

Architect: Baerresen, Harold William and Baerresen, Viggio Egede
Birth/Death Dates: Harold (1846-1918), Viggio (1858-1940)
Practice Dates: Harold (1884-1918), Viggio (1884-1928)

Biographical Information

Harold William Baerresen and Viggio Egede Baerresen were Danish immigrants born in Copenhagen. Harold arrived in the United States in 1869 and first established himself as a carpenter and baby buggy manufacturer in Louisville, Kentucky. He moved on to Denver in 1879 where he continued his work as a carpenter while also calling himself an architect and builder. In 1884, Viggio came to Denver and the pair formed the architectural firm of Baerresen Brothers. Two other brothers, Albert T. and William J. Baerresen, followed the family's path to America and joined the Denver firm around 1887. Viggio became a full partner in the architectural end of the enterprise and Albert took over the construction business.

In 1890, all the brothers worked on the design and construction of the Augustana Swedish Lutheran Church at 23rd and Logan (demolished). This building helped to establish the reputation of the firm for its design and construction excellence. The Baerresen Brothers designed numerous residential buildings in Denver and the surrounding area including the 1906 Charles O. Johnson House in Denver; the George P. Lingerfelter House at 300 Marion Street; the Carrie Kinport House at 921 Acoma; the Ephenia Johnson House in Littleton; and the home of Mrs. Adolph Coors in Golden. Harold Baerresen's own house at 1718 Gaylord is a Denver Landmark. The firm designed several residences which are now part of several National Register districts. These include the Queen Anne style house at 2122 W. 28th in the Stonemen's Row Historic District; the Gibson House at 1647 Emerson St. in the Swallow Hill Historic District; and three houses in the Humboldt Street Historic District (Thompson-Henry (1905) 1070 Humboldt; Schlester-Parks-Cobb (1907) 1110 Humboldt; and Schaffer House (1903) 1131 Humboldt).

The Baerresen Brothers also designed several important commercial and public buildings in Denver. Their masterpiece structure is the 1907 Moorish Revival El Jebel Shrine Temple at 18th and Sherman Streets (Denver Landmark). The 1889 Romeo Block at 30th and Zuni is the oldest surviving example of their work and is an excellent late Victorian mixed use commercial building. The Adams Hotel (demolished) at 18th and Welton featured the area's first push button elevator and telephones in every room. Other buildings credited to the firm include the Tivoli Brewery tower addition (National Register); the Engelbach Building at 1451-1455 California; the 1892 Sheridan Building renovation (National Register); the Colorado Tent and Awning Co. building; the Reo Hotel (demolished) at 13th and Broadway; the first St. Joseph's Hospital (demolished); the Berkely Theater (demolished); and the South Denver Masonic Temple at 350 S. Broadway. Buildings constructed outside Denver include a hotel building in Pueblo; the Powderworks Hotel in Louviers; a State office building in St. Louis; and several buildings for the Adolph Coors Company in Boulder, Montrose and Littleton.

Harold and Viggio Baerresen were prominent citizens whose names appear in the membership lists of many social and civic groups. They both served terms as Danish Vice-Consul in Denver and assisted immigrants from Denmark and Norway in finding jobs and homes. Viggio was decorated with the Cross of Donneborg by King Christian of Denmark. Harold was a founding member of the Colorado A.I.A. Following Harold's death in 1918, Viggio continued managing the architectural firm until 1928 when he retired and moved to California.

Credited Buildings

Building Name	Location	Site No.	Date	Assessment
Romeo Block	2944 Zuni St., Denver	5DV358.92	1889	National Register
Unnamed House	1632 Vine St., Denver		1889	Wyman Local HD
Unnamed House	1640 Vine St., Denver		1889	Demolished
Unnamed House	64 W. Maple Ave., Denver		1890	
William Howland House Denver	68 W. Maple Ave., Denver		1890	
Unnamed House	1354 Williams St.,		1890	Wyman Local HD
Augustana Swedish Lutheran Church	23rd & Logan, Denver		1890	Demolished
Unnamed House	547 Clarkson St., Denver	5DV6640	1890	
Baarresen-Lindblom House	841 Galapago St., Denver	5DV31	1891	National Register Eligible
Fridbourg-Boehm House (2 nd story addition)	2825 Curtis St., Denver	5DV103.10	1891	Curtis Park HD
Unnamed House	1417 Gaylord St., Denver		1891	Wyman Local HD
Unnamed House	1427 Gaylord St., Denver		1891	Demolished
Andrew J. Woodside House	1644 Emerson St., Denver	5DV2737	1891	Swallow Hill HD
Unnamed House	1420 Gilpin St., Denver		1892	Wyman Local HD
Gibson House	1647 Emerson St., Denver	5DV1544	1892	Swallow Hill HD
Unnamed House	2122 W. 28th St., Denver	5DV1480.4	1892	Stonemen's Row HD
Sheridan Building	1635 17th St., Denver	5DV882	1892	National Register
Gilpin County Courthouse (Baerresen Bros. & Son)	203 Eureka St., Central City	5GL7.53	1900	Central City-Black Hawk HD
McFarlane House	1473 Gilpin St., Denver		1900	Demolished
Unnamed House	1547 Gaylord St., Denver		1901	Wyman Local HD
Unnamed House	1337 Gaylord St., Denver		1903	Demolished
Harold Baerresen House	1718 Gaylord St., Denver		1903	Denver Landmark
Schaffer House	1131 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV166.18	1903	Humboldt St. HD
Thompson-Henry House	1070 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV166.12	1905	Humboldt St. HD

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Unnamed House	2611 W. 32nd Ave., Denver	5DV85.9	ca. 1905	Potter Highlands HD
Charles O. Johnson House	Denver		1906	
Unnamed House	1345 Gilpin St., Denver		1907	Demolished
Mosque of the El Jebel Shrine	1770 Sherman St., Denver	5DV2892	1907	National Register & Denver Landmark
Schlester-Parks- Cobb House	1110 Humboldt St., Denver	5DV166.15	1907	Humboldt St. HD
Unnamed House	828 Humboldt St., Denver		1909	
Unnamed House	663 Gaylord St., Denver		1910	E. 7th Ave. Local HD
Danish Evangelical Bethany Lutheran Church	201 W. 5th Ave., Denver	5DV51	1912	
Unnamed House	770 York St., Denver		1912	E. 7th Ave. Local HD
Unnamed House	801 York St., Denver		1912	
Unnamed House	930 Humboldt St., Denver		1914	
All Saints Church of Eben Ezer	120 Hospital Road, Brush	5MR467	1916	National Register
Undated Buildings				
George P. Lingerfelter House	300 Marion St., Denver			
Carrie Kinport House	921 Acoma, Denver			
Ephenia Johnson House	Littleton			
Mrs. Adolph Coors House	Golden			
Adams Hotel	18th & Welton, Denver			Demolished
Tivoli Brewery (tower addition)	1320-1348 10th St., Denver	5DV119		National Register
Engelbach Building	1451-1455 California, Denver			
Colorado Tent and Awning Co. Building	Denver			Demolished
Reo Hotel	13th & Broadway, Denver			Demolished
St. Joseph's Hospital (original building)	Denver			Demolished
Berkely Theater	Denver			Demolished
South Denver Masonic Temple	350 S. Broadway, Denver			
Hotel Building	Pueblo			
Powderworks Hotel	Louviers			Demolished

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State Office Building	St. Louis, MO			
Adolph Coors Company	Boulder			
Adolph Coors Company	Montrose			
Adolph Coors Company	Littleton			

Information Sources

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Romeo Block National Register Nomination, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver.

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