

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District  
Other names/site number: U.S. Monitoring Station No. 1; DHR #030-0020  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: Aiken Drive, Kennedy Road, Vint Hill Parkway, Farm Station Road, Bludau Drive, Sigler Road  
City or town: Warrenton State: VA County: Fauquier  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national     statewide     local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A     B     C     D

Julie D. Sanger 9/27/2021  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official: Date  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>40</u>	<u>25</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>50</u>	<u>28</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE/military facility \_\_\_\_\_

DOMESTIC/institutional housing \_\_\_\_\_

GOVERNMENT/fire station \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION/religious facility \_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY/cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater, sports facility \_\_\_\_\_

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/energy facility \_\_\_\_\_

HEALTH CARE/clinic \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

COMMERCE/TRADE/business, restaurant, warehouse \_\_\_\_\_

GOVERNMENT/government office \_\_\_\_\_

EDUCATION/school \_\_\_\_\_

RELIGION/religious facility \_\_\_\_\_

FUNERARY/cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater, museum, sports facility, outdoor recreation \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/ Italianate

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Commercial  
Style

MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne, International Style

OTHER

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, CONCRETE, METAL/Aluminum,  
METAL/Steel, STONE/Slate, GLASS, SYNTHETICS/Vinyl

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District is a 126-acre former military complex located outside of Warrenton, Virginia in Fauquier County that includes a mixture of industrial and commercial buildings, warehouses, recreational and cultural buildings, and institutional residential buildings. The property originated as an approximately 721-acre farm and was purchased as Field Monitoring Station No. 1 for the U.S. Army in 1942. The existing 126-acre district includes resources from four periods of construction: 1860-1941, 1942-1945, 1946-1974, and 1975-1995. The district includes a total of 78 resources, and 38 of the 51 primary resources are contributing resources. Overall, there are 50 contributing resources, including 40 buildings, 2 sites, and 8 structures, and 28 noncontributing resources, including 25 buildings, 2 structures, and 1 object. The district's resources primarily consist of one-story industrial and commercial military buildings, and agricultural resources that have been adapted first for military use and later to commercial use. Two large residential barracks buildings remain on the southern end of the district. The area surrounding Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District largely retains its rural setting and is adjacent to modern residential suburban developments. The district and its contributing resources retain integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## **Narrative Description**

### **Setting**

The Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District is a 126-acre military complex located in Fauquier County, Virginia, northeast of the city of Warrenton. The district largely retains its rural setting despite that it is adjacent to modern residential suburban developments. The district is bordered on the east by a medium-density residential subdivision, to the south and west by wooded land interspersed with large, rural residential properties, and to the north by agricultural land and widely dispersed commercial properties. Mature trees, shrubs, decorative plantings, and grass covered fields are located throughout the district.

### **Architectural Description and Development of Vint Hill Farms Station**

#### **Vint Hill Farms Estate**

The Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District developed through four phases of construction, with the first phase stretching from 1860 to 1941. The first phase of construction occurred during the property's origins as a farm and included resources such as the former **Manor House** (The Inn at Vint Hill, -0031), **Silvermead** (later Building T-25, -0015), and the **Barn Complex** (-0017; -0018; -0019; -0020; -0021; -0022; -0023). The Manor House (-0031) was constructed ca. 1860 by Andrew Low as an Italianate manor house for the Vint Hill farm. In 1916, Mitchell Harrison, the estate's subsequent owner, made substantial additions and alterations to the manor house that reflect characteristics of the Colonial Revival style popular during the early twentieth century. The building's decorative Italianate cornice brackets were removed for a more traditional box cornice. Additionally, the three-sided bay windows were replaced with square bay windows. Many of the exterior features were also engulfed by the large exterior additions to the house during the early twentieth century. Associated with the main house was a Colonial Revival-style well house (**Building 242**, -0029), a vernacular buggy shed and kennel (**Building S-241**, -0028), and a Dutch Revival style garage and office (**Building 240**, -0027). Silvermead (-0015), was constructed ca. 1888 as a two-story I-house for Andrew Low's son, Douglas Low.

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*Figure 1: Low family outside of Vint Hill Manor House, c. 1880. This photo depicts the Manor House in its original Italianate style. Courtesy of Fauquier County.*



*Figure 2: Vint Hill Manor House following the additions and alterations made by Mitchell Harrison, c. 1920. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.*

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## Vint Hill during World War II

The second phase of construction occurred following the purchase of Vint Hill by the U.S. Army in 1942 and lasted until the end of World War II in 1945. During this time the Army utilized extant buildings from the Harrison farm. The Army converted the **Barn Complex** (-0017; -0018; -0019; -0020; -0021; 0022; 0023) to function as the Operations Building Complex; the former **Manor house** (Inn at Vint Hill, -0031) into temporary sleeping quarters and then into an administrative building; the former buggy shed and kennel (**Building S-241**, -0028) into the Officer's Club and office space; the Dutch Revival garage (**Building 240**, -0027) as the Telephone Exchange Building; and Silvermead (**Building T-255**, -0015) into housing for the Post Commander. The Army also constructed a collection of purpose-built temporary and semi-permanent buildings of wood frame and concrete block construction. Among the buildings intended to serve temporary purposes, but remain extant are the **Post Chapel** (Redeemer Baptist Church, -0048), a T-shaped church constructed in 1943, and three long, rectangular administrative buildings and storage warehouses dubbed **Building T-303 (-0041)**, **Building T-304 (-0042)**, and **Building T-305 (-0043)**. Other resources constructed during this phase include the subterranean **Transformer Vault (-0026)**, the post fire station or **Building T-226 (-0016)**, the Post Headquarters Administrative Building or **Building S-101 (-0001)**, and the Post Exchange Building or **Building S-102 (-0002)**.

## Cold War Expansion at Vint Hill Farms Station

The third phase of construction is associated with the installation's Cold War-era expansion and lasted until 1974, when the station's mission changed and its Cold War-era wide-band extraction activities ceased. During this phase, the Army undertook a large building campaign that primarily consisted of one-to-two-story concrete block and wood frame buildings that supported the station's mission and improved quality of life for the enlisted men and women. Many of these buildings feature Moderne and International Style influences, and were constructed as permanent facilities to replace the temporary and semi-permanent buildings constructed during World War II. The buildings from this period generally fall into three categories: recreational and social amenities, residential, and operations expansion.

### *Recreational and Social Amenities*

During and immediately following World War II, morale at Vint Hill Farms Station was often reported as being low due to the rural location of the station, the required secrecy surrounding assignments, and the temporary nature of the base's buildings. In order to improve quality of life for the increased number of service men and women assigned to VHFS during the Cold War, the Army constructed a variety of recreational facilities and amenities buildings. From 1948 to 1965, the Army constructed a pool and pool house (**Vint Hill Pool**, -0086), the parade and recreational fields, including baseball fields and tennis courts (**Vint Hill Village Green**, -0092), a gymnasium and recreational building (**Vint Hill Village Green Community Center**, -0090), a theater (**Fauquier Community Theater**, -0037), a bowling alley (**Building 273**, -0085), the

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Non-Commissioned Officers Club and Open Mess Hall (**Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority, -0091**), and a dental clinic (**Building 137, -0083**).

### *Residential*

After World War II, VHFS placed priority on improving the temporary and inadequate facilities that housed the station's troops and dependents. Approximately 30 buildings were constructed or converted into housing, including two barracks and mess facilities for the enlisted men and women (**Building 160, -0093; Building 162, -0094**). The Enlisted Men's Barracks (Building 160, -0093) is a three-story irregularly shaped military barracks building that was initially constructed ca. 1949. The ca. 1949 core of the building is surfaced with common bond brick veneer and includes Moderne-style features such as glass block, streamlined decorative brickwork, flat concrete canopies, and decorative concrete door surrounds on each elevation's entrance. In ca. 1956 and ca. 1966, two additions were constructed to expand the Men's Barracks building. The additions are simpler in design characteristics and lack the Moderne-style elements of the original core. The Enlisted Women's Barracks (Building 162, -0094), is a three-story, rectangular military barracks building constructed ca. 1969 and consisting of a central core flanked by two narrow wings that are slightly recessed from the front and rear of the building. This International Style building has a slight gable slope, is surfaced with running bond brick veneer, and includes replacement vinyl ribbon windows topped with flat, concrete canopies.

### *Operations*

At the outset of the Cold War, Vint Hill Farms Station expanded its operations facilities to support the mission and constructed several new buildings in the 1950s and 1960s. The most important of these buildings was **Building 260 (-0087)**, known at the time as the Operations Building. Constructed ca. 1953, Building 260 replaced the Barn Complex as the central operations building for VHFS and continued to grow with the base. Additions were constructed to Building 260 in 1967, 1968, and 1974. Additional operations expansion included the construction of **Building 2400 (-0095)** as the electronic equipment warehouse and repair shop, **Building 166 (-0077)** as the Signal Photo Lab, and several general administrative and warehouse buildings (**Building 2312, -0022; Building 2410, -0098; Building 158, -0081**).

The fourth and final phase of construction at Vint Hill Farms Station occurred after the period of significance and lasted from 1975 to the post closure in 1997. The buildings constructed during this final phase supported the base's new mission focusing on the storage of Army intelligence material, and therefore were primarily industrial warehouse buildings of steel frame construction with metal siding and roofs.

Throughout the various phases of construction in the Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, construction was primarily oriented around the original resources from the first period of construction, and later oriented around the parade and recreational fields, now the **Vint Hill Village Green (-0092)**. The buildings surrounding the field were connected with a series of walkways that intersected the station to provide pedestrian access to all of the buildings, and

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many are still extant today. As the military complex grew, it expanded from the central area surrounding the parade and recreational fields, expanding to the north, east, and northwest. Much of this growth occurred during the station's Cold War operations from 1942-1974, and following the station's change of mission after 1974. Many of the roadways follow existing patterns that were extant during the district's period of significance; however, due to modern development, a new roadway, Vint Hill Parkway, intersects the north side of the district.



Figure 3: Aerial photo of Vint Hill Farms Station, April 22, 1970. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.

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### Integrity Analysis

The Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District retains a high degree of each of the seven aspects of integrity. The district retains integrity of **location** outside of the city of Warrenton in Fauquier County, Virginia, and with its proximity to Arlington and Washington, D.C. Even though the area surrounding the district now includes a few suburban residential developments, the district largely retains integrity of its rural **setting**. The setting within the district has been minimally affected by the more recent development projects. The buildings within the Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District retain overall integrity of **design** and **workmanship** that convey the property's origins as a plantation with a fine manor house and primary dwelling's subsequent renovation using principles of Colonial Revival, as well as the simple, semi-permanent nature of the buildings associated with the district's military history. The district also largely retains integrity of **materials**. Materials that have been lost or replaced over time primarily include window sash, doors, and roof materials. A few contributing resources have had a significant loss of materials, especially at the Barn Complex. Specialized equipment, such as large antennae and transmitters that stood in large pastures, as well as indoor equipment used for recording, analyzing, and storing data, were continually replaced throughout the VHFS period of significance as technology improved. The sensitivity of the work at VHFS throughout its period of significance meant that these materials were removed when no longer in use and documentation of them remains scarce. The significance and strong association with military history, World War II, and the Cold War, however, allow these buildings to remain contributing for their uses when VHFS was an active military installation. The extant contributing resources within Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District continue to evoke the **feeling** of a former agricultural property adapted to military use, and convey the district's **association** with military history from 1942 to 1974.

Several resources that contributed to the district have been demolished over the years. Following the end of World War II, the Army ordered the demolition of various buildings that had been designed as purpose-built temporary buildings for the war's duration. Demolition of these buildings primarily occurred during the district's period of significance, and their loss conveys the rapid evolution of the district's military functions during the mid-twentieth century. Recently, during the early twenty-first century, additional buildings have been demolished as part of the overall redevelopment of the post by Fauquier County, including the station's four hospital complex buildings and several secondary storage warehouses. These buildings were largely associated with secondary elements of the installation's mission and their loss does not impact the overall cohesiveness of the district's existing resources.

### Inventory

The attached inventory is the result of reconnaissance level survey of the Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District conducted in February 2021. Surveyors documented all resources within the district including secondary resources of substantial size and scale. The 2021 survey resulted in the identification of 78 resources, including 50 contributing and 28 noncontributing resources.



