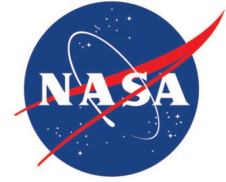


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



April 8, 2026

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

Attn: Mr. Mark A. Beason

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the Buildings 5, 6, and 29 Demolition Projects

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) requests consultation on the Buildings 5, 6, and 29 Demolition Projects (projects or undertakings) at ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California (Attachment A, Figures 1 and 2), under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 United States Code §306108), and the *Programmatic Agreement Among the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Regarding the Management of NASA Centers* (NASA Nationwide Programmatic Agreement [NPA]). Executed in October 2025, the NPA implements an alternate project review process for Section 106 undertakings, pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800.14(b). The projects will demolish Buildings 5, 6, and 29, which are considered Category 2 Assets under the NPA (i.e., contributors to a historic district that is listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP]) that are not within but are adjacent to the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone. Demolition of Category 2 Assets that are outside of an established Heritage Zone is excluded from further project-specific consultation under NPA Stipulation VI.B and Appendix F.A.6. However, demolition of these buildings may have the potential to affect the setting within the Heritage Zone due to the proximity and potential visual contribution of the buildings. NASA ARC is soliciting input from consulting parties on the potential effects of these projects.

Description of the Undertaking

The projects will demolish the three buildings and remove their foundations. These will be design-build demolition projects supervised by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their demolition contractors.

Building 5 (Water Tower)

Scope of work:

- Disconnect and cap existing water pipes connected to the tower.
- Disconnect the electrical power to the tower. Remove the existing transformer supplying power to the tower.
- Remove and dispose of the concrete footings and concrete valve pit located under the tower.
- Re-grade the building site and fill all depressions with compacted soil material.

Building 6 (Motor Test Building)

Scope of work:

- Disconnect and cap existing water, fire suppression and sanitary sewer lines entering the building.
- Remove and legally dispose of any hazardous materials inside or on the exterior of the building.
- Disconnect the electrical power feeding the existing transformer. Remove the existing transformer.
- Remove and dispose of concrete and asphalt driveways around Building 6.
- Remove and dispose of the building and all its contents, including all remaining furniture, fixtures and equipment.
- Remove the existing concrete slab-on-grade and concrete building foundations.
- Regrade the building site and fill all depressions with compacted Class 2 baserock.

Building 29 (Gas Pumping Station)

Scope of work:

- Disconnect and cap existing water line and storm drain serving the building.
- Remove and legally dispose of any hazardous materials inside or on the exterior of the building.
- Disconnect the electrical power feeding the building and remove cables back to main distribution panel.
- Remove and dispose of Building 29 and all its contents, including all remaining furniture, fixtures and equipment.
- Remove the existing concrete building foundations and basement walls and slab.
- Regrade the building site and fill all depressions with compacted fill material.
- Install asphalt pavement over compacted Class 2 baserock in the area where building was removed.

Area of Potential Effects

Pursuant to NPA Stipulation VI.A, the APE for each building is defined as the footprint of Buildings 5, 6, and 29, respectively, and the associated Area of Disturbance (AOD), which is defined as the area, both horizontally and vertically, within which the project activities may disturb earth, including staging areas. Demolition activities and ground disturbance for the projects will occur within the original footprints of the buildings and in previously disturbed areas. The staging area for the projects has yet to be identified but will be limited to existing paved areas adjacent to each building. Therefore, the APE is defined as the limits of Buildings 5, 6, and 29 with a 50-foot buffer around each building or structure to address construction activities in their immediate surrounds (Attachment A, Figure 3).

Identification of Historic Properties

The subject buildings are in the boundary of the NRHP-listed U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California Historic District (NAS Sunnyvale Historic District; NRHP #94000045). The district is significant under NRHP Criteria A and C and originally included only the earliest Spanish Colonial campus buildings and other features around Shenandoah Plaza and Hangars 1, 2, and 3 (non-extant). The original period of significance extends from 1930 through 1935 and 1942 through 1946. The NRHP nomination for the entire historic district (Bamburg 1991) is accessible at: https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/downloads/summary/nrhp_nas_19940224.pdf. Under the NPA, the specific area of concern for potential indirect effects within the historic district is the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone (see Attachment A, Figures 2 and 3), which is a discrete, special management area of buildings or structures that exhibit a shared design, architectural style, and cohesive theme that warrants greater consideration due to a higher potential for visual, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects.

