

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Survey Number: PG : 62-14

Project: Section 110 Survey Agency: F/USDA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name L. Bowlin Date Jan 1997, 1998

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) is one of the largest agricultural research facilities in the United States. Owned by the USDA, the facility was established in Beltsville in 1910 and significantly expanded in the 1930s and 1940s. The current site encompasses 6,582 acres and divided into five entities: South Farm, North Farm, Linkage Farm, Central Farm and the East Farm. The consultant prepared a six volume report highlighting the significance of the USDA property. The documentation clearly supports the site's significance. Under Criteria A, the diversity of the scientific research has influenced many aspects of twentieth century living for the farmer as well as the consumer. The history and development of the agricultural research facility reflects New Deal policies and programs. Several components of Criteria C are met too. The consistent use of Georgian Revival architecture has created a cohesive built environment which retains a high level of integrity. Because the mission of the facility has remained constant over the years, the landscape also reflects a high level of integrity. The following two people made significant contributions to the physical appearance of BARC: the planning team of A.D. Taylor, landscape architect and Delos Smith, architect. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the individual research agencies at BARC played important roles in shaping the experimental farm as well. The Trust concurred that the entire BARC facility of 6582 acres was eligible for the National Register.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Historic Site Survey BARC, 6 volumes in MHT Library report PR229 SEE COMPLIANCE FILE BARC 110 SURVEY FOR DOE LETTER 10/98

Prepared by: Robinson and Associates

Lauren Bowlin 2/23/00
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable

[Signature] 2/29/00
Reviewer, NR program Date

[Signature]

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: buildings

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): agricultural research facility

Known Design Source: A.D. Taylor landscape architect, Delos Smith, architect among others

Property Address <u>U.S. 1 and Powder Mill Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County</u>
Owner Name/Address <u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>
Year Built <u>circa 1880 and 1925, 1934, 1936, 1941</u>

Description:

The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) was previously surveyed in 1973. A comprehensive survey of the entire Beltsville Agricultural Research Center was completed in June of 1998 for the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Center by the firms of Robinson & Associates, Inc. and Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc. As a result of this survey, the Maryland Historical Trust determined in a letter dated October 16, 1998, that the entire 2664 hectare (6582 acre) area of BARC was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Five buildings or complexes located within the boundaries of the research center fall within the Area of Potential Effect of the proposed project. These specific buildings within BARC will be described in this form. The buildings are located within the areas described as the Linkage Farm and the Central Farm in the 1998 Robinson & Associates and Rhodeside & Harwell survey.

The first four buildings are located within the area known as the Central Farm. The Central Farm consists of an area of 912 hectares (2253 acres), bounded by the Baltimore-Washington Parkway on the east, Edmonston Road on the west, Greenbelt on the south, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services and United States Department of State complex and Muirkirk on the north. The Central Farm encompasses the area which was first purchased by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1910. The Central Farm landscape developed as a planned landscape beginning in 1934, when landscape architect A.D. Taylor and architect Delos Smith created a plan for the development of the area. Five major cluster arrangements organize this farm landscape, which contains the largest portion of buildings and individual bureau research activities. The buildings in this form are located within the first cluster area known as the Bureau of Dairy Industry.

The first building is Building 156. It is located on the south side of Powder Mill Road, near its intersection with Edmonston Road. The building is identified as a guard's office on the map located on the BARC property, but it appears to be currently unoccupied. Plans for the building indicate that it was constructed in 1941 as a comfort station. In 1957, the building was used by Park Police and was later occupied by the BARC security force until the unit relocated to Building 186. The building is a 1-story, 5-bay, cross-gable structure. The building has projecting center gable-bays on the front and rear elevation. The structure has a cross-gable roof with slate shingles. It is of fieldstone and frame construction on a raised stone foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash.

The north, or front elevation is marked with the number 156. It has a central projecting gable-front bay built of stone, flanked by two frame, side-gable wings with weatherboard siding, stone pilasters and arched cornices. The wings were originally porches on either side of the main building. They were enclosed at a later, unknown date. The first story has three entrances. One in the first bay, one in the third bay, and one in the fifth bay. All have 6-light doors. The center door is flanked by two 6/6 double-hung windows. The center-bay gable is sheathed in weatherboards and has a 9-light circular window.