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**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**4225 Aiken Drive**                      **030-0020-0037**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Fauquier Community Theater*

*Primary Resource: Theater (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, Ca  
1951*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**4228 Aiken Drive**                      **030-0020-0085**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Building 273*

*Primary Resource: Bowling Alley (Building), Stories 1, Style: Contemporary, Ca  
1956*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**4235 Aiken Drive**                      **030-0020-0090**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Vint Hill Village Green Community Center*

*Primary Resource: Gymnasium (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style,  
Ca 1949*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)*                      **Contributing**      *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)*                      **Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

**4257 Aiken Drive**                      **030-0020-0002**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Post Exchange Building or Building S-102*

*Primary Resource: Store (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1943*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**4263 Aiken Drive**                      **030-0020-0001**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Post Headquarters Administrative Building or Building S-101*

*Primary Resource: Administration Bldg. (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible  
style, Ca 1942*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*





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**4176 Bludau Drive**      **030-0020-0084**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource:* **Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1983**

**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**4182 Bludau Drive**      **030-0020-0069**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource:* **Service Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1984**

**Non-contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource:* **Pay Station (Object)**

**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**4227 Bludau Drive 030-0020-0083** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Dental Clinic or Building 137*

*Primary Resource:* **Clinic (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, Ca 1965**

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource:* **Shed (Building)**

**Contributing Total: 1**

**4248 Bludau Drive 030-0020-0082** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource:* **Pool House (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2003**

**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**4260 Bludau Drive**      **030-0020-0081**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Building 158*

*Primary Resource:* **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, Ca 1966**

**Contributing Total: 1**

**4285 Bludau Drive**      **030-0020-0094**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Enlisted Women's Barracks or Building 162*

*Primary Resource:* **Dormitory/Barrack (Building), Stories 3, Style: International Style, Ca 1969**

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**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**4301 Bludau Drive**                      **030-0020-0078**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Motel/Motel Court (Building), Stories 1, Style: Contemporary,  
Ca 1990*    **Non-contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)*    **Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Cosner Court**

**7196 Cosner Court**                      **030-0020-0080**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1983*  
**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**7198 Cosner Court**                      **030-0020-0079**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1993*  
**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**Farm Station Road**

**7112 Farm Station Road**                      **030-0020-0099**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca  
1993*  
**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**7114-7116 Farm Station Road**      **030-0020-0100**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca  
1987*    **Non-contributing Total: 1**  
*Secondary Resource: Silo (Structure)*    **Non-contributing Total: 1**

**7118-7120 Farm Station Road** **030-0020-0102** *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca  
1990*  
**Non-contributing Total: 1**

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**7122 Farm Station Road 030-0020-0101**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource:* **Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1983**

**Non-contributing Total: 1**

**7124-7138 Farm Station Road 030-0020-0098**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Building 2410*

*Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1952**

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource:* **Shelter (Building)**

**Non-contributing Total: 1**

### **Johnson Drive**

**6862 Johnson Drive 030-0020-0086**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Vint Hill Pool*

*Primary Resource:* **Pool House (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1948**

**Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource:* **Pool/Swimming Pool (Structure) Contributing Total: 1**

*Secondary Resource:* **Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 2**

*Secondary Resource:* **Shelter (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1**

### **Kennedy Road**

**7136 Kennedy Road 030-0020-0041**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Administrative building/ storage warehouse*

*Primary Resource:* **Administration Bldg. (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1943**

**Contributing Total: 1**

**7138 Kennedy Road 030-0020-0042**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Administrative building/ storage warehouse*

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*Primary Resource:* **Administration Bldg. (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1943**

**Contributing**      *Total:* 1

**7140 Kennedy Road**                      **030-0020-0043**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Administrative building/ storage warehouse*

*Primary Resource:* **Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1943**

**Contributing**      *Total:* 1

**7172 Kennedy Road**                      **030-0020-0091**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Non-Commissioned Officers Club and Open Mess Hall (now the Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority)*

*Primary Resource:* **Government Office (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, Ca 1959**

**Contributing**      *Total:* 1

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)*

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

**Kennedy Road**                              **030-0020-0089**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource:* **Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1960**

**Contributing**      *Total:* 1

**Lineweaver Road**

**7148 Lineweaver Road**                      **030-0020-0020**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Part of Barn Complex; later the Operations Building Complex*

*Primary Resource:* **Barn (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1916**

**Contributing**      *Total:* 1

**7150 Lineweaver Road**                      **030-0020-0019**

*Other DHR Id#:*

*Part of Barn Complex; later the Operations Building Complex*

*Primary Resource:* **Barn (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1916**

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**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**7166 Lineweaver Road 030-0020-0017**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Part of Barn Complex; later the Operations Building Complex*

*Primary Resource: Privy (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1916*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**7167 Lineweaver Road 030-0020-0016**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Building T-226*

*Primary Resource: Fire Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1942*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**7168 Lineweaver Road 030-0020-0018**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Part of Barn Complex; later the Operations Building Complex*

*Primary Resource: Blacksmith Shop (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1916*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**7172 Lineweaver Road 030-0020-0023**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Part of Barn Complex; later the Operations Building Complex*

*Primary Resource: Storage (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1916*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**Lineweaver Road 030-0020-0022**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Part of Barn Complex; Building 2312 or Operations Building Complex*

*Primary Resource: Shed (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1952*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**Lineweaver Road 030-0020-0021**      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Part of Barn Complex; later the Operations Building Complex*

*Primary Resource: Barn (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1916*

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**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

### Sigler Road

**4200 Sigler Road**                      **030-0020-0093**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Enlisted Men's Barracks or Building 160*

*Primary Resource: Dormitory/Barrack (Building), Stories 3, Style: Moderne, Ca 1949*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shelter (Building)*                      **Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

**4221 Sigler Road**                      **030-0020-0076**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Primary Resource: Power Plant (Structure), Stories, Style: Moderne, Ca 1949*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

**4245 Sigler Road**                      **030-5800**                      *Other DHR Id#: 030-0020-0103*

*Building 165 or Enlisted Men's Service Club*

*Primary Resource: Office/Office Building. (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, Ca 1959*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)*                      **Contributing** *Total: 1*

**4260 Sigler Road**      **030-0020-0077**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Building 166 or Signal Photo Lab*

*Primary Resource: Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1958*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*

### Watson Court

**6872 Watson Court**                      **030-0020-0087**                      *Other DHR Id#:*

*Operations Building or Building 260*

*Primary Resource: Government Office (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, Ca 1953*

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*Secondary Resource: Government Office (Building)*  
*Secondary Resource: Warehouse (Building)*

**Contributing**      *Total: 1*  
**Contributing**      *Total: 1*  
**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MILITARY

**Period of Significance**

1942-1974

**Significant Dates**

November 10, 1943

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Harrison, Mitchell

Laburnum Construction Corporation

Low, Andrew

United States Army

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, located in Fauquier County, Virginia, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Military at the national level of significance. Vint Hill Farms Station was established in 1942 to serve as an Army intelligence operations and monitoring station, and became known as Monitoring Station No. 1. The installation's rural location, yet close proximity to the Army's central intelligence headquarters at Arlington Hall and the Washington, DC area, made it an ideal location. Vint Hill Farms Station served as a monitoring, operations, and cryptanalysis school during World War II. The most significant of the declassified wartime activities that occurred at Vint Hill Farms Station occurred on November 10, 1943, when Army Private Leonard Mudloff intercepted and deciphered coded messages from the Japanese Ambassador in Berlin, Oshima Hiroshi, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. Mudloff produced the first and most complete version of Oshima's report, and his was reportedly the first draft delivered to General George C. Marshall at the Pentagon and Admiral William D. Leahy at the White House. The message included great detail about the Atlantic Wall, its components, and German troop dispositions to the rear, and informed the Allies' planning for the successful D-Day invasion at Normandy in 1944. Also during the war, Japanese Americans who were trained in cryptanalysis were stationed at VHFS, and women enlisted in the Women's Army Corps served here initially as clerical staff but soon moved into roles as cryptanalysts, mathematicians, and linguists. Following World War II, VHFS continued to serve as a central monitoring station for Army intelligence operations associated with Cold War conflicts, as well as the headquarters for wide-band extraction activities in the United States. Most of the military records associated with the installation's Cold War use remain classified; however, information about how changing technology affected post operations is available, as well as where and how the facility fit into the Department of Defense's larger Cold War strategy. Assorted feature articles in local newspapers and publications for military personnel also shed light on the Cold War period. Vint Hill Farms Station grew steadily from the early 1950s to the latter years of the Cold War, an indication of its continuing importance in U.S. intelligence collection and analysis missions. The Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District has a period of significance beginning in 1942, when it was first established as an Army intelligence monitoring station, to 1974, when its Cold War-era wide-band extraction activities ceased. The installation remained an essential post for the storage of Army intelligence material through its closure in 1997.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Early History**

The Vint Hill Farms Station property first became a successfully farmed estate in 1860 when Andrew Low purchased 729 acres of land from a 1,041-acre tract, which appeared on maps as "Vint Hill" as early as 1821. During his ownership of the property, Low became a successful

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sheep and cattle farmer, and undertook a series of improvements, including the construction of the main house ca. 1860 and a two-story frame house, known as Silvermead, ca. 1888. In 1911, the property was conveyed to Mitchell Harrison, who changed the property's name to Vint Hill Farms, expanded the property's tradition of breeding and showing sheep and cattle, and undertook a large building campaign which included renovations to the main house and the construction of numerous outbuildings such as the Barn Complex. Following his death in 1927, Vint Hill Farms passed to Harrison's heirs, and by 1942 the buildings on the property were in poor condition.<sup>1</sup>

### Establishing Vint Hill Farms Station

At the outset of the United States involvement in World War II, the Army was in search of a new home for the Signal Intelligence Service (SIS) monitoring station and training school. The SIS had been established on April 24, 1930, with a focus on intercepting radio transmissions, rather than intercepting telegrams as had been done during and following World War I.<sup>2</sup> Soon after, SIS director William F. Friedman established the Signal Intelligence School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, to supply the SIS with personnel trained in deciphering coded communications, known as cryptanalysts. The school also trained personnel to operate and maintain cryptographic equipment, or the machines that created coded communications. The first intercept station was opened at Battery Cove (Jones Point) in Alexandria, Virginia.<sup>3</sup>

Following the disaster at Pearl Harbor, the Secretary of War conducted an appraisal of the nation's intelligence system. By March 1942, the Army was authorized to increase the number of trained translators and code analysts in order to support WWII intelligence efforts. The SIS also identified a need for a larger headquarters facility and an intelligence monitoring station closer to Washington to make "transmitting, deciphering and translating, and expediting the messages more efficient."<sup>4</sup> In June 1942, the United States Army acquired Vint Hill Farms from the Harrison Heirs for \$127,500 for use as Monitoring Station No. 1 for the SIS.<sup>5</sup> The site was used for intelligence monitoring and interception, as well as an intelligence training school for officers and enlisted personnel. The location was chosen for its proximity to Washington D.C. and Arlington Hall, the newly established SIS headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Vint Hill Farms was also considered an ideal location because its rural setting provided "magnetic-interference-free qualities" that allowed for better signals for transmission interception.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Denette R. Adams and Kise, Franks & Straw, "The History of Vint Hill Farms Station," *A Reprinted Version of the History of Vint Hill Farms Station* (undated), 50-53.

<sup>2</sup> John Salmon, "From Farm to Secret Monitoring Station: The Story of Vint Hill Farms Station," (2014), 4-6; James Bamford, *The Puzzle Palace: A Report on America's Most Secret Agency* (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1982), 5-11.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Salmon, "From Farm to Secret Monitoring Station," 6; Bamford, *Puzzle Palace*, 36-39.

<sup>5</sup> John Patrick Finnegan, *Army Lineage Series: Military Intelligence*, (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1998); Adams and Kise, Franks & Straw, "The History of Vint Hill Farms Station," 53.

<sup>6</sup> Finnegan, *Army Lineage Series*; John J. Accordino, *Captives of the Cold War Economy: The Struggle for Defense Conversion in American Communities* (Greenwood Publishing Group, 2000), 90.

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On July 12, 1942, Vint Hill Farms was officially occupied by the U.S. Army, and the erection of radio intercept antennas began immediately.<sup>7</sup> Between July and August of 1942, operations at Vint Hill Farms Station were carried out in the Manor House (**The Inn at Vint Hill; -0031**). The upper floors of the house were utilized as officer's sleeping quarters. Tents for enlisted men were pitched on the lawn. In August 1942, the **Barn Complex (-0017; -0018; -0019; -0020; -0021; 0022; 0023)** was converted into the permanent monitoring facility for the base.<sup>8</sup>

Although the station was able to utilize the existing building stock at Vint Hill, the physical requirements of the station's mission necessitated the construction of additional buildings. Due to the wartime constraints and immediate need for additional buildings, many of the buildings constructed were intentionally built as temporary or semi-permanent buildings. Among those resources were temporary barracks (most of which have been demolished), administrative and operational buildings, as well as a few buildings meant to serve as amenities to the men and women assigned to VHFS. Extant resources constructed between 1942 and 1943 included the Post Headquarters Administrative Building (**Building S-101, -0001**), the fire station (**Building T-226, -0016**), the Post Exchange Building (**Building S-102, -0002**), the Vint Hill Farms Station Chapel (**-0048**), and a myriad of administrative buildings and warehouses such as **Building T-303 (-0041)**, **Building T-304 (-0042)**, and **Building T-305 (-0043)**. Additional buildings that have since been demolished included hospital buildings, Signal School buildings, workshops, and mess facilities.

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<sup>7</sup> "History of Operations, 12 June 1942 – 20 June 1944," 1948 (Courtesy of John Salmon). Note: Antennas were continuously updated through World War II and the Cold War to keep up with advancements in technology.

<sup>8</sup> Mark Swanson and Lisa D. O'Steen, "Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station: Testing of Archaeological Site 44FQ137, Preparation of Civil War Context, and Development of Cold War Context and Inventory," December 1995, for US Army Corps of Engineers; 32.

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Figure 4: The VHFS Barn Complex prior to renovations by the Army, c. 1942. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.



Figure 5: The VHFS Barn Complex following renovation by the Army, undated. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.

