CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Carl Thies House Bldg 510 Survey Number: P.G. #67-28

Property Address: Building 510 at 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 X Eligible _____ Comment

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

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

X Location X Design X Setting X Materials

X Workmanship X Feeling X Association

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

Located on Beaver Dam Road, this house is a simple frame dwelling constructed by Carl Thies, an employee of BARC. The government purchased the property including the house in c.1936; it remains as employee housing. When the building was originally surveyed in 1997, it was not assessed for its potential as a contributing resource to a historic district. USDA has now completed its survey of BARC. Their consultant determined that the entire 6582 acres of BARC is eligible. The Trust concurred with this determination. Building 510 is a contributing resource.

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

NR program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

Reviewer, NR program 2/29/00
Date

Survey No. PG-67-28

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 Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

X	Agriculture
____	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
____	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
X	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: Carl Thies

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 final phase of evaluation.

Building 510 is a residence constructed circa 1935; it was acquired along with 129 acres by the Department of Agriculture from Michael Thies in 1936. This building does not appear to rise to the level of historic and/or architectural significance necessary to meet the National Register 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 510, was conducted. A subsequent site visit to Building 510 enabled closer investigation of both the interior and exterior of this residence; photographs were taken at this time.

Archival research relating to Building 510 was conducted primarily at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis. Oral histories heavily supplemented available written sources. Research on the Department of Agriculture's use of the property was conducted primarily at the National Archives, College Park Facility. 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 Historical 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 510 (the Carl Thies 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:
>
> A. **that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or**
>
> B. **that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or**
>
> C. **that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; . . .**

Building 510, the Carl Thies House, is a typical example of middle-class house of the mid-1930s. The house was owned by the Thies family until it was acquired by the government around 1936, as part of a large acquisition of property in the Beltsville area.

Criterion A
Given current sources of information concerning settlement and agriculture patterns in Prince George's County, there does not appear to be anything outstanding or unusual about the history of the house and its property. It does not meet Criterion A. It is a fairly typical mid-1930s house, at which no significant events are known to have occurred. Taken over as a residence for the government staff at BARC as a practical measure, the Carl Thies House was one of a large number of properties used in a similar fashion throughout the Department of Agriculture's operations. This property is geographically isolated from other BARC buildings and is not associated with any particular grouping of agricultural experimentation buildings.

Criterion B
Building 510 does not appear to have significance under Criterion B. The Thies family was one of a number of landowners and farmers in Prince George's County who sold their property to the government during the 1930s. In comparison to may of the other owners, they were fairly recent arrivals to the area. They are not associated with any significant contributions to local history. Under BARC occupancy, there is no evidence that people significant to the history of the institution lived in the house.

Criterion C
Building 510 appears to be a typical example of a modest mid-1930s era house with Colonial Revival details. The style is common in the United States, and in Prince George's County in particular. Subsequent to its acquisition by the Department of Agriculture, renovations appear to have been undertaken; these include minor additions, and general repairs and replacements. Otherwise, the house does not appear altered to any other appreciable extent; it still has its original windows and its interior molding and in general retains much of its original integrity.

Criterion D
Building 510 was not evaluated for archeological significance.

EVALUATION AS PART OF A DISTRICT

Given the physically isolated location of Building 510, it does not appear to contribute to any subset of BARC buildings that could constitute a historic district. Building 510 is located in close proximity to the Baltimore Washington Parkway and to a privately owned residence (which is surrounded on all sides by BARC property). Otherwise the building is located more than one-quarter mile from other USDA buildings.

PG: 67-28

THE CARL THIES HOUSE (BUILDING 510) -- BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

Location: Beltsville, MD (Prince Georges County)
Date of Construction: 1952-54
Access: Public

The Carl Thies house is a modest frame house, with minor Colonial Revival details, constructed circa 1935-36. It is located on Beaver Dam Road adjacent to the Baltimore Washington Parkway at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). Building 510 was constructed circa 1935-36 by Carl Thies. The house was built on land owned by his father, Michael Thies. Both Carl and Michael Thies were employees of what is now BARC. Soon after its construction, the property was purchased by the federal government and became part of what is today BARC. For most of the building's existence, it has been occupied by a succession of Department of Agriculture employees.

