

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: FCC Monitoring Station Inventory Number: HO-1068

Address: 9200 Farm House Lane City: Columbia Zip Code: 21046

County: Howard USGS Topographic Map: Savage

Owner: Federal Communications Commission Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes  no

Tax Parcel Number: 230 Tax Map Number: 42 Tax Account ID Number: 1406439535

Project: Proposed construction of replacement building at the FCC's  
Columbia Monitoring Station Agency: General Services Administration

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name: Amanda Apple Date: 08/15/2011

Is the property located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district*

District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

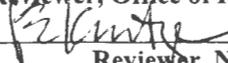
Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The FCC monitoring station is located on the east side of Oakland Mills Road, between its intersection with Snowden River Parkway and Guilford Road. The property consists of two clusters of buildings situated on open, mostly flat fields. The first cluster is on the western half of the property and is visible from the road; the second is on the eastern end of the property and is screened by trees on the east and south ends of the property. The two clusters are connected by Farm House Lane, a paved road that extends east from Oakland Mills Road. Farm House Lane runs through the center of the first cluster of buildings, used by the Laboratory Division of the FCC, to the second cluster, used by both the Enforcement Bureau and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. There are a combined total of four antenna arrays and three free standing antennas within the station. Each antenna array and free standing antenna was erected in the late 1970s or early 1980s (Jaime Rivas, personal communication December 2, 2011).

The first cluster consists of four buildings, an antenna array, and a single free standing antenna. The buildings include what is referred to as the "Cape Cod" constructed circa (ca) 1941, the shop (ca 1948), the garage, and the Laboratory (ca 1975, personal communication with Jaime Rivas). A small guard shack is located approximately 150 yards from the laboratory, just east of the only gate and point of access to the property. The primary buildings and structures within this cluster consist of the Cape Cod house, the shop, the laboratory, and the antennas; all other buildings are secondary to the site.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>  |  |
| Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  | Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>   |
| Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D | Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| Comments: _____  |  |
| <br>Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services | 11/20/12<br>Date   |
| <br>Reviewer, NR Program                      | 1/20/12<br>Date  |

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NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 1

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The second cluster consists of five buildings, three antenna arrays, and two free standing antenna. The Brown-Collins-Earp House (HO-507) (ca 1813) is located off the center of a circular driveway. Three buildings, the High Frequency Directional Finding (HFDF) center, the HFDF garage (ca 1955), and a shed, are situated in a semicircle to the north and east of the farmhouse. One of the free standing antennas is located next to the southeast corner of the farmhouse; the other free standing antenna is next to the southeast corner of the HFDF center. The first antenna array, which has a control hut in the center of it, is located approximately 350 yards to the south; the second antenna array is located to the north of the cluster; and the third in within the cluster, to the southeast of the farmhouse. A small family cemetery, consisting of five granite tablets, is located approximately 100 yards west of the main cluster of buildings. The primary buildings and structures within this cluster are the farmhouse, the hut, the three antenna arrays, and both free standing antennas. The HFDF center and garage, as well as the shed, are secondary resources (For a full description of each building, please see MIHP form HO-1068).

Deed research indicates that the land currently owned by the FCC in Columbia, Maryland was acquired by the federal government through a taking in 1941 (Howard County Courthouse Deed Book BM Jr 170 page 198). The property acquired was known as "A Howard Earp farm" and was a compilation of three parcels acquired by Earp in 1890, 1902, and 1907. Portions of all three parcels were part of an original land grant known as Warfield's Contrivance, given to Richard Warfield Jr. in 1718 (Stein 1972). Other land grants mentioned in the deeds are "Henry or Harry's Lott" and "Halls Lot" (Howard County Courthouse Deed Book WHW 12 page 292). Historical information about these original land grants was not found (For more extensive deed information see MIHP form HO-1068).

In 1941, the federal government condemned the property for the purposes of building a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Monitoring Station. Through its Radio Intelligence Division (RID), the FCC established a network of radio monitoring stations to assist intelligence gathering efforts for the war. Eleven FCC monitoring stations were created to police domestic radio broadcasts to ensure that people and organizations stayed within their approved frequency; four of the 11 stations were also tasked with listening to foreign broadcast to analyze propaganda. The station in Columbia, Maryland was one of these four; it supported the RID's foreign broadcast monitoring service, which was created by executive order to record and analyze foreign propaganda. Originally the service analyzed propaganda to gain insights in to how to shape American propaganda, but incidences in South and Latin American, which portrayed the US as instigators to tensions, identified the need for counter-propaganda. The monitoring station in Columbia, Maryland specifically focused on radio transmission to and from Europe and North Africa (Phillips 1941).

