Draft Environmental Assessment

Proposed Building 16 Demolition
Boston Logan International Airport

Massachusetts Port Authority
November 3, 2014
This Environmental Assessment (EA) becomes a Federal document when evaluated, signed, and dated by the Responsible FAA official.

________________________  ________________________
Responsible FAA Official  November , 2014

Date
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Building 16 Demolition Project
Boston Logan International Airport

Proposed Action

The project proposes to demolish Building 16 at Boston-Logan International Airport (BOS) and repave the approximately 3-acre project site for aircraft storage. There will be no change in use of the project site since the area has been used for aircraft storage and maintenance for over 60 years. Demolition of the building will include remediation of building asbestos and PCB’s and any soil within the project site.

Federal actions include approval of an update to the Airport Layout Plan (ALP). An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess this proposed action.

Purpose And Need
There is an immediate need for additional Remain Overnight (RON) aircraft parking at BOS. BOS is a highly land-constrained facility with very little area available for any new facilities. The existing Building 16 can no longer accommodate the current fleet of commercial aircraft serving BOS. By removing this hangar, the Authority is able to convert the space to additional aircraft apron and RON space.

Alternatives Considered
In addition to the proposed hangar demolition, alternative locations for aircraft parking and a no-action alternative were considered.

Assessment and Mitigation
EA Section 4.0, Environmental Consequences and Mitigation evaluates the environmental consequences of the proposed action. All impacts to resource categories are anticipated to be less than significant. Other than during construction, no air quality of noise impact will occur since there will be no change in airfield operations associated with replacement of the hangar with aircraft apron area.

Building 16 is eligible for listing National Register of Historic of Historic Places. Impacts associated with building demolition will be mitigated through implementation of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the FAA, Massport and the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). The primary elements of the MOA include archival–quality photographic documentation of Building 16 and environs and Massport’s commitment to develop a display of the historic documentation in a public location at Boston Logan International Airport (BOS).
There are no impacts to wetlands, surface or groundwater features, wildlife or important farmland soils.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

I have carefully and thoroughly considered the facts contained in the attached EA. Based on that information, I find the proposed Federal action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives of Section 101(a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other applicable environmental requirements. I also find the proposed Federal action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment or include any condition requiring any consultation pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. As a result, FAA will not prepare an EIS for this action.

**APPROVED:**

____________________  _____________
Richard Doucette,  Date
Environmental Program Manager

**DISAPPROVED:**

____________________  _____________
Richard Doucette,  Date
Environmental Program Manager
Environmental Assessment
Proposed Building 16 Demolition
Boston Logan International Airport

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1.0 Project Description

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) is planning to demolish the defunct American Airlines Hangar located in the North Cargo area of Boston-Logan International Airport (BOS). This 70,000 square foot hangar is located on a paved area of the airport within the secured Airport Operations Area (AOA) (Figure 1 – Project Location).

This hangar, designated as Building 16 on the Airport Layout Plan (ALP), can no longer be used for aircraft maintenance and its former user, American Airlines relocated to a renovated hangar in February of 2014, leaving the hangar used only for periodic airfield maintenance equipment storage. The hangar is planned for demolition for three reasons: 1) the hangar is not adequate to accommodate storage or maintenance of current aircraft, many of which cannot fit into the space; 2) the current building contains asbestos and PCBs and would cost more to repair than to demolish; and 3) removal of the structure will allow Massport to convert the space to additional aircraft apron, which is needed for overnight storage of aircraft at this land-constrained airport. Figure 2 is the Building 16 Locus Plan.

Building 16, also known as the former American Airlines Hangar, was constructed in 1953 for the airline to perform aircraft maintenance. Since at least 1986, American Airlines had only occupied approximately half of the hangar, with the remainder of the space used by other airport tenants primarily for ground service equipment and storage. An August 1986 Maintenance Hangar Survey states that “no hangar at Logan can fully enclose the A-300 or the B747 currently operating at Logan Airport, ...” That same report also noted that the original American Airlines hangar had been modified to accommodate higher tail height aircraft than the hangar was originally built for.

In February 2014, American Airlines relocated to another Logan hangar that could accommodate its fleet needs, and Building 16 is no longer used for aircraft storage or maintenance. A previous assessment of the hangar revealed it contains asbestos in the roof paneling and various other locations in the building as well as the presence of PCBs in the slab joints and across the surface of the concrete. There is no longer a need for this aircraft maintenance hangar, and costs to renovate/rehabilitate would exceed the demolition costs. Demolition of Building 16 and replacement with a paved aircraft parking area will not change how the airport operates or the overall level of operations.
Proposed Building 16 Demolition Project
Boston-Logan International Airport

Figure 1 Project Location
Proposed Building 16 Demolition Project
Boston-Logan International Airport

Figure 2 Building 16 Locus Plan
1.1 Purpose and Need of the Project

There is an immediate need for additional Remain Overnight (RON) aircraft parking at BOS. BOS is a highly land-constrained facility with very little area available for any new facilities. The existing Building 16 can no longer accommodate the current fleet of commercial aircraft serving BOS. By removing this hangar, the Authority is able to convert the space to additional aircraft apron and RON space.

1.2 Proposed Action

Massport plans to demolish Building 16 and repave the project site for aircraft storage. There will be no change in use of the project site since the area has been used for aircraft storage and maintenance for over 60 years. Demolition of the building will include remediation of building asbestos and PCB’s and any soil within the project site.

1.3 Required Approvals

Demolition of a hangar requires a change of the ALP and that action requires approval by the FAA including review for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), in accordance with the guidelines set forth in FAA Orders 1050.1E and 5050.4B and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. There are no other local, state or federal environmental approvals required.

2.0 Alternatives

2.1 No-Action Alternative

The no-action alternative would leave Hanger 16 in-place. The hangar could not be used for its intended aircraft storage or maintenance and the site would not be reused for RON space.

2.2 Other Airfield Locations

Massport evaluated other airside locations for the needed apron and RON space. Because Logan is highly-land constrained, all potential project sites occupied and in aviation use and would require replacement of buildings that are currently in use. This alternative was evaluated and rejected.

2.3 Re-use of Building 16

As noted above, a previous engineering assessment of the hangar revealed it contains asbestos in the roof paneling and various other locations in the building as well as the presence of PCBs in the slab joints and across the surface of the concrete. The size and configuration of the hangar are inadequate to accommodate the fleet of commercial aircraft serving Logan Airport.
An August 1986 Logan Maintenance Hangar Survey states that “no hangar at Logan can fully enclose the A-300 or the B747 currently operating at Logan Airport, ...” That same report also noted that the original American Airlines hangar had been modified to accommodate higher tail height aircraft than the hangar was originally built for.

Because of these building deficiencies, there is no longer a need for this aircraft maintenance hangar, and costs to renovate/rehabilitate would exceed the demolition costs. In February 2014, American Airlines relocated to another Logan hangar that could accommodate it fleet needs.

2.4 Proposed Action

The proposed action is the demolition of Building 16, including building and site environmental remediation. Once the hangar is demolished, the site will be repaved and used for aircraft parking.

3.0 Affected Environment

The Building 16 site occupies approximately three acres within BOS’s secured AOA and completely surrounded by airport landside and airside facilities. With the exception of limited landscaping along the adjacent airport service road, the site is entirely paved and/or covered by buildings. All adjacent parcels are fully developed and have been in aviation use for over 60 years. There are no wetland resources or other protected habitat on or adjacent to the project site.

4.0 Environmental Consequences and Mitigation

An Environmental Assessment prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) considers 23 areas of potential environmental impact. Many of these are not applicable to the Building 16 site and others are not applicable to this project because of the type of action; demolition of a hangar. Other areas of potential environmental impact are expected to be insignificant because of the nature of the project. The full list of potential environmental impacts is summarized in Table 4.1.

Environmental impacts with the potential for significant effect typically include the following areas: air quality; fish, wetlands, wildlife, and plants (not present), hazardous materials, sustainable design, noise, transportation, water quality, and cumulative impacts. These impacts were considered as documented below for each of the alternatives included in the alternatives analysis above.

Section 1.3 of this EA lists all federal and state environmental permits or approvals that may be required for project implementation.
As described below, the proposed hangar demolition will not have an impact on natural, ecological (e.g., invasive species), or scenic resources of Federal, Tribal, State, or local significance since the site is currently fully developed and until recently has been in use for aircraft storage. This includes:

- Federally listed or proposed endangered, threatened, or candidate species or designated or proposed critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (none present),
- Resources protected by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (none present);
- Wetlands (none present);
- Floodplains (site is not located in the flood plain)
- Coastal zones (site is not located in the coastal zone)
- Prime, unique, State or locally important farmlands (none present); and
- Energy supply and natural resources.

