



Name of Property: Eight-Foot High Speed Tunnel (Withdrawal of Designation)
City, State: Hampton, Virginia
Period of Significance: 1936-1956
NHL Criteria: 1
NHL Theme: *Man in Space Theme Study*
Previous Recognition: 1985 National Historic Landmark
 After 1968 Historic American Engineering Record, HAER-VA, 28-HAMP-, 4B
National Historic Context: XIV. Transportation
 H. Airplanes and Air Travel
 XVIII. Technology (Engineering and Invention)
 J. Earth and Space Exploration

NHL Significance:

- Finished in 1936, this is a significant example of the research facilities created by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), parent agency of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- It was the first continuous-flow, high-speed wind tunnel able to test large models and actual working parts of airplanes.
- It was also important in wind tunnel design for the “slotted throat” that was added in 1950, which made it possible to obtain accurate test results in the transonic range.

Integrity:

- The character-defining tunnel portion of the Eight-Foot High Speed Tunnel has been demolished.

Owner of Property: NASA Langley Research Center

Acreage of Property: less than 1 acre

Origins of Nomination: This tunnel was designated a National Historic Landmark as a result of

the *Man in Space NHL Theme Study* done by the National Park Service in 1984.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Withdrawal of the NHL designation for the wind tunnel would demonstrate that the NHL Program continually monitors the condition of National Historic Landmarks and that the Secretary of the Interior is willing to remove those that no longer meet the program's criteria.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Withdrawal of designation. Dr. Mills moved, Dr. Carson seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Withdrawal of Designation (received as of 12/12/13):

Lesa Roe, Director, NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia (owner waiver received)

The Honorable George E. Wallace, Mayor of the City of Hampton (HEO waiver received)

Advisory Board Recommendation: