

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
EDUCATION CENTER
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2012)
Connecticut Road, east of Idaho Avenue
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-BH

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. NY-326-BH

Location: Off Connecticut Road, East of Idaho Avenue.
UTM: 18.622360.4946360
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1957

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2012 provided facilities for the advancement of the academic, technical, and occupational education of military personnel of all grades and ranks in order to enhance their potential to the Air Force. Specifically, it offered complete curricula for all Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) aircrews and ground personnel who dealt with strategic bombers and air refuelers. The Professional Military Education (PME) space provided in Building No. 2012 was provided to support NCO PME courses offered by the Air Force. The five-phased Air Force NCO PME program was designed to prepare Air Force NCOs for positions of responsibility by broadening their leadership and management skills and their perspective of the military profession. Most recently, Building 2012 served as the Airman Leadership School.

Project Information: Building No. 2012 at Plattsburgh AFB is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
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1461 East Cooley Drive
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Summary Description of Education Center (Building No. 2012)

Layout

Building No. 2012 is a 25,592 square-foot, brick building with a T-shaped plan. It is one-story in height and built atop a reinforced concrete foundation. The building measures 337'-0" along the front (east) elevation, with the central wing extending 120'-0" to the west. Both the main section and the wing are 56'-0" wide. The building has unpainted brick walls with extensive metal-framed fenestration in all elevations. The moderately pitched roof is covered with composite shingles and has overhanging eaves. The gable ends are boxed with vertical boards, painted beige, with triangular louvered vents under the ridge.

All of Building No. 2012, with the exception of the northern half of the west elevation, has extensive ribbons of windows, consisting primarily of two-over-two sashes separated by wide mullions, and several one-over-one sashes that appear to be newer. The wall from the window tops to the eaves consists of vertical boards painted dark brown. The brick walls are laid in a variation of English bond, with six rows of stretchers for every row of headers. The front (east) elevation forms the top of the "T", and has two sets of double entrance doors with windows in the upper halves recessed approximately 4'-0" at the center. A front-gabled porch shelters the entry, projecting 4'-0" away from the façade. The roofline of the wing to the right (north) is stepped up slightly from the remainder of the building. Two metal ventilation cupolas rise from the roof ridge. The left (east) side of the north elevation consists of the end of the main section of the building, projecting into the foreground. A pair of personnel doors with windows in their upper halves is in the center, and a set of wooden doors is to their right. The right (west) side of the north elevation is the side of the west-projecting wing, in the background. Two sets of double doors, one metal and one wooden, are in this wall, along with strips of two-over-two sashes. A bricked-over area holding a pair of the newer, one-over-one windows appears to have once held a third set of double doors. The rear (west) elevation consists of the main section of the building extending to the left (north) and right (south), with the end of the west wing projecting into the foreground. The end of the wing has a pair of entry doors with windows in their top halves in the center. There are few windows in the northern half of the main section, but two sliding glass doors in the wood frames are set in the wall toward its north end. The southern doors in wood frames are set in the wall toward its north end. The southern half of the main section has a set of double doors with louvered vents and transom, and a long ribbon of two-over-two sashes to the right (south). Seven of the 25 windows are covered with boards. The right (east) side of the south elevation consists of the end of the main section of the building. A pair of personnel doors with windows in their upper halves in the center, and the sign "Airman Leadership School", is on the wall in the upper-left corner. The left (west) side of the south elevation consists of the side of the west wing with a long strip of two-over-two sash windows.

Alterations/Additions

Other than the minor changes discussed above, there have been no major alterations or additions made to Building No. 2012.

Function

Building No. 2012 was designed and used as an education facility. Classrooms and work areas contained training aids such as an FB-111A ejection module simulator, a tail gun simulator, and engine mock-ups used for demonstration and the practical application of theory. Classes involving the FB-111A were conducted by the 4007th Combat Crew Training Squadron (CCTS), which trained all of America's FB-111A aircrews. Most recently, Building 2012 served as the Airman Leadership School.

Significance

The end of World War II saw the beginning of hostile relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, based on differing social, economic, and political views. As this "Cold War" escalated, the United States instituted a policy of containment, which called for a "peaceful" blocking of the expansion of Soviet political and economic influence. Nuclear weapons, which had also developed at the end of World War II, held a significant place in this conflict, but it was theorized that an American nuclear capability, if strong enough, could deter unwanted soviet expansion.

On March 21, 1946, the Strategic Air Command (SAC) was organized as one of the three new major commands in a reorganized Army Air Force. SAC was considered the "big stick" of U.S. National military strength, and was given the responsibility of delivering the atomic weapons. With the motto "peace is our profession" SAC was the physical realization of America's deterrence theory.

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make SAC operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the exceptional instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these facilities, among which would have to be counted the Education Center.

Building No.2012 at Plattsburgh AFB was constructed in 1957 to enhance academic, technical, and occupational education of military personnel of all grades and ranks. It was in this capacity that Bldg. No. 2012 both supported and enhanced the SAC flight mission. It was an essential part of Plattsburgh AFB Cold War era activities and a critical element of Plattsburgh AFB SAC flight operations.

