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Amer	ican Medical Center Ca	ncer Research Cent	er and Hospital		
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Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (30/02/0000/08)DATE Ongoing \_\_FEDERAL X\_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway CITY, TOWN STATE Denver Colorado 80203



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

**CHECK ONE** 

X\_EXCELLENT

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

RUINS

X UNALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society (JCRS) Historic District is composed of thirteen architecturally and historically significant brick and stucco medical buildings as well as the remains of nine farm structures and six frame patient buildings. There are also two modern structures within the boundary, the Diamond Research Laboratory and the Mary Harris Auditorium. Despite its proximity to one of Denver's major streets, the district retains its campus-like atmosphere of dignified structures facing well-manicured streets; thus it appears virtually unchanged since the height of its activity from 1904 to 1954 as one of the largest tuberculosis hospitals in the United States. Today, as a cancer research center, the institution embodies a modern medical purpose as well as a historically significant past.

#### Buildings contributing to the character of the district:

- 1. The Tent: 1904 (5665)\*, one of the first structures erected at JCRS, the "Tent" acquired its name from the canvas awnings that stretched from its roof peak over the door and windows. This frame building is square with a center front door with one double sashed window on either side. Originally, each structure housed two patients and had neither heat nor water. The tent displayed today has a modern asbestos roof and is preserved solely as a relic of the past.
- 2. C. D. Spivak Administration Building: 1907 (5668). The C. D. Spivak Administration Building is a one story rectangular building of stretcher bond brick on a coursed cut stone foundation. A front portico with six Corinthian columns rises above the main front door which is fronted by two engaged columns. The original door and windows of this building have been replaced; however, the original stone window sills and the radiating voussoirs remain. The roof is asphalt shingle with overhanging eaves and there are dormer windows on all four building faces in addition to fish scale trim. The roof of the front portico is decorated with four carved urns. Today this building houses the administrative offices of the American Medical Center (AMC).
- 3. New York Ladies Auxillary Pavilion: 1908 (5669). The one and one-half story Pavilion is a distinctive rectangle with attached circle shape which results from its original medical function. Stretcher brick with a coursed cut stone foundation, the building was the first brick structure at JCRS to house patients. A porch which originally surrounded the circular portion of the building allowed the patients' beds to be pushed outside through the floor to ceiling windows for the fresh air treatment believed in 1908 to be the best cure for tuberculosis. Ground stairs rise to a front door which is semicircular with radiating voussoirs. The door has recessed double leaves, each with three recessed panels. Over the door a cornice rests on consoles. Windows on the first floor have stone sills, flat arches with radiating voussoirs, and are double sashed. The roof covering the rectangular portion of the building is medium hipped and gabled with projecting eaves, while that over the circular portion is pyramidal. The roof is trimmed with two small cupolas. Today the

\*All buildings show date of construction in the traditional Jewish calendar as well as by the Gregorian calendar. This is shown in parentheses.

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Pavilion contains the offices of the Ladies National Auxiliary as well as the hospital library.

- 4. Water Tower and Well House: 1910 (5671). Dominating the landscape of the surrounding community is the JCRS Water Tower, donated by the St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary. The tower bears plaques on all four legs commemerating the generosity of these women in providing the artesian well and the means to store water for the hospital. In 1930 Dan J. McQuaid designed a new pump and brick Pump House for the well.
- 5. Isaac Solomon Synagogue: 1911 (5671). The synagogue, designed by William E. & Arthur A. Fisher, is a one story, irregularly shaped building of stretcher bond brick. The vestibule and study have terra cotta stuccoed fronts. Extensions project at the front and rear of an auditorium, which seats seventy. The auditorium has six two-center pointed Gothic stained glass windows on each side. The vestibule, supported by cast stone columns, contains a center front main door which has a recessed transom and side surrounds of colored mosaics. The pyramidal roof is edged with a sawtooth course of brick and is painted silver. At the present time, the synagogue is closed, but AMC is contemplating reopening it as a historical museum.
- 6. M. D. Fishman Building: 1912 (5673). A one story rectangular coursed brick structure, the Fishman Building was originally the hospital laundry. A raised brick facade entrance contains the center front, double leaf, four panel door which has a light transom. The windows immediately on either side of the door have radiating, alternating stepped voussoirs. All other windows are stone silled with two sashes and a transom. The roof is hipped and covered with asphalt shingles.
- 7. I. Rude Medical Building: 1919 (5679). This two story, rectangular, brick building has identical north and south facades, each decorated with six Tuscan columns which support porticos. The first floor has half windows; the main floor has one-sash windows with transom and flat arched radiating voussoirs with keystone. Doors are on the north and south and are center front, semicircular, with head surrounds of radiating voussoirs with keystone. The doors are double leaf with transom panels of decorated segmented arches. The truncated hipped roof has asbestos shingles. The Rude Building originally contained the hospital admissions offices. Today it houses research offices.
- 8. St. Louis Ladies Auxiliary Staff House: 1919 (5679). Irregularly shaped, this two story brick structure is trimmed with decorative rows of English bond brick. The north, south, and east facades have enclosed porches with battered piers.

