

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: South Tract Forest Service Historic District Inventory Number: PG-64-15

Address: PWRC City: Laurel Zip Code: 20708

County: Prince George's County USGS Topographic Map: Laurel Quadrangle

Owner: U.S. Department of Interior

Tax Parcel Number: 97 Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name: Tania G. Tully Date: 9/20/01

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

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

Is the property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of district: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?  no  yes Determined eligible?  no  yes District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP South Tract Forest Service Historic District; Historic Sites Survey BARC, Vol. I. Historic Context (1998)

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

The South Tract Forest Service Historic District encompasses approximately 100 acres of Tract 97, located within the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center South Tract. The district includes an enclave of residential, research/administrative, and maintenance buildings clustered within a wooded area on the southwest side of Route 197. Acquired from the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in 1969, the buildings were built primarily c. 1936 and reflect their association with the Forest Service; several of the buildings are distinctive in the use of cedar shingle siding and hipped roof designs. Essentially unchanged since acquisition, the complex of buildings is now used by the Migratory Bird Management Office. There are nine contributing buildings in the district, and one non-contributing building; several temporary or deteriorated sheds are noted but not counted.

The South Tract Forest Service Historic District is considered eligible under National Register Criterion A as a component of the U.S. Forest Service section of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, and its contributions to the historic development of scientific research in forestry and agriculture in the United States. The district is also significant for its association with President Roosevelt's New Deal programs, particularly the Resettlement Administration Land Program, Civilian Conservation Corps, and Works Progress Administration. While development of the BARC began as early as 1910, significant development, including the Forest Service Area was accelerated by the funding and manpower associated with the New Deal programs aimed at land reform and job creation. The building complex of the Forest Service at BARC represented a small research enclave within a large tract of woodland established in the 1930s. The area passed from BARC ownership to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in 1969.

Prepared by: Paula S. Reed & Assoc., Inc. Date Prepared: January 4, 2002

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended _____
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: _____	
<u>Tania G. Tully</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>7/3/02</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR program	<u>7/3/02</u> Date

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

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

historic Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Forest Service Area

other South Tract Forest Service Historic District (preferred)

## 2. Location

street and number Laurel-Bowie Road; State Route 197 not for publication

city, town Laurel  vicinity

county Prince Georges

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

name U.S. Department of the Interior

street and number telephone

city, town Washington state D.C. zip code

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber folio

city, town tax map tax parcel tax ID number

## 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: Robinson & Assoc., Inc. "Historic Site Survey, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD," 1998.

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing    Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	8                      3
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	8                      3
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	8                      3
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	_____
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Research Facility	_____
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			0

---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. PG-64-15

---

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/>	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/>	Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Altered

---

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

### *Summary*

The South Tract Forest Service Historic District encompasses approximately 100 acres of Tract 97, located within the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center South Tract. The district includes an enclave of residential, research/administrative, and maintenance buildings clustered within a wooded area on the southwest side of Route 197. Acquired from the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in 1969, the buildings were built primarily c. 1936 and reflect their association with the Forest Service; several of the buildings are distinctive in the use of cedar shingle siding and hipped roof designs. Essentially unchanged since acquisition, the complex of buildings is now used by the Migratory Bird Management Office. There are nine contributing buildings in the district, and one non-contributing building; several temporary or deteriorated sheds are noted but not counted.

### *District Description*

The setting of the South Tract Forest Service Historic District is located within an extensive, heavily forested area associated with its original function as an experimental forest area. The surrounding woods are dense with mixed deciduous trees, conifers, and undergrowth. The building complex is sited in a clearing, on a low rise above the level of the Patuxent River floodplain to the north/northeast. A small creek flows through a ravine south and east of the complex. The creek is dammed at the base of a rather steep hill on the southeast edge of the building complex and serves as a small fire pond.

The building complex is accessed from the south side of Route 197 via a paved entrance road known as Loblolly Drive. The road passes in a southwesterly direction, going up the low hill through a wooded area. On the southeast side of the road is a raised sewage impoundment facility and an associated pump house, a non-contributing building. At the crest of the hill the paved drive curves south/southeast while a gravel drive curves toward the north location of the primary residence (Bldg #160). The residence, sited within its own small clearing in the woods, is a one story Cape Cod of concrete block construction with vinyl siding. The dwelling fronts toward the northeast, however the gravel drive approaches the building on the south gable end. Along the gravel drive, southeast of the residence, is a small building known as the Well #9 Pump Station and Filter House (Bldg #171). This building has the hipped roof and stained cedar shingle siding which gives the Forest Service district its distinctive character. To the west of the gravel drive, in an overgrown area, are two vacant shed/garage buildings noted on the 1987 List of Classified Structures as #163 and #164. These are in an extreme state of decay and are considered non-contributing to the district.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

---

Continuing around the curve on Loblolly Drive to the southeast, is the Forest Service building complex. On the west side of the road is a large frame building (#165), which previously served as the Firehouse and is now a garage/storage building. The projecting central section of the building, where the firetrucks were stored, has a hipped roof; adjoining on the north is a three bay garage, and on the south a small office room and attached tool shed. The entire building is sheathed with the distinctive stained cedar shingles.

The two buildings across the road are research/office facilities. Both are one story frame buildings with vinyl siding. Building #158 has a projecting front section with a hipped roof; it houses Migratory Bird Management Offices (MBMO). Building #167, immediately southeast of #158, is T shaped with a projecting front-gabled wing and two side wings. A concrete block wing was added to the rear. This building also houses MBMO offices.

Continuing to the southeast, the road ends in a loop with the two residence buildings (#161 and #162) located on the north and east side of the loop respectively. Both dwellings are two story frame with brick façade on the first story and vinyl siding on the second story. The buildings appear to date to around 1940.

In the woods to the southwest of the loop is a three-sided pole shed (#166). This is considered a temporary building and is therefore not included in the resource count.

A track running down the hill to the southeast leads to the Fire Control Pond. The impoundment is held by a concrete dam on the northeast end of the pond. Immediately west of the dam is a concrete block Pumping Station (#169). The small building houses an electrically powered water pump. The 1930s gasoline engine, which served as a backup engine for the electric pump, no longer operates.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

---

### *Contributing and Non-Contributing Resource Descriptions*

Sewage Facility Pump House – Non-Contributing. This concrete block building houses the pump equipment for the post-1960 elevated sewage facility. It is not considered contributing to the South Tract Forest Service Historic District.

