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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN - 3 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wright Brothers Hill / Memorial
other names/site number Wright Brothers Hill, Wright Memorial

2. Location

street & number Memorial Drive not for publication
city or town Wright-Patterson Air Force Base vicinity
state Ohio code OH county Greene code 057 zip code 45433

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official Date 13 May 2016
Federal Preservation Officer, USAir Force (SAF/IEE)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara Power
Signature of commenting or other official Date March 30, 2015
DSHPO for Inventory & Registration, State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patricia Andrews

7/19/2016

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	1	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Culture-Monument
- Landscape-Park
- Recreation-Outdoor Recreation
-
-
-
-

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Culture-Monument
- Landscape-Park
- Recreation-Outdoor Recreation
- Culture-Museum
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Modern Movement / Art Moderne
-
-
-

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Poured concrete
- walls Limestone, Bronze
- roof N/A
- other Slate, Granite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
N/A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
N/A

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Landscape Architecture
- Recreation
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1938-1944

Significant Dates

August 19, 1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

The Olmsted Brothers Firm
African American Civilian Conservation Corps
Camp Vandalia, Ohio, SP-20

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Frederick Law Olmsted NHS, Wright State University

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 20.447 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

+1-6+	+7-4-9-1-3-2+	+4-4-0-8-8-3-8+	+1-6+	+7-4-9-3-4-6+	+4-4-0-8-9-1-6+
1. Zone	Easting	Northing	3. Zone	Easting	Northing
+1-6+	+7-4-9-1-4-5+	+4-4-0-8-8-6-3+	+1-6+	+7-4-9-5-5-3+	+4-4-0-8-9-5-6+
2. Zone	Easting	Northing	4. Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heather M. Kennedy, Historian / Don Colburn, Landscape Architect Technician
organization Hardlines Design Company / National Park Service date August 27, 2007
street & number 4608 Indianola Avenue telephone 614-784-8733
city or town Columbus state Ohio zip code 43214

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title U.S. Air Force – 88 CEG/CEIE
street & number 1450 Littrell Road telephone 937-257-0177
city or town Wright-Patterson Air Force Base state Ohio zip code 45433

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio

Description

Summary and Historic Integrity

Wright Brothers Hill is a memorial landscape composed of a plaza with walls, steps, walks, information plaques, and a sculptural shaft in a park setting (Map Section, Pages 2 and 3). The site is located at the northern terminus of a prominent ridge that, when viewed from the east, north, or west, is the dominant topographical element of the surrounding area. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base owns the 20.447-acre site, which sits in Greene County, Ohio, on the southwest corner of State Route 444 to the north, Kauffman Avenue to the east, and Skyline Drive to the south.

The site is in excellent condition and has a high level of integrity. Because of routine maintenance and minimal alterations, the site has retained essential features necessary to convey its historic identity. The National Register of Historic Places assesses the integrity of a property by evaluating it in terms of the following seven aspects: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. These criteria apply to Wright Brothers Hill as follows:

Location and Setting: The memorial at Wright Brothers Hill occupies its original site. The area around it has changed little since the construction of the memorial. North of the site is the Huffman Dam; Huffman Prairie Flying Field is to the northeast; and the Wright Patterson Air Force Base water treatment plant is south of the memorial. All of these features were present when the memorial was completed in 1940 except for the water treatment plant which was constructed in 1942. Located in an informal area of the park northwest of the memorial plaza are six Adena burial mounds listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Wright Brothers Memorial Mound Group, 33GR30. According to the National Register Nomination for the mounds completed in 1971, the six mounds range from 1.7 feet high with a 20 foot diameter to 4.2 feet high with a 50 foot diameter. The mounds are thought to have been built by the Adena people sometime between ca. 500 B.C. and ca. 300 A.D.¹

Design: The Wright Brothers Memorial was designed by the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm in consultation with the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial Commission, the Miami Conservancy District, and the National Park Service. The memorial has retained its

¹ Stephen C. Koloszas, *Wright Brothers Memorial Mound Group* (Columbus: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 1971).

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original Olmsted design. The memorial consists of a designed landscape with a walled plaza, walkways, informative plaques, and, as the focal point, a 17-foot granite shaft.

Materials and Workmanship: The memorial retains its limestone walls, granite steps, bronze plaques, and North Carolina granite shaft. Sand from the Kittyhawk dunes where the Wright brothers flew their first flight is placed at the base of the monument shaft and the granite is from the same quarry that the Kittyhawk, North Carolina Memorial was constructed. Traditional materials have been used to make necessary repairs to the memorial, including replacing damaged pavers with new pavers from the same quarry as the original pavers. An effort has also been made to replace original vegetation at the end of its life with new vegetation of the same species.

Feeling and Association: The memorial retains its original character and feeling. Constructed as a memorial to the Wright Brothers' aviation achievements, the Wright Memorial still conveys a sense of homage for human ingenuity. The nearby Huffman Dam and Huffman Prairie Flying Field complement Wright Memorial as additional prominent Dayton area landmarks.

Detailed Description of the Wright Brothers Memorial

Topography and Grading

The topography and grading of the site is divided into a western and an eastern section:

- The west section is essentially level. Its northern edge is bounded by a precipitous embankment that drops 110 feet with a slope of approximately 30 degrees. Its western side drops about the same elevation but not as rapidly as the north side; this slope is about 25 degrees. Its southern boundary is bordered by the secured portion of Area B of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base with an eight-foot chain link fence with three strands of barbed wire along the top.
- The eastern half of the site is sloped. From the middle of the site to the east, the topography descends in a northeasterly direction. The slope here is roughly ten degrees and gradually diminishes to a slope of less than five degrees along the eastern perimeter. Beyond the eastern boundary, the topography continues to descend in a northeasterly direction.

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The roadway follows the natural contours of the land. The memorial, observation area, and the parking lot area are on level ground. None of this development has required significant grading. The area immediately north of the site was graded for the Conrail Railroad line that follows an east-west direction below the site boundary.

Layout

Wright Brothers Hill is accessed from an asphalt roadway southeast of the memorial. The entrance is marked by a set of cut stone walls with wrought-iron gates attached to cut stone pillars. A bronze plaque that reads "Wright Brothers Hill" is attached to the northern stone pillar. The asphalt roadway winds from the entrance gate along the southern perimeter of the park to the top of Wright Brothers Hill and terminates at a 46-space parking lot at the west end of the site. An asphalt path leads from the parking lot to the southern end of the memorial. The only visible path is a short auxiliary road that leads from the roadway to a gate in the fence along the southern boundary.

The memorial consists of two prominent north-south and east-west axes. The focal point of the memorial is located at its center: a 17-foot shaft made of pink North Carolina granite. The shaft displays characteristics of Art Moderne style and resembles skyscrapers of the period. A bronze plaque commemorating the achievements of Wilbur and Orville Wright is located on the south elevation of the shaft. Three shallow granite steps surround the plinth of the shaft.

The plaza surrounding the shaft consists of paved paths, areas of turf, and limestone walls. Four linear paths radiate out from the steps of the shaft, forming an east-west axis and a north-south axis. These four paths are connected by three concentric circular paths; all the paths are paved in Pennsylvania Bluestone. Turf is planted between the paths and outside the outermost circular path, where it is bounded by a four-foot limestone circular outer wall, forming twelve sections of turf—four sets of three arced patches arranged concentrically.

The outside of the center circular paved pathway is lined with a three-and-a-half-foot limestone inner wall. Like the turf beyond it, this wall is sectioned into four quarters. A bronze informational plaque is attached to each section of this wall along the east-west axis. One plaque discusses the Huffman Prairie Flying Field to the east of the site; another plaque lists the names of early aviators; the third discusses the contributions of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to the development of aviation; and the fourth explains the significance of the Native American Early Woodland (Adena) burial mounds on the site.

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Each east-west and north-south axis has four steps connecting the inner circular area to the outer circular area. At the ends of the east-west axis, the outer wall extends an extra two feet beyond the wall's normal circumference, forming two bays, each about twenty feet in length. These bays articulate the east-west axis of the memorial.

Exits from the circular plaza are along the north-south axis. To the south, the Pennsylvania Bluestone path extends past the circular area. Each side of the pathway is lined by a five-foot strip of grass bordered on the outside by a low, one-and-a-half-foot limestone wall. From the north side of the memorial, a gravel path goes to the observation area. A three-foot limestone wall runs along the north edge of the observation area, and three interpretive plaques are attached to the wall. According to original Olmsted design plans, an eight-foot oblong path was to encircle the entire site. The grass pathway, which is evident in a 1944 aerial photograph of the site, once encircled the memorial plaza, but no longer exists due to the loss of the shrub masses that defined the path's edge.²

Landscaping

The landscaping immediately around the Wright Brothers Memorial plaza is formal and symmetrical, but it becomes progressively more informal and natural farther from the memorial. The outermost turf area of the memorial plaza, which is broken into four sections, contains twelve red oak trees, evenly dispersed with three trees on each turf section. Ten are mature trees that date to the mid-1940s, while two are very young replacements for older trees that died. Small shrubs are planted in a symmetrical fashion in the outer ring of the plaza. The paved path to the south of the memorial features an allée of eight young dogwood trees (four trees on each side) which were replanted in 1998. Farther outside of the memorial, assorted trees are randomly planted, creating a natural, park-like setting.

Use

Wright Brothers Hill is used principally by visitors to the memorial. The site is open to the public 365 days a year, except when security reasons require its closure. After visiting the memorial, people tend to walk to the observation area at the northern boundary of the site and take

² Eliot H. Foulds and Joseph H. Crystal, *Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan: Wright Brothers Hill, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Dayton, Ohio* (Boston: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and National Park Service, 1998), 44.

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advantage of the excellent view. Because of the extensive grassy areas and the number of sizable shade trees, people also use the site as a park and picnic area. The hillside is also a popular place for sledding in the winter. A trip to Wright Brothers Hill would not be complete without visiting the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center. The center, opened in December 2002, is operated by the National Park Service and is used by visitors to both Wright Brothers Hill and the nearby Huffman Prairie Flying Field. Visitors to the center enjoy exhibits focused on the Wright brother's aeronautical achievements as well as the accomplishments of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Design

The Wright Brothers Memorial was designed by the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm. While the firm's aesthetic has not been fully researched, strong signs indicate that the firm adapted and applied the ideas of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., to its work, especially since the firm's principals, John C. and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., were apprentices to their father.³ Wright Brothers Hill exhibits several characteristics of Olmsted's design philosophies and practices. Olmsted believed that a park should be a "simple, broad, open space" with "a sufficient number of trees about it to supply a variety of light and shade."⁴ The diverse planting design and the extant 100 different plant species at Wright Brothers Hill reflect the emphasis Olmsted placed on the liberal use of plantings as a fundamental component of landscape design; a January 27, 1939 quotation of stock plants specifies 8,181 plants for the site. Expansive lawns throughout the site, a large open meadow in the eastern portion of the site, and the dense tree and shrub plantings along the periphery and in specific other locations both define the spatial organization of the site and frame vistas into the larger landscape beyond.⁵ In addition, the minimal grading of the site and sensitive placement of the gently curving roadway along the southern perimeter attest to Olmsted's insistence that "the qualities inherent to the site" should not be compromised.⁶

The site's balance of formal and informal areas follows Olmsted's idea that "formal design was generally limited to...special gathering areas."⁷ Specifically, the most intensive application of

³ Robert E. Grese, *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 20.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 17.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 18.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 19.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 20.

