

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Building 254: Poultry House, BARC Inventory Number: PG:62-48

Address: 10300 Baltimore Avenue Building 254, Central Farm Historic district: \_\_\_ yes  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: Patrick Thompson 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:  Eligibility recommended \_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A \_\_\_ B  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:  yes Listed: \_\_\_ yes

Site visit by MHT Staff \_\_\_ yes  no Name: \_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_

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

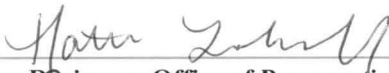
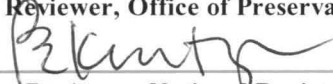
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) was one of the largest agricultural research facilities in the United States (Figures 1 and 2). Owned by the USDA, the facility was established in Beltsville in 1910 and significantly 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 254's address as 10300 Baltimore Avenue - Building 254, Central Farm. Building 254 is 600' southeast of the intersection of Odell and Poultry Roads.

Building Description

Building 254, a poultry house, is located within the 200 Area Cluster, the area of USDA ARS BARC's Central Farm utilized by the Bureau of Animal Industry's (BAI) Poultry Research Division (Figures 3-6). The 18,160 square foot building (Bernard Johnson)

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Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended ___
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<b>MHT Comments:</b>	
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	3/22/2018 Date
 Reviewer, National Register Program	4/19/18 Date

201800818

Building 254 (built c. 1957) was constructed in 1957, faces west towards Poultry Road, and is oriented on an east-west axis. The masonry building was constructed in a variation of the International style, and features a central two-story section flanked on each end by single-story extensions (Photos 1 and 2). The building's foundation is a concrete slab. The central section has a recessed entry filled with glass doors and a ribbon of large, full-length windows. The entry porch is sheltered by a cantilevered, flat awning (Photo 3). The second-floor windows are two-light metal awning casement sashes, and other windows in the extensions are ribbon of three-light metal awning casement sashes (Photo 4). The rear (east) of the central section has a small concrete loading dock and a central door with paired metal doors. The dock is sheltered by a small cantilevered awning roof similar to that on the front (Photo 5). All three sections of the building have flat roofs. The south end of the building has two bays filled with metal doors, and the north end has three bays: a central door flanked by two windows (Photo 6). The building's interior features a series of small, discrete rooms and large open spaces with round concrete supports (Photo 7). The south extension and most of the second floor (Photo 8) appear to have been used predominantly for research, with the north extension reserved for offices and other working space. A concrete trench, approximately a foot deep by two feet wide, extends down the center of most of the north extension. Sections of the north extension contain what may have been large walk-in coolers. Building 254 was vacated in 2008 and is in fair/good condition.

History of Property

Central Farm

Building 254, constructed in 1957, is located on the 2,980-acre Central Farm is 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, Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Agricultural Engineering, and Cultural and Industrial Chemistry established, enlarged, o

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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 254 was constructed in 1957 as a research facility for the poultry research division of the BAI, the earliest of the USDA research bureaus at BARC. The BAI 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 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 Bureau’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 domestic animals (all except dairy) (Robinson and Associates 1998).

By the early 1930s, the Bureau’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 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 Animal Husbandry Division of the BAI 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 BAI 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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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 its 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 the Poultry House (Building 254)*

Building 254 was constructed in the 200 Area Cluster (BAI: Poultry Research Division) in 1957, one of the last major new buildings constructed in that cluster. As originally constructed, the building featured a "feed room" and "observation lobby" on the ground floor of the central section, utility spaces in the basement, and a large open room on the second floor. The extensions each contained a series of pens (smaller pens in the north wing, and larger pens in the south wing), with grated trenches extending the length of both wings (USDA 1957). In 1976, the second floor was subdivided into three rooms with an L-shaped cross hall, and the north and south wings were renovated to create discrete rooms, which in the south wing were further subdivided into sets of smaller rooms (USDA 1976). The building's interior was renovated repeatedly throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1992 the north wing was renovated to create larger research and office spaces, separate men's and women's locker rooms, and a small break or lunch room. The waste trench extending throughout the north wing was also partially enclosed at this time (USDA 1992). Building 254 continued to be used for poultry research into the 2000s, and was vacated in 2008.

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Building 254 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 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. This evaluation concludes that while Building 254 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 254 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. The PWA, and the CCC both

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<b>Reviewer, National Register Program</b>	<b>Date</b>

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 254 was specifically used by the poultry research division in its research on breeding, disease, and other aspects of turkey production in the United States.