South Tract Residence (#160) – Contributing. The residence, sited within its own small clearing in the woods, is a one story Cape Cod of concrete block construction with vinyl siding. The four bay dwelling fronts toward the northeast, however the gravel drive approaches the building on the three bay south gable end, which is shaded by an aluminum patio awning. Both elevations have entrances. Windows overall are one over one sash. A single brick chimney rises in the south gable end. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The building was probably constructed c.1938 with the establishment of the Forest Service research area within the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC).

Well No. 9 Pump Station and Filter House (#171) – Contributing. The Well No.9 Pump Station and Filter House is a small frame building with a hipped roof and stained cedar shingle siding. A wide white board runs around the building at the roofline. The hipped roof, cornice band, and cedar shingles are repeated on several other buildings in the complex, which gives the Forest Service district its distinctive character. Well No.9 is the water source for the complex; this building was probably constructed c.1938 when the Forest Service research area of BARC was established.

Tool House (#164) – Non-Contributing. This frame building had the hipped roof and wood shingle siding distinctive to the Forest Service area buildings, noted from List of Classified Structures photograph taken in 1987. However it has since deteriorated to a point beyond recognition and was therefore not included in the count of contributing resources for the South Tract Forest Service Historic District.

South Tract Garage (#163) – Non Contributing. This frame garage building had vertical board siding, noted from List of Classified Structures photograph taken in 1987. However it has since deteriorated to a point beyond recognition and was therefore not included in the count of contributing resources for the South Tract Forest Service Historic District.

Garage and Tool House (Firehouse, #165) – Contributing. This large frame building was probably constructed c.1938 when the Forest Service research area of BARC was established, and served as the Firehouse. It now is used as a garage/storage building. It fronts northeast onto the drive/parking area in the middle of the building complex. The projecting central section of the building, where the fire trucks were stored, has a hipped roof; the two vehicle bay doors are

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3

---

tall, allowing room for the specialized trucks. Adjoining the central section on the north is a gable end three bay garage of normal height, and on the south a small office room. The office has a paneled door and one 6 over 6 sash window, a brick, gable end chimney, a shed roof porch, and breezeway leading to the attached tool shed. The tool shed is gable front with a centered 6 over 6 sash window and a double door small equipment entrance in the southeast corner. The north elevation, fronting the breezeway, has three doors; the opposite elevation has two 6 over 6 sash windows. The tool shed reportedly housed the fire hoses and other fire fighting equipment during the Forest Service occupation. The entire building is sheathed with the distinctive stained cedar shingles and eaves are embellished with a wide wood band painted white.

MBMO Offices (#158) – Contributing. The Migratory Bird Management Office Building is a one-story frame building with vinyl siding fronting west onto the drive/parking area of the Forest Service building complex. It has a projecting front section with four 6 over 6 sash window and a hipped roof with central brick chimney. The two gable end side sections (or wings) have paired 6 over 6 sash windows. The south wing has an entrance on the west elevation, protected by an aluminum porch roof with iron supports, and an entrance between two paired windows on the south gable end elevation. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The building was constructed c. 1936 as a research laboratory and office building for the Forest Service area of the BARC.

MBMO Offices (#167) – Contributing. This Migratory Bird Management Office Building is a one-story frame building with vinyl siding fronting southwest onto the drive/parking area of the Forest Service building complex. The building is shaped like a 'T' with a projecting gable-front section and two gable-end side wings. The front section is three bays deep with an entrance in the front gable end protected by a shed roofed entrance porch. The northerly gable-end side section (or wing) has four bays of 6 over 6 sash windows and an entrance on the front elevation; a door and window on the gable end are protected by an aluminum awning with metal supports. The southerly wing houses the conference room; it has three bays with large, 8 over 8 sash windows and an exterior brick gable-end chimney. A concrete block addition is located on the rear (northeast) elevation of the building. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The building was constructed c. 1936 as a research laboratory and office building for the Forest Service area of the BARC.

South Tract Residence (#161) – Contributing. Residence #161 is a two-story, 'L' shaped frame building with a brick façade on the first story and vinyl siding on the second story. The larger section fronts in a southwesterly direction toward the looped drive; its main entrance is in the southeast gable end and is enclosed with a screened porch with a raised seam copper roof. The smaller projecting gable section extends southwest from the southwest elevation of the main section. The lower story windows of the projecting gable are three-part with an 8 over 8 sash

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 4

---

window in the center on the gable end, and 6 over 6 paired on the side. Upper story windows on the long sides of both sections are pedimented appearing as semi-dormer windows. A central brick chimney rises from the main house section. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The building appears to date to around 1940.

South Tract Residence #162) – Contributing. Residence #162 is a two-story, ‘T’ shaped frame building with a Flemish bond brick façade on the first story and vinyl siding on the second story. The top section of the ‘T’ is three bays along the north (side) elevation and fronts a two bay, gable end in a westerly direction toward the looped drive; its main entrance is in the west gable end and has a bracketed hood with a copper roof. The southerly projecting section is also three bays in length; a brick chimney rises from the south gable end. Windows overall are 6 over 6 sash. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The building appears to date to around 1940.

Fire Pond Pumping Station (#169) – Contributing. The concrete block Pumping Station is associated with the Fire Control Pond, both c.1938. The small rectangular building has a metal door with a shed roof hood on the west elevation, and a steel frame, fixed six-light window in both north and south end elevations. It houses an electrically powered water pump for fire control; the 1930s gasoline engine is no longer operable.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. PG-64-15

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

---

<b>Specific dates</b>	c. 1938, 1969	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	c. 1938		

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*

The South Tract Forest Service Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A as a component of the U.S. Forest Service section of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, and its contributions to the historic development of scientific research in forestry and agriculture in the United States. The district is also significant for its association with President Roosevelt's New Deal programs, particularly the Resettlement Administration Land Program, Civilian Conservation Corps, and Works Progress Administration. While development of the BARC began as early as 1910, significant development, including the Forest Service Area was accelerated by the funding and manpower associated with the New Deal programs aimed at land reform and job creation. The building complex of the Forest Service at BARC represented a small research enclave within a large tract of woodland established in the 1930s. The area passed from BARC ownership to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in 1969.

