Fitzsimons General Hospital, Main Hospital Building
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building 500)
(Fitzsimons General Hospital, Building 900)
Charlie Kelly Boulevard, North Side, at the intersection of Sharon A. Lane Drive
City of Aurora
Adams County
Colorado

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Intermountain Support Office - Denver
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287
Location: Charlie Kelly Boulevard, North Side, at the intersection of Sharon A. Lane Drive, City of Aurora, Adams County, Colorado.

UTM Coordinates: Zone 13 Easting 513970 Northing 4399290

Quadrangle Maps: Fitzsimons, Colorado (1965, revised 1994)

Date of Construction: 1941

Present Owner: United States of America
U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons

Present Use: Administrative Offices, Clinic

Significance: The Main Hospital Building is significant for its association with the history of military medicine in the United States, and as a national center for the treatment of tuberculosis in military personnel. The building is associated with federally funded public works projects of the 1930s and was one of the largest construction projects undertaken in the Denver area during the Depression era. The building is associated with the mobilization of the United States military prior to World War II. The expansion of military facilities during the late 1930s was the reason for the building’s construction, and the building had a daily patient census of five thousand during the war. The hospital also played a major role in treating casualties from the Korean and Vietnam wars. The building is significant for its association with Denver’s efforts to attract and keep military installations in the region, and for its role as one of the largest employers in Aurora for many years, pumping millions of dollars into the local economy.

When the building was completed in 1941, it was the largest building in the state, the largest Army general hospital in the country, and the first important permanent
building erected at Fitzsimons. The Main Hospital Building is significant for its architecture, reflecting the Modernistic style developed by architects in conjunction with the Medical Department of the Army and the Commanding Officer at Fitzsimons. The building’s architecture represented state-of-the-art construction for military general hospitals, reflected in the stepped and terraced plan which allowed maximum sunshine, fresh air, and scenic views. The massive size of the building permitted consolidation of previously dispersed hospital functions and was considered more efficient and cost effective than the widely scattered, low height structures of previous eras. The Modernistic style combining Art Deco and Art Moderne elements is reflected in the building’s streamlined stepped back design, stylized ornament, polychromatic wall surfaces, central tower, columns of windows with stone spandrels, metal doors and interior elements, panels of banded brick between windows, and flat roofs surmounted by metal railings. The building displays high artistic qualities in its combination of seven colors of facebrick, panels of banded brick, Colorado Yule marble, Texas sandstone, and green sand-rubbed stone panels; its bas-relief ornamentation; its stone and metal window grilles; and interior features including marble columns, twin marble staircases flanking the lobby, aluminum ornaments, and walnut doors and paneling.

In 1918, Fitzsimons General Hospital was established on the plains east of Denver in Adams County as a U.S. Army medical facility specializing in the treatment of tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases afflicting American troops during World War I. The post was designed to be self-sufficient in operation, and included medical buildings, residential quarters, administrative offices, storage and maintenance structures, recreational and educational facilities, utility systems, and agricultural fields and buildings. The entire layout of the installation and the design and construction of the buildings reflected the latest medical philosophies regarding the treatment of tuberculosis. The south facing buildings were of one- to two-stories, constructed of hollow terra cotta tile and stucco in a Mission Revival design, and were widely scattered throughout the post to permit maximum exposure to sunshine and fresh air. As the services of the hospital increased, its built environment was enhanced and expanded, most significantly during the unprecedented period of mobilization attendant to World War II, when Fitzsimons became the largest military hospital in the United States.

The Struggle to Acquire Construction Funding

By the 1930s, many of the buildings at Fitzsimons General Hospital, which were originally constructed in 1918-1919 as temporary or semi-permanent structures, had deteriorated. The costs of maintaining the facility increased yearly, while construction and maintenance allocations were reduced during the nationwide economic depression. The question of whether to commit funds for major improvements or abandon the hospital entirely dominated the early years of the decade. Coloradans fought vigorously to hold off attempts to deactivate the hospital and Denver officials made frequent trips to Washington, D.C., to lobby for retention and expansion of the post at a time when the Army was being asked to make significant cutbacks in operations. Congressman Lawrence Lewis of Denver led Colorado’s Congressional delegation in Washington in the multi-year fight to keep Fitzsimons open.

In 1934, Congressman Lewis was able to obtain appropriations for continued operation of the hospital despite then Surgeon General R.U. Patterson’s contention

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1The hospital was originally designated General Hospital No. 21. On 26 June 1920, the post was redesignated Fitzsimons General Hospital. In July 1950, the installation was redesignated Fitzsimons Army Hospital. In 1974, the hospital was redesignated Fitzsimons Army Medical Center. The post was deactivated in 1996.
that the Army no longer needed the facility. Fortunately, the next Surgeon General, Charles R. Reynolds, supported continued operations at Fitzsimons. In June 1935, the War Department agreed to ask for an immediate allocation from work relief funds for improvements at Fitzsimons. In August 1935, Reynolds visited Denver for a two day inspection of the post. The Surgeon General’s visit reflected the War Department’s consideration of a plan to rebuild Fitzsimons at a cost of $2.5 to $3 million dollars. Reynolds noted that the buildings at Fitzsimons were scattered on a large tract of land while "the modern idea is to keep the buildings themselves as compact as possible by making them taller."\(^2\)

The plan to modernize the hospital was bolstered by increases in the size of the army in response to world affairs and the probability of construction of an Army Air Corps Technical School in the Denver area (Lowry Field). When President Franklin Roosevelt visited the hospital on 12 October 1936, he stated, "As long as I am President this hospital will continue in operation." Plans for rebuilding Fitzsimons soon focused on the construction of a new main hospital building centralizing many of the hospital functions currently performed in buildings scattered throughout the post.\(^3\)

In order to make Fitzsimons a viable, permanent institution, the most important problem confronting the Army was securing adequate, up-to-date facilities for medical and surgical patients. At the Surgeon General’s request, Commanding Officer Col. C.D. Buck drafted plans for a modern, permanent hospital building during the summer of 1937. After title to the hospital property passed to the United States in October 1937, funds for construction of a new hospital were provided through the Army Housing Bill, as approved by Congress. In October, the Denver Post reported that the Surgeon General had ordered preparation of formal plans for a new 350-bed central building five-stories high with a taller central part utilizing the plans earlier outlined by Col. Buck. As the threat of world war increased, the size of the planned building expanded.\(^4\)

Congress approved $3.75 million for construction of a new main hospital building to be designed as "the best and most modern institution for the treatment of tuberculosis in the United States." Three million dollars for the project came from Public Works Administration funds, and the rest from money reserved by the War Department from

\(^2\)Denver Post, 8 March 1934 and 5 August 1938.
\(^3\)Rocky Mountain News, 22 August 1937 and Denver Post, 5 August 1935, 1.
\(^4\)Denver Post, 6 October 1935 and 14 August 1937; Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Historical Record, ca. 1966, 1-3; and Rocky Mountain News, 22 August 1937.
the Federal Board of Hospitalization. The funds covered construction of the new building and demolition of buildings on the site.5 A team of five draftsmen from the Construction Division of the Quartermaster General’s Office worked overtime shifts to complete architectural plans for the building, which were to be presented to President Roosevelt for approval. L.M. Leisenring of the Quartermaster General’s Office served as supervising architect for the building. Leisenring was a civilian who had been working with the Quartermasters since World War I. In 1940, he would become supervising architect of the Engineering Branch of the Construction Division.6

Construction of the Main Hospital Building

The contracts for excavation and laying foundations for the new building were awarded on 12 October 1938. Excavation of the building site was well under way by December 1938, under the supervision of Constructing Quartermaster Maj. Carl H. Jabelonsky, with Lieut. Harold M. Martin serving as Assistant Construction Quartermaster. Jabelonsky also supervised the construction of the Denver Ordnance Plant and other wartime facilities in Colorado. P.L. Rice acted as Chief Engineer, and F.K. Thompson was Construction Superintendent. Assistant Secretary of War Louis Johnson was present to supervise the initial work on the building. Excavation work and foundations were completed 14 January 1939.7