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planting design at the site is around the memorial. The hillside in the middle of the site, along with the vegetation massing along portions of it, separates the formal, symmetrical design at the top of the hill from the casual character of the meadow in the lower part of the site. This subtle design technique is in keeping with Olmsted's belief that potentially conflicting uses should be separated. The extensions of the outside wall along the east-west axis of the memorial punctuate the important views of the Huffman Prairie Flying Field and the Adena burial mounds. The view to the flying field is so important to the design of the memorial that the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial Commission, which commissioned the memorial, had a concrete pylon built in 1941 marking the spot of the Wright Brothers' first hangar on the field. The pylon served as a visual marker for people viewing the field from the memorial.⁸ In 2002, the pylon was removed in preparations for the Centennial of Flight because it was viewed as an intrusion on the landscape. Boundary markers were installed to mark the seven corners of the flying field, and their tall flag poles make the field visible from Wright Brothers Hill. Overall, Wright Brothers Hill is an excellent example of a "human made 'meadow and woods' to be found in the landscape of the rural countryside."⁹ This design philosophy is appropriate for Wright Brothers Hill given the rural quality of the surrounding area from the time of construction to the present.

Outbuildings

One non-contributing outbuilding is located on the Wright Brothers Hill site: the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center. The center represents an interesting connection between Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the National Park Service. While the building is owned by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base it is operated by the National Park Service. Both Huffman Prairie Flying Field and Wright Brothers Hill are components of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. Enabling legislation established for the national park allows interpretation facilities for Huffman Prairie Flying Field to be located at Wright Brothers Hill.¹⁰ The building was opened to the public in December 2002 and serves as the Interpretive Center for the Huffman Prairie Flying Field. The building houses a small theater and museum with exhibits that focus on the story of the Wright brothers work and achievements at Huffman Prairie Flying Field, the development of The Wright Company and its use of the flying field, and the development and evolution of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Interpretive Center is a

⁸ Lois E. Walker and Shelby E. Wickam, *From Huffman Prairie to the Moon: The History of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, n.d.), 336.

⁹ Grese, *Jens Jensen*, 21.

¹⁰ Dr. Jan Ferguson contact, *Legacy Proposal Number: TEMP-002*, (on file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base).

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modern one-story masonry structure with a cupola and a low-pitched hipped roof. The building is located south of the memorial, in line with the north-south axis of the memorial plaza. Both the design and the location of the Interpretive Center were developed in consultation with the Olmsted Center to ensure the facility would complement the Memorial. Although modern, the building's style, color, and design fit in nicely with the memorial, and the center aids in the memorial's purpose to commemorate achievements in aviation.

Setting

Wright Brothers Hill is situated in its original location northeast of Dayton, Ohio, in Greene County. The memorial is currently owned by Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which is located south, east, and northeast of the site. Because the site is virtually surrounded by the Air Force Base, development in the area around the site is sparse. The area surrounding the memorial has changed little since its original construction in the 1940s.

The topographic prominence of Wright Brothers Hill commands attention when seen from the north, east, and west. The memorial is situated atop one of the highest hills in the area, giving it a commanding view of the surrounding area. Extensive vegetation masks the memorial from a distance. At the entrance to the site from Skyline Drive, trees and rolling green lawns dominate the scene. If one stands in front of the memorial and looks north, the eye is led down the north-south axis to the shaft and the broad vista to the north. The north-south axis ends at an observation area. The vegetation along the bluff north of the observation area is kept below the observation wall.

An important element of Wright Brothers Hill is its relationship to the surrounding area. The view from the hill is one of the most extensive in the Dayton area; the site affords an excellent view of Huffman Dam, the Mad River, most of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and the surrounding countryside. The east axis offers a good perspective of Huffman Prairie Flying Field, where the Wright brothers refined their flying skills and developed the first practical airplane. The field is now part of Area C of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The view from Wright Brothers Hill allows one to put the field in context with its surroundings. The west axis of Wright Brothers Hill focuses attention on the six Adena burial mounds listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Wright Brothers Memorial Mound Group, 33GR30. North of the memorial is Huffman Dam, which spans the Mad River. Many of the individuals responsible for the development of the memorial also had a hand in the development of the dam. South of the

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memorial is Area B of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The base's water treatment plant is located adjacent to the southwest border.

Alterations

The site has changed little since it was constructed in 1940. The two entrance gate walls that define the entrance to the site were moved approximately 200 feet to the west of their original location and changed from an east-facing to a southeast-facing direction due to a road re-alignment. Originally the entrance fronted Kauffman Avenue, but when Skyline Drive was constructed the entrance was moved and currently fronts Skyline Drive. Aerial photographs indicate that the change was completed by 1944. Photographs of the walls before and after the move illustrate that the walls retained the same design characteristics. Two comfort stations located on the western fringe of the site were torn down in the early 1980s.

The most extensive alterations to the site are changes in the vegetation patterns from the original planting design. These changes are due to senescence, benign neglect, mower damage, and competition with naturalized vegetation. The spatial framework of the design, which is provided by the structures and canopy trees, remains intact with a high degree of integrity, but the understory of small flowering trees and shrubs has largely disappeared from the site. However, this condition is relatively easy to reverse with replacement planting. Some replacement planting around the memorial plaza has already been completed; new shrubbery has replaced older shrubs that had lost their form or that were at the end of their life. In addition, Olmsted design plans and a 1944 aerial photograph indicate that an eight-foot oblong grass path encircled the site, but this path is no longer evident because of the loss of shrub masses that defined the edge of the path. This condition is easily remedied by replacing the defining shrubbery.

In 1998, a Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan for Wright Brothers Hill was completed by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, a division of the National Park Service. The goal of the plan was to reverse deterioration of the memorial while preserving its historic integrity. The plan made recommendations regarding circulation, vegetation, site furnishings, structures, and utilities. Several of the recommendations were implemented, including replacing deteriorated bluestone pavers with new pavers obtained from the same quarry as the original pavers. Like the old pavers, the new pavers were of varying colors and were cut into rectangular shapes of varying sizes, and they were laid in the same random pattern as the original pavers. In addition, the granite steps found throughout the memorial were reset and restored to level. Cracks in the limestone walls were repaired, and the mortar joints between the limestone blocks were re-

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pointed. Two of the smooth limestone capstones atop the memorial walls were removed and replaced while the remaining capstones atop the walls were power washed. Also at this time, the capstones on the overlook wall were replaced and the bronze plaques on the memorial walls were cleaned.

The outer ring of the memorial originally contained twelve American elm trees. Correspondence from 1943 indicates that these trees were all dying from Dutch elm disease. The elms were replaced by twelve red oaks, and photographs of the site when it was relatively new show the oaks in place. The current size of the oaks indicates that they were most likely used to replace the elms early in the 1940s. The landscape treatment plan of 1998 noted that only ten of the oak trees remained. The two missing oaks were replaced in 2004, but one of these oaks died in 2006 and was replaced in 2007.

In addition, the memorial originally contained eight dogwood trees that created an allée at its southern end. The dogwoods had been replaced with two Norway maple trees at the time the Landscape Treatment Plan was completed. The plan suggested replacing the maple trees with an allée of small trees, since the maples were not in keeping with the original plan and because their root systems might disturb the stone walls. This suggestion was implemented in 1998, and currently eight dogwood trees again line the southern approach to the memorial.

In December 2002, the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center was opened south of the memorial. The building is discussed in more detail in the *Outbuildings* section earlier in this report. Four new interpretive signs were added to the memorial in 2003. One is a freestanding sign located along the asphalt path that leads from the parking lot to the south end of the memorial. The remaining three signs are located on the overlook wall north of the memorial; they discuss Huffman Dam, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, and the evolution of the airplane. The 26-space parking lot was expanded in 2002 to accommodate more visitors.

To summarize, the foremost aspects of the design are intact. The integrity of the site is very good; the current condition accurately represents the design intent. Most alterations made to the memorial are maintenance issues, such as replacing pavers and re-pointing mortar joints. Other alterations were made to restore the original look and feeling of the memorial, such as replanting the allée of dogwood trees. Alterations were made with preservation of the memorial's integrity in mind, and the alterations help to convey the original design intent.

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Wright Brothers Hill
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SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wright Brothers Hill, constructed from 1938 to 1940, commemorates the exceptional achievements of the Wright brothers. The site overlooks the Huffman Prairie Flying Field, a National Historic Landmark where the Wright brothers mastered their flying skills and developed the first practical airplane, the Wright Flyer III.¹¹ Wright Brothers Hill was designed by the acclaimed Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm. The memorial was made possible through the efforts of two civic-minded Dayton business leaders, John H. Patterson and Colonel Edward A. Deeds. With the help of the Olmsted firm, Patterson and Deeds brought healthy, pleasant, outdoor environments to the Dayton area. Wright Brothers Hill has attained local and national significance because of its history of public access, its proximity to other historical locations of aviation innovations, and its status as the work of a design firm that has profoundly influenced American landscape architecture.

The criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places apply to Wright Brothers Hill as follows:

Criterion C

Wright Brothers Hill is historically significant under criterion C because it represents the work of the highly influential Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm. The Olmsted Brothers firm continued and expanded upon Frederick Law Olmsted's visionary commitment to improve the well-being of society and promote a greater sense of community through landscape design. Spanning a course of almost 100 years, Olmsted designs have played a major role in shaping the American landscape. Wright Brothers Hill is a classic example of their work, displaying their fundamental design principles.

Consideration Criterion F

A property that is commemorative in nature is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places unless its design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has given the property its own historical significance (Consideration Criterion F). While Wright Brothers Hill is a commemorative property constructed to honor the Wright Brothers, it has attained its own historical significance through its design, age, and symbolic value. Designed by the renowned Olmsted brothers landscape architecture firm, the memorial's design embodies the Olmsted's

¹¹ Carillon Park, *The Wright Brothers* (Dayton, Ohio: Carillon Park, n.d.), 17.

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landscape architecture principals. The memorial combines the formal memorial plaza with the informal expansive park to create an aesthetically pleasant environment which is still enjoyed by the public. Wright Brothers Hill symbolizes the connection between the Dayton area and the history of aviation. Both Wilbur and Orville Wright were long-time Dayton residents, and they conducted many of their experiments on Huffman Prairie, which is visible from Wright Brothers Hill. In addition, the Dayton area has played a major role in U. S. military aviation history, and Wright Brothers Hill illustrates the importance of aviation on both a local and national level. Planned between 1922-1938, the memorial came about during an era marked by the growing recognition of the importance of air power, and military airfields around the country were being expanded as part of the late-1930s military buildup. The memorial reflects the value placed on military aviation and the achievements of the Wright brothers by business and cultural leaders in the late 1930s. The symbolic value of the monument has been recognized by the Air Force, which has been holding an annual celebration at the monument since 1978 to commemorate the Wright brothers' first flight.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Today, Wright Brothers Hill is a memorial park located in Greene County, Ohio, near the city of Dayton. Wilbur and Orville Wright were long-time residents of Dayton, Ohio. Although their first flight on December 17, 1903, took place in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the preliminary work and experimentation was performed in their Dayton bicycle shop. Upon their return to Dayton, the Wrights went about perfecting their flying machine at Huffman Prairie outside of Dayton, and in the winter of 1904-1905, they constructed the Flyer III. Unlike the Wrights' earlier designs, the Flyer III was able to turn and circle with ease, making it the world's first practical airplane. On October 5, Wilbur made a 39 minute, 23 second flight in the Flyer III, the longest flight up until that time.¹² The Wrights' success prompted them to open The Wright Company in November 1909 in which they manufactured airplanes for both civilian and military use and a flying school in 1910.¹³ Even though the Wright brothers first flew at Kitty Hawk, they always said that they really learned to fly on Huffman field in Dayton.¹⁴

The idea for a Wright brothers memorial in Dayton was first formulated in 1910 by a group of influential members of the Dayton community who called themselves the J. Sprigg McMahan's Committee. The committee was named for the influential Dayton lawyer J. Sprigg McMahan,

¹² Walker and Wicham, *From Huffman Prairie to the Moon*, 4-5.

