MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Building 263: Poultry Physiological Laboratory
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Inventory Number: PG:62-59

Address: 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Building 263
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 of 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 ____yes Eligible district X 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 263 as 10300 Baltimore Avenue – Building 263, Central Farm. Building 263 is located 76' west of Poultry Road; 784' southwest of the intersection of Odell and Poultry Roads.

Building Description

Located in the USDA ARS BARC's Central Farm (Figures 3 through 6), Buildings 263, 264, and 265 were built as Poultry Laboratories. Building 263 is a rectangular building, measuring 72'-8" by 45'-4", and faces east towards Poultry Road.

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

2015001157

Building 263 is located immediately south of the Poultry Fattening Laboratory (Building 262, constructed 1937) and is the northernmost building of Buildings 264 and 265 (Photo 1). The three-story building is oriented on a north-south axis.

Constructed in 1934, Building 263 is built out of cinder blocks; the first story is clad on the exterior with brick and the second and third stories are covered with stucco. The side-gable roof is clad with composition shingles. Building 263 has a central entrance on the east elevation, which is filled with a pair of wood panel doors with rectangular nine-light windows. The entrance is capped with a projecting triangular wooden portico, which is supported by brackets. The façade includes a symmetrical window arrangement on the second and third floors, featuring a single central window flanked by four windows each to the north and south, arranged in pairs. The attic story features three dormer windows (Photo 2). The south elevation hass a door in the southeast bay, and a metal fire escape in the western half. The elevation is divided roughly in half, with pairs of windows on the eastern half and window-door pairs accessing the fire escape on the western half. The gable end contains a single window to the fire escape, and a pent roof along the cornice line (Photo 3). The west elevation is roughly symmetrical with the east elevation. The central entrance is filled with a single door. The remainder of the first-story elevation is punctuated by windows and semi-recessed openings filled with brick, including a large rectangular panel in the northwest bay. The central second-story window opening is filled with a half-sized window. The windows on all elevations has brick sills (Photo 4). The north elevation has a door in the northwest bay, and a metal fire escape in the eastern half. The elevation is divided roughly in half, with pairs of windows on the western half and window-door pairs accessing the fire escape on the eastern half. The gable end has a single window to the fire escape, and a pent roof along the cornice line (Photo 5). The interior of the building features extensive paint delamination and missing or deteriorated finishes (Photos 6-8). The wood sash windows has an operable six-pane upper sash, a fixed three-pane middle sash, and an operable three-pane lower sash (Photo 8).

Building 263, vacant since 1999, is in fair condition.

History of Property

Central Farm

Building 263, 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; most of the buildings and landscape of the Central Farm were developed 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 (DHHS) and U.S. Department of State (DOS) 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, many of the Bureaus established, enlarged, or constructed new research facilities on the Central Farm. These included the BAI's pathology, zoology, and insecticide divisions, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant

Quarantine, the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, the Bureau of Cultural and Industrial Chemistry, and the Food and Drug Administration (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. 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 [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

The USDA's 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 expanded in 1935 (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 Poultry Physiological Laboratory, Building 263

One set of preliminary design drawings, dated to 1932, exist for Buildings 263, 264, and 265. The drawings were prepared by the USDA Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, Division of Plans and Service. Buildings 263, 264, and 265 were designed as central components of the New Deal reconfiguration of the Central Farm and the Poultry Division. The buildings initially operated as Poultry Fattening Laboratories. As the mission and function of the properties evolved, Building 263 was used as the Poultry Physiological Laboratory. The first story of Building 263 was used for storage. The second and third stories housed live birds and laboratory spaces. The third and attic stories also held office and conference spaces.

The interior of Building 263 was renovated in 1990. Building 263 has been vacant since 1999 and is in poor condition.

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Building 263 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 263 to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing property within BARC. This evaluation concurs that while Building 263 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 263 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, 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 263 was designed and initially operated as a Poultry Fattening Laboratory with Buildings 264 and 265 for the BAI to investigate the proper care and feeding of poultry. It was later operated as the Poultry Physiology Laboratory. BARC scientists and researchers made valuable scientific contributions, both in foundational and applicable science.

