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

Property/District Name: Nike Missile Battery W-25 Housing Area, 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road, Davidsonville, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Survey Number: AA-993

Project: Excess property disposal Agency: United States Air Force

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: X A ___B X C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F X G ___None

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

Based on the information provided the Davidsonville Nike Missile Battery W-25 Housing Area (MIHP #AA-993) is a complex of fifteen one-story frame Capehart dwellings and three utility buildings, laid out in a linear plan along King Manor Drive. In a fashion typical of 1950s suburban housing developments, the street is a cul-de-sac, and the houses are parallel to the street, facing one another. Each house has a shallow gable roof with a slight overhang at the eaves. There is an attached utility room, separated from the main pile by a breezeway. Each house as a center entrance and windows in the remaining three bays. There is a center chimney which extends above the roof line. The Davidsonville Housing Area is a relatively intact example of the U.S. Military defense system in the Cold War (Criterion A), but the other components which would provide the context for the site have been removed. The Battery was decommissioned in 1974, and no longer contains the Nike missiles. Furthermore, Anne Arundel County converted the control area to a recreational site for children. As an architectural example, the 1958 Capehart houses are not the work of a master, nor do they possess high artistic value. Rather, they represent a very common type of suburban housing which was constructed throughout the United States in the 1950s. Thus the Housing Area is not eligible under Criterion C. Finally, the Davidsonville Housing Area can be considered under Criteria Consideration G, since it was constructed in 1958. However, these buildings do not demonstrate any quality which makes them an exceptionally important example of either the U.S. Military defense system during the Cold War or 1950s military housing. Since the Davidsonville Housing Area does not meet Criteria A or C, nor does it meet Criteria Consideration G, it is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files and inventory form

Prepared by: Mark L. Baker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Anne E. Bruder — June 29, 1999
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services — Date

NR program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

Reviewer, NR program — 7/1/99
Date

Survey No. AA-993

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

____	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
X	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
X	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
X Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
X Government/Law
____ Military
____ Religion
____ Social/Educational/Cultural
____ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Military Dwellings
Historic Environment: Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Single Family Dwellings
Known Design Source: Spector and Montgomery with local construction firm assistance.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. AA-993

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Davidsonville Nike Missile Battery W-25 Housing Area

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3789 Queen Anne Bridge Road **not for publication**

city, town Davidsonville vicinity of X congressional district 5th

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___district	X public	___occupied	___agricultural	___museum
X building(s)	___private	X unoccupied	___commercial	___park
___structure	___both	___work in progress	___educational	X private residence
___site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___entertainment	___religious
___object	___in progress	X yes: restricted	___government	___scientific
	___being considered	___yes: unrestricted	___industrial	___transportation
	___not applicable	___no	X military	___other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name United States Air Force

street & number 3479 Fetchet Ave telephone no. 301-981-2579

city, town Andrews Air Force Base, MD state and zip code 20762

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. MD Dept. Of Assessments and Taxation liber

street & number folio

city, town state and zip code

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___federal ___state ___county ___local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No.AA-993

Condition		Check One	Check One
_ excellent	___deteriorated	___unaltered	_X_original site
_X_good	___ruins	_X_altered	___moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Battery 25, Davidsonville Housing complex consists of fifteen one story frame residences and three utility buildings. The residences are laid out in a linear plan along King Manor Drive. The buildings are simple in design and lack ornamentation. The Capehart housing area was constructed as part of a build up of standardized military housing in the 1950s.

Building interiors (See site plan) and exteriors were standardized. The buildings have a slight gable roof covered with composition material. A brick chimney penetrates the roof. The gutters and downspouts are aluminum and do not appear to be original. Wooden facia boards cover the juncture of the roof and walls. The buildings are clad with composition siding that resembles clapboards. The doors and windows are original. The wood frame and sill windows are covered with exterior aluminum frame storm windows. With the exception of building 301 all of the windows are covered with sheets of plywood. The doors and door frames are metal. The majority of the buildings have aluminum storm doors. A large metal oil storage tank is located in front of each residence.

The exterior facades of the Capehart houses are functional. The front elevation consists of three window bays and two doors. One door enters the residence and the second provides access to a utility room. On one side elevation a breezeway separates the core of the house from a small storage space, a door and window are located on this elevation. The storage area was not included in the original design of the Capehart houses, it was an option built at the discretion of the contractor. The rear elevation has a door and three window bays. The larger windows are located in the living and dining rooms while the smaller windows are found in the bedroom. The remaining elevation has two small windows.

The individual units located at the battery share similarities with contemporary housing found in lower to lower-middle class suburban development. These units are economic in both construction time and in cost of materials, a practice that was prompted by the unyielding need for housing following World War II, and by funding mechanisms put in place by the Federal Housing Administration encouraging prefabricated housing. The more parts of a house that could be precut or pre-assembled, the quicker the houses could be erected, and this becoming less expensive for the lending agency and the purchaser. The military frequently contracted local architects and developers to plan housing, as it was believed that this task could be completed faster and cheaper than if completed by government staff. Contractors frequently utilized existing plans of tract housing developments and individual units from their offices, as long as the previously built housing fit the minimum space requirements set forth by the government. The easiest units to build were long One-story units with either flat roofs or very gentle slopes, and were quite close to the street in order for the least-amount of utility lines to be laid from the street.

The Capehart housing complex originally consisted of 16 residences. One of the buildings, building 304, was destroyed by fire. The site of that house is now a vacant lot.

The buildings were reportedly renovated in 1988 but the extent of this work is not known. The condition of the buildings varies. The buildings are vacant and boarded up. Wood rot was visible on the facia of several of the buildings. One exterior wall has collapsed

The three utility buildings were added after the housing complex was completed. The utility buildings house a water treatment facility and provide storage. The utility buildings are located away from the core of the residential area. The utility buildings are utilitarian in design. The walls are made of either stone covered concrete or cinder blocks. Two of the buildings have corrugated metal roofs.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-993

Period	Areas of Significance--Check and justify below			
__ historic	___archaeology-prehistoric	___community planning	___landscape architecture	___religion
___1400-1499	___archaeology-historic	___conservation	___law	___science
___1500-1599	___agriculture	___economics	___literature	___sculpture
___1600-1699	_X_architecture	___education	_X_military	___social/ humanitarian
___1700-1799	___art	___engineering	___philosophy	___theater
___1800-1899	___commerce	___exploration/settlement	___philosophy	___transportation
_X_1900-	___communications	___industry	___politics/government	___other(specify)
		___invention		

Specific dates 1958-1974 **Builder/Architect** Spector and Montgomery

check: Applicable Criteria: _X_A ___B _X_C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state ___local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In the mid 1950s the United States deployed the Nike missile defense system to protect the nation from attack from foreign aircraft and ballistic missiles. The Davidsonville W-25 Battery was established in 1955 as part of this program. In 1958 a housing complex was built adjacent to the site to provide housing for base personnel.

Prior to the Second World War the American military retained a small standing army. The post World War II peacetime Army was seven times larger than the Army of the 1930s. Having spent vast sums of money on the Second World War, Congress was reluctant to provide funds for the quarters that were needed to house military families. In the post war era Congress created two privately funded housing initiatives. The Wherry and Capehart housing programs were created to meet the housing need. E en 1955-1962 the Department of Defense constructed 115,000 Capehart housing units. 36,000 of these were constructed for use by the Army.

