MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Building 236: Poultry Record of Performance Brooder House, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Inventory Number: PG:62-56

Address: 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Building 236, Central Farm City: Beltsville Zip Code: 20705

County: Prince George's County USGS Topographic Map: Beltsville 7.5-Minute

Owner: U.S.A. - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Is the property being evaluated a district? ___yes

Tax Parcel Number: 0143 Tax Map Number: 0019 Tax Account ID Number: 01-0070151

Project: DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC Agency: USDA

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___yes Name: ___ Date: ___

Is the property located within a historic district? X yes ___no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: PG:62-14

NR-listed district X yes Eligible district ___yes District Name: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes ___no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ___

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ___yes ___no

Criteria: X A ___B X C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G X None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP Form, PG:62-14

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service's (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 the address of Building 236 as 10300 Baltimore Avenue - Building 236, Central Farm. Building 236 is located 1,557' southeast of intersection of Odell Road and Poultry Road, and approximately 170' east of Poultry Road.

Building Description

Building 236, also known as the Poultry Record of Performance (PROP) Brooder House, is located in the USDA ARS BARC's Central Farm (Figures 3 through 6). The wood-frame building has a two-story, cross-gabled central section flanked on either side by long, single-story, side-gabled wings. The medium-pitch roofs are covered by metal raised-seams. However, the roof

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** ___**None**

Comments: ___

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services — Date 5/14/2018

Reviewer, NR Program — Date 7/9/18

Revised Oct 25, 2014

on the cross-gabled central section is missing a large portion of the metal raised-seam roof west of the ridge and there are large holes east of the ridge. The cross-gabled central section is clad with stucco and the wings are clad with horizontal wood clapboard. The roof of the cross-gabled central section has an interior, off-ridge brick chimney with a terracotta cap. The roofs of the east and west wings each have two large metal ventilators. Building 236 rests on a concrete slab foundation, is oriented on an east-west axis, and the front façade faces north. The central section is three bays in length and two bays in width, while the east and west wings are approximately 92' in length. Fronting Building 236 are remnants of a cul-de-sac accessed by a secondary road from Poultry Road. The central section has windows that are six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash units with brick sashes.

The central section of the north facade at the first story includes a central door with brick quoining (Photo 1). The central door is flanked on both sides by single windows. The second story has central double wood doors topped by a rounded brick arch header filled by a metal vent. Flanking both sides of the central double doors are single windows. Both the first and second story windows west of the central entrances are boarded over. The central section of the south elevation at the first story has a central door with brick quoining that is flanked on both sides by single windows (Photo 2). The second story has a central rounded window that is flanked by single windows.

Projecting to the east and west of the central section are clapboard-sided wings (Photos 3 and 4). Each wing has partitioned areas for the hens. The north elevations of the east and west wings have three, three-light, awning, wood windows that are evenly spaced and arranged towards the roof eave. However, the awning windows are either boarded over or filled by large metal ventilators (Photo 3). Both the east and west gable ends of Building 236 have two door openings with wood doors near the north and south elevations (Photos 3 and 4). Between the doors is a large mechanical box, an off-center metal vent, and near the gable peak is a large projecting mental vent. The south elevations consist of half walls for the hen partitions. The lower portions of the half walls have small squares that were probably used for drainage, and the upper portions have open bays (Photo 4). The open bays are currently boarded over. Both of the south elevations have two, evenly spaced metal ventilators.

The interior of the central section is relatively open and provides access to the east and west wings (Photo 5). Each wing has a large open staging area with overhead fluorescent lighting and metal pipes to provide water to each partition. The partitions are accessed by wood Dutch doors. The interior has a concrete floor throughout, wood doors, and wood ceilings and walls (Photo 6).

History of Property

Central Farm

Building 236, constructed in 1934, is located on the 2,980-acre Central Farm, the largest and oldest of all of BARC's farms (Bernard Johnson Young 1996). 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 Central Farm is located at the center of BARC and is adjacent to BARC's Linkage Farm to the west, single-family homes along Odell Road to the north, facilities associated with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of State to the northeast, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to the east, and the City of Greenbelt to the south. The Central Farm has approximately 12 clusters of buildings situated on approximately 336 acres (of the 2,980-acre total), as well as pastures, wetlands, and forested areas used for animal husbandry, production crops, animal and plant research, and wildlife management. The USDA's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) has historically been the Central Farm's main user (Robinson and Associates 1998).

The USDA acquired 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 (i.e., 1910-1933), the USDA constructed laboratories, farm buildings, pastures, and staff housing. In addition, the BAI added laboratories for its Pathology and Zoological Divisions.