BARC and Building 263 have not been determined significant under Criterion B for their association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, Building 263 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 majorities 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 263, 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 263 specifically has been evaluated under Criterion D for its yielding, or likelihood to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Building 263 retains its original location and setting within an agricultural research complex. Building 263 is specifically linked to its design and operation as a Poultry Physiology Laboratory and its tie to the research buildings devoted to poultry within the BAI. The feeling of, and association with, an agricultural research center is intact. Although Building 263 has been altered, it maintains key elements of its original design including massing, footprint, and exterior cladding. Building 263 retains its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Building 263 was vacated in 1999 and is in fair condition.

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
1932 *Poultry Fattening Laboratories, Beltsville, MD.* Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, Division of Plans and Service. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

1934 *Poultry Fattening Laboratory.* Architectural and Engineering Section. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

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

1973 *Bldg. 262.* On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

1973 *Install Fire Escapes, Building 262.* On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

1974 *Alterations to Building 262.* On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

1983 *BARC Stair Enclosures: Building 262 – Plans.* Division of Operations. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

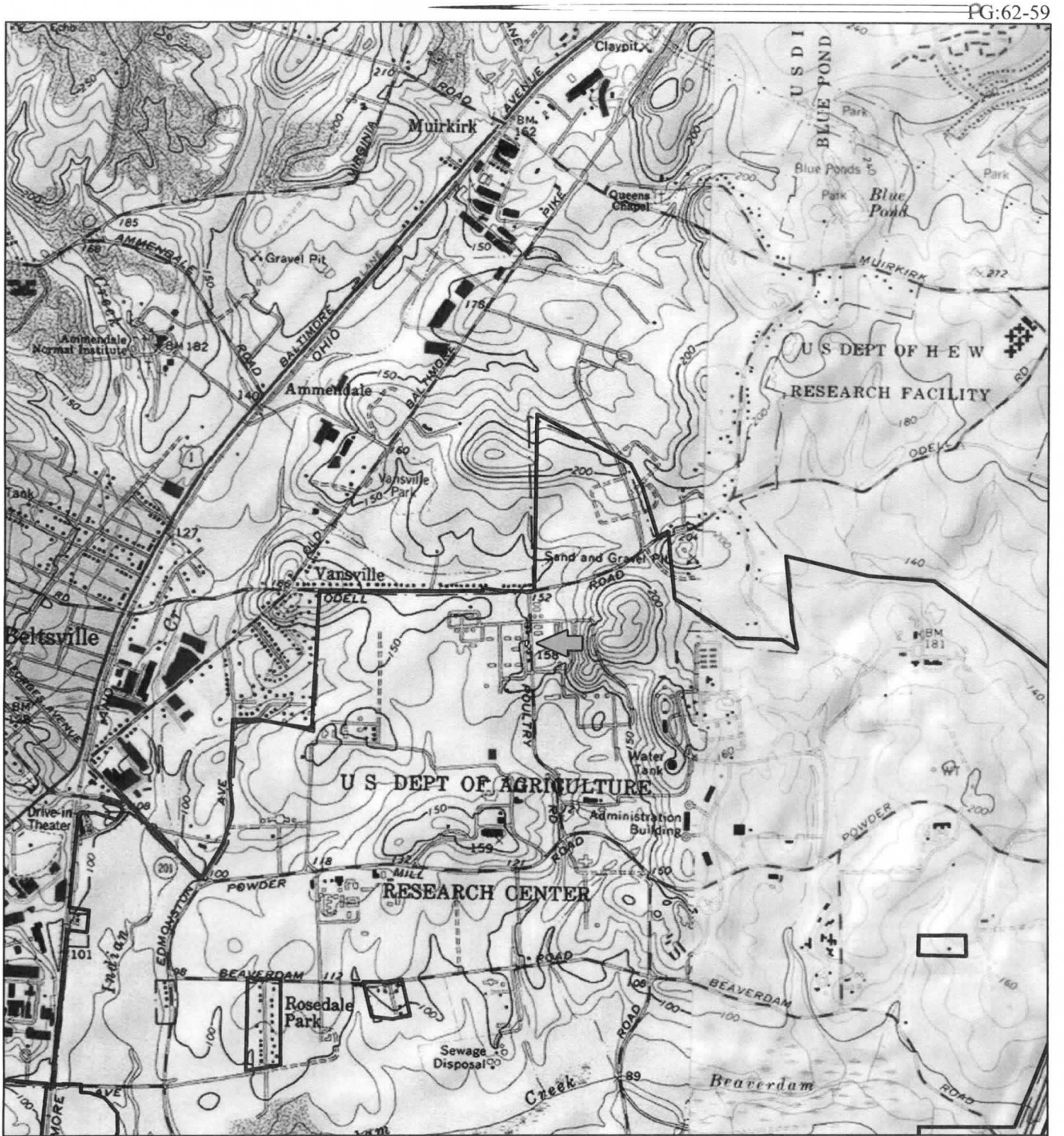
1984 *Renovations: Rms 32, 32A, 32B, Bld. 262.* Division of Operations. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

