Man in Space Theme Study
Federal Agency Nomination

NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Apollo Mission Control Center

and/or common Mission Control Center

2. Location

street & number Lyndon B. Johnson Space Flight Center ___ not for publication

city, town Houston ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Texas code 48 county Harris code 201

3. Classification

Category
___ district
X building(s)
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Ownership
X public
___ private
___ both

Public Acquisition
___ in process
___ being considered

Status
___ occupied
___ unoccupied
___ work in progress

Accessible
X yes: restricted
___ yes: unrestricted
___ no

Present Use
___ agriculture
___ commercial
___ educational
___ entertainment
X government
___ industrial
X military
___ museum
___ park
___ private residence
___ religious
X scientific
X transportation
X other: Space Exploration

4. Owner of Property

name National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

street & number

city, town Washington ___ vicinity of state D.C. 20546

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

street & number Real Property Management Office Code NXG

city, town Washington state D.C. 20546

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Apollo Mission Control Center is in Building 30 at the Lyndon B. Johnson Manned Space Flight Center in Houston, Texas. The three-story structure consists of a mission operations wing (MOW), operations support wing (OSW), and an interconnecting lobby wing. The MOW contains systems and equipment required to support the mission control function. The OSW contains offices, laboratory, and technical support areas for the flight operations directorate. The lobby wing provides additional office space and dormitory facilities utilized by flight controlers during space flights of extended duration. The mission control center is supported by an emergency power building that houses standby electrical power and air-conditioning systems in the event that primary sources fail.

Principal systems on the first floor are the real time computer complex and the communications systems. These systems support the dual mission facilities and systems on the second and third floors. The communications system provides the interface between the mission control center in Houston and the manned space flight network and the launch site.

Principal areas on the second floor are the mission operations control room (MOCR), the staff support rooms (SSR), the simulation facilities, and the master digital command system. The MOCR is the principal command and control center, staffed with key mission operations teams responsible for overall management of the flight.

Principal areas on the third floor are the MOCR, the SSR, the recovery control room, the meteorological area, and the display and timing area. The MOCR and SSR are exact duplications of the areas on the second floor.

The recovery control room, the meteorological area, and the display and timing areas support the dual mission facilities and systems on the second and third floors.

The MOCR on the second floor is the principal command and decision area in the MCC. Critical information related to spacecraft, launch vehicle, and ground systems, as well as aeromedical parameters from the worldwide stations, ships, and aircraft, is processed and displayed within the MOCR. Based on an analysis of this continuous flow of information, personnel in this room must assess the spacecraft flight status and progress, and then, in time-critical periods, determine the continuation, alteration, or termination of the space flight.

This is an ongoing NASA facility and is currently being modified to accommodate flights of the shuttle. The third floor of the facility has been turned over to the Air Force and is in the process of being converted into a secure area from which Air Force shuttle flights will be monitored. The second floor of the facility housing the mission control operations room is being divided into two rooms to accommodate increasing numbers of shuttle flights.[1]

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1965-Present **Builder/Architect** NASA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Apollo Mission Control Center is significant because of its close association with the manned spacecraft program of the United States. This facility was used to monitor nine Gemini and all Apollo flights including the flight of Apollo 11 that first landed men on the moon. After the end of the Apollo Program this facility was used to monitor manned spaceflights for Skylab, Apollo-Soyuz, and all recent Space Shuttle flights.

The support provided by the Apollo Mission Control Center to the first manned landing on the surface of the moon was critical to the success of the mission. It exercised full mission control of the flight of Apollo 11 from the time of liftoff from Launch Complex 39 at the Kennedy Space Center to the time of splashdown in the Pacific. The technical management of all areas of vehicle systems of Apollo 11 including flight dynamics, life systems, flight crew activities, recovery support, and ground operations were handled here.

Through the use of television and the print news media the scene of activity at the Apollo Mission Control during the first manned landing on the moon was made familiar to millions of Americans. When Neil Armstrong reported his "giant leap for mankind" to Mission Control his words went immediately around the world and into history. The Apollo Mission Control Center and Launch Complex 39 at the Kennedy Space Center are the two resources that symbolize for most Americans achievements of the manned space program leading to the successful first moon landing during the flight of Apollo 11 in July 1969.

Footnotes

Harry Butowsky, et. al., Man in Space Reconnaissance Survey (Denver, National Park Service, 1981), pp. 57-8.

Bibliography

Brooks, Courtney G., Grimwood, James M., Swenson, Loyd S. Chariots for Apollo: A History of Manned Lunar Spacecraft. Washington, D.C.: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 1979.

Butowsky, Harry, et. al. Man in Reconnaissance Survey. Denver: National Park Service, 1981.

