

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,  
JET ENGINE TEST CELL  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2820)  
Colorado Street  
Plattsburgh  
Clinton County  
New York

HAER No. NY-326-AA

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  
JET ENGINE TEST CELL  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2820)

HAER No. NY-326-AA

**Location:** Colorado Street, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York

UTM: 18.621200.4946720

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

**Date of Construction:** 1969

**Architect/Engineer:** Getter-Green Associates, New Rochelle, NY

**Present Owner:** United States Air Force

**Present Use:** Jet Engine Testing

**Significance:** The Jet Engine Test Cell provided specialized engine test space in support of the Jet Engine Inspection and Repair Shop. The test cell is a reinforced concrete structure used to house thrust bed and test equipment designed to test-run the engines repaired at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB).

**Project Information:** Building No. 2820 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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Colton, CA 92324

Summary Description of Jet Engine Test Cell (Building No. 2820)

**Layout**

Building No. 2820 is a 3,472 square-foot building constructed of concrete and concrete block. The building has an irregular plan and is built atop a concrete foundation. The building measures 26'-0" x 67'-6", and is divided into three sections. The south end of the building is an air intake shaft. This rectangular shaft is approximately two-stories tall and is topped with a wire mesh cage. An overhead garage door is centered on its south façade and denotes where engines enter the test facility. Directly in front of this door is a freestanding metal frame with a hoist to lift engines. To the north of the intake shaft is a one-story, flat roof section. This section contains the test cell, a control room and machine room; a one-story, shed roof offset is located on its west façade, and two additions and a cooling tank off its east façade. To the north of the test cell section is the exhaust shaft. This rectangular shaft is slightly shorter than the intake shaft.

The interior has a control room with computerized testing equipment; a window is located on the west wall of this room that looks directly into the test cell. The test cell contains a thrust bed, engine testing equipment, and a large metal funnel that directs exhaust to the exhaust shaft.

**Alterations/Additions**

The east façade has several additions: in 1975, a one-story 12'-0" x 12'-0" concrete block addition with a hipped roof was constructed off the control room. Another addition was constructed in 1980 just north of the 1975 addition, abutting the machine room. This one-story concrete block addition has a shed roof. The intake shaft has recently been capped with a wire mesh cage to prevent birds and debris from entering the building. The computerized testing equipment in the control room was recently replaced (circa 1996) when the building was leased to Wood Group Aero, Inc.

**Function**

Building No. 2820 was continuously used as a facility for the testing and inspection of repaired jet engines prior to installation/reinstallation into aircraft.

**Significance**

Building No. 2820 is a highly specialized property type required in support of jet engine inspection and repair shops. As such, it is a common property type found at most air base facilities and it was critical to supporting the overall Strategic Air Command mission of having bomber aircraft ready to fly at a moment's notice.