The west elevation has a raised stone foundation. The gable-end of the side wing projects from the center block. There is a 4/4 double-hung window in the first bay, and a 6/6 double-hung window centered on the gable-end wall. The gable-end wall is sheathed in weatherboard with stone corner pilasters. The gable is also covered in weatherboards. The cornice is arched above the window.

The south, or rear elevation has a projecting gable-end stone center bay flanked by two frame side-gable wings. There are two 6/6 double-hung windows in the gable-end, and a 1/1 double-hung window in each of the flanking wings.

The east elevation has a raised stone foundation. The gable-end of the side wing projects from the center block. There is a 6/6 double-hung window centered on the gable-end, and a 4/4 double-hung window on the main block.

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Description: (continued)

The building faces the road, and cultivated fields extend to within a few feet of the rear of the building. There is a small parking area and semi-circular drive located adjacent to the building.

The second building is Building 157, which was built in 1934. It is located at the corner of Powder Mill Road and South Dairy Road. The building is located in the U.S. Dairy Administration complex, and served as an experimental dairy laboratory building, but it is currently unoccupied. The Dairy Products Laboratory was constructed to expand the Bureau of Dairy Industry's research into the area of manufacturing. By 1936, there were more workers involved in manufacturing research than in actual production work at the Bureau of Dairy Industry. Then Chief of the Bureau, Oliver Reed, stated that he believed the manufacturing research yielded a higher economic return to the industry than the work on breeding and actual milk production. The floor plans indicated spaces for office and laboratories, as well as a specific cheddar cheese room, Swiss cheese room, market milk room, and seven curing rooms. It is a 2½-story, 8-bay concrete block building with incised beltcourse and water table detailing. The windows are 16-light metal, with the center-top 4-lights working as a hopper window. The structure has a hipped-roof covered with metal roofing, and there are 2 large vents on the top of the building.

The east, or front elevation faces onto South Dairy Road. It is 4-bays wide. The basement level has two fixed-light windows in the loading dock foundation. There is a 16-light window in the first bay, a loading dock with a concrete foundation and hipped roof. The loading dock has double-doors and a single door in the second and third bays. The fourth bay contains the main entrance, and a set of double-doors reached by a set of concrete steps. There are four 16-light windows on the second story. There are two hipped-roof dormers, each with two 6-light windows.

The south elevation has a 1-story concrete block garage/storage addition. There are three 16-light windows on the first story. The second story has two 16-light windows flanking central double doors. The west elevation has four 8-light windows on the basement level. There are eight 16-light windows on the first floor. The second floor has seven 16-light windows, and a fire-escape door, reached by a set of metal steps.

The north elevation has three 16-light windows on both the first and second stories.

There is a rectangular tower on the east side of the building, with a hipped roof. Building 157 is located next to cultivated fields on the west. There are dairy barns and research facilities to the south of the building. USDA housing is on the other side of South Dairy Road, to the east. A semicircular drive leads from South Dairy Road to the loading dock on the east side of the building.

The third building is Building 186, located on the north side of Powder Mill Road and accessed by a driveway located to the west of North Dairy Road. Built circa 1880, Building 186 was altered in 1925 to serve as a residence for the Superintendent of the Beltsville Research Center. During the 1970s, the building served as a visitor's center; the building was used as the headquarters for the BARC police until February 1997. The building currently appears to be unoccupied. It is a 2-story, 3-bay side-gable farmhouse which has been altered. The building is T-shaped in plan, and has a 1-story integral porch on the front elevation. It also has a 1-story porch on the rear, and frame additions on the side. The structure has a cross-gable roof with asphalt shingles and two brick chimneys with corbelled chimney caps. It is of wood-frame construction with stucco over weatherboards, and it has a parged brick foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash.

