



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY NOTIFICATION

National Register of Historic Places National Park Service

Name of Property: Braniff Airways / Dalfort Aerospace Facility at Dallas Love Field

Location: Dallas

State: TX

Request submitted by: Kelvin L. Solco, Manager, Airports Division, FAA, Southwest Region,
2601 Meacham Blvd., Ft. Worth, TX 76137

Date received: 03/25/2013 **Additional information received:**

Opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer:

Eligible

Not Eligible

No Response

Need More Information

Comments:

The Secretary of the Interior has determined that this property is:

Eligible

Not Eligible

Applicable criteria: Criteria A and C

Comment:

See attached comments



Keeper of the National Register

5/8/2013
Date

The *Braniff Airways Operations and Maintenance Building* is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A and C. Completed in 1958, the Braniff building represents a significant facility directly associated with the post-war development of the aviation industry in Dallas, and in particular at Love Field, which in the immediate post-war era became a vital transportation hub within the United States.

The building represents a dynamic local illustration of mid-twentieth century, Modernist design, as uniquely applied to a conventionally utilitarian property type. The work of respected master architects William Pereira and Charles Luckman, the design incorporated modern materials (concrete, aluminum, glass) and expressive futuristic forms (inverted gable roof, glass entry façade, long-span trusses), to create a distinctive, “modern-age” facility that reflected Braniff’s progressive attitudes and commitment to high quality design and aesthetics. Construction of the Braniff operational facility was coincident with the arrival of the “jet age” in commercial aviation (First regular jet service across United States-1958, Braniff’s first jet aircraft acquisition -1959).

Based on the documentation submitted there is actually very little dispute regarding the property’s local significance under National Register Criteria A and C. Rather, the main point of disagreement is whether the facility retains sufficient physical *integrity* to merit listing in the National Register. After carefully reviewing the documentation provided to our office, we have determined that the building does retain adequate integrity to convey its historic significance and is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register.

The various alterations and changes that have occurred to the building over the years have indeed affected elements of the original building design, but when viewed in a holistic manner, the building clearly retains the majority of features and design forms that defined its unique historic character. The building, for all of its minor cosmetic changes, still conveys its most dominant character-defining elements—space-age roofline, dramatic open-span hangar space, highly visible public façade—and reads as a substantial aircraft hangar/operations facility. One can not dismiss the fact that the building at its core was first and foremost an operational aircraft hangar internally linked to office and management facilities through a unique structural design. Maintenance operations, a dominant component of the building’s original significance, could seemingly restart tomorrow with the opening of the intact roller doors based on the current documentation of the hangar space. The majority of the identified alterations were confined to secondary elevations or supporting, utilitarian wings. One could even contend that the alterations to what is known as the third floor pop-up/observation deck, occurred [c. 1968-1973] during the period of significance identified with Braniff’s continued use of the facility.

Our office believes that the Braniff Airways Operations and Maintenance Building retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association sufficient to convey its historic significance under National Register Criteria A and C.

Paul Lusignan, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service