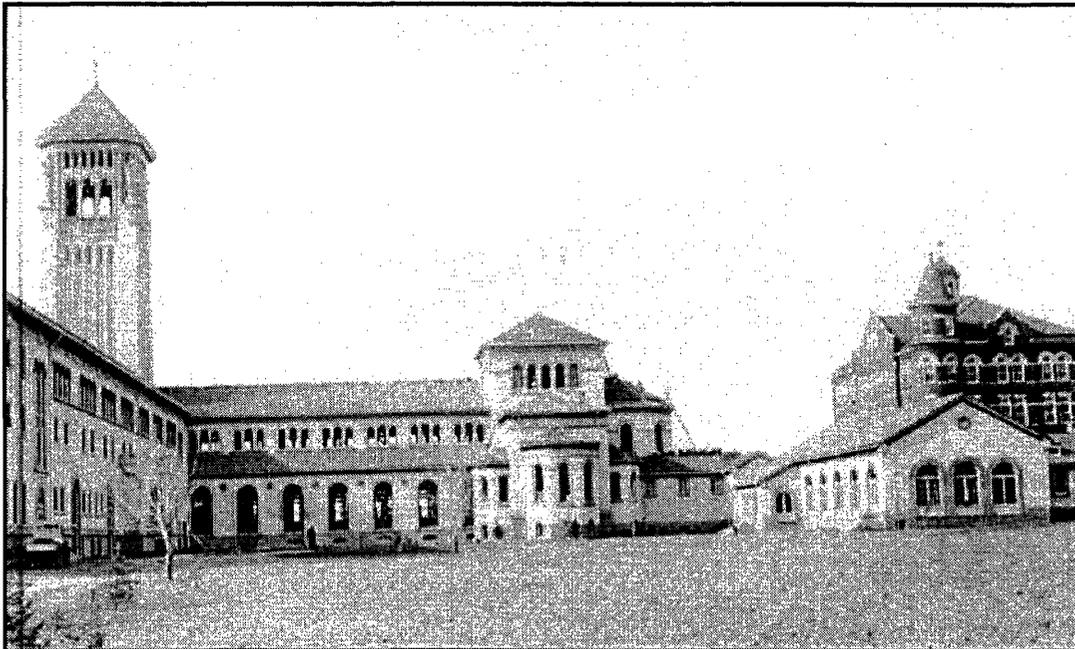
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from the old church. The corner brick church featured a central square tower with a crenellated parapet, a projecting gabled roof wing with three large Gothic arched windows, and



St. Thomas Theological Seminary (1926-31).

central enclosed entrance porch. The Tudor Revival style sanctuary had dark oak beams and woodwork. The building was expanded with an educational wing in 1955.⁵⁷

Jacques Benedict's largest commission for the Catholic Church was that for the construction of *St. Thomas Theological Seminary, 1300 S. Steele Street, Denver (1926-31, 5DV729, National Register)*. The design of the seminary was considered for a number of years, and many conferences were held between the Diocese and the architect. Completed over a five-year period were the components of the main seminary building: Administration Building (1926); 138-foot Tihen Tower (1927); St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel (1930-31); and Dining Hall (1931). Benedict employed what he called the "Lombard style" for the seminary and "an attempt was made to have the architecture fundamentally symbolical."⁵⁸

The building was constructed of buff brick, with cast stone trim, round arch doors and windows, and a tile roof. The chapel used over nine hundred different shapes of brick of

⁵⁷ First Presbyterian Church of Littleton, *A Centennial History* (Englewood, Colo.: Columbine Copy & Printing, 1986); Historical Landmarks, First Presbyterian Church of Littleton, City of Littleton Website, littletongov.org, 15 March 2004; R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, Littleton Presbyterian Church, 5AH1978, Historic Building Inventory Record Form, May 2001 .

⁵⁸ Benedict also designed a Grotto constructed in 1931. Lane Ittelson, St. Thomas Theological Seminary, 5DV729, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 15 March 1989; *Denver Catholic Register*, 25 June 1931.

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various colors and glazing as an integral part of its ornamentation. The *Denver Catholic Register* described the construction of the chapel in great detail:

No coverings of plaster, paint or wood were employed where masonry was possible. The effect of endurance and permanence is obvious, even to casual inspection The chapel was constructed with the minimum of perishable materials. The actual construction is apparent everywhere and the anatomy of the entire fabric is realized as being employed for structural purposes almost devoid of ornament and needless superficialities.⁵⁹

The nave of the chapel had 280 colorful symbolic ceiling panels. Seventeen of the eighty-five stained glass windows in the chapel were produced by Franz Meyer of Munich. The *Denver Catholic Register* noted that favorable comments had been received from around the country and that the seminary had been called "the best example of ecclesiastical architecture in brick construction in the United States."⁶⁰

Residential Resources

Benedict's residential practice came into full flower during the 1920s. He produced plans for at least twenty-three houses during the decade. Benedict continued to produce designs for houses in the Country Club neighborhood (discussed earlier), in Morgan Addition, and in other areas of East Denver. His practice expanded to include large residences in Colorado Springs, as well as lodges in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Country Club Neighborhood

At least five houses were finished by Benedict in the Country Club neighborhood in the 1920s. The earliest residence of the period was the *Thomas-Phipps House, 360 High Street, Denver (1920, 5DV167.98; Country Club National Register Historic District)*. Benedict drew plans for this large Tudor Revival residence for Sewell Thomas, a mining engineer and the son of Charles S. Thomas, Colorado Governor (1898-1901) and U.S. Senator (1913-1921). The second residents of the house were former U.S. Senator Lawrence C. Phipps and his wife, Margaret. The two-and-a-half-story brick house included stone quoins and stone door and window surrounds, an oriel window, leaded glass windows, and a porte-cochere. The half-timbering of the upper story featured brick laid in a herringbone pattern.

The remaining Country Club houses were finished in the late 1920s. The *Herres House, E. 6th Avenue and York Street, Denver (1927, razed)* was designed in Park Lane Square by Benedict for Morton Herres. The two-story "Spanish type" residence had eighteen rooms and

⁵⁹ *Denver Catholic Register*, 25 June 1931.

⁶⁰ Lane Ittelson, St. Thomas Theological Seminary, 5DV729, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 15 March 1989; *Denver Catholic Register*, 25 June 1931.

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a stucco exterior, and cost \$35,000.⁶¹ The *McFarland House*, 476 Westwood Drive, Denver (1927; Country Club National Register Historic District) was a Spanish-style dwelling constructed for William McFarland. William J. Geddes, president of the Denver Sewer Pipe and Clay Company, had Jacques Benedict design the *Geddes House*, 2155 Westwood Place, Denver (1927, Country Club National Register Historic District). The two-story brick Tudor Revival style house had an irregular plan and a steeply pitched roof. In 1929 Benedict prepared plans for the *Douglas House*, 576 Circle Drive, Denver (1929; Country Club National Register Historic District). The house was built for James W. Douglas, chairman of the board of the Whitney Sporting Goods Company. The wide Spanish style residence featured stucco walls, a tile roof, round arches, and balconets.⁶²

Morgan's Addition

Morgan's Addition proved to be an even more popular locale for Benedict designs than the Country Club area in the 1920s. Morgan's Addition, bordered by the Denver Botanic Gardens on the north, E. 8th Avenue on the south, York Street on the east and Cheesman Park on the west, received at least five houses created by Benedict during the 1920-29 period. The subdivision reportedly attracted the affluent offspring of Denver's movers and shakers and today contains a rich concentration of significant Benedict-designed residences. The 1920 *Radetsky House*, 800 Race Street, Denver (1920) was the first Jacques Benedict dwelling in Morgan's Addition. Samuel and Sarah Radetsky contracted with the architect to prepare plans for this Mediterranean Revival house. Radetsky was general manager of the Colorado Iron and Metal Company. The one-and-a-half-story stucco residence was composed of two intersecting tile roof wings, with a turret entry at their intersection with a round arch entrance surmounted by a balconet and an oculus above.⁶³

Benedict designed the *Beaux Arts Waring House*, 910 Gaylord Street, Denver (1922, 5DV4789) for Dr. James J. Waring and his wife, Ruth. Waring was a prominent Denver physician who served as chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, while Mrs. Waring was the daughter of Henry M. Porter, the founder of Porter Hospital. The \$30,000 house was one-and-a-half stories, with stucco walls, an elaborated entrance, balconets, and a richly ornamented side wall with an oriel window. Benedict also designed a mountain lodge for the Warings in the Jefferson County foothills.⁶⁴

Department store owner Max Neusteter reportedly spent \$80,000 erecting the *Levie-Leman-Bailey House*, 817 Race Street, Denver (1924, 5DV6053) for his daughter, Lillian, and her

⁶¹ *Denver Post*, 23 February 1927.

⁶² Country Club Historic District, Denver Landmark Preservation Commission files; Bakemeier, *Country Club Heritage*, 183.

⁶³ Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*; Annette L. Student, *Historic Cheesman Park Neighborhood* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1999), 54-55.

⁶⁴ Student, *Historic Cheesman Park*, 48-49; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*.

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Radetsky House (1920).



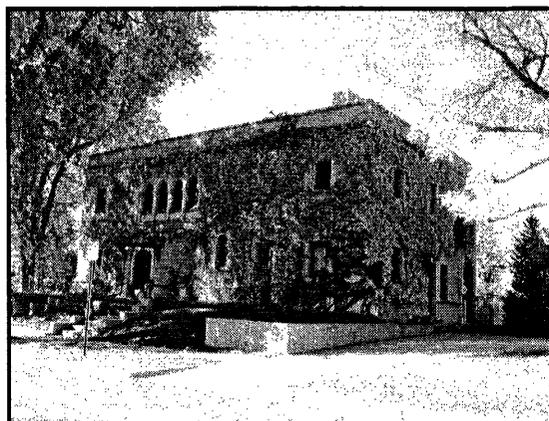
Campbell House (1926).



Levie-Leman-Bailey House (1924).



Douglas House (1929).



Salzar House (1926).

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husband, Joseph B. Levie, who was vice president of the Neusteter Company. The one-and-a-half-story, ten-room Italian Renaissance Revival style house backed onto Cheesman Park and reportedly included an elevator and “every modern convenience.” The house had stucco walls, a tile roof, balconets, round arch windows, and a bowed center section of the façade containing the elaborate pointed arch entrance.⁶⁵ Located immediately to the south was the Renaissance Revival *Salzar House, 801 Race Street, Denver (1926, 5DV6052)*, which had two stories, a flat roof, stucco walls, a basement garage, and an off-center round arch entrance topped by a shell-shaped hood with a second-story arcade above. Benedict created the house for Louise Salzar, the widow of Benjamin Salzar, a lumberman and banker.⁶⁶

J.J.B. Benedict drafted plans for the *Campbell House/Botanic Gardens House, 909 York Street, Denver (1926, 5DV182; National Register and Denver Landmark)* for Richard C. and Margaret Campbell. Richard Campbell was the business manager for the *Rocky Mountain News* and the founder of the Campbell Investment Company, while Margaret was the daughter of U.S. Senator Thomas Patterson. The irregularly-shaped two-story house had stucco walls, brick and stone door and window trim, and a steeply pitched green tile roof. The Beaux-Arts style house was donated to the Denver Botanic Gardens (immediately north of the house) in 1960 by Ruth Waring, who had acquired it two years earlier.⁶⁷

Other Designs in East Denver

Jacques Benedict drafted plans during the 1920s for eight houses scattered throughout East Denver, from Capitol Hill and East 7th Avenue Parkway to Park Hill. He also created the *Evans House Terrace and Stairway, 2001 E. Alameda Avenue, Denver (c. 1928, razed)* for the grounds of the John Evans mansion and designed the south Tudor Revival wing of the *Richthofen Castle, 7020 E. 12th Avenue, Denver (1924, addition, 5DV4219; National Register and Denver Landmark)*.⁶⁸



Kistler/Rodriguez House (1920).