¹³ *Ibid*, 10-12.

¹⁴ Carillon Park, *The Wright Brothers*, 17.

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the son of Dayton lawyer and U. S. congressman John A. McMahon who was a prosecutor in the impeachment trial of Secretary of War General Belknap.¹⁵ J. Sprigg McMahon was born in 1868, graduated from Yale in 1889, and was admitted to the bar in 1891. After becoming a lawyer he became a partner in his father's law firm, which was renamed McMahon and McMahon. In addition to being a lawyer, J. Sprigg McMahon was on the board of directors for the Dayton Malleable Iron Works and the Davis Building Association.¹⁶ The J. Sprigg McMahon Committee was unable to come to any decisions regarding the memorial and the idea gradually faded away.¹⁷

The idea for a memorial to the Wright brothers was revisited in 1912, after the death of Wilbur Wright.¹⁸ The original J. Sprigg McMahon's Committee was re-formed, and in 1913 it was renamed the Wright Memorial Commission. The committee began plans for the erection of a memorial, and sculptor Gutzon Borglum of Mount Rushmore fame was asked to create a sculpture as the focal point of the memorial. Borglum's original design for the sculpture consisted of a winged figure atop a boulder. In a meeting on February 14, 1913, Percy R. Jones of the Olmsted Brothers firm and Borglum decided that the memorial would consist of a shaft with a winged figure on top. The February 27, 1913, agreement between the Wright Memorial Commission and Borglum stated, "The statue shall be placed upon a granite boulder and secured in the best possible manner. It shall be cast in standard bronze, of one continuous and simple piece without seams. There shall also be an inscription placed upon the granite boulder giving such dates and other information as the owners may desire."¹⁹

The memorial was to be located on a one-acre tract at Huffman Prairie Flying Field, and the renowned Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm of Brookline, Massachusetts, was asked to submit a landscape plan for the memorial.²⁰ Between 1857 and 1950, the landscape architecture firm founded by Frederick Law Olmsted and later operated by his sons, John C. Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., participated in 5,000 projects in forty-five states, the

¹⁵ Charlotte Reeve Conover ed., *Dayton and Montgomery County Resources and People* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc, 1932), Vol. 2, 774-775.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, Vol. 3, 104-105.

¹⁷ Ann Honious, *What Dreams We Have: The Wright Brothers and Their Hometown of Dayton, Ohio* (Fort Washington, PA: Eastern National, 2003), http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/daav/chap12.htm (accessed May 31, 2006), 1-2.

¹⁸ Foulds and Crystal, *Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan*, 2.

¹⁹ Honious, *What Dreams We Have*, 2, 8.

²⁰ *Ibid*, 3.

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District of Columbia, and Canada. Their ideas and designs had a tremendous influence on the character of open space in America. Dayton has more designs ascribed to the Olmsteds than any place in the nation except for Boston and New York. Of the 274 plans and designs attributed to the Olmsteds in Ohio, 151 are in the Dayton area.²¹ Forty-seven of these designs were actually built.²²

In March 1913, Ohio experienced a devastating flood. Dayton was hit especially hard, and plans for the memorial were put on hold.²³ Many of the same influential Dayton citizens who were involved in the Wright Memorial Commission banded together to form the Miami Conservancy District in 1914. At the time, this flood-control project was the largest engineering proposal in the world since the construction of the Panama Canal.²⁴

Plans for the memorial were stalled until 1922, when the Wright Memorial Commission was re-established as the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial Commission. Many of the men who were members of the Miami Conservancy District were also members of the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial Commission. During this time, the Dayton Air Service Incorporated Committee was formed with the similar goal of establishing a memorial to the Wright brothers.²⁵ The Miami Conservancy District transferred 19.841 acres to the Dayton Air Service Incorporated Committee, to be used for the construction of the memorial. However, on June 1, 1938, the land was returned to the Miami Conservancy District because, as a public organization, it would be able to receive assistance from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) for the construction of the memorial. From then on, the Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial Commission took over the memorial project.²⁶

The Wilbur and Orville Wright Memorial Commission was chaired by Colonel Deeds, a close friend of the Wright brothers. Deeds had a personal interest in aviation and maintained the Dayton-Wright Airplane Company with Orville Wright before World War I. Deeds was president of the National Cash Register Company, succeeding founder John H. Patterson in

²¹ National Park Service: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, *Olmsted Firm: Geographic Listing* (Brookline, MA.: U.S. Department of Interior, 1985).

²² Noel Vernon (Olmsted scholar), interview by Don Colburn, Pomona, California, July, 1994.

²³ Honious, *What Dreams We Have*, 3.

²⁴ Judith Sealander, *Grand Plans: Business Progressivism and Social Change in Ohio's Miami Valley 1890-1929* (Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1988), 43-75.

²⁵ Honious, *What Dreams We Have*, 3-4.

²⁶ *Ibid*, 7.

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1931. Both Patterson and Deeds had a strong sense of corporate and civic duty and were inextricably involved in the community planning and development of Dayton.²⁷

Moreover, Patterson and Deeds instigated many innovations at National Cash Register, a number of which have shaped the history of corporate business. One of Patterson's innovative policies was what he referred to as "welfare work." Welfare work was predicated on the promotion of the physical and mental health and welfare of National Cash Register employees, and Deeds continued to apply and refine those welfare work policies when he took over. Both Patterson and Deeds believed that the development of clean, healthy, and pleasant environments was a fundamental way to bolster the health and welfare of their employees.²⁸ This belief meshed well with the principles of Olmsted's "mission to utilize the skills of the landscape architect in providing a healthful, efficient and aesthetically pleasing setting for the whole range of human activities."²⁹ Patterson consulted with the Olmsted firm on matters involving landscape architecture as early as 1894. Both Patterson and Deeds held the Olmsted firm in such high regard that they often personally paid the design fees for Olmsted projects as incentives to encourage their employees to use the services of the Olmsted firm.³⁰ Deeds personally contacted the Olmsted firm about designing the Wright brothers memorial, and the firm's design was accepted on October 7, 1938.³¹

The African American CCC Camp Vandalia, Ohio Number 20, supplied the unskilled labor for the memorial, grading the land, laying the paving, and setting the base of the memorial in place. Plants for the memorial were provided by the Siebenthaler Company.³² The five bronze plaques located at the memorial were designed by the Olmsted firm and cast by the Gorham Bronze Company.³³ While Borglum was originally contracted to design the memorial statue in 1913, who ultimately created the existing sculpture is unknown.

Orville Wright was himself deeply interested in the memorial. He was consulted on its conceptual design and asked for his "criticism and suggestions" regarding the memorial in a letter dated Nov 15, 1922, from O. B. Brown, a member of the Wilbur and Orville Wright

²⁷ Sealander, *Grand Plans*, 43-75.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 18-42.

²⁹ National Park Service: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Bulletin.

³⁰ Noel Vernon (Olmsted scholar), interview by Don Colburn, Pomona, California, August, 1994.

³¹ Honious, *What Dreams We Have*, 8.

³² *Ibid.*, 8.

³³ Foulds and Crystal, *Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan*, 24.

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Commission from Brown & Frank Attorneys at Law.³⁴ A report by Carl Rust Parker, the Olmsted Brothers' project manager for the memorial, indicates that Deeds told Parker that "he did not want any monument or elaborate memorial in the memorial park itself, as Mr. Orville Wright, who alone survives, is decidedly against any such treatment."³⁵ Orville Wright influenced specific details of the memorial as well. The plaque listing the Wright brothers' early aviation students was not going to include Grover C. Bergdoll's name because Bergdoll refused to serve in the military during World War I. However, Bergdoll remained a good friend of the Wrights,³⁶ and Orville said that if the plaque did not include Bergdoll's name, his own name should be omitted as well. Due to Orville's influence, Bergdoll's name was included on the plaque.

Both the Wilbur and Orville Wright Commission and Carl Rust Parker of the Olmsted firm knew of the six Adena mounds located west of the memorial site. In an August 29, 1939 letter from E. D. Smith, an employee of Deeds at the National Cash Register Company, to Carl Rust Parker, Smith explains that on August 28, 1939, Dr. Shetrone, the head of the Archaeology Department of the Ohio State University, visited the site to examine the mounds. Dr. Shetrone identified the six mounds as the work of what he called the "mound builders." Dr. Shetrone then proceeded to dig a six to eight inch hole in one of the mounds and pull out teeth and bones. Smith explained to Parker that a plaque "calling attention to these Mounds as an interesting feature of the park" would need to be added to the memorial.³⁷ Although construction of the memorial was already underway when Dr. Shetrone identified the mound, the Wilbur and Orville Wright Commission and Carl Rust Parker recognized the significance of the mounds and felt a plaque should be erected in their honor.

The construction of Wright Brothers Hill in the late 1930s is closely connected to the growing importance of aviation in the military at that time. In World War I, aircraft were successfully used in combat for the first time. After the war, it became clear that superior air power could decide the outcome of future wars. Beginning in 1924, Wilbur Wright Field and the Fairfield Air

³⁴ O. B. Brown to Orville Wright, Dayton, Ohio, November 15, 1922, correspondence. On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

³⁵ Carl Rust Parker, to the Olmsted Brothers firm, February 17, 1938, correspondence, National Park Service: Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site.

³⁶ Wilkinson Wright (grandnephew of the Wright brothers), interview by Don Colburn. Dayton, Ohio, September 9, 1994.

³⁷ E. D. Smith of the National Cash Register Company to Carl Rust Parker, Dayton, Ohio, August 29, 1939, correspondence. On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

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Depot located outside of Dayton were greatly expanded. In that same year, the Dayton Air Services Committee purchased 4,520.47 acres, including the land of Wilbur Wright Field and the Fairfield Air Depot, and gave it to the U. S. government. The expanded, permanent installation was renamed Wright Field. The main responsibility of Wright Field was to develop aircraft, equipment, and accessories. Aviation technology was advancing rapidly, and research and development facilities were critical if the U. S. were going to be on par with Europe. In 1931, the portion of Wright Field located east of Huffman Dam was renamed Patterson Field in honor of the Patterson family, who were influential in the development of the base, and Lt. Frank Stuart Patterson, who was killed in a plane crash at Wilbur Wright Field in World War I. Patterson Field housed the logistics and supplies division as well as officers' housing for the entire base. As the 1930s progressed and the threat of war with Germany loomed on the horizon, the Air Corps continued to expand, and in 1938, 6,000 new airplanes were ordered.³⁸ Aviation was becoming increasingly important to the military, and the construction of the Wright memorial at this time is a reflection of the importance of innovation in aviation.

