

AA-38
Nike Site W-26 (Annapolis-Bay Bridge)
Bay Head Road/Broadneck Road
Anne Arundel County
Annapolis, Maryland

Capsule Summary

The Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26 is located on Broadneck Peninsula in Annapolis, Maryland. This site was one of 21 Nike batteries established to defend the Washington-Baltimore area during the Cold War. The Nike anti-aircraft missile system was conceived to defend against bombers carrying nuclear bombs. The Nike family of missiles included the Nike-Ajax and its more powerful successor, the Nike-Hercules.

The Annapolis emplacement operated between 1955 and 1968. This site was one of several sites in the Washington-Baltimore defense area to be converted to accommodate Hercules missiles. The battery contained 30 Ajax missiles and 18 Hercules missiles after it was converted during 1960 and 1961. All missiles were removed from the Annapolis-Bay Bridge site after it was deactivated in November 1968. Three years later, the launch area of Site W-26 was acquired by the Annapolis Detachment of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Carderock Division. The structures at the launch site, including the missile silos, currently are utilized by NSWC, Annapolis as test laboratories. However, NSWC, Annapolis is scheduled to close by the year 2000. Consequently, the subterranean missile silos will be filled with concrete (Jeff Morris, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Annapolis Detachment, personal communication, 12 November 1996). The control area currently is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Reserve Map Distribution Center.

The National Register eligibility was assessed for 23 buildings and structures at Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26. Nineteen buildings and structures are located at the launch area, and four buildings are located at the control area. The resources were evaluated within their appropriate historic context by applying the National Register criteria considerations and DoD guidance for *exceptional significance* for resources less than 50 years of age. None of the surveyed buildings and structures at this site possess significance or those qualities of integrity necessary for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. AA-38

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Site W-26 (Annapolis-Bay Bridge)

and/or common Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26

2. Location

street & number Bay Head Road not for publication

city, town Annapolis vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name U.S. Department of the Navy

street & number Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Div telephone no.: N/A

city, town Bethesda state and zip code Maryland 20084

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date federal state county local

repository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. AA-38

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Attached Sheets.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-38

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 checked="" 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 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

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attached Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-38

See Attached Sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 47.14 AC/8 AC

Quadrangle name Gibson Island

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

D

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

E

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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F

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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G

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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H

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Nike site W-26 is located on Broadneck Peninsula in the vicinity of Cape St. Claire. The missile site comprises a launch area and a control area. The launch is located on Bay Head Road. Located 1.1 miles west of the launch area is the control area, which is situated off of Broadneck Road.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lori O. Thursby, Architectural Historian

organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Assoc., Inc. date 21 February 1997

street & number 241 E. Fourth St., Ste. 100 telephone 301-694-0428

city or town Frederick state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

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Project Location and Description Summary

The Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26 is located on Broadneck Peninsula in the vicinity of Cape St. Claire. The missile site comprises a launch area and a control area. The 24-ac launch area, located on Bay Head Road, contains 19 buildings and structures associated with the execution of the missile launch, including missile magazines, missile assembly and maintenance buildings, storage and fueling sheds, barracks, and sentry houses. The eight-ac control area is located approximately 1.1 mi west of the launch area, off Broadneck Road. An administration building, a barracks, a pump house, and a mess hall constitute the control area.

Architectural Resources at Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26

Currently, Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26 is comprised of 23 buildings and structures: 19 of these are at the launch area, and four are at the control area. The contracting company Drummond & Co., Inc., from Pikesville, Maryland, constructed Site W-26 in 1955 (NSWC, Annapolis, Facilities Engineers Office, Construction Drawings). The buildings and structures followed the Army's standard plans for MEC construction. The following sections provide a summary of the extant resources at the launch and control areas of Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26. Included in the discussion is a description of each resource's character-defining features, physical condition, and function.

Launch Area

The launch area is located east of Bay Head Road and north of U.S. Route 50. Located on the west side of Bay Head Road is a 1980s residential subdivision; when the installation was constructed in 1955, it was surrounded by farms and vacant lands. The polygon-shaped 24-ac site is enclosed entirely by a wire fence that is topped with barbed wire. The installation is screened on the north, south, and east sides by tall, deciduous trees; the west side of the site is defined by Bay Head Road, which provides access to the site at two gates.

The launch area resources associated with the Cold War era include the missile silos Nos. 205-207; the barracks (Building 201); two missile maintenance buildings (Buildings 202 and 211); five support facilities (Buildings 200, 203, 208-210); and, four NSWC, Annapolis Detachment laboratories and recreational facilities (Buildings 212-215). Four buildings postdate 1989 (Buildings 204, 216-217, and a testing facility with no building number). All of these buildings currently are utilized by NSWC, Annapolis, for testing facilities.

The structures comprising the launch site complex are grouped into two distinct clusters. The barracks, pump house, paint and oil storage building, and sentry house, which are positioned in a linear alignment adjacent to Bay Head Road, compose the first cluster. The second cluster is situated on a partially bermed terrace located approximately 300 ft east of the first section. This cluster contains three subterranean missile magazines, a generator building, missile assembly and warheading buildings, and a sentry control station. The second cluster also includes the four new NSWC, Annapolis, laboratories.

The launch area, where missiles and warheads were assembled, stored and serviced, includes three subterranean silos spaced 100 ft apart in a linear alignment. **Missile Silos No. 205-207** were constructed in 1955. Each structure consists of three sections: 1) two magazines, used as storage and staging areas for missiles; 2) the pit area, which housed the hydraulic elevator used to raise the missile to the launch platform; and, 3) the personnel shelter that functioned as a control room during a launch. The subterranean structures are constructed of reinforced concrete and contain three large, rectangular, unobstructed spaces. At the center of the space is the pit area, a 6'-6"-deep cavity that contains the hydraulic elevator. The elevator extends the full length of the cavity. At each end of the pit area are the lift mechanisms of the elevator; the overhead gantry crane track is visible when the elevator is up. Arched steel doors 16 ft above terminate the space. On either side of the pit area are the magazine chambers, which also extend the full length of the space. The personnel shelter, or safe area, is accessed via a narrow corridor off one of the magazines. The shelter is secured by a thick steel blast door.

Above ground, two-ft-wide concrete slabs enclosed by low concrete retaining walls surround the 44'-3"-long steel elevator doors. Metal hatch doors, explosion vents, a fallout shelter, and covered ventilator shafts are located at various positions around each silo. The loading racks have been removed.

The magazines, launchers, and elevator systems of Silos No. 205 and 207 were modified when Site W-26 was converted to load Nike-Hercules missiles (Drawing Nos. 33-15-59 and 33-15-20, 1954). To transport the longer Hercules missile from the magazines to the surface launchers, the elevator doors were extended from 40'-8" to 44'-3" (Drawing No. ME 33-15-21, 28 July 1954). New construction included the installation of blast deflectors at the surface of each silo, and a warheading building within a bermed area adjacent to the silos. In addition, an inner security fence was installed around the silos (Drawing No. 16-06-35, 18 November 1960).