992 *Renovation of Rooms 202, 202A, 203, 203A, 203B, & 203C at Bldg. 262 BARC East.* Engineering and Planning. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

1997 *Install Boilers in Buildings 262 and 263.* Engineering and Maintenance Branch. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

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: Kelly Whitton (AECOM) Date Prepared: March 29, 2018



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Feet

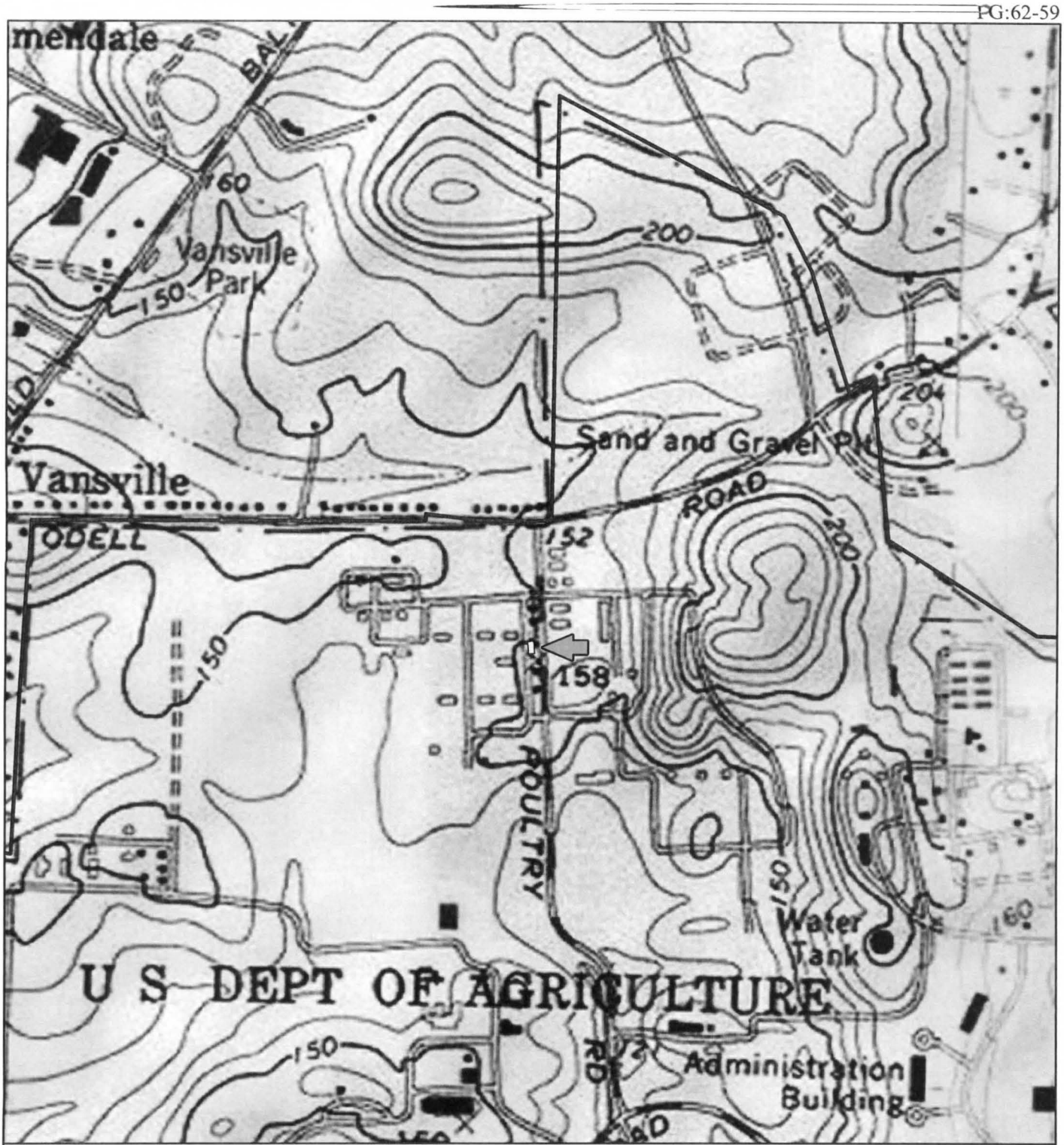
PG:62-59
Poultry Physiological Laboratory, Building 263
Beltsville, Prince George's County
USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

