

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON JBER, BUILDING 5303
3RD CES PRIME BEEF
(Building 22-039 BE Storage CV Facility)
(AHRIS No. ANC-00932)
5303 Jerstad Avenue
Anchorage
Anchorage
Alaska

HABS AK-240-A
HABS AK-240-A

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
BUILDING 5303 3RD CES PRIME BEEF
AHRIS Number ANC-00932

A. Alaska Historic Building Survey: 5303 (Building 22-039, BE Storage CV Facility)

Site Names: Building 5303 3rd CES Prime Beef

Historic Name of Building: Building 22-039, BE Storage CV Facility

Secondary or Common Name(s) of Property: BE Paving Ground Facility, CE Storage, Warehouse Supply and Equipment Base, 3rd CES Prime Beef

AHRIS No: ANC-00932

Complete Address or Physical Location: 5303 Jerstad Avenue,
JBER-Elmendorf, AK

UTM Zone: ~~6~~ *lat: 61.23669868*
long: 749.8337727 **Easting:** ~~449.83377327~~
Northing: ~~61.23669868~~

Present Owner and Occupant: JBER-Elmendorf

Present Use: Warehouse, 3rd CES Prime Beef

Significance: Built in 1944, this building is eligible for the NRHP as a contributing resource to the Alaska Air Depot Historic District for its association with military activities during WWII and use as a supply warehouse for the Alaska Air Depot.

Historians: Information for this report was compiled by Jacobs cultural resource staff: Penny Bullock, Robert Lane, and Phyllis Callina, under the direct supervision of the Historic Architect, Casey Martin, AIA.

Project Information: Jacobs prepared this report under contract number W911KB-06-D-0006, Task Order 25, for the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron. This report is intended to assist the USAF in fulfilling the stipulations of the MOA to the best possible standard, as determined by the CRM and SHPO. The recommended actions to mitigate the demolition of the buildings are included in the MOA³⁴, and were developed in consultation between USAF and the Alaska SHPO. The work was supervised and reviewed by Casey Martin, Historic Architect (AIA, AICP, LEED AP; see attached resume in under Qualifications).

1. Historical Information

a) Physical History

(1) Date of Erection

1944

³⁴ USAF, "Memorandum of Agreement between Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Disposal/Demolition of Buildings 5303 (ANC-00932) and 5312 (ANC-00933) at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson," 2012.

(2) *2. Architect*

Not known

(3) *3. Original and Subsequent Owners, Occupants, Uses*

Building 5303, currently owned by USAF, has been the property of Elmendorf AFB since its construction. It was erected in 1944 for use in supporting the activities of the Alaska Air Depot. It was used initially as a paving ground facility, a paint shop, a supply warehouse, and in 1983 it became a Prime Beef facility. There are no indications that the site stored any items directly involved in WWII operations or that it has any direct correlation with the WWII effort in the Alaskan theater. Architectural plans of Building 5303 (see attached) dated from 1954 show that new partitions and plumbing upgrades were added to the building. In November 1957, the heating system was converted from coal to oil heat.

(4) *4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers*

Not known

(5) *5. Original Plans and Construction*

The original plans and construction documents are unknown.

(6) *Alterations and Additions*

The building was constructed as a single story facility. Some modifications, such as exterior and interior changes, have occurred since its original construction. New partitions and an upgraded plumbing system were added in 1954. The heating system was converted in 1957. Historic fabric has been removed and replaced with new building components. The integrity of Building 5303 has not been maintained.

2. Historical Context

The Alaska Air Depot was conceived as a necessary logistical organization in a WWII theater of operations where maintaining air superiority over the enemy was critical. The Alaska Air Depot was established at Elmendorf as a central location, and construction was expedited to completion in 1943. The building and taxiway arrangement reflected the integrated supply, testing, and maintenance mission requirements for WWII air operations in the Alaska and Northern Pacific Region. It represented a commitment by U.S. Army planners to providing an accessible, permanent, and centrally located military aircraft servicing facility to allow American planes to take the war farther out into the Pacific and ultimately to Japan itself. The Alaska Air Depot's support facilities provided a range of functions including fuel, supplies, ordnance, parts, and equipment provisions, and training for the myriad of fighter, bomber and other air units actively engaged in attacking Japanese military installations and elements of Japan's northern Pacific fleet.

Building 5303 was constructed to support the original Alaska Air Depot in WWII. It retains its structural integrity and is eligible for listing on the NRHP as a contributing building to the Alaska Air Depot Historic District under Criterion A (AHR No. ANC-00932). Building 5303 was erected

in 1944 for the Alaska Air Depot. It was used initially as a paving ground facility, a paint shop, a supply warehouse, and in 1983 it became a Prime Beef facility.

