

## Fitzsimons Collection

### Collection Summary

**Title:** Fitzsimons

**Collection Group:** The Military in Colorado

**Dates:** 1890-2016

**Location:** Archives BH 1, BH 2; Archives C MD 7, MD 24; Archives AH 1; Aurora History Museum library

**Quantity:** 3 boxes, 2 binders, 1 oversize drawer of maps and photos, 1 oversize drawer of 21 mounted photos, 2 videotapes, and 16 books (1 book, an audiotape and 2 videotapes noted in 2013 finding aid are missing)

**Accession Number:** 2011-34 (Box 3)

**Abstract:** The War Department constructed U. S. Army General Hospital No. 21 in Adams County, six miles from Denver, Colorado, in 1918. The original unit, consisting of forty-eight buildings, was designed for the treatment of tuberculosis patients. Less than a year later, twenty-five more buildings had been added to accommodate the wounded from WW I. Four days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, a 608-bed modern hospital was completed and named Fitzsimons General Hospital after the first officer to die in World War I. The Fitzsimons collection documents additions and changes to the original building through the beginning of the twenty-first century.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged in chronological order. Box 1 contains histories of the institution, information on personnel, photos, maps, architectural drawings, clippings, postcards, event programs, newsletters, directories, and guides for recent walking tours. Box 2 consists of publications: booklets dated 1943 describing the medical school and hospital, issues of *The Stethoscope*, a Fitzsimons Army Medical Center newsletter, and a privately published guide and directory. Box 3 (Acc. # 2011-34) contains a Building 500 construction completion report. Two binders contain a scrapbook and a book on tuberculosis. Oversized documents include maps, site plans, architectural drawings, and photos.

## Contents

### Box 1 of 3

#### Series I: History

##### Subseries A: Gutheil Park

**Folder 1:** Information about and a photo of Alfred H. Gutheil, owner of Gutheil Park Nurseries, the land upon which Fitzsimons Hospital was built, are dated 1890. Two photocopied 1913 booklets describe the nursery and list plants for sale. Two copies of letters about the ashes

of Gutheil and his wife being scattered on Fitzsimons grounds are dated 1948. Also found in the Gutheil folder are copies of a short story and a 1929 list of contents of a library.

#### **Subseries B: Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Early History**

**Folder 2:** Two copies of certificates acknowledging contributions to the United States Recuperation Camp are dated April 1918. Two photos (copies), October 1918 and undated, of buildings and infirmary interior (Acc. # 96-54-8) are from Aurora Historic Preservation Commission. A copy of a 50-page completion report and history of General Hospital No. 21, compiled and edited in 1919, contains details on construction, materials, maintenance, utilities, costs, medical corps, etc.

**Folder 3:** A June 1920 order from the War Department establishes the change of name from General Hospital No. 21 to Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver, Colo. (2 copies). Other items include an undated original two-page history, five photocopied histories from the War Department, and excerpts from medical journals. An undated copy of a booklet for incoming officers covers history, facilities, and uniforms.

**Folder 4:** Documents describing additional buildings constructed at Fitzsimons between 1919 and 1964 include construction details, room dimensions, materials, furnishings, costs, and some photos. All pages are photocopied.

#### **Subseries C: Books**

**Folder 5:** *The Gift Book* (Acc. # 7-99) is the "story of... the physical reconstruction, the mental development, and the technical education of disabled veterans" and was compiled and distributed by Fitzsimons Hospital for Christmas, 1926. The book consists of history and descriptions of the facility, photos of commanding officer, staff, exteriors and interiors of buildings; layouts of buildings and grounds, and advertisements. (The Aurora History Museum Library copy is in better condition. Call number MUS 978.8 GIF)

**Folder 6:** *Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver Colorado* (Acc. # 2011-31-6) is a scrapbook-type collection of history, organization, personnel, patient activities, and other hospital information. Photos, maps, charts, a program, a newsletter, and photocopies of newspaper newspaper clippings are arranged in plastic sleeves. Hirshfeld Press compiled the book in 1950.

**Folder 7:** *Fitzsimons Army Hospital 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, October 1953*, is a 44-page newsprint magazine dedicated to Commanding General Paul I. Robinson. Many photos of staff, patients, buildings, and events are described through captions and brief stories.

#### **Subseries D: Later History**

**Folder 8:** Photocopied letter from Dwight D. Eisenhower to General Griffin, 1955.

**Folder 9:** Legal documents dated 1926 through 1957 concern the acquisition and ownership of land in Adams County occupied by Fitzsimons General Hospital. All are photocopies.