CLIENT	USDA
PROJ	DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
SCALE	1:24,000
SOURCE	ESRI 2017
	C:\Users\kathy.furgerson\Documents\Stuff\PROJECTS\USDA BARC PHASE II\Bldg xxx Fig 4_Group 3_topo24k.mxd

TITLE: Central Farm, Building 263

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541
FIGURE 4



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Feet

PG:62-59
Poultry Physiological Laboratory, Building 263
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
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TITLE: Central Farm, Building 263

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541
FIGURE 5

0 50 100
Feet

PG:62-59
Poultry Physiological Laboratory, Building 263
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

TITLE: Central Farm, Building 263

AECOM
12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60551541
FIGURE 6

USDA
DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC
Building 263: Poultry Physiology Laboratory
10300 Baltimore Avenue, Central Farm
Prince George's County, MD
Photographers: Mark Edwards and Brian Cleven, Architectural Historians
March 2, 2016; September 22 and 29, 2017; and December 7, 2017
MD SHPO

Archival Black and White Photographs for the Maryland Historical Trust.

1. PG;62-59_2016-03-02_01.tif, Building 263, Poultry Physiology Laboratory, Central Farm, General View, Looking Northeast
2. PG;62-59_2017-12-07_02.tif, Building 263, Poultry Physiology Laboratory, Central Farm, View of East Elevation, Looking West
3. PG;62-59_2017-09-22_03.tif, Building 263, Poultry Physiology Laboratory, Central Farm, View of South and West Elevations, Looking Northeast
4. PG;62-59_2017-12-07_04.tif, Building 263, Poultry Physiology Laboratory, Central Farm, View of West Elevation, Looking East

Digital Photographs for the Maryland Historical Trust.

5. PG;62-59_2017-12-07_05.tif, Building 263, Poultry Physiology Laboratory, Central Farm, View of North Elevation, Looking South
6. PG;62-59_2017-09-29_06.tif, Building 263, Poultry Physiology Laboratory, Central Farm, View of Interior Stair, Looking West
7. PG;62-59_2017-09-22_07.tif, Building 263, Poultry Physiology Laboratory, Central Farm, View of Interior, Looking Northwest
8. PG;62-59_2017-09-22_08.tif, Building 263, Poultry Physiology Laboratory, Central Farm, View of Interior, Looking Northwest

PG:62-59

MS_ Prince George's County - Poultry physiology Laboratory - 0001

B. Cleven, 3/02/2016

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263

PG: 62-59

MD- Prince George's County- Poultry Physiology Laboratory - 0002

B. Cleven, 12/07/2017

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PG: 62-59

MD-Prince George's County-Poultry Physiology

Laboratory - 0003

B. Cleven, 9/22/2017

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PG:62-59

MD-Prince George's County-Poultry Physiology

Laboratory-0004

B. Cleven, 12/07/2012

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