⁶⁵ Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*; Student, *Historic Cheesman Park*, 56-57; Sandra Dallas, *Colorado Homes*, 179; Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU.

⁶⁶ This house is sometimes identified as the Sullivan House. *Rocky Mountain News*, 6 April 2002; Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, File Search, 5DV6052; Student, *Historic Cheesman Park*, 54.

⁶⁷ Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 92; Student, *Historic Cheesman Park*, 40-41; Sharon L. Petersen, Richard C. Campbell House, 5DV182, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 29 June 1978; *Rocky Mountain News*, 30 December 1962, 17A; Dallas, *Colorado Homes*, 178; Noel, *Denver Landmarks*, 61.

⁶⁸ The firm of Fisher and Fisher designed the Evans house. *Denver Post*, 14 July 1928; Scrapbook Number 7, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU.

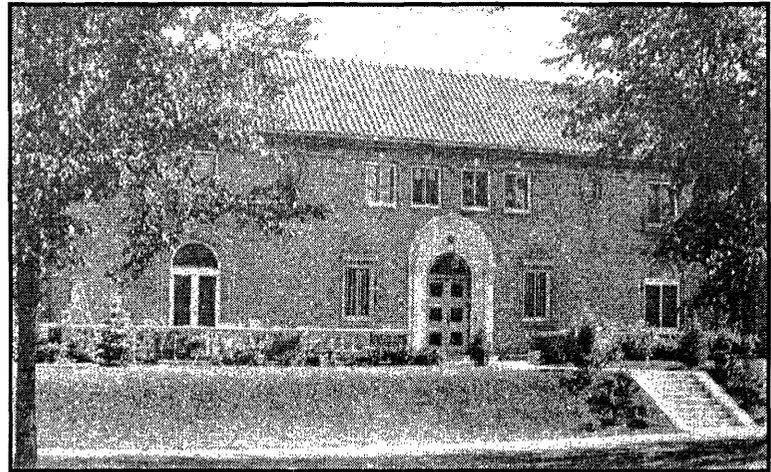
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Erle D. Kistler and his wife were the initial occupants of the *Kistler-Rodriguez House*, 700 E. 9th Avenue, Denver (1920, 5DV1497; *National Register and Denver Landmark*). Erle Kistler was the treasurer of the W.H. Kistler Stationery Company and the son of W.H. Kistler. The two-story hipped roof brick residence had contrasting stone quoins, window trim, and a center entrance with a semicircular compound arch. The west wall featured a horizontal band of corbelled arches at the base of the upper story and a tall brick chimney with a corbelled base. The National Register nomination for the house characterized its style as Jacobean Revival.⁶⁹



Urling House (1920).

In Park Hill, Benedict designed the *Urling House*, 4050 Montview Boulevard, Denver (1920) for Madeline Urling, reportedly as a bridal gift from her father. The wide, symmetrical house was two stories in height, with brick walls, two oval windows on the second story, and an elaborate semicircular arched center entrance. Architect John Carney, who with his wife Nancy rehabilitated the residence in the late 1980s, reflected on the character of the house: "This house is decorative. It is typically a Benedict design with texture and rich detail for a clientele that appreciated that fine work. The stone masonry, the arched windows and doorways and the fanciful ceilings make the house intriguing to us."⁷⁰

A number of sources attribute Jacques Benedict and Harry Manning jointly with the design of the *Malo Mansion*, 500 E. 8th Avenue, Denver (1921, 5DV952; *Denver Landmark*). The Spanish Colonial Revival residence was built for Oscar L. and Edith Malo. Oscar Malo was president of the Colorado Milling and Elevator Company, which was owned by his wife's father, John K. Mullen. The two-story tile roof house featured stucco walls, a triple arched center entry, wrought iron balconets, and elaborately ornamented door and window surrounds.⁷¹

Benedict prepared plans for the *Brown-Garrey-Congdon House*, 1300 E. 7th Avenue Parkway, Denver (1921, *Denver Landmark*) for his wife's cousin, Carrol T. Brown. Brown was the son of

⁶⁹ Barbara Norgren, Kistler-Rodriguez House, 5DV1497, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, November 1982; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*.

⁷⁰ *Denver Post, Contemporary*, 17 April 1988, 23; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*.

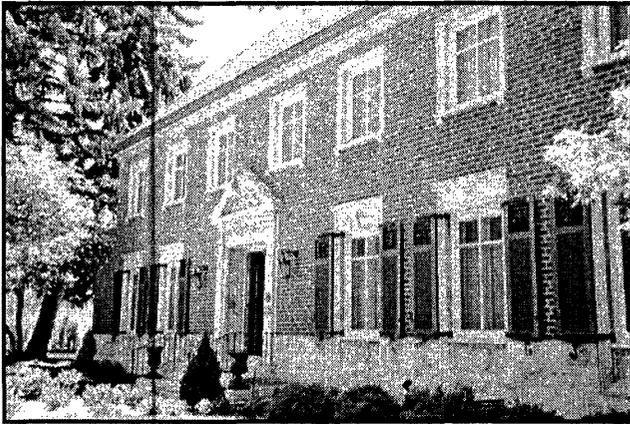
⁷¹ If jointly designed with Harry Manning, this house would not be eligible for nomination under this MPDF. Leigh A. Grinstead, *Molly Brown's Capitol Hill Neighborhood* (Denver: Historic Denver, Inc., 1997), 86-87; Denver Foundation for Architecture, 180-81.

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Kerr House (1925). NRHP nomination, 2001.

J.S. Brown, owner of J.S. Brown Mercantile. The Chateausque style dwelling was sited to take advantage of the long, narrow corner parcel. Features of the two-story house included stucco walls, a brick base and quoins, a steeply pitched tile roof with brick roundel dormers, and a two-story semi-circular bay on the south wall.⁷²

The two-story French Renaissance Revival *Kerr House*, 1900 E. 7th Avenue, Denver (1925, 5DV751, *National Register and Denver Landmark*) was designed by Benedict for John

G. and Helen Kerr. John Kerr, a native of Ireland, was the owner and operator of marble and rhyolite quarries in Colorado and Arizona, including the Denver Travertine Company, which supplied the rough travertine used for the dwelling's foundation and door and window trim. The two-story residence had brick walls, an irregular plan, flat arch windows, and an off-center entrance with travertine pediment. John Kerr died before the house was completed, but his widow lived in the residence until 1973. In 1969, architect Alan Fisher offered his opinion that the Kerr House was "the best" of Benedict's residential designs.⁷³

Samuel E. Kohn, founder and president of the American Furniture Company, and his wife, Aimee, engaged Jacques Benedict to design the *Kohn House*, 770 High Street, Denver (1925, 5DV6051). Samuel Kohn was also a director of the American National Bank and of National Jewish Hospital and was president of Temple Emanuel. The two-story Renaissance Revival style corner residence featured stucco walls, a tile roof, round arch door and window openings, and ornamental lanterns. The home has been occupied for some time by Peter Dominick, Jr. and his family. Dominick, whose father served Colorado in the U.S. Senate, is an architect and a Benedict aficionado.⁷⁴

The *Fitzell House*, 2900 E. 7th Avenue Parkway, Denver (1927), a brick French Tudor residence, was designed about 1927 by Jacques Benedict. The original owners were John T. and Lybia Fitzell. John Fitzell was a native of Ireland who came to Denver in 1890. He organized the Ideal Laundry in 1905 and subsequently served as the company's treasurer and

⁷² Brown-Garrey-Congdon House, Denver Landmark Preservation Commission files; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*; Noel, *Denver Landmarks*, 75-76; Dallas, 179; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 93; Denver Foundation for Architecture, 202-03.

⁷³ *Rocky Mountain News*, 26 January 1969, 5; Nancy Widmann, Kerr House, 5DV751, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 16 May 2001.

⁷⁴ Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 88-89; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict* (a excellent photograph of a tiled bathroom in the Kohn House is included).

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president.⁷⁵

Broadmoor

The *Denver Post* observed in December 1928 that the *Sparey House, Broadmoor, Colorado Springs (1928)* was the "latest addition to the rapidly growing group of estates of distinction in Colorado." The Howard I. and Freda (Maytag) Sparey residence in Broadmoor cost \$75,000 for the house and grounds. Mrs. Sparey was the daughter of washing machine magnate Lewis B. Maytag. The house was built in a Spanish style, with a Colorado tile roof, stucco walls and Del Norte stone trim. Photographs of the house and grounds were featured in the August 1931 *Country Life* magazine. In 1931, Mr. and Mrs. Sparey's grounds won first prize in a nationwide competition sponsored by the Yard and Garden Contest Association of America. Benedict may have also produced plans for the *Lewis B. Maytag House, 95 Marland Road, Broadmoor (1929)*.⁷⁶

Mountain Lodges

The creation of mountain residences for wealthy individuals represented a melding of Benedict's urban practice of residences for upscale clients and his extensive work in the Denver Mountain Parks in the 1910s and 1920s. The 1920s saw Benedict create several dwellings in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and, in 1922, the American Institute of Architects invited Benedict to present a paper on "Alpine Architecture" at its national conference. The February 1923 issue of *Western Architect* devoted sixteen pages to "The Alpine Quality in Architecture" as exemplified by Benedict's works. The writer discussed the effects of Benedict's technique:

By taking the rough boulders and pine provided by Nature and disposing them in a most natural and informal fashion, a task achieved only by a complete understanding of the spirit and intent of Nature herself, Mr. Benedict has accomplished most beautiful, logical and natural results. The observer's reaction is that Nature has been enhanced by the ordering hand of man; Nature has been reacted upon for the production of something man can use, but Nature's principles and procedures have not been violated. Nothing has been done that does not find its inspiration in Nature's suggestion. The architecture presents Nature's forms, conventionalized, organized, made useful to man. It is therefore akin to its setting; is inseparably married to its "Alpine" environment; it "belongs."
. . . Mr. Benedict's contribution to architecture is the expression of the spirit of

⁷⁵ *Who's Who in Colorado, 1938*, 258; *Rocky Mountain News*, 8 December 1979, 3B; Spiezle, "Jacques Benois," 14.

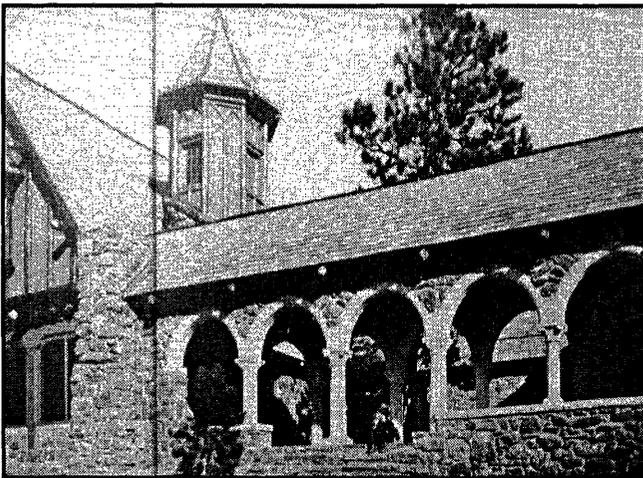
⁷⁶ *Denver Post*, 30 December 1928 and 28 February 1932; *Country Life*, August 1931; Scrapbook Number 7, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU.

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Mayo Lodge (1920).

Colorado's wonderful mountains.⁷⁷

The works featured in the *Western Architect* article included Chief Hosa Lodge and several shelters in the Denver Mountain Park system, as well as mountain houses/lodges. Included among the latter designs were three Jefferson County resources: *Phelan Cabin, Colorow Point, Lookout Mountain, Jefferson County (pre-1922)* built for Mrs. Agnes B. Phelan; *Waring Lodge/"Hilltop", Bear Creek Canon, Jefferson County (pre-1922)* constructed for Dr. James J. Waring; and *Mayo Lodge, 32743 Upper Bear Creek Road, Kittredge (1920)*.

