



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Pat McCrory  
Secretary Susan Kluttz

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

March 24, 2016

W. Dean Chastain  
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1095 Peterson Avenue  
SJAFB, NC 27531

[william.chastain@us.af.mil](mailto:william.chastain@us.af.mil)

Re: Determination of Eligibility for 7 Buildings, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Wayne County,  
ER 16-0461

Dear Mr. Chastain:

Thank you for your email of March 9, 2016, concerning the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the materials submitted and offer the following comments.

The *NRHP Evaluation of Seven Buildings at Seymour Johnson AFB (SJAFB) Using the National Register Bulletin: "How to apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation"* seemed to rely heavily upon the NRHP evaluation of Buildings 5015, 2130 and 4828 report our office reviewed in July 2015. While the 2015 report offered thorough documentation, including historic and current photographs of the properties in question, the 2016 report does not include photographs of the properties under evaluation. Without photographs demonstrating the current condition of the properties, it is difficult to properly evaluate their integrity.

It appears the properties were evaluated based on their associations with Cold War missions and activities, which are classified as "temporal." Does this mean the properties lack a direct relationship to significant Cold War events? Prior to offering further comments, we request the following information:

- Photographs demonstrating the current condition of the properties being evaluated for listing in the NRHP
- A clearer explanation of why the properties are considered "not eligible" for listing in the NRHP. What is meant by "temporal" and are the buildings only being evaluated for their association with the Cold War?

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-807-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

