MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___ no ___

Property Name: Building 246: Subterranean Poultry House, BARC   Inventory Number: PG:62-46

Address: 10300 Baltimore Avenue Building 246, Central Farm   Historic district: ___ yes X no

City: Beltsville   Zip Code: 20705   County: Prince Georges

USGS Quadrangle(s): Beltsville

Property Owner: U.S.A. - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)   Tax Account ID Number: 01-0070151

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0143   Tax Map Number: 0019

Project: DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC   Agency: USDA

Agency Prepared By: AECOM

Preparer's Name: Lorin Farris   Date Prepared: 12/1/2017

Documentation is presented in: MIHP Form, PG:62-14; Robinson and Associates 1998 report, Historic Site Survey, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland. On file at MHT.

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended

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

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property

Name of the District/Property: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Inventory Number: 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 wa 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 246's address as 10300 Baltimore Avenue - Building 246, Central Farm. Building 246 is 1,203' south c Odell Road and 245' East of Poultry Road.

Building Description
Located at the Poultry Complex in the Central Farm of the USDA ARS BARC is Building 246 that served as a Subterranean Poultry House (Figures 3-6). The building was constructed in 1944 into the south side of a hill. There are two levels to Building

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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

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[signature]   3/22/2018
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services   **Date**

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Reviewer, National Register Program   **Date**

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46; an underground level that is banked into the hill and an aboveground level that has a rectangular plan with an east-west rientation (Photo 1). The building is constructed of concrete block and has a concrete stucco finish. The concrete stucco at the underground level ends with a beveled edge just below the rise of the southern elevation. The building has a flat roof covered by large terracotta tiles. The south side of the building has projecting concrete retaining walls allowing for passage to the main entry at the underground level. The entry door is made of vertical wood boards with three metal hinges (Photo 2). Set into a wood frame the door has two window openings covered by metal awnings, possibly to block direct sunlight but continue to allow ventilation. There is a partially covered sign above the door that says no admittance. The concrete stucco around the door frame is spalling and vegetation covers the entrance. The south elevation's aboveground level has one double-hung six-over-six wood-frame window paired with a square vent, and both share a brick sill. East of the windows is an electrical conduit box.

To the west of the underground entry are concrete steps that continue up the hillside leading to the aboveground level's west elevation (Photo 3). The west elevation has a single wood door. South of the door is the building's number 246 and north of the door closer to ground level are air vents. Although the south side of the aboveground level is a full story, there are small concrete half story retaining walls anchored into the hill making the north side of the aboveground level. Both the north and east elevations lack fenestration (Photo 1 and 4). The east elevation has air vents closer to the ground level and to the south is a downspout.

The building was vacated in 1997. There is some vegetation overgrowth surrounding the building. The building is in fair condition

Based on the 1944 building plans, the interior underground level consists of a small vestibule that is 18' in length, 7' in width, and the ceiling was over 7' high (USDA 1944). The vestibule's north wall has two entrances leading to two separate rooms that each i 12' in length, 34' in width, and the ceilings were 7' high. Both rooms had two floor drains and two electrical lights. The aboveground level space was used as a machine room that stored the electrical panel, four air duct openings, an outside air intake in the floor, and had two electrical lights (USDA 1944).

History of Property

Central Farm

The Subterranean Poultry House (Building 246), constructed in 1944, is located on the 2,980-acre Central Farm, the largest and oldest of all of BARC's farms. The USDA acquired the Central Farm in stages between 1910 and 1939; most the buildings and landscape of the Central Farm was developed between 1911 and 1944. The Central Farm is located at the center of BARC and is adjacent to BARC's Linkage Farm on the west, single-family homes along Odell Road on the north, facilities associated with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and U.S. Department of State (DOS) on the northeast, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway on the east, and the City of Greenbelt on 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 Indust (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 th 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,

In the 1920's, the Bureau of Plant Industry 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

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asmussen 1966; USDA c. 1937). In 1924, the Farm Dairy and Animal Husbandry Divisions separated into the Bureau of Dairy ndustry (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 c. 1937, Robinson and Associates 1998).

The majority of the Central Farm acquired under New Deal policies and funding of the 1930s, when the USDA transformed BARC to 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, 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 193 (Robinson and Associates 1998).

