Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form

Property Name:	operty Name: Building 204A: Post-Mortem Building, BARC Inventory Number: PG:62-43							
Address: 10300	Baltimore Aven	ue - Building	204A, Central Farr	n	Historic I	District:	Yes	_X_ No
City: Beltsville			Zip Code: 2070)5	County:	Prince Geo	rges	
USGS Quadrang	e(s): Beltsville	e						
Property Owner:	U.S.A U.S.	Department	of Agriculture (USD	A) Tax	Account I	D Number:	01-007	/0151
Tax Map Parcel N	lumber(s):		0143		Тах Мар	Number:	001	9
Project: DOEs	for 69 Buildings	at BARC			Agency:	USDA		
Agency Prepared	By: AECOM							
Preparer's Name	Kelly Whitto	n			Date Prep	pared: 201	7-12-01	
Documentation Is	s Presented In:		m, PG:62-14; Robi Agricultural Resear					vey,
Preparer's Eligib	ility Recommer	ndation:	_X_ Eligibility	Recommen	ded _	Eligil	bility Not Rec	ommended
Criteria: X A	B _X	С D	Consideration	s: A	В	_C D	E	F _ G
С	omplete if the pr	operty is a co	ontributing or non-c	ontributing re	esource to a	a NR district∕µ	property:	
Name of the	District/Proper	ty: Beltsville	Agricultural Resear	rch Center				
Inventory Nu	mber:	PG:62-14		Eligible:	X Yes		Listed:	Yes
Site Visit by MHT	Staff:	Yes X	No Name:				Date:	

Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) was one of the largest agricultural research facilities in the United States (Figures 1 and 2). Owned by the USDA, the facility was established in Beltsville in 1910 and significantly expanded in the 1930s and 1940s. In the 1960s, the USDA's research program began evolving from an internationally recognized research center to a decentralized model. In 1984, BARC was re-designated as a regional center. BARC's period of significance ranges from its inception in 1910 to its reclassification as a regional center in 1984.

Building Location

BARC identifies Building 204A's address as 10300 Baltimore Avenue - Building 204A, Central Farm. Building 204A is 1,002' north of Powder Mill Road, 852' northwest of the intersection of Powder Mill Road and Animal Husbandry Road, and 795' northwest of the intersection of Powder Mill Road. Building 204A is directly east of Building 204.

Building Description

Building 204A, the Post-Mortem Building, is located in Animal Husbandry area of the USDA BARC's Central Farm (Figures 3-6). The rectangular building faces south towards Powder Mill Road. The building is oriented on an east-west axis, and is

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW								
Eligibility Recommended: X	Eligibility Not Reco	ommende	d:	_				
Criteria: <u>X</u> A <u>B</u> X C D	Considerations:	A	в	С	D	E	F	G
MHT Comments:								
Natalie Loukianoff	_				2018-0	3-22		
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services					Date	e		
Peter Kurtze	_				2018-04	4-19		
Reviewer, National Register Program					Date	Ð		

<u>PG:62-43</u>

Page 2

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 USDAowned 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: \underline{X}	Eligibility Not Recommended:
	Considerations:ABCDEFG
MHT Comments:	
Natalie Loukianoff	2018-03-22
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
Peter Kurtze	2018-04-19
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

<u>PG:62-43</u>

Page 3

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).

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 (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 Animal Industry

Building 204A was a supply shed used by the BAI, the largest bureau at the agricultural research facility. The BAI, the earliest of the USDA research bureaus at the BARC, came to Central Farm in 1910 when its Dairy and Animal Husbandry Divisions established an experiment farm within BARC's initial 475 acres. When the USDA reorganized the Dairy Division into a separate BDI, the BAI retained 285 acres of the Central Farm for its Animal Husbandry Division, which led the continued development of the site in the 1920s. The BAI's Animal Husbandry Division was the largest section (in both area occupied and staff) at BARC. The BAI's research initially focused on the breeding of domestic animals (all except dairy) (Robinson and Associates 1998).

By the early 1930s, the BAI's Animal Husbandry Division's needs far exceeded its facilities. To address this need, the PWA allotted over \$1 million for a major construction program that included laboratories, an abattoir, and animal buildings that were constructed with the assistance of CCC workers and PWA and Civil Works Administration funding and oversight. A new Main Laboratory (Building 200) was the showpiece of the new animal husbandry area.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW								
Eligibility Recommended: X	Eligibility Not Reco	mmende	ed: _	_				
Criteria: X A B X C D	Considerations:	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G
MHT Comments:								
Natalie Loukianoff	_				2018-0	3-22		
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	;				Dat	е		
Peter Kurtze	_				2018-0	4-19		
Reviewer, National Register Program					Dat	е		

<u>PG:62-43</u>

Building 204A: Post-Mortem Building, BARC

Page 4

As a result of the expansion, by the mid-1930s, the Animal Husbandry Division was the largest experimental farm in the country and the center of nation's research on animal husbandry (Robinson and Associates 1998). In addition to animal husbandry, the BAI transferred other divisions to BARC during the late 1920s and early 1930s and developed facilities using New Deal funding sources at the Central and East Farms. The Zoological Division moved its experimental headquarters to, and the Animal Disease Station was established, at BARC's Central Farm in 1929 and in 1935, respectively (Robinson and Associates 1998).