**Folder 10:** A page of base data lists facilities in 1968. Text of a 15-page speech on the history of Fitzsimons given November, 1979, by Major General James Weir includes descriptions of slides presented. An original copy of *the Denver Westerners Roundup*, 1980, contains a

history of Fitzsimons by Major General Weir; there are photocopies of the periodical and of a typed version of the Weir article. A brief history of the hospital from 1918 to 1979 is by Ernest G. Covington (three copies). A photocopied booklet - *Fitzsimons, History & Development, 1891-1990* - is taken from an unnamed source. Documents from the city of Aurora, Aurora Museum, and Commerce City consist of a reception announcement, a Fitzsimons 1992 factsheet, 1992 plans to replace the hospital, and 1996 Historic Preservation Week plans and map.

## Series II: Reports

### Subseries A: Economic Impact

**Folder 11:** A draft of the *Economic Impact of the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center upon the City of Aurora and the Denver Region* was written by Martin Dicker in 1975. The photocopied 69-page document has sections on employment, school districts, commerce, property taxes, etc.

### Subseries B: Cultural Resources

**Folder 12:** A study of cultural resources was conducted at Fitzsimons by Front Range Research Associates, Inc., Denver, in 1990-1991. The photocopied report includes a history of the area and of the hospital and contains tables, photos of buildings, maps, and a bibliography.

### Subseries C: Building Disposal or Improvement

**Folder 13:** A 1993 file copy of documents about the future of Building #230 includes an army request for disposal, memos describing the 1923 oil storehouse/1935 gas station and its present condition, list of improvements, and statement of its 1993 demolition. All pages, including photos, are photocopies. An undated *Stethoscope* page shows a photo of Building #230. Documents on the disposal of Building #246 - request for disposal, description, list of improvements, photos, and floor plans – are photocopies, most from 1996.

### Subseries D: Environmental Impact Statement for Reuse of Fitzsimons

**Folder 14:** A large spiral-bound draft of *Environmental Impact Statement for BRAC 95 Disposal and Reuse of the United States Army Garrison, Fitzsimons, Aurora, Colorado*, was prepared for US Army Medical Command and is dated 1997. The book contains plans for closure of the military installation and recommendations for disposal of the property and redevelopment by the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority. Studies on the effects on the community, charts, maps, and information on redevelopment are included.

**Folder 15:** The spiral-bound final draft of the environmental impact statement (Folder 14) is dated January 1998.

### Subseries E: Historic Buildings Report

**Folder 15a:** *Environmental Compliance* (archaeological), 1995, for U. S. Army Environmental Center; *Historic Buildings*, 2009, National Park Service Historic American Buildings Survey

### Subseries F: Human Radiation Report

**Folder 15b:** *Human Radiation Experiment Records*, 1944-1994, includes report from U. S. Army Medical Nutrition Laboratory at Fitzsimons Army Hospital. Report is an assessment of

possible effects to human beings of short-term consumption of food sterilized with gamma rays. March 25, 1957.

### **Series III: Personnel**

#### **Subseries A: Officers**

**Folder 16:** Four Officer Personnel directories, September through December 1943, list officers in order of rank and include corps, quarters, position, and phone numbers for each.

**Folder 17:** Officer Personnel directories dated January, February, August, and October 1944 list officers in order of rank and include corps, quarters, position, and phone numbers for each.

**Folder 18:** Officer Personnel directory dated January 1945 lists officers in order of rank and includes corps, quarters, position, and phone numbers for each.

**Folder 19:** A photocopied biographical sketch of Major General James A. Weir lists personal data, promotions, awards, assignments, and publications. It was written probably in 1969 or after.

**Folder 20:** A list of Denver area widows of officers is dated September 1983. Eleven issues of *Mile High Officers' Call*, a newsletter of the Mile High Officers' Association, date from May 1984 to March 1985. Notices of events, reports from committees, death announcements and other information are included.

#### **Subseries B: Chaplain**

**Folder 21:** Documents pertaining to the life of Chaplain Jodie Gibson Stewart include such original items and carbon copies as chaplain certification, appointments, assignments, marriage certificate, promotion to major, retirement, death certificate and autopsy report. These items date from 1918 through 1962, the date of his death. An envelope addressed to Mrs. Jodie G. Stewart and posted 1953 contains several 1927 publications from the Philippines including a photo of Mrs. Hertz Davidson Stewart.

