

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE,  
RECREATION BUILDING  
(Building No. 3501)  
1190 Chennault Street  
Black Hawk Vicinity  
Meade County  
South Dakota

HABS No. SD-21-AA

HABS  
SD-21-AA

**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 RECREATION BUILDING (Building No. 3501)

HABS No. SD-21-AA

Location: Ellsworth Air Force Base, 1190 Chennault Street, Black Hawk Vicinity, Meade County, South Dakota.<sub>1</sub>

Significance: Ellsworth AFB performed a significant role as a flight training facility during the war, and the base as a whole is reflective of the American military buildup necessitated by WWII. As part of Ellsworth Air Force Base's initial construction in 1942, the Recreation Building is a prime example of the design and materials used in period American military construction. This building continued to be used by the base during the Cold War era beginning in the late 1940s, thus gaining additional significance.<sub>2</sub>

Description: The Recreation Building is a one-story with a partial basement, wood-framed building with exterior wall cladding of non-historic, horizontal metal siding. The vernacular military style building has an "L" floor plan. The building's main entrance is on the west wall of the south wing. The general window style is 1/1 double-hung wood. The roof form is gable with asphalt shingles. As new uses have been applied to the building, the original plan has been modified over time using modern wall configurations and materials, and suspended ceilings. The foundation material of the building is concrete block.<sub>3</sub>

The north portion of this building was constructed in 1942, while the south wing was constructed in 1953. The south wing was constructed with a basement which includes mechanical, toilet, and classroom spaces.<sub>4</sub>

The building's roof is without eaves, typical of the military style construction of that era.<sub>5</sub>

History: This building, built for a cost of \$16,127.00 was built as a Recreation Building in 1942. The south wing of the building was completed in 1953 at a cost of \$76,404.00. There are no notes in the records on the kinds of recreational activities that were held in the building nor the groups served by the facility. Although other recreation facilities were built on the base at a later date, Ellsworth AFB's close proximity to Rapid City allowed military personnel access to a wider

variety of recreational activities than were available on the base. Subsequent uses have been as a Youth Center, Service Club, Leadership School and an Education Center. The building is currently used for cold storage. As the cost to renovate the building exceeds the Life Cycle Cost Analysis limit of 70% on new construction, the building is slated for demolition. 6

Historian: Lee Geiger, Rapid City, South Dakota, April, 1999

Sources: File of blueprints and construction drawings, maintained at the Ellsworth AFB Maintenance Engineering Office

Hufstetler, Mark and McCormick, Mary, et al., draft, "Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota: Statement of Historic Contexts", Renewable Technologies Inc., Butte, Montana, November, 1996

