

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1 Name of Property

Historic name: Nike Missile Site C-32

Other names/site number: Bailly Administration Area

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2 Location

Street & number: 1100 N Mineral Springs Road & 1031-1035 North Wagner Road

City or town: Porter State: Indiana County: Porter

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity:

3 State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

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Turkiya L Lowe Supervisor^ Historian/FPO (acting) 5-5-2025

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

National Park Service, Federal Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Trish C. D... 5.5.2025

Signature of certifying official:

Date

ASSISTANT DIR OF PRES. SERVICES, INDIANA DNR, DHFA

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4 National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5 Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public - Local

☐

Public - State

☐

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Public – Federal

☒

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

_____ 14 _____

_____ 2 _____

_____ 4 _____

_____ 0 _____

_____ 20 _____

Non-Contributing

_____ 6 _____

_____ 0 _____

_____ 5 _____

_____ 0 _____

_____ 11 _____

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6 Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE/Air Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

GOVERNMENT/Fire Station

AGRICULTURE/Horticultural Facility

AGRICULTURE/Agricultural Outbuilding

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EDUCATION/Research Facility

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

OTHER/Storage

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7 Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: 20th Century Functional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

Walls: Wood: Weatherboard

Concrete

OTHER: Cement Fiber Board

Foundation: Concrete

Roof: Synthetic

Concrete

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Nike Missile Site C-32 was one of twenty-two Nike missile launch and control sites built in 1956 by the U.S. Army as part of the Chicago–Gary Defense Area. Original site plans were completed by Spector & Montgomery, an architecture and engineering firm in Falls Church, Virginia. These plans were adapted to the site by A. Epstein & Sons, engineers from Chicago.¹ Located in Porter, Indiana, the site consisted of two separate parcels: the main 15.33-acre Battery Control and Housing Area at 1100 North Mineral Springs Road and the 14.95-acre Launch Area, approximately one-half mile east of the Battery Control and Housing Area, just northeast of the intersection of Wagner Road/County Road 50 West and West Oak Hill Road/County Road 1350 North. The site supported the Nike Ajax missile from 1957–1959 and the Nike Hercules missile from 1959–1974.² The Battery Control and Housing Area was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1975 after the military shuttered the Nike program, and the Launch Area was purchased by a private owner and has remained in private ownership since then. The Battery Control and Housing Area became the Bailly Administration Area administrative headquarters of what was then the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (IDNL), but as of 2019 is Indiana Dunes

¹ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites, Photocopies, Collection of Indiana Dunes National Park.

² U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Final Decision Document Former Nike C-32 Site, Porter, Indiana* (Louisville, KY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, 2018), 5. This document discusses the extensive evaluation and enforcement activities that were undertaken at the site for environmental restoration, along with history of the property and history/current use at the time.

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National Park.³ The entire complex, including both parcels, includes twenty contributing resources and eleven non-contributing resources. The Battery Control and Housing Area has nine contributing and eleven non-contributing resources, while the Launch Area has eleven contributing and no non-contributing resources. As these were military buildings, they were constructed quickly and efficiently in a Twentieth-Century Functional style with little extraneous detail. Originally built of concrete block, the Nike-related buildings at the Battery Control and Housing Area were covered in vertical wood siding and painted brown to conform to the NPS brand following the 1975 change in ownership. This exterior finish has been used on subsequent construction. Those buildings at the Launch Area maintain their original finishes. The period of significance for the district is 1956–1974, to reflect the years that the site was in development and service as a Nike missile site.

Description

Nike sites consisted of a Battery Control Area, a Housing/Administration Area, and a Launch Area. Typically, the Housing/Administration Area—comprising the administration building, barracks, mess hall, and recreation facilities—was combined with either the Battery Control Area or the Launch Area.⁴ In the case of C-32, the engineering firm A. Epstein & Sons of Chicago adapted the Army's plans to combine the Housing/Administration Area with the Battery Control Area.⁵ The buildings at C-32 were built in a Twentieth-Century Functional style that was quick and inexpensive to construct and provided the necessary shelter required by the military.

For the purposes of the Narrative Description, the resources of the Battery Control and Housing Area and the Launch Area will be described separately.

Battery Control and Housing Area

Indiana Dunes National Park includes over 15,000 acres of noncontiguous parcels extending south along the shore of Lake Michigan. Centrally located within the park, the Battery Control and Housing Area is surrounded by forested and residential lands to the east, additional NPS property including the Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead to the south, a large area of industrial development including the Northern Indiana Public Service Company Power Plant and the Burns Harbor steel facility to the west/northwest, and the town of Dune Acres and additional duneland to the north.

The Battery Control and Housing Area is located northwest of the intersection of North Mineral Springs Road and West Oak Hill Road/County Road 1350 North. Of the twenty resources in the Battery Control and Housing Area, nine are contributing, and eleven are non-contributing. The

³ The park was a national lakeshore during the history discussed in this nomination. To avoid confusion, we will use the abbreviation IDNL for events before 2019 and spell out "Indiana Dunes National Park" for events since 2019.

⁴ *The Military Standard*, "Description of a Typical Nike Missile Site," updated 2010, <http://www.themilitarystandard.com/missile/nike/sitedesc.php>.

⁵ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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contributing resources consist of seven buildings, one site, and one structure. The non-contributing resources are six buildings and five structures.

Historically, the Battery Control and Housing Area at C-32 included buildings related to both the Housing/Administration Area and the Battery Control Area—that is, the buildings along with computer and radar equipment required to monitor incoming missile attacks and launch defensive efforts. When the Army transferred the Battery Control and Housing Area at C-32 to the NPS, the Army removed the computer and radar equipment at the north end of the Battery Control and Housing Area, leaving virtually no trace of that technology with the exception of a concrete foundation for radar equipment. Additionally, new construction has occurred in this portion of the site, further erasing traces of the historical use (see Figures 1–3).

Integrity

Nike Missile Site C-32 has a period of significance of 1956–1974, to represent the years that it served as a Nike site. It is significant under Criterion A for its Politics/Government and Military associations. All resources within the site’s boundaries possessing a date of construction between 1956 and 1974 are considered contributing. Despite some alterations to both individual resources and the complex as a whole, the property retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical use. As is common among military installations, particularly those built during the Cold War era, the buildings are all utilitarian in nature with form following function. In fact, the original intention was for the buildings to be even more spartan. The plan was to utilize prefabricated buildings; however, they were unattractive and negatively impacted troop morale. Thus, the Army constructed “modified emergency buildings” of concrete block.⁶ The lack of ornamentation or other stylistic influences are, in fact, intentional and representative of the type of buildings they were.

Additionally, the simplicity of these resources impacted the ease with which the transition from Army ownership to NPS ownership occurred. The functional nature allowed for flexibility in retrofitting and use. Many of the buildings have undergone material changes over time, most noticeably in exterior siding material, small additions, and change in fenestration. However, for a district eligible under Criterion A, where the practical and adaptable character of the buildings is a distinguishing feature, alterations should not be seen as detrimental to any individual resource’s integrity, nor to its eligibility or status as contributing to the site as a whole.

In regard to the seven aspects of integrity, the Battery Control and Housing Area retains excellent integrity of setting, location, feeling, and design. It remains in its original location in a relatively isolated setting and conveys a feeling of a military campus with the form, plan, space and style. It could be argued that the vertical wood siding, while different, retains a basic and functional appearance, form, and function. The resources are still able to evoke the property’s significance.

⁶ Historic American Engineering Record, *Nike Missile Base C-84, East of Quentin Road between Lake Cook and Long Grove Roads, Barrington, Cook County, IL* (Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 1994), 31.

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Battery Control and Housing Area Resources

There are seven contributing buildings and one contributing structure that were constructed of concrete block on concrete-slab foundations with either flat or canted roofs. The one contributing structure is the Pumphouse building dating from 1956.⁷

The six non-contributing buildings and five non-contributing structures date from 1993 to 2021 and were constructed in the northern section of the property, either where radar equipment was removed or where there was open space.⁸ They are very functional in form. All but one of these buildings are clad in vertical cedar siding and painted dark brown, a standard for NPS properties.

Additionally, there is one contributing site at the Battery Control and Housing Area complex that includes the historical circulation patterns of roads and sidewalks and other secondary historical features, such as an athletic court and horseshoe pit, helicopter landing pad, and foundation pad for missile radar equipment that was removed upon the Army's sale of the property. Other secondary contemporary site features include carports, various sheds, and portable storage that are movable. These are not counted individually but as part of the site.

The following table includes all the buildings and structures in the district. Building 105, the two greenhouses, and the three U.S. Geological Service (USGS) Weather Stations sheds are counted as structures.

Please note: Buildings 106, 113, 114, and 116 are not included in the table below because those buildings have been moved, demolished, and/or renumbered over time. Based on plans at Indiana Dunes National Park, some resources were removed with the transfer of ownership to the NPS, while others may have been demolished in more recent years. Additionally, new buildings have been constructed.

Table 1. Battery Control and Housing Area Resources.

Current Resource Number/Name	Historical Use	Current Use	Year Built	Contributing/Non-Contributing
Building 101	Administration and Storage	Emergency Services & Ranger Station	1956	Contributing
Building 102	Barracks	Natural Resources	1956	Contributing
Building 103	Mess Hall	Cultural Resources & Museum Storage	1956	Contributing
Building 104	Barracks	Park Headquarters	1956	Contributing
Building 105	Pumphouse	Pumphouse (structure)	1956	Contributing

⁷ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

⁸ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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Table 1. Battery Control and Housing Area Resources.

Current Resource Number/Name	Historical Use	Current Use	Year Built	Contributing/Non-Contributing
Building 107	High Power Acquisition Radar Building	Wildland Fire Management & Receiving	ca. 1960/ca. 2020	Contributing
Building 108	Generator Building	Custodial Services	1956	Contributing
Building 109	Not Applicable—No Historical Use (NA)	Greenhouse (structure)	ca. 2010	Non-Contributing
Building 110	High Power Acquisition Radar Building/ Radar Control Building & Fallout Shelter	Natural Resources Equipment Storage/Offices & Exercise Building	1956/1960	Contributing
Building 111	Fire Supply Building	Fire Station 1	1997	Non-Contributing
Building 112	NA	Management Office	1999	Non-Contributing
Building 115	NA	Picnic Shelter	1993	Non-Contributing
Building 117	NA	Greenhouse (structure)	ca. 2005	Non-Contributing
Building 118/119	NA	Fire Station 2/Building & Utilities Shop/Cold & Warm Storage	2002/2003/2004	Non-Contributing
Garage-west	NA	Garage	2021	Non-Contributing
Garage-east	NA	Garage	2021	Non-Contributing
USGS Weather Station Sheds (3)	NA	USGS Weather Station (structures, 3)	ca. 1998/ca. 2003	Non-Contributing
Site	Site	Site	1956	Contributing

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Resource descriptions are arranged in numerical order as presented in Table 1 above. Those resources without numbers are generally arranged from north to south and appear after numbered buildings.

Building 101—1956

Administration & Storage

Photos 1, 2, & 4 (right)

Contributing

The first building on the site beyond the southeast entrance is Building 101, the historic-period Administration Building constructed in 1956. With the long side facing east, the one-story, rectangular, concrete-block building is now covered in vertical wood siding and is topped by a concrete, continuous, reinforced bond-beam canted roof with shallow eaves. A wide bargeboard runs under the eaves around the entire building. A canted canopy, supported by 4" by 4" wood posts, extends over a wood deck with a wood railing/fence leading to the two entries into the building at the south end of the east façade. These entries consist of paired metal and glass doors. Window placement is irregular and consists of either single or paired, one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows with precast concrete sills on all four sides of the building. A metal security door is located on the north side of an original, small, rectangular bump-out on the west elevation of the building. A second metal security door is located on the west end of the north elevation. Corner and door trim consist of simple 2" by 4" boards, while window trim is 1" by 6" boards with the narrow end facing out, allowing for recessed windows.

Building 101 has been altered with the addition of a canopy over the entry, a small bump-out on the west elevation, and some replacement entry doors. The fenestration pattern remains intact, and the building maintains a different but still simple, unadorned exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

The Administration Building served as offices for Nike C-32 and now serves as the Emergency Services and Ranger Station.

Building 102—1956

Barracks

Photos 1 (left), 3 (right), 4, 5, & 6

Contributing

To the west of the Administration Building is Building 102, the historic-period Barracks built in 1956. Designed by Wright & Fischer of Wilmette, Illinois, the building is an L-shaped, one-story, concrete-block building now covered in vertical wood siding and topped by a concrete, continuous, reinforced bond-beam canted roof with shallow eaves. A wide bargeboard runs under the eaves around the entire building. The building's footprint is a reversed L with the long leg extending north from the east end of the short leg. There are separate roofs on each leg of the building, with the roof of the long leg canting to the east and the short leg canting to the south. The primary entrance into the building is near the crux of the L on the west façade of the long leg, approachable by a wood decked boardwalk with railings. The entry is in a non-historical small projecting rectangular bay providing an interior vestibule. The paired entry doors are metal and glass. Window placement is irregular and consists of either single or paired, one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows with precast concrete sills on all four sides of the building. Some windows on the south side are covered with plywood. There are three additional

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metal and glass single doors, one on the north side of the long leg of the L, one on the west façade of the short leg, and the third at the east side of the short leg. A set of metal security doors is located north of the metal and glass door on the east side of the short leg. Corner and door trim consist of simple 2" by 4" boards, while window trim is 1" by 6" boards with the narrow end facing out, allowing for recessed windows.

Building 102 has been altered with the addition of a wood deck, some modern replacement doors, and covered windows on the south side. The fenestration pattern remains intact, and the building maintains a different but still simple, unadorned exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

Building 102 originally served as barracks for the soldiers assigned to Nike C-32 but currently serves as offices for the Natural Resources Department.

Building 103—1956
Mess Hall

Photo 7
Contributing

West of Building 102 is Building 103, built in 1956. It is a rectangular, one-story, concrete-block building that faces south and is now covered in vertical wood siding and topped by a very shallow gable-front roof with shallow eaves. A wide bargeboard runs under the eaves around the entire building. The west half of the south façade is stepped back about 2 feet and has a pair of metal and glass entry doors at the center of the building. Toward the west end of the south façade is a pair of metal security doors that is placed partially below grade and leads to a mechanical room. A single metal security door is located on the north side. Window placement is irregular and consists of either single or paired, one-over-one, double-hung windows with precast concrete sills. Corner and door trim consists of simple 2" by 4" boards, while window trim is 1" by 6" boards with the narrow end facing out, allowing for recessed windows.

Building 103 has been altered with some replacement doors. The fenestration pattern remains intact, and the building maintains a different but still simple, unadorned exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

This building originally served as the Mess Hall, but it now serves as the Cultural Resources Office and Museum Storage.