The south, or front elevation has a sweeping curved concrete ramp and steps leading up to the front porch. The porch is supported on square concrete pillars with curved brackets. There are paired metal-frame glass doors in the first bay under the porch. There are also two metal-frame 1/1 double-hung windows under the porch on the first story. The second story has a band of six 2/2 double-hung windows and a single 2/2 double-hung window.

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Description: (continued)

The east elevation has been altered by a frame addition and the front porch. There is a door at the basement level on the front wing of the house. The side addition has a 2/2 double-hung window, and there is one 2/2 double-hung window on the enclosed portion of the rear porch. There is a boarded doorway under the rear porch. There is a 1/1 double-hung window located between the first and second story, in the center of the front wing. Two 2/2 double-hung windows are located on the second story of the front wing. The gable has a fixed-light window.

The north elevation has a projecting, centered gable-end wing which extends from the front wing and a rear gable-roof porch which has been partially enclosed with weatherboard. There is a door under the cover of the rear porch and a fixed-light window on the enclosed porch wall. There is a 2/4 double-hung window in the first story of the gable-end, and a 2/2 double-hung window on the front wing. A square-bay window located on the west side of the building is visible from this elevation, and the north side has a 1/1 double-hung window. There are four 2/2 double-hung windows on the second story. There is a fixed-light window in the gable.

The west elevation is composed of the gable-end of the front wing, the side of the rear wing, and the enclosed elevation of the rear porch. The basement level has two window openings. The opening under the front wing has a 2-light fixed window, and the one under the rear wing is boarded. The square bay-window in the gable-end has two 1/1 double-hung windows. There is a 2/4 double-hung window on the rear wing. There is a small 2/2 double-hung window on the wall of the enclosed rear porch. The second story has paired 2/2 double-hung windows and a single 2/2 double-hung window on the gable end. There is a 2/2 double-hung window on the rear wing and a fixed-light window in the gable.

Building 188, a gambrel-roof barn, is located to the northeast of the farmhouse. It is of wood-frame construction with weatherboard siding. The gambrel roof has two metal vents and is covered in diamond-pattern shingles. The barn has double braced doors in the hayloft on the south end, and double-braced doors on the west and east elevations. According to drawings, the barn was built in 1933 as a hay barn.

The fifth complex is located in the area known as the Linkage Farm. The Linkage Farm consists of an area of 186 hectares (460 acres), and connects the North Farm and the Central Farm. The farm is discontinuous and consists of a 125.5 hectare (310 acre) west tract and a 60.7 hectare (150 acre) east tract. The west tract of the Linkage Farm is positioned between U.S. Route 1, Sunnyside Road and I-495. Rhode Island Avenue divides this tract. Mixed-use development occurs along the north side of Linkage Farm, residential along the southeast, Sunnyside Park and the Maryland State Police Barrack Q along the southwest, U.S. Route 1 and BARC North Farm on the west, and the WMATA Greenbelt Metro Station on the east side. The east tract is portioned between Powder Mill Road, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Edmonston Road, and I-495. Sunnyside Road divides this tract. The 60.7 hectare (150 acre) tract was acquired in the 1940 and contains the granary complex. The granary was built in 1936 and expanded in 1939 to support the Dairy Bureau at Central Farm. The complex consists of Buildings 85-90, and serves as a grain elevator/granary. It is located on the south side of Powder Mill Road, adjacent to the CSX (B & O) railroad.

In 1931, mill equipment was purchased by BARC from the Sprout Waldron Company. At the time of the purchase, money was not available for the construction of a building suitable for the installation of the equipment, which was temporarily stored in a barn. Funds were acquired and a building was built in 1936. The building and equipment were to be used for the preparation of grain feed rations for dairy cattle. Shelled corn, oats, and other grains were to be used. The original plan included a receiving hopper on the west side of the building for grain that was delivered in bulk. An elevator would discharge the grain into a receiving separator and from the separator, it would be elevated onto a conveyor in the attic which would discharge into the whole grain storage bins. A return conveyor on the ground floor would return the grain to the same elevator. The elevator could also discharge into check bins over the mill room and from these bins, the grain would go to various mills. The ground feed would be conveyed from the mills to a sacking elevator if it were to be bagged or to a