The lodge built for Paul T. Mayo, an educator and U.S. diplomat, was the largest and most elaborate of the three. Constructed of native stone, the large one-and-half-story, eleven-room dwelling featured a log half-timbered gable face with an oriel window, an arcaded cloister of cut Del Norte "lava stone" (rhyolite), and an octagonal Gothic Revival tower. Timbers used in the building were peeled, oiled, and varnished to preserve their natural color, and stucco was "colored to resemble the disintegrated roads of the mountain parks." Architectural historian Thomas J. Noel opined that Benedict "designed this house to look like a medieval monastery."⁷⁸

Dwarfing the Mayo project, however, was a later 1920s project in Jefferson County: *Baehr Lodge, 16405 Colorado Highway 126, Pine vicinity (1928, 5JF383; State Register)*. Costing a reported \$1.5 million, the one-and-a-half-story, twenty-seven room, Rustic style residence had an irregular plan and was constructed of native stone and logs. The dwelling was built as a summer retreat for Chicago native William A. Baehr, president of the Denver Ice Company. The lodge was featured in the August 1930 issue of *Country Life*.⁷⁹

In addition, at least one mountain home was completed in the foothills of El Paso County. *La Foret (Taylor Summer Cabin), 6145 Shoup Road, El Paso County (1928)* was designed by Benedict as a mountain retreat for Alice Bemis Taylor's family. Alice Taylor was a wealthy Colorado Springs philanthropist and founder of the Bemis-Taylor Foundation. Her "summer cabin" was located north of Colorado Springs and consisted of a large two-story log building

⁷⁷ "The Alpine Quality in Architecture as Exemplified by the Works of J.B. Benedict, Architect, Denver," *Western Architect*, 32(February 1923):15.

⁷⁸ Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 166; Benedict, *The Work of J.B. Benedict*; "Mountain Park Architecture Admired," *Denver Municipal Facts*, May-June 1922,8-9.

⁷⁹ Steve Mehls, Baehr Lodge, 5JF383, State Register of Historic Properties Nomination Form, 3 March 1998; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 167; Scrapbook Number 7, Box 2 and Newspaper Clipping, 30 July 1928 and *Denver Post*, 31 July 1928, Unnumbered Scrapbook, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU.

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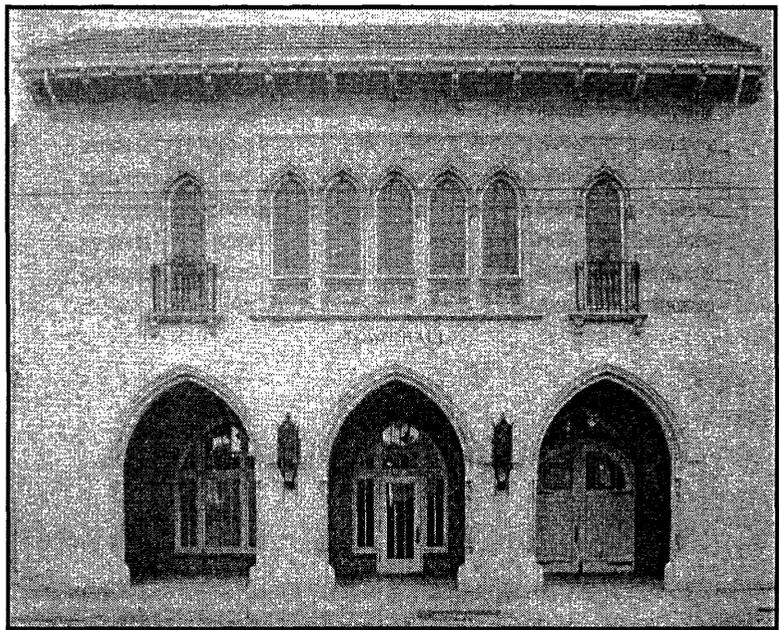
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Public and Educational Resources

As in the previous decade, Benedict received only a small number of commissions for public and educational buildings, including one town hall and two schools. Each of the buildings was considered an architectural ornament to its community. The architect spent considerable time criticizing the proposed design for a new City and County Building in Denver and preparing his own plans for the building, which were ultimately rejected.

Benedict's successful completion of the Littleton Carnegie Library in 1917, and the fact that he was a local resident, led to his selection as architect for the *Littleton Town Hall and Fire Department, 2450 W. Main Street, Littleton (1920, 5AH161, National Register)*. In 1919 Littleton voters approved bonds for a new building to be erected on the site of the old city hall, which was located in the middle of a block of Main Street. The siting disturbed some residents, who believed that the town hall "should be an outstanding building in design and bear an aspect of distinction that would imply its purpose." Officials decided to leave



Littleton Town Hall (1920).

the solution of the problem to the architect, requesting that the building "have a character that would dominate the design." As was the case in other public buildings on which he worked, Benedict felt that the limited budget for the project (\$25,000) would be "challenging."

Benedict reported that his inspiration for the town hall came from Northern Italian examples (the Palazzo della Regione in Vincenza, Italy, was cited), and the style selected was called "Northern Italian Gothic." The design was executed using local materials, including light gray terra cotta from the Denver Northwest Terra Cotta Co. that faced the façade of the building. It was reported that the architect acquired the terra cotta at cost and the company did not charge for sending workers to supervise its installation. The flat roof was crowned by a hipped roof tiled overhang with modillions between projecting piers. The first story had an arcade of three Gothic arch entrances with archivolt molding and ornament leading to an inset porch. The upper story featured an arcade of five narrow lancet windows with terra cotta bas relief spandrels flanked by single windows facing wrought iron balconets. Local influence was exhibited in the use of the Colorado state flower in the incised ornamental bands of the second story.

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The two-story edifice included room for the town's fire truck, a hose room, the city council chamber, the office of the treasurer, and a public restroom on the first floor and a large auditorium on the second. The architect reported that he made the lamps flanking the main entrance in his spare time from the remains of old iron balconies and donated them to the town. The building was critically acclaimed as "one of the most attractive town halls for a small community which can be found anywhere in the country." *Architectural Record* printed four photographs of the building in its January 1923 edition. Again, Littleton was pleased with the architect's work, and, in 1923, Benedict was appointed its municipal architect "with no remuneration." In 1930, *Littleton Independent* publisher Edwin Bemis praised Benedict for his efforts in Littleton: "You have contributed a great deal toward the beautification and upbuilding of Littleton . . . Littleton is mighty fortunate in having a man of your ability take such an interest in the progress of the town."⁸⁰

Benedict completed two schools during the 1920s, one for the Denver Public Schools system, and another for the private Graland Country Day School. *Rosedale Elementary School, 2330 S. Sherman Street, Denver (1924, 5DV2085)*, in south-central Denver, was erected during a period of great expansion in the city school facilities influenced by the City Beautiful movement. The five-acre school site adjoined Rosedale Park and commanded a panoramic view of the mountains. The \$102,000 school building reflected the Collegiate Gothic style in a two-story dark red and brown brick composition with side gable roof intersected by lavishly ornamented gabled entrance pavilions at each end of the façade. The parapeted pavilions had terra cotta coping, Tudor arch entrances, and elaborate terra cotta frontispieces pierced by narrow windows extending to the apex of the gables. Between the pavilions were three bays, each with ribbons of five large windows on each story. From the time of its completion, Rosedale School was listed among the beautiful buildings in the city.⁸¹

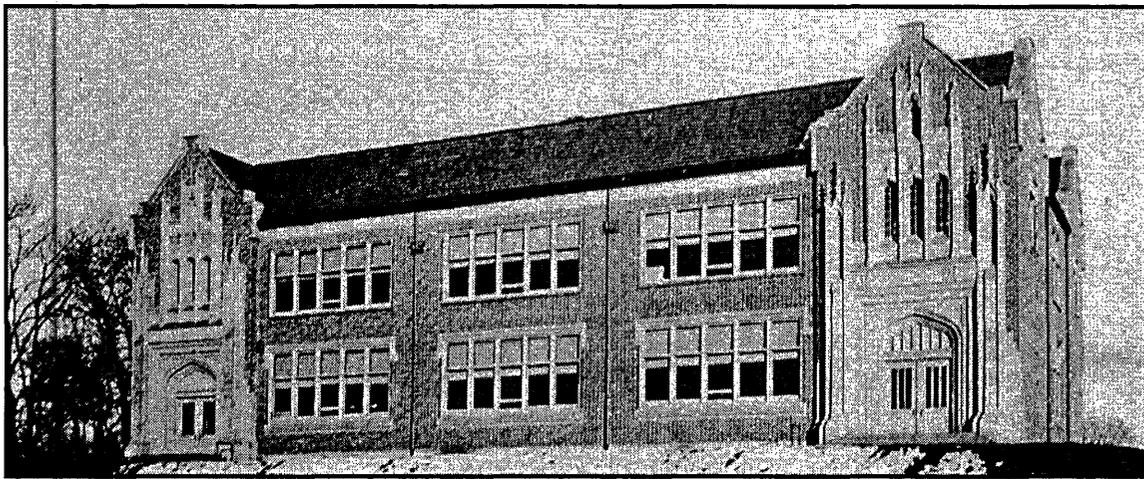
Graland County Day School, 30 Birch Street, Denver (1928, razed), was Benedict's other academic building of the 1920s. The architect's selection for the project may have been influenced by the fact that his children had attended the school. The site for the parent-owned school was undeveloped land when Benedict designed the first building, which was intended

⁸⁰ In 1977 a new city hall was erected and the older building was remodeled to serve as the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center, a performing arts facility. Robert J. McQuarie, Littleton Town Hall, 5AH161, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 27 February 1980; *Littleton Independent*, 22 July 1938; *American City Magazine*, Scrapbook Number 5, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; E.A. Francis, "Dignifying the Town Hall," *American Builder*, October 1923, 80-81; Doris Hulse, "Town Hall," on the City of Littleton website, www.littletongov.org/history/histlandmarks/townhall; Littleton Area Historical Museum, Littleton Town Hall Subject File; Cary M. Taylor, *J.J.B. Benedict: The Architecture of J.J.B. Benedict and Littleton's Main Street Redevelopment* (Boulder: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 1974), 16; "Art in Denver," *DPL Lookout* (1928): 39; Edwin A. Bemis, Littleton, Correspondence to J.J.B. Benedict, 6 March 1930, Littleton Area Historical Museum files.

⁸¹ Historical Files, Rosedale School, Denver; Public Affairs Office, Denver Public Schools; *Rosedale School Dedication Program*, 20 April 1950 and *Rosedale School, History of Rosedale; Rosedale Elementary Area Tour*, 18 October 1993.

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for four grades. Photographs and descriptions of the \$75,000 building indicate a two-story brick structure with Prairie style influences, including a broad façade sheltered by a hipped green tile roof with widely overhanging eaves; a banded wall surface; large, flat arch, multi-light windows on the first story; and smaller windows near the top of the walls on the second story. Within a year of its completion, one-story wings were added to each end of the building due to overcrowding. In 1995 the building was razed and replaced with a larger building that repeated some of the themes of the Benedict design.⁸²



Rosedale School (1924).

In the second half of the decade, Benedict became deeply involved in the debate concerning the *Denver City and County Building, 1437 Bannock Street, Denver (1928, unbuilt)*. The architect's personal scrapbook was filled with clippings regarding the controversial project. In 1924 a team of thirty-nine Denver architects, known as the Allied Architects Association, organized to cooperatively design a new city hall to be located in Civic Center. Mayor Stapleton favored the organization, which agreed to charge a single 6 percent fee. Benedict wasn't asked to join the association, but felt obliged to critique its plans. At the request of real estate agent I.G. Keator, he provided an alternative design, described as "American Gothic" in style. The architect stated that his massive thirty-five-story building, which drawings show as a combination of American Perpendicular and Gothic Revival styles with multiple pinnacles, was inspired by the mountains and foothills of Colorado. The *Denver Post* touted Benedict's design as superior, while the *Rocky Mountain News* and the mayor favored the Allied Architect's Classical Revival plan. In the end, Benedict's proposal was rejected, and construction of the building designed by the association proceeded to completion in 1932.⁸³

⁸² Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; *Denver Post*, 3 May 1928; Bakemeier, *Hilltop Heritage*, 15.