### *Historic Context*

The settlement expansion of Maryland, moving northwest from the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, began in the latter half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Settlement followed the courses of the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, which provided the necessary transportation links to the eastern ports. The establishment of new counties generally indicated significant development in the area. Out of the southern counties of Charles and Calvert came Prince George's County in 1695, from which was carved all of the western counties as they developed through the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

---

The banks of the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers essentially defined the Prince George's County boundaries. It's location and loose, sandy soils were ideal for the cultivation of tobacco, 18<sup>th</sup> century Maryland's cash crop. Settlement occurred largely on the low lands along the riverbanks, the nearby rivers serving as transportation routes for the bulky tobacco hogsheads. The Patuxent River was navigable as far north as Queen Anne (established c. 1730 and now known as Hardesty), maps as early as 1685 show several settled plantations in the area, including Mt. Calvert (or Calvert Manor) on the south (west) bank above Mattapany Creek, and Ann Arundel Manor and Portland Manor on the north (east) bank above Lyons Creek.<sup>1</sup>

In 1686, Richard Snowden, who was granted a patent for 1,976 acres called *Robin Hood's Forest*, initiated the expansion west along the upper Patuxent. Others followed, mostly with smaller acreages, through the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup> Roads connecting the local river ports of Queen Anne, Port Tobacco, and Alexandria, Virginia encouraged settlement in this relatively inland area. These roads, first shown on the 1751 Frye and Patterson Map of Maryland, were certainly in existence by the time of Queen Anne's establishment around 1730.<sup>3</sup> By 1748, western settlement had moved even farther inland and the county of Frederick was carved from the western lands of Prince George's County, including the land that would later become Montgomery, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties.

While the western counties would pursue a grain based farming economy through the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Prince George's County continued to hold to the tobacco culture, increasingly dependent on slave labor and large land holdings. However, the establishment of the United States capital city of Washington, D.C. in 1790, carved from the southwest corner of Prince George's County, and the emergence of Baltimore as a major regional market, made possible some diversification in production. The presence of several grist and sawmills along the upper Patuxent implies enough grain and wood products to support these industries (See Griffith 1794 map).

Dramatic advances in transportation facilitated development of agriculture and industry in Maryland. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, whose main line west and various branch lines would prove to be one of the most important transportation improvements, began construction in 1828. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, begun in Georgetown in 1828 and completed in Cumberland in 1854, also improved product to market transportation. Road improvements throughout the state were initiated by construction of the National Road (c.1806), to which a

---

<sup>1</sup> Papenfuss and Coale. *Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982), p.21.

<sup>2</sup> John F. Pousson. "Archeological Overview and Assessment, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland." (Denver Service Center, NPS, 1987), p. 29.

<sup>3</sup> Papenfuss and Coale. p. 34.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

---

network of improved turnpike roads from the east were connected, beginning a turnpike corporation frenzy throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By 1827, the Baltimore-Washington Turnpike (now Route 1) crossed Prince George's County providing efficient surface transportation for people and products. The B & O Railroad's Washington Branch was constructed in the County by 1840. The Potomac and Patuxent Rivers, silted from years of clear-cut logging and intensive agriculture along their banks, were becoming less vital in the transportation network.<sup>4</sup>

With the end of the Civil War in 1865 came the decline of plantation agriculture. The large farms of southern and eastern Maryland, prohibitive to operate with paid labor, were subdivided and sold.<sup>5</sup> By 1900, a century and a half of tobacco cultivation had depleted the soils of Prince George's County, coal-powered industries around Baltimore City had replaced local water-powered mills and furnaces, and much of the country's grain production had been shifted to the mid-west states by the railroads. Although many farms along the rivers continued to produce tobacco into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the land was classified as marginal farmland in the 1930s by President Roosevelt's New Deal Resettlement Administration, purchased by the government, and retired from production.

Roosevelt's "Land Program," an outgrowth of government experiments with land reform in the early 1930s, was officially established in 1934 and administered through the Resettlement Administration. Described by L. C. Gray, Assistant Administrator of the Resettlement Administration, "... its primary purpose was to remove uneconomic crop land from cultivation."<sup>6</sup> However, Gray noted, the program was also dedicated to the additional purpose of identifying land for 'better use':

... namely, to select areas for public acquisition on the basis of desirable social and economic adjustments which can be accomplished only through public ownership... The Land Program is selecting certain areas to be converted to forestry, grazing, recreation, and wildlife conservation, primarily because chronic poverty, erosion and other forms of land wastage, tax delinquency, and increasing burdens of local government and relief demand that these land be used to better advantage.<sup>7</sup>

The Forest Service and the Biological Survey were recipients of some of the largest land allotments across the United States, greatly improving their ability to research and conserve natural resources. The area of Prince George's County encompassing the town of Greenbelt, the

---

<sup>4</sup> Pousson, pp. 27-31.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 31.

<sup>6</sup> L. C. Gray, "The Social and Economic Implications of the National Land Program," *Journal of Farm Economics*, XVIII (May 1936), p. 261.

<sup>7</sup> Gray, p. 262.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

---

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Patuxent Research Refuge (later Patuxent Wildlife Research Center), and several other nearby government installations, is a prime example of Gray's 'economic adjustments.' These not only retired marginal agricultural land, they also converted the land to alternate uses, which created jobs, housing, and advanced scientific research.

Agricultural research activity had begun at Beltsville on a 475-acre farm in 1910.<sup>8</sup> However, the dramatic agricultural failures of the Dust Bowl in the mid-west and of many small family farms in the east through the 1920s and 30s, as well as alarm concerning wide-spread soil depletion, erosion, woodland and wetland damage, and poor crop production, motivated expansion of research facilities centralized at Beltsville in 1934. The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works funded much of the facilities expansion.<sup>9</sup> The Center also benefited from the presence of three Civilian Conservation Corps camps, which provided much of the manpower required for development of the large facility throughout the 1930s.<sup>10</sup>

In 1935, the Bankhead-Jones Act gave a mandate to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), "to conduct scientific, technical, economic, and other research into laws and principles underlying basic problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects; to conduct research to improve the quality of agricultural commodities; to develop new and improved methods for production and distribution; to discover uses for farm products and byproducts; and to study the conservation, development, and use of land and water resources for agricultural purposes."<sup>11</sup>

Research at the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center was conducted by a number of agencies within the Department of Agriculture. Included among those agencies were the Bureau of Animal Industry, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Forest Service. The Biological Survey was also an agency within USDA until it was transferred to the Department of Interior in 1939. As a result, the Patuxent Research Refuge, adjoining the BARC tract on the north and east, was apparently initially included in the boundary of the BARC, even though it was established by Executive Order in 1936 and operated independently from the Center's administration.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> Gladys L. Baker, Wayne D. Rasmussen, Vivian Wiser, and Jane M. Porter, *Century of Service, the first 100 years of The United States Department of Agriculture*, (Washington, D.C.: Centennial Committee, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1963), p. 471.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* p. 225.