Thirteen proposals for construction of the superstructure were sent to Washington. The Chicago firm of Great Lakes Construction Company was selected as general contractor in December 1938, with a low bid of $2,985,505. In January 1939, construction began on the site. The building took over two years to complete. When finished it was reported that "the new building is the last word in modern hospital construction. Many of its features have never before been used in any army hospital. Few private hospitals have some of the special devices being installed." The Main Hospital Building was dedicated on 3 December 1941, four days before Japan’s attack on American forces at Pearl Harbor.8

5The original Administration Building for the post was on the site cleared for Building 500.
8Denver Post, 30 December 1938, 1; and Rocky Mountain News, 30 November 1941.
More than five hundred people, including representatives of the Army, civic groups, government, and business, attended the dedication ceremonies. Completion of the building was considered a personal triumph for Congressman Lewis, who presented the building to Surgeon General James C. Magee. Magee had been a close friend of the man after whom the hospital was named, Lieut. William T. Fitzsimons. The Surgeon General stated that

the Army is exceedingly proud of this new structure. This building, which embraces all of the latest ideas concerning modern hospital construction, is exactly what the army has needed for a long time. . . . after the national emergency this huge building will stand as a lasting and enduring building.\(^9\)

The Main Hospital Building, with 290,000 square feet of space, was reported to be the largest structure in Colorado. Its 608 beds gave Fitzsimons a total capacity of 2,252 beds, making it the largest Army general hospital in the country. The size of the building had been greatly expanded beyond original plans, from five to ten stories. The Rocky Mountain News stated that the hospital encompassed 1,800 rooms and 1,900 windows. The building was composed of a concrete framework clad with seven colors of facebrick. The design included setback, terraced bays to provide maximum light and air, and nine heliotherapy decks. The base of the building was constructed of cream-colored Texas sandstone and an impressive porte cochere of Colorado Yule marble distinguished the main entrance.\(^10\)

The style of the building was in marked contrast to that of the post's original facilities. Not only was the building of substantially greater height and massing, its Modernistic style contrasted with earlier buildings. Polychromatic effects were achieved through the use of different colors of brick and several varieties of stone. Truscon Maxim-Air Steel windows were a major component of the design. Glass in the five-section windows was specially designed for Fitzsimons to open out so that no drafts were created and rain and snow could not blow in. The glass was said to transmit only "beneficial sun rays." Verticality was emphasized by the columnar effect of windows and towers. Setbacks of varied height, flat roofs, bas-relief sculpture near the top of setbacks, and metal grilles and railings all added new elements to the post's

\(^10\)Rocky Mountain News, 15 December 1938 and 30 November 1941.
The interior of the building was no less distinguished. White-veined Colorado Yule marble was used to create massive columns in the lobby and first floor, lobby floors, and matching stairways on either side of the lobby. Colorado Yule marble was used to finish the building at the urging of Rep. Lawrence Lewis who asked the Vermont Marble Company, which was then operating the quarries at Marble, to provide the stone. Lewis urged the Quartermaster Corps to use their influence with the contractor, Great Lakes Construction, to secure the Colorado marble rather than contract with southern marble producers.12

Streamlined, modern, aluminum and glass fixtures decorated the lobby. Aluminum provided an Art Moderne look for the lobbies, as utilized in railings, mail and lock boxes, and elaborate elevator entrances. All the exterior doors and elevator doors were also composed of aluminum, while interior rooms had walnut paneling and doors. Interior amenities included two 450-person dining rooms, a clinical auditorium seating 150, an officers’ clubroom, an "ultra-modern" branch post office with aluminum boxes, a branch of the post exchange, and a small library. A therapeutic gym, with whirlpool arm and leg baths, sweat baths, rubdown tables, and a special room for ultraviolet ray treatments were also constructed in the building.

