

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

Property Name: Smallwood House/Bldg 018 Survey Number: P.G. #61-34

Property Address: Building 018 at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) on Second Street

Project: Section 110 Agency: F/USDA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

District Name: BARC Historic District Survey Number: PG

Listed  Eligible \_\_\_\_\_ Comment \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Location  Design  Setting  Materials

Workmanship  Feeling  Association

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

The Smallwood House is a residential structure, built by the government for employee housing at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in 1933-34. The one story frame bungalow was moved to its current location at BARC between 1943 and 1950. When the building was originally surveyed in 1997, it was not assessed for its potential as a contributing resource to a historic district. USDA has now completed its survey of BARC. Their consultant determined that the entire 6582 acres is eligible. The Trust concurred with this determination. Building 018 is a contributing resource.

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

MHT library

Prepared by: Robinson & Associates

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

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

PKuntz 2/29/00  
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

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

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: rural

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

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

## **ADMINISTRATIVE/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

## **METHODOLOGY**

Soon after the initiation of the project, a windshield survey of 18 residences at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, including Building 018, was conducted. A subsequent site visit to Building 018 enabled closer investigation of both the interior and exterior of this residence; photographs were taken at this time.

Research regarding **Building 018** under the Department of Agriculture's ownership and use of the house and property was conducted at the National Archives, College Park Facility; and the Library of Congress. Previous work by Robinson & Associates on the history of BARC (Robinson & Associates, Inc., *Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Phase III Report*, December 1995) provided general information regarding the development of BARC.

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Forms were prepared for each residence, based on the requirements specified in the *Guidelines for Completing the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form*.

## **EVALUATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY**

Following is an evaluation of Building 018 (the Smallwood House), which was considered under Criteria A, B, and C at the local and national levels of significance. The relevant National Register criteria, as listed in the *National Register Bulletin 16* (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division), read as follows:

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

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or**
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or**
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or**

**method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; . . .**

The Smallwood House - Building 018

*Criterion A*

Given current sources of information, there does not appear to be anything outstanding or unusual about the history of the house and the property. It does not meet Criterion A. It seems a fairly typical example of an early twentieth-century bungalow at which no significant events are known to have occurred. Used as a residence for the government staff at BARC as a practical measure, Smallwood House was one of a large number of properties used in a similar fashion throughout the Department of Agriculture's operations.

*Criterion B*

Building 018 does not appear to have significance under Criterion B. There is no evidence that any residents occupying Building 018 were associated with any significant contributions to local history. There is also no evidence that people significant to the history of BARC lived in the house.

*Criterion C*

Building 018 appears to be a typical example of moderate housing which dates from the early decades of the twentieth century. The house does not appear to be extensively altered and retains much of its original integrity. It does not meet Criterion C.

*Criterion D*

Building 018 was not evaluated for archeological significance.

**EVALUATION AS PART OF A DISTRICT**

Based on documentation previously submitted by ARS, (see *North Farm Survey District, Draft Form* ) the Maryland Historical Trust has agreed that there is a historic district at the North Farm, which encompasses the administration and laboratory buildings. The boundaries have not been ultimately determined; they are pending future evaluation of the North Farm buildings. Building 018 would be included in this survey.

**PG:61-34**

**The Smallwood House (Building 018)—Beltsville Agricultural Research Center**

Location: Beltsville, MD (Prince Georges County)

Date of Construction: 1933-34

Access: Public

The Smallwood House is located at the North Farm of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

The building was constructed by the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1933/34 for use as a "foreman's cottage." It was originally located to the west of Building 006 and was moved to its present location between 1943 and 1950. Although it is currently unoccupied, for all of its previous history it has been occupied by U.S. Department of Agriculture employees. The building is named for Lewis M. Smallwood who occupied the building in the late 1930s and 1940s.

