

John Gustave Link (1870–1954) and Charles Sidney Haire (1857–1925)

Prominent Montana Architects

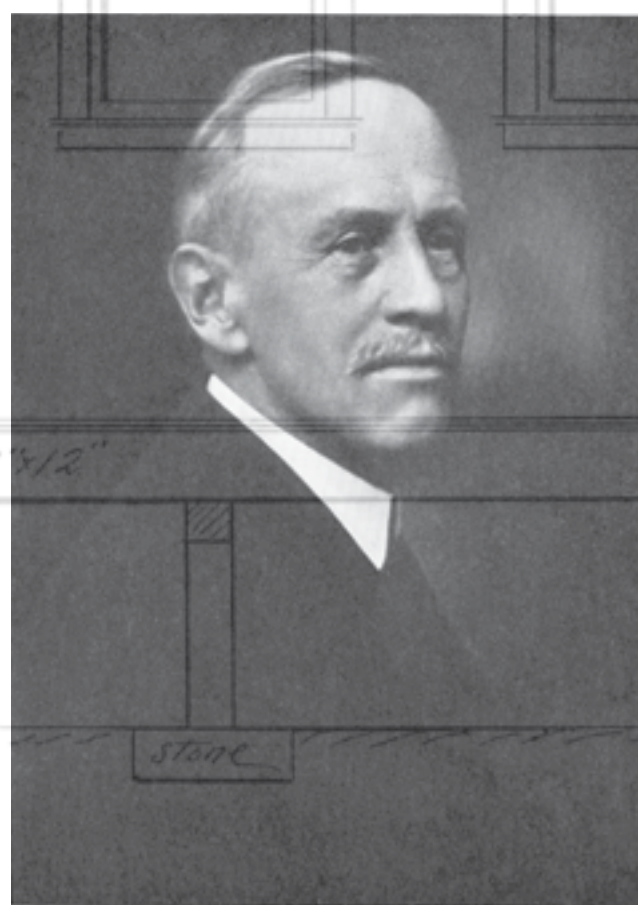


Working both independently and in partnership, John G. “Gus” Link and Charles S. Haire shaped Montana’s built landscape. In all, they designed over a thousand buildings, bringing architectural sophistication to dozens of Montana communities.

John Gustave Link was born in Bavaria in 1870 and studied design at the Royal Academy at Lindau. After he graduated at seventeen, he emigrated to the United States, where he practiced architecture in Denver and St. Louis before moving to Butte in 1896 with his wife, Martha Welling.



John G. Link, A Newspaper Reference Work: Men of Affairs and Representative Institutions of the State of Montana, 1914. Image courtesy of Montana Historical Society Research Center.



Charles S. Haire, A Newspaper Reference Work: Men of Affairs and Representative Institutions of the State of Montana, 1914. Image courtesy of Montana Historical Society Research Center.

Charles Sidney Haire was born in Ohio in 1857 and taught school while honing his drafting and design skills. Draftsmanship work for the railroads brought him west. In 1889, he moved to Helena where he married Frances Corwin and developed architectural plans for a local real estate company.

In 1906, the two established Link and Haire, Architects, which quickly grew into one of the most prominent architectural firms in Montana. Although based in Butte, the company had offices in Helena, Miles City, Missoula, and Lewistown. They also worked in the Dakotas, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, and Washington.

In addition to providing plans for a third of the state’s county courthouses, Link and Haire designed schools, churches, hospitals, office buildings, libraries, and private homes. The firm also contributed to the 1912 expansion of the state capitol. Their buildings, many of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, embrace the eclectic and classical tastes of the period. Prominent works include the Silver Bow Club (Butte), the Montana Power Company building (Billings), and St. Leo’s Catholic Church (Lewistown).

Although Haire’s death in 1925 ended the partnership, their legacy continued through the architects they trained, including their sons, Thomas C. Haire, Elmer F. Link, and John G. Link, Jr.



Montana Life Insurance Company, Helena, Montana. Image courtesy of Montana Historical Society Research Center Photograph Archives, PAc 2013-50.

TRANSVERSE SECTION.

Scale - 1/4" = 1'-0"

Architectural drawing for Carnegie Library, Dillon, Montana. Image courtesy of Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections, 2040-F103-011

C.S. Haire
Architect
Helena, Mont.

Scale