

**CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: Hense House Bldg 542 Survey Number: P.G. #64-11

Property Address: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC)

Project: Section 110 Agency: F/USDA

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

District Name: BARC Historic District Survey Number: PG

Listed Eligible _____ Comment _____

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

The resource contributes/_____ does not contribute to the historic significance of this historic district in:

Location Design Setting Materials
 Workmanship Feeling Association

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

The Hense House features elements of the Craftsman style. The two story bungalow displays clapboard and stucco as the exterior treatment. Dating from the 1920s, the house became government property in 1936. The house and 44 acres were a component of the research area dedicated dogs. When the building was surveyed in 1996, it was not assessed for its potential as a contributing resource to a historic district. The USDA has now completed its survey of the entire BARC facility. Their consultant determined that the 6582 acres of BARC are eligible. The Trust concurred with this determination. Building 542 is a contributing resource to the BARC Historic District.

Documentation on the property is presented in: documentation report on BARC PR 229 in MHT library

Prepared by: Robinson & Associates

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

Program concurrence: yes no not applicable

R. Kuntz _____ 2/29/00 _____
Reviewer, NR program Date

Handwritten mark

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 Adaption

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: Building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): domestic/ dwelling

Known Design Source: _____

ADMINISTRATIVE/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In connection with the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Master Plan project, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) initiated procedures to comply with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). In August 1995, Robinson & Associates, Inc., an architectural history and historic preservation consulting firm, was retained as consultants to conduct a survey of residences on the BARC property. A total of 18 residential buildings were identified by ARS for inclusion in the survey, which is being completed in phases. This report presents an assessment of eligibility for one of the buildings in the second phase of evaluation.

Building 542 is a residence constructed circa 1922; it was acquired along with 44 acres by the Department of Agriculture from Paul Hense in 1936. This building does not appear to rise to the level of historic and/or architectural significance necessary to meet the criteria on an individual basis, nor does it form a part of a significant collection of buildings that appears to qualify as a historic district.

METHODOLOGY

Soon after the initiation of the residential Determination of Eligibility project, a windshield survey of 18 residences at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, including Building 542, was conducted. A subsequent site visit to Building 542 enabled closer investigation of both the interior and exterior of this residence; photographs were taken at this time.

Historical research for Building 542 was conducted primarily at the Prince George's County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro and the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis. Research on the Department of Agriculture's use of the property was conducted primarily at the National Archives, College Park Facility. A single architectural drawing, comprising floor plans of the first and second floors as well as the southeast elevation of the house, was located at BARC. Previous work by Robinson & Associates on the history of BARC (Robinson & Associates, Inc., "Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Phase III Report," December 1995) provided information on the establishment of BARC in Beltsville.

A Maryland Historic Trust Inventory Form was prepared for the residence, based on the requirements specified in the *Guidelines for Completing the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form*.

EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

Building 542 (the Hense House) was evaluated under National Register Criteria A, B, and C at the local and national levels of significance. The relevant criteria, as listed in the *National Register Bulletin 16* (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division), read as follows:

The quality of **significance** in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

PG: 64-11

The Hense House -- Building 542

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center -- Beltsville, MD

Location: Beltsville, MD (Prince George's County)

Date of Construction: ca. 1922

Access: Public (Restricted)

The Hense House (Building 542) at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) is one of a number of farmhouse residences acquired by the government in the mid-1930s during the expansion of the experimental farm operations. It is a two-story Craftsman-style bungalow that was built in the early 1920s. The house was purchased from Paul Hense in 1936, along with 44 acres of land.

Located in an isolated area in what is today known as the East Farm of BARC, the house and its surrounding land were planned between 1936 and 1939 by the Animal Husbandry Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for use as the Dog Area. The Hense House was designated as employee housing, a use to which it has been consistently dedicated.