In 1955, Senator Homer Capehart sponsored a new military housing program. The program called for private sponsors to build new houses on lands provided by the government. The services hired architect-engineering firms to design the houses. After completion the housing units were turned over to the military. The military used housing allowances to repay the principal and interest to the developers. The Capehart housing program became law on August 11, 1955.

The Davidsonville Nike site, Nike Battery W-25, was established in 1955. It was one of fourteen Nike batteries built to defend Washington, DC. The Davidsonville site originally consisted of a Control area and a Launch area. Approximately 225 men worked at the two sites. Crewmen lived in on-site barracks or with their families in military housing. When Nike sites were not located near existing military housing the Army constructed housing near the Nike facilities for enlisted men with families. The housing area was located as close to the battery as possible to minimize delay in recalling off-duty troops. The Davidsonville housing area was constructed in 1958 and was owned by the Army until it was transferred to the Air Force in 1974. The period of significance for the resource is 1958, when the housing area was constructed, to 1974 when the battery was closed.

While providing convenient housing to some of the personnel who were stationed at Nike battery W-25 the Capehart housing area was not essential to the mission of the missile battery. The primary mission of the battery was to provide air defense for the nation's capital. The housing area functioned in a support role to the Nike site and was not a critical component like the Launch or Control areas.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Survey No. AA-993

E in, William C. *A History of Army Peacetime Housing*. Unpublished manuscript, no date.
Baldwin, William C. *History of the Wherry and Capehart Housing Programs in the Army, 1949-1962*. Unpublished manuscript, no date.
See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7.39

Quadrangle name Bowie **Quadrangle Scale** 1:24,000

UTM References **do NOT complete UTM reference**

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The 7.39 acre parcel is located immediately north of the junction of Queen Anne Bridge Road and Wayson Road

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ **code** _____ **county** _____ **code** _____

state _____ **code** _____ **county** _____ **code** _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark L. Baker

organization U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **date** 14 May 1998

street & number CENAB-PL-E, PO Box 1715 **telephone** (410) 962-0695

city or town Baltimore **state** Maryland

The Maryland Historical Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being processed for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DCHD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

Cole, Merle T. "W-25: The Davidsonville Site and Maryland Air Defense, 1950-1974." *Maryland Historical Magazine* (80:3) 1985, p. 240-260

Goodwin, R. Christopher and Associates. Letter Report on Nike Missile Sites and National Register Nomination for the World War I Barracks Historic District. Submitted March 14, 1994, to Commander, Atlantic Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Norfolk, Virginia

Historic American Engineering Record. Nike missile Battery PR-79, HAER Number RI-37, Prepared by Timelines, Inc. For U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division, 1992.

Legacy Resource Management Program. *Coming in From the Cold: Military Heritage of the Cold War*. Department of Defense. 1994.

Legacy Resource Management Program, *To Defend and Deter: The Legacy of the United States Cold War Missile Program*. Department of Defense. 1996.

United State Air Force. *Davidsonville Housing Annex Site Data in support of Environmental Baseline Study*. Andrews Air Force Base. 1997

NARRATIVE DISCUSSION OF DAVIDSONVILLE MISSILE BATTERY W-25, HOUSING AREA, DAVIDSONVILLE, MARYLAND

The Davidsonville Capehart housing complex retains the majority of the seven aspects of integrity as identified in National Register Bulletin # 15 "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation." The following text will discuss aspects of the integrity of the site.

The housing area is located immediately to the northeast of the Nike missile control area and retains integrity of location. The houses were constructed here in 1958 to provide family housing and easy access for enlisted crew members of the rurally located battery W-25.

The housing area also retains integrity of design. Fifteen of the original sixteen housing units remain. Capehart houses were standardized plans developed by architect-engineering firms in the mid-1950s to meet a demand for military family housing. Capehart housing was developed to provide functional and inexpensive housing for military families. The design of the quarters was spare and utilitarian. Several modern utility buildings and a water treatment plant have been added to the housing area but they do not affect the original layout of the houses. The housing area also retains the integrity of setting. Nike missile batteries were constructed in both urban and rural areas. The Davidsonville battery was located in a rural area. There has been construction of some modern housing in the vicinity, but for the most part the housing area still retains its rural feeling. In the 1950s the housing area and adjoining launch and control areas were the only buildings in this part of Anne Arundel County. The fifteen remaining houses align King Manor Drive in a regular plan and the layout of the housing complex has been retained.

Documentation provided by the Air Force indicates that extensive renovation of the housing complex took place in 1988. The extent of this work on the original building materials and workmanship is not known. The frame buildings are covered in a composition siding shaped to simulate clapboards. The wood frame and sill windows are still intact, they have exterior aluminum frame storm windows. The wooden facia is plain and unornamented. The roof is a relatively flat gable that is covered with composition material and small stones.

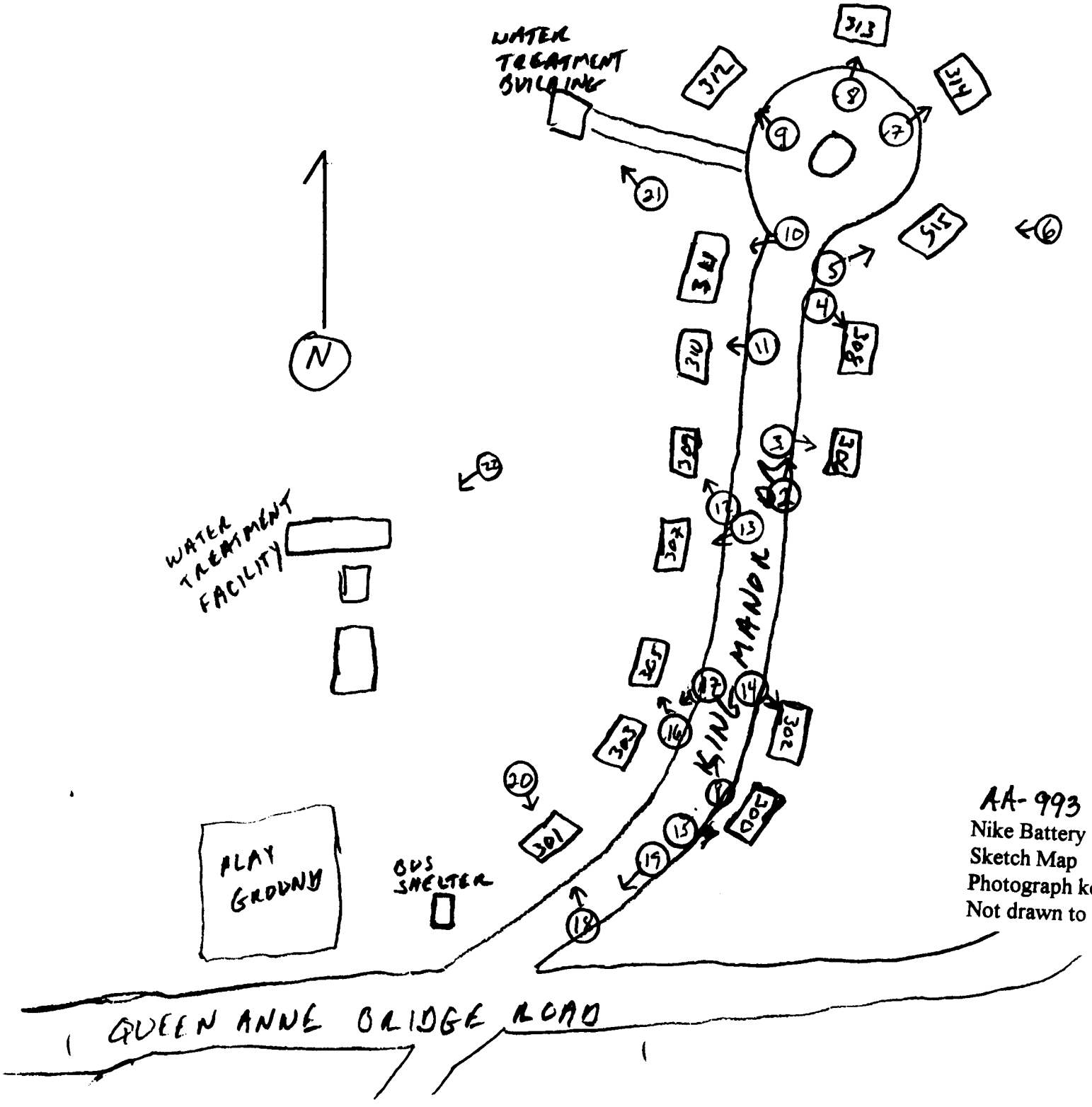
The housing area also retains the integrity of feeling and association. The Control area is visible immediately to the southwest of the housing area, and the Launch area is still extant to the southeast. The housing area retains the feeling of standardized, mass