Survey No. P.G. #67-28
Magi No.
OOE ___yes ___no

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

1. Name

Historic Name Carl Thies House

Common Name and Building Number Building 510

2. Location

Street and Number Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

City, Town Beltsville Congressional District

State MD 20705 County Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present use	
__ Oistrict	__ Public	__ Occupied	__ Agriculture	__ Museum
__ Building(s)	__ Private	__ Unoccupied	__ Commercial	__ Park
__ Structure	__ Both	__ Work in Progress	__ Educational	__ Private Residence
__ Site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	__ Entertainment	__ Religious
__ Object	__ In Process	__ Yes: Restricted	__ Government	__ Scientific
	__ Being Considered	__ Yes: Unrestricted	__ Industrial	__ Transportation
	__ Not Applicable	__ No	__ Military	__ Other: Housing

4. Owner of Property (all owners)

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# _ Folio# _

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 Code

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #67-28

Condition

__ Excellent
__ Good
X Fair

__ Deteriorated
__ Ruins
__ Unexposed

__ Unaltered
__ Altered

__ Original Site
__ Moved

Date of Move _____

See continuation sheet.

Overview

Building 510 is a modest frame house constructed circa 1935-36. The building, which faces south onto Beaver Dam Road is located immediately to the east of the Baltimore Washington Parkway. Aside from a nearby small garage/shed (Building 511), there are no other BARC buildings in close proximity to it. The area to the south across the Parkway and to the north of the house are wooded.

Building Description

Building 510 is located on the top of a hill. It is set back from, and it looks down on, Beaver Dam Road. The house is reached via a short, steep driveway off of the road. The gravel driveway ends at a parking area at the rear of the house, slightly to the south of Building 511. Aside from the Baltimore Washington Parkway to its west, the only other nearby development is a privately owned residence to the east, which is totally encircled by BARC property.

Building 510 is a frame structure with horizontal wood siding, rock-faced concrete block foundations, and a gabled roof with asphalt shingles.

The four-bay-wide front (south) facade of the building consists of two six-over-one windows framing a central entrance element on the west side and a set of paired six over-one windows on the eastern nonoriginal section of the building. The focal point of the front facade is a simple gabled entrance porch. The porch, which is slightly wider than the front door, is reached via a flight of five steps. The porch roof is supported by two slender columns and its gable end is covered with a board cut into an arched opening.

The east elevation features the narrow two bay-wide addition which projects roughly seven feet from the original facade of the building. The addition, apparently completed in the 1960s by the USDA, was constructed in similar materials to the rest of the building. On its east end, it features a single entrance door and a window unit consisting of a large single fixed-pane window framed by two vertical rows of small fixed windows. To the north of the addition is the plane of the original east wall of the building. This area has a pair of six-over-one double-hung windows.

The rear (north) facade of the building has an irregular form. On the east end, and recessed from the main body of the building, is the back of the 1960s addition. It features a pair of six-over-one double-hung windows. The center section, the rear of the main portion of the house, features a porch that has been closed in and paired six-over-one windows. To the west is an ell which projects out from the body of the house. This ell has a single six-over-one window on either side but does not have a window in its rear.

The west facade, which is obscured by heavy vegetation, features two sets of paired windows.

The interior plan of Building 510 was originally a rectangular block with a small extension at the northwest corner. The primary entrance was from the south, in what was originally the central bay of the facade (but is now off-center due to an addition at the east end of the house). Today, the house is entered principally from the north, through an enclosed porch that opens into the kitchen.

The kitchen is lit by a set of paired windows on the east wall. A stair to the full basement is located against the south wall of the room. Through a door on the west wall of the kitchen is the dining room, a rectangular room characterized by a large set of paired windows and two arched opening into other areas of the house. A large arched opening on the south wall opens into the living room. A smaller, rounded-arch opening leads from the dining room to the bedroom and bath off a small hallway at the west side of the room.

The living room contains a door on the south wall that was originally the principal entrance to the house. The doors and windows of this room are surrounded by wood moldings with corner blocks decorated with paterae. On the south wall to the east of the door is a single window and a large, elongated radiator. At the east end of the room is a brick fireplace, painted white. The east wall was originally an exterior wall of the house; however, an extra bedroom was erected in the 1960s to the east of the living room. To the right of the fireplace is a small window that has been blocked; glass shelves have been placed across the window. To the left of the fireplace is a door, which leads to the bedroom addition. The west wall is covered by built-in bookcases; there was originally a door to the bedroom that has been blocked.

