

OAHP1403

Rev. 9/98

Official eligibility determination
(OAHP use only)

Date _____ Initials _____

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

- _____ Determined Eligible- NR
- _____ Determined Not Eligible- NR
- _____ Determined Eligible- SR
- _____ Determined Not Eligible- SR
- _____ Need Data
- _____ Contributes to eligible NR District
- _____ Noncontributing to eligible NR District

Architectural Inventory Form

INTENSIVE LEVEL SURVEY FORM

Parcel #/s

2077-16-3-08-012

Neighborhood

3566.00 Off Broadway (South)

I. IDENTIFICATION

- 1. **Resource number:** 5AH.1990
- 2. **Temporary resource #:** N/A
- 3. **County:** Arapahoe
- 4. **City:** Littleton
- 5. **Historic building name:** Martin Miller Law Offices
- 6. **Current building name:** Miller & Steiert, P.C.
- 7. **Building address:** 1901 W Littleton Blvd
- 8. **Owner name, address:** 1901 LLC
1901 W Littleton Blvd
1901 W Littleton Blvd



| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| National Register: | Eligible for Individual Listing (local level) | Ineligible for District Listing |
| State Register: | Eligible for Individual Listing (local level) | Ineligible for District Listing |
| Littleton Landmark | Eligible for Individual Listing | Eligible for District Listing |

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. **PLSS information:** PM6 T5S R68W, NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 16
10. **UTM reference:** NAD 83 ZONE 13S
11. **USGS quad name:** Littleton
Year: 2016
Map scale: 1:24000
12. **Lot(s)** 25-30, 31 (partial)
Block: 3
Addition: Littleton Hts
Year of Addition: 1890
13. **Boundary Description and Justification:**
 Lots 25-31 Ex N 15 Ft Of 31 Blk 3 Littleton Hts
 The boundary of the property is the legally defined parcel, encompassing .4590 acres.

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. **Building plan (footprint, shape):** Rectangular
15. **Dimensions in feet:** 75' x 105'
16. **Number of stories:** Two
17. **Primary external wall material(s):** Concrete
18. **Roof configuration:** Flat
19. **Primary external roof material:** Asphalt Roof/Composition Roof or Synthetic Roof
20. **Special features:** N/A
21. **General architectural description:**

The Martin Miller Law Offices Building is sited along the south and east property lines of a rectangular lot at the northwest corner of W Littleton Blvd and S Prescott St.

The two-story building has a rectangular footprint and a flat roof with a wide concrete fascia. A narrow metal flashing is visible at the roofline and a slightly recessed band of polished concrete appears at the lower edge. Deep eaves project beyond all four walls of the building. Polished beams that support the roof are exposed below the dark soffits. Rows of recessed fixtures light the walls.

The primary material is concrete with a raw coarse finish that displays the marks of the vertical wood forms used for casting. It appears on the roof fascia, the second floor spandrel panels, and the continuous platform that forms the base of building below the first floor windows.

Slightly recessed horizontal stringcourses and projecting faceted columns and pilasters, all with a contrasting smooth, polished finish, divide the walls into multiple bays. The strict geometry of this wall design is violated only by the stair-hall at the northeast corner of the building, where a first floor wall opening expresses the staircase behind.

The windows, grouped in long horizontal rows, are bronze glass with bronze metal frames, muntins and mullions.

The first floor windows are divided just below center by a prominent horizontal muntin with faceted drip edge. Narrower rectangular vertical mullions overlap the face of the muntins and the base of the window frame, also with drip edge. A continuous wall of these windows, inset behind freestanding columns and deep concrete sills with a polished cap, wraps around the west and portions of the north and south walls. On the east wall, windows of the same design are placed flush with the wall.

The second floor windows are positioned just below the eaves, above tall spandrel panels with a polished lower edge. They appear in bays defined by polished vertical pilasters that continue the freestanding columns of the first floor to the roofline. Narrow, flush bronze mullions divide these more shallow rows of windows.