Mission Control Center. Washington, D.C.: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, No Date.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name League City

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	297660	3271460
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Apollo Mission Control Center is defined by the outside perimeter of Building 30 at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harry A. Butowsky

organization National Park Service **date** May 15, 1984

street & number Division of History **telephone** (202) 343-8168

city or town Washington, D.C. 20240 **state**

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title **date**

For NPS use only

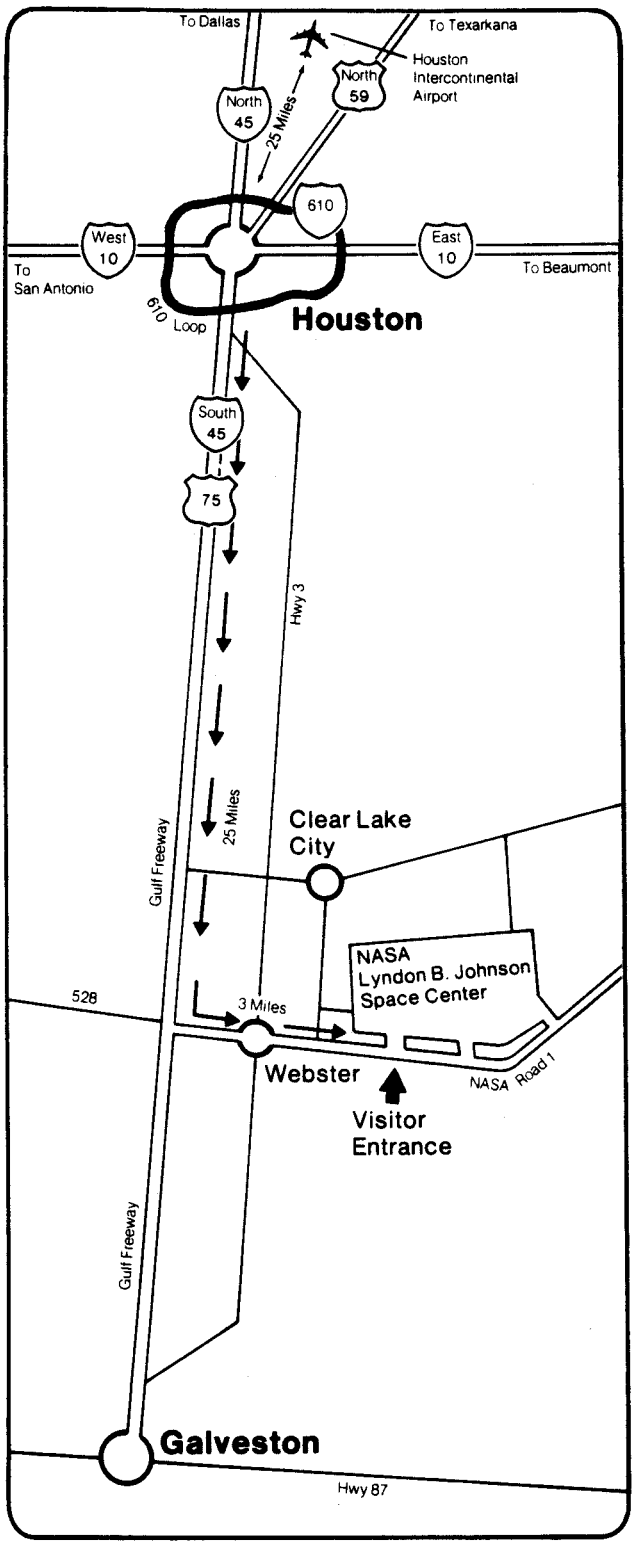
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

