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Moffett Field, CA 94035
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Project name:
Building T-36A Demolition Project

Project reference:
60741645

From:
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Date:
January 13, 2025

To:
Cultural Resources Manager
NASA Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000

CC:
Kathy Kwong, AECOM

Memo

Subject: Section 106 Consultation on Building T-36A Demolition Project, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California

1. Introduction

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) proposes the Building T-36A Demolition Project (project or undertaking) at ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California. As the lead federal agency, NASA is responsible for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 United States Code 300101 et seq.), which requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their activities and programs on historic properties, and its implementing regulations in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide necessary information for compliance with Section 106, including a description of the undertaking, the Area of Potential Effects (APE), the methodology used to identify and evaluate historic properties within the APE, a description of the affected historic properties, and an assessment of potential effects resulting from the undertaking.

1.1 Project Location

The project is located within the NASA Ames Research Park at ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California (see Appendix A; Figures 1 and 2). The project involves the demolition of Building T-36A on McCord Avenue to the south of S. Akron Road. The project is located within the boundary of the U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California (NAS Sunnyvale) Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

1.2 Project Personnel

This study was conducted by cultural resources professionals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (48 Federal Register 44738). Heather Miller, M.A., Architectural Historian, prepared this memorandum; Trina Meiser, M.A., Senior Architectural Historian, served as the Principal Investigator; and Leah Moradi, M.A., provided figures.

2. Description of the Undertaking

This project involves the demolition and disposal of Building T-36A, which is a 4-wide prefabricated trailer, and the disconnection of utilities, including electrical power, data communication, water and sanitary sewer. This trailer has been used as an office trailer supporting procurement activities since it was installed in 2002. The staging area for the project is on the west side of McCord Avenue on a paved parking lot area between Buildings T-36A and 566.

3. Area of Potential Effects

The APE is defined to address both direct and indirect impacts on historic properties. The APE is located within the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District and accounts for potential indirect effects on the district as a whole but does not include the entire boundary of the district due to the project's scale relative to the size of the district. Visual changes from demolition could impact the setting of the overall historic district and adjacent contributors; therefore, the APE encompasses the building footprint and a 150-foot buffer to account for potential visual effects (see Appendix A; Figure 3).

4. Identification of Historic Properties

Historic properties are defined as any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in, or is eligible for listing in, the NRHP. The following sections address the methodology and efforts to identify historic properties in the APE. Because the project does not involve ground disturbance, archaeological resources are not discussed.

4.1 Architectural Resources

The APE overlaps the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, which was listed in the NRHP in 1994 (NRHP nomination available at https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/downloads/summary/nrhp_nas_19940224.pdf). This study identified three buildings within the APE, including Building T-36A (Table 1). Buildings 15 and 17 are listed in the NRHP as contributors to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District.

Table 1. Architectural Resources in the APE

Resource	Date	Eligibility Status	Effects Analysis
Building 15 – Security Station	1933	Listed – Contributing to NAS Sunnyvale Historic District	No Adverse Effect
Building 17 – Administration and Telephone Exchange	1933	Listed – Contributing to NAS Sunnyvale Historic District	No Adverse Effect
Building T-36A	2002	In the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District boundary, but less than 50 years old	N/A

5. Affected Historic Properties

5.1.1 NAS Sunnyvale Historic District

Listed in the NRHP in 1994, the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District is significant under NRHP Criteria A and C, and originally included only the earliest Spanish Colonial campus buildings around Shenandoah Plaza and Hangars 1, 2, and 3. The original periods of significance of the district were identified as 1930 through 1935 and 1942 through 1946. The utilitarian style of later buildings was noted in the NRHP nomination; however, at the

time of the nomination, several buildings were not yet 50 years old and were not considered contributing under the statement of significance that focused on Spanish Colonial Revival-style architecture and the engineering feat related to the airfield hangars.

In 2013, a historic property survey of Moffett Field was conducted to evaluate the significance of additional resources related to the airfield and concluded that the airfield and related resources are eligible for the NRHP under an expanded context for the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District (AECOM 2013). The SHPO concurred on expanding the boundary of the district on June 6, 2013 (NASA_2013_0417_001) with an additional period of significance of 1942 to 1961 for the airfield (see Appendix A, Figure 2 for expanded historic district boundary). The district's statement of significance was also revised to include the World War II and Cold War military missions.

