

**NATIONAL
TRUST
FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION®**

Richard Moe
PRESIDENT

June 3, 2008

The Honorable Raul M Grijalva and the Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman and Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
1333 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation strongly supports H.R. 4199, a bill to add the Wright Factory buildings and Hawthorn Hill to the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park (DAHNHP).

The Wright Company Factory buildings in Dayton, Ohio, are the first American facilities specifically designed and built for the manufacture of airplanes. Wright formed the company in 1909 to manufacture airplanes after the first flight in 1903 and several years thereafter of improving and refining the original model. The Wright Company operated at the site from 1910 -1916 and produced 13 different models of airplanes. The need for a factory was a benchmark moment in history that signaled the first large-scale commercial demand for airplanes after widespread skepticism of the invention's viability. These buildings had a production capability that was greater than any other airplane manufacturing facility at the time. Adding these buildings to the park would compliment and enhance the historic resources already part of DAHNHP and increase the public's ability to interpret and appreciate the factory in the larger context of the Park. This is also the case with the addition of Hawthorn Hill.

Hawthorn Hill, completed in 1914 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was designed by Wilbur and Orville Wright and was their family home until 1948. It represents the direct expression of the wealth and fame reaped by the brothers as a result of their accomplishments. Many of the mechanical features of the house were designed by Orville and reflect his creative genius. For 34 years, this house was the gathering place for the greats and near greats in the history of American aviation.

I ask you to support including these two Wright Brothers landmarks in the designation that already includes Dayton's rich aviation history. Of primary concern to the Trust is ensuring and increasing public access to these places

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and protecting them for future generations. By adding these sites to the DAHNP,
we would go a long way toward accomplishing these goals.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Moe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "M".

Richard Moe

RM:pl