Neither BARC nor Building 254 specifically has been determined significant under Criterion B for their association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, Building 254 is a contributing property within BARC, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. Many 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. Though Building 254 is a relatively modest design and a variation on the International style applied to a modest industrial-research building, it illustrates the types of experimental architecture for which BARC is significant, and contributes to the overall landscape.

Neither BARC nor Building 254 specifically has been evaluated under Criterion D for the information important in prehistory or history they may yield or are likely to yield.

Building 254 retains its original location and setting within BARC, and specifically its spatial relationships within the 200 Area Cluster, which are affiliated with the BAI – Poultry Research Division. It is specifically linked to the division's research functions on the Central Farm. The feeling of, and association with, the larger agricultural research center is intact. Currently in fair/good condition, the building has undergone a few exterior alterations (some windows enclosed for fans or vents) and more substantive interior alterations since it was constructed in 1957 and the early 2000s. Despite these changes, Building 254 retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The building was vacated in 2008. Brush has overgrown the sides and rear of the building, and there is a large hole in the exterior brick wall on the north end.

Although Building 254 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

Robinson and Associates

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

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).

United States Department of Agriculture

1957 Architectural Drawings of Poultry House (Building 254), Beltsville, Maryland. Drawings on file, USDA ARS BARC, Engineering Section, Building 426, Beltsville, Maryland.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

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Date

1976 Architectural Drawings Renovation of Building for Housing Turkeys (Building 254), Beltsville, Maryland. Drawings on file, USDA ARS BARC, Engineering Section, Building 426, Beltsville, Maryland.

1992 Architectural Drawings for Renovation of North Wing (Building 254), Beltsville, Maryland. Drawings on file, USDA ARS BARC, Engineering Section, Building 426, Beltsville, Maryland.

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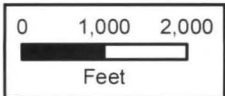
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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

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Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

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Date



**Poultry House, Building 254**

Beltsville, Prince George's County

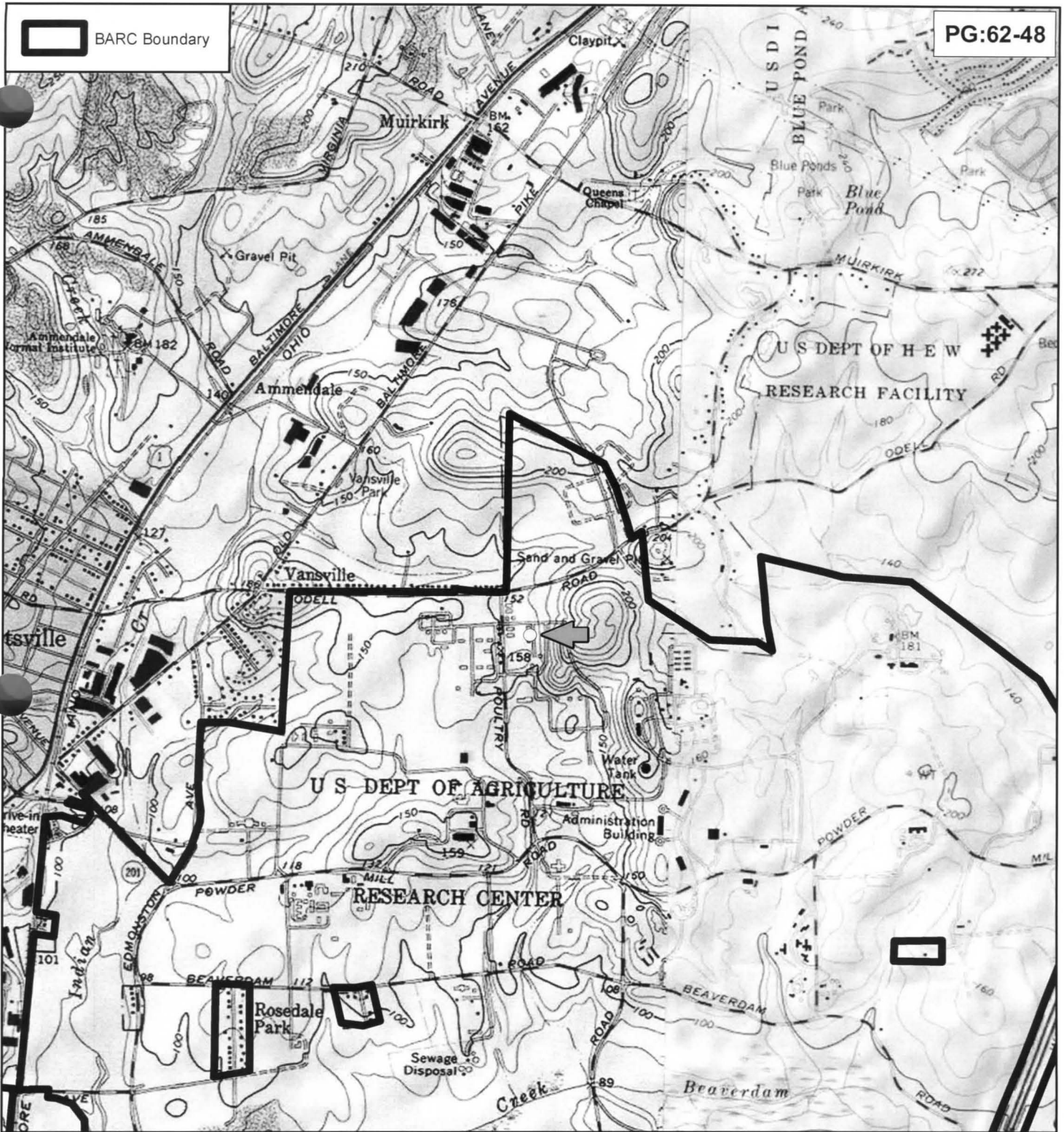
USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

