

**NASA Ames Research Center  
Historic Preservation Office**

**NETS CRM FY2013  
Heritage Tourism Summary**

In fiscal year 2013, NASA Ames Research Center hosted a variety of functions for the public, providing opportunities for a wide range of people to participate in historic events, ceremonies, guided tours, and educational activities in the Shenandoah Plaza National Historic District and on the Ames campus. Nearly forty thousand people, including students of all levels, families, clubs, armed services personnel, and industry representatives, attended functions in and around the parade grounds and the center's historic buildings.

In addition to scheduled events, the historic district is used year round by many organizations, such as aerospace companies and educational institutions. The area is open to the general public every day, and the Historic Preservation Office maintains online resources such as self-guided tours, which visitors can bring with them on walks through the historic district to learn about historic properties there. These resources, which include maps linked to photographs and building descriptions, also serve as virtual tours for those who aren't able to visit the center in person.

Opportunities for the public to experience historic properties abound, and are publicized through press releases, Web sites, and social media outlets like Twitter, Facebook, and Google Hangouts.

**Historic Events**

This year, over seven thousand people came to Ames to participate in a science night and witness the Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) launch. Families and lunar enthusiasts turned out in droves to learn about science and engineering and watch the launch, which was broadcast on a giant screen on the parade grounds in the heart of the Shenandoah Plaza National Historic District. Attendees spread out across the parade grounds and enjoyed the festivities and educational offerings during the momentous occasion. Large telescopes were set up for the public to view celestial objects, and NASA lunar scientists also gave talks about the moon and NASA's planetary exploration programs. Speakers included director of the Carl Sagan Center for the Study of Life in the Universe at the SETI Institute David Morrison, lunar research scientist Jennifer Heldmann, and astronomer and lunar educator Brian Day. The event was also broadcast online via a Google Hangout to encourage broader participation for those who could not attend in person. Also during this event, participants had the opportunity to go on guided tours of Hangar 1.

**Recreational and Educational Activities, Public Ceremonies, and Other Events**

The parade grounds in the Shenandoah Plaza is a popular spot for holding public events. This year Ames hosted education-related events, such as a regional competition for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl, functions for summer student interns, the Carnegie Mellon Silicon Valley University graduation, and NASA's Lunar Science Institute's International Observe the Moon Night. In addition, Ames

celebrated ethnic diversity with a public event in this area and United States Army and Marine units held several change of command and retirement ceremonies there.

Large public events in and around historic properties on the Ames campus are less prevalent, owing to the security requirements for entry. This year, in addition to ongoing activities mentioned below, Ames hosted approximately 400 students for summer internships, which included tours of historic facilities and a big picnic in the NACA Park next to the Unitary Plan Wind Tunnel and National Full Scale Aerodynamic Complexes.

### **Year-round Activity**

People come to Ames throughout the year to go on walking tours or attend lectures in the Shenandoah Plaza National Historic District, or visit the Moffett Field Historical Society Museum located in front of Hangar 1.

In the heart of the historic district is NASA Research Park, a thriving research and education community comprised of colleges, universities, and Silicon Valley businesses that provides numerous opportunities for students and professionals to regularly visit, study, and work in the district.

A unique educational facility called the Ames Exploration Encounter operates in the historic 6x6-foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel on the Ames campus. Groups of students in the fourth to sixth grade come there during the school year and summer break for specialized, hands-on instruction in science, technology, engineering and math.

Throughout the year, Ames organizes tours of facilities in historic buildings, such as the Arc Jet Laboratory, Unitary Plan Wind Tunnel Complex, Flight and Guidance Simulation Laboratory, and 40 x 80-foot wind tunnel in the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex. Guided by scientists and engineers, a wide-range of people have the opportunity to explore these impressive facilities, such as students of all ages, interns and their families, cub scouts and other clubs, military personnel, international visitors, government officials, and industry representatives.

## Selected Photos



NASA Ames Science Night, Featuring the LADEE Mission  
Parade Grounds, Shenandoah Plaza National Historic District



Guided Public of Hangar 1 during the NASA Ames Science Night



Rededication Ceremony Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex



US Army Change of Command Ceremony  
Parade Grounds, Shenandoah Plaza National Historic District



Year-Round Guided Tours of the Arc Jet Complex (Building N238)



Year-Round Guided Tours of the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex (Buildings N221 and N221B)



Year-Round Tours of the Flight and Guidance Simulation Laboratory (Building N243)



Year-Round Tours of the Unitary Plan Wind Tunnel Complex (Buildings N227, N227 A-D)



Year-Round Educational Activities, Ames Aerospace Encounter  
Historic 6x6-foot Supersonic Wind Tunnel (Bldg. N-226)



Students and Their Families with Ames Personnel at the Third Annual Diversity and  
Inclusion Day and Annual Summer Barbecue Picnic  
Parade Grounds, Shenandoah Plaza National Historic District