4.1 Air Quality

Hangar demolition will have no significant air quality impact nor would it violate local, State, Tribal, or Federal air quality standards under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The action will not result in any changes in the airport’s operational characteristics. Neither the number of operations nor the fleet mix will change. Emissions associated with building heating and cooling systems will be eliminated.

4.2 Noise

Hangar demolition will not create any new noise impacts and will not have any effect on noise levels in sensitive areas as removal of the hangar will not change the number or type of aircraft operations at BOS. Construction noise impacts from demolition will be mitigated to the extent possible through the use of construction Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as requiring the use of properly mufflerized equipment or the implementation of work hour limitations, as necessary.

4.3 Compatible Land Use/Community Disruption

Hangar demolition will convert the site from an aircraft hangar to open aircraft apron area within Logan’s existing airfield operating area (AOA). The project will not result in any change to the operating characteristics of Boston-Logan International Airport. There will be no community disruptions. The project will not displace any housing and no relocation housing is required. The project is entirely confined to existing secure airfield areas and will not require any public road closure or relocation. The project will not result in any lighting or visual impacts on residential areas or the commercial use of any business properties. The project will not alter the use or character of Boston-Logan International Airport activity or any neighboring properties and to that extent is consistent with applicable town and regional plans. The project will not have a disproportionate impact to low-income or minority populations.
4.4 Light Emissions and Visual Effects

An existing aircraft hangar will be demolished and replaced with surface aircraft parking. No new light emission or adverse visual effects are expected.

4.5 Fish, Wildlife and Plants, Wetlands and Floodplains, Stormwater

The project area is not mapped as habitat for any state or federally listed species. There are no federal or state jurisdictional wetlands or surface waters in the immediate project area. The project site is located outside any coastal resource areas or any state-regulated 100-foot wetland buffer zone.

Based on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 25025C0082J, the Property is located outside the 100-year floodplain. There will be no changes in ground elevation and the project will have no impact on the 100-year floodplain. There will be no change in stormwater management.

4.6 Energy, Natural Resources and Solid Waste.

The project will consume energy and natural resources for demolition purposes, since it involves demolition and environmental remediation of a building containing asbestos in the roof paneling and PCBs in the slab joints. Any hazardous materials encountered during demolition will be handled in accordance with applicable state and Federal regulations. All soils and construction debris generated during building demolition will be recycled or disposed in accordance with all federal and state regulations.

4.7 Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste.

Asbestos and PCs that are known to exist in Building 16 will be removed and remediated in accordance with all federal and state regulations.

4.8 Historical, Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Resources

Building 16, also known as the former American Airlines Hangar, was constructed in 1953 for the airline to perform aircraft maintenance. Since at least 1986, American Airlines had only occupied approximately half of the hangar, with the remainder of the space used by other airport tenants primarily for ground service equipment and storage. An August 1986 Maintenance Hangar Survey states that “no hangar at Logan can fully enclose the A-300 or the B747 currently operating at Logan Airport, ...” That same report also noted that the original American Airlines hangar had been modified to accommodate higher tail height aircraft than the hangar was originally built for.
In discussing the proposed action, FAA directed Massport to commission a historical survey of Building 16. Massport contracted with the Public Archaeology Labs (PAL) for this study (Attachment A). PAL determined that the building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and on September 8, 2014, FAA issued a Section 106 “Finding of Adverse Effects to Historic Properties” (Attachment B – Correspondence/Public Involvement).

Massport submitted documentation to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)/State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) to determine what archival materials—including archival photographic documentation—might need to be preserved prior to the building demolition.

Based on the above finding, hangar demolition will have an adverse effect on cultural resources protected under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Attachment C contains and MOU between Massport, FAA and MHC detailing measures to mitigate adverse effects of hangar demolition. Mitigation measures include preparation of archival-quality photographs of Building 16 and environs and creation of a public display of the hangar, its history, unique features within the context of Logan in the early years of the hangar operation.

Hangar demolition will not have an impact on properties protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act. No land (including 4(f) land) is being taken or used by the proposed action. The project will not have an adverse impact on any publicly owned land, public park, recreation area, or wildlife or waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance, or an historic site of national, state, or local significance. The project site will remain in active aviation use as it has been for over 60 years.

No portion of Logan Airport, including the Building 16 site was acquired with Section 6(f) Land or Water Conservation Act funds.

4.9 Surface Transportation

Hangar demolition will have no effect on traffic congestion on local roads, and would not create ground traffic congestion, including during hangar demolition and site remediation.

4.10 Construction Impacts

Demolition of Building 16 and associated buildings will have temporary air quality and noise impacts. The building is currently unused so no operations will be displaced. Construction mitigation measures will be implemented throughout building demolition and apron reconstruction. Access to the construction site will be from existing landside roads to minimize and airside operations. Construction is expected to be conducted over 3-4 month period (weather permitting) and all work is planned to be completed by spring, 2015.

4.11 Cumulative Impacts

Replacement of a former aircraft hangar with surface aircraft parking will have no cumulative impacts on airport operations or adjacent facilities.
4.12 Mitigation

Building 16 has been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Demolition of Building 16 has been found to have an adverse effect to a historic property. As described in the attached MOA between the FAA, the MA Historical Commission and Massport (Attachment C), mitigation of the adverse effect of Building 16 demolition will be mitigated through archival documentation of the former American Airlines Hangar and creation of a permanent public display at Logan Airport describing in pictures and words the unique architectural and engineering features of Building 16.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Summary of Applicability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>No adverse effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Resources</td>
<td>Not present. This Project is not in the coastal zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compatible Land Use</td>
<td>Not affected. The Project would not change any land uses and would have no impact on overall airport operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmlands</td>
<td>No farmlands are present in the Project area. The Project site is a fully developed airport and there are no farmlands on or adjacent to the airport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish, Wildlife, Plants</td>
<td>There are no fish, wildlife or plants on or immediately adjacent to the project site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplains</td>
<td>Not present. The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) indicates that the project site is located outside of any mapped floodplain areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste</td>
<td>Hazardous materials and solid waste are discussed in section 4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources</td>
<td>See EA Section 4.8 and Attachment A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Emissions and Visual Impact</td>
<td>Not affected. The project would not significantly change the Airport's light emissions or the visual environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources, Energy Supply, &amp; Sustainability Design</td>
<td>Not affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise</td>
<td>Not affected. Temporary construction noise will be mitigated and hangar demolition will not change airport noise levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4(f) and Section 6(f)</td>
<td>Not present. There are no Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) lands present on the project site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socioeconomic Impacts, Environmental Justice</td>
<td>Not affected. The project would have no impact on airport operations or on off-airport properties. There would be no socioeconomic impacts. Jobs would be created as a result of facility demolition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Transportation</td>
<td>Not affected. This project would have no impact on surface transportation. Temporary traffic effects from construction would be insignificant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface Water, Water Quality and Stormwater</td>
<td>Not Affected. The project site is fully</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
developed and replacement of the hangar with surface aircraft parking will not change any stormwater conditions.

| Wetlands and Waterways | Not Affected. The project site is fully developed and there are no wetlands and waterways within the project footprint. |

5.0 Public Involvement and Coordination

Massport annually publishes an Environmental Data Report (EDR) or Environmental Status and Planning Report (ESPR). These annual reports present current environmental conditions at BOS, compare those to recent and projects future condition and also provide updates on current and planned airport projects. The ESPRs and EDRs are distributed to over 300 agency representatives and individuals each year and the documents are published on Massport’s website at www.massport.com. Discussion of the demolition and potential replacement of Building 16 has been included in the planning sections of the EDR/ESPR document for over five years. There have been no comments submitted on this planned action.

In addition to submitting the historic buildings report to the MA Historic Commission (MCH)/State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), letters of notification or proposed building demolition were submitted to the Advisory Commission on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC), the Boston Preservation Alliance (BPA) and the East Boston Eagle Hill Civic Association (EHCA). These were no comments received that opposed hangar demolition. Copies of these letters and responses are included in Attachment B.

Notice of proposed hangar demolition, including the MHC Project Notification form dated August 1, 2014 was posted on Massport’s website.


