

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

Property Name: Bldg 021 Survey Number: P.G. #61-35

Property Address: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC)

Project: Section 110 Agency: F/USDA

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

District Name: BARC Historic District Survey Number: PG

Listed  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)

Building 021 is located near Sellman Road and was constructed in 1930s from two existing cottages. USDA used the frame dwelling for employee housing. When the building was surveyed in 1996, it was not assessed for its potential as a contributing resource to a historic district. The USDA has now completed its survey of the entire BARC facility. Their consultant determined that the 6582 acres of BARC are eligible. The Trust concurred with this determination. Building 021 is a contributing resource to the BARC Historic District.

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

Prepared by: Robinson & Associates

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

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable

B. Kuntz 2/29/02  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

**PG: 61-35**

**Building 021**

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center -- Beltsville, MD

Location: Beltsville, MD (Prince George's County)

Date of Construction: ca. early 1930s

Access: Public (Restricted)

Building 021 is located in the North Farm area of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), where the Bureau of Plant Industry operations were established in the 1930s. The house was constructed in the early 1930s by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for use as a laborer's cottage, one of a number erected by the government to house employees at the experimental farm. It was created by combining two extant early twentieth-century three-room cottages that had once formed a part of the nearby Sellman property. Unlike many of the other residences, which were named for the employee who first occupied them, Building 021 was never associated with a family name -- an indication of the transitory nature of the occupants and the use of the house as temporary quarters for many.

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form  
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data  
Building 021 -- MHT # P.G.: 61-35  
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center  
Prince George's County, Maryland

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## 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: building

Historic Environment: rural

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

Known Design Source: none

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

Survey No. P.G. #61-35  
Magi No.  
DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name**

Historic Name

Common Name and Building Number Building 021

**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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: Unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Military
			<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.

Liber# Folio#

Street & Number

City, Town

State and Zip Code

**6. Representation in Existing Historic Survey**

Yes  No

Title

Date

Federal  State  County  Local

Depository for Survey Records

City, Town

State and Zip

**7. Description**

Survey No. P.G. #61-35

**Condition**

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

**8. Significance**

Survey No. P.G. #61-35

**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 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:

 A  B  C  D

Applicable Exception

 A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance

 National  State  Local

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

### Overview

Building 021 is a small one-story house characterized by a series of gabled forms. Located on the North Farm of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the house sits close to Sellman Road. It was created in the early 1930s out of two existing three-room cottages that had formed a part of the Sellman House property.

### Exterior Description

This residence comprises two side-gabled blocks, joined at the southeast corner. The principal (or north) facade consists of a one-story, side-gable block. A shed-roof porch projects over the eastern half of the elevation, sheltering the main entrance and a recently installed one-over-one window. The original windows in this section of the house are two-over-two sash.

The rear (or south) elevation is composed of three elements: a side-gable block on the east, a front-gable block on the west, and a shed-roofed bridge between the two. All three of these blocks run flush with one another to create a single elevation. The central bridge features a row of casement windows. Adjacent to these windows, in the side-gabled block, is a screen door covered by a small projecting shed-roof porch supported by two posts. There are no other windows on this elevation. In the front-gabled block at the western end of the elevation, there is a small vent in the apex of the gable.

The east elevation consists of two, staggered, front-gable blocks. The smaller gabled block that comprises part of the rear elevation projects forward. There are two six-over-six windows and a small vent in the apex of the gable. An exterior chimney stands near the junction of the two sections. The recessed main-block gable that forms the northernmost part of this eastern elevation features a single two-over-two window and a small vent in the apex of the gable.

The west elevation consists of a front-gable block that adjoins a slightly recessed side-gable block, resulting in a cross-gable effect. The front-gable block features a single window and a small vent in the apex of the gable. The side-gable block also features a single window.

Building 021 is covered in aluminum siding; the roof has been replaced, as have some but not all of the windows. When the house was erected, there were no amenities, such as power, heat, or water. It is not known when these amenities were added.

### Interior Description

The interior of the house is characterized by its circular circulation pattern; there are no halls, and each room opens onto the next. The front door opens directly onto a square, carpeted living room with two windows. The ceiling of the room is delineated into sections by wooden mullions. Wooden brackets also ring the room at a high wainscot level. There are no other particularly distinctive interior

features. The windows and doors have simple wood surrounds. To the west of this room is a bedroom; to the south is the kitchen. The bedroom has several closets and features two windows. Adjoining the bedroom is another room, which connects to the kitchen.