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On the eastern facade, in the center, is the main door, which is flat with plain molding. The ground floor windows are two-sashed with transom and have brick sills. Projecting eaves of the medium hipped roof have exposed rafters. The upper floor of the building was remodeled by Raymond Harry Ervin in 1945. The Staff House originally housed resident staff members. Today it is the home of former JCRS patients who continue to work on the hospital campus.

- 9. New York Building: 1922, (5682). The New York Building is an irregularly-shaped two and one-half story brick structure which has three wings projecting from the eastern side. Exterior walls are trimmed with decorative rows of header bond and have recessed panels, entablatures with plinths, and rectangular shaped heads between floors. In the center of the building is a three story tower with a decorated pediment. The tower is fronted with a pillared portico topped by decorative urns. The portico is reached by plain stairs which rise to the main door. The door is semicircular with a fan-shaped decorated head surround. Windows on the first floor are semielliptical, two-sashed, with fan carved head On the ground floor the windows are double hung with transoms. roof is medium hipped Spanish tile with dormers. It has projecting eaves, exposed rafters and boxed decorated cornices. The edges of the roof are decorated with carved urns. In 1946 Raymond Harry Ervin designed the two wings of the building as well as the alterations to the interior. This building was the principal men's patient building during the JCRS years. Today it houses a portion of Jefferson County Social Services.
- 10. Post Office and Cooperative Store: 1926 (5686). This multifunctional building is a two story brick structure with a coursed stone foundation trimmed with brick. The main door is in the center front, flush with a plain light transom. The windows have stone sills, and are semicircular and recessed with fan brick headers. The roof is medium hipped, covered with Spanish tile, and has projecting eaves, exposed rafters and boxed decorated wooden cornices. In 1940 Raymond Harry Ervin added a rectangular two story wing of rusticated brickwork with a modern plateglass door and window transoms.

The original Post Office and Cooperative Store, designed by Harry James Manning, was the center of daily life in Spivak, Colorado. Following the death of Dr. Charles D. Spivak in 1927, the hospital was given the postal address of Spivak to honor his role in the founding of JCRS. The Business Office has functioned in the added wing since 1940. Today the entire building is used for the business office.

11. Max D. Neuster Rehabilitation Building: 1926 (5686). This one story rectangular stucco building with face brick is the home of the JCRS print shop and book bindery. The main door is located in the center front of the building and is

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flat, recessed, and heavily trimmed with wrought iron. Windows are single division pivoted sash. The roof is of flat red tile and has decorative urns at each corner. This building, designed by Fisher and Fisher, continues to serve its original function as the area for retraining patients in occupations compatible with their physical condition.

- 12. Texas Pavilion for Women: 1927 (5687). Women patients lived in this four-story rectangular brick building. Denver architects Fisher and Fisher designed exterior walls with decorative stonework and decorated quoins. An Italian villa theme is exhibited in the center tower which has stuccoed sides and terra cotta gutters on the third floor. Granite plain steps rise to the center front main door which is flat with double leaves with one panel. The door surround has engaged columns and an arch with radiating voussoirs. First and second floor windows are double hung flat with plain molding. The third floor windows have parapets with a balastrade and pilaster strips with capitals. The roof is red and blue mission tile. Originally the women's patient building, the Texas Pavilion is the only building housing patients at the present time.
- 13. Power House: 1927 (5687). The Power House, designed by Fisher and Fisher, is a rectangular brick building with a concrete foundation. In 1938 Shankland, Ristland, and Company designed a wing connecting the Power House and the Pump House. Today this one building supplies the heat for the entire hospital.
- 14. TriBoro Dining Hall: 1936 (5696). The dining hall designed by Fisher and Fisher is rectangular in shape with ivory stucco walls on a cut stone foundation. The structure is trimmed with quoins. The front door lies behind a porch which was enclosed in 1938 by architect Raymond Harry Ervin. The door is double leaf French with side surrounds of engaged decorated columns and arched radiating voussoirs. Windows are double sashed with transoms. The medium hipped blue and rust roof is tiled. It has boxed decorative cornices. Originally built as an ambulatory patient dining room, the building continues to function as a cafeteria for staff and visitors.