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

Survey No. P.G. #61-34

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name**

Historic Name Smallwood House

Common Name and Building Number Building 018

**2. Location**

Street and Number Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

City, Town Beltsville

Congressional District

State and Zip Code MD 20705

County Prince George's

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

Name U.S. Department of Agriculture

Street & Number 10300 Baltimore Avenue

Telephone No.: (301) 504-5187

City, Town Beltsville

State and Zip Code MD 20705

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

Street & Number Main Street

City, Town Upper Marlboro

State and Zip Code MD

**6. Representation in Existing Historic Survey**

Yes  No

Title

Date

Federal  State  County  Local

Depository for Survey Records

City, Town

State and Zip

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**7. Description**

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Survey No. P.G. #61-34

**Condition** Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed Unaltered Altered Original Site Moved

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

### Overview

The Smallwood House, Building 018, is located at the North Farm of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. It was constructed by the Department of Agriculture in 1933/34 and moved to its current location sometime between 1943 and 1950. Building 018 was originally located to the west of Building 006.

### Architectural Description

The Smallwood House is a one-story, wood-frame bungalow with clapboard siding and a concrete-block foundation. In some details it resembles the catalog houses popularized by Sears, Roebuck and Co. in the 1920s and 1930s. The overhanging roof consists of a main gable which runs west to east. A smaller porch gable on the west facade also runs west to east, off-center from the main gable. A secondary gable is perpendicular to the main gable and protrudes to the south. This secondary gable is split into two sections, with the smaller section continuing south from the larger section. At the middle point of the main gable is a chimney.

The principal (or west) facade is dominated by a off-center gabled screened porch. The right side of the porch roof aligns with the right side of the main gable roof. Within the gable of the porch is a long narrow vent, and a square vent is set within the main gable. There is a single, one-over-one, double-hung window on the first story of the main house. A long set of concrete stairs leads to the porch, which was screened in during subsequent alterations.

The south elevation contains the below-grade garage door leading to the basement level. The garage door is part of the smaller gable section. Above the garage door are two, one-over-one, double-hung windows. A small, square, attic vent is centered in the gable.

The east elevation has a small entry porch leading to a rear door. There are a pair of small, one-over-one, double-hung windows and a larger, one-over-one, double-hung window on the first story; and a small one-over-one double-hung window is centered in the apex of the gable.

The south elevation has a small, central, one-over-one, double-hung window flanked on each side by a larger, one-over-one, double-hung window. There are also two small rectangular basement windows in the concrete-block foundation.

### Interior Description

The main entrance, centered on the west facade, opens into a living room, which is the largest room of the house. On the north side of the house, accessed by a small hall, are two bedrooms with a shared bath. The bedrooms are located in the northwest and northeast corners of the house. The kitchen runs along the rear or east side of the house, and contains a back door to the yard. Along the south facade is a large room that originally served as a dining room but was in recent years converted to a master

bedroom. This home also has a full attic and basement.

#### Landscaping

The Smallwood House is set back on Second Street in a heavily wooded area. Mature trees and shrubs surround this house, and a large front yard is characterized by a well-kept lawn. This site, due to its wooded nature, is completely shielded from the rest of the BARC campus. The cluster of homes of which it is a part retains a bucolic nature, which was perhaps the original intent for the move of this home.

**8. Significance**

Survey No. P.G. #61-34

Period	Areas of Significance			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Economics	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanit
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Invention		

Specific Dates	Architect				Builder	Area
Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D		
Applicable Exception	<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
Level of Significance	<input type="checkbox"/> National		<input type="checkbox"/> State		<input type="checkbox"/> Local	

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

### Overview

The Smallwood House is a wood-frame residence constructed by the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1933/34 with funding in part from the Public Works Administration. It was moved to its current location between 1943 and 1950. The house was named for a Bureau of Plant Industry employee who occupied it in the mid-1930s.

### The Bureau of Plant Industry and the Development of the North Farm<sup>1</sup>

The Bureau of Plant Industry was created on July 1, 1901, and organized plant science in the federal government is often traced to that date.<sup>2</sup> The Bureau's work, spanning over 50 years, brought agricultural research from science based largely on observation into the world of modern science. The Bureau's research over this period was voluminous and much of it represented important stepping stones for agriculture and/or scientific research in general.

Faced with the potential loss of their Arlington Farms facility due to interest in the location by other federal agencies, the Bureau of Plant Industry began looking for a new site for their experiments. A study was made of land areas in the suburban Washington area and two adjacent farms, which were to become the heart of the North Farm, came out as the top choices. The farms were leased in 1932, and soon thereafter, the planting of apple, peach, nut and other fruit trees was completed. The next year, on October 1, the Government exercised its option to purchase the properties. Funding for the land came from a Public Works Administration (PWA) allotment. The total purchase cost was \$80,793.15 and the site officially became the "U.S. Horticultural Field Station at Beltsville, Maryland." In addition to paying for the acquisition of the land, PWA funds for the same year amounting to \$100,237 were expended to clear the land, put in drainage and water lines, install an irrigation system, and put in roads and walks.

