

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

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Building 204A: Post-Mortem Building, BARC

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three bays in width and four bays in length. The one-story brick building is surrounded by a board-formed concrete water table and has a flat roof. The roof is obscured behind a short brick parapet wall with a concrete coping. The exterior walls are ringed by an extruded metal cornice (Photo 1). A flat concrete belt course three courses below the cornice forms the lintel for the windows and a large, vacant opening in the north elevation's western bay. The remainder of the north elevation and the full eastern elevation each consist of a flat brick wall (Photo 2). An opening on the south elevation matching the one on the north elevation was previously infilled with a flat concrete wall and rectangular, six-over-three metal-frame awning window. The eastern half of the south elevation features two tripartite windows featuring fixed upper and lower sashes with two lights each, and a central, operable four-light sash. Two downspouts flank the south elevation fenestration and service the entire building. The west elevation features a central door opening and two flanking four-over-two awning windows (Photo 3). Grading around the building slopes from west to east, with the lowest point at the southeast corner. The building has been vacant since 2008. The building has no remaining window glazing or doors and the roof is substantially missing. The exterior walls appear to be in good condition. Overall, the building is in fair/poor condition.

History of Property
Central Farm

Building 204A, constructed in 1933, 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 the Department 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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: X

Eligibility Not Recommended: ___

Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D

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

MHT Comments:

Natalie Loukianoff
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
 Peter Kurtze

2018-03-22
Date
 2018-04-19

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

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National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Building 204A was evaluated in 1997 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 NRHP as the largest national research facility for the USDA and for its role as the most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. That evaluation determined the building to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a contributing property within BARC. This evaluation concurs that while Building 204A is not individually significant, it contributes to the overall significance of BARC. The history and development of the agricultural research facility also reflects New Deal policies and programs, and contains notable landscape architecture, Georgian Revival architecture, and experimental agricultural architecture.

Under Criterion A, Building 204A is a contributing property within BARC, which 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. Building 204A was specifically used as a Post Mortem Building supporting Building 204, the Abattoir, as part of the Animal Husbandry Division of the BAI, the largest bureau at the agricultural research facility. BARC scientists and researchers made valuable scientific contributions, both in foundational and applicable science.

BARC and Building 204A have not been determined significant under Criterion B for their association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, Building 204A is 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. Though Building 204A is a relatively modest design, it represents an example of the experimental agricultural architecture for which BARC is significant, and contributes to the overall landscape.

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

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Eligibility Recommended: X

Eligibility Not Recommended:

Criteria: X A B X C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Natalie Loukianoff

2018-03-22

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

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1959 Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 189. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture.

1990 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Northwestern Region.

Wiser, Vivian and Wayne D. Rasmussen

1966 "Background for Plenty: A National Center for Agricultural Research." Maryland Historical Magazine 61:4, December 1966.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: X

Eligibility Not Recommended:

Criteria: X A B X C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G

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**Maryland Historical Trust
Determination of Eligibility Form**

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: A B C D

Eligibility Not Recommended: A B C D E F G

Criteria: A B C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Natalie Loukianoff

2018-03-22

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Date

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2018-04-19

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Date