In the 1920s, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) began to operate at BARC on approximately 425 acres of leased land that was subsequently purchased with Public Works Administration [PWA] funds in the 1930s, expanding the Central Farm (Wiser and Rasmussen 1966; USDA circa 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 acres (Wiser and Rasmussen 1966). By 1933, four land purchases totaling an additional 1,381 acres further increased the Central Farm's size (USDA circa 1937, Robinson and Associates 1998).

The majority of the Central Farm 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 to more than 12,000 acres. With this expansion, the BAI's pathology, zoology, and insecticide divisions and the Bureaus of Entomology and Plant Quarantine (BEPQ), Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Agricultural Engineering, and Cultural and Industrial Chemistry established, enlarged, or constructed new research facilities on the Central Farm. The Food and Drug Administration also came to the Central Farm in 1934 (Robinson and Associates 1998).

The expansion of BARC required major infrastructure improvements that were undertaken with PWA funding and oversight, and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) assistance and labor. A CCC camp was established on the north end of the Central Farm in 1933; eventually, four CCC camps were established at BARC, although 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 anthropogenically altered features, such as major paved roads, minor service and field roads, drainage systems, Beaver Dam Creek, and graded fields;
- Vegetation features, such as field and research crops, pastures, Beltsville Seasonal Ponds, Beltsville Bottomland Forest, and meadows;
- Circulation features, such as Dairy Farm, Powder Mill, Entomology, Research, BioControl, Poultry, and Beaver Dam Roads, as well as secondary and service roads;
- Five main clusters of development, including the 100 Area Cluster (BDI), 200 Area Cluster (BAI – Poultry Research Division), 300 Area Cluster (BAI – Parasitological Laboratory of the Zoological Division), 400 Area Cluster (BEPQ – 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 236 was a PROP brooder house for the USDA's BAI. The BAI, the earliest of the USDA's research bureaus at BARC, came to the Central Farm in 1910 when its Dairy and Animal Husbandry Divisions established an experimental 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. During the 1920s, the BAI's Animal Husbandry Division led the continued development of the site and was the largest section (i.e., in terms of both areas occupied and staff) at BARC. The division's research initially focused on the breeding of all domestic animals, except dairy (Robinson and Associates 1998).

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

As a result of the expansion, by the mid-1930s, the BAI's 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 using New Deal funding sources at the Central and East Farms. The BAI's Zoological Division moved its experimental headquarters to, and the BAI's Animal Disease Station was established at BARC's Central Farm in 1929 and 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). Through this process, 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 in eradicating and treating contagious diseases in farm animals, reducing parasite infestations, and improving nutrition. The BAI's Animal Husbandry Division undertook critical poultry and swine research that improved the size and health of the farm animals. The BAI's Zoology Division's parasite research brought innovative new approaches to treating infestations. The BAI's Animal Disease Station developed vaccines to prevent Bang's disease and developed sterilization methods for contaminated hides (Robinson and Associates 1998).

History of the PROP Brooder House, Building 236

The brooder house (i.e., Building 236) was constructed in 1934 for the PROP project managed by the Poultry Research Division. The brooder house was used to study the growth patterns and weight gain of the poultry for the breeding and feeding experiments. The brooder house is one of four buildings located at the southeast corner of the poultry area. The Poultry Research Division was specifically redeveloped and physically improved for the PROP project during the 1930s through the use of PWA funds at a cost of $5,000. Other buildings designated for the Poultry Research Division were four large laboratories, several laying houses, turkey research buildings, and a new circulation pattern.

The brooder house was renovated in 1974 to exclude all natural light, which required boarding over the windows and open bays (USDA 1974). The brooder house was being used for the Animal Physiology and Genetics Institute. Removing all natural light from the brooder house included boarding up four, three-light, steel-sash windows near the roof eave on the east and west wings; ten open bays that were covered by 1" mesh on the south elevation of the east wing; and five open bays that were covered by chicken wire on the outside and glass on the inside on the south elevation of the west wing (USDA 1934). Other light-proofing alterations to the brooder house include replacing the asbestos shingle roof with metal raised-seams; wood doors with utilitarian doors; and triangular-shaped wood louvers with rectangular-shaped metal vents in the gable ends of the wings.

Building 236, vacant since 2008, is in fair condition. The raised seam metal on the roof of the central section is missing in some sections and there are areas with holes in the roof. The gable end doors are not secure.