The Draft EA was posted on Massport’s website at: http://www.massport.com/environment/environmental-reporting/
Attachment A  Historic Building Survey
August 1, 2014

Brona Simon  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Re: Project Notification Form – Proposed American Hangar Demolition  
Boston Logan International Airport, East Boston, MA

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) is planning to demolish the former American Airlines Hangar located in the secured airport operations area (AOA) within the North Cargo area of Boston-Logan International Airport. As the attached Project Notification Form describes, this roughly 70,000 square foot (sf) hangar was designed for a different generation of aircraft and can no longer be used for its intended purpose of aircraft maintenance. In fact, the hangar’s former user, American Airlines, relocated its remaining maintenance activities to a different Logan hangar in February of 2014, leaving the hangar used only for limited equipment storage.

The hangar is proposed for demolition for several reasons. First, the hangar is not adequately configured or sized to accommodate maintenance of current commercial aircraft serving Logan Airport, a majority of which cannot fit inside the hangar. Second, removal of the structure will allow this the Authority to convert the space to additional aircraft apron, which has long been identified as a critical need for our space-constrained airport. Finally, the hangar has several structural deficiencies including the presence of hazardous materials (asbestos and PCBs). The building is under consideration for condemnation by Massport Fire/Rescue.

Because the hangar no longer is capable of serving its intended aircraft storage or maintenance purpose and since there is a critical need for aircraft parking area, remediation or restoration of the facility is neither cost-effective nor suitable to meet current airfield demands. Due to the presence of hazardous materials in the building, Massport will be initiating asbestos and pcb removal immediately.

In order to facilitate MHC’s review of the proposed building demolition, please find attached the Project Notification Form as well as an inventory of the building (Form B) completed by Public Archaeology Labs (PAL). Please contact me with any questions at (617) 568-3524 or sdalzell@massport.com. We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss this application at your earliest convenience.
Sincerely,

Massachusetts Port Authority

[Signature]

Stewart Dalzell, Deputy Director
Environmental Planning & Permitting

Enclosures

cc: S. Dennechuk, L. O’Connor/Massport
PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM

Project Name: American Airlines Hangar Demolition

Location / Address: 100 Service Road, Logan International Airport

City / Town: East Boston

Project Proponent

Name: Stewart Dalzell, Deputy Director Environmental Planning and Permitting

Address: Massachusetts Port Authority, Economic Planning and Development, One Harborside Drive Suite 200S

City/Town/Zip/Telephone: East Boston / 02128 / (617) 568-3524

Agency license or funding for the project (list all licenses, permits, approvals, grants or other entitlements being sought from state and federal agencies).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Name</th>
<th>Type of License or funding (specify)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAA</td>
<td>NEPA Categorical Exclusion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Description (narrative):
Massport proposes to demolish the defunct 70,000 sf American Airlines Hangar, which is no longer used for aircraft maintenance and is unused as of February of 2014. The hangar is proposed for demolition because 1) it is not adequate to accommodate maintenance of current aircraft, 2) the building contains asbestos and PCBs and would cost more to repair than to demolish and 3) removal of the structure will allow this the Authority to convert the space to additional apron, which is needed for overnight storage of aircraft.

Does the project include demolition? If so, specify nature of demolition and describe the building(s) which are proposed for demolition. Yes. The project involves demolition of the existing American Airlines hangar at Logan International Airport. The hangar is no longer necessary for Massport operations and would be more costly to repair than demolish due to the presence of asbestos and PCBs. The structure may be condemned in the near future.

Does the project include rehabilitation of any existing buildings? If so, specify nature of rehabilitation and describe the building(s) which are proposed for rehabilitation.
No.

Does the project include new construction? If so, describe (attach plans and elevations if necessary).
No.
To the best of your knowledge, are any historic or archaeological properties known to exist within the project’s area of potential impact? If so, specify.

What is the total acreage of the project area?

- Woodland ___0___________ acres
- Wetland _____0___________ acres
- Floodplain ___0___________ acres
- Open space ___0___________ acres
- Developed ___1.6___________ acres

Productive Resources:

- Agriculture __0_____________ acres
- Forestry ______0_____________ acres
- Mining/Extraction _0_________ acres

Total Project Acreage __1.6_________ acres

What is the acreage of the proposed new construction? __0_____________ acres

What is the present land use of the project area?
The present land use of the area is as equipment storage and airplane overnight parking (on the adjacent apron) as part of the operation of Logan International Airport.

Please attach a copy of the section of the USGS quadrangle map which clearly marks the project location.
attached.

This Project Notification Form has been submitted to the MHC in compliance with 950 CMR 71.00.

Signature of Person submitting this form: ________________________________ Date: ____________________

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City/Town/Zip: ______________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: __________________________________________________________________________________

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

950 CMR 71.00: M.G.L. c. 9, §§ 26-27C as amended by St. 1988, c. 254.
FORM B – BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Photograph

Insert here or on a Continuation Sheet a digital photograph (either color or black and white).

A paper photographic print (3½x5¼" or 4x6" must also be attached to the form in this space or to a Continuation Sheet. Prints, from a photo-quality inkjet printer, must use brand name paper and inks approved by MHC. Attached photographs should be clearly identified with town name and property address. See MHC's Guidelines for Inventory Form Photographs.

Locus Map

Recorded by: Quinn R. Stuart and John J. Daly
Organization: PAL
Date (month / year): June 2014

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

Assessor’s Number
USGS Quad
Area(s)
Form Number

Town/City: Boston, MA
Place: (neighborhood or village): General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport
Address: 100 Service Road, General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport
Historic Name: American Airlines Hangar (Building 16)
Uses: Present: Storage
Original: Airplane Hangar
Date of Construction: 1953-1955
Source: Newspaper articles, plans
Style/Form: Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern Arched Hangar
Architect/Builder: Samuel Glaser & Associates, architects; Goldberg, LeMessurier & Associates, engineers; Farina Brothers, contractors
Exterior Material:
   Foundation: poured concrete slab
   Wall/Trim: corrugated steel, brick, and glass
   Roof: corrugated steel panels
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (with dates):
Automobile Service Garage Addition, ca. 1975

Condition: Fair
Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ Date:

Acreage: 70,000 sq. ft.

Setting: The hangar is located on the northeast side of Service Road in the North Cargo Area at Logan Airport. It is surrounded by concrete and asphalt on the north, east, and west sides. A narrow strip of lawn and concrete sidewalk run along the south side of the hangar between the building and Service Road.
Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Site

The American Airlines Hangar (aka Building 16) is located in the North Cargo Area of Logan Airport, approximately 1,000 feet west of Terminal E and 250 feet east of Building 13 (the former American Airlines Sky Chefs Facility). Paved aircraft circulation and tarmac areas surround the north, south, and east sides of the hangar, with the hangar’s aircraft door elevations facing north and south onto concrete aprons. An aircraft taxiway runs near the east side of the building, and the tarmac immediately adjacent to the hangar along this wall is used as a service vehicle parking area. The west wall, which is the building’s street facade, faces Service Road and the Cell Phone Waiting Lot (formerly a landscaped lawn in front of the hangar entrance). The airport’s reinforced concrete security wall extends north and east from the ends of the building’s west wall, and a narrow strip of lawn and a concrete sidewalk occupy the building’s shallow street frontage.

American Airlines Hangar

Exterior

The American Airlines Hangar is a large, tied-arch (aka Quonset type) aircraft shelter set on a 357-by-242-foot footprint with a classic, tripartite half-shed or lean-to organization: the visually dominant arched aircraft bay flanked by two wings, designated on the original plans as the West Lean-To and the East Lean-To. The aircraft bay’s arched roof, which rises to a maximum height of approximately 85 feet above grade, dominates the building, partially covering parts of the adjoining lean-to and having projecting door enclosures that also flank the adjoining wings. An Automobile Service Garage, which is an addition on the east side of the building, has an approximately 125-by-35-foot rectangular plan and is connected to the Hangar’s east elevation via a short, one-story, concrete block hyphen. The hangar and lean-tos are of concrete and steel frame construction enclosed with masonry walls and buff brick cladding. The Automobile Service Garage is a steel frame building clad in concrete block. The entire building rests on a concrete slab foundation.

Architecturally, the hangar’s design is of utilitarian/industrial mid-twentieth century aesthetic, with modest Mid-Century-Modern stylistic influences. There is a heavy aesthetic emphasis on the articulation of wall planes accomplished through the contrast of broad expanses of buff brick against flush-mounted ribbon windows and concrete walls, and also through subtle planar shifts in the relationships of adjacent wall planes. The unrelieved wall surfaces emphasize the sculptural volumes of the aircraft bay and its door pockets, which contrast with and visually push against the flanking lean-tos. The use of industrial materials (namely brick and steel) is emphasized in a fashion typical for the style and is also appropriate to the function of the building.

The segmental-arch aircraft bay has a 265-foot-wide (east-west) by 242-foot-long footprint with the east and west sides covered by the lean-tos and the north and south end walls almost entirely taken up by the doors. The roof is clad in corrugated steel panels, and deep overhanging soffits clad in sheet metal overhang the end walls. A small antenna array and accompanying steel service stairs are mounted on the west roof slope. The electrically powered retractable doors occupy almost the entirety of the north and south elevations and provide a 40-foot vertical opening. Each door consists of two sets of six steel frame door leaves clad with welded sheet steel panels and expansive wire reinforced glass curtain walls, which are the aircraft bay’s only fenestration. Paneled steel personnel doors and vertical lift vehicle doors are inset in the door leaves. Flanged steel door wheels

1 The hangar is sited on a northwest-southeast axis. Original architectural plans designate the lean-to wings on the buildings as “east” and “west”, so this convention is adopted for the building description.
roll on tracks embedded in the hangar’s apron. The doors collapse into flat roofed, brick clad door pockets that project from the four corners of the aircraft bay. Above the doors, the aircraft bay walls are corrugated steel. Steel stanchions for now missing American Airlines corporate signs are fastened to the wall panels. A flat canopy with a pipe-rail catwalk runs across the top of the door, and flood lights are mounted above the catwalk. Enamled steel signs reading “Building 16” are bolted on the side walls of the door pockets.

A small one-story, one-by-one-bay storage room, designated the Sanitary Disposal Room on historical plans, projects from the west door pocket of the aircraft bay’s north wall. This shelter has a flat concrete slab roof clad in tar and gravel and deep overhanging eaves topped with aluminum flashing. The masonry walls are clad in buff brick and rest on a concrete slab. Vertical lift vehicle doors occupy the shelter’s east and west walls. The east door is wood; the west door is corrugated metal. The shelter’s north end wall is blank. As built, only the roof of the Sanitary Disposal Room was connected to the hangar – its walls were free-standing. Wood frame and plywood enclosures now cover the originally open passage between the building and the north wall of the hangar.

The West Lean-To is a substantial, two-story, 65-foot-wide wing with a rectangular footprint running the entire length of the hangar. The flat tar-and-gravel roof has a flush mounted aluminum cornice and internal gutters. The long west wall faces Service Road and consists of a buff brick first story topped by a cantilevered second story supported on a tapered concrete slab. The hangar’s primary pedestrian entrance is centered on the wall and consists of a pair of aluminum doors flanked to the west by a sidelight and topped with a transom light, all within a bronzed aluminum channel frame. An angled aluminum clad canopy shelters the entry and is supported by two steel struts extending from the second story cantilever. Continuous steel ribbon windows with operable hopper sash are mounted high on the first story, directly below the overhang, and run the entire length of the wall. A second, shorter ribbon window is set in the wall to the north of the entry. Both window systems are placed almost flush with the wall plane and surrounded by narrow steel frames. To the south of the entry is a loading dock with two vertical lift steel roll doors opening onto the sidewalk. The second story is entirely clad in a windowed, steel frame curtain wall. Each bay of the wall consists of (bottom to top): a painted steel panel, a pair of rectangular awning windows, and a fixed plate glass window. The glass is coated with a dark tint. The north and south walls are also clad in brick, with slightly recessed bays at the intersection with the aircraft bay door pockets. The north wall contains three garage bays separated by concrete posts and flanked by a steel slab personnel door. The second floor contains a large louvered vent flanked by a steel sash window. The east wall contains a single narrow ribbon window on the first story. The recessed bays on the north and west elevations bays are clad in brick on the first floor and concrete on the second story. Their first stories contain steel slab personnel doors and their second stories and have steel framed window panels.

The East Lean-To is a narrow one-story wing that is 18 feet wide and extends the entire length of the east wall of the hangar. The wing has a flat concrete slab roof with a tar-and-gravel coating, internal gutters, and a concrete fascia flashed with aluminum. The buff brick walls rest on an exposed concrete slab. Ribbon windows assembled from rectangular fixed and sliding steel sash units run below the fascia and are interrupted by steel slab emergency exit doors. The windows are flush mounted with the walls and have a continuous, shallow aluminum sill. Concrete utility vaults project from the foundation slab at grade.

The Automobile Service Garage is a 3- by-4-bay, one-story, high-bay concrete block addition used for repair and upkeep of aircraft service vehicles. The flat roof is sheathed with rubber roll roofing and has an aluminum-clad cornice. Four sheet metal vents project from the roof interior and a large sheet metal HVAC enclosure is mounted on the west corner of the roof deck. The building faces east toward the taxiway, and the east wall contains four vertical lift roll doors – one original steel unit and three replacement vinyl units. The south wall contains a steel slab personnel door and three irregularly spaced window openings on the second floor that are punched into the wall surface and fitted with aluminum sash awning units. The north wall contains two steel vertical lift roll doors flanked by a steel slab personnel door. A double-hung vinyl replacement window is mounted high on the wall in an original opening above the personnel door.
The interior of the hangar proper is a single 265-foot-wide by 242-foot-long open-plan bay with approximately 70 feet of clearance from grade to the crown of the arches. Framing is exposed throughout the building. The frame consists of eight massive, built-up, riveted steel girder arch ribs, spaced 40 feet on-center (except for the end pairs, which are spaced 20 feet on-center). The ribs have a 50 inch web and an 18 inch flange. The ribs terminate at hinges bolted to concrete skewbacks that are located in rooms of the two lean-tos. The tied-arches’ tension members are placed below the floor slab and consist of prestressed concrete ties with a 20-by-20-inch section. Three 1 3/8-inch steel tensioning cables run through the beam and are anchored into the skewbacks. The girders are stiffened with longitudinal Pratt trusses (which are covered with sheet metal draft curtains) and diagonal steel I-beam cross bracing. The girders and a secondary system of I-beam ribs resting on the trusses support steel purlins, to which is bolted the roof deck. The ceiling is a corrugated steel roof pan, the east and west side walls are concrete block, and the floor is a poured concrete slab. Walls above the aircraft doors are assembled from a steel I-beam frame braced with diagonal struts fastened to the arch ribs. A combination of rolling and hinged metal-clad doors provides access from the aircraft bay into the East and West Lean-Tos. Halogen pendant lights illuminate the interior. De-icing units and other maintenance vehicles are currently stored in the bay.

The East Lean-To interior is organized as a single row of rooms divided from one another by painted concrete block walls and the exposed poured concrete and steel frame. Ceilings consist of the coffered underside of the pre-cast concrete roof slab. Floors are a poured concrete slab. The rooms at either end of the East Lean-To are topped with storage mezzanines. All of the rooms are currently vacant.

The first floor of the West Lean-To consists of an entry foyer flanked by two groups of interconnected storage and service rooms, each with a different irregular plan. The foyer has an acoustic tile drop ceiling with recessed fluorescent strip lighting. The walls are painted concrete block and gypsum board, and the floor is vinyl tile. A free-standing, poured concrete dog-leg stair with welded pipe railings rises from the west side of the foyer. The architectural treatment of the storage and service rooms is similar to that of the East Lean-To, but some partitions are assembled from studs and gypsum board. Steel slab doors provide circulation between the rooms. The second floor is organized along a longitudinal (north-east running) double-loaded corridor. The corridor has an acoustic tile drop ceiling, concrete block walls, and a vinyl tile floor. Multiple steel slab doors access office suites and a large crew locker room. Modular metal and glass partitions divide the office suites into work areas. The ceiling tiles, carpet, and trim have been removed. The West Lean-To’s first story rooms were originally used for storage and shops and are all now vacant. The second story rooms were used for offices, crew break rooms, and storage. They are also vacant.

A concrete block corridor extends through the East Lean-To into the Automobile Service Garage. This space contains four high-bay service areas and a mezzanine with a stock enclosure and office. The architectural treatment is strictly functional, with an exposed corrugated roof pan and bar trusses, painted concrete block walls, and a painted concrete floor. Halogen lighting pendants are suspended from the ceiling. The stock enclosure is a chain link pen and the office is enclosed with modular steel panels. No equipment is retained in the building.

Alterations and Integrity

A review of historic plans on file with Massport shows that alterations to the American Airlines Hangar have been modest. The majority of the changes were upgrades and modifications to the building’s heating and cooling, communications, and electrical infrastructure. The most substantial alteration was the addition of the Automobile Service Garage between 1971 and 1978. Circa 1983, the Automobile Service Garage, one suite in the West Lean-To, and one room in the East Lean-To were remodeled. Prior to 1986, a cutout was made in the west elevation above the hangar doors to accommodate the tails of larger aircraft. These cutouts contain doors made of a similar material to the exterior cladding. About 2000, four rooms on the first floor of the West Lean-To were remodeled for use as Aircraft Maintenance Offices. The glass of the hangar doors and ribbon windows was partially replaced in 1990. Additional undocumented changes observed in the hangar and its setting include the removal of the majority of the west lawn between 1995 and 2000, the removal of the American Airlines signs, replacement of vehicle doors as
The alterations to the American Airlines Hangar have resulted in minor changes to the setting of the building and its associations with American Airlines. The discontinued use of the hangar for aircraft servicing has also resulted in a modest diminishment to the feeling of the hangar as an aviation-related facility. However, the hangar still retains its overall integrity. The building is in fair condition. Condition problems include roof leaks in the Lean-Tos that have damaged interior finishes, broken and missing window panes, extensive cracking and missing bricks in the exterior masonry walls, severely degraded and missing exterior metal trim (including the lower panels of the aircraft doors and hangar roof soffits), and latent hazardous materials consisting of asbestos and PCB’s.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Civil Aviation Boom

The American Airlines Hangar at Logan International Airport (Logan) was constructed at the dawning of the jet-age of commercial airlines in the post-World War II era. During the war, civilian aviation had virtually ceased, but research and development of aircraft and technology advanced substantially during war time. In the decades after World War II, American airline operators in the United States, including American Airlines, invested substantial sums of money to advancing aircraft technology, far surpassing the air transit operators of Europe. Civilian aircraft developed after the war benefited from improved navigation technology and communications equipment. Their fuel capacity was four or five times that of the pre-war period, allowing continuous transcontinental flights without re-fueling, which significantly shortened trips. Pressurized cabins permitted higher altitude flying and, along with improved aircraft motors, contributed to a smoother and quieter passenger experience than in the pre-World War II period. The new aircraft became so successful that United States airline companies began to dominate the long-range transportation market. As a result, the demand for air transportation steadily grew both for passengers and freight and won over the rail transportation market. By the early 1950s, aircraft took over as the major means of long-range travel in the country (Chant 1978).

In the early 1950s, American Airlines used a fleet of the leading commercial aircraft of the period, prop-driven Convair 240 and 340 aircraft for shorter flights and Douglas DC6 and DC7 aircraft for long-range trips. These planes could hold, on average, 70 passengers and fly faster than their predecessors for both intercontinental and transcontinental flights. Air carriers, including American, Northeast, Eastern, and Trans World (TWA) airlines, introduced the “coach class,” which became popular among middle-class travelers as a more affordable way to fly. The combination of new plane designs that could hold a larger number of passengers, the introduction of lower fare prices, and the speed in which one could reach their destination led to a surge in travelers in the early and mid-1950s. Existing airports, including La Guardia in New York, NY, Midway in Chicago, IL, Newark in Newark, NJ, and Logan in Boston, MA, expanded their facilities to accommodate the growing number of aircraft. The Daily Boston Globe reported that, “in nine years, the number of scheduled aircraft using Logan Airport annually has grown more than 60 percent, from 55,823 in 1948 to 92,145 in 1955” (Tarbi 1957:19). Several new airports, including International in Los Angeles, CA, O’Hare in Chicago, IL, and Idlewild (later known as JFK) in New York, NY, were constructed in the 1950s with innovative designs for larger terminals and higher-capacity runways. In 1958, the United States long-range airline operators, including American, began integrating the newly launched jet-powered planes into their existing fleets with the Boeing 707. The introduction of new larger, heavier aircraft required longer runways and larger facilities, which, along with the larger volumes of travelers, spurred another phase of renovation and upgrade programs at major airports across the country; including at Logan Airport in Boston, MA (Chant 1978; Daily Boston Globe 1953; Solberg 1979:361-363; Tarbi 1957:19).

American Airlines

In 1929, the Aviation Corporation was created to acquire small, young aviation companies across the United States. This corporation consolidated into American Airways, Inc., renamed American Airlines, Inc. (American), in 1930. By the end of the decade, American was the nation’s largest domestic passenger air carrier, headed by President C.R. Smith. Over the course of
Development at Logan in the 1950s and 1960s

The Lt. General Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport originated as a small military airfield in the early 1920s used primarily by the Massachusetts Air Guard and Army Air Corps. In 1925, the first commercial hangar was constructed by the Boston Aircraft Corporation. The Massachusetts Legislature took control of the airport from the military in 1929 and leased it to the City of Boston. Improvements were completed in the 1930s and early 1940s, including lengthening runways, paving access roads, landscaping, and the filling of approximately 2,000 acres of land. By the end of the 1940s, the passenger volume at Logan lagged behind other airports and it “decreased from ninth to twentieth among airports in the United States in terms of flight operations” (VHB 1993:A3.3). The facilities built earlier in the century were unable to accommodate the passenger volume of larger planes introduced after World War II. Logan management constructed the Boutwell Terminal in 1948-1949 to help alleviate the growing population of air travelers and provide the maximum number of plane loading positions. An eight-story air traffic control tower was built on the south side of the passenger terminal in 1955. When constructed, the tower had an observation room and antenna on the roof. Construction of the current air traffic control tower in the 1970s resulted in removal of the observation room and conversion of the “old tower” to administration offices. The first permanent heating plant system was built throughout the airport during this time of great expansion (VHB 1993:A3.1-4; Vollmer Associates 1993).

New, larger hangars constructed at Logan in the 1950s accommodated the growing size of passenger and cargo fleets. A Daily Boston Globe article in 1957 describes the need to construct four, 500,000 square-foot hangars for Northeast, Eastern, National and TWA, which were all in the process of expanding their airplane fleets, and the airlines’ 1920s hangars were grossly inadequate for their needs. Northeast Airlines insisted on the construction of a hangar at Logan or the airline would be forced to base their new planes elsewhere. The article reported that “only one hangar has been constructed at Logan [between 1948 and 1955]... currently occupied by American Airlines,” and “the last important phase of hangar development took place back in 1928-29” (Tarbi 1957:19). The hangar built for American in 1953-1955 was one-and-one-half times the size of the five 1920s hangars combined. By 1959, the state accepted bids for the construction of four additional hangars at Logan airport (Daily Boston Globe 1958:44; Tarbi 1957:19).

In 1960, as larger jet-powered planes dominated long-range travel, the main terminal building was expanded to include a new terminal, Terminal C, at the north end of the building and T-shaped loading piers off the main terminal space. In 1968, a parking garage was built immediately west of the main terminal to accommodate the increased numbers of automobiles for passengers and staff at the airport. In 1969, the Boston Globe reported that between 1959 and 1969 new additions to the airport included the following:

- A new general aviation headquarters space for such craft... new runways, taxiways and plane parking aprons; installation of modern flying and landing equipment; a new international terminal (it has had two additions), a North terminal for United, Trans World and Northeast Airlines; construction of four passenger finger piers for all domestic air carriers... a new control tower; a new restaurant; a new passenger terminal with parking for more than 1000 autos for Eastern airlines; hangars for Eastern, American, TWA, Northeast Airlines; air cargo
freight facilities; a three-story, 3,180-car garage; a two-level roadway system; maintenance and fire protective facilities; and ultra modern power and air conditioning plant, and the beginning of a $125 million development of the Bird Island Flats into a large jet plane hangar and maintenance complex (Hammond 1969:A3).

American Airlines Hangar

In the early 1950s, American Airlines came to an agreement with the Massachusetts State Management Board to construct a hangar at Logan Airport. The proposed hangar would cost $2.5 million, which would be completely financed by the airline, and leased by American for a 25-year term. The American Hangar, now known as Building 16, was constructed in 1953-1955 during the expansion of Logan Airport for commercial passenger service. It was the first new permanent hangar constructed at Logan in approximately 20 years. Numerous hangars were constructed during the late 1920s, but they were too small and in poor condition by the 1950s. The American hangar was designed to be one of the largest and “most modern on the Atlantic seaboard” with the capacity to hold “six two-engine Convairs or four four-engine DC-6s” (Boston Daily Globe 1953). The design also included space for maintenance shops, administrative offices, and classrooms within concrete-block lean-tos on either side of the hangar. In 1953, American president C. R. Smith attended the hangar ground-breaking ceremony with then Massachusetts governor Christian Herter (Boston Daily Globe 1953; Daily Boston Globe 1955:6; Tarbi 1957:19).

The American Hangar was designed by Modernist architect Samuel Glaser (1902-1983) of the prominent Boston-based firm of Samuel Glaser Associates. Glaser earned both his Bachelors and Masters of Architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1925 and 1926. He established Samuel Glaser Associates in 1930 and designed multiple private residences in the greater Boston area through the 1930s and into the 1940s. Glaser also designed the terminal’s “old tower” and a hangar for Northeast Airlines (still extant) in 1959 located north of the American Hangar. Glaser Associates designed facilities at several military bases throughout Massachusetts, including three utility and fuel storage facilities at the Boeing Michigan Aeronautical Research Center (BOMARC) at Otis Air Force Base in Sandwich (SDW.1014, SDW.1016, and SDW.1017) (all demolished) and the landscape plan at the Natick Research and Development Laboratories in Natick (NAT.D). Glaser, who retired from his firm in 1975, is best known for his design of the John F. Kennedy Federal Building (1966) (BOS.1617), Government Center Parking Garage (1966) (BOS.2024), and the Woolworths Building (1967) (BOS.2117), all in Boston. He is also credited as the first architect to use airspace over highways for construction, as practiced in his design of the Shaws/Star Market (1963) over the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) on Austin Street, Newton, MA (AIA 1956, 1962, and 1970; Boston Globe 1963:52; New York Times 1983).

The American Hangar’s structural system was engineered by Goldberg, LeMessurier & Associates of Boston, MA. Albert Goldberg (1909-2000) was born and raised in the greater Boston area and earned his bachelor’s degree at MIT. William LeMessurier (1926-2007) attended Harvard University and later earned his Master’s degree in building engineering and constructing at MIT in 1953. LeMessurier worked part-time for Goldberg while attending MIT and joined the firm full-time after graduation. He became a partner by the mid-1950s. The partnership lasted until 1961, when they split becoming Albert Goldberg Associates and LeMessurier Associates. Albert Goldberg Associates continued practicing in Boston, involved with the construction of the Government Center Parking Garage (1966), until Goldberg retired in 1974. LeMessurier established LeMessurier Associates with partners William Thoen, Emil Hervol, and James Collins, which is still functioning under the name “LeMessurier” in Boston. LeMessurier became world-renowned as one of America’s best known skyscraper designers. LeMessurier Associates engineered, among others, Boston City Hall (1961-1968) (BOS.1657) and the State Street Bank Building in Boston, the Citicorp Tower in New York City, NY, and several high-rises in Egypt and United Arab Emirates (Boston Globe 2000:B6; Weingardt 2012).

Tied Rib Arch Hangar Construction

The American Hangar at Logan utilizes a steel tied-arch frame incorporating two-hinged steel girder arch ribs and prestressed cable ties. At the time of its completion, the Daily Boston Globe reported the hangar was “considered to be the biggest hangar of its type... [and] is unique in design, drawing its support from underground tensioned steel rods imbedded in concrete beams, a radical departure from the conventional type [of hangar] erected in this part of the country” (Daily Boston Globe 1955:6).
Hangars were necessary from the earliest years of powered flight as a place to shelter aircraft maintenance activities or to simply house the aircraft while not in use. The essential problem was to provide space of sufficient clear span to house the aircraft fuselage and wings. Airport and aircraft operators at first built simple sheds or barn-like enclosures, but soon hangar engineers adopted the structural systems of the arch and truss, which were already widely employed in other industrial building types and in bridges, to provide clear span areas of sufficient size to house the aircraft of the day. By the late 1920s, hangar engineers had developed several hangar forms with arches and trusses of wood, metal, and concrete that were codified and promulgated in professional trade journals and publications (Duke 1927:25-28; Eggebeem 2007:22).

Among the structural systems employed for hangars was the tied arch, in which a horizontal member (the ties, or beams) acting in tension, connect the two ends of an arch. The ties, which counteracted the thrusting of the arch, minimized the bearing requirements of the arch abutments and thereby allowed for smaller, less costly abutments and, in smaller buildings and structures, the use of prefabricated arch ribs or trusses. First recognized in the Renaissance period, the tied arch was popularized in the United States by Squire Whipple (1804-1888), who introduced his “bowstring” arched truss bridge in 1840. Whipple’s design and numerous variations introduced by other engineers were widely used during the nineteenth century for bridges, as well as train sheds and other curved vault structures of up to about 100 feet in span. This form of truss, mounted atop wood or metal wall framing, was commonly used in twentieth-century airplane hangars and reached spans of up to 200 feet. Improved structural modeling and the introduction of high-strength steel and reinforced concrete prompted engineers to revisit the tied-arch system for structures of even longer span which, rather than employing a truss, would be combined with solid arch ribs (Aaron 2011:Appendix C; Condit 1961:37-39; Duke 1927:25-28; Froesch and Prokosch 1946:192; Parsons Brinckerhoff and Engineering and Industrial Heritage 2005:3-22, 3-45, 3-69).

Rib arch structures with arches that continue all the way to grade had emerged in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century for use in balloon train sheds and became popular throughout the twentieth century as an ideal form to support vaulted roofs of wide spans, especially in geographical areas where wind and snow loads were a factor. As the length and wingspan of civilian and military aircraft increased in the 1930s and 1940s, the rib arch hangar, built with two or three hinges, became one of the favored solutions for both civilian and military hangars due to the practically unlimited open spans that could be created to house aircraft. Also, at spans exceeding 250 feet the cost effectiveness of trusses, arched or otherwise, diminished. Most rib arch structures utilized large abutments or battered piles to take the thrust of the arches, but where soil conditions did not provide sufficient bearing strength for cost-effective or practical abutments (as with the fills at Logan Airport), engineers returned to the tied arch system and incorporated the arch ties below a building’s floor slab. Hangar engineers during the 1940s and 1950s responding to the demands of increased aircraft sizes designed and built a series of ever-larger rib arch hangers in their traditional and tied arch variants with spans comparable to or exceeding the American Hangar. In Massachusetts, some of the largest documented aircraft hangars are five buildings of steel-arch construction measuring approximately 272 feet by 229 feet in plan and built in 1941 at the Westover Air Base in Chicopee, MA in 1941 (MHC Nos. CHI.737-CHI.741). The largest recorded hangar using a two-hinged arch system was the Navy’s Coastal Patrol Blimp hangar in New Jersey constructed during World War II that had a clear span of 328 feet and a height of 184 feet. Almost all the of the tied, rib arch hangars constructed around the time of the American Hangar used unstressed steel tie rods. Research has identified only one other contemporary hangar in the United States (completed in 1953 at an unspecified Air Force base) from the 1950s that used prestressed steel cable in the arch ties. This was a means to eliminate elongation that would have occurred had standard structural steel tie bars been used (Aaron 2011:4.14; Campbell 1953:48; Condit 1961:37-39; Engineering News Record 1954:33, 1956:42; Froesch and Prokosch 1946:192, 198; Parsons 1995; Pedrotty et al. 1999; Li 1960:94-104).
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1. View northwest of the south and east elevations.
2. View southwest of the north and east elevations.