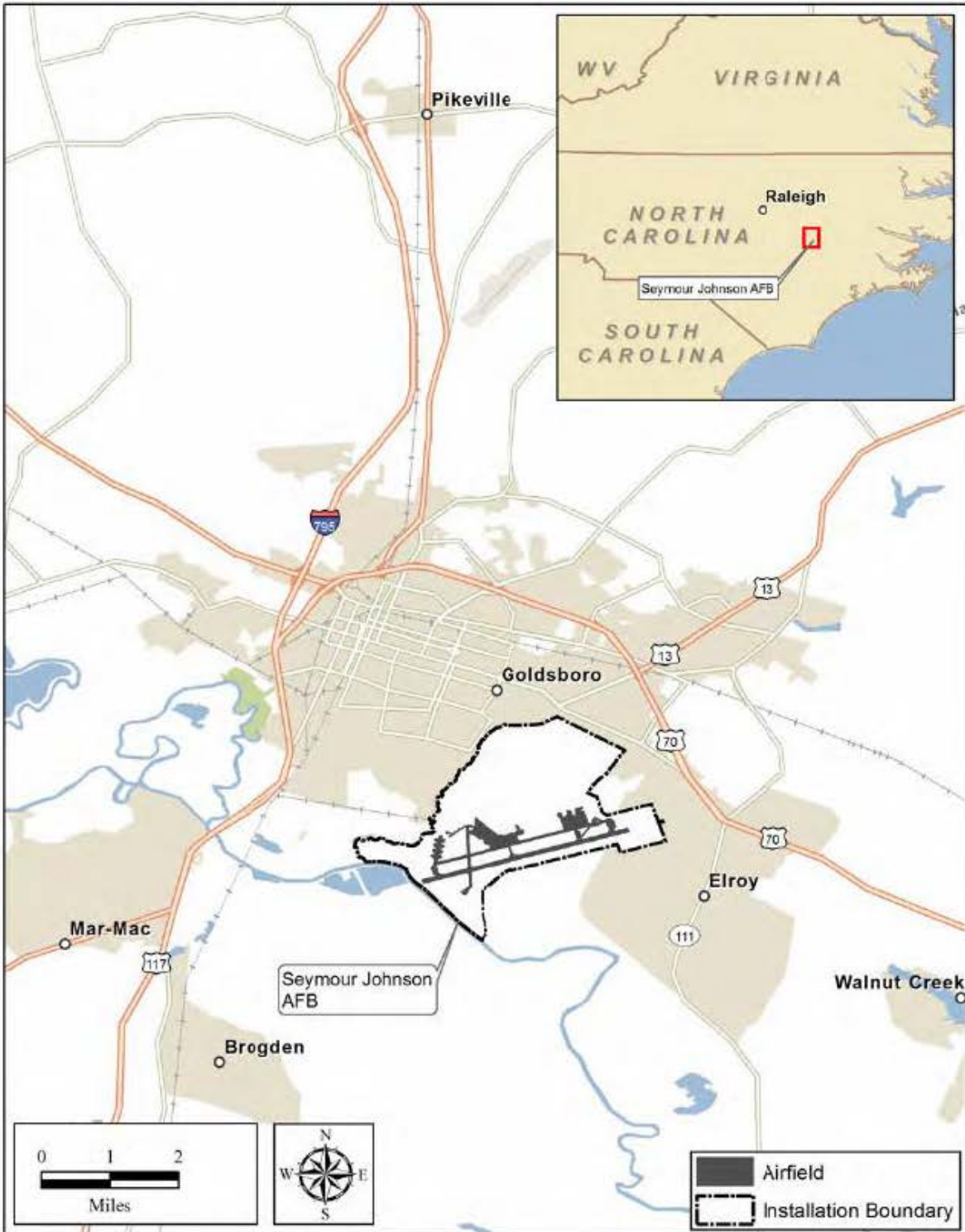


 Ramona M. Bartos

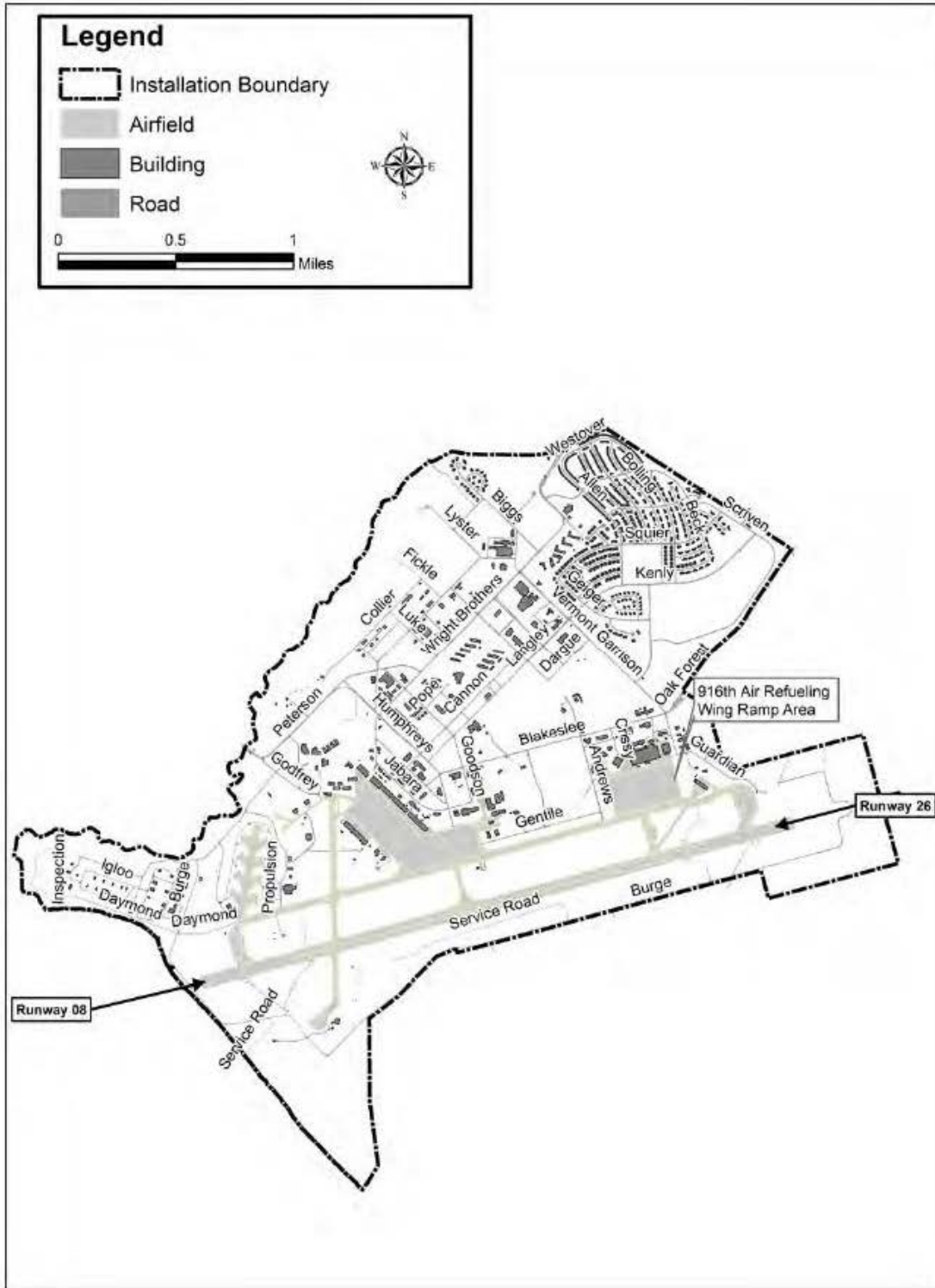
**NRHP EVALUATION OF SEVEN BUILDINGS  
AT SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB (SJAFB)  
USING THE *NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN*:  
*“How to apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation”***

