

Pig Shelters

USDA

Bureau of Engraving and Printing EIS

Beltsville, Prince George's County, Maryland

ca. 1972

The Pig Shelters were constructed ca. 1972 on the Central Farm within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). It was built in an area used by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). A chain link fence surrounds the area thus only portions of the shelters were visible from the fenced enclosure; aerial photography supports the description. The structures appear to be the same Quonset hut type with an adjacent shed roof shaded area. The corrugated metal Quonset huts are approximately 12' wide by 15' long by 8' tall and likely rest on a concrete slab foundation. The front façade has a rectangular opening and the rear façade has a pair of swing doors. Each shelter has a metal fence enclosure.

The Pig Shelters are located on BARC's 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. 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). 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 Swine Research unit was relocated from the Central Farm to the East Farm during the period between 1938 and 1942 (Robinson and Associates 1998). Over the years, 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 researchers conducted important research at BARC that led to major improvements in eradicating and treating contagious diseases in farm animals, reducing parasite infestations, and improving nutrition.

In 1997, BARC determined eligible for individual listing in the National Register for 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. The evaluation finds that the Pig Shelters are not individually significant and do not contribute to the overall significance of BARC under Criterion C. The Pig Shelters are contributing properties within BARC under Criterion A at the national level for its historical association with agricultural experimentation.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Pig Shelters Inventory Number: PG:62-88

Address: 10300 Baltimore Avenue Pig Shelters, Central Farm, Beltsville
Agricultural Research Center (BARC) 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: Bureau of Engraving and Printing EIS Agency: USACE-Baltimore District

Agency Prepared By: AECOM

Preparer's Name: Kisa Hooks Date Prepared: 7/15/2020

Documentation is presented in: MIHP Form, PG:62-14

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'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 the Pig Shelters as 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Pig Shelters, Central Farm. The Pig Shelters are located on Animal Husbandry Road, approximately 1,848 feet north of the eastern intersection of Animal Husbandry Road and Powder Mill.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

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MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services _____
Date

Reviewer, National Register Program _____
Date

BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Located in the USDA ARS BARC’s Central Farm (Figures 3 through 6), the Pig Shelters (Photo 1) were built as animal shelters. A chain link fence surrounds the area thus only portions of the shelters were visible from the fenced enclosure; aerial photography supports the description (Photos 1 and 2). The structures are arrayed about the northwest and north sides of Building 203B and appear to be the same Quonset hut type with an adjacent shed roof shaded area (Figure 6) (Google 2019). The corrugated metal Quonset huts are approximately 12’ wide by 15’ long by 8’ tall and likely rest on a concrete slab foundation. The front façade has a rectangular opening and the rear façade has a pair of swing doors (Photo 1). Each shelter has a metal fence enclosure.

The Pig Shelters are in good condition.

HISTORY OF PROPERTY

Central Farm

The Pig Shelters, constructed ca. 1972, are 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 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, many of the Bureaus either 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

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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

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
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Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

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 Pig Shelters

There were no original design drawings for the Pig Shelters on file with the USDA Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, Division of Plans and Service. The structures do not appear in the Building List, Central Farm Table provided in the 1996 BARC Master Plan Update (Young 1996). For active agricultural building, physical proximity is a strong indicator of related programmatic use. The Pig Shelters are adjacent to Buildings 203A and 203B, both constructed in 1972. The corrugated Quonset hut material and style of the pig shelters as well as the nearby facilities related to swine husbandry suggest the ca. 1972 construction date.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

In 1997, BARC, a 6,582-acre federal agricultural research facility, 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. The Pig Shelters were not described in the 1997 report. This evaluation finds that while Pig Shelters are not individually significant, they 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, Pig Shelters are 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 203A was specifically designed and operated as an animal shelter within the BAI’s 200 Area Cluster - Animal Husbandry Research Division. BARC scientists and researchers made valuable scientific contributions, both in foundational and applicable science.

