

HABS No. CO-172-AR

Fitzsimons General Hospital, Power House
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building No. 215)
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Steam Plant)
Northwest corner of East Harlow Ave. and North Page 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

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, POWER HOUSE
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, BUILDING NO. 215)
(FITZSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL, STEAM PLANT)

HABS No. CO-172-AR

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, Power House
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Significance: The power house is significant as one of the forty-eight original buildings constructed at the hospital in 1918. The building reflects the original architectural theme of the early buildings with its decorative parapets, smooth stucco walls, and multi-light windows. The power house was an important and essential part of the early hospital facilities. The building retains a high degree of integrity of plan, design, scale, and materials.

Description: This irregularly shaped, two-story, tile and concrete building has smooth stucco walls and rests on a concrete foundation. It has a gable roof with decorative end parapets on the north and south. A full-length, flat-roofed section projects on the west side, and a one-story, shed-roofed addition is present on the south elevation. On the main body of the building a centrally placed corrugated metal clerestory raises the building to three stories. Fenestration consists of fifteen-light, fixed-sash windows with concrete sills; inset hopper window opens for ventilation. A garage-type door is present on the north wall. Pedestrian entrances are located at irregular intervals around the building and have doors that are half glazed with lower level horizontal panels. On the northeast a metal smoke stack rises above the roofline. Immediately east of the building, and connected to it, is a brick smokestack, 175' high and 9'6" at the base.

History: Building 215 (historic number unknown) was built by the Denver construction firm of C. S. Lambie., and has served as a power plant since its construction. The power house is one of the original forty-eight buildings constructed at Fitzsimons Hospital. Originally, the plant was coal fired and had pipes that ran through tunnels and trenches to the other buildings. The flat-roofed section was once the car bumper area. Railroad cars with fuel entered this area from the north side. In cold weather, the post required three carloads of coal per day. The roadbed of the tracks were built up on the north to reach the power house, and the tracks ran through the west end of the building. In 1930 the plant converted from coal to gas. In 1965 an explosion destroyed the roof.

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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