No major alterations to the district have occurred since it was listed in 1994, with the exception of removal of the exterior materials of Hangar 1 to remediate hazardous materials, which is actively being replaced at the time of report writing (see Photograph 1). The district retains its integrity and remains eligible for the NRHP.

Buildings 15 and 17 are both contributors to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District.

5.1.2 Building 15 – Security Station

Building 15 is a one- to one-and-1/2-story Spanish Colonial Revival-style building with a winged U-plan on concrete slab foundation, frame construction, stucco siding, and a low-pitched Spanish tile gabled roof above the central area of the building and flat roof on the wings (Photograph 1). Fenestration includes metal-framed multilight industrial windows, glazed wood doors, and modern replacement single-panel doors and rollup garage doors. Built in 1933, Building 15 originally served as the fire station, laundry, and garage, and is listed in the NRHP as a contributor to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. No major alterations to the exterior of the building have occurred since it was listed in 1994.



Photograph 1. Building 15, north and west elevations, view facing southeast

5.1.3 Building 17 – Administration and Telephone Exchange

Building 17 is a two-story Spanish Colonial Revival-style building with a symmetrical, cruciform plan, frame construction, stucco siding, and a low-pitched Spanish tile gabled roof (Photograph 2). It is located at the head of

Shenandoah Plaza and is its most prominent building. This building set “the design criteria that is followed through the original campus plan” (NRHP 1994). Built in 1933, Building 17 is listed in the NRHP as a contributor to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. No major alterations to the exterior of the building have occurred since it was listed in 1994.



Photograph 2. Building 17, east (rear) elevation, view facing northwest

6. Assessment of Effects

Per 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1), an adverse effect results when an undertaking may alter, either directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the NRHP in a manner that would diminish the historic property’s integrity.

The survey identified the NRHP-listed NAS Sunnyvale Historic District and two contributing buildings in the APE: Buildings 15 and 17. Built in 1932-33, Buildings 15 and 17 are significant for their Spanish Colonial Revival-style architectural features in relation to the district.

Building T-36A is a prefabricated trailer that was installed in 2002 on the site of a previous prefabricated metal building from the World War II era that was in place as late as 1998 (as seen in historic aerial photographs). The trailer is not architecturally or historically significant but is located within the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. The prefabricated trailer does not exhibit any contributing characteristics to the district (Photographs 3 through 6).



Photograph 3. Building T-36A, view facing northeast



Photograph 4. Building T-36A, view facing northwest



Photograph 5. Building T-36A, view facing southwest



Photograph 6. Building T-36A, view facing south



Photograph 7. Intersection of S. Akron Road and McCord Avenue, view facing southeast; Building T-36A at far right

The removal of Building T-36A would have minimal impacts to the setting of the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District or its contributors Buildings 15 and 17. The alterations would not detract from any historic characteristics or character-defining features of the contributing buildings or the district, or compromise the properties' integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Therefore, the undertaking would result in no historic properties affected.

7. Summary of Findings

The criteria of adverse effect were applied to historic properties in the APE, specifically Buildings 15 and 17, which are contributors to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. 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. Therefore, a finding of No Historic Properties Affected per 36 CFR § 800.4(c) would be appropriate for this undertaking.