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## Cryptanalysis and the Role of Vint Hill Farms Station in World War II

World War II was the first major conflict where the war's outcome was "considerably altered by military intelligence, specifically the breaking of diplomatic and military radio codes."<sup>9</sup> For this reason, VHFS was one of the country's most important war-time assets. In addition to its intelligence monitoring assignments, Vint Hill was also home to a "premiere school for training radio intercept operators, cryptanalysts, and radio repair technicians."<sup>10</sup> The SIS identified VHFS as an ideal location for a new intelligence training facility. Its proximity to Arlington Hall and Washington, D.C. was a critical factor in the SIS's decision to move the Cryptographic Division from Fort Monmouth to VHFS in 1942. This move meant "more current cryptanalytic information could be obtained, and so that more physical space would be available for both commissioned and enlisted training."<sup>11</sup> The division was renamed the Signal Corps Cryptographic School, and later to Vint Hill Farms School. Approximately 42 officers and 239 enlisted men were transferred to the base.<sup>12</sup> Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, all of the United States military branches were racially segregated as was much of American society at large, especially in southern states. Segregation persisted through World War II. In 1948, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981, which officially ended segregation in U.S. military ranks, although discriminatory practices continued for decades afterward. In keeping with this context, the VHFS limited enrollment to white officer candidates, and almost all of the graduates were trained to fill vacancies in units with all white troops.<sup>13</sup>

The school provided the necessary special training in cryptanalysis, traffic analysis, and cryptographic equipment maintenance.<sup>14</sup> This training prepared students for various positions, including Message Center Officer, Cryptographic; Cryptanalytic Officer (Japanese or German); Cryptanalytic Officer, Translator (German); Radio Traffic Analysis Officer (German or Japanese); Translator (German); Voice Interceptor (German); Traffic Analyst (German or Japanese); Cryptographer (Code Compiler); Cryptanalyst (German or Japanese).<sup>15</sup> Due to the lack of classroom facilities at Vint Hill, the school was initially required to operate on two shifts

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<sup>9</sup> "The Vint Hill Museum," Brochure (Warrenton, VA: The Vint Hill Farms Museum, undated).

<sup>10</sup> "The Vint Hill Museum," Brochure (Warrenton, VA: The Vint Hill Farms Museum, undated).

<sup>11</sup> James L. Gilbert and John P Finnegan, *U.S. Army Signals Intelligence in World War II: A documentary history*, (Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History United States Army, 1993), 69.

<sup>12</sup> John J. McMahon, "The closing of Vint Hill Farms Station produced a move of INSCOM activities, memories and history dating back to World War II," *INSCOM Journal* (July-August 1997) 8; "History of the Second Signal Service Battalion, 1939-1945," National Cryptologic Museum Library, declassified 1 October 1981 (Courtesy of John Salmon); Gilbert and Finnegan, *US Army Signals Intelligence in World War II*, 70.

<sup>13</sup> Gilbert and Finnegan, *US Army Signals Intelligence in World War II*, 69; David P. Mowry, "Cryptologic Almanac: Vint Hill Farms Station," 1942-1945 (Center for Cryptologic History, 2010), 2. NOTE: Due to research limitations during COVID-19 and limited access to repositories such as the NARA, research materials available do not indicate the racial makeup of the men and women assigned to Vint Hill Farms Station. The reference to white officer candidates in the school is the only mention. Photos, however, suggest that the installation was entirely racially segregated, or that no African-American men or women were stationed at Vint Hill.

<sup>14</sup> Gilbert and Finnegan, *U.S. Army Signals Intelligence in World War II*, 72.

<sup>15</sup> Thomas N. Vultee, "History of the Signal Corps Cryptographic School, School Section 'A,' Vint Hill Farms Station, Warrenton, VA. 5 October 1943 to 30 June 1944," Courtesy of John Salmon.

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until all of the required school facilities were completed in April 1943.<sup>16</sup> In 1943, 2,299 enlisted personnel in sixty-four specialties, and 230 officers in nine specialties were trained at Vint Hill Farms School.<sup>17</sup>



Figure 6: Students in the second floor of the Code School at Vint Hill Farms School, c. 1944. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.

By 1944, approximately 1,000 enlisted men and 180 enlisted women were assigned to Vint Hill Farms Station, where they developed technology and innovative concepts that served as models for field stations throughout the world.<sup>18</sup> Three new types of equipment that were utilized at Vint Hill Farms Station were “multicouplers” that coupled the signal from one antenna to multiple receivers; a “Hellschreiber Faesinils Recorder” that copied the signals of this type of German system; and a “Time Delay Device” that allowed for a delay of three to ten seconds between the time a signal is received and the time necessary to copy it.<sup>19</sup> The steps to produce usable information generally involved intercepting a large volume of communications traffic, traffic analysis of the intercepted messages, “solution of the cryptographic systems used, decryptographing of messages sent in solved or partially solved systems,” translation of

<sup>16</sup> Gilbert and Finnegan, *US Army Signals Intelligence in World War II*, 70.

<sup>17</sup> Mowry, “Cryptologic Almanac,” 2.

<sup>18</sup> “The Vint Hill Museum,” Brochure; “History of the Second Signal Service Battalion 1939-1945.”

<sup>19</sup> Army Security Agency, “The Achievements of the Signal Security Agency in World War II,” (Army Security Agency: Washington, D.C., 1946), 18.

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messages in foreign languages, and the publication of decrypted texts in a useful form.<sup>20</sup> At VHFS, these processes were undertaken within the Barn Complex (-0017; -0018; -0019; -0020; -0021; -0022; -0023), which was utilized for the base's operations during World War II.



Figure 7: Inside operations center in Second Floor of Operations Building A, Barn Complex, ca. 1944. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.

It was in the Barn Complex that Private Leonard A. Mudloff intercepted a transmission on November 10, 1943, from the Japanese Ambassador in Berlin, Oshima Hiroshi, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. Oshima had a friendly relationship with Adolf Hitler and reported back to Tokyo on conversations that he had with Hitler and Nazi military leaders. His background as a highly educated person with his own military experience, possessed of an unusual gregariousness for a Japanese diplomat of the era, and keen analytical ability allowed him unusual insights. Oshima's message was written in the high-level diplomatic cipher known by the Americans as "Purple," which had been deciphered by the Army's Signal Intelligence Service in September 1940. "Purple" messages were typically transmitted in sections deliberately out of order, and stations across the world were recording parts of the transmission. The complete message was not deciphered until December 4, 1943; however, the Vint Hill Farms Station intercept draft was reportedly the first delivered to General George C. Marshall at the Pentagon and Admiral William D. Leahy at the White House. The information contained in the Oshima Intercept collected by Leonard Mudloff "was of incalculable advantage to planning"

<sup>20</sup> Gilbert and Finnegan, *US Army Signals Intelligence in World War II*, 94.

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Operation Overlord, the codename for the June 1944 Battle of Normandy or D-Day.<sup>21</sup> The intercepted message described fortifications in Germany in detail and informed the Allies that the German forces were concentrated on Calais, rather than Normandy.<sup>22</sup> With this information, Allied military planners made changes that ultimately saved Allied lives and contributed significantly to Allied success after the landing. The Allied forces also were able to mislead the Germans into maintaining focus on Calais, leaving Normandy more vulnerable to attack. The invasion of Normandy required extensive strategic preparation, and ultimately resulted in the liberation of northern France and much of Western Europe from Nazi control. Victory in Normandy marked the beginning of the end of the war in Europe.

Although there were several other monitoring stations in operation by 1943, given how weather and other environmental conditions could interfere with radio reception, it was important to have multiple stations listening to the same transmissions. Mudloff, who stayed at his post instead of going to lunch when he started picking up the message, produced the first and most complete version of Oshima's report and it included great detail about the Nazis' Atlantic Wall, its components, and German troop dispositions to the rear. The report changed the planning for D-Day and contributed to the Allies' successful invasion at Normandy.<sup>23</sup> After the war, Gen. Omar M. Bradley, commander of the Allied ground forces involved in D-Day, visited Vint Hill to thank the staff for serving "...so silently, yet so magnificently," and contributing significantly to the success of the operation.<sup>24</sup> For these reasons, Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District is nationally significant in the area of Military.

Vint Hill Farms Station was not the only nationally important military property in Virginia during its period of significance. The Pentagon (NHL 1992; NRHP 1989; DHR #000-0072) in Arlington County is "[t]he epitome of command and control operations." Built during World War II, it has served as the headquarters for the Department of Defense since then and, "[a]s such, the building was involved in most major and routine Cold War events."<sup>25</sup> The Central Intelligence Agency moved to Langley, Virginia, in 1961 and has been a nationally significant actor in Cold War events since its origins as the Office of Strategic Services during World War II.

Other listening stations with missions similar to Vint Hill Farms Station include a station that was housed in a barn at Bel Air (NRHP 1970; DHR #076-0001) in Prince William County. The

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<sup>21</sup> John Salmon, personal communication, August 4, 2021. Swanson and O'Steen, "Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station," 54; Gilbert and Finnegan, *US Army Signals Intelligence in World War II*, 101.

<sup>22</sup> John Salmon, "Leonard Mudloff and the Oshima Intercept," (2013), 1.

<sup>23</sup> John Salmon, personal communication, August 5, 2021.

<sup>24</sup> David Mowry, *Vint Hill Farms Station: 1942-1945* (USM-1) Kindle edition, 2000, as cited in Dr. Kay R. McCarron, et al., *An Intensive Level Architectural Survey of Twenty (20) Buildings in the Vint Hill Farm Station* (DHR Inventory No. 030-0020) Vint Hill Public Street Project, prepared for Fauquier County, Virginia, and the Department of Historic Resources, 2014, p. 18.

<sup>25</sup> John S. Salmon, *Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites, A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study* (Washington, DC: The National Historic Landmarks Program, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2020), p. 78.

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1970 nomination makes no mention of this activity, which likely still was classified at that time. In Washington DC's Rock Creek Park, the historic Pierce Mill barn housed an FBI operation that conducted electronic surveillance of nearby Soviet Bloc embassies. Beyond Virginia, "in the vicinity of Miami, Florida, the CIA supported several training facilities and safe houses for Cuban exiles seeking to destabilize Fidel Castro's government."<sup>26</sup> Each of these properties is considered to be nationally significant for their Cold War associations and have potential to meet NHL Criterion 1, *Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained.*<sup>27</sup>

### Women's Army Corps at Vint Hill Farms Station

Following the entry of the United States into World War II, the country saw significant labor shortages as most of the nation's able-bodied men were drafted for military combat service. In order to fill the labor shortages, women began to step into jobs in defense industries and factories, the civil service, and the Armed Forces. In May 1942, President Roosevelt established the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). Although this opened doors for women to work with the Army, the decision created much controversy regarding traditional gender roles. WAACs were initially limited to clerical and administrative positions such as telephone operators, typists, and secretaries. As WAACs, enlisted women did not have authority nor receive pay or benefits equal to that of males. The establishment of female units of other branches of the Armed Forces, including the Navy's WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service), prompted the development of the Women's Army Corp (WAC) in June 1943, which provided equal pay and rank to female enlisted personnel. At the height of World War II, approximately 100,000 American women served in the WAC. As more and more male soldiers were sent to the front lines, additional roles opened for WACs including positions in mathematics, communications, linguistics, and cryptography.<sup>28</sup> Those with education in these fields were highly sought after and were prime candidates for cryptanalysis.<sup>29</sup>

While a few women had worked in intelligence prior to World War II, the war opened the field to women at a large scale for the first time. WACs working in intelligence were primarily assigned to Arlington Hall, Vint Hill Farms Station, and Two Rock Station in California. After extensive training at one of the SIS's training programs at Arlington Hall or VHFS, many became Radio Intercept Operators. WAC intercept operators at Vint Hill Farms Station worked side by side with their male counterparts on shared shifts. Using pads, typewriters, large IBM

<sup>26</sup> Salmon, *Protecting America*, p. 81.

<sup>27</sup> Salmon, *Protecting America*, p. 79.

<sup>28</sup> History Office, "Breaking Codes, Breaking Barriers: The WACs of the Signal Security Agency, World War II," (Fort Belvoir, Virginia: US Army Intelligence and Security Command, 2001), digitized by the Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/details/breakingcodesbre00fort/page/n3/mode/2up?q=vint+hill> (accessed April 27, 2021); Anne Bosanko Green, *One Woman's War: Letters Home and from the Women's Army Corps, 1944-1946*, (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1989), x-xi.

<sup>29</sup> History Office, "Breaking Codes, Breaking Barriers," 5.

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computing systems, and in many cases memorization, intercept operators copied signal traffic exchanges from Europe. Other WACs were assigned to transcribing radio tapes. The tape transcriptions and intercepted messages were then forwarded on to the Traffic Analysis Section, where they were reviewed for specific code words or signatures. The Traffic Analysis Section then sent the messages on to Arlington Hall Station for further analysis, decryption, and translation.<sup>30</sup>

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) section was established at Vint Hill Farms Station on September 1, 1943, and the first contingent of enlisted women arrived from Arlington Hall Station in October of that year.<sup>31</sup> At the time of their arrival, the barracks for the WACs were not fully complete, and the enlisted women were temporarily housed in the nurse's quarters.<sup>32</sup> The first group included sixteen members of the cadre from Arlington Hall Station, and was led by 2nd Lt Ethel R Sears as the commanding officer.<sup>33</sup> The WACS assigned to VHFS worked in operations and also made up a majority of the student body in the Signal Corps Cryptographic School.<sup>34</sup> On November 1, 1943, an additional 145 WACs were enrolled in the Signal Corps Cryptographic School "B." WACs took classes during the day and the night due to inadequate classroom space.<sup>35</sup> Those WACs with high aptitude scores and personalities compatible with cryptanalysis and interception went on to additional training in Morse Code and became interceptors. By late 1944, 200 WACs were enlisted in the Signal Corps Cryptographic School, and a group of twenty-four enlisted women were "enrolled to be trained as Cryptanalysis Technicians for eventual overseas assignment."<sup>36</sup> Toward the end of World War II, the detachment decreased in size, and on April 26, 1946, the remaining enlisted women were transferred to Arlington Hall Station.

A few WAC officers were assigned to VHFS between 1946 and 1963, filling the positions of Post Adjutant, S-2 Officer, and the Officer in charge of the Post Warehouse. In 1963, Lieutenant Anderson and thirteen WACs arrived at VHFS in conjunction with the Army Processing Center's move from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, to VHFS. This detachment was organized into "A" Company in 1972, and by July 1974 the WAC company strength was at its height with 131 personnel. However, on August 15, 1974, the WAC company was deactivated, and any personnel who had not received a permanent change of station were reassigned to HQ Company

<sup>30</sup> History Office, "Breaking Codes, Breaking Barriers," 33-40.

