



Hangar One

Moffett Field

History

Hangar One was built in 1933 during the Great Depression as part of Admiral William A. Moffett's vision for Naval Aviation. The mid-century design, shaped like an elongated dome, is 198 feet tall, 308 feet wide, 1,133 feet long, or around a fifth of a mile long. Its interior covers eight acres, enough to contain the Salesforce Park with 2.6 acres to spare.

According to the National Park Service biography on Number One, "the hangar is constructed on an amazing network of steel girders sheathed with galvanized steel. It rests firmly upon a reinforced pad anchored to concrete pilings. The floor covers eight acres and can accommodate 10 football fields.

The NPS goes on to share that what makes Number One "unique and spectacular are the "orange peel" doors, weighing 500 tons each...Each door is powered by a 150 horsepower motor... The hangar's interior is so large that fog sometimes forms near the ceiling. A person unaccustomed to its vastness is susceptible to optical disorientation.

The building also briefly contained the USS Macon from late 1933 to February 1935. The structure was so large that it could accommodate several smaller non-rigid lighter-than-air vehicles along with the Macon.

NASA took control of the site from the Navy in 1994. In 2003, toxins from the hangar's exterior panels were discovered. The US Navy removed these panels in 2011 and cleaned up toxic materials, leaving NASA in charge of reskinning. By 2014, Google started a 60-year lease for the 1,000-acre Moffett Field Site for \$1.6 billion, including repurposing the three existing airship hangers into laboratories. The space is expected to help Google's Planetary Ventures unit study robots, rovers, drones, balloons, and other technology. Still, Google remains vague about the details of why Number One will be used.

In the initial press release by NASA in 2014 announcing the deal with Planetary Ventures, the firm estimated it would invest \$200 million for improvements, including refurbishment of Hangars One, Two, and Three, operating the Moffett Federal Airfield, and it would create an educational facility for the public to engage with the site's legacy and role in Silicon Valley.

References

[Introduction to Moffett Field](#)

[U.S. Naval Air Station Sunnyvale, California, Historic District](#)

[William A. Moffett](#)

[Hangar One Restoration Project](#)

[Historic Hangar One Getting Google-Funded Makeover](#)

[Google's Planetary Ventures offers updates on Moffett Field landmark](#)

[Google Starts Renovation for Hangar One in Moffett Field, Mountain View](#)



Hangar One at Moffett Federal Airfield, Moffett Field, California, in 2006.

Credits: NASA/Dominic Hart