### Building 018

PWA funding for 1933 also supported some construction on the site. Building activities funded under this appropriation included the construction of the Range 1 greenhouses and headhouses and what was described as "a foreman's cottage." Building 018, the Foreman's Cottage was apparently completed the same year. It was located west of Building 006 (then, the Fruit Products Building). The building appears in its original location in a number of photographs taken of the North Farm around 1936.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>An extensive description of the Bureau of Plant Industry is contained in *Phase III Submission, Cultural Resources Report, Historic Overview, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center*, Robinson & Associates (December 1995).

<sup>2</sup>See "Plant Science After Fifty Years," *Science*, 113:Sup. 3 (June 29, 1951).

<sup>3</sup>This group of photographs is held at BARC's Facilities Engineering Branch.

A June 14, 1935 description of residences on the North Farm describes a "[f]ive-room and bath frame cottage with basement and attic, erected in 1934 at an estimated cost of \$3500. Located about 150 feet west of the Fruit Products Building and 75 feet from the south property line of the Station land.<sup>4</sup> The same document states that the house was occupied by, "Eugene May, Jr., Principal Scientific Aid, at \$2000 per annum." Little additional information has been located about May, and by 1937 the house was occupied by Lewis M. Smallwood and his wife, who occupied the house at least until 1943. Subsequent to his occupancy of Building 016, the house has been occupied by a number of employees of the USDA. The building, though recently unoccupied, once again serves as a residence.

During the Bureau of Plant Industry's period of growth in the 1930s and 1940s, several houses were relocated to provide for the construction of new buildings or to fit with the planning for the Farm. Only one note regarding the relocation of these houses has been found in archival documents. That document recounts the costs incurred during the move and remodeling of Building 017.<sup>5</sup> This document states that the structure, formerly known as the Brown House, was located 100 feet south of the south wing of the Administration Building at the Plant Industry Station. The document further notes that Building 017 was moved on skids pulled by two tractors to its present location on Second Street. At this time, it was placed on a new foundation and overhauled. Although this document does not discuss the moving of other houses, it can be inferred that a similar process was involved.

Building 018 resembles a Sears house, a common house type for the late 1920s and 1930s. House plans were distributed in catalogs by Sears and Roebuck, Co., and Americans responded by making the Sears house a popular trend. Building 018 resembles a model called "The Ramsay" as identified in *Houses By Mail* by Katherine Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl.

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<sup>4</sup>"Residence Property, U.S. Horticultural Field Station, Beltsville, Md." NARA RG 54 (Bureau Chief's Correspondence), 1934-35.

<sup>5</sup>Report detailing moving and remodeling expenses, no date. National Archives, RG 152, Entry 170, Box 8.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Survey No. P.G. #61-34

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

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**10. Geographical Data**

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## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the site follows 2nd Street on the west, and on the north, south, and east the boundary is defined as extending 50 feet beyond the perimeter of the house itself.

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**11. Form Prepared by**

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Name/Title Regina Arlotto, Heather Ewing, Judith Robinson, Architectural Historians

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Organization Robinson & Associates, Inc.

Date November 30, 1996

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Street & Number 1909 Q St., NW #300

Telephone (202) 234-2333

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City or Town Washington, D.C.

State 20009

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## Concurrence of State Preservation Officer

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form  
Continuation Sheet. Section 9: Bibliography  
The Smallwood House - Building 018 - P.G. #61-34  
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center  
Prince George's County, Maryland

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Bibliography

Gowan, Alan. *The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture, 1890-1930*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. *Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites*. July 1993.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994.

National Archives Records Administration, Record Group 16, Records of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, Entry 17. Washington, D.C.

Phillips, Steven J. *Old House Dictionary: An Illustrated Guide to American Domestic Architecture, 1600 to 1940*. Lakewood, CO: American Source Books, 1989.

Robinson & Associates, Inc. *Phase III Submission: Cultural Resources Report Historic Overview, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland*. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service, December 1995.

Robinson & Associates, Inc. *Preliminary Historic Context Statement, North Farm, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland*. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service, November 1994.

