

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Croom Nike Missile Site Survey Number: PG: 86B-26

Project: Underground Storage Tank Removal Agency: F/Army

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Croom Nike Missile Battery was one of 21 batteries constructed during the Cold War to defend Washington D.C. In operation between 1955-1962, the Croom site encompassed approximately 42 acres for the launch area, control area and housing compound. The launch area included such structures and buildings as underground storage tanks, transformers three underground missile silos, administration building, pumphouse. The control area also maintained an administration building, barracks and mess hall. The integrity of the Croom site has been diminished since its ownership by the County. Many of the simple concrete buildings have deteriorated significantly and are missing roofs, windows etc. One of the administration buildings has been converted into a technical education center. The feeling and association of the missile site is no longer conveyed. The Planning Office of the Corps of Engineers is currently conducting a historic sites survey of the Nike sites. Many like room do not retain all three components (launch, control and housing). The Tolchester Nike Site retains a much higher level of integrity. In addition, the Croom battery does not appear to possess exceptional significance. The Trust concurred that the Croom site was not eligible.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: with this form,

Prepared by: Ken Baumgardt, COE

Lauren Bowlin May 16, 1996  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

Orlando Roberts May 20, 1996.  
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: buildings/structures

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): defense/missile battery

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 1715  
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

April 29, 1996

Planning Division

Ms. Lauren Bowlin  
Maryland Historic Trust  
Division of Historical and Community Programs  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, Maryland 21203-2023



Dear Ms. Bowlin:

The purpose of this letter is to inform your office of a pending removal of two underground storage tanks at the Croom, Maryland Nike Missile Site. The Baltimore District has determined that the removal of the tanks on this site will have no effect on historic properties.

The Croom Nike Missile Site is located near Croom, Maryland, along Swan Point Creek. The site was activated in 1955, and operational until March 1963. The Prince Georges County School District uses the control center of the site as a vocational school. In 1985, the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers conducted an environmental remediation project on the Croom Nike Site, which resulted in the demolition of three missile silos in the missile complex and the removal of three radar foundations from the control center. A prior study documents the history of the installation (Enclosure 1).

The enclosed photographs (Enclosure 2) document that the missile silo portion of the site has fallen into great disrepair in the past decade. The control center has been maintained better, but does not appear to retain the distinctive integrity of the former Nike missile sites. In contrast, the photographs of the Tolchester Site show that at least this site retains the historic structures, the original paint scheme, fencing, signage and other elements of the former use.

Therefore, the Baltimore District has determined that the Croom Nike Site is not eligible for listing on the National Register, due to its lack of integrity. We therefore request your concurrence that the removal of underground storage tanks from this site will have no effect on historic properties.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please, contact me or my action officer, Mr. Kenneth Baumgardt, at (410) 962-2894.

Sincerely,

Dr. James F. Johnson  
Chief, Planning Division

WB NOTES ON  
BACK OF THIS  
ORIGINAL.

Enclosures

Concur With Determination of Effect

Maryland Historic Trust  
AL

5/8/96

NIKE SITES HAVE  
MISSION CONTROL SECTION

OPERATION SECTION - I KEN FEELS CROOM MISSILE CONTROL SECTION HAS  
POOR INTEGRITY - DUE TO DETERIORATION + REPEATED VANDALISM. NIKE IS  
DEFENSE IN EMERGING COLD WAR. MISSILES WOULD DESTROY ANY IN-COMING SOVIET  
MISSILES

STORAGE TANKS FOR BUDGS NOT MISSILES  
- HEATING OIL

INVA+MD 14 OF 21 NIKE SITES INVESTIGATED BY CDE PLANNING - 21 SITES FOR DEFENSE  
OF D.C. CONTEXT IS COMPLETE, I KEN IS JUST RECEIVING LAST \$ FOR FINAL  
7 SURVEY. HOPES TO HAVE REPORT OFF HIS DESK IN  $\approx$  2 MOS.

#18 CONCUR NOT ELIGIBLE - NO EFFECT LWB 5/8/96

SITE SURVEY SUMMARY SHEET  
FOR  
DERP-FUDS SITE NO. C03MD023800  
22 JULY 1991

SITE NAME: NIKE Missile Battery W-36

LOCATION: Croom, Prince Georges County, Maryland; see location map, Attachment A

SITE HISTORY: The U.S. Government acquired a total of 41.57 acres fee in three parcels between June 1955 and July 1956. The property was acquired to establish the former NIKE Missile Battery W-36. The former NIKE Missile Battery W-36 was established for use by the U.S. Army as part of the Washington, D.C. defense system.

