

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,  
CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5061)  
Idaho Avenue North  
Plattsburgh  
Clinton County  
New York

HAER No. NY-326-DE

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-DE

**Location:** Idaho Avenue North, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 180622340.4947840  
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

**Date of Construction:** 1959

**Architect:** Unknown

**Present Owner:** United States Air Force

**Present Use:** Vacant

**Significance:** There are 46 fourplex homes identical to Building No. 5061: Buildings No. 5085, 5089, 5097, 5103, 5111, 5115, 5400, 5404, 5518, 5534, 5538, 5550, 5554, 5558, 5562, 5600, 5604, 5605, 5609, 5613, 6093, 6113, 6401, 6402, 6405, 6406, 6409, 6422, 6426, 7013, 7029, 7103, 7205, 7220, 7224, 7228, 7232, 7308, 7312, 7316, 7320, 7332, 7336, 7340, and 7344. Each provided 6,806-square-feet of Lower and Upper Grade Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), and Company Grade Officer housing.

**Project Information:** Building No. 5061 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (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  
Deborah Dobson-Brown  
Earth Tech, Inc.  
1461 East Cooley Drive  
Colton, CA 92324

### Summary Description of Capehart Four-Family Home (Building No. 5061)

#### **Layout**

Building No. 5061 is a 6,234 square-foot, two-story, wood-frame building with a low-pitched gable roof. Although it is based on the Capehart Four-Family Home design plans, an additional two bay unit was added on the south end of the building. That double bay unit is slightly offset from the four bay one, giving the building a slightly irregular plan. The ground floor level is clad in brick veneer while the upper story is clad in vinyl siding. On the rear, the brick façade is interrupted with a strong entrance/fenestration sequence: set within a painted wood panel inset is an entry door, next to which occurs a Chicago-style window unit (double hung windows flanking a central fixed light picture window). Above this, at the second floor level, the windows reverse the Chicago theme, with narrow fixed glass panels flanking a central double hung window. At the front of the building, roughly two-thirds of the ground level brick façade is again interrupted, this time by 1 foot 3 inch indentation. The recessed area is clad in scored, vertical wood siding, and there is a front entrance door and a double-hung kitchen window in this area. At the upper level, however, the vinyl clad façade continues interrupted, creating a shallow overhang. A single horizontal sliding bathroom window and one of the "reverse" Chicago windows occur at this level on the front façade. At each gabled-end, the façade is punctured by a single, narrow, double hung window centered on the second floor plane.

Within the overall structure, four identical apartments are lined up. An entrance hall leads from the front door directly into a living/dining area, oriented toward the rear of the unit. Opening off the entrance hall is a kitchen, a utility room, and a staircase leading to the second level, where the bedrooms are located.

Each individual unit in the fourplex is essentially a mirror image of the unit(s) flanking it, and the entire structure is built atop a concrete block, chain-wall foundation. At the front of the fourplex, occur two fully detached garages, equally spaced along the façade. Each garage has two stalls and contains 515 square feet of space. These garages are one-story, wood frame construction, clad in scored, vertical wood siding. Each has a low-pitched, gable roof.

#### **Alterations/Additions**

The second story of Building No. 5061 was clad in vinyl siding circa 1985.

#### **Function**

Building No. 5061 provided housing facilities for Lower and Upper Grade NCO, and Company Grade officers and their families.

#### **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 the exceptional instrument in

SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations, among which the more identifiable would be the Capehart Four-Family Home. Building No. 5061 provided comfortable housing for a specific segment of the military population and their families, all within close proximity to the base operational areas, where that population could go into action at a moment's notice. Toward that end, Building No. 5061 played an important part in the Plattsburgh AFB Cold-War mission.

### **Drawings**

Copies of as-built drawings for the Capehart Four-Family Home, Building No. 5061, 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.