<sup>10</sup> Morely, p. 5.

<sup>11</sup> Baker, et al, p. 226.

<sup>12</sup> A 1939 map of the National Agricultural Research Center (BARC) showed the "Biological Survey" area, the Patuxent Research Refuge, included within its boundaries. See Robinson, Figure 5. Morley, p. 5 also implies

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

---

### *Resource History*

The following history of the Forest Service area of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center is taken from the report "Historic Site Survey, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland," prepared by Robinson & Associates, Inc. in 1998 (Vol. I, Historic Context and Recommendations, United States Forest Service section, pp. 177-178):

New Deal funding gave the Forest Service the opportunity for a greater role in national conservation. This expansion began under the McSweeney-McNary Act of 1928, which enlarged the Forest Services' forest research program.<sup>13</sup> Under it, the Forest Service established tree growth experiment stations on private woodlands that offered instruction in "how to manage cut-over lands."<sup>14</sup> Twelve major experimental forests across the United States furthered development of "scientific forestry methods especially adapted to each area." At BARC, a 4,000-acre tract of oak and pine with mixed species of minor hardwood was designated for the study of Eastern forestry problems.<sup>15</sup> The Forest Service tract contained a small group of buildings which date to c. 1938.<sup>16</sup> Civilian Conservation Corps landscape architect R. T. Walker produced a planting plan for the Forest Service group in June 1940. The program of the tract included its use as a demonstration model for "combination grazing and forestry," specialized tree cultivation, and a miniature of the great woodlands which once covered most of the middle Atlantic coastal plain.<sup>17</sup> The USDA later intended that the tract become part of the "Allegheny National Forest Experiment Station at Philadelphia, one of the nation's major experimental stations."<sup>18</sup>

---

that the two research areas were originally considered as one in his discussion about setting the entire tract up as a game preserve.

<sup>13</sup> Joseph M. Petui, *American Environmental History*, San Francisco: Boyd & Fraser, 1977, p.67; as cited in Robinson report, Vol. I, p. 177.

<sup>14</sup> Petui, *American Environmental History*, p. 67; as cited in Robinson report, Vol. I, p. 177.

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Resettlement Administration, *National Agricultural Research Center*, 1937; as cited in Robinson report, p. 177

<sup>16</sup> BARC Facility Engineering Archives, United States Department of Agriculture, *Grading For General Layout*, by R.B. McDonnell, Beltsville, MD, 1938. BARC Facility Engineering Archives, United States Department of Agriculture, *General Layout Plan, Forest Service Group, NARC*, Beltsville, MD, 1938. BARC Facility Engineering Archives, United States Department of Agriculture, *US Forest Service Group, Planting Plan*, by R.T. Walker, Beltsville, MD, June 1940. As cited in Robinson, Vol. I, p. 177.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 5

---

Other research experimental work at the Forest service tract included studies of Virginia, pitch, and loblolly pines; fast growth pulp and timber crops on worn agricultural land; plant spacing and pruning investigations; plant physiology; brush disposal investigations; and forest-soil relations.<sup>19</sup> The service also studied "root growth and behavior...[a] technic [sic] for handling seed for nurseries, for transplanting young plants under field or woods conditions," and collection, storage, and germination of "certain little-known species used in field windbreaks and shelterbelts."<sup>20</sup>

Although the Forest Service controlled major land areas at BARC through the 1950s, today most of that land is no longer owned by the Department of Agriculture.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup> United States Department of Agriculture. *The National Agricultural Research Center of the Department of Agriculture*. Beltsville, MD, 1939. As cited in Robinson, Vol. I, p. 178.

<sup>20</sup> United States Department of Agriculture. *Beltsville Research Center Information*. Beltsville, MD, 1941. As cited in Robinson, Vol. I, p. 178.

<sup>21</sup> The largest portion of the Forest Service land is now part of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Notation by Robinson, Vol. I, p. 178.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Inventory No. PG-64-15

See continuation sheet.

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property Approximately 100 acres

Acreage of historical setting \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name LaurelQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The South Tract Forest Service Historic District boundaries are shown on the attached USGS Laurel Quadrangle Map. The boundaries are drawn to include only the historic building complex associated with the Forest Service research area, the adjacent fire pond, and immediately surrounding wooded area following natural contours of the land.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian; Edie Wallace, Historian  
organization Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. date 1/02  
street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070  
city or town Hagerstown state Maryland

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

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

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. PG-64-15

Name South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

---

### Bibliography

- Baker, Gladys L., Wayne D. Rasmussen, Vivian Wiser, and Jane M. Porter. *Century of Service, the first 100 years of The United States Department of Agriculture*. Washington, D.C.: Centennial Committee, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1963.
- Gray, L. C. "The Social and Economic Implications of the National Land Program." *Journal of Farm Economics*, XVIII, May 1936.
- Morley, Dr. Leland B. *Early History of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center*. PWRC, original manuscript, 1948.
- Nelson, A. L. "The Patuxent Research Refuge." Reprinted from *The Bulletin for Medical Research*, January-February, 1959. Located on [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/library](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/library).
- Papenfuse, Edward C. and Joseph M. Coale III, *Atlas of Historical Maps of Maryland, 1608-1908*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982.
- Pousson, John F. "Archeological Overview and Assessment, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland." Denver Service Center, NPS, 1987.
- Robinson & Associates, Inc. "Historic Site Survey, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland." Vol. I, Historic Context and Recommendations. Washington, D.C.: USDA, 1998.
- Walsh, Richard and William Lloyd Fox, eds. *Maryland: A History 1632-1974*. Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1974.



