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

Property/District Name: Fremont Building Survey Number: M:35:118

Project: Proposed Elevator Addition Agency: F/NIMA

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

Eligibility recommended ____ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

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

Located at 6000MacArthur Blvd, Bethesda, the Fremont building is one building among several that form a governmental complex for the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. Built 1943-45, the building has undergone sufficient alteration to reduce the integrity of this simple industrial design. The Trust concurred with the consultant at the building is not NR eligible. At this time, there was not enough data to conclude that the NIMA complex was eligible either.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: the inventory form

Prepared by: William Lebovich, consultant

Lauren Bowlin 8/20/99
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

Reviewer, NR program 8/23/99 Date

Survey No. M:35-118

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

V. Resource Type:

Category: building
Historic Environment: suburban
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): military, warehouse

Known Design Source: US Corps of Engineers/Porter & Lockie

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Fremont Building/NIMA M35-118

1943-1945

Bethesda

No public access as it is secured military installation

The Fremont Building is a five story reinforced concrete and steel structure with glass and brick infill walls. Approximately 82 feet wide on the north and south sides and 222 feet long on the east and west sides, the building was erected on steeply sloped land falling off from McArthur Blvd. Major exterior alterations include changing the fenestration and platforms, adding entrance lobby bay, changing the environment by removing railroad spur and changing the approach road. Major interior alterations include eliminating the original open plan by installing partitions.

The Fremont Building was erected during World War II to store and then ship out by railroad the maps that the Army Map Service (one of the predecessors to National Imagery and Mapping Agency) was producing in the Ruth Building, which stands on the east side of MacArthur Boulevard. While the Army Map Service and its Bethesda facility played an important role in World War II in supplying combat troops with maps, the Fremont Building's role was of secondary importance to the Ruth Building, which was the first building erected by the Corps of Engineers at the site, as that building was where the maps were drawn and reproduced. Also, the extensive alterations to the Fremont Building have so compromised its integrity to make considerations of its possible significance moot.

Comprehensive Plan Data Sheet M35-118

I. Geographic Organization:

Piedmont

II. Chronological / Development Period:

Modern Period

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

Not applicable

IV. Historic Period Themes:

Architecture

Military

Survey No. M35-118

Magi No.

DOE ___yes _X_no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Fremont Building/National Imagery and Mapping Agency

2. Location

street & number 6000 MacArthur Blvd. ___ not for publication

city, town Bethesda ___ vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Maryland county Montgomery

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	_X_ not applicable	___ no	_X_ military	___ other:

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

name Corps of Engineers Real Estate Division, U.S. Army Engineer District, Baltimore

street & number P.O Box 1715/CENAB-RE-C telephone no.: 410-962-3000

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD. 21203-1715

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records Office liber

street & number 50 Courthouse Square folio

city, town Rockville state MD.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NONE

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M35-118

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: one building

SEE ATTACHMENT

8. Significance

Survey No. M35-118

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	X architecture	___ education	X 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 1943-1945 **Builder/Architect** U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Porter and Lockie

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B X C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local N/A

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

SEE ATTACHMENT

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M35-118

Unpublished NIMA records: 24 boxes in storage at NIMA Bldg. 213 (Navy Yard) and architectural drawings at Fremont Bldg.

"A Brief History of U.S. Military Mapmaking-and The First Decade of the Defense Mapping Agency", published by DMA, 1982

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Washington West, D.C.-MD.-VA. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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

Verbal boundary description and justification Bound on the south, west, and north by fence marking the boundary of the NIMA installation at Dalecarlia site, and bound on the east by road to loading dock. Boundaries are close to bldg and clear.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bill Lebovich architectural historian and photographer

organization ------- **date** June 1, 1999

street & number 7302 Summit Avenue **telephone** (301) 654-3519

city or town Chevy Chase **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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

Fremont Building/ National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Montgomery County

Continuation Sheet for 7. Description

The Fremont Building is a five story reinforced concrete and steel structure with glass and brick infill walls. Approximately 82 feet wide on the north and south sides and 222 feet long on the east and west sides, the building was erected on steeply sloped land falling off from MacArthur Blvd. towards the C & O Canal, so only the top two stories are visible from MacArthur Blvd. Significant alterations have occurred on the exterior and the interior of the building and to its immediate setting. Due to the nature and extent of these alterations, the building and setting no longer convey the original associations, use, and importance of the building at the time of World War II, when it was built.