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data
The Hense House -- Building 542 -- MHT #P.G.: #64-11
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
Prince George's County, Maryland

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographical Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): domestic

Known Design Source: none

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties**

Survey No. P.G. #64-11
Magi No.
DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name

Historic Name Hense House

Common Name and Building Number Building 542

2. Location

Street and Number Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

City, Town Beltsville

Congressional District

State and Zip Code MD 20705

County Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present use
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Work in Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: Unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Housing

4. Owner of Property

Name U.S. Department of Agriculture

Street & Number 10300 Baltimore Avenue

Telephone No.: (301) 504-5187

City, Town Beltsville

State and Zip Code MD 20705

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse Liber# 390 Folio# 160

Street & Number Main Street

City, Town Upper Marlboro

State and Zip Code MD

6. Representation in Existing Historic Survey

Yes No

Title

Date

Federal State County Local

Depository for Survey Records

City, Town

State and Zip

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #64-11

Condition

Excellent Deteriorated Unaltered Original Site
 Good Ruins Altered Moved
 Fair Unexposed

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #61-24

Period

Areas of Significance

<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanit
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Invention		

Specific Dates

Architect

Builder

Area

Applicable Criteria:

A B C D

Applicable Exception

A B C D E F G

Level of Significance

National State Local

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

Overview

The Hense House (Building 542) was built in the early 1920s. It was used as a residence by members of the Hense family until the house and surrounding property (44 acres) were acquired by the government in 1936. In 1939, the Division of Plans and Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering began renovations on the building, in preparation for its use as a residence for employees at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The property surrounding the Hense House was dedicated to research related to dogs. It is located in the East Farm.

Architectural Description

The Hense House is a two-story Craftsman-style bungalow, with two oversized second-story dormers, one at the rear and one at the front. The house is stuccoed on the lower half of the exterior and sided with wood clapboards on the upper half; this stucco treatment is the most distinctive aspect of the house. According to the extant architectural drawing for the Hense House, the stucco is attached to eight-inch, terra-cotta hollow tile.¹ This stove-pipe tile is visible in the basement of the house.

The northwest facade, originally the principal facade, is dominated by a one-story, shed-roof porch, which runs the length of the facade. This entrance, framed by two overgrown cedar trees that have surpassed the roof line of the house, no longer serves as the principal entrance to the house. The central door is flanked on either side by a pair of large, six-over-one, double-hung windows. These windows are original and are found almost without exception throughout the house. The lower section of this facade is stuccoed. There is also a window on this facade, on the single-story extension on the northeast, which is flush with this facade. The second story is an oversized dormer, which is covered in clapboard siding. It contains a grouping of three windows. The main porch was originally wooden, with a central stair. Openings for the joists are still visible in the main body of the house, and traces of the stair pattern are evident by the front door. The porch consists today of a poured concrete slab, upon which is built a stone wall with light-colored, gum-like mortar. Flanking the current concrete steps are two narrow square posts, situated atop the stone wall, that support the shed roof. At the corners, short square posts rest atop raised stone columns.

The southwest facade of the house, like the other facades, has a stuccoed exterior on the lower half and clapboard siding on the upper half. In the second story, there is a paired set of windows. On the first story, there is a paired window and a single window. There are also two small openings at the basement level. From the interior of the basement, it appears that there was at one point a coal chute or similar type of opening at this side of the house for the heating system.

¹One drawing exists for the building, showing the first- and second-floor plans and the southeast exterior elevation. The drawing is located at BARC, Division of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations Division, Building 426.

On the southeast facade, the house is entered via a small raised wooden porch; this shed-roof porch has recently been rebuilt using pressurized wood. The first story along the southeast facade contains three windows, two of them smaller in size than the other -- which is similar to others in the house. The second story is an oversized dormer which contains three windows, more widely spaced apart than those of the northwest facade dormer.

Projecting on the northeast side of the house is a small, one-story alcove room, located off of the dining room and flush with the northwest facade. This projection has a shed roof, supported as the large dormers are by simple wooden brackets. It is lit on all sides, with one window on either side and a paired window on the front or northeast facade. Adjacent to the stuccoed projecting bay is another set of paired windows. In the gabled second story, which is covered in clapboard siding, there also is a paired window.