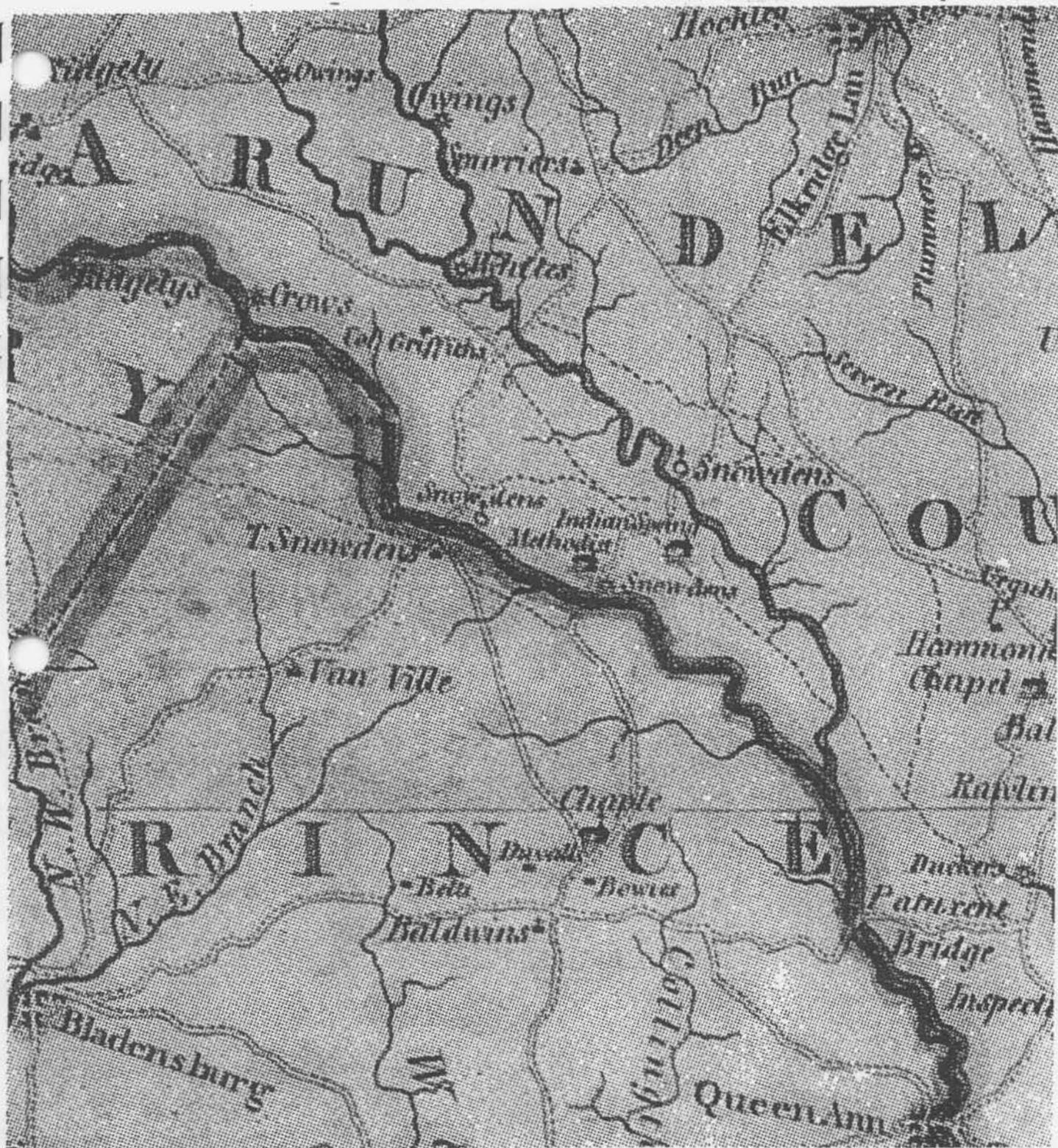


FIGURE 7. Detail from Griffith's Map of Maryland - 1794.  
 (From: PWR "Archaeology Overview and Assessment," NPS, 1997)