At the FCC Monitoring Station in Columbia, the first floor of the farmhouse was equipped with listening and recording apparatuses, as well as translators. Operators listened to the airways 24 hours a day, recorded what was heard, and sent any suspicious information to the White House, Army and Navy Intelligence units, the State Department, and the Justice Department immediately (Phillips 1941). This effort cut the US's response time to propoganda that instigated tensions between the US and foreign nations to a few hours, whereas previously the response time was a few days (Phillips 1941). Antenna arrays were constructed on the property, to the north and south of the farmhouse (For a full history of RID and the FCC monitoring station in Columbia, MD see MIHP #HO-1068).

Beyond foreign broadcast monitoring, research and development were conducted at the station for the purposes of improving the directional finding capabilities of antennas. The Type B Adock and Type C Adock antennas, used for directional finding, were developed at the station and distributed to the ten other monitoring stations scattered around the country. The Cape Cod house (1941) provided housing for two engineers and also was the research and development space on site until the shop was constructed in 1948 (Moblely 2011; Jaime Rivas, personal communication November 16, 2011).

Following the Second World War, the Laboratory Division of the FCC was created and their laboratory was assigned to the monitoring station in Columbia in 1946. The shop was constructed two years later and presumably served as the laboratory until the current laboratory was constructed in 1975. Historical information on RID and its involvement in the Cold War was not available. The Laboratory Division continued to provide testing and approval of communication devices and other technology linked to the airways, as well as monitoring the radio traffic and the amount of radio frequency space available in the US.

The FCC monitoring station in Columbia, Maryland meets NRHP Criterion A for its association with the RID during World War II and is therefore recommended as eligible to the NRHP. The station was one of four in the US that monitored foreign

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NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

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propaganda and provided counter measures to the federal government. It covered a distinct and important area of the globe (Europe and North Africa) during World War II, setting it apart from the other monitoring stations providing these services. The monitoring station is further distinguished by its research and development efforts in support of RID and the other monitoring stations in the US. Following the war, the monitoring station was selected to be the site of the FCC's Laboratory Division and its testing laboratory.

Changes have been made to the site, including the demolition of the bank barn, original to the Brown-Collins-Earp House, and a small school house constructed between 1942 and 1943, which was used for training (Google Earth 2011; Mobley 2011). Antennas have been updated as technology advances; and several buildings, mainly the HFDF Center and the Laboratory (ca 1975), have been constructed. Although these demolitions and additions have been made to the site, the property retains sufficient integrity overall to convey its significance. The buildings and structures originally used for RID and the Laboratory Division's mission still stand and are largely unchanged from the 1940s.

Prepared by: Kimberly Martin

Date Prepared: 11/25/2011

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1068

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic FCC Monitoring Station

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number 9200 Farm House Lane      not for publication

city, town Columbia      vicinity

county Howard

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

name Federal Communications Commission

street and number 9200 Farm House Lane telephone (301) 362-3041

city, town Columbia state MD zip code 21046

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds liber 170 folio 198

city, town Columbia tax map 42 tax parcel 230 tax ID number 1406439535

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

| Category                                 | Ownership                                  | Current Function                               |   | Resource Count   |                        |
|--|--|--|---|--|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture           | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape          | Contributing   | Noncontributing        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)     | <input type="checkbox"/> private           | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade        | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | <u>5</u>   | <u>5</u> buildings     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure       | <input type="checkbox"/> both              | <input type="checkbox"/> defense               | <input type="checkbox"/> religion           | <u>7</u>   | <u>    </u> sites      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site |  | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic              | <input type="checkbox"/> social             | <u>    </u>  | <u>    </u> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object          |  | <input type="checkbox"/> education             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation     | <u>    </u>  | <u>    </u> objects    |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary              | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress   | <u>    </u>  | <u>    </u> Total      |
|  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown            |  |                        |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> health care           | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use  |  |                        |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> industry              | <input type="checkbox"/> other:             |  |                        |
|  |  |  |   | Number of Contributing Resources<br>previously listed in the Inventory |                        |
|  |  |  |   | <u>1</u>   |                        |

## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1068

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

### Summary

The FCC monitoring station is located on the east side of Oakland Mills Road, between its intersection with Snowden River Parkway and Guilford Road. The property consists of two clusters of buildings situated on open, mostly flat fields. The first cluster is on the western half of the property and is visible from the road; the second is on the eastern end of the property and is screened by trees on the east and south ends of the property. The two clusters are connected by Farm House Lane, a paved road that extends east from Oakland Mills Road. Farm House Lane runs through the center of the first cluster of buildings, used by the Laboratory Division of the FCC, to the second cluster, used by both the Enforcement Bureau and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

The first (west) cluster consists of four buildings, an antenna array, and a single free standing antenna. The buildings include what is referred to as the "Cape Cod" constructed circa (ca) 1941, the shop (ca 1948), the garage, and the Laboratory (ca 1975, personal communication with Jaime Rivas). A small guard shack is located approximately 150 yards from the laboratory, just east of the only gate and point of access to the property. The primary buildings and structures within this cluster consist of the Cape Cod house, the shop, the laboratory, and the antennas; all other buildings are secondary to the site.

The second (east) cluster consists of five buildings, three antenna arrays, and two free standing antennas. The Brown-Collins-Earp House (HO-507) (ca 1813) is located off the center of a circular driveway. Three buildings, the High Frequency Directional Finding (HFDF) center, the HFDF garage (ca 1955), and a shed, are situated in a semicircle to the north and east of the farmhouse. One of the free standing antennas is located next to the southeast corner of the farmhouse; the other free standing antenna is next to the southeast corner of the HFDF center. The first antenna array, which has a hut in the center of it, is located approximately 350 yards to the south; the second antenna array is located to the north of the cluster; and the third in within the cluster, to the southeast of the farmhouse. A small family cemetery, consisting of five granite tablets, is located approximately 100 yards west of the main cluster of buildings. The primary buildings and structures within this cluster are the farmhouse, the hut, the three antenna arrays, and both free standing antennas. The HFDF center and garage, as well as the shed, are secondary resources.

There are a combined total of four antenna arrays and three free standing antennas within the station. Each antenna array and free standing antenna was erected in the late 1970s or early 1980s (Jaime Rivas, personal communication December 2, 2011).

### Physical Description

The Cape Cod house is a one-and-a-half-story, four-bay wide, three-bay deep stretcher bond brick building, resting on a poured concrete foundation. Its north-south side gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The building has a horizontally aligned, evenly spaced fenestration pattern composed of double hung, six-over-six, wood windows on the first and attic floors. Each window is surmounted by steel lintels and framed below with a sill constructed of brick headers. Three-light, steel, awning windows are located in the basement walls.

The west elevation features a central half-glazed wood door, flanked by four six-over-six, double hung wood windows and three gable dormers, which are clad in asbestos siding and contain six-over-six, double hung wood windows. The entryway is protected by a gabled portico supported by two wood Tuscan columns and two wood pilasters of the same order. The south elevation consists of three bays of six-over-six, double hung wood windows on the first floor and two bays on the second floor. There are two windows in the basement. One is a three light, metal awning window and is most likely original; the second opening is covered in plywood. The north elevation mirrors the south. The east elevation features a central half-glazed wood door flanked by two six-over-six, double hung wood windows and two, two-light wood awning windows. Above the door is a single gable dormer clad in asbestos siding and containing a six-over-six double hung window. A brick stoop, accessed by brick stairs and topped with a concrete pad, lies in front of the door. The stoop is protected by a shed roof, supported by wood posts. To the north of the stoop are two wood cellar doors and a projecting brick wing, which contains a single four-light steel awning window.

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The shop is a two-story, six-course common bond brick building with a flat built-up roof; a wood handrail runs along the roof on the southeast corner. The building consists of two parts, an open bay on the south end and offices on the north. A small mezzanine clad in wood siding rests on the east end of the roof and features a single four-light wood awning window on the south elevation and a metal door on the east elevation. The open bay features a glazed, steel overhead door and a half-glazed, hollow metal door on the west elevation. There are 10 horizontal sliding aluminum windows on the south elevation; three windows are located on the second floor and seven are on the first floor. The east elevation features six single-hung aluminum windows and two aluminum louvered windows in the basement walls. There are eight single-hung aluminum windows, a half-glazed hollow metal door, and a single two-light steel awning window on the north elevation.

The office portion of the shop features two horizontal sliding aluminum windows with precast concrete sills on its west elevation and a single horizontal sliding aluminum window on the east elevation. The south elevation is encompassed by the open bay and the north elevation has no openings.

