



## NHL Executive Summary



**Name of Property:** Quebec 01 Launch Control Facility

**County, State:** Laramie County, Wyoming

**Period of Significance:** 1965-1991

**NHL Criteria:** 1

**NHL Criteria Exception:** 8

**NHL Theme:** IV. Shaping the Political Landscape, 3. Military Institutions and Activities

**Previous Recognition:** Historic American Engineering Record, WY-89 (draft, 2001)

**National Historic Context:** Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites

### NHL Significance:

- Quebec 01 Launch Control Facility (LCF) possesses exceptional national significance in the area of Military History, as the only extant facility in the nation associated with the deployment and operation of the Minuteman IB, Minuteman III, and Peacekeeper intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) systems during the Cold War. The period of significance from its completion in 1965 to the end of the Cold War in 1991.
- From 1965 to 2005 Quebec 01 served as the launch control facility (later termed a missile alert facility) for a flight of ten nuclear missiles placed in dispersed, hardened, underground concrete launch facilities miles apart.



- Such strategic land-based missile delivery systems, along with submarine-launched missiles and manned bombers, constituted the US nuclear triad during the Cold War, preserving the peace by comprising a credible means of retaliation in response to an attack by the Soviet Union.
- The facility became operational in 1965 and, over ensuing decades, embodied the operation and evolution of a launch control/missile alert facility that directed increasingly powerful and more sophisticated weapons systems, from Minuteman 1B (1965-72), Minuteman III (1973-85), and Peacekeeper (MX) (1986-2005).
- Quebec 01 is an extraordinarily well-preserved example of the type of resource the 2020 *Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites* National Historic Landmark Theme Study identified as having potential for designation: “places and resources associated with controlling and executing the national defense,” including command and control centers and missile sites.

### Integrity:

- The Quebec 01 Launch Control Facility/Missile Alert Facility retains an excellent level of the seven aspects of historic integrity dating to the period of national significance (1965-1991).
- The complex retains very high integrity of design, with the layout and appearance of surface features appearing nearly unchanged. Electronic components in subsurface areas were removed as part of the 2005 Peacekeeper decommissioning, but, after an agreement was reached to transfer the property to the State of Wyoming as a state historic site, the Air Force restored equipment, computer racks, and furniture (electronic equipment is nonfunctional and is not connected to the former launch facilities).
- Quebec 01 retains excellent integrity of setting with the surrounding ranching area remaining much as it was prior to the start of construction in 1962. Within the nominated area, the principal buildings and nearly all small-scale features remain. Only a small communication radome is no longer present (scheduled to be reinstalled in May 2022).
- Integrity of workmanship is exhibited in the subsurface areas in the fabrication of the steel and reinforced concrete containers for the launch control center and launch control equipment building, connecting tunnel, and reinforced concrete elevator shaft, as well as in the carefully planned and executed use of space within the launch control center, housing the electronic equipment needed to monitor and launch the flight of nuclear-armed missiles and providing for the needs and physical protection of the two-person combat crew.
- The subsurface spaces vividly support Quebec 01’s integrity of feeling, illustrating the facility’s Cold War role and conveying a sense of its serious purpose. Contributing to this sense of feeling is the extensive use of reinforced concrete, subdued lighting, the two blast doors with unit insignias, and the wall art promising delivery of nuclear warheads “only 30 minutes out.” On the surface the property retains the feeling of an isolated missile defense facility that stood on continuous alert during the Cold War, as reflected in the security fence topped with barbed wire and varied communication antennas.

**Owner of Property:** State of Wyoming

**Acreage of Property:** 5.9 acres

**Origins of Nomination:** The US Air Force supported the drafting of a Letter of Inquiry for Quebec 01 in an effort begun by Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails in conjunction with the State Historic



Preservation Office and the National Park Service (NPS), Heritage Partnerships Program, Interior Regions 6, 7 & 8. After the transfer of ownership to the state, Wyoming Parks, Historic Sites and Trails and NPS partnered with the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund to fund the preparation of this NHL nomination beginning in 2019.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

After the State of Wyoming gained ownership from the US Air Force, the resource became a Wyoming Historic Site in 2019 operated by Wyoming State Parks Historic Sites & Trails. NHL recognition would raise the public visibility and awareness of Quebec 01 and the role it played during the Cold War.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of August 21, 2023):**

- Frank A. Blazich, Jr., Curator, Military History, National Museum of American History
- Carly-Ann Carruthers, Planning and Grants Manager, Wyoming SHPO

**National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:**

- Add a photo of the freight elevator.
- Change the term “silos” to “tubes” in the nomination.

**National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Quebec 01 Launch Control Facility in Laramie County, Wyoming, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

**Advisory Board Recommendation:** The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Quebec 01 Launch Control Facility in Laramie County, Wyoming, as a National Historic Landmark.