produced, family housing complexes that were constructed to house military families in the post war era. The remaining physical features convey the housing area's original character. In this rural landscape the Launch and Control areas are intact and the semi-isolated location conveys a sense of why a housing area was needed to support the missile battery. The housing area was located near the missile battery to facilitate a quick recall of off duty soldiers. The housing area still retains the feeling and association that would have existed when the buildings housed families.

While the Davidsonville Capehart housing area retains many aspects of integrity, as identified by the National Register, we do not believe the housing area is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The U.S. Army built the houses in 1958. The houses are less than fifty years old and are not considered "exceptionally significant" under National Register Criteria Consideration G. The houses comprise a district in which all of the properties are less than fifty years old and the period of significance (1958-1974) is less than fifty years old. Between 1955-1962 a total of 115,000 Capehart houses were built to house military families. While part of this construction program, the Davidsonville housing complex is not unique or exceptionally significant.

The Davidsonville housing complex was evaluated for Nation Register under Criteria A (Military), Criteria C (Architecture) and under Criteria Consideration G (exceptional significance for properties that are not yet fifty years old. The housing complex is not eligible under Criteria A, since the houses were not a critical element in the Cold War effort. While the houses improved the standard of living of military families the Cold War could have gone on without the housing. The houses are also not eligible under Criteria C. During the 1950s there was an increase in the number of families in the United States. The building industry responded by building large numbers of single family homes. The Capehart houses at Davidsonville are similar to millions of other single-family homes constructed in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. Materials and construction methods used in the Davidsonville houses are indistinguishable from other homes constructed during this time frame. The Davidsonville housing complex is not considered exceptionally significant and does not meet Criteria Consideration G. The housing complex had no direct association with Cold War events. The Cold War would have continued if the houses were not built. If there was no Cold War it is unlikely that the Davidsonville housing complex would ever have been built. The housing area was built to provide housing that was close to the missile battery. The Nike missile defense system was built to defend the United States during the Cold War. Without the Cold War there was no need for the missile defense system. Capehart houses were built on military bases across the country, in the case of the Davidsonville housing area there was no need

for the housing without the battery there.



AA-993
Nike Battery W-25 Housing Area
Sketch Map
Photograph key
Not drawn to scale

AA-993

[redacted]

QUEEN ANNE BRIDGE ROAD

WAYSON ROAD

LIVING

BEDROOM

KITCHEN

BEDROOM

SITE PLAN

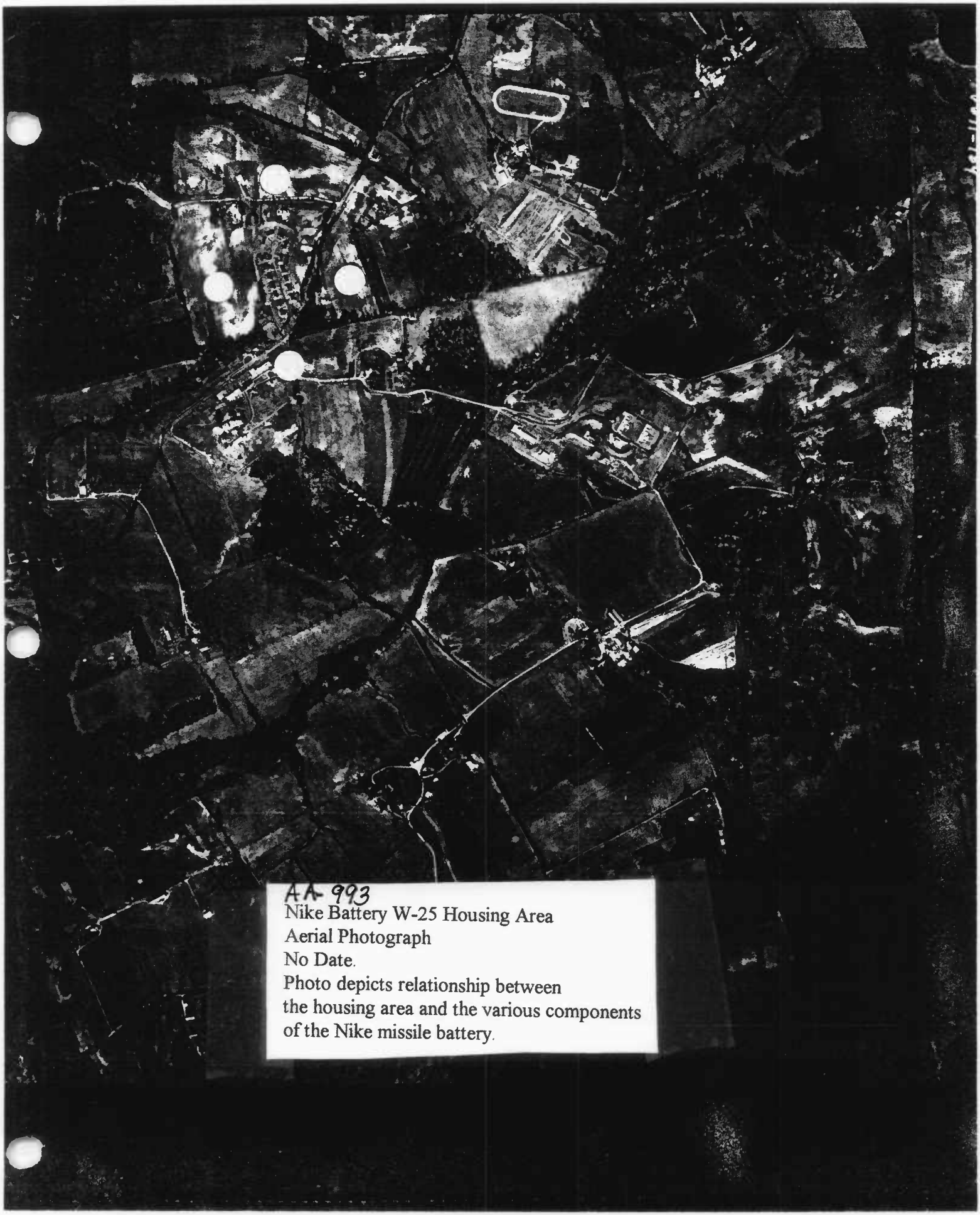
1776 AIR B

MILITARY AIRLIF

ANDREWS AIR

EMERGENCY REMOVA

FUEL TANKS-TANK



AA-993
Nike Battery W-25 Housing Area
Aerial Photograph
No Date.
Photo depicts relationship between
the housing area and the various components
of the Nike missile battery.