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BARC and the Pig Shelters have not been determined significant under Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

The Pig Shelters are not significant under Criterion C. 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. The Pig Shelters generic Quonset hut construction has no significant architectural design displaying the characteristics of experimental agricultural architecture. Furthermore, it was built outside of the main building campaign for BARC that featured the work of A.D. Taylor and Delos Smith in the Georgian Revival style.

Neither BARC nor the Pig Shelters specifically has been evaluated under Criterion D for its yielding, or likelihood to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The Pig Shelters retain their original location and setting within an agricultural research complex. The structures are specifically linked in their design and operation as animal shelters with ties to the BAI’s 200 Area Cluster (Animal Husbandry Research Division) research buildings. Their feeling of, and association with, an agricultural research center is intact. The Pig shelters maintain the key elements of their original design including massing, fenestration, cladding, and internal layouts. The Pig Shelters retain their integrity of design, workmanship, and materials and exist in good condition.

The Pig Shelters do not reach the level of significance necessary for individual listing on the NRHP although they do contribute to the significance within BARC under Criteria A.

REFERENCES

Bernard Johnson Young Inc. (BJY)

1996 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center 1996 Master Plan Update, Master Plan Report. September. On file, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Information Repository, Document Accession Number: F-01-0001.

Google Earth

2019 Aerial Photographs of Odell Road between Old Baltimore Pike and Animal Husbandry Road, Beltsville, MD 20705. October 18. Available on Google Earth.

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 June 2020).

Robinson and Associates

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

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

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
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Reviewer, National Register Program	Date

Wiser, Vivian and Wayne D. Rasmussen

1966 "Background for Plenty: A National Center for Agricultural Research." Maryland Historical Magazine 61:4, December 1966.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G








MHT Comments:

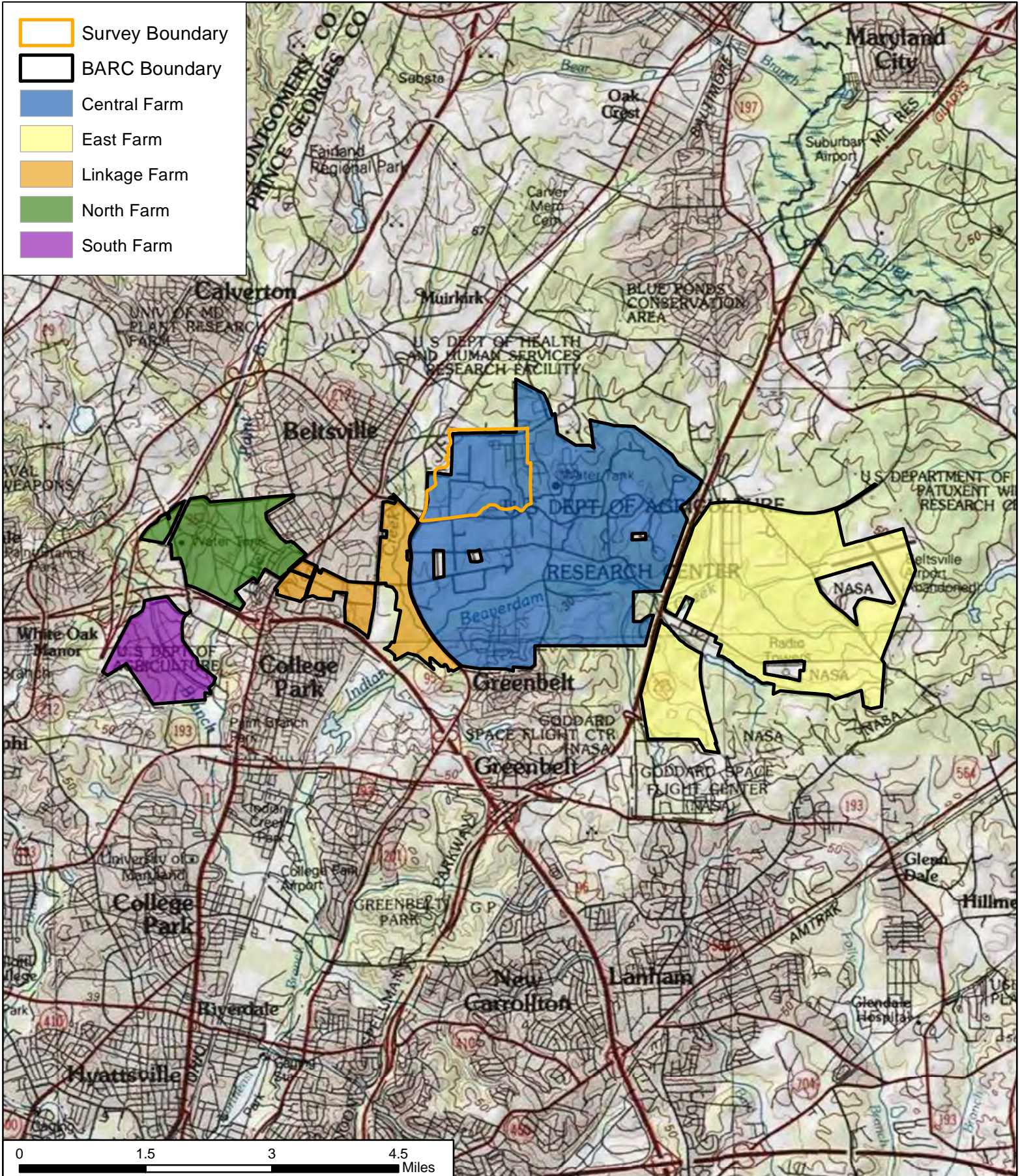
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Date