The bedroom, located in the southwest corner of the house, is illuminated by two single windows. There was originally a door leading from the living room directly into the bedroom, but this door has been blocked. The bathroom is adjacent to the bedroom, against the west wall, and there is an additional room in the northwest corner of the house, as well as an entrance to the exterior along this wall. These rooms are accessed by a narrow hall that runs in a north-south direction adjacent to the dining room.

Slightly to the north of Building 510 is large shed-roofed garage/shed (Building 511) that houses equipment. It appears to be of relatively recent vintage.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #67-28

Period	Areas of Significance - Check and justify below			
__Prehistoric	__Archeology-Prehistoric	__Community Planning	__Landscape Architecture	__Religion
__1400-1499	__Archeology-Historic	__Conservation	__Law	__Science
__1500-1599	__Agriculture	__Economics	__Literature	__Sculpture
__1600-1699	__Architecture	__Education	__Military	__Social/Humanitarian
__1700-1799	__Art	__Engineering	__Music	__Theater
__1800-1899	__Commerce	__Exploration/Settlement	__Philosophy	__Transportation
_X_1900-	__Communications	__Industry	__Politics/Government	__Other (specify)
		__Invention		

Specific Dates	Architect	Builder	Area
1935	Unknown	Unknown	None

Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D

Applicable Exception __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance __National __State __Local

See continuation sheet.

Summary

The Carl Thies house was constructed circa 1935-36 by an employee of the Agricultural Research Center (now the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, or BARC) on land owned by his father, also a Agricultural Research Center employee. Soon thereafter the property was purchased by the federal government and became part of what was referred to as "the Government farm" (BARC). For most of the building's existence, it has been occupied by a succession of employees at BARC.

Background of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) is one of the largest research facilities of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the main research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For 60 years it has been one of the Department of Agriculture's principal experimental areas and the leading and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world.

Department of Agriculture facilities first came to the Beltsville area in 1910. At that time the Bureau purchased 475 acres of farmland located in what is now part of the large Central Farm section of BARC. By 1928, the Animal Husbandry Division had acquired 1,370 acres and the Bureau of Dairy Industry had acquired 316 acres. Arriving with the first New Deal in 1933, was the single greatest "boom" time at Beltsville which saw major land acquisitions and massive construction projects at the site. Beginning in the early 1930s, USDA officials began discussing the possibility of transferring more research facilities to Beltsville, the idea being in part to establish "a model experiment station for agriculture." As part of this expansion, approximately 6,700 acres were added to the Beltsville site. Included in this acreage was that on which Building 510 is located.

History and Development of Building 510

Michael T. and Katherine Thies, along with their seven children picked up stakes and moved around 1922 from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania to Beltsville.[1] The mill at which Michael worked had closed and they chose to relocate to Maryland.

The family purchased approximately 129 acres of land from the Knauer family.[2] All of this property, which crossed Beaver Dam Road, is today either part of BARC or part of the Baltimore Washington

[1]Otherwise unattributed material in this section relating to the Thies family and the Carl Thies House has its source in an oral interview with John Thies conducted by Carol Hooper, Robinson & Associates, Inc., January 10, 1997. John Thies was a brother of Carl Thies.

[2]Oral interview with John Thies, January 10, 1997.

Parkway. When they purchased it, the parcel had an old house and old barn on it.[3] That early house was located across the street from Building 510 in what was to be the path of the Baltimore Washington Parkway. (The house was demolished prior to the construction of the parkway.) The land that the family purchased consisted of about 80 acres of wooded land, 25 acres of marsh, and 25 tillable acres. Although almost one-third of their land was tillable, the family never farmed the land except for private consumption. John Thies recollects that the family had a grape arbor behind the site of Building 510.