The expansion of BARC required major infrastructure improvements that were undertaken with the 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 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; HF Seahorn 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 ell as some secondary cluster and service roads;
ive main cluster arrangements 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 (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

The Subterranean Poultry House (Building 246) was 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 the 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 (i.e., in terms of both area occupied and staff) at BARC. The BAI'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, slaughterhouse, and animal buildings. These facilities were constructed at BARC with the assistance of CCC workers, with funding and oversight provided by

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e PWA and the Civil Works Administration. A new Main Laboratory (i.e., Building 200), constructed under this program, was he 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. Additional BAI facilities were developed at this time facilities using New Deal funding sources at the Central and East Farms. The 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). 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 improvements in 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 Subterranean Poultry House, Building 246

Building 246, constructed in 1944, 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 poultry area included buildings 236 through 281. 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 poultry area's design has two formal and ornamental planting areas, and trees were planted on a relaxed grid to provide shade to the poultry houses. Building plans for Building 246 were drafted during the summer of 1944 and was a 910 square-foot building (Bernard Johnson Young, Inc. 1996; USDA 1944). It was the only building constructed that year in the Poultry Area and was the only subterranean poultry building (Robinson and Associates 1998). Based on the building's name, it is believed that it served as an experimental poultry house to study the effects of a subterranean environment on poultry and may be connected to concerns from World War II. The 1996 BARC Master Plan lists the building as being used for radioactive waste storage (Bernard Johnson Young, Inc. 1996). Building 246 has been vacant since 1997.

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Building 246 has not previously been evaluated to determine its individual significance or status as a contributing or non-contributing property within BARC, a 6,582-acre federal agricultural research facility. BARC was previously determined eligible

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its entirety for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the largest national research facility for the USDA nd for its role as the most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. This evaluation concludes that while Building 246 is not individually significant, it contributes to the overall significance of BARC. The history and development of BARC also reflects New Deal policies and programs, and contains examples of notable landscape architecture, Georgian Revival architecture, and experimental agricultural architecture.

Under Criterion A, Building 246 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 towar scientific knowledge that have resulted in incredible advances in crop production, plant and animal disease control, and pest control.

Subterranean Poultry House (Building 246) was used by 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 246 have not been determined significant under Criterion B for their association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, Building 246 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 o 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 atures and buildings. Though Building 246 is of modest design, it represents an example of the experimental agricultural chitecture 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.

Building 246 retains its original location and has the same setting within an agricultural research complex. It is specifically linkec to its research functions and ties to the Bureau's Animal Husbandry Division's buildings in the 200 Area Cluster with the Poultry Complex in the Central Farm. 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 1997. The buildi is in fair condition, as it has vegetation surrounding the building and the concrete stucco surrounding the main entry is spalling.

Although Building 246 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

Bernard Johnson Young, Inc.
1996 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center 1996 Master Plan Update. Master Plan Report. Prepared for USDA ARS.

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

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Reviewer, National Register Program **Date**

Matthews, Samuel W.
1953 "Beltsville Brings Science to the Farm." National Geographic Magazine.

Office of Technology Assessment, 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
1944 Architectural Drawings of the Subterranean Poultry Houses (Building 246), Beltsville, Maryland. Drawings on file, USDA ARS BARC, Engineering Section, Building 426, Beltsville, Maryland.

Wiser, Vivian and Wayne D. Rasmussen
1966 "Background for Plenty: A National Center for Agricultural Research." Maryland Historical Magazine 61:4, December 196(

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Eligibility recommended _____ **Eligibility not recommended** _____