Drawings

Copies of as-built drawings for the Education Center, Building No. 2010, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

Sources

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force, Clinton County New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace...is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

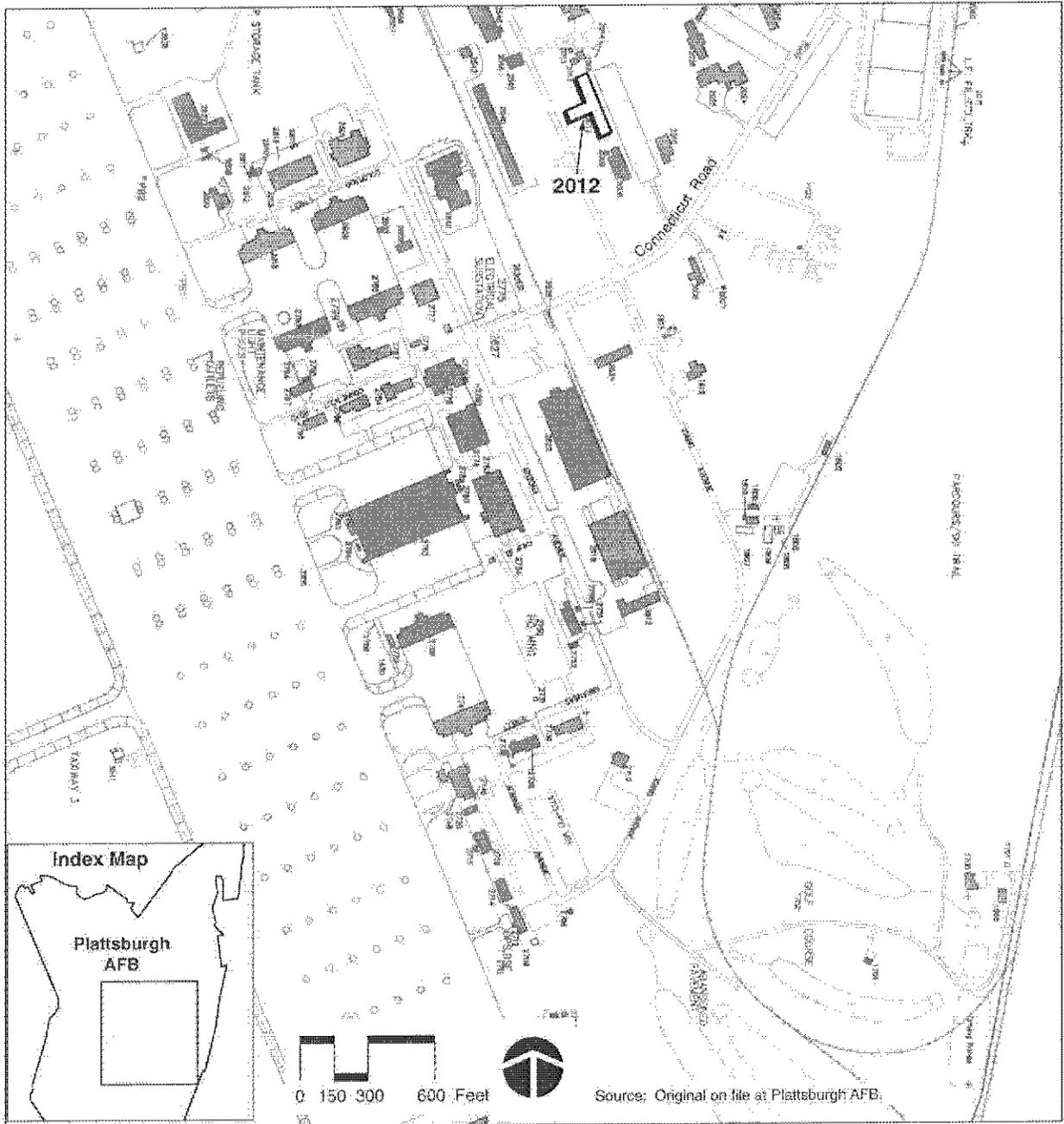
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

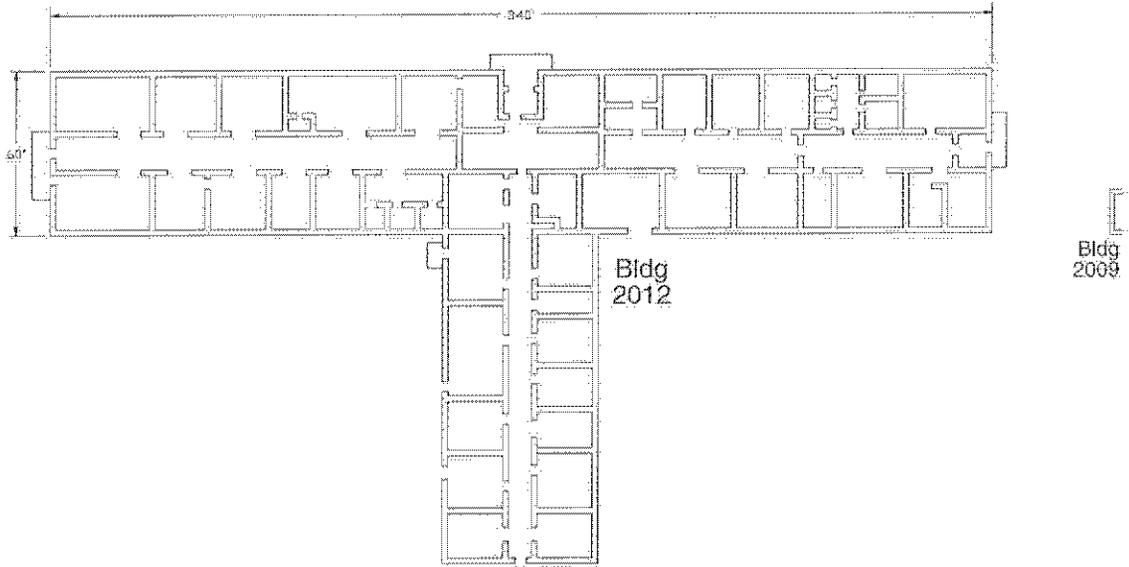
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,* Volumes I and II, June.

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Location Map for Education Center, Building No. 2012
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Idaho Avenue



SKETCH PLAN – EDUCATION CENTER BUILDING
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2012)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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