### **Series IV: Maps**

**Folder 22:** A 17x11-inch photocopied map of Fitzsimons General Hospital is dated June 1949. A 34x22-inch copy is on two attached sheets. Four original brochures containing visitors' maps of Fitzsimons and the greater Denver area are dated 1982 and 1984. A 1989 map with detailed legend from *The Stethoscope* is original. Thirteen other maps, dated 1991, 1995, and undated, are photocopies, as is an aerial view.

### **Series V: Newsletters**

**Folder 23:** *Tenshun, 21!* dated June 1919 and March 1920, was published by and for the personnel of U.S.A. General Hospital No. 21. A one-page *The Daily Bulletin* is from April 1941. The Fitzsimons Officers' Wives' Club newsletter, *Fitz Bitz*, is dated April 1984. All newsletters are photocopies. (Original Fitzsimons publications may be found in Box 2.)

### **Series VI: Clippings**

**Folder 24:** Photocopied newspaper and magazine clippings date from 1917 through 1959.

Many items are from the clipping collection of Denver Public Library; sources are often not indicated. Some are from *The Denver Post* and *Aurora Advocate*.

**Folder 25:** Original and photocopied clippings date from 1967 through 1987. Sources include *The Denver Post*, *Aurora Sentinel*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *The Stethoscope*, and other publications. "Wier fought for Fitzsimons," *Sentinel* (Acc. # 96-54-9)

**Folder 26:** Original and photocopied clippings are from 1991 through 2016, and undated. Sources include *The Denver Post*, *Aurora Sun-Sentinel*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Pulse*, and other publications. Of interest are a 2003 story on the renovation of the Eisenhower suite and a 2016 article on the chapel built in 1942.

#### **Series VII: Programs**

**Folder 27:** Original and photocopied booklets for Christmas 1938 and 1930 list dinner menus and all hospital personnel. Other programs commemorating change of command, retirement, graduation, distinguished service, and lease signing ceremonies, date from 1983 through 1997. Programs for religious services are from 1941 through 1988 and undated. Most items are original.

#### **Series VIII: Postcards**

**Folder 28:** Most postcards from the 1940's show the hospital. Four small cards have accession numbers - P1996 13303, P1997 15034, P1999 16008, and 95.139-1. A folder of small photos is from 1944 (Acc. # 2012.2.2.1.A). A jumbo card accession number is P2001 16937. Note: Postcards are also attached to a map in oversize drawer, Folder 1.

#### **Series IX: Telephone Directory and Symposium**

**Folder 29:** A Fitzsimons General Hospital telephone directory dated October, 1965, is original. Carl W. Tempel Symposium on Pulmonary Disease and Allergy-Immunology is from January 1984 and contains abstracts of published reports.

#### **Series X: Walking Tours**

**Folder 30:** Aurora Historical Society's fifth annual walking tour celebrates the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in 1983. Two invitations are originals, as are the two illustrated tour guides. Other documents include a description and cost of the tour, request for video project, sign announcing the October 16 tour, and scripts by Elizabeth Johnson for each site of the tour. A rough draft of tour site descriptions and original typed description of Colfax are undated.

**Folder 31:** A rough draft of the script for a slide show about the history of Fitzsimons and sites on the 1983 walking tour is original.

**Folder 32:** An original illustrated guide for the 1992 walking tour includes a list of sites, a description of Fitzsimons at the present time, and photos. Four pages of facts about the medical center and two copies of the script for sites to be visited on the tour are mostly photocopied.

**Folder 33:** 1992 original correspondence on plans for the April 1993 tour are from Aurora and

Colorado Historical Societies. Tour details and historical information about Fitzsimons streets are photocopies. Two copies of a 1996 tour packet include a descriptive list of buildings, a brief history of the army medical center, and a fold-out map. Other undated documents related to tours of Fitzsimons are a thank-you letter to tour guides from Elizabeth Johnson, an original typed tour of northeast Aurora, a rough draft of the tour of the Gutheil home, a revised version of the Gutheil home tour labeled "Commanding Officer's Quarters and the Duck Pond," descriptions of the chapel and officer's quarters, a history of the chapel, and a brief original tour of North Middle School.

#### **Series XI: Slide Show Scripts**

**Folder 34:** A large-type slide show script appears to be compiled from several different scripts, and describes images dating from 1918 to 1975, but not in chronological order. The second script, more recent but undated, is organized by building or site on the Fitzsimons campus.

