

**A HISTORY OF  
1305 NORTH CASCADE AVENUE  
in the OLD NORTH END NEIGHBORHOOD  
in COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO**

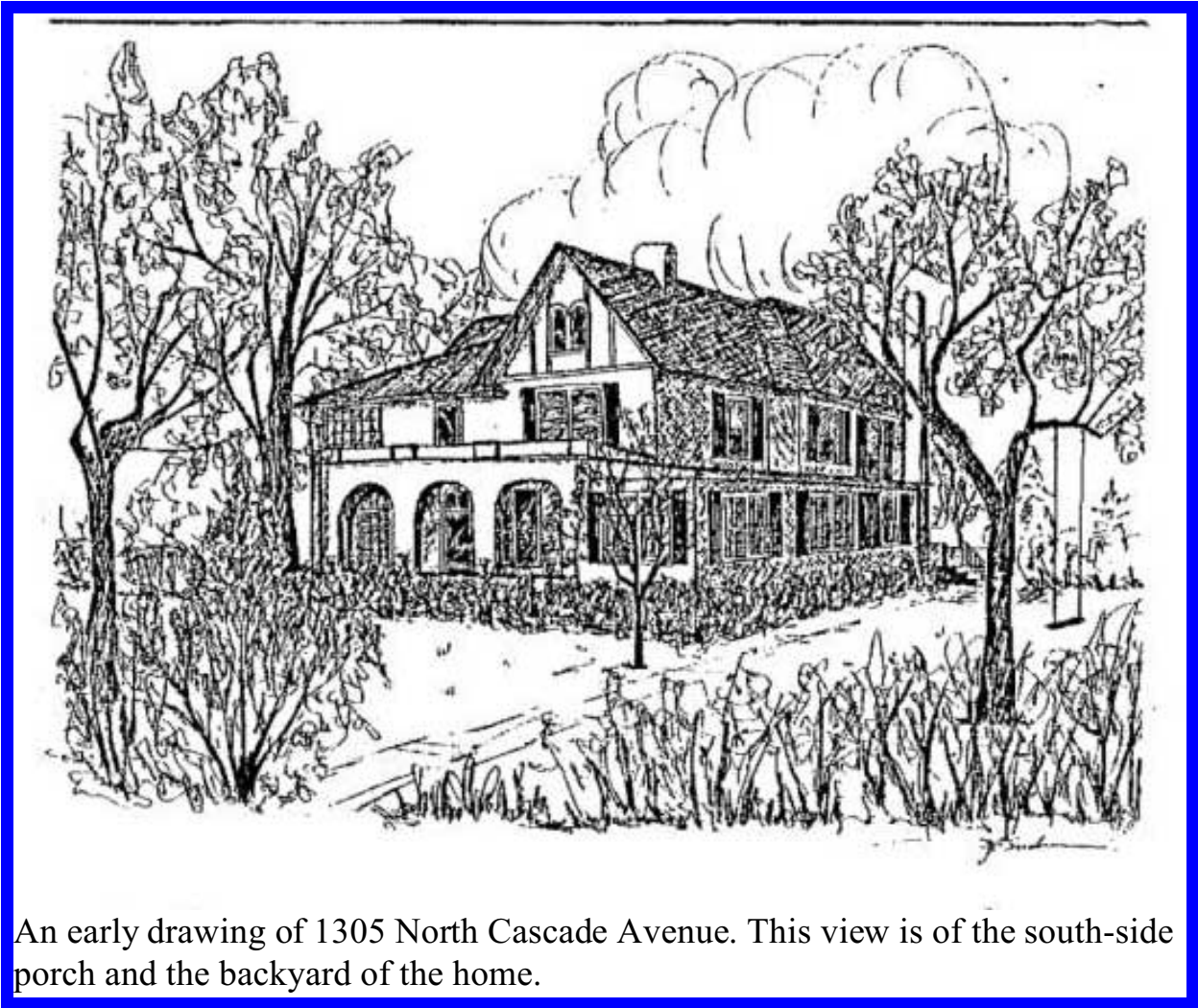
*by  
Robert D. Loevy*



This photograph of 1305 North Cascade Avenue probably dates from 1986.

The prominent home at 1305 North Cascade Avenue is one of the older ones in the Old North End. The land was first acquired in 1881. The house was constructed in 1887.

The two-and-one-half story wood frame residence has been covered with stucco, which makes it *vernacular* in architectural style. The cross-gabled roof gives it something of a Victorian look. The arched windows on the first floor, coupled with



An early drawing of 1305 North Cascade Avenue. This view is of the south-side porch and the backyard of the home.

the double-arched windows in the attic and the arched openings on the front porch, suggest a touch of Romanesque.

#### **GEORGE N. AND SARAH H. MARDEN**

On May 4, 1881, George N. Marden bought ten lots in Block Number 213 in Addition Number 1 by Henry McAllister, Jr., in the city of Colorado Springs. Marden bought the lots from Edward P. Tenney, who at that time was the president of Colorado College. President Tenney hoped to guarantee the financial future of the young college by purchasing land north of the college campus and selling those lands at a profit. Marden, who was a member of the faculty at Colorado College, may have bought the ten lots to help President Tenney in his efforts to keep the college financially solvent.

