

Survey No. HA-1856  
Buildings E3088 and E3183  
Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground  
Harford County, Maryland

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Military

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Military installation

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Well pumphouse

Known Design Source: Construction Division, Office of the Quartermaster General

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Buildings E3088 and E3183 (preferred)

and/or common Water Well Pumphouses

## 2. Location

street & number East of Ricketts Point Road  
Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground N/A not for publication

city, town Edgewood  vicinity of congressional district 2

state Maryland county Harford

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

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

name Department of the Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground

street & number Real Estate Section, Directorate of Public Works telephone no.: 410-278-7688

city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground state and zip code 21005-5001

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Real Estate Section, Directorate of Public Works liber

street & number folio

city, town Aberdeen Proving Ground state 21005-5001

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic American Engineering Record MD-47

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records Library of Congress, Prints, Photographs Division

city, town Washington state D.C.

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      1941      **Builder/Architect**      Construction Division, Office of the  
 check: Applicable Criteria:  A    B    C    D      Quartermaster General  
 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.

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(See Continuation Sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property .006 acres

Quadrangle name Edgewood

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Katherine Grandine/Historian		
organization	R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc	date	January 1995
street & number	337 East Third Street	telephone	301-694-0428
city or town	Frederick	state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic 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 prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

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## **7. DESCRIPTION**

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 2 buildings

Buildings E3088 and E3183 are identical well pump houses that are located east of Ricketts Point Road at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. The functional buildings are part of the installation water system; their location coincides with the location of underground water resources at Edgewood Arsenal. Both buildings are located on the edge of wooded areas. Building E3183 is isolated from other buildings while Building E3088 is located near a recently constructed building.

Buildings E3088 and E3183 are one-story, rectangular utility buildings that measure 14'10" by 8'4". The buildings are constructed on concrete slab foundation with structural clay tile walls. The side-gabled roofs originally were clad with corrugated transite. The transite has been removed; the metal roof trusses are exposed. Single metal doors crowned with a metal ventilator transoms provided access to the structures. Metal louvered vents also are found on the rear walls.

The interior of the structures originally housed electric water pumps located over well holes. The pumps and well shaft piping were removed in 1994. The interiors contain portions of pipe through which water was transported to the water treatment plant (Building E5236) for purification.

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## **8. SIGNIFICANCE**

### Summary

Buildings E3088 and E3183 are examples of utilitarian well pump houses constructed during World War II. The current building numbers are the preferred names since they provide locational information. Detailed information on the historic context of the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground is contained in the *Aberdeen Proving Ground Cultural Resource Management Plan* (Goodwin et al. 1993). This inventory form was prepared as an addendum to that plan.

Buildings E3088 and E3183 do not possess the qualities of significance for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The well pump house buildings are associated with the general expansion of the installation water supply system during World War II. Although the water supply system was a basic utility that supported all activities at Edgewood Arsenal, the water system does not possess a particular direct association to the specific chemical ordnance manufacturing processes, research and development, educational, or depot activities that characterize the primary missions at Edgewood Arsenal during World War II (Criterion A). Buildings E3088 and E3183 are utility structures and do not illustrate a significant architectural or engineering design or construction technique (Criterion C). They do not possess historic association with important personages (Criterion B). The buildings are isolated structures that are not related to a significant concentration of buildings in the setting of a historic district. Furthermore, Buildings E3088 and E3183 do not possess physical integrity since the roofs and pumping equipment have been removed.

### General History

During World War II, Edgewood Arsenal served as Headquarters for the Chemical Warfare Service. The headquarters organized the manufacturing, research, and training efforts at Edgewood Arsenal and other chemical munitions manufacturing arsenals and depots. Edgewood Arsenal's manufacturing capacities

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augmented large-scale production lines located at other chemical arsenals. In addition, Edgewood Arsenal was a research and development center for experimental chemical weapons and produced chemical munitions in pilot plants. These weapons were planned for large-scale production at off-site production facilities. Training activities also were important at the installation. A school was operated to train Army chemical personnel and civilian defense workers (Goodwin et al. 1993:148-149).

As activity increased during World War II, the Army expanded the utility systems at Edgewood, including water supply and distribution, electrical distribution, and sewage treatment. The water system at Edgewood Arsenal comprised two independent components that dated from World War I: a salt-water fire protection system and a potable water system. The main potable water supply was pumped from Winters Run, a stream located north of the installation and augmented by installation wells (Historic American Buildings Survey 1982).