After 1971, modifications were made to convert these silos into test facilities for NSWC, Annapolis. One-story, concrete block access structures measuring roughly 5 x 15 ft were built above ground. Each entry structure contains a metal staircase that descends to one end of one of the magazines. In addition, a prefabricated metal building erected on top of the elevator doors of Silo No. 207 protects the silo from being filled with water. Interior alterations include the addition of two concrete block walls in both magazines of Silo No. 207, and one concrete block wall in Silo No. 205 to subdivide each space into small laboratory rooms.

Of the three silos, Silos No. 205 and 207 are intact and in excellent condition. Silo No. 206 is filled partially with water and, therefore, in poor condition. The elevator system is entirely intact and reportedly operational in Silo No. 207, and, in general, the elevator mechanisms in Silo No. 205 survive.

Building 201 was constructed in 1955 as the barracks. The barracks is a one-story, concrete block, L-shaped building resting on a concrete slab foundation. It is 14 bays wide and five bays deep, and terminates in a built-up shed roof. Every two bays on the west (front) and east elevations are delineated with concrete block pilasters, a standard architectural detail for Nike barracks. The original windows have been replaced with metal sash casement units. Two shed extensions on the west elevation incorporate single door entries, including the south entry which retains its original six-light, wooden door. Currently, a shed addition on the north elevation serves as the primary entrance. Numerous ventilators punctuate the roof, and skylights have been installed at the south end of the building. A concrete block addition has been appended to the southeast corner of the L-shaped core,

resulting in a T-shaped building. The addition terminates in a low-pitched gable roof, and exhibits a set of metal double doors on the north elevation.

Building 201 currently is utilized as a ship/marine testing facility for NSWC, Annapolis, and minor modifications were undertaken during the 1970s as part of its conversion. Exterior modifications included the removal of one window and the installation of one wood overhead track door (now metal) on the east elevation. Construction drawings indicate that the only interior change was the installation of two interior partition walls to subdivide a large room. A few of the original concrete block partition walls survive. The floors exhibit tile flooring. It is unclear if the flooring is original or a replacement.

Buildings 202 and 211 were associated with missile service, assembly and maintenance. **Building 202** is a tall, rectangular, one-story concrete block building. It was constructed in 1955 as the missile assembly and test building. The building features a short, shed-roofed wing on the east elevation. The front (north) and rear elevations are defined by large, central, overhead metal track doors. The front elevation also features a single metal door and a set of double metal doors on the wing addition. The west elevation contains four symmetrically-spaced windows. The building terminates in a built-up shed roof and is supported on a concrete slab foundation. Modifications include installation of double hung, one-over-one light aluminum sash replacement windows on the west and east elevations, and the closure of one window bay on the east elevation of the wing. Building 202 currently houses a hydraulic laboratory for NSWC, Annapolis.

Building 211 was built in 1960 as the warheading building that maintained and serviced the nuclear warheads of the Hercules missiles following conversion of the battery. The tall, one-story concrete block building terminates in a low-pitched front-gable roof. The interior plan is a one-room open space. The north and south gable ends contain large, metal roll-top track doors with a metal single door offset to one side. The building has been modified by the installation of three-light, metal sash windows; original window units consisted of wood-sash, three-light awning units (Drawing No. 33-38-03, 10 October 1958). One window opening at the south end of the west elevation has been enclosed. Building 211 serves now as the Materials Laboratory for NSWC, Annapolis.

The launch area's support buildings include two sentry houses (Buildings 208 and 210); a pump house (Building 200); a generator building (Building 203); and, a paint and oil storage building (Building 209). **Buildings 208 and 210** are small, one-story, concrete block buildings constructed ca. 1960. Each sentry house terminates in a front-gable roof and rests on a concrete slab foundation. Building 208 is distinguished by eaves on the west and east elevations that overhang two feet, and are supported by large purlins that extend out from beneath the roof. Paired, double-hung, one-over-one-light windows with concrete slip sills are incorporated on each elevation except the west, which has no openings. Entry to the structure is gained by a replacement single metal door on the east elevation. After the conversion of the installation to Hercules missiles and the addition of nuclear warheads in the battery, dog teams were used to patrol the launch area for added security. Canine kennels and a 30 x 50-ft exercise yard originally were located east of Building 208, which presumably served as headquarters for security personnel in charge of the dog teams (Drawing No. 39-19-02, 18 November 1960). The canine kennels and exercise yard were removed from the installation, but the year of removal is unknown.

Building 210 features a replacement single metal door and window on the front (north) and rear gable ends. Vinyl siding sheathes each gable peak. Two windows are placed symmetrically on the east elevation. All windows are double hung, two-over-two light, wood-sash units. There are no openings on the west elevation.

Building 200, the pump house, is a one-story, rectangular concrete block building resting on a concrete foundation. It is two bays wide and one bay deep, and terminates in a shed roof. The west elevation exhibits two replacement metal single doors; the original doors consisted of a wood panel unit with wood louvers at the bottom (Drawing No. 26-09-01, 2 June 1954). A central, wood-sash, two-over-two-light double hung window with horizontal muntins and projecting concrete lug sill is featured on the south elevation, and a double door opening has been installed on the north elevation. Metal water tanks surround the building.

Building 203 was constructed ca. 1955-1957 as the generator building. The walls and the side-gable roof are sheathed with corrugated metal. The gable roof has been extended on the south end to shelter testing equipment. The roof extension is supported by square wood posts resting on a concrete slab. Four single sash, divided-light awning windows are spaced symmetrically on the west elevation. A shed addition was appended to the east elevation in 1958 (Drawing No. 26-24-01, 15 May 1958). The addition features paired wood-sash, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows and metal double doors. A tall ventilator punctures the roof. This building currently serves as a fire laboratory for NSWC, Annapolis.

According to construction drawings, the corrugated metal sheathing the roof and walls was applied prior to 1972. The same year, Building 203 received several other modifications. For instance, one single door was removed and infilled, and new metal doors were installed on the front elevation. Four new double-hung, one-over-one-light, steel-sash windows replaced the louvered wood doors on the rear elevation. Modifications to the side elevation included infilling a door, disposing of its single window, and installing a new overhead track door.

Building 209, a paint and oil storage building built in 1958, is a one-story, square, concrete block structure. The building rests on a concrete foundation, and terminates in a built-up shed roof. The sole opening on this building consists of a metal door on the front (south) elevation. Overhanging eaves incorporate a plywood soffit. A pump is located just west of the building. At present, the building is vacant.