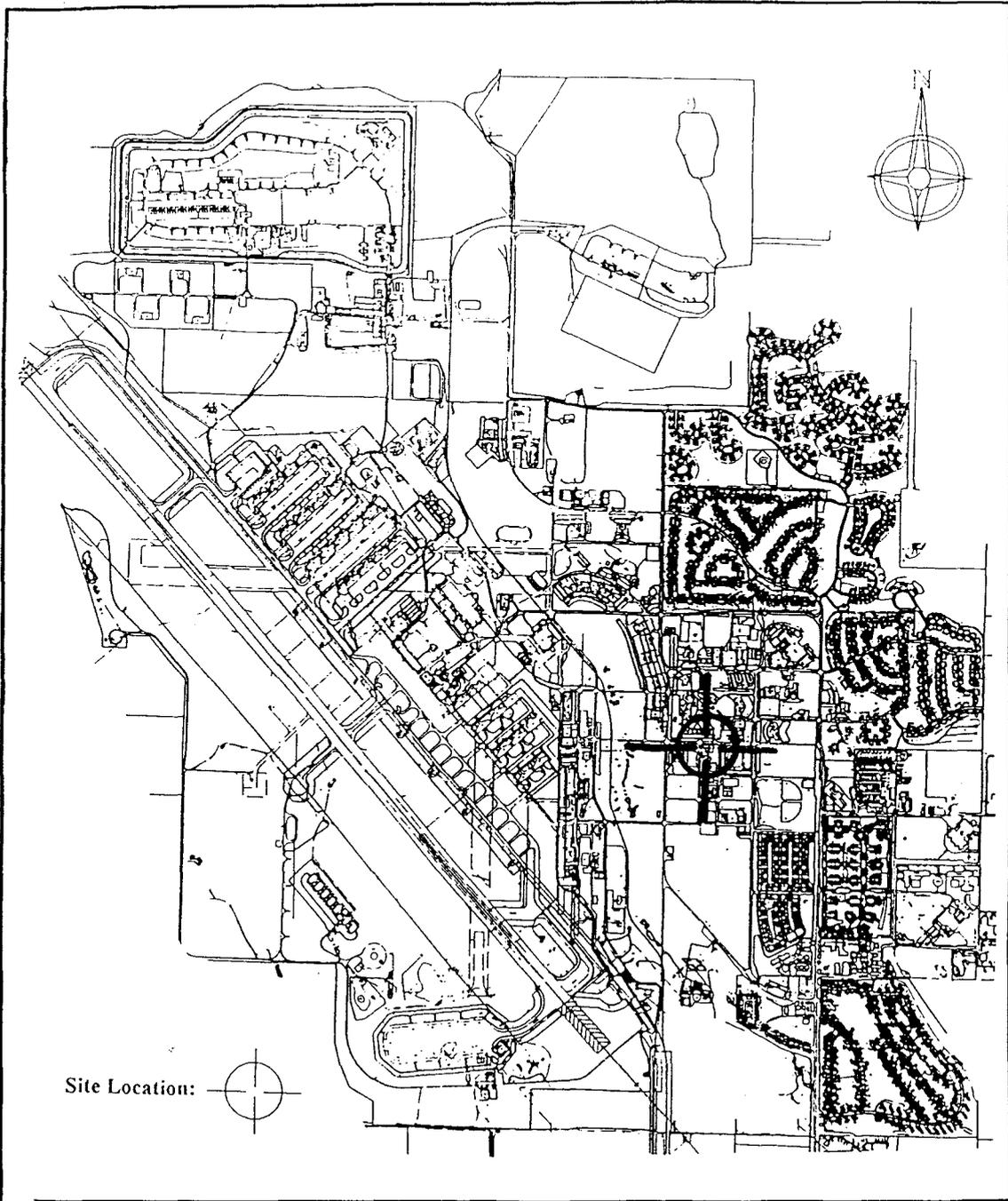
Hufstetler, Mark, "Ellsworth AFB History Sites Inventory", 1994

"Real Property Records-Building 3501, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota" Manuscript Records on file at the Real Property Office, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