The former NIKE W-36 site consisted of three component areas: a 21.00 acre launch area, a 15.16 acre control area, and a 5.41 acre housing area. During the period of Department of Defense (DOD) use, between 1955 and 1962, a number of structures were erected on the site. At the 21.00 acre launch area, the structures/improvements that were added by DOD include two underground storage tanks, three transformers, three underground missile silos, barracks building, pumphouse and septic field, missile assembly and testing building, generator building, acid fueling building, administration building, and several minor shelters. At the 15.16 acre control area, the improvements that were installed by DOD include barracks building, mess hall, administration building, generator building and High Power Acquisition Radar (HIPAR) building. The 5.41 acre housing area is currently owned by the U.S. Air Force and therefore ineligible for restoration activities under DERP-FUDS.

On 18 May 1962, both the 21.00 acre launch area and the 15.16 acre control area including improvements were reported excess to General Services Administration (GSA). The property was then assigned to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare who conveyed the same to Youth Rehabilitation Center, Inc. by Quitclaim Deed dated 22 April 1963. The deed contained all the standard Health, Education and Welfare restrictions and covenants for twenty (20) years including a recapture clause. There is no language in the deed pertaining to DOD liabilities. Youth Rehabilitation Center, Inc. conveyed the entire property to Maryland Center for Youth and Family Development, Inc. by deed dated 26 March 1982. The Maryland Center for Youth and Family Development, Inc. conveyed the 21.00 acre launch area to Auction Systems Incorporated and Melvin E. Richards by deed dated 3 February 1984. Auction Systems Incorporated had 2/3 ownership and Melvin E. Richards had 1/3 ownership.

Based on a site visit conducted by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, in August 1984, the control area was determined to contain no eligible hazards for remediation under DERP-FUDS. Peter Kalos is the current owner of the control area.

Subsequent to 1984, the launch area property was transferred through a succession of several landowners. The landowners include the following in chronological order: Brandywine Developer Corporation, Walter Meinhart, Family Service Foundation, Edward Koenig, and Peter Kalos. Since 1988, Peter Kalos has remained as the current owner of the launch area property. Specific dates of ownership were not available. Available records could not establish whether any improvements were added or removed after DOD use.

A confirmation study was conducted at the launch area by Donohue and Associates, Inc. while under contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, and was completed in December 1987. Donohue and Associates, Inc. collected samples in the soil, groundwater and surface water, and tested three transformers. As part of the confirmation study activities, Donohue and Associates installed four groundwater monitoring wells at the launch area. Soil cuttings from the soil sampling activities were placed in drums and stored on the property. Excess ground water from the development and sampling of the monitoring wells were also placed in drums and stored on the property.

SITE VISIT: Ms. June Ching and Mr. John Walch of EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc. under contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, conducted a site visit of the former NIKE W-36 launch site on 18 December 1990. During the site visit, Ms. Ching and Mr. Walch met with Mr. Peter Kalos, the current owner.