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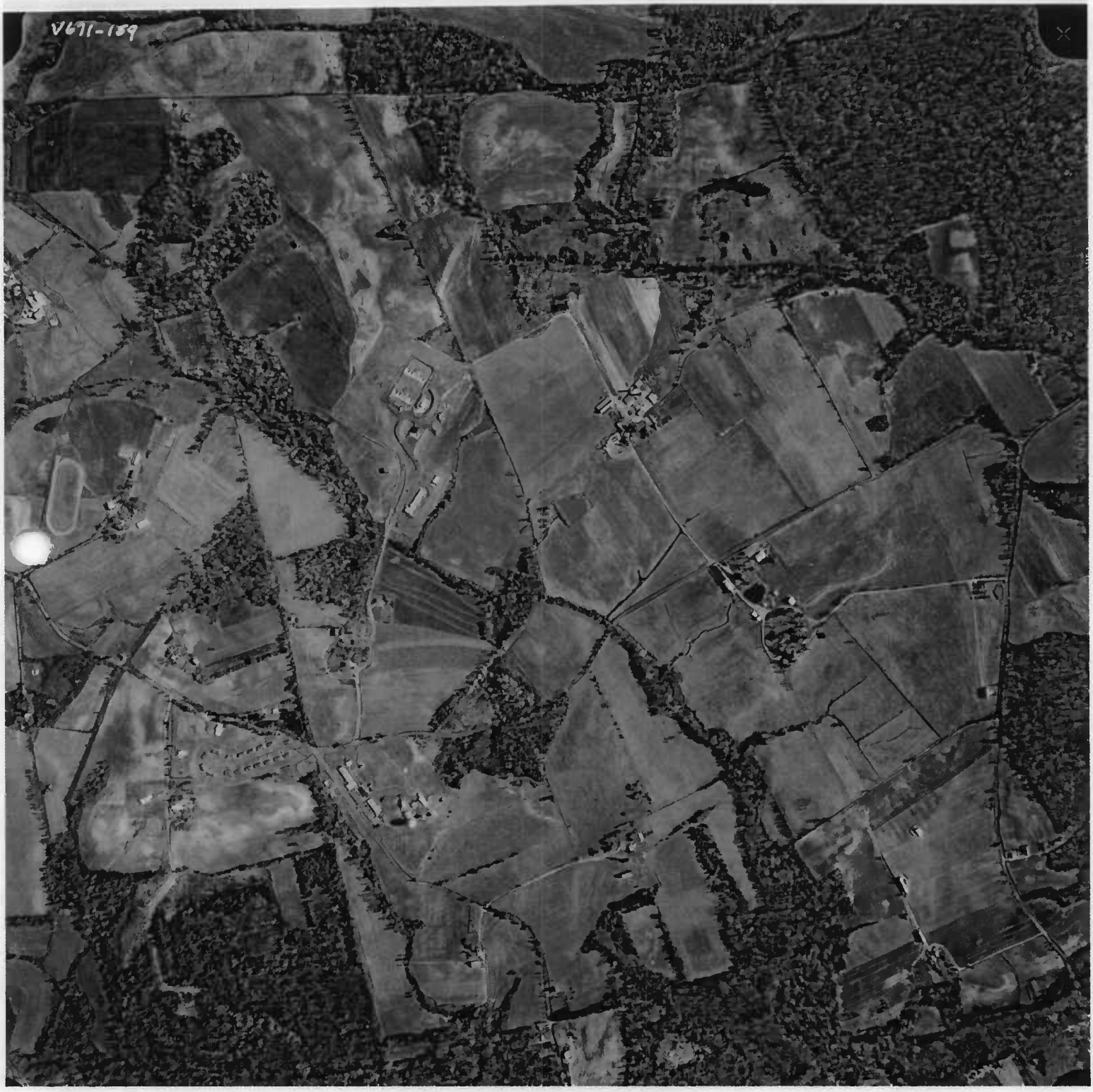

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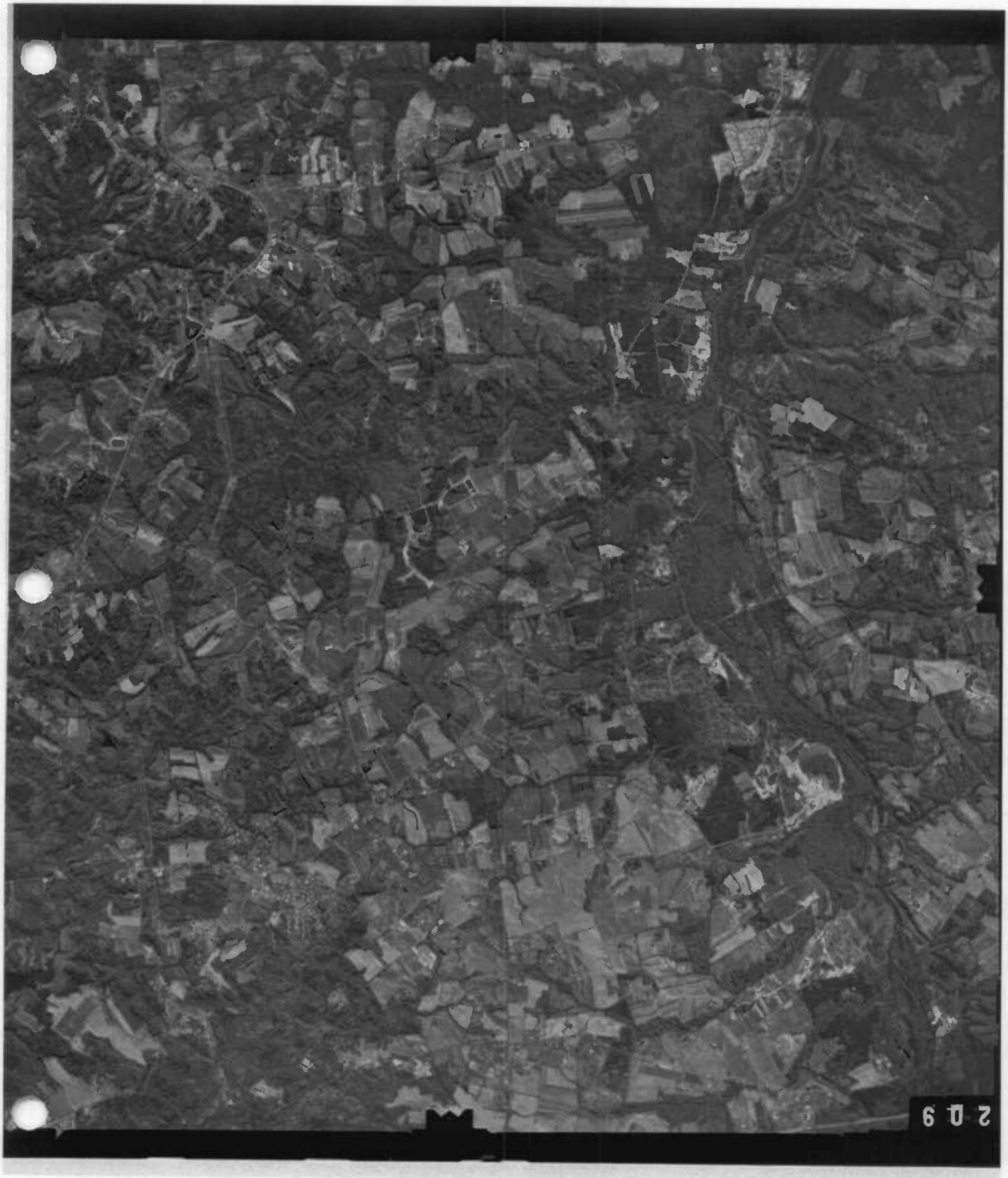

