

HABS No.

CO-172-BO

Fitzsimons General Hospital, Nurses' Mess and Kitchen, Nurses' Recreation  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 508)  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Library)  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Medical Records Storage Building)

HABS  
COLO  
1-AUR,  
2BQ-

West McAfee Avenue, north of Building 507  
Aurora  
Adams County  
Colorado

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

HABS  
COLO  
1-AUR,  
2BQ-

FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, NURSES' MESS AND KITCHEN, NURSES' RECREATION  
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 508)  
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, LIBRARY)  
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, MEDICAL RECORDS STORAGE BUILDING)

HABS No.CO-172-BO

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.

Location: Fitzsimons General Hospital, Nurses' Mess and Kitchen,  
Nurses' Recreation  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 508)  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Library)  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Medical Records Storage  
Building)  
West McAfee Avenue, north of Building 507  
Aurora  
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Significance: This building was constructed as two separate buildings (originally Buildings 715 and 719) which were later joined. Building 715 served as a nurses' mess and kitchen and Building 719 functioned as a nurses' recreation building. This structure was among the first group of buildings constructed on the base and, therefore, is significant for its association with the early development of Fitzsimons Hospital. In particular, the building is associated with the Army Nurse Corps which was an auxiliary branch of the Army. The building illustrates how the Nurse Corps was provided with its own eating and recreation facilities separate from those of the Army. The building is also significant for its representation of the architecture of the early buildings at Fitzsimons.

Description: This hollow tile and concrete building is composed of two separate buildings joined by a connecting wing addition. The original buildings are rectangular in plan with the axes oriented east-west. In its current configuration, the building measures 21,297 square feet. The south wing, which was originally the south building, is a one-story, gable-roofed structure with an enclosed shed porch along its southern wall. Fenestration for this section of the building consists of evenly spaced six-over-six windows. The south wing has double-paneled glazed doors on the east elevation. The north wing, which was originally the north building, is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed structure

with shaped parapets on the east and west. Fenestration for this section of the building consists of paired six-over-six light windows. The north wing has paneled and glazed doors. These original sections of the building have overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. The connecting wing is a one-story, flat-roofed structure with evenly spaced six-over-six windows on the west side. All construction rests on a concrete foundation with a concrete water table. The exterior of the building is stucco. The roof of the gabled sections is shingled. Principal entrances to the building are on the west side, with additional entrances on each of the other sides.

**History:**

Buildings No. 715 and 719 were constructed in 1918 by the C.S. Lambie Company. Building 715 was originally utilized as a nurses' mess hall. Building 719 was originally utilized as a nurses' recreation building which included an assembly room, a laundry, a kitchen, a library and a sewing room.

Alterations made to the buildings include: the enclosure of an open porch on the east side of the southern wing before 1940; the construction of the connecting wing between 1956 and 1962; the addition of concrete stoops with pipe railings; the replacement of some of the original doors with modern doors and the placement of metal screens on some of the windows.

Currently, the combined structure serves as a medical records storage facility and library.

**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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