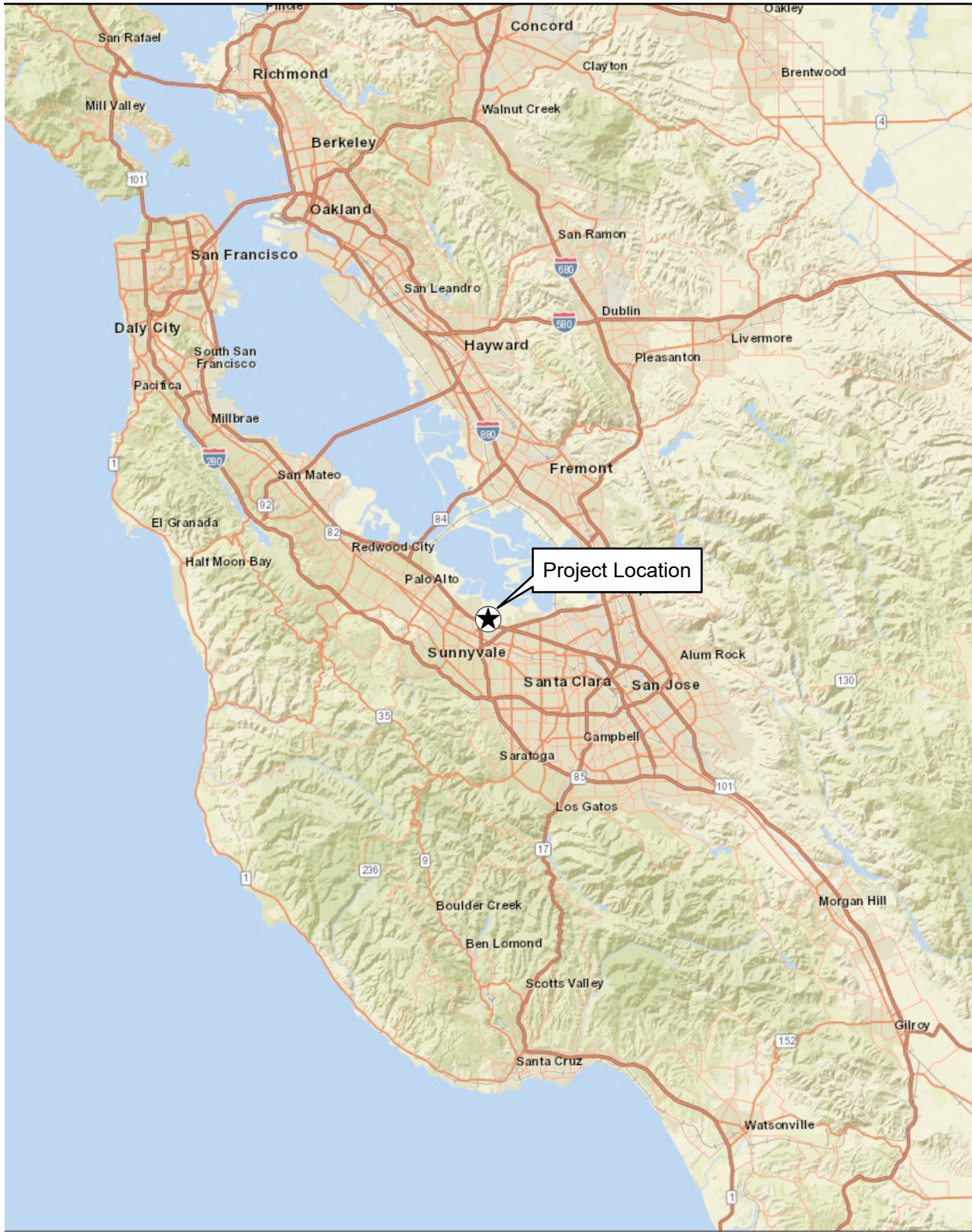
8. References

AECOM, 2013. *Historic Property Survey Report for the Airfield at NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California*. Accessible online at https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/downloads/hpsr_airfield.pdf.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), 1994. U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California, NRHP # 94000045. Accessible online at https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/downloads/nrhp_registration.pdf.

Attachments

Appendix A: Figures 1–3 (Project Location, Project Site, APE)