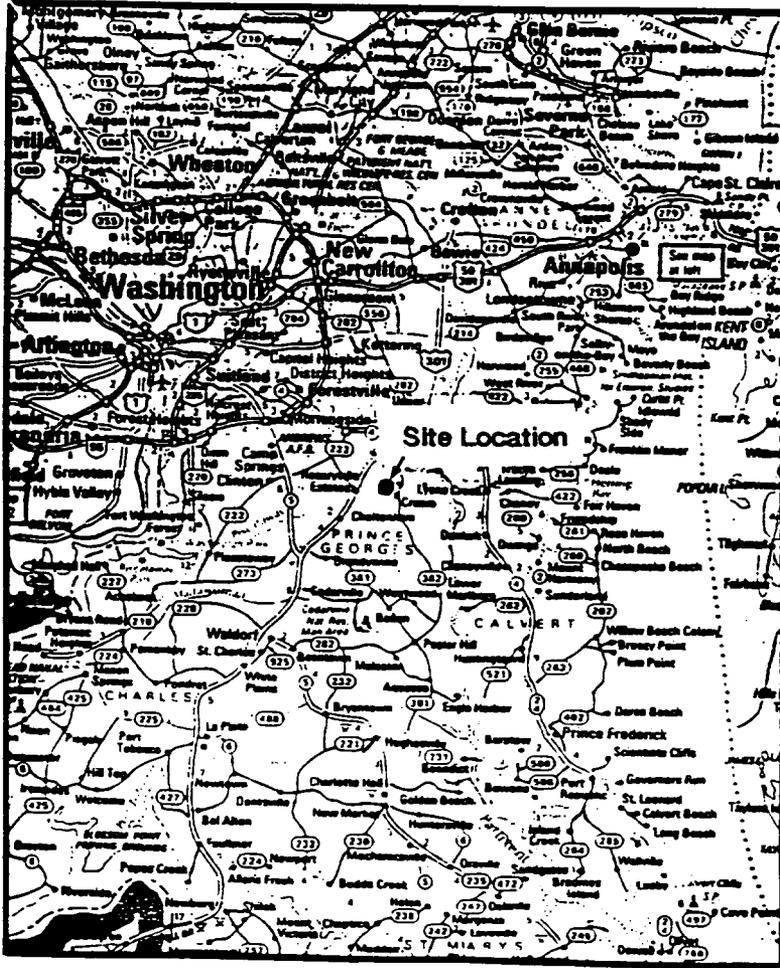
CATEGORY OF HAZARD: CON/HTW and HTW

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: There are two potential projects at this site (launch area only).

a. CON/HTW. Two abandoned underground storage fuel storage tanks (UST) and three electrical transformers exist at the launch area. The proposed project consists of the removal of one UST near the barracks building and the removal of a second UST located near the generator building. The proposed project also consists of analysis and disposal of the soil cuttings and groundwater from confirmation study activities that are currently stored in drums on the site. Drums and drum contents will be disposed of in accordance with applicable and relevant state and Federal government regulations. The three transformers have been determined not to contain PCBs and are being beneficially used by the current owner.

b. HTW. The results of the groundwater, missile silo surface water, transformer sampling and analyses from confirmation study activities do not indicate significant areas of contamination. However, results from soil samples obtained near UT-1 and MW-2 reported higher than normal readings for lead. Tetrachloroethylene, total xylenes, and petroleum hydrocarbons at the launch area were detected near UT-1. Elevated concentrations of lead and presence of tetrachloroethylene, total xylenes, and