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Building 236 was evaluated in 1997 to determine the building's individual significance or status as a contributing or non-contributing property at BARC (a 6,582-acre federal agricultural research facility). BARC was 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. That evaluation determined Building 236 to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing property within BARC. This evaluation concurs that while Building 236 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. The criteria applied to evaluate properties for the NRHP are presented below.

Under Criterion A, Building 236 is a contributing property within BARC, which is significant at the national level for the building's 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 (i.e., the 1930s agricultural policies and funding, the PWA, and the CCC), all of which played important roles in shaping the experimental farm. BARC's scientists and researchers have made major contributions toward scientific knowledge that have resulted in notable advances in crop production, plant and animal disease control, and pest control. Building 236 was specifically designed and operated as a PROP brooder house for the BAI, the largest bureau at the agricultural research facility, and its Division of Animal Husbandry. BARC scientists and researchers made valuable scientific contributions, both in foundational and applicable science.

BARC and Building 236 have not been determined significant under Criterion B for their association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, Building 236 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 BARC'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. Building 236, while relatively modest in design, represents an example of the experimental, and purpose-driven agricultural architecture trends for which BARC is significant, and contributes to the overall landscape.

Neither BARC nor Building 236 was evaluated under Criterion D for the building's potential to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Building 236 is in fair condition. The raised seam metal on the roof of the central section is missing in some sections and there are areas with holes in the roof. The gable end doors are not secure. Building 236 has been vacant since 2008. Building 236 retains its original location and setting within an agricultural research complex. Building 236 is specifically linked to its design and operation as a PROP brooder house and its ties to the laboratory and research buildings of the Poultry Research Division of the BAI. The feeling of, and association with, an agricultural research center is intact. Building 236 maintains key elements of its original design including massing, fenestration, roofing pattern, and cladding. Building 236 retains its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Building 236 has been vacant since 2008.

Although Building 236 does not reach the level of significance necessary for individual listing in the NRHP, the building maintains its significance within BARC under Criteria A and C.

References

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).

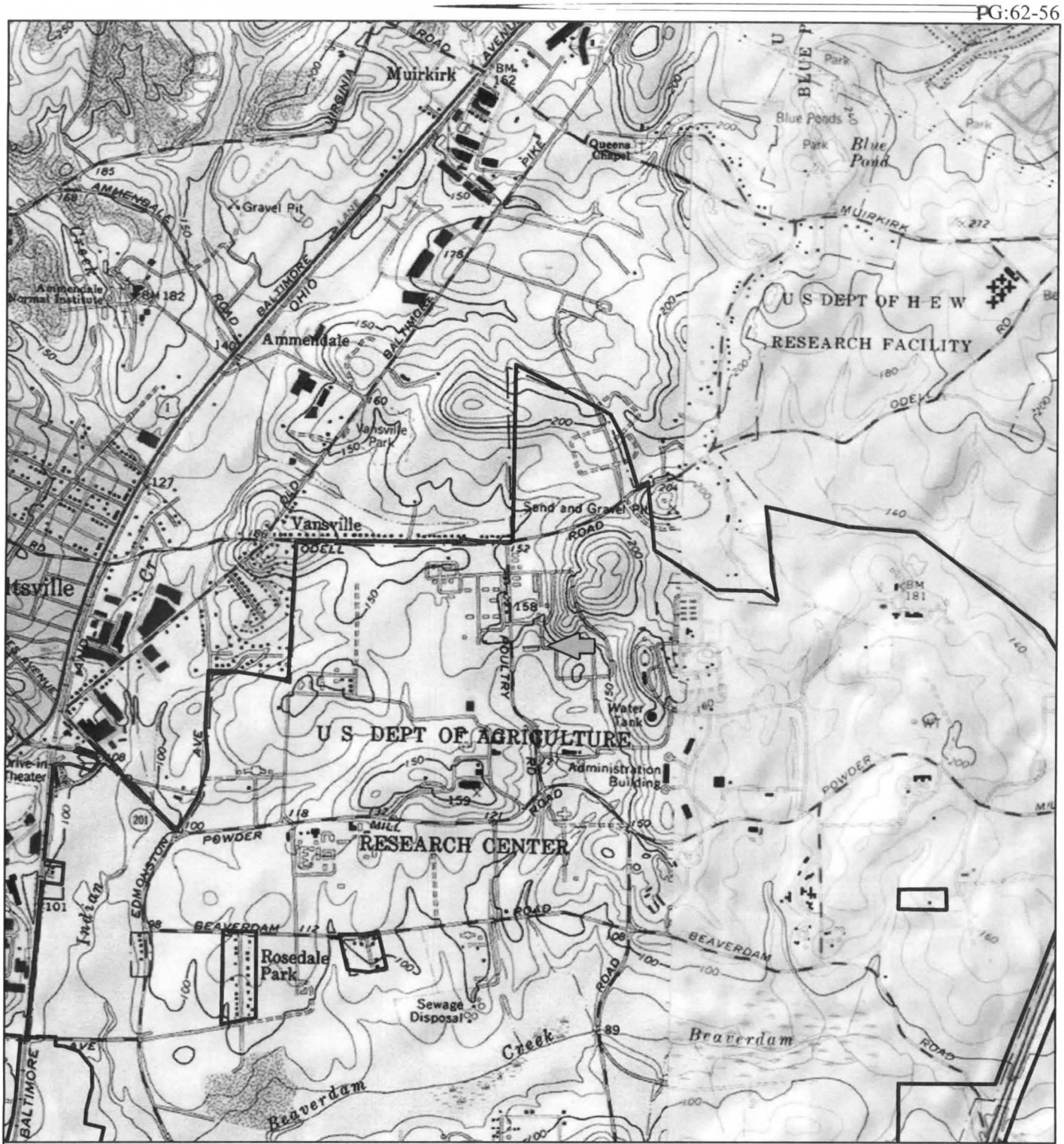
Robinson and Associates
1998 *Historic Site Survey, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland*. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust.