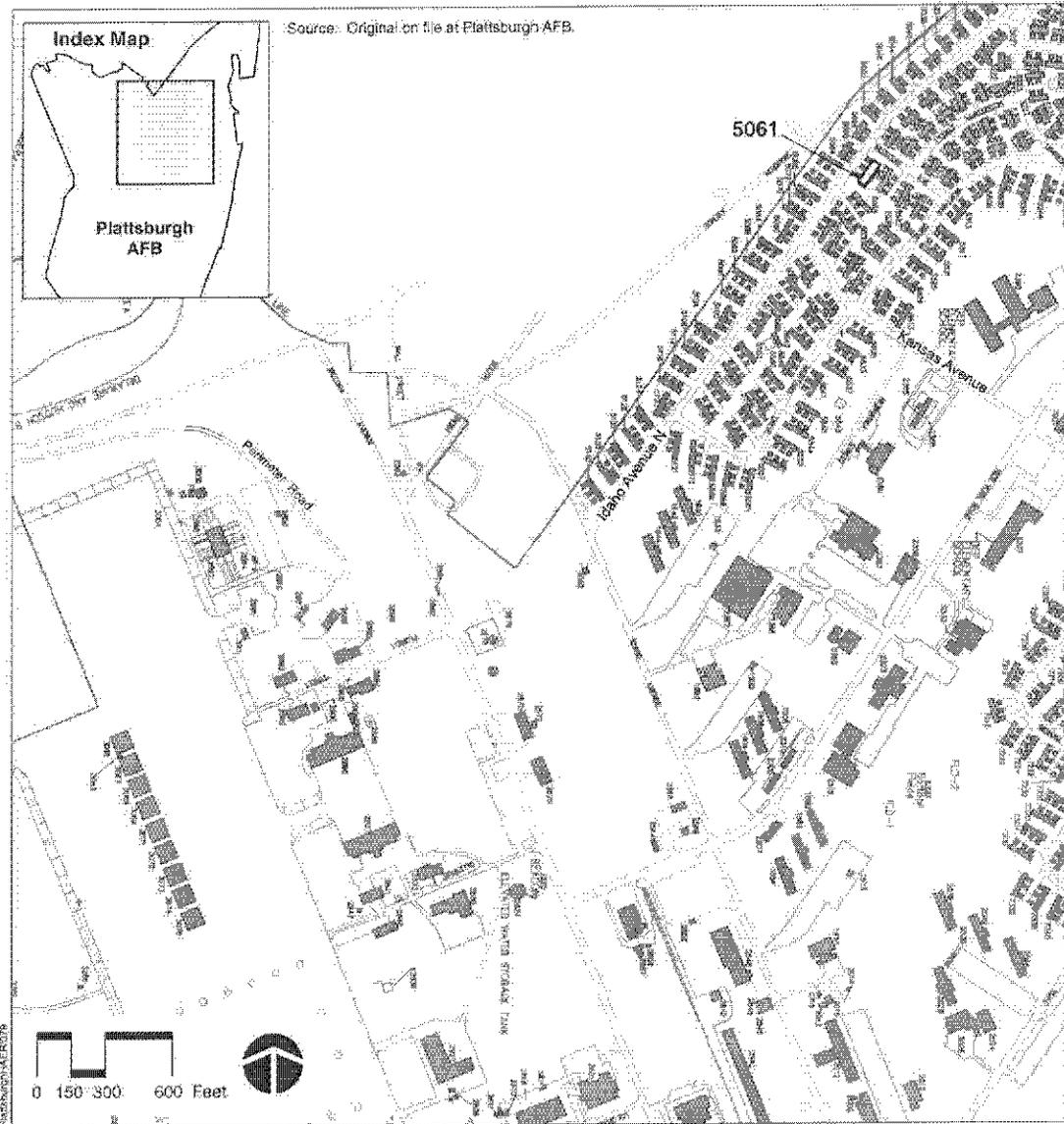
United States Air Force

2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

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

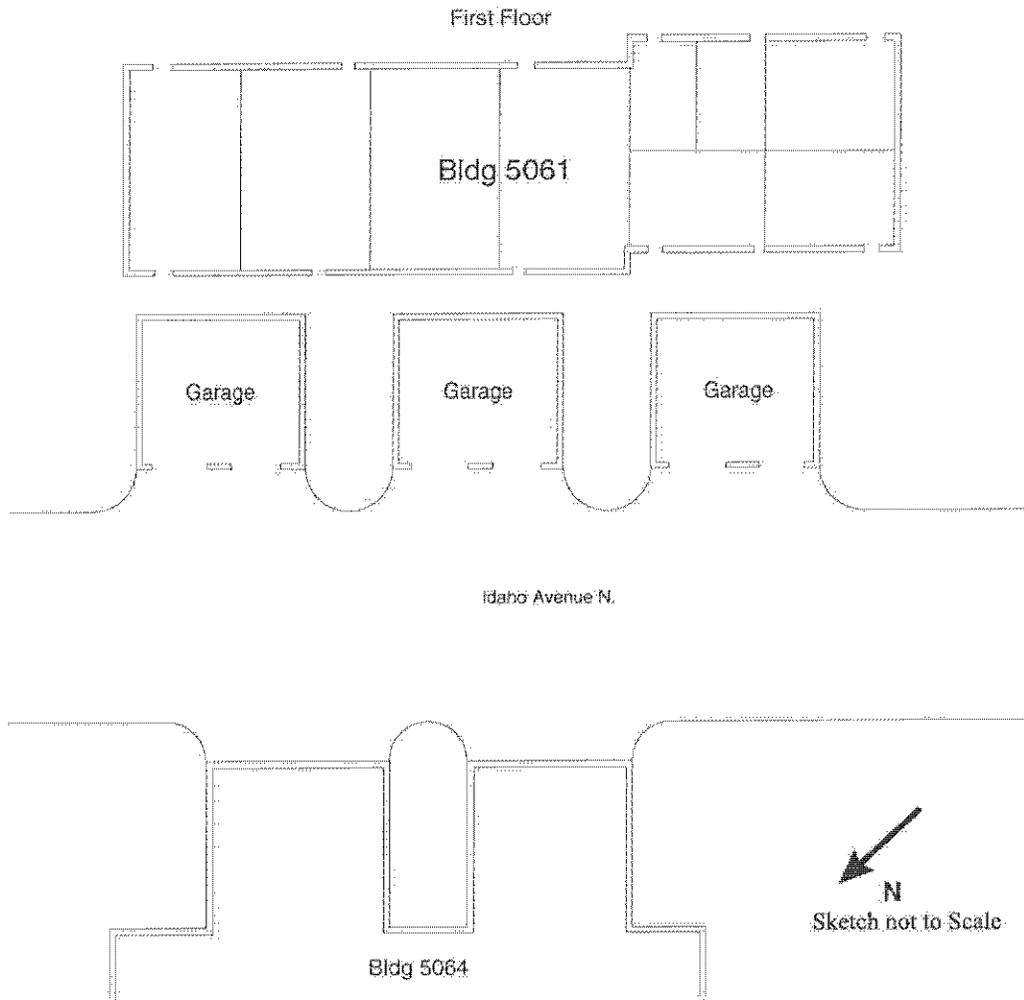
1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York,* Volumes I and II, June.