The launch area also contains buildings and structures constructed by NSWC, Annapolis, after the Nike missile site was deactivated. **Building 212**, the Machinery Laboratory, was constructed in 1978. The building is a one-story, concrete block structure that incorporates two front entries: a metal single door, and metal double doors. Windows are wood-sash, two-over-two-light, awning units with projecting concrete slip sills. One section of the building at the northeast corner is two feet taller than the rest of the building. This section and the rest of the building terminate in flat, built-up roofs with parapets capped with concrete coping. A tall ventilator punctures the roof. A concrete block addition twice the size of the original core has been incorporated at the rear of Building 212.

Buildings 213 and 214 are prefabricated, wood-frame recreational structures that serve two baseball diamonds located on the south side of the property. The former was constructed in 1980, and the latter in 1985. **Building 215** is a one-story, concrete block structure terminating in a split shed roof. The clerestory is covered by corrugated metal sheeting. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation, and incorporates modern metal doors and window units. Building 215 was constructed in 1989 as the Chemical Laboratory and contains office space, two test rooms, and an instrumentation room (Montana 1990:Appendix C, 325).

The launch area also contains four buildings postdating 1989. **Buildings 204, 216-217, and a testing facility** (no building number) are all prefabricated, metal-frame structures sheathed with corrugated metal. These structures were constructed by NSWC, Annapolis, as testing and support facilities.

Control Area

The control area is located off of Broadneck Road in a suburban area. The rectangular 6.88-ac parcel is enclosed by a metal fence that is topped with barbed wire. Deciduous trees on the north, south, and west sides shield the property from nearby houses, but two modern community centers are visible to the east. Most of the parcel is relatively flat, although the southeast portion of the property is slightly elevated. Although no evidence remains of the location of the radar towers, it is likely that they were positioned on this elevated portion of the property, in the direction of the launch area.

The control area retains some of its original site-design features, including concrete sidewalks between and around the building perimeters and a handful of the original light poles. A wood pole composes the main structure of the light pole, and an arched metal arm attached to the top of the pole supports the light fixture. Poured concrete drainage ditches run behind the buildings.

Four resources comprise the control area: a barracks (Building 105); an administration building (?) (Building 100); a mess hall (?) (Building 101); and, a pump house (Building 102). All four buildings were erected in 1955 when the Nike site was activated. No radar towers or equipment associated with target acquisition and missile tracking survive. The concrete foundation of a fifth building, possibly a generator building, is located southeast of Building 101. Currently, the four extant buildings are used by the U.S. Army Reserve Map Distribution Center.

Building 105 currently is utilized for map storage, but originally served as barracks. The one-story, L-shaped building is 14 bays wide and four bays deep, and rests on a concrete slab foundation. The concrete block barracks, now sheathed with vinyl siding, terminates in a shed roof. The front elevation is distinguished by a projecting vestibule enclosed with double doors that are flanked by large, single-light windows supported on wood panel bases. Concrete block pilasters on the front and rear elevations, a standard architectural detail for Nike barracks, have been covered in vinyl siding. All windows and doors are replacement metal double-hung sash, one-over-one-light, units. Slip sills are covered by aluminum sheeting, as are the eaves. The rear elevation of Building 105 is defined by one single door entry, one double door entry, and ten window openings. The building features two additions: a small addition in the southeast corner provides a single door entry, and a second addition, appended to the north elevation, terminates in a shed roof. It features a single door entry and an overhead track door on the east elevation. Both additions are sheathed with horizontal wood siding.

Building 100 probably functioned as the administration building, and it maintains that function today. This one-story, rectangular structure terminating in a low-pitched side-gable roof is supported on a concrete slab foundation. The entire building is sheathed with vinyl siding. The front (west) elevation features a central entrance sheltered by a flat roof canopy supported by two square metal posts. Three bays of window openings flank the entrance. The rear elevation has an offset metal single door with three bays of paired metal sash windows at the north end. A lean-to utility structure projecting from the south end contains a set of metal double doors. The north gable end exhibits a central double door entry covered by a flat roof canopy. Paired windows are on one side of the entry. The south gable end is

defined by central double doors flanked by paired windows; these are replacement single and paired double-hung, one-over-one light, aluminum sash units. All doors, which also are replacements, are metal.

Building 101 currently serves as an administration building, but it probably originally functioned as the mess hall. The one-story building is constructed of concrete block and is sheathed with vinyl siding. It is ten bays wide and two bays deep, and terminates in a shed roof. The front (west) elevation features one single door and two double-door entries, each of which is sheltered by an aluminum flat roof canopy supported by square aluminum posts. A concrete sidewalk leads to what was a fourth entry; it has been infilled and sheathed with vinyl siding. The front and rear elevations consist primarily of paired and triple window units. Two bays of triple windows comprise the north elevation. All windows consist of replacement metal sash, one-over-one light, double hung units. All also doors are metal replacement units.

The interior of Building 101 contains modern interior wall partitions that were installed to convert the building to offices. A drop ceiling and fluorescent lighting system also were installed. The interior exhibits tile flooring.

Building 102, the pump house, is a small, rectangular, one-story, concrete block structure sheathed with vinyl siding. It is three bays wide and one bay deep, rests on a concrete slab foundation, and terminates in a shed roof. The eaves are covered by aluminum sheeting, as is the slip sill of the original double-hung, two-over-two light, wood-sash window on the south elevation. The north and west elevations have no window or door openings. In front of Building 102 is a metal water storage tank that postdates 1989.

Located on a slight rise approximately 100 yards east of Building 102 is a fenced-in area defined by a rectangular concrete slab. No structural remnants are visible but a radar tower(s) may have been located here.

Overview of Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26

Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26 was one of 14 Nike batteries established to defend Washington, D.C. during the Cold War. The Nike antiaircraft missile system was conceived to defend against bombers carrying nuclear bombs. The Nike family of missiles included the Nike-Ajax and its more powerful successor, the Nike-Hercules. Constructed in 1955, the Annapolis emplacement operated initially with one universal magazine and two Ajax-only magazines. The site was converted to accommodate Hercules missiles between June 1960 and September 1961, after which time the battery contained 30 Ajax missiles and 18 Hercules missiles (Morgan 1990). In 1962 Site W-26 became the first Nike-Hercules battery in the continental U.S. to transfer operations from a regular Army unit to an Army National Guard unit (Jacobs 1974). The Annapolis Nike missile site was deactivated in November 1968, and the missiles were removed.

In 1971, the launch area of Site W-26 was acquired by the Annapolis Detachment of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Carderock Division. The structures at the launch site, including the missile silos, are utilized by NSWC, Annapolis as test laboratories. The control area currently is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Reserve Map Distribution Center.

Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26 as a whole lacks integrity since most of the buildings and structures have undergone substantial exterior and interior modifications subsequent to the deactivation of the base. Only two structures, Silos No. 205 and 207 are intact and possess sufficient integrity to convey their original appearance and functions. However, they do not possess sufficient individual significance to provide an understanding of the function and purpose of a Nike missile battery as a complete working entity. In addition, the radar towers, vital components of a Nike missile installation, no longer survive. Therefore, Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26 does not possess exceptional significance or convey sufficient integrity under Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation.