It is one of approximately 200 buildings that were photographed and described, and related files and reports were examined, in the Real Property Management Office by the Office of History of the 11th Air Force and the map vault. Building 5303 was one of the buildings identified by NPS during this survey.

The building is located within the Alaska Air Depot Historical Area. In addition to plane maintenance, the Alaska Air Depot was responsible for distributing supplies to Elmendorf and all air bases in Alaska. Building 5303 did not directly support or affect activities of the air depot. This structure offers no archaeological information that contributes to our understanding of human history or prehistory.

3. Architectural Information

a) **General Statement**

(1) *Architectural Character*

Building 5303 is a rectangular metal building with a gable roof, corrugated steel siding and roofing, and its style is typical of the era and setting on an AFB.

(2) *Condition of Fabric*

The general condition of the building components and systems is a normal state of weathering and physical wear from use. The building retains its structural integrity and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building to the Alaska Air Depot Historic District under Criterion A (AHRIS No. ANC-00932).

b) **Description of Exterior**

(1) *1. Overall Dimensions*

Building 5303 is a one-story, metal-frame building with a rectangular plan. While exhibiting a profile of one building, it actually consists of two buildings connected end-to-end. Building 5303 measures 40' × 180' (7,200 square feet). The east or front section of the building measures 100' × 40'. The west or rear part of the building measures 40' × 80'.

(2) *Foundations*

Concrete foundation with painted exterior finish where exposed below the exterior wall.

(3) *Walls*

A corrugated metal roof and corrugated metal panels cover Building 5303. Wall exteriors are painted light beige, including painted windows and boards covering windows. Exterior doors are painted a dark brown that matches the roof covering color.

A 2x wood-framed Arctic entry is constructed on the west side. The walls are 2x wood-framed with plywood cladding. A 2' x 2' louvered vent is located above the overhead door on the east end of the building.

(4) *Structural System*

Building 5303 is a steel-framed building with corrugated metal cladding on both the walls and roof. Tension cables provide lateral resistance between the steel structural wall and roof members.

(5) *Porches, stoops, balconies, porticoes, bulkheads*

Building 5303 does not include any outdoor covered areas attached to the building.

(6) *Chimneys*

Building 5303 does not include any fireplaces or associated chimneys.

(7) *Openings*

Doorways and doors: An overhead door is located under each gable end on the east and west ends of the rectangular building. The overhead door on the west end is painted wood horizontal panel door, and the overhead door on the east side is a painted metal roll-up door. The overhead door on the west end of the building is no longer operational. Three exterior man doors are painted metal with metal frames, with the exception of the arctic entry which has a wood frame to support the metal door. All three man doors are painted dark brown to match the roof color. The two overhead doors are painted light beige to match the exterior wall color.

Windows and Shutters: Metal prefinished casement windows have been added to the western portion of the building at the first-floor level to provide natural light to the offices and conference rooms. The windows at the second-story level have been boarded or painted over, which illustrates the changing function of the building over time. Both 6-pane (three-over-three) fixed metal windows above the overhead door on the east end have also been painted over (directly applied to the glazing) without first boarding over the windows.

(8) *Roof*

Both the east and west building sections have a gabled roof with steel framing and corrugated steel cladding. Overhangs are minimal and no downspouts are present. The roof has multiple penetrations for mechanical vents and small appurtenances.

The roof covering the arctic entry on the west end of the building has a mansard roof with painted wood shingles.

c) Description of Interior

(1) Floor Plans

Building 5303 is a one-story, metal-frame building with a rectangular plan. While exhibiting a profile of one building, it actually consists of two buildings connected end-to-end. An arctic entry projects from the west end of the building. The eastern interior portion of Building 5303 has a warehouse style with industrial finishes.

The western portion of Building 5303 is partitioned from the eastern end and has an office-style interior that includes offices, a bathroom, a kitchen, and a recreation room. The kitchen and bathrooms are in a state of disrepair, but functional. An approximately 4'-tall attic space is located over the southwest corner of the building. The central portion of this space has plywood decking and gypsum board walls and ceilings; the remainder of the space has no finish materials. A rudimentary catwalk has been constructed in the west unfinished portion of the attic, and miscellaneous items are stored in both the east and west ends.

(2) Stairways

An unfinished wood stairway provides access to a mezzanine storage area in above the administrative offices. A 2" thick wall-mounted board provides a handrail accommodation.