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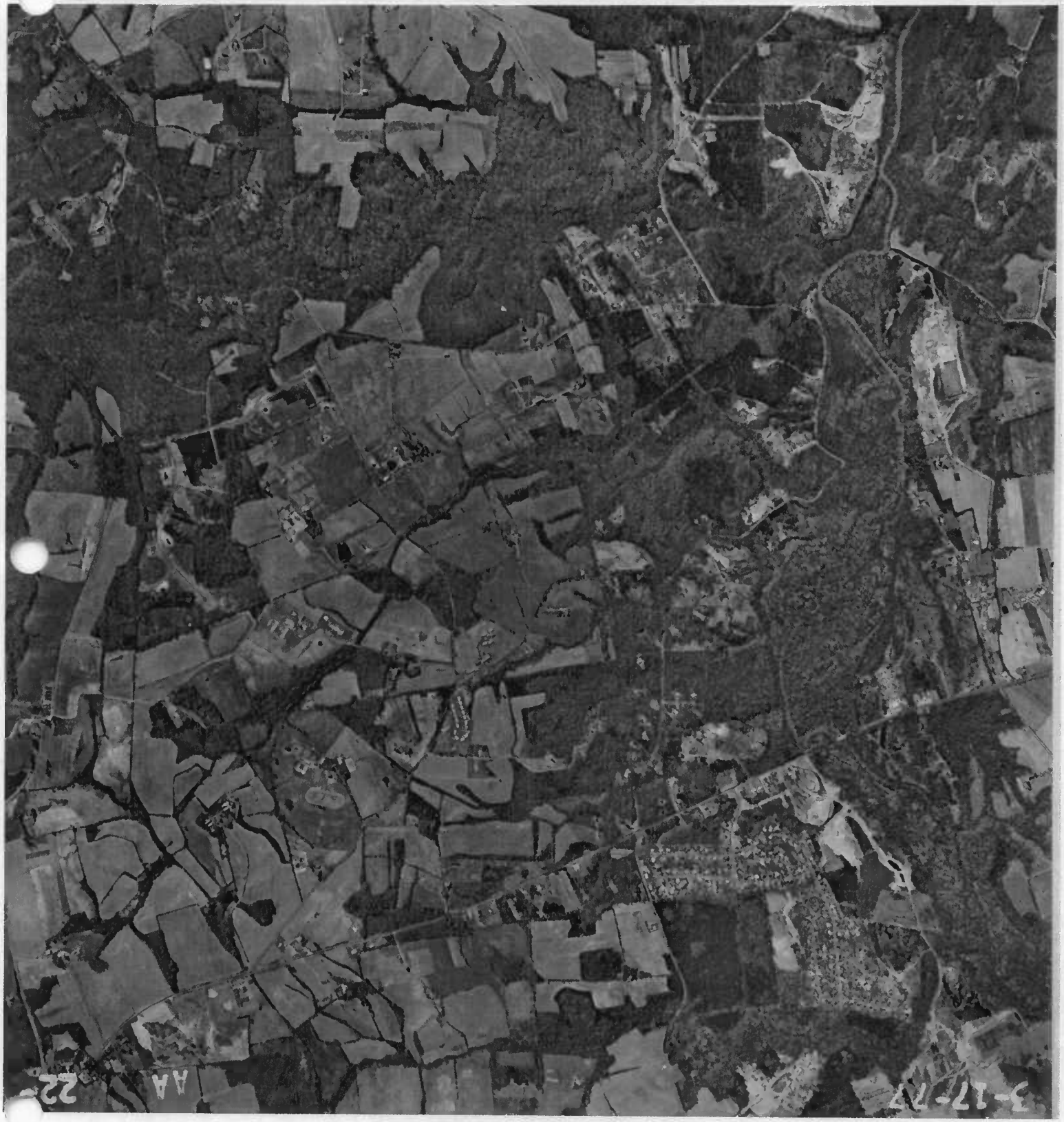

