

HABS No. CO-172-BW

Fitzsimons General Hospital, Physiotherapy and Electrocardiograph Dept. Building  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 517)  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Surgery/Physical Medicine Bldg.)

North of Building 516, east of corridor connecting Buildings 511 and 515  
Aurora  
Adams County  
Colorado

HABS  
COLO  
1-AUR,  
2BW-

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, PHYSIOTHERAPY AND  
ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH DEPARTMENT BUILDING  
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 517)  
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, SURGERY/PHYSICAL MEDICINE BLDG.)

HABS  
COLO  
1-AUR,  
2BW-

HABS No. CO-172-BW

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, Physiotherapy and  
Electrocardiograph Department Building  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 517)  
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Surgery/Physical Medicine  
Bldg.)  
North of Building 516, east of corridor connecting  
Buildings 511 and 515  
Aurora  
Adams County  
Colorado

**Significance:** This building originally housed the hospital's  
Physiotherapy and Electrocardiograph Departments. It is  
one of the original structures constructed on the base and  
therefore is significant for its association with the early  
development of Fitzsimons Hospital. The building is  
representative of the design and style of the military  
hospital buildings designed for Fitzsimons. It retains  
integrity of location, setting, scale, craftsmanship, and  
materials.

**Description:** This one-story, hollow tile and concrete building rests on  
a concrete foundation with a concrete water table. The L-  
shaped building has a longer, gable-roofed wing oriented  
east-west, with a shorter, gable-roofed wing intersecting  
the eastern end and projecting south. The building  
measures 7,080 square feet. The exterior of the building  
is stucco. A shed-roofed porch, now enclosed, extends  
along the south side of the east-west wing. A 19-foot  
shed-roofed addition projects from the eastern side of the  
east-west wing and wraps around the south-east corner to  
join the enclosed porch. Separating the wing from this  
addition is one of characteristic shaped parapets of the  
buildings designed for Fitzsimons. The design of the  
shingle-covered roof incorporates over-hanging gables and  
exposed rafter ends. Fenestration consists of six-over-  
six light windows which are arranged both singly and in  
pairs on the original portions of the building, and in  
bands or groups of threes on the addition and enclosed

porch. The southern elevation also six small, six-light windows. The principal exterior entrance to the building is on the south. The building can also be entered from the covered passageway connecting Buildings 511 and 515, as well as by a covered passageway connected to Building 516 to the south.

**History:** Building 517 was constructed in 1918 by the C.S. Lambie Company and originally housed the hospital's Physiotherapy and Electrocardiograph Departments. This was one very few physiotherapy buildings constructed by the Army during World War I. These buildings were categorized as special care and treatment facilities by the Surgeon General's Office. The building was constructed to Standard Army Plan E-106 which was adapted to incorporate the Mission-Revival stylistic elements chosen for construction at Fitzsimons.

Alterations have been made to this building. An open porch along the south side of the east-west wing was enclosed. In 1930 an addition was built onto the eastern end of the east-west wing.

Currently, this building functions as an occupational therapy building and in this role, continues to serve a function similar to its original one.

**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  
Documentation prepared January 1995.