Building 104—1956
Barracks

Photos 3 (left), 8, & 9
Contributing

Building 104, built in 1956, is the westernmost building along the south drive of the Battery Control/Housing Area. It is an L-shaped, one-story, concrete-block building covered in vertical wood siding and topped by a concrete, continuous, reinforced bond-beam canted roof with shallow eaves. This building is nearly identical to Building 102. A wide bargeboard runs under the eaves around the entire building. The building is a reversed L with the long leg extending west from the north end of the short leg. There are separate roofs on each leg of the building, with the roof of the long leg canting to the north and that on the short leg canting to the east. Sheltered under a flat-roofed canopy supported by 4" by 4" wood posts and a decorative concrete-block half-wall, the primary entrance into the building is near the crux of the L on the

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south façade of the long leg and has a pair of metal and glass doors with full height sidelights flanking each side. There are entry doors positioned on the narrow end of each leg. The door on the south end of the short leg is metal and glass, while the west end of the long leg has a metal security door placed within a small bump-out. On the north end of the short leg of the L, there are two additional entry doors covered by a small, canted roof structure that is partially enclosed. The door to the east is metal and glass, while the other is a metal security door. Window placement is irregular and consists of either single or paired, one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows with precast concrete sills on all four sides of the building. Corner and door trim consist of simple 2" by 4" boards, while window trim is 1" by 6" boards with the narrow end facing out, allowing for recessed windows.

Building 104 has been altered with the addition of an entry canopy and some replacement doors. The fenestration pattern remains intact, and the building maintains a different but still simple, unadorned exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

Building 104 served as a barracks for the soldiers assigned to Nike C-32. It now houses the Park Headquarters.

Building 105—1956

Pumphouse (structure)

Photo 11 (left)

Contributing

Located north of Building 102 and at the south end of the main north–south road within the Battery Control/Housing Area, Building 105 was designed by A. Epstein & Sons and constructed in 1956. It is a small, rectangular, one-story, concrete-block building that faces east and is now covered in vertical wood siding and topped by a flat roof with minimal overhang.⁹ A wide bargeboard runs under the eaves around the entire building. The east entrance is a set of metal utility doors. There are three one-over-one, double-hung windows: one on the west end of the south side and two evenly spaced on the north side; all have precast concrete sills. Corner and door trim consist of simple 2" x 4" boards, while window trim is 1" by 6" boards with the narrow end facing out, allowing for recessed windows. To the west is a large, rectangular, concrete-block form about 2 feet high topped by a poured-concrete slab that allows access to the equipment via a hatch door in the northeast corner.

Building 105 has its original fenestration pattern, and the building maintains a different but still simple, unadorned exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

Historically, Building 105 was a pumphouse, and it still maintains that function today.

Building 107—ca. 1960/ca. 2020

High Power Acquisition Radar Building

Photos 11 (center), 13 (center left), & 16

Contributing

Building 107 is located in the north-central part of the property on the west side of the main north–south drive where the radar equipment was previously located. Designed by Deigert and Yerkes and Associates of Washington, D.C., and constructed ca. 1960, Building 107 is the

⁹ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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second High Power Acquisition Radar (HIPAR) building, constructed to support the Nike Hercules missiles.¹⁰ It is a rectangular, one-story, concrete-block building topped by a canted roof with shallow eaves. Around 2020, it was covered with pale yellow, horizontal, synthetic siding. There are multiple access points into the building, including two garage doors, a set of paired metal security doors, a single metal security door, and a single metal and glass door. Windows are six-over-one, double-hung, vinyl-frame replacement windows. Corner, door, and window trim are 2" by 4" boards.

Building 107 has been altered with the installation of replacement windows. The building maintains a different but still simple, unadorned exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

This HIPAR Building supported the functions and maintenance of the associated radar.¹¹ The building is now used by Wildland Fire Management and Receiving.

Building 108—1956
Generator Building

Photos 11 (center right) & 17
Contributing

Building 108 is located within a loop accessed from the north property entrance off Mineral Springs Road. It was designed by Deigert and Yerkes and Associates and constructed in 1956.¹² It is a west-facing, rectangular, one-story, concrete-block building now covered in vertical wood siding and topped by a concrete, continuous, reinforced bond-beam canted roof with shallow eaves. A pair of metal and glass doors are centered on the west façade under a small, shed-roofed canopy. A second metal and glass entrance is centrally located on the east side. Windows are found on the west façade (single) and the north side (pair) and are one-over-one, double-hung windows. Corner and door trim consist of simple 2" by 4" boards, as does the window trim for the single window. The paired windows on the north side are smaller replacements that have been installed in a larger original recessed opening, and the extra space has been filled with additional vertical wood siding. The original opening's trim appears to be 2" by 6" boards.

Building 108 has been altered with some replacement doors and an entry canopy. Selective replacement windows have been installed, but the fenestration pattern remains intact. The building maintains a different but still simple, unadorned exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

The former Generator Building now houses Custodial Services.

Building 109—ca. 2010
Greenhouse (structure)

Photo 18
Non-Contributing

¹⁰ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

¹¹ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

¹² Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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Immediately north of Building 107, Building 109 is a side-gabled Greenhouse constructed ca. 2010 of clear, square, acrylic panels for walls and opaque roofing panels. The only entryway is a pair of aluminum and acrylic doors located north of center on the east façade. The north side has two large industrial fans and vents, while the south side has a series of metal vents.

Building 109 was built ca. 2010 and is non-contributing.

Building 109 was constructed as a greenhouse and has always served that purpose.

Building 110—1956/1960

High Power Acquisition Radar Building/
Radar Control Building & Fallout Shelter

Photo 20

Contributing

Located in the northeast corner of the property, Building 110 is a south-facing, irregularly shaped, concrete-block building consisting of two separate sections connected at the center.¹³ Topped by a concrete, continuous, reinforced bond-beam canted roof, the western section has a recessed metal entry door at the east end and a paired, one-over-one, double-hung window with precast concrete sill on the south façade of the main block where the two building sections connect. A small, square projection is located on the west side where a doorway has been filled in with a modern, one-over-one, double-hung replacement window and horizontal siding. The remainder of this portion of the building has a series of metal louvered vents and a single metal security door. The segment of the building to the east consists of poured-concrete construction and is topped by a shallow-pitched, side-gabled roof that is now covered with vegetation. Two single-bay garage doors are positioned on the west end of the south façade. A metal and glass doorway is located just off-center on the east side.

Building 110 has been altered with a small concrete-block addition at the west end and the introduction of new windows on the north side (back). The building maintains its concrete-block and poured-concrete exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

Building 110 was originally constructed as the first HIPAR building to serve the Nike Ajax missiles. The majority of the radar equipment on site was located north and west of this building. Once the Nike Hercules missiles were brought on site and the new HIPAR building was constructed, Building 110 became the Radar Control Building and Fallout Shelter. It currently is used for the Natural Resources Equipment Storage/Offices and Exercise Building.

Building 111—1997

Fire Supply Building/Fire Station 1

Photos 19 & 20 (far right)

Non-Contributing

Located just west of the north entrance, Building 111 faces southwest, is clad in vertical wood siding, and is topped by a canted roof with shallow eaves.¹⁴ The southwest façade has two large

¹³ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites. Plans of Building 110 from 1956 show a second portion at the western end. While the shape of the present western portion is somewhat different, it is possible that some of it was retained from the 1956 version.

¹⁴ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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garage doors, one smaller garage door, and a single metal and glass entry door. The northwest and northeast sides each have an entryway as well—the northwestern one is metal with a multi-lite window, and the northeastern one is a metal security door. Paired, one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows are found on the northwest, northeast, and southwest sides of the building. Garage and entry doors have 2" by 4" trim, while the windows are not trimmed out.

Building 111 has been altered with some replacement personnel and vehicular doors. The fenestration pattern remains intact, and the building maintains a different but still simple, unadorned exterior. It retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

Building 111 originally was the Fire Supply Building and is currently used as Fire Station 1.

Building 112—1999

Photos 10 & 11 (right)

No Historic-Period Name/Management Office Non-Contributing

Building 112 is located north of Building 101 and is infill construction from ca. 1999. It faces east, is clad in vertical wood siding, and is topped by a canted roof with shallow eaves. A wide bargeboard runs under the eaves around the entire building. The east façade has a central, recessed, multi-lite glass and metal door with two sets of paired, one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows on either side. The north and south sides each have two sets of these same paired windows. There is a central glass and metal door on the west side. To the north of this door are a set of paired, one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows and a metal security door. To the south are two sets of paired windows. The trim around the doors is 2" by 4" boards, while the windows are not trimmed out.

Building 112 was constructed ca. 1999 and is non-contributing.

Building 112 was constructed as a Management Office and continues that use today.

Building 115—1993

Photo 15 (back left)

No Historic-Period Name/Picnic Shelter Non-Contributing

Located in the northwest section of the property between the athletic court and Fire Station 2 and Cold Storage and Facilities Workshops, Structure 115 was constructed ca. 1997. It is an L-shaped Picnic Shelter with an asphalt-shingled gable roof supported by 4" by 4" wood posts over a concrete slab.

Building 115 was constructed 1993 and is non-contributing.

Building 115 was constructed as a Picnic Shelter and continues to serve that function.

Building 117—ca. 2005

Photo 21

No Historic-Period Name/Greenhouse (structure) Non-Contributing

Located northeast of Building 110 in the northeast corner of the property, Building 117 was constructed ca. 2005. It is a Quonset hut-shaped building with metal framing, translucent acrylic end panels, and plastic sheeting on the roof. The southwest façade of the greenhouse has a

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centered metal and acrylic entry door flanked by two large exhaust fans, while the northeast side has two large louvered air vents.

Building 117 was constructed ca. 2005 and is non-contributing.

Building 117 was constructed as a Greenhouse and retains that function.

Building 118/119—2002/2003/2004

Photos 22, 23, & 24

No Historic-Period Name/ Fire Station 2 &
Utilities Shop & Cold and Warm Storage

Non-Contributing

Located in the northwest section of the Battery Control/Housing Area, Buildings 118 and 119 were constructed separately in 2000 and 2001. The buildings are attached in an L shape and, therefore, count as a single, non-contributing resource. Building 118 makes up most of the long leg of the L. It faces north, is clad in vertical wood siding, and is topped by a canted roof with shallow eaves. The north façade has a single metal and glass entry door; a set of metal and glass entry doors; two large garage doors; two sets of one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows; another metal and glass entry door; two more large garage doors; and a final metal and glass entry door. The east side has two sets of paired, one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows. The south side has two single metal security doors; four paired, rectangular clerestory windows; a metal and glass entry door; a pair of one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum-frame windows; and another four paired, rectangular, double-hung clerestory windows interspersed with mechanicals. Corner and door trim comprise 2" by 4" boards, while the windows do not have any trim.

Designed by Quinn Evans of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Building 119 was constructed in 2001 and is attached to the west end of Building 118, forming the leg of the L that extends north.¹⁵ The section that forms the corner rises a bit taller than either leg of the L, is clad in vertical wood siding, and is topped by a canted roof with shallow eaves. The north façade features two single metal and glass entry doors, one on the first floor and one directly above it on the second floor. As the building transitions into the short leg, it is the same height as Building 118 with the same vertical wood siding and a canted roof. There are six large garage doors that face east. The north façade and the side of the short leg are void of fenestration, as is the south side near the corner.

Building 118/119 was constructed 2000/2001 and is non-contributing.

Building 118/119 was constructed as a Fire Station and Cold Storage and Facilities Workshops. It still functions as such today.

Garages—2021

Photo 25

Garages (two buildings)

Non-Contributing (2)

There are two large garages at the northwest corner of the property on the north side of the parking lot shared with Building 118/119. Both buildings face south and have standing-seam

¹⁵ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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metal roofs and siding. The west garage features a side-gabled roof with four large garage doors. The east garage is a gable-front building with two large garage doors.

The two garages were constructed ca. 2020 and 2022 and are non-contributing.

These buildings were constructed as garages and remain so.

USGS Weather Station—ca. 1998/ca. 2003
Sheds (three structures)

Photos 11 (center) & 12 (far left)
Non-Contributing (3)

Located north of Building 105 on the west side of the main north–south road, the USGS Weather Station consists of three sheds adjacent to one another that contain various meteorological instruments. The south and center sheds date from ca. 1998, while the north one dates from ca. 2003. Each shed faces east, is clad in vertical wood siding, and is topped by a canted roof with shallow eaves. All have a wide bargeboard that runs under the eaves around the entire building and 2" by 4" boards as corner and door trim. None of the buildings have windows, and there are a few differences among the three. The north and south buildings are a bit wider than the center one, but both the south and center sheds are deeper than the northern shed. The other major difference is the east façade of each building. The south shed has a pair of metal security doors, the center shed has a single metal security door, and the north shed appears to be built around a large metal box of equipment with metal access doors on the east.

The USGS Weather Station sheds were constructed ca. 1998 and ca. 2003 and are non-contributing structures.

All three sheds were built to support USGS weather equipment and continue to do so today.

Site—1956

Photos 4, 11–15, & 26–27
Contributing

The acreage of the Battery Control and Housing Area is also counted as a contributing site (see Photos 4, 11–13). This includes the circulation pattern of roads and sidewalks, particularly at the southern end of the complex, along with additional resources including the athletic court designed by Dubin & Dubin of Chicago (1962; see Photo 26), helipad (1956; see Photo 14), horseshoe pit (1956; see Photo 27), and missile tracking radar foundation pad (1956; see Photo 15). A variety of additional carports, garden sheds, dumpsters, and storage pods are found within the district but are not included on the map since they are both outside of the period of significance and are portable.

Historically, radar operations were located in the northeastern portion of the base and included five different types of radar including: HIPAR, Low Power Acquisition Radar (LOPAR), Target Tracking Radar (TTR), Target Ranging Radar (TRR), and Missile Tracking Radar (MTR). This equipment was removed with the transfer of ownership to the NPS, and the only remaining element related to the radar operations is the concrete pad of the MTR (see Photo 15). The southern portion of the base was dedicated to staff and personnel and contained the mess hall, barracks, administration/recreation/storage building, and pumphouse.

The site here retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

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Launch Area

Located one-half-mile due east of the Battery Control and Housing Area, the Launch Area is in the northeast quadrant of Wagner Road/County Road 50W and West Oak Hill Road/County Road 1350 North. It includes all 14.95 acres of the original parcel. Although agricultural fields originally surrounded the site, it is now ringed by residential development.

Historically, the Launch Area at C-32 included underground missile storage, magazines, and launch equipment, along with support buildings to assemble, maintain, and test the missiles and ancillary buildings for military personnel at the site.¹⁶ In 2003, three underground storage tanks, two aboveground storage tanks, and a transformer were removed. Additionally, in 2005–2006, the three missile magazines were demolished and backfilled.¹⁷ Figures 4–6 show the evolution of the Launch Area site at C-32 between 1956 and 2024.

Integrity

The Launch Area retains excellent integrity in all seven aspects, despite the fact that the missile silos have been removed and backfilled, and smaller resources have been removed from the site. Buildings retain their original finishes with limited alterations. While some demolition has occurred, no new construction has taken place to intrude upon the integrity. All remaining resources fall within the 1956–1974 period of significance and are contributing.

Launch Area Resources

There are eleven remaining contributing resources—seven buildings, three structures (pump house and two earthen berms), and the site. Seven resources were constructed in 1956 of concrete block on concrete-slab foundations with either flat or canted roofs. The Fallout Shelter dates to 1958 and was associated with the conversion of the site from Ajax missiles to Hercules missiles. It was constructed of poured concrete with a shallow-pitched gable roof.¹⁸ The two earthen berms surrounding the Warhead Building were constructed in 1956. All the buildings use a functional form and retain their original exterior materials. The one contributing site includes all acreage of the Launch Area complex, including the historical circulation patterns of roads, sidewalks, and tarmacs surrounding the three former missile silos, along with open spaces and possible dog kennels.

While the military equipment was removed with the sale of the property into private ownership in the 1970s, the design of the complex regarding the buildings and site is intact and conveys the district's early significance.

¹⁶ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

¹⁷ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Final Decision Document Former Nike C-32 Site*, 8.

¹⁸ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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Based on older photographs from *The Military Standard* of C-32, the buildings were originally a cream color.¹⁹ Today, they are painted a blue-gray color.

The following table includes all buildings remaining in the district.

Please note: Not all buildings have numbers, and some buildings have been demolished, causing gaps in numbering. A collection of plans at Indiana Dunes National Park shows that some original buildings have been demolished, but it is not known whether those occurred with the transfer out of federal ownership or more recently.

Table 2. Launch Area Resources.

Resource Number/Name	Historical Use	Current Use	Year Built	Contributing/ Non-Contributing
Sentry Guardhouse	Sentry Guardhouse	Vacant	1956	Contributing
Ready Building	Ready Building	Residence	1956	Contributing
Fallout Shelter	Fallout Shelter	Storage	1958	Contributing
Building 107	Pump House	Vacant (structure)	1956	Contributing
Building 126	Missile Test & Assembly Building	Storage/Workshop	1956	Contributing
Building 130	Generator Building	Storage/Vacant	1956	Contributing
Unknown Building	Unknown	Storage/Vacant	1956	Contributing
Building 132	Warhead Building	Storage/Vacant	1956	Contributing
Berms	Berms	Berms/Wooded	1956	Contributing
Site	Site	Site	1956	Contributing

Sentry Guardhouse—1956

Guardhouse

Photos 28 (right) & 40 (left)

Contributing

Standing just inside the white rail fence parallel to Wagner Road at the north end of the Launch Area is a small concrete Sentry Guardhouse dating to 1956.²⁰ Serving as the first line of security within the Launch Area, the building rests on a poured-concrete slab and is constructed of concrete block that has been painted a gray-blue color. Topped by an overhanging flat roof, the building has a modern steel and glass door in the original opening on the north façade and a single, one-over-one, double-hung window on each of the other three sides.

¹⁹ *The Military Standard*, “Nike Missile Base C-32 Indiana,” updated 2010, <http://www.themilitarystandard.com/missile/nike/c32.php>. Photos are discolored, so it is difficult to discern a specific color for the buildings.

²⁰ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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The door is a replacement, but the window and door arrangement matches that presented in a historic structures report of C-47, a Nike missile site near Wheeler, Indiana.²¹ The building retains good integrity and is contributing.

This was one of three guardhouses serving the Launch Area, but it is the only one that is extant. It is currently vacant.

Ready Building—1956

Ready Building

Photos 28 (middle) & 29

Contributing

A north–south drive runs just east of the Sentry Guardhouse and parallel to Wagner Road. It originally terminated at the Ready Building, but today, it continues southwest of the Ready Building to a second entrance at the southwestern corner of the Launch Area to allow for access to the residence in the former Ready Building.

Constructed in 1956, this is a single-story, gray-blue painted, concrete-block building topped by a flat roof.²² It faces north. There is a small, concrete-block, enclosed-entry portico with octagonal multi-lite windows on the sides, leading to the modern, steel and glass, multi-lite front door. A replacement bay window flanks either side of the entry portico. Other windows around the Ready Building are one-over-one, double-hung windows. A tall, free-standing, red brick chimney is located along the west side of the building, along with a second entry door. Metal vents protrude from the roof.

There are several differences between the Ready Building for C-47 and the one at C-32, because the one at C-47 has had at least one fire, and the one at C-32 has been converted into a residence. Similarities include the basic form of the concrete-block building with two access doors.²³ However, the roof forms are different (gable at C-47, canted at C-32), and C-32 has the addition of the entry portico. The bay windows here are an addition, but the double-hung windows may be original. This building retains sufficient integrity to be contributing.

The Ready Building originally served as a recreational space for soldiers and included a squad room, dining room/day room, toilet, and heater room. Today, it is a single-family residence.

Fallout Shelter—1958

Fallout Shelter

Photos 28 (left), 30 (right), & 40 (center)

Contributing

The Fallout Shelter was not part of the original plan for the Launch Area at C-32. It became necessary when the Hercules missile, which possessed a nuclear tip, replaced the Ajax missile, which did not. Constructed in 1958 and located at the southeastern corner of the intersection of the main east–west drive and the north–south drive, the shelter faces west and comprises a

²¹ Anjanette U. Sivilich, “Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report” (Graduate thesis, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, 2000), 39.

²² Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

²³ Sivilich, “Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report,” 51.

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single-story, blue-gray painted, poured-concrete building with 16"-thick walls and no windows. It is topped by a shallow-gabled, poured-concrete roof. Access to the building is via a nine-ton metal personnel door on the west façade.²⁴ A concrete-block truck bay at the south end of the building now includes a modern garage door. No plans could be found to show the interior arrangement of rooms for the Fallout Shelter. However, a historic property report for Nike C-47 (in Wheeler, Indiana) states that the garage bay/opening was original and was planned to hold two radar vans. Additionally, there was another nine-ton metal personnel door between the garage and living quarters to prevent contamination. It is reasonable to assume that the Fallout Shelter at C-32 would have had a similar door, given that there is a garage.²⁵ Another smaller, concrete-block bump-out was added closer to the north end of the building, possibly for air intake.

The building matches the Fallout Shelter from the C-47 historic structures report including the lack of windows, the garage door (replacement), two personnel doors (one on the interior and not visible), poured-concrete walls, poured-concrete gable roof, and a 4' square addition for air intake.²⁶ The Fallout Shelter retains good integrity and is contributing.

The Fallout Shelter was intended to house sixty men for sixty days in the event of a nuclear catastrophe. Today, it is used for storage.²⁷

Pump House—1956

Building 107 (structure)

Photos 30, 37 (left center), & 38 (far right)

Contributing

The Pump House, located just east of the Fallout Shelter, was built in 1956 of gray-blue painted concrete block and has a canted roof. This single-story building has an entry door centered on the north façade and a single multi-lite window located at the north end of the east side.

The Pump Houses at both C-32 and C-47 are rectangular concrete-block buildings topped by a canted roof with a door on the north elevation. While the one at C-47 has two aluminum double-hung windows, the one at C-32 only has one.²⁸ The building has good integrity and is contributing.

The Pump House originally housed all the equipment to supply water to the various buildings on site but is now vacant.

Missile Test & Assembly Building—1956

Building 126

Photos 31 (right) & 39 (left)

Contributing

²⁴ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

²⁵ Sivilich, "Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report," 45.

²⁶ Sivilich, "Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report," 42.

²⁷ Sivilich, "Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report," 47.

²⁸ Sivilich, "Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report," 67–68.

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Set back from the main, east–west road behind a large circular lawn with a concrete sidewalk at the north end, the Missile Test & Assembly Building was constructed in 1956 of gray-blue painted concrete block and consists of two parts, both with canted roofs. The northern, single-story section has alternating window/door fenestration on the north façade with two of each. Windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash, and doors are single steel doors. There is an additional window on the east end of the north section and a set of steel doors at the west end. The southern section of the building is taller than the northern section and features a large vehicular garage door at either end. There is an additional one-over-one, double-hung window on the east end and an additional single steel door on the west end of the south section.

The Missile Test & Assembly Buildings at both C-32 and C-47 are square in plan with east–west garage doors, canted roofs over spaces of differing heights, and metal personnel doors and windows.²⁹ However, matching fenestration cannot be verified. It appears that the windows on the north elevation have original doors, but the windows are likely replacement. Overall, the building has good integrity and is contributing.

This taller space allowed personnel to assemble the separate missile parts that were delivered to the Launch Area into working missiles. Staff would also test the missiles to make sure they were working properly. Additionally, the space was used to service vehicles. Today, the building is used as a workshop and for storage.

According to the ca. 1956 original site plans, a large sewage treatment plant was located southwest of the Missile Test & Assembly Building. West of this plant was an expansive open area running the full north–south depth of the site, likely the septic field (see Photo 39, open land in background). Although the sewage treatment plant is gone, the open area remains and is considered part of the contributing site.³⁰

Generator Building—1956

Building 130

Photos 31 (left) & 32 (right)

Contributing

Located across a drive southeast of the Missile Test & Assembly Building is the Generator Building. This single-story, gray-blue painted, concrete-block building was constructed in 1956. It is topped by a canted roof with three large ventilators. Alternating across the north façade are three large air intake vents and two pairs of steel doors in an A-B-A-B-A pattern. The south side has a series of paired and single, one-over-one, double-hung windows, which may have originally been air intake vents, based on information about the Generator Building at Nike Missile Site C-47.³¹ The east side has a single window, while the west side is solid. A red cylindrical gas tank rests on a concrete pad in front of the building.

Descriptions of the Generator Building at C-47 match some elements of C-32, including form, materials, roof vents, north elevation vents, and east and south window locations. Differences

²⁹ Sivilich, “Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report,” 59–60.

³⁰ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

³¹ Sivilich, “Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report,” 64.

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include a gable versus canted roof and two metal doors/four vents on the north façade instead of two/three.³² The building has good integrity and is contributing.

This building housed the diesel generators that powered the Launch Area and is currently vacant.

Behind the Generator Building are three screened pens that may have been used as a kennel (see Photo 33). Plans from ca. 1960 show a building/structure immediately south of the Generator Building, when guard dogs were added to the Launch Area. This structure is not labeled but could be these pens. Alternatively, the pens could have been moved to this location from elsewhere on the property. Regardless, they are part of the contributing site.

Unknown Building—1956

Unknown Building

Photos 31 (far left) & 32 (left)

Contributing

To the immediate east of the Generator Building is a small building that resembles the previously mentioned Sentry Guardhouse. The only differences are that the entry door is a solid metal door, and there is only a window on the west side—a replacement, fixed, single-pane window.

Given the similarity of this building to the Sentry Guardhouse and matching materials and form to the Launch Site buildings in general, it is presumed that it was historically part of the site and is contributing.

A building is shown in this location on both ca. 1956 and ca. 1960 site plans, but no building number or name is provided.³³ It is unknown if the current building is the original building indicated on plans. Today, the building is vacant.

Warhead Building—1956

Building 132

Photo 35

Contributing

Northeast of the Generator Building is the Warhead Building.³⁴ This single-story, gray-blue painted, concrete-block building has a very shallow, gable roof. Like the Missile Test & Assembly Building, there are large metal vehicular garage doors on the east and west sides of the buildings, along with a replacement steel personnel door. The north and south sides of the building each have four one-over-one, double-hung windows.

The description of the Warhead Building at C-47 in the historic structures report matches the C-32 Warhead Building virtually identically: a rectangular concrete-block building with vehicle and personnel doors on the east and west elevations, a shallow gable roof, and four windows each on the north and south elevations. This building retains integrity and is contributing.

³² Sivilich, "Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report," 63.

³³ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

³⁴ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

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The Warhead Building was originally used to install explosives and, later, nuclear warheads on the recently assembled missiles from the Missile Test & Assembly Building. The building is currently used for storage.

Berms—1956 (two)

Photo 35 Contributing

Given the tasks that occurred within the Warhead Building, it was essential for it to be protected from the rest of the Launch Area, so large earthen berms between 8' and 10' tall surround the building.³⁵ To the north is a large, lozenge-shaped berm that is covered with trees and vegetation. The other sides of the Warhead Building are surrounded by a wide, shallow U-shaped berm that is also covered by trees and vegetation. There is a small gap that was made after 2018 (when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers *Final Decision Document* was completed) to the left of center in this southern berm for vehicle access to the land to the south.

Each berm retains sufficient integrity and is a contributing structure.

Site—1956

Photos 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, & 40 Contributing

The land and site plan of the Launch Area remain largely unchanged from the original design. While the personnel rooms for each of the three missile silos are gone, the tarmac and spaces that held paired, 9' by 44' elevator doors are visible. The doors and magazines of the silos were removed and backfilled in 2005–2006 (see Photos 34, 36, and 37).³⁶ The main east–west and north–south roads are intact (see Photos 30, 38, and 40). The various open spaces (see Photos 34, 37, and 39) have not been built upon or removed. Segments of the white rail fence that once surrounded the entire Launch Area remain along Wagner Road, along the east–west road, and along the west side of the open space west of the missile silos (see Photos 28, 30, and 37).

The site has sufficient integrity to convey its historical use and is contributing.

Developmental History

Battery Control and Housing Area Post-Nike History

Shortly after IDNL was dedicated in 1972, the Nike Missile Program came to an end. By 1974, the U.S. Army had decommissioned most sites, including C-32. The General Services Administration (GSA) was responsible for the reuse or sale of these sites and offered them to other federal agencies first, followed by state and local governments, and then to private

³⁵ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites. The height of the berms at Nike SL-40 were identified as between 8' and 10' high in the Historic American Engineering Record, *Nike Missile Base SL-40, Beck Road between Nike & M Roads, Hecker, Monroe County, IL* (Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 1968), 38. It is a reasonable assumption that the ones at Nike C-32 are the same. Since they are so overgrown, it is difficult to assess their true height.

³⁶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Final Decision Document Former Nike C-32 Site*, 8.

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individuals. Resulting uses for decommissioned Nike sites around the country include other military functions, airports, national/state/local parks, and prison camps.³⁷

A 1970 USGS topographical map of the area indicates that the Battery Control and Housing Area was surrounded on the west and north by IDNL. It was approximately 250 feet from the boundary of IDNL and was centrally located along the lakeshore properties, close to both the Chellberg Farm and Bailly Homestead. The IDNL administration staff was outgrowing its space at the Kemil Road headquarters as the national lakeshore continued to expand. The NPS found that the “large Army facility . . . would be an ideal, centrally-located, focal point from which to conduct Lakeshore operations.”³⁸

The NPS started talks with the GSA, and by early 1975, the Battery Control and Housing Area was transferred to NPS ownership.³⁹ It cost \$186,000 to rehabilitate the complex into the Bailly Administrative Area.⁴⁰ Over the next four years, Army equipment, including radar domes and towers, was removed, and the buildings were covered in vertical cedar siding and stained brown to conform to the NPS brand.⁴¹ Staff officially moved in on June 18, 1979, and have remained on site since then.⁴²

Launch Area Post-Nike History

Unlike the Battery Control and Housing Area, the Launch Area left government ownership when it was sold in February 1976 to Valparaiso resident Lawrence Homer, who subsequently sold it to local real estate agent Gene Gamble.⁴³ An October 1976 newspaper article stated that Gamble was the owner and was given a permit by the Porter Town Engineer for upgrades to plumbing and electrical on one residential unit on the property.⁴⁴ Uses mentioned for the site over the years have included a mobile home park and warehouses. Originally surrounded by agricultural fields, the Launch Area is now ringed by residential properties. The Ready Building is being used as a residence, and the Missile Test & Ready Building is a workspace. The remaining buildings are either used for storage or are vacant.