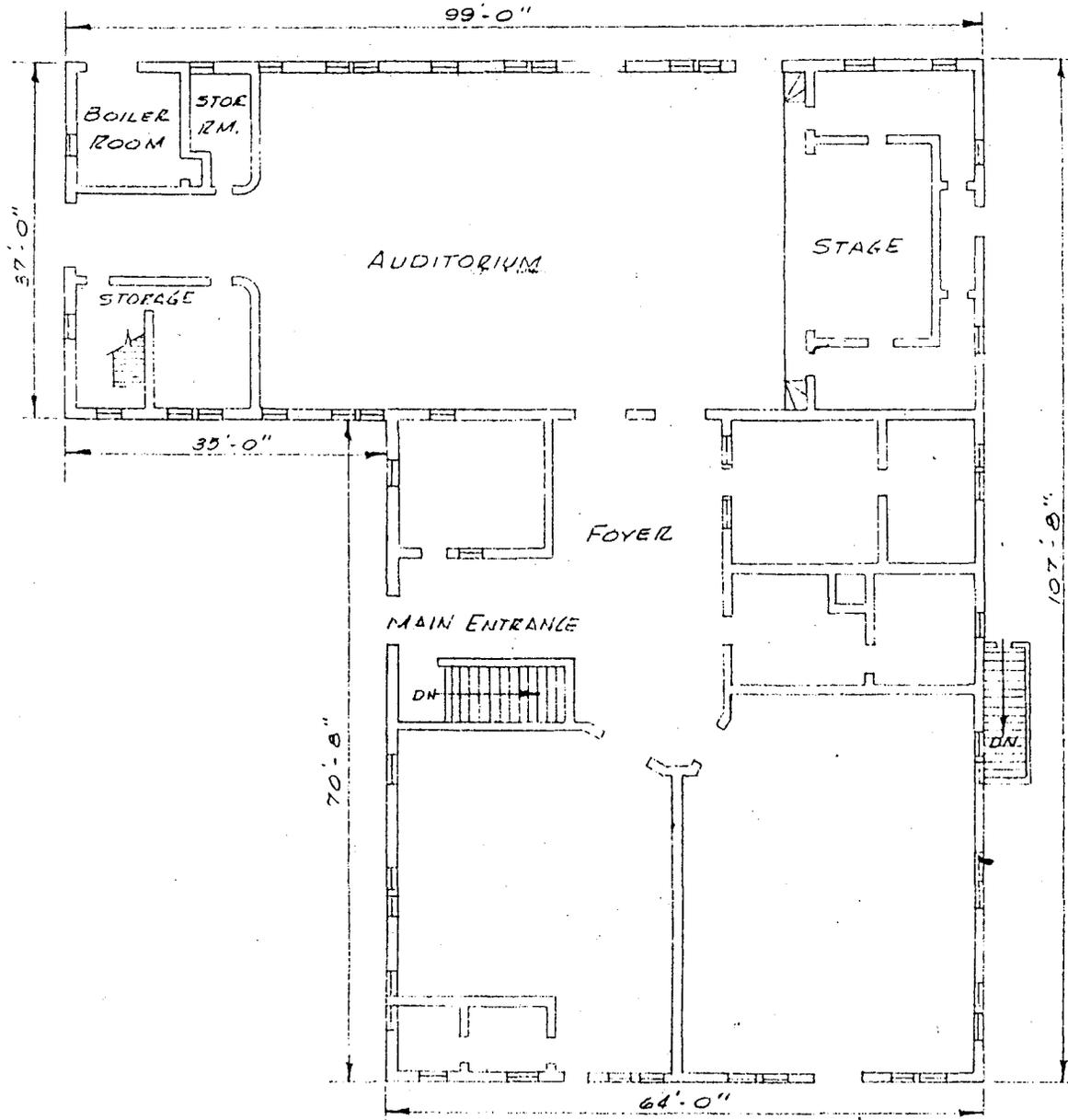
NOTES

- 1 Hufstetler, Mark, "Ellsworth AFB History Sites Inventory", July, 1994
- 2 Hufstetler, Mark, and McCormick, Mary, et al, draft, "Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, Statement of Historic Contexts," Renewable Technologies Inc., Butte, Montana, November, 1995, Pages 42-43; Hufstetler, Mark, "Ellsworth AFB History Sites Inventory", July, 1994
- 3 Hufstetler, Mark, "Ellsworth AFB History Sites Inventory", July, 1994. File of blueprints and construction drawings, maintained at the Ellsworth AFB Maintenance Engineering Office
- 4 Hufstetler, Mark, "Ellsworth AFB History Sites Inventory", July, 1994.
- 5 Ibid
- 6 "Real Property Records-Building 3501, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota", Manuscript Records on file at the Real Property Office, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota

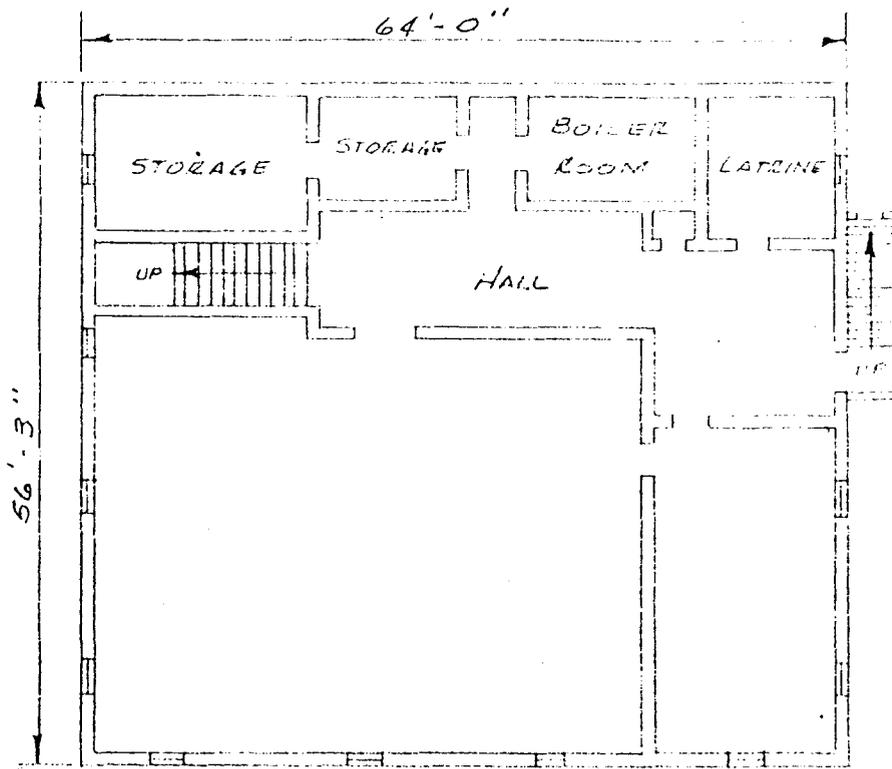
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ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH DAKOTA  
Site Number: MD-EL-EL-00023  
Historic Name: Recreation Building  
USAF Facility Number: 3501  
NUSAF Nomenclature: CO PROF EDUCATION CEN