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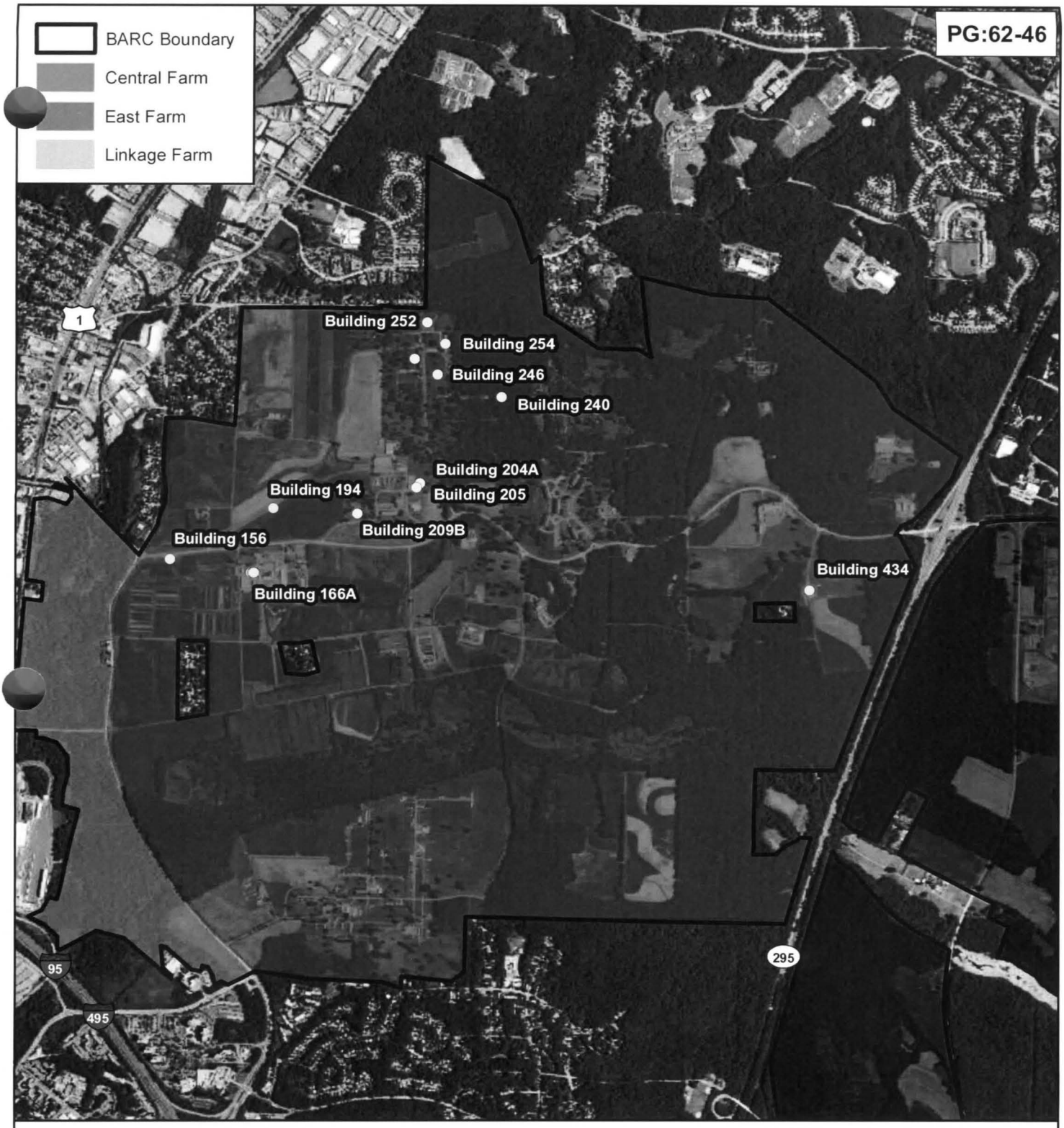