United States Department of Agriculture
Circa
1937 *The National Agricultural Research Center of the Department of Agriculture*. USDA Library, Special Collections 360.

1934-
1974 *Architectural Drawings of the PROP Brooder House (Building 236), Beltsville, Maryland*. Drawings on file, USDA ARS BARC, Engineering Section, Building 236, Beltsville, Maryland.

Wiser, Vivian and Wayne D. Rasmussen
1966 "Background for Plenty: A National Center for Agricultural Research." *Maryland Historical Magazine* 61:4, December 1966.

Prepared by: Lorin Farris (AECOM) Date Prepared: March 29, 2018



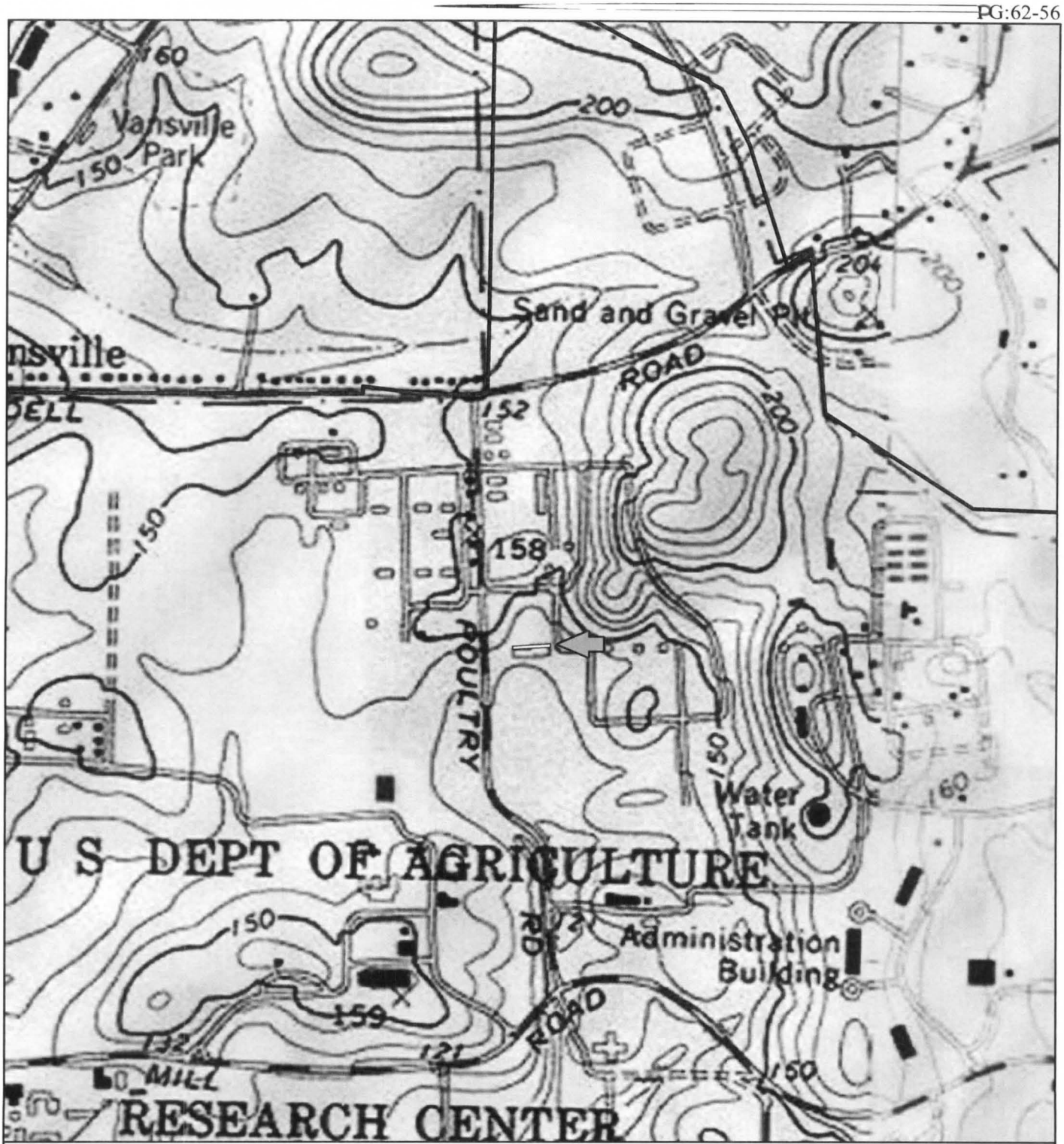
0 1,000 2,000
Feet

PG:62-56

Poultry Record of Performance Brooder House, Building 236

Beltsville, Prince George's County
USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

CLIENT	USDA	TITLE	Central Farm, Building 236
PROJ	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC		
SCALE	1:24,000		
SOURCE	ESRI 2017		
C:\Users\kathy.furgerson\Documents\Stuff\PROJECTS\USDA BARC PHASE II\Bldg xxx Fig 4_Group 3_topo24k.mxd		AECOM 12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876	PROJ NO 60551541 FIGURE 4



0 500 1,000
Feet

PG:62-56

Poultry Record of Performance Brooder House, Building 236

Beltsville, Prince George's County

USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

CLIENT	USDA
PROJ	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
SCALE	1:10,000
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
	C:\Users\kathy.furgerson\Documents\Stuff\PROJECTS\USDA BARC PHASE II\Bldg xxx Fig 5_Group 3_topo10k.mxd

N

TITLE: Central Farm, Building 236

AECOM 12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541

FIGURE 5

0 50 100
Feet

PG:62-56
Poultry Record of Performance Brooder House, Building 236
Beltsville, Prince George's County
USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

CLIENT	USDA
PROJ	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