³⁷ *The Military Standard*, “Nike Missile Locations Indiana,” updated 2010, <http://www.themilitarystandard.com/missile/nike/locationsin.php>.

³⁸ Ron Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity: The Administrative History of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana* (Omaha: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Office of Planning and Resource Preservation, Division of Cultural Resources Management, 1988), 179.

³⁹ Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity*, 181.

⁴⁰ Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity*, 185.

⁴¹ Indiana Dunes National Park, Architecture drawings and plans of C-32 and other Chicago area Nike Missile Sites.

⁴² Cockrell, *A Signature of Time and Eternity*, 232.

⁴³ “High Bidder on Nike Property,” *Vidette-Messenger of Porter County*, February 19, 1976, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/333622567/?match=1&terms=%22high%20bidder%20on%20nike%22>.

⁴⁴ “Porter Studying Rezoning,” *Vidette-Messenger of Porter County*, October 19, 1976, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/333648028/?match=1&terms=%22porter%20studying%20rezoning%22>.

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Integrity of Nike Missile Site C-32

As a whole, Nike Missile Site C-32 has sufficient architectural integrity to convey its use as a defensive site during the Cold War.

Integrity of Location: Both the Battery Control and Housing Area and the Launch Area possess excellent integrity of location, as the respective sites have not moved.

Integrity of Design: Both areas illustrate good integrity of design, despite the removal of the missile equipment. They show the arrangement of buildings, circulation patterns, and separation of functions. Features remain to show the technology that was once present on site, including radar pads and missile silos. Most of the resources at both sites retain their original size, shape, and footprint. Any additions that have been constructed are small and on non-primary elevations. While there has been some change in fenestration pattern, it does not overwhelm the resources, and they still contribute to the significance of Nike C-32.

Integrity of Feeling: While devoted to different functions today, each site provides good integrity of feeling. Even with the change in use, the Battery Control and Housing Area, as an active federal property, reflects the feeling of an active military base with the same open landscape and uniform building style of the earlier military occupation. In contrast, the Launch Area provides a feeling of seclusion, since there are few people on the property, which reflects the security that was paramount at the Launch Area, particularly once the Hercules missiles were present.

Integrity of Setting: The integrity of setting is better at the Battery Control and Housing Area, since it remains surrounded by forested land, unlike the Launch Area, which has residences on the periphery. However, the presence of residential properties does not impact the integrity to such a degree as to make it non-contributing.

Integrity of Materials: Historic-period materials are intact on the majority of the resources at the Launch Area, since little has been done to convert the buildings into a modern use. Buildings at the Battery Control and Housing maintain a different but still simple, unadorned exterior.

Integrity of Workmanship: Traditional integrity of workmanship is not very evident at either location. These are utilitarian buildings that were constructed quickly out of concrete and without decorative elements. Given that few new features have been added, it could be said that the simplicity of the workmanship has been maintained.

Integrity of Association: Both sites have a good degree of integrity of association. The simply constructed buildings, open space, and technology remnants reflect C-32's function as a military-related property. While the Nike association may not be obvious, upon investigation of the respective buildings like the fallout shelters and other Launch Area buildings, the military use is further revealed.

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8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

MILITARY

Period of Significance

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1956–1974

Significant Dates

1958

Significant Person

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Spector & Montgomery (Falls Church, VA)—plans

A. Epstein & Sons (Chicago)—adapted plans to site, pumphouse & reservoir

Dubin & Dubin (Chicago)—athletic court

Wright & Fischer (Wilmette, IL)—Battery Control & Housing Bldg 102

Quinn Evans (Ann Arbor, MI)—Battery Control & Housing Bldg 119

Deigert and Yerkes and Associates (Washington, D.C.)—Battery Control & Housing
Generator Bldg & HIPAR

Narrative Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Nike defense system represented a significant civilian and military operation during the height of the Cold War (1945–1991) in the United States. The rapid construction of hundreds of Nike facilities throughout the country was intended to provide outer defense rings for some of the country's largest cities, industry/manufacturing/research centers, and government/military complexes.⁴⁵ This rush to construct defensive facilities for major metropolitan areas reflected the state of mind and near-panic in the United States during the Cold War standoff with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union). Originally built for the Ajax missile, selected Nike sites transitioned to the Hercules missile, a nuclear-tipped weapon, around 1958, including C-

⁴⁵ Sivilich, "Wheeler/Portage Nike Missile Launch Site C-47 Historic Structures Report," 23.

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32.⁴⁶ Following the closure of C-32 in 1974, ownership of the Battery Control and Housing Area transitioned to the NPS for the IDNL to use as the Park Headquarters complex, and the Launch Area was sold to a private owner.⁴⁷ Nike Missile Site C-32 is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, with areas of significance of Politics/Government and Military from the period 1956–1974. The period of significance begins in 1956, when C-32 opened, and extends to 1974, when the site closed.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Politics/Government

During World War II, the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union formed a fragile alliance in a common effort to defeat Germany, Italy, and Japan. However, after the war ended, the United States and Great Britain had common interests and maintained their alliance, while the Soviet Union pursued its own agenda of establishing communist governments in the eastern European countries it had liberated from Nazi rule during the war. The United States and Great Britain, in response, sought to limit the spread of communism. While the Cold War did not involve direct military engagement, the tension between the two sides consisted of military deployments in regional conflicts, propaganda campaigns, blockades and embargoes, psychological warfare, and other calculated endeavors that escalated to the point of both sides developing nuclear weapon arsenals.⁴⁸

On February 9, 1946, Joseph Stalin gave a speech in which he “suggested that future wars were inevitable until the ultimate triumph of communism.” In response, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sought the advice of George F. Kennen, the minister-counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. Kennen believed that negotiation with the Soviets would be futile and that the United States “had little choice but to strengthen the West, resist Soviet expansion, and wait for internal changes in the Soviet Union.” This approach became known as “containment.”⁴⁹

While implementing this exterior “containment” policy, the United States also adopted an interior policy of “deterrence”—the concept that an attack on the continental United States would be so expensive that the Soviet Union would be deterred from undertaking such efforts. The core of this plan was the Nike program. However, in order to fully convince the Soviet

⁴⁶ John C. Lonnquest and David F. Winkler, *To Defend and Deter: The Legacy of the United States Cold War Missile Program* (Washington, DC: Department of Defense, Legacy Resources Management Program, Cold War Project, 1996), 181.

⁴⁷ *The Military Standard*, “Nike Missile Locations Indiana.”

⁴⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica Online, “Cold War,” updated April 19, 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>.

⁴⁹ Historic American Engineering Record. *Nike Missile Base C-84*, 4-5. For those wanting to learn more, the documentation completed for Nike Missile Site C-84 includes an in-depth examination of the circumstances that caused the development of the Cold War, the development of the Nike program and other air defense programs, and how the Chicago Nike program evolved.

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Union of the validity of this air defense effort, the United States had to fully develop, deploy, and staff these sites.⁵⁰

Throughout the Cold War, the U.S. government tried to contain Soviet advances while simultaneously expanding its own agenda and influence. The Cold War peaked between 1948 and 1953, during which time a series of international events amplified tensions, including

- The Soviet blockade of West Berlin, an ally of the United States and Great Britain (1948–1949);
- The formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) by the United States and western European nations in 1949 (the Warsaw Pact was created by the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc nations in response in 1955);
- The Soviet Union’s explosion of its first atomic bomb (1949);
- The spread of communism to China (1949); and
- North Korea’s Soviet-backed invasion of South Korea (1950).

While the initial research and planning for Project Nike started in the mid-1940s, Soviet acts of aggression and dominance forced the United States to push forward with construction to protect itself from a potential missile attack.⁵¹ These acts included the Soviet Union’s creation of long-range, high-altitude bombers that could reach the continental United States and the 1949 development and detonation of a nuclear bomb.⁵² The animosity between the two sides eased after the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953 but increased again in the late 1950s to early 1960s when both countries developed Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICMBs) like the Ajax and Hercules and when the Soviets moved nuclear missiles to Cuba, leading to the Cuban Missile Crisis.⁵³

While the thought of a world-ending nuclear attack from the Soviet Union preoccupied many Americans, nearly 300 Nike missile bases that existed hidden but ready throughout the country provided some reassurance that most of the United States’ major cities could be defended.

Military

The U.S. Army’s Project Nike was first proposed in 1945 and was named after the Greek goddess of victory. The objective of Project Nike was to create a line-of-sight antiaircraft missile system consisting of nearly two hundred missile battery sites around forty “defense areas” (see Figure 7 for a map of the sites surrounding Chicago). Most of the defense areas included

⁵⁰ Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, “Nike Missile Site C-47 National Register of Historic Places nomination,” State Historical Architectural and Archaeological Research Database (SHAARD), 8-3, accessed May 23, 2023, <https://secure.in.gov/apps/dnr/shaard/r/21f1a/N/NikeMissileSiteC47PorterCONom.pdf>.

⁵¹ Encyclopedia Britannica Online, “Cold War.”

⁵² Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, “Nike Missile Site C-47,” 8-4.

⁵³ Encyclopedia Britannica Online, “Cold War.”

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metropolitan areas and U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command bases across the country.⁵⁴ As the Cold War continued, the U.S. government and military realized that traditional antiaircraft weapons were nearly obsolete due to the altitudes and speeds of enemy aircraft. Bombers at the time could reach top speeds of over 500 miles per hour, so the Nike missiles needed better capability than traditional antiaircraft artillery. The new ordnance would need to track the target, account for its speed, and guide the missile into the target. Additionally, several types of radar were required to follow targets and launch missiles. The Ajax system used three different radars for acquisition, target tracking, and missile tracking, resulting in three separate sets of radar equipment at every control base, plus the necessary backup sets.⁵⁵ The three types were Acquisition Radar to locate the enemy target, known as LOPAR; TTR to follow the target; and MTR to follow and guide the Nike missile to destroy the target.⁵⁶

The initial ordnance deployed at Nike sites was the Ajax missile, which was the world's first operational guided surface-to-air missile (see Figure 8). At over 2,400 pounds and nearly 35 feet long when its solid fuel booster was attached, an Ajax missile could reach a speed of 1,700 miles per hour with a range of 25 to 30 miles at an altitude of 70,000 feet.⁵⁷ Ajax batteries held up to twelve missiles per magazine in an underground magazine and aboveground launchers.⁵⁸ Despite its impressive statistics, Ajax quickly became obsolete after its 1953 debut, due to technological advancements. Because the Ajax missile was unable to defend against multiple targets and had a short range, the superior Hercules missile was unveiled in 1958. It was faster, had a longer range, and could be equipped with a nuclear warhead, allowing for the destruction of multiple targets at once.⁵⁹ A Hercules missile was over 10,000 pounds, 41 feet long and able to travel up to 2,700 miles per hour with a range of over 75 miles at an altitude of 150,000 feet (see Figure 9 for a comparison of Ajax and Hercules missiles).⁶⁰

To accommodate the new missiles, some new bases were constructed, but most Hercules sites were former Ajax facilities that were upgraded (see Figure 10). In total, there were 145 Hercules batteries: 110 converted Ajax batteries and 35 constructed specifically for Hercules. Since Hercules missiles had a greater range than Ajax missiles, not as many batteries were necessary, resulting in the deactivation of some Ajax sites. The first sites to activate with Hercules missiles

⁵⁴ U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command (AMCOM), "Nike Ajax* (SAM-A-7) (MIM3,3A,**)," Redstone Arsenal historical information, updated August 6, 2021, <https://history.redstone.army.mil/miss-nikeajax.html>.

⁵⁵ AMCOM, "Nike Ajax."

⁵⁶ National Park Service, "Nike Missiles," Gateway National Recreation Area, updated October 20, 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/gate/learn/historyculture/nike-missile.htm?fullweb=1>.

⁵⁷ Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum, "Nike-Ajax Missile," accessed January 11, 2023, https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/missile-surface-air-Nike-ajax/nasm_A19740620000.

⁵⁸ Lonquest and Winkler, *To Defend and Deter*, 173–74.

⁵⁹ Lonquest and Winkler, *To Defend and Deter*, 180.

⁶⁰ Lonquest and Winkler, *To Defend and Deter*, 177.

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in 1958 were around New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago.⁶¹ Additional radar equipment was also necessary for the Hercules missiles. Besides the existing Ajax TTR and MTR, Hercules required TRR to prevent enemy interference with the TTR and HIPAR to search for enemy aircraft in addition to Alternate Battery Radars (ABAR) as backup.⁶² Beyond radar upgrades, base improvements included reducing the number of missiles to eight per magazine and renovating the storage racks, launch rails, and elevators to accommodate Hercules' larger size.⁶³ Security improvements at launch sites included double fencing and guard dogs because of the presence of nuclear weapons.⁶⁴

The Nike site selection process was complicated and included data analysis and reconnaissance undertaken during planning, design, and evaluation efforts. The general strategy was to create a protective circle around cities and industrial areas with a buffer zone. The buffer zones varied in size depending on the amount of damage an enemy ordnance could cause and how well an area could recover and continue operating. While virtually all Nike sites had the same infrastructure and resources, each site had a different plan. Additionally, Army personnel created a "bomb release line" around a particular area, which was a boundary around an area that a bomb would cover from the time it was dropped until it detonated, taking into account speed and altitude. Another consideration was the "critical line" around an area that determined where defense efforts must be able to destroy all enemy aircraft. Based upon this data, the Army then determined the number and location of missile sites, along with the number of missiles per site, required to provide the necessary protection. This resulted in some missile bases being placed within the "vital areas" and additional ones outside. All Nike sites included a Battery Control Area for guidance and control equipment; a Launch Area for missile silos or missile barns, dog kennels, generators, and other equipment; and a Housing/Administration Area for personnel and administration. Typically, the Housing/Administration Area was combined with one of the other two, depending on the site constraints. The two areas were placed between one-half mile and three miles apart.⁶⁵ In the case of C-32, the Battery Control and Housing Area was to the west and the Launch Area to the east, one-half mile apart.

When the Army first started planning and constructing Ajax missile batteries, civilians were nervous. The public knew about the tenuous relationship between the United States and Soviet Union, but having an armed missile silo nearby, sometimes less than one mile from residences, was an intimidating physical reminder of the potential danger that citizens faced. Due to

⁶¹ AMCOM, "Nike Hercules* (SAM-N-25) (MIN-14/14A/14B)," Redstone Arsenal historical information, updated August 6, 2021, <https://history.redstone.army.mil/missnikeherc.html>.

⁶² Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), "Developing the Nike Hercules Missile," accessed June 6, 2024, <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Services-Resources/Environmental/Nike/Missile.aspx>.

⁶³ Lonquest and Winkler, *To Defend and Deter*, 182.

⁶⁴ James Walker, Lewis Bernstein, and Sharon Lang, *Seize the High Ground: The US Army in Space and Missile Defense* (Washington, DC: U.S. Army Space & Missile Defense Command, Historical Office, 2003), 24, https://history.army.mil/html/books/070/70-88-1/cmhPub_70-88-1.pdf.

⁶⁵ *The Military Standard*, "Nike Site Planning and Selection," updated 2010, <http://www.themilitarystandard.com/missile/nike/siteplan.php>.

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civilians' fears about having a U.S. Army base spontaneously pop up near them, base commanders and Army leadership initially held regular open houses at Nike bases across the country to inform neighbors about the overall mundane day-to-day life of a soldier stationed at the base, to showcase the latest and greatest Army technology present at the facility, and to calm the outrage and fear of nearby residents.⁶⁶ However, following the transition to the Hercules platform, security at the bases was vastly increased due to the presence of nuclear missiles. The erection of razor-wire fencing, the inclusion of a guard dog platoon, flood lights, and a small number of armed military police officers made regular open houses impossible.⁶⁷

Just as Hercules was developed in response to advancing technology, it eventually became obsolete for the same reason. The mass proliferation of ICBMs in the Soviet Union's arsenal and its decreasing reliance on long-range bomber aircraft rendered the Hercules missile nearly useless due to the ICBM's range and speed. Realizing this, the United States shifted its development focus to strategic nuclear weapons, which were more powerful, could travel farther, and had the ability to "destroy, with relative ease and quickness, the entire war-making capability of a large nation."⁶⁸

Along with the decreasing viability of Nike's success in an attack scenario, the system was included in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), a series of discussions between the United States and the Soviet Union about arms control, including the Nike program. The number of Nike sites was slowly reduced, and a 1972 treaty (SALT I) meant that most Nike sites were deactivated by 1974, including C-32.⁶⁹ In 1991, the United States and the Soviet Union entered into the *Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms* (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START]), which limited the number of nuclear warheads and ICBMs in each country's possession. By 2001, START had resulted in the removal of nearly 80 percent of the world's strategic nuclear weapon supply.⁷⁰

⁶⁶ "Open House Set for Nike Base in Porter Sunday," *Vidette-Messenger of Porter County*, October 2, 1957, 1. According to other *Vidette-Messenger of Porter County* articles (November 1, 1957; January 1, 1958; and January 28, 1958), public tours were held monthly up until the sites were converted to Hercules missiles.

⁶⁷ Rollie Bernhart, "Sentry Dogs Relieving Missilemen," *Vidette-Messenger of Porter County*, December 26, 1959, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/333536038/?match=1&terms=%22sentry%20dogs%22>.

⁶⁸ Encyclopedia Britannica Online, "Strategic Weapons System," updated July 20, 1998, <https://www.britannica.com/technology/strategic-weapons-system>.

⁶⁹ Encyclopedia Britannica Online, "Nike Missile," updated July 15, 2013, <https://www.britannica.com/technology/Nike-missile>.

⁷⁰ National Park Service, "Ending the Arms Race with a START," Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, updated October 20, 2020, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/endingthearmsrace-start.htm>.

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Chicago–Gary Defense Area & Site C-32

With the advent of the Nike program, the Chicago–Gary area was the third urban area to receive Nike bases after Washington, D.C., and New York City.⁷¹ Site C-32 was one of five Nike missile sites in northwestern Indiana within the Chicago–Gary Defense Area of the Chicago metropolitan area, which had a total of twenty-three installations. This heavily populated region was full of large industrial and logistics sites, like steel mills and rail yards, that were vital to the continued economic function of the United States, so it was critical that the area have a strong line of defense.

Site C-32 was the easternmost Nike site in the Chicago–Gary Defense Area, and because of that, it was likely to be the first site to launch an attack if Soviet bombers came from the east.⁷² It was important due to its eastern location and its proximity to Lake Michigan. Because of limited radar technology at the time, Lake Michigan was considered a defensive blind spot, leaving a large opening for a Soviet attack by way of the Arctic and Canada. Enemy planes would be undetectable while over the water, meaning the eight lakefront Nike sites played the key role of surveying the airspace over the lake.⁷³

C-32 officially opened in 1957 and started the conversion for the use of Hercules missiles the following year. Originally, C-32 had the capability to launch twenty Ajax missiles; however, with the increased size of the Hercules missiles, the capability dropped to twelve.⁷⁴ The site required a minimum of ten soldiers to operate the Battery Control Area and an additional twenty-one for the Launch Area, with six staff for each of the three launching sections and three more in the Launch Control Trailer with a launching control officer and section chief.⁷⁵ According to retired Colonel Bill Lawrence, who oversaw the site from 1959 to 1961, there were approximately 120 staff at peak residency, and it was not uncommon for people to work eighty to one hundred hours per week.⁷⁶ Nike C-32 was initially manned by B Battery, 79th Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion. In 1958, that name was changed to B Battery, 1st Missile Battalion, 60th Artillery, and it was changed a third time in the 1960s to B Battery, 1st Battalion (Nike Hercules), 60th Air Defense Artillery.⁷⁷

⁷¹ Historic American Engineering Record, *Nike Missile Base C-84*, 26.

⁷² Nancy Coltun Webster, “Missile Defense System Relics a Reminder of Cold War,” *Chicago Tribune*, May 13, 2019, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/ct-ptb-bicentennial-Nike-st-0320-20160318-story.html>.

⁷³ Jennifer Brandel, “When Nike Missiles Doted Chicago’s Shore and Burbs,” *WBEZ Chicago*, August 18, 2017, <https://www.wbez.org/stories/what-happened-to-Nike-missile-sites-around-chicago/b09ed69c-cdf0-4382-a7ac-75480a3d4cb7>.

⁷⁴ *The Military Standard*, “Nike Missile Locations Indiana.”

⁷⁵ Historic American Engineering Record, *Nike Missile Base C-84*, 32–34.

⁷⁶ Paulene Poparad, “Was Porter host to nuclear warheads? Cold War history still being written,” *Chesterton Tribune*, March 26, 2003, https://chestertontribune.com/previous-articles/Local%20History/was_porter_host_to_nuclear_warhe.htm.

⁷⁷ *The Military Standard*, “Nike Missile Base C-32 Indiana.”

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As with other Nike sites, C-32 initially offered monthly open houses for the public to see what the bases were like and to interact with soldiers in an effort to calm fears about having a missile base nearby. However, once the site was converted to Hercules missiles, security was at the forefront, and those events ceased.⁷⁸

Unfortunately, according to NPS public program coordinator Cliff Goins (in 2003), while there is much information about the Nike program, “there is not much specifically about the Porter site.”⁷⁹ In fact, the site is not included in the over 600-page document or specifically within the Illinois or Indiana inventory of Nike sites in *Defend and Deter: The Legacy of the United States Cold War Missile Program*, authored by John Lonnquest and David Winkler.⁸⁰

Nike Sites Under NPS Ownership

Of the nearly two hundred Nike bases built across the country, the vast majority are only recognizable by the concrete pads that served as foundations for the buildings or the large areas of concrete that once housed the underground missile silos. There are a handful that are owned and operated by the NPS and reflect Nike history in varying degrees. These include the Battery Control and Housing Area of C-32 at Indiana Dunes National Park; NY-49 in New Jersey and NY-56 in New York City, both operated by the Gateway National Recreation Area; SF-88 in San Francisco, operated by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area; and HM-69 in Everglades National Park. SF-88 is the most fully restored Nike site in the country, with recreated full-size Hercules and Ajax missile models, as well as facilities and buildings restored to how they looked when the site was new in 1954.⁸¹

Current Status of Indiana Nike Missile Sites

The majority of the Chicago–Gary sites have been demolished or redeveloped and, at best, have concrete remnants visible. C-45 (Gary Municipal Airport), C-46 (Muenster), and C-48 (Gary) have been redeveloped with no historic integrity remaining. C-47 (Wheeler) is intact but under private ownership. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The launch site there has been abandoned and is deteriorated, while the battery control site is overgrown and functions as a paintball facility. Site C-32, although divided into federal (Battery Control and Housing Area) and private (Launch Area) ownership, is the only Chicago–Gary Defense Area site still under partial federal ownership and whose original buildings have been reused in a meaningful way. The Launch Area of C-32 is in limited use and maintained. Buildings are in fair to good condition, but there has been some demolition at the site.

⁷⁸ Poparad, “Was Porter host to nuclear warheads?”

⁷⁹ Poparad, “Was Porter host to nuclear warheads?”

⁸⁰ Lonnquest and Winkler, *To Defend and Deter*, 337–39.

⁸¹ National Park Service, “Nike Missile Site,” Golden Gate National Recreation Area, updated March 4, 2024, <https://www.nps.gov/goga/Nike-missile-site.htm>.

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There is a sixth Nike missile site in the southeastern Indiana city of Dillsboro that was part of the Cincinnati–Dayton Defense Area (CD-63). While both the control and launch sites buildings remain, they are under separate private ownership and use.⁸²

Conclusion

Nike Missile Site C-32 exists as a reminder of the global uncertainty that was rampant during the Cold War, an over forty-year-long period of geopolitical tension between the United States and Soviet Union, along with their allies. It is a physical manifestation of the U.S. Army's efforts to protect the country, specifically the greater Chicago area, from the increasing threat of Soviet Union missile attacks after World War II. It was one of the sites selected to be upgraded around 1958 for conversion from Ajax to Hercules missiles, and C-32 possesses some building alterations and new construction that were necessary to make this shift. Although the radar and other military equipment has been removed, there is sufficient integrity to both the Battery Control Housing Area and Launch Area to convey the history of the property, thus making it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

⁸² *The Military Standard*, "Nike Missile Locations Indiana."

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Porter County, Indiana

County and State

Smithsonian Institution, National Air & Space Museum. "Nike-Ajax Missile." Accessed January 11, 2023, https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/missile-surface-air-Nike-ajax/nasm_A19740620000.

U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command (AMCOM). "Nike Ajax* (SAM-A-7) (MIM3,3A,**)." Redstone Arsenal Historical Information. Updated August 6, 2021, <https://history.redstone.army.mil/miss-nikeajax.html>, accessed November 8, 2022.

_____. "Nike Hercules* (SAM-N-25) (MIN-14/14A/14B)." Redstone Arsenal Historical information. Updated August 6, 2021, <https://history.redstone.army.mil/missnikeherc.html>.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. *Final Decision Document, Former NIKE C-32 Site, Porter, Indiana*. Louisville, KY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, 2018.

Walker, James, Lewis Bernstein, and Sharon Lang. *Seize the High Ground: The US Army in Space and Missile Defense*. Washington, DC: U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Historical Office, 2003. https://history.army.mil/html/books/070/70-88-1/cmhPub_70-88-1.pdf.

Webster, Nancy Coltun. "Missile Defense System Relics a Reminder of Cold War." *Chicago Tribune*, May 13, 2019. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2016/03/18/missile-defense-system-relics-a-reminder-of-cold-war/>.

"Work on New Nike Site at Porter to Begin Monday." *Vidette-Messenger of Porter County*, September 28, 1956. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/333014636/?match=1&terms=%22work%20on%20new%20nike%20site%20at%20porter%22>.

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: Indiana Dunes National Park

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10 Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

30.89 total (15.94 acres--Battery Control and Housing Area & 14.95 acres--Launch Area)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Battery Control and Housing Area UTMS (starting at top center point, then clockwise)

1. 16 492679 4609062
2. 16 492775 4609062
3. 16 492774 4608755
4. 16 492669 4608759

Nike Missile Site C-32

Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana

County and State

5. 16 492669 4606779

6. 16 492536 4608779

7. 16 492536 4608990

Launch Area UTMS (starting at top center point, then clockwise)

1. 16 493694 4609028

2. 16 493858 4609028

3. 16 493858 4608749

4. 16 493583 4608749

5. 16 493583 4608882

6. 16 493694 4608882

Verbal Boundary Description

Battery Control and Housing Area (15.94 acres):

Starting at the northeast corner of parcel 64-03-27-276-002.000-026, proceed south for 1,006' to the south side of the main entrance to 1100 North Mineral Springs Road. Turn west and proceed 343'. Turn north and proceed 68'. Turn west and proceed 438'. Turn north and proceed 690'. Turn northeasterly and proceed 524'. Turn east and proceed 314' to the point of origin.

Launch Area (14.95 acres):

The boundary includes all the land within three current parcels that made up the original Launch Area of Nike Missile Site C-32. These include:

- 64-03-26-251-005.000-026 (1035 Wagner Road, 11.34 acres)
- 64-03-26-251-007.000-026 (1031 Wagner Road, 0.36 acres)
- 64-03-26-251-006.000-026 (1035 Wagner Road, 0.68 acres)

11 Boundary Justification

Battery Control and Housing Area:

The boundary for this section encompasses the land that was historically the original Battery Control and Housing Area of Nike Missile Site C-32 and was transferred to the NPS in 1975. NPS owns additional land to the north, west, and south of this parcel, and small amounts of additional acreage have been included to prevent the boundary from running through buildings at the northwest corner and to include the main entry and drive at the southeast corner of the property. This additional acreage to the original 15.33-acre site is 0.61 acres, for a total of 15.94 acres.

Nike Missile Site C-32

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Launch Area:

The boundary for this section encompasses the original 14.95 acres of the Launch Area. It was sold into private ownership in 1976.

12 Form Prepared By

name/title: Amy Borland, Cooper Shields, & Wes Cunningham

organization: Gray & Pape, Inc.

street & number: 8902 Otis Avenue, Suite 220A

city or town: Indianapolis state: Indiana zip code:46216

e-mail: aborland@graypape.com

telephone: 317-756-1672

date: 12/06/2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Nike Missile Site C-32

Battery Control and Housing Area

Indiana Dunes National Park 1100 North Mineral Springs Road Porter, Porter County, Indiana

Launch Site 1131 North Wagner Road Porter, Porter County, Indiana

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State

-Photos taken by Cooper Shields on 8/22/2022–8/26/2022 include 7, 10, 14, 16–19, 22–24, & 26–27.

-Photos taken by Amy Borland on 8/4/2023 include 1–6, 8–9, 11–13, 15, 20–21, & 25.

-Photos taken by Amy Borland on 4/2/2024 include 28–40.

Photo CD with National Park Service, Indiana Dunes National Park

Photo 1: Camera facing northwest; view of Building 101 and back of Building 102.

Photo 2: Camera facing southwest; view of Building 101.

Photo 3: Camera facing west; view along southern drive of Buildings 102 and 104.

Photo 4: Camera facing north; view of site showing sidewalk and back of Buildings 101 and 112 on right and Building 102 on the left.

Photo 5: Camera facing northeast; view of south façade of Building 102.

Photo 6: Camera facing east; view of main entrance of Building 102.

Photo 7: Camera facing northeast; view of Building 103.

Photo 8: Camera facing east; view along southern drive of Buildings 104 and 102.

Photo 9: Camera facing north; view of west end of Building 104.

Photo 10: Camera facing northwest; view of Buildings 112 and 108 in far-right background.

Photo 11: Camera facing northwest; view of Building 105, three USGS weather buildings, Buildings 107 and 108, and back of Building 112.