The Laboratory is a one-story building, clad in metal siding, surmounted by a flat built-up roof, and resting on a concrete slab. The west elevation features a projected entryway containing a set of double glazed aluminum doors, flanked by two bands of fixed aluminum windows. A set of concrete stairs with metal tube handrails lies in front of the double glazed doors. The south elevation consists of two bands of fixed aluminum windows. The east elevation features a central set of double glazed aluminum doors with a transom and sidelights, two rolling steel overhead doors, and a set of double and one single hollow metal door. A concrete loading ramp lies before one of the overhead doors and a flat roof wood walkway leads from the central glazed doors. To the south of the walkway is a small one story concrete block building with a shed roof clad in asphalt shingles. The only openings in this small building are on the north elevation and consist of a band of fixed aluminum windows on the top of the wall and a single hollow metal door on the west end of the elevation. The north elevation of the laboratory has a central set of double glazed aluminum doors with a transom and sidelights.

This cluster of resources contains an antenna array and a free standing antenna. A small prefabricated metal building, which serves as the control center for the two antennas, is situated directly to the north. The west and north elevations both have a single fixed aluminum window. The only point of entry is through a single hollow metal door on the east elevation. The south elevation has a single horizontal sliding aluminum window.

The Laboratory Division's garage is a one-story building with an asphalt-shingle-clad, side-gable roof. The garage rests on a concrete slab foundation and is sheathed in vinyl siding. The west elevation consists of a single, six-light, wood casement window; the south elevation features two of the same type windows. The east elevation mirrors west. The only point of entry is through three 12 foot (ft) by 12 ft segmental aluminum overhead doors.

The guard shack is a small, prefabricated metal building with a flat built-up roof. The west elevation features one fixed aluminum window. The east elevation mirrors the west. The south elevation has a half-glazed aluminum door flanked by a single hung, aluminum window and a fixed aluminum window. The north elevation features one single hung aluminum window flanked by two fixed aluminum windows.

The farmhouse is a five-bay-wide, one-room-deep, and two-story English Garden wall bond brick building. It rests on a stone foundation and has a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. Brick chimneys are located on the north and south walls. A Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form was completed on the building in 1979, at which time the building, known as the Brown-Collins-Earp House (HO-507), was determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-1068

| Period  | Areas of Significance                              | Check and justify below                               |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> economics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine        | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology                | <input type="checkbox"/> education                    | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/<br>recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000-                | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage              | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                        |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/<br>settlement   | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> social history                 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning        |   | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history       | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____                   |

**Specific dates** 1941-1948 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1941-1948

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary

This property was acquired by a taking initiated by the federal government for the purposes of creating a monitoring station. The beginning of World War II identified the need for a foreign broadcast monitoring service. The monitoring station in Columbia, Maryland monitored Europe and North Africa, analyzing the content of the broadcast and pinpointed where these broadcasts were being sent from. The efforts of the monitoring station in Columbia and the three other stations providing these services enabled the US to stabilize the world view of America during World War II.

### Historical Overview

The property currently owned by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is composed of three parcels acquired by a taking initiated by the federal government in 1941. All three parcels were once a part of a land grant containing 836 acres issued to Richard Warfield Jr. (1676-1755) in 1718. Additional land grants mentioned in the deed research were "Hall's Lott" and "Henry's or Harry's Lott" (Stein 1972). No historical information was available on either "Hall's Lott" or "Henry or Harry's Lott."

The first parcel, which contained the farmhouse (HO-507), was sold by Samuel Brown to Elisha Brown in 1813; it is believed that the kitchen wing of the farmhouse (HO-507) was already constructed on the property at the time of this sale. In 1852, Hammond and Lucretia (Brown) Dorsey sold the property to Ephraim Collins; it is presumed that the rest of the farmhouse was constructed by Hammond and Lucretia Dorsey. As a part of this deed, the Dorseys' "reserved" the rights to their graveyard and right of way leading to their graveyard (Howard County Courthouse Deed Book WHW 12 page 292).

Ephraim Collins retained the property until the time of his death, at which time, a dispute over ownership of the property ensued between Collins' son, Henry Lee Collins, and his daughter, Susie Collins. In October 1890, the property was awarded to Susie Collins and her husband A. Howard Earp.

The ownership of parcel two can be traced back to 1867 when John and Margaret Kermode sold their tract of land to Return J. Meigs Jr. for the sum of \$2,930. The tract encompassed "one hundred forty six and a half acres" (Howard County Courthouse Deed Book WWW 27 page 259). In 1902, J Meigs Jr. and his wife sold a portion of their property, encompassing seventy three and a quarter acres, to A. Howard Earp for the sum of "seven hundred fifty dollars" (Howard County Courthouse Deed Book JHO 74 page 659).

