

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE,  
RUSHMORE AIR FORCE STATION  
BOILER HOUSE  
(Building No. 602)  
Kenney Road  
Black Hawk Vicinity  
Meade County  
South Dakota

HABS No. SD-21-AE

HABS  
SD-21-AE

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**

National Park Service  
Midwest Region  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2571

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE,  
RUSHMORE AIR FORCE STATION  
BOILER HOUSE  
(Building No. 602)

HABS No. SD-21-AE

Location: Ellsworth Air Force Base, Kenney Road, Black Hawk Vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota.<sup>1</sup>

Significance: This building possesses documented historical association with Rushmore Air Force Station, an early 1950s federal storage and maintenance facility for nuclear weapons. The station was a key component in the American strategy defense build-up which occurred during the early years of the Cold War.<sup>2</sup>

Description: Boiler House, Building #602 is a small building that served as a heating plant for adjacent Building #601, Jet Engine Inter Maintenance. Building #602 was built in 1942 as part of the original construction for the Rushmore Air Force Station. The building is one story, of vernacular military style with a rectangular plan form, 27'6" x 35'. Both the foundation and floors are concrete. The exterior walls are wood frame with wood sheathing, asbestos shingle siding, and wood corner trim boards. The roof is a shed roof, decked with A.P.M. Siding Roofing and built up roof membrane. The east wall has 4 nine-light, fixed, industrial metal windows. The north and west walls each have 3 nine-light, fixed, industrial, metal windows. The south wall has 1 nine-light, fixed, industrial, metal window and a hollow metal entrance door with a narrow vertical light. There are two large and three small metal ventilators on the roof.<sup>3</sup> The main room houses two boilers and contains substantial piping and associated boiler components, as well as a pressure relief and sump area approximately 6' below grade. In the main room the I-beam roof support members are visible. Metal catwalks were added to the main room above the boilers in 1963.<sup>4</sup>

In 1951 there was a 34' x 10' x 7' high brick addition constructed on the east side of the building.<sup>5</sup> It has a concrete foundation and roof. The addition has common-bond brick walls with header course every sixth course.<sup>6</sup> The brick addition provides a 7' high storage area which is accessed through two doors of built-up lumber construction.

History: This building was built for a cost of \$7,500.00 and was completed for the Rushmore Air Force Station on September 25, 1942.<sup>7</sup>

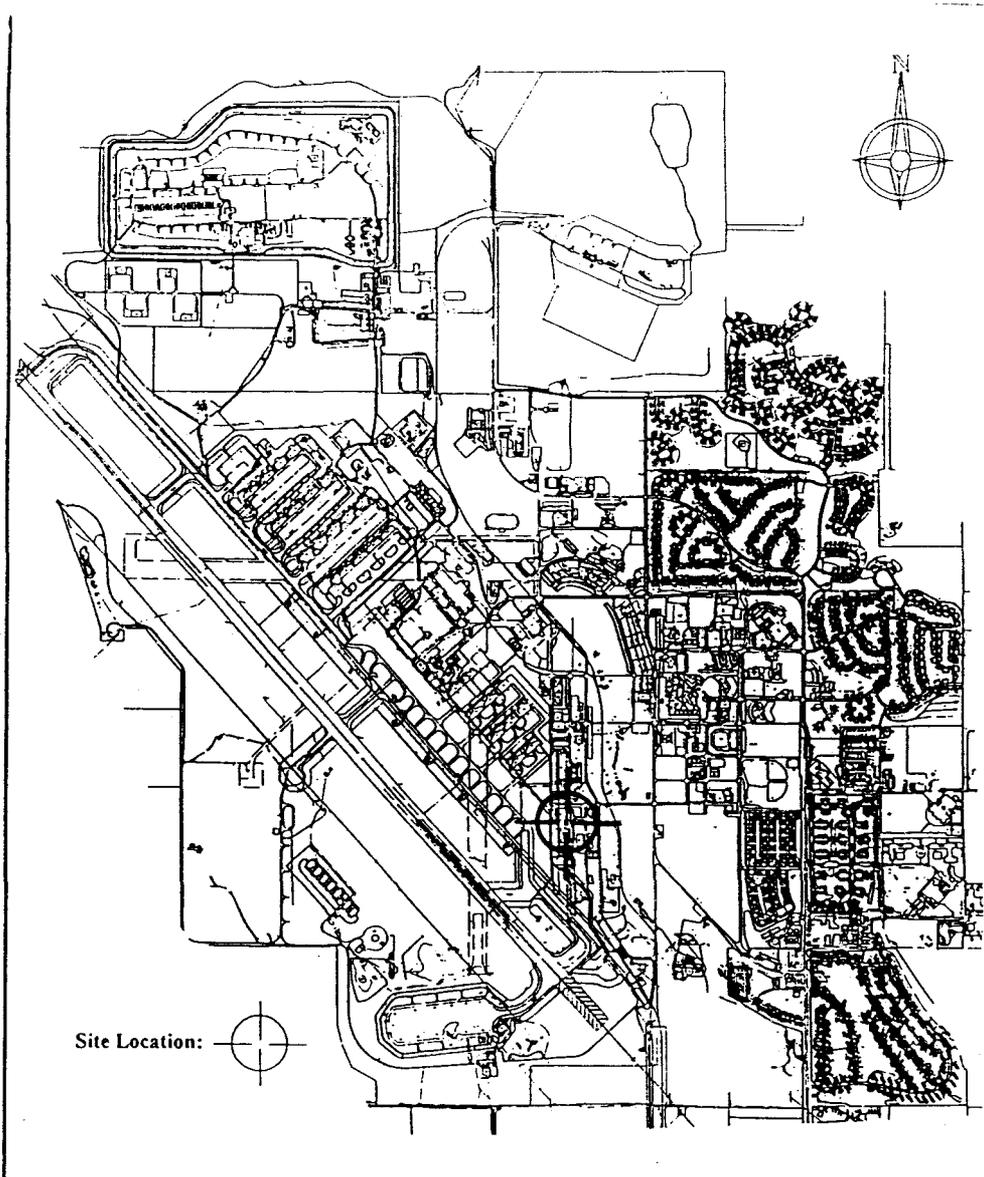
Historian: Lee Geiger, Rapid City, South Dakota, June 2001

