

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Utah
COUNTY: Tooele
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1 NAME

COMMON:
Wendover Air Force Base

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2 LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1/2 mile south of *off U.S. 40/I 80*

CITY OR TOWN:
Wendover

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd

STATE: Utah CODE: 49 COUNTY: Tooele CODE: 045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Air Force

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Hill Air Force Base

STATE:
Utah

CODE:
49

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Tooele County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Tooele

STATE:
Utah

CODE:
49

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 Federal State County Local

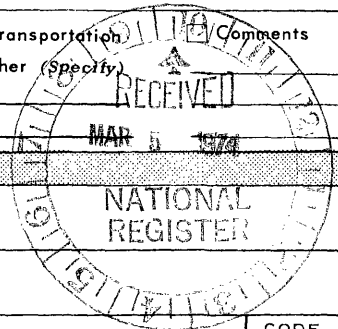
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Utah State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN:
Salt Lake City

STATE:
Utah

CODE:
49



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Utah
COUNTY: Tooele
ENTRY NUMBER: 1015
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of the base began in 1939 when the Air Corps commenced an extensive expansion program. High on the priority list were adequate bombing and gunnery ranges.

By 1940 a site was located at Wendover. The Air Corps desired some 3,000,000 acres of land 90% of which was public domain. However, because of grazing commitments, the Interior Superintendent was willing to release only 1,500,000 acres. Livestock men in the area suggested that another site be selected or the area reduced in size. They estimated that use of the 1 1/2 million acres would "wipe out 100 outfits" of livestock men and cost the state about \$1,500,000 annually.

Despite these objections, work began on the base in November 1940. Temporary barracks were constructed and two 150 x 7000' runways with taxi strips and anchorage areas were graded and graveled. In May 1941, the areas were paved and more extensive construction began.

The first training unit arrived at Wendover April 6, 1942 and found the area ideal for bombing and gunnery practice. Because of the abundance of salt, obtainable from the nearby Bonneville Salt Flats, a city of salt was constructed near the mountains for bombing practice.

The historical significance of the base is its role as the training site for the 509th Group under the command of Colonel Paul W. Tibbets, Jr. It was Colonel Tibbets, flying his B-29, "The Enola Gay," who dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

The 509th Group was organized December 17, 1944 and trained at Wendover until May of 1945 when it left for Tinian Island in the Marianas. During its stay at Wendover, the group was housed in a maximum security area. Information about the group's mission was so restricted that even members of the 509th did not know the purpose of this training.

Although the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been regarded by some people as a means too terrible even for use in world wide conflict, it did bring to an end the war with Japan. The crew of the "Enola Gay" proved that an atomic bomb could be used under combat conditions. The threat of its future use served the United States as an important post war foreign policy tool. For its role in ushering in the Atomic Age, the Wendover Air Force Base deserves recognition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leonard J. Arrington & Thomas G. Alexander "Worlds Largest Military Reserve: Wendover Air Force Base, 1941-63." Utah Historical Quarterly, Fall, 1963. USAF Historical Division "Brief History of Wendover Air Force Base 1940-56." Typescript copy provided by the Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center. Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.
 Helen Rice History of Ogden Air Material Area Hill Air Force Base, Utah 1934-60. Hill Air Force Base, Utah 1963.
 Garn Anderson "The History of Wendover 1908-1969." Manuscript history of Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah.

UTM OK
 HM
 SEE MAP

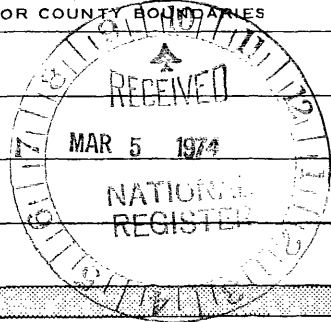
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	40° 43 ' 32 "	114° 02' 24 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	40° 44 ' 08 "	114° 00' 40 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	40° 42 ' 04 "	114° 42' 04 "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	40° 42 ' 04 "	114° 02' 24 "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2070

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: A. Kent Powell, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION: Utah State Historical Society DATE: October 23, 73

STREET AND NUMBER: 603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Milton L. Weilenmann

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date Oct. 25, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/1/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 27 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 2 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUL 1 1975