CLIENT	USDA
PROJECT	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
SCALE	1:28,000
SOURCE	ESRI 2017; PG Co. Dept. of Planning 2017
FILE PATH	Q:\Projects\ENVI\APICRM\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	
	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876
	PROJ NO 60551541 FIGURE 3

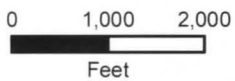
BARC Boundary



**Poultry House, Building 254**

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
Q:\Projects\ENVI\A\PI\CRM\USDA - BARC CRM study, Phase 2\900-GIS and Graphics\920 GIS\Fig 4_BARC_topo24k.mxd	

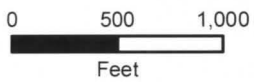
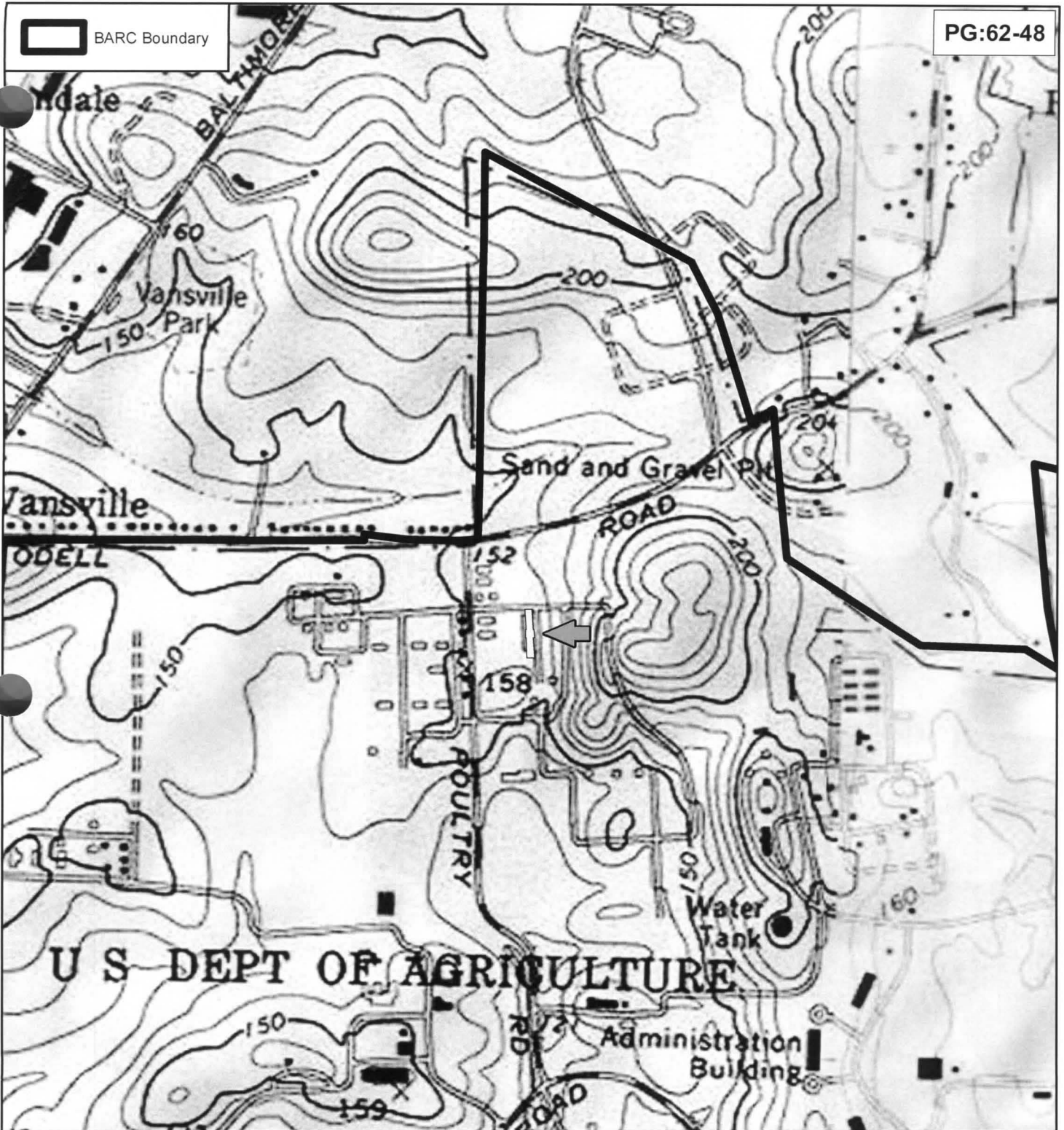