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Description: (continued)

different elevator which would discharge into the ground feed storage bins. Space was provided for four different types of mills, although the initial installation was to include the burr mill and the oat crusher only. A trolley hopper scale provided under the ground feed bins would weigh feeds to be mixed. From the hopper scale, the ground feed went to the second elevator and discharged into the feed mixer. Bagged grain elevated to the mixer would be dumped into a hopper at floor level on the second elevator. All mixed feed would be bagged directly from the feed mixer and hauled to the barns and stables as required.

The main building is a 6-1 common bond brick building on a concrete block foundation with a metal gable roof and 16-light metal-frame windows. The building has multiple loading-dock doors on the east elevation. There is a 2-story, front-gable concrete-block building with clerestory windows attached to the south end of the brick building. Four large silos are attached to the southern end of the concrete block building. A large machine servicing wing is attached to the east elevation of the building.

There is an elevated metal conveyor system on the south end of the complex, leading from the railroad. It is of rolled-metal girder construction on a concrete foundation.

A 1-story brick service building is located to the east of the main building. It has a flat roof and a large central brick chimney. It has 8-light metal frame windows and a door on the south elevation.

A front-gable shed is located to the north of the service building. It has a concrete block foundation and is sheathed in corrugated metal. There is a garage door on the south elevation.

National Register Evaluation:

The entire 2664-hectare (6582-acre) Beltsville Agricultural Research Center was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C by the Maryland Historical Trust in a letter dated October 16, 1998. The BARC is eligible under Criterion A as an important site which reflects the development of a national center for agricultural experimentation and testing. It is the main research facility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is the leading and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. Government acquisition began in 1910, and grew rapidly with the Depression-era programs of the 1930s and 1940s. Included within the complex are areas for the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, the Livestock and Poultry Science Institute, the Natural Resources Institute, and the Plant Sciences Institute. The diversity of the scientific research conducted at BARC has influenced many aspects of twentieth century living for the farmer as well as the consumer. The history and development of the agricultural research facility reflects New Deal policies and programs. The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center is also eligible under Criterion C. Because the mission of the facility has remained constant over the years, the landscape reflects a strong level of integrity. 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 Civilian Conservation Corps and the individual bureaus at BARC played important roles in the shaping of the landscape as well. Contributing elements of the landscape include major paved roads, including Powder Mill Road, minor service roads, field and research crops, pasture lands, seasonal ponds, forests, sustainable meadows, other landscape features, and buildings. The five buildings and complexes surveyed for this project cover a range of building types which represent the various aspects of the center, including a 1941 comfort station (Building 156), a once private residence (Building 186) which was purchased by the USDA and was once used as a visitor's center, a dairy laboratory building (Building 157), and a grain elevator (Buildings 85-90). The five buildings represent the research center tasks of meeting the needs of the public while performing agricultural experiments in the production and processing of crops and animal products, human nutrition, and natural resources.

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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

