

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Building 252: Carpenter Shop, BARC Inventory Number: PG:62-47

Address: 10300 Baltimore Avenue Building 252, 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 of 69 Buildings at BARC Agency: USDA

Agency Prepared By: AECOM

Preparer's Name: Kelly Whitton 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 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 252's address as 10300 Baltimore Avenue - Building 252, Central Farm. Building 252 is located 294' southeast of the intersection of Poultry Road and Odell Road. The building is situated to the east of Poultry Road between Odell Road and National Agricultural Research Road.

Building Description

Building 252, a carpenter shop, is located within the Poultry area in the USDA ARS BARC's Central Farm (Figures 3-6). The

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MHT Comments:

[Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

3/22/2018
Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

4/19/18
Date

Rectangular building faces north towards Odell Road. The building is oriented on an east-west axis, and is two bays in depth and is approximately nineteen bays in total width, arranged in a tripartite plan, with two equal eight bay wings intersecting a central three bay building (Photo 1). The one-story, wood frame building sits on a concrete foundation, and is clad with exterior wood siding. The central pavilion features a medium-pitch, front gable roof with asbestos shingle cladding and a vent opening. The north elevation features a gable-end central entrance and two flanking windows. The east and west wings are contemporaneous to the building but do not feature identical fenestration. Building 252 features predominately four-over-four, double-hung, wood sash windows (Photo 2). The full expanse of the south elevations features evenly spaced windows. The north elevations of each wing feature alternating windows and door openings (Photo 3). The door openings are mostly filled with five panel wood doors in singles or sets of double doors. The northeast corner of the north elevation features a one bay opening which physically removed a portion of the roof eave and east wall elevation, and exposes the interior finishes at this location. The opening appears to have been deliberately cut, but the adjacent finishes have since deteriorated. The east and west elevations feature identical fenestration of two evenly spaced windows and an end-gable vent. The west elevation features a mid-range brick chimney which emerges from the roof directly on the ridge line. The interior of the building is inconsistently fitted out. Some portions feature drywall walls and ceilings, others are clad with vertical or horizontal wood paneling (Photo 4). Overall, the building is in fair/poor condition.

History of Property

Central Farm

Building 252, constructed in 1934, 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, 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 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 33 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 1920's, 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 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 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 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

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Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

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 1933 (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; 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 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 (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 252 was a barn used by the Division of Animal Husbandry, in the BAI, the largest bureau at the agricultural research facility. The BAI, the earliest of the USDA's 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 the Bureau of Dairy Industry (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 Division'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 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 was the center of nation's research into animal husbandry (Robinson and Associates 1998). In addition to animal husbandry, the Bureau transferred other divisions to BARC during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Additional BAI facilities were developed at this time 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).

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_____ Reviewer, National Register Program	_____ Date

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 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. Beltsville'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, 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 the Carpenter Shop, Building 252

Design drawings for the Building 252 dated January 25, 1934 referred to the building as "Carpenter Shop Etc.: The design housed the carpentry shop, lumber storage, and the "Selection Room" in the west wing, a five stall stable in the center pavilion, and hay and oat storage, as well as a room for diseased chickens in the east wing. All rooms are listed as having a cement floor, indicating an exposed foundation slab. The design is consistent with the existing cladding, materials, and expression of the building, calling for drop siding on all elevations and "White Top Asbestos Roofing." White Top asbestos roofing was advertised in the early 20th century as a nearly indestructible, weatherproof, fireproof material composed of a combination of asbestos and asphalt (H.W. Johns-Manville Co. 1909). The building has been vacant since 2008.

Building 252 had a mirror-image building directly to the north until sometime between 1989 and 2002 (NETR 2017). The purpose and use of that building is unknown. The Robinson and Associates report references at least two buildings in the area, Buildings 247 and 248, both shared the same "general plan" as Building 252, but have been demolished (Robinson and Associates 1998).

