



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

Armando Quintero, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053

calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

May 6, 2022

VIA Email

In reply, refer to: NASA_2022_0324_001

Mr. Jonathan Ikan
Center Cultural Resources Manager
NASA Ames Research Center
Mail Stop 213-8
Moffett Field, CA 94035

Subject: Building 158 Airside Accessibility Ramp Project at Ames Research Center,
Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California

Dear Mr. Ikan:

The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has received the March 24, 2022, letter initiating consultation regarding an undertaking at NASA Ames Research Center (ARC). NASA is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. §306108), as amended, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. Along with the letter, NASA submitted project maps and images and links to two reports:

- AECOM, 2017. *NASA Ames Research Center Archaeological Resources Study*.
- Page & Turnbull, 2018. *Building 158 Renovations Project Section 106 Technical Report*.

NASA proposes to install a modular Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant ramp to the airside (east) entrance of Building 158. The ramp would be installed adjacent to a concrete arrival platform at the airside (east) entrance to Building 158. In order to secure the ramp to the concrete arrival platform, the undertaking will require removal of a portion of an existing horizontal handrail. The ramp will be secured to the concrete arrival platform and will not obstruct the primary pathway along the center portion of the stair to the entry door. No alterations to the building's envelope will result from the construction of the proposed ramp, although an accessibility symbol will be adhered to the existing door lite with a double-sided adhesive. The V-shaped modular ramp will extend roughly 20' from the building. The ramp's adjustable legs will be placed on hard-packed dirt and secured to paver stones for stability. The existing curb will be removed to accommodate the ramp's landing, which will be bolted to a new

5' x 7' concrete slab on top of a gravel base. The slab will extend no more than 12" below grade. Additional concrete will be poured at the landing if needed to match the existing asphalt grade. The ramp will be approximately 12" from an existing air conditioning unit, and a wire mesh screen will be installed between the handrail and the air conditioning unit if needed for safety.

NASA identified the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking that includes the project footprint and Building 158. Potential indirect visual effects of the undertaking would be limited to the immediate surroundings on the east side of Building 158. The vertical APE extends up to 12" below grade for the new concrete slab.

NASA identified Building 158 (constructed in 1954) as a contributor to the NAS Sunnyvale National Historic Register District as part of a 2013 evaluation that proposed an expansion of the district boundary to include Moffett Federal Airfield and modification of the period of significance to 1930 to 1960. According to the 2018 Page & Turnbull Section 106 Technical Report submitted with this undertaking, NASA has not obtained formal SHPO concurrence on this determination of eligibility, so it intends to continue assuming eligibility under Criterion A (which is the same as the district) and the expanded period of significance. The report also identified character defining features for Building 158.

Based upon the 2017 AECOM archaeological investigation, the proposed work is in an area of low archaeological sensitivity and was not identified as sensitive for either prehistoric or historic-period resources. The nearest mapped areas of sensitivity are over 500' to the west and east. It is known that the amount of prior subsurface disturbance in this area is high from construction of the current building, curb, and parking lot, and therefore the potential for previously unidentified intact resources in the shallow area of ground disturbance for the undertaking is low. The portion of the APE where ground disturbance will occur is currently paved and covered with gravel, so NASA conducted no new archaeological survey.

NASA determined the undertaking would not adversely affect Building 158. The project will alter the building with the addition of an ADA-compliant ramp at the concrete arrival platform at east façade (a primary character-defining feature), which will require partial removal of the existing metal guardrail at the south end of the concrete arrival platform. The new ramp will also be adjacent to the concrete stairs (a primary character defining feature). However, the alteration of these character-defining features will not diminish the integrity of Building 158. In total, the alterations will have minimal impact on its ability to convey its historical associations as an NRHP eligible contributor to the expanded NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, and in turn, the project will have minimal impact on the integrity of the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. The nearest district contributor, MF 1002, the parking apron to the northeast of Building 158, is an expanse of pavement that is vast in scale in comparison to the proposed project and is not

included in the APE. The project will not significantly alter the characteristics of the historic property in a manner that will diminish its integrity.

Therefore, NASA proposes a Finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking. After reviewing the information submitted, the SHPO offers the following comments.

- This project qualifies as an undertaking with the potential to affect historic properties.
- The APE is sufficient to take direct and indirect effects of the undertaking into account.
- Identification and evaluation efforts are sufficient.
- Based upon the information submitted, the SHPO has no objection to the proposed Finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking.
- Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, NASA may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact State Historian Mark Beason, at (916) 445-7047 or mark.beason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer