

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0001

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF# A-001 - Air Traffic Control (ATC)
Operations Building {Current}
Property Date: 1944
Address(s): Runway 10-28 and Runway 17-35
{Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: CHINCOTEAGUE WEST
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Roof	Roof - Flat		Roof - Not visible
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	Structural System - Parged
Windows	Windows - Sash	Aluminum	Windows - Replacement Sash
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		

Site Description: Located on a paved airstrip southwest of the intersection of Runway 10-28 and Runway 17-35.

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Air Facility	Contributing

NR Resource Count:

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Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Air Facility

Est. Date of Construction: 1944 {Owner/written data}

Accessed? Yes

Primary Resource? Yes

Number of Stories: 5.0

Architectural Style: Other

Condition: Good-Fair

Interior Plan Type: Other

Threats to Resource: None Known

Description: The building consists of a main tower that is surmounted by a large glass and metal viewing tower. A smaller two-story concrete addition abuts the main block at its northwest corner. The main (south) elevation is covered by concrete incised to create a large rectangular block pattern. At the top of the concrete portion of the tower, a metal support railing provides protection for an exterior observation platform. The glass tower is supported by a hexagonal drum. The tower glass is a modern, smoke grey replacement. The glass panels are held by vertical metal strips that abut a horizontal metal top. The top of the tower has at least four communication antennae on it. The south elevation of the smaller block is also covered in concrete in a rectangular block pattern. A metal fire escape travels from the top of the building to the ground at the southwest corner. At the ground floor level, a ramp leads up to a metal door, which is framed by a metal guardrail system. A plate glass window is centrally located at the second floor level. On the west elevation, a series of openings stacked vertically appear near the intersection with the smaller block. These include a door at the first floor level, with windows at the second through fourth floor levels. A double-hung sash window is placed at the southwest corner of the main block, at the first floor level. Above it, between the third and fourth floor, is a similar window. The west elevation of the smaller block again has the same concrete exterior. At the top of the second floor, however, is a second air traffic control tower. This also has smoked glass, and overlooks the main field. On the north (field) elevation, the exterior surface treatment is identical to all other facades. Two rows of modern metal windows are stacked above one another, moving east from the northwest corner. Like the higher tower, this tower's glass panels are supported by vertical metal members, which end in a horizontal white band. The band is slightly below a gray aluminum cap at the top of the building.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)

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Significance Statement: This five-story-tall control tower, built in 1944, has provided air traffic control functions for the runways at WFF since its construction. The building was identified as "A-1" on the 1950 "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy. The U.S. Navy designated it as the "Control Tower" on the 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." The U.S. Navy again designated it as "A-1" on the 1957 "General Development Plan – Naval Air Station, Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." It is located near the intersection of the main east to west runway and shorter, northwest-southeast runways near the center of the WFF main base.

The building is representative of a Military/Defense property type built at the end of the World War I to World War II (1917-1945) period. The building was constructed as part of the Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS). Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. The building has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base.

The Air Traffic Control Operations Building has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D, as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The resource has lost its integrity due to alterations to the resource and its setting. The resource's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been adversely affected by replacement of the building's doors and windows. Although remaining in its historic location, the building's integrity of setting, feeling, and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the building's historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

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Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: Giffels and Valet
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21525	DHR	2003/07/99	Frames 1-4

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2004/07/99
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
 Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2003/08/08
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
 Bethesda, MD 20814