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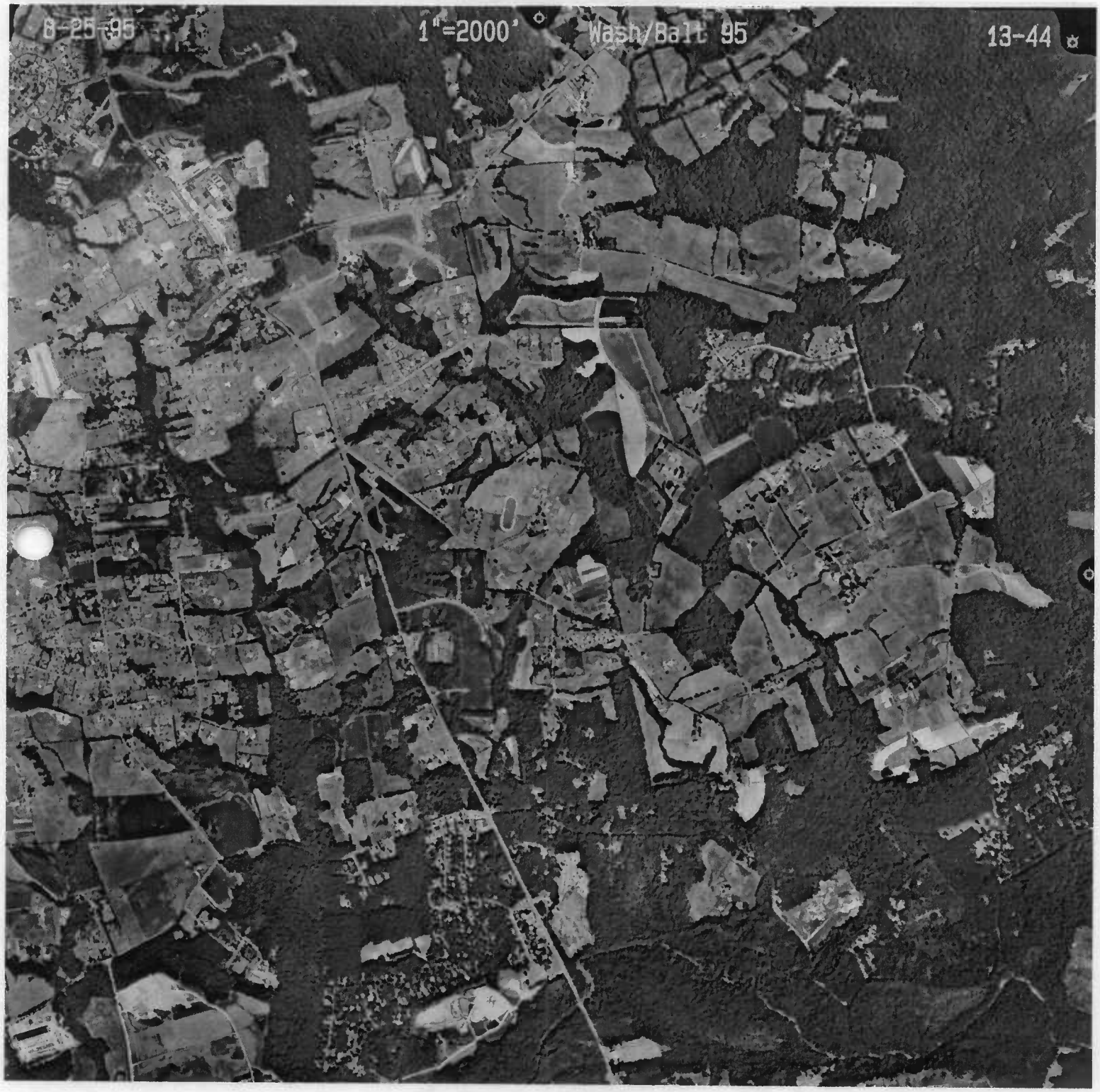

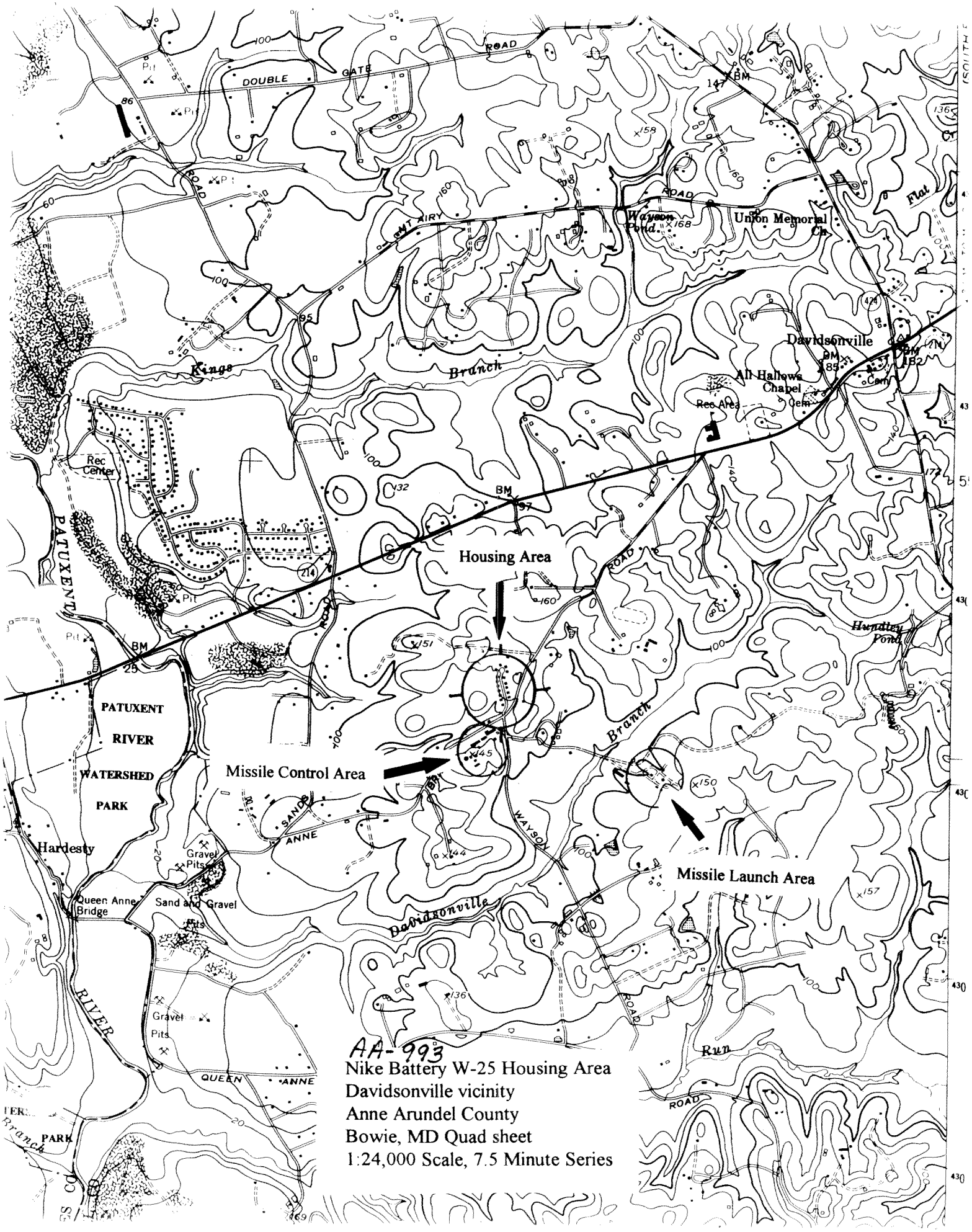

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Nike Battery W-25 Housing Area
Davidsonville vicinity
Anne Arundel County
Bowie, MD Quad sheet
1:24,000 Scale, 7.5 Minute Series

