

HABS No. CO-172-CA

Fitzsimons General Hospital, Red Cross Building
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 524)
South 8th St., Bounded by W. McAfee Ave. and W. Harlow Ave.
Aurora
Adams County
Colorado

HABS
COLO
1-AUR,
2CA-

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, RED CROSS BUILDING
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 524)

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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.

Location: Fitzsimons General Hospital, Red Cross Building
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 524)
South 8th Street between West McAfee Avenue and West Harlow
Aurora
Adams County
Colorado

Significance: The Red Cross Building is significant as a representative of the first group of buildings constructed in 1918. The Red Cross played a very active role during the early years of Fitzsimons, providing entertainment for the patients, who often faced long periods of hospitalization for the treatment of tuberculosis. The Red Cross supplied vaudeville, movies, and concerts among other forms of entertainment. Ambulatory patients were entertained in this building. The Red Cross building was designed according to a standard plan, provided by the Army, which included the cross-shaped building and central lantern. The style of the building was adapted to conform to that of the other buildings on the base, through the inclusion of smooth stucco walls and shaped parapets. Although the integrity of the building was affected by additions to the eastern elevation, the building retains enough integrity of scale, design, material, and setting.

Description: This two-story, frame and tile, west-facing building has 12 bays across the main body of the building and measures approximately 120' x 120'. This structure's cruciform plan has been altered by a one-story addition to the building's front. The walls are covered with stucco. The cruciform section of the building has a gable roof with decorative parapet, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, and an octagonal lantern situated at the transept; the one-story addition has a low-pitch shed roof. Fenestration consists of six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, as well as three pairs of french windows on the north elevation. The main

west entrance is a double door protected by a pedimented hood; a second-story fire exit is also present on this side. Two entrances are located on the rear (east) elevation and consist of plain wooden doors. A glass door with glazed transom and side lights is present on the north elevation.

History: The Red Cross Building was constructed in 1918 by C. S. Lambie of Denver according to a standard plan provided by the Army. It has operated continually as the Red Cross Building, always serving as a center for recreation and entertainment. Here the Red Cross provided movies, concerts, vaudeville performance, as well as a lounge and lending library. During the height of the Depression, monetary problems forced cutbacks in activities provided by the Red Cross, but the advent of World War II saw a resurgence in its activities at Fitzsimons.

The Red Cross Building has undergone several alterations, dates for which are not known. The most significant of these is a one-story addition to the east elevation, while a second-story entrance and firestairs has been added on the west. Doors on the west, east, and south are modern and a number of windows are replacements.

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.

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KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS SKETCH PLAN