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The third parcel was sold by the Savage Manufacturing Company to A. Howard Earps in 1907 for the sum of 25 dollars; the parcel was comprised of three separate tracts of land equaling a little over 41 acres (Howard County Courthouse Deed Book WWLC 90 page 356).

The estate of A. Howard Earps was condemned and taken by the federal government in consideration of the sum of 12 thousand dollars (Howard County Courthouse Deed Book BM Jr 170 page 198). The property included 236 acres at the time. Proceedings for the taking began in January 1941 when the FCC selected the property for the site of a radio monitoring station as a part of the Radio Intelligence Division (RID) of the FCC.

By 1939, the US State Department was well aware of the US's lack of intelligence gathering in the realm of radio transmission and recognized this was detrimental to the nation's security. In early 1940, the FCC, working with the State Department, created a plan to address radio intelligence gathering and presented it to Congress. The plan entailed modernizing the existing monitoring stations, increasing the number of monitoring stations, and providing a mobile monitoring unit to each station (Flanagan 2001).

In June 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the National Defense Operations (NDO) section of the FCC and appropriated 1.6 million dollars for radio defense efforts. By September 1940, the NDO was upgraded from a section to a division of the FCC and became known as the Radio Intelligence Division (RID) (Flanagan 2001). By March 1941, a foreign broadcast monitoring section of RID was created and four primary listening posts were chosen to keep tabs on propaganda transmitted by radio (Ward 1941).

The foreign broadcast monitoring service was created by executive order to record and analyze foreign propaganda for the purposes of shaping American propaganda broadcasts. Four locations for the listening posts were strategically selected to cover areas of interest across the globe. The post located in Portland, Oregon was assigned to record broadcasts from Japan, China, Saigon, Australia, and India; the station in Kingsville, Texas monitored South and Central America; the station in Puerto Rico covered Latin America; and the station near Laurel, Maryland (Columbia had not be established yet) was responsible for Europe and North Africa (Phillips 1941).

Within five months, the mission of the foreign broadcasting monitoring service increased to include counter measures. Each station began listening for propaganda that instigated tensions between the US and foreign nations; if any inflammatory propaganda was heard, the station would immediately send the information to the White House, Army and Navy Intelligence units, the State Department, and the Justice Department, where counter propaganda would be created and sent to the nation being influenced against the US (Phillips 1941; Ward 1941).

The need for counter measures became apparent following two incidences between the United States, the Axis powers, and South and Latin American nations, in which the Axis powers claimed that the US was responsible for tensions between Ecuador and Peru, and for tensions in Bolivia. The US was unaware of this inflammatory propaganda and so did not respond for several days, which created a hardship, changing South and Latin America's view of the United States (Phillips 1941).

In addition to the four stations monitoring foreign broadcasts, there also were 11 monitoring stations that policed the airways searching for illegal or suspicious broadcasts, determining the locations of these broadcasts. The station near Laurel, Maryland also provided these services with the use of High Frequency Directional Finding antenna (Phillips 1941).

The location near Laurel, Maryland was selected for its close proximity to Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland, as well as its good soils. At the time that the FCC acquired the property, the farmhouse (HO-507), a corn crib, a bank barn (reportedly partially falling down), and a privy were present on the property. RID's foreign broadcast monitoring service planned to use the

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farmhouse for their operations. The electrical and plumbing systems were upgraded, a pump was put in the well, and a new roof was added to the farmhouse (Mobley 2011).

RID moved into the first floor of the farmhouse in March 1941. The first floor of the farmhouse was described as being "banked with efficient apparatus" (Phillips 1941). The walls are described as being "lined with panel boards, with a mystifying array of dials, knobs, wheels, and switches" (Phillips 1941). A directional antenna (since demolished) fixed atop a wood control shack was constructed behind the farmhouse. The antenna consisted of two metal poles with wires running horizontal between the posts at the center, creating an H-configuration (Mobley 2011). The station was also given a few mobile monitoring stations, which were Hudson automobiles outfitted with a receiver and a looped directional finder (Flanagan 2001; Mobley 2011).

In December 1941, the Cape Cod house was constructed to provide housing for a detachment of 30 servicemen from Fort Meade, who provided security for the station. The servicemen were later replaced with civilian guardsmen, who manned a prefabricated guard booth that has since been demolished (Mobley 2011).