ATTACHMENT A  
LOCATION MAP  
NIKE MISSILE BATTERY W-36  
SITE NO. C03MD023800



NOTE: See site map, Attachment B

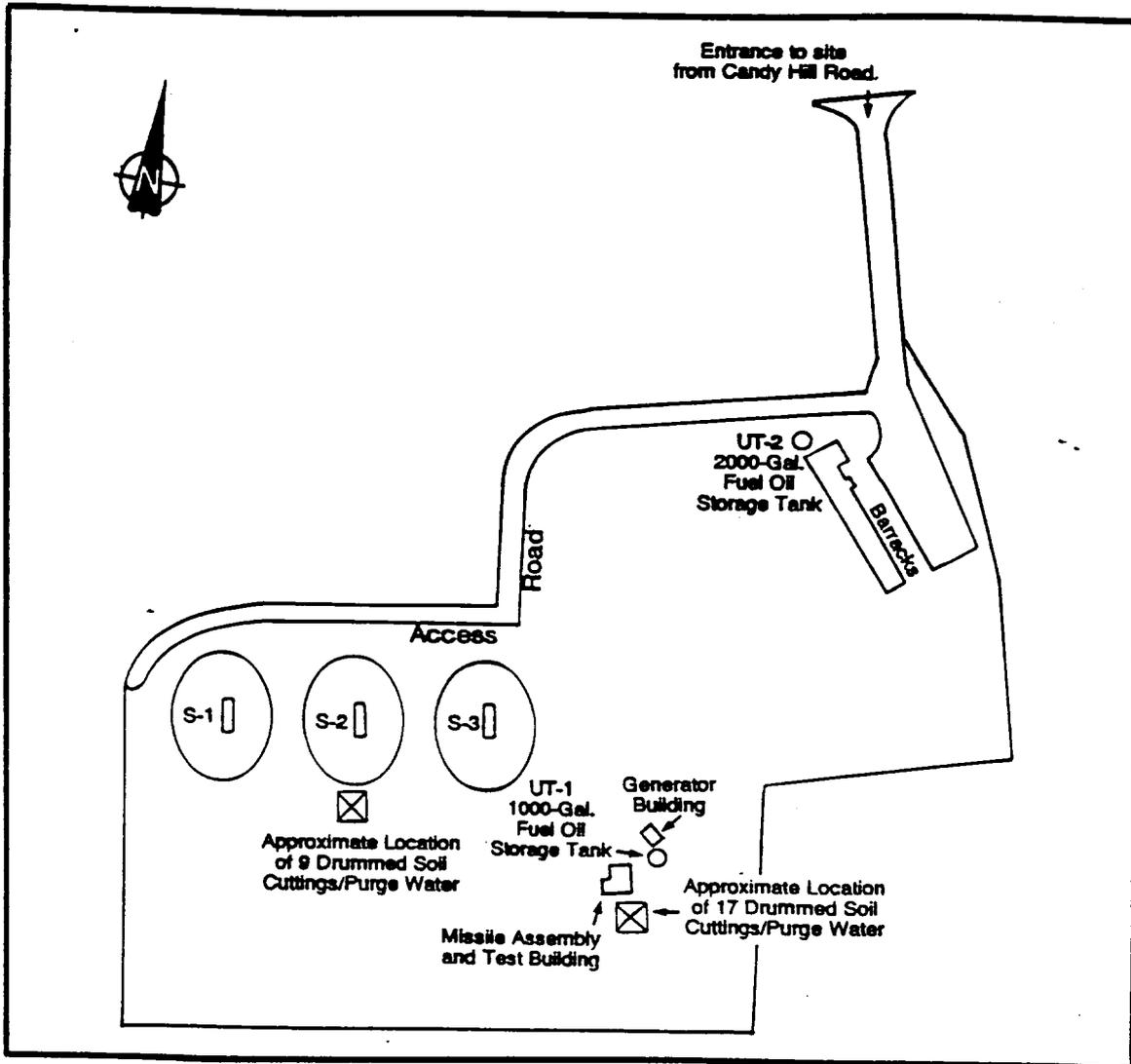
petroleum hydrocarbons in this area warrants additional investigation. The proposed project consists of a remedial investigation/feasibility study at the launch area, in particular, near the vicinity of UT-1 and MW-2 (south of the generator building and missile assembly and test building).

c. BD/DR. No further action. The current owner is deriving beneficial use from all remaining structures including the underground missile silos on the site. Therefore, a BD/DR project for the demolition of the silos is not proposed.

AVAILABLE STUDIES AND REPORTS: Final Report for Confirmation Study at former NIKE Missile Battery (W-36) dated December 1987, Donohue & Associates, Inc. (available in the Baltimore District files).

PA POC: William C. Piccirilli, CENAB-EN-HE, (301) 962-3542

ATTACHMENT B  
SITE MAP  
NIKE MISSILE BATTERY W-36  
SITE NO. C03MD023800



**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-301 to State Highway 381 to Brandywine, Maryland. Proceed east to site via North Keys, Molly Berry and Candy Hill Roads.

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM  
FOR FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES  
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY  
NIKE MISSILE BATTERY W-36  
CROOM, PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND  
SITE NO. C03MD023800

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The U.S. Government acquired a total of 41.57 acres fee in three parcels between 1955 and 1956. A 15.16 acre parcel consisting of one tract of land designated as tract A-100-1 was acquired from Irene A. Downing by Declaration of Taking filed 19 June 1955 (Attorney General's Final Opinion, dated 30 June 1958). A second parcel consisting of two tracts of land designated as Tracts A-101-1 and A-101-2, totaling 21.00 acres, was acquired from F. Wallis Susscer by Declaration of Taking filed 19 August 1955 (Attorney General's Final Opinion, dated 7 April 1958). A third parcel consisting of a 5.41 acre tract of land designated as Tract A-104-1 was acquired from Edna G. McBee by Declaration of Taking filed 18 July 1956 (Attorney General's Final Opinion, dated 25 March 1959). The property was acquired to establish the former NIKE Missile Battery W-36.