Pairs of shallow horizontal windows also appear just above grade in the north and south bays of the west wall and recessed in a window well formed by brick retaining walls at the foot of the south and center bays of the east wall.

Full-height blind walls, bisected by polished stringcourses, are placed asymmetrically around the building, appearing just east of the main entrance on the south wall and adjacent to the open staircase on the north and east walls.

The entrance is recessed beneath the southeast corner of the first floor, where a polished column supports the entrance roof. The west wall, perpendicular to the face of the building, displays the marks of the vertical forms used to cast the concrete. The legend “Miller Building/1973” is cast into a polished panel at the foot of the wall. A full-height glass sidelight with metal spandrel panel and mail slot appears beside a metal door with a sculpturally textured face. The north wall, also perpendicular, joins a longer wall that angles toward the entry ramp to the east. A full-height bronze metal frame with a tenant signboard is set against angled wall. The entry floor and ramp are clad with variegated brown brick pavers. The soffit is finished with a dark-stained tongue-and-groove wood with a series of recessed light fixtures above the walls.

An open staircase is recessed behind the northeast corner of the building. A blind wall at the upper landing divides the staircase from the offices of the second floor. The soffit is continuous with that of the eaves. Four runs of concrete stairs extend from the second floor to a lower level. The north wall displays a horizontal opening, level with the windows, at the top of the second floor. A horizontal opening level with the first floor windows angles downward, parallel with the stair run behind, then returns to horizontal just before the full-height corner column. A polished band appears above this dogleg opening, and a polished, chamfered edge below. On the east wall, two large rectangular openings appear above and below a blind wall at an intermediate landing. On the interior, vertical wood planks form the handrails, surface mounted to the walls or above metal balusters. Recessed light fixtures appear in the soffit and a can light appears above the first floor landing.

22. Architectural style: Modern Movement / Brutalist Style
Building type: Commercial

23. Landscaping or special setting features:

A formal landscape appears at the southeast corner of the lot. A series of steps rise to a concrete bridge with simple metal railings that crosses above a raised landscape bed faced with random stone veneer. The bed displays a water feature and garden with river rock, specimen stones and small shrubs and perennials. Behind the bed, a ramp with a simple metal railing rises from the public sidewalk along S Prescott St. The bridge and ramp converge at a raised platform, recessed beneath the corner of the building, that forms the main entrance to the building.

West of the entry landscape is a lawn. Large trees appear at the southwest and southeast corners of the building, the latter immediately adjacent to the entrance ramp. A bed with mature trees, river rock and specimen stones appears between the building and the public sidewalk to the east. Lawns with mature trees appear between the sidewalk and the streets to the south and east.

There is a small informal patio at the foot of the rear staircase with a metal table and benches. A driveway, with parking to the east, provides access between W Littleton Blvd and a surface parking lot to the north.

24. Associated buildings, features, or objects:

On the lawn between the south side of the building and the street, a freestanding concrete slab with surface-mounted signboards identifies the building occupants. A signboard listing individual names appears within the recessed entry. A surface-mounted street number appears on the column at the main entrance, and surface-mounted letters spelling “Littleton Law Center” appear on the spandrel panel above the main entrance. A metal bench with a plaque commemorating Martin P. Miller appears in the garden adjoining the public sidewalk.

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

- 25. Date of Construction:** 1974
Estimated or Actual: Actual
Source of information: Arapahoe County Assessor Records.
- 26. Architect:** Eugene D. Sternberg
Source of information: Denver Public Library Western History Collection, Eugene Sternberg Archives.
- 27. Builder/Contractor:** Unknown
Source of information: N/A
- 28. Original owner:** Unknown
Source of information: N/A
- 29. Construction history (description, dates of major additions, alterations, demolitions):**

Comparison with the original rendering shows that a formal fountain and pool in front of the building was redesigned as a naturalistic water feature.