Reviewer, National Register Program


Date








-  Survey Boundary
-  BARC Boundary
-  Central Farm
-  East Farm
-  Linkage Farm
-  North Farm
-  South Farm

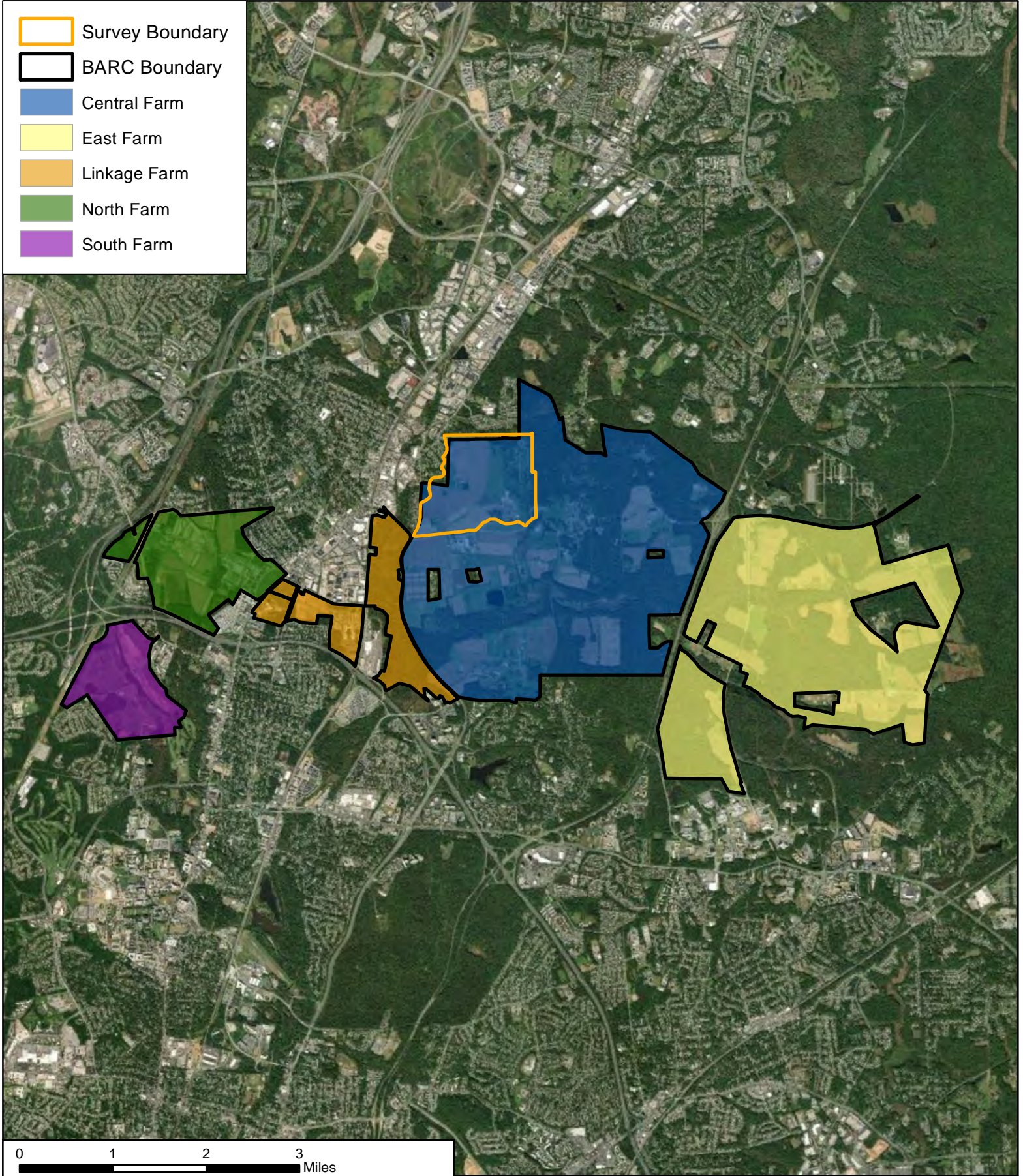


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TITLE	Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Overview Map Pig Shelters (PG:62-88)	
PROJ NO	60613151	
FIGURE	1	
		
12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876		

-  Survey Boundary