The Main Hospital Building housed the administrative offices of the hospital in addition to medical facilities. The ground floor included a large cafeteria and the main kitchen, operating rooms, a dental laboratory, and records, registrar, and clerical offices. Fifteen medical wards, which included seven cubical, or open wards accommodating thirty men each, were completed in the building, beginning on the first floor. Each ward had a diet kitchen for preparing special food for patients. Individual patient rooms were connected with toilets and showers with marble partitions. The first floor also included the administrative offices and an officers’ clubroom. The second floor was known as the medical floor, with offices for various clinics and laboratories. X-ray work was conducted on the third floor. Operating rooms and wards were located on the fourth floor. There were five main operating rooms, two of which had galleries walled off by heavy glass. The fifth floor included fever therapy wards, where artificial fever was induced as a treatment. An obstetrical ward and nursery were located on the rear part of the sixth floor. Tuberculosis patients were be placed on the seventh and eighth floors. South facing rooms fronted enclosed porches with

11Elizabeth Johnson, Historic Aurora Walking Tour.
12Denver Post, 10 July 1939.
five-part windows which could be opened to permit fresh air. The eighth floor also had an auditorium, a small stage, and a projection booth. Elevator housing equipment was located on the ninth floor.

Lt. Col. Ira A. Hunt, a patient suffering from tuberculosis in 1941, recalled the process of moving patients from the scattered older buildings into the large new one on 13 December. The patients already at the hospital had been informed that a trainload of soldiers from Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco was on its way to Fitzsimons for care. Hunt wrote that

elevator service was deluxe, rooms deluxe, bathrooms deluxe and numerous. The room assigned to me was individually air-conditioned, had a private bath and the most wonderful bed . . . The door was massive, thick and closed noiselessly. Room and corridors were so well sound-proofed and so softly floored, one was in a world apart.

Upon my being taken to the south side where rooms open onto a spacious solarium, I could see the mountains and Pike’s Peak in the distance. . . . The fifth floor solarium is a grand layout. Patients roll their beds out there and lie in the sun.13

On 17 December, casualties from Pearl Harbor arrived at the hospital. According to O.H. Quade, Commanding Officer on 31 December 1942, the hospital rapidly filled and necessity for further expansion was immediately evident. “Plans were immediately made to materially increase the hospital capacity by the erection of additional wards and additional construction has been in progress at all times during the past year.” Enormous expansion of the hospital’s facilities occurred during the war. During World War II the number of patients at Fitzsimons ranged from four to five thousand.

Fitzsimons continued to specialize in the treatment of tuberculosis, and broadened its care to general medical, surgical, and specialized cases. In addition, the hospital continued to play an important role as a teaching facility for medical personnel. On 24 September 1955, President Dwight Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while vacationing in Colorado and was hospitalized on the eighth floor at Fitzsimons for seven weeks. The eighth floor became known as “the Eisenhower suite” during this

13The Stethoscope, 10 October 1990, 6-7.
period. The suite was composed of Eisenhower’s room (No. 8002) and private bath, a kitchen, small dining room, reception room, utility space, Mrs. Eisenhower’s room, rooms for the doctor on duty and Eisenhower’s personal physician, and a doctor’s office and lounge. The president’s room was described as "unpretentious but comfortable." The observation deck on the eighth floor was frequently visited by President Eisenhower, and Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower came out on the deck at 4:30 p.m. every afternoon to wave at wellwishers.  

The hospital continued to serve the country during the Korean War, when patients totalled 2,500, and during the Vietnam War, when 2,000 to 2,500 patients were on the daily census. Air evacuation of wounded from Vietnam for specialized treatment and convalescence was an important service provided by Fitzsimons. After Vietnam, the hospital began treating more retirees and dependents. The hospital provided general hospital support for Army and Air Force hospitals in surrounding states and direct hospital support for Lowry Air Force Base, operated a facility for fabrication and repair of optical items, provided general educational development services for military personnel in several states, was a major medical training center, served as regional coordinator of medical activity, and provided dental care to eligible personnel. Fitzsimons continued to be one of the largest employers in Aurora until its deactivation in 1996. As a component of the redevelopment of the installation, the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center subsequently moved its administrative offices into the Main Hospital Building.

Description

The Main Hospital Building (Building 500) is a massive, ten-story, brick and stone building which rises from the plains eight miles east of Denver in Aurora, Colorado (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-1). The building is the focal point of the 576.51-acre grounds of the former Fitzsimons General Hospital, now designated as U.S. Army Garrison-Fitzsimons. The hospital site is fenced and bordered by major city thoroughfares, including Peoria Street on the west, and Colfax Avenue on the south.