The kitchen is illuminated by a row of four casement windows, located above the bank of cupboards and the sink. There is a rear door, with panelling in the lower half and a window in the upper half located to the east of the bank of cabinets. To the east, off of the kitchen, is the small gabled extension that contains the furnace room and a bathroom.

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Overview

Building 021 was one of several small laborer's cottages on the North Farm parcel of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in the 1930s, when the Department of Agriculture was developing the Bureau of Plant Industry's presence at the station. The building was constructed by combining two small, early twentieth-century wood-frame houses that stood on the Sellman property prior to the government's acquisition of the land.

Building 021: A Government Laborer's Cottage

Building 021 was constructed out of two three-room frame dwellings that had existed on the Sellman House property prior to BARC's acquisition of the land. Its conversion was for a new use as an inexpensive government laborer's house. The two frame buildings comprising the new, larger residence had originally stood some "1000 feet N.E. of barn."<sup>1</sup> An inventory of residences listed the house as being acquired in 1934 with monies from Public Works Administration, the Works Progress Administration, and Bureau of Plant Industry funds.<sup>2</sup> It was located near the vineyards along the northern boundary of the North Farm. The house was occupied in 1935 by William T. Edwards, a farm laborer who earned \$70 a month. For rent, \$5 a month was deducted from Edwards' salary.<sup>3</sup>

Building 021 was one of two that was constructed on the property by the government. It was not equipped with any amenities, such as a furnace, water, or power. Already in the residence inventory memorandum of June 14, 1935, it was listed as "not in good repair, no modern conveniences, or furnace; value of same \$900." In 1938, when a number of improvements were undertaken on other residences, no work was done on Building 021.

It seems likely that the house had a frequent turnover of residents. Although Edwards is listed as the occupant in 1935, a subsequent list of residents on the North Farm does not contain his name. It does, however, list three other men -- single, with no family -- who are not immediately connected with any

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<sup>1</sup>Item 10. Listed under improvements originally on Government-owned land. NARA, RG 54, Entry 151A, Box 1. These two frame dwellings are listed as having been combined in Yowell House. It seems more likely from visual evidence that Building 021 is in fact where the houses were combined. Since there is no building number associated with this listing (undated but ca. 1936 or 1937), it is possible that Yowell had been moved from Building 022 to 021, or that this is a typographical error.

<sup>2</sup>"Residence Property, U.S. Horticultural Field Station, Beltsville, Md." June 14, 1935. NARA, RG 54, Bureau Chief's Correspondence, 43186-87 (1934-35).

<sup>3</sup>Memorandum, "Residence Property, U.S. Horticultural Field Station, Beltsville, Md.," June 14, 1935. NARA, RG 54, Bureau Chief's Correspondence, 43186-87 (1934-35).

single residence: John W. Hopper, R. Baxter Herbert, and George M. Banner. It seems possible that one of these three men was then living in Building 021.<sup>4</sup>

The house is currently unoccupied.

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<sup>4</sup>Item 11, Employees living on Station. NARA, RG 54, Entry 151A, Box 1, no date.

Bibliography

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

Houck, U.G. *The Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture: Its Establishment, Achievements, and Current Activities*. Washington, D.C.: published by the author, 1924.

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

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. *Landmarks of Prince George's County*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. *Prince George's County Historic Sites and Districts Plan*. March 1992.

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

National Archives Records Administration, Record Group 54, Entry 151A. Washington, DC.

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; 25% - Phase II & III*. Prepared for the Agricultural Research Service, November 1994.

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**10. Geographical Data**

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PG-61-35

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the site follows Sellman Road on the north, a small North Farm exit road on the west, and the driveway to the house on the south and east.

