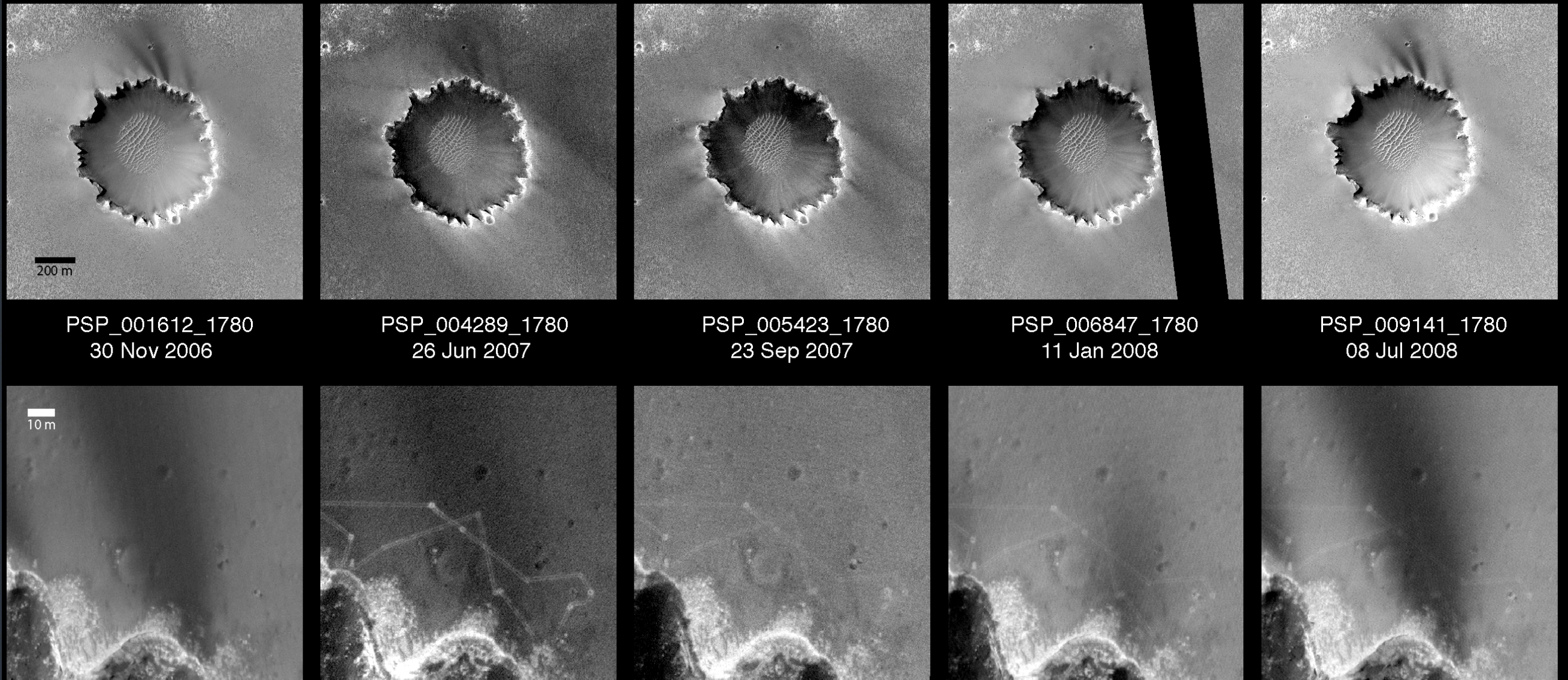


Gone with the Wind: Aeolian Erasure of the Mars Rover Tracks



This sequence of HiRISE images documents the changing appearance of Victoria Crater (top row) and a small portion of its north rim (bottom row) that contains the sources of the dark wind streaks and the tracks of the rover Opportunity. Strong surface winds during the global dust storm of July, 2007 blew away the basaltic sand making up the wind streaks but, surprisingly, left the rover's tracks intact. The streaks gradually reappeared, starting at the alcoves in the crater's rim, and were completely restored to their former appearance by July, 2008, one Earth year after the dust storm.