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300

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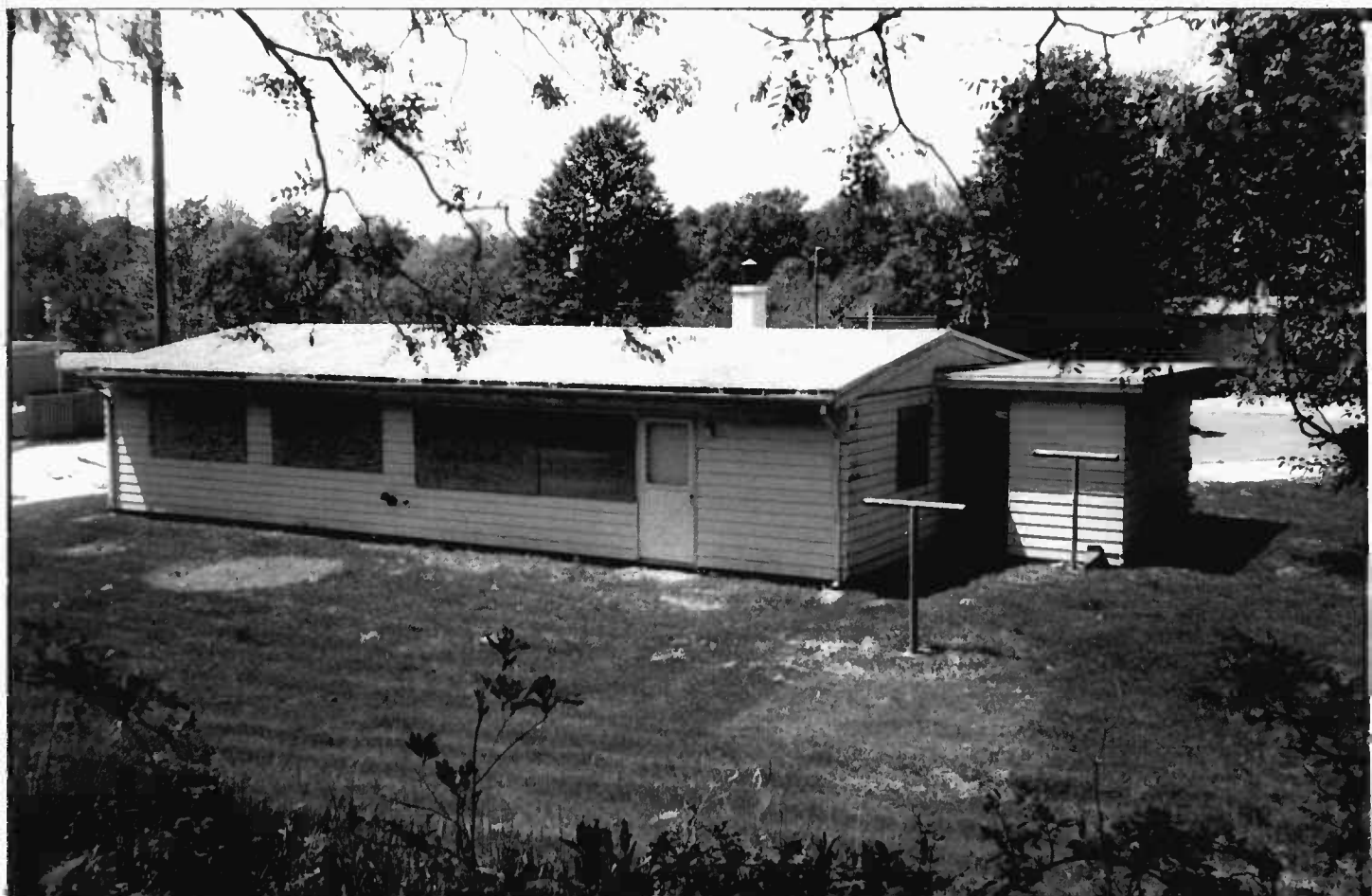

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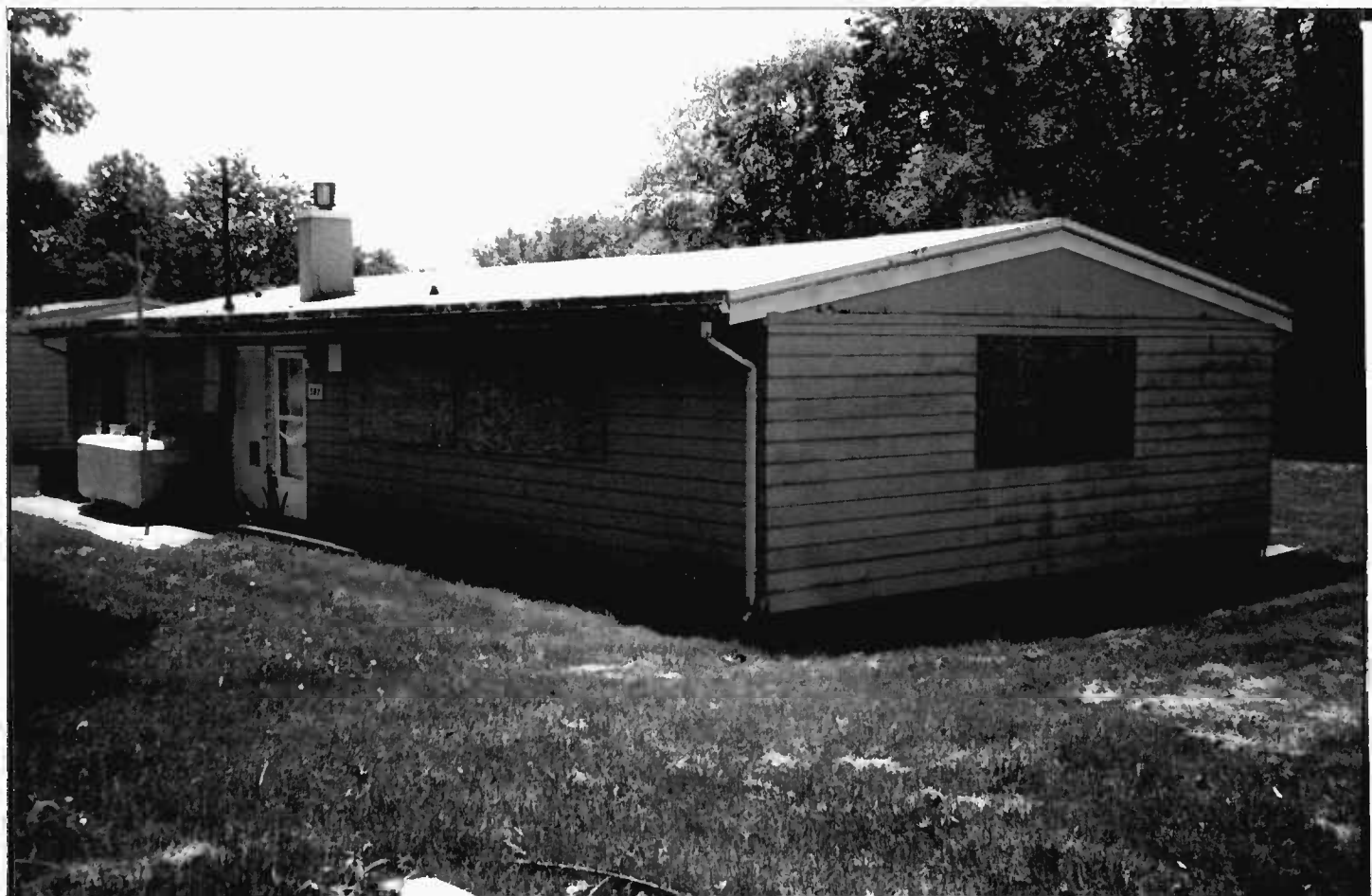