The dedication of Wright Brothers Hill was held on August 19, 1940, Orville Wright's sixty-ninth birthday.³⁹ The ceremony began with an invocation by Bishop A. R. Clippinger. Other speakers included Major General Henry H. Arnold of the U.S. Army and Captain Kenneth Whiting of the U.S. Navy. The granite shaft was unveiled by Leontine Jameson and Marianne Miller, grandnieces of Orville Wright. Former Ohio governor James Cox closed the ceremony.⁴⁰

In November 1976, the 19.841-acre park was officially expanded to 27.58-acres when the Miami Conservancy District purchased 7.739-acres north of the memorial from the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Map Section, Page 4).⁴¹ A portion of the 7.739 acres owned by Consolidated Rail had been designed by the Olmsted firm as part of their original Wright Brothers Hill landscape plans. For example, the entire overlook wall was located on the parcel of land owned by Consolidated Rail. The Miami Conservancy District's purchase of the 7.739 acre parcel put the entire park under the control of a single owner. From the time of its construction to 1978, the majority of the memorial was owned by the Miami Conservancy District and maintained by the city of Dayton, but in 1974 the City of Dayton requested that another source of maintenance

³⁸ Dr. Henry Narducci, *Historical Development of Wright-Patterson Air Force*, (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio: Air Base Wing History Office, 1998).

³⁹ Honious, *What Dreams We Have*, 9.

⁴⁰ Program for Wright Brother Hill dedication ceremony, August 19, 1940.

⁴¹ George R. Stevenson, *Deed: Consolidated Rail Corporation to The Miami Conservancy District*, (on file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, 1976).

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funds be located.⁴² The Miami Conservancy District gave the 27.58-acre memorial to the United States Air Force in 1978, the seventy-fifth anniversary of powered flight. Since 1978, the Air Force has held an annual ceremony on December 17th in honor of the Wright brothers' first flight: a high-ranking Air Force official gives a brief presentation and a wreath is laid at the base of the memorial followed by a fly-over. A relative from the Wright family is present at the ceremony.⁴³ Before 1978, similar ceremonies were occasionally held at Wright Brothers Hill.

Olmsted Landscapes in the Area in the National Register

A number of features work together to give Wright Brothers Hill a sense of historic integrity. The site has retained many of its original characteristics, including its key design elements. While many parks suffer neglect, abuse, and inappropriate alterations, Wright Brothers Hill remains an outstanding example of an Olmsted designed landscape.

While the Olmsted firm prepared landscape plans for several homesteads, commercial grounds, religious facilities, and parks in the Dayton area, only one of these landscapes is currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This property, Deeds Carillon, is a massive bell tower set within a designed landscape, and curiously, it has several things in common with Wright Brothers Hill. The influential Deeds family of Dayton played an important role in the construction of both Wright Brothers Hill and Deeds Carillon. Edith Deeds commissioned Deeds Carillon; she was the wife of Edward Deeds, the head of the Wilbur and Orville Wright Commission. The carillon also dates to roughly the same time period as Wright Brothers Hill: construction of Wright Brothers Hill lasted from 1938-1940, and construction of Deeds Carillon lasted from 1940-1942. Both the memorial shaft at Wright Brothers Hill and the bell tower at Deeds Carillon are designed in the Art Moderne style. While the designer of the memorial shaft is unknown, the bell tower was designed by the New York architecture firm of Reinhard and Hofmeister. Both the memorial shaft and the bell tower are surrounded by a flagstone terrace or plaza with low walls and steps radiating out in four directions. Both landscapes were designed by the Olmsted Brothers. However, Deeds Carillon is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in recreation and performing arts and was not evaluated for its landscape design or its connection to the Olmsted firm because it is not a significant example of

⁴² *Dayton Daily News*, "Air Force to get Huffman Prairie site," September 4, 1978, 2:17.

⁴³ Wilkinson Wright (grandnephew of the Wright brothers), interview by Don Colburn. Dayton, Ohio, September 9, 1994.

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their work, while Wright Brothers Hill is an intact designed landscape representative of their work.⁴⁴

SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance for Wright Brothers Hill is from 1938 to 1944. Construction of Wright Brothers Hill began in 1938 and continued until 1940; the memorial was dedicated on August 19, 1940. After the dedication, minor alterations and changes were made to the property, including replacing the original twelve elm trees that were dying with more robust oak trees and moving the entrance gates 200 feet to the west. Both of these changes were completed by 1944. After 1944 there were no deliberate alterations to the topography, planting design or the memorial until recommendations made in the landscape treatment plan of 1998 were implemented.

Wright Brothers Hill represents the connection between the Dayton area and the national history of aviation. Wright Brothers Hill illustrates the importance of aviation on both a local and national level. The memorial reflects the value placed on military aviation and the achievements of the Wright brothers by business and cultural leaders in the late 1930s. Wright Brothers Hill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a landscape that embodies the design ideals of the renowned Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm, and under Consideration Criterion F as a commemorative property that is vested with its own historical significance.

Under Criterion C, Wright Brothers Hill is an intact example of an Olmsted Brothers landscape, and it features design elements characteristic of the Olmsted firm. The memorial is divided into formal and informal areas through the use of plantings: symmetrical plantings in the formal memorial plaza and a sporadic assortment of trees in the informal park. The Olmsted firm emphasized the creation of vistas, which is one of the key design elements of the memorial. The memorial overlook provides a view of Huffman Dam and Huffman Prairie Flying Field, and the allée of dogwood trees provides a framed view of the memorial shaft. The Olmsted firm also promoted retaining the natural qualities of the site, a principle that was put into practice with the memorial. There was no attempt made to level the six existing Adena mounds but rather they were incorporated into the design of the memorial as a natural quality of the site and were

⁴⁴ Jeanne Palemo, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Deeds Carillon*, (Dayton, Ohio: Carillon Historical Park, 2005), on file at the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

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viewed as “a critical design element of the memorial landscape.”⁴⁵ Even today, the Air Force takes measures to protect and preserve the mounds.

Under Consideration Criterion F, Wright Brothers Hill is a commemorative property that has obtained historic significance in its own right. The property was designed by the renowned Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architecture Firm, which was particularly influential in the Dayton area. Little changed from its original design; the memorial has obtained significance in its own right through its intriguing Olmsted design and beautiful landscape. More than a memorial to the Wright Brothers’ achievements, Wright Brothers Hill is also a park and recreation area that has provided a scenic open space to the public for over sixty years.

The memorial has retained its historic integrity. The memorial remains in its original location, and no significant portions of the memorial have been moved. The memorial has also retained its integrity of setting; it is still surrounded by Huffman Dam, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base, as it was when it was constructed in 1940. The memorial still conveys the sense of a rural retreat, and has retained a high level of design integrity. The current design is almost identical to the original Olmsted design. Most alterations conform to the original design intent and have been made to extend the life of the memorial. These alterations include repairing the existing walls and pavement and replacing some intrusive vegetation with vegetation consistent with the original planting list. The memorial has retained most of its original materials. An effort has been made to replace original materials that were damaged with historically accurate replacements: deteriorated pavers were replaced with pavers from the same quarry as the original, and plants that have died have been replaced with compatible vegetation. The skilled workmanship displayed in the layout of the memorial, the design of the shaft, and the craftsmanship of the bronze plaques is still present. Wright Brothers Hill also possesses integrity of feeling. Originally constructed as a memorial to the Wright brothers, Wright Brothers Hill still functions as a memorial, evoking a feeling of pride and admiration for the achievements of Wilbur and Orville Wright. With its close proximity to Huffman Dam, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Wright Brothers Hill has retained integrity of association.

Wright Brothers Hill is the physical manifestation of a complex web of associations between preeminent American designers and business leaders. The associations between Patterson, Deeds, and the Olmsted firm have imbued Dayton with an exceptionally rich history of Olmsted

⁴⁵ National Park Service, *Cultural Landscape Report: Wright Brothers Hill, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio*, (National Park Service, 1997), on file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

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landscape designs. Wright Brothers Hill is a particularly noteworthy Olmsted design in Dayton because it represents the confluence of the ideas of such innovative and influential leaders of design and business in commemoration of humankind's ability to fly. With the site's prominent topographic profile, its linkages with nearby historic locations of aviation development, Orville Wright's personal involvement with its design, and the site's uninterrupted history of public access, Wright Brothers Hill meets the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

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UTM References Continued

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
16	749619	4408907
16	749599	4408833
16	749520	4408722
16	749497	4408711
16	749233	4408716
16	749223	4408701
16	749174	4408702
16	749138	4408694

Verbal Boundary Description

The property encompasses 20.447 acres located south of State Route 444, west of Kauffman Avenue, and northwest of Skyline Drive, in Bath Township, Greene County, Ohio (Map Section, Page 5). The nominated property is bounded by a set of imaginary lines that intersect to form a polygon around the memorial grounds. The northwest point of the boundary is located at UTM reference zone 16, 749132 E, 4408838 N. The boundary line runs northeast 92 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749145 E, 4408863 N. The boundary then runs east 684 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749346 E, 4408916 N. From there the boundary runs east 691 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749553 E, 4408956 N and then 286 feet southeast to UTM reference zone 16, 749619 E, 4408907 N. The boundary then runs southwest along the west side of Skyline Drive 251 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749599 E, 4408833 N, then southwest 448 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749520 E, 4408722 N, southwest 84 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749497 E, 4408711 N, west 866 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749233 E, 4408716 N, and southwest 60 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749223 E, 4408701 N. The boundary then runs west 162 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749174 E, 4408702 N and west 121 feet to UTM reference zone 16, 749138 E, 4408694 N. The boundary then runs north through a wooded area 475 feet to the point of beginning.