- 30. **Original Location:** Yes
- Date of move(s):** N/A

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

- 31. **Original use(s):** Commerce/Trade/Business/Professional
- 32. **Intermediate use(s):** Commerce/Trade/Business/Professional
- 33. **Current use(s):** Commerce/Trade/Business/Professional
- 34. **Site Type(s):** Commercial Building
- 35. **Historical background:**

The post-World War II period in Littleton was characterized by economic prosperity, rapid population growth, suburban housing expansion, road development and improvement, and increased auto ownership and use.

The earliest commercial development on W Littleton Blvd after World War II were professional buildings, initially constructed at the west end of the street near the Arapahoe County Courthouse. Though W Littleton Blvd might appear to be largely a retail strip, the most common building type of the period is the professional building. These buildings fall into several discrete categories according to use.

The most critical type, since the nearest hospital was located in Englewood, was medical office, sometimes with a dispensing pharmacy. Most common were offices for the local professionals involved with the rapid transformation of farms and ranches into sprawling residential subdivisions. These included developers, architects, real estate agents, and attorneys. Sales related to real estate, life and auto insurance expanded. Along W Littleton Blvd, a variety of professional and office buildings were built to accommodate these firms, some owner occupied and others built for lease to one or two individual firms. A few larger buildings rented office spaces to local professionals and other businesses of all types and sizes, including those in the aerospace and defense industries.

These professional buildings are commonly distinct from retail buildings in the quality of their materials and design, and often display more discreet signage with parking lots concealed to the rear.

The Miller Building was commissioned by Littleton attorney Martin P. Miller, who served as a District Attorney and District Judge. Miller’s law firm had been among the original tenants in Sternberg’s Courthouse Building.

The Miller Building is closely associated stylistically with Sternberg’s much larger and roughly contemporaneous project, the landmark Arapahoe Junior College, in downtown Littleton. The college was seen as an impetus for urban renewal having been built on the site of a run-down residential neighborhood.

Though all three of the buildings designed by Sternberg that have been identified in this survey are among the finest works of architecture in the Greater West Littleton Boulevard Corridor, the Miller Building is the finest of the group. Furthermore it is one of the most significant Brutalist buildings in Colorado with Sternberg being the premier proponent of Brutalism in this region in the late 1960s and through the 1970s.

36. Sources of information:

“A Colorado Law Firm Steeped in Tradition,” <https://www.m-s-lawyers.com/about-us/firm-history.html>
 Courthouse Professional Building Evaluation of Significance, April 11, 2009, prepared for the City of Littleton, Office of Community Development.

Arapahoe County Assessor Records.

Littleton City Directories.

Denver Public Library Western History Collection, Eugene Sternberg Archives.

Private collection of Diane Wray Tomasso.

The Historic Context of Littleton Colorado 1949-1967 (2008) by Diane Wray Tomasso, prepared for the City of Littleton, Office of Community Development.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

- 37. **Local landmark designation:** No

Date of designation: N/A

Designating authority: N/A

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

- ✓ A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- ✓ B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- ✓ C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- ✓ D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.
- ✓ Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual)
- Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria

38A Applicable Colorado State Register of Historic Properties Criteria:

- ✓ A. The association of the property with events that have made a significant contribution to history;
- ✓ B. The connection of the property with persons significant in history;
- ✓ C. The apparent distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, artisan;
- ✓ D. The geographic importance of the property;
- ✓ E. The possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history.
- Does not meet any of the above State Register criteria

38B. Applicable Littleton Landmark Standards:

- ✓ 1. Exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period;
- ✓ 2. Is an example of the work of an architect or builder recognized for expertise nationally, state-wide, regionally, or locally;
- ✓ 3. Demonstrates superior craftsmanship or high artistic value;
- ✓ 4. Represents an innovation in construction, materials or design;
- ✓ 5. Represents a style particularly associated with the Littleton area;
- ✓ 6. Represents a built environment of a group of people in an era of history;
- ✓ 7. Represents a pattern or grouping of elements representing at least one of above criteria;
- ✓ 8. Has undergone significant historic remodel;
- ✓ 9. Is the site of historic event that had an effect upon society;
- ✓ 10. Exemplifies cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community;
- ✓ 11. Represents an association with a notable person or the work of a notable person;
- ✓ 12. Represents a typical example/association with a particular ethnic group;
- ✓ 13. Represents a unique example of an event in Littleton's history;
- ✓ 14. Enhances sense of identity of the community;
- ✓ 15. Is an established and familiar natural setting or visual feature of the community?
- Does not meet any of the above City of Littleton Landmark standards.

39. Area(s) of significance: Architecture, Commerce

40. Period of significance: 1974

41. Level of significance: Local

42. Statement of significance:

The former Martin Miller Law Offices Building is evaluated as eligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places and Colorado State Register of Historic Properties under Criteria A and C and is eligible for Littleton local landmark designation under Criteria 1, 2, 3, 6, 10 and 11.

NR Criterion A: The former Martin Miller Law Offices Building exemplifies the cultural, social and historic heritage of the City of Littleton through its association with the development of the legal profession during the city's initial period of suburban growth and expansion in the post-World War II period. It is also notable for its association with distinguished Littleton attorney Martin Miller, who also served as a Colorado District Judge and District Attorney.

NR Criterion C: The former Martin Miller Law Offices Building portrays the environment of the post World War II era of Littleton history characterized by the Brutalist Style in architecture. It embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Brutalist Style. It is the work of acknowledged master Colorado architect Eugene D. Sternberg. It is well-designed and displays a high standard of material quality and construction craft.

The survey team believes that this building, with the explanatory narrative required for a well-presented nomination, would qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria Consideration G, necessary only since the building is less than fifty years of age. The building currently qualifies for state and local landmark listing.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

The former Martin Miller Law Offices Building retains all of the seven aspects of integrity. The building retains its original location and setting. Its design, material and workmanship are completely intact, along with its feeling and association.

VII. ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

- 44. **National Register eligibility assessment:** Individually eligible (local)
Criteria Consideration G
- State Register eligibility assessment:** Individually eligible (local)
- Local Landmark eligibility assessment:** Individually eligible
- 45. **Is there historic district potential?** Yes
- Discuss:** Eligible for proposed Littleton Overlay District.
- 46. **Building located in N.R. district?** No
- Contributing N/A
- Noncontributing N/A

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

- 47. **Photograph numbers:**
1901 WLB 01.jpg through 1901 WLB 04.jpg
1901 WLB Historic 01.jpg
All photographs by Diane Wray Tomasso except as noted.
CD on file at the City of Littleton Historic Preservation Office.
- 48. **Report title:**
Survey of Commercial Modernism in the West Littleton Boulevard Corridor 1950-1980.
- 49. **Date(s):** June 2018
- 50. **Recorder(s):** Diane Wray Tomasso and Michael Paglia
- 51. **Organization:**
Performed on behalf of the Office of Community Development, Littleton, CO, in association with the State Historical Fund, History Colorado.
- 52. **Address:** 3058 S Cornell Circle, Englewood, CO 80113
- 53. **Phone number(s):** 303 552-8254

Aerial Map



Source Data DRCOG Regional Data Catalog
© City of Littleton

5AH1990

Sketch Map



Source Data DRCOG Regional Data Catalog
© City of Littleton

5AH1990

Photo: 1901 WLB 01.jpg
South Wall, Facade, W Littleton Blvd in foreground.



Photo: 1901 WLB 02.jpg
West Wall with driveway in foreground.



Photo: 1901 WLB 03.jpg
East Wall (left); North Wall (right).



Photo: 1901 WLB 04.jpg
West Wall (left); North Wall (right).