During World War II, the Army Mapping Service erected and converted existing structures at the Dalecarlia site, which straddles the Montgomery County, Maryland and District of Columbia border, and has been owned by the federal government since the 1850's. Towards the end of the war, the Army Mapping Service acquired land slightly more than a half mile north, at the site of Civil War installation Ft. Sumner and erected a large building there. All the buildings erected by the Army Mapping Service (which later became the Defense Mapping Agency, and is now the National Imagery and Mapping Service) at Dalecarlia (and Sumner) are in Montgomery County. The Army Mapping Service buildings never appear to have been part of the Corps of Engineers's Aqueduct facility at Dalecarlia, which is primarily in the District of Columbia.

The first, largest, and most important building erected by the Army Mapping Service at Delacarlia was (and is) the Ruth Building, on the east side of MacArthur Blvd. Between that building and MacArthur is the Warren Building, a small, one story brick-faced building. A waste storage building during World War II, the Warren Building supposedly dates to 1927. Undated photographs since World War II show that the building has been heavily altered - an enclosed loading dock removed and small additions built - and perhaps refaced. If the building actually dates to the 1920's, it was probably a frame structure, as there is no record of any brick buildings from that period.

On the west side of MacArthur Blvd, in addition to the Fremont Building stand two other structures. Just inside the security fence, there is a clapboard, gable-roofed, one story garage,. West and slightly north of that structure and closer to Fremont is a very small, gable-roofed, cinder block chemical storage building, on a raised basement. Although the structure does not look that old, a World War II site plan labels it as the incinerator. Perhaps, the chemical storage building is a more recent building erected on the foundation of the World War II incinerator. Neither that structure, the garage (which is also on the World War II site plan) nor the Warren Building (across MacArthur) is of obvious or likely architectural or historic importance.

Fremont Building/ National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Montgomery County

Continuation Sheet for 7. Description

On the World War II construction drawings, the Fremont Building had not yet been named and was referred to as the Dalecarlia Distribution Depot and (temporarily as) building no. 6. As a distribution depot, the building was designed for the storage of maps on the 2nd floor (designated as "map stacks") and part of the first floor, while the rest of the first floor was for "shipping and storage." The basement was for "shipping and storage" and had a carpenter shop, probably for fabricating the shipping cartons. At the basement level, on the exterior a large platform was built on the west facade and a smaller one on the north facade. The later most likely served for unloading materials from trucks. The west platform served a spur of the B & O Railroad, Georgetown Branch, for the loading of the maps, which were produced in the Ruth Building, across MacArthur Blvd. On the opposite side of the building - the east facade - a small entrance to the building existed. On all four facades, the construction drawings showed operative, windows consisting of several small panes in metal sash. Also a lumber yard was directly south of the building.

The three story, with small elevator shaft penthouse, building was occupied on January 25, 1944. "Desperately needed, the building afforded 48, 400 square feet of space and replaced three discarded wooden CCC buildings which presented a constant fire and water hazard to map stocks," according to the Army Map Service's Fiscal Year 1944 Annual Report. The document went onto state that the building already needed to be enlarged as it had "become inadequate for future requirements."

The original building had been designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, but the two story enlargement was designed by the Washington, D.C. architecture and engineering firm of Porter and Lockie. According to the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1945 (dated Oct15,1945), "...two more stories also were constructed on the Map Distribution Depot. Built of concrete, brick, and steel, the two new stories make 35, 200 square feet of additional floor space available for a total of 88,000 square feet in the building." Of the two additional floors, the lower one had the same exposed reinforced concrete structure with infill of brick and metal and glass fenestration. The top floor, however, did not have the exposed concrete frame and instead consisted on the exterior of brick facing and glass and metal fenestration. (This change in exterior treatment -done for unknown reasons- creates the erroneous impression that the Fremont Building was originally four stories, with the fifth floor being added later.)

Continuation Sheet for 7. Description

Changes to the site include redoing the approach road to the building, removing the lumber yard, and most importantly, removing both the main track of the B&O and the spur to the west side of the Fremont Building.

Consistent with the removal of the railroad spur was the removal of the platform on the west facade of the building.