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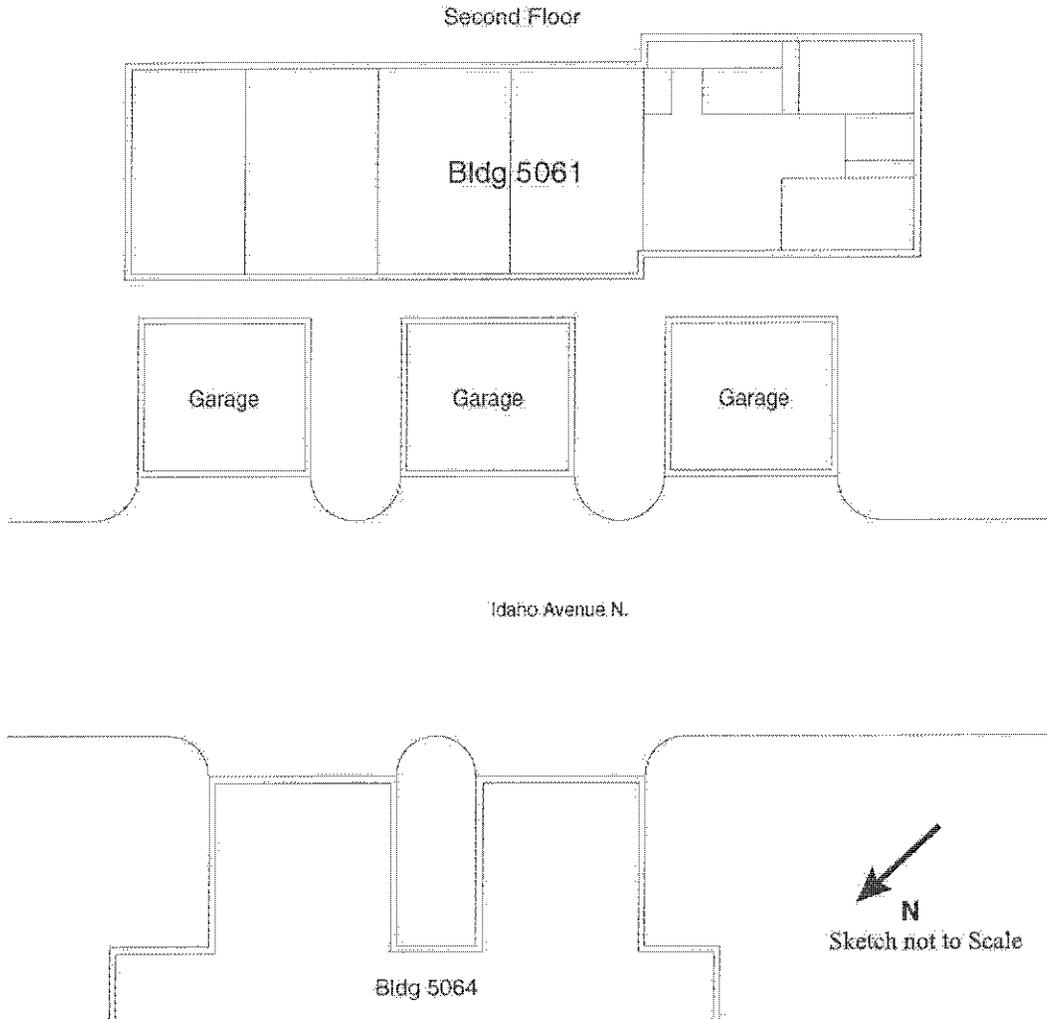
Location Map for Capehart Four-Family Home, Building No. 5061  
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SKETCH PLAN – CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME, FIRST FLOOR  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5061)  
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)  
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SKETCH PLAN – CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME, SECOND FLOOR  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5061)  
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca. 2000)  
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