Photo: 1901 WLB 05.jpg (Top)
Detail of main entry area.

Photo: 1901 WLB 06.jpg (Bottom)
Water feature with main entrance in background.



Image: 1901 WLB Historic 01.jpg
Rendering c1974 showing original formal fountain.

Source: Diane Wray Tomasso Collection.



Martin P. Miller, 1924 - 2007

Marty Miller was born in 1924 to Gittel "Gussie" Weiss and an unknown father in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The following year, the two moved to New York City, where Gussie settled close to other family members. Due to her inability to support him, she placed Marty in a Jewish orphanage. When he reached school age in 1929, Marty was admitted to the Hebrew National Orphans Home in Yonkers, New York, just north of the city. Despite a harsh and often abusive environment, Marty excelled at his studies and became an admired and accomplished leader within the institution. In 1940, after completing his degree at Theodore Roosevelt High School in neighboring White Plains, Marty left the Orphans Home.

Gussie had maintained constant contact with Marty through regular visits over the years and he briefly shared her tenement apartment on New York City's Lower East Side after graduation. He began his career as a delivery boy. Then, taking shorthand and typing classes at night school, he advanced to administrative positions. He relocated to Baltimore, Maryland, at the suggestion of a friend from the Home. There, Marty worked in a shipyard as he taught himself stenography. He then found a position as a court reporter for the city of Baltimore.

In 1943, Miller joined the U.S. Army and underwent basic training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. On the day he was scheduled to ship out to North Africa with his unit, however, he was pulled from the ranks to serve as a regional court reporter for the Army base. Despite distinguishing himself in the position, Miller sought an active combat role and was sent to Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Georgia, where he graduated in November of 1944.

In January of 1945, Marty shipped out to the European front. By March he was badly injured while on patrol near Cologne, Germany. After stays in a series of east coast army hospitals, Miller was admitted to Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado. His recuperation nearly complete, he began classes at D.U. under the GI Bill and was discharged from the army the following year. Though Miller planned to return to New York City, the night before his scheduled departure he lost his Army-provided ticket home in a poker game. He remained in Colorado.

In 1948, Miller received a B.A. in Philosophy from D.U. Two years later, he and fellow student Edythe Stern of Brooklyn, New York, were married. In 1951, Miller graduated from the D.U. School of Law and passed the Colorado Bar exam.

Martin Miller went on to a distinguished career as an attorney, political candidate and elected official. In November of 1954, he was elected District Court Judge of the 1st Judicial District, becoming the youngest district court judge in Colorado history. In 1959, he resigned from the bench and accepted the appointment of Governor McNichols as the first District Attorney of Colorado's 18th judicial district. In 1960 and 1964, he won re-election to the post, a difficult task for a Democrat in Republican-dominated Arapahoe County. In 1966, Miller announced his candidacy for Colorado lieutenant governor and in 1974 he sought the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senator. Both these campaigns were unsuccessful and Miller returned to his varied and thriving legal practice.

Martin P. Miller distinguished himself through his community and professional service. He was a founding board member of the Arapahoe County Bar Association, President of the Colorado District Attorney's Association (CDAA), Chairman of the CDAA committee to update Colorado criminal laws, and a long-time member of the Colorado Pattern Jury Committee. He served on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, as chairman of the Colorado Democratic Party convention and as a member of Colorado's state steering committee for Hubert Humphrey's presidential campaign of 1968. In 1978, he was awarded the prestigious Adlai Stevenson Memorial Award for "a citizen of the county who best exemplifies the special personal qualities of the late senator and presidential standard bearer" by the Arapahoe County Democrats. In 2002, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arapahoe County Bar Association.

Martin and Edythe Miller had four children. The family lived in a Sternberg-designed home on Front Range Road in Littleton, Colorado, where Edythe still resides today. Their daughter Kathryn E. Miller and son Michael P. Miller practice law in their father's Sternberg-designed office build-

ing at 1901 West Littleton Boulevard.