As the wartime activity and the number of installation personnel increased during World War II, the Army expanded the installation's potable water supply. The increased water supply was needed to support personnel needs, steam heating and auxiliary electrical generation, and worker protection during manufacturing processes. To ensure the installation an independent water supply, the Army constructed both on an off-site reservoir and on-site wells. Along Winters Run, the Army constructed a reinforced concrete dam in 1942 to create an open fresh water reservoir. The Army also dug nine additional water wells on the installation in 1941. Six wells (Buildings E3086, E3088, E3167, E3183, E4054, and E4055) were constructed with structural clay tile pump houses; other wells were capped with small wood-frame boxes. Well E3086 produced a capacity of 288,000 gallons; wells E3088, E3167, and E3183 pumped larger capacities. The location of the wells were scattered throughout the installation, dependant on the location of underground water resources. Two wells with pump houses are located west of the airfield and four wells with pump houses are located east of Ricketts Point Road. Well water was pumped to Building E5236

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(constructed in 1941) for treatment. During the 1980s, the State of Maryland declared the water wells contaminated and the water treatment plant was shut down.

### Conclusion

In summation, Buildings E3088 and E3183 do not possess the qualities of significance for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings were identified and evaluated as individual structures, as a potential historic district, and as part of a water supply system. The water supply system provided generic support for World War II activities at Edgewood Arsenal. However, there is no direct link between water and the specific World War II missions of the installation. Buildings E3088 and E3183 are utilitarian structures that housed the pumping equipment for two wells. The buildings lack physical integrity since the roofs and pumping equipment have been removed.

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Directorate of Public Works, Aberdeen Proving Ground. Drawing files, real property records, survey records.

Goodwin, R. Christopher et al.

1993 *Aberdeen Proving Ground Cultural Resource Management Plan*. Draft Report prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

1994 *Historic Context for Department of Defense Facilities World War II Permanent Construction*. Draft Report prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland.

Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

1982 *DARCOM Historic Building Inventory: Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland*. National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Smart, Jeffrey K.

1988 *U.S. Army Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center Historical Highlights*. U.S. Army, Chemical Research, Development and Engineering Center, Historical Office.

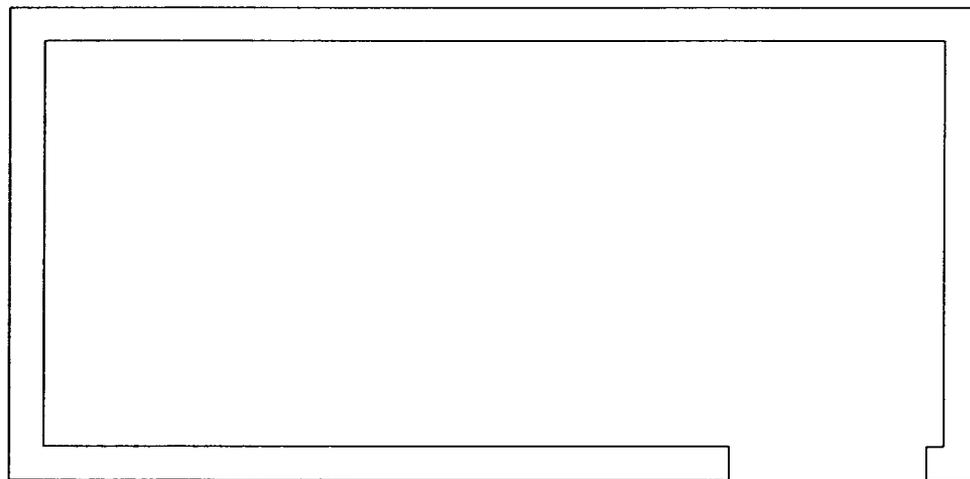
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#### **10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

The boundaries of the properties are the footprints of Buildings E3088 and E3183. Both buildings are located east of Ricketts Point Road and are isolated from the surrounding buildings in wooded areas.

