MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes X
no ___

Property Name: Building 9800A (Headquarters High-rise) Inventory Number: AA-2510-15

Address: 9800A Savage Road Historic district: ___ yes X no

City: Fort Meade Zip Code: 20755 County: Anne Arundel

USGS Quadrangle(s): Laurel

Property Owner: U.S. Government Tax Account ID Number: 90042590

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0372 Tax Map Number: 0029

Project: East Campus Integration Program EIS, Fort Meade, MD Agency: National Security Agency (NSA)

Agency Prepared By: HDR, Inc.

Preparer's Name: Paul Weishar Date Prepared: 9/23/2015

Documentation is presented in: ___

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ___ Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

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

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: ___

Inventory Number: ___ Eligible: ___ yes Listed: ___ yes

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

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Building Description

Building 9800A, the Headquarters High-rise, was designed by the architecture firm Anderson-Nichols & Co, Inc. of Boston, MA. Construction was overseen by the USACE Baltimore District and was completed in 1968. The building is set within the courtyard of the U-shaped Building 9800, at the western end of the installation. An asphalt parking lot is located west of the building, accessed via Savage Road. Directly west of Building 9800A is Gatehouse #1 (9821). Landscaping consists of immature trees near the northeast and southwest corners of the building. Gatehouse #1 (9821) has concrete planting boxes located across the façade (west elevation), containing immature trees, shrubs, and flowers. Concrete steps and a dog-leg ramp provide access from the concrete sidewalk.

Building 9800A is a nine-story, thirty-eight-bay reinforced concrete structure with a rectangular form augmented by full-height projecting elevator bays that were added on the façade (west elevation) in 1984. Exhibiting influences of Modern architecture, the 503,719-square foot building has a repetitive horizontal fenestration pattern set in contrast to engaged vertical concrete pilasters and wide window muntins which emphasize the building's verticality. Set on a concrete foundation, the building has a stretcher-

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MHT Comments: Building represents the expansion of the agency in the 1960s

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Reviewer, National Register Program **Date**

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bond brick veneer. Pre-cast concrete panels cover the projecting bays. The flat roof has a large structure with equipment screens. Window openings on the first story hold ribbons of four, single-light fixed metal sash set on metal sills. Window openings on the upper stories are narrower and hold paired single-light, fixed metal sash, also set on metal sills. The projecting bays are fenestrated with multi-light fixed metal sash spaced by concrete spandrels. There are no openings on the south and north (side) elevations, which are defined by brick curtain walls extending from the top of the elevation down to the second story. The east (rear) elevation was not accessible or photographed. Two additions were added to the façade of the building (date unknown) and are set partially below grade and beneath the first story of the main block. The additions are constructed of concrete and have flat roofs. Additional details were not accessible.

The associated Gatehouse 1 (9821) is a one-story building centered on the façade of Building 9800A. Built concurrently with Building 9800A in 1968, this one-story gatehouse has a rectangular form augmented by a front porch and rear hyphen. Set on a concrete foundation, this structure has a stretcher-bond brick veneer and flat roof with metal coping. The main entry, located on the façade (west elevation), holds paired double-leaf, metal-frame glass doors with sidelights and transoms. The entry is sheltered by a one-story, two-bay metal porch with flat roof and metal-frame glass sidewalls. A wide window opening to the south of the main entry holds three tall, metal-frame fixed windows. There is no fenestration on the south (side) elevation. The north (side) and east (rear) elevation were not accessible.

NSA Historic Context

The National Security Agency (NSA) can trace its history to 1917, when a Cipher Bureau was created in the Military Intelligence Division of the U.S. Army during World War I. Both the Army and the Navy maintained their own intelligence units, but during World War II, the Army and Navy formed a State-Army-Navy Communications Intelligence Board that oversaw all Communications Intelligence (COMINT) activities (Howe n.d.). In the twentieth century, COMINT was considered vital to the Nation's security and had proved invaluable to the United States and its allies during World War II. General Thomas T. Handy, who served as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Army in the latter half of the war, reportedly said that COMINT shortened the war in Europe by at least a year. Intercepted radio intelligence provided strategic opportunities that were considered turning points in the war. Although the Army and Navy collaborated on most of the COMINT during World War II, after the war, COMINT responsibilities had expanded into six different organizations, including the Army, Navy, Air Force, State Department, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). All of the organizations acted independently and autonomously, which proved inefficient and ineffective; COMINT efforts were not unified and were often duplicative (Brownell 1952).