In the summer of 1942, research and development efforts were begun to improve directional finding antennas. Two engineers took up residence in the Cape Cod house (along with the civilian guardsmen) to begin research. The first projects were to develop the Type A Adock antenna, which was erected on the south end of the property. Once the tuner devices were refined for this type of antenna, it became known as the Type B Adock. At first 25 Type B Adock antennas were manufactured at the Laurel station and sent to various other monitoring stations throughout the US. In the remainder of the World War II period, 100 more Type B Adock antennas were manufactured (Mobley 2011).

Between 1942 and 1945, a training program for new monitoring personnel was relocated from Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, to the monitoring station near Laurel. A 20 ft by 20 ft prefabricated school house (demolished) was constructed east of the Cape Cod house to provide space for indoor training sessions. As a part of their training, personnel also drove the antenna-equipped Hudson cars around the Maryland countryside to gain experience in operating the mobile unit (Mobley 2011).

In 1946, the Field Division and RID were merged to streamline the process of patrolling the airways. Also in 1946, the Laboratory Division was created to: develop new monitoring equipment for the new division; study "the effects of radar on frequency allocations and conduct experiments in wave propagation"; and, test and approve commercial devices related to radio waves (*Baltimore Sun* 1946).

The Laboratory Division was located at the monitoring station near Laurel (Knapp 2011). Presumably all tests were conducted either in the Cape Cod house or other buildings on the property, because it was not until 1948 that a brick shop building was constructed to the northeast of the Cape Cod house (Jaime Rivas, personal communication November 16, 2011).

The Laboratory Division has continued in its mission of equipment testing and development to the present day. A new laboratory facility was constructed on site in 1975. Presumably RID has continued in its mission of radio monitoring. Personal communication with Jaime Rivas indicates that the facility still operates HFDF equipment and tracks down people or businesses operating outside of their frequencies (personal communication November 16, 2011). Historic information on radio monitoring during the Cold War at the monitoring station was not available.

Between 1993 and 2002, a few changes were made to the site. The HFDF training center was moved to the second cluster of buildings immediately east of the farmhouse and a prefabricated metal shed was constructed immediately east of the garage. The road that runs through the first cluster of buildings and connects to the driveway to the second cluster was constructed. Between 2002 and 2006, the bank barn original to the farmhouse was demolished (Google Earth 2011).

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### Analysis

The FCC monitoring station in Columbia, Maryland meets NRHP Criterion A for its association with RID during the World War II era and is therefore recommended as eligible to the NRHP. The station was one of four in the US monitoring foreign propaganda and providing counter measures to the federal government. It covered a distinct and important area of the globe (Europe and North Africa) during World War II, setting it apart from the other monitoring stations providing these services. The monitoring station is further distinguished by its research and development efforts in support of RID and the other monitoring stations in the US. Following the war, the monitoring station was selected to be the site of the Laboratory Division and its testing laboratory.

Changes have been made to the site, including the demolition of the bank barn, original to the Brown-Collins-Earp House, and a small school house constructed between 1942 and 1943, which was used for training (Google Earth 2011; Mobley 2011). The antennas, all erected in the late 1970s and early 1980s, have been updated as technology advances; and several buildings, mainly the HFDF Training Center and the Laboratory (ca 1975), have been constructed. Although these demolitions and additions have been made to the site, the property retains sufficient integrity overall to convey its significance under Criterion A. The buildings and structures originally used for RID and the Laboratory Division's mission still stand and are largely unchanged from the 1940s.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-1068

Refer to continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property \_\_\_\_\_  
Acreage of historical setting 236 acres  
Quadrangle name Savage

Quadrangle scale: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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|                 |   |           |                |
|-----------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| name/title      | Kimberly Martin/Architectural Historian |           |                |
| organization    | TEC Inc.                                | date      | 11/25/11       |
| street & number | 275 West Street, Suite 110              | telephone | (410) 990-0299 |
| city or town    | Annapolis                               | state     | MD             |

