

## Hangar 3 Hazard Remediation Project Commencing February 2024



Photo credit: Hangar 3 south façade, Stephen D. Schafer, photographer, July 2022.

Since 1933, Moffett Federal Airfield has been a center of global innovation, national defense, and local pride. Throughout its complex history, talented and brave individuals have dedicated their ingenuity and strength to successful missions that have protected the United States and expanded humanity's capacity to explore new horizons.

The site's strategic location beside the San Francisco Bay served as an ideal launching ground for the gravity defying balloons, airships, aircraft, and helicopters that allowed heroes of all backgrounds to patrol the Pacific Coast, fly to nearby and distant destinations, and assist those in need. Every diverse initiative at Moffett Field has been based within buildings that fostered a spirit of experimentation and service. Three of the largest structures in the world dominated the landscape for decades. While Hangar 1 and Hangar 2 at Moffett Field will endure for generations to come, the remarkable story of Hangar 3 has reached its conclusion, and it will be dismantled starting in February 2024.

The rapid production of Hangar 3's huge wood-frame structure, which was completed in 1943, resulted in the need for comprehensive repairs just three years after it was built and created substantial engineering challenges throughout its 80-year lifespan. Significant efforts were undertaken to repair and strengthen Hangar 3's timber trusses. Unfortunately, it was not possible to keep up with the damage progression advancing throughout the structure. Although a temporary internal shoring and hydraulic jacking system was put in place, the building remained unsafe for occupancy and vulnerable to further damage and collapse, especially from seismic or high wind load events.

Confronted with the fact that this major landmark could not be conserved, a detailed plan was implemented to document its history and features. The NASA Ames Research Center and Planetary Ventures, in consultation with the National Park Service, California State Historic Preservation Office, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are creating website and film which will be launched in the spring of 2024 that document the history and built features of Hangar 3, provide valuable information for future researchers, and celebrate its local and global impact.

Until the launch of the project website, technical information about the project can be found here: <https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/section106.html#hangar3>

For additional information, please contact the NASA Ames Research Center: [arc-publicinquiries@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:arc-publicinquiries@mail.nasa.gov)