Historical Overview of Nike Missile Sites

Nike Missile Historic Context

The Nike missile system was an air defense system developed by the United States Army and private contractors beginning in 1945. Deployed in the continental U.S., Hawaii, and Europe, it was the world's first guided antiaircraft missile system. The system was operational between 1954 and the early 1970s, and, during this span, was improved progressively through various generations of development, including the Nike-Ajax and the larger, more powerful, and longer range Nike-Hercules. Efforts by defense officials to deploy additional variants of the system during the 1960s were unsuccessful.

By 1945, conventional antiaircraft artillery defenses had become ineffective against fast, maneuverable targets. This fact was illustrated by Allied bomber raids which destroyed critical Axis military centers during the end of World War II. Bombers were seen as a particular threat since they were the main means of delivery for early nuclear bombs. The Army developed the Nike missile system to provide air defense against nuclear aerial attacks. The Army eventually contracted management of the Nike project to Westem Electric, which assumed Nike systems engineering and research work with a team of subcontractors that included its parent organization, Bell Laboratories. The onset of the Korean conflict in 1950 accelerated work on the system. The first tests of the Nike rocket took place at White

Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico, one year later; tests of the first prototype occurred in 1952, and initial deployments took place in the summer of 1953.

The Nike missile, or Nike I as it was designated initially, was a two-stage, surface-to-air guided missile armed with three conventional high-explosive warheads. The missile utilized a solid-propelled first stage and a liquid-fueled second stage to reach a maximum speed of 1,679-mph (Mach 2.3). With an effective range of 25 to 30 miles, complete coverage of the continental United States was not feasible. Thus, Nike missiles were deployed in ring formations around 23 vital defense areas, i.e., major industrial, commercial, and population centers (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers n.d.). Generally, deployment began at coastal and northern perimeter cities. Strategic military facilities, such as Air Force bases or arsenals, and midwestern and southeastern cities later were added to the list of defense areas (McMaster et al. 1984). The Washington-Baltimore defense areas comprised 21 Nike missile sites: 14 sites to defend Washington, D.C., including Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26; and, seven to defend Baltimore City.

The first Nike battery went into operation at a temporary site at Fort Meade, Maryland, in 1954; the battery was relocated to a permanent site at Davidsonville one year later. Other temporary Nike launch sites were operative by 1954 around Washington, D.C., and cities such as Baltimore, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; Los Angeles and San Francisco, California; and, New York, New York. These units soon were moved to permanent sites. Additional continental sites became functional a year later. In all, nearly 200 batteries were positioned around America's major cities (Lonnquest and Winkler n.d.).

The location of a Nike missile installation was chosen for geographical, tactical, and defense considerations. The Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the branch responsible for Nike land acquisition, attempted to locate sites on existing installations or on public lands. However, the availability of public lands in populous urban areas forced the COE to acquire private lands. Property acquisition delayed deployment of the defense system as private landholders concerned about safety were reluctant to accept missile installations in close proximity to their properties. Local opposition diminished after the initial plan for aboveground missile storage was redesigned as subterranean magazines (Cole 1985). This, in turn, reduced the average amount of acreage required per site from 104 to 45 ac, and reduced the opportunities for accidents and sabotage (Bruce-Briggs 1988; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1996).

Establishment of Nike-Ajax installations also was delayed by the contemporaneous development of Nike-Hercules missiles. Although the Hercules missile was still in the initial stages of development, Ajax magazines, elevators and launchers were redesigned to be "universal," i.e., capable of housing Ajax missiles, yet designed for easier future conversion to the larger Hercules missiles (Cole 1985). When the permanent building program commenced in 1954 with 60 sites, each site was designed to contain two universal magazines.

The Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26 was one of 14 Nike sites constructed to protect Washington, D.C. The Annapolis-Bay Bridge site contained one universal and two Ajax-only missile magazines each containing four universal launchers. The 36th Army Antiaircraft Missile Battalion undertook the first operations at Annapolis-Bay Bridge in 1955; Battery A, 1st Battalion, 562nd Artillery took over operations in September 1958 (Morgan 1990).

By 1956, the Nike I system had been renamed Nike-Ajax. This system was the basis of the Army's continental antiaircraft system until 1958, when officials ordered the replacement of selected

emplacements with Nike-Hercules missiles. Development of the Nike "B," or Hercules missile began after the Army realized that the guidance system for Nike-Ajax missiles could engage only one target at a time. With Western Electric as the primary contractor again, Hercules missiles were developed and tested between 1953 and 1958. The three-stage Hercules had greater range (over 75 mi), and velocity (2,707 mph, or Mach 3.65) than its predecessor. More importantly, it could eliminate an entire aircraft formation with a nuclear payload.

The Army converted 110 existing Nike-Ajax batteries to accommodate the Hercules missiles. Although the facilities originally were designed to anticipate systems upgrades, some Nike-Ajax installations could not accommodate the new missiles. Engineers therefore designed changes to the launch equipment and magazines to house the new Nike-Hercules. Officials also ordered the construction of Nike-Hercules batteries around new defense areas such as Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; Kansas City, Kansas/Missouri; and, Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio. In all, 35 new Nike-Hercules installations were constructed (Lonnquest and Winkler n.d.; Morgan 1990).

The Hercules's longer range and greater payload prompted the Army to alter the existing Nike-Ajax/Nike-Hercules operating system. Fewer long-range Nike-Hercules missiles were required to perform the job of the shorter range Nike-Ajax. In addition, improved radar and command coordinating systems were installed at Hercules batteries. As a result, some Nike-Ajax bases were eliminated and the number of personnel and launchers at each active battery was reduced. For example, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 70th Artillery, the contingent that operated Site W-26 between December 1962 and November 1968, was reduced from 138 men to 126 after the installation of a new acquisition radar (Cole 1985). Ajax batteries that had not been converted to accept Hercules missiles were phased out; the last Nike-Ajax battery was deactivated in November 1963 in the Norfolk, Virginia, defense area (Lonnquest and Winkler n.d.).

The original Nike-Ajax facilities of the Annapolis-Bay Bridge site were modified between December 1960 and June 1961 to accommodate Nike-Hercules missiles. The magazines, elevator system, and eight out of 12 launchers were converted to launch the Hercules. When the battery was operational, 30 Ajax and 18 Hercules missiles were loaded at one time (Morgan 1990).

During the late 1950s, regular Army units were responsible for the majority of the new Hercules batteries while many of the earlier Ajax batteries had been transferred to Army National Guard units. The first National Guard unit to operate a Nike emplacement was California's 720th Missile Battalion, which assumed responsibility for a Nike-Ajax battery in the Los Angeles defense area in 1957. In the Baltimore defense area, Ajax sites Jacksonville, Granite, Fork, Fort Smallwood, and Cronhart were operated by Guard units in 1958 (Cole 1985). Two years later, the National Guard manned 52 Nike-Ajax batteries in nine states; many of those units operated alongside Army-manned Nike-Hercules batteries. National Guard units eventually assumed control of all Nike-Ajax batteries. In 1962, the Army announced its plan to transfer operations of over 48 Hercules batteries to Army National Guard units within three years. The first Nike-Hercules site transferred to a Guard unit was Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26; the command of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 70th Artillery commenced operations on 11 December 1962 (Jacobs 1974).

