

Lowry Air Force Base Collection

Collection Summary

Title:	Lowry Air Force Base
Collection Group:	The Military in Colorado
Dates:	1917-2007
Location:	Archives BH 2; Archives C , MD 6 and MD 24; Museum Library; Archives A
Quantity:	1 box, 1 oversize item, 1 film, 1 videotape, 1 audiotape, 16 mounted photos, 221 photographs, and 10 books in museum library
Abstract:	Lowry Field was established as an Army Air Corps Technical School in 1937 and grew to over 55,000 students by 1942. The Lowry collection contains several histories of the base; many newspaper clippings, particularly on the 1991 closing of Lowry; newspapers published on the base; and publicity.
Arrangement:	Contents have been arranged in chronological order by type, with historical documents first, then newspaper clippings, newspapers, and publicity.

Contents

Series and Subseries

Box 1 of 1

Series I: History

Subseries A: *A Forty Year Look* and *50 Years of Photographic Training*

Folder 1: *A Forty Year Look at Lowry Air Force Base 1937-1977*, by Melvin F. Porter, January 1987, (photocopy) traces the history of Lowry from its beginning at the old Agnes Memorial Sanitarium until its conversion to a center for intelligence training, accounting and finance, and reserve personnel. Photos of commanders, buildings, people, and aerial views illustrate the 54-page book.

50 Years of Continuous Photographic Training, 1917-1967, by W. J. Flynn in 1977, is a souvenir book containing text, photographs, and advertising.

Subseries B: Other Histories

Folder 2: "Colorado's Forgotten Airbase," from *Colorado Heritage*, Autumn 1994, is the story with photos of the original Lowry Field, 1924-1938 (Two copies, one of which is original. An *Armed Services Press* article from 1984 includes history and description of Lowry with photos. Three other typed histories of Lowry describe its growth and mission. The story of the Lowry Iron Horse, a railroad that ran between Lowry, Buckley and Fitzsimons, is from a 1998 *Wings over the Rockies* newsletter. Four sets

of history cards and two copies of a slide script contain history and description. All items except the *Colorado Heritage* article are photocopies.

Subseries C: Impact on Denver and Aurora

Folder 3: *The Lowry Report*, a bound 45-page booklet evaluating the impact that the closing of Lowry would have on the Denver Area. Prepared by the planning departments of Denver and Aurora, it contains maps and tables showing the economic effects of Lowry's presence in the area, 1978.

Subseries D: Operations and Personnel

Folder 4: Dedication program for the accounting and finance center at the Gilchrist Building, 1976. A two-page description of the mission and history of the center from 1951 to its move in 1976 to the Gilchrist Center. Photocopies of four US Air Force news releases about the center. A map of Lowry with buildings labeled. Photocopied chronological list of flight operations 1938-1971. Three US Air Force Fact Sheets on the description and economic impact of Lowry (photocopies). Information sheet for editors and news directors. A 1940 diploma (Acc. # 2012.34.1. Air Force Public Affairs Office biographies of six generals and colonels, all photocopies, 1982-1986. Photo of airmen in plane, undated photocopy.

Series II: Newspaper Clippings

Folder 5: 1930-1990 original and photocopied stories from local newspapers, *Lowry Airman*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and other publications are arranged chronologically. Of interest are 1953 stories and photos of President Eisenhower, a 1954 article on the train that ran through Lowry, the potential closing of Lowry in 1978, and the forty-fourth anniversary of Lowry, 1981.

Folder 6: 1991-2007 and undated clippings, mostly on the subject of the closing of Lowry and its impact upon the Denver area. Fitzsimons, the proposed Wings Over the Rockies Museum, and Aurora Community College classes at Lowry are some of the other topics. Most clippings are original; some are photocopies.

Series III: Newspapers

Subseries A: *The Rev-Meter*, published for personnel of Lowry Field, contains features on Lowry servicemen and women, cartoons, editorials, many photos, sports and advertising.

Folder 7: Issues dated March 30 through May 4, 1945, contain news of the war. Of interest is the April 20 edition featuring the death of President Roosevelt.

Folder 8: Issues dated May 11 through August 3, 1945. "NIPS NEXT" is headline for VE-Day issue, May 11. Other issues feature airmen discharges and the transition flight training program.

Folder 9: Issues dated August 17, 1945 through October 4, 1946. August 17 features victory over Japan and the end of the war. Lowry as a discharge center and reserve enlistments are other stories.

Subseries B: Other Newspapers

Folder 10: *The Service Woman*, May 25, 1945, published in New York. *Lowry Airman*, three issues dated December 9, 1983, March 30, 1984, and October 12, 1990. The 1990 issue features the return of the original "Air Force One" to Lowry and stories honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Series IV: Publicity

Folder 11: Assorted magazines, brochures, and leaflets, many with photos, dating from 1940 to 1994 and undated. Items include a 1940 Christmas menu (Acc.# 2012.34) and a 1942 cartoon (Acc. # 2007.11.45); the "Economic Impact of Lowry Technical Training Center," 1981, 1982 and 1986; Wings Over the Rockies Museum (photocopy), 1982; a poster on combat jets from *Time Life Books*; announcements of Aurora History Museum's "Aurora and the Military" exhibit; photocopy of mayoral proclamation and other items recognizing the 25th anniversary of USAF Academy first graduating class; two *Denver/Aurora Salute* welcome booklets, 1984 and 1985, with Lowry and area features.

Series V: Bomb Racks and Topographic Maps

Folder 12: Over-size photocopies of bomb racks and unidentified aerial photos

Additional Lowry items in other collections

Archives AI 1

"Eisenhower at Lowry" film (also on video) - box of films
"Lowry, 40 Years" (2 copies) audio cassette, Box Do - Mc
"Ike at Lowry" videotape, Box 5

Archives C

MD 6 – Photos (2) and drawings (3)
MD 24 - 21 mounted photos
239 photos

Books in Aurora History Museum Library:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Disposal and Reuse of Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, Department of the Air Force, November 1993 (MUS 333.7714 Dra)

Historic Building Recordation Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, Final Submittal, Front Range Research Associates, Inc., September 1995 (MUS 333.7144 His)

Historic Building Recordation Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, Final Submittal, Appendix, Part 1, Front Range Research Associates, Inc., September 1995 (MUS 333.7144 His App. Part 1)

Historic Building Recordation Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, Final Submittal, Appendix, Part 2, Front Range Research Associates, Inc., September 1995 (MUS 333.7144 His App. Part 2)

Historic Interpretive Plan Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, Final Submittal, Front

Range Research Associates, Inc. September 1995, (MUS 333.7144 His)

Lowry Development Plan, Lowry Redevelopment Authority, May 1996 (MUS 333.7144)

Lowry: Military Base to New Urban Community, Thomas J. Noel and Chuck Woodard, 2002
(MUS 355.7097 88 Noe)

Operational History Report, Lowry Air Force Base Denver, Colorado, Final Draft, US Army Corps
of Engineers St. Louis District, September 2002 (MUS 358.41409 Ope)

Pursuit of Excellence: A History of Lowry Air Force Base, 1937-1987, Michael H. Levy and Staff
Sergeant Patrick M. Scanlan, undated (MUS 358.41409 Lev c.2)

Reuse Plan Alternatives, Lowry Economic Recovery Project, HOH Associates and Browne, Bortz
and Coddington, Inc., November 1992 (MUS 333.7714 Reu)

March 27, 2013; April 25, 2014