-  BARC Boundary
-  Central Farm
-  East Farm
-  Linkage Farm
-  North Farm
-  South Farm



0 1 2 3 Miles

CLIENT USACE - Baltimore District

PROJ Bureau of Engraving and Printing EIS

SCALE 1:85,000

SOURCE ESRI 2019

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TITLE Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Overview Map
Pig Shelters (PG:62-88)

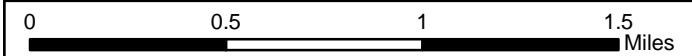
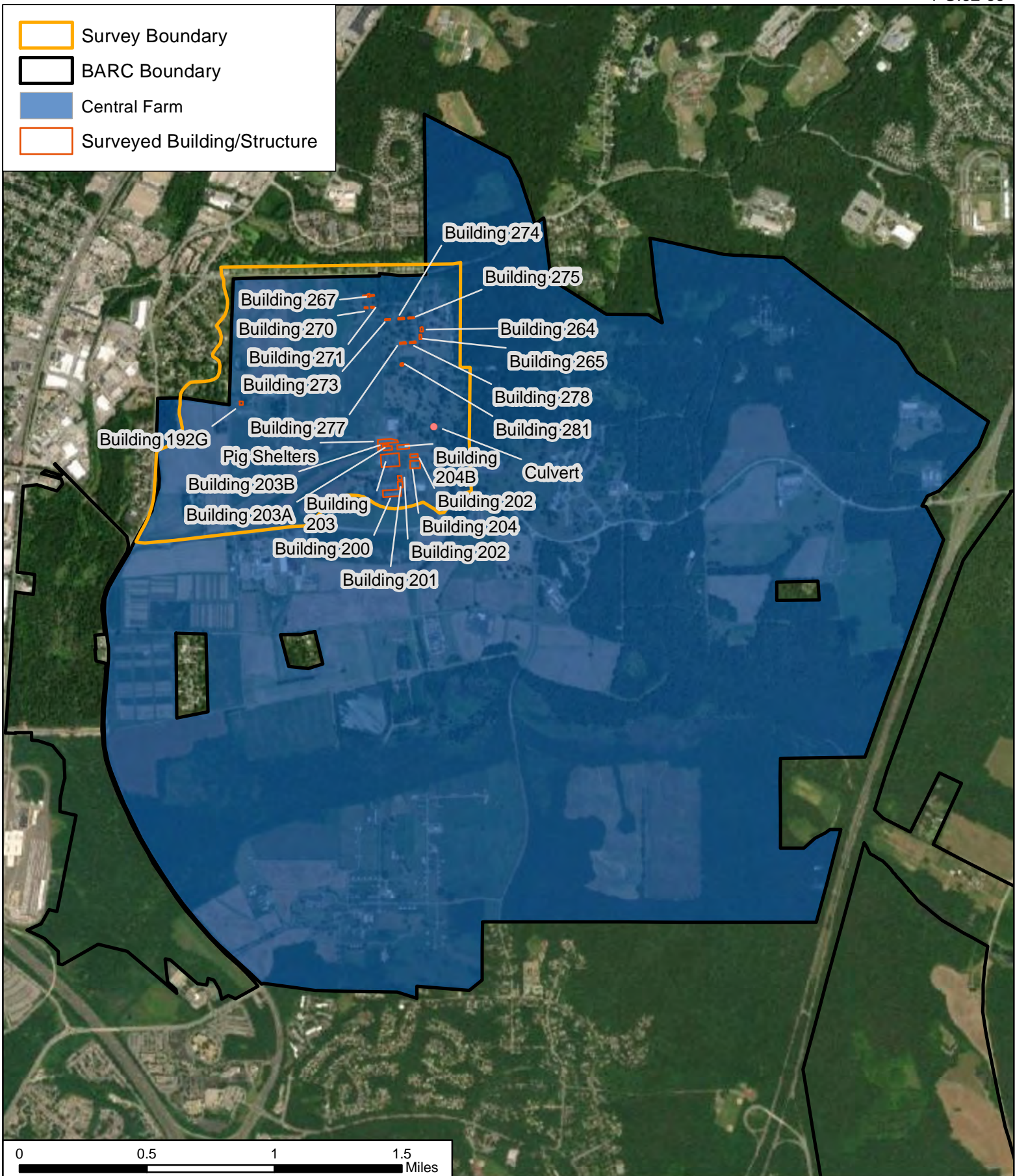


12420 Milestone Center Dr.
Germantown, MD 20876

PROJ NO 60613151

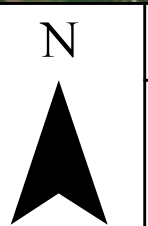
FIGURE 2

-  Survey Boundary
-  BARC Boundary
-  Central Farm
-  Surveyed Building/Structure

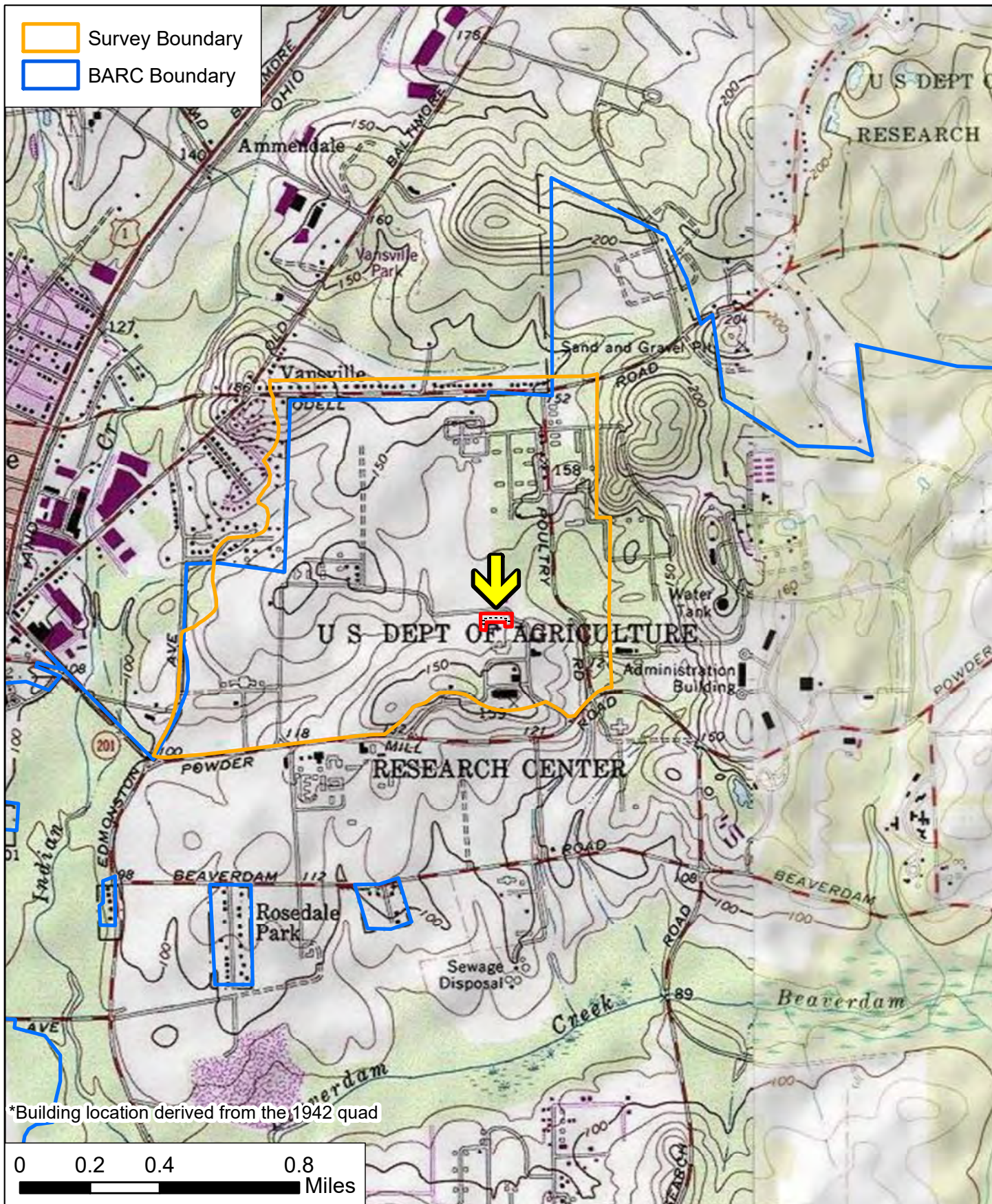


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SOURCE	ESRI 2019

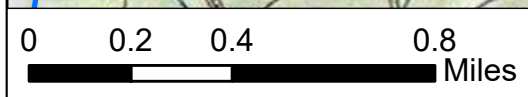
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TITLE Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Central Farm Pig Shelters (PG:62-88)	
AECOM 12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876	PROJ NO 60613151
	FIGURE 3