On the interior, in plan, the entry door opens onto a large parlor to the right or southwest; the dining room is to the left or northeast, and the stairway to the second floor is directly ahead. These rooms are characterized by large windows and Craftsman-style molding -- wide and flat planed boards -- surrounding the windows and door frames. Off of the dining room is a small alcove with windows on three sides. Connected to the dining room is the kitchen, which contains the backdoor leading to the secondary porch. The kitchen and study at the rear (southeast) end of the house are connected by a narrow pantry/laundry area; according to the 1939 plan, this room was intended to contain a bathroom, though it does not appear to have been installed. This area also contains the entrance to the basement.

Upstairs, the rooms are arranged in a U-shape around the central stairhall. There is a bathroom at the top of the stairs. A bedroom is enclosed in the gable along the northwest facade; it features a central cluster of three windows. The house has apparently settled toward the center of the building, resulting in a slanted floor line in the upstairs as well as door frames that are no longer square.

In the open basement, the eight-inch terra-cotta tiles that form the fabric of the lower half of the building, and upon which the stucco is adhered, are visible. There is evidence of a coal chute, as well as a recessed area of the floor where a large boiler would have been located. There is an exit to a small antechamber, like a root cellar, that is located underneath the secondary porch on the southeast facade of the building.

Landscape and Surrounding Buildings

Adjacent to Building 542 along Springfield Road is Building 543, the Main Dog Kennel. Plans were first prepared for the kennel in 1936, when the Hense parcel was acquired by the government. The kennel was erected in 1939. According to maps, this area was never heavily developed. The house and the adjacent kennel sit close by Springfield Road, connected by a semicircular drive.

Overview

Building 542, the Hense House, is a Craftsman-style bungalow that was constructed in the early 1920s in the Beltsville area.¹ The house, along with a 44-acre parcel of land, was acquired by the Department of Agriculture in 1936, as part of a large, multiple-property purchase. The Hense property, located in the East Farm area that was being developed by the government in the mid- to late 1930s, was called the Dogs Area, operated by the Animal Husbandry Division and dedicated to breeding research.

Prior to BARC: The Hense Family

The land on which the bungalow sits was purchased by William and Caroline Hense in May of 1903. Called "Tewkesbury" on the deed by the previous owner, William Fitzgibbons, the land was later known as "Teutensburg." The Henses farmed the land, a large part of which was listed as tillable in the tax assessments; other areas of the property were characterized by marshes or wooded areas. When Caroline Hense died in 1920, she provided for her three daughters as well as her two sons. In her will, Caroline stipulated that William and Paul were to pay each of their sisters the sum of \$300, for a total of \$900, in order to acquire the property. This transaction was formalized in April 1932, when one of the sisters was noted on a deed -- which turned the land over to her brothers, William and Paul -- as finalizing this settlement. This action was probably taken to have clear title for the anticipated partitioning of the property; Paul Hense acquired the land through a deed of partition from William a few months later in October 1932. Just four years later, Paul Hense was offered \$4472.10 for the 44 acres by the United States government, an offer which he accepted on June 22, 1936. Into the 1940s, the government continued to purchase lands in the East Farm area, including property from Hense. Paul Hense owned several distinct parcels in the area, all of which eventually became part of BARC.

Acquisition of the Hense Property: Dogs Area

The Hense House and property constituted one of a large number of land acquisitions undertaken by the government in the 1930s. The East Farm was created through these purchases, in order to provide adequate space for the various bureaus then moving to Beltsville. Located to the east of the Central Farm and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, the East Farm totals 2,225 acres. It is mostly forested, with a lower density of buildings than found in the other farms.

