

HABS No. CO-172-AL

Fitzsimons General Hospital, Assembly Hall School
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 205)
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Contracting Office Bldg.)
Northeast corner of W. McCloskey Avenue and N. 10th Street
Aurora
Adams County
Colorado

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, ASSEMBLY HALL SCHOOL
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 205)
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For information on the history of Fitzsimons General Hospital, see HABS No. CO-172. For information on other structures at the Hospital, see HABS No. CO-172-A through CO-172-CI.

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Significance: This building, constructed in 1919 as part of the hospital's education department, is significant for its representation of the early development of the post and its early educational mission. The medical department believed that a healthy mental attitude was an important factor in the progress of treatment for tuberculosis. By training recuperating veterans for future work, the hospital believed that it was preparing them to successfully re-enter the work force and also helping to pass the prolonged treatment period with productive activities. The curriculum was originally planned by Captain W.H. Lawrence. About 40 courses ranging from elementary to graduate level were offered. The program was coordinated so that patients could continue schoolwork elsewhere after leaving the hospital without loss of credits.

Only four buildings were constructed in connection with the education department, and this was the largest of the four. The other educational buildings were for physical therapy and vocational and craft classes. It is one of the best representatives on the post of the plan to provide vocational and educational training for veterans in order to facilitate their transition to civilian life.

The building is considered to be individually eligible to the National Register due to its high degree of integrity of design, materials, craftsmanship, scale, and setting and because it represents a rare resource type rarely found on army hospital installations.

Description: This two-story, concrete, south-facing, long, rectangular building rests on a concrete foundation with an articulated watertable. The walls are smooth-faced stuccoed. The hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves and exposed rafters is covered with tiles. Fenestration consists of slightly recessed, evenly spaced, single and paired nine-over-six double-hung windows with shared cement sills. There are entrances on each elevation. Original entrance designs consist of double, glazed and paneled wood doors surmounted by a tall, rectangular, five-light transom. Shed hoods supported by wood posts protect the entrances. Concrete stoops have pipe railing while those entrances with wooden steps have wood railings. The east elevation has a metal fire escape from the second story.

History: This building was constructed in 1919 as one of four buildings connected with the educational department at the post, which was first constructed as a tuberculosis hospital. The building originally contained classrooms and offices. The other three buildings were only one story. Two were used for curative shops (physical therapy) and one housed shop building. Vocational classes were held in the shop and crafts classes were held for curative, as well as educational purposes, in this building. When the service began in June 1918, there were 23 instructors and a patient enrollment of 73. Thereafter approximately 60% of the patients were enrolled.

There are no significant alterations made to this building since its construction. Currently the structure serves as the Contracting Office building.

Sources: Cultural Resources Study: Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Final Submittal, 15 August 1991, prepared by Front Range Research Associates, Inc., Denver

"Real Property Record-Buildings and Structures" (June 10, 1946)

Project Information: This building will be demolished to clear the site for two Military Construction, Army (MCA) projects. The first MCA project is the Central Energy Plant, which is needed to support the second MCA project, the New Hospital project.

Historian: Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
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