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Feet

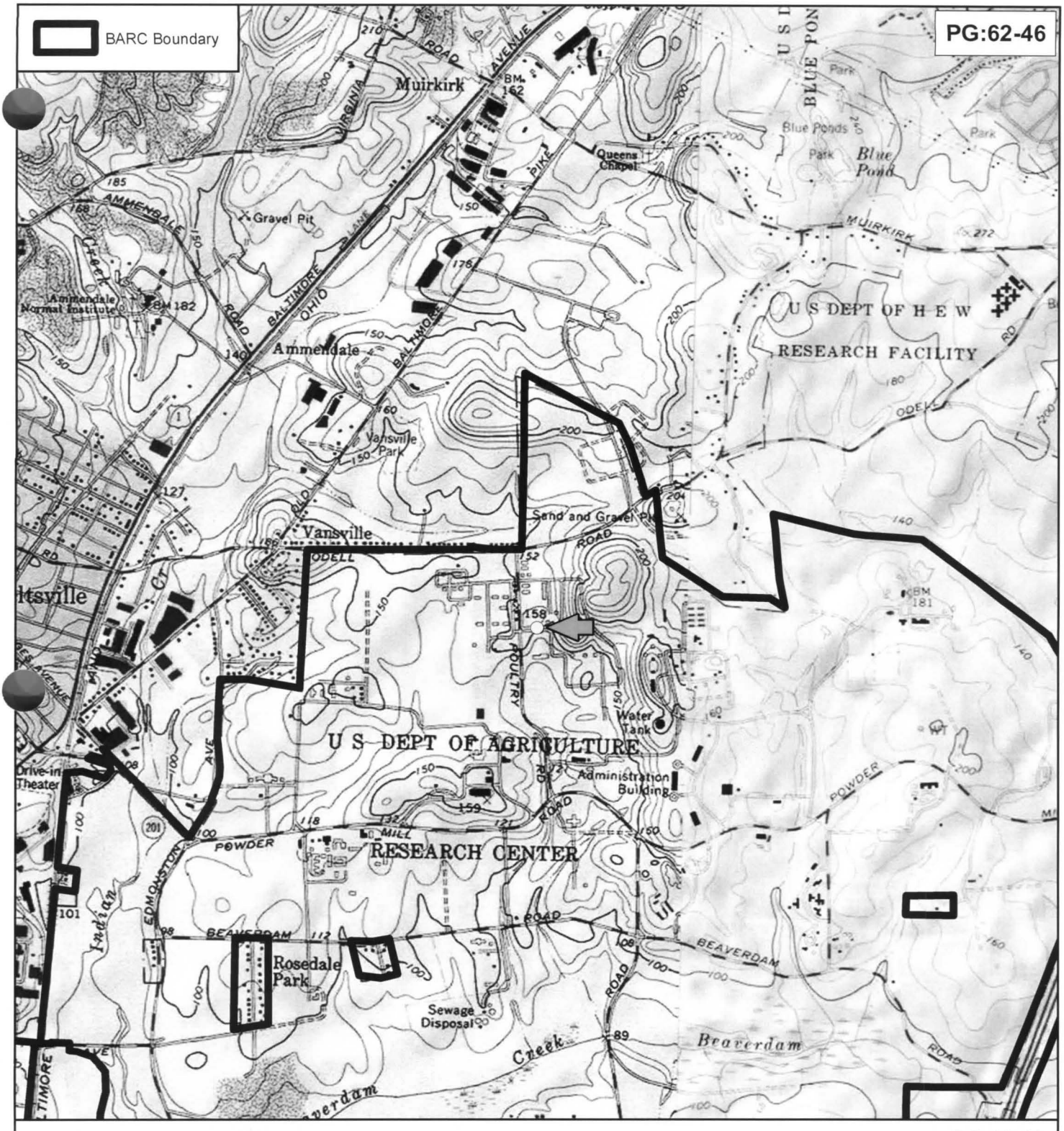
PG:62-46
Subterranean Poultry House, Building 246
Beltsville, Prince George's County
USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

CLIENT	USDA
PROJ	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
SCALE	1:28,000
SOURCE	ESRI 2017; PG Co. Dept. of Planning 2017
	Q:\Projects\ENV\IAP\CRM\USDA - BARC CRM study, Phase 2\900-GIS and Graphics\920 GIS\Fig 3_BARC_farm_central.mxd

TITLE: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Central Farm

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541
FIGURE 3



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Subterranean Poultry House, Building 246