The Armed Forces Communications Intelligence Agency was established in May 1949 by the Secretary of Defense to create one unified national cryptologic agency. The agency was soon renamed the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA). In addition to its COMINT duties, the AFSA was also tasked with Communications Security (COMSEC) (Howe n.d.). The intent of AFSA was to direct COMINT and Electronics Intelligence (ELINT) of the military service signals intelligence units, but in reality, AFSA had little power or authority.

In 1951, the recently established National Security Council (NSC) authorized a study of the effectiveness of COMINT activities nationwide. The subsequent report, known as the Brownell Committee Report, was released in 1952. It recommended that COMINT efforts should be integrated and consolidated at the national level under the purview of a single government department (Brownell 1952). As a result, the National Security Agency (NSA) was established on November 4, 1952 by the Secretary of Defense, under specific instructions from President Harry Truman.

Lt Gen Ralph J. Canine, USA, the head of AFSA, was named the first Director of NSA. Director Canine had to bring various

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intelligence agencies together under the fledgling Agency, which was scattered across Washington, DC and northern Virginia. One of the first decisions Director Canine made was to consolidate the various components of the Agency and locate NSA headquarters at Fort George G. Meade in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Fort Meade was considered far enough away from Washington, DC that in the event of a nuclear attack, the Agency would remain secure and outside of the blast zone. The move was approved and NSA began plans to build a headquarters large enough to accommodate their work force (NSA 2012).

Plans were already underway in 1951 to construct an operations building for AFSA; however when NSA was established, the mission and scope of operations of the Agency was dramatically increased. Original plans called for 1.4 million square feet of space, with approximately 1.1 million square feet for operational use. As the design process proceeded, operational space was reduced to 1.06 million square feet; however, this was still considered adequate in 1951 to accommodate the total work force and some expansion. The 1951 plans did not take into account the hiring of nearly 1,500 additional civilians for NSA later in the 1950s, nor did it account for the large size of 1950s computers, or the vast increase (more than 60 percent) in the amount of intelligence material to be reviewed. As a result, NSA had outgrown its first facility before construction began. As a stop-gap measure, NSA Director Canine decided to keep the COMSEC staff at the Naval Security Station in Washington, DC and await new construction rather than force staff into an over-crowded building (Canine 1955). Ultimately, a limited number of NSA personnel moved to Fort Meade in late 1952.

In May 1954, bids were solicited for the construction of the NSA operations building at Fort Meade (Claussen 1954a). The building was situated on the west side of Fort Meade in a previously undeveloped area of the installation what would become the NSA campus. In the interim, initial construction began with what is now called the 9800 Troop Support Area to the east of the operations building. Four buildings in this area (9801, 9802, 9803, 9804) were planned to serve as barracks for servicemen assigned to NSA duties. Although planned for use as barracks, NSA initially used these buildings for interim operations while they awaited the construction of the new operations building, designated Building 9800 (Claussen 1954b). All of the 9800 Troop Support Area buildings, with the exception of Building 9804, were constructed in 1954 as 500-man barracks with mess halls. Building 9804 was originally constructed as a 250-man barracks. Because of anticipated growth of the Agency due in large part to their efforts in Korean and Vietnam, in March 1955, NSA requested that an additional 250-man barracks with mess hall be added to Building 9804 to provide for Navy male enlisted personnel working for NSA after the final move (Campbell 1955).

Interim operations of NSA at Fort Meade began January 31, 1955 and continued until Building 9800 was completed in 1957. The three-story, $35-million building was expected to house 12,000 NSA personnel in 1.4 million square feet of space. Construction of Building 9800 was supervised by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District (Evening Sun 1957). The NSA campus continued to expand with the construction of various support buildings in the mid-1950s, including a dining hall and library, warehouses, garages, flammable material storage buildings, and a substation. Although Building 9800 was large, it was not large enough to house all NSA intelligence employees. The Korean War had resulted in NSA rapidly increasing its number of personnel. As a result of overcrowding, COMSEC remained in DC until Building 9800A (HQ High-rise) and Building 9817 were completed in 1968 (NSA 2012). Building 9814 was added in 1965. The 1970s saw the addition of Buildings 9829 (Post Office, 1972), 9828 (Davis Hall, 1973), 9703 (1973), and 9705 (1976).