**Sources**

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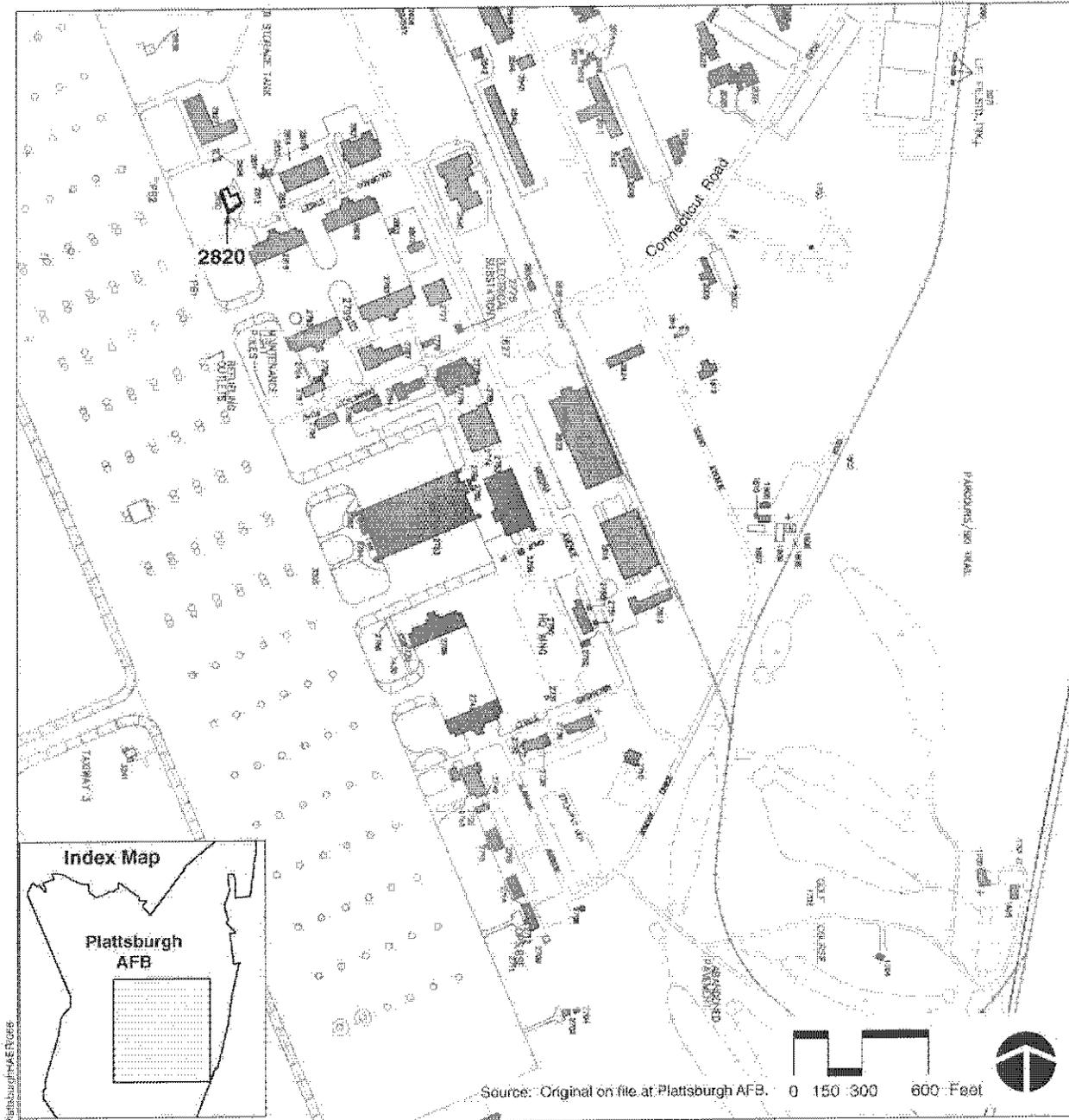
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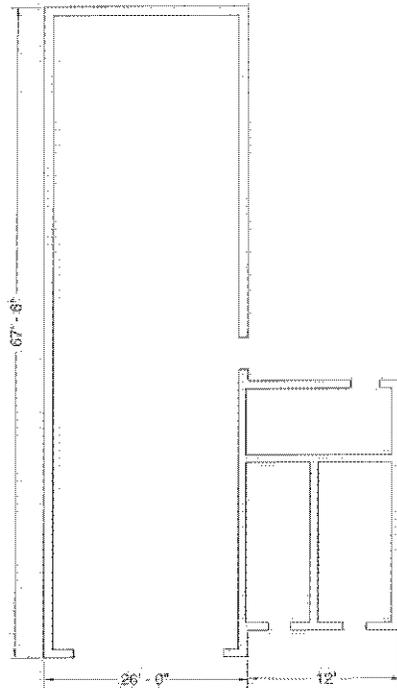
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Location Map for Jet Engine Test Cell, Building No. 2820  
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Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN—JET ENGINE TEST CELL  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2820)  
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)  
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