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**11. Form Prepared by**

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**Name/Title** Heather Ewing, Judith Robinson, Architectural Historians**Organization** Robinson & Associates, Inc.**Date** September 15, 1996**Street & Number** 1909 Q St., NW #300**Telephone** (202) 234-2333**City or Town** Washington, D.C.**State** 20009

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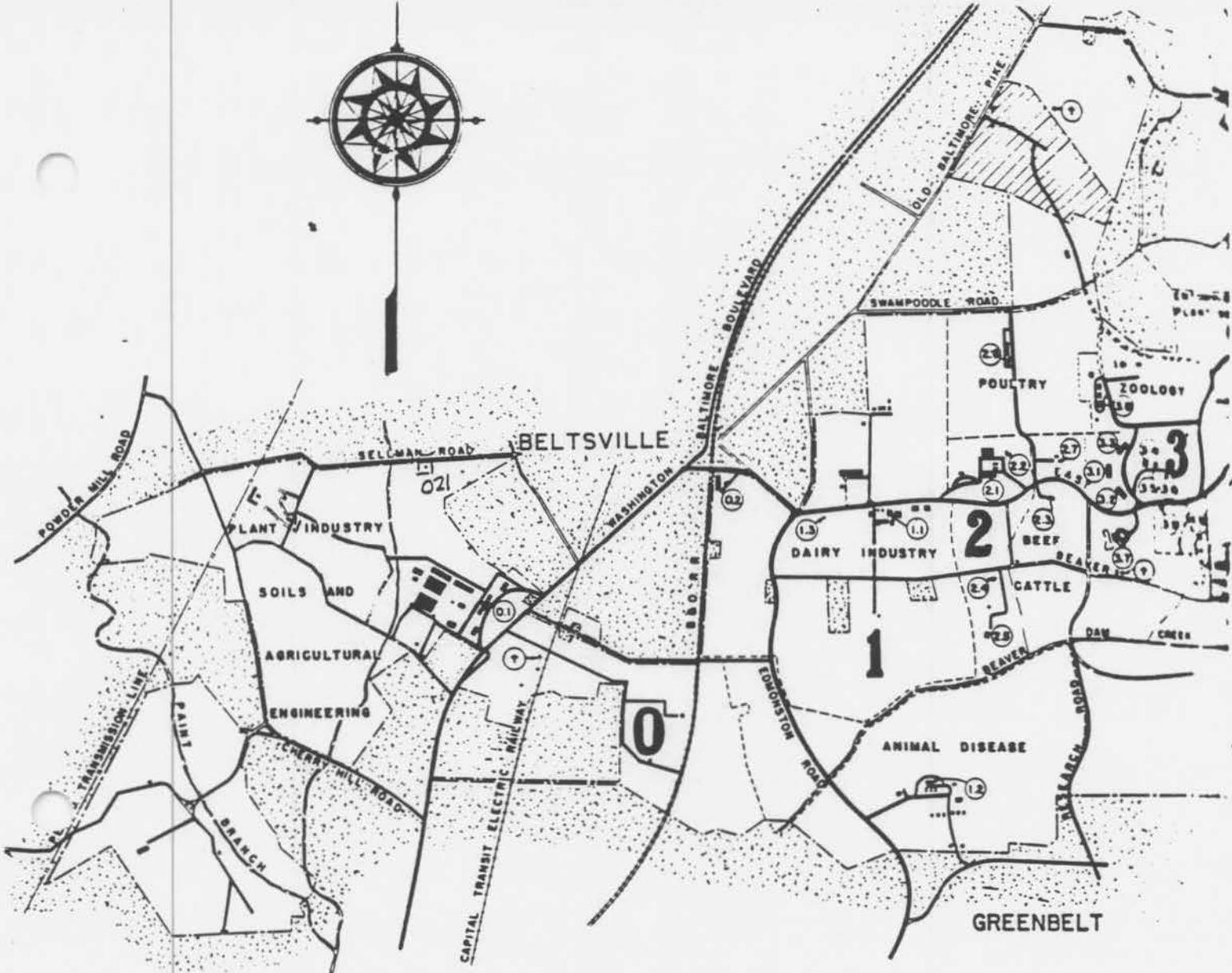
**Concurrence of State Preservation Officer**

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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



0.1-PLANT IND. SOILS & AGRIC. ENGR. ADMIN.  
0.2-GRANARY ARC

1.1-DAIRY ADMINISTRATION  
1.2-ANIMAL DISEASE ADMINISTRATION  
1.3-INFORMATION

2.1-NUTRITION LAB & ADMIN. AN. HUSBANDRY  
2.2-MEATS LAB  
2.3-BEEF CATTLE BARN  
2.4-SHEEP BARN  
2.5-DISPOSAL PLANT  
2.6-POULTRY LABS.  
2.7-CARTOGRAPHIC ANNEX