(3) Flooring

Flooring in the finished areas are light colored vinyl composite tile (VCT). The area used for storing gym equipment has direct adhered multi-colored low-pile carpet. Both carpeted and tiled areas have a light brown 4" rubber wall cove base. The unfinished maintenance area has sealed concrete flooring.

(4) Wall and ceiling finish

Interior ceilings in the finished areas are typically suspended acoustical ceiling tiles on a 2' x 2' grid with 2' x 4' incandescent trough lighting units. Interior walls and interior partitions are typically 2x stud walls with a textured finish. The administrative offices are finished with 2' vertical wood panel cove up to 3' above the finished floor and textured wall covering from 3' above the finished floor to the suspended acoustical ceiling tiles. The interior sides of the exterior steel clad walls and ceiling of the maintenance area are covered with insulation panels.

An approximately 4'-tall attic space is located over the southwest corner of the building. The central portion of this space has plywood decking and gypsum board walls and ceilings; the remainder of the space has no finish materials.

(5) Openings

Doorways and doors: Interior doors are typically metal frame and hollow metal flush panel doors. Interior doors located in the administrative offices area are wooden with wood frames.

Windows: Interior windows are white vinyl clad sliders with wood frames and wood sill finishes and wood trim.

(6) *Decorative features and Trim*

Administrative offices include built-in bookcases, flush with the interior wall surface. Walls include wood paneling to 3' above the finished floor.

(7) *Hardware*

No original or notable hardware was observed to be remaining in the facility.

(8) *Mechanical Equipment*

Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The heating system was converted in 1957.

Lighting: Interior lighting in the administrative office areas is mainly 2' x 4' incandescent trough lighting with a mix of acrylic prismatic lenses and parabolic reflectors. The maintenance area has ceiling suspended incandescent fixtures.

Plumbing: New partitions and an upgraded plumbing system were added in 1954 and included a new bathroom and kitchen.

(9) *Original furnishings*

No original or notable furnishings were observed to be remaining in the facility.

d) Site

(1) *Historic Landscape Design*

Building 5303 is located at the intersection of 9th Street and Jerstad Avenue, just off Arctic Warrior Road. The long double-building is oriented from east to west, with the front end on the east. The vicinity is the same as it was during original construction relative to positioning of the adjacent buildings.

The perimeter of the building is surrounded by sod with the exception of the asphalt driveway leading into the east and west ends of the building and a sidewalk leading to the arctic entry on the west end. Adjacent to the sod on the north, east and south sides of the building is an open parking area with asphalt paving. Building 5303 is cited directly under and oriented perpendicular to overhead power lines with a feeder supplying the facility.

(2) *Outbuildings*

No additional outbuildings are associated with this structure.

4. Sources of Information

a) Architectural Drawings

No drawings were located.

b) Early Views

Photographs obtained during the field investigation and research phases are included in the first attachment to this report.

c) Interviews

Field escort and JBER CRM Jon Scudder was interviewed.

d) Selected Sources

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRs). 2012. AHRs database managed by the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage.

Cook, L., et al. 1999. *Elmendorf Air Force Base Volume I: Historic Context of World War II Buildings and Structures*. National Park Service.

36 CFR 800. 2004. "Protection of Historic Properties."

Daugherty, P.M., and B.M. Saleeby. 1998. *Elmendorf Air Force Base Homestead Study*. National Park Service, Alaska Support Office, Anchorage.

Dilley, T. 1996. *The Geoarchaeological Potential of Elmendorf Air Force Base*. Unpublished report on file at EAFB.

Fagen, R. W. 1944. *History of Fort Richardson (Original Post)*. Unpublished manuscript on file at the History Office, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

Fall, J. A., N. Y. Davis, and the Dena'ina Team. 2003. *An Overview of Dena'ina Athabascan Uses of Sites on and Near Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska*. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Anchorage.

Hamilton, T. D., and R. M. Thorson. 1983. *The Cordilleran Ice Sheet in Alaska in the Late Pleistocene Late-Quaternary Environments of the United States*. S. C. Porter, editor. Vol. 1. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Neilson, J. M. 1988. *Armed Forces on a Northern Frontier: The Military in Alaska's History, 1867-1987*. New York: Greenwood Press.

PACAF (Department of the Air Force. Pacific Air Forces Headquarters, 673D Air Base Wing). 2013 (17 January). "U.S. Air Force/Demolition of Buildings 5303 (ANC-00932) and 5312 (ANC-00933)." Memorandum of Agreement 339. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), Alaska.

