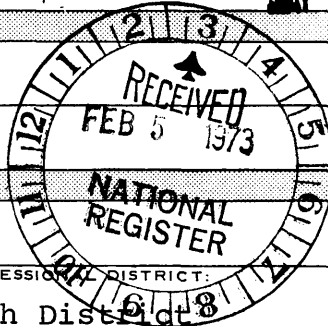


PH 000 2071

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Brevard
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 24 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Launch Complex 39  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
America's First Spaceport

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Kennedy Space Center Titusville  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fifth District  
STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Brevard CODE: 009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Kennedy Space Center  
STATE: Florida CODE: 12

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Brevard County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Titusville  
STATE: Florida CODE: 12

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Launch Complex 39 Siting Survey  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1962  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Kennedy Space Center  
STATE: Florida CODE: 12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida  
COUNTY: Brevard  
ENTRY NUMBER: 24 1973  
DATE: MAY 24 1973  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)						
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	(Check One)			(Check One)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Launch Complex 39 is a part of the John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA, a United States Government installation in Brevard County, Florida. Located partly on the northern end of Merritt Island and partly on the narrow coastal strip to the eastward, the low-lying land on which the Complex is sited is mainly marsh land. About 11.5 million cubic meters (over 15 million cubic yards) of fill were dredged from nearby land and water areas to provide a base on which the Complex was built between November, 1962 and October, 1968. Principal structures on the Complex include:

The Vehicle Assembly Building, one of the world's largest buildings in volume;

The Launch Control Center, housing the electronic equipment used to control and direct test and launch operations;

Three Mobile Launchers, on which the space vehicles are erected and tested within the Vehicle Assembly Building, then moved to the pads for launching;

A Mobile Service Structure, providing access for servicing the space vehicles while on the launch pads;

Two Transporters (or Crawlers), used to lift and move the Mobile Service Structure;

The Crawlerway, a wide, heavy-duty roadbed on which the Transporters move;

Launch Areas A and B, each including an elevated launch pad, storage tanks for propellants, and the necessary hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, and electronic servicing and control equipment.

At the present time, Launch Complex 39 is in much the same configuration as when it was completed, and in which it was used to launch the Apollo manned lunar landing missions. Since it is an operational spaceport, the requirements of future space programs may cause changes to be made in existing structures, new facilities to be added.

There are no fences or other physical boundaries separating Launch Complex 39 from the rest of the Kennedy Space Center. However, the coordinates given in Item 10 describe a rectangle within which lies the entire Complex.

Guided bus tours, leaving from a Visitor's Information Center on the John F. Kennedy Space Center, permit the general public to view the structures on Launch Complex 39.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1973

FEB 5

3. SIGNIFICANCE

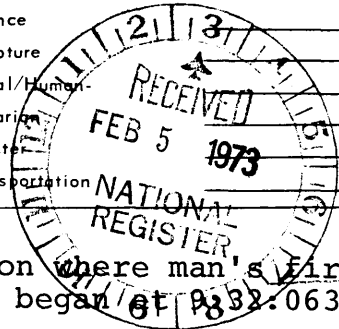
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Completed October, 1968

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Launch Complex 39 is the location where man's first voyage from Earth to another celestial body began at 8:32.0634 A.M., Eastern Daylight Time, July 16, 1969.

The Apollo 11 lunar landing mission of Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., and Michael Collins was launched from Mobile Launcher 1 atop the elevated pad at Launch Area A. The assembly of the Apollo-Saturn space vehicle for the Apollo 11 mission on Mobile Launcher 1 in High Bay 1 of the Vehicle Assembly Building began on February 1, 1969, and was completed on April 14. A Transporter lifted the Mobile Launcher and space vehicle and moved it along the Crawlerway to the elevated pad at Launch Area A on May 20. Terminal Countdown began at 8:00 P.M. EDT, July 10. All prelaunch checkout test, countdown, and launch were directed and controlled from Firing Room 1 of the Launch Control Center.

First Launch from Launch Complex 39 was the unmanned Earth-orbital Apollo 4 mission, launched November 9, 1967. Other historic space flights in the Apollo manned lunar landing program from Launch Complex 39 were:

Two manned circumnavigations of the Moon; Apollo 8, launched December 21, 1968, and Apollo 10, launched May 18, 1969.