4.1-A.R.C. MECHANICAL SHOPS  
4.2-GOAT BARN  
4.3-GOAT BARN ANNEX  
4.4-INSECTICIDE LAB. P.O.M.A.  
4.5-AEROSOL LAB. E.S.P.O.  
4.6-ENTOMOLOGY LAB.-(BEE CULTURE & INSECT CONTROL)  
4.7-A.R.C. AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SHOPS

5.1-SWINE FARROWING HOUSE  
5.2-DUAL PURPOSE CATTLE BARN  
5.3-HILL CULTURE S.C.S.  
5.4-NURSERY S.C.S.  
5.5-RADIO (U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE)

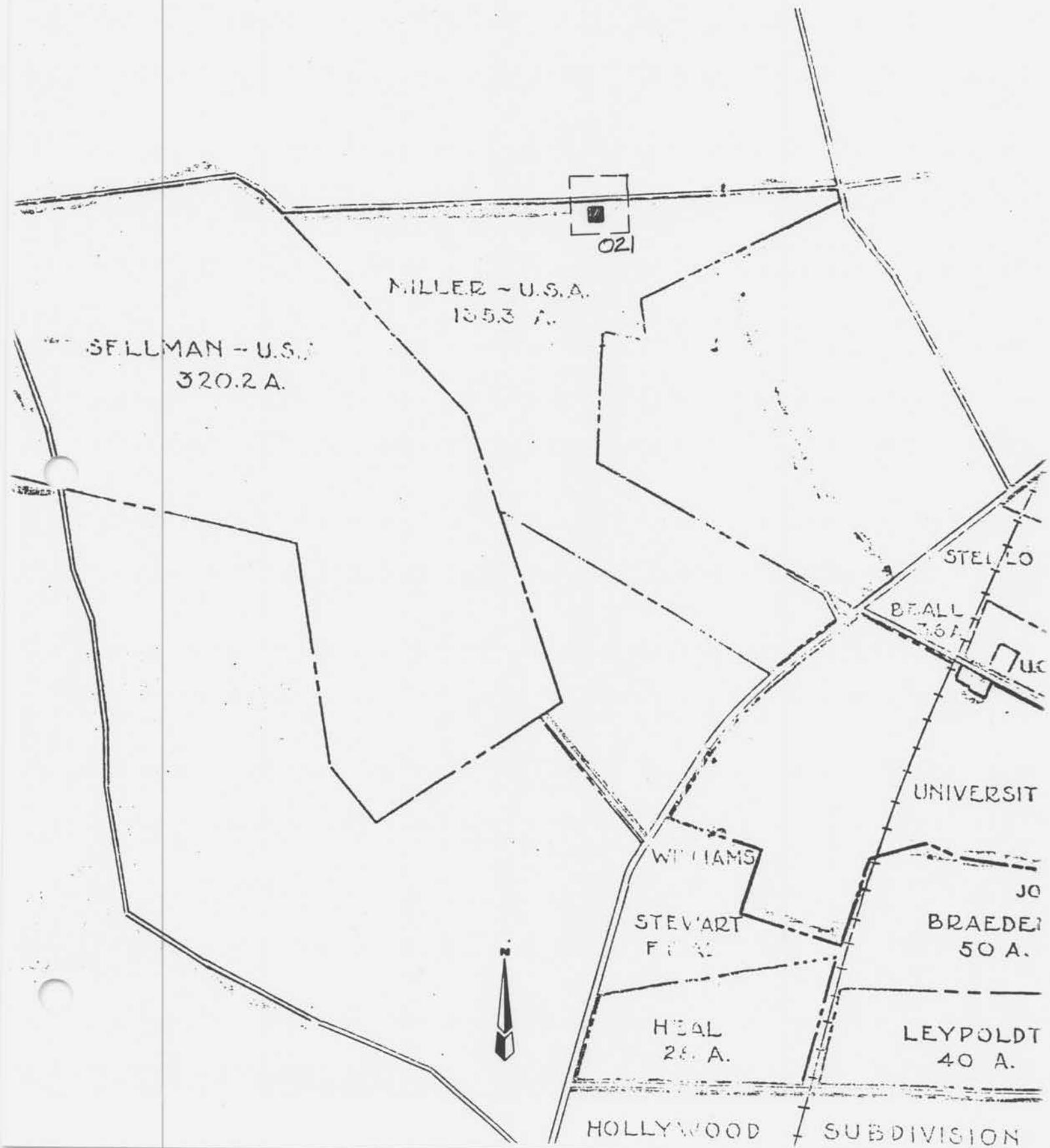
6.1-FOREST SERVICE LAB.

3.1-CENTER LAB (A.R.C. OFFICE OF OPERATIONS - HOME ECONOMICS AND HUMAN NUTR. - BELTSVILLE BRANCH OF U.S.D.A. LIBRARY)  
3.2-SOUTH LAB. (DIV. OF INSECT. E.S.P.O. - PRODUCTION & MARKETING ADMIN. - CARTOGRAPHIC DIV. S.C.S.)  
3.3-NORTH LAB. (HOME ECONOMICS - AGRICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY - AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DIV. OF B.P.I.S.&A.E.)  
3.4-SERVICE BLDG.  
3.5-WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
3.6-FILM STORAGE VAULT  
3.7-LOG LODGE (CAFETERIA)  
3.8-ZOOLOGY ADMINISTRATION  
3.9-AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING LAB B.P.I.S.&A.E.



PG: 61-35 (Building 021)  
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center  
Beltsville, Prince George's County, MD  
*Agricultural Research Center, May 1947*

PG: 61-35 (Building 021)  
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center  
Beltsville, Prince George's County, MD  
*Relative Locations and Approximate Acreages of Properties*  
Compiled by H.F. Sehorn, March 8, 1935



BELTSVILLE

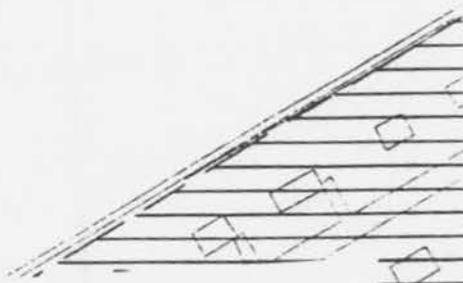
SEYMOUR ROAD

021

EAST LINE



PG: 61-35 (Building 021)  
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center  
Beltsville, Prince George's County, MD  
BARC Master Plan, 1995



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

PLANT RESEARCH FARM

NAVAL LABORATORY

High Point High Sch

Home Acres

Alder Mill Estates

Chestnut Hills

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PLANT INDUSTRY STATION

Whitehouse

White Oak Manor

U.S. DEPT OF AGRICULTURE  
PLANT INDUSTRY STA

Cherry Hill

Edgewood

Buck Lodge

College Park Woods

Hollywood

PG: 61-35 (Building 021)  
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center  
Beltsville, Prince George's County, MD  
U.S. Geological Survey Map, Beltsville, MD, Quadrant, 1979

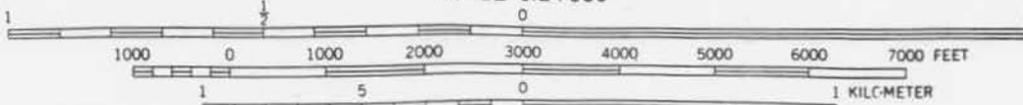


810 000 FEET | 330 57'30" | 331

5661 IV NW  
SCALE 1:24 000

1 WASHINGTON MONUMENT 11 MI.

1 MILE





PG: 61-35

BUILDING 021

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

HEATHER EWING

AUGUST 1996

MDSHPO

NORTH + EAST FACADES, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



PG: 61-35

BUILDING 021

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MD

HEATHER EWING

MAY 1996

MD SHPO

SOUTH FACADE, LOOKING NORTH



PG: 61-35

BUILDING 021

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

HEATHER EWING

MAY 1996

MDSHP0

INTERIOR, VIEW OF KITCHEN, LOOKING SOUTH



PG: 61-35

BUILDING 021

BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD

HEATHER EWING

MAY 1996

MDSHPO

INTERIOR, VIEW OF LIVING ROOM, LOOKING NORTH