Throughout the 1960s, the Army and the Department of Defense developed and tried unsuccessfully to deploy new-model Nike systems. Eventually, the Army employed a system that incorporated technology developed for Nike. The Army, Bell Labs, and Western Electric developed an antiballistic missile (ABM) weapon known as Nike-Zeus during the late 1950s and early 1960s to respond

to ballistic missiles anticipated in a nuclear attack against the United States. System limitations and political opposition, however, caused the Kennedy administration to terminate the project (American Enterprise Institute 1969; Bruce-Briggs 1988). Later, scientists introduced a revised version of the system, the Nike-X, which incorporated a long range missile and the shorter-range Sprint missile system. This complex system cost more than the Johnson administration wished to spend, and it too, eventually was shelved.

In 1967, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara announced the Sentinel System, which utilized Nike-X technology. This weapon system employed short-range Sprint missiles and longer-range Spartan missiles housed at launch sites near U.S. Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) silos and away from major cities. Though developed through 1969, the system was never deployed. The Nixon administration decided in that year to develop a reworked version of the Sentinel that incorporated Nike technology in the Safeguard ABM system. However, the project was canceled when President Nixon signed the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, which prevented the United States from deploying ABM systems.

Throughout the 1960s, the Nike-Hercules remained the United States Army's tactical missile defense system. However, Nike-Hercules eventually were rendered obsolete because they lacked the capability to destroy the long-range ICBMs. During this decade, the Army demobilized batteries within the system, and turned over greater numbers of batteries to the National Guard. By 1969, the Guard controlled 54 Hercules batteries in 17 states, or approximately one-third of the units in the continental United States, and all Hawaii-based batteries (Morgan 1990). Between 1964 and 1974, scores of Hercules batteries were deactivated in the United States; operational batteries in Alaska, Florida, and Fort Bliss, Texas, were maintained through 1979, while selected batteries in Europe were maintained through the early 1990s (Lonnquest and Winkler n.d.). Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26 was deactivated on 1 November 1968.

In 1971, the launch area of Site W-26 was acquired by the Annapolis Detachment of the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC), Carderock Division. The structures at the launch site, including the missile silos were transformed into additional space and utilized by NSWC, Annapolis, as test laboratories. Interior alterations included the addition of two concrete block walls in both magazines of Silo No. 207, and one concrete block wall in Silo No. 205 to subdivide each space into small laboratory rooms.

Typical Construction of Nike Sites

The permanent facilities of a Nike missile site typically constituted three areas: the launch area, the control area, and the living area. The launch area comprised subterranean missile magazines; ground-level missile launching pads; missile assembly, loading, and testing buildings; a generator building; and, barracks. The control area included the control trailers that contained the computer tracking and guidance systems; three 20-ft-tall radar towers; barracks; and, administration buildings. The living area contained the barracks, mess hall, and supply building. If the battery was small, as at Site W-26, the living area typically was located within the launch or control areas; at larger installations with separate living areas, the living area constituted a 25-75 ac tract located between the control and launch areas (McMaster et al. 1984).

The missile launch area was separated from the control facilities by a distance ranging from 3000 ft to no farther than 2.2 mi. This distance provided an adequate amount of safety between the two areas, but still lay within range of the radar equipment. The launch area was located between the control area and the direction of the expected bomber threat.

The launch area required a 40- to 75-ac parcel, but only about 15 ac was developed for the area's facilities. The remaining land served as a security and safety buffer and for possible future expansion of the battery. The arrangement of structures within the occupied 15 ac formed three distinct sections. The underground missile magazines were situated at the rear of the developed portion of the tract. The middle section contained the missile assembly building, generator building, and fueling station, and often was separated from the other sections of the launch area by an earthen berm. The section closest to the main access gate contained barracks, a mess hall, and a sentry house.

The underground magazines typically had the capacity to store 12 Nike-Ajax missiles and eight larger Nike-Hercules missiles. The missiles were stored horizontally on twin loading racks, or rails. Located in the center of the magazine was a large, rectangular platform elevator with hydraulic lifts that could raise one missile at a time to the surface. Once above ground, a missile was pushed manually along surface loading rails to one of three launchers positioned parallel to the elevator, or the missile remained on the elevator's launcher.

A characteristic layout of the control area consisted of two sectors: 1) the barracks, administration building, and mess hall; and, 2) the radar facilities. A 7- to 13-ac rectangular or L-shaped tract was required for the control area. Typically, the launch and control areas were constructed on relatively flat, open, and well-drained tracts of land (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers n.d.). The flat topography prevented radio interference, and provided direct line-of-sight and direct access between the control and launch areas. Interference also was prevented by siting the radar towers on the highest possible point on the site.

The buildings, structures, and layout comprising Nike sites represent typical Army standardized construction. All Nike facilities throughout the U.S., its territories, and Europe were designed jointly by Leon Chatelain, Jr., a prominent Washington, D.C., architect, and Spector and Montgomery, Architects, a firm located in Falls Church, Virginia. The majority of the structures were designed between 1953 and 1955. The plans were distributed to each defense area where local architects and engineers modified the site plans and designs to conform to site-specific conditions (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers n.d.). Ultimately, "final" plans for Nike structures were devised to allow for modifications as required by site conditions. Private contractors selected by the COE constructed the Nike facilities according to the modified plans.

The designs followed the Army's Modified Emergency Construction (MEC) specifications. A grade higher than wood-frame Emergency Construction, MEC construction consists of concrete block buildings resting on concrete slab foundations. The wood-frame roof is supported by interior columns and beams of laminated lumber. The interiors remain unfinished, and windows consist of wood-sash, two-over-two-light units with horizontal muntins. Administrative facilities incorporate masonry interior wall partitions and asphalt tile flooring over the concrete floors for more livable interior conditions (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers n.d.).

For some of the smaller installations, the government rented housing within the adjacent community for personnel (Bruce-Briggs 1988). At select Nike sites, family housing was constructed

under the Capehart Act, a bill passed in 1955 that authorized private financing for military housing (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers n.d.). The Capehart single-family house is a wood or masonry, one- to two-story, rectangular house terminating in a shallow gable roof, and clad with clapboards or board and batten siding. Capehart housing, which was built until the program's demise in 1962, probably was constructed on larger Nike installations. Capehart housing was not constructed at Annapolis-Bay Ridge Nike Missile Site W-26.

Measures were taken to make the installation inconspicuous for security purposes, and to blend in with the nearby community. Trees, shrubbery, and other landscaping characterized the perimeter and interior areas of the site. In addition, buildings were intended to be painted in colors compatible with the surrounding community (Cole 1985). Many Nike facilities in the Washington-Baltimore defense areas were painted in fatigue shades of green and brown (Mark Baker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, personal communication, 2 October 1996). Archival investigations have not identified the original paint scheme for the buildings located at Annapolis-Bay Ridge Nike Missile Site W-26. Nike sites also incorporated paved roads and walkways, covered and/or interconnecting walkways, flag poles, exterior light poles, and modest flowers. Athletic facilities were included at isolated Nike sites.

The general configuration of Nike installations was retained throughout the missiles' deployment. When the second generation Nike-Hercules was completed, construction engineers modified the launch equipment to accommodate the larger rocket, which reduced the storage capacity of the magazines from 12 missiles to eight. A few structures had to be added to the launch areas, including a warheading building for the maintenance of nuclear warheads, and decontamination showers. Nuclear storage buildings were isolated from the rest of the installation or enclosed by an earthen berm. Fallout shelters were built in both the launch and control areas.

Any Nike-Hercules site, whether a converted Ajax site or a newly constructed site, required tight security measures due to the presence of nuclear warheads. Sites containing Nike-Hercules missiles included at least one sentry house at the launch area and one at the control area. A team of dogs patrolled an approximate 20- to 30-ft area between two perimeter fences.

Data Analysis

The Cold War-era built resources at Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26 were evaluated to determine their potential significance. The Annapolis installation was evaluated within the appropriate historic context of the Nike missile system, applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60 [a-d]) and the National Register of Historic Places exceptional significance of Criteria Consideration G.

Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places applies to sites, structures, objects, buildings, and districts that generally are at least 50 years old. Properties less than 50 years of age may qualify for listing in the National Register if they meet the National Register criteria considerations for exceptional importance. Since all of the surveyed resources at Site W-26 were constructed after 1955, the built resources were evaluated applying the criteria considerations for exceptional significance. In order for DoD Cold War properties less than 50 years of age to qualify for listing in the National Register, the resources must possess *exceptional significance* on a *national* level and retain sufficient integrity to

convey their period(s) of significance (Center for Air Force History 1994:65; Green 1993:np; U.S. Department of the Interior n.d.).

Twenty-three buildings and structures were documented under this current investigation, which included the subterranean missile magazines. The launch and control areas of Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26 were evaluated collectively as an historic district. Since these component areas were constructed to function together as one site, the individual resources can be understood only as a whole entity. Evaluation of Site W-26 was based on Criterion A, for its association with the Army's Cold War Nike missile air defense system, and Criterion C, for its ability to represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Annapolis-Bay Bridge Site W-26 as a whole lacks integrity since most of the buildings and structures have undergone substantial exterior and interior modifications subsequent to the deactivation of the base. Only two structures, Silos No. 205 and 207, are intact and possess sufficient integrity to convey their original appearance and functions. However, they do not possess sufficient individual significance to provide an understanding of the function and purpose of a Nike missile battery as a complete working entity. In addition, the radar towers, vital components of a Nike missile installation, no longer survive. Therefore, Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26 does not possess exceptional significance or sufficient integrity under Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation.

MHT No. AA-38
Nike Site W-26 (Annapolis-Bay Bridge)
Anne Arundel County
Section 8.8

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Modern Period A.D. 1930 - present

Historic Period Theme(s):

Military

Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use: Nike Missile Battery

Known Design Source: Leon Chatelain, Jr., and Spector and Montgomery, Architects

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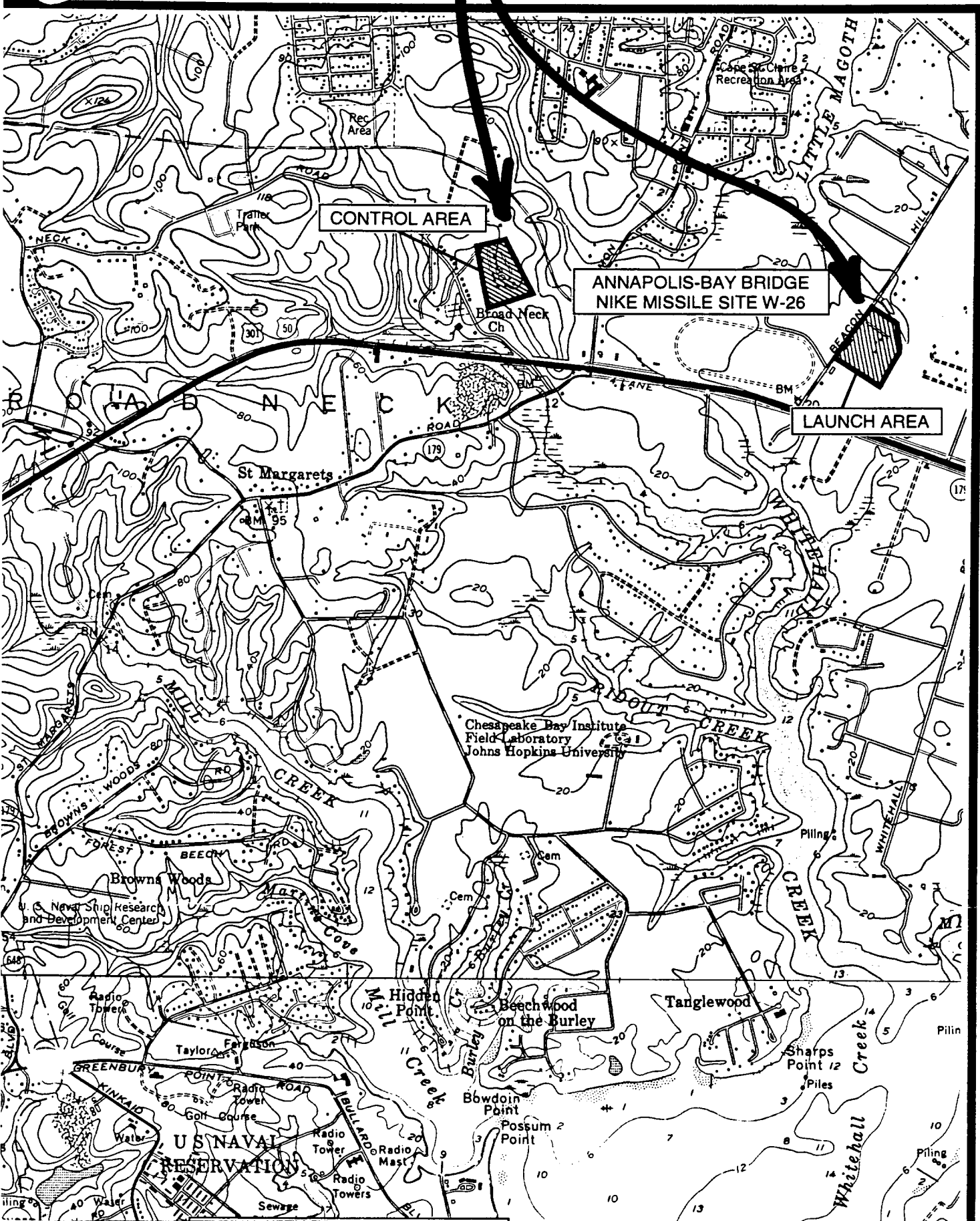
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- 1 of 2 Excerpts from the 1954 (photorevised 1979) USGS 7.5' Gibson Island Quadrangle and the 1957 (photorevised 1978) USGS 7.5' Annapolis Quadrangle, showing the location of Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26 and its relationship to NSWC, Annapolis
- 2 of 2 Site plan of the launch area facilities of Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26.