14Rocky Mountain News, 4 March 1956, 12; Fitzsimons General Hospital Guide (Lakewood, Colo.: Dean Gordon, 1961), in the files of the Colorado Historical Society, Stephen H. Hart Library, 4-5; Rocky Mountain News, 27 April 1977, 8; and Elizabeth Johnson, Historic Aurora Walking Tour: Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Aurora, Colorado (Aurora: Aurora Historical Society, 1983).

15Rocky Mountain News, 27 April 1977, 8; Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, "Installation Commander Annual Real Property Utilization Survey, 30 March 1990; and Denver Post, 11 December 1988.
The ten acre Sand Creek Park on the northern boundary of the hospital was the former railroad right-of-way for Fitzsimons. From the main entrance gate at the southern boundary of the post, visitors to the installation are led by a broad boulevard past open fields, historically utilized by the post for agricultural pursuits, directly to a circular drive in front of the Main Hospital Building. Parking lots are located east and west of the thoroughfare south of the building, while a landscaped circular area immediately adjacent to the main entrance features an eight-story flagpole. To the east, west, and north of the Main Hospital Building are numerous smaller-scale one- and two-story hospital buildings, and, at the northwest corner, an eighteen-hole post golf course.

The Main Hospital Building is a stepped and terraced structure with complex plan characterized by a central tower, and several setbacks, projections, and wings (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-2). The building is composed of a reinforced concrete frame clad with blocks of shot-sawn cream-colored Texas sandstone on the first story and with seven shades of wire-drawn buff face brick on the upper stories. Panels of darker rusticated brickwork flank multi-light metal frame windows. The flat roofs of the stepped upper stories of the building comprise outdoor decks bounded by parapet walls with sandstone coping topped by inward curving metal railings. A soaring central tower of ten-stories provides a vertical element while flanking wings with horizontal bands of windows stretch east and west offering horizontal solidity to the building.

The central ten-story tower of the Main Hospital Building is fronted on the south by a sandstone entrance projection and a marble-clad porte cochere (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-3). The tower is divided vertically by four brick pilasters which extend from the top of the entrance bay to terminate in a thick cream-colored sandstone cornice at the top of the tower (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-4). Between the pilasters are metal frame spandrels clad with green crystalline rock of chloritic schist type, sand-rubbed to produce a mottled surface, and six-over-nine-light steel frame windows aligned vertically. The steel frames are covered with extruded aluminum. Beneath the tower cornice are three narrow vertical windows with carved stone screens. The windows are sheltered by sandstone hoods and at the bottom of the windows are bas-relief caduceuses atop the stone lintels of the ninth story windows (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-5). The lintels of the ninth-story windows have inset panels with aluminum ornaments which surmount panels of green stone. The east and west sides of the tower are slightly set back, stepped down one story, and, on the south wall, have columns of four-over-six-light windows with sandstone sills.
The sandstone-clad, two-story central entrance projection with carved frieze is fronted by a one-story porte cochere clad with Colorado Yule marble (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-6). The porte cochere has a frieze with incised inscriptions in English and Latin and an ornamented cornice. Panels on the wall inside the porte cochere are clad with Colorado Cream Travertine stone and the entrance is illuminated by large aluminum lanterns. The ceiling of the porte cochere is painted concrete ornamented with painted polychrome borders. The paving and curbs under the structure are composed of granite and concrete.

Flanking the tower are broad eight-story wings to the east and west which are set back and stepped down one story from the tower. The wings have a single column of four-over-six-light windows adjacent to the tower and continuous bands of twelve-light metal frame windows flanked by panels of darker rusticated brickwork extending east and west. The bands of windows have continuous sill courses of cream-colored sandstone. Running horizontally between the windows are unbroken expanses of buff brick. The first story of each wing is clad with sandstone and has windows covered with ornamental cast iron and steel grilles (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-7).