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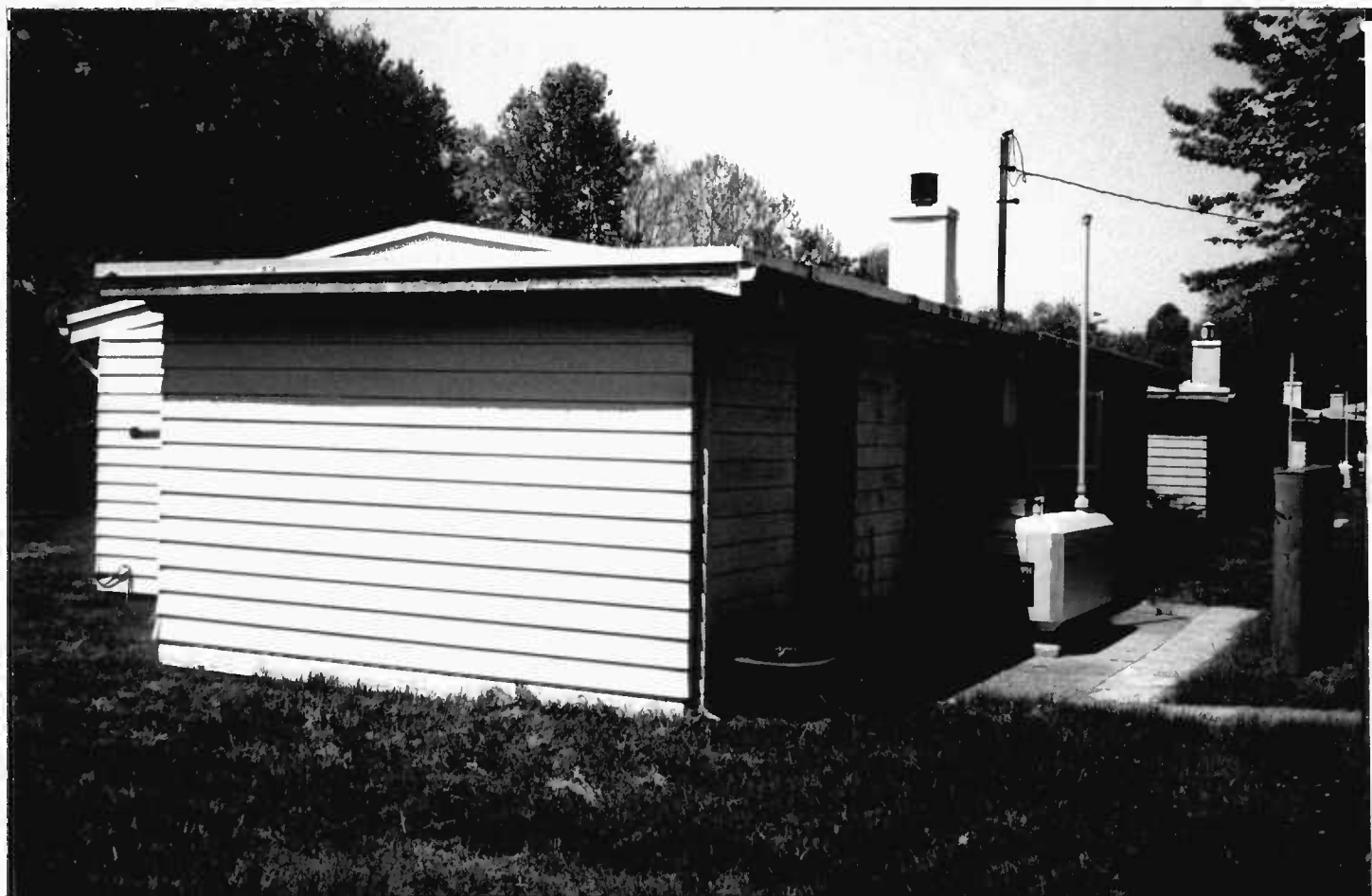

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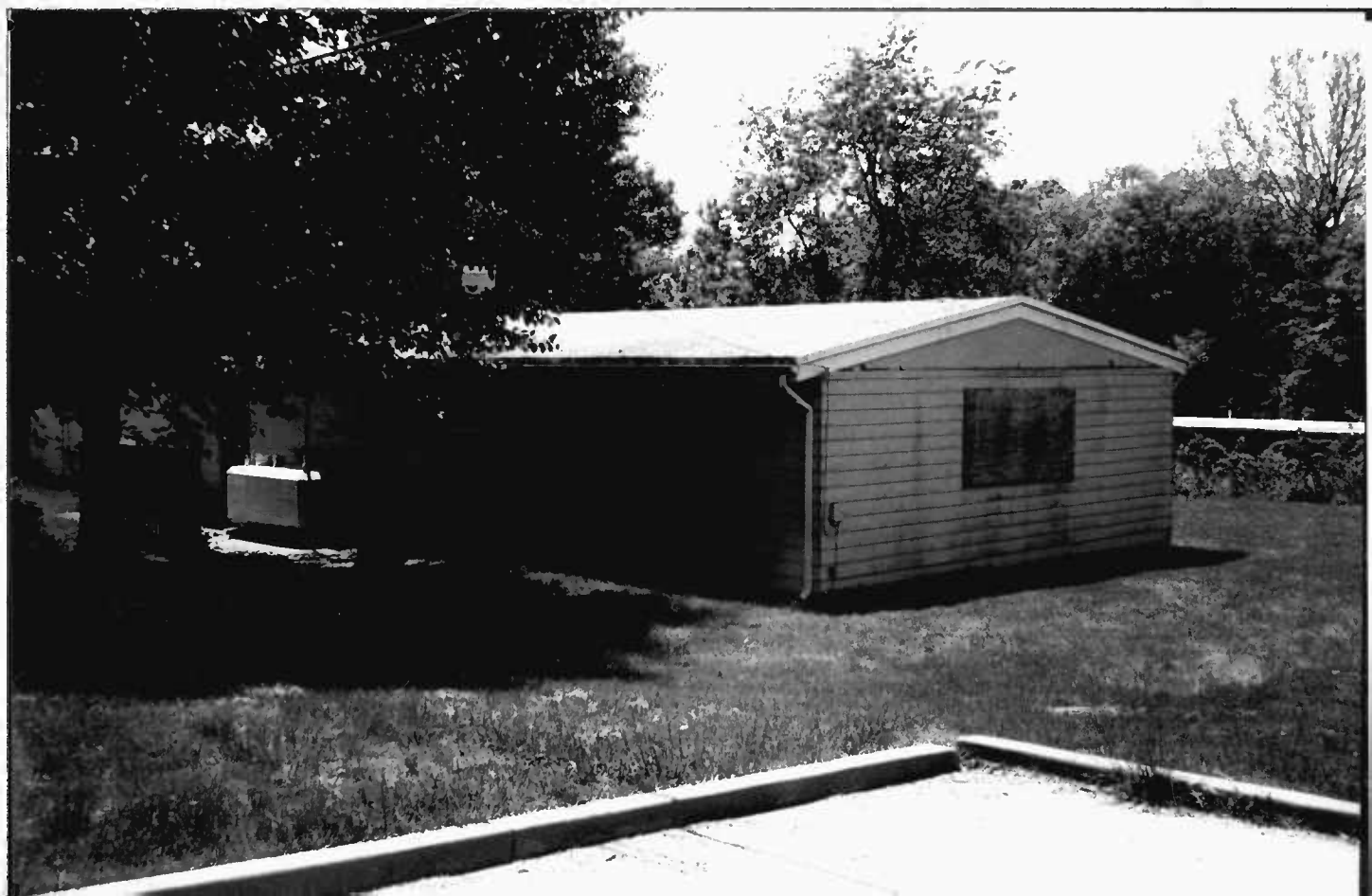

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