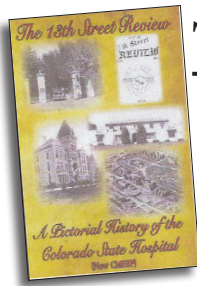




Items on display include vintage medical equipment, restraint chair and straitjacket, early photographs, ledgers, scrapbooks and more.

A 20-minute introductory video is offered along with guided or self-guided tours.



The 13th Street Review

A Pictorial History of the Colorado State Hospital

Get your copy while supplies last!

Research provided for archival records

Open Tuesdays and Saturdays

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

or by appointment

Call Nell Mitchell, Historian

719-546-4004

Adult admission \$5

Children under 12 free

<https://ColoradoStateHospitalMuseum.org>

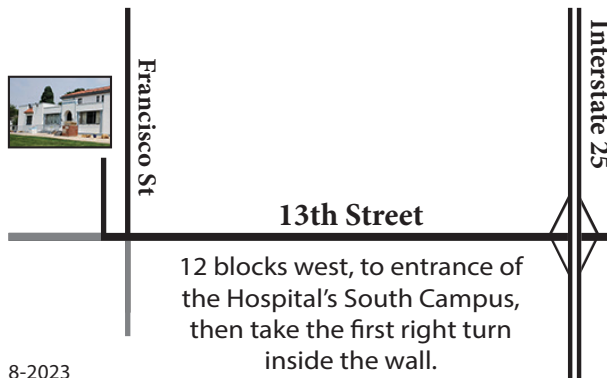
Donations welcomed.

We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Contributions may be tax deductible.

Consult your tax advisor. EIN 84-1114681.

How to get to the Colorado State Hospital Museum



8-2023

Colorado State Hospital Museum



**13th & Francisco Streets
Pueblo, Colorado**

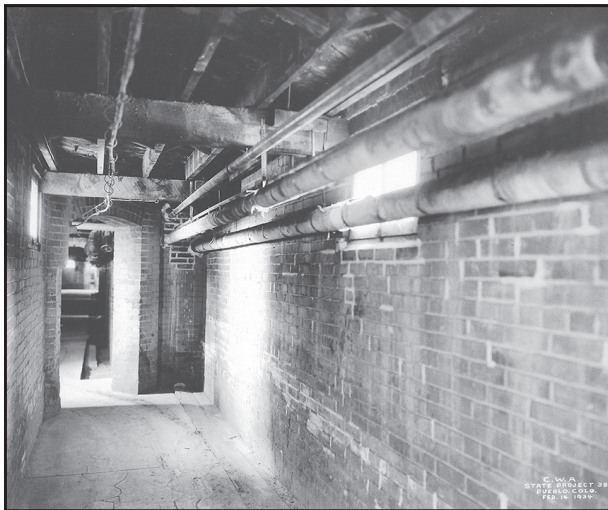
Inside the vine-covered stone wall at the south entrance to the Colorado Mental Health Hospital in Pueblo, this lovely home, formerly the residence of superintendents of the hospital, now houses our museum.

We present the history of the institution since its inception in 1879, commemorating the patients and the staff, ranging from psychiatric and medical personnel, to support services, groundskeepers and cooks, etc.



Old Administration Building and Male Center

One of many tunnels beneath the hospital



The Colorado State Hospital Museum opened in September 1985 following the listing of the building on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is located in the building that was used until 1974 as a home for the hospital superintendent.

The house was built in 1934 and was first occupied by Dr. Frank Zimmerman and his family. They resided there until his retirement in 1961. The only other superintendent to live here was Dr. Charles Meredith with his wife and eight children.

The grounds around the house include a courtyard with arched gateway, a large fire pit, a double garage and a playhouse built for Dr. Zimmerman's daughters. It was equipped with child-size furniture and electricity.

The 4,700-square foot house includes cast plaster ceilings, parquet flooring and many handcrafted features. Some of the wood was acquired from an 1883 structure that was part of the original state hospital. The cost of construction was \$24,920. Labor was provided by patients of the hospital and WPA workers.

The hospital was established as the Colorado State Insane Asylum by the legislature on February 8, 1879 and opened with 11 patients in October of that year on a donated 40-acre farm.

It was renamed the Colorado State Hospital in 1917. By 1928, the patient count was 2,800 and the cost to those able to pay was \$15 per month.

In time, the hospital became a "city within a city." The hospital owned 5,127 acres, including a dairy, chicken farm, vegetable gardens and a piggery.

In 1961 the patient population reached a peak of over 6,100. The per capita daily cost was \$4.75 and there were 2,200 employees. The average length of stay was over 16 years.

The state hospital was reorganized over the next decade and beyond as the delivery of mental health services changed radically. Today the patient count is less than 500 and the average stay is measured in weeks, not years.

