MEMORANDUM

TO: 106/Director
FROM: 103A/Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Preservation of Selected Items of Building 587

With the occupancy of our Systems Engineering Building, it has been possible to make all or portions of Buildings 586 and 587 available to the Air Force. They are in need of the quarters, and it has been determined that this is a suitable arrangement for NASA.

The murals in the rotunda of the old NACA Ad building are of historical significance, and can be easily removed and preserved for display in the future. Approval has been granted to do this and leave the walls in Building 587 in suitable shape for use by the Air Force. In addition to possible display of the murals in the Library, Activities Building, Visitors Center and Cafeteria, Axel Mattson suggested they would be appropriate for installation in the first floor hall just inside the entrance of our Headquarters building. No decision has been made to put them anywhere, other than to preserve them.

The entrance facade of Building 587 with a cast NACA symbol is regarded as a structure of historical significance. However, I do not believe it should be dislocated now. It seems to me that its historical significance is enhanced by marking the exact location of the early NACA facilities. Until we formally transfer the building to the Air Force, we can determine what modifications if any are made to the building. If the building is transferred, I feel sure the Air Force would consider proposals for preserving the historic entrance, if we think they are worthy. I did agree that a metal plaque noting the significance of the building was appropriate and indicated approval for such a marker.

You may wish to have the Langley Historical Committee and Systems Engineering consider possible locations for the murals. Meanwhile, they are being preserved for future display.

Oran W. Nicks

cc: 111/Dir. for Management Operations
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    451/M. A. Weiner
    112/Dir. for SE&O
    185/Annelle Hughes