Almost immediately after moving to the area, Michael Thies got a job at "the Government farm." He was employed, for the rest of his working life, for the Animal Husbandry Division, in particular caring for the bulls.[4]

Michael's second son, Carl,[5] following in his father's footsteps, also got a job with the Animal Husbandry division at BARC. His first job was assisting guinea pig research. Sometime thereafter, he married his wife Grace. What is now Building 510 was constructed around 1936 as a home for Carl and his new wife.[6]
Although no information has been found concerning the construction of the building, one source has suggested that it may have been built as a shell and improved thereafter as there was time and money.[7] The house itself is a typical middle-class house of its era, with minor Colonial Revival detailing. The exterior appearance of the house and its plan closely follow a reversed form of a popular Sears house of the era, the Wexford.[8] There is no other indication that the house was a Sears house, however, so the Wexford may have had only an indirect influence on the design.

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[3]According to John Thies, the house was in poor condition when his family lived there. He remembers that some parts of the house had vertical siding while other parts had horizontal siding. His recollection of the condition of the house is supported by the tax assessment of the property. At the time Building 510 was constructed, the old house had an assessed value of $400, while Building 510 had a value of $1,650.

[4]Michael Thies moved to College Park when his property was purchased by the government. He died in 1960.

[5]Carl Thies was born in 1906 and died in Beltsville in 1975.

[6]Title to the land on which the house was located was never transferred to Carl.

[7]Barbara Benfield, in discussion with her mother.

[8]Katherine Cole Stevenson, and H. Ward Jandl, *Houses by Mail.* Washington, Preservation Press, 1986, p. 102.

The Thies property was purchased by the government in the late 1930s, apparently in one piece.[9] Soon thereafter, the Carl Thies house was occupied by a USDA employee and his family. The Kelleher family occupied the house until the 1940s. Thereafter, the house has been home to a series of employees at BARC.[10]

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[9]The 1932-1936 tax assessments for the property provide somewhat contradictory information. They indicate that there was a new improvement (a dwelling) taxed in 1936. They also show a transfer to the United States of property worth $3,840 on November 21, 1935. That value is the same as that given for the entire land and improvements on the property (including the new dwelling). One explanation for the discrepancy is that the house may have been constructed over a number of years and was only considered complete and taxable in 1936.

[10]No specific records have been located regarding the early occupants of the various dwellings at BARC. In general, houses on the site appear to have been rented to those with jobs that called for them to be on-call 24 hours a day, such as those involved with the tending of animals.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #67-28

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The boundaries of the property are defined as the area encompassing the footprints of Building 510 and Building 511, and the area to the south of Building 510 to Beaver Dam Road.

11. Form Prepared by

Name/Title Carol Hooper, Heather Ewing, Architectural Historians

Organization Robinson & Associates, Inc. Date January, 1997

Street & Number 1909 Q Street, N.W. Telephone 202-234-2333

City or Town Washington State and Zip Code D.C. 20009

Approved by the Federal Preservation Officer

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

Primary and Secondary Sources

National Archives Records Administration, Record Groups 16 and 54.

Prince George's County Tax Assessment Records [District #14 Bowie], 1920-1941. Maryland State Archives.

Stevenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. *Houses by Mail.* Washington, Preservation Press, 1986.

United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Beltsville Area Facilities Engineering Branch (BARC Building 426). [Various 1930s-Era Land Ownership Plans.]

Oral Interviews

Telephone and/or personal interviews conducted by Carol Hooper, Robinson & Associates, Inc., with:

John Thies, 1/10/1997
Barbara [Knauer] Benfield, 12/22/96, 1/10/1997

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographical Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Agriculture