As technology improved in the 1950s and weaponry and other systems began emitting non-communications signals, NSA developed Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) programs to intercept those electronic signals via satellites. NSA adopted the term Signal Intelligence (SIGINT) in 1958 to encompass both COMINT and ELINT (Howe n.d.). In the 1960s, NSA focused on providing timely intelligence for the White House and various US agencies, not just those in the Department of Defense. The Agency developed new, innovative ways to expand their collection capabilities and worked with other cryptologic organizations, such as the Naval Security Group, to create new technologies. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, NSA's technological advances allowed analysts to conclude that the Soviets assumed control of Cuba's air defense network, posing a very real threat to the

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United States. As part of its efforts to provide accurate and timely information, NSA established a network of listening posts in the mid-1960s that provided them with additional sources of intelligence. NSA's focus on increasing its efficiency and operations in the 1960s resulted in providing intelligence that became essential to the decision-making process of President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis and that of subsequent presidents (NSA 2012).

NSA continued to provide accurate and timely intelligence and counter intelligence through the third-quarter of the twentieth century. The Agency consolidated the large amount of data collected and channeled it through a central location that could be disseminated to the appropriate consumer during a crisis situation. The Cold War ensured that NSA remained focused on the Soviet Union and its allies, with intelligence gathering focused on military forces, rocket forces, air defense forces, and airborne troops; however in the 1970s, the NSA also began providing information related to terrorist-related kidnappings, assassinations, and hijackings (NSA 2012).

In the 1970s and 1980s, technology made giant leaps forward in computing and electronic networks. NSA became an expert in securing information systems though encryption technology, improved voice security equipment, and adopted a centralized computer system. When Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980, he made defense, foreign policy, and intelligence matters top priorities for his administration. NSA used fixed ground stations, airborne platforms, other ground-based communications, and geosynchronous and polar orbiting satellites to gather information and achieve its mission. NSA also analyzed information and provided intelligence support to U.S. policymakers to help them understand the larger context of political situations. NSA provided cryptologic support to U.S. and allied military forces during the Gulf War in the 1990s and eventually became involved in counternarcotic activities (NSA 2012).

Back on the NSA campus, a large operations building, Building 9800C/D, was completed in September 1986. President Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan attended the dedication of the building, which marked the largest construction project on the NSA campus since the 1950s (NSA 2012).

With the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, Congress made significant cuts in NSA's personnel and budget. The Agency's future was unclear and it consolidated sites and personnel as it was downsized. In response to the public's growing interest in a relatively unknown agency, NSA also had to determine how much information on the Agency and its activities would be openly provided. NSA began outreach programs to teach cryptology to local students to attract interest in the field, opened the National Cryptologic Museum, and created the National Vigilance Park in 1996 to honor the "silent warriors" who risked their lives on airborne signals intelligence missions during the Cold War. The Agency also allowed a documentary to be filmed at NSA, the first time the Agency opened its doors to outside cameras. Lt Gen Michael V. Hayden, USAF was appointed Director of NSA in 1999. He ushered in an era of openness at the Agency that was unheard of. He gave speeches, made public appearances, and reached out directly to the press, inviting journalists to dinner for discussions on the Agency and its mission (NSA 2012).

As NSA moved into the twenty-first century, Director Hayden commissioned a study of NSA's organization and operations to make recommendations for change. As a result, the Agency implemented multiple adjustments based on opening communication up and down the chain of command and emphasizing employees' own personal responsibility to foster beneficial change. After a massive computer system failure in 2000, NSA began a transition to rely more on private contractor support that allowed NSA's technical employees to focus on their mission. Responding to the information age and burgeoning technology, NSA worked to provide secure communications across new digital cellular networks (NSA 2012).

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, NSA was forced to examine its readiness to deal with unconventional enemies and attacks. NSA joined America's armed forces in the war in Afghanistan to bring down al Qaeda and remove the Taliban from power. As part of Expeditionary SIGINT, NSA personnel were deployed with military forces to provide them with tailored and

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immediate SIGINT for military operations. NSA personnel included language analysts, cryptologists, technicians, and engineers who provided real-time support for the military in theater. NSA also developed secured coalition networks that provided secure communications for troops and operations throughout Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. At the same time, NSA responded to the growing national concern regarding cybersecurity and protecting digital networks and data from terrorists and other threats. As a result, when the U.S. military reorganized its cyber operations in 2005, the new "network warfare" unit was based at NSA and the Director became that unit's Commander (NSA 2012).

Today, NSA continues to address issues of cyberterrorism, computer hacking, and securing digital information and communications, as well as producing SIGINT. NSA is constantly adjusting and improving its capabilities to defend the U.S. against attacks through information assurance and the collection of foreign signals intelligence (NSA 2012).

