

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Ames Research Center**  
Moffett Field, California 94035



January 17, 2024

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation Department of Parks & Recreation  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 85816

Attn: Mark A. Beason

Subject: Section 106 Consultation on Building 45 Garage Door Replacement Project, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) requests initiation of consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 United States Code §306108), as amended, for the Building 45 Garage Door Replacement Project (project or undertaking) at the NASA Ames Research Park at NASA ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California. NASA ARC has determined that this project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106.

In support of its responsibilities under Section 106, NASA ARC retained AECOM Technical Services, Inc. to conduct a technical study for this project. The study was conducted by cultural resources professionals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (48 Federal Register 44738). Enclosed for your review is a Section 106 Technical Memorandum, dated June 16, 2023, which includes detailed descriptions of the undertaking, the Area of Potential Effects (APE), identification efforts, and the affected historic properties, and concludes with an assessment of potential effects resulting from the undertaking, summarized below.

*Description of the Undertaking*

The project involves the replacement of a bi-fold utility door within a high-bay opening on the south side of Building 45. The extant bi-fold door requires at least two people to operate. In order to improve egress and building security, the existing bi-fold door would be removed and replaced with hinged double doors able to be opened and closed by one person. The high-bay opening originally featured a pair of monumental bi-fold doors that completely filled the 24'-0" wide by 23'-6" high opening, but the doors were subsequently altered to their current condition. The entire east half of the bi-fold section of door was fixed in place with plates attached at the head on the interior. The head of the west half was also fixed, at the head and two door leaves

were cut down in height above the midpoint. A metal header was installed above the cut to fix the upper section in place, leaving the lower section as the only operable section of the original doors. The overall size of the remaining operable section is 12'-0" wide by 14'-6" high. The original doors are of wood construction, clad with smooth wood panel board and have deteriorated.

#### *Area of Potential Effects*

The APE was defined to address both direct and indirect impacts on historic properties and encompasses areas that may be affected by both temporary and permanent construction activities. The APE is within the NAS Sunnydale Historic District and accounts for potential indirect effects on the district as a whole, but does not include the entire district boundary due to the project's scale. No below-grade activities are proposed for this project, and because the exterior alterations to Building 45 are relatively minor due to the scale of the visible changes, it is unlikely that this undertaking would have indirect effects on other significant buildings or resources within view of Building 45. Therefore, the APE was defined as the limits of staging and construction for the undertaking, as well as a 50' buffer around the Building 45 footprint to address potential visual intrusions related to the exterior alterations

#### *Affected Historic Properties*

Building 45 was identified as one of three Assembly Buildings within the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District in the 1994 NRHP nomination. Building 45 was built in 1944 as part of the continuing development of facilities at the naval air station during World War II and served as a support building for the naval air station at the end of the war. The building does not meet the NRHP criteria for individual listing, but retains sufficient historic integrity to be considered a contributing resource to the historic district under the district's revised 2013 statement of significance. Although it is listed in the NRHP as a non-contributing resource, it is considered a contributing resource for the purposes of this study.

#### *Effects Assessment*

The project would not demolish Building 45, but would include demolition of the high-bay utility door, which is a character-defining feature of the building. The original doors are of wood panel construction and portions of the exterior panels are deteriorated, exposing the wood core. The wood paneled doors would be replaced with hollow core metal doors that would match the original design, color, and texture with paint, and existing hardware (or reproduction) would be installed on the exterior to replicate the original exterior appearance of the high-bay utility door. These materials were not applied in a distinctive manner in a way that are significant for its workmanship. The proposed project would also remove the wood and metal materials, and change the operation of the door from bi-fold to hinged double doors. However, these elements were not identified as character-defining features of the high-bay utility door. Therefore, project details would not alter the features, spaces, and/or spatial relationships of the high-bay utility door to the building.

Aside from alterations to Building 45, no other contributors to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District would be physically impacted by this project.

The criteria of adverse effect were applied to historic properties in the APE and unanticipated archaeological historic properties that may be present in the APE. The proposed undertaking

would not alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the NRHP.

*Finding of Effect*

Based on the assessment conducted by qualified cultural resources professionals, NASA ARC has made a finding that the undertaking will result in No Adverse Effect.

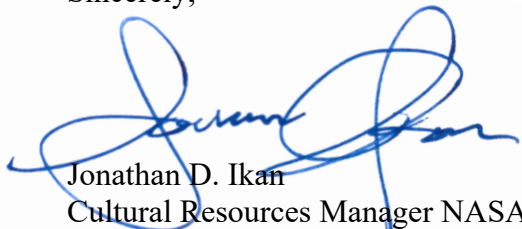
*Consultation Efforts*

NASA ARC has not identified additional consulting parties for this Section 106 review but is making these findings available to the public via the NASA ARC Historic Preservation Office website (<https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/section106.html>).

NASA ARC requests the State Historic Preservation Officer's concurrence on NASA's finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b). Please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter, as specified in 36 CFR 800.5(c).

Please feel free to contact me at [Jonathan.D.Ikan@nasa.gov](mailto:Jonathan.D.Ikan@nasa.gov) or (650) 604-6859 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Jonathan D. Ikan  
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Historic Preservation Office, MS 213-8 Moffett Field, California 94035-0001 (650) 604-6859  
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Cc:

Ms. Rebecca Klein, NASA Deputy FPO Environmental Management Division NASA  
Headquarters  
300 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20546-0001

Enclosure: *Section 106 Technical Memorandum for the Building 45 Door Replacement Project.*  
Prepared by AECOM, dated June 16, 2023.