

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
AIRMEN DORMITORY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1908)
New York Road
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-DA

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

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
ARMEN DORMITORY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1908)

HAER No. NY-326-DA

Location: New York Road, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.
UTM: 18.622860.4946180
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 1908 is one of ten essentially identical 27,585-square-foot dormitories that provided housing for unaccompanied airmen. This building was required housing for unaccompanied personnel in the enlisted ranks and civilian employees of similar grade.

Project Information: Building No. 1908 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).

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Summary Description of Airmen Dormitory (Building No. 1908)

Layout

Building No. 1908 is a 25,727 square-foot, three-story building with a hipped roof. It is constructed of reinforced concrete block dressed in brick veneer. Each level displays a continuous concrete band running horizontally around the building. The building is irregular in plan and measures approximately 207 feet 11 inches by 40 feet 7 inches. The front and rear façades are symmetrical, with the front façade having alternating individual and paired two-over-two, double-hung wood sash windows on each floor, thus creating a strong "A-B-A" rhythm; the rear façade has the same style windows. The covered entrance at the first floor level is centered on the façade. An offset utility room with a flat roof, which measures approximately 27 feet by 14 feet, is centered on the rear façade at the ground level. At each end of the building, stair towers extend out from the main massing.

Building No. 1908 is essentially identical in appearance and construction to Buildings No. 1884, 1906, 1908, 1940, 1944, 2028, 2038, 2042, and 2046. Buildings No. 1884 and 1904 have enclosed stair towers like the ones described for Building No. 1908. All the others employ an open fire stair system.

Alterations/Additions

There have been no major additions or alterations made to the exterior of Building No. 1908.

Function

Building No. 1908 was used as a dormitory for unaccompanied airmen.

Significance

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make the Strategic Air Command (SAC) operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became a critical instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations, among the more identifiable of which would be the Airmen Dormitory. Building No. 1908 provided comfortable housing for a specific segment of the military population, and was located in close proximity to the base operational areas, where that population could be ready to go into action at a moment's notice. Toward that end, Building No. 1908 played an important part in the Plattsburgh AFB Cold-War mission.

Drawings

Copies of as-built drawings for Airman Dormitory, Building No. 1908, 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 Base, 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.

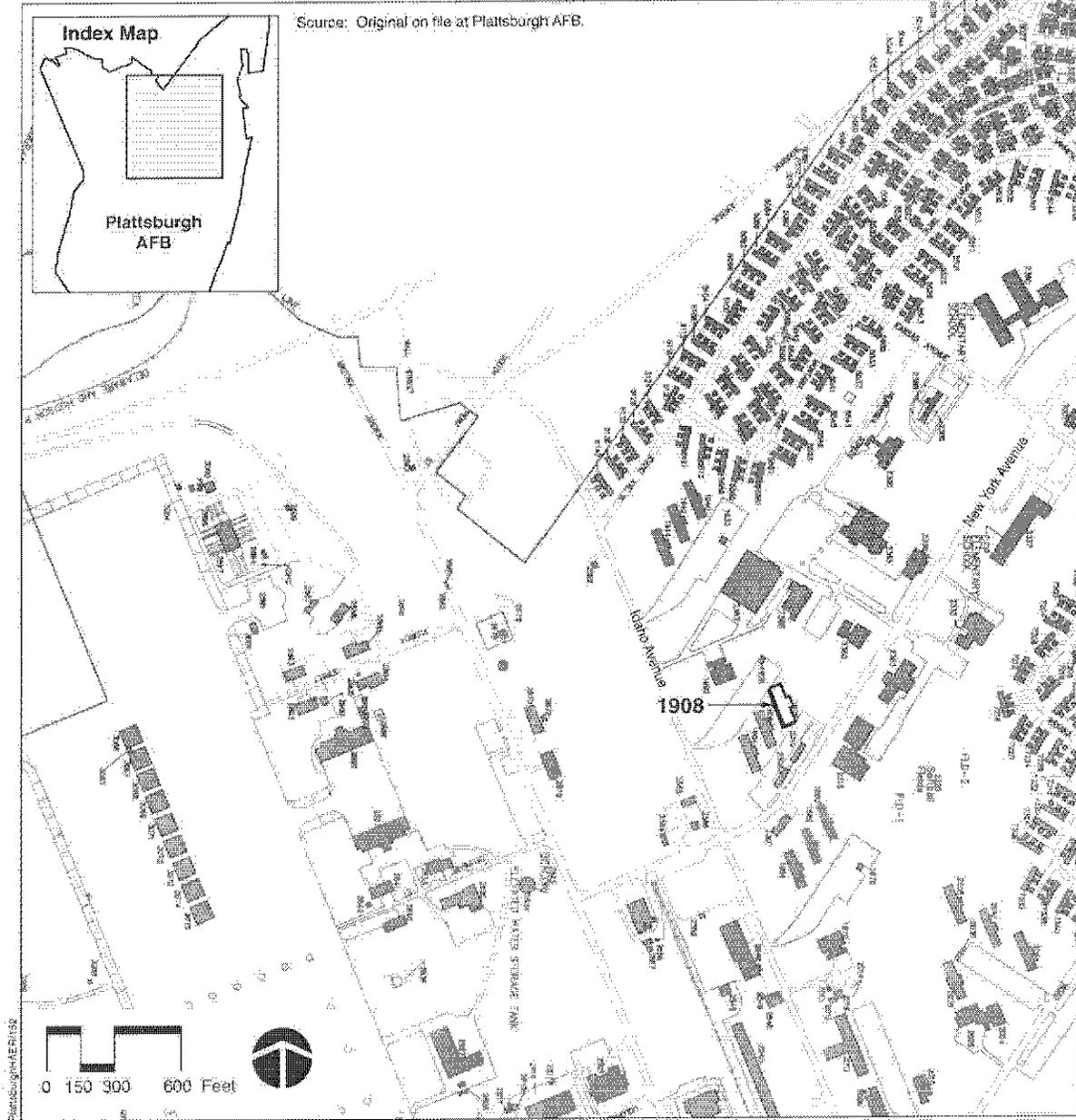
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

