

Wind tunnel is engineering landmark

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers has designated the Wright Field Five-Foot Wind Tunnel as a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

The wind tunnel was constructed at McCook Field in Dayton, in the 1921-1922 time period and was moved to its current site in Area B, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in the 1928-1929 time period. The final inspection team included Orville Wright. It is the 114th National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark to be designated.

Since the ASME Historic Mechanical Engineering Recognition Pro-

gram began in 1971, 170 Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmarks have been recognized. It is only the second in the Dayton, Ohio area to be approved under this program.

In recognition of this award, ASME will present a plaque to the Air Force Institute of Technology, currently responsible for operation of the facility, during a Landmark Ceremony Program that will take place March 22 at the Wright-Patterson Officers' Club. Dr. Robert Calico, dean, Graduate School of Engineering, will accept the plaque on behalf of AFIT.

The Wright Field Five-Foot Tunnel

is an outstanding example of an early aerodynamic testing facility that remains active today. It is well known for its aerodynamic testing, contributions to aeronautical research, education and the development of many major aircraft and associated hardware used by the U.S. Air Force and its predecessor, the Army Air Service.

It is a facility conceived, designed and built when very little aerodynamic theory or test data was available that could be used as a baseline for its design. AFIT maintains and uses this facility as a teaching and research tool and it remains a part of aviation history. (ASME)