



Chanute Air Force Base  
Building Records Collection

Collection [200.014]

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Kevin Adams

**Creator/Corporate name:** Chanute Air Force Base

**Inclusive Dates:** 1917-1987

**Physical Description:** 5 oversized boxes; 1 box

**Provenance:**

The Chanute Air Force Base Subject files were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives from the defunct Chanute Air Force Base Museum upon their closure.

**Access:**

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

The Chanute Air Force Base was established as WWI was drawing to a close. In the ensuing years the United States military still had a high demand for Air Force training. The buildings at CAFB were rapidly constructed to meet the needs brought on by the war. This set the tone for how construction would look throughout the history of CAFB. In late 1939 and through 1941 CAFB saw the rapid construction of many buildings, especially barracks. During the time between these wars, buildings were constructed, repurposed, and some were torn down.

Official construction records for each building were kept, with space for detailing modifications and renovations made to the buildings. Due to the urgency with which many of the buildings were initially erected, construction records were not created at the time, but were made retroactively. As many of the buildings were repurposed over their lifespans, construction records were hand edited to reflect updated uses and designations of buildings. With the construction records was one book: U.S. Engineers Chanute Field, ILL. List of Drawings. A pictorial inventory was taken and created on oversized paper in 1956. Facilities disposal reports document the destruction and disposal of buildings at the end of their life spans.

The originating office of these records is unclear. However, they were housed in the historical department in bound logbooks. For preservation and access the records have been removed from the logbooks and made available in archival folders.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains the official construction records for buildings constructed between 1917 and 1941. Construction reports contain photographs of the buildings and detailed information including: designation of building, building number, date completed, capacity, total cost, wall material, roof material, foundation material, floor material, square feet, main building size, wings size, basement size,



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heating, lighting, water connection, sewer connection, gas connection, meters, cooking ranges, and space for notes on additions and installations. The pictorial history created in 1956 shows photographs of buildings as they existed at the time. . Facilities document building information, condition prompting disposal, time of disposal, the base commander, and the accountable officer for each building that was disposed of.

**Arrangement:**

This collection is divided into 3 series: Building Construction Records, Facilities Disposal Reports, and Pictorial Inventories. The Building Construction Records are organized at the item level. These records were roughly organized in alphabetical order by the given original designation of building. All barracks and tent camp records are organized together with differing designations noted parenthetically in the finding aid. These records are followed by one accompanying book.

The pictorial inventory is organized by page number. However some pages are out of order and overlap, this has been noted in the finding aid.

Facilities disposal reports are divided into two subseries: Disposal Reports and Survey and Analysis. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically at the folder level-Disposal Reports by building type and Survey and Analysis by document type.

**Subject Terms:**

Chanute  
Chanute Air Force Base  
United States Air Force  
Military History  
Building Records  
Facility Disposal Reports

**Container List:**

**Box 1 (Oversized)**

**Series: Building Construction Records**

- Folder 1: 6000 Men Mess Hall- Air Corps Supply, 1917-1941
- Folder 2: Acetylene Generator – Air Corps Technical School, 1921-1941
- Folder 3: Ammunition Magazine – Barracks (Det. QMC & Cooks), 1917-1928
- Folder 4: Barracks (Guard) – Barracks (Frame), 1940, unknown)
- Folder 5: Barracks (Frame), 1940
- Folder 6: Barracks (Frame), 1940
- Folder 7: Barracks (Frame), 1940
- Folder 8: Barracks (Frame), 1940
- Folder 9: Barracks (Temporary), 1939



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- Folder 10: Barracks (Temporary), 1939
- Folder 11: Barracks (Temporary), 1939
- Folder 12: Barracks (Temporary), 1939
- Folder 13: Barracks (Temporary), 1939
- Folder 14: Barracks (Temporary), 1939
- Folder 15: Barracks (Temporary), 1939
- Folder 16: Barracks (Temporary) – Booster Pump House, 1917-1939
- Folder 17: Commanding Officer's Quarters, 1940
- Folder 18: Commanding Officer's Quarters – Dayroom, 1917-1941

**Box 2 (Oversized)**

- Folder 19: Dayrooms, 1941
- Folder 20: Department of Mechanics – Garage Building, 1917-1941
- Folder 21: Garage Building – Guard House, 1917-1941
- Folder 22: Hangar – Hangar 8, 1917-1923
- Folder 23: Hangar 8A-Hangar D, 1917-1939
- Folder 24: Hangar, School (Dept. of Armament) – Hangar, School (Dept. of Mechanics), 1917-1923
- Folder 25: Hangar, School (Dept. of Mechanics), 1917-1922

**Box 3 (Oversized)**

- Folder 26: Hangar (Engineering Department) – Hose House, 1917-1923
- Folder 27: Hospital Garage – Ice House, 1918-1938
- Folder 28: Incinerator – Mule Barn, 1917-1941
- Folder 29: N.C.O. Garages & A.C. Storagehouse – N.C.O. Quarters 27 to 32, 1917-1927
- Folder 30: N.C.O. Residence, 1940
- Folder 31: Officer's Club Annex – Officer's Mess Club, 1917-1941, unknown
- Folder 32: Oil Storage – Post Chapel, 1917-1938
- Folder 33: Post Exchange – Post Gymnasium, 1917-1941
- Folder 34: Post Headquarters – Quartermaster Supply, 1917-1941
- Folder 35: Radio Hut & Towers – Recreation Building, 1918-1939
- Folder 36: School Building – Storehouse, 1917-1941

**Box 4 (Oversized)**

- Folder 37: Supply Room – Tennis Courts, 1921-1941
- Folder 38: Tent Camp – War Department Theatre, 1917-1941
- Folder 39: War Department Theatre – Washroom & Latrine, 1936-1941

**Box 5 (Oversized)**

- Book: U.S. Engineers Chanute Field, ILL. List of Drawings

**Box 6 (Large Oversized)**

**Series: Pictorial Inventories**

- Folder 40: Sheets 1-8, Sheets 22-23, 1955



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- Folder 41: Sheets 1-6, 1955
- Folder 42: Sheets 7 – 12, 1955
- Folder 43: Sheets 9 – 16, 1955
- Folder 44: Sheets 15-29, 1955
- Folder 45: Sheets 17-22, 1955

**Box 7**

**Series: Facilities Reports**

*Subseries: Disposal Reports*

- Folder 46: Detention Facilities, 1981-1987
- Folder 47: Dormitories and Living Quarters, 1977-1883
- Folder 48: Dormitories (Chapman), 1985
- Folder 49: Dormitories (Chapman), 1985
- Folder: 50 Dormitories (Chapman), 1985
- Folder 51: Dormitories (Chapman), 1985
- Folder 52: Dormitories (Chapman), 1985
- Folder 53: Maintenance and Services Facilities, 1981-1987
- Folder 53: Miscellaneous Facilities, 1983-1987
- Folder 54: Offices and Administrative Buildings, 1981-1987
- Folder 55: Recreational Centers, 1982-1987
- Folder 56: Social Facilities, 1980-1987
- Folder 57: Shops, 1981-1987
- Folder 58: Storage Buildings, 1981-1986
- Folder 59: Training Facilities, 1987

*Subseries: Survey and Analysis*

- Folder 61: Asbestos Analysis, undated
- Folder 62: Asbestos Analysis, undated
- Folder 63: Environmental Impact Analysis, 1986-1987
- Folder 64: Photographs, undated
- Folder 65: Survey of Hangars, 1979-1980