One manned Earth-orbital flight, Apollo 9, launched March 3, 1969.

Five successful manned lunar landing missions; Apollo 11, Apollo 12, launched November 14, 1969; Apollo 14, January 31, 1971; Apollo 15, July 26, 1971; Apollo 16, April 16, 1972.

One manned lunar landing mission, Apollo 13, successfully launched April 11, 1970, but forced to abort the mission due to spacecraft problems. The crew returned safely to Earth.

The final mission in the Apollo manned lunar landing program, Apollo 17, is scheduled to be launched from Launch Complex 39 on December 6, 1972.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

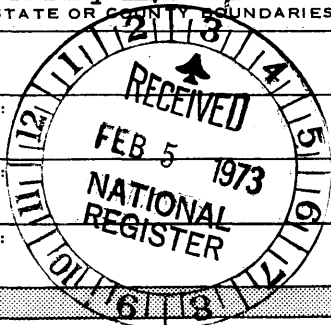
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	28° 36' 48"	80° 40' 16"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	28° 38' 12"	80° 37' 14"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	28° 36' 11"	80° 35' 28"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	28° 34' 08"	80° 38' 40"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 7,000

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
George M. Hawkins, Chief Documentation & Data Management Branch

ORGANIZATION: John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA DATE: 8/10/72

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Kennedy Space Center STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: *Robert William*  
 Title: State Liaison Officer  
 Date: January 3, 1973

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

*Robert W. Utley*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/24/73

ATTEST:  
*Wm. H. ...*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 5 23 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

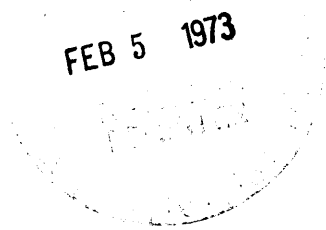
STATE Florida	
COUNTY Brevard	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 24 1973

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

-2-

In 1966, Launch Complex 39 was named as the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement by the American Society of Civil Engineers. A plaque presented by the Society is mounted in the lobby of the Launch Control Center.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Brevard	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 24 1973

