



**NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

**PG:62-42**

**Building 194: Sewage Pumping Station, BARC**

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is located along the southwest fence line. The fence line is oriented on a southwest-northeast axis, and is roughly four bays in length and four bays in width. A gate is located in the eastern bay of the southwest elevation. The fence is topped with barbed wire. The site has been vacant since 2005. Some vines and overgrown grasses surround the fence line, but overall the plot is in good physical condition. The station's program and physical condition implies that alterations have been made to the site and its equipment, including installation of the light pole and fence, as well as possible replacement of the standing equipment.

**History of Property  
Central Farm**

Building 194, constructed in 1945, is located on the 2,980-acre Central Farm, the largest and oldest of all of BARC farms. The USDA acquired the Central Farm in stages between 1910 and 1939, and most the buildings and landscape were constructed and established between 1911 and 1944. The farm is located at the center of the facility and is adjacent to BARC's Linkage Farm on the west, single-family homes along Odell Road on the north, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of State on the northeast, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway on the east, and the City of Greenbelt on the south. It has approximately a dozen clusters of buildings situated on 336 acres, as well as pasture, wetland, and forested areas used for animal husbandry, production crops, and animal and plant research, and a wildlife management area. The USDA's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) has historically been the Central Farm's main user (Robinson and Associates 1998).

The USDA attained jurisdiction over the first portion of the Central Farm in 1910 when it purchased 475 acres of the Hall farm for the Farm Dairy and Animal Husbandry Divisions of the BAI to establish an experimental farm. To accommodate the experimental farm's many research tasks during BARC's early period (1910-1933), the staff constructed laboratories, farm buildings, pastures, and staff housing. In addition, the BAI added laboratories for its pathology and zoological divisions, and the Bureau of Plant Industry began to operate at BARC on approximately 425 acres of leased land (subsequently purchased with Public Works Administration [PWA] funds in the 1930s) during those first few decades (Wiser and Rasmussen 1966; USDA c. 1937). In 1924, the Farm Dairy and Animal Husbandry Divisions separated into the Bureau of Dairy Industry (BDI) and the BAI. The BDI used 190 acres for continued experiments on dairy cattle breeding, forage crop, silage, and milk research, and the BAI kept 285 acres for its animal research. By 1925, the USDA owned 1,062 acres of the Central Farm and leased about 1,000 more (Wiser and Rasmussen 1966). By 1933, four land purchases aggregating 1,381 acres further increased the farm's size (USDA c. 1937, Robinson and Associates 1998).

The majority of the Central Farm land was acquired under New Deal policies and funding of the 1930s, when the USDA transformed BARC into a model experiment station. A series of land acquisitions during the 1930s grew BARC into more than 12,000 acres. With the expansion, the BAI's pathology, zoology, and insecticide divisions, and the Bureaus of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Agricultural Engineering, and Cultural and Industrial Chemistry established, enlarged, or constructed new research facilities at the Central Farm. The Food and Drug Administration also came to the Central Farm in 1934 (Robinson and Associates 1998).

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

**Eligibility Recommended:** \_\_\_ **Eligibility Not Recommended:** X  
**Criteria:** \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D **Considerations:** \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

**MHT Comments:**

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Natalie Loukianoff  
**Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Kurtze

\_\_\_\_\_  
2018-03-22  
**Date**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
2018-04-19

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The expansion of the BARC facility required major infrastructure improvements that were undertaken through the PWA and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) funding and oversight. A CCC camp was established on the north end of the Central Farm in 1933 (eventually four camps would be established at BARC, though their exact locations are not known). The CCC workers cleared and drained land, built fences and roads, and constructed small sheds and structures. The overall design of the Central Farm in the 1930s was guided by a master plan that was the work of A.D. Taylor and Delos Smith, H.F. Sehorn of the Public Buildings Administration, Robert T. Walker, CCC landscape architect, and Hugh H. Bennet of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) (Robinson and Associates 1998).

The Central Farm’s character-defining landscape features include topographical and grading features such as major paved roads, some minor service and field roads, drainage systems, Beaver Dam Creek, and some field grading; vegetation features such as field and research crops, pastures, Beltsville Seasonal Ponds, Beltsville Bottomland Forest, and sustainable meadows; circulation features such as Dairy Farm, Powder Mill, Entomology, Research, BioControl, Poultry, and Beaver Dam Roads, as well as some secondary cluster and service roads; five main cluster arrangements including the 100 Area Cluster (BDI), 200 Area Cluster (BAI), 300 Area Cluster (BAI: Parasitological Laboratory of the Zoological Division), 400 Area Cluster (Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine: Entomology Research Division) and 1000 Area Cluster (Animal Disease Station); and small-scale features such as fencing, culverts, an amphitheater, and a cemetery (Robinson and Associates 1998).