After its acquisition, the Hense property was dedicated to research related to Dogs. The house was to be used as a residence for the employees of Animal Husbandry Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry. In 1938, Public Works Administration money was allocated directly to the Beltsville

¹Tax records indicate that in 1922 improvements were made to the Hense property totalling \$1,665. Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

Research Center and then divided among the various bureaus for projects (previously, in 1933, the projects authorized were allocated directly to the bureaus). The Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering was responsible for preparing plans and specifications and cost estimates for all work authorized. The actual work was carried out by the Division of Plans and Services. This division was responsible for drawing up plans for the renovations undertaken at the Hense House in 1939, as well as the design work for the kennel.²

The Bureau of Agricultural Engineering's Division of Plans and Service prepared a drawing in 1939 for the Hense House alterations, to prepare the house as a employee residence. The changes were not substantive; they involved primarily the replacement of doors and of handrails, missing risers, and treads on the stairs. A sink was proposed for installation in the kitchen, and a lavatory and toilet for a first-floor bathroom adjacent to the kitchen, but it does not appear from on-site inspection that these items were ever installed. The plans showed the first- and second-floor layouts, as well as the elevation of the southeast facade of the house. This was the only exterior elevation given for the project, indicating most probably the new primacy given to this side of the house. The southeast elevation was originally the rear of the house, but probably became the principal entrance, as it is today. The drawing identified the various building materials of this house, particularly the composition of the lower exterior: stucco on eight-inch hollow tile. The roof, of composition shingle, was shown as potentially needing repair.

The focus of the area, the Main Dog Kennel, was constructed adjacent to the Hense House. It was erected in 1939 from plans that were prepared in 1936.³ According to a March 1939 map of BARC, the newly developed Dog section, as well as the new Swine section, were not yet easily accessible by the East-West Road, the primary drive through the Beltsville property. This road, a key element of the master plan for the Experimental Farm, had been laid out and surfaced from the entrance gate to the Goat Barn in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps stationed at Beltsville. It seems that the road, while perhaps graded, was not yet at this time surfaced with asphalt. The unsurfaced road, indicated on the 1939 map by a dotted line, culminates at the Biological Survey grouping. The Forest Service and Biological Service areas, located at the very far east of the property, engendered some additional development of this area of BARC. The Hense House remains in its original setting as an isolated building.

²Report transmitted to Harold L. Ickes by Harry L. Brown, November 1, 1938. RG 16, Entry 17, Box 2692 (1938).

³*Annual Report of the Director of the Beltsville Research Center for the Fiscal Year 1936*, submitted by H.A. Nelson, August 20, 1936. RG 16, Entry 17, Box 2278 (1936).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #64-11

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the site follows Springfield Road on the northwest and the driveway to the property on the southwest. On the southeast and southwest, the boundary is defined as extending 50 feet beyond the perimeter of the house itself.

11. Form Prepared by

Name/Title Heather Ewing, Judith Robinson, Architectural Historians

Organization Robinson & Associates, Inc.**Date** July 8, 1996

Street & Number 1909 Q St., NW #300**Telephone** (202) 234-2333

City or Town Washington, D.C.**State** 20009

Concurrence of State Preservation Officer

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
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

