

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

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July 27, 2015

Reply In Reference To: NASA_2015_0604_001

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

RE: Construction of Biosciences Collaborative Facility, N288 Project, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA

Dear Mr. Venter:

Thank you for your June 1, 2015, 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 of 1966 (54 U.S.C. §306108), as amended, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. Along with the letter, NASA also provided photographs of the immediate project area, a map showing the project location and Area of Potential Effect (APE), site plans, elevations, and renderings of the proposed building.

The proposed undertaking, as described, involves construction of a two-story, 40,000-square foot modern science laboratory facility. The new building will be located in an open green space that is the former location of Building N218, the 14-foot Transonic Wind Tunnel that was demolished in 2008. The building will require a new foundation three feet thick concrete spread footing one foot below grade. Most of the spread footings will be supported by four 18-inch diameter by 16 foot long grouted soil columns.

NASA has defined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as the open space where the new building will be constructed and the first tier of surrounding buildings. Previous archaeological surveys have revealed no areas of sensitivity, and the project area was heavily disturbed by the construction and demolition of Building N218. Three of the surrounding buildings are contributors to a proposed Ames Wind Tunnel Historic District, which NASA is preparing for submission to the SHPO, but proposes to treat as eligible for the purposes of this undertaking. These buildings are N215, N220, and N221 and date to the 1940s. The remaining eight buildings in the APE are presumed to be ineligible for listing in the NRHP and do not contribute to the proposed historic district.

NASA has analyzed the potential for the construction of Building N288 to affect historic properties and proposes a Finding of No Adverse Effects. There is no archaeological sensitivity and the new building will occupy the former location of a large building and will be compatibly

designed with the surrounding buildings.

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

- The SHPO concurs that the construction of Building N288 constitutes an undertaking.
- The proposed APE appears sufficient to take direct and indirect effects of the undertaking into account.
- The SHPO does not object to assuming eligibility for the proposed Ames Wind Tunnel Historic District. Formal determinations of eligibility of all buildings in this area will occur under consultation for the district nomination.
- The SHPO concurs with the proposed Finding of No Adverse Effects for the undertaking as described.
- Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, FEMA may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for seeking SHPO comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Beason, State Historian, at (916) 445-4047 or mark.beason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer