

FULL SCALE WIND TUNNEL, NASA Langley Research Center. Also known by the dimensions of the tunnel throat, the 30 by 60 Foot Wind Tunnel, 440 feet long by 230 feet wide by 95 feet tall, has external structure and smooth tunnel interiors. National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics engineers knew that certain research and testing could only be explored with full-scale stationary models or actual aircraft in flight-speed wind conditions. Completed in 1931, tests proved the air-drag penalties of exposed engines and protruding struts, wires, wheels, and rivet heads. Before and during World War II, high performance military aircraft were streamlined here to provide superior machines that contributed to America's victory. Now surplus to NASA's needs, the facility is used by Old Dominion University in graduate research to improve aircraft, automobiles, and trucks for transportation customers. Adaptive reuse is preserving this facility at NASA's East Area in Hampton.