⁸³ Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Corson, "Architect J.J.B. Benedict," 24-29; Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 174-178.

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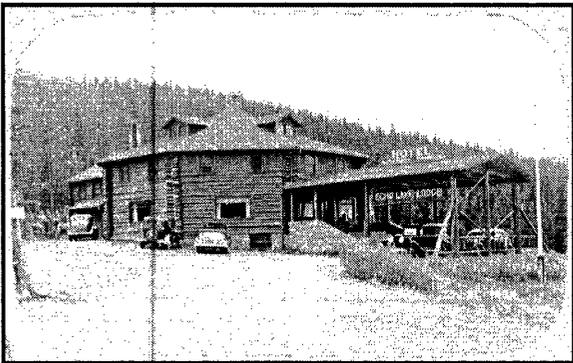
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Park Resources

Although he did not produce any plans for resources in urban parks in the 1920s, Benedict continued to design various Rustic style buildings in the Denver Mountain Parks. The construction included two relatively modest resources in Daniels Park and Starbuck Park. After the City and County of Denver acquired the site in 1920, the *Daniels Park Shelter, County Road 67, Douglas County (1922, 5DA1009; Daniels Park National Register Historic District)* was designed by Jacques Benedict and erected in 1922. The stone shelter had excellent views of the mountains to the west. The open, rectangular, hipped roof, stone and timber *Starbuck Park Well House, Colorado Highway 74, Idledale (c. 1923, 5JF978; Starbuck Park National Register Historic District)* was planned in the Rustic style by Benedict.



Echo Lake Lodge (1926).

The Benedict-designed buildings in Dedisse and Echo Lake Parks were larger and more ambitious.

The \$9,000 *Dedisse Park Clubhouse/Evergreen Golf Club, 29614 Upper Bear Creek Road, Evergreen (1925, 5JF645, Dedisse Park National Register Historic District)* was created as a peeled log octagon with a conical roof with eyebrow dormers. The Rustic style building was intended to house a restaurant, bar, and golf pro shop. The interior featured a center stone chimney, exposed beams, wood paneling, and light fixtures fashioned

from tree branches.⁸⁴ Benedict's *Echo Lake Lodge, Colorado Highway 103, Idaho Springs vicinity (1926, 5CC646; Echo Lake Park National Register Historic District)* was also constructed in the Rustic style. Like the Dedisse Clubhouse, the Echo Lake Lodge was octagonal with walls composed of peeled, saddle-notched logs which extend beyond the corners of the building. The roof was low-pitched and featured four dormers and a center stone chimney. The initial construction of the lodge cost \$17,700; the building was planned to provide accommodations to Denver Mountain Park visitors.⁸⁵

Commercial Resources

The *Cullen-Thompson Motor Company, 1000 Broadway, Denver (1926)* was J.J.B. Benedict's only completed commercial building of the 1920s. The three-story terra cotta-clad automobile salesroom was built for a Chrysler dealership. The exuberant Gothic style building had

⁸⁴ *Denver Municipal Facts*, July-August 1930, 10; Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 165; Ann Moss, Dedisse Park, 5JF645, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 3 October 1988.

⁸⁵ The National Register nomination for the lodge credits Benedict with its design, and comparisons with his other mountain park structures strongly suggest that he was the architect. *Denver Municipal Facts*, July-August 1930, 10; Maureen Van Norden, Echo Lake Park, 5CC646, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 25 February 1994.

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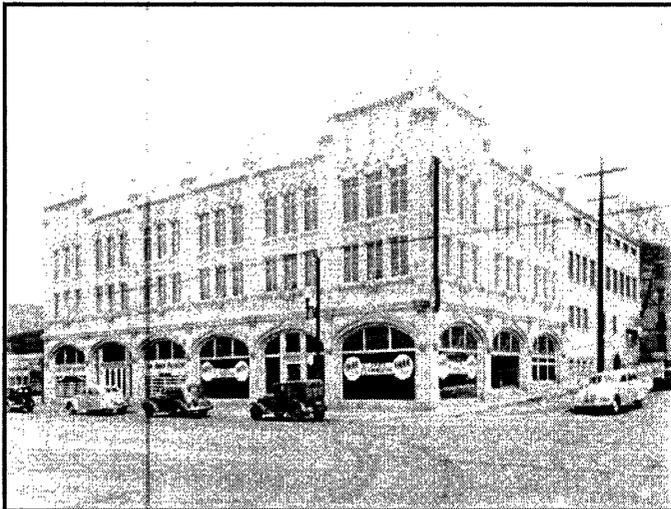
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projecting rooftop finials and stained glass windows, including some featuring the winged Chrysler symbol. Ramps that permitted the movement of automobiles to upper stories are still used in the building's current incarnation as the Gart's Sportscastle. An article in the *Denver Post* in September 1928 discussed the dealership's home:

The building is so distinctive and so different from the usual type of business structure that the elegance of its design has won widespread and favorable comment. Pictures of the building have been published in eight or ten national magazines and the beauty of the structure has been commented upon in architectural circles all over the world.



Cullen-Thompson Motor Co. (1926).

A Dodge dealership in Shanghai, China, requested and received permission to replicate the design there. Cullen-Thompson Motor Company is the only known commercial building that Benedict designed, as opposed to remodeled, that is still standing. Historians Thomas J. Noel and Barbara S. Norgren deemed this "the most impressive showroom on the Broadway automotive strip."⁸⁶

While the Cullen-Thompson Motor Company was Benedict's only known commercial building erected during the 1920s, he did produce designs for a

number of commercial buildings during the decade which were never built. In some cases these were competing designs which were passed over in preference for plans produced by another architect, such as the International Trust Company Building and the Republic Building.

Benedict's Final Years, 1930-1942

Jacques Benedict did not retire until 1942, but his practice diminished during the 1930s in terms of total number of projects. His workload was undoubtedly affected by the economic impacts of the Great Depression, although a few of his elite clients had sufficient capital to fund large projects during the decade. The St. Thomas Seminary project, begun in the latter part of the 1920s, was finished in 1931, but Benedict was engaged on two other major religious projects for the Catholic Church in the 1930s: St. Elizabeth's Church Monastery and Prayer Garden in Denver and St. Catherine Chapel at Camp St. Malo. Large residential projects during the decade included the construction of the country estate of May Bonfils

⁸⁶ The Colorado Building is still extant, but it is an older building remodeled by Benedict. *Denver Post*, 1 September 1928; Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 136.

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Berryman in Jefferson County ("Belmar"), the Weckbaugh Mansion in Denver, and the Ingersoll residence in Colorado Springs, as well as the remodeling of the Highlands Ranch headquarters building. His only known commercial project of this time period was the remodeling of the Hayden, Dickinson, and Feldhauser Building in downtown Denver into the Art Deco Colorado Building. Benedict's last known design was the 1937 Steinhauer Field House at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden.

Religious Resources

Camp St. Malo, near Allenspark, was founded in 1916 as a summer camp for Catholic youths. In 1934, the Oscar Malo family supplied \$15,000 for the construction of the *St. Catherine Chapel at Camp St. Malo, Colorado Highway 7, Allenspark vicinity (1935, 5BL436, Boulder County Landmark)*, which was formally dedicated in 1936. The 150-seat chapel was named for Mrs. Malo's mother, Catherine Smith Mullen, and for St. Catherine of Sienna. The native stone, Romanesque Revival chapel featured a steeply pitched roof and rose from its base on a rocky crag.⁸⁷



St. Catherine's Chapel at Camp St. Malo (1935).

In the Auraria neighborhood of Denver, Benedict prepared plans for the *St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Bonfils Memorial Prayer Garden and Monastery, 1062 11th St. (St. Francis Way), Denver (1936, addition, 5DV128)*. May Bonfils Berryman donated \$150,000 in the midst of the Great Depression to build a monastery and prayer garden addition to St. Elizabeth's Church (now part of the Auraria Campus). The donor expressed the wish that the building be "typically Old World" in its design and atmosphere. *Time* magazine took note of the project and called the style "Lombard Romanesque." The construction included a two-story hipped roof monastery with a projecting two-story octagonal bay with a large statue niche holding a sculpture of St. Francis of Assisi. The courtyard to the east was partially enclosed by a semi-circular, columned arcade featuring a series of mosaics depicting religious themes.⁸⁸

Residential Resources

J.J.B. Benedict made another foray into the affluent Broadmoor area of Colorado Springs with

⁸⁷ Noel, *Colorado Catholicism*, 113-14 and *Buildings of Colorado*, 182-83; Scrapbook Number 7, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU.

⁸⁸ *Rocky Mountain News*, 8 May 1936, 1; Noel, *Colorado Catholicism*, 351 and *Denver's Landmarks*, 4; *Time*, 18 May 1936.

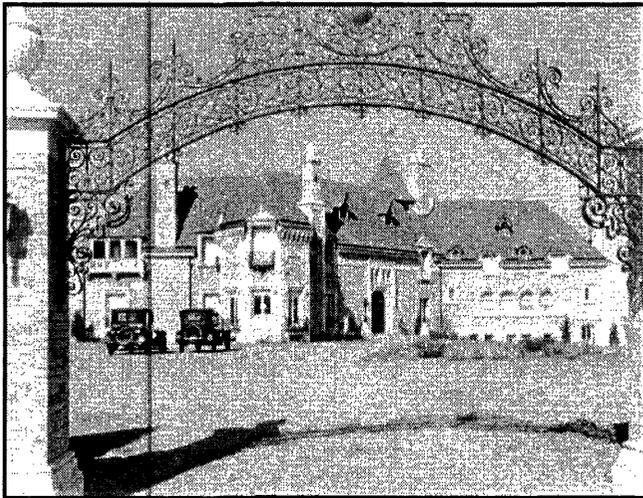
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his design for the *Ingersoll Mansion, 4 Pourtales Road, Broadmoor area, Colorado Springs (c. 1931)*. Harold and Winifred Ingersoll commissioned the architect to design this large residence. The L-shaped two-and-a-half-story house with stucco and half-timbering on the upper walls featured a tower and a four-car attached garage. Harold Ingersoll died in about 1937, but his widow continued to live in the house through at least the late 1950s.⁸⁹



Weckbaugh Mansion (1933).

In East Denver, south of the Denver Country Club, Benedict created the *Weckbaugh Mansion, 1701 E. Cedar Avenue, Denver (1933, 5DV719, National Register)*. He designed the mansion in the style of the French chateaus of Normandy for Mrs. Ella Mullen Weckbaugh, daughter of flour milling magnate and philanthropist John K. Mullen. The two-and-a-half-story house had an irregular plan, brick walls with Colorado travertine quoins, a steeply pitched slate roof, and a two-story tower on the west. The house included twenty-five rooms and had a four-car garage. The 1983 National Register nomination asserted, among extant mansions

of the period, this was “the most impressive example of the French Norman Chateau style. The design and quality of the detailing is outstanding and exceptional within the state as well as the city of Denver.”⁹⁰

May Bonfils Berryman selected Jacques Benedict to draft plans for her country estate of *Belmar, 769 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood (1936, razed)* in today’s suburb of Lakewood. Belmar’s initial cost estimate of \$100,000 made it a significant project in the middle of the Great Depression. Mrs. Berryman was the daughter and heiress of *Denver Post* publisher Frederick G. Bonfils. Belmar was intended “to provide an appropriate setting and background for a virtually priceless collection of antique furnishings, gathered in travels in all parts of the world,” as well as for Mrs. Berryman’s extensive art collection. The two-story twenty-room building was arranged to take advantage of mountain and landscape views. The Classical Revival style mansion was constructed of Carrara marble and followed the design of the Petit Trianon at Versailles. The 250-acre estate encompassed a lake and housed a deer herd. In

⁸⁹ The drawings for this house are dated 30 November 1929, but the Ingersolls are not listed at this address in city directories until 1932, suggesting a 1931 completion date. Jules Jacques Benois Benedict, Architectural Drawings, Manuscript Collection, Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department (includes drawings for the Kerr, Ingersoll, and Campbell residences); Colorado Springs City Directories.