In 1953, the USDA undertook a major reorganization and decentralization of the USDA's agricultural research program that continued through the 1970s (Office of Technology Assessment [OTA] 1981). The decentralization had long-lasting consequences for BARC. The department's scientific bureaus, including the BAI, were discontinued and the department's 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 four regions, which were then subdivided into research area centers. BARC's scientists and facilities thus 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).

Over the years, the BAI's researchers conducted important research at BARC that has led to major improvements for eradicating and treating contagious diseases in farm animals, parasite infestations, and nutrition. The Animal Husbandry Division undertook critical poultry and swine research improving the size and health of the farm animals. The BAI's Zoology Division's parasite research brought innovate new approaches to treating infestations. The Animal Disease Station developed vaccines to prevent Bang's disease and developed sterilization methods for contaminated hides (Robinson and Associates 1998).

History of the Post Mortem Building, 204A

Building 204A is located directly to the east of Building 204, the Abattoir (Slaughterhouse), which was constructed in or before 1924. The Abattoir was one of the first buildings constructed for the Animal Husbandry Experiment Farm. Building 204A was constructed in 1933, making it a contemporary to Building 204's north addition. Building 204 was a laboratory for meat investigation, researching the effects of livestock production and processing on meat quality (Robinson & Associates, 1998). Following its construction, Building 204A, the Post Mortem Building, directly contributed to this work.

Building 204A is located on one of the five major clusters arranged on the Central Farm known as the 200 Area Cluster (Robinson and Associates 1998). The 200 Area Cluster is one of four clusters that date to the New Deal era expansion. The Animal Husbandry Central Laboratory area included buildings 200 to 208 and associated sub-buildings. The 200 Area Cluster partially follows a 1934 design by A.D. Taylor and Delos Smith that features park-like conditions with trees and clipped lawns. The building's brick construction and Colonial Revival design were conscious and informed decisions by the architects for the purposes of aesthetic consistency as well as the promotion of fire safety among livestock and experimental/laboratory buildings (Robinson and Associates 1998).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW Eligibility Recommended: X	Eligibility Not Recom	mende	d:					
Criteria: X A B X C D	Considerations:	Α	В	C	D	Е	F	G
MHT Comments:								
Natalie Loukianoff	_				2018-0	3-22		
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services					Date	е		
Peter Kurtze	_				2018-04	4-19		
Reviewer, National Register Program					Date	е		

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.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW		
Eligibility Recommended: X	Eligibility Not Recommended:	_
Criteria: <u>X</u> A _ B <u>X</u> C _ D	Considerations:AB	_ C _ D _ E _ F _ G
MHT Comments:		
Natalie Loukianoff		2018-03-22
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services		Date
Peter Kurtze		2018-04-19
Reviewer, National Register Program		Date

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

PG:62-43

Building 204A: Post-Mortem Building, BARC

Page 6

Building 204A retains its original location and has the same setting within an agricultural research complex. It is specifically linked to its research functions and ties to the research buildings in the 200 Area Cluster, specifically the Abattoir (Building 204). As the Post Mortem Building, Building 204A directly contributed to the research and investigation of meat quality and processing methodologies. The feeling of, and association with, an agricultural research center is intact. The building has few alterations and it retains its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The building has been vacant since 2008. The doors have been removed, and the south elevation door has been infilled with a concrete wall and metal window assembly. The remaining fenestration is in its original configuration, however all glazing and the majority of the roof are no longer extant.

Although Building 204A does not reach the level of significance necessary for individual listing in the NRHP, it maintains its significance within BARC under Criteria A and C.

References

Bowlin, Lauren

2000 Individual Property/District, Maryland Historical Trust, Internal NR-Eligibility Review Form.

Matthews, Samuel W.

1953 "Beltsville Brings Science to the Farm." National Geographic Magazine.

Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), U.S. Food and Agricultural Research Advisory Panel 1981 An Assessment of the United States Food and Agricultural Research System. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Https://books.google.com/books?id=0Muy9v0PQckC&lpg=PA29&dq=The%20Role%20and%20Development%20of %20Public%20Agricultural%20Research&pg=PA29#v=onepage&q&f=false (accessed December 21, 2016).

P.A.C. Spero & Company

1998 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Survey No. PG:62-14, Maryland Historical Trust Addendum Sheet.

Robinson and Associates

1998 Historic Site Survey, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust.

Sinclair, Ward

1988 "Age, Neglect Hinder Farm Research Hub." Washington Post. February 1.

United States Department of Agriculture

c. 1937 The National Agricultural Research Center of the Department of Agriculture. USDA Library, Special Collections 360.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW								
Eligibility Recommended: X	Eligibility Not Reco	mmende	d:	_				
Criteria: X A B X C D	Considerations:	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G
MHT Comments:								
Natalie Loukianoff	_				2018-03	3-22		
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services					Date	Э		
Peter Kurtze	_				2018-04	4-19		
Reviewer, National Register Program					Date	Э		

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

PG:62-43 Building 204A: Post-Mortem Building, BARC

Page 7

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: \underline{X}	Eligibility Not Recommende	ed:					
Criteria: X A B X C D	Considerations:A	в	с _	D	E_	F	G
MHT Comments:							
Natalie Loukianoff	_			2018-03	-22		
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services				Date			
Peter Kurtze	-			2018-04	-19		
Reviewer, National Register Program				Date			

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Maryland Historical Trust Determination of Eligibility Form

_	Eligibility Not Recommended: 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
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

Wednesday, September 16, 2020