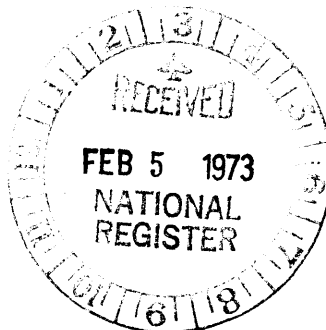
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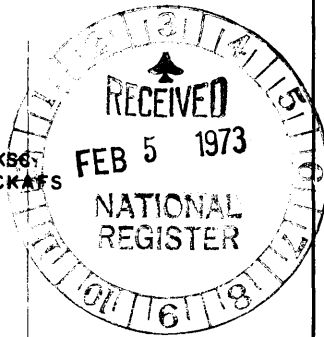
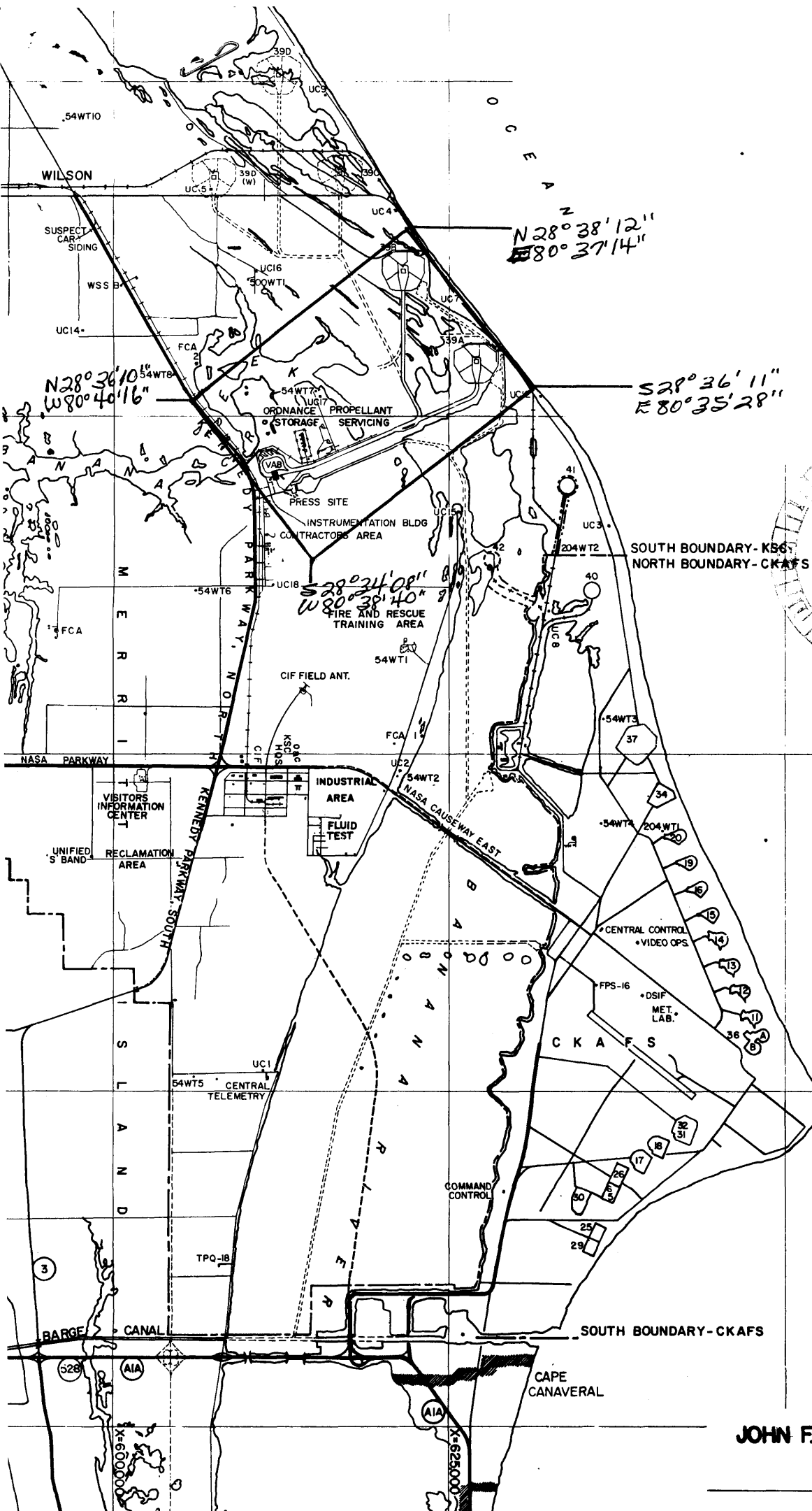
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bidgood, Clarence. "Saturn V Checkout Facilities at Merritt Island Launch Area." American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Space Flight Testing Conference, Cocoa Beach, Florida, March 18-20, 1963. New York, 1963.

Debus, Kurt H. "Launch Operations Support in the Saturn V/Apollo Program." American Astronautical Society. Tenth Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y., May 4-7, 1964. Preprint.

Petrone, Rocco A. "Saturn/Apollo Launch Operations Plan." American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Space Flight Testing Conference, Cocoa Beach, Florida, March 18-20, 1963. New York, 1963.





**JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER,  
NASA**

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA

MASTER PLAN

DATE	OCT. 1971
SCALE	GRAPHIC
TAB NO.	
SHEET NO.	

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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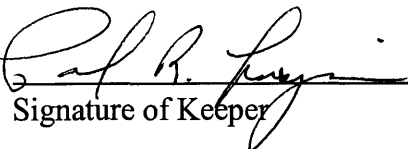
**LAUNCH COMPLEX 39  
Brevard County, Florida**

**73000568**

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4. National Park Service Certification:

Additional Documentation Approved

  
Signature of Keeper

1/21/2000  
Date of Action

[The Additional Documentation is comprised of information contained in the following individual NR nominations:

Launch Complex 39--Pad A; Launch Complex 39--Pad B; Crawlerway; Missile Crawler Transportation Facilities; Launch Control Center; Press Site--Clock and Flag Pole; and Vehicle Assembly Building--High Bay and Low Bay, Brevard County, FL, listed 1/21/2000.

For more information refer to the additional documentation comments provided on the NRHP Evaluation/Return Sheet.]