⁹⁰ Nan Hines, Weckbaugh House, 5DV719, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 10 October 1974 and October 1983; *Rocky Mountain News*, 2 June 1930 and 18 August 1931; Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 53.

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1939, *Architectural Record* asked non-architect professionals to list their favorite buildings in six cities; Belmar was ranked sixth among Denver buildings. When May Bonfils Berryman Stanton died in 1962, the house was left to the Catholic Church, which sold it to a development company in 1970. The mansion was demolished and the site now holds an office park. The fountain designed by Benedict at Belmar (a duplicate of the Benedict Fountain installed at E. 20th Avenue and Tremont Place in 1932) was moved to Hungarian Freedom Park in about 1971.⁹¹

The extensive Tudor Revival remodeling of the *Highlands Ranch Headquarters, 9900 S. Ranch Road, Highlands Ranch (1932, remodel, 5DA220)* was completed by Jacques Benedict in 1932. Rancher John W. Springer built the original dwelling between 1891 and 1911. Frank E. Kistler, president of the Kistler Stationery Company in Denver, acquired the property in the late 1920s and engaged Benedict to prepare plans for expanding and remodeling the property. The sprawling mansion featured walls of rhyolite and stucco and half-timbering, a shake shingle roof, and square stone towers with crenellated parapets.⁹²



Belmar (1936) with fountain in foreground.

Benedict designed only one house in the Country Club area in the 1930s. The \$17,000 *Arthur House, 355 Gilpin Street, Denver (1932, 5DV167.13; Country Club National Register Historic District)* was built for Rex P. Arthur, manager of Otis and Company. The wide, symmetrical, two-story residence had a hipped roof with broadly overhanging eaves, red brick walls, wide travertine marble door and window trim, bands of windows on either side of the center entrance, and two angled oriel windows flanking a ribbon of windows near the roof. The house's unusual design reflected a Prairie style influence, and some have noted Mediterranean and Moderne style elements as well.⁹³

⁹¹ One source stated that the house was constructed of marbled terra cotta. *Rocky Mountain News*, 12 August 1936; Scrapbook Number 7, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Noel and Norgren, *Denver: The City Beautiful*, 137; Patricia K. Wilcox, ed., *Lakewood, Colorado: An Illustrated Biography* (Lakewood, Colorado: Lakewood 25th Anniversary Commission, 1994), 91-93; *Colorado Prospector*, December 1980, 1 and 4; *Rocky Mountain News*, 16 June 1971, 18; *Denver Post*, 20 October 1971, 24.

⁹² Benedict designed a Denver residence for Kistler in 1920 (700 E. 9th Avenue). Noel, *Buildings of Colorado*, 147; Sandra Dallas, *Colorado Homes*, 181.

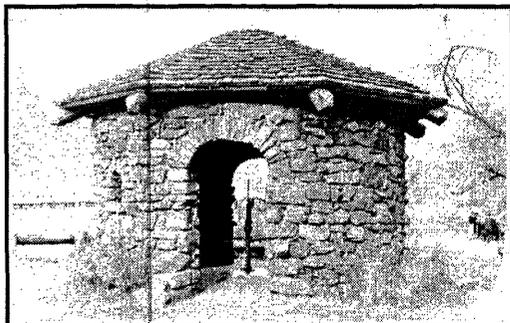
⁹³ Bakemeier, *Country Club Heritage*, 114-15; *Rocky Mountain News*, 7 August 2004, 1E.

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Little Park Well House (mid-1930s).

Park Resources

No commissioned urban park resources were designed by Benedict during the 1930s. However, in 1929, he announced plans to donate a children's wading pool/fountain to the City and County of Denver. The architect designed the *Benedict Fountain, E. 20th Avenue and Tremont Place, Denver (1932, razed; replica installed 1977)*, which was "16 feet 7 inches high with two dripping basins 10 ½ feet square at the base.

It is ornamented with lions, frogs and other figures appropriate to fountains, and fashioned of terra cotta." The \$12,000 fountain was executed by sculptor Maurice Bardin of Paris and installed in 1932. The location at E. 20th Avenue and Tremont Place was selected to provide a recreational amenity for a non-affluent area. Over time, the fountain fell into disrepair, and, by the 1970s, it was determined that the resource could not be repaired. The original was scrapped and a replica was crafted in travertine marble in Carrara, Italy, and installed in September 1977. The triangular park in which the fountain is located is now known as Benedict Park.⁹⁴

In the Denver Mountain Parks, two resources were reportedly designed by Benedict and constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers: *Little Park Well House, Little Park, Idledale vicinity (mid-1930s, 5JF1917, Little Park National Register Historic District)* and *Summit Lake Shelter, Mt. Evans Road, Summit Lake Park, Clear Creek County (mid-1930s, 5CC645, Summit Lake Park National Register Historic District)*. The Little Park Well House was an open, octagonal stone building with a conical roof and round arched door and window openings.

The Summit Lake Shelter was a small one-story hipped roof building with rubble stone walls and a tall stone chimney.⁹⁵

Commercial Resources

The Great Depression negatively impacted the Denver economy and building construction. In order to



Colorado Building (1936).

⁹⁴ *Denver Post*, 19 December 1931, 4; Scrapbook Number 7, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; Noel and Norgren, 169; *Rocky Mountain News*, 28 April 1991, 7M; Denver Foundation for Architecture, 266-67.

⁹⁵ Maureen Van Norden, Little Park, 5JF917, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 25 February 1994; Maureen Van Norden, Summit Lake Park, 5CC645, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 25 February 1994.

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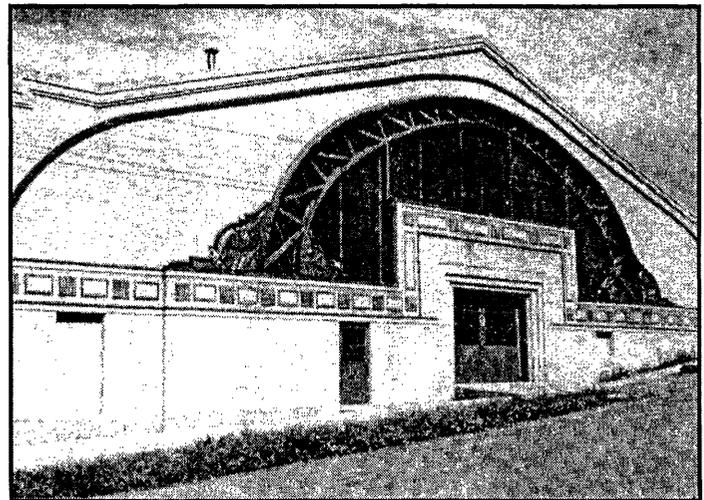
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demonstrate its confidence in the long-term future of the city, the real estate firm of Boettcher and Company commissioned Benedict to give a facelift to the seven-story *Colorado Building/Hayden, Dickinson, and Feldhauser Building, 1609-15 California Street, Denver (1935 remodel;5DV497)* in Denver's downtown commercial district. The 1891 building had been designed by John W. Roberts and received two additional stories in 1909 planned by architect Frank E. Edbrooke. Benedict, by applying a terra cotta skin in a modern Art Deco style, made the building his own, unifying its disparate parts and dramatically altering its character. The two-inch-thick terra cotta tiles were attached by lugs to steel bars set in the original brick of the buildings and backed by poured Portland cement mortar. In May 1936, *Building and Modernization* magazine called the refaced and rechristened Colorado Building "one of the most modern business blocks in the city" and observed that the California Street entrance had been "enriched by a conventionalized design of the columbine, the official state flower of Colorado. These designs are in the beautiful pastel colors of the natural flower. The Colorado Building, with its mountains, trees and flower designs is truly symbolic of the state."⁹⁶

Educational Resources

Benedict's last known building, unique among his body of work, was the *Colorado School of Mines Field House/Steinhauer Field House, Illinois and 13th streets, Golden (1937)*, which featured Art Deco and Art Moderne elements. The buff brick field house was 250' by 125' and featured an unusual façade design, consisting of a gable with a corbelled brick cornice, a large semi-circular glazed area in the upper part of the gable, and a stepped brick lower section trimmed with a contrasting brick and terra cotta border.



Colorado School of Mines Field House (1937).

The glazed area was ornamented by castings of burros and the torch, hammer, and drill insignia of the School of Mines. The building was large enough to house "major athletic and military activities" and included an eighth-mile track and a practice athletic field. The field house was the first building completed on the campus in twenty-eight years and was named in 1949 for Frederick C. Steinhauer, a member of the school's Board of Trustees, who was largely responsible for the construction of the building.⁹⁷

⁹⁶ City and County of Denver, Building Permit Number 2767, 17 September 1935; Scrapbook Number 7, Box 2, Benedict Collection-CU; *Building and Modernization*, May 1936, 16-18; *Denver Post*, 26 July 1935, 15; *Rocky Mountain News*, 15 September 1935, 5; Colorado Building, Historic Building Inventory Record Form, 5DV497, February 1993.

⁹⁷ Jesse R. Morgan, *A World School: The Colorado School of Mines* (Denver: Sage Books, 1955), 124 and 189; *Denver Post*, 9 September 1949; *Oredigger*, undated school newspaper clipping from the Denver Public Library,

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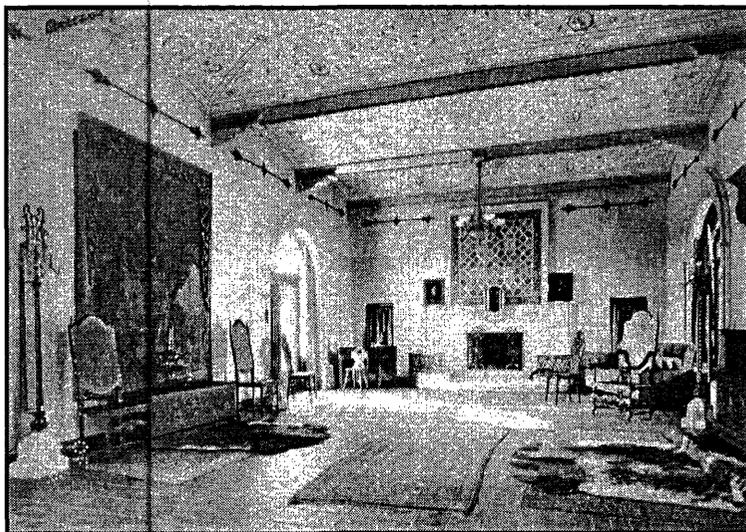
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Significance of Benedict's Work

Writing in 1920, Reginald Poland, director of the Denver Art Association, observed: "The architect, Mr. Jacques B. Benedict, is always expressed in his buildings. They are not merely 'good enough,' but are manifestations of an exceptionally artistic personality."⁹⁸ Robert McPhee, Benedict's son-in-law, discussed characteristics of the architect's style:

[E]xterior facades reflect the ambiance of fine craftsmanship because of faultless stucco or brickwork and generous use of terra cotta or stone doorway and window trim. Castle-like interiors are due to spaciousness and exquisite use of stone paneling and plaster ceiling friezes or moldings or exposed hand carved hardwood framework.⁹⁹



Living room of Benedict's home (Wyldemere).