SCALE	1:1,500
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
	C:\Users\kathy.furgerson\Documents\Stuff\PROJECTS\USDA BARC PHASE II\Bldg xxx Fig 6_Group 3_aerial.mxd

N

TITLE
Central Farm, Building 236

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541
FIGURE 6

Photograph Log **PG:62-56**

USDA
DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
Building 236: Poultry Record of Performance Brooder House
10300 Baltimore Avenue, Central Farm
Prince George's County, MD
Photographer: Brian Cleven, Architectural Historian
September 20, 2017 and December 7, 2017
MD SHPO

Archival Black and White Photographs for the Maryland Historical Trust.

1. PG;62-56_2017-12-07_01.tif, Building 236, PROP, Central Farm, View of North Elevation, Looking Southeast
2. PG;62-56_2017-12-07_02.tif, Building 236, Poultry Record of Performance Brooder House (PROP), Central Farm, View of West and South Elevations, Looking Northeast
3. PG;62-56_2017-12-07_03.tif, Building 236, PROP, Central Farm, View of East and North Elevations, Looking Southwest
4. PG;62-56_2017-12-07_04.tif, Building 236, PROP, Central Farm, View of South and East Elevations, Looking Northwest

Digital Photographs for the Maryland Historical Trust.

5. PG;62-56_2017-09-20_05.tif, Building 236, PROP, Central Farm, View of Interior, Looking West
6. PG;62-56_2017-09-20_06.tif, Building 236, PROP, Central Farm, View of Interior, Looking Southwest

PG: 62-56

MD- Prince George's county- Poultry Record of Performance Brooder House_0001

B. Cleven, 12/07/2017

#1 of 4

PG: 62-56

MD - Prince George's County - Poultry Record of

Performance Brooder House - 0002

B. Cleven, 12/07/2017

2 of 4

PG: 62-56

MD_Prince George's County_Poultry Record of Performance Brooder House_0003

B, Cleven, 12/07/2017

3 of 4

PG: 62-56

MD_Prince George's County_Poultry Record of performance Brooder House_0004

B. cleven, 12/07/2017

4 of 4