Stevenson, Katherine and H. Ward Jandl. *Houses By Mail*. Washington: The Preservation Press, 1986.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographical Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Periods: Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category: buildings

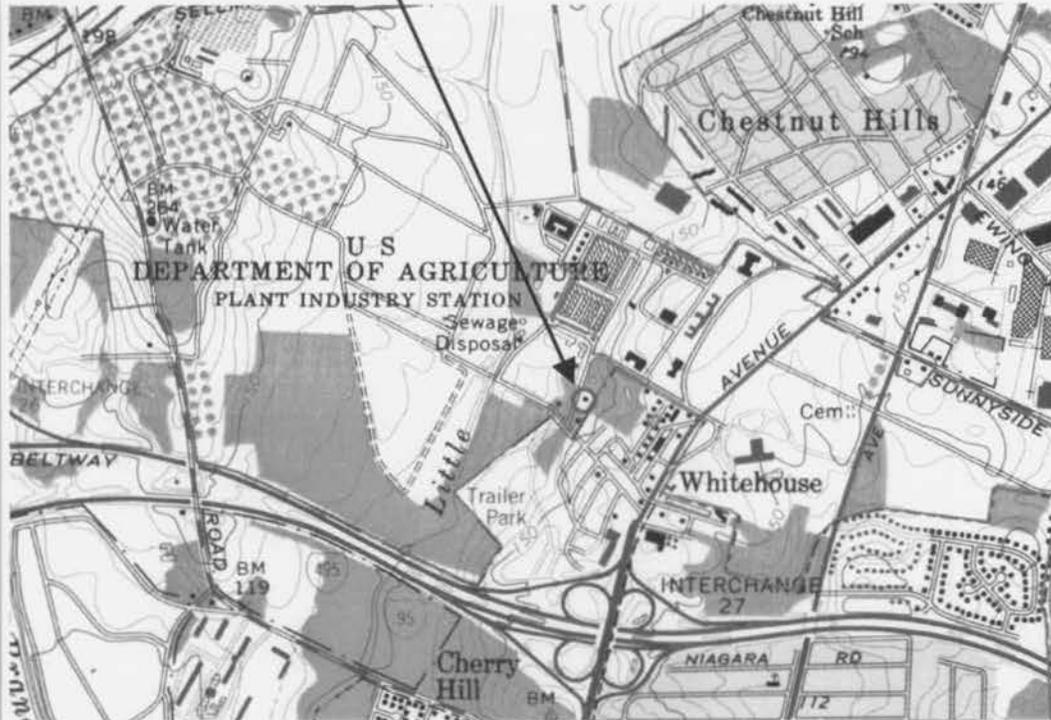
Historic Environment: rural

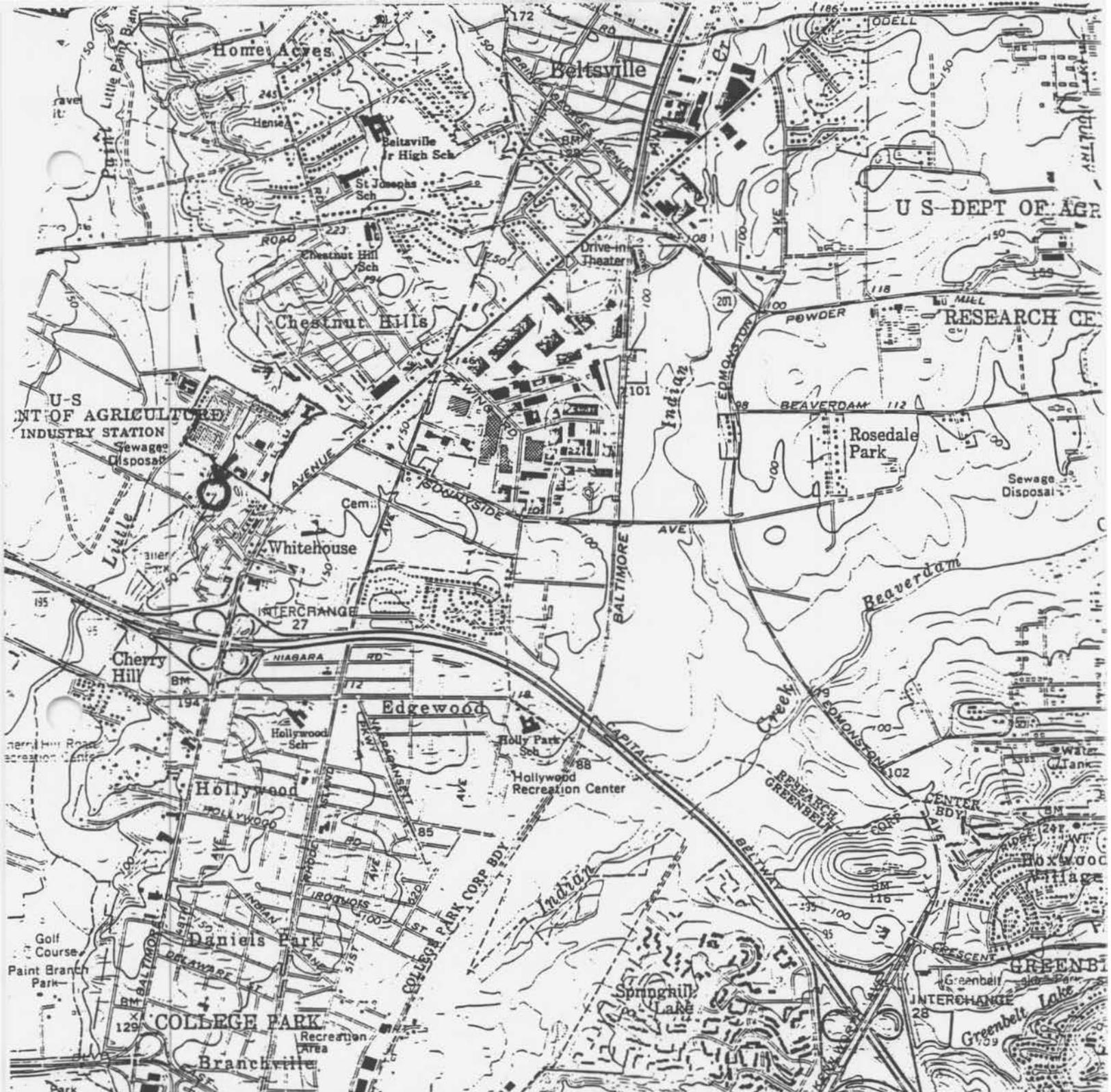
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): domestic

Known Design Source: none

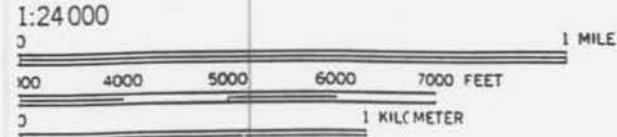


PG:61-34  
Smallwood House/ Building 018  
Within BARC Historic District  
Beltsville Quadrangle  
Prince Georges County





1:24 000 55' 336000m E INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VA



North

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Heavy-duty ——— Light  
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved  
 Interstate Route ——— U.S. Route



PG: 61-34

U.S. Geological Survey, Beltsville, MD 1799  
 Smallwood House, (Building 018)  
 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center  
 Prince George's County

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 THIS SYMBOL IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



PG. 01-34  
Smallwood House (Building 018)

BARC

Prince Georges Co, MD.

Robinson & Assoc.

July 1996

MD SHPO

West (front) Facade Looking East

# 1 of 5



PG. 61-34

Smallwood House (Building 018)

BAKC

Prince Georges Co, MD

Robinson & Assocs, Inc

July 1996

MD SHPO

North and West Facades Looking East

# 2 of 5



PG 61-34 Smallwood House (Building 018)

BARC

Prince Georges Co., MD

Robinson & Assoc., Inc.

July 1996

MDSHPD

South Facade Looking North

# 3 of 5



SMALLWOOD HOUSE (BUILDING 018)

P.G. #61-34

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

BELTSVILLE, MD

ROBINSON & ASSOC'S.

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO

INTERIOR (LIVING ROOM) LOOKING NORTH

# 4 OF 5



SMALLWOOD HOUSE (BUILDING 018)

P.G. #61-34

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

BELTSVILLE, MD

ROBINSON & ASSOC.

NEGATIVE AT WASHPO

INTERIOR (LINING ROOM) LOOKING WEST

PHOTO # 5 OF 5