Benedict paid special attention to the design of his building's interiors. The effort he expended on the decoration of his own home and the extensive coverage of interiors in his 1925 *Work* publication are evidence of his interest. The architect tended to view hallways as wasted space. According to historian Dan Corson, "Anne Waring Maer, who grew up in two Benedict houses, was enamored with the level of detail, inside and out, and obtained the feeling that it was obvious that Benedict loved what he did." Mike McPhee, Benedict's

grandson, noted that the architect "designed everything in his buildings, including the light fixtures, the stair railings, even the entrance gates and lanterns and surrounding fences." In some cases, Benedict personally fabricated architectural details for his buildings. For the Littleton Town Hall, which was built on a tight budget in his hometown, the architect constructed the building's outside lanterns from salvaged wrought iron balconies. A perfectionist, Benedict refused to be constrained by an inadequate budget. For some projects, he lowered his fee in order to secure the commission for the design. For the Woodbury Library, he personally raised additional funds to finish the building as he desired. In order to complete the Littleton Town Hall, he acquired materials at cost.¹⁰⁰

Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver, Colorado.

⁹⁸ Reginald Poland, "Artistic Expression in Denver," *Denver Municipal Facts* (September 1920):3.

⁹⁹ Robert McPhee, "Jacques Benois Benedict."

¹⁰⁰ Corson, "Architect J.J.B. Benedict," 17; Mike McPhee, "Architecture Extraordinaire."

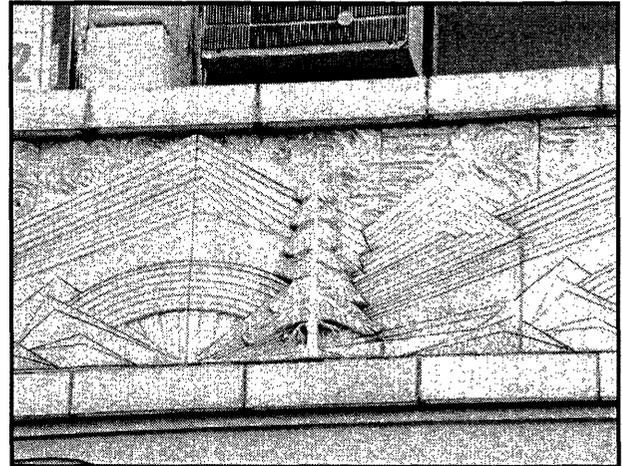
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Benedict's designs and his impact on Colorado architecture were recognized in national architectural publications during his lifetime. *Western Architect* published photographs of the Vail House, the Cranmer House, and the Turner House in 1921 and the Mayo Lodge, the Thomas House, the Waring Lodge, the Phelan Cabin, and Denver Mountain Parks buildings in 1922. *National Architect* carried an article by Benedict on "The Denver Park System." *Architectural Record* reproduced images of the Summer Home for the Presidents (March 1912), the Divine Science Church (January 1923), and the Littleton Town Hall (January 1923).¹⁰¹



Terra cotta detail on Colorado Building.

As demonstrable proof of their recognized architectural significance, seven buildings designed by Jacques Benedict have been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Other examples of the architect's work have been designated as individual local landmarks by the City and County of Denver (ten), Boulder County (one), the City of Golden (one), and the City of Littleton (three). A number of Benedict buildings are recognized as contributing resources within designated National Register or local landmark districts.

Benedict's legacy of impressive civic and religious buildings was particularly significant in Littleton, Colorado. Edwin Bemis, publisher of the *Littleton Independent*, wrote to Benedict in 1930 and hailed the architect for his contributions to the Denver suburb:

In your capacity as an architect, I feel that in times past you have contributed a great deal toward the beautification and up-building of Littleton. The town hall, the public library, and the new Presbyterian church are evidences of this. I know that you have given far more in services than have ever been included in the charge for your work; and I, as a citizen of Littleton, want to extend my personal appreciation. I think Littleton is mighty fortunate in having a man of your ability take such an interest in the progress of the town.¹⁰²

Benedict is considered the city's master of the Beaux-Arts style in Denver, and his buildings have withstood the test of time. Relatively few known Benedict resources have been demolished. Current Denver architects laud Benedict's work, just as many of his contemporaries did. Speaking of the Sullivan House at 801 Race Street, Charles Sink observed in 2002 that "I think it's rare that you will find a house as thoroughly designed as that house is, all the way to the sidewalk and planting areas." Jordan Hoggard called Benedict's

¹⁰¹ *Architectural Record*, 31(March 1912):272 and 53(January 1923):13-14 and 23-26.

¹⁰² Edwin Bemis to J.B. Benedict, 6 March 1930, in the files of the Littleton Historical Museum, Littleton, Colorado.

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residential designs “fortresses of feeling. There is a real protective quality in terms of the spaces. That’s where we move about. That’s where we live. It’s also where we dream.” Architect Peter Dominick, Jr., who lives in a Benedict home, summed up Benedict’s contribution to Colorado architecture:

Ultimately this is a man who was without a doubt one of the best architects ever to have practiced in Colorado. In each of his projects you can sense a virtuoso kind of designer—his manipulation of details, his organization of space, his sense of proportion. It’s just beautiful work. His work is timeless.¹⁰³

¹⁰³ *Rocky Mountain News*, 6 April 2002.

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**CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF
BUILDINGS DESIGNED BY J.J.B. BENEDICT**

STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
5DV.2753	McDonough House	3939 W. 46 th Ave., Denver	Denver	1910	Residential	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Extant	--
N/A	Mayer House	4101 Montview Blvd., Denver	Denver	1910	Residential	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD
N/A	Turner/Schuyler House	300 E. 8th Ave., Denver	Denver	1910	Residential	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Demolished	--
5DV.538	Central Savings Bank	1108 15th St., Denver	Denver	1911	Commercial	Original	Classical Revival	Unknown	Demolished	LLI
5DV.24	Sunken Gardens Pavilion	Elati St., Denver	Denver	1911	Park	Original	Mediterranean Revival ("Florentine Style")	Kirchhof Lumber Co.	Demolished	--
5JF.399	Walker House	Mt. Falcon, Morrison vicinity	Jefferson	1911	Residential	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Ruins	--
5DV.50	City Park Natural History Museum Esplanade	City Park, Denver	Denver	1911	Park	Original	N/A	Unknown	No Longer Extant	--
5JF.2190	Summer Home for the Presidents	Mt. Falcon Park, Morrison vicinity	Jefferson	1911	Residential	Original	Germanic Romanesque	Unknown	Ruins	--
5DV.167.175	Ellis House	1700 E. 3rd Ave., Denver	Denver	1912	Residential	Original	Georgian Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LLD
5DV.167.169	Snyder-Dorsey House	330 Gilpin St., Denver	Denver	1912	Residential	Original	Tudor Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LLD

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STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
5DV.514	Albany Hotel Annex	16th St. and Stout St., Denver	Denver	1912	Commercial	Addition	Commercial Style	Unknown	Demolished	--
5AH.1899	Wyldemere Farm	6138 S. Gallup St., Littleton	Arapahoe	1912	Residential	Remodel	Italian Renaissance Revival	F.J. Kirchhof Construction Co.	Partially Demolished	--
5DV.167.141	Huff House	120 Humboldt St., Denver	Denver	1912	Residential	Original	Tudor Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LRD
5DV.5320	Woodbury Branch Library	3265 Federal Blvd., Denver	Denver	1913	Public-Library	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival (Florentine Renaissance)	Unknown	Extant	NRD
5DV.5333	Washington Park Boating Pavilion	Washington Park, Denver	Denver	1913	Park	Original	Twentieth Century American Movements	Unknown	Extant	NRD
N/A	Steinhaiser House	650 Williams St., Denver	Denver	1913	Residential	Original	Unknown	Unknown	Extant	LLD
5BL.1021	Denison Memorial Building	Univ. of Colorado Campus, Boulder	Boulder	1914	Education	Original	Tudor Revival/Collegiate Gothic	Unknown	Extant	--
5DV.4219	Peet House	1717 E. Arizona Ave., Denver	Denver	1914	Residential	Original	Tudor Revival	H____ and Laursen	Extant	--
N/A	Craig House	605 E. 9th Ave., Denver	Denver	1914	Residential	Original	Classical Revival	Unknown	Extant	LLD
5JF.290	Bergen Park Pavilion	Colo. Hwy. 74, Evergreen vicinity	Jefferson	1915	Park	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	NRD
5DV.509	Flat Iron Building	1669 Broadway, Denver	Denver	1916	Commercial	Original	Classical Revival	Frank Kirchhof	Demolished	--

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STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
5JF.590	Chief Hosa Lodge and Picnic Shelter	26771 Genesee Ln., Golden vicinity	Jefferson	1917	Park	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	NRD
N/A	Cranmer House	200 Cherry St., Denver	Denver	1917	Residential	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Extant	LLI
5AH.234	Littleton Carnegie Library	2707 W. Main St., Littleton	Arapahoe	1917	Public-Library	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Extant	LLI
5DV.709.3	Wilson-Wilfley House	770 Olive St., Denver	Denver	1917	Residential	Remodel	Tudor Revival	Unknown	Extant	LLD
5JF.976	Fillius Park Shelter and Pumphouse	Colo. Hwy. 74, Evergreen vicinity	Jefferson	1918	Park	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	NRD
N/A	Phipps House	161 Race St., Denver	Denver	1919	Residential	Original	Tudor Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LRD
5JF.147	Coors House	1817 Arapahoe St., Golden	Jefferson	1919	Residential	Remodel	Tudor Revival/Rustic	Unknown	Extant	NRHP, LLI
5DV.1497	Kistler-Rodriguez House	700 E. 9th Ave., Denver	Denver	1920	Residential	Original	Jacobean Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRHP, LLI
N/A	Radetsky House	800 Race St., Denver	Denver	1920	Residential	Original	Mediterranean Revival	Unknown	Extant	LLD
5DV.167.98	Thomas-Phipps House	360 High St., Denver	Denver	1920	Residential	Original	Tudor Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LLD
5AH.161	Littleton Town Hall and Fire Department	2450 W. Main St., Littleton	Arapahoe	1920	Public-Town Hall	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	V.W. Robbins and Watts Brothers	Extant	NRHP, NRD, LLI
N/A	Urling House	4050 Montview Blvd., Denver	Denver	1920	Residential	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Extant	--

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STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
N/A	Mayo Lodge	32743 Upper Bear Creek Rd., Evergreen vicinity	Jefferson	1920	Residential	Original	Gothic Revival	Unknown	Extant	-
N/A	Genesee Ski Club	Genesee, Golden vicinity	Jefferson	1920s	Recreation	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Demolished	-
N/A	Vail House	Unknown	Denver	1921-pre	Residential	Original	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	-
N/A	Brown-Garrey-Congdon House	1300 E. 7th Ave. Pkwy., Denver	Denver	1921	Residential	Original	Chateausque	Kirchhof Construction Co.	Extant	LLI, LLD
5DV.952	Malo Mansion	500 E. 8th Ave., Denver	Denver	1921	Residential	Original	Spanish Colonial Revival	Unknown	Extant	LLI, LLD
N/A	Waring Lodge	Bear Creek Canon, Evergreen	Jefferson	Pre-1922	Residential	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Unknown	-
N/A	Phelan Cabin	Colorow Point, Lookout Mountain, Golden vicinity	Jefferson	Pre-1922	Residential	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Unknown	-
5DV.4689	First Church of Divine Science	1400 Williams St., Denver	Denver	1922	Religious	Original	Classical Revival	Thomas	Extant	SRHP
5DV.4789	Waring House	910 Gaylord St., Denver	Denver	1922	Residential	Original	Beaux Arts	Unknown	Extant	LLD
N/A	Oberfelder House	2701 E. 7th Ave., Denver	Denver	1922	Residential	Original	Mediterranean	Bruggeman	Extant	LLD
5DA.1009	Daniels Park Picnic Shelter	County Rd. 67, Sedalia vicinity	Douglas	1922	Park	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	NRD
5JF.978	Starbuck Park Well House	Colo. Hwy. 74, Idledale vicinity	Jefferson	1923 c.	Park	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	NRD