NRHP Evaluation

Building 9800A is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The building was completed in 1968 as a headquarters and operations building for NSA. Although it was constructed during the Cold War era, this building is not associated with significant events related to the Cold War, NSA, or Fort Meade, and is therefore not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A. The building is not associated with any individuals significant in our past and is not eligible under Criterion B. Building 9800A does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor does it represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. The building is not notable in terms of mid-twentieth century architectural design or construction. As a result, the building is not eligible for listing under Criterion C. The building is also unlikely to yield information important to history or prehistory and is not eligible under Criterion D. Because mid-twentieth-century buildings are so minimally adorned, alterations to the style and design adversely impact the building's integrity. In this case, the addition of the prominent, full-height elevator bays on the façade with their unsympathetic multi-light fixed windows and wide horizontal spandrels stand in great contrast to the original design, adversely affecting the integrity of design and workmanship of the building.

References Cited

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https://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic_heritage/60th/book/NSA_60th_Anniversary.pdf.

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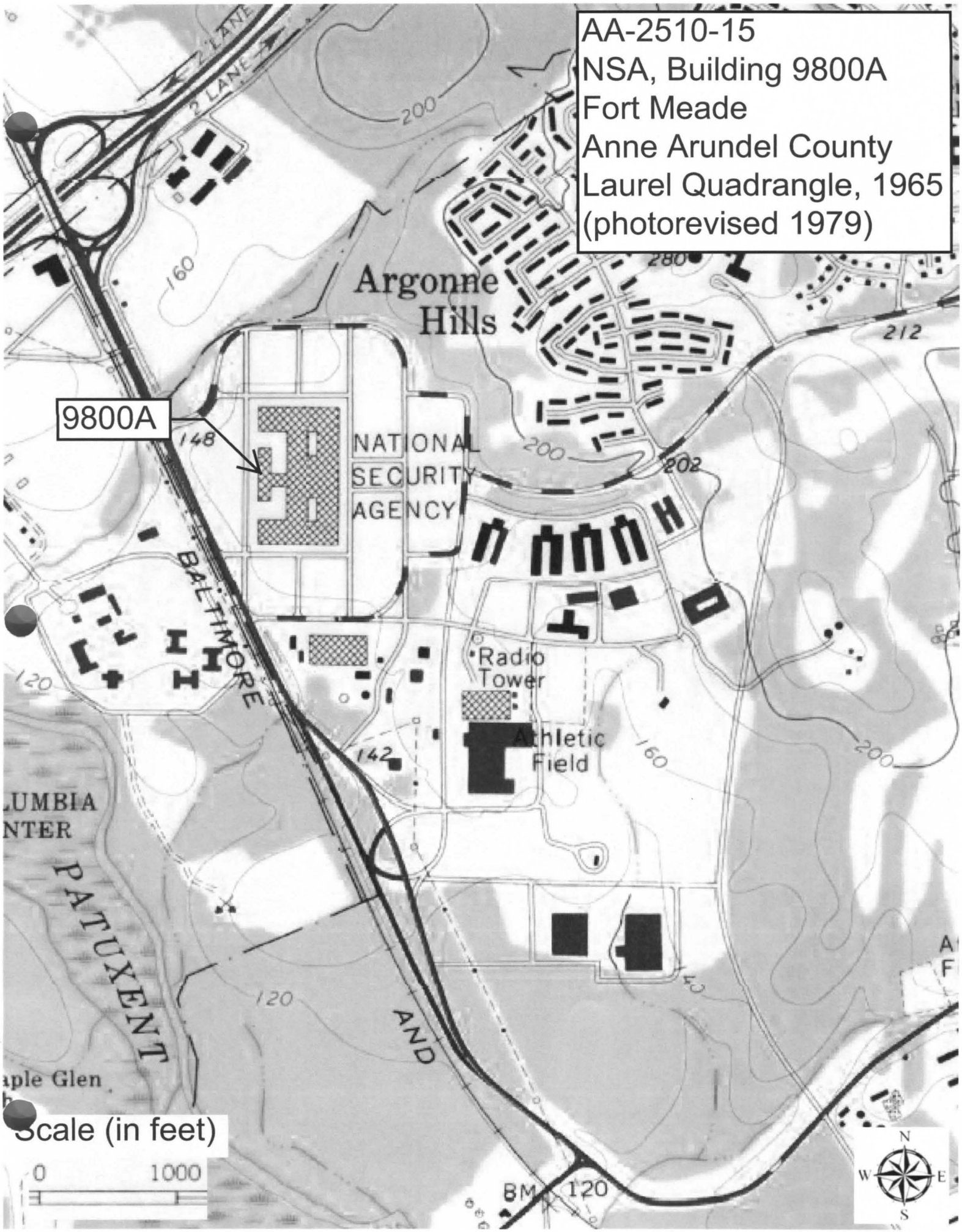
AA-2510-15
NSA, Building 9800A
Fort Meade
Anne Arundel County
Laurel Quadrangle, 1965
(photorevised 1979)
9800A
Argonne Hills
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
Radio Tower
Athletic Field
BALTIMORE AND
PATUXENT
2 LANE
2 LANE
200
160
280
212
148
200
202
120
142
160
200
120
140
BM 120
Scale (in feet)
0
1000
N
W
E
S

AA-2510-15

National Security Agency (NSA)
EIS for the East Campus Integration Program at Fort Meade, MD
Anne Arundel County
All photos taken by NSA, June/October 2015

			northeast
		AA-2510-9_2015-06-03_03	Façade (southwest elevation), view southeast
		AA-2510-9_2015-06-03_04	Northwest corner, view southeast
AA-2510-10	9805	AA-2510-10_2015-06-03_01	Façade (north elevation), view south
		AA-2510-10_2015-06-03_02	West (side) elevation, view east
		AA-2510-10_2015-06-03_03	East (side) elevation, view northwest
		AA-2510-10_2015-06-03_04	South (rear) elevation, view northeast
AA-2510-11	9804	AA-2510-11_2015-06-03_01	Southwest corner, view north
		AA-2510-11_2015-06-03_02	Courtyard, view north
		AA-2510-11_2015-06-03_03	Courtyard, view northeast
		AA-2510-11_2015-06-03_04	East (side) elevation, view northwest
		AA-2510-11_2015-06-03_05	East (side) elevation, view west
AA-2510-12	9803	AA-2510-12_2015-06-03_01	Façade (north elevation), view south
		AA-2510-12_2015-06-03_02	Northeast corner, view southwest
		AA-2510-12_2015-06-03_03	East (side) elevation, view west
AA-2510-13	9802	AA-2510-13_2015-06-03_01	Façade (north elevation), view south
		AA-2510-13_2015-06-03_02	Southeast corner, view north
AA-2510-14	9801	AA-2510-14_2015-06-03_01	Façade (north elevation), view south
		AA-2510-14_2015-06-03_02	Northwest corner, view southeast
		AA-2510-14_2015-06-03_03	West (side) elevation, view east
		AA-2510-14_2015-06-03_04	Southwest corner, view north
		AA-2510-14_2015-06-03_05	Southeast corner, view northwest
AA-2510-15	9800A	AA-2510-15_2015-06-03_01	Façade (west elevation), view northeast
		AA-2510-15_2015-06-03_02	Façade (west elevation), view southeast
		AA-2510-15_2015-06-03_03	Gatehouse (9821), façade (west elevation), view east
AA-2510-16	9800C/D	AA-2510-16_2015-10-13_01	South elevation, view north
		AA-2510-16_2015-10-13_02	Southeast corner, view northwest
		AA-2510-16_2015-10-13_03	Southeast corner, view north northwest
		AA-2510-16_2015-10-13_04	Northeast corner, view southwest
		AA-2510-16_2015-10-13_05	North elevation, view south
AA-34-5	9810	AA-34-5_2015-06-03_01	Façade (south elevation), view northwest
		AA-34-5_2015-06-03_02	Façade (south elevation), view northwest
		AA-34-5_2015-06-03_03	Façade (south elevation), view northeast
		AA-34-5_2015-06-03_04	East (side) elevation, view northwest
		AA-34-5_2015-06-03_05	North (rear) elevation, view southwest

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NSA, Building 9800A
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
NSA
June 3, 2015
MD SHPO
Facade (west elevation), view northeast
1|3

AA-2510-15
NSA, Building 9800A
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
NSA
June 3, 2015
MD SHPO
Facade (west elevation), view southeast
2/3

9821
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
GATEHOUSE 1

AA-2510-15
NSA, Building 9900A
Anne Arundel County, Maryland
NSA
June 3, 2015
MD SHPO
Gatehouse (9821), facade (west elevation), view east
3/3