2. The former NIKE W-36 was established for use by the U.S. Army as part of the Washington, D.C. defense system. The former NIKE Missile Battery W-36 site consisted of three component areas: a 21.00 acre launch area, a 15.16 control area, and a 5.41 acre housing area. During the period of Department of Defense (DOD) use, between 1955 and 1962, a number of structures were erected on the site. At the 21.00 acre launch area, the structures/improvements that were added by DOD include two underground storage tanks, three transformers, three underground missile silos, barracks building, pumphouse and septic field, missile assembly and testing building, generator building, acid fueling building, administration building, and several minor shelters. At the 15.16 acre control area, the improvements that were installed by DOD include barracks building, mess hall, administration building, generator building and High Power Acquisition Radar (HIPAR) building. The 5.41 acre housing area is currently owned by the U.S. Air Force and therefore ineligible for DERP-FUDS. The property was not under other than DOD control during the period of DOD use.

3. On 18 May 1962, both the 21.00 acre launch area and the 15.16 acres control area, including improvements, were reported excess to the General Services Administration (GSA). The property was then assigned to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare who conveyed the same to Youth Rehabilitation Center, Inc. by Quitclaim Deed dated 22 April 1963. The deed contained all the standard Health, Education and Welfare restrictions and covenants for twenty (20) years including a recapture clause. There is no language in the deed pertaining to DOD liabilities. Youth Rehabilitation

Center, Inc. conveyed the entire property to Maryland Center for Youth and Family Development, Inc. by deed dated 26 March 1982. The Maryland Center for Youth and Family Development, Inc. conveyed the 21.00 acre launch area to Auction Systems Incorporated and Melvin E. Richards by deed dated 3 February 1984. Auction Systems Incorporated had 2/3 ownership and Melvin E. Richards had 1/3 ownership. Peter Kalos is the current owner of the control area. Subsequent to 1984, the launch area property was transferred through a succession of several landowners. The landowners include the following in chronological order: Brandywine Developer Corporation, Walter Meinhart, Family Service Foundation, Edward Koenig, and Peter Kalos. Since 1988, Peter Kalos has remained as the current owner of the launch area property. Specific dates of ownership were not available.

#### DETERMINATION

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the launch area and control area portions of the site have been determined to be formerly used by DOD. These two areas are therefore eligible for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites, established under 10 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.

Recommended for Signature:

Aug 13, 1991  
Date

Frank R. Finch PE LTC FN  
FRANK R. FINCH, P.E.  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Commanding

11 Oct 1991  
Date

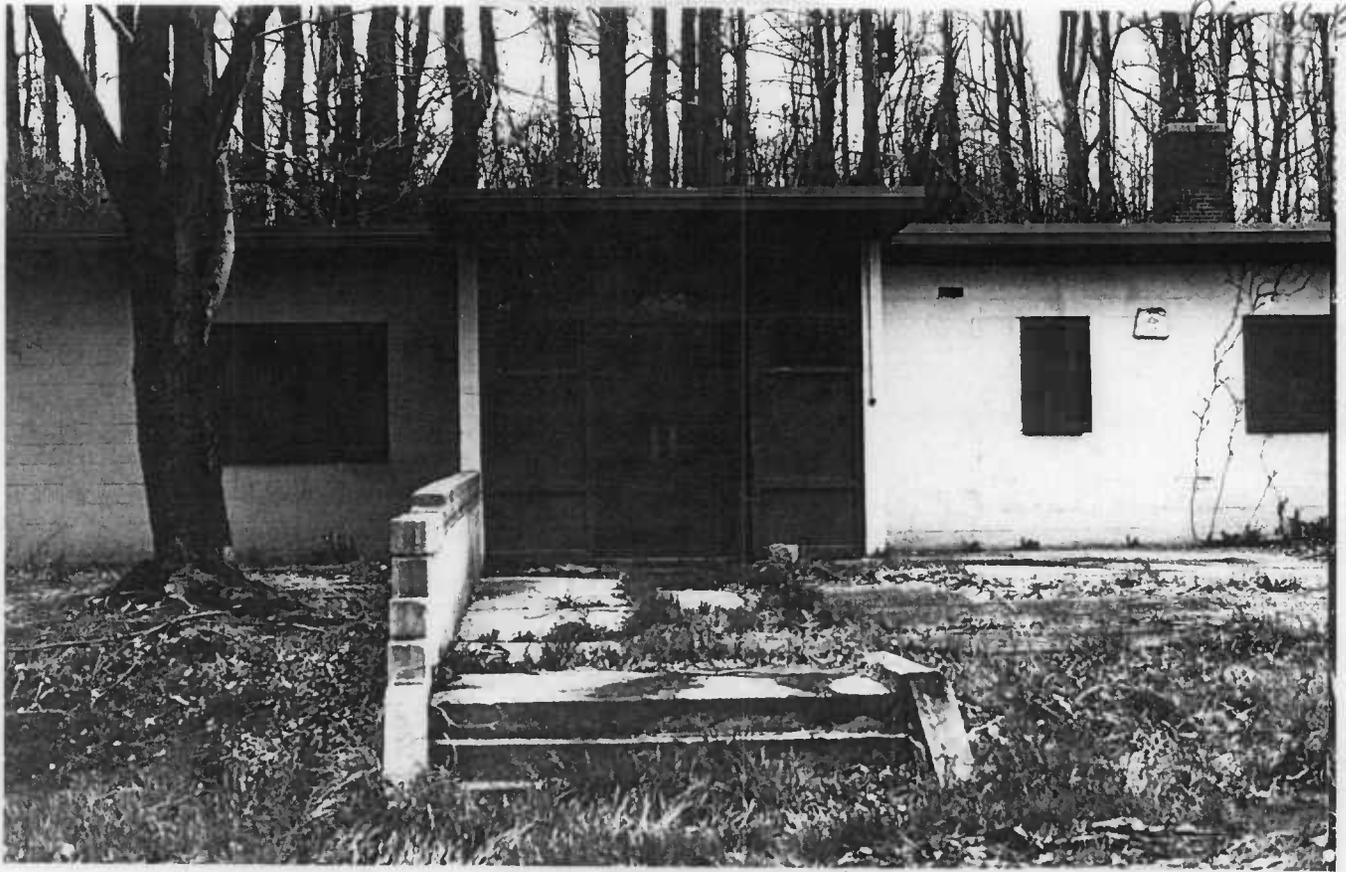
Gerald C. Brown  
GERALD C. BROWN  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