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STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
5DV.6053	Levie-Leman-Bailey House	817 Race St., Denver	Denver	1924	Residential	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Extant	LLD
5DV.2085	Rosedale Elementary School	2330 S. Sherman St., Denver	Denver	1924	Education	Original	Collegiate Gothic	Arvid Olson	Extant	--
5DV.512	Holy Ghost Church	633 19th St., Denver	Denver	1924	Religious	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival (Lombard Romanesque)	F.J. Kirchhof Construction Co.	Extant	--
5DV.158	Richthofen Castle (south wing)	7020 E. 12th Ave., Denver	Denver	1924	Residential	Addition	Tudor Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRHP, LLI, LLD
5DV.751	Kerr House	1900 E. 7th Ave., Denver	Denver	1925	Residential	Original	French Renaissance Revival	F.J. Kirchhof Construction Co.	Extant	NRHP, LLI, LLD
5JF.645	Dedisse Park Clubhouse	29614 Upper Bear Creek Rd., Evergreen vicinity	Jefferson	1925	Park	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	NRD
5DV.6051	Kohn House	770 High St., Denver	Denver	1925	Residential	Original	Renaissance Revival	F.J. Kirchhof	Extant	LLD
5DV.28	St. Joseph's Catholic Church Rectory	605 W. 6th St., Denver	Denver	1926	Religious	Original	Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Extant	--
5CC.646	Echo Lake Lodge	Colo. Hwy. 103, Idaho Springs vicinity	Clear Creek	1926	Park	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	NRD
5DV.182	Campbell House/Denver Botanic Gardens House	909 York St., Denver	Denver	1926	Residential	Original	Beaux Arts	Unknown	Extant	NRHP, LLI, LLD

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STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
5DV.6052	Salzar House	801 Race St., Denver	Denver	1926	Residential	Original	Italian Renaissance Revival	Unknown	Extant	LLD
5DV.7127	Cullen Thompson Motor Co./Chrysler Building/Gart Sports	1000 Broadway, Denver	Denver	1926	Commercial	Original	Gothic	Dutton and Kendall	Extant	--
5DV.729	St. Thomas Theological Seminary (main buildings)	1330 S. Steele St., Denver	Denver	1926-31	Religious	Original	Renaissance Revival (Lombard)	F.J. Kirchof Construction Co.	Extant	NRD
N/A	McFarland House	476 Westwood Dr., Denver	Denver	1927	Residential	Original	Spanish Colonial Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LLD
N/A	Geddes House	2155 Hawthorne Pl., Denver	Denver	1927	Residential	Original	Tudor Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LLD
N/A	Herres House	E. 6th Ave. and York St., Denver	Denver	1927	Residential	Original	Spanish Colonial Revival	Unknown	Demolished	--
N/A	Fitzell House	2900 E. 7th Ave. Pkwy., Denver	Denver	1927	Residential	Original	French Tudor	Henry, Brook	Extant	LLD
5JF.383	Baehr Lodge/Baehr Den of the Rockies	16405 Colo. Hwy. 126, Pine vicinity	Jefferson	1928	Residential	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	SRHP

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STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
N/A	La Foret (Taylor Summer Cabin)	6145 Shoup Rd., Black Forest, northeast of Colorado Springs	El Paso	1928	Residential	Original	Rustic	Unknown	Extant	--
N/A	Sparey House	Broadmoor area, Colorado Springs	El Paso	1928	Residential	Original	Spanish Colonial Revival	Unknown	Unknown	--
N/A	Graland School	E. 1st Ave., Denver	Denver	1928	Education	Original	Prairie	Unknown	Demolished	--
5DV.116	St. Andrews Episcopal Church Clergy House	2013 Glenarm St., Denver	Denver	1928	Religious	Addition	Gothic Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRHP
N/A	Evans House Terrace and Stairway	2001 E. Alameda Ave., Denver	Denver	1928 c.	Residential	Original (element)	Classical Revival	Unknown	Demolished	--
N/A	Douglas House	576 Circle Dr., Denver	Denver	1929	Residential	Original	Spanish Colonial Revival	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LLD
5AH.1978	Presbyterian Church of Littleton	1609 W. Littleton Blvd., Littleton	Arapahoe	1929	Religious	Original	Gothic Revival	Mead and Mount	Extant	LLI
5DV.719	Weekbaugh House/Willbanks House	1701 E. Cedar Ave., Denver	Denver	1930-33	Residential	Original	Chateausque	Unknown	Extant	NRHP
N/A	Ingersoll House	4 Pourtales Rd., Colorado Springs	El Paso	1931	Residential	Original	Tudor Revival	Unknown		--
5DV.167.13	Arthur House	355 Gilpin St., Denver	Denver	1932	Residential	Original	Prairie/Mediterranean/Moderne	Unknown	Extant	NRD, LLD

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STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
N/A	Benedict Fountain	E. 20th Ave. and Tremont, Denver	Denver	1932	Park	Original	N/A	Maurice Bardin (sculptor)	Demolished	-
5DV.5321	Hungarian Freedom Park Fountain	Speer Blvd. and Clarkson St., Denver	Denver	1936	Park	Original	N/A	Maurice Bardin (sculptor)	Extant (moved here from Belmar c. 1971)	NRD
5DA.220	Highlands Ranch Headquarters	9900 S. Ranch Rd., Highlands Ranch	Douglas	1932	Residential	Remodel	Tudor Revival	Unknown	Extant	-
5JF.977	Little Park Well House	Colo. Hwy. 74	Jefferson	Mid-1930s	Park	Original	Rustic	Civilian Conservation Corps	Extant	NRD
5CC.645	Summit Lake Park Shelter	Mt. Evans Rd., Idaho Springs vicinity	Clear Creek	Mid-1930s	Park	Original	Rustic	Civilian Conservation Corps	Extant	NRD
5DV.497	Colorado Building/Hayden, Dickinson, & Feldhauser Building	1609-15 California St., Denver	Denver	1935	Commercial	Remodel	Art Deco	F. J. Kirchoff Construction Co.	Extant	LLD
5BL.436	St. Catherine Chapel at Camp St. Malo	Colo. Hwy. 7, Allenspark vicinity	Boulder	1935	Religious	Original	Romanesque Revival	Coulehan Brothers	Extant	LLI
N/A	Belmar/May Bonfils Berryman Estate	769 S. Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood	Jefferson	1936	Residential	Original	Classical Revival	Unknown	Demolished	-

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STATE ID NUMBER	RESOURCE NAME	STREET ADDRESS AND CITY	COUNTY	YEAR BUILT	RESOURCE TYPE	DESIGN TYPE	STYLE	BUILDER	CURRENT STATUS	DESIG. STATUS
5DV.128	St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church Cloisters, Prayer Garden, and Monastery	1060 11th St., Denver	Denver	1936	Religious	Original	Lombard Romanesque	Unknown	Extant	NRHP, LLI
N/A	Colorado School of Mines Field House/Steinhauer Field House	Illinois and 13 th Sts., Golden	Jefferson	1937	Education	Original	Art Deco/Art Moderne	Unknown	Extant	--

NOTES: Only built designs (including those for which construction was begun but not completed) are included in the table above. The identification methods described in Section H were employed to identify works by Benedict. As there is no checklist of Benedict projects, this listing is necessarily incomplete. Architectural styles assigned to buildings often vary among sources; many Benedict designs have not been formally surveyed. "Current Status" is based on status as reported on survey forms, nominations, and recent published accounts; only selected resources have been field-checked. "Desig. Status" indicates whether the resource is listed in the National Register, State Register, or as a local landmark: NRHP, individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places; NRD, contributing resource within a National Register Historic District; SRHP, individually listed in the State Register of Historic Properties; LLI, individually listed as a local landmark; and LLD, contributing resource in a locally designated historic district.

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Property Types

1. Name of Property Type: Domestic Buildings

Description. Domestic buildings form the majority of resources identified as designs of J.J.B. Benedict. The residences, which are exclusively large in scale, were planned for wealthy clients. Representatives of the architect's domestic work span the full period of his practice in Denver, with the earliest dating to 1910 and the latest to 1936. The houses represent a wide range of styles, principally within the period revival mode, including Italian Renaissance, Beaux-Arts, Tudor Revival, Georgian Revival, Spanish Renaissance, Mediterranean Revival, and Chateausque. At least one of his houses displayed Prairie style features. Benedict also designed Rustic, or as he termed it "Alpine" style, mountain residences for the wealthy.

All Benedict houses were erected of the highest quality materials and displayed the finest craftsmanship. Benedict paid great attention to the design of details and ornamentation employed in his domestic buildings. Most dwellings exhibited significant interior details, including elaborate fireplaces, stair railings, and decoratively painted or otherwise ornamented ceilings. Grounds were extensively landscaped with terraces, plantings, and pools. The architect developed long lasting relationships with preeminent artisans and craftsmen of the region, including the F.J. Kirchof Construction Company (general contractor), McPhee and McGinnity Company (woodwork), and E. Burkhardt and Sons Steel and Iron Works Company (ornamental ironwork). Benedict-designed houses were built in Denver, Golden, and Colorado Springs, as well as in mountainous areas of Jefferson County; his own residence was in Littleton. It is possible that some resources representing the property type have not yet been identified.

Significance. Jacques Benedict's domestic buildings are architecturally significant under Criterion C as representative of the work of a master architect, for their high artistic values, and as significant examples of specific architectural styles, including (but not limited to) many of the period revival styles representative of Benedict's Ecole des Beaux-Arts training. Mountain lodges or cabins may be representative of Benedict's Colorado Alpine or Rustic style, using native construction materials. Not every resource designed by Benedict is necessarily individually eligible for listing in the National Register. National Register guidelines indicate that in assessing the significance of a particular resource, "the property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft."¹⁰⁴ Added significance may derive from important interior features or landscaping. As many of Benedict's clients were important leaders in commerce, finance, government, and other fields, many domestic resources may very well be significant under Criterion B for their association with a significant person.

Registration Requirements. To be eligible for listing under Criterion C, buildings in this property

¹⁰⁴ National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, National Register Bulletin 15 (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991), 20.

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type must: a) be located within Colorado; b) have been originally constructed and used for a domestic purpose (e.g., single- and multi-family houses and hotels); c) have been constructed between 1909 and 1942 (inclusive); d) have been an original design or a character-defining remodel by J.J.B. Benedict;¹⁰⁵ and e) possess sufficient historic physical integrity to convey their significance. A resource should be considered eligible if subsequent alterations or additions do not detract from the overall design, character, and proportions of the building. A Benedict addition to an existing building would not be eligible under this MPDF unless the scale and importance of the addition were such that it achieved significance in its own right.

Listed Properties. The five properties below are currently listed in the National Register and meet the registration requirements of this property type:

Campbell House, 909 York Street, Denver, 5DV182
Coors House, 1817 Arapahoe Street, Golden, 5JF147
Kerr House, 1900 E. 7th Avenue, Denver, 5JF751
Kistler-Rodriguez House, 700 E. 9th Avenue, Denver, 5DV1497
Weckbaugh House, 1701 E. Cedar Avenue, Denver, 5DV719

2. Name of Property Type: Commercial Buildings

Description. Relatively few commercial resources are known to have been designed by J.J.B. Benedict and fewer still survive, lending additional significance to existing examples. Commercial buildings within this property type include office buildings, banks, and auto showrooms. There are extant Benedict drawings for other (unbuilt) commercial buildings, such as theaters, lofts, an exposition center, and a union train depot. It is possible that presently undiscovered Benedict works exist, which may include more varieties of commercial buildings.

Significance. Jacques Benedict's commercial buildings are architecturally significant under Criterion C as representative of the work of a master architect, for their high artistic values, and as significant examples of specific architectural styles, including (but not limited to) many of the period revival styles representative of Benedict's Ecole des Beaux-Arts training. Not every resource designed by Benedict is necessarily individually eligible to the National Register. National Register guidelines indicate that in assessing the significance of a particular resource, "the property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft." Commercial resources may also be significant as representative of the work of master builders or craftsmen. Such resources may also be significant under Criterion A, for their associations with commerce and trade or other historic themes, or under Criterion B, for their association with a significant person.