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SITE W-26 (ANNAPOLIS-BAY BRIDGE)
NIKE MISSILE SITE

USGS GIBSON ISLAND QUADRANGLE



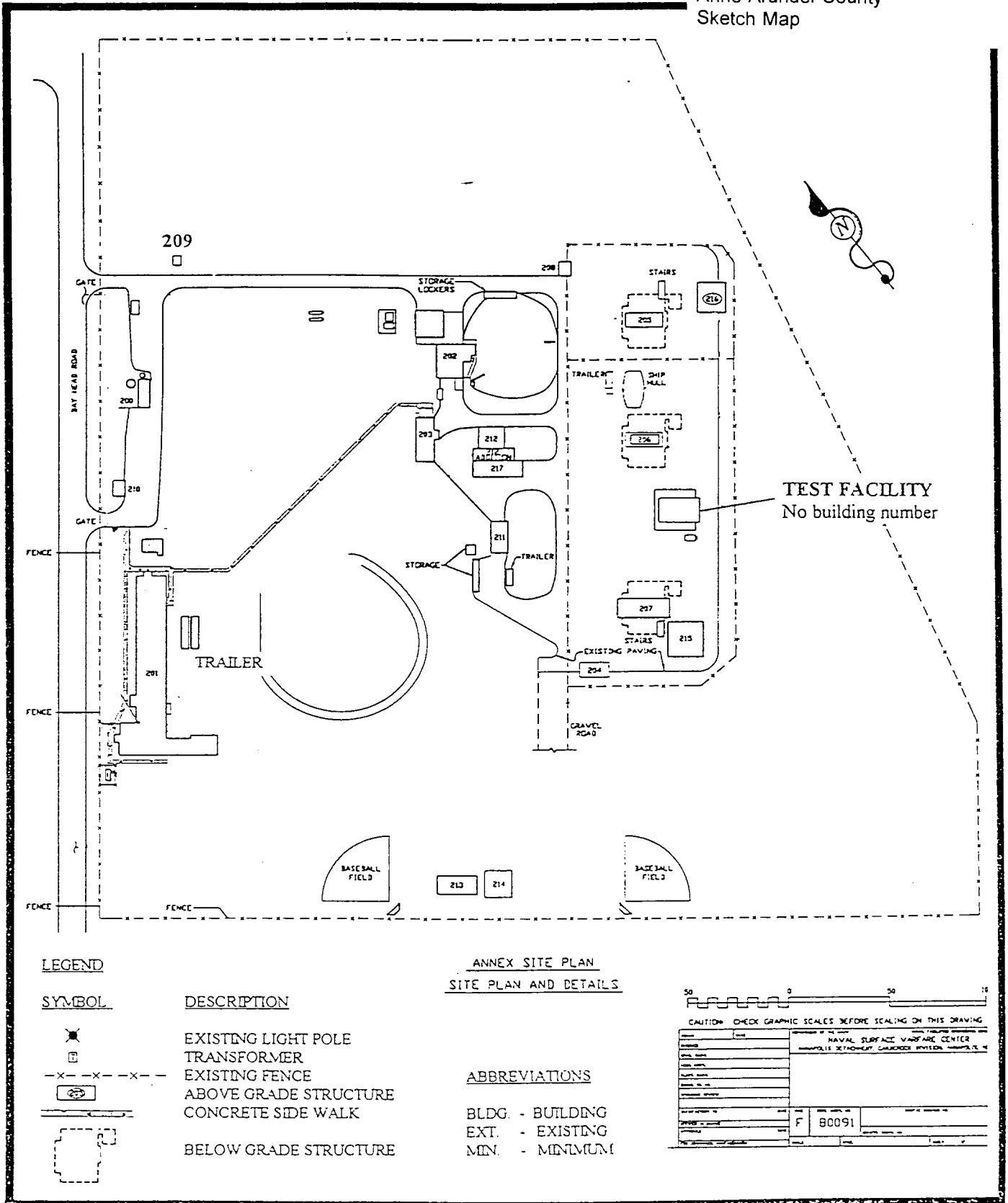
CONTROL AREA

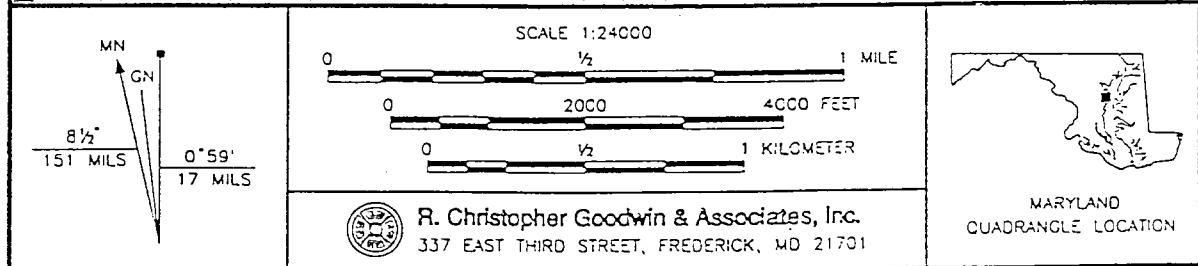
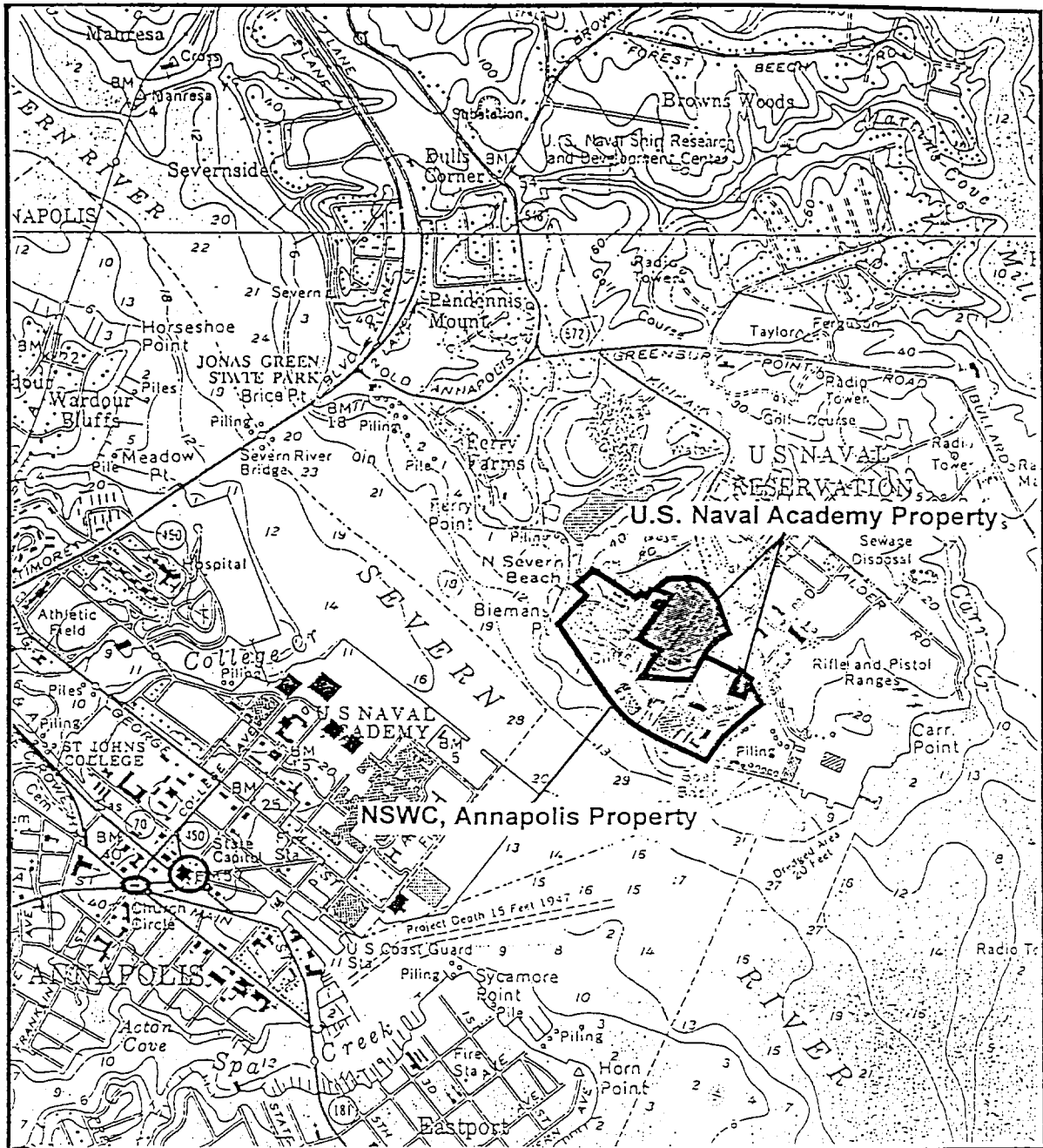
ANNAPOLIS-BAY BRIDGE
NIKE MISSILE SITE W-26

LAUNCH AREA

Chesapeake Bay Institute
Field Laboratory
Johns Hopkins University

U.S. NAVAL
RESERVATION





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The Information for items a-f is identical for each print.

- a. Inventory No.: AA-38
- b. Historic Name: Nike Site W-26
- c. Location: Anne Arundel County, Maryland
- d. Photographer: Lori O'Donnell
- e. Date: November 1997
- f. Location of Neg: Engineering Field Activity-Chesapeake
Building 212, 901 M Street, S.E.
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374-2121

- 1 of 9 View Southeast of Closed Elevator Doors of Silo No. 205.
- 2 of 9 View South of Elevator and Covered Ventilator Shaft of Silo No. 206.
- 3 of 9 View Southwest of East (rear) and North Elevations of Building 201 (Launch Area Barracks).
- 4 of 9 View West of North (primary) and East Elevations of Building 202 (Missile Assembly and Test Building).
- 5 of 9 View Northeast of South (primary) and West Elevations of Building 211 (Warheading Building).
- 6 of 9 View West of an original light pole.
- 7 of 9 View Southwest of a portion of the East (primary) Elevation of Building 105 (Control Area Barracks).
- 8 of 9 View Northeast of West (primary) and South elevations of Building 100 (Administration Building).
- 9 of 9 View Southeast of West (primary) and North Elevations of Building 101 (Mess Hall).



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ANNAPOLIS-BAY BRIDGE Nike Missile Site W-26
ANNE ARUNDEL, MARYLAND

LORI O'DONNELL

11/22/96

ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY - CHE SPEAKER

WASHINGTON NAVAL YARD, Building 212

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20374-5018

VIEW SOUTHEAST OF CLOSED ELEVATOR DOORS OF Silo No. 205

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ANNAPOLIS - Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W. 26

ANNE ARUNDEL, MARYLAND

LOU O'DONNELL

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ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY - CUESA/FAHE

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, BUILDING 212

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20374-5018

VIEW SOUTH OF ELEVATOR OF SILO NO. 206