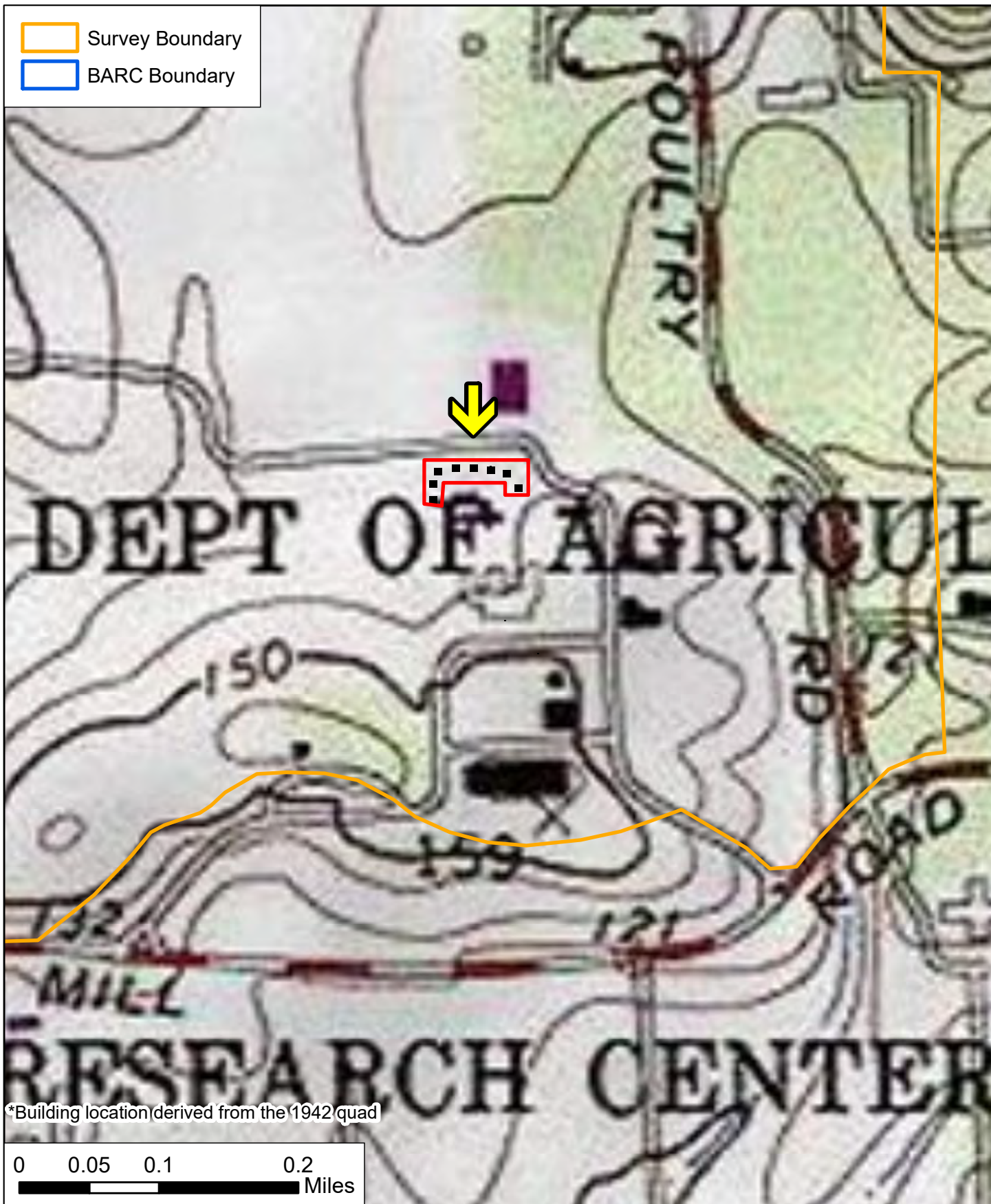
*Building location derived from the 1942 quad



CLIENT	USACE - Baltimore District
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TITLE	Beltville Agricultural Research Center Pig Shelters (PG:62-88)
AECOM 12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876	
PROJ NO	60613151
FIGURE	4



