



Living and Dining Room



Zimmerman Room



Early 1900s Master Time Clock



Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo Museum and Conference Center



**13th and Francisco Streets
Pueblo, CO 81003**

The Museum is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment by calling Mrs. Nell Mitchell, Historian, at 719 546-4785. Admission is free.

>From I-25 north or south, take the 13th Street Exit and proceed west to the CMHIP South Campus. The Museum is located at the first right turn inside the grounds.

Web site: cmhipmuseum.org

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Hallie



Museum Mascot

The Colorado Mental Health Institute's Museum and Conference Center was begun in September of 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 residence 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 occupant was Dr. Charles Meredith and his family, including 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.

A transition program for the elderly was housed here from 1978 to 1981 when the program was dispersed to mental health centers.

The house has six bedrooms, five baths and 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. It has over 4600 square feet and the cost of construction was \$24,920. Some of the labor was provided by patients of the hospital and WPA workers.

The Colorado Mental Health Institute was established as the Colorado State Insane Asylum by the legislature on February 8, 1879 and opened in October of that year on a donated 40-acre farm with 14 patients. By 1928 the patient count was 2,800 and the cost to those able to pay was \$15 per month.

By 1960 the hospital owned 5,127 acres and included a dairy and chicken farm, garden and piggery. The average census was 5,851, the per capita daily cost, \$4.75, and there were 2,200 employees. The average length of stay was something over 16 years.

The treatment of the mentally ill changed greatly over the next 40 years with the availability of new drugs and community treatment centers. As a result, the census today is less than 450 and the average stay is measured in weeks, not years.

Included in the building are conference facilities used by hospital staff and other state employees and a museum. On display are artifacts and information displays highlighting the history of the hospital and the changes in treatment of the mentally ill.



Framed NRHP Certificate