<sup>31</sup> McMahon, "The closing of Vint Hill Farms Station," 19; Ethel R. Sears to Commanding Officer, Vint Hill Farms Station, Warrenton, Virginia, "Historical Record of WAC Section," (July 1, 1944), Courtesy of John Salmon.

<sup>32</sup> Ethel R. Sears to Commanding Officer, "Historical Record of WAC Section."

<sup>33</sup> Ethel R. Sears to Commanding Officer, "Historical Record of WAC Section."

<sup>34</sup> Adams and Kise, Franks & Straw, "The History of Vint Hill Farms Station," 55; *History of Vint Hill Farms*, Virginiana Room, Fauquier Public Library, Warrenton, VA (undated).

<sup>35</sup> *History of Vint Hill Farms*.

<sup>36</sup> *History of Vint Hill Farms*; Mowry, "Cryptologic Almanac," 2; History Office, "Breaking Codes, Breaking Barriers," 36; NOTE: While African-American women also joined the WAC in large numbers during World War II, research limitations during COVID-19 and specifically access to NARA resulted in limited information on the contributions made by women of color to cryptanalysis at Vint Hill. As mentioned above, the sources utilized for this nomination suggest that VHFS was entirely racially segregated or not open to African-American soldiers and WACS.

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Vint Hill Farms Station.<sup>37</sup> The Army formally deactivated the Women's Army Corps in October 1978. From this point forward, men and women were recruited, trained, and assigned based on equal qualifications.<sup>38</sup>



Figure 8: Vint Hill Training School graduates, c. 1943-44, pictured in front of the Barn Complex. WACs line the front row of the photo. Courtesy of Fauquier History Museum.

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<sup>37</sup> *History of Vint Hill Farms.*

<sup>38</sup>U.S. Army, "A Time of Change: Moving Toward Equality and the Disestablishment of the WAC," *Women in the Army*, <https://www.army.mil/women/history/> (accessed April 30, 2021).

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Figure 9: WACs participate in direct reading and tape transcription alongside enlisted men, ca. 1944. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.

### Nisei Linguists at Vint Hill Farms Station

In addition to recruiting American women to support the war intelligence effort, the United States Army also recruited Nisei, or second-generation Japanese Americans. The Nisei “played crucial roles as translators, interpreters, and interrogators, and served in other important language-related functions.”<sup>39</sup> Prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and anticipating future war with Japan, the US Army began an intelligence training program for those with Japanese language skills. The program, established in November 1941 at Crissy Field Air Station in San Francisco, trained 60 students including 58 Nisei in Japanese language, translation, and code breaking. Following Pearl Harbor and the U.S. declaration of war, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, ordering the forced relocation of approximately 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans living in the United States to internment camps in February 1942. Nisei linguists had by this time already demonstrated the value of their contributions to the Army. In May 1942, the Army moved its military intelligence training program to Minnesota. By June, the program to train Nisei was placed under the supervision of the War Department, which operated the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS), where more than 6,000 Nisei were

<sup>39</sup> Kayoko Takeda, “Nisei Linguists During WWII and the Occupation of Japan,” *The ATA Chronicle*, January 2007, 14, [https://www.ata-chronicle.online/wp-content/uploads/3601\\_14\\_kayoko\\_takeda.pdf](https://www.ata-chronicle.online/wp-content/uploads/3601_14_kayoko_takeda.pdf) (accessed April 28, 2021).

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trained. A report prepared in 1945 credited the Nisei linguists with translating more than 20 million pages of intelligence interceptions during the course of World War II.<sup>40</sup>

In order to assist in interpreting the high volume of intercepted Japanese intelligence, the SIS assigned a unit of Nisei linguists to Vint Hill in 1943. Master Sergeant Joe Y. Masuda, a graduate of Crissy Field, led a team of 25 Nisei interpreters to VHFS in January 1944.<sup>41</sup> Nisei linguists were met with prejudice, distrust, and bitterness when they first arrived at Vint Hill. Security officers at the post “insisted that any Nisei who had ever visited Japan or had relatives living there could not stay at Vint Hill Farms Station.”<sup>42</sup> Furthermore, Major Gordon T. Fish resented his responsibility to serve as their commander, likely due to his son’s death while a prisoner of war. Fourteen of the 25 Nisei, including Masuda, returned to Camp Savage. Another 30 Nisei interpreters were sent to Vint Hill in June of 1944. From 1944 to 1946, approximately 50 to 60 Nisei interpreters were assigned to a poorly ventilated and poorly lit building “where they struggled with thousands of intercepted messages,” in “cramped and uncomfortable conditions.”<sup>43</sup> Over time, the Nisei developed a mutual respect and trust with some of their fellow soldiers and officers. Major Fish, for example, was reported to have developed “respect for the Nisei,” and “sent two Nisei to the Signal Corps officer candidate school” in New Jersey.<sup>44</sup> While the Nisei were credited with and complimented for intercepting and translating Japanese communications, they were not permitted to participate in the most high-profile intelligence efforts undertaken at Arlington Hall.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Takeda, “Nisei Linguists During WWII and the Occupation of Japan,” 14-15.

<sup>41</sup> James C. McNaughton, *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence service during World War II*, (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Army, 2006), 129.

<sup>42</sup> McNaughton, *Nisei Linguists*, 216.

<sup>43</sup> McNaughton, *Nisei Linguists*, 216-217.

<sup>44</sup> McNaughton, *Nisei Linguists*, 216.

<sup>45</sup> McNaughton, *Nisei Linguists*, 217: NOTE: The WAC also recruited Nisei women during World War II. While many Nisei WACs were assigned to clerical duties, many were also highly qualified for service as linguists and in cryptography. Due to research limitations, specifically the closure of the National Archives during COVID-19, details regarding the assignment of Nisei WACs at Vint Hill Farms Station were not uncovered in association with the work to prepare this National Register Nomination. It is an area which requires additional future research.

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*Figure 10: Nisei linguists working inside an operations building at VHFS, undated. Courtesy of U.S. Army Military History Institute Carlisle Barracks.*

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Figure 11: Nisei Linguists stationed at VHFS visiting Warrenton, undated. Courtesy of Fauquier County.

### Vint Hill Farms Station During the Cold War

Like many of the military installations and operations following WWII, Vint Hill Farms Station decreased in strength and activity until Cold War conflicts heightened during the mid-twentieth century.<sup>46</sup> From 1953 to 1968, VHFS conducted live intercept missions where “radio operators listened to a wide spectrum of radio frequencies for pertinent information from around the world,” and worked to refine intelligence gathering capabilities to support the needs of the Department of Defense.<sup>47</sup> Although interception and recording stations were established around the world, Vint Hill Farms Station remained “U.S. Monitoring Station No. 1” through much of the Cold War. During this time, the U.S. Army Security Agency Material Support Command was also established at VHFS, which combined all of the U.S. Army Security Agency (previously SIS) functions into a single organization.<sup>48</sup>

Beginning in 1950 with the U.S. involvement in the Korean War through the mid-1960s, VHFS underwent a significant construction campaign focused on three areas: Recreational and Social Amenities, Residential, and Operations. This period of growth and expansion provided much needed improvements and additional housing to serve the increased number of enlisted men and women stationed at VHFS. During this period, many of the temporary buildings constructed

<sup>46</sup> “Vint Hill Farms Station,” Courtesy of John Salmon (undated); Mowry, “Cryptologic Almanac,” 1.

<sup>47</sup> Swanson and O’Steen, “Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station,” 36

<sup>48</sup> McMahon, “The closing of Vint Hill Farms Station,” 20.

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during World War II were replaced with permanent facilities that allowed for new and expanded operational capabilities. Alterations such as these that occurred during the period of significance are considered to be significant because of their direct association with the installation's Cold War history.

Many of the military records that document specific activities during the Cold War at VHFS remain classified today, making it difficult to collect specific information about significant events and activities at the installation. One important event at VHFS during the Korean War occurred in August 1950 and concerned "interception and decryption of messages sent between North Korean generals just before their attack on U.S. forces bottled-up in the Pusan Perimeter." Having received this information "the day before the attack was to begin, Gen. Walton Walker, the U.S. commander at Pusan, was able to shift his forces and hold off the North Koreans, and later stage the breakout"<sup>49</sup> in mid-September, following the successful landing of UN forces at Inchon on September 15. The events at the Pusan Perimeter "had stopped North Korea from capturing the entire peninsula and bought time for reinforcements to arrive."<sup>50</sup>

Due to the rural location of VHFS, the temporary nature of many of the station's existing buildings, and the requirement that silence be maintained about "every phase of one's work," morale at VHFS was often low.<sup>51</sup> In order to improve morale and the quality of life for the station's enlisted men and women, a series of recreational and cultural buildings were constructed between 1948 and 1960.<sup>52</sup> The earliest new buildings included the bath house and pool (**Vint Hill Pool, -0086**), and the recreational fields (**Vint Hill Village Green, -0092**), both built ca. 1948. The recreational fields included three baseball diamonds, two tennis courts, and a handball court.<sup>53</sup> The following year, ca. 1949, the gymnasium and recreational building (**Vint Hill Village Green Community Center, -0090**) was constructed.<sup>54</sup> By ca. 1951, a theater (**Fauquier Community Theater, -0037**) was built adjacent to the gymnasium and recreational building, and in ca. 1956 a bowling alley (**Building 273, -0085**) was constructed across the road. In ca. 1959, the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) Club and Open Mess Hall (**Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority, -0091**) was built west of the enlisted men's barracks (**Building 160, -0093**). Except for the NCO Club and Open Mess Hall, the recreational buildings constructed during this period were concentrated in a central area on the base.

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<sup>49</sup> Dr. Kay R. McCarron, et al., An Intensive Level Architectural Survey of Twenty (20) Buildings in the Vint Hill Farm Station (DHR Inventory No. 030-0020) Vint Hill Public Street Project, prepared for Fauquier County, Virginia, and the Department of Historic Resources, 2014, p. 27.

<sup>50</sup> Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, "Pusan Perimeter," <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWebInPusan>, Accessed 8/24/2021.

<sup>51</sup> Army Security Agency, "The Achievements of the Signal Security Agency in World War II," 12.

<sup>52</sup> Army Security Agency, "The Achievements of the Signal Security Agency in World War II," 11-12.

<sup>53</sup> *History of Vint Hill Farms*.

<sup>54</sup> Swanson and O'Steen, "Building and Structure Inventory, 1946-1990," from "Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station," A-3-A-7.

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Figure 12: Post Theater, 1951. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.

During World War II, the barracks space at VHFS primarily consisted of temporary construction or adapted use of existing farm buildings, and was “not adequate to house the number of men assigned.”<sup>55</sup> As part of the period of construction ushered in by the Korean Conflict and the Cold War, VHFS made the housing of troops and dependents a priority.<sup>56</sup> Between the late 1940s and the 1960s, the Army constructed eleven family quarters, seven brick officer’s quarters, five brick living quarters, **Building 160 (-0093)** and **Building 162 (-0094)** as barracks and mess facilities, and converted four school buildings into living quarters.<sup>57</sup> The contract for the construction of **Building 160 (-0093)**, a barracks and mess facility for 500 enlisted men, was awarded to Laburnum Construction Corporation out of Richmond, Virginia, in 1947.<sup>58</sup> The barracks were constructed ca. 1949, with later additions constructed ca. 1956 and ca. 1966. **Building 162 (-0094)** was constructed ca. 1969 as a permanent barracks building for the enlisted women stationed at VHFS.<sup>59</sup> The construction of Buildings 160 and 162 provided permanent barracks to house 1,135 enlisted men and women, and mess facilities for 1,000.<sup>60</sup>

<sup>55</sup> Denette Adams, “Vint Hill Farms Station: Over 50 Years of Silent Service,” Excerpt from *A Reprinted Version of the History of Vint Hill Farms Station* (undated), 43.

<sup>56</sup> *History of Vint Hill Farms*; Adams and Kise, Franks & Straw, “The History of Vint Hill Farms Station,” 56.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> “US Accepts Bid on Warrenton Job,” *The Washington Post* (July 4, 1947).

<sup>59</sup> KFS Historic Preservation Group, “Vint Hill Farms Station, Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia, Phase 1 Cultural Resource Investigations Report,” prepared for the United States Army, Vint Hill Farms Station, September 1994, 13; Wendy Wheatcraft, “PIF Form: Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District,” April 2019, 11.

<sup>60</sup> *History of Vint Hill Farms*.

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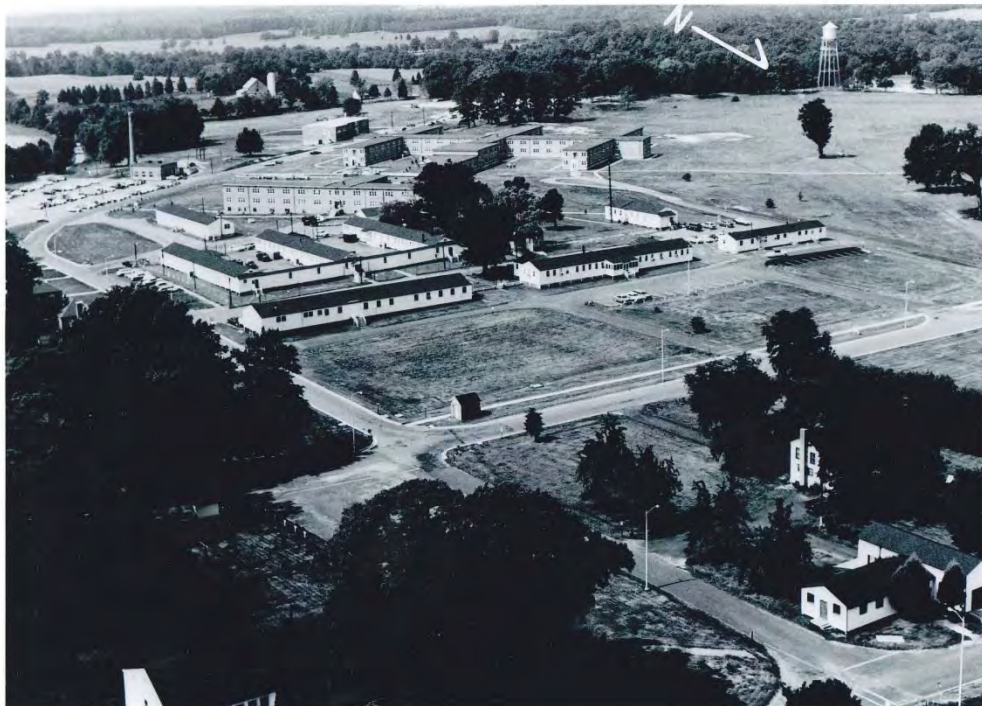


Figure 13: Aerial view with Men's Barracks in upper middle, taken in the 1950s. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.

