

CO-172-BR

HABS No.

Fitzsimons General Hospital, Infirmary
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 511)
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Medical Administration Offices and Medical
Library Building)

Northwest corner of East Bushnell Ave. and South Page St.
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

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, INFIRMARY
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 511)
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
AND MEDICAL LIBRARY BUILDING)

HABS No. CO-172-BR

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, Infirmary
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 511)
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Medical Administration
Offices and Medical Library Building)
Northwest corner of East Bushnell Ave. and South Page St.
Aurora
Adams County
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Significance: This building was the first to be constructed at Fitzsimons and originally served as the main infirmary building. It is significant for its association with the early development of Fitzsimons Hospital and as a representative example of buildings designed for the housing and treatment of tuberculosis patients in the military.

Description: This two-story, south-facing building is of frame and hollow tile construction. The building rests on a concrete foundation and is rectangular in plan with the long axis oriented east-west. The building is 864 feet long by 33 feet wide. The exterior is stuccoed. The core of the building has a low gable roof. The roof design incorporates overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends and is covered with shingles. Two-story hipped roofed porches, now enclosed, project from both the east and west ends. Separating the building core from these porches are the characteristic shaped parapets of the buildings designed for Fitzsimons. These parapets also occur at irregular intervals along the length of the structure. Numerous two-story, shed-roofed porches project from the south side of the building, all of them enclosed. Numerous covered stairways and ramps project from the north side of the building. Fenestration consists of six-over-six windows which are arranged in pairs on the unaltered elevations. Where windows were added as part of alterations to the building, they are generally evenly spaced. Principal entrances to the building are on the south side, with additional entrances on all other sides.

History: Building 511 was constructed in 1918 and was the first building to be completed at the facility. The building was originally utilized as the main infirmary building and served the more seriously ill patients. As originally designed, the building was open to the outside as much as practical with many windows providing cross ventilation and numerous large, open porches on the south side designed to accommodate hospital beds. The building was designed in this manner to maximize the exposure of patients to sunshine and fresh air which were considered essential to the treatment of tuberculosis. This building had a bed capacity variously listed as 216 and 300. The building was connected to the original mess hall and administration buildings to the north by a covered corridor.

Several alterations have made to this building. All of the original porches have either been enclosed or removed. A covered corridor was created to connect the building with the new general hospital building constructed between 1938 and 1941. Modern doors and ramps have been added to the facade.

Currently, this building is used for administrative offices.

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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