Source: ESRI, AECOM, NASA

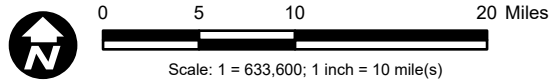
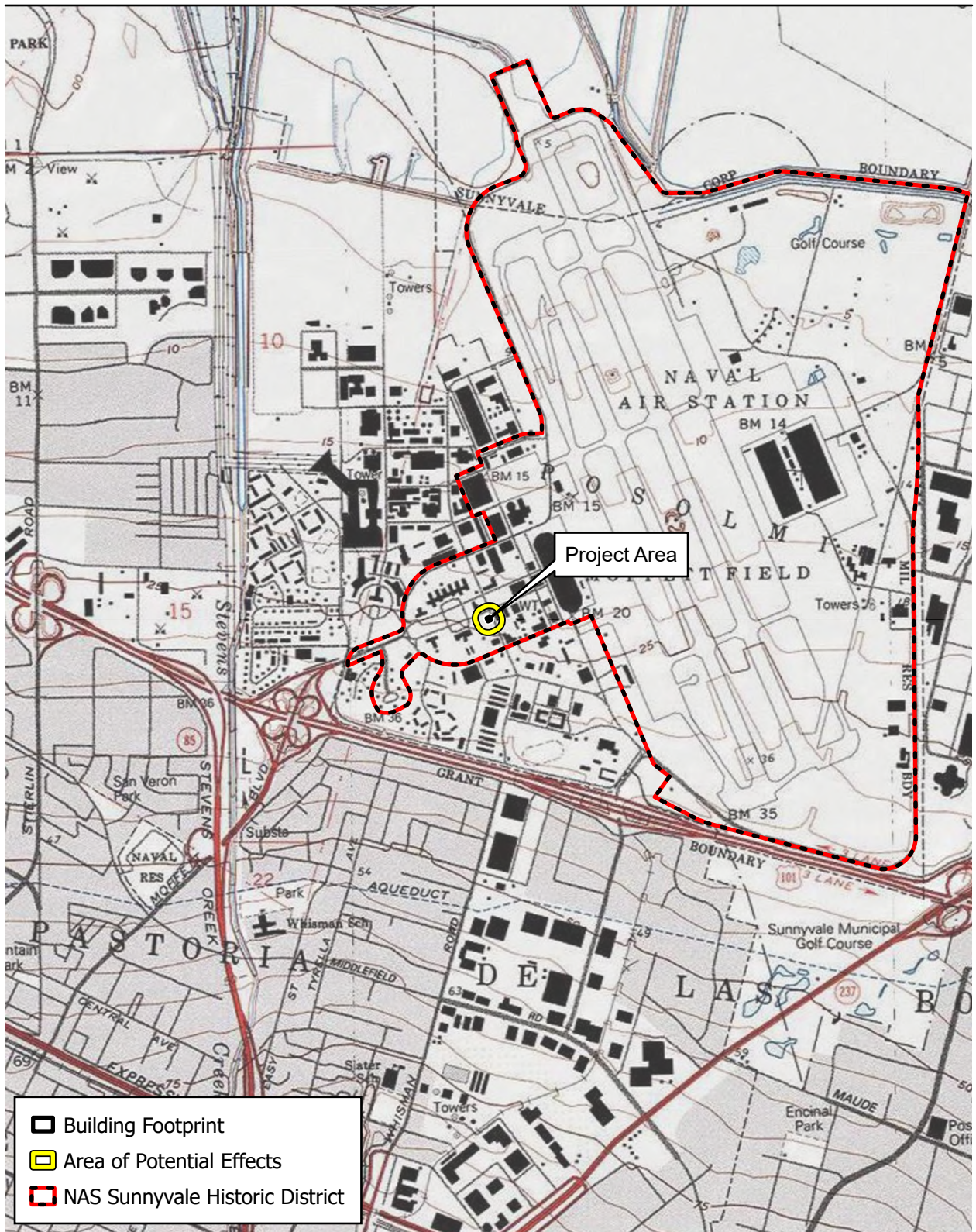


Figure 1
Project Location

Building T-36A Demolition Project

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Source: ESRI, AECOM, NASA, National Geographic Society; USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle: Mountain View

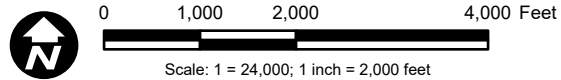


Figure 2
Project Vicinity Map

Building T-36A Demolition Project

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Source: ESRI, AECOM, NASA

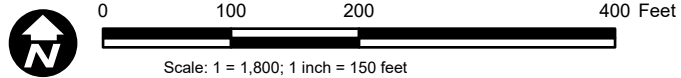


Figure 3
APE Map

Building T-36A Demolition Project

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