Photo 12: Camera facing west; back views of Buildings 102, 103, and 104 with sidewalk.

Photo 13: Camera facing north; view of two of the USGS weather buildings at left and Buildings 107, 108, and 111.

Photo 14: Camera facing southeast; view of helipad and Buildings 112 and 101 in the background.

Photo 15: Camera facing northwest; view of USGS weather equipment and concrete missile pads with Buildings 115 and 118/119 in background.

Photo 16: Camera facing northwest; view of Buildings 107 and 109 at far right.

Photo 17: Camera facing south; view of Building 108.

Photo 18: Camera facing southwest; view of Building 109 with Building 107 at back left.

Photo 19: Camera facing northeast; view of Building 111.

Photo 20: Camera facing northeast; view of Building 110 with Building 111 at far right.

Photo 21: Camera facing east; view of Building 117 and sheds and Building 110 at far right.

Photo 22: Camera facing southwest; view of Building 118/119.

Photo 23: Camera facing southwest; view of Building 118/119.

Photo 24: Camera facing west; view of Building 119.

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State

Photo 25: Camera facing northwest; view of two garages with north end of Building 119 at far left.

Photo 26: Camera facing northeast; view of athletic court and Building 108 in the right background.

Photo 27: Camera facing southwest; view of one of horseshoe posts.

Photo 28: Camera facing south; view of Sentry Guardhouse, Ready Building, and Fallout Shelter.

Photo 29: Camera facing south; view of the Ready Building.

Photo 30: Camera facing east; view of east–west drive, side of Fallout Shelter, and Wellhouse.

Photo 31: Camera facing southeast; view of Building 126 (Missile Test and Assembly Building), Building 130 (Generator Building), and Unknown Building; also shows portion of historic-period sidewalk.

Photo 32: Camera facing southeast; Building 130 (Generator Building) and Unknown Building with gas pump.

Photo 33: Camera facing northeast; view of possible dog kennels behind Building 130 (Generator Building).

Photo 34: Camera facing northeast; view of corner of Building 126 (Missile Test and Assembly Building) looking toward former missile silos.

Photo 35: Camera facing east; view of Building 132 (Warhead Building) between north and south berms.

Photo 36: Camera facing northeast; view of three former missile silos (dirt patch at right, behind Cosco trailer and covered boat, and area with trees behind covered boat).

Photo 37: Camera facing southwest; view of former missile silos looking toward Building 126 (Missile Test and Assembly Building) left of center and Ready Building right of center.

Photo 38: Camera facing west; view of east–west drive towards Wellhouse and Sentry Guardhouse.

Photo 39: Camera facing southwest; view of Building 126 (Missile Test and Assembly Building) at left, Ready Building at center, and Wellhouse and portion of Fallout Shelter at right.

Photo 40: Camera facing north; view along fence parallel to Wagner Road of Sentry Guardhouse and Fallout Shelter.

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State

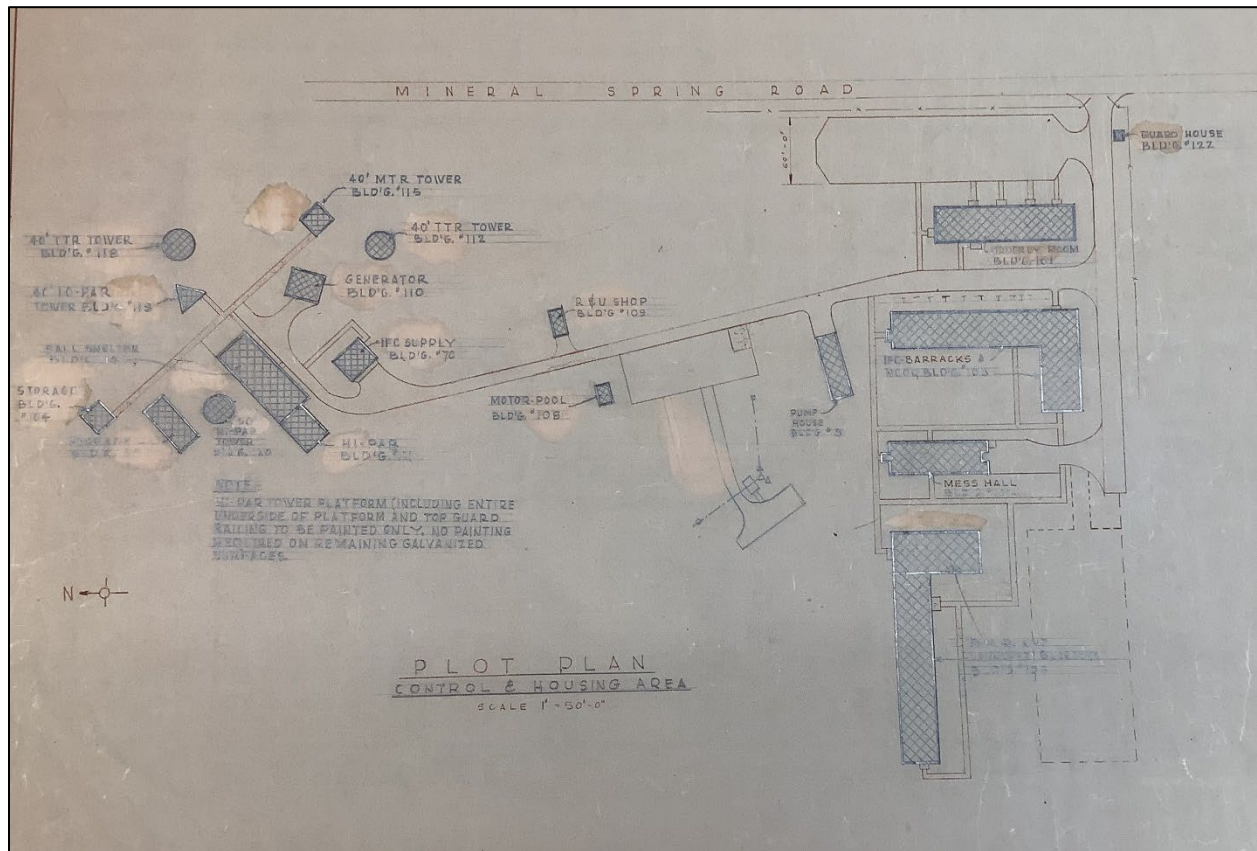


Figure 1: Nike Missile Site C-32 Plan for Battery Control and Housing Area, ca. 1958 (Indiana Dunes National Park).

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State



Figure 2: Nike Missile Site C-32 Battery Control and Housing Area, ca. 1965 (Indiana Dunes National Park).

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State



Figure 3: Indiana Dunes National Park Headquarters (former Nike Missile Site C-32 Battery Control and Housing Area), 2024 (Google Maps).

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Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State



Figure 4: Nike Missile Site C-32 Launch Area, ca. 1956 (Historic Aerials).

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State

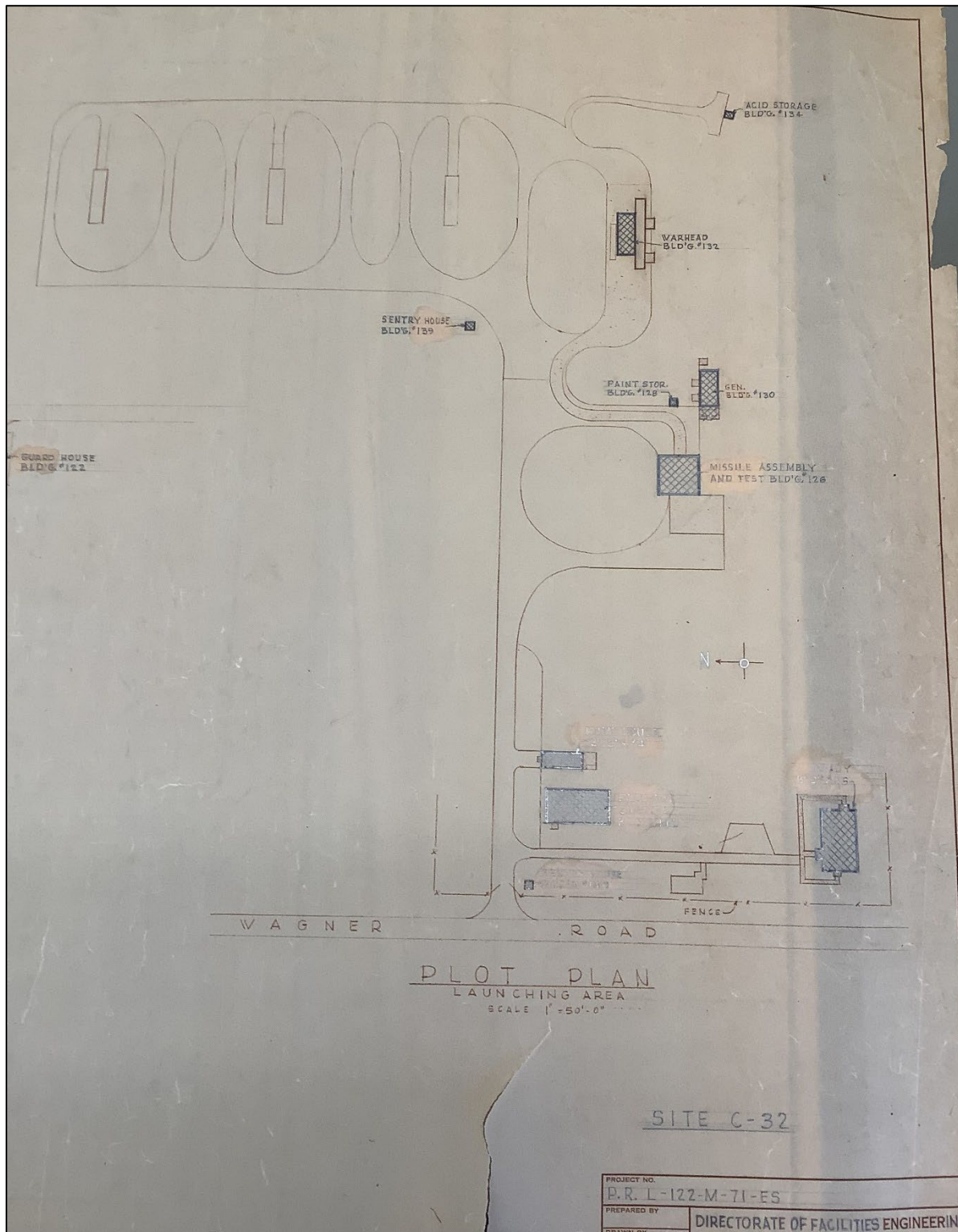


Figure 5: Nike Missile Site C-32 Launch Site plan, ca. 1958 (Indiana Dunes National Park).

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State



Figure 6: Former Nike Missile Site C-32 Launch Site, 2024 (Google Maps).

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Figure 7: Nike Missile Sites around Chicago. Site C-32 is at the right (Pruned, 2011).

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
County and State

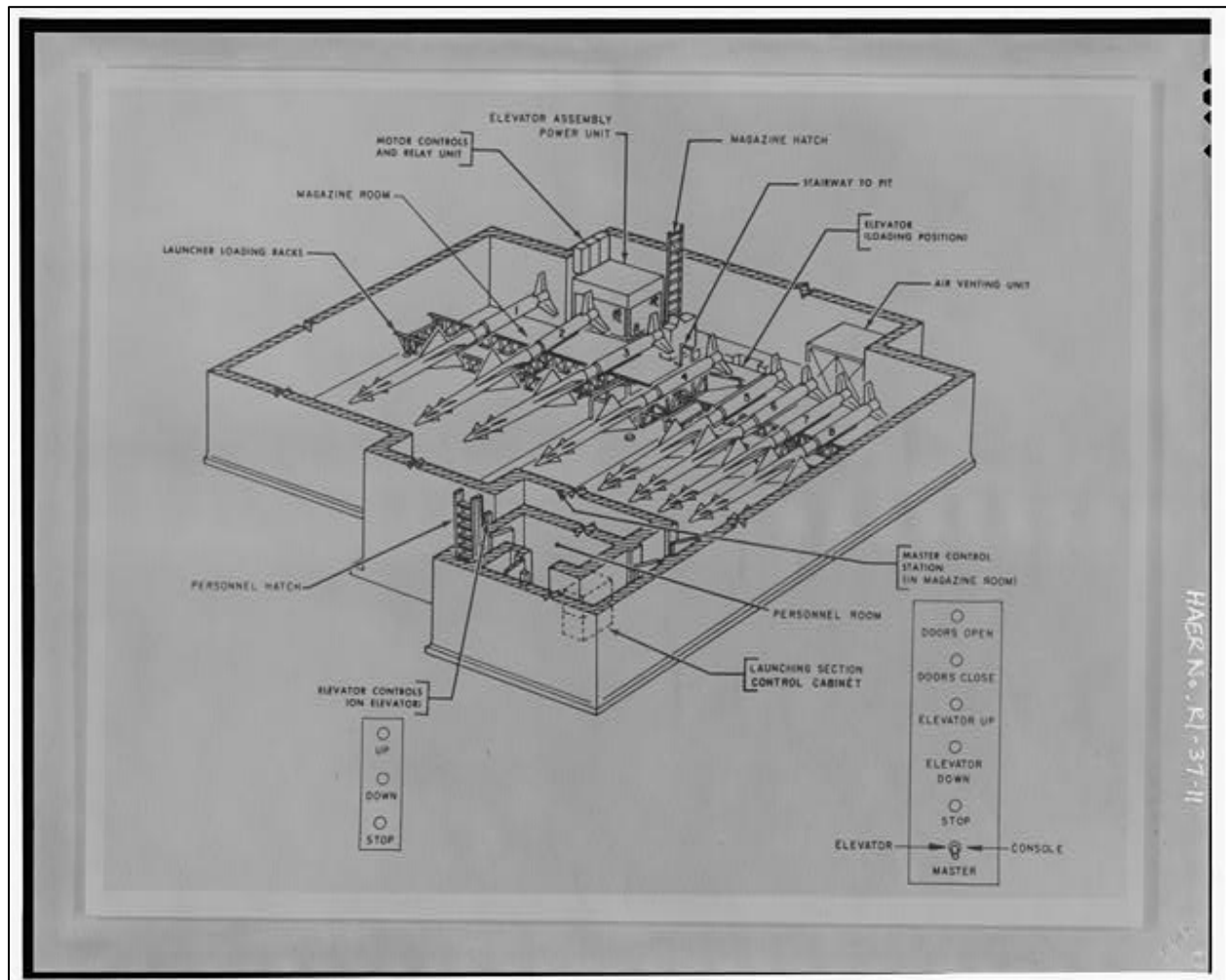


Figure 8: Drawing of underground Ajax missile storage and elevator controls from "Procedure and Drills for the NIKE Ajax System," Department of the Army Field Manual, FM-44-80 from the Institute for Military History, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA, 1956 (*The Military Standard: Nike Historic Photos*).