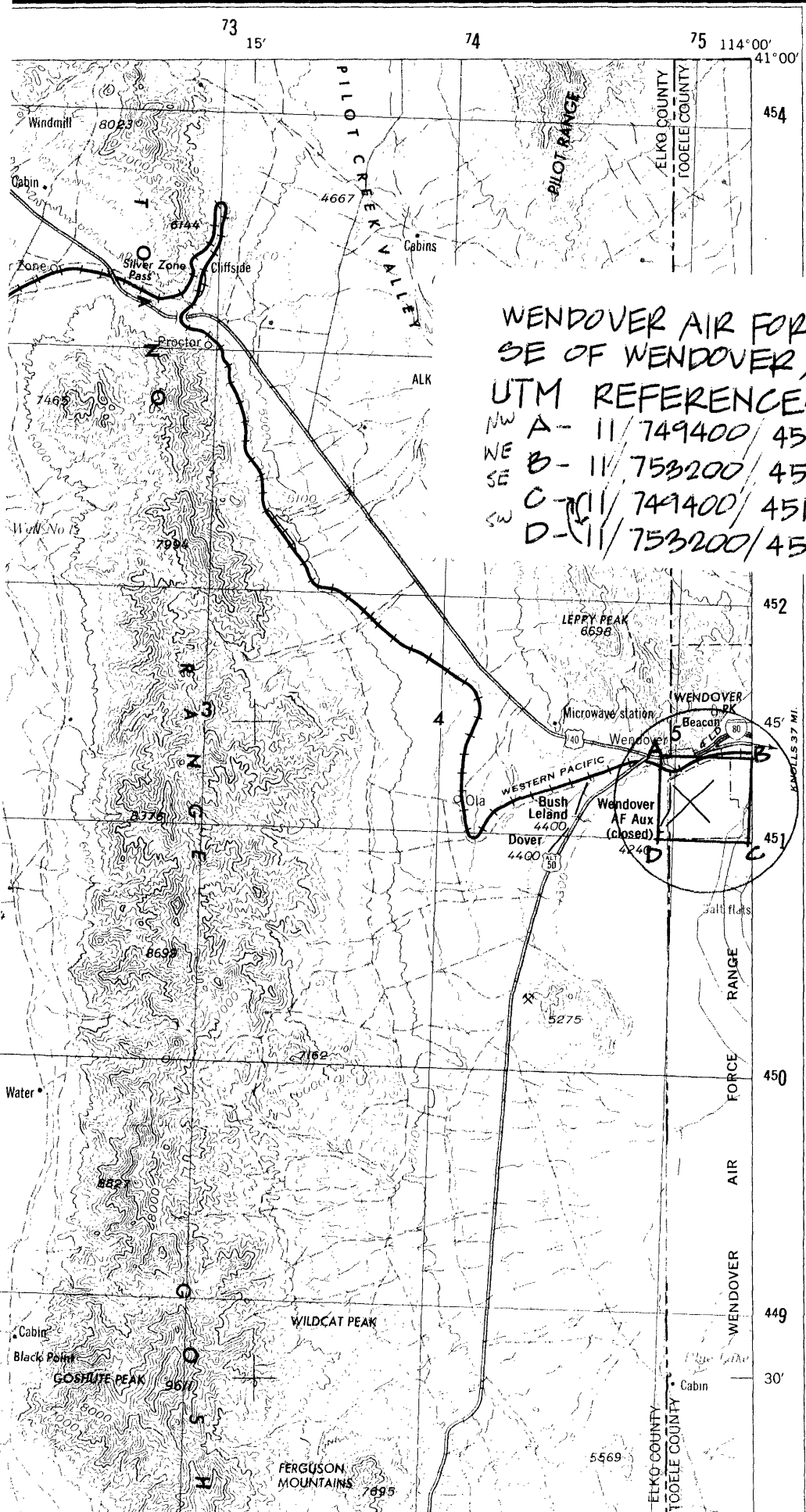
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE one

UTM REFERENCES:

- A 11/749400/4513600
- B 11/753200/4513600
- ~~D~~ 11/749400/4510000
- ~~C~~ 11/753200/4510000



WENDOVER AIR FORCE BASE
 SE OF WENDOVER, UTAH
 UTM REFERENCES ::

NW	A - 11 / 749400 / 4513600
NE	B - 11 / 753200 / 4513600
SE	C - 11 / 749400 / 4510000
SW	D - 11 / 753200 / 4510000

B/M