Beltsville, Prince George's County

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

CLIENT	U.S. Department of Agriculture
PROJ	USDA ARS Beltsville Ph II
SCALE	1:24,000
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
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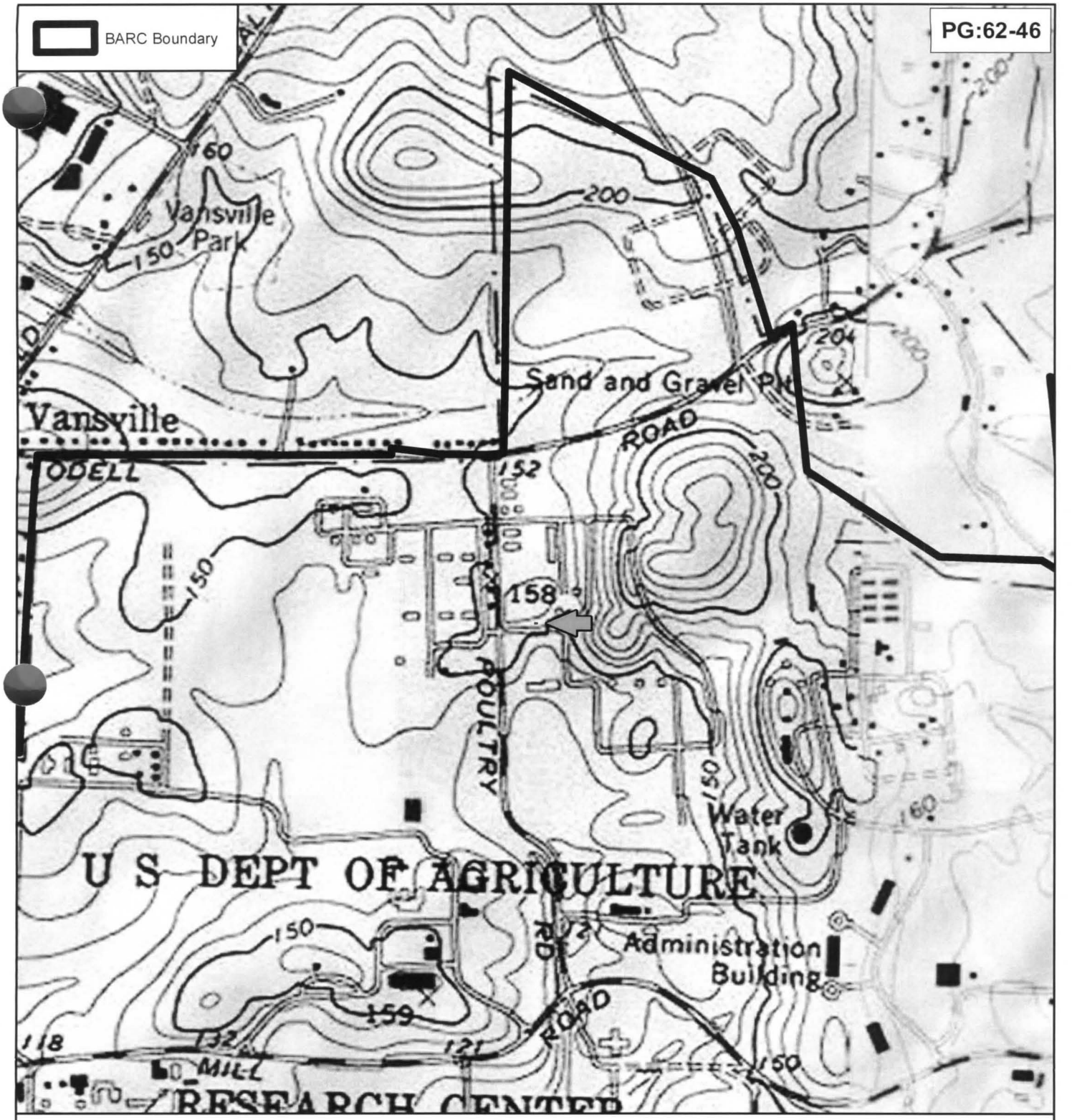
TITLE: Central Farm, Building 246

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541

FIGURE 4



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Subterranean Poultry House, Building 246

Beltsville, Prince George's County

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

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Feet

CLIENT	U.S. Department of Agriculture
PROJ	USDA ARS Beltsville Ph II
SCALE	1:10,997
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
	Q:\Projects\ENV\IAP\CRM\USDA - BARC CRM study, Phase 2\900-GIS and Graphics\920 GIS\Fig 5_BARC_topo10k.mxd

TITLE: Central Farm, Building 246

AECOM

12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541

FIGURE 5

PG:62-46
Subterranean Poultry House, Building 246
Beltsville, Prince George's County
USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

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Feet

NT	USDA
J	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
SCALE	1:1,500
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
	Q:\Projects\ENV\IAP\CRM\USDA - BARC CRM study, Phase 2\900-GIS and Graphics\920 GIS\Fig 6_BARC_aerial.mxd

N

TITLE
Central Farm, Building 246

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541
FIGURE 6

Photograph Log **PG:62-46**

USDA
DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
Building 246: Subterranean Poultry House
10300 Baltimore Avenue, Central Farm
Prince George's County, MD
Photographers: Mark Edwards and Brian Cleven, Architectural Historians
March 2, 2016 and September 20, 2017
MD SHPO

Archival Black and White Photographs and Digital Photographs for the Maryland Historical Trust.

1. *PG;62-46_2016-03-02_01.tif*, Building 246, Subterranean Poultry House, Central Farm, View of South and East Elevations, Looking Northwest
2. PG;62-46_2016-03-02_02.tif, Building 246, Subterranean Poultry House, Central Farm, View of South Elevation, Looking North
3. PG;62-46_2016-03-02_03.tif, Building 246, Subterranean Poultry House, Central Farm, View of South and West Elevations, Looking Northeast
4. PG;62-46_2017-09-20_04.tif, Building 246, Subterranean Poultry House, Central Farm, View of North Elevation, Looking South

PG: 62-46

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M. Edwards, 5/2/2016

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MD- Prince George's County - Subterranean Poultry House - 0002

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MD_ Prince George's County – Subterranean Poultry House _ 0003

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PG: 62-46

MD_ Prince George's County_ Subterranean Poultry House_ 0004

B. Cleven, 9/20/2017

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