

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received **MAY 20 1980**
date entered **AUG 26 1980**

1. Name

historic GAPA Launch Site and Block House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Southeast cr Section 9, Township 1 North, Range 12 West not for publication

city, town 3 miles east and 7 m no Knolls vicinity of congressional district 02

state Utah code 049 county Tooele code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>abandoned</u>
			<input type="checkbox"/> military

4. Owner of Property

name Bureau of Land Management

street & number University Club Bldg

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tooele County Recorder's Office

street & number Tooele County Courthouse

city, town Tooele state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Reinforced concrete, semisubmerged blockhouse and launch pad. The Blockhouse is in original condition, except for damage caused by a single act of vandalism, to wit: entry door blown off hinges, glass viewports gone, hole blown in concrete floor and walls cracked, all apparently from a single explosive charge placed on blockhouse floor.

Reinforced concrete launch pad in same condition as when site was abandoned in July 1947. Steel launch tower no longer present.

The GAPA launch site and blockhouse is located three miles east and seven miles north of Knolls, Utah. The site includes the reinforced concrete launch pad approximately 100' x 100'. The 40 foot steel tower, used in the launching moves, has been removed. Approximately 300 feet south of the launch pad is the original blockhouse from which the GAPA missiles were launched by remote control. The blockhouse remains in original condition except for damage done when an explosive charge was set off on the blockhouse floor. The explosion blew the entry door off its hinges, broke the glass view-ports, cracked the walls and left a hole in the concrete floor. The blockhouse is build of concrete, rises six feet above the ground level and is approximately 40 feet x 40 feet in size.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates June 1946-July 1947 **Builder/Architect** Boeing Airplane Co. Facilities Dept.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This site is significant as the original launch site for the United States Air Force's first supersonic guided missile, which was named the Ground-to-Air Pilotless Aircraft (GAPA). Thirty-eight two-stage GAPA solid-rocket-propelled aerodynamic test vehicles were launched by the Boeing Airplane Company from this site between June 13, 1946, and July 1, 1947. Stable supersonic flight was first achieved by GAPA test Vehicle 600 Series, Serial Number 10 on August 6, 1946. The GAPA program was subsequently transferred to Holloman Air Base in New Mexico, where an additional 73 missiles, propelled by various combinations of ramjet engines and solid and liquid rockets, were launched between July 24, 1947 and May 9, 1950.

GAPA was the lineal ancestor of the Air Force's Bomarc air defense missile, which first flew on September 10, 1952, and is still in limited service 28 years later. The original GAPA launch site in Utah was the birthplace of the United States Air Force supersonic missile flight test program.

9. Major Bibliographical References

International Missile and Spacecraft Guide, McGraw Hill, 1960

Boeing News, Vol 5-No. 33, August 15, 1946.

Memorandum from James N. Eastman, Jr. Chief, Research Division, The Albert F. Simpson Historical Research, Center USAF, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, October 22, 1979.

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property 5
Quadrangle name Grayback Hills **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 7 1/2'

UMT References

A	<u>12</u>	<u>314400</u>	<u>4521770</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Five acre square enclosing blockhouse and launch pad in southeast corner of Section 9, Township 1 North, Range 12 West.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Gilbert Moore/General Manager;

organization Astro-Met Plant/Thiokol Corp. date Feb 1980

street & number P.O. 9175 telephone 399-1191

city or town Ogden state Utah

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith
title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/5/80

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register <u>Carol D Skel</u> Keeper of the National Register date <u>8-26-80</u>
Attest: <u>Beth Groveman</u> Chief of Registration date <u>8/25/80</u>