Bibliography

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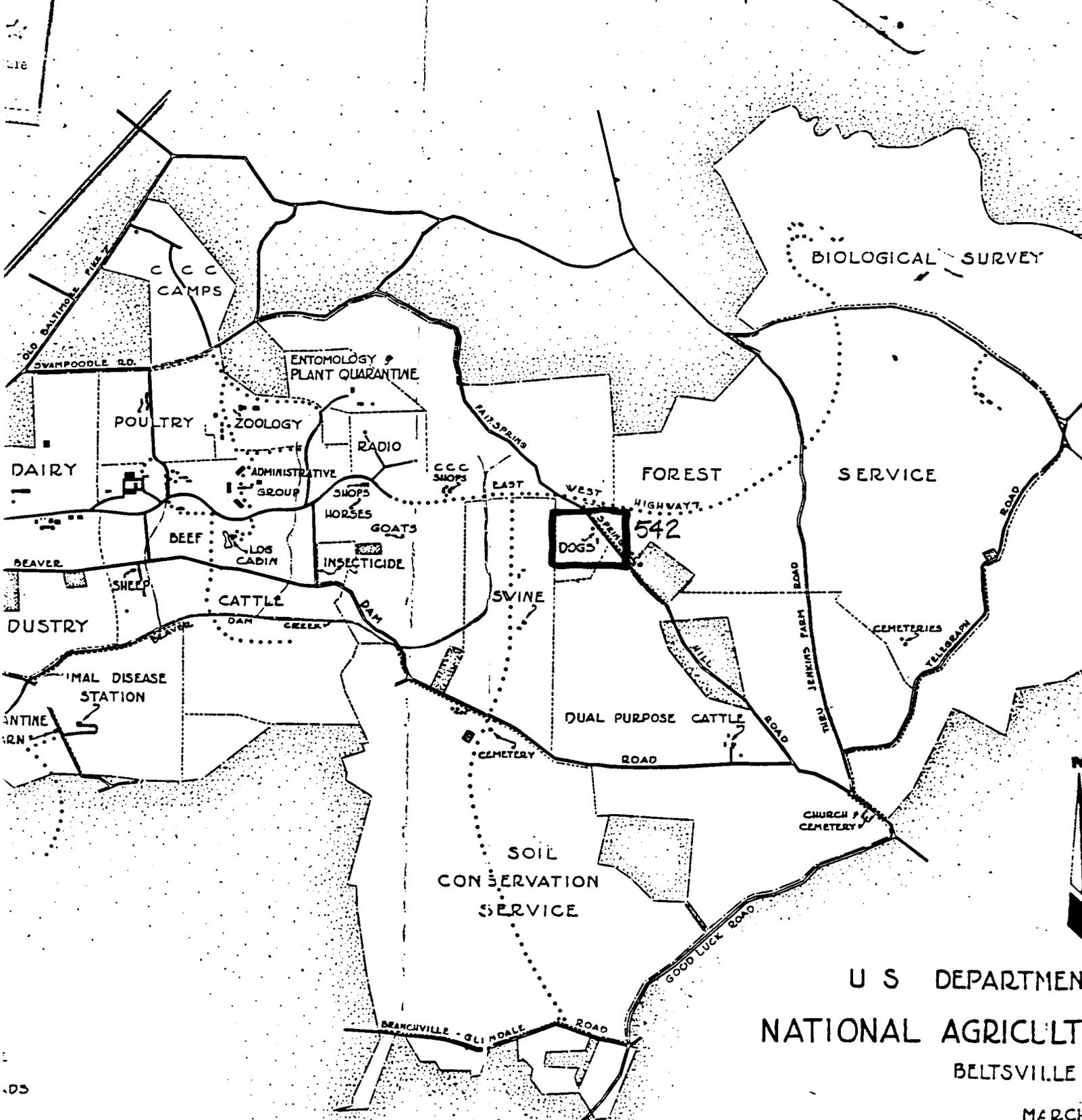
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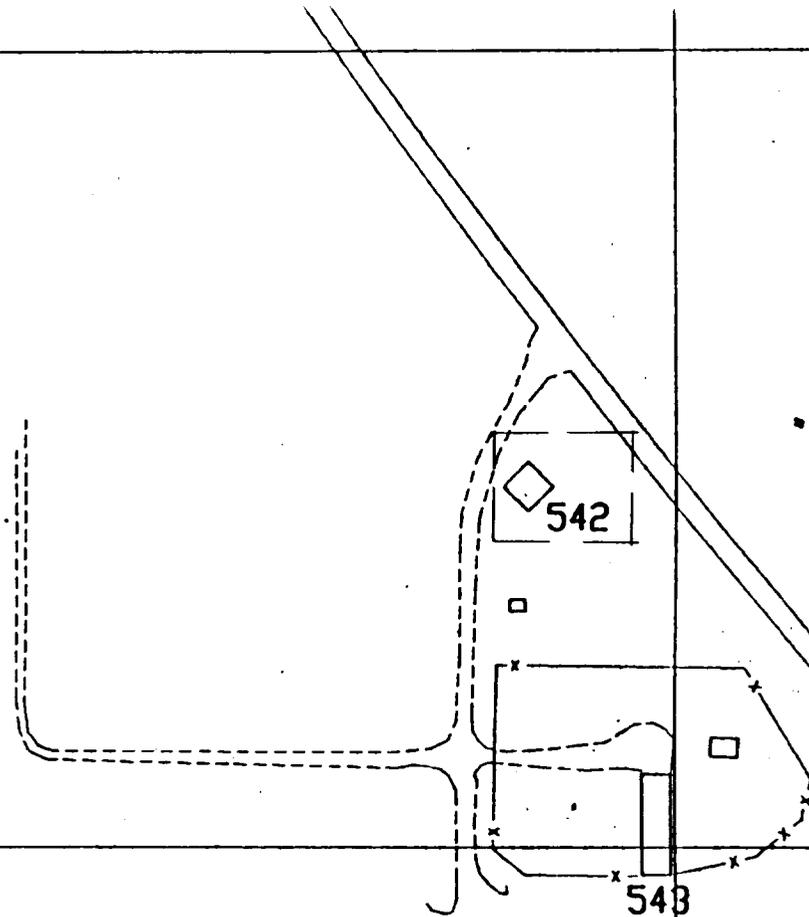
U S DEPARTMENT
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURE
 BELTSVILLE