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1068

Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 1

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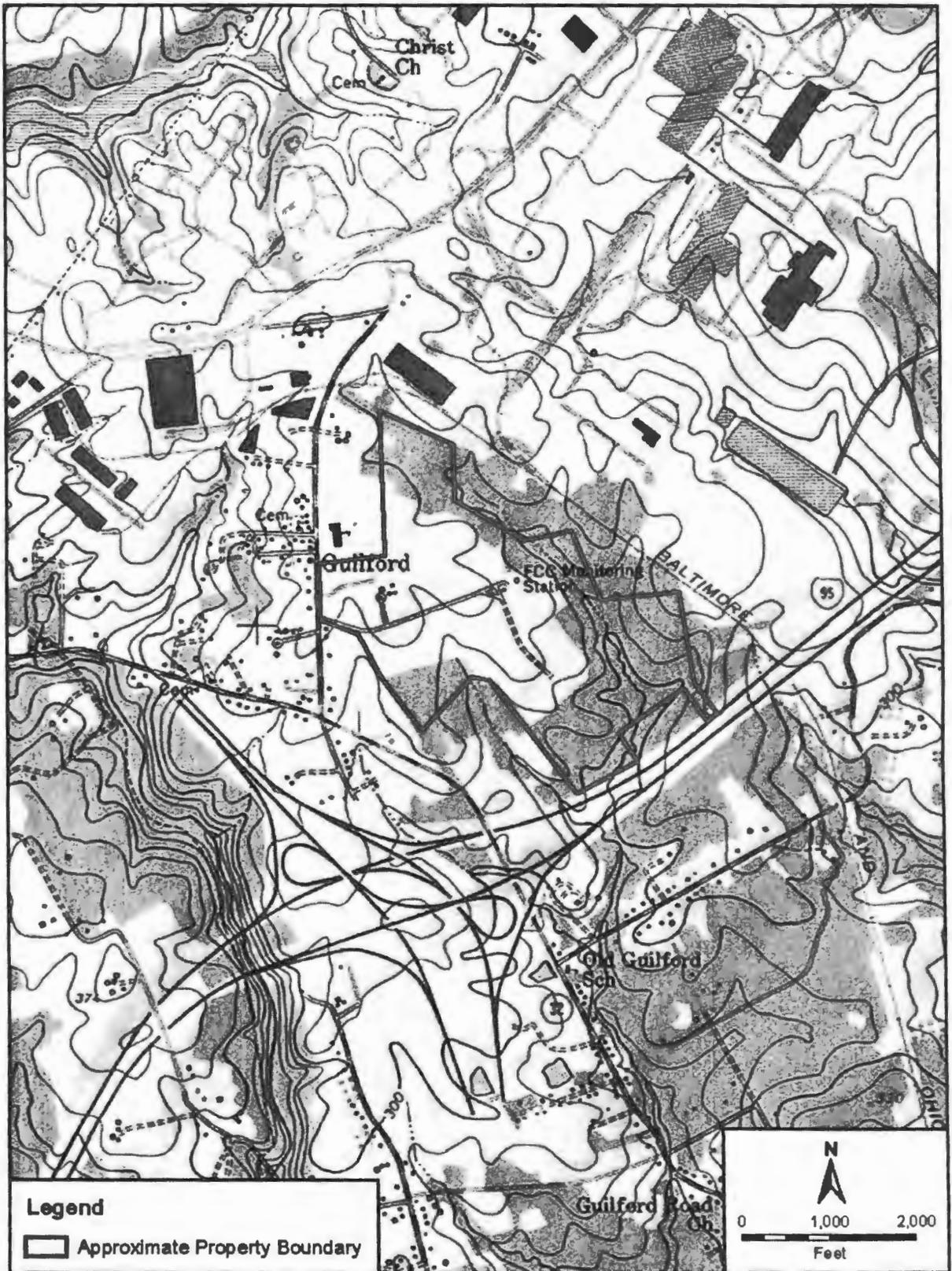
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USGS 7.5' Savage Quadrangle Map (ArcGIS 2010) Showing the FCC Monitoring Station

| <b>East Cluster</b>   |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Photo                 | View  | Paper/Ink Combination                                      |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_01 | South and west elevations of the Brown-Collins-Earp House (HO-507), facing northeast  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_02 | North and east elevations of the Brown-Collins-Earp House (HO-507), facing southwest  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_03 | South and west Elevations of HFDF Garage , view facing Northeast (The north and east elevations were obstructed by the close proximity of the shed and a fence.)    | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_04 | South and east elevations of the shed, view facing Northwest (The north and west elevations were obstructed by a fence and the close proximity of the HFDF Garage.) | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_05 | North and east elevations of HDFA center, facing southwest  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_06 | South and west elevations of the HDFA Center, view facing northeast   | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_07 | Free Standing Antenna on the southeast corner of the HDFA trailer, facing northwest   | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_08 | Antenna Two on the Southeast corner of the farmhouse, view facing Northwest   | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| <b>West Cluster</b>   |   |  |
| Photo                 | View  | Paper/Ink Combination                                      |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_09 | South and west elevations of the Cape Cod house, view facing northeast  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_10 | North and east elevations of the Cape Cod house, view facing southwest  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_11 | Free Standing Antenna located on the southeast corner of the Cape Cod house, view facing northeast  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_12 | South and west elevations of Shop, view facing Southwest  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_13 | North and east elevations of the Shop, view facing southwest  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-         | South and west elevations of the Laboratory, view   | Epson UltraChrome  |