#### **Series XII: Miscellaneous**

**Folder 35:** A 1973 small card contains Army officer and enlisted grades as well as general and special orders. A 1983 CHAMPUS handbook, a pamphlet on DEERS enrollment, and an advanced medical directives booklet from 1993. Three pages with photos of the Fitzsimons distinctive unit insignia are from 2003 and undated. A page of cartoons with small drawings of Fitzsimons people and events is titled "March of Time on F-2." Three page proofs of photos of buildings and people are unidentified; "Elizabeth" is written on the back of each. "MSA (Moral Support Activities) Just for Fun Days at Fitzsimons," June 1984, had carnival activities. "End of an icon," an article on the demolition of the WWI-era Red Cross Building, is from *The Denver Post* July 2014.

### **Box 2 of 3**

#### **Series XIII: Publications**

##### **Subseries A: Medical School and Hospital**

**Folder 1:** A booklet of photos titled "Soldiers in White, August 1943," is dedicated to the twenty-seventh class of the School for Medical Department Enlisted Technicians and belonged to Harry J. Paulson, Jr. A second 1943 booklet contains a brief history of Fitzsimons and photos of people and buildings from different branches and divisions.

##### **Subseries B: *The Stethoscope***

**Folder 2:** Fitzsimons' twice-monthly authorized unofficial publication, *The Stethoscope*, is a newsletter containing photos, stories, some classified ads, and community news. Issues dated October 1963 through September 1983 include 45<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup>, and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary issues. October 11, 1968 issue is first and last pages only (Acc. # 2012.32.3).

**Folder 3:** October 1983 through October 1989 issues of *The Stethoscope*. The August 22, 1985, issue contains a special history supplement and color photo on the front. The October 11, 1989, issue celebrates 71 years of years of service with memoirs and old photos.

**Folder 4:** *The Stethoscope* issues from June 1991 through August 25 1993 have an updated magazine format with large photo or drawing on the cover of many issues. The November 27, 1991, issue features the 50<sup>th</sup> hospital anniversary.

### **Subseries C: Fitzsimons Directory and Guide**

**Folder 5:** 1976 and 1979 unofficial directory and guides include history, photos, a map, information on Fitzsimons, housing, and classified ads. The three copies of the 1979 directory are printed on blue paper.

**Folder 6:** One 1981, one 1982, and three 1984 copies of the directory and guide are similar to the earlier ones except for slick paper covers.

**Folder 7:** Two directories are from 1985; one is from 1986, and two are from 1987.

**Folder 8:** 2001, 2014. "Recent History of Fitzsimons." Handout with story and photos for visitors to the Eisenhower Suite and "I Like Ike" pin

## **Box 3 of 3**

### **Series XIV: Fitzsimons Hospital Papers**

**Completions Report:** *Completion Report for Construction, Equipping and Furnishing of 61-bed Hospital Building at Fitzsimons General Hospital Denver, Colorado, 1938-1941.* The four-and-a-half-inch thick report contains detailed pages of financial tables, construction, furnishings, equipment, maps, and photos. The report was owned by Stanley E. Crawley, who worked at Fitzsimons from 1924-1965, and was donated by his daughter, Eleanor Meyers. (Acc. # 2011-34)

### **Miscellaneous Binders**

**Binder 1:** Fitzsimons Army Medical Center scrapbook, dated 1996, contains photos of Building 500 and other buildings constructed from 1919 to the present. The facing page of each photo gives a description of the building. (Acc. # 2012-23)

**Binder 2:** "Good Tuberculosis Men": The Army Medical Department's Struggle with Tuberculosis, by Carol R. Byerly, a 340-page book published in 2013 by the Borden Institute, U. S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

## **Oversize Documents**

**Series XV: Maps, Drawings and Photos – Archives C, MD 7 and MD 24**

### **MD 7**

**Folder 1:** 1922-1938 and Undated

A map showing revised locations of buildings, roads, and walks is dated 1922. A chart showing Fitzsimons General Hospital and other buildings is mounted on poster board with postcards attached. Architectural drawings of elevations, sections, and administrative wing plans are dated 1938.

**Folder 2:** 1949-1955

A map of Fitzsimons General Hospital is dated 1949. Aerial photos of Fitzsimons and surrounding areas are dated 1950 and 1955. A 1954 original map of the Fitzsimons campus shows buildings and grounds, including train tracks, with directory for buildings 1-34.

**Folder 3: 1965-1988**

Three USGS topographic maps of the Fitzsimons Quadrangle are dated 1965. One was revised 1980; a second map has an attached Coal Creek Quadrangle map (1966, revised 1978); a third USGS map was revised in 1994. A Fitzsimons Army Medical Center national bicentennial and Colorado centennial commemorative map is dated 1976. A 1982 Fitzsimons general site map is mounted on card board. Two copies of the general site map are not mounted; one has specific buildings and areas marked in color.