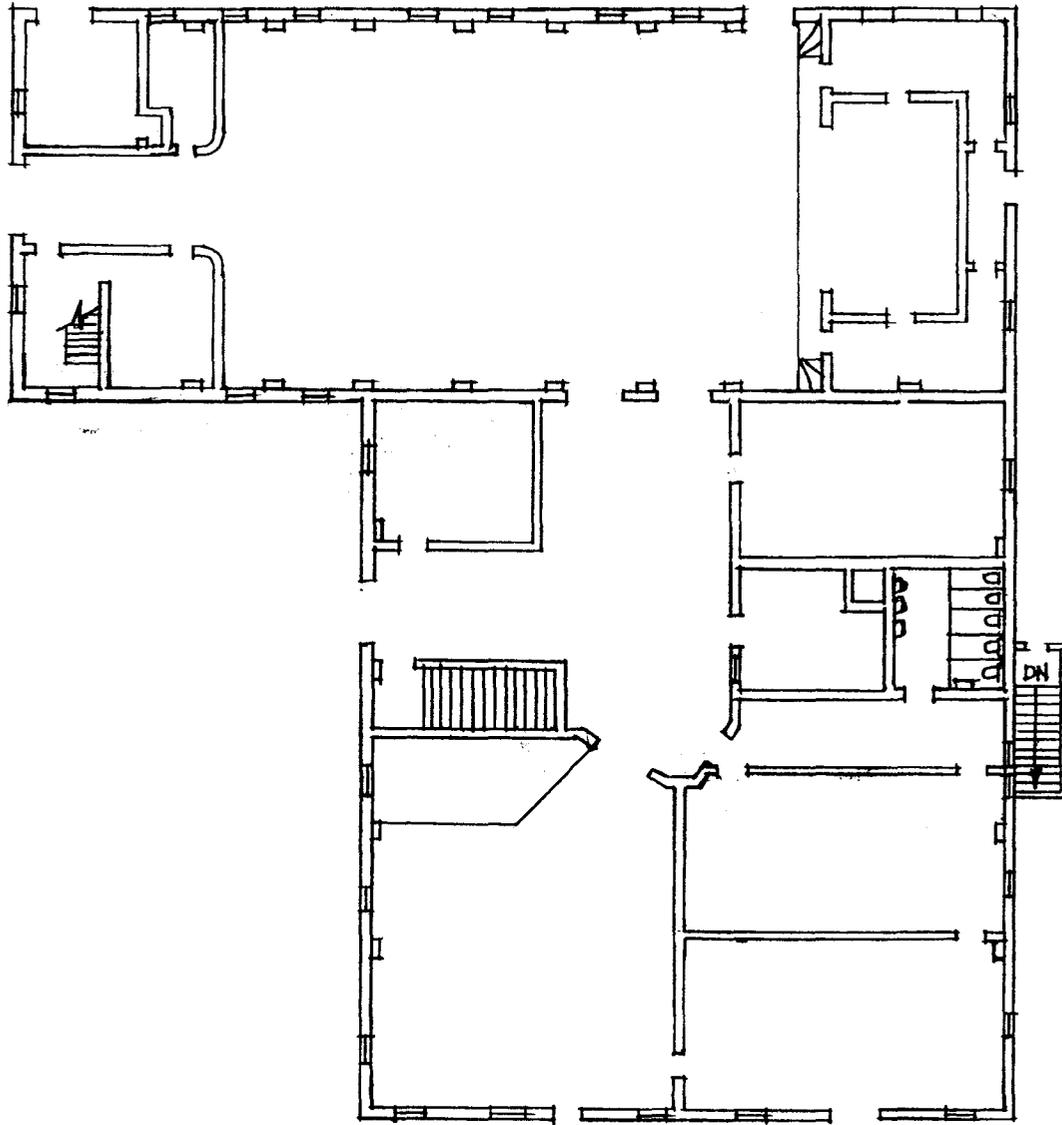


FIRST FLOOR PLAN BLDG 3501  
SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"

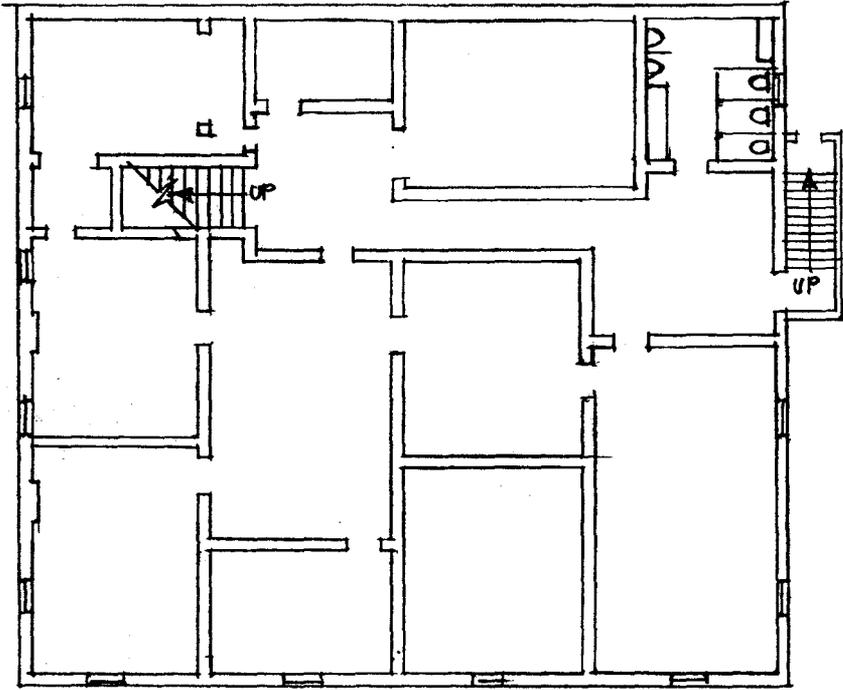


BASEMENT PLAN BLDG 3501  
SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"

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Recreation Building  
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CURRENT FIRST FLOOR BLDG. 3501



CURRENT BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN  
BLDG 3501