3. View northeast at the west and south elevations.
4. View southeast at the north and west elevations.

5. Detail, view northwest of south elevation doors.
6. Interior of aircraft hangar bay, view looking northeast.

7. First floor, interior of West Lean to, looking southeast.
8. First floor, interior of West Lean-to lobby, looking west.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

☑ Individually eligible  ☐ Eligible only in a historic district

☐ Contributing to a potential historic district  ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:  ☑ A  ☐ B  ☑ C  ☐ D

Criteria Considerations:  ☐ A  ☐ B  ☐ C  ☐ D  ☐ E  ☐ F  ☐ G

Statement of Significance by  Quinn R. Stuart and John J. Daly, Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The American Airlines Hangar at Logan International Airport is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local and possibly state levels under Criterion A in the area of transportation and under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and engineering. Under Criterion A, the hangar is significant due its associations with the expansion of civil aviation at Logan Airport in the mid-twentieth century – an important trend in Boston’s development. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts constructed the American Hangar in 1953-1955 for lease by American Airlines during the commercial aviation boom after World War II. The hangar was the first major new infrastructure improvement to be constructed by the state at Logan and the first building constructed during an approximately 14 year-long building boom at the airfield that included additional hangars, a passenger terminal, and an aircraft control tower. This expansion program would solidify Logan Airport’s status as the state’s most important civilian air terminal. American Airlines, which was one of the “big four” airlines of the period, was one of the earliest civilian carriers to establish a presence at Logan Airport and was in the midst of a substantial expansion of both transcontinental and intercontinental air travel at the time that it requested the construction of its Logan hangar. The hangar, whose importance to the American Airlines was recognized by its president, C.R. Smith, was designed to house the airlines most advanced aircraft of the 1950s, along with corporate offices and maintenance shops.

Under Criterion C, the American Airlines Hangar is significant as a work of prominent Boston architect Samuel Glaser; as an engineering work by the firm of Goldberg, LeMessurier & Associates; and as an outstanding example of rib arch construction incorporating unusual prestressed ties. Although his contributions to Boston architecture have not been fully evaluated, Modernist architect Samuel Glaser (1902-1983) is known for designing a number of landmark structures whose Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern and sometimes Brutalist aesthetic have made a significant impact in Boston. Apparently favored for the design of large-scale infrastructure, his works include a second hangar and the earlier air
traffic control tower at Logan Airport, John F. Kennedy Federal Building (1966), Government Center Parking Garage (1966), and the Woolworths Building (1967). The engineering firm of Goldberg, LeMessurier & Associates brought together the talents of Albert Goldberg (1909-2000) and William LeMessurier (1926-2007), both important Boston engineers. LeMessurier would later achieve renown as one of America’s greatest designers of tall buildings. The hangar embodies the distinctive characteristics of rib arch hangar design from the mid twentieth century and, because of its size and use of prestressed ties, is an outstanding example of the structural type. Although not the largest of the type to be built during the period, it is one of the largest in New England and exemplifies the spirit of hangar design during the 1950s, when engineers were seeking to achieve ever-larger clear spans to accommodate the most advanced passenger aircraft of the day.

The American Hangar is in fair condition but retains its integrity, having undergone few modifications that detract from its associations with passenger transportation or from its status as an important engineering and architectural work. The documented alterations to the Hangar include heating and cooling and utilities upgrades, minor window replacement, the Automobile Service Garage addition, and modifications to the setting of the building. The building is no longer used for aircraft maintenance, but its design and overall setting at Logan Airport convey its historical function and therefore its important associations.
Attachment B Correspondence/Public Involvement
September 4, 2014

Richard Doucette
Federal Aviation Administration
12 New England Executive Park
Burlington, MA 01803

RE: Logan Airport Demolition of American Airlines Hangar (Building 16), 100 Service Road, Boston, MA; MHC# RC.56575

Dear Mr. Doucette:

MassPort has submitted a Project Notification Form (PNF) for the proposed project referenced above, which was received at this office on August 4, 2014. The staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) have reviewed the information submitted and have the following comments.

The proposed project consists of the demolition of the American Airlines Hangar, located at 100 Service Road at Logan International Airport. Staff of the MHC understand that this project requires approval by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and as such, is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800).

It is in the opinion of MHC staff that the American Airlines Hangar does appear to meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Hangar is significant under Criterion A for its historical associations with the development of the civilian aviation industry generally, and with Logan Airport and the city of Boston in particular. The Hangar is significant under Criterion C for its architecture and engineering, as a utilitarian and industrial design that shows Modern influences in its use of articulated wall planes, expanses of glass, and in its use of steel, brick, and concrete. It is the work of prominent Modernist architect Samuel Glaser of Boston, known for large-scale industrial and institutional commissions as well as smaller-scale single and multifamily residential design in the mid-20th century, and the structural engineers Goldberg LeMessurier and Associates, also of Boston. The Hangar is an outstanding example of rib-arch construction, incorporating unusual prestressed ties. William LeMessurier worked on this project and others while a student at MIT; in his later career he would be one of the nation’s preeminent designers of skyscrapers.

The MHC looks forward to receipt and review of the FAA’s identification and evaluation efforts and determination of effect.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800) and M.G.L. Chapter 9, sections 26-27C (950 CMR 71.00). Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Sherva of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Stewart Dalzell, MassPort
Boston Landmarks Commission
September 8, 2014

Ms. Brona Simon  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Massachusetts Port Authority has proposed the demolition of the American Airlines Hangar at Boston-Logan Airport. This project is considered a National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 “undertaking”.

The details of the project are described in the Project Notification Form submitted to your office. The potential National Register eligibility of the hangar is described in the “Form B” also submitted to your office. This information indicates the hangar is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C.

After review of the relevant information, the FAA issues a Section 106 “Finding of Adverse Effects to Historic Properties”. Massport and the FAA are ready to meet at your convenience to begin discussions of a potential Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This MOA would specify appropriate mitigation commitments. Please contact Stewart Dalzell of Massport, or myself, so we can begin the process of drafting an MOA. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Doucette  
Manager of Environmental Programs  
FAA New England Region, Airports Division

CC: Stewart Dalzell, Massport
September 16, 2014

Greg Galer, Executive Director
Boston Preservation Alliance
Old City Hall
45 School Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Galer:

At the request of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is sending you notification of the Massachusetts Port Authority’s (MassPort) intent to demolish a hangar at Boston-Logan International Airport. The American Airlines Hangar is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but the MassPort has a need to redevelop the property. Please see the attached results of the historic building survey, for more information on the hangar.

As part of our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the FAA anticipates entering into an agreement with the MHC and Massport to mitigate the impacts of this undertaking. Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments or concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Doucette
Manager of Environmental Programs
FAA New England Region

CC: Stewart Dalzell, Massport
September 18, 2014

Mr. Richard Doucette  
Environmental Program Manager  
Federal Aviation Administration  
New England District  
12 New England Executive Park  
Burlington, MA 01803

Ref:  Proposed Demolition of the American Airlines Hangar (Building 16) located at 100 Service Road  
Logan International Airport, Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Doucette:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has received your notification and supporting documentation regarding the adverse effects of the referenced undertaking on a property or properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Based upon the information provided, we have concluded that Appendix A, Criteria for Council Involvement in Reviewing Individual Section 106 Cases, of our regulations, “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR Part 800), does not apply to this undertaking. Accordingly, we do not believe that our participation in the consultation to resolve adverse effects is needed. However, if we receive a request for participation from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), affected Indian tribe, a consulting party, or other party, we may reconsider this decision. Additionally, should circumstances change, and it is determined that our participation is needed to conclude the consultation process, please notify us.

Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(b)(1)(iv), you will need to file the final Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), developed in consultation with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and any other consulting parties, and related documentation with the ACHP at the conclusion of the consultation process. The filing of the MOA, and supporting documentation with the ACHP is required in order to complete the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for providing us with the notification of adverse effect. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Ms. Najah Duvall-Gabriel at 202-517-0210 or via e-mail at ngabriel@achp.gov.

Sincerely,

LaShavio Johnson  
Historic Preservation Technician  
Office of Federal Agency Programs
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 25, 2014

Richard Doucette
Federal Aviation Administration
12 New England Executive Park
Burlington, MA 01803

RE: Logan Airport Demolition of American Airlines Hangar (Building 16), 100 Service Road, Boston, MA; MHC# RC.56575

Dear Mr. Doucette:

Thank you for submitting information for the project referenced above, which was received at this office on September 10, 2014. The staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) have reviewed the information submitted and have the following comments.

The proposed project consists of the demolition of the American Airlines Hangar, located at 100 Service Road at Logan International Airport.

The MHC concurs with the Federal Aviation Administration’s determination that the American Airlines Hangar meets the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and that the proposed project will have an “adverse effect” (36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(i)) on the American Airlines Hangar through its demolition.

As you know, the FAA must identify and seek the comments of consulting parties and the public pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(c), 800.3(f), and 800.6(a)(2-4). Please submit copies of the information submitted to MHC to the Boston Landmarks Commission, the Boston Preservation Alliance, and the Eagle Hill Civic Association for their review and comment and consider any comments that they might have (36 CFR 800.3(f)). The MHC also reminds the FAA to notify the public of the proposed project (36 CFR 800.3(e)).