**Folder 4: 1994-1995**

1994 floor plans show the first floor of the Officers' Club annex building and the old officers' club building. A Fitzsimons Alternatives Homework sheet lists eight options for preservation of the site. Four 8 ½ by 14" site plans with possible historic building uses are marked to show the options. Two large site plans from 1995 are marked with the same eight alternatives as are shown on the smaller plans; some of the four additional large plans are also marked.

**Folder 5: 1996-2004 and Undated**

A tour map for Aurora Archeology and Historic Preservation week, 1996, has routes marked. National Registry eligible district map, September 1996, four copies. Walker Field site plan with irrigation details, 3 sheets, is dated May 1998. Plan for a panel workshop on Fitzsimons Commons, behind Building 500, is dated June 2000. Commanding Officer's residence documents include photo, site plan, and floor plans, all dated 2004. An undated set of ideas and plans for General's Park includes lists, circulation diagrams, shade and enclosure ideas, columns, and an interpretive display. A site plan of proposed maintenance levels for buildings and open spaces is undated. Map - Fitzsimons Final Revision, 1999.

**Folder 6: 1965-1982**

Fitzsimons Quadrangle, 1965; Coal Creek Quadrangle, revised 1994; Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, 1976; General Site Map, 1988; mounted General Site map, 1982

**Folder 7: 1918 and Undated**

Gutheil Park Nurseries, Entrance; General Hospital, 1918; Medical Center Original Gate; Medical Center Main Building, 1952(?); Medical Staff Nurses, Re-Aides and Patients, ND

**Folder 8: 1955**

Framed photo of President Eisenhower with handwritten note

**MD 24**

**Folder 1:** 1918?, 1920, 1940, and Undated. Twenty mounted photos showing outside and inside of Fitzsimons General Hospital, groups of nurses, patients in a room, tuberculosis lab, aerial views of buildings and grounds, and President Eisenhower in a wheelchair

**Additional Fitzsimons items in other collections**

**Archives AH 1**

Videotapes: "Eisenhower at Fitzsimons" and Fitzsimons, O. H. Quade (in a box labeled "Films")

**Archives C**

Museum photo collection file drawer "Fitzsimons" - 136 photos



## **Archives DB 6**

Mold for gatehouse medallions, 2 boxes (Acc. # 2011.55.1 A-B, 2011.55.2 A-B)

## **Originally listed on 2013 Finding Aid, but not found in 2019**

Weir, Major General James – “History of Fitzsimons Hospital,” 11/27/1979

(Audiotapes Box Sc – Z)

“Fitzsimons” videotape (Video Box 5)

“Fitzsimons Building 500 – Main Hospital” videotape and transcript (Video Box 5)

Label: Tape 1 – “Bldg 500 int”

Tape 2 – “Bldg 500 int, other ext.”

Tape 3 – “other ext.”

Aurora Historical Preservation Commission on Fitzsimons (2 boxes)

## **Books in Aurora History Museum Library**

*Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: Cultural resources study* (1991) MUS 333.7717 Fit (2 copies)

*Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: Cultural resources study* (1991) MUS 333.7717 Fit App. I, Pt. 1  
(2 copies)

*Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: Cultural resources study* (1991) MUS 333.7717 Fit App. I, Pt. 2  
(2 copies)

*Fitzsimons Army Medical Center: Cultural resources study* (1991) MUS 333.7717 Fit App. II (2 copies)

*United States Army Garrison-Fitzsimons Cultural Landscape Survey* (1997) MUS 333.7714 Uni

*Final Environmental Impact Statement for BRAC 95 Disposal and Reuse of the United States Army  
Garrison, Fitzsimons* (1998) MUS 333.7714 Fin (2 copies)

*Historic Structure Assessment and Re-Use Feasibility Study - Red Cross Building* (2000) MUS 333.7717 His

*Historic Structure Assessment and Re-Use Feasibility Study – Guard Houses #9 and #10 and the General’s  
Pond* (2001) MUS 333.7717 Gua

*Fitzsimons urban renewal feasibility study* (2001) MUS 333.7717 Fit

*Photographic Documentation of the Fitzsimons Post Theater Murals* (2005) MUS 333.7717 Pho

*Fitzsimons boundary area redevelopment analysis and strategy* (1993) PLA 333.7717 Fit (missing 2019)

March 27, 2013 (revised September 2019)