George Marden apparently sold most of the lots but kept two of them,

Numbered 9 and 10, for himself and his wife Sarah. It was on these two lots, situated at the corner of North Cascade Avenue and East San Miguel Street, that they built their home in 1887. The large size of the lot, coupled with the house being located at an intersection, gave the home added significance.

George Nathaniel Marden was one of the early professors at Colorado College. He held a joint appointment in History, Political Science, and Metaphysics. Marden joined the faculty in 1881, just seven years after the founding of the College in 1874. Similar to most of the initial professors at Colorado College, Marden was a New Englander.<sup>1</sup>

Professor Marden was born on March 18, 1836, in West Concord, New Hampshire. He received his early education at Kimball Union academy in Meriden, New Hampshire. He went directly from there to a three-year theological program at Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine and was ordained a minister in 1862. His pastoral work began at Boxboro, Massachusetts, and subsequently included parishes in Orland and Farmington, Maine.

During the Civil War, George Marden gave up his ministerial duties to work for the U.S. Christian Commission for seven months. After the war, he worked 18 months in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Freedmen, the newly emancipated slaves who needed help adapting to their changed status. Marden then toured Europe and the Holy Land before assuming a pastorate in South Weymouth, Massachusetts, from which he was called to Colorado College in 1881.<sup>2</sup>

That was the same year that he bought the lots on which 1305 North Cascade Avenue was later constructed.

In 1884, President Edward Tenney's land dealings in behalf of Colorado College went bankrupt. Tenney was dismissed from the presidency by the college's Board of Trustees. It was at this point that George N. Marden earned himself the title: "The Savior of Colorado College."

When Edward Tenney departed, Marden took over administration of the college's financial assets and became the college's chief fund raiser on the East Coast of the United States. Drawing on his religious training, Marden gave guest sermons at Congregational Churches in the East, talking about the work and needs of the college and then taking up a special collection to garner funds for the college's

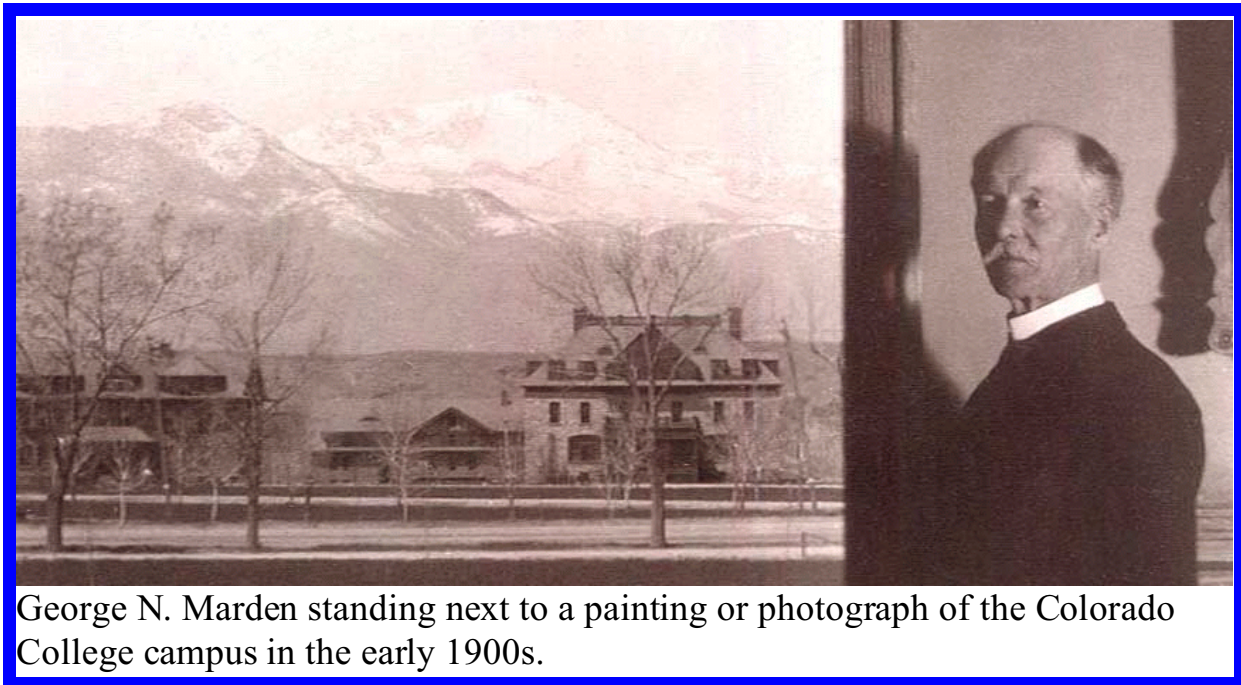
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<sup>1</sup> Buckley, Louise, *The History Of Colorado College*, Masters Thesis, Colorado College, 1935, p. 101.