At the ends of these wings are seven-story projections which step down into five-story projections which mimic the central tower. The south walls of these five-story projections are divided by four central brick pilasters with sandstone capitals. The pilastered section of the projections rises slightly above the roof. Between the pilasters are three vertical columns of four-over-six-light windows and spandrels with green stone panels extending from the second story to the roof. The ground floors of the projections are clad with sandstone and have central, double, aluminum and glazed doors surmounted by transoms and dentiled stone drip molding. The east five-story projection has a roof-top brick penthouse structure with sandstone coping.

Flanking the projecting towers on the east and west are stepped back six-story wings. The wings have flat roofs with parapet walls with stone coping topped by metal railings. The wings have twelve-light windows with panels of rusticated darker brickwork between the windows. The windows have continuous sandstone sill courses.

The west and east walls of the building are identical (HABS photo nos. CO-172-DM-8 and -9). The walls have slightly projecting central end towers topped by parapet walls flanked by metal railings. The walls of the towers are divided vertically by four brick pilasters rising from the sandstone-clad first story and terminating in sandstone capitals at the roof. Between the sandstone capitals are cast aluminum cartouches.
Four-over-six-light, steel frame covered with extruded aluminum windows with metal frame green stone spandrels are located between the pilasters. The rusticated brickwork of the south wall extends around the east and west corners. The first stories of the east and west walls are clad with sandstone and have central double aluminum and glazed doors surmounted by dentiled stone drip molding. Flanking the doors are windows with carved stone screens. Behind the towers are visible the stepped flat roofs of upper stories of the building topped by metal-railed decks (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-10). The tenth story east and west walls have narrow vertical windows with stone screens.

The rear (north) face of the building also includes multiple projections, setbacks, and stepped sections (HABS photo nos. CO-172-DM-11, -12, and -13). The rear of the building has a first story of cream-colored sandstone and the upper story walls are clad with buff brick, with bands of rusticated darker brick. The rear wall of the tenth story of the central tower has three evenly-spaced windows. A railed deck is included on the roof of a ninth-story stepped down section projecting outward from the tower. This projection is also stepped down at the eighth and seventh stories. Seven-story wings extend to the east and west from the central section. Projecting north from these wings are seven-story towers with three vertical columns of windows and stone spandrels. The north walls of the six-story east and west wings which terminate the building have bands of rusticated darker brick between expanses of buff brick and sandstone cladding on the first story.

Extending to the north from the rear of the building is a central two-story flat roof projection with a first story clad with cream-colored sandstone which has windows with metal grilles and an upper story of buff brick. This section of the building has a loading dock on the north covered by a flat marquee suspended by cables which shelters two double door entrances and a third entrance area which has been filled in. A brick utility structure surmounts the flat roof of this section of the building. The east wall of this central projection has a loading dock covered by flat marquee and glass block windows.

Adjacent to this central projection on the east and west are two-story projections which enclose parking and service courtyards. The projections are clad with sandstone on the first story and have windows with stone screens. Large vehicle entrances to the courtyards have flat arched openings (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-14). The west courtyard has one original entrance opening filled in. Adjacent to the western courtyard on the northwest is a fenced building mechanical area.
Interior Features

A small vestibule inside the main entrance has marble paneled walls with aluminum borders and a marble floor with green marble borders. The ceiling of the vestibule has aluminum moldings and round aluminum and glass light fixtures. The vestibule leads to the ground floor lobby, which features thick columns clad with Colorado Yule marble with green marble bases and capitals. Two-story columns flank the twin marble staircases leading from the lobby to the first floor (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-15). The entrance of the lobby has walls with curved corners. The lobby has marble panel wainscot with green marble at the base and marble floors with borders of green marble. The lobby floors of the ground and first floors are marble. Stairways between the floors have marble treads and risers and aluminum railings constructed of extruded shapes with cast ornaments. A skylight in the first floor ceiling illuminates the staircase between the two floors (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-16, -17, and -18).

The north wall of the lobby of both floors has a double elevator entrance. The elevators were produced by the Otis Elevator Company of St. Louis, Missouri, and have ornamented aluminum doors and a stone surround with curved corners and aluminum molding (HABS photo nos. CO-172-DM-19 and -20). On the southeast side of the ground floor lobby is the branch post office. The south east wall of the lobby in the postal area has aluminum-front lock boxes and a curved corner (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-21). Behind this wall are the post office facilities. The public area of the post office has a curved walnut service wall with multiple windows and a door, and the floor is marble (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-22). Waiting areas with telephone booths were originally located on the east and west sides of the lobby; the eastern waiting area is still present, while the western waiting area has been remodeled with an information booth.