Ed. JEF 7/79

#### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

#### PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW \_\_PREHISTORIC \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING X.LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_RELIGION \_1400-1499 \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_LAW X\_SCIENCE \_1500-1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_ECONOMICS \_\_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE \_1600-1699 XARCHITECTURE \_\_EDUCATION \_\_MILITARY X\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_\_ENGINEERING \_1700-1799 \_\_ART \_\_MUSIC \_\_THEATER \*\* -- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT - L\_PHILOSOPHY \_1800-1899 \_\_COMMERCE \_\_TRANSPORTATION -00e K\_ \_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_\_INDUSTRY \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_\_OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_INVENTION SPECIFIC DATES **BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1904 - present

The Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society Historic District is significant for its social and humanitarian role in caring for the victims of tuberculosis; for the medical research that has taken place on the campus, and for its architecture and landscape architecture which maintain the feelings and associations of a campus environment within the boundaries of a large city.

Many

Although it was preceded by several other benevolent groups seeking to care for indigent tuberculars, the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society was organized and incorporated in 1904 to help tubercular patients that other institutions considered too ill for successful treatment. Among the founders were Dr. Charles D. Spiyak, Rabbi Charles E. H. Kauver, and Dr. Philip Hilkowitz, leading Jews in the Denver community. When they opened the JCRS sanitarium in 1904, there were hundreds of people on the waiting list for acceptance to the hospital; yet at the time the admission of patients heretofore considered beyond hope was considered by many to be a radical step. At the outset the facility consisted of six frame and canvas "tents" and a one-story administrative building, but the hospital expanded rapidly to meet the demand and eventually became the largest free Jewish tubercular institution in the world. 1954, when the hospital became the American Medical Center Cancer Research Center, it had provided free care for over 10,000 persons.

During its years as a tuberculosis sanitarium, the JCRS pioneered in the discovery and development of new treatments for tuberculosis. In 1912, for example, the hospital acquired the first x-ray machine west of Chicago. Physicians also developed new surgical procedures, including artificial pneumothorax, a method which collapsed diseased lungs in order to provide rest needed for healing. From its beginning, JCRS asserted the role of proper nutrition, especially fresh milk, in the cure of tuberculosis, and operated a dairy and farm to provide patients with wholesome, nutritious food. Yet the hospital not only took care of the immediate problem of tuberculosis, but also other physical ills by offering a complete range of medical and dental services.

For many patients successful treatment meant months or even years at the sanitarium. The Society therefore sought to make JCRS as much of an established and self-sufficient community as possible. The Patients' Cooperative Store gave residents an outlet for their handiwork and a place to buy manufactured goods. The post office provided communication with relatives at home and was officially listed as being in Spivak, Colorado. A synagogue on campus met religious needs, and the 40,000-volume library helped patients pass spare time. A social service staff worked with patients during the time of their stay and continued to provide counseling as needed following discharge from the hospital. The staff at JCRS also believed that patients needed not

#### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

JCRS Archives, Boxes 1-212, AMC Cancer Research Center and Hospital, Lakewood, Colorado

Thirty Years of Saving Lives: The Sanitorium of the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society. N.p.: 1934.

JCRS Bulletin, 1935-1945.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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only a sound body, but also a means of returning to a successful life outside the sanitarium. Towards this end, the Society offered courses in English, shorthand, stenography, and typing. A print shop and a book bindery also trained hundreds in useful skills, and some patients worked at various tasks on the farm.

The true spirit of JCRS was symbolized by its dedicated staff and the support of its volunteers. Spivak, secretary of the hospital from its incorporation in 1904 until his death in 1927, devoted himself to the sanitarium and its patients while adding immeasurably to the knowledge concerning tuberculosis. In addition to the sanitarium staff, many local physicians donated time on a scheduled basis each year.

The JCRS drew much of its financial support from women's organizations. Shortly after the sanatarium opened, the first of these groups was organized in New York, and over the years ladies' auxiliaries across the United States became the primary means of raising support. They financed many of the hospital's activities, paid for a majority of the buildings, and provided the services necessary to rehabilitate patients.

In designing the sanitarium, the JCRS wanted to create a campus-like atmosphere that would provide a unique sense of peace and solitude within the city. Thus the building facades face a planted double parkway which forms an esplanade more than a city block in length. The Texas Pavilion for Women stands at one end of the walkway, facing the New York Building with its "Tower of Hope," which became an important symbol for the hospital. The length of the esplanade reflects a panorama of institutional architecture as it developed in the United States for half a century. Obvious copies and adaptations of classical styles provide the visitor an unusual opportunity to observe successive architectural ideas.

In 1954 the tuberculosis sanitarium gave way to the American Medical Center Cancer Research Center and Hospital. Like its predecessor, the AMC provides specialized medical care for patients regardless of their ability to pay. Here research continues in the sedate atmosphere as dignified medical buildings serve new purposes, though reminded by the successes of the past.

Ed. JEF 7/79