<sup>2</sup> "George Nathaniel Marden," Funeral Program, in file: Admin-Treasurer-Biography-Marden, George Nathaniel, in Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

benefit.

While raising money in Baltimore, Maryland, George Marden was forced by a bad storm to stay some extra time at the home of William Frederick Slocum, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Baltimore. The two men came to know and like each other. Marden recruited Slocum to become the new president of Colorado College.



George N. Marden standing next to a painting or photograph of the Colorado College campus in the early 1900s.

William Slocum’s presidency was one of the longest and most productive in the history of the college, lasting from 1888 to 1917. Marden served as treasurer of the college under President Slocum from 1897 to 1907.<sup>3</sup>

It was Marden’s critical service to the college in getting it through the difficult period between Tenney’s and Slocum’s presidencies that resulted in his characterization as “The Savior of Colorado College.”

In 1901, when the junior class at Colorado College published the school’s first year book, the *1901 Pike’s Peak Nugget*, Professor Marden was described by the students thusly:

“Professor Marden’s life, in connection with Colorado College, has been a

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<sup>3</sup> Hershey, Charlie Brown, *Colorado College; 1874-1949* (Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado College, 1952), pp. 59-61.

heroic one. A staunch and loyal friend of the college through all those years of adversity, he has been with it in despair as well as in prosperity. In 1884 he undertook to raise funds for the delinquent college, and by his own efforts has brought into the treasury since then over \$200,000.”

The students then printed the following quotation about Marden:

“He has brought forth life from the very ribs of death.”

Near the end of his tenure as college treasurer, an acquaintance accused George Marden of throwing himself away on the cause of Colorado College. Marden replied:

“Well, I thought it was about as good a throw as I could make.”<sup>4</sup>

In his letter announcing his retirement from the College in 1906, George Marden lamented that he had been called from teaching and scholarship to be an administrator. He wrote:

“I have found satisfaction in putting myself in at any point along the line wherever I was most needed. I have never regretted the sacrifice made in giving up my own studies to work in ways that will help others to study.”

George Nathaniel Marden retired as treasurer of Colorado College in 1907. He and his wife, Sarah, took a tour of Europe. While in Florence, Italy, George Marden became ill with pneumonia.

He and Sarah returned to Colorado Springs and their home at 1305 North Cascade Avenue. George Marden continued to decline, however, and died of uremic poisoning on November 7, 1908. His obituary in the *Colorado Springs Gazette* noted:

“It was joy to him that he was spared to reach home, and that he could go out of his life into the next from the friends he knew and loved so well.”<sup>5</sup>

On the day of his funeral, all classes and other activities were suspended at Colorado College and the college flag flown at half-mast. He was buried in Denver, Colorado, in Fairmount Cemetery.

A historian of Colorado College wrote of Marden some 40 years later:

“He was a man of integrity, piety, self-sacrifice, faith, and hard work, and all of these qualities were supported by an excellent mind well-disciplined for a devoted

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<sup>4</sup> “George Nathaniel Marden,” Funeral Program, in file: Admin-Treasurer-Biography-Marden, George Nathaniel, in Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

<sup>5</sup> “Professor Marden’s Life Work Finished,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, November 8, 1908.

service to the college.”<sup>6</sup>

His wife, Sarah H. Marden, continued to live at 1305 North Cascade Avenue. She sold the home on May 8, 1919. She passed away in 1927 and is buried with her husband.



The grave markers of George and Sarah Marden in Fairmount Cemetery in Denver, Colorado.

*On October 9, 1947, Mrs. Marjorie S. Beyers (or Begers) of 841 Marion Street in Denver, Colorado, wrote a letter to the then current owners of 1305 North Cascade Avenue. In the letter, she recalled her happy youth growing up in the home and expressed a desire to buy the house if per chance it was to be sold soon. Her letter noted:*

*“You see my grandfather, Mr. George N. Marden, built that house in the 1880s. He and grandmother lived in it for a good many years. I spent much time there as a child, and there is no place as dear to my heart. I grieved when grandmother sold the place a few years after grandfather’s death.”*

*Mrs. Beyers (Begers) went on to note that Denver in 1947 was “in some ways not as pleasant as it used to be” and was getting “too big and crowded.” That explained her desire to move to Colorado Springs. Alas for Mrs. Beyers (Begers), the current owners of the home in 1947 loved the house, too, and did not sell it until many years later.*

### **SUBSEQUENT OWNERS**

The house at 1305 North Cascade Avenue was sold in 1919 to J. Alfred Ritter, a Colorado Springs attorney.

Twenty-one years later, in 1940, he sold it to Mrs. Julia Abbott, who kept it for two years.

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<sup>6</sup> Hershey, Charlie Brown, *Colorado College; 1874-1949* (Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado College, 1952), p. 160.

In 1942 Mrs. Abbott sold the house to Joseph and Elphia Wilson, who lived in it until 1946.