**March 2016**

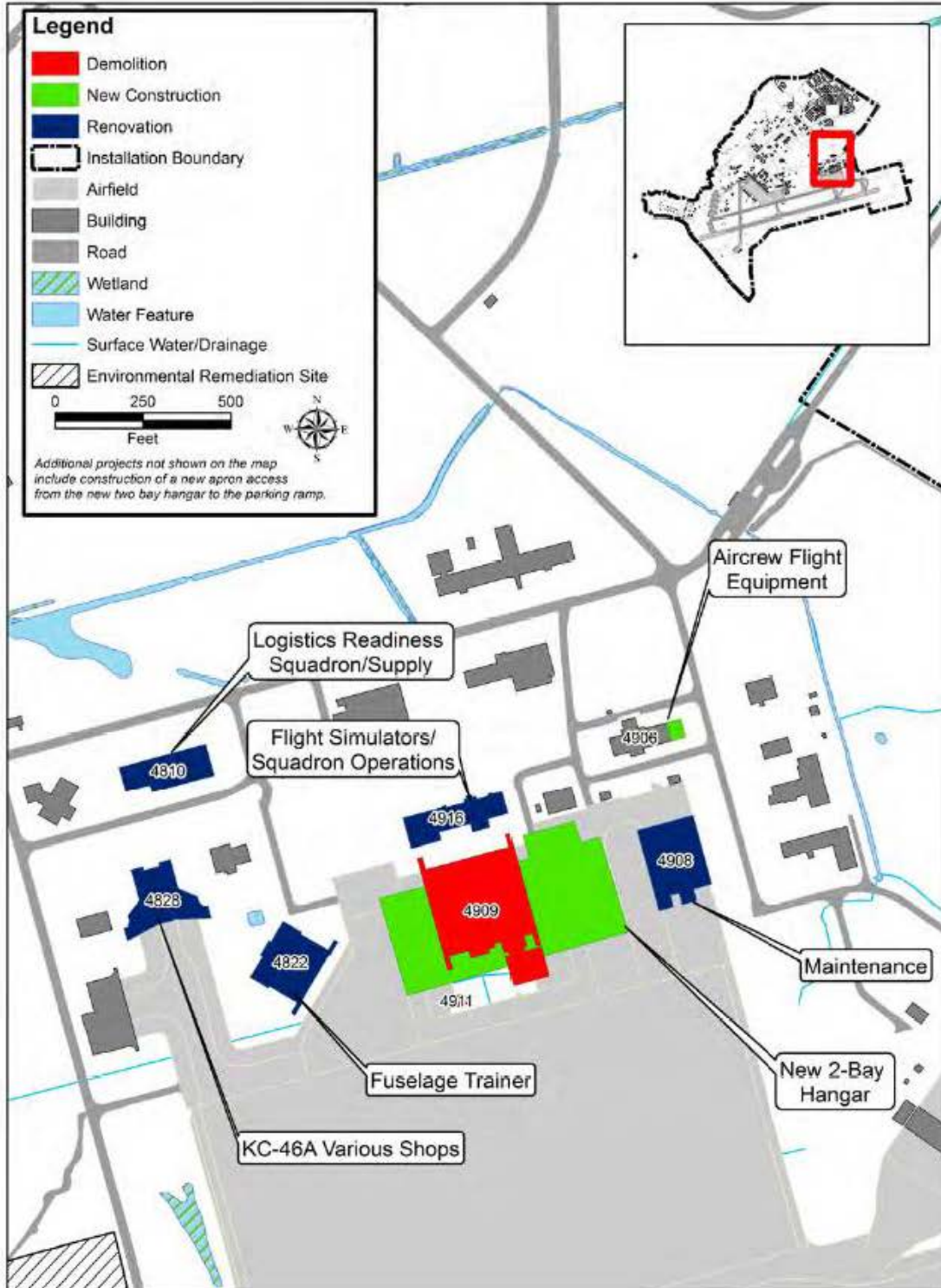
# SJAFB General Location Map



# SJAFB Expanded View



# Proposed Construction and Demolition



## **Purpose**

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with information necessary to determine the eligibility for listing, in the NRHP, of seven buildings at SJAFB. The determination is necessary because the buildings would be impacted by construction required for a proposed new mission.

