

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE,
AIRMEN'S DORMITORY
(Building No. 1210)
1339 Ellsworth Street
Black Hawk Vicinity
Meade County
South Dakota

HABS No. SD-21-F

HABS
SD-21-F

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
Great Plains Support Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE
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Location: Ellsworth Air Force Base, 1339 Ellsworth Street, Black Hawk vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota.

Significance: The Airmen's Dormitory possesses a documented historical association with base activities during the early Cold War era, a period of substantial military activity and growth. During this period, Ellsworth Air Force Base became one of the Air Force's major bomber bases, served as a repository for a large portion of the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal, and became home to a nuclear missile wing. The building displays design character reflecting its support role of these national defense functions.

Description: The Airmen's Dormitory is a two-story wood-frame structure. The 182'-6" by 30' building is rectangular in shape, with twin stair towers on the front facade, and a recessed section forming a small courtyard between them. The roof is flat, with a built-up multiple-ply asphalt covering. Exterior siding is non-original steel lap siding except in the recess, which is of vertical metal panels. The plan for each floor is identical. A central dayroom is adjacent to the recess, with central hallways emanating in either direction from it and running the length of the building. Each hallway terminates at an exit. Second floor egress occurs by a staircase from the exit to ground level. There are sixteen dormitory rooms per floor. Arrangement of the enlisted quarters has two rooms sharing a common bath. Only the non-commissioned officer on duty's (NCOD) room has a private bath. Each room has a pair of double-hung windows located on either side of a center mullion. The building also has a full basement with mechanical room, space for laundry facilities, and a large empty space. The foundation is of reinforced concrete. Nonstructural interior basement walls are concrete block.

History: Building 1210 is one of seventeen airmen's dormitories constructed at Ellsworth Air Force Base in 1951. This dormitory typifies the enlisted men's quarters at the base during its buildup of military missions and personnel. The building was constructed originally to house seventy-two men, indicating double occupancy per room. From 1952-88 the building was a primary billet for enlisted personnel. In 1986 the building was committed to Congress for demolition as part of the square footage basis for new dormitories to be constructed at Ellsworth. In 1988 the building received a waiver of exclusion from demolition and became the Wing Headquarters for the 99th Wing. The 99th Headquarters relocated to a new building in 1989, but continued to use Building 1210 for storage and some administrative functions from 1989-92. The building has been vacant since 1993.

Sources: "Real Property Records-Building 1210 Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.." Manuscript Records on file at the Real Property Office, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

Cordray, Cheryl, "Background Info on BLDGS 1110, 1112, 1210, and 606" 1995. Manuscript Records on file at the Real Property Office, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

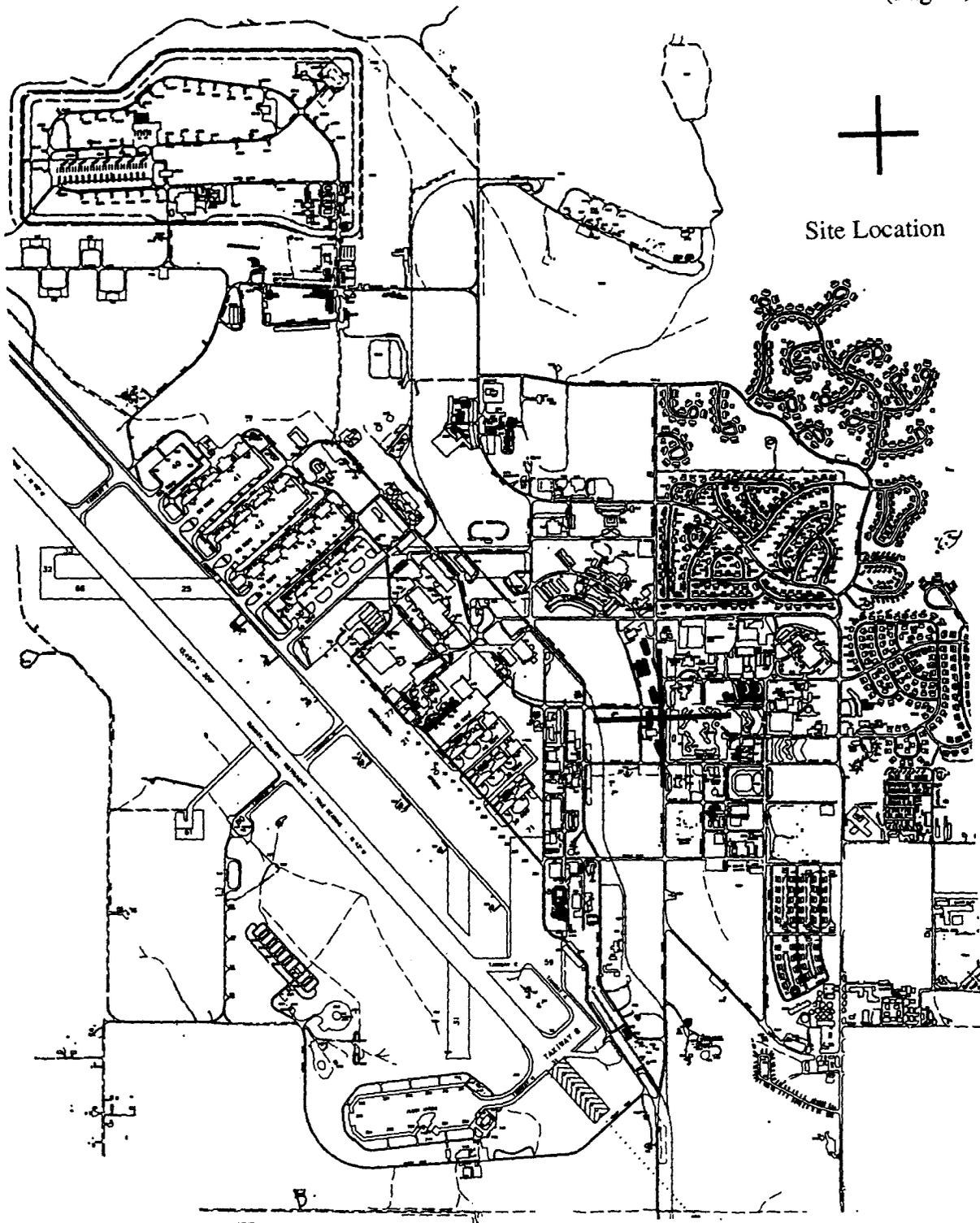
Oral Interview April 18, 1996: Cheryl Cordray, Realty Assistant, 28 CES/CERR, Real Property Office, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

"Construction Documents, Building 1210, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota." Building Plans on file at Maintenance Engineering Office, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

Hufstedler, Mark "Ellsworth Air Force Base Historic Sites Inventory," 1994. Manuscript Records on file at 28 CES/CEVE Office, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

Historian: Kenneth L. Anderson, Historian
Rapid City, South Dakota, June 1996

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ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH DAKOTA
Map on file at Engineering Flight, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.