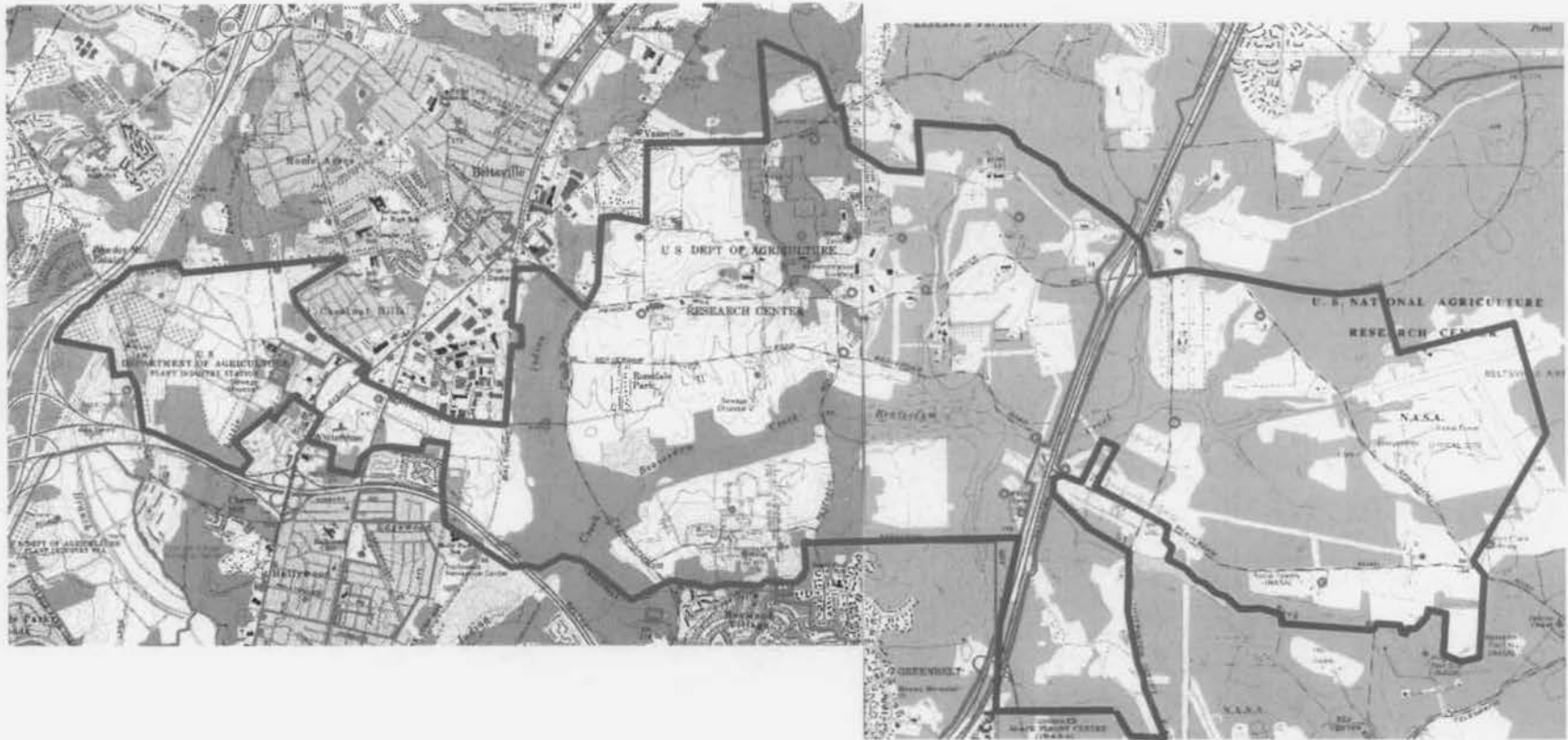
The National Register boundaries of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center boundaries, as delineated in the previous survey form and approved by MHT, follow the current legal boundaries of the property, which consists of 2664 hectares (6582 acres). The property is bounded on the north by Sellman Road, Sunnyside Avenue, Odell Road, and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center; on the west by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Telegraph Road, on the south by NASA lands, the town of Greenbelt, and the Washington Beltway; on the east by Cherry Hill Road, I-95, the CSX Railroad (B&O), and Edmonston Road.