Croom: Missile Area



Croom: Missile Area





Room: ~~Administrative Center~~  
Missile



Room: ~~Administrative Center~~, Rear  
Missile

*Croom: Administrative*



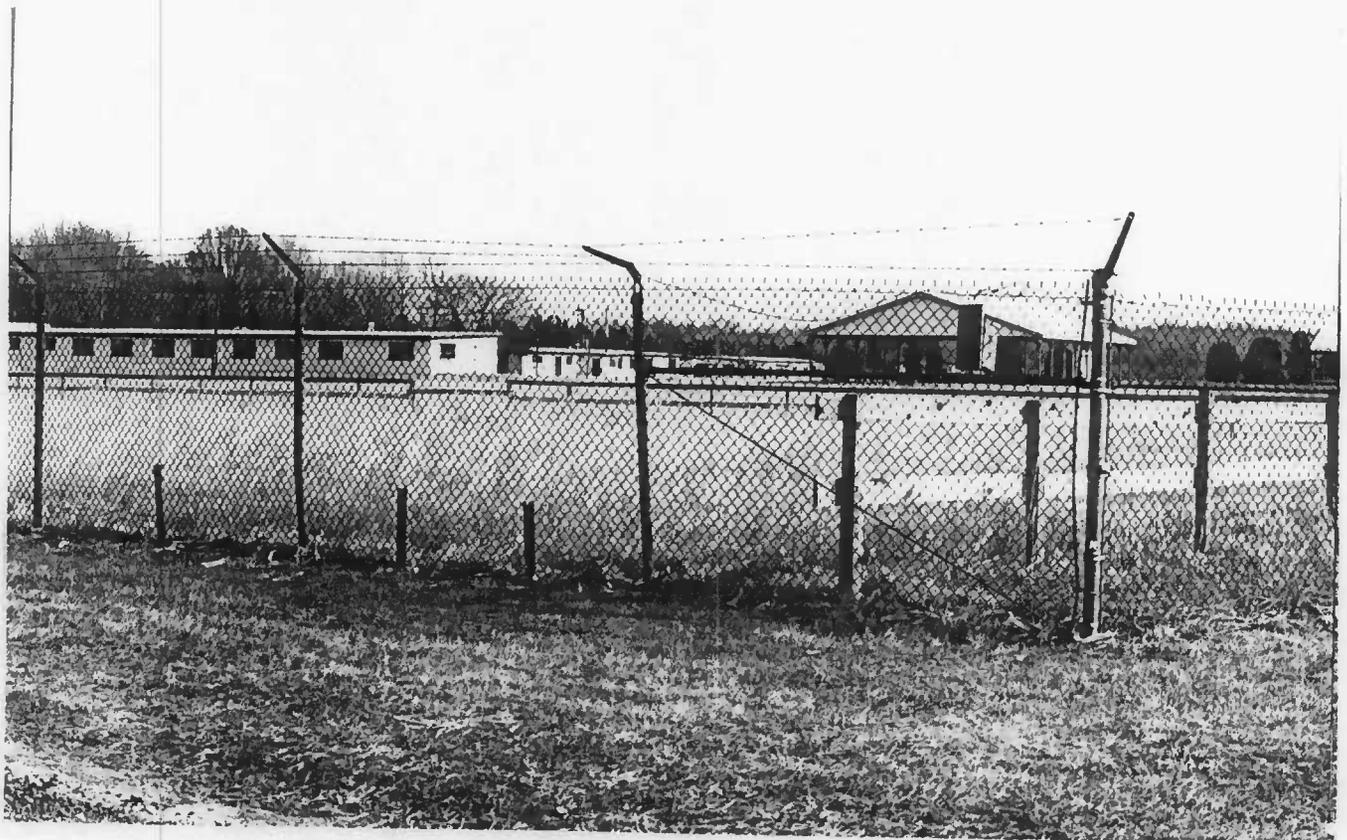
*Croom: Administrative*



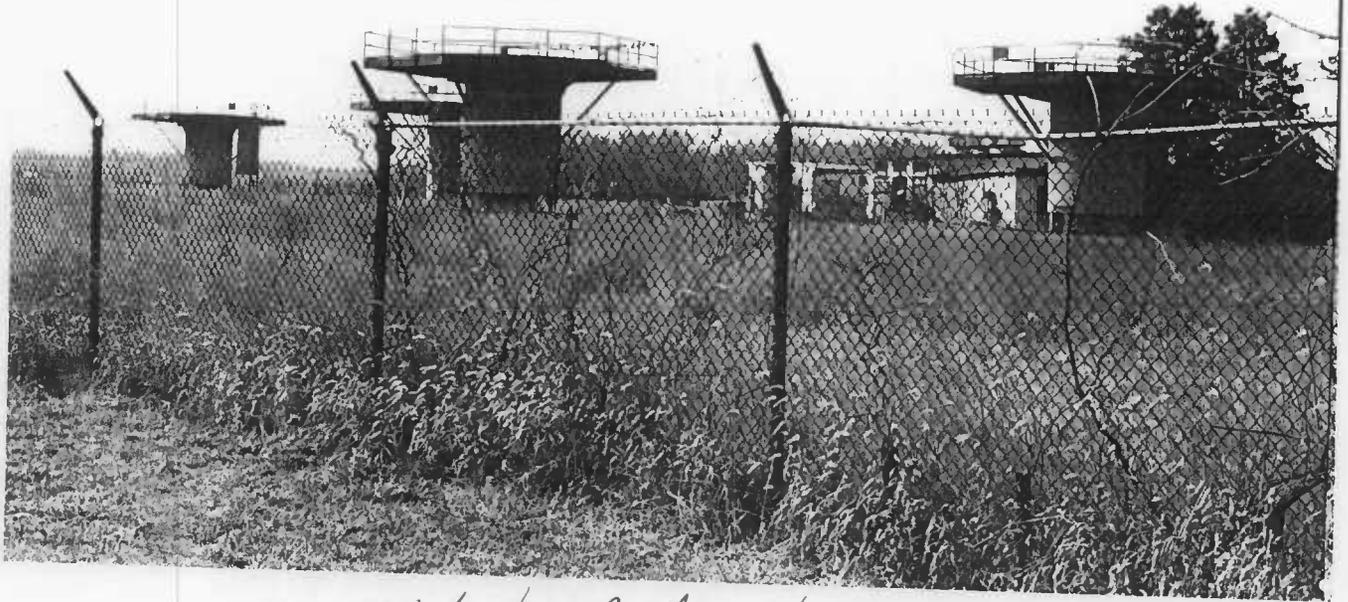
PG: 86B-26



*Tolchester: Administrative Complex*



*Tolchester: Barracks*



*Tolchester: Radar Stands*



*Tolchester: Sentry Box at Main Entrance*

PG:86B- 26  
Croom Nike Missile Site  
(NIKE Missile Battery W-36; Site No. C03MD023800)  
Brandywine quadrangle

