

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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June 6, 2013

Reply In Reference To: NASA\_2013\_0417\_001

Keith Venter  
Historic Preservation Officer  
Facilities Engineering Branch  
NASA Ames Research Center  
Mail Stop 213-8  
Moffett Field, CA 94035

RE: Section 111 Outlease for Hangar One and Moffett Federal Airfield, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA

Dear Mr. Venter:

Thank you for your April 15, 2013, letter regarding the proposed undertaking in at NASA Ames Research Center (ARC). NASA is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. Along with the letter, NASA also provided property maps and a report entitled "Moffett Federal Airfield, Construction History and Historical Significance," dated April 12, 2013.

The proposed undertaking, as described, involves the proposed offer for lease to a private sector entity, pursuant to Section 111 of the NHPA, of Hangar One and Moffett Federal Airfield. On behalf of NASA, the General Services Administration (GSA) will issue a request for proposal (RFP) that will include a commitment by the lessee to rehabilitate and adaptively reuse Hangar One and manage and maintain Moffett Federal Airfield in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

NASA defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as the entire NASA Ames Research Center. Known historic properties located within the APE include the U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, CA, Historic District (commonly referred to as the Shenandoah Plaza Historic District), which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Other individually eligible buildings, including one National Historic Landmark, are also located within the APE. The APE also contains a number of archaeological sites and sensitivity areas, but these are not described in detail in the information provided by NASA.

Although the historic district was listed in 1994, the nomination did not address the airfield or adjacent Safety Buffer Zone. In the report submitted, NASA concludes that Moffett Federal Airfield (under NRHP Criterion A) and the Safety Buffer Zone (no NRHP Criterion specified) are both contributors to the historic district. The period of significance for the historic district is currently 1930-1935 and 1942-1946, and NASA proposes a period of significance for the airfield of 1942-1961. No period of significance is specified for the Safety Buffer Zone.

NASA requests SHPO concurrence with the new determinations of eligibility for these properties. Upon receipt of responses to the RFP, GSA and NASA will choose the best qualified lessee and submit the proposal to SHPO for further consultation.

After reviewing the information submitted to my office, the SHPO offers the following comments:

- The SHPO concurs that leasing Moffett Federal Airfield and Hangar One constitutes an undertaking.
- The SHPO recommends that NASA and GSA officially designate a lead agency for the consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(a)(2).
- The APE appears to be sufficient pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4 (a)(1) and 800.16(d).
- The SHPO concurs that Moffett Federal Airfield and the Safety Buffer Zone contribute to the significance of the Shenandoah Plaza Historic District. However, further information should be developed specifying the character defining features of these contributors, including landscape design.
- The SHPO recommends that NASA develop a list or table of contributors to the district for submission to this office and for the information of the potential lessees. It is unclear from the report submitted to this office if the golf course or munitions magazines contribute to the district.
- Has NASA prepared an integrated cultural resources management plan (or similar document) that includes treatment plans for archaeological resources? If so, how will the treatment plan be accounted for in the Section 111 lease?

The SHPO agrees with the proposed plan for continuing consultation on this undertaking. Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Beason of my staff at (916) 445-7047 or [mark.beason@parks.ca.gov](mailto:mark.beason@parks.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

AGREED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Keith Venter  
Historic Preservation Officer  
NASA Ames Research Center

CC: Jane Lehman, Regional Historic Preservation Officer  
General Services Administration