Eugene D. Sternberg, 1915-2005

Eugene Sternberg was born in 1915 in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. He earned an architectural engineering degree from the Technion, just outside of Prague. Sternberg was pursuing his graduate degree in architecture at Cambridge University in England when World War II broke out. He remained in London through the war, teaching part time at Cambridge, then joining the firm of Sir Patrick Abercrombie, where he was involved in the rebuilding of housing destroyed by the bombing of London. Abercrombie was a key architect of London's 1944 Green Belt plan and was a major influence on Sternberg's development as a planner.

In 1945, like many European architects displaced by the war, Sternberg immigrated to the United States. He had accepted a teaching invitation at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, but quickly became dissatisfied with Cornell's restrictions on combining an architectural practice with teaching. At the urging of his friend Lewis Mumford, Sternberg accepted a teaching offer from Carl Feiss, Director of the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Denver. Feiss had come to Denver in 1942, hired by the city of Denver as Planning Director. He had previously served with distinction as head of the Planning & Housing Division of Columbia University's School of Architecture in New York City. After the war, Feiss was hired as Planning Director by the University of Denver, where the student population had leaped from 3,000 to 10,000 as young soldiers returned from the war to the classroom. Under Feiss' direction, prominent Denver architects including Fisher and Fisher, Burnham Hoyt, G. Meredith Musick, and Smith, Hegner and Moore updated and expanded the University Park and Civic Center Campuses.

In 1946, Feiss' interest in architectural education drew him to spearhead the creation of the new School of Architecture and Planning, of which he was appointed director. It was the first school of architecture in the Rocky Mountain region. In 1949, *Architectural Record* discussed his innovative program combining architecture and planning in their article "Architectural Education in the West." It was a model curriculum at a time when many architectural schools were being transformed from programs based on the traditional, Old World model of the *Ecole des Beaux Arts*, focused on classical and historical models, to a syllabus based on modern materials, techniques, styles, planning, and social concerns.

Sternberg was the first faculty member to be hired for the University of Denver's new School of Architecture and Planning. He and his English-born wife Barbara settled into a faculty-housing complex of prefabricated, military-surplus quonset huts and buildings on the University Park Campus.

A newspaper article announcing Sternberg's arrival in Denver prompted an inquiry by Dr. Ralph W. MacKenzie, who hired Sternberg to design a medical building on Littleton Boulevard at Sherman Avenue. The design of the 1950 Littleton Clinic building, Sternberg's first architectural project in Colorado, was acknowledged for its architectural and planning significance, appearing in a number of surveys of medical clinics of the period. As a result of the project, Reinhold Publishers hired Sternberg to tour Europe in 1954 and collect information and photographs for a book on medical offices and clinics internationally. The Littleton Clinic moved into a Richard Crowther-designed building to the east and the Sternberg building was renamed the Littleton Medical Center. It was demolished in 2009 and replaced by an apartment complex.

In 1949, Sternberg was hired by developer Edward B. Hawkins to design the site plan and model homes for Englewood's Arapahoe Acres. The project was the first post-World War II residential subdivision to be listed as a National Register Historic District. It was recognized for its significance in post-war social history, architecture, planning, landscape design, and construction technology. Since the subdivision was not yet fifty years old, it was recognized for its exceptional significance and remarkable physical integrity.

Concurrent with the development of Arapahoe Acres, Eugene Sternberg was developing

“Mile High Cooperative” off Dahlia, just south of Iliff. This was one of the first projects to take advantage of a new federal post-war housing program to provide low cost loans for cooperative single family housing. Sternberg designed and supervised the construction of all the homes in “Mile High.” Its residents, including the Sternbergs, were largely University of Denver professors whose modest salaries restricted their access to quality housing. “Mile High” features a central park like one Sternberg originally envisioned for Arapahoe Acres.