MARCH



CONSTRUCTION
 UNDER JURISDICTION OF N.A.R.C.

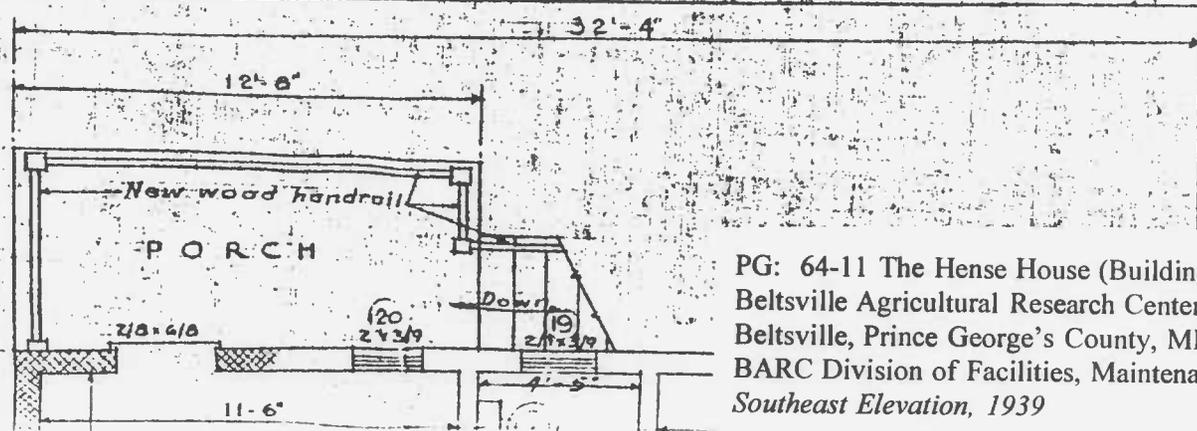
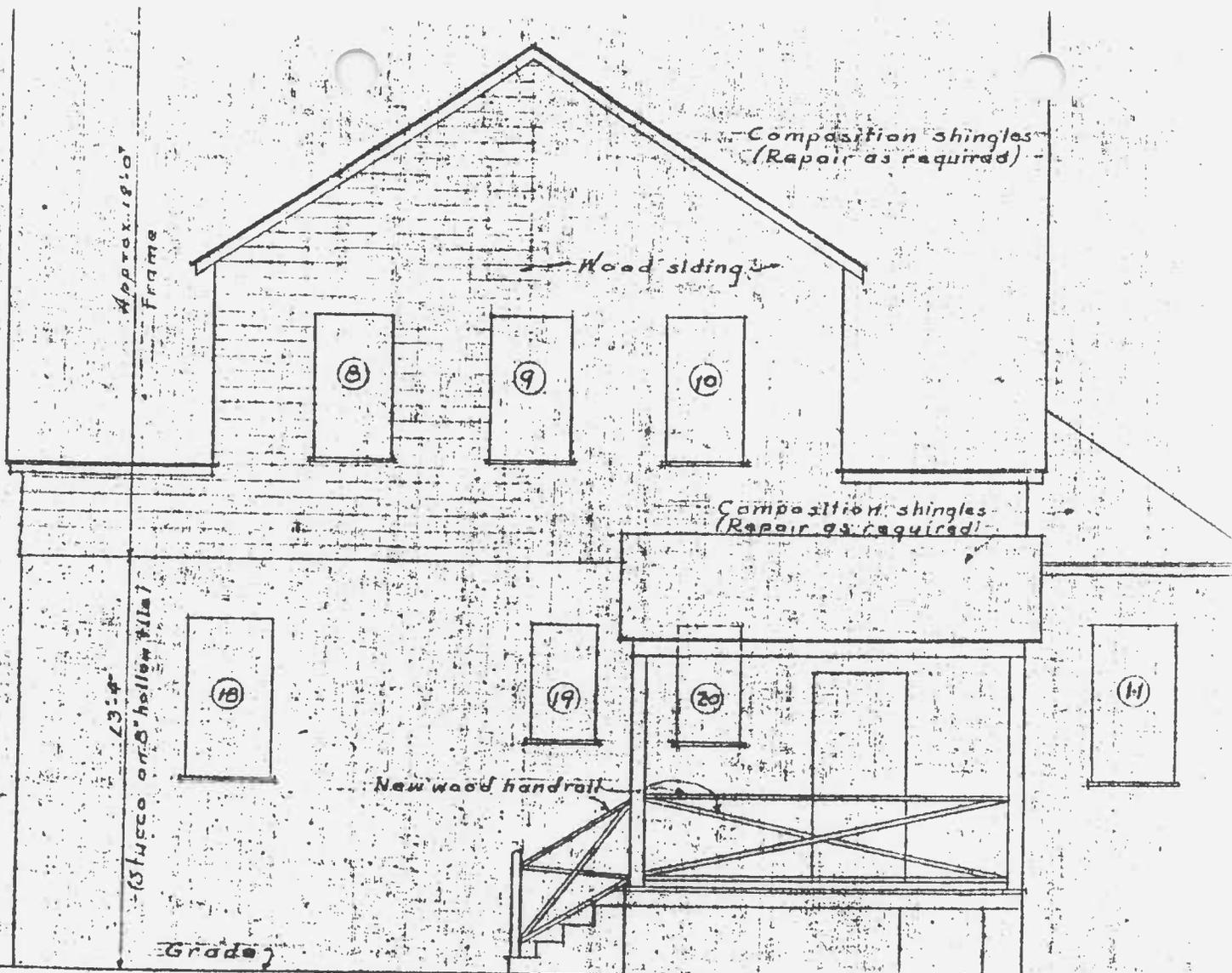
PG: 64-11 The Hense House (Building 542)
 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
 Beltsville, Prince George's County, MD
 National Agricultural Research Center,
 Beltsville, MD, 1939



SPRINGFIELD

PG: 64-11 The Hense House (Building 542)
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
Beltsville, Prince George's County, MD
BARC Master Plan, 1995

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION
 Scale $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$



PG: 64-11 The Hense House (Building 542)
 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
 Beltsville, Prince George's County, MD
 BARC Division of Facilities, Maintenance and Operations
 Southeast Elevation, 1939



PG: 64-11

HENSE HOUSE (BUILDING 542)

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MD

HEATHER EWING

MAY 1996

MD SHPO

SOUTHEAST + NORTHEAST FACADES, LOOKING WEST



PG: 64-11
HENSE HOUSE (BUILDING 542)
BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

HEATHER EWING
MAY 1996
MDSHP0

INTERIOR, VIEW OF ENTRY HALL + DINING ROOM.
LOOKING NORTHEAST



PG: 64-11

HENSE HOUSE (BUILDING 542)

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MD

HEATHER EWING

MAY 1996

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST FACADE, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



PG: 64-11

HENSE HOUSE (BUILDING 542)

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MD

HEATHER EWING, MAY 1996

MAY 1996

MDCHPO

NORTHWEST FACADE, LOOKING SOUTH EAST