In order to meet the needs of the evolving and expanding operations of the base, larger permanent buildings were constructed to replace the temporary and inadequate operations buildings that had been utilized during World War II. Of the operations related construction, two buildings were integral to the operations mission during the Cold War: **Building 2400 (-0095)** and **Building 260 (-0087)**. **Building 2400 (-0095)** was constructed ca. 1965 following the establishment of the U.S. Army Security Agency Material Support Command at VHFS. The building was utilized as a “warehouse and repair shop complex” for the station’s electronic equipment and was originally designated as a National Inventory Control Point (NICP).<sup>61</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Swanson and O’Steen, “Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station,” 36.

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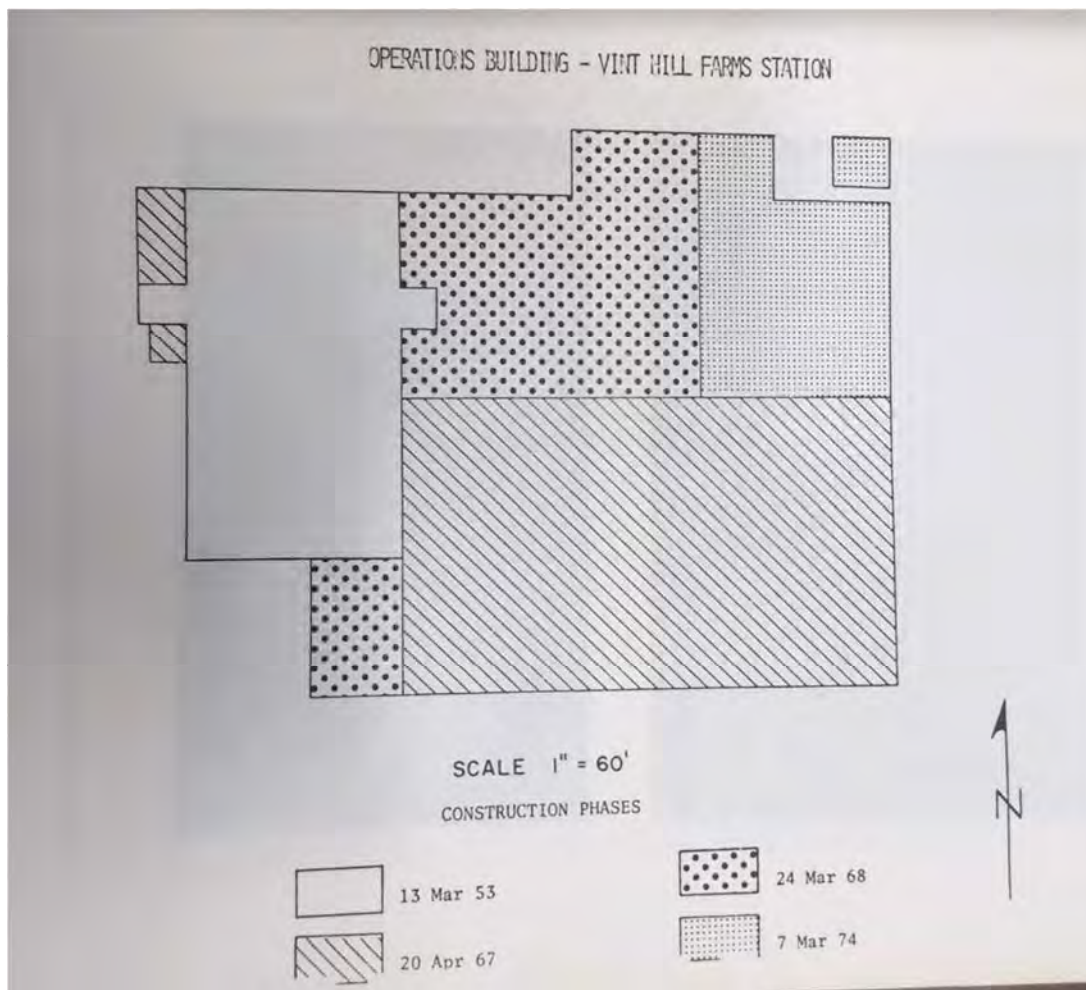


Figure 14: Diagram illustrating the development of Building 260. From "History of Vint Hill Farms."

Perhaps the most significant building constructed at VHFS during the Cold War period was **Building 260 (-0087)**. Constructed in 1953, immediately prior to the Station's designation as a permanent Army installation in 1954, Building 260 served as the station's operations building during the Cold War.<sup>62</sup> The original section of the building was 22,813 square feet and was constructed for \$904,052. Three additions were later added to the building: 34,364 square feet in 1967; 10,526 square feet in 1968; and 11,902 square feet in 1974 for a total building area of 79,905 square feet.<sup>63</sup> On January 26, 1953, it was designated the "Field Operations Branch." From its construction in 1953 until 1968, Building 260 housed the live intercept missions conducted at VHFS.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Ibid, 35.

<sup>63</sup> *History of Vint Hill Farms.*

<sup>64</sup> Swanson and O'Steen, "Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station," 36

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As technology advanced, the VHFS mission adjusted to utilize new intelligence gathering technologies. In January 1969, VHFS was transitioned from live intercept missions into a “classified processing mission” that involved the use of wide-band extraction to “monitor radio communications” worldwide.<sup>65</sup> The most important Cold War activity undertaken at VHFS, wide-band extraction, was also considered the “most controversial.”<sup>66</sup> The process of wide-band extraction included “bringing segments of the radio frequency spectrum from various sites worldwide on wide band tape and extracting signal of interest (SOI) from those tapes.”<sup>67</sup> At VHFS during the Vietnam War, most of this effort was directed at “obtaining information from the Soviet Union and its satellites in Eastern Europe.”<sup>68</sup> In order to prepare for this new intelligence technology, expansions to Building 260 at VHFS were constructed in 1967 and 1968. It was in Building 260 that the primary operations for wide-band extraction were conducted, while the surrounding warehouses served as storage facilities for the large format tapes. The expansions to the building in 1967 and 1968 prepared the facility for the base’s transition to wide-band extraction missions that began in 1969 and lasted until July 1974.<sup>69</sup>

Perhaps given the increasing capabilities and potential uses of electronic surveillance in all manner of activities, in 1963, the Department of the Army issued an order prohibiting the Army Security Agency from becoming involved in domestic surveillance activities.<sup>70</sup> The primary mission of the wide-band extraction activities at VHFS were to transcribe intercepted foreign intelligence, particularly from the Soviet Union or other communist nations. Due to domestic disturbances on a scale unforeseen in 1963, however, as the Army admitted in the mid-1970s, the wide-band extraction facilities were also utilized to listen to U.S. citizens’ radio communications on at least six occasions during the socially and politically tumultuous years of the late 1960s. High profile events that the Army admitted to monitoring included the Pentagon Protest March of 1967; the Poor People’s Campaign in 1968; protests and demonstrations in Washington, D.C. following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968; the Republican and Democratic National Conventions in 1968; and the trial of Black Panther leader Huey Newton for murder in 1968.<sup>71</sup> In the late 1960s, the code name “Gamma” was utilized both for “Soviet government intercepts of the highest importance,” as well as for monitoring “the most prominent” anti-Vietnam War protestors.<sup>72</sup> The Army Security Agency’s electronic monitoring of civilian communications during the 1967 march on the Pentagon was conducted “under a specific authorization of questionable legality.”<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Swanson and O’Steen, “Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station” 31; *History of Vint Hill Farms*; Adams and Kise, Franks & Straw, “The History of Vint Hill Farms Station,” 56

<sup>66</sup> Swanson and O’Steen, “Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station,” 36.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, 37.

<sup>69</sup> Swanson and O’Steen, “Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station” 31; *History of Vint Hill Farms*; Adams and Kise, Franks & Straw, “The History of Vint Hill Farms Station,” 56.

<sup>70</sup> Paul J. Scheips, *The Role of Federal Military Forces in Domestic Disorders, 1945-1992*, Army Historical Series, Washington DC: Center of Military History United States Army, 2005), p. 270.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, 37-38; “Military Listeners,” *Mobile Register* (Mobile, Alabama, August 24, 1975); Seymour M. Hersh, “More Army Snooping under Johnson is Revealed,” *The New York Times* (September 1, 1972), p. 24.

<sup>72</sup> Swanson and O’Steen, “Evaluation of Selected Historic Properties at Vint Hill Farms Station,” 37.

<sup>73</sup> Scheips, p. 270.

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Anticipating the likelihood of further domestic disturbances related to the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War movements, the Army rescinded its ban on domestic surveillance on 30 March 1968. The Army Security Agency now was “to provide support for Army forces in any civil disturbance if the chief of staff approved.”<sup>74</sup> In an effort to minimize potential for discovery of the surveillance activities, “Army Security Agency personnel had to operate ‘*under the guise of other Army units*’; their cover had to be plausible; their personnel could provide liaison with civil authorities; only communications that had an influence on the operations might be monitored; and all associated information had to be ‘classified SECRET LIMITED DISTRIBUTION.’”<sup>75</sup> Despite the Army’s precautions, the domestic surveillance activities came to light in the early 1970s, after wide-band extraction operations at Vint Hill had ceased. Documents leaked at the time showed, however, that Army Security Agency personnel at VHFS had conducted all of the electronic eavesdropping. General Harold K. Johnson, then the Army Chief of Staff, and his successor, General William Westmoreland, both had authorized eavesdropping on domestic events and activities, and U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark knew of the eavesdropping memos. Internal Army memos showed that both civilian and military leaders also were aware the American public likely would not have supported these actions.<sup>76</sup> Transcripts from a U.S. Senate subcommittee’s hearing on constitutional rights in February-March 1971 include strongly-worded testimony from military leaders about the necessity of domestic surveillance as well as assurances that information concerning U.S. citizens was not being misused for political purposes.<sup>77</sup>

The constitutionality of the Army’s domestic surveillance activities was decided in the U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Laird v. Tatum*, in 1972. Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird was the defendant named in the suite. Filing the suit as a class-action case, Arlo Tatum, Executive Secretary of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, was the lead plaintiff among a group of individuals and organizations that included private attorneys, a pastor, and organizations including Veterans for Peace in Vietnam, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and Women Strike for Peace.<sup>78</sup> Writing for the five-person majority, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger stated that the plaintiffs had not shown actual harm to themselves or anyone else as a result of the surveillance activities, which meant the plaintiffs lacked standing to file suit. The majority opinion further determined that the surveillance activities in question were not subject to judicial monitoring. The requirement to show actual harm to an individual was upheld in the 2013 decision, *Clapper v. Amnesty International*, which

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<sup>74</sup> Scheips, p. 270.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid, p. 270-271. The admission of the Army’s decision to minimize potential for discovery of domestic surveillance came during

<sup>76</sup> Hersh, “More Army Snooping.”

<sup>77</sup> Hearings before the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate Ninety-Second Congress First Session on Federal Data Banks, Computers and the Bill of Rights, February 23, 24, and 25 and March 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 15, and 17, 1971, Part II Relating to Departments of Army, Justice, and Defense (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971).

<sup>78</sup> Ralph Michael Stein, *Laird v. Tatum: The Supreme Court and a First Amendment Challenge to Military Surveillance of Lawful Civilian Political Activity*, 1 Hofstra L. Rev. 244 (1973), <http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/lawfaculty/285/>.

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concerned surveillance on foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The Court determined that such surveillance did not have a chilling effect on U.S. citizens who were in communication with foreign powers or agents and, therefore, the plaintiffs lacked standing to file suit.<sup>79</sup>



Figure 15: Wide-band extraction operations inside Building 260, 1974. From “An Intensive Level Architectural Survey of Twenty (20) Structures in the Vint Hill Farm Station.”

Beginning in the early 1970s, and as U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War came to a close, the military restructured its intelligence operations. The Department of Defense assigned the Army to focus on Morse Code, while all wide-band extraction activities were assigned to the Air Force. All of VHFS “classified processing mission[s]” were reassigned to the Air Force Security Service at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas in 1974. This reassignment marked an end to VHFS’s role as an intelligence monitoring, interception, and extraction installation that it had served since World War II. The VHFS mission shifted focus from monitoring, interception, and extraction towards “research, development, and logistical support of intelligence and electronic warfare systems.”<sup>80</sup> On January 15, 1975, General Order #14 officially redesignated and

<sup>79</sup> Stein, *Laird v Tatum*; John R. Vile, *Laird v Tatum* (1972), *The First Amendment Encyclopedia*, Middle Tennessee State University, 2009, <http://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/342/laird-v-tatum>, accessed August 25, 2021.