Sources: Hufstetler, Mark, "Ellsworth AFB History Sites Inventory", 1994; "Real Property Records-Building 602, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota" Manuscript Records on file at the Real Property Office, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

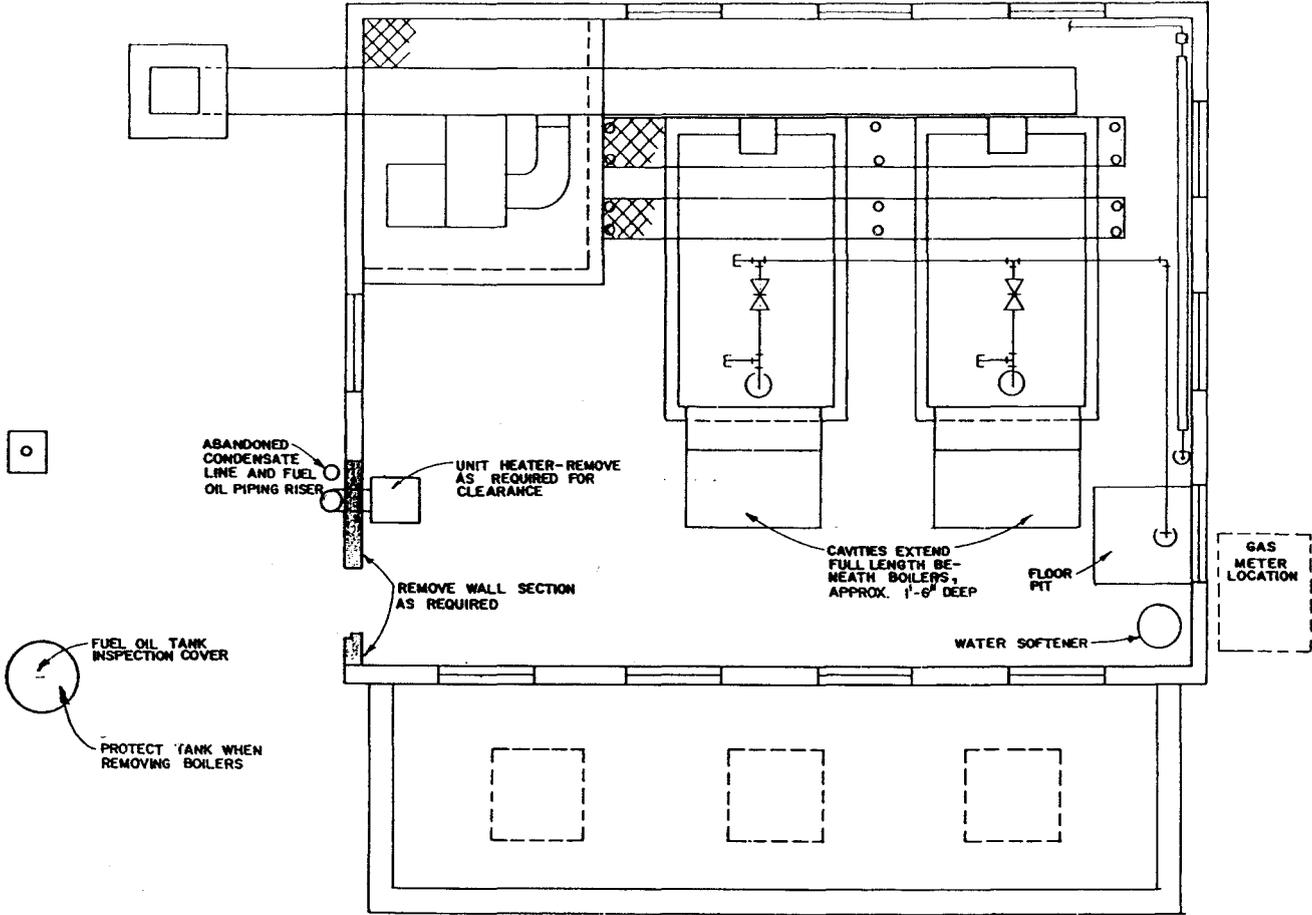
NOTES

- 1 Hufstetler, Mark, "Ellsworth AFB History Sites Inventory", July, 1994
- 2 Ibid
- 3 "Real Property Records-Building 602, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota", Manuscript Records on file at the Real Property Office, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota
- 4 Ibid
- 5 Ibid
- 6 Hufstetler, Mark, "Ellsworth AFB History Sites Inventory", July, 1994
- 7 Ibid

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ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH DAKOTA  
Site Number: PN-EL-EL-00002  
Historic Name: Boiler House  
USAF Facility Number: 602  
USAF Nomenclature: HTG FCLTY BLDG



**EXISTING FLOOR PLAN**

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"