With a number of partners, Sternberg also launched Orchard Hills in Arapahoe County south of Belleview between South Yosemite and South Dayton Streets. The one hundred and fifty acre site included a broad greenbelt with walking paths that adjoin each homesite and a neighboring lake. Sternberg designed seven of the original homes at Orchard Hills.

After the closure of the University of Denver School of Architecture and Planning in 1952, only six years after its inception, Sternberg was free to devote himself entirely to his architectural practice. It thrived, focusing on socially involved projects including schools, hospitals, medical facilities, and elderly and low-income housing. He designed over four hundred buildings in Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, British Columbia and the United Kingdom.

Eugene D. Sternberg is the single most important architect in the built environment of post-WW II Littleton. Sternberg designed and constructed his own offices at 2009 W. Littleton Boulevard, across the street and just east of the IREA Littleton Headquarters Building, and southeast of the Arapahoe County Courthouse. His was the first architectural firm to be located in Littleton. A lead editorial in the Littleton Independent by editor Houstoun Waring proclaimed, “In choosing Littleton for their headquarters, Eugene Sternberg & Associates have cast their lot permanently with our community... we suspect the dynamism of these men will help transform Littleton into the state’s most attractive suburb.”

Sternberg quickly became an important and influential member of the Littleton community, promoting the development and appreciation of the arts, planning, and architecture in the city. He virtually became Littleton’s architect, designing some of its most prominent buildings of the post-World War II period. These included, among others, the 1962 Faith Congregational Church, the 1964 Geneva Village, the 1964-65 Bemis Library, the 1966-67 Carl Sandberg Elementary School, the 1972 Heritage High School, the 1974 Arapahoe Community College, and the homes and offices of a number of the city’s most influential citizens including Martin Miller, whose 1972 Littleton Law Center was designed by Sternberg at 1901 West Littleton Boulevard, just north and east of the IREA Littleton Headquarters Building (demolished in 2016 along with the original IREA building by Eugene Groves).

In addition to his architectural accomplishments in Littleton, Eugene Sternberg was also an active member of the Littleton and Arapahoe County communities. In 2004, Historic Littleton, Inc. presented Sternberg with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Brutalism

Closely related to the Formalist style was the European-derived Brutalism. The Second Phase International Style and Formalism represented two heirs to the International Style, the Brutalist style was another. For the most part, Brutalism was a response to the later work of the Swiss-born French architect Le Corbusier. In the 1920s and 1930s, Le Corbusier, a peer of the Bauhaus masters in Germany, became a champion of the International Style. Similarly, Le Corbusier discovered a renewed design vigor in the post-war period in a new style — Brutalism. An early example of Le Corbusier’s Brutalist aesthetic is seen in his famous apartment building in France, Unité d’Habitation, (from 1950).

Brutalism is characterized by dense compositions of square and rectangular volumes. The effect was to make a building more visually complex not through ornament but through artful repetition of functional features. Brutalist buildings were often constructed of cast concrete, which allowed for thick walls with deep recesses for the windows. Also back to basics was the fact that the cast

concrete used was often executed in rough finished aggregate, with the imprint of the casting forms functioning to create additional visual appeal.

In this country, architects Louis Kahn and Paul Rudolph in particular became advocates for their own individual expressions of Brutalism. Another was former Bauhaus master Marcel Breuer, who like Le Corbusier, had come out of the International Style only to later embrace Brutalism.

The term was coined in the 1970s by Charles Jencks.

Defining Characteristics of Brutalism

- vertically oriented
- robust, over-scaled proportions
- expression of the fenestration
- vertical windows
- deeply recessed windows
- use of smoke or gray tinted glass
- complex formal arrangement of building's volumes
- thick vertical piers
- eaveless walls or coping at top of walls
- use of cast-in-place concrete or aggregate
- use of self-sealing metals including Cor-Ten steel
- flat roofs