The MHC, office of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), looks forward to consultation to explore prudent and feasible alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect on the American Airlines Hangar (36 CFR 800.6).

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800). Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Sherva of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

 Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Stewart Dalzell, MassPort
Boston Landmarks Commission
Boston Preservation Alliance
Debra Cave, Eagle Hill Civic Association

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SEP 26 2014
MASSPORT AUTHORITY
EP&D DEPARTMENT

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc
From: richard.doucette@faa.gov
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:41 PM
To: Dalzell, Stewart
Cc: Elizabeth.Sherva@state.ma.us
Subject: FW: Notification of intent to demolish hanger at Logan

FYI.

Richard Doucette
Environmental Program Manager
Airports Division, FAA New England Region
781-238-7613

From: Ellen Lipsey [mailto:ellen.lipsey@boston.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 12:25 PM
To: Doucette, Richard (FAA)
Subject: Notification of intent to demolish hanger at Logan

Dear Mr. Doucette,

Thank you for the notification concerning the intent to demolish the American Airlines Hangar at Logan Airport. While the hanger is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, both the FAA and Massport are exempt from local zoning review, therefore the Boston Landmarks Commission will not be reviewing the demolition under Article 85 of the Boston zoning code. The Boston Landmarks Commission will not be commenting further on this project.

Sincerely,

Ellen Lipsey
Director of Historic Preservation
Executive Director, Boston Landmarks Commission
Environmental and Energy Services, Room 709
Boston City Hall
Boston, MA 02201
Ellen.Lipsey@Boston.Gov
617-635-3850
September 29, 2014

Deborah Cave  
Eagle Hill Civic Association  
106 White Street  
East Boston, MA 02128

Dear Ms. Cave:

At the request of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is sending you notification of the Massachusetts Port Authority’s (MassPort) intent to demolish a hangar at Boston-Logan International Airport. The American Airlines Hangar is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but MassPort has a need to redevelop the property. Please see the attached results of the historic building survey, for more information on the hangar.

As part of our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the FAA anticipates entering into an agreement with the MHC and Massport to mitigate the impacts of this undertaking. Please feel free to contact me if you have any comments or concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Doucette  
Manager of Environmental Programs  
FAA New England Region

CC: Stewart Dalzell, Massport
October 16, 2014

Richard P. Doucette  
Federal Aviation Administration  
12 New England Executive Park  
Burlington, MA 01803

Re: Logan Airport Demolition of American Airlines Hangar (Building 16),  
100 Service Road, Boston, MA; MHC# RC.56575

Dear Mr. Doucette:

Thank you for sending us the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) survey form for this building and for allowing us to comment on its proposed demolition. We have reviewed the extensive information about this structure and offer the following comments.

This circa 1954 American Airlines Hangar at Logan Airport has been determined by MHC as eligible for the National Register due to its associations with 1950s transportation and 1950s architecture and engineering. It is considered to be an outstanding example of its type due to its large size for the time and for the early use of pre-stressed steel tie rods. The building was designed by modernist architect Samuel Glaser who also designed the Logan traffic control tower, the JFK Federal Building, the Government Center Garage, and the Woolworth’s Building on Washington Street. The hangar was engineered by the firm of Goldberg, LeMessurier & Associates, which later became one of the greatest designers of tall buildings in America. In Boston they did the structural design work for Boston City Hall and the Federal Reserve Bank.

We understand that MassPort wants to demolish the hangar and redevelop the property for other uses, and that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) anticipates entering into an agreement with MHC and MassPort to mitigate the impacts of this undertaking. We applaud this effort, as a viable re-use for this iconic structure appears unlikely. We believe that appropriate mitigation would include thorough photo documentation, proper placement of the engineering drawings in an historical collection, and creative interpretation of this interesting building in a nearby terminal. We look forward to the outcome of this collaborative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important project.

Sincerely

Greg Galer,  
Executive Director

cc: Stewart Dalzell, MassPort  
Brona Simon, MHC  
Boston Landmarks Commission  
Debra Cave, Eagle Hill Civic Association
Dalzell, Stewart

From: Guerriero, Anthony  
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2014 9:53 AM  
To: Dalzell, Stewart  
Subject: FW: American Airlines hangar

From: Debra Cave [mailto:debra.cave@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2014 2:48 PM  
To: Guerriero, Anthony  
Subject: American Airlines hangar

Hi Anthony,
Massport's intention to display photos with corresponding historical facts about the American Airlines hangar in one of Logan's terminals sounds like a good idea. Perhaps the photos could be part of a Logan Airport timeline.
Sincerely,
Debra Cave, President
Eagle Hill Civic Association
Attachment C
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
between the FAA, the MA Historical Commission and Massport
Memorandum of Agreement
between the
Federal Aviation Administration and the
Massachusetts Port Authority and the
Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer

Implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
For the Demolition of Hangar 16
at Boston-Logan International Airport, East Boston, Massachusetts

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) plans to approve a change proposed by the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) to the Boston-Logan International Airport Airport Layout Plan (hereafter referred to as “the undertaking”); and

WHEREAS, the undertaking consists of the demolition of Hangar 16 at Boston-Logan International Airport; and

WHEREAS, FAA has established that the undertaking is an action that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties; and

WHEREAS, FAA has determined the “area of potential effect” is the footprint of Hangar 16; and

WHEREAS, FAA has determined the undertaking will have an “adverse effect” on Hangar 16, which meets the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level; and

WHEREAS, FAA has consulted with Massport regarding the effects of the undertaking on historic properties and has invited Massport to sign this MOA as an invited signatory; and

WHEREAS, FAA and Massport have consulted with the Massachusetts State Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the effects of the undertaking on historic properties; and

WHEREAS, FAA and Massport have consulted with the Boston Landmarks Commission, the Boston Preservation Alliance, and the Eagle Hill Civic Association. Boston Landmarks Commission had no comments “as the FAA and Massport are exempt from local zoning review.” Boston Preservation Alliance and Eagle Hills Civic Association support the proposed mitigation; and

WHEREAS, FAA has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), of its adverse effects determination and the ACHP has chosen not to participate in the consultation; and
NOW, THEREFORE, FAA, Massport and the SHPO agree that the undertaking shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effect of the undertaking on historic properties.

**Stipulations**

FAA and Massport will ensure that the following measures are carried out:

1. **Archival Documentation of Hangar 16**

Prior to any construction or demolition activity associated with the Hangar 16, Demolition project, Massport will ensure that documentation of the building is undertaken in accordance with the following requirements:

(a) Massport will engage a historic preservation consultant to complete archival quality photographic documentation of Hangar 16 in accordance with Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) standards. Archival quality black and white photographs will be taken of Hangar 16, the ancillary buildings, and the setting. The documentation shall provide views of all exterior elevations, major interior spaces, and significant features (both typical and unique), including but not limited to, windows, entrances, and equipment/machinery. At least three context views shall be provided showing the structure in relationship to its setting. All photographs shall be keyed by number to a site plan, accompanied by negatives, and archival-processed, and numbered or captioned on the back with pencil, unmounted, and with no affixed labels.

(b) Massport will ensure that all documentation is completed prior to the commencement of demolition activities and that one copy of this documentation is made available to both the MHC for subsequent transmittal to the Massachusetts State Archives.

2. **Public Display**

Massport shall develop a photographic display of the former Hangar 16 in a location at Boston-Logan International Airport with public access. The display will present Hangar 16, the ancillary buildings, and the setting. The documentation shall provide views of hangar exterior elevations, major interior spaces, and significant engineering features, including, but not limited to the steel tied-arch frame incorporating two-hinged steel girder arch ribs and prestressed cable ties.

The display would also describe in text and photographs Logan Airport at the time the hangar was constructed and the role that the hangar played in the aviation industry at that time.
3. Execution and Duration of the MOA

Execution of this Memorandum of Agreement by the FAA, Massport and the SHPO, and implementation of its terms, evidences that FAA and Massport have taken into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties, and have afforded the SHPO and the ACHP the opportunity to comment on the proposed Hangar 16 Demolition project.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, NEW ENGLAND REGION

By:_____________________________ Date:________________
   Richard P. Doucette
   Manager, Environmental Programs
   FAA New England Region, Airports Division

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

By:_____________________________ Date:________________
   Brona Simon, Executive Director
   Massachusetts Historical Commission
   Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY

By:_____________________________ Date:________________
   Michael A. Grieco
   Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
   Massachusetts Port Authority