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Boundary Justification

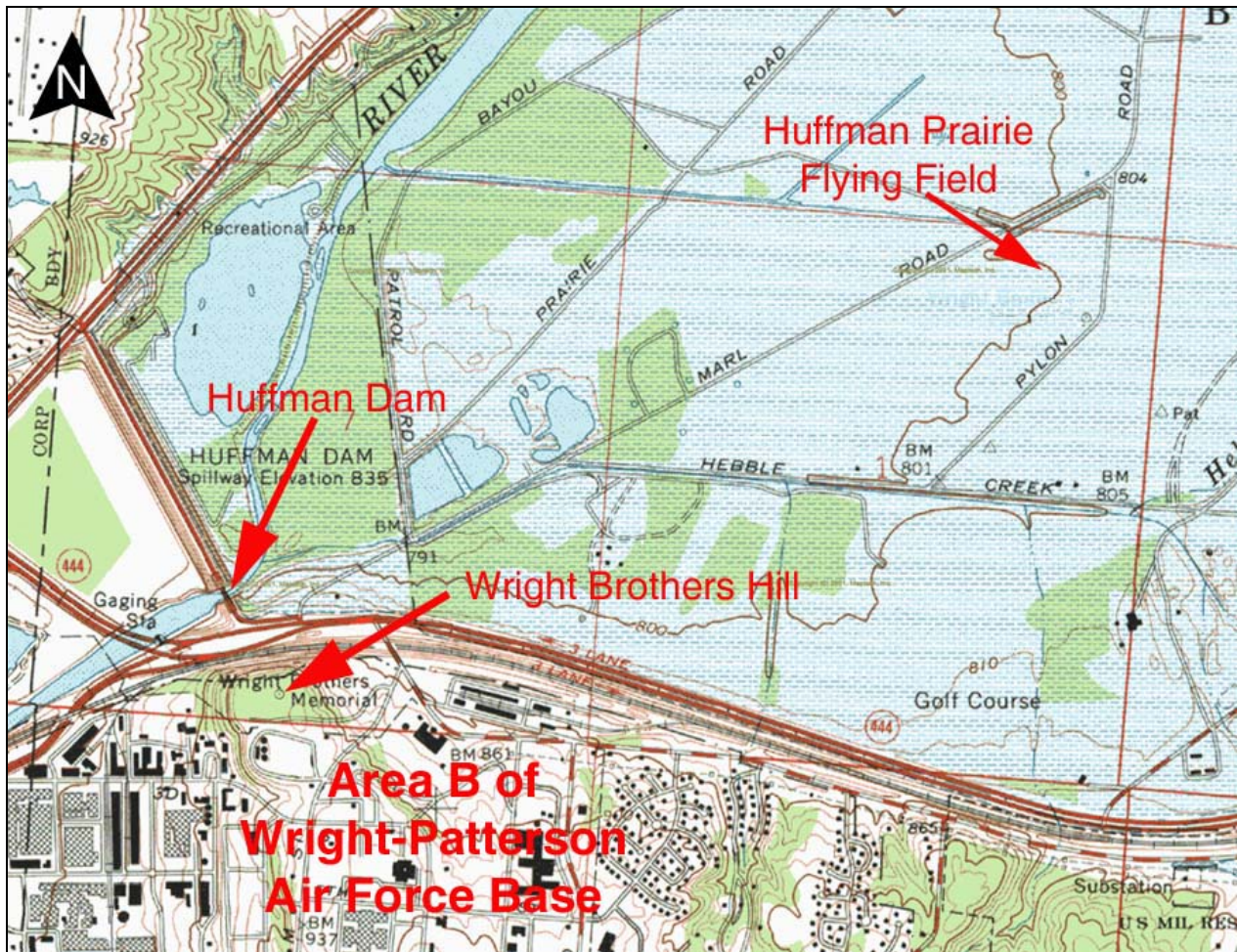
The boundary for Wright Brothers Hill includes land that was originally designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm which has not been significantly altered (Map Section, Page 5 and Historic Images Section, Page 1). The current boundary is made up of 20.447 acres and includes lands in parcel A01000100100000700 to the north and parcel A01000100100000100 to the south (Map Section, Page 4). The southern parcel contains 19.841 acres and was owned by the Miami Conservancy District at the time the memorial was constructed. The wooded western portion of the parcel was not designed by the Olmsted firm and is not included in the boundary. The eastern portion of this parcel between present day Kauffman Ave. and Skyline Dr. was originally part of the memorial landscape designed by the Olmsted firm, but this area was significantly altered when Skyline Dr. was constructed, so it is not included in the boundary. The northern parcel contains 7.739 acres and was owned by the Consolidated Rail Corporation at the time the memorial was constructed. Despite its ownership by Consolidated Rail, the eastern portion of this parcel was included in the original Olmsted landscape plan for the memorial and is included in the memorial boundary. The wooded western portion of the parcel was not designed by the Olmsteds and is excluded from the boundary. In 1976, this 7.739-acre parcel was purchased by the Miami Conservancy District and the two parcels making up the memorial were united under the same ownership.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Map Page 1

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



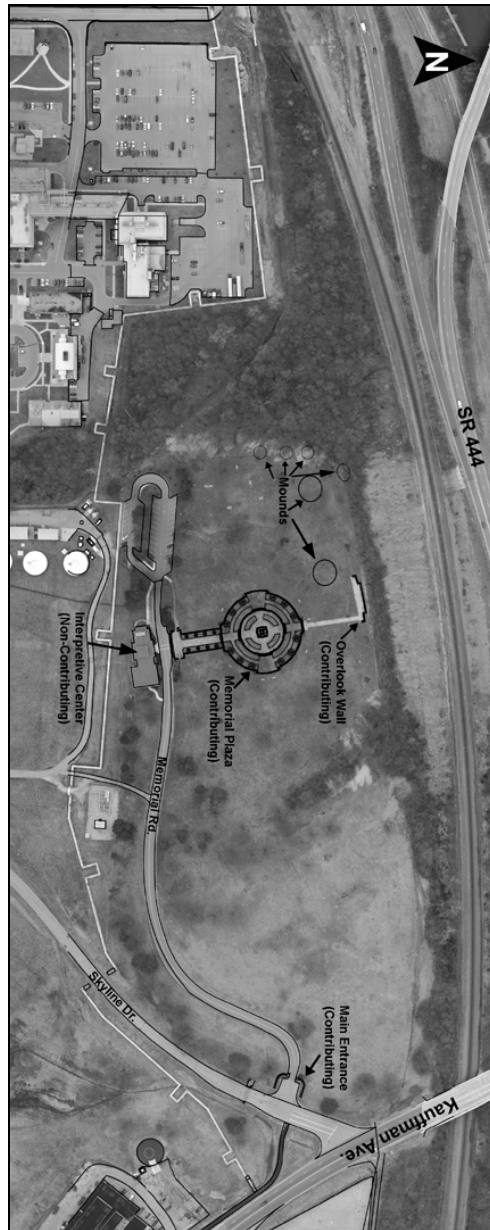
Map 1. USGS Fairborn, Ohio Quadrangle map showing relationship of Wright Brothers Hill to Huffman Prairie Flying Field, Huffman Dam and Area B of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Map Page 2

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



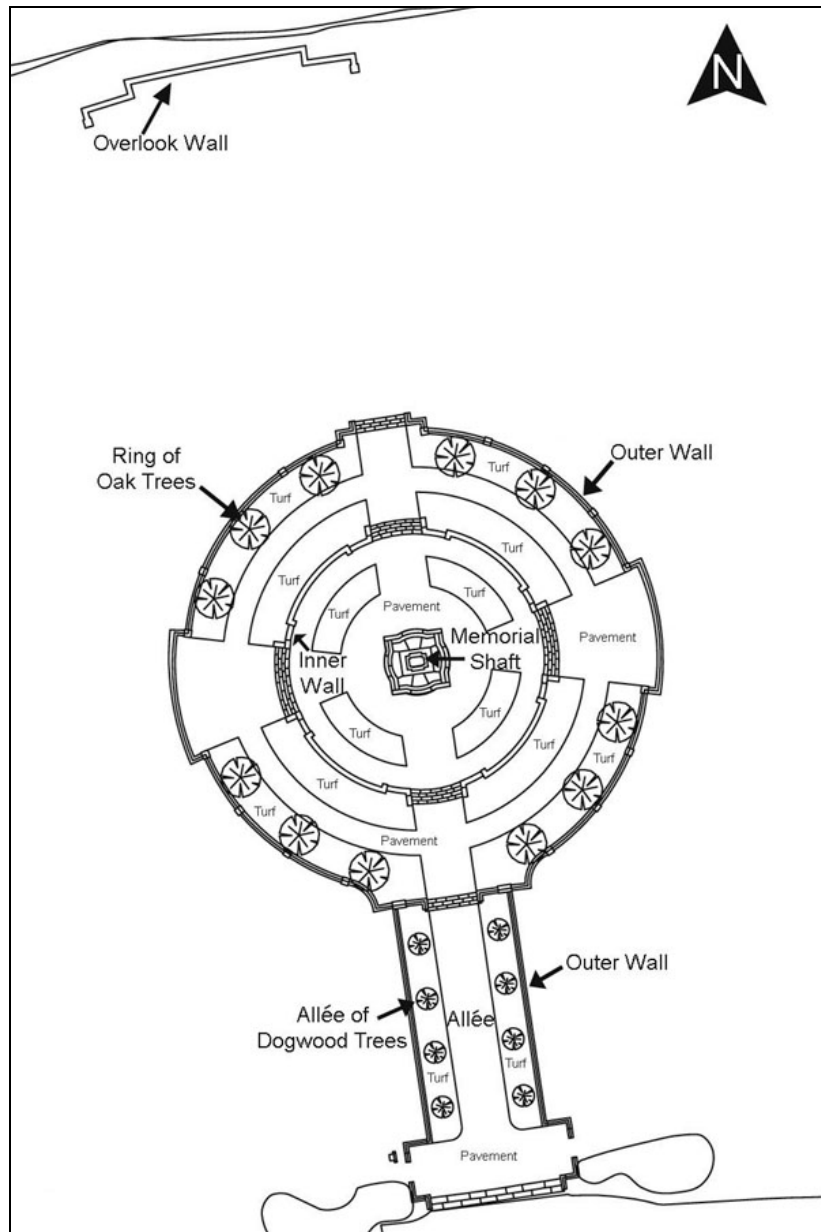
Map 2. Overall sketch map of Wright Brothers Hill depicting major features

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Map Page 3

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



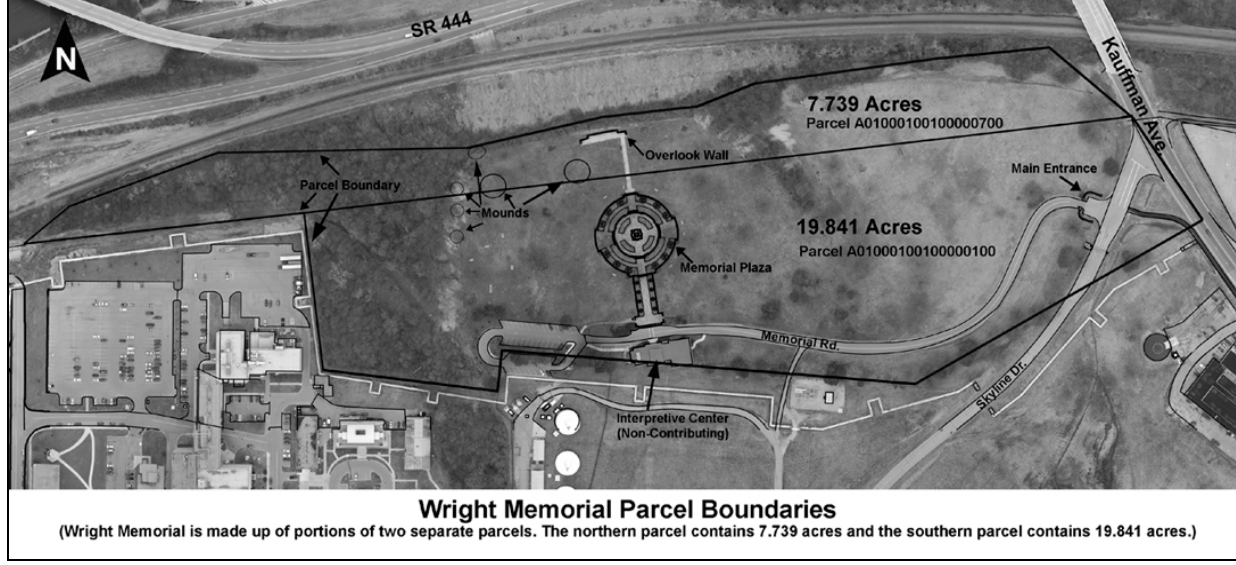
Map 3. Detailed sketch map of memorial plaza and overlook wall