## **Buildings Included in the Evaluation**

The building numbers (see location maps previous pages), original dates of construction, original use, and the proposed actions for the anticipated new mission are:

- Bldg 4822 – 2009, corrosion control hangar, renovation
- Bldg 4911 – 1986, electric switch gear and transformer building, demolition
- Bldg 4916 – 2009, flight simulator, renovation
- Bldg 4810 – 1962, engine inspection and repair, renovation
- Bldg 4906 – 1957, ejection system storage and assembly, renovation/addition
- Bldg 4908 – 1957, general purpose maintenance shop and warehouse, renovation
- Bldg 4909 – 1957, aircraft maintenance hangar, demolition

## **Buildings 4822, 4911, and 4916 Evaluation**

We believe that buildings 4822, 4911, and 4916 do not qualify for listing in the NRHP for the following reasons:

- A. They are not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. All three were constructed after, or at the end of, the Cold War, and they played no role in that period of our history.
- B. They are not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. They do not embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor do they represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value, nor do they represent a significant distinguishable entity. They are merely examples of standard and common engineering and construction of the late twentieth and early twenty-first century.
- D. They have not yielded, and are not likely to yield information important to prehistory or history.

Because buildings 4822, 4911, and 4916 are less than 50 years old and do not demonstrate significance under criteria A-D, they also do not exemplify “exceptional importance” under criterion G.

### **Previous SHPO Determination of Eligibility for Listing**

In August 2006, NC SHPO concurred with the determinations by Geo-Marine Inc. (Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Historic Evaluation Buildings 5015, 2130, 4828, June 2006) that Buildings 5015 and 2130 were eligible for listing under Criterion A because of their significant association with the Cold War bomber and fighter alert missions, and under Criterion C because their historic integrity had not been compromised by significant structural and material modifications.

However, Building 4828 was determined to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP, because under Criterion A, the building had only a temporal relationship and not a significant relationship to the Cold War, and under Criterion C, the building had been added to, renovated, and modified. Geo-Marine also pointed out that hangars and maintenance buildings do not normally qualify because, "In general, they are a property type that would have existed with or without the Cold War, and like other common property types, are not directly related to an important Cold War mission." (See Attachment 2, Page 137 of Geo-Marine evaluation, with August 29, 2006 SHPO letter).

Please note that Building 4828 would also be impacted by the proposed new mission, but because of SHPO's previous determination, Building 4828 will not be discussed further in this document.

### **Building 4810 Evaluation**

Building 4810 was constructed in 1962, and was used as an Engine Inspection and Repair Shop. The building footprint was originally 16,220 square feet (see Attachment 3) with corrugated metal roof and siding (see Attachment 4).

We believe that Building 4810 does not qualify for listing in the NRHP for the following reasons:

- A. Because Building 4810 was used as an engine inspection and repair shop, it has only a temporal relationship to significant missions and activities of the Cold War, specifically, the important SAC alert mission conducted at SJAFB. Therefore, Building 4810 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion A.
- B. Building 4810 is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Therefore, Building 4810 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion B.
- C. Building 4810 has undergone several modifications that have compromised any historical integrity it may have possessed. The entire roof and exterior walls were replaced in 2007 (see Attachment 5). Also, a 9,300 square foot addition to Building 4810 was constructed in 2007 (see Attachment 6). Because of the modifications, Building 4810 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion C.



- D. Building 4810 has not yielded, and is not likely to yield information important to prehistory or history. Therefore, Building 4810 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion D.

### **Building 4906 Evaluation**

Building 4906 was constructed in 1957, and was used as a Ready Rocket Storage and Assembly Shop. The name of the shop is more ominous than its actual purpose. The shop stored and assembled ejection systems for aircraft. The ejection systems required cartridge-like thrusters to project various parts of the aircraft (hatches, seats, etc.) away from the main fuselage when necessary. There was no storage of what most people commonly think of as rockets. The building footprint was originally 9,100 square feet (see Attachment 7) with concrete masonry unit walls (see Attachment 8).

We believe that Building 4906 does not qualify for listing in the NRHP for the following reasons:

- A. Because Building 4906 was used as a Ready Rocket Storage and Assembly Shop as described above, it has only a temporal relationship to significant missions and activities of the Cold War, specifically, the important SAC alert mission conducted at SJAFB. Therefore, Building 4906 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion A.
- B. Building 4906 is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Therefore, Building 4906 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion B.
- C. Building 4906 has undergone several modifications that have compromised any historical integrity it may have possessed. The exterior walls were coated with stucco and most exterior doors and windows were modified/replaced in 1990 (see Attachment 9). Because of the exterior modifications, Building 4906 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion C.
- D. Building 4906 has not yielded, and is not likely to yield information important to prehistory or history. Therefore, Building 4906 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion D.

### **Building 4908 Evaluation**

Building 4908 originated as Building T-1, which was constructed in 1942 and used as a maintenance hangar. T-1's original floor plan and footprint are unknown. At least some portions of T-1 were demolished and the remainder was dismantled in 1957. The demolition, dismantling, and relocation of salvaged parts compromised any historical integrity that T-1 may have possessed. Therefore, T-1 will not be discussed further in this document. Building 4908 was constructed more than a mile east of the T-1 site using the salvaged parts and new/additional materials. Building 4908 was used as a General Purpose Maintenance Shop and Warehouse. The building footprint was originally 33,000

square feet (see Attachment 10 for T-1 relocation & 4908 Original Floor Plan & Dimensions) with built-up roofing and corrugated cement-asbestos siding (see Attachment 11).

We believe that Building 4908 does not qualify for listing in the NRHP for the following reasons:

- A. Because Building 4908 was used as a general purpose maintenance shop and warehouse, it has only a temporal relationship to significant missions and activities of the Cold War, specifically, the important SAC alert mission conducted at SJAFB. Therefore, Building 4908 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion A.
- B. Building 4908 is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Therefore, Building 4908 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion B.
- C. Building 4908 has undergone several modifications that have compromised any historical integrity it may have possessed including replacing the roofing with standing seam metal roofing in 1998 (see Attachment 12) and three exterior additions totaling more than 7,100 square feet in 2003 and 2007 (see Attachment 13). Because of these modifications to the exterior, and several interior modifications, Building 4908 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion C.
- D. Building 4908 has not yielded, and is not likely to yield information important to prehistory or history. Therefore, Building 4908 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion D.

### **Building 4909 Evaluation**

Building 4909 was constructed in 1957, and was used as an Aircraft Maintenance Hangar. The building footprint was originally 65,000 square feet (see Attachment 14) with a flat built-up roof and corrugated cement-asbestos siding.

We believe that Building 4909 does not qualify for listing in the NRHP for the following reasons:

- A. Because Building 4909 was used as an aircraft maintenance hangar, it has only a temporal relationship to significant missions and activities of the Cold War, specifically, the important SAC alert mission conducted at SJAFB. Therefore, Building 4909 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion A.
- B. Building 4909 is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Therefore, Building 4909 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion B.
- C. Building 4909 has undergone several modifications that have compromised any historical integrity it may have possessed including removal of the original "Tail Doors" that allowed two B-52s to be parked nose-to-nose with about twenty-five feet of the tail section of each plane to extend out of the hangar with the doors closed (see Attachment 15 showing a 1960 repair of the doors, and Attachment 16

showing the doors removed by the year 1981), the replacement of the flat built-up roof with a sloped hip roof and standing seam metal roofing in 2001 (see Attachment 17). Also, a nearly 9,300 square foot addition was constructed in 2007 (see Attachment 18). Because of these modifications, Building 4909 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion C.

- D. Building 4909 has not yielded, and is not likely to yield information important to prehistory or history. Therefore, Building 4909 does not meet the qualifications of Criterion D.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

Buildings 4822, 4916, and 4911 are only 7, 7, and 30 years old, respectively, and because they do not meet the qualifications of any historical evaluation criteria, we request SHPO concur with our recommendation that Buildings 4822, 4916, and 4911 be designated as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The evaluation methodology and results for Buildings 4810, 4906, 4908, and 4909 are very similar to the Building 4828 evaluation methodology and results by Geo-Marine in 2006. Therefore, we request SHPO concur with our recommendation that Buildings 4810, 4906, 4908, and 4909 be designated as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.