TITLE	Central Farm, Building 254
<b>AECOM</b>	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876
PROJ NO	60551541
FIGURE	4



BARC Boundary

PG:62-48



PG:62-48  
**Poultry House, Building 254**  
 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 254
	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876
	PROJ NO 60551541 FIGURE 5

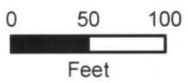


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**Poultry House, Building 254**

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	1:1,500
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
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TITLE	
Central Farm, Building 254	
<b>AECOM</b>	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876
	PROJ NO 60551541
FIGURE	6

**USDA**

**DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC**

**Building 254; Poultry House**

**10300 Baltimore Avenue, East Farm**

**Prince George's County, MD**

**Photographers: Mark Edwards and Brian Clevon, Architectural Historians**

**March 2, 2016, September 20, 2017**

**MD SHPO**

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

1. PG;62-48\_2017-09-20\_01.tif, Building 254, Poultry House, Central Farm, Overview of West Elevation, Looking Southeast
2. PG;62-48\_2016-03-02\_02.tif, Building 254, Poultry House, Central Farm, View of West Elevation of North Extension and Central Section, Looking Southeast
3. PG;62-48\_2016-03-02\_03.tif, Building 254, Poultry House, Central Farm, View of West Elevation of Central Section, Looking Southeast
4. PG;62-48\_2017-09-20\_04.tif, Building 254, Poultry House, Central Farm, View of West and South Elevations of South Extension, Looking Northeast

*Digital Photographs for Maryland Historical Trust*

5. PG;62-48\_2017-09-20\_05.tif, Building 254, Poultry House, Central Farm, View of East Elevation of Central Section, Looking West
6. PG;62-48\_2017-09-20\_06.tif, Building 254, Poultry House, Central Farm, View of East and North Elevations of North Extension, Looking Southwest
7. PG;62-48\_2017-09-20\_07.tif, Building 254, Poultry House, Central Farm, Interior View of Central Hall on Ground Floor, Looking South
8. PG;62-48\_2017-09-20\_08.tif, Building 254, Poultry House, Central Farm, Interior View of Second Floor Room, Looking South



PB: 62-48

MD - Prince George's County - Pantry House - 0001

B. Clever, 9/20/2017

#1 of 4



PG: 62-48

MD - Prince George's County Poultry House - 0002

M. Edwards, 8/2/2016

# ~~2~~ 4





PG: 62-48

MD - Prince Georges County - Hunting House - 0003

M. Edwards, 3/6/2010

# 3 of 4



PG: 62-48

MD Prince George's County - Poultry House - 2004

B. Claven, 9/20/2017

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