**Bureau of Dairy Industry**

The BDI, one of the earliest of the USDA research divisions at the BARC, came to Central Farm in 1910 as the Dairy Division of the BAI and established an experiment farm within BARC’s first 475 acres. The USDA reorganized it as a separate entity, the BDI, in 1924, while the BAI retained 190 acres of the Central Farm to continue experiments on dairy cattle breeding, forage crop, silage, and milk research. In the 1940s, the Bureau built a granary complex (Buildings 085, 085A, and 085B) for the feeding of the experimental dairy herd at Linkage Farm (Robinson and Associates 1998).

Over the years, the BDI conducted extensive breeding and feeding research at BARC that has led to major improvements for small dairy farms, larger commercial dairies, and dairy production and manufacturing industries nationwide. In the first few decades at BARC, the BDI conducted research within four areas: dairy cattle breeding, feeding, and management; dairy cattle nutrition; dairy manufacturing research; and market milk production investigations. By 1936, the BDI’s research focused on increasing efficiency and economy in the production of milk on the farm, greater efficiency in the transportation, processing, and merchandising of milk and its products, improvement in the general level of quality in all dairy products offered to the customer, and development of wider market outlets for existing by-products (Robinson and Associates 1998).

In 1953, the USDA undertook a major reorganization and decentralization of the department’s agricultural research program that continued through the 1970s (Office of Technology Assessment [OTA] 1981). The decentralization had long-lasting consequences for BARC. The USDA’s scientific bureaus, including the BDI, were discontinued and its research functions were centralized under the new Agricultural Research Administration (now the ARS) (OTA 1981). The USDA again reorganized in 1972 with administrative decentralization as its goal (OTA 1981). Operating responsibility was delegated to

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**Eligibility Recommended:**

**Eligibility Not Recommended:**

**Criteria:**  A  B  C  D

**Considerations:**  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

**MHT Comments:**

Natalie Loukianoff

2018-03-22

**Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services**

**Date**

Peter Kurtze

2018-04-19

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four regions, which were then subdivided into research area centers. BARC's scientists and facilities became a regional research facility, rather than a national one (OTA 1981). By 1980, the USDA's research program was highly decentralized, with research undertaken at 148 locations, including the much diminished 450-scientist facility at BARC (OTA 1981).

**National Register of Historic Places Evaluation**

Building 194 has not previously been evaluated to determine its individual significance or status as contributing or non-contributing property within BARC, a 6,582-acre federal agricultural research facility. BARC was previously determined eligible in its entirety for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the largest national research facility for the USDA and for its role as the most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. This evaluation concludes that Building 194 is not individually significant, nor is it a contributing property within BARC.

Building 194 is not a contributing property within BARC under Criterion A because the equipment, configuration, and function of the pumping system cannot be authenticated versus what was originally installed at this location. The sewage system is typical of its time period and has been sufficiently altered to reduce its integrity. BARC is significant at the national level for its association with events that have made significant contributions to the broad pattern of our history with agricultural experimentation. Many aspects of twentieth century living for the farmer and consumer were influenced by the scientific research conducted at BARC. BARC is a prominent example of the federal role in agricultural research, scientific agricultural research in general, and New Deal policies and programs, such as the 1930s agricultural policies and funding, PWA, and CCC, which all played important roles in shaping the experimental farm. BARC's scientists and researchers have made major contributions toward scientific knowledge that have resulted in incredible advances in crop production, plant and animal disease control, and pest control. BARC scientists and researchers made valuable scientific contributions, both in foundational and applicable science.

BARC and Building 194 have not been determined significant under Criterion B for their association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, Building 194 is not a contributing property within BARC, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The physical appearance of BARC was strongly influenced in the 1930s by the planning team of A.D. Taylor, landscape architect, and Delos Smith, architect. The majority of the facility's buildings share a Georgian Revival style and/or display the characteristics of experimental agricultural architecture. BARC's landscape includes major paved roads, minor service roads, field and research crops, pasture lands, seasonal ponds, forests, sustainable meadows, and other landscape features and buildings. The Sewage Pumping Station is an aggregated cluster of machinery, pipe, and utility access points, rather than a designed architectural feature of the building stock or landscape of BARC. Although the agricultural functions of the facility is essential to its overall integrity, the Sewage Pumping Station demonstrates neither architectural nor engineering ingenuity or technological innovation. While Building 194 maintains its integrity of location and setting, its integrity of feeling and design are no longer intact due to alterations and additions to the site, namely installation of the light pole and perimeter fencing.

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The agricultural research facility was not evaluated under Criterion D for its yielding, or likelihood to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility Recommended:

Eligibility Not Recommended:

Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

MHT Comments:

Natalie Loukianoff

2018-03-22

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2018-04-19

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Date

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Determination of Eligibility Form**

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility Recommended:

Eligibility Not Recommended:

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Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

MHT Comments:

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