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

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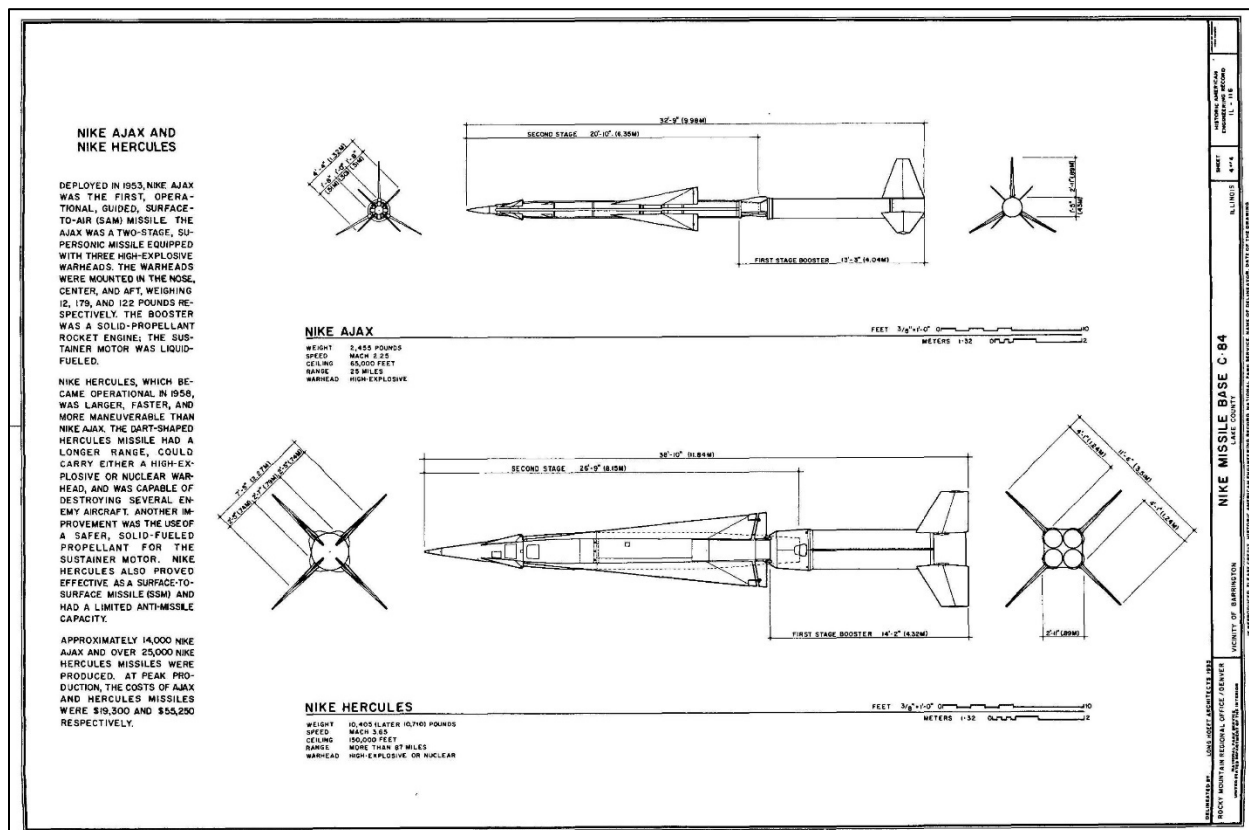


Figure 9: Drawings of Nike Ajax and Nike Hercules missiles, ca. 1968 (Library of Congress, Historic American Engineering Record).

Nike Missile Site C-32
Name of Property

Porter County, Indiana
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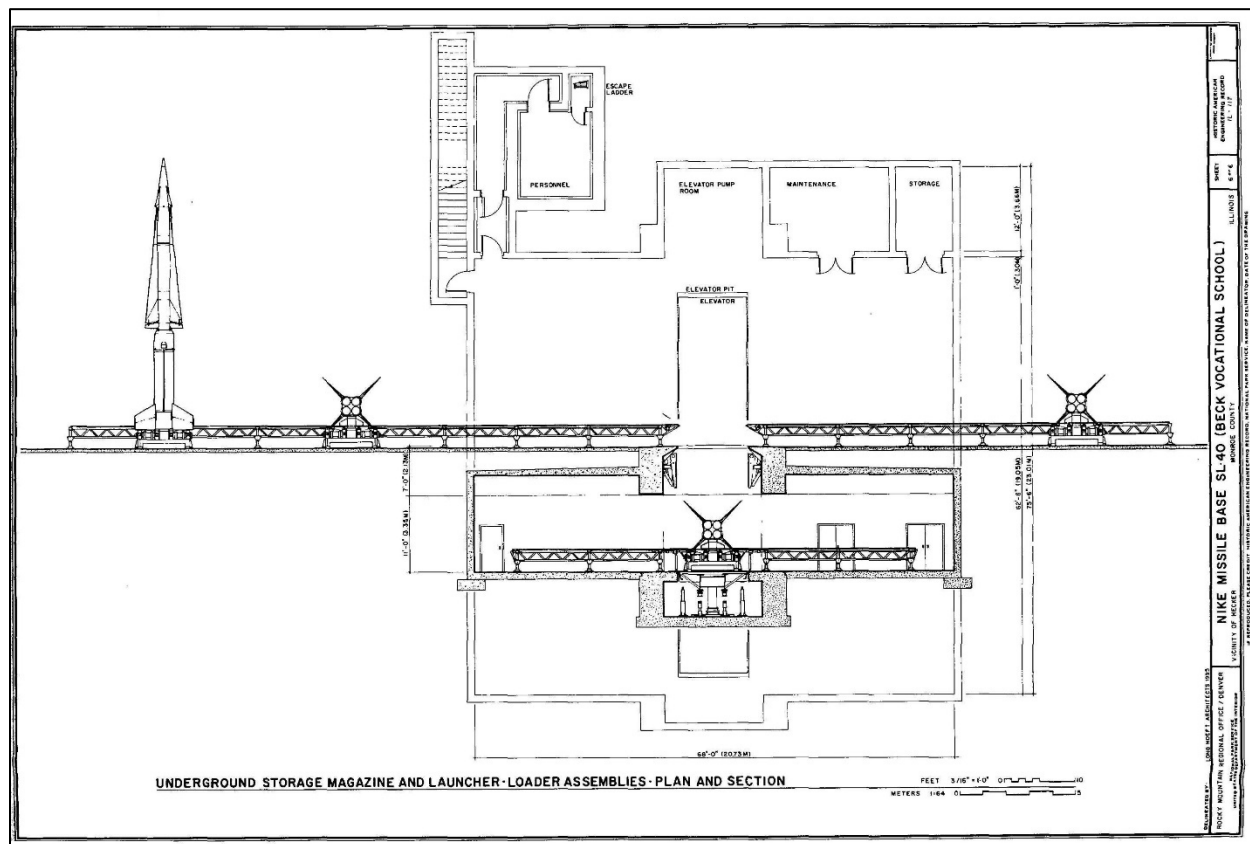


Figure 10: Drawing of plan and section of Nike Hercules underground storage magazine and launcher-loader assemblies, ca. 1968 (Library of Congress, Historic American Engineering Record).

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Nike Missile Site C-32

National Register of Historic Places nomination

1100 North Mineral Springs Road &

1031-1035 North Wagner Road

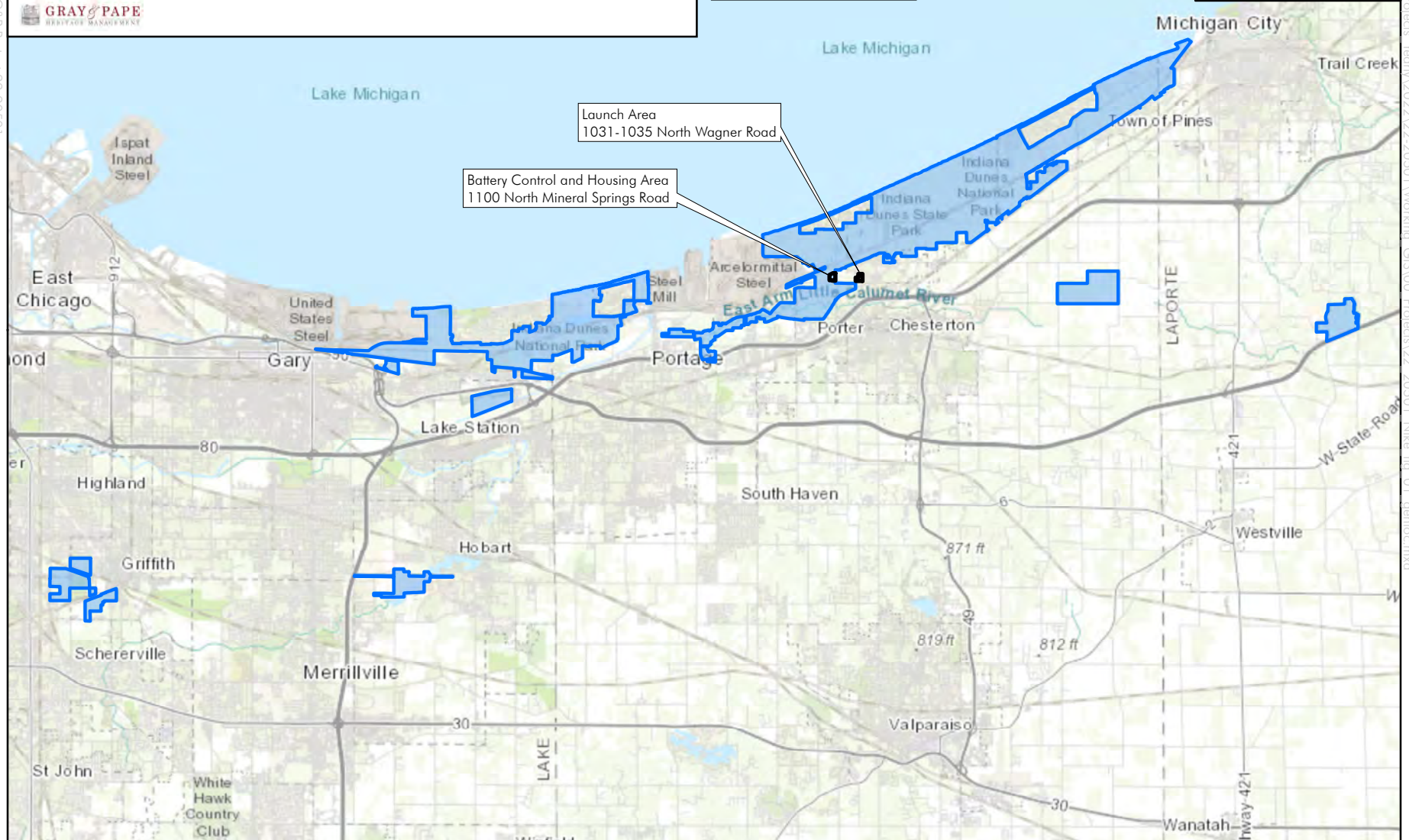
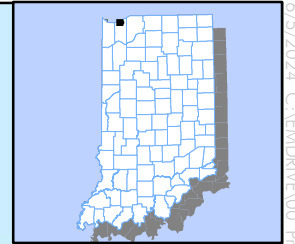
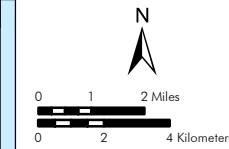
Porter, Porter County, Indiana

Map 1: Indiana Dunes National Park and Nike Missile Site C-32



LEGEND

- Nike Missile Site Parcels
- Indiana Dunes National Park

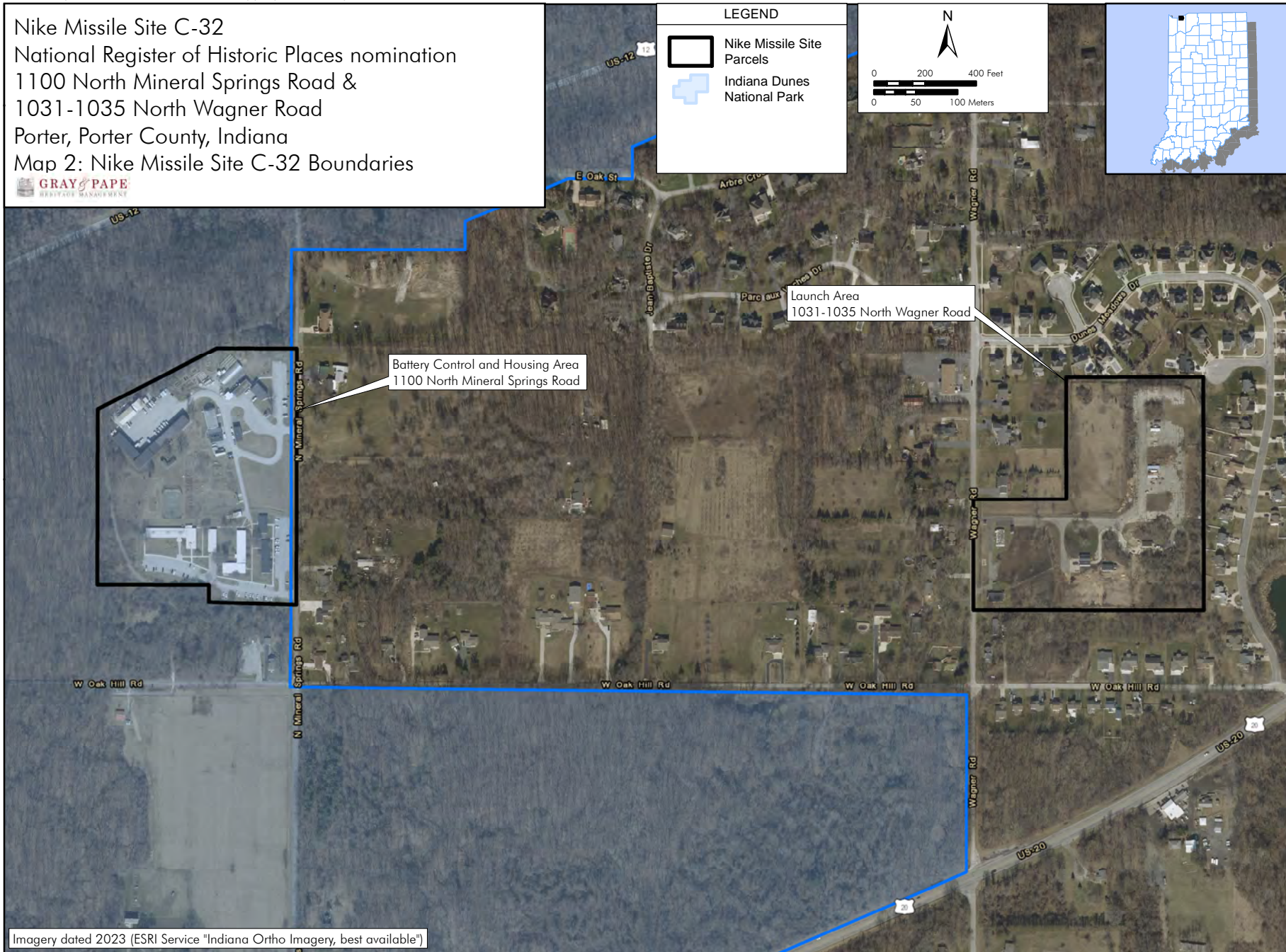
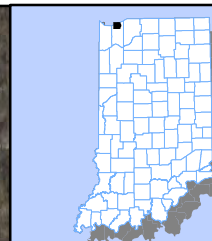
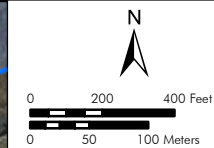