Building 5 (Water Tower)

Building 5, the Water Tower, was built in 1933 and listed in the NRHP in 1994 as a contributor to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. The Water Tower is not in the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone but was identified as a “visually distinctive feature” of the historic district in the NRHP nomination (Bamburg 1991). The 200,000-gallon steel tank and 100-foot tower was designed by the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks and constructed by the Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company. Currently painted with a red and white checkerboard pattern, the water tower is not in use, and NASA ARC has no plans to reuse the structure as a water tower. Rehabilitation would require a major investment to maintain in perpetuity. Under the NPA, it is a Category 2 Asset located outside of the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone. See Attachment B, Photographs 1 and 2.

Building 6 (Motor Test Building)

Building 6, the former Motor Test Building, was completed in 1933, but was not identified as a contributor to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District in 1994 due to lack of integrity (Bamburg 1991). In 2021, Gray & Pape reevaluated the building and its additions for NRHP eligibility. Due to its original, integral purpose of motor testing in direct support of the USS *Macon* from 1933 to 1935, continued service as a motor/engine test facility through at least 1947, then housing a flight simulator/trainer and an electrical shop in the 1950s, Building 6 was determined eligible for the NRHP as a contributor to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. Non-contributing additions built in 1947 and 1965 were removed after Section 106 consultation on the USGS M2M Laboratory Project in 2021 (NASA_2021_0419_001), and the extant, original 1933 main block of Building 6 retains integrity to contribute to the historic district. After 1994, Building 6 was repurposed for maintenance and recycling and is currently a mixed-use warehouse. Under the NPA, it is a Category 2 Asset located outside of the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone. See Attachment B, Photographs 3 and 4.

Building 29 (Gas Pumping Station)

Building 29, the former Gas Pumping Station, was completed in 1933, but was not identified as a contributor to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District in 1994 due to lack of integrity (Bamburg 1991). Its contributing status has not been reconsidered since 1991 nor has its potential eligibility under other contexts. Therefore, it is listed in the NASA ARC Asset List as “Eval” (i.e., it has

not been evaluated for individual NRHP eligibility and requires additional evaluation). It is a utilitarian support building with no known significant design or engineering aspects, or any other known historical associations; additionally, it was modified from its original use as a gas pumping station during the district's period of significance and its associated fuel tanks removed. It does not merit individual NRHP eligibility. NASA has determined that due to its architectural design and sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship, it is an eligible contributor to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District; therefore, NASA considers it a Category 2 Asset located outside of the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone under the NPA. See Attachment B, Photographs 5 and 6.

Programmatic Exclusions

All ground-disturbing activities will substantially conform to the original building footprints and occur within previously disturbed soils. The exposed soil in the APE surrounding Buildings 5, 6, and 29 was previously surveyed, and no known archaeological sites or historic properties of religious or cultural significance to Indian Tribes are recorded or known in the APE. Therefore, ground disturbance activities related to the project qualify for exclusion under Programmatic Exclusion C (Ground Disturbance Exclusions) pursuant to NPA Appendix F and do not require consultation under the NPA. Potential impacts to archaeological resources are not anticipated; inadvertent discoveries will be treated according to NPA Stipulation XV (Inadvertent Discoveries).

Demolition of Category 2 Assets that are outside of an established heritage zone is excluded from further project-specific consultation under NPA Stipulation VI.B and Appendix F.A.6. The Buildings 5, 6, and 29 Demolition Projects meet this exclusion. However, demolition of these buildings may have the potential to affect the setting within the adjacent Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone due to their proximity and visual contribution, particularly the Water Tower.

Effects Assessment

The setting of the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone is dominated by views along the central axis of Clark Road from the main gate off Moffett Boulevard to the open green space of Shenandoah Plaza, the two-story Spanish Colonial Revival buildings surrounding the plaza, and the monumental Hangar One. Buildings 5, 6, and 29 are outside of but adjacent to the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone.

Building 5, the Water Tower, is visible from many angles within the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone at over 100 feet tall (Appendix B, Photographs 7 and 8). Removal of the “visually distinctive feature” has the potential to change the setting within the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone by diminishing the remaining industrial feeling adjacent to Hangar One.

Buildings 6 and 29 represent the typical architectural style and building materials of utilitarian buildings that contribute to the industrial zone of the historic district. However, Buildings 6 and 29, which are two stories and one story tall, respectively, are peripheral to the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone. Due to their modest stature, the buildings are relatively imperceptible within the setting of the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone, whether viewed from the main axis on the western end of the Heritage Zone or adjacent to Hangar One (Appendix B, Photographs 9 through 12). Removal of Buildings 6 and 29 would not pose a change to the setting of the

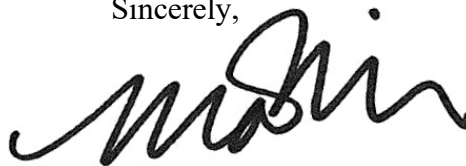
Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone.