¹⁰⁵ Joint design endeavors by Benedict with another architect(s) would not be eligible for listing under this MPDF.

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Registration Requirements. To be eligible for listing under Criterion C, buildings in this property type must: a) be located within Colorado; b) have been originally constructed and used for a commercial purpose; c) have been constructed between 1909 and 1942 (inclusive); d) have been an original design or a character-defining remodel of J.J.B. Benedict; and e) possess sufficient historic physical integrity to convey their significance. A resource should be considered eligible if the subsequent alterations or additions do not detract from the overall design, character, and proportions of the building. A Benedict addition to an existing building would not be eligible under this MPDF unless the scale and importance of the addition were such that it achieved significance in its own right.

Listed Properties. No commercial properties designed by Benedict are currently listed in the National Register.

3. Name of Property Type: Public and Educational Buildings

Description. Documented extant public and educational buildings designed by J.J.B. Benedict include two libraries, a town hall, a public elementary school, and two public university buildings. The buildings were erected in Denver, Littleton, Boulder, and Golden. The resources were representative of period revival styles, including Italian Renaissance, Tudor Revival, Collegiate Gothic, and Art Deco/Art Moderne styles. The buildings represented the highest quality materials and excellent craftsmanship. The buildings of this property type represent the full range of time Benedict worked in Colorado, with the first erected in 1911 and the last in 1937. It is possible that a few resources representing the property type have not yet been identified.

Significance. Jacques Benedict's public and educational buildings are architecturally significant under Criterion C as representative of the work of a master architect, for their high artistic values, and as significant examples of specific architectural styles, including (but not limited to) some of the period revival styles representative of Benedict's Ecole des Beaux-Arts training. Not every resource designed by Benedict is necessarily individually eligible to the National Register. National Register guidelines indicate that in assessing the significance of a particular resource, "the property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft." Such resources may also be significant under Criterion A for their association with education, government, or another historic theme.

Registration Requirements. To be eligible for listing under Criterion C, buildings in this property type must: a) be located within Colorado; b) have been originally constructed and used for a public or educational purpose; c) have been constructed between 1909 and 1942 (inclusive); d) have been an original design or a character-defining remodel of J.J.B. Benedict; and e) possess sufficient historic physical integrity to convey its significance. A resource should be considered eligible if the subsequent alterations or additions do not detract from the overall design,

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character, and proportions of the building. A Benedict addition to an existing building would not be eligible under this MPDF unless the scale and importance of the addition were such that it achieved significance in its own right.

Listed Properties. There is one property currently listed in the National Register which meets the registration requirements of this property type:

Littleton Town Hall, 2450 W. Main Street, Littleton, 5AH161
Woodbury Branch Library, 3265 Federal Blvd., Denver, 5DV5320

4. Name of Property Type: Religious Buildings

Description. J.J.B. Benedict designed many religious resources, particularly in the 1920s and 1930s. Many of his plans were for Roman Catholic properties, but known designs included buildings for at least three other religious groups. Religious buildings known to be represented within this property type include churches, seminaries, and religious housing, such as rectories, clergy houses, and monasteries. The buildings were built of the finest quality materials with highly skilled craftsmanship. Many of the buildings also utilized the work of professional artisans and included significant interiors. Buildings were designed in period revival styles, including Classical Revival, Renaissance Revival, Gothic Revival, French Renaissance, Romanesque Revival, and Lombard Romanesque style. The buildings were erected in Denver, Littleton, and Boulder. It is possible that a few resources representing the property type have not yet been identified.

Significance. Jacques Benedict's religious buildings are architecturally significant under Criterion C as representative of the work of a master architect, for their high artistic values, and as significant examples of specific architectural styles, including (but not limited to) many of the revival styles representative of Benedict's Ecole des Beaux-Arts training. Not every resource designed by Benedict is necessarily individually eligible to the National Register. National Register guidelines indicate that in assessing the significance of a particular resource, "the property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft." Such properties may also be significant under C in the field of art, for their inclusion of decorative elements completed by artisans.

Registration Requirements. To be eligible for listing under Criterion C, buildings in this property type must: a) be located within Colorado; b) have been originally constructed and used for a religious purpose (e.g., churches, seminaries, and religious housing); c) have been constructed between 1909 and 1942 (inclusive); d) have been an original design or a character-defining remodel of J.J.B. Benedict; and e) possess sufficient historic physical integrity to convey their significance. A resource should be considered eligible if the subsequent alterations or additions do not detract from the overall design, character, and proportions of the building. A Benedict

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addition to an existing building would not be eligible under this MPDF unless the scale and importance of the addition were such that it achieved significance in its own right.

Listed Properties. There is one resource currently listed in the National Register which meets the registration requirements of this property type:

St. Thomas Theological Seminary, 1330 S. Steele Street, Denver, 5DV729

5. Name of Property Type: Park Resources

Description. J.J.B. Benedict designed many park resources, particularly in the 1910s and 1920s. These resources include shelters, pump or well houses, pavilions, lodges, clubhouses, and designed landscapes. All of Benedict's known park plans were for park resources within Denver's city or mountain parks. Resources in city parks, such as the pavilion at Sunken Gardens, were designed in period revival styles. The resources located in mountain parks represented the Rustic style, or as Benedict preferred, the "Alpine" style. It is possible that a few resources representing this property type have not yet been identified.

Significance. Jacques Benedict's park buildings and other resources are architecturally significant under Criterion C as representative of the work of a master architect, for their high artistic values, and/or as significant examples of specific architectural styles. Mountain park structures may be representative of Benedict's Colorado Alpine or Rustic style, using native construction materials. City resources may be representative of period revival styles. Not every resource designed by Benedict is necessarily individually eligible to the National Register. National Register guidelines indicate that in assessing the significance of a particular resource, "the property must express a particular phase in the development of the master's career, an aspect of his or her work, or a particular idea or theme in his or her craft." A park resource may be further significant under Criterion A for its associations with parks and recreation, community planning and development, or other themes.

Registration Requirements. To be eligible for listing under Criterion C, resources in this property type must: a) be located within Colorado; b) have been originally constructed and used for a park purpose (e.g., shelter, pump house, designed landscape, lodge, or clubhouse); c) have been constructed between 1909 and 1942 (inclusive); d) have been an original design or a character-defining remodel of J.J.B. Benedict; and e) possess sufficient historic physical integrity to convey their significance. A resource should be considered eligible if the subsequent alterations or additions do not detract from the overall design, character, and proportions of the building. A Benedict addition to an existing building would not be eligible under this MPDF unless the scale and importance of the addition were such that it achieved significance in its own right. Such park resources may also be eligible under Criterion A for their association with recreation and city planning.

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Listed Properties. There are ten properties currently listed in the National Register which meet the registration requirements of this property type:

Bergen Park Pavilion, Colo. Hwy. 74, Jefferson, 5JF290
Chief Hosa Lodge and Picnic Shelter, 26771 Genesee Ln., Jefferson, 5JF590
Daniels Park Picnic Shelter, County Rd. 67, Douglas, 5DA1009
Dedisse Park Clubhouse, 29614 Upper Bear Creek Rd., Jefferson, 5JF645
Echo Lake Lodge, Colo. Hwy. 103, Clear Creek, 5CC646
Fillius Park Shelter and Pumphouse, Colo. Hwy. 74, Jefferson, 5JF976
Little Park Well House, Colo. Hwy. 74, Jefferson, 5JF977
Starbuck Park Well House, Colo. Hwy. 74, Jefferson, 5JF978
Summit Lake Park Shelter, Mt. Evans Rd., Clear Creek, 5CC645
Washington Park Boating Pavilion, Washington Park, Denver, 5DV5333

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Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

I have often thought of the heavy black Spanish-style cabinets in the architect's former office on the second floor of a building on the southwest corner of 17th and Broadway [the Flat Iron Building], and wondered what became of their contents.

--A. Reynolds Morse, *Benedict's nephew*¹⁰⁶

No previous MPDF has been prepared for the works of an architect in Colorado. Recent MPDF submissions prepared for the works of architects in other states were examined for suggestions on overall approaches and structure. Among these were: "The Architecture of Hugh Edward White and White, Streeter & Chamberlain, 1921-1939, Gaston County, North Carolina" (2001); "Architecture of Olof Hanson, 1895-1901" (Minnesota) (1990); "Architecture of Ward Wellington Ward in Syracuse, New York, 1908-1932" (1997); "Architecture of Ellis F. Lawrence Multiple Property Submission" (Oregon) (1990); "The Architectural Legacy of Proudfoot & Bird in Iowa, 1880-1940" (1989); and "Residential Architecture of Alden B. Dow in Midland, Michigan, 1933-1938" (1989).

There is no known checklist of Benedict designs or extensive archive of architectural drawings. The architect apparently burned many of his office records and project drawings. None of the records in the possession of Benedict's grandson, Mike McPhee, are business records relating to the architect's practice. It was therefore necessary to piece together a picture of Benedict's work from a variety of sources. Benedict's own *The Work of J.B. Benedict* (1925) identifies many of his designs through that date, although it does contain drawings of a few resources which were never built. The Benedict Manuscript Collection at the University of Colorado Archives contains a number of scrapbooks maintained by the architect which contain newspaper clippings (often undated and not indicating the name of the publication) that identify projects. Such sources as City and County of Denver building permits, extant architectural drawings, contemporary newspaper accounts, *Denver Municipal Facts*, Colorado Historical Society historic resource survey forms, National Register nomination forms, national architectural publications, and local landmark designation applications were examined for works attributed to Benedict. Secondary published accounts, such as Denver neighborhood histories, accounts of Benedict's life, and more recent newspaper articles, were also consulted.

Many of Benedict's designs have been surveyed, although not with the specific intent of identifying the works of the architect. Rather, they have been documented as components of broader surveys of resources within particular cities or neighborhoods within a city. The date

¹⁰⁶ A. Reynolds Morse, "J.J.B. Benedict (1879-1948)," manuscript, Cleveland, Ohio, 5 October 1971, in the files of the Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department, Denver, Colorado.

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of completion and quality of such surveys varies. Additional information exists for Benedict designs which are listed in the National Register or designated as local landmarks.

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The following properties previously listed in the National Register meet the registration requirements as set forth in the multiple property documentation form:

Domestic Buildings	NRIS Number
Campbell House, 909 York St., Denver	19790703
Coors House, 1817 Arapahoe St., Golden	19971017
Kerr House, 1900 E. 7 th Ave., Denver	20020228
Kistler-Rodriguez House, 700 E. 9 th Ave., Denver	19830527
Weckbaugh House, 1701 E. Cedar Ave., Denver	19840116
Public and Educational Buildings	
Littleton Town Hall, 2450 W. Main St., Littleton	19800904
Woodbury Branch Library, 3265 Federal Blvd, Denver (as part of the Highland Park Historic District)	19860917
Religious Buildings	
St. Thomas Theological Seminary 1330 S. Steele St., Denver	19890727
Park Resources	
Bergen Park Pavilion, Colo. Hwy. 74, Jefferson County (as part of Bergen Park)	19901115
Chief Hosa Lodge and Picnic Shelter, Jefferson County (as part of Genesee Park)	19901115
Daniels Park Picnic Shelter, Douglas County (as part of Daniels Park)	19950630
Dedisse Park Clubhouse, Jefferson County (as part of Dedisse Park)	19901115
Echo Lake Lodge, Clear Creek County (as part of Echo Lake)	19950224
Fillius Park Shelter and Pumphouse, Jefferson County (as part of Fillius Park)	19950224
Little Park Well House, Jefferson County (as part of Little Park)	19950224
Starbuck Park Well House, Jefferson County (as part of Starbuck Park)	19950630
Summit Lake Park Shelter, Clear Creek County (as part of Summit Lake)	19950224
Washington Park Boating Pavilion, Denver County (as part of Washington Park)	19860917