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Map Page 4

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



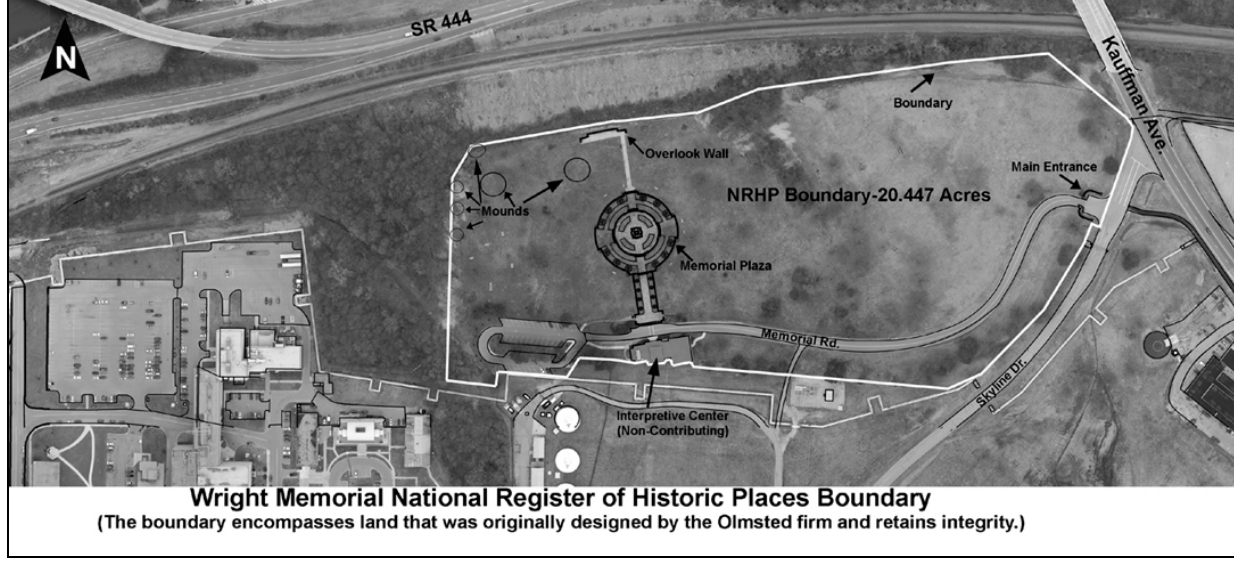
Map 4. Wright Memorial Parcel Boundaries

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Map Page 5

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



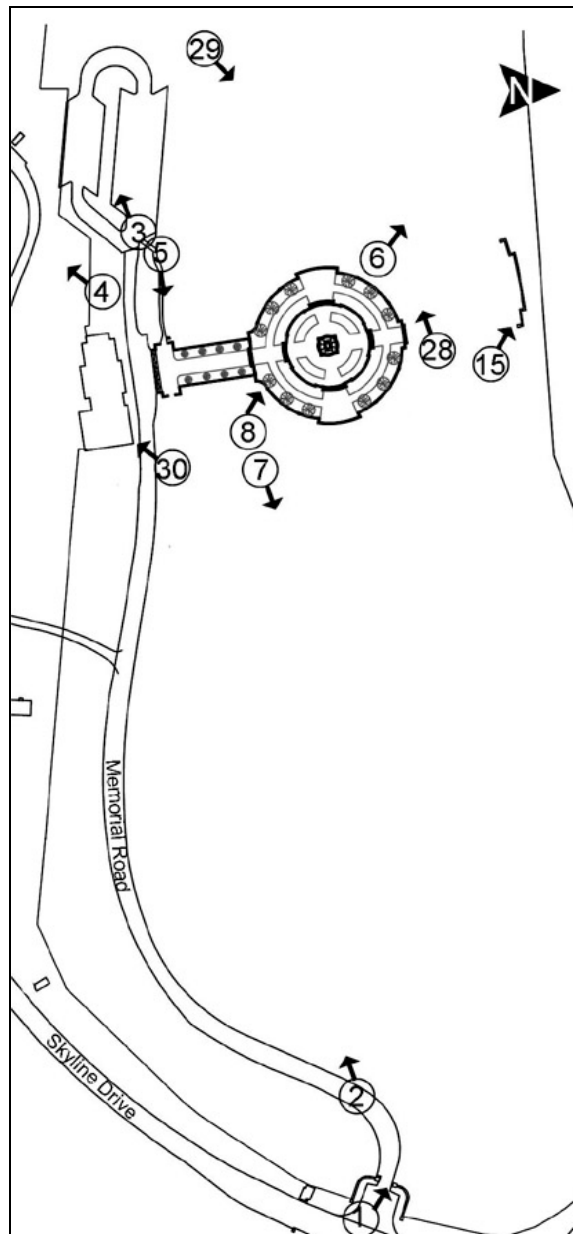
Map 5. Wright Memorial National Register of Historic Places Boundary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Map Page 6

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



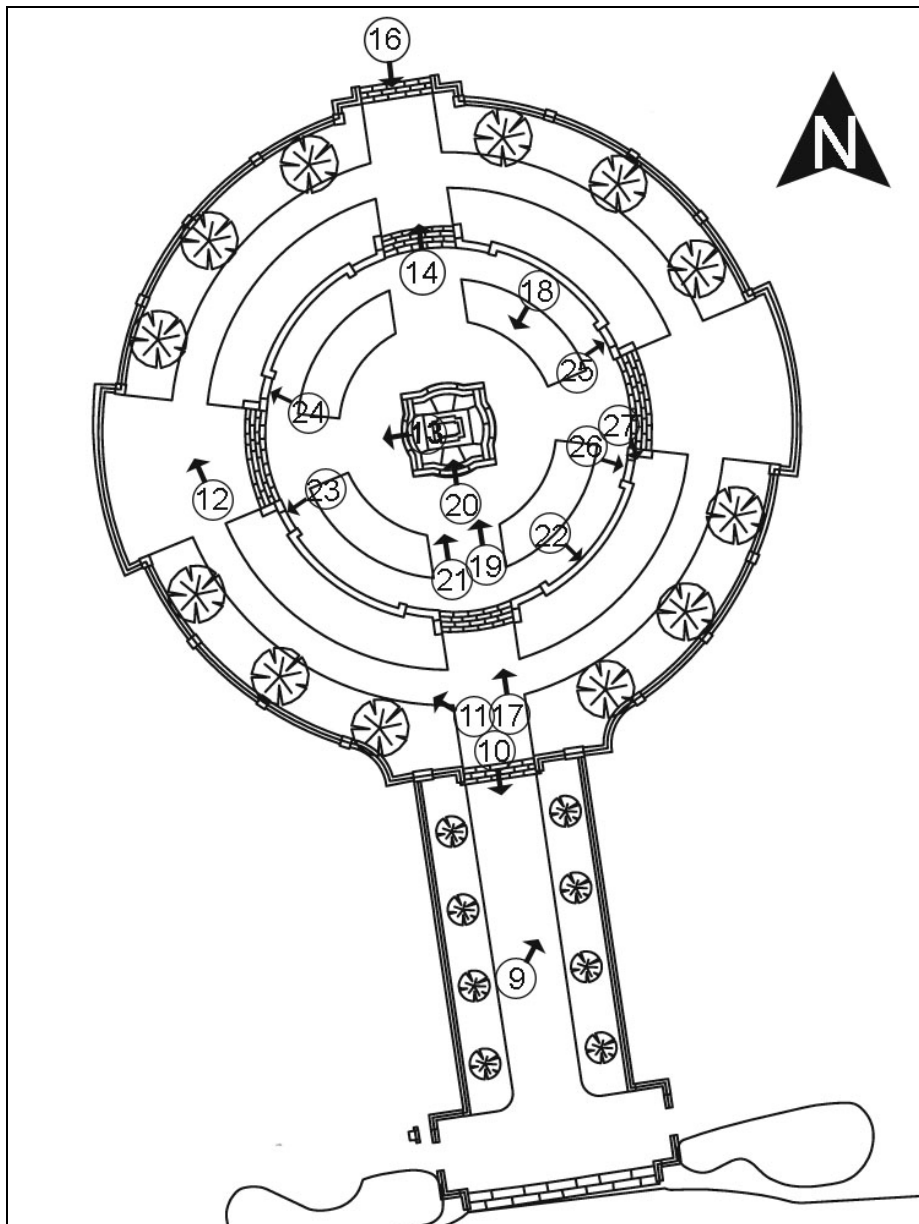
Map 6. Photo key

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Map Page 7

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Map 7. Photo key

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 1

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 1. Stone entrance gates to Wright Brothers Hill, looking northwest from Skyline Drive

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 2

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 2. Northeast side of Wright Brothers Hill, looking southwest from Memorial Road

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 3

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 3. Northeast corner of Wright Brothers Hill parking lot, looking southwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 4

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 4. Wright-Patterson water treatment plant south of memorial park, looking southwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 5

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 5. Asphalt walkway leading from parking lot to memorial, looking east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 6

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 6. Memorial park northwest of plaza, looking northwest to Adena mounds

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 7

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 7. Memorial park east of plaza, looking northeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 8

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 8. Monument shaft, looking northwest from memorial park

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 9

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 9. Allée of dogwood trees located south of plaza, looking northeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 10

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 10. Allée of dogwood trees and interpretive center, looking south from memorial plaza

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 11

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 11. Southwest section of plaza showing outer path, inner and outer stone walls, and oak trees. View looking northwest.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 12

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 12. New and old oak trees in northwest section of outer plaza circle, looking northwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 13

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 13. West side of memorial plaza showing pavers, walls, and plaques. View from memorial shaft steps looking west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 14

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 14. Overlook, looking north from memorial plaza

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 15

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 15. Memorial overlook, looking northwest from southeast side of overlook

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 16

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 16. View of memorial plaza and shaft from north opening of plaza, looking south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 17

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 17. South side of memorial plaza and shaft, looking north from outer circle of the plaza

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 18

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 18. Northeast side of shaft, looking southwest from inner circle of plaza

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 19

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 19. South elevation of memorial shaft, looking north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 20

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 20. Detailed view of plaque on memorial shaft, looking north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section **Photo** Page 21

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 21. Detailed view of bluestone pavers located south of memorial shaft, looking north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 22

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 22. Detailed view of limestone inner wall located southeast of memorial shaft,
looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 23

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio

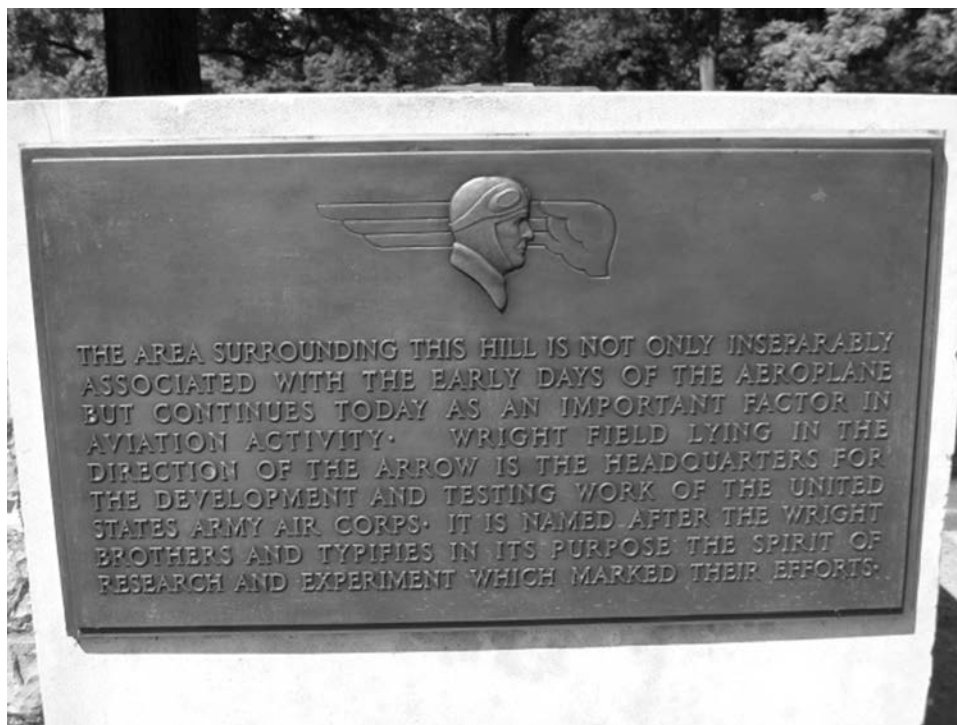


Photo 23. Detail of bronze plaque on inner wall, southwest side of plaza

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 24

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 24. Detail of bronze plaque on inner wall, northwest side of plaza