<sup>80</sup> “The Vint Hill Museum,” Brochure.

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reorganized VHFS into U.S. Army Garrison Vint Hill Farms Station, and in 1976 it came under the Communications Electronics Readiness Command of the Army Material Command.<sup>81</sup>

In the March 1982 issue of *INSCOM Journal*, a publication for service members, a series of feature articles described the facility's housing, social, and recreational amenities, nearby Warrenton and the Manassas National Battlefield Park, the well-known history of VHFS's World War II operations, personal recollections of personnel assigned at the installation, and even the award-winning consolidated dining facility.<sup>82</sup> Discussion of the intelligence analysis activities at VHFS, however, were touched upon only briefly, such as a photograph of an antenna and a caption that reads, "Antennas are a trademark and an integral part of the mission at Vint Hill."<sup>83</sup>

A likely lesser-known activity at VHFS started in 1973, when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) partnered with the Department of Defense to use aerial imagery going back to the 1930s for monitoring pollution. The EPA's Environmental Photographic Interpretive Center (EPIC) was placed in its own building on the VHFS campus, where the staff monitored four eastern federal regions. EPIC staff also were involved in the crisis at the Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear reactor in Middletown, Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1979, by providing aerial surveillance and gathering information such as the locations of all dairy farms within a 25-mile radius of the plant. EPIC's expertise at analyzing historic aerial imagery also allowed the center to contribute to documenting and understanding the Love Canal disaster in Niagara Falls, New York, during the late 1970s.<sup>84</sup> The collection and use of aerial imagery, as well as other intelligence collection and analysis methods, by Army personnel at VHFS, however, was not discussed in the article.

### **Closure, Documentation, and Reuse of Vint Hill Farms Station**

Efforts to downsize Cold War-era military strength began in the early 1990s, after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union essentially ended the Cold War. In July 1993, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission issued a report to the President of the United States that provided recommendations for "major base closures and realignment."<sup>85</sup> The report evaluated 32 installations under all branches of the Armed Forces, including Vint Hill Farms Station. Since the intelligence functions had been removed from VHFS in the mid-1970s, the Secretary of Defense determined that functions of the installation could be consolidated with Fort Monmouth. The report provided that "Moving its activities to Fort Monmouth enhances the synergistic effect of research and development for communication electronics and intelligence electronics warfare."<sup>86</sup> Further, the move would allow the Army to "achieve greater efficiencies

<sup>81</sup> *History of Vint Hill Farms*.

<sup>82</sup> *INSCOM Journal* (Vol. 5 No. 3) March 1982, p. 7-27.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid*, p. 7.

<sup>84</sup> Sp5 Geneva Politzer Newberry and Vernard H. Webb, "EPA/EPIC Story at Vint Hill," *INSCOM Journal* (Vol. 5. No. 3) March 1982, p. 16-19.

<sup>85</sup> Jim Courter, et. al., *Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission: Report to the President, 1993*, <https://dcs9.army.mil/brac/RefDocs/General/BRAC1993CommRectoPresident.pdf> (accessed April 28, 2021).

<sup>86</sup> Courter, *Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission*, 1-5.

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in the areas of mission, mission overhead, and base operations,” while also consolidating research and development.<sup>87</sup> The Commission recommended closure of Vint Hill Farms Station, relocation of the maintenance and repair functions to Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pennsylvania, and transfer of the remaining elements the Intelligence and Electronic Warfare division and materials to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Official closing ceremonies were held on June 12, 1997, with more than 1,500 people in attendance “to pay homage to an installation whose unprecedented record of achievement and service stand alone.”<sup>88</sup>

Prior to the official closing of Vint Hill Farms Station, the US Army Corps of Engineers conducted historical research, as well as architectural and archaeological surveys of the installation. These early surveys have preserved through documentation many of the buildings that have been lost since the installation’s closure. Historical documentation and oral histories collected by the Army and former soldiers at the post closure have also contributed to the nomination of this nationally significant historic district to the National Register of Historic Places. Following closure of the station, the land and its improvements were transferred to Fauquier County. The County has since worked to find appropriate uses for buildings and recreational areas, which have largely preserved the overall character of the former Vint Hill Farms Station. Although thoroughly documented using these methods, important aspects of the station’s history remain difficult to research. While most of the WWII documentation has been declassified, most of the Cold War-era material has not; records that are declassified are done so on a piecemeal basis in often-unrelated pieces.

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<sup>87</sup> Courter, *Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission*, 1-5.

<sup>88</sup> Kevin Bell, “Vint Hill Farms Closes,” *INSCOM Journal*, (July-August 1997), 12, 15.

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Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Fauquier Co., VA  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: National Archives and Records Administration; Virginia  
Department of Historic Resources

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR #030-0020

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 126

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.748456      Longitude: -77.672647
2. Latitude: 38.748456      Longitude: -77.686314
3. Latitude: 38.738256      Longitude: -77.686317
4. Latitude: 38.738242      Longitude: -77.672647

**Or**

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Fauquier Co., VA  
County and State

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District includes 126 acres at the core of the former military installation. The district is bound on the North by Vint Hill Parkway and the parcel located at 6872 Watson Court (Building 260); on the East by Farm Station Road and tax parcel 7915-64-9304-0000; on the south by Sigler and Rogues Roads, and on the west by Kennedy Drive and the contributing properties along the edge. In addition to this verbal boundary description, the true and correct boundary of the historic district is shown on the attached scaled Sketch Map and Tax Parcel Map. The Parcel Map includes a list of the parcel numbers assigned to each parcel by Fauquier County, Virginia.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District encompasses the most comprehensive and complete extent of the former military intelligence monitoring station and its extant historic resources. While the former military installation included a much larger land area, many historic resources including temporary and secondary buildings and former antenna fields are no longer extant. Areas that have been excluded from the boundary include areas with significant modern development or where historic resources have been demolished. The boundary also excludes areas where existing resources associated with Vint Hill Farms Station were constructed outside the district's period of significance and therefore would be considered non-contributing. The property's historic setting and all known associated historic resources have been included within the historic boundary.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Kayla Halberg & Ashlen Stump  
organization: Commonwealth Preservation Group

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District  
Name of Property

Fauquier Co., VA  
County and State

street & number: 536 W 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
city or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23508  
e-mail: admin@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com  
telephone: 757-923-1900  
date: April 30, 2021

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District

City or Vicinity: Warrenton

County: Fauquier County

State: Virginia

Photographer: Kayla Halberg (KH) and Ashlen Stump (AS)

Date Photographed: December 3, 2020 and March 9, 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District  
 Name of Property

Fauquier Co., VA  
 County and State

Photo Number of 14	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
1	Oblique of Barn Complex	NE	3/2021	KH
2	Oblique of Barn Complex	SW	3/2021	KH
3	Façade of Building 260	N	3/2021	AS
4	View of Transformer Vault	W	3/2021	KH
5	Façade of the Manor House (Inn at Vint Hill)	N	3/2021	KH
6	Oblique of Building S-241	NW	3/2021	AS
7	Oblique of Building 240	NW	3/2021	AS
8	Oblique of Building 242	NE	3/2021	KH
9	Oblique of the Post Theater (Fauquier Community Theater)	SE	3/2021	AS
10	Oblique of the Post Gymnasium (Vint Hill Village Green Community Center)	SE	3/2021	AS
11	Oblique of Post Chapel (Redeemer Baptist Church)	NE	3/2021	AS
12	View of Buildings T-303, T-304, and T-305	SW	3/2021	KH
13	View of Parade and Recreational Fields (Vint Hill Village Green)	NE	3/2021	KH
14	View of Buildings 160 and 162	NE	12/2020	KH

### Historic Images Log

Figure No.	Caption
1	Low family outside of Vint Hill Manor House, c. 1880. This photo depicts the Manor House in its original Italianate style. Courtesy of Fauquier County.
2	Vint Hill Manor House following the additions and alterations made by Mitchell Harrison, c. 1920. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.
3	Aerial photo of Vint Hill Farms Station, April 22, 1970. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.
4	The VHFS Barn Complex prior to renovations by the Army, c. 1942. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.
5	The VHFS Barn Complex following renovation by the Army, undated. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.
6	Students in the second floor of the Code School at Vint Hill Farms School, c. 1944. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District  
 Name of Property

Fauquier Co., VA  
 County and State

7	Inside operations center in Second Floor of Operations Building A, Barn Complex, ca. 1944. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.
8	Vint Hill Training School graduates, c. 1943-44, pictured in front of the Barn Complex. WACs line the front row of the photo. Courtesy of Fauquier History Museum.
9	WACs participate in direct reading and tape transcription alongside enlisted men, ca. 1944. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.
10	Nisei linguists working inside an operations building at VHFS, undated. Courtesy of U.S. Army Military History Institute Carlisle Barracks.
11	Nisei Linguists stationed at VHFS visiting Warrenton, undated. Courtesy of Fauquier County.
12	Post Theater, 1951. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.
13	Aerial view with Men's Barracks in upper middle, taken in the 1950s. Courtesy of INSCOM and John Salmon.
14	Diagram illustrating the development of Building 260. From "History of Vint Hill Farms."
15	Wide-band extraction operations inside Building 260, 1974. From "An Intensive Level Architectural Survey of Twenty (20) Structures in the Vint Hill Farm Station."

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



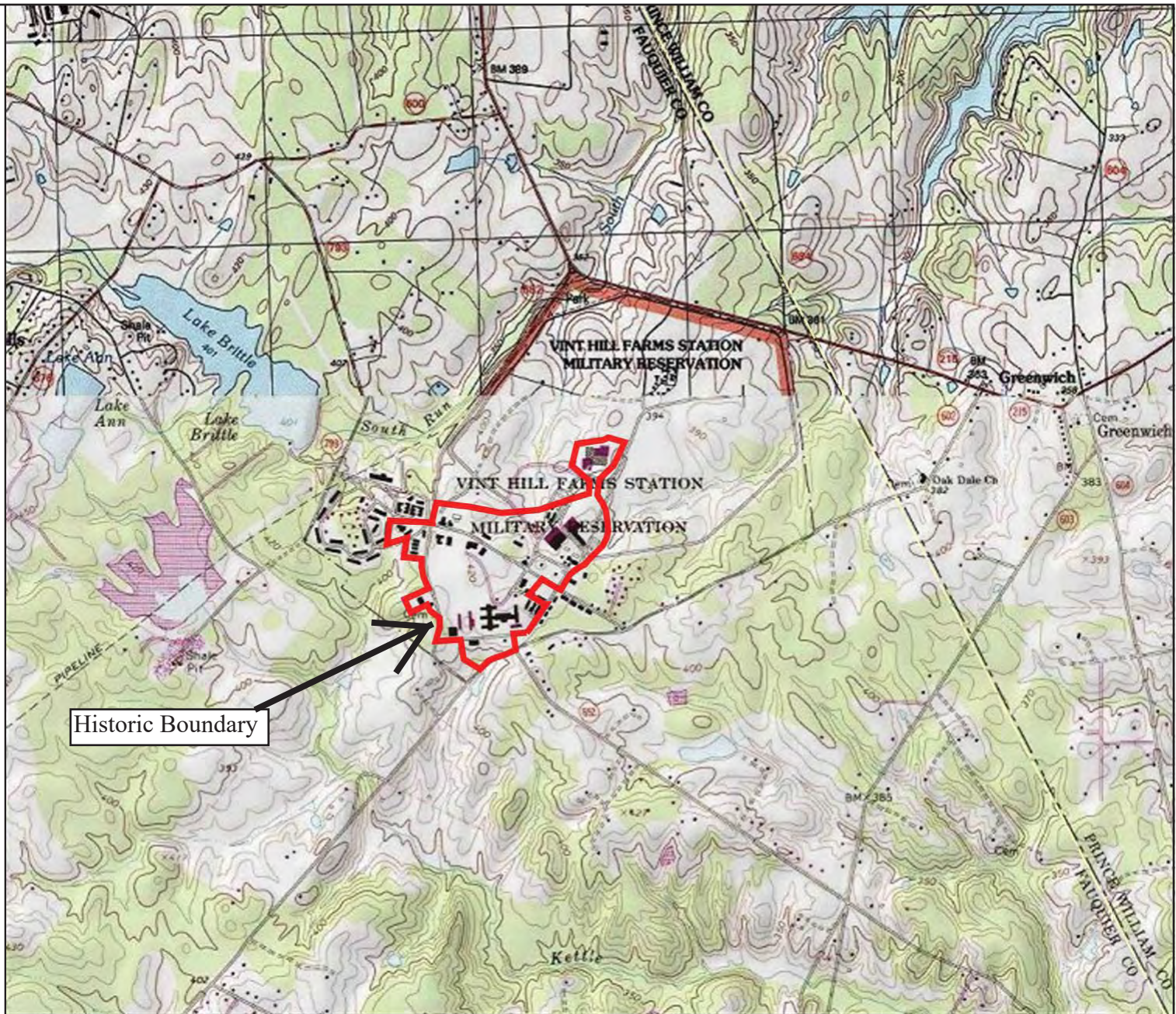
**TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic

District

Fauquier County, VA

DHR No. 030-0020



Historic Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 9/24/2021**

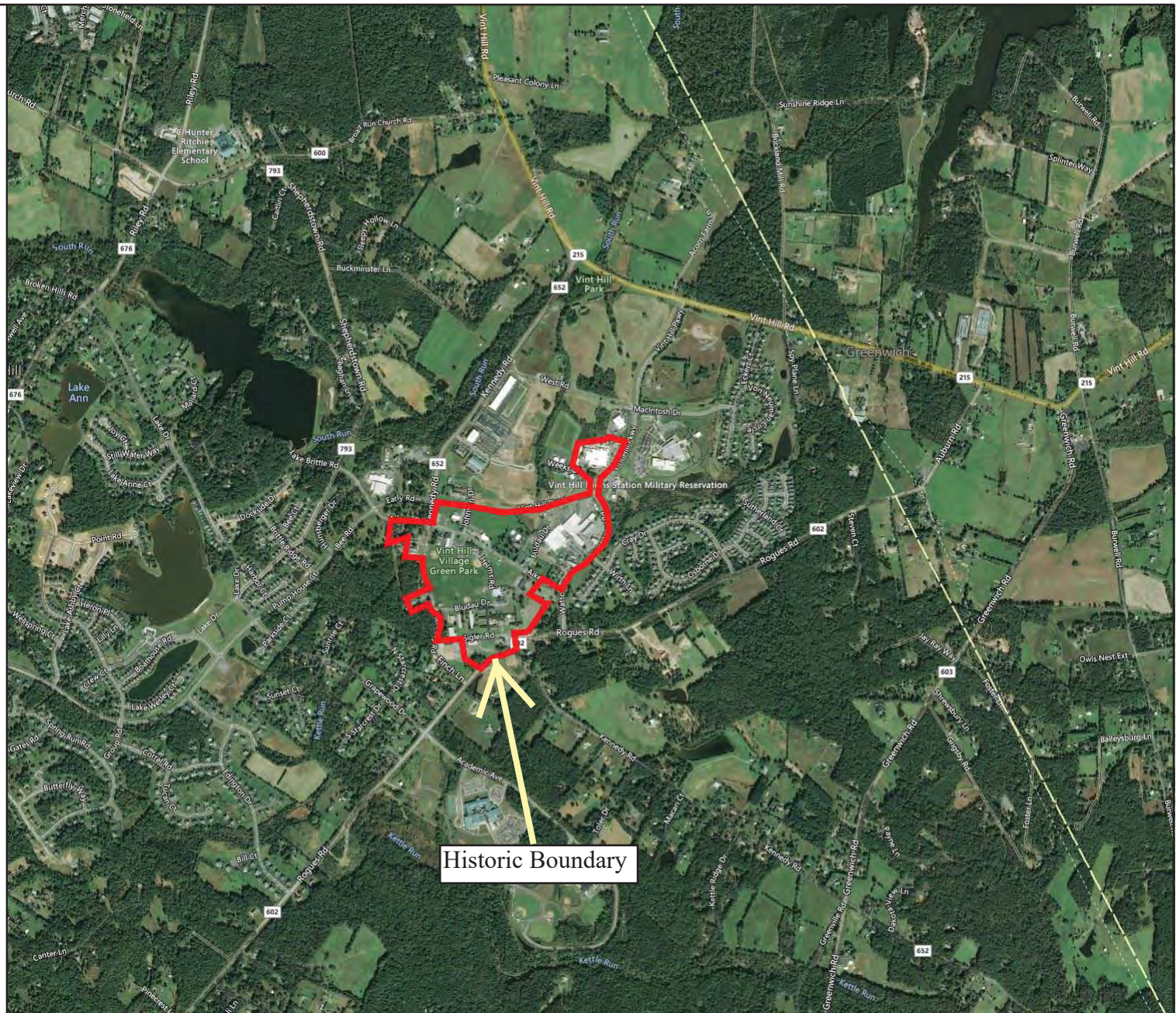
*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*



AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY  
Vint Hill Farms Station Historic  
District

Fauquier County, VA  
DHR No. 030-0020



Historic Boundary



Feet



0 600 1200 1800 2400  
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 9/24/2021

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

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**Legend**

Location Map  
Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District  
Warrenton, Fauquier County, VA  
DHR ID 030-0220

NE Corner  
Latitude: 38.748456  
Longitude: -77.672647

NW Corner  
Latitude: 38.748456  
Longitude: -77.686314

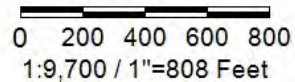
SW Corner  
Latitude: 38.738256  
Longitude: -77.686317

SE Corner  
Latitude: 38.738242  
Longitude: -77.672647

 Vint Hill Farms Station  
Historic District Boundary



Feet



**Title: Location Map | Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District (030-0020) Date: 5/20/2021**

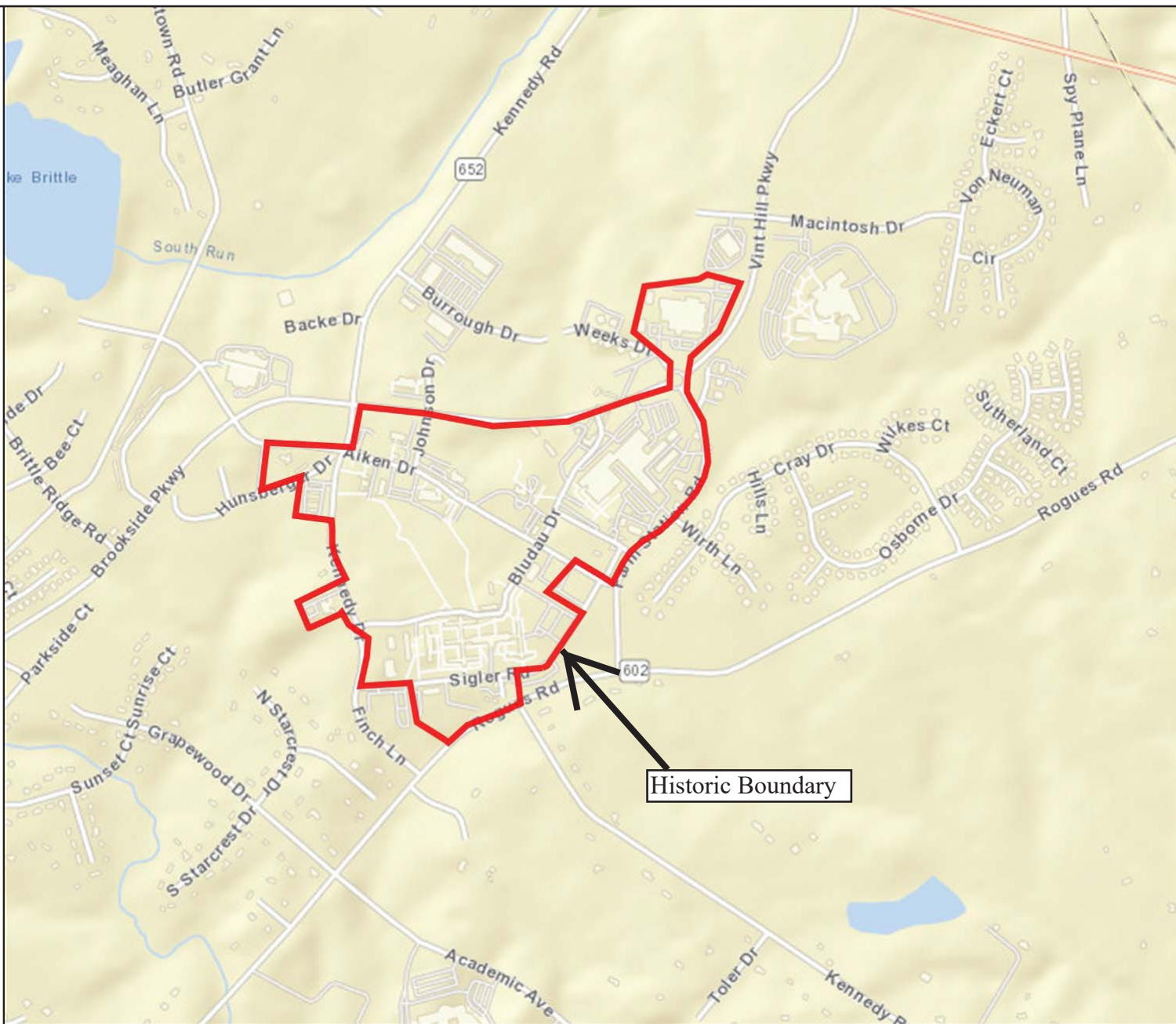
*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*

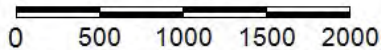


**STREET MAP**

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District  
Fauquier County, VA  
DHR No. 030-0020



Feet



1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

**Title:**

**Date: 9/24/2021**

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

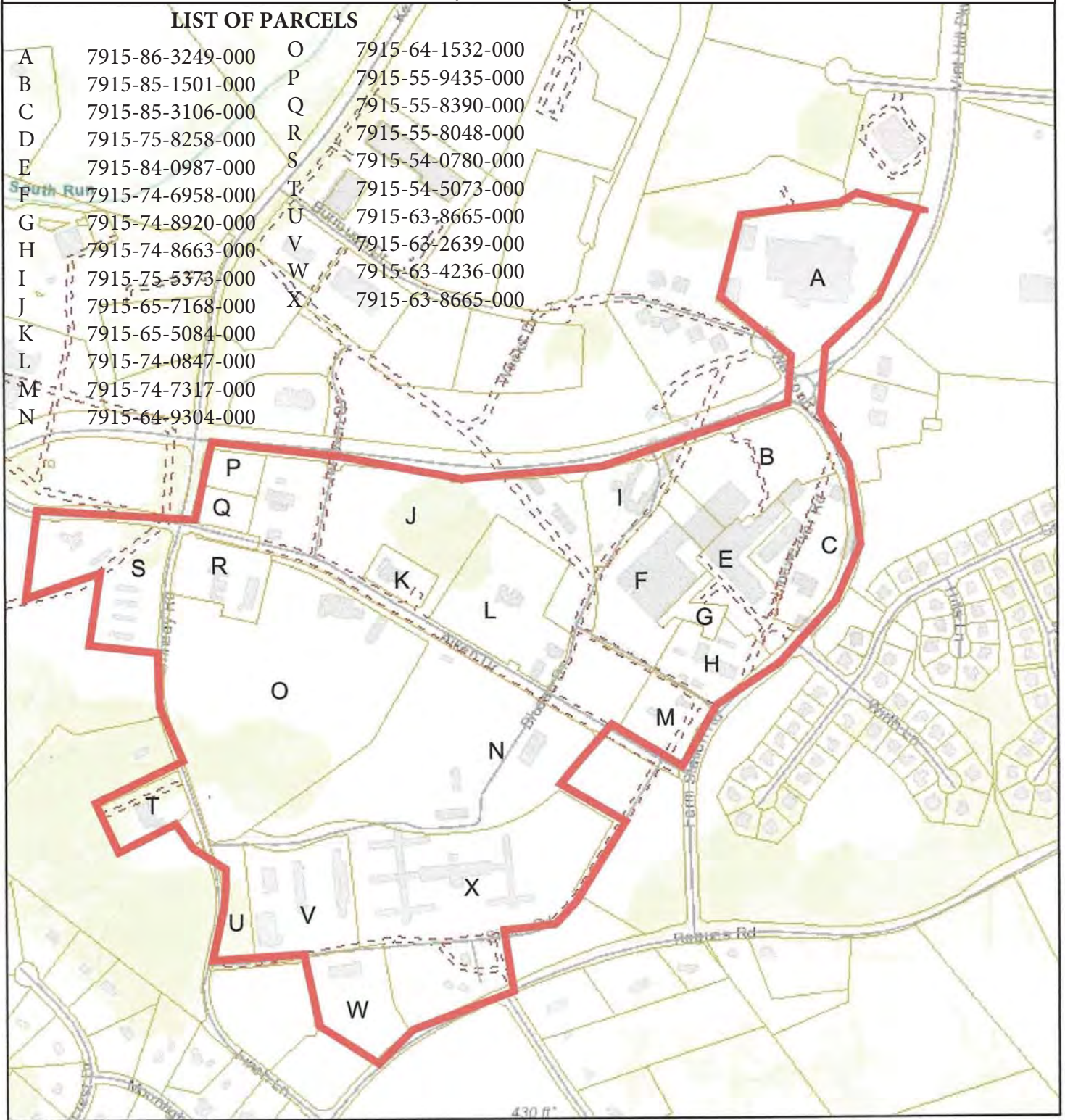
*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*

# TAX PARCEL MAP

Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA, DHR No. 030-0020

## LIST OF PARCELS

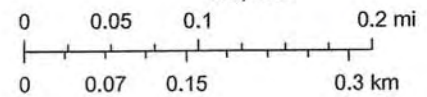
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C	7915-85-3106-000	Q	7915-55-8390-000
D	7915-75-8258-000	R	7915-55-8048-000
E	7915-84-0987-000	S	7915-54-0780-000
F	7915-74-6958-000	T	7915-54-5073-000
G	7915-74-8920-000	U	7915-63-8665-000
H	7915-74-8663-000	V	7915-63-2639-000
I	7915-75-5373-000	W	7915-63-4236-000
J	7915-65-7168-000	X	7915-63-8665-000
K	7915-65-5084-000		
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N	7915-64-9304-000		