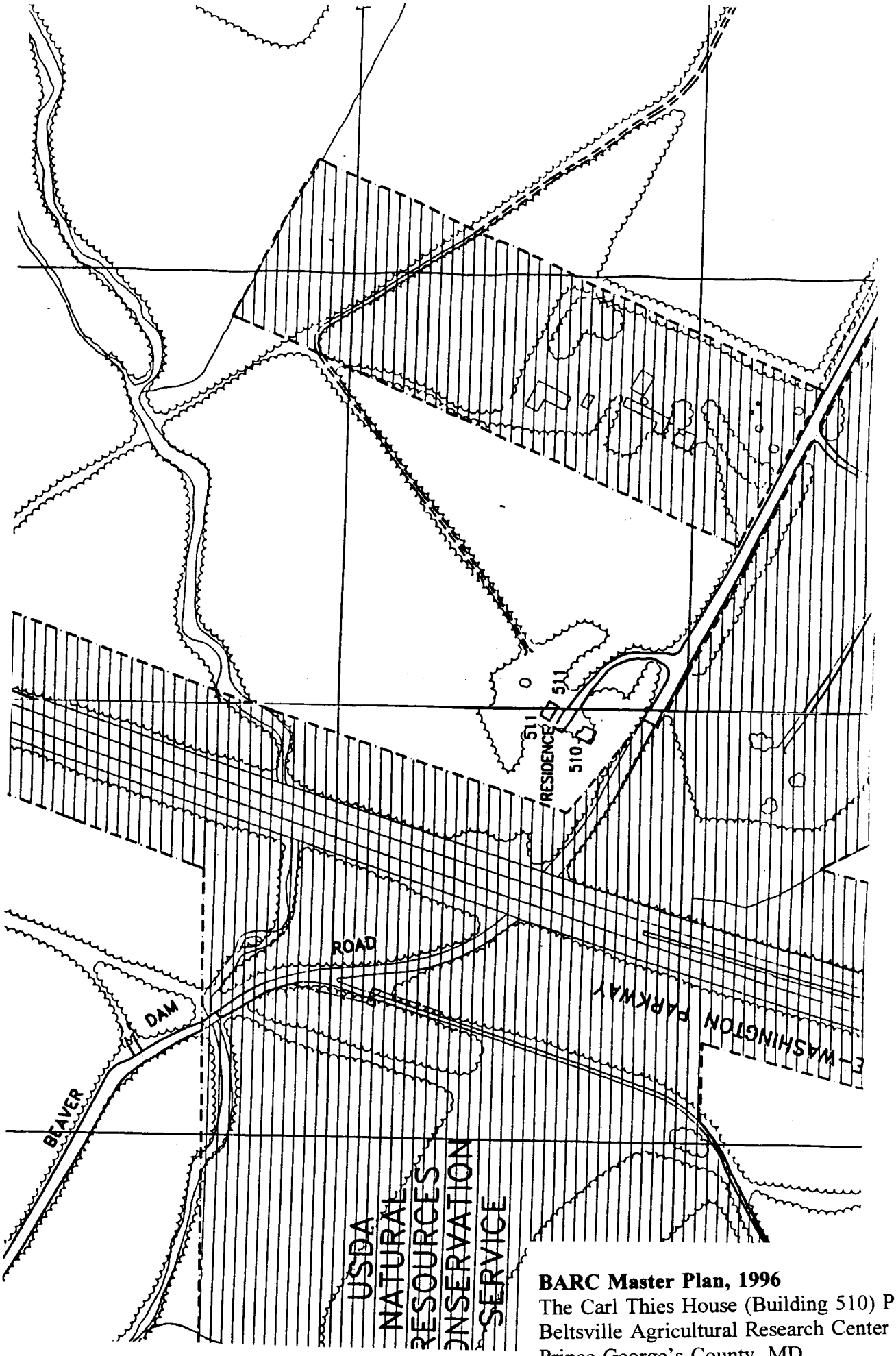
Resource Type:

Category: buildings

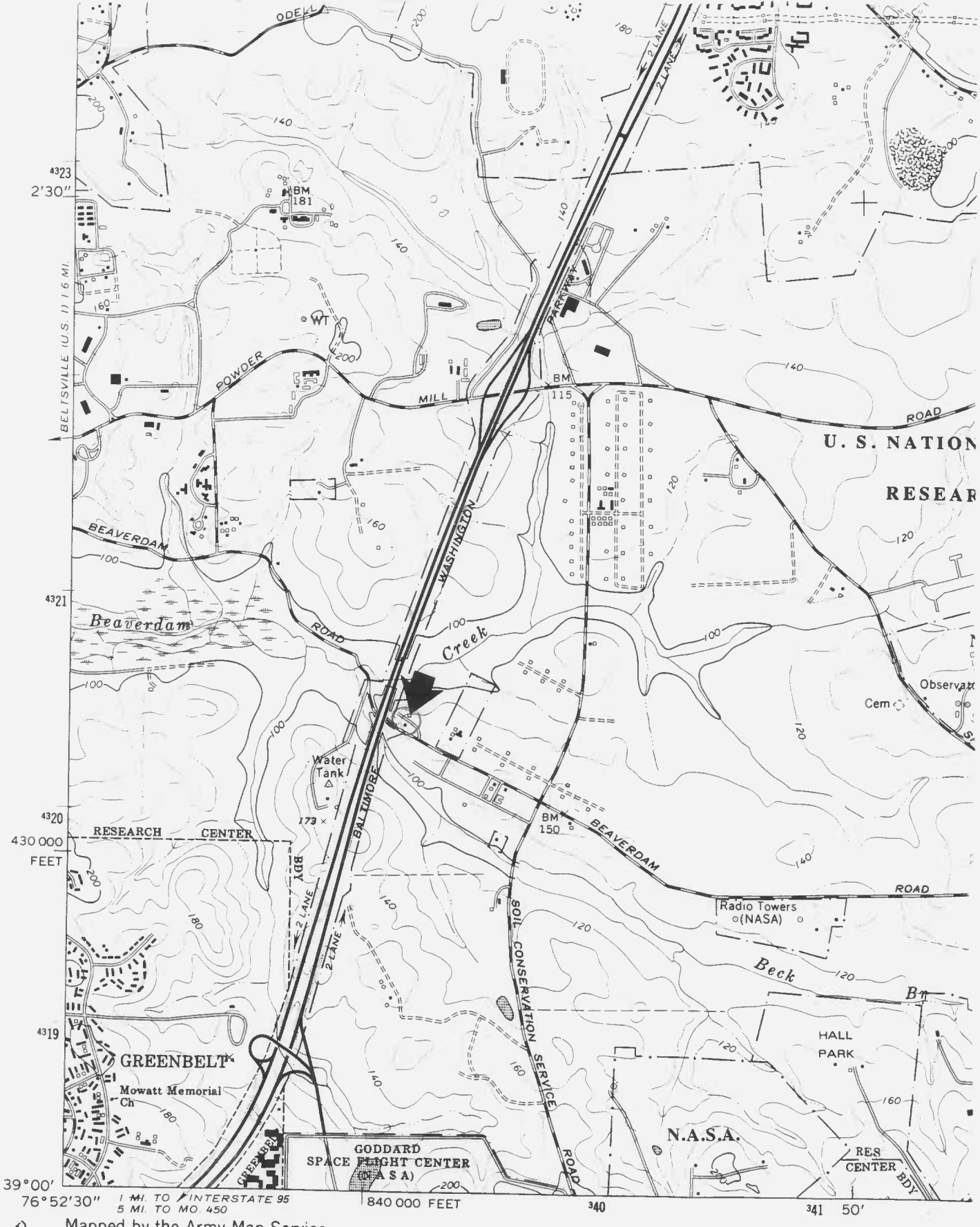
Historic Environment: rural

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

Known Design Source: None



BARC Master Plan, 1996
The Carl Thies House (Building 510) P.G. #67-26
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
Prince George's County, MD



Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, USSCS, and WSSC

Topography by photogrammetric methods and by planetab surveys 1943. Revised by the Geological Survey 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH

(WASHINGTON EAST)
5661 IV NW

U.S. Geological Survey Map [Laurel Quad], 1965
The Carl Thies House (Building 510)
P.G. #67-28
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
Prince George's County, MD

The Carl Thies House (Building 510)
P.G. #67-28
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
Beltsville, MD
Photo by Heather Ewing, September 1996
Neg at MHT
South Facade, looking north

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THE CARL THIES HOUSE (BUILDING 510)
P.G. # 67-28
BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
BELTSVILLE, MD.
PHOTO BY HEATHER EWING
EAST AND SOUTH FACADES, LOOKING NORTHEAST
NEGS. AT MHT

2 OF 3

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Kodak
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THE CARL THIES HOUSE (BUILDING 510)
P.G. # 67-28
BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
BELTSVILLE, MD.
PHOTO BY HEATHER EWING
NEGS. AT MHT
INTERIOR, VIEW OF LIVING ROOM LOOKING EAST

3 OF 3

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Kodak
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