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 25

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio

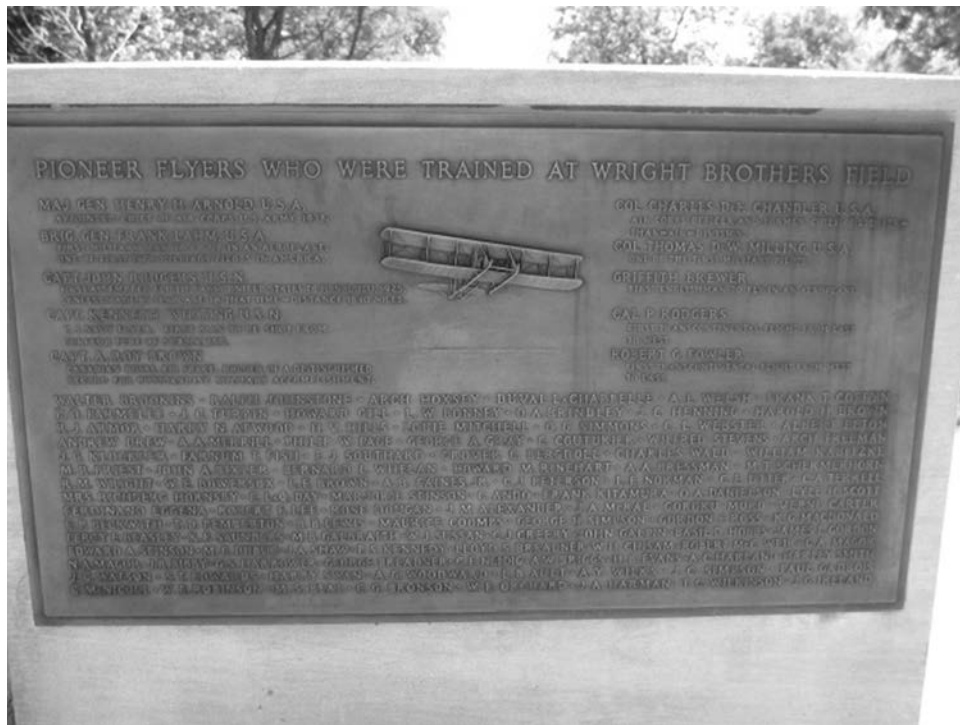


Photo 25. Detail of bronze plaque on inner wall, northeast side of plaza

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 26

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 26. Detail of bronze plaque on inner wall, southeast side of plaza

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 27

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 27. Bronze arrow on inner wall above southeast plaque

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 28

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 28. Detail of typical park bench in Wright Brothers Hill park, looking west. Bench is located north of plaza.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photo Page 29

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 29. Detail of typical picnic table and garbage receptacle in Wright Brothers Hill park, looking northeast. Items are located west of plaza.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 30

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Photo 30. View of northeast corner of interpretive center located south of plaza,
looking southwest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Images Page 1

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio

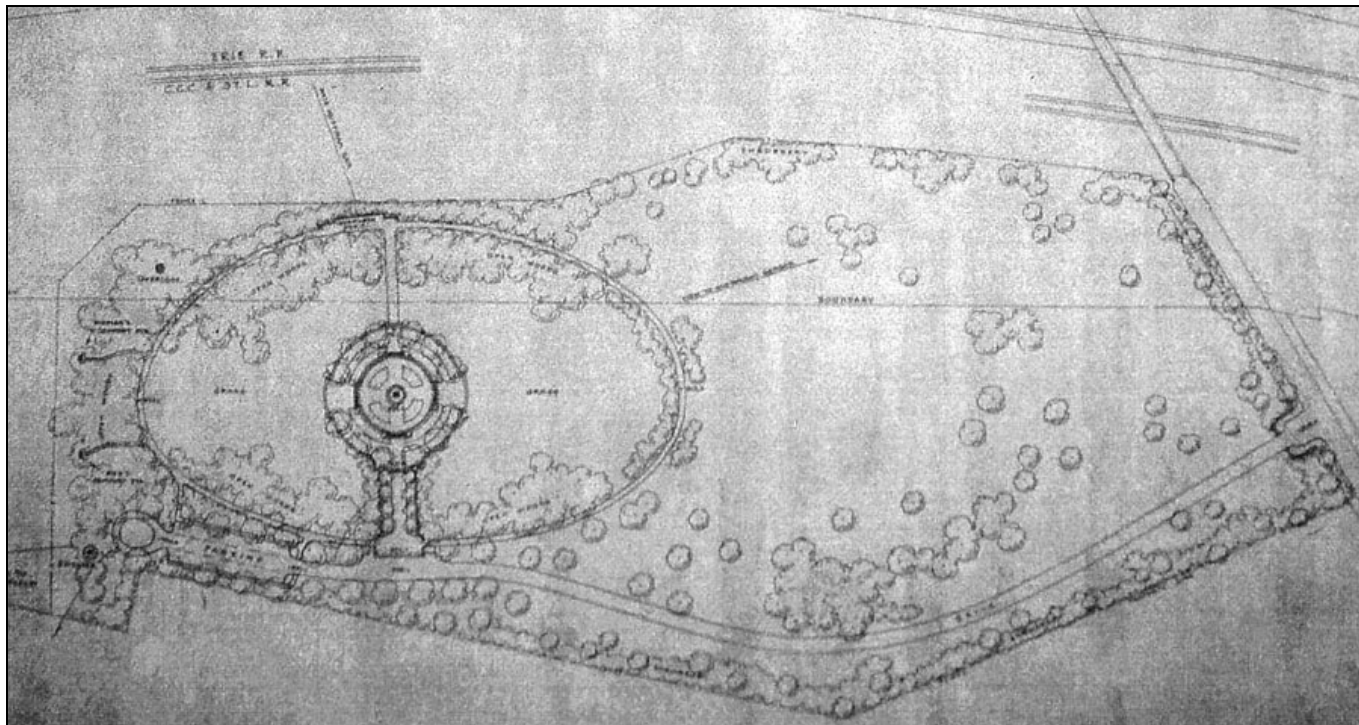


Image 1. Original Olmsted landscape plan for Wright Brothers Hill. (On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Historic Images Page 2

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Image 2. Model of memorial shaft dated July 1938. (On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Images Page 3

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Image 3. African American CCC Camp Vandalia, Ohio Number 20 cutting stone during construction of memorial c. 1939. (On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Historic Images Page 4

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio

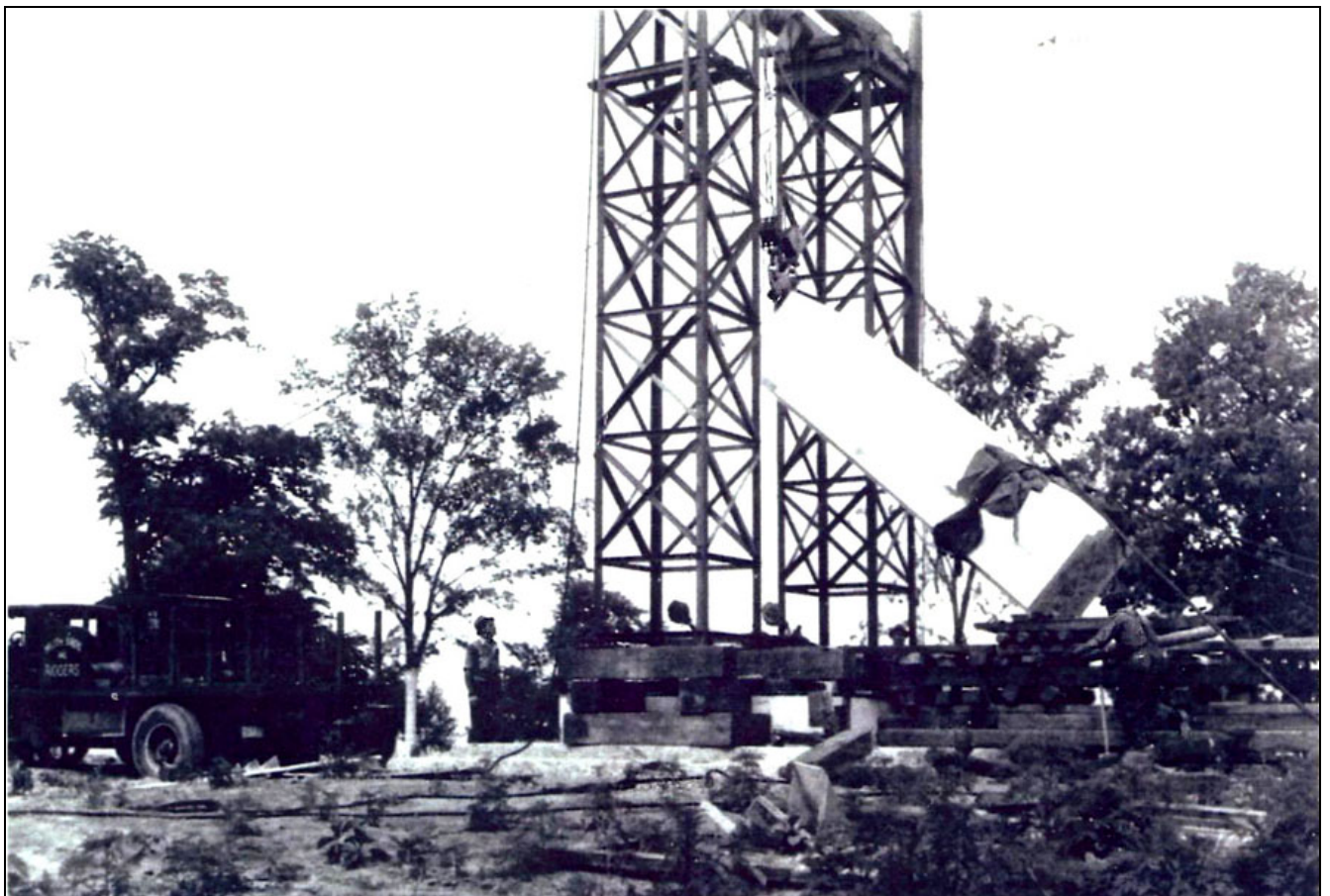


Image 4. Monument shaft being placed into position c. 1939. (On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.)