Consultation Efforts

NASA ARC prepared this consultation letter to inform the State Historic Preservation Officer and its consulting parties, as appropriate, of its findings under the NPA. Please review this letter and provide comments within 30 days. NASA ARC is open to recommendations for additional ways to avoid or minimize adverse effects. At the end of the 30-day review period, if any comments are received, NASA ARC would propose to schedule a meeting to review the project(s) with consulting parties. If no comments are received, NASA ARC intends to proceed with the projects under the stipulations of the NPA.

Please feel free to contact me at maria.k.meiser@nasa.gov or (650) 390-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trina Meiser', written in a cursive style.

Trina Meiser
Cultural Resources Manager

Enclosure

Attachment A – Figures

Attachment B – Photographs

cc:

ARC/Historic Preservation Office

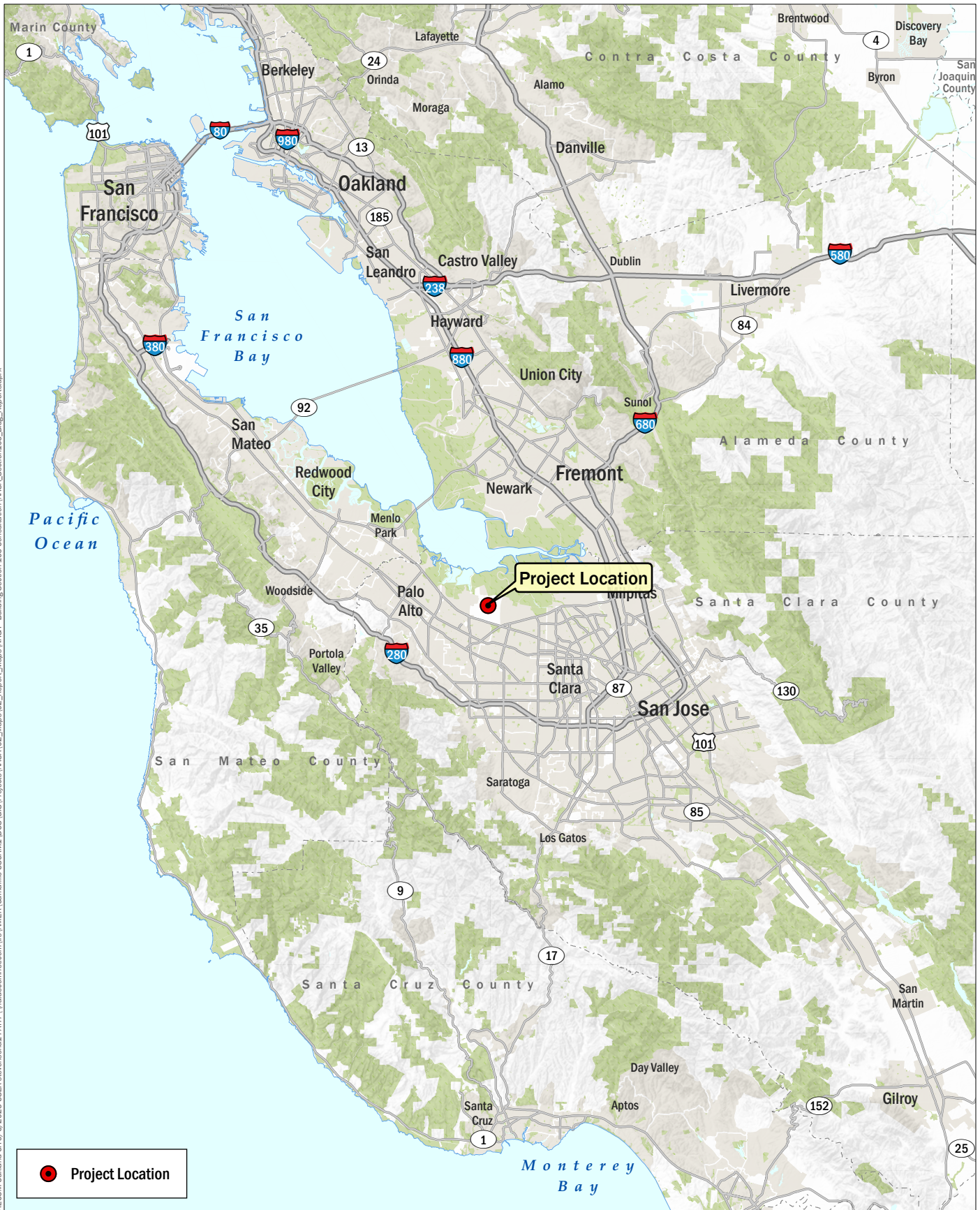
City of Mountain View

Moffett Field Museum

Mountain View Historical Association

Santa Clara County Department of Planning and Development

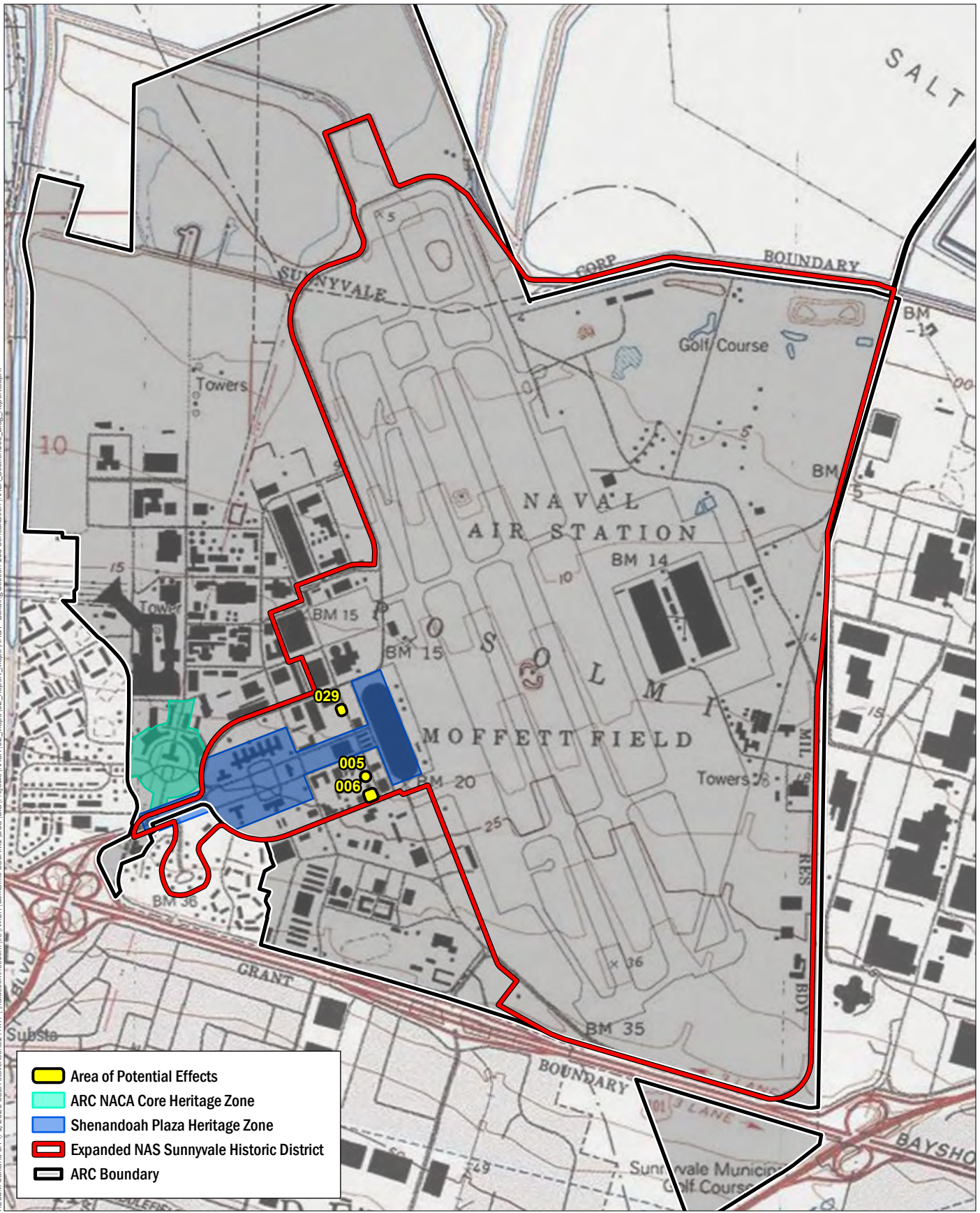
Attachment A
Figures



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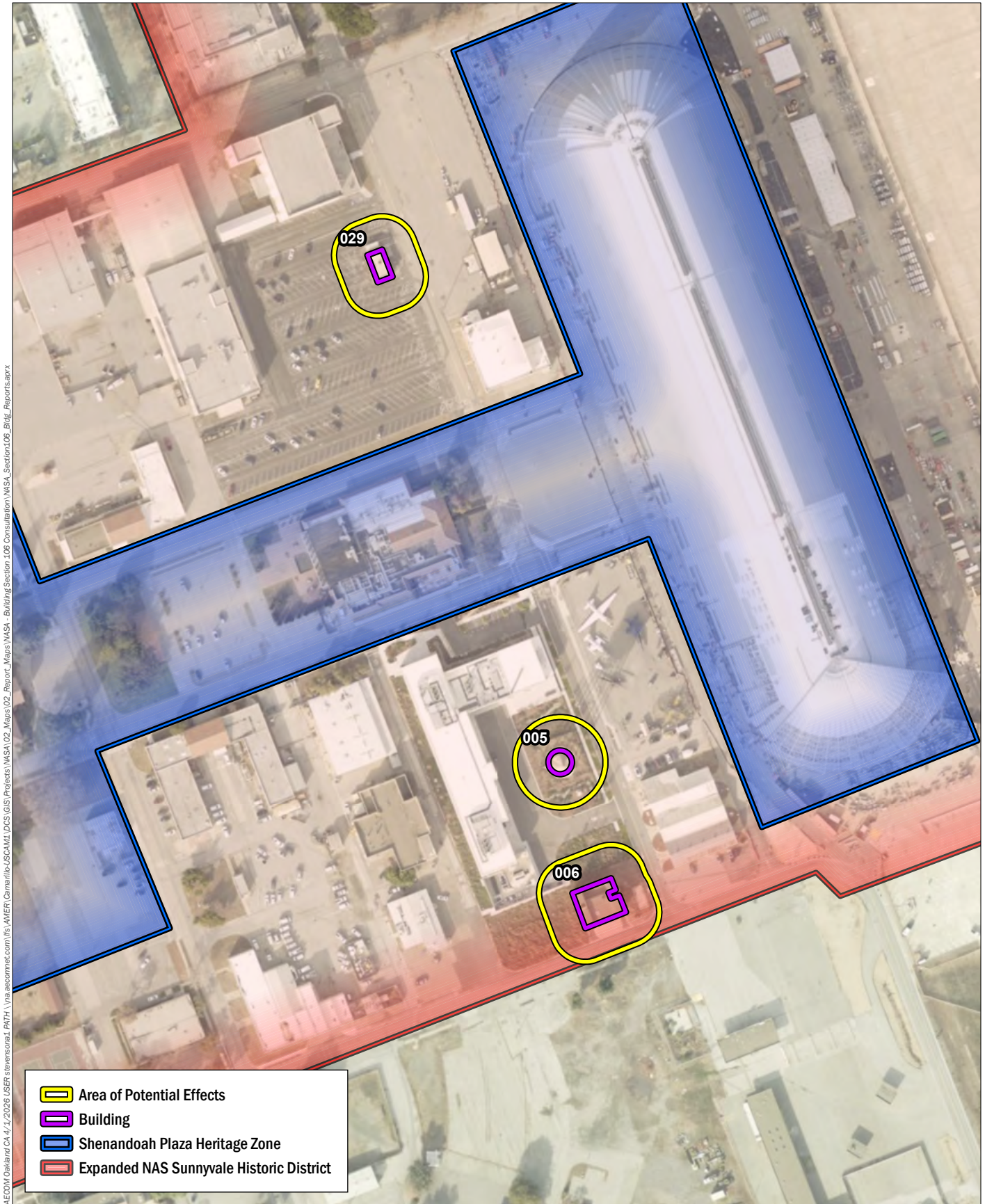


FIGURE 1
Project Location



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FIGURE 2
Project Vicinity Map



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FIGURE 3
Area of Potential Effects Map

Attachment B
Photographs



Photograph 1. Building 5 (Water Tower), view facing west



Photograph 2. Building 5 with Hangar One in background, view facing north



Photograph 3. Building 6 (left) and Building 5 (right), view facing northwest



Photograph 4. Building 6, view facing northeast



Photograph 5. Building 29, view facing east



Photograph 6. Building 29, view facing southwest



Photograph 7. Shenandoah Plaza viewed toward Building 17 and Hangar One (center), with Building 5 visible at far right, within the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone



Photograph 8. View of Building 5 from Building 17 (rear) within the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone



Photograph 9. Building 6 at center with Building 5 at left and Hangar One in background, view facing north from outside the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone



Photograph 10. Building 29 with Hangar One in background, view facing northeast from outside the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone



Photograph 11. View facing southwest along Severyns Avenue with Building 29 (right) and Building 5



Photograph 12. Building 29 at center with Building 2 at left and Building N243 (outside the historic district) in background, view facing north away from the Shenandoah Plaza Heritage Zone