|                       |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 11-09_14              | facing northeast   | pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper                   |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_15 | North and west elevations of the Laboratory, view facing southeast   | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_16 | North and east elevations of a small concrete block building, view facing southwest  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_17 | South and east elevations of prefabricated control hut, view facing northeast  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_18 | View of Antenna Array, facing west   | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_19 | North and west elevations of the garage, view facing southeast (The south and east elevations were obstructed by vegetation) | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_20 | South and west elevations of the guard shack, view facing northeast  | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |
| HO-1068_2011-11-09_21 | View of the Flagpole, facing northeast   | Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Glossy Paper |

- Photographs were not permitted of three antenna array and a concrete block control hut, located within the East Cluster



HQ-1068

FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD

Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

Brown-Collins Escarp house  
South and west elevations  
view facing Northeast

HQ-1068-2011-11-09-01



Ho-1068  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
2011-11-09  
North and East elevations  
of the Brown-Collins-Earp  
house, view facing  
South west  
Ho-1068-2011-11-09-02



HO-1068

FCC Monitoring Station

Howard County MD

Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

South and west elevations  
of the HFDF Garage  
view facing Northeast

HO-1068-2011-11-09-03



HO-1062  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
2011-11-09

South and east elevations  
of the shed, view facing  
Northwest  
HO-1062-2011-11-09-04



HO-1068

FCC Monitoring Station

Howard County MD

Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

North and east elevations  
of the HFDF center,  
view facing Southwest

HO-1068 - 2011-11-09-05



HO-1068

Fee Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

South and West  
elevations of HFD  
center, new facing  
Northeast

HO-1068 - 2011-11-09-06



HO-1062

FCC Monitoring Station

Howard County

Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

Free Standing Antenna  
on southeast corner  
of the HFDF center  
view facing north  
west

HO-1062 - 2011-11-09-07



HO-1068  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
2011-11-09  
Free Standing on  
the south east corner  
of the Brown-Collins  
Earp house, view  
Facing northwest  
HO-1068-2011-11-09-08



HO-1068  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
2011-11-09  
South and west elevations  
of the Cape Cod House  
view facing northeast  
HO-1068-2011-11-09-09



HO-1062

FCC Monitoring Station

Howard County MD

Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

North and East elevations  
of the Cape Cod House

view facing southwest  
HO-1062 - 2011-11-09-10



HO-1068  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
Free Standing Antenna  
located on the southeast  
corner of the Cape Cod  
house, view facing  
northeast  
HO-1068-2011-11-09-11



HO-1068

FCC Monitoring Station

Howard County MD

Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

South and west elevations  
of the Shop view facing  
southwest

HO-1068-2011-11-09-12



HO-1068

FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

North and east elevations  
of the shop, view facing  
Southwest

HO-1068-2011-11-09-13



HO-1068  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
2011-11-09  
South and west elevations  
of the laboratory  
view facing northeast  
HO-1068-2011-11-09-14



HO-1068  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
2011-11-09  
North and west elevations  
of the Laboratory  
view facing southeast  
HO-1068-2011-11-09-15



Ho-1068

FCC Monitoring Station

Howard County MD

Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

North and east

elevation of small

build adjacent to

laboratory

Ho-1068-2011-11-09-16



Ho-1068  
Fee Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
2011-11-09

South and east elevation  
of prefabricated  
control hut, view  
facing north west  
Ho-1068-2011-11-09-17



HO-1068  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kumlerly Martin  
2011-11-09  
View of Antenna array  
Facing West  
HO-1068-2011-11-09-18



Ho-1068  
FCC Monitoring Station  
Howard County MD  
Kimberly Martin  
2011-11-09  
North and west elevations  
of garage, view facing  
Southeast  
Ho-1068-2011-11-09-19



HO-1068

FCC Monitoring Station

Howard County MD

Kimberly Martin

2011-11-09

South and west elevations  
of the guard shack  
new facing northeast

HO-1068-2011-11-09-20



HO-1068

FCC Monitoring Station

Howard County MD

Kimberly Martin

2011-09

view of the flagpole

facing northeast

HO-1068-2011-11-09-21