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201

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ANNAPOLIS - BAN BRIDGE Nike Missile Site W-26

ANNE ARUNDEL, MARYLAND

Lori O'Donnell

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ENGINEERING Field Activity - MESAPENNE

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, Building 212

WASHINGTON D.C. 20374-5018

VIEW SOUTHWEST OF BUILDING 201, LUNCH AREA BARRACKS

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Annapolis-Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26

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ENGINEERING FIELD Activity - Ollespeake

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WASHINGTON D.C. 20374-5018

VIEW WEST OF Building 202

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Annapolis - Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26

Anne Arundel, Maryland

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Engineering Field Activity - Chesapeake

Washington Navy Yard, Building 212

Washington DC. 20374-5018

View Northeast of Building 211

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Annapolis - Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26

Anne Arundel, Maryland

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Engineering Field Activity - Clear Lake

Washington Navy Yard, Building 212

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VIEW WEST OF AN ORIGINAL LIGHT POLE

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Annapolis - Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W-26

ANNE ARUNDEL, MARYLAND

LORI O'DONNELL

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ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY - CHESAPEAKE

WASHINGTON NAVAL YARD, BUILDING 212

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VIEW SOUTHWEST OF BUILDING 105

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ANNAPOLIS - BAY BRIDGE Nike Missile Site W-26

ANNE ARUNDEL, MARYLAND

LORI O'DONNELL

11/22/96

ENGINEERING Field Activity - CIE SPEAKER

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, Building 212

WASHINGTON DC 20374-5018

VIEW NORTHEAST OF BUILDING 100

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Annapolis - Bay Bridge Nike Missile Site W 26

Anne Arundel, Maryland

Lori O'Donnell

11/22/96

Engineering Field Activity - Chesapeake

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Washington DC 20374-8018

VIEW SOUTHEAST OF BUILDING 101

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