



1
00:00:00,480 --> 00:00:00,879

\h

2
00:00:00,880 --> 00:00:01,880

Music

3
00:00:05,690 --> 00:00:06,943

On the grounds of Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, engines growled to life as

4
00:00:10,370 --> 00:00:10,453

hulking equipment moved into place.

5
00:00:12,620 --> 00:00:14,569

(Natural sound of equipment cutting into the side of the building)

6
00:00:14,570 --> 00:00:15,816

The former Mercury Mission Control Center building -- long ravaged by time and the

7
00:00:18,790 --> 00:00:21,123

elements -- was set for demolition.

8
00:00:21,650 --> 00:00:23,386

Looking like angry beasts from a science fiction movie, the heavy equipment consumed the

9
00:00:25,780 --> 00:00:30,646

structure bit by bit, until nothing was left but the slab where it stood.

10
00:00:31,300 --> 00:00:32,210

As pieces of the old building were eaten away, more than fifty years of space history came

11
00:00:36,390 --> 00:00:37,390

to completion.

12
00:00:38,120 --> 00:00:39,456

The teams who guided the United States' first space pioneers did so from this unassuming

13
00:00:42,650 --> 00:00:44,783

structure built in the late 50s.

14

00:00:45,380 --> 00:00:46,560

All of NASA's Mercury flights and the first three launches of the Gemini Program were

15

00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:51,933

controlled from the facility.

16

00:00:52,640 --> 00:00:53,673

In the end, the demolition came many years after the building's glory faded and its position

17

00:00:57,740 --> 00:00:59,340

as a tourist stop ended.

18

00:01:00,010 --> 00:01:02,056

Yet despite the demise of the building, the Flight Control Area -- the heart of the mission

19

00:01:04,030 --> 00:01:08,963

control operation -- has been faithfully preserved for future generations.

20

00:01:09,210 --> 00:01:10,273

The Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex has recreated the control center in its Early

21

00:01:13,880 --> 00:01:15,613

Space Exploration display.

22

00:01:16,620 --> 00:01:17,783

In this display, the public can view the actual consoles, furnishings and world tracking map

23

00:01:21,590 --> 00:01:23,723

used during those early flights.

24

00:01:24,650 --> 00:01:25,936

The preservation stands as a tribute to those who pioneered NASA's manned space