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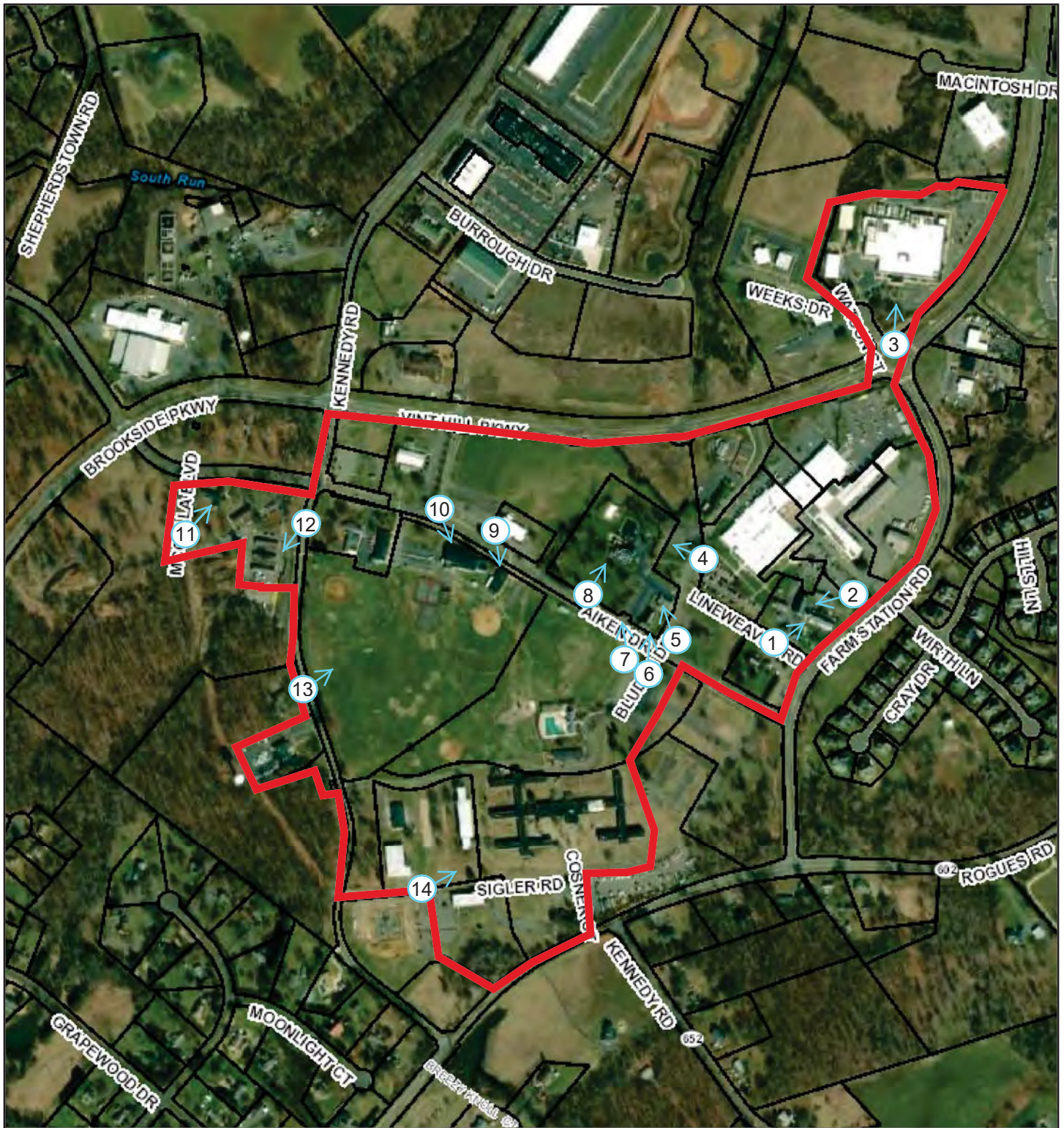
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- Municipal
- Railroad\_9K
- TaxParcel\_9K
- Road Centerlines\_without labels\_9K
- MAJOR
- MINOR; RAMP
- COUNTY
- LOCAL
- PRIVATE
- Encumbrances\_9K



County of Prince William, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA, Bloomfield Township MI, Esri., Inc.

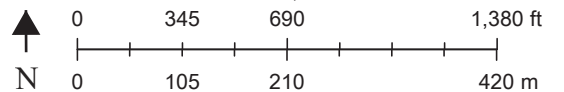
# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District (030-0020) Sketch Map Overall



4/26/2021, 9:42:26 AM

1:9,700

- ⬆ Road Centerline Labels
- ▭ Tax Parcel
- Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Boundary
- ①➡ Photo Key Number



VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, iPC, Maxar

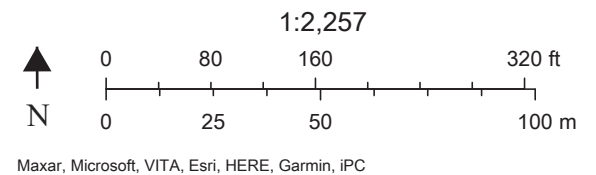
# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 1 of 11



4/26/2021, 9:41:03 AM

- Road Centerline Labels
- Tax Parcel
- Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Boundary

0001: DHR ID  
 NC - Non-contributing  
 \*All other properties are contributing



# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 2 of 11



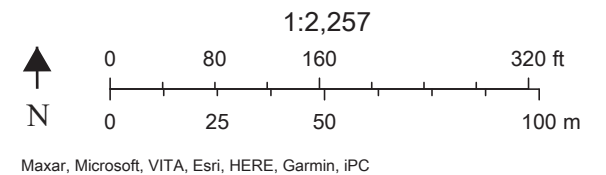
4/26/2021, 9:40:31 AM

Road Centerline Labels

 Tax Parcel

 Vint Hill Farms Station  
Historic District Boundary

0001: DHR ID  
 NC - Non-contributing  
 \*All other properties are contributing



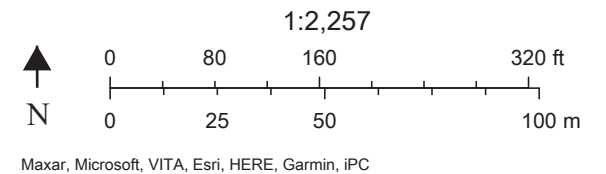
# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 3 of 11



4/26/2021, 9:39:56 AM

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- Tax Parcel
- Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Boundary

0001: DHR ID  
 NC - Non-contributing  
 \*All other properties are contributing



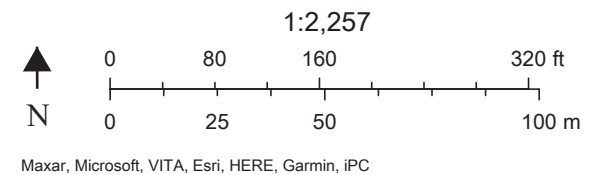
# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 4 of 11



4/26/2021, 9:39:09 AM

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- Tax Parcel
- Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Boundary




0001: DHR ID  
 NC - Non-contributing  
 \*All other properties are contributing



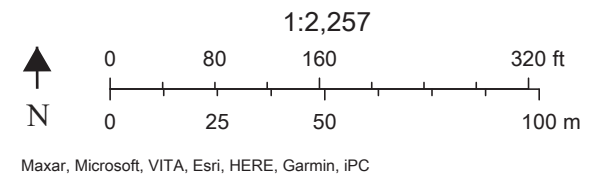
# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 5 of 11



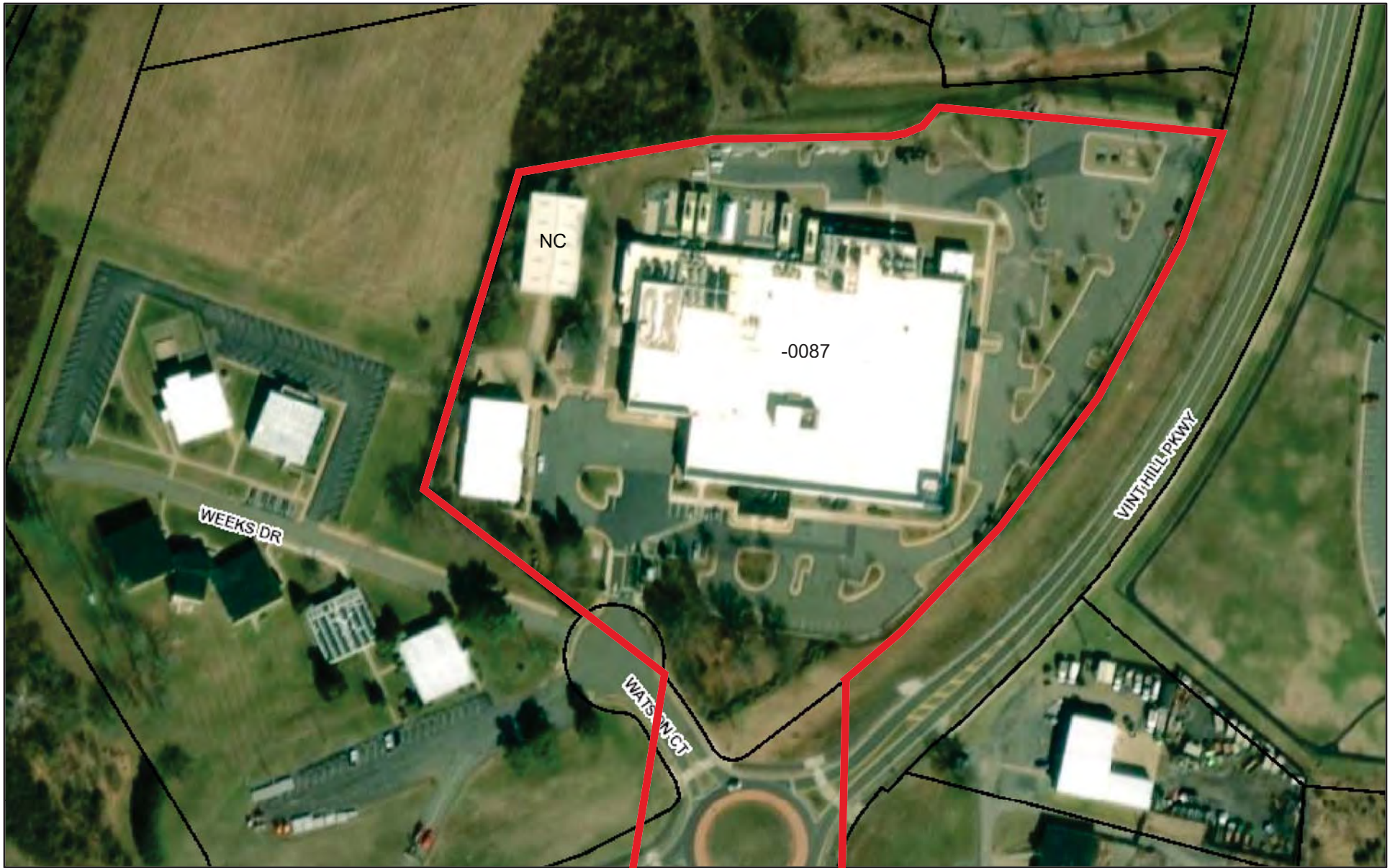
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-  Road Centerline Labels
-  Tax Parcel
-  Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Boundary

0001: DHR ID  
 NC - Non-contributing  
 \*All other properties are contributing



# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 6 of 11



4/26/2021, 9:37:27 AM

Road Centerline Labels

 Tax Parcel

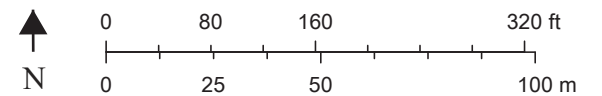
 Vint Hill Farms Station  
Historic District Boundary

0001: DHR ID

NC - Non-contributing

\*All other properties are contributing

1:2,257



Maxar, Microsoft, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, iPC

Fauquier County GIS  
Bloomfield Township MI, Esri., Inc. | Maxar, Microsoft | VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, iPC |

# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 7 of 11

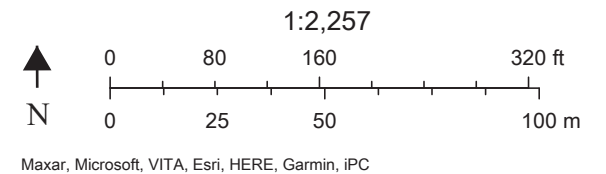


4/26/2021, 9:36:39 AM

Road Centerline Labels

 Tax Parcel




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 NC - Non-contributing  
 \*All other properties are contributing



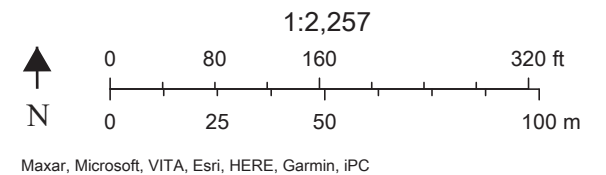
# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 8 of 11



4/26/2021, 9:35:22 AM

-  Road Centerline Labels
-  Tax Parcel
-  Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Boundary

0001: DHR ID  
 NC - Non-contributing  
 \*All other properties are contributing



# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 9 of 11



4/26/2021, 9:34:45 AM

Road Centerline Labels

 Tax Parcel

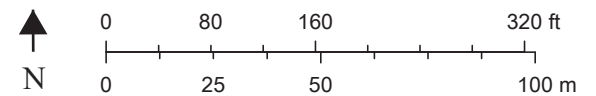
 Vint Hill Farms Station  
Historic District Boundary

0001: DHR ID

NC - Non-contributing

\*All other properties are contributing

1:2,257



Maxar, Microsoft, VITA, Esri, HERE, Garmin, iPC

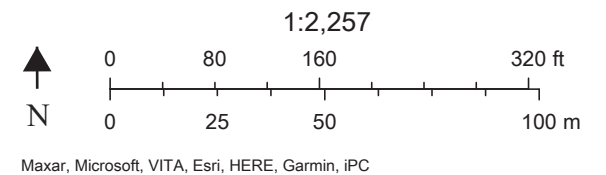
# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 10 of 11



4/26/2021, 10:34:47 AM

- Road Centerline Labels
- Tax Parcel
- Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Boundary



0001: DHR ID  
 NC - Non-contributing  
 \*All other properties are contributing



# Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District, Fauquier County, VA (030-0020) Sketch Map 11 of 11



4/26/2021, 9:32:53 AM

- Road Centerline Labels
-  Tax Parcel
-  Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District Boundary

0001: DHR ID  
NC - Non-contributing  
\*All other properties are contributing