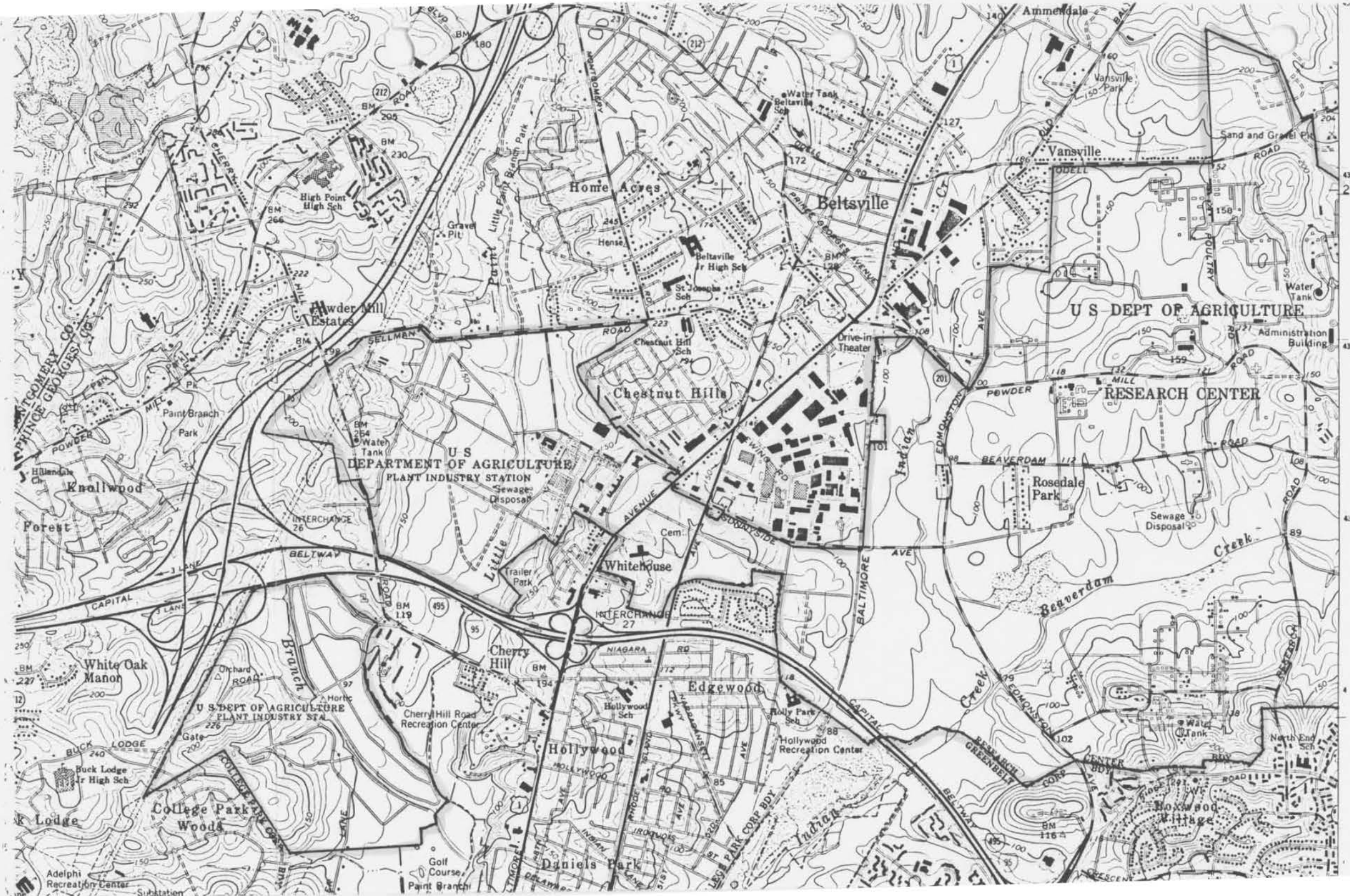
MHT CONCURRENCE:																	
Eligibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	recommended	<input type="checkbox"/>	not recommended													
Criteria	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	Considerations	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	None
Comments:	HOWEVER, I RECOMMEND THAT THE ADDENDUM BE REVISED TO EVALUATE THE USE OF OTHER LANDSCAPE FEATURES PRIOR TO DEMOLITION																
<i>[Signature]</i>					<i>[Signature]</i>												
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	1/29/99				Reviewer, NR program	2/2/99											
	Date					Date											