MIHP # PG-64-15  
 SOUTH TRACT FOREST SERVICE  
 HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MARYLAND



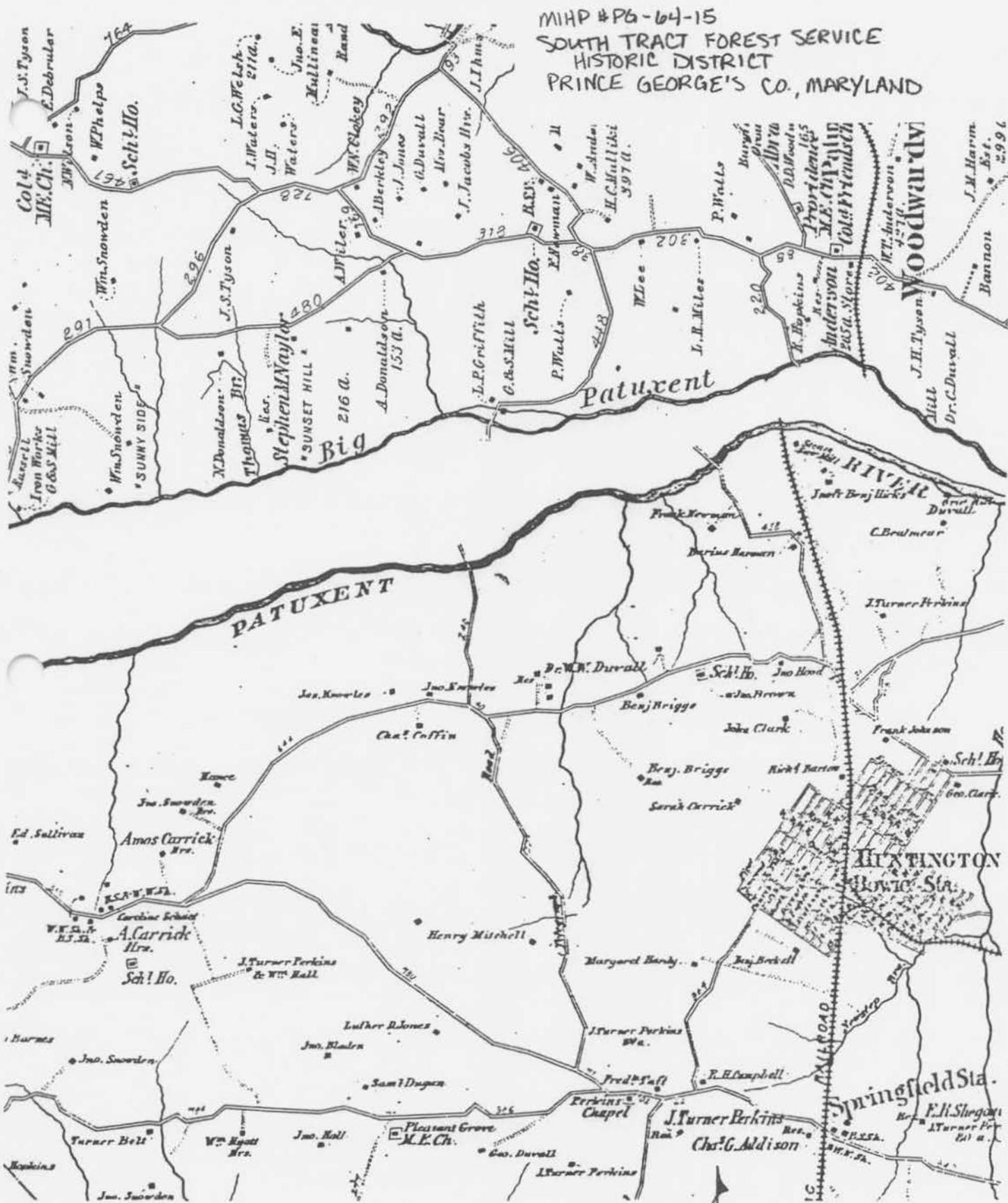
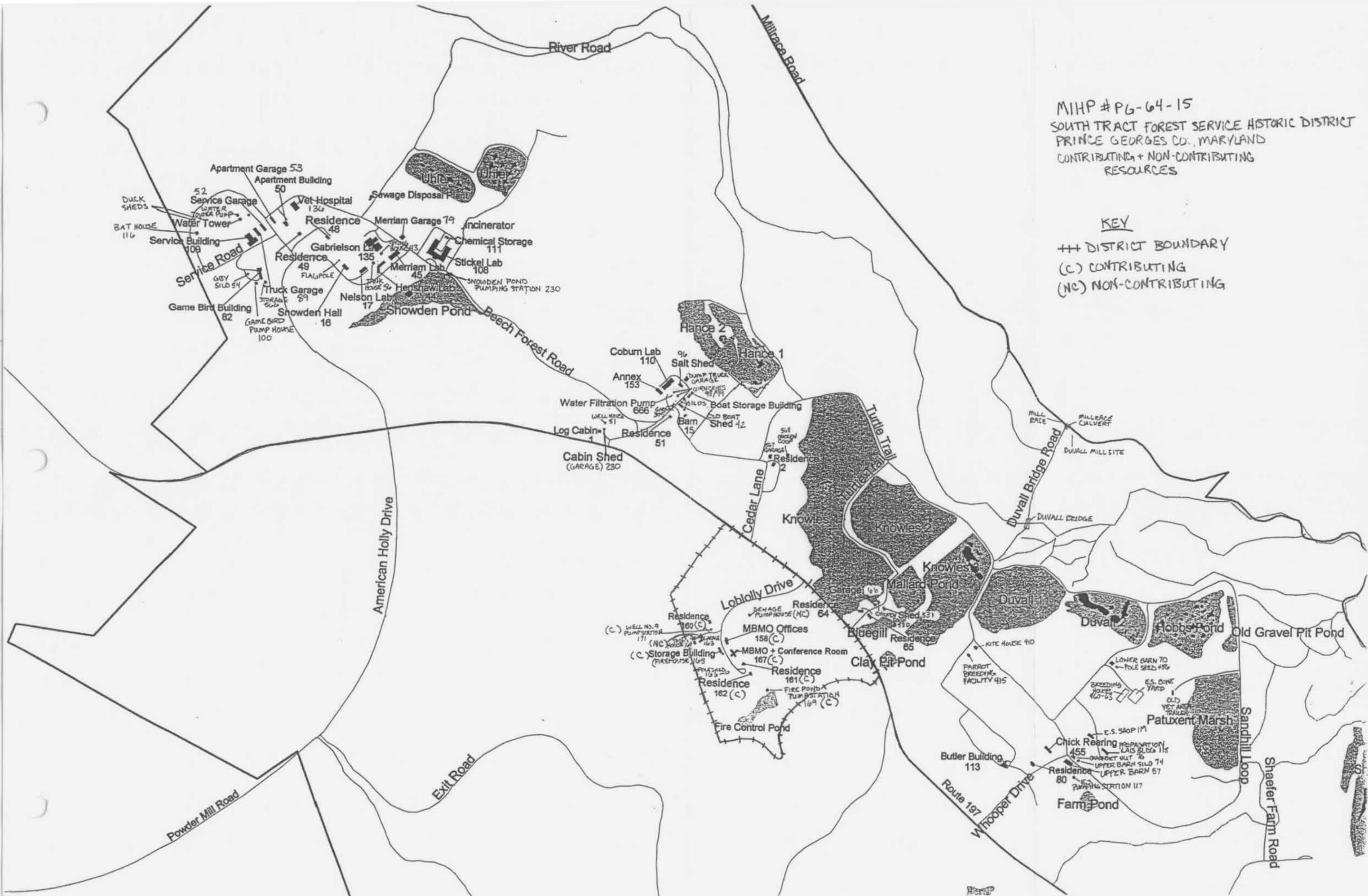