Other changes to the building include the erection of a new north platform in 1995. The windows were replaced in 1984/1985 with tinted, fixed, single pane windows. In 1992, the original building entrance on the east facade and an adjacent guard booth were replaced with a large entrance lobby with steps down to the main part of the building.

On the interior, the original open plan has been entirely eliminated with the minor exception of sections of the basement. The floors have been divided into corridors and offices by temporary modern partitions that don't go to the ceiling and with earlier metal partitions or walls and some cinder block walls. The dates of the erections of these various partitions are unknown, but they appear fairly recent, definitely post- World War II at least on the upper floors.

The interior and exterior alterations substantially compromise the integrity of the building and siting. The loss of the original fenestration, which was characteristic of early 20th century military and commercial warehouse architecture, was a serious loss made worse by its replacement with windows that clearly reflect the late 20th century effort to be more energy efficient. The removal of the railroad spur and west platform remove all exterior evidence of how this building functioned as a map storage and shipping building during World War II. Furthermore, the partitioning of the building has destroyed all interior evidence of how the building functioned during World War II. The recent erection of the entrance lobby on the east facade, along with alterations made to the north and south entrances, further eliminate evidence of how the building originally looked, functioned, and was oriented. As a World War II shipping building, the major facade was the west one where the railroad spur was; the other three facades were minor. Now the emphasis has shifted primarily to the east facade where the one major entrance is, and to a lesser degree to the south where maintenance and construction workers park and to the north which is now the only loading dock. In response to changing spatial needs, and energy and security requirements, the Fremont Building has undergone major alterations that make its current appearance very different from its appearance at time of what was most likely its greatest importance, World War II.

Fremont Building/National Imagery and Mapping Agency
Montgomery County

Continuation Sheet for 8. Significance

The Fremont Building was evaluated within the context of (1) early to mid-20th century military or industrial warehouse architecture and (2) the Army Map Service's Dalecarlia and Sumner sites, during World War II. Under neither of these contexts does the Fremont Building meet the MD Trust and National Register criteria of significance (and integrity).

In May 1942, the newly created Army Map Service moved personnel from the Engineer Reproduction Plant at Fort McNair to the Ruth Building at Dalecarlia. Inside the windowless, camouflaged building, draftsmen and women produced the maps used by the military in World War II, and it was, therefore, the most critical building. Also during the Second World War, the Army Map Service built at least one other building at Dalecarlia, the Fremont Building, which was erected to store maps and ship them out, via the railroad on the west side of the building. The other buildings at Dalecarlia were small support buildings either erected by the Corps or already existing on the site. Possibly the garage and the Warren Building predate the Army Map Service period. (NIMA staff date the Warren Building as 1927, but that has not been independently confirmed.) The small incinerator building (now chemical storage building) probably was erected by the Corps. Late in the War, the Army acquired land at Fort Sumner and erected Erksine Hall. Subsequently, other buildings have been built at that site (which NIMA refers to as Sumner rather than Ft. Sumner) and Erskine has been modified since the Second World War. During World War II, the Army Map Service also had facilities in several other cities.

The only World War II era photographs of the Army Map Service show officers standing in front of the entrance of the Ruth Building or draftsmen and women at work tables in Ruth. Images of the Ruth Building, along with Erksine Hall, are prominent in the current displays on the mission of NIMA at Erskine Hall and Building 213 at the Navy Yard. The Defense Mapping Agency's published history also includes images of Erskine Hall and Ruth. (In 1972, the Army Map Service became the Defense Mapping Agency, which in 1996 became the National Imagery and Mapping Agency.) That Erskine Hall and the Ruth Building, but never the Fremont Building, have for 50 years been used as the symbols of the Service and its successors suggests rather strongly that Erskine and Ruth, but not Fremont, are seen as central to and symbolic of the mission and history of the Army Map Service, Defense Mapping Agency, and now the National Imagery and Mapping Agency.

Continuation Sheet for 8. Significance

This long-standing emphasis on the Ruth Building and Erskine Hall appears to reflect the Army Map Service's thinking at the time these buildings and Fremont were erected. Although Ruth is a large box-like structure without windows, its entrance has stripped classical details, most often associated with the designs of Paul Cret and seen in several federal buildings of the 1930's and 1940's. At Erksine Hall, a similar effort was made to add architectural interest through small details on the main facade. By contrast, no attempt was made to make it anything more than an unadorned warehouse.

As a mid-20th century warehouse building, Fremont does not meet any of the requirements of criterion C of the MD Trust/National Register standard. It is a smaller, less successfully designed version of the warehouse building/ light manufacturing building constructed of reinforced concrete with brick and glass infill, seen in almost any city such as Baltimore, Hagerstown, Boston, or New York, in military installations such as Washington, D.C.'s Navy Yard, the Watertown Arsenal (MA.), or the Coast Guard Station, Curtis Bay, Baltimore. It is also possible to find examples of this building type with original fenestration and original open floor plan. The Fremont Building was not the work of master architects, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and Porter and Lockie, nor master craftsmen. In sum, it is an undistinguished, common example, in heavily altered condition, of a common early to mid-20th century building type.

Given that the Fremont Building lacks significance (and integrity) as an individual building, it is necessary to inquiry if it contributes to a larger unit, either a historic district or complex of buildings, that meets the MD Trust/ National Register criteria. Military installations almost always seem to have an order to the landscape and a certain harmony of architectural styles, even though the buildings are often erected over the course of more than a hundred years, sometimes closer to two hundred years. Any sense of orderly development, landscape design, or related architectural treatment is missing from the Dalecarlia site and the Sumner site. At Dalecarlia, the Corps of Engineers was faced with a small, topographically difficult site and tight wartime deadlines. The Sumner site is a better site, but the Corps of Engineers, during World War II and subsequently, essentially erected largely windowless boxes, without shared detailing or massing.

Continuation Sheet for 8. Significance

The Fremont Building lacks the requisite (architectural or military) significance and integrity to be individually eligible. Nor can the Fremont Building be viewed as a contributing element to a historic district consisting of either the Dalecarlia site alone or the Dalecarlia site and the Sumner site together. Although all the buildings share the same function which is part of the requirement of a historic district, the buildings taken together do not meet the National Register requirement for a district: "A district derives its importance from being a unified entity, even thought it is often composed of a wide variety of resources" (National Register Bulletin 15). The disparity of the buildings, the degree of alterations, and the lack of encompassing landscape prevents the buildings from having any unity, visual or otherwise.[1]

[1] At the very most, the Ruth Building might be evaluated as an individual building with possible significance (and integrity) for the Army Map Service's World War II importance. Erskine Hall, although as an important a symbol of military mapping as the Ruth Building, most likely lacks sufficient integrity.

National Imagery & Mapping Agency M35-118
Dalecarlia Site/Bethesda FREMONT BLDG.
Montgomery Co., MD.
USGS: Washington West,D.C.-MD.-Va.
38077-H1-TB-024
1965, photorevised 1983 1:24000

97-032
IMA
3-9-97
1200' AMT

National Imagery Amo Mapping Agency (NIMA) M35-118
Dalecarlia Site
Montgomery County, MD
Bill Lebovich
May 1999 rephotographed March 9, 1997 aerial photo
negatives with NIMA

Bottom bldg - Kentucky
Top bldg - Fremont

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National Imagery Bldg Mapping Agency (NIMA) M35-118
Lakeside Site
Montgomery Co., MD
Bill Lebovich
May 1999
negatives with NIMA

Fremont Building
south facade left; east facade, right

2 7

National Imagery And Mapping Agency (NIMA) M35-18
Bolesanka Site
Montgomery Co., MD.
Bill Lebonch
May 1999
Negatives with NIMA

Fremont Bldg
West Facade

3/7

National Imagery And Mapping Agency (NIMA) 1435 113

Dalecarlia Site

Montgomery Co., MD

Bill Lebovich

May 1999

Negatives with NIMA

Fremont Bldg

north facade

4/7

WHITE
Paper
Only

National Imagery And Mapping Agency (NIMA)

M35-118

Dalecarlia Site
Montgomery Co., MD
Bill Lebovich
May 1999
negatives with NIMA

Fremont Bldg
4th floor, looking north

5/7

National Imagery And Mapping Agency (NIMA)

M35-118

Dalecarlia Site

Montgomery Co., MD

Bill Lebovich

May 1999

negatives with NIMA

Fremont Bldg

4th floor landing, se stairwell

6/7

National Imagery And Mapping Agency (n.m.) M35-[illegible]
Dalerarlo Site
Montgomery Co., MD.
Bill Lebowski
May 1999
photographs with NIMA

Fremont Bldg
3rd floor, looking north

7/7