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Building 252 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, which 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 the building to be eligible for listing in NRHP as a contributing property within BARC. This evaluation concurs that while Building 252 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 252 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

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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, the PWA, and the 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 252 was specifically used as a Carpenter Shop, stable, and holding pen for diseased chickens 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 252 have not been determined significant under Criterion B for their association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, Building 252 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 252, 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.

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

Building 252 retains its original location within an agricultural research complex. As Building 252 was formerly sited with another matching building, now demolished, it no longer maintains its original setting. The building is specifically linked to its carpentry and stable functions and its ties to the Animal Husbandry division laboratory and research buildings in the 200 Area Cluster. The feeling of, and association with, an agricultural research center is intact. Although the building features some deterioration and missing doors and windows, Building 252 maintains key elements of its original design including massing, fenestration, roofing pattern and material, and cladding. It retains its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. The building has been vacant since 2008.

Although Building 252 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

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1934 Carpenter Shop Etc. (Building 252) Beltsville, Maryland. Drawings on file, USDA ARS BARC, Engineering Section, Building 426, Beltsville, Maryland.

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

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Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

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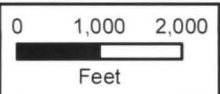
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date



Carpenter Shop, Building 252

Beltsville, Prince George's County

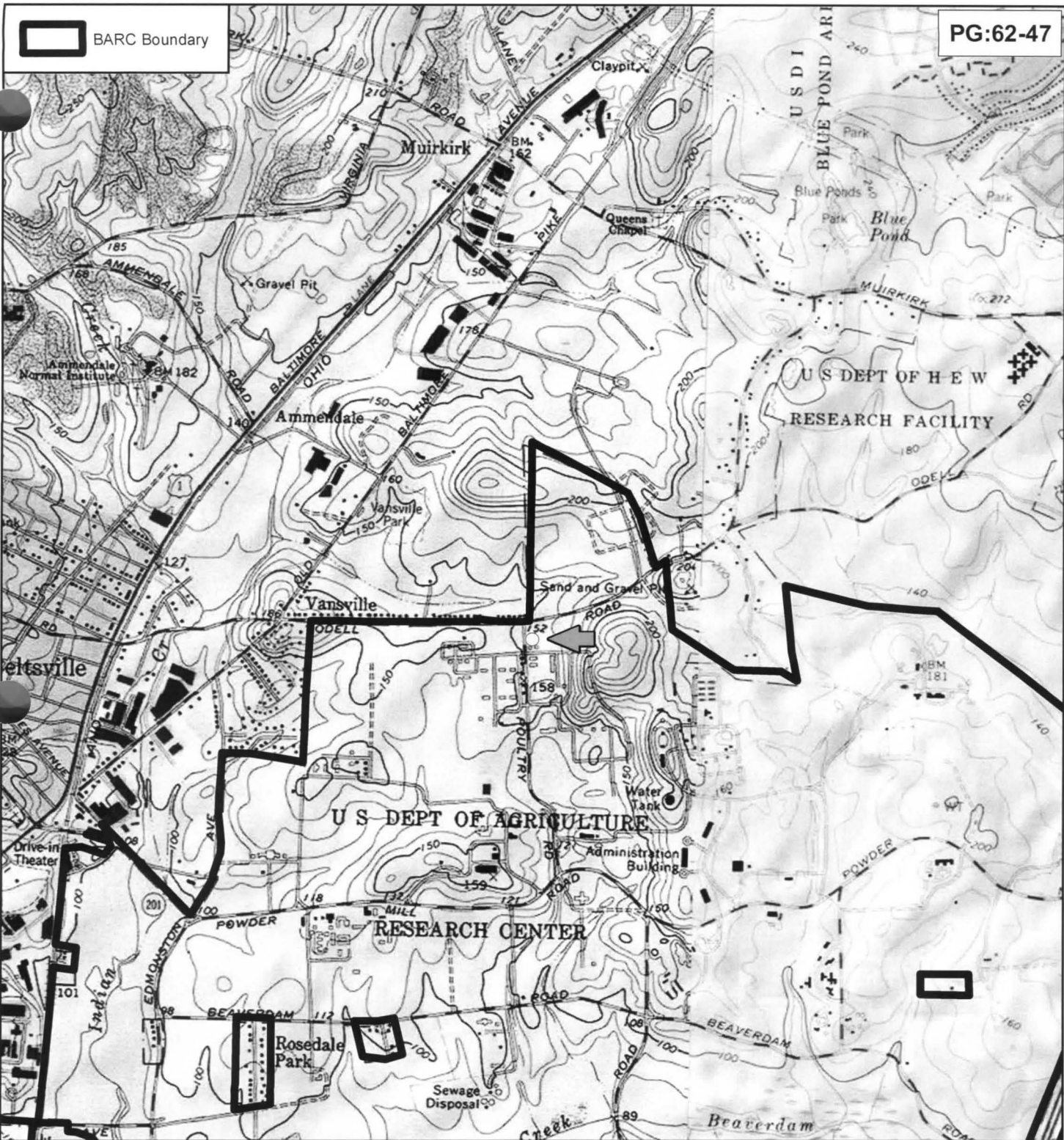
USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