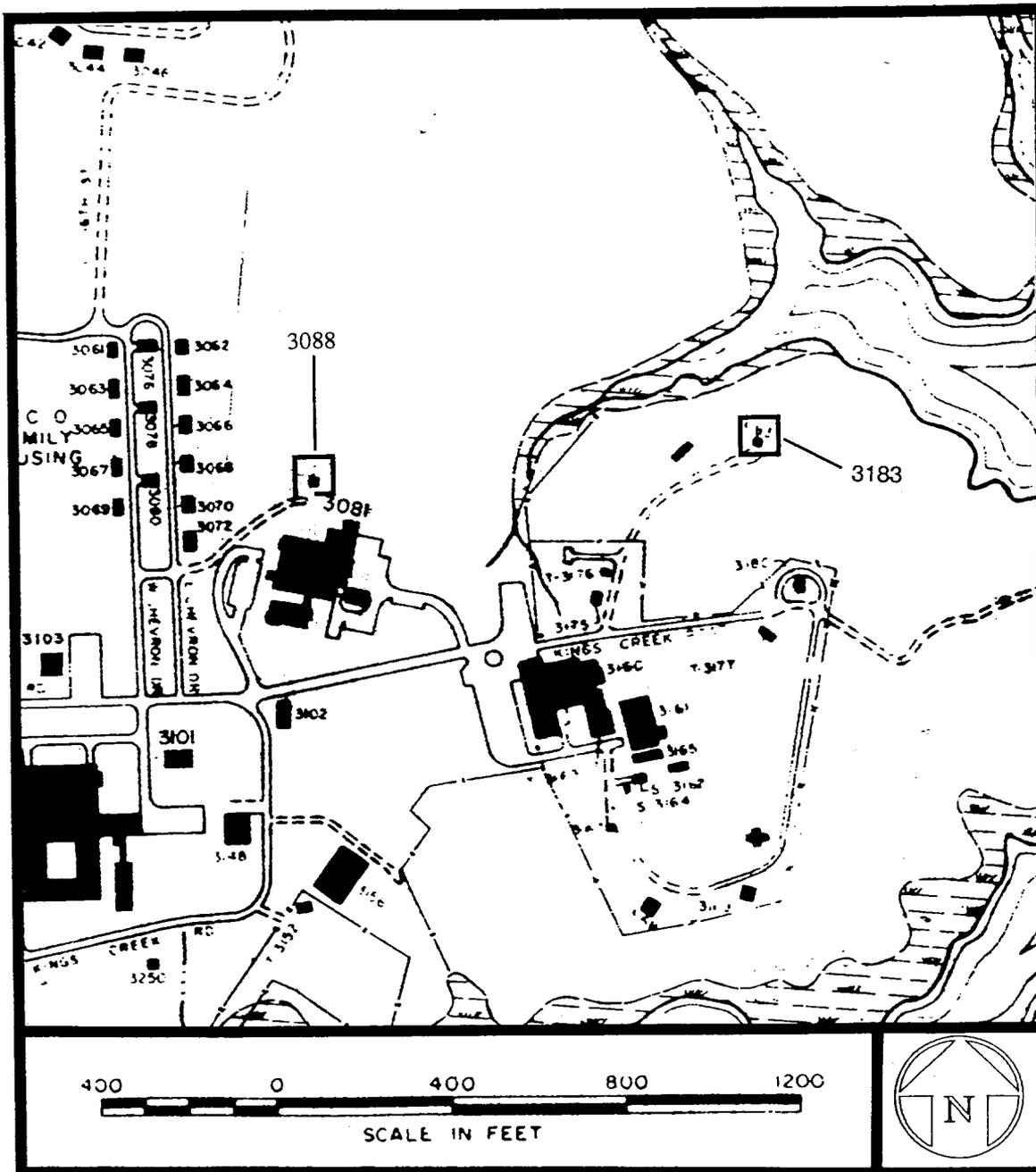
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BUILDINGS E3088 AND E3183  
EDGEWOOD AREA, ABERDEEN PROVING GROND  
HARFORD COUNTY  
JANUARY, 1995  
KATHERINE GRANDINE  
R. CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



1" = 3 FEET  
ORIENTATIONS VARY

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP  
HA-1856  
Buildings E3088 and E3183  
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HA-1856

Building E3087

Edgewood Ave., Aberdeen Proving Ground

Harford Co., MD

Katherine Grandine

1/95

Post the mill lot, Aberdeen Proving Ground

View looking NE

1 of 4







HA 1856

Building E3088

Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground

Hartford Co. MD

Katherine Grandine

1/95

Reed Hermitage, Aberdeen Proving Ground

VIEW Facing N

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HA-1856

Building E3193

Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground

Harford Co. MD

Katherine Grandine

1/95

Post 110 William, Aberdeen Proving Ground

View Spring <sup>to</sup> NE

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