Nike Missile Site C-32
National Register of Historic Places nomination
1100 North Mineral Springs Road &
1031-1035 North Wagner Road
Porter, Porter County, Indiana
Map 2: Nike Missile Site C-32 Boundaries



LEGEND

- Nike Missile Site Parcels
- Indiana Dunes National Park



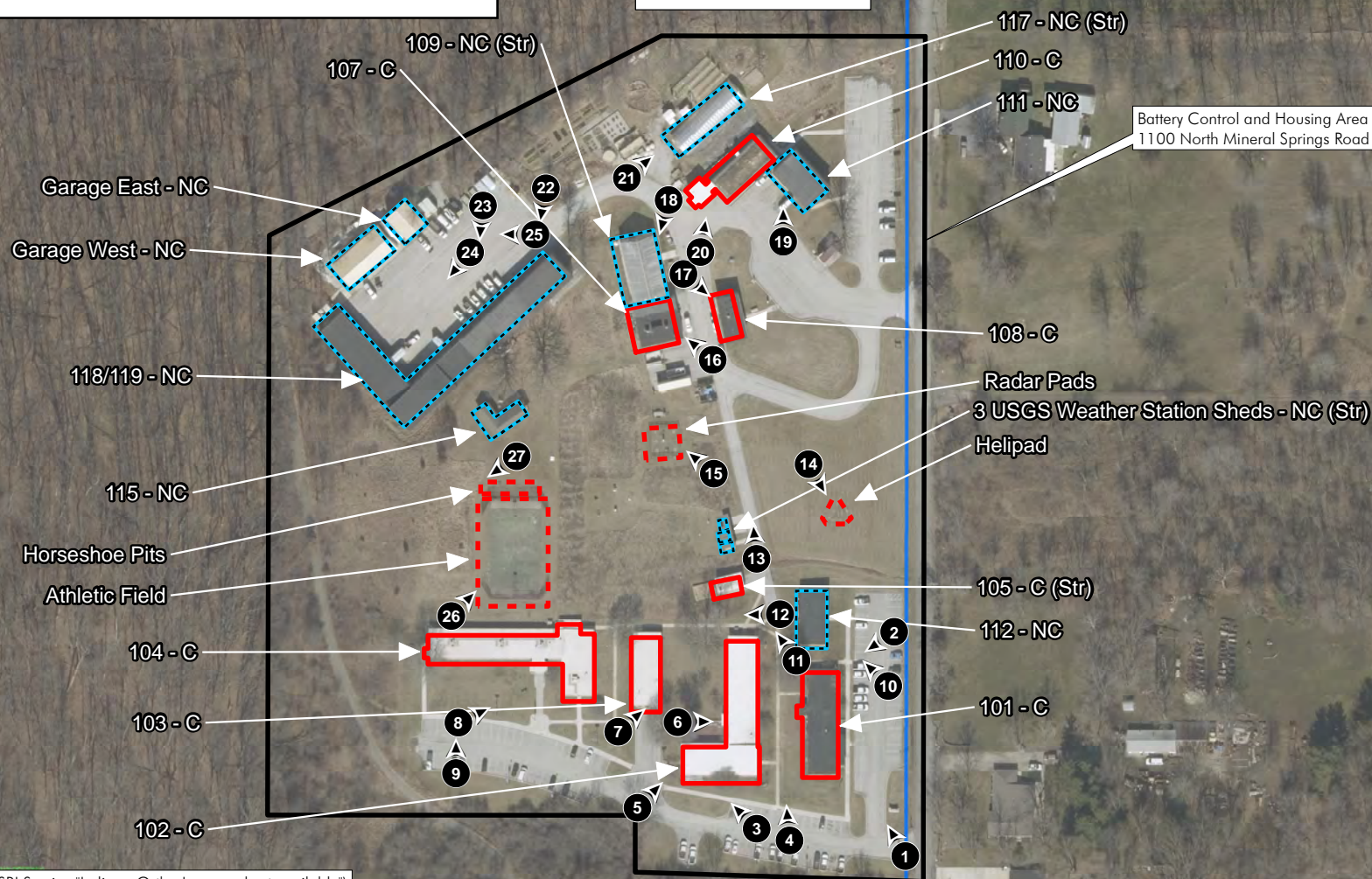
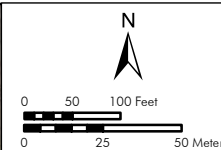
Imagery dated 2023 (ESRI Service "Indiana Ortho Imagery, best available")

Nike Missile Site C-32
National Register of Historic Places nomination
1100 North Mineral Springs Road &
1031-1035 North Wagner Road
Porter, Porter County, Indiana
Map 3: Nike Missile Site C-32 Battery Control and
Housing Area Resources & Photos 1-27



LEGEND

- Nike Missile Site Parcels
- Indiana Dunes National Park
- Contributing (C)
- Contributing to Site
- Non-Contributing (NC)
- (Str) = Structure
- Orientation of Photographs



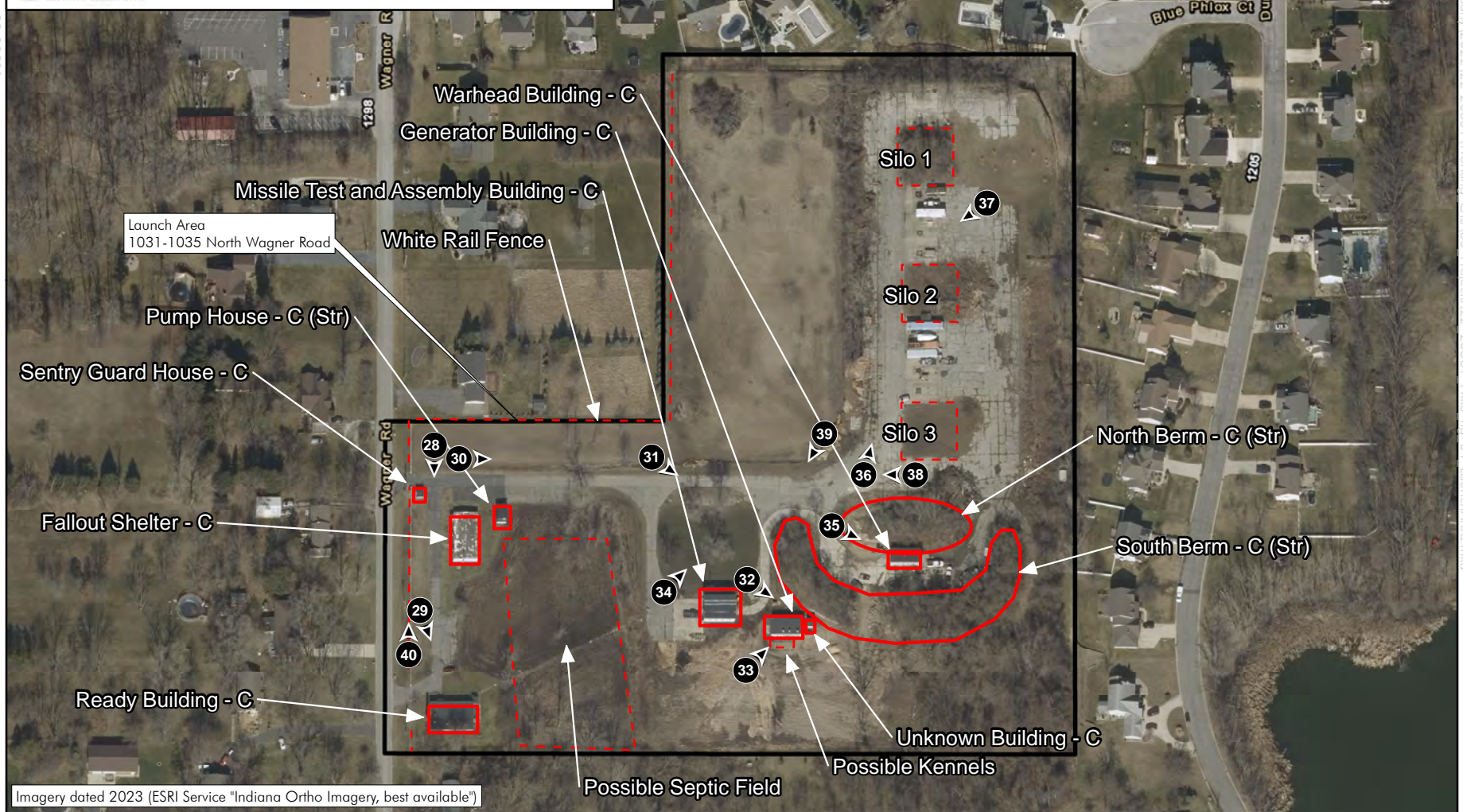
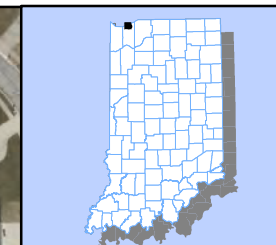
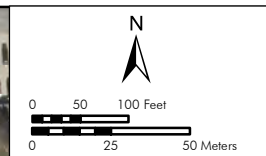
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Nike Missile Site C-32
National Register of Historic Places nomination
1100 North Mineral Springs Road &
1031-1035 North Wagner Road
Porter, Porter County, Indiana
Map 4: Nike Missile Site C-32 Launch Area Resources
& Photos 28-40



LEGEND

- Nike Missile Site Parcels
- Contributing (C)
- Contributing to Site
- Str = Structure
- Orientation of Photographs

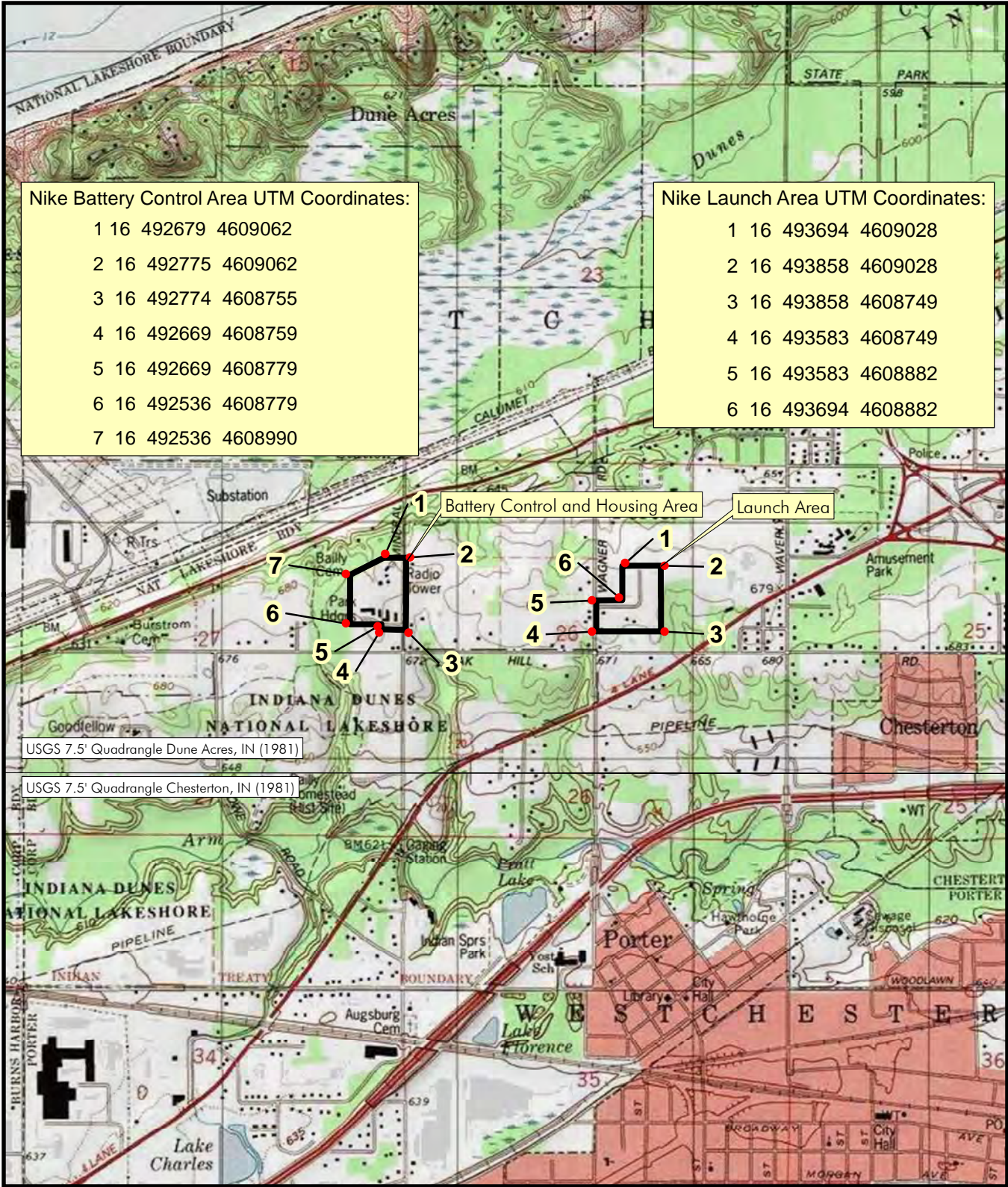


Created in ArcGIS 10.8.1 for G&P Project 22-20501

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Created in ArcGIS 10.8.1 for G&P Project 22-20501

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Nike Battery Control Area UTM Coordinates:

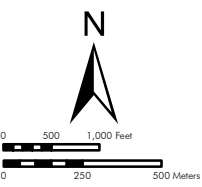
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- 2 16 492775 4609062
- 3 16 492774 4608755
- 4 16 492669 4608759
- 5 16 492669 4608779
- 6 16 492536 4608779
- 7 16 492536 4608990

Nike Launch Area UTM Coordinates:

- 1 16 493694 4609028
- 2 16 493858 4609028
- 3 16 493858 4608749
- 4 16 493583 4608749
- 5 16 493583 4608882
- 6 16 493694 4608882

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Dune Acres, IN (1981)

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Chesterton, IN (1981)



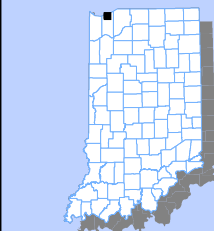
Nike Missile Site Parcels

1 Mile



GRAY & PAPE
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Service Layer Credits: Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed





IN_Porter_NikeMissileSiteC-320001



IN_Porter_NikeMissileSiteC-320003



IN_Porter_NikeMissileSiteC-320008



IN_Porter_NikeMissileSiteC-320017



IN_Porter_NikeMissileSiteC-320020



IN_Porter_NikeMissileSiteC-320023



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