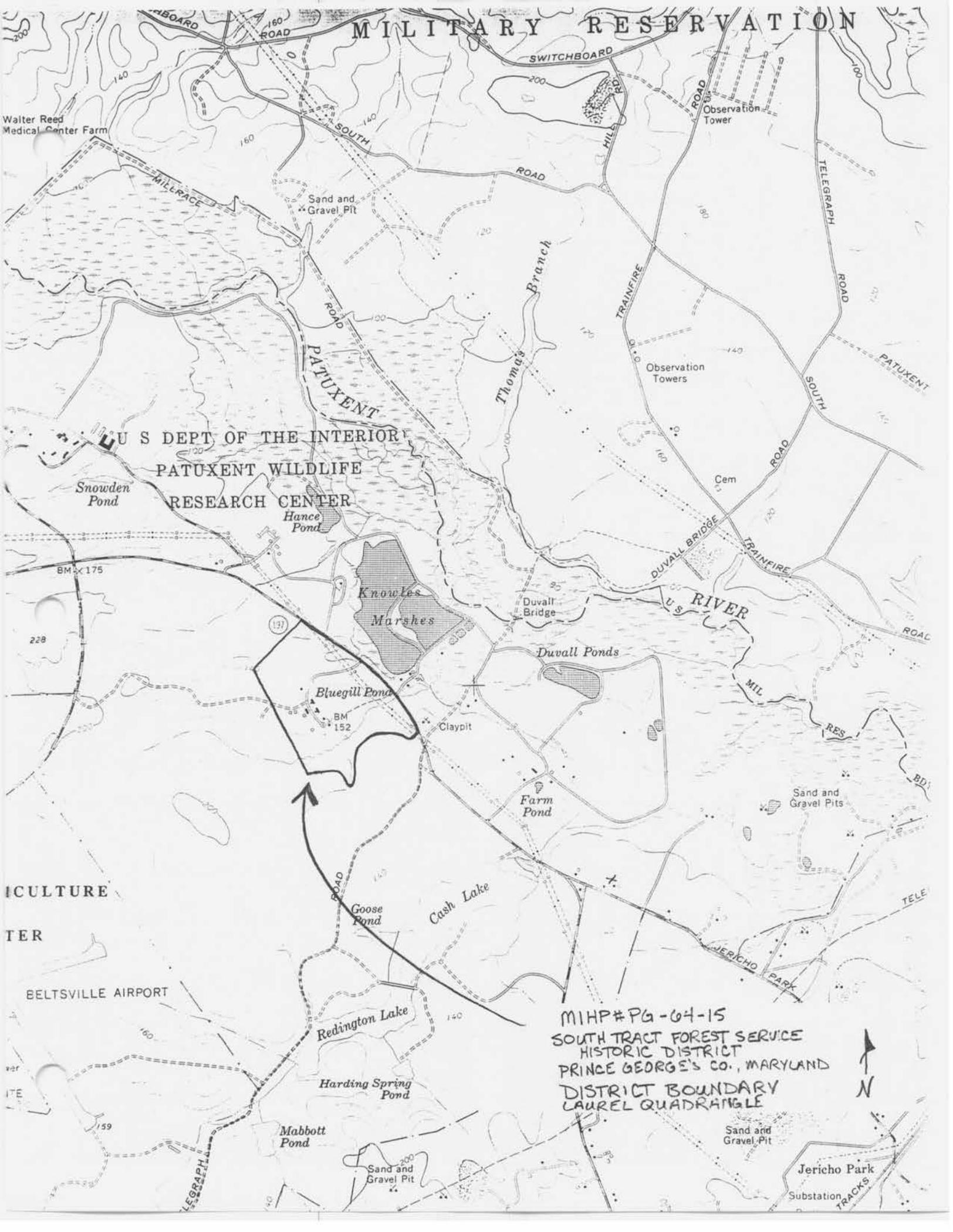
FIGURE 11. Details from Hopkins' Maps of Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties - 1878. (From: PWRC "Archeology Overview and Assessment," NPS, 1987)

MIHP # PG-64-15  
 SOUTH TRACT FOREST SERVICE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 PRINCE GEORGES CO., MARYLAND  
 CONTRIBUTING + NON-CONTRIBUTING  
 RESOURCES

KEY  
 ++ DISTRICT BOUNDARY  
 (C) CONTRIBUTING  
 (NC) NON-CONTRIBUTING



# MILITARY RESERVATION



U S DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
PATUXENT WILDLIFE  
RESEARCH CENTER

MIHP# PG-04-15  
SOUTH TRACT FOREST SERVICE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MARYLAND  
DISTRICT BOUNDARY  
LAUREL QUADRANGLE





PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District

Potomac Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Garage and Tool House (Firehouse), Bldg # 105, E elevation,  
view SW

5/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District

Paternent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Garage and Tool House (Firehouse), Bldg #165, E elevation,  
view NW

6/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

MBMO Offices, Bldg #158, W elevation, view NE

7/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

MBMO Offices, Bldg # 107, W elevation, view SE

8/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co..

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

MBMO Offices Bldg #167, S and W elevations, view N

9/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

MBMO Offices, Bldg #167, N elevation, view SE

10/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Potuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince Georges Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Residence #161, S and W elevations, view N

11/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Residence # 162, W elevation, view E

12/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Building complex approach on Loblolly Dr., view SW

1/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Sewage facility pumphouse, view SE

2/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

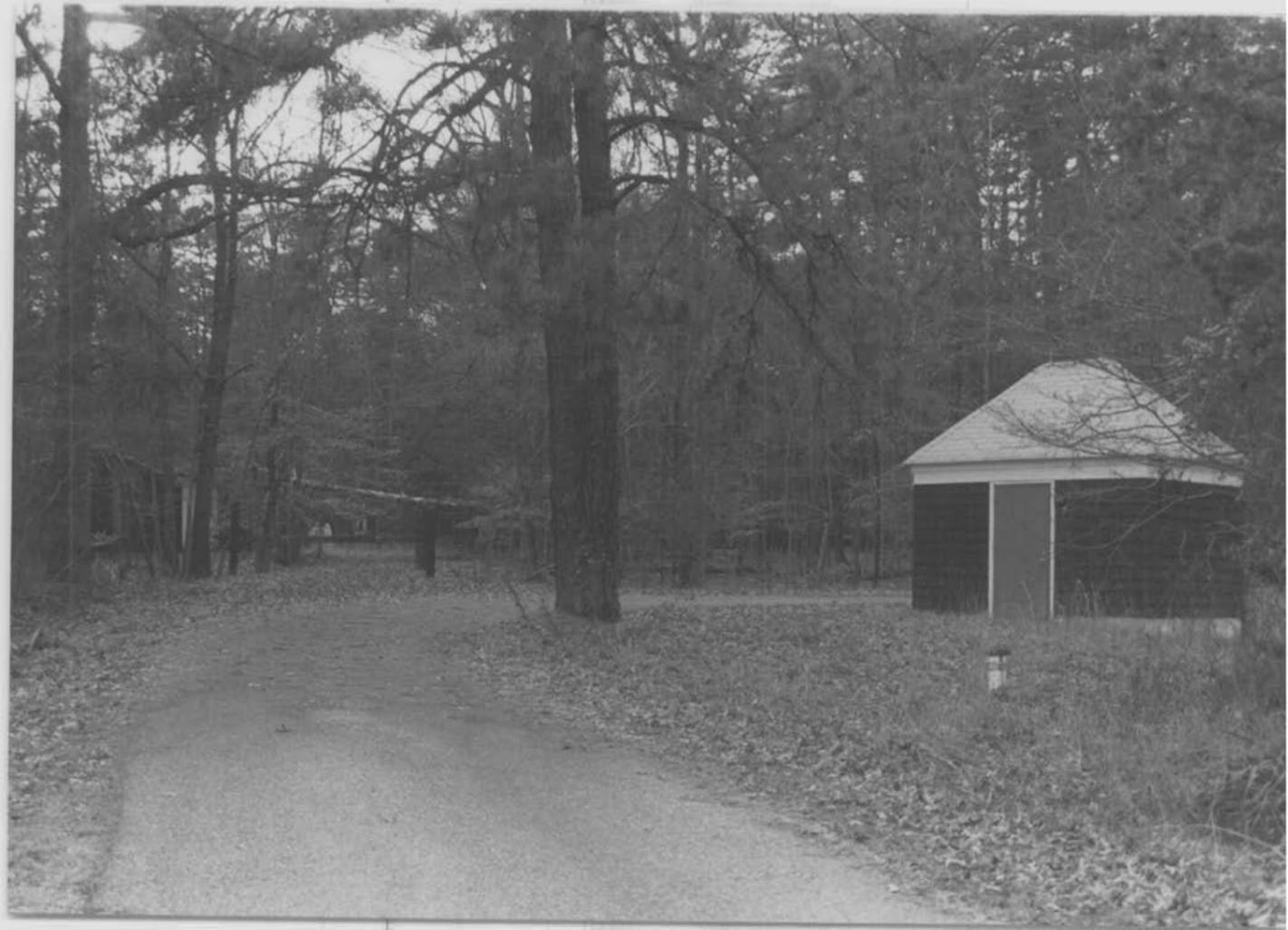
Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Residence #160, E elevation, view NW