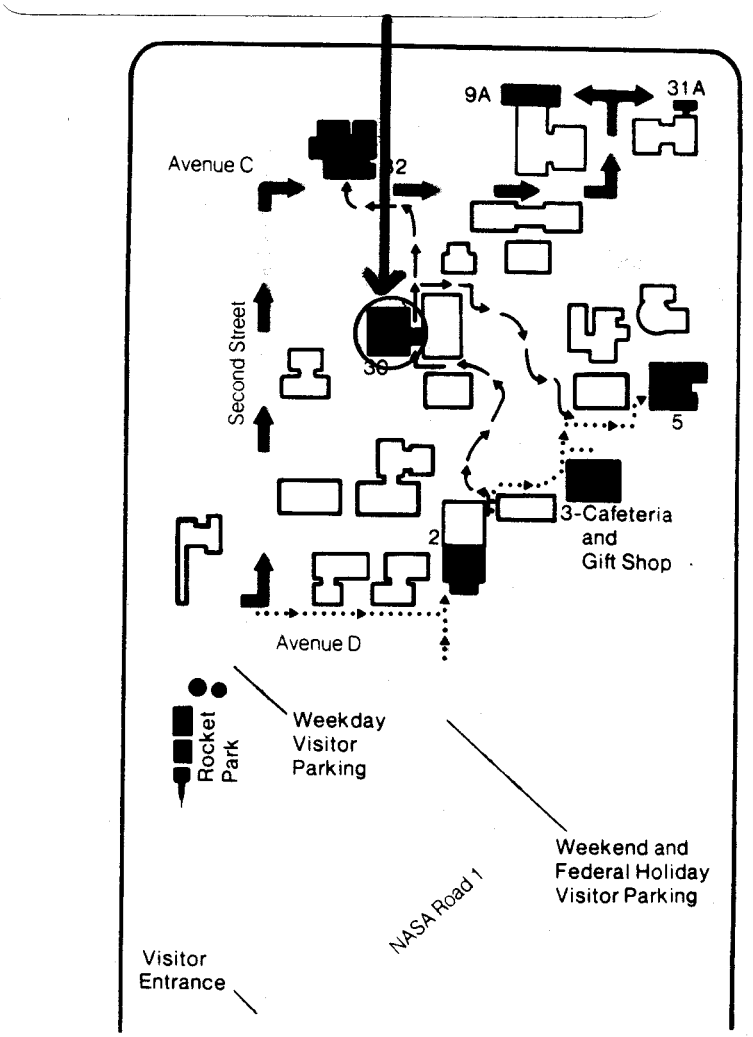
date

Keeper of the National Register

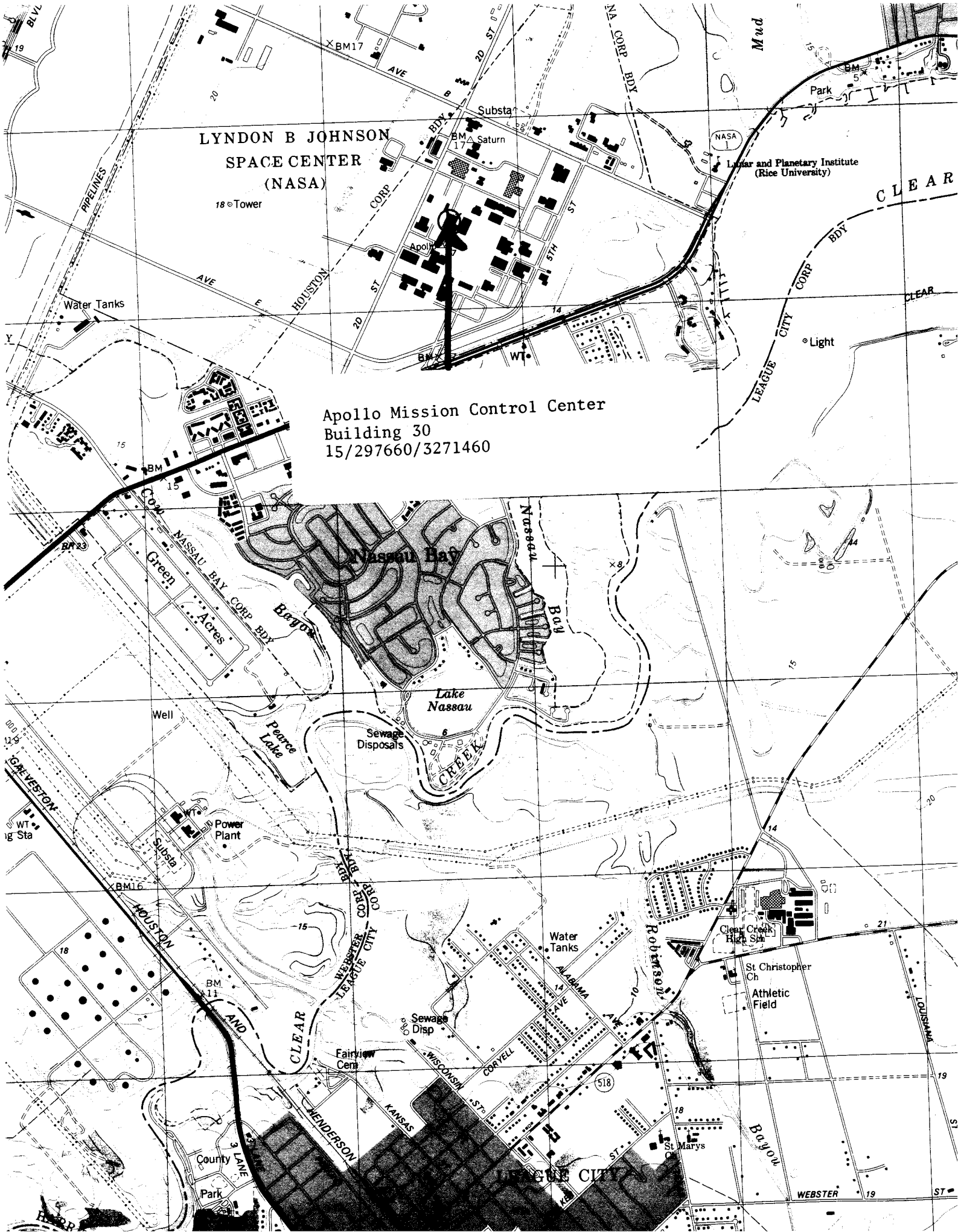
date

Apollo Mission Control Center
UTM References:
15/297660/3271460





Bldg.
2 - Visitor Center
3 - JSC Cafeteria and Gift Shop
5 - Mission Simulation and Training
9A - Space Shuttle Orbiter Training
30 - Mission Control Center
31A - Lunar Sample Building
32 - Space Environment Simulation Laboratory



Apollo Mission Control Center
Building 30
15/297660/3271460