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

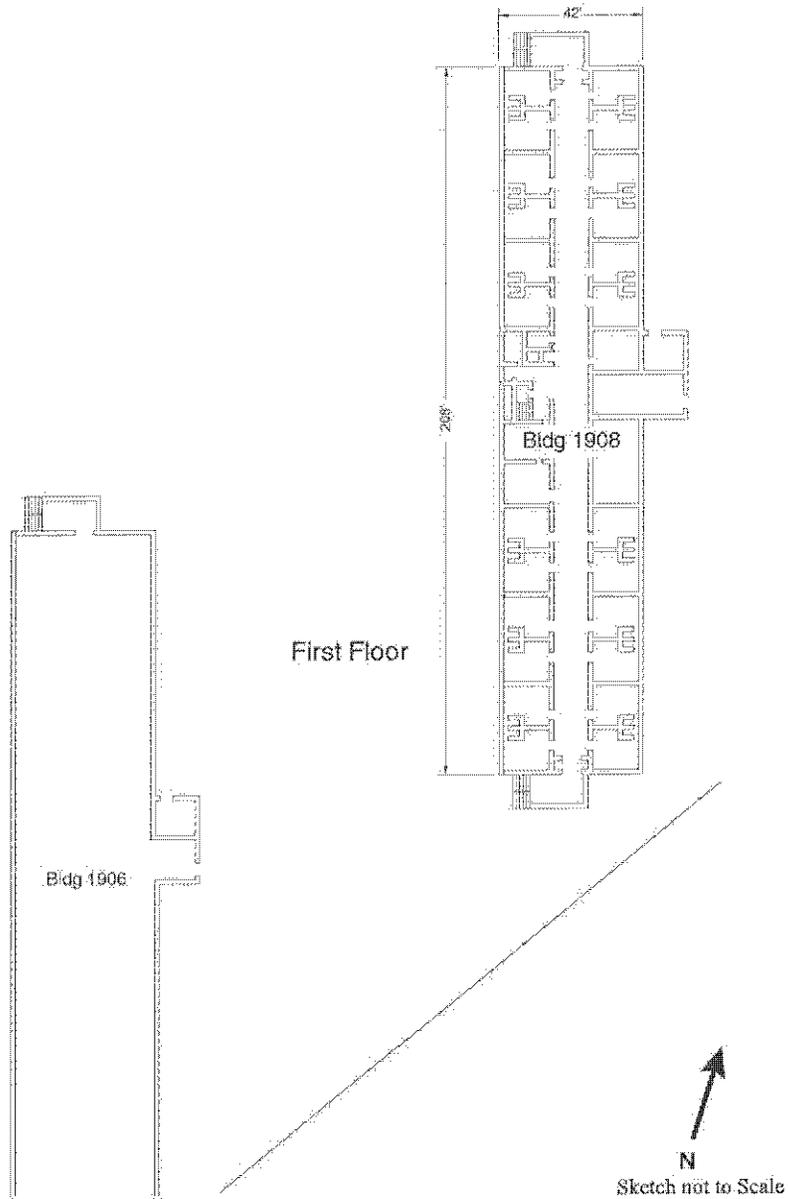
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation, Plattsburgh Air Force Base, New York.* Volumes I and II, June.

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Location Map for Airmen Dormitory, Building No. 1908
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SKETCH PLAN – AIRMEN DORMITORY
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 1908)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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