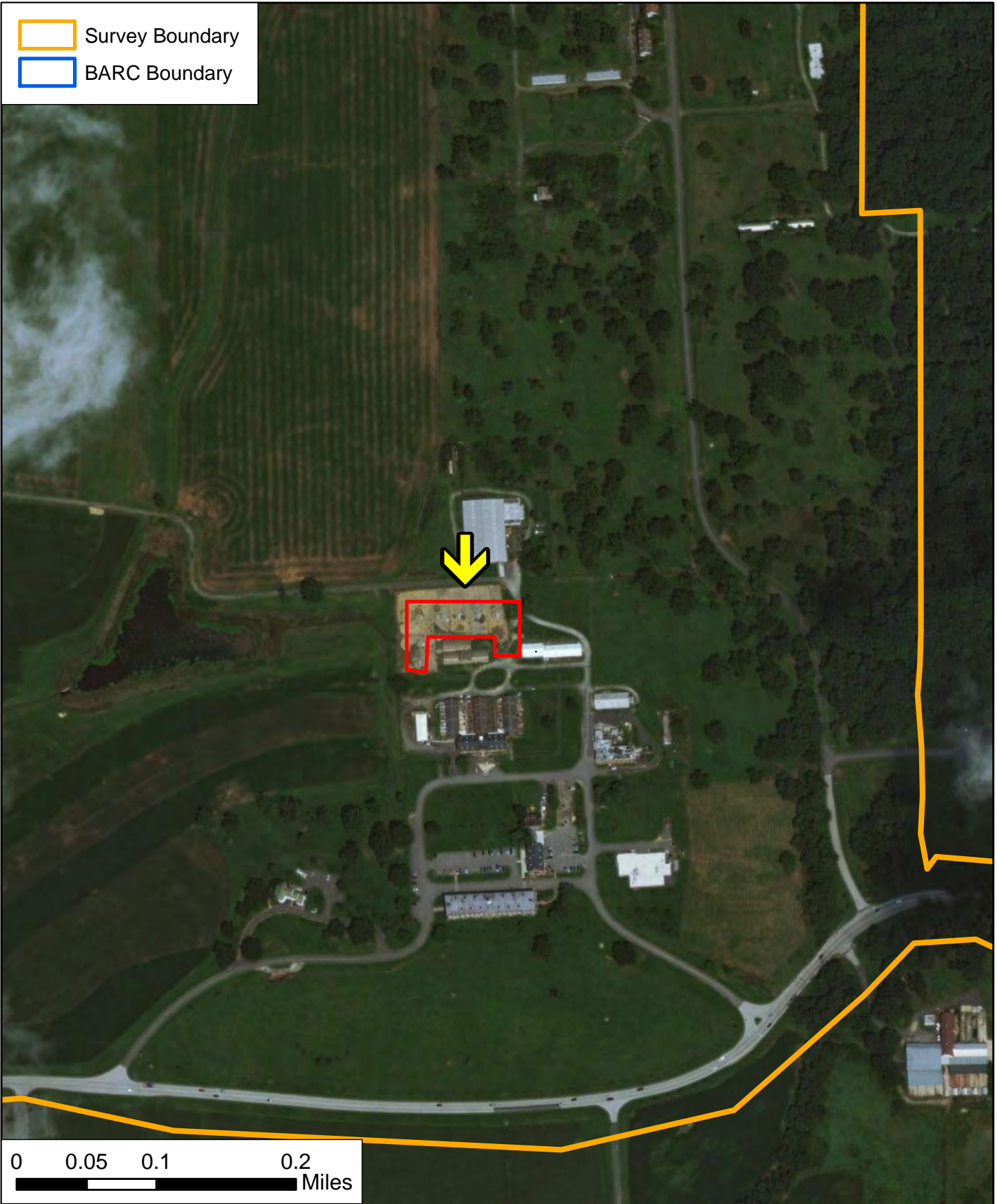
*Building location derived from the 1942 quad



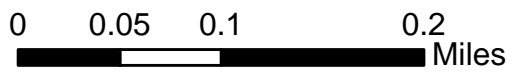
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TITLE		Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Pig Shelters (PG:62-88)	
		12420 Milestone Center Dr.	PROJ NO 60613151
		Germantown, MD 20876	FIGURE 5



Survey Boundary
 BARC Boundary



CLIENT	USACE - Baltimore District
PROJ	Bureau of Engraving and Printing EIS
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TITLE		Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Pig Shelters (PG:62-88)	
AECOM	12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876		PROJ NO 60613151
			FIGURE 6

USDA

Bureau of Engraving and Printing EIS

Pig Shelters

10300 Baltimore Avenue, Central Farm

Prince George's County, MD

Photographer: Christina Sabol, Architectural Historian

June 2, 2020

MD SHPO

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


1. PG:62-88_2020-06-02_001.tif, Pig Shelters, Central Farm, General View of Pig Shelters, Looking West
2. PG:62-88_2020-06-02_002.tif, Pig Shelters, Central Farm, General View of Pig Shelters, Looking West



Photo 1 - Pig Shelters, Central Farm, General View of Pig Shelters, Looking West



Photo 2 - Pig Shelters, Central Farm, General View of Pig Shelters, Looking West

CLIENT	USACE - Baltimore District	TITLE	Photographs	
PROJ	Bureau of Engraving and Printing EIS		Pig Shelters (PG:62-88)	
SCALE	-	 12420 Milestone Center Dr. Germantown, MD 20876	PROJ NO	60485181
SOURCE	AECOM		FIGURE	
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