The Bruns Conference Room on the first floor features a central thick plastered column with ornamented plaster capital (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-23). The room has plaster cornice moldings, plastered walls, and walnut wainscot and baseboards. Doors to the room feature inlaid and carved wood. Aluminum radiator panels beneath windows have grillwork with cast ornaments. Lighting fixtures include aluminum torch-like lighting fixtures and chandeliers.

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16The original Otis Elevator doors were replaced with replications during interior remodeling of the building.
The Bushnell Auditorium on the eighth floor features a small, central, raised stage with flat arched opening with curved corners (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-24). The auditorium has rows of newer metal seats. A small projection booth is located on the rear wall of the room. The auditorium has Terrazzo flooring, doors with round windows, and tall nine-over-nine-over-nine windows.

Other interior features include sixth floor operating rooms with the original green wall tiles and built-in cabinets (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-25). The entrance to the ground floor prayer room has a stone surround inscribed with "Be still and know that I am God" and a paneled and leaded glass door (HABS photo no. CO-172-DM-26).

Alterations

The Main Hospital Building is being converted from its original general hospital function to the administrative headquarters of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, entailing the conversion of hospital rooms and wards to offices and other facilities.

The doors to the main entrance vestibule of the building are not original. Alterations to the rear of the building include staiwtower additions completed in 1995 and life safety upgrades completed in the 1980s and 1990s. The interior lobbies and rooms described above maintain high integrity. The west waiting area of the ground floor lobby was altered to include an information desk. The ceilings of the ground and first floor were lowered somewhat to accommodate fire sprinkler system mechanisms in the 1990s.

Project Description

Fitzsimons Army Medical Center was inactivated in 1996 and the installation was redesignated as U.S. Army Garrison Fitzsimons. The installation is being redeveloped by Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority in partnership with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. This Historic American Buildings Survey documentation, which was completed in partial fulfillment of Section 106 compliance, was produced for the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Aurora, Colorado. Ida Mallo was the liaison for the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Christine Whitacre reviewed the project for the National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office, Denver, Colorado. The historical narrative was researched and written by Front Range Research Associates, Inc., Denver, Colorado, with R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons serving as project historians. Roger Whitacre, Denver, Colorado,
conducted the large format archival photography for the project.

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Army, 1956.

The Stethoscope. 10 October 1990.

U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons. Construction Drawings for Building 500 and Real Property Information Files.


Figure 2. Building 500 and Its Surroundings. SOURCE: Extract of installation base map provided by U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 3. Building 500, Basement Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 4. Building 500, Ground Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 5. Building 500, First Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 6. Building 500, Second Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 7. Building 500, Third Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 8. Building 500, Fourth Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 9. Building 500, Fifth Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. 
SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 10. Building 500, Sixth Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 11. Building 500, Seventh Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 12. Building 500, Eighth Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 13. Building 500, Ninth Floor, Architectural Floor Plan Drawing, 1980. SOURCE: Print from microfiche aperture card, in the files of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Public Works, Aurora, Colorado.
Figure 14. The reinforced concrete frame of the Main Hospital Building is shown in this photograph (view northeast). SOURCE: R. Laurie Simmons, "The History of Fitzsimons Army Medical Center," 49, in Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: The Life and History, 1918-1996 (Aurora, Colorado: FAMC, 1996).
Figure 15. The Main Hospital Building’s exterior brick and sandstone cladding is in place in this undated photograph (view northwest). SOURCE: R. Laurie Simmons, "The History of Fitzsimons Army Medical Center," 49, in Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: The Life and History, 1918-1996 (Aurora, Colorado: FAMC, 1996).
Figure 16. The nearly completed Main Hospital Building and its setting is shown in this 1941 oblique aerial view to the northeast. SOURCE: R. Laurie Simmons, "The History of Fitzsimons Army Medical Center," 50, in Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: The Life and History, 1918-1996 (Aurora, Colorado: Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, 1996).