CLIENT	USDA
PROJECT	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
SCALE	1:28,000
SOURCE	ESRI 2017; PG Co. Dept. of Planning 2017
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TITLE	
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Central Farm	
	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876
	PROJ NO 60551541 FIGURE 3

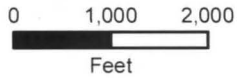
BARC Boundary



Carpenter Shop, Building 252

Beltsville, Prince George's County

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

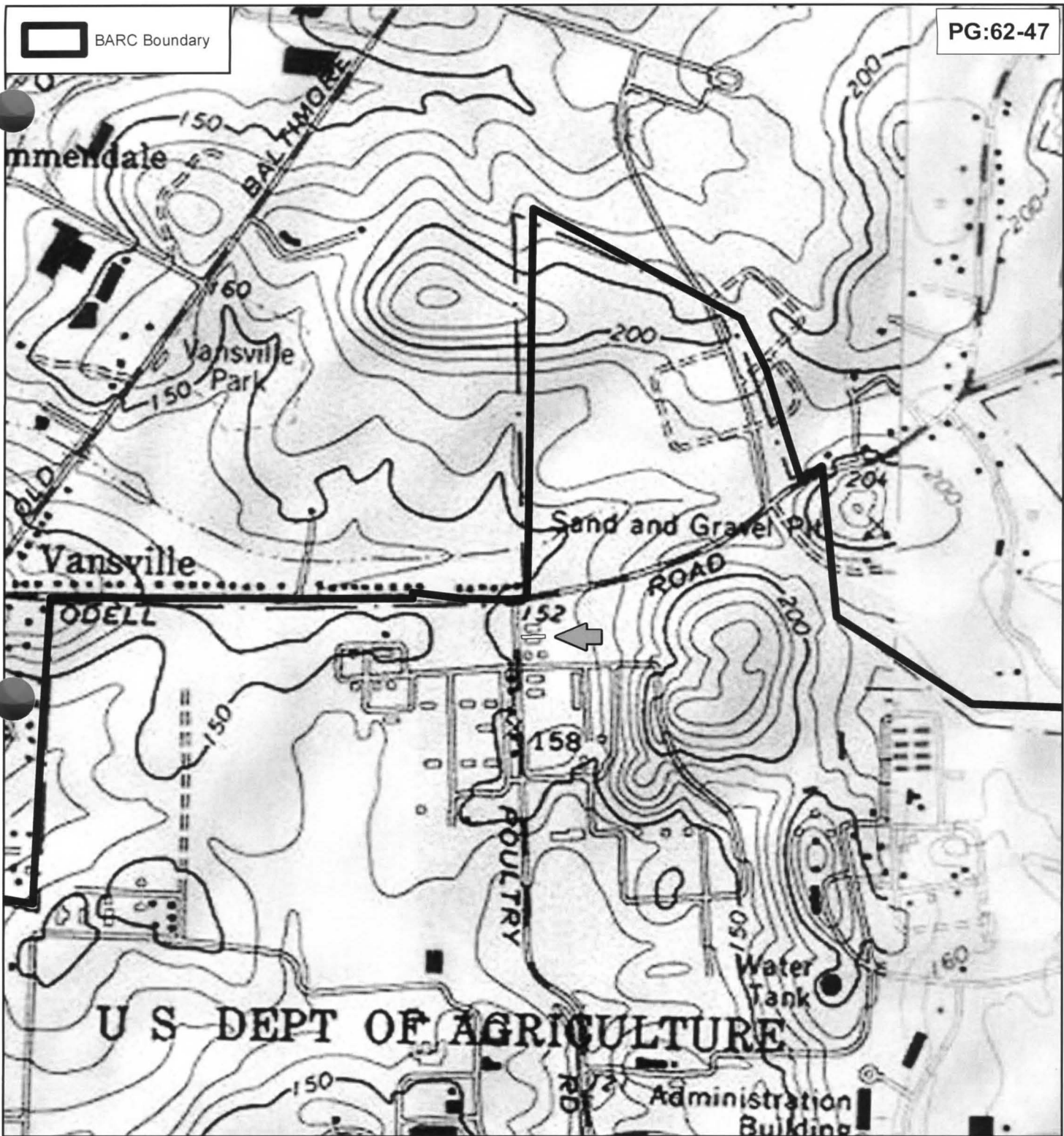


CLIENT	U.S. Department of Agriculture
PROJECT	USDAARS Beltsville Ph II
SCALE	1:24,000
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
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TITLE	Central Farm, Building 252
	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876
	PROJ NO 60551541 FIGURE 4

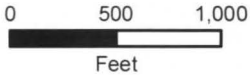
BARC Boundary



Carpenter Shop, Building 252

Beltsville, Prince George's County

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



CLIENT	U.S. Department of Agriculture
PROJECT	USDAARS Beltsville Ph II
SCALE	1:10,997
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
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TITLE	
Central Farm, Building 252	
AECOM	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876
	PROJNO 60551541 FIGURE 5



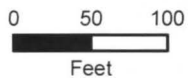
BARC Boundary

PG:62-47

Carpenter Shop, Building 252

Beltsville, Prince George's County

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



AGENCY	USDA
PROJECT	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
SCALE	1:1,500
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
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TITLE	
Central Farm, Building 252	
AECOM	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876
	PROJ NO 60551541
FIGURE	6

USDA

DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC

Building 252: Carpenter Shop

10300 Baltimore Avenue, Central Farm

Prince George's County, MD

Photographers: Mark Edwards and Brian Clevon, Architectural Historians

March 2, 2016 and September 20, 2017

MD SHPO

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

1. PG;67-47_2017-09-20_01.tif, Building 252, Carpenter Shop, Central Farm, View of West and South Elevations, Looking Northeast
2. PG;67-47_2017-09-20_02.tif, Building 252, Carpenter Shop, Central Farm, View of East End of South Elevation, Looking North
3. PG;67-47_2016-03-02_03.tif, Building 252, Carpenter Shop, Central Farm, View of North Elevation, Looking Southeast
4. PG;67-47_2017-09-20_04.tif, Building 252, Carpenter Shop, Central Farm, View of Interior, Looking East



PG: 62-47

MD Prince George's County - Carpenter Shop - 0001

B. Clevon, 9/20/2017

1 of 4



PG: 62-47

MD. Prince George's County - Carpenter Shop - 0002

B. Clevin, 9/20/2017

20A4



PG: 62-47

MD - Prince George's County - Carpenter Shop - 0003

M. Edwards, 3/2/2016

3 of 4



DG: G2-47

MD - Prince George's County - Carpenter Shop - 0004

B. Clevon, 9/20/2017

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