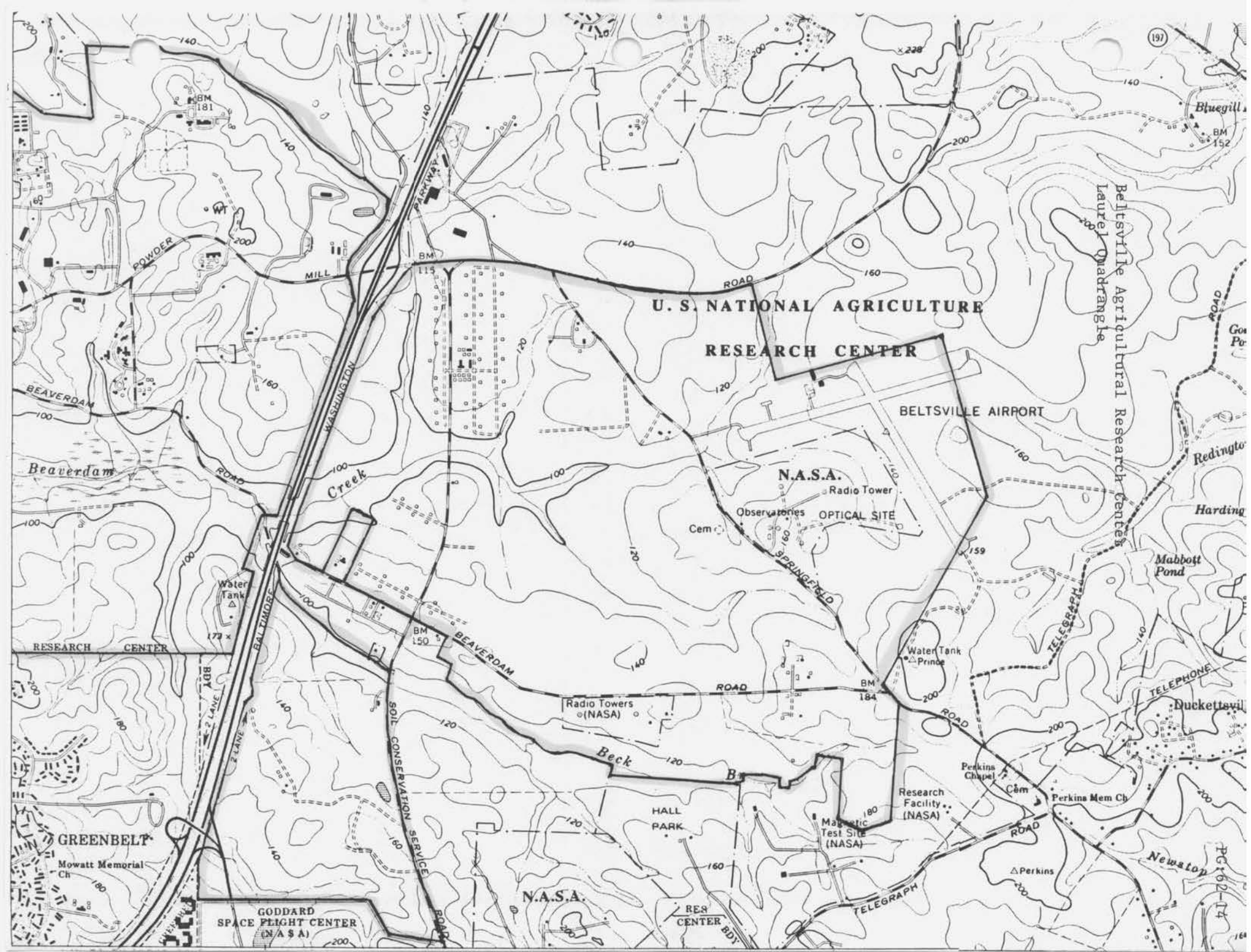
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PG:62-14

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
National Register-eligible Historic District
Beltsville and Laurel Quadrangles







**U. S. NATIONAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH CENTER**

BELTSVILLE AIRPORT

N.A.S.A.

Radio Tower

Observatories

OPTICAL SITE

Cem.

Water Tank

Prince

BM 184

Radio Towers (NASA)

Research Facility (NASA)

Magnetic Test Site (NASA)

N.A.S.A.

RES CENTER

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER (NASA)

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
Laurel Quadrangle