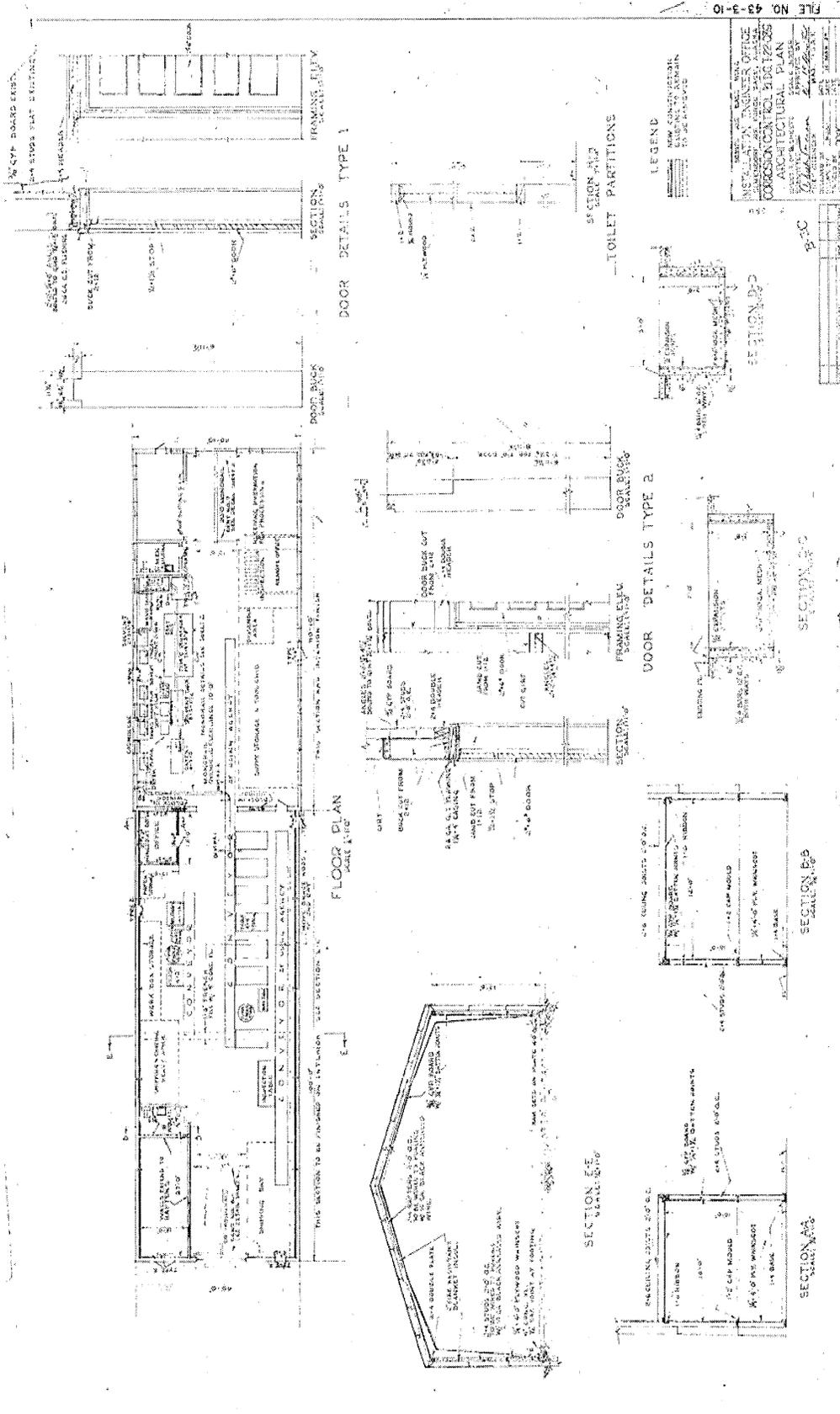
e) Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated

No additional sources are noted for future investigation

f) Supplemental Material

Photographs captured during the field investigation and research phases are included in the appendices of this report —

they are available in the field records
for HABS AK-240



Building 5303 Architectural Plan, 1959.

FILE NO. 43-3-10

INSTALLATION OF WINDOW
CONCRETE CONTROL JOIST
ARCHITECTURAL PLAN
DATE: 10/15/59
BY: [Signature]

LEGEND
[Symbol] 1/2" CYP BOARD EXIST.
[Symbol] 1/2" STOPS THAT EXISTING
[Symbol] TO BE ADJUSTED

B-20