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Images Page 5

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio

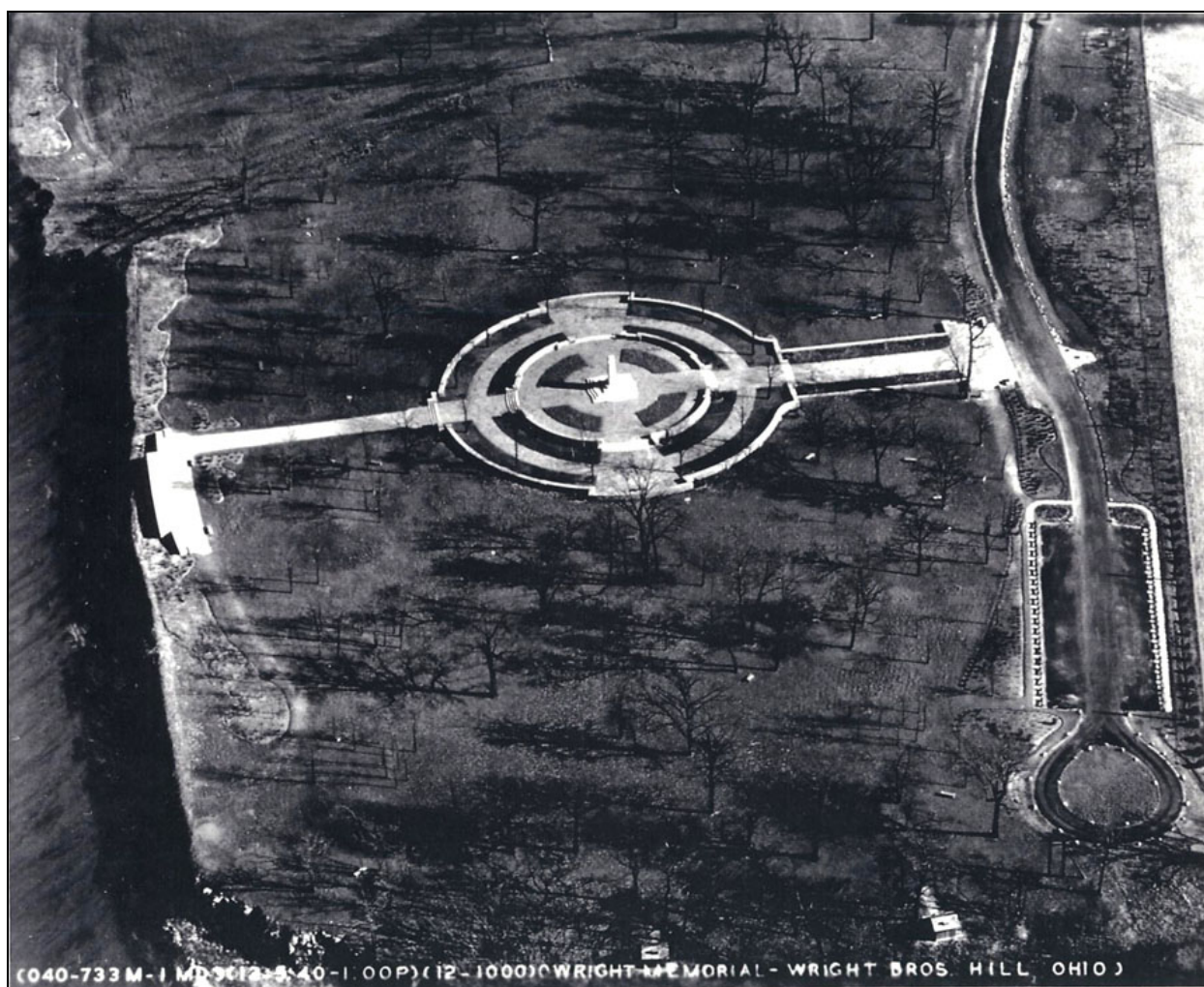


Image 5. Aerial photograph of Wright Brothers Hill dated December 1940. (On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Images Page 6

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Image 6. Dedication ceremony of Wright Brothers Hill August 19, 1940. (On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.)

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National Park Service

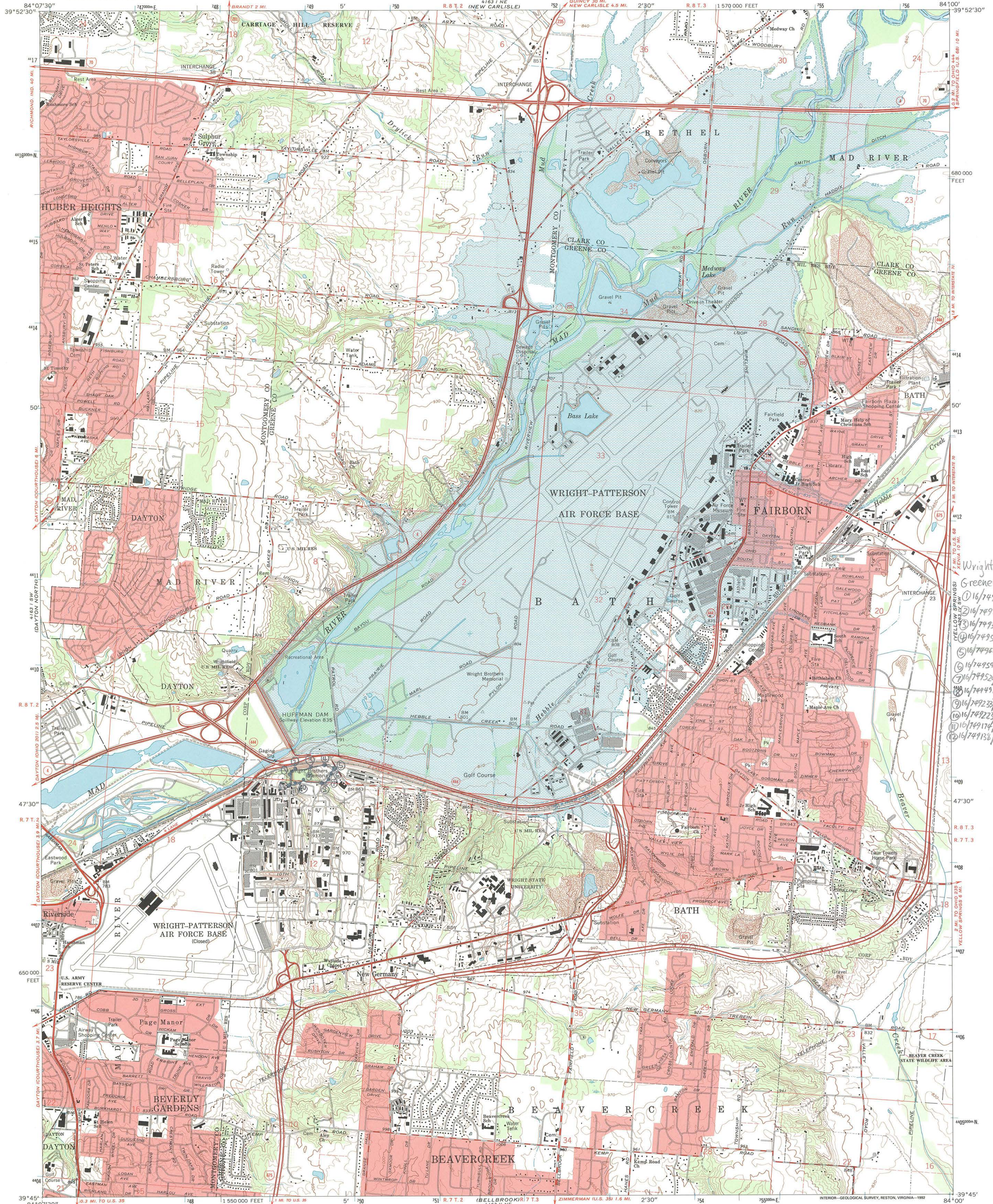
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Historic Images Page 7

Wright Brothers Hill
Greene County, Ohio



Image 7. March 1944 photograph of alterations to the front entrance gates. (On file at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.)



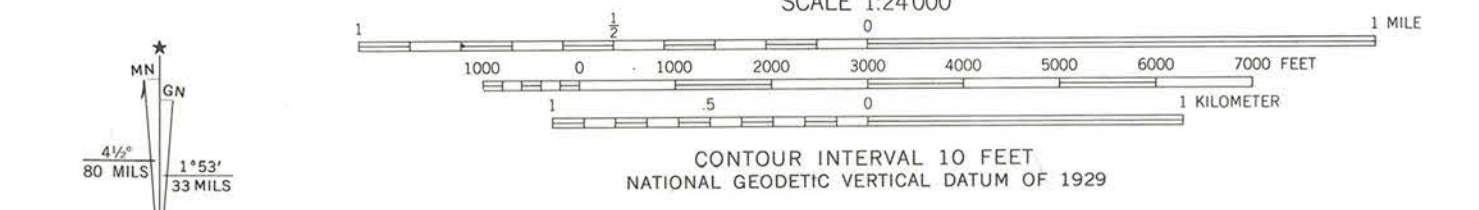
- Wright Memorial
Greene County, Ohio
- ① 16749132/4408838
 - ② 16749145/4408863
 - ③ 16749346/4408916
 - ④ 16749553/4408956
 - ⑤ 16749619/4408907
 - ⑥ 16749599/4408833
 - ⑦ 16749520/4408722
 - ⑧ 16749497/4408711
 - ⑨ 16749233/4408716
 - ⑩ 16749223/4408701
 - ⑪ 16749174/4408702
 - ⑫ 16749136/4408694

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Army Map Service. Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies. Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA.

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1954 and planimetric surveys 1955. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1965.

Polycyclic projection, 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum to place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 2 meters south and 6 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation. Entire area lies within the Between the Miamis. Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



FAIRBORN, OHIO
39084-G1-TF-024
1965
REVISED 1992
DMA 4163 1 SE - SERIES V882

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





NO VEHICLES
ALLOWED
BEYOND THIS POINT







































IN COMMEMORATION
OF THE COURAGE PERSEVERANCE
AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF
**WILBUR AND ORVILLE
WRIGHT**

THROUGH ORIGINAL RESEARCH
THE WRIGHT BROTHERS ACQUIRED
SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
AND DEVELOPED THEORIES
OF AERODYNAMICS
WHICH WITH THEIR INVENTION
OF AILERON CONTROL
ENABLED THEM IN 1903
TO BUILD AND FLY AT KITTY HAWK
THE FIRST POWER-DRIVEN
MAN-CARRYING AEROPLANE
CAPABLE OF FLIGHT.

THEIR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
OF THE AEROPLANE
GAVE IT A CAPACITY FOR SERVICE
WHICH ESTABLISHED AVIATION AS
ONE OF THE GREAT FORWARD STEPS
IN HUMAN PROGRESS.

AS SCIENTISTS
WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT
DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF FLIGHT
AS INVENTORS, BUILDERS AND FLYERS
THEY BROUGHT AVIATION
TO THE WORLD.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wright Brothers Hill--Memorial

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Greene

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/27/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/12/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000460

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7/19/2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 7/19/2016

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

3 June 2016

Mr. Patrick Andrus
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20005

RECEIVED 2280
JUN - 3 2016
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Dear Mr. Andrus:

Thank you for previously offering, by email and telephone, advice on submitting a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Nomination Registration Form etc. regarding the Wright Brothers Hill / Memorial property at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) Ohio. This letter transmits the following enclosed materials for a true and correct copy of nomination materials for the Wright Brother Hill / Memorial:

- CD with the nomination form in PDF format
- CD with digital images in tif format
- Hard copy duplicate of the nomination form, on archival quality paper, including a plotted USGS map
- Hard copy original of the signatory page for the nomination form.

The signatory page has been signed by my agency's formally designated Federal Preservation Officer Mr. Otis L. Hicks, Jr. I apologize that this transmittal letter is not submitted on Air Force letterhead but due to time constraints etc. associated with the package, it seemed best to work the transmittal letter under my personal signature. If I can answer questions please do not hesitate to contact me at telephone (937) 656-1281 Eastern Time or email erwin.roemer@us.af.mil . Likewise, the Cultural Resources Manager at WPAFB is historic architect Mr. Paul Woodruff, telephone (937) 257-1374, email paul.woodruff@us.af.mil .

Again thank you for the help in processing this NRHP nomination.

Sincerely,


ERWIN ROEMER, RPA

Cultural Resources Specialist
Air Force Civil Engineer Center
Midwest Branch, Scott Section, WPAFB office
Bldg 12, 1981 Monahan Way, Area B
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7205

ENC – see list in body of letter