3/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince Georges Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Pump station, Bldg # 171, S elevation, view SW toward  
several vacant, dilapidated buildings

4/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Boat Garage, Bldg # 166, view W

13/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center  
Prince Georges Co.

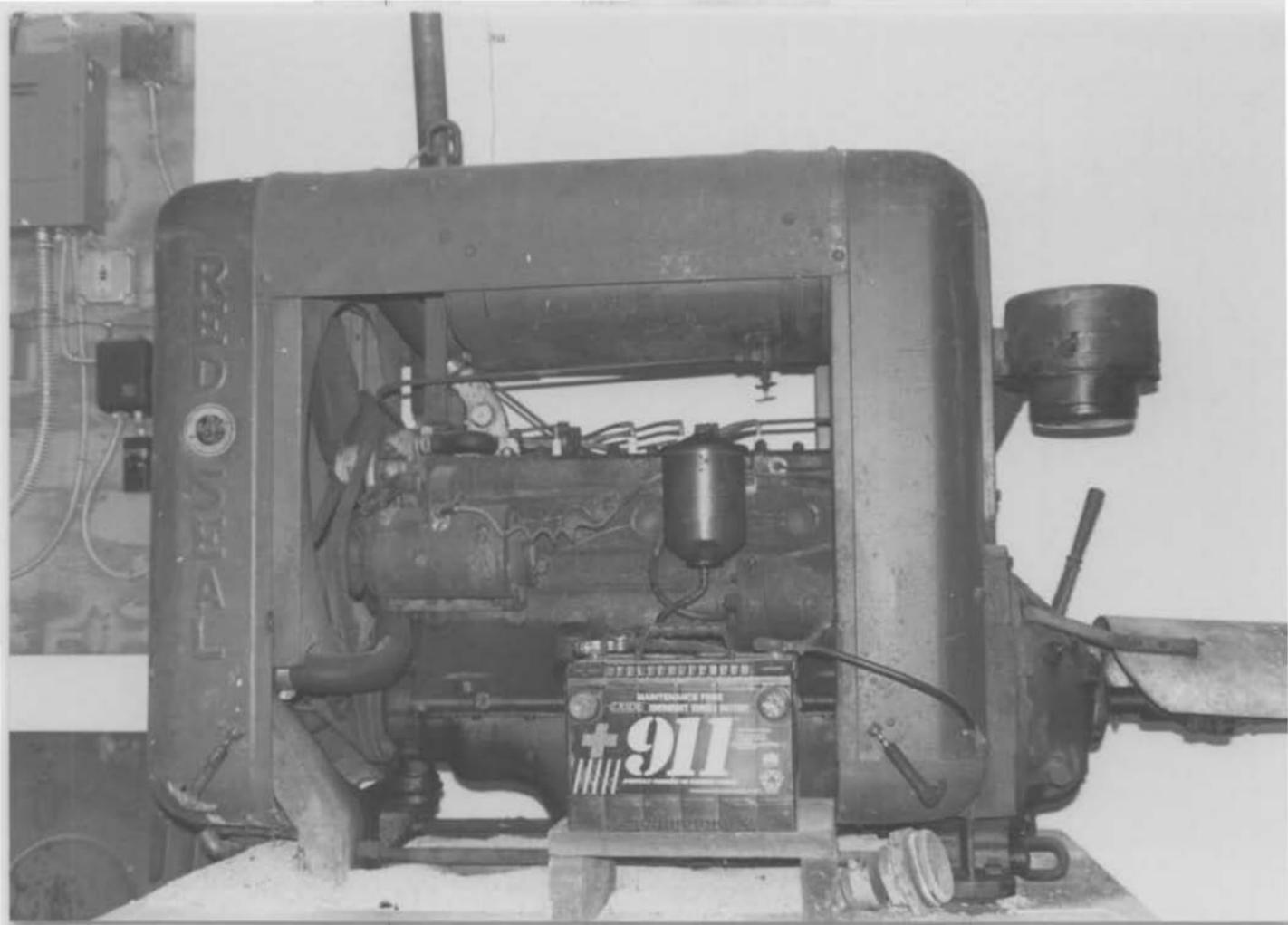
Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Pumping Station, Bldg #169, and Firepond impoundment,  
view NE

14/16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Pumping Station Bldg # 169, interior, detail of machinery

15/  
16



PG-64-15

South Tract Forest Service Historic District  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center  
Prince George's Co.

Paula Reed

11/01

MDSHPO

Pumping Station, Bldg # 169, interior, detail of machinery

16/  
16