

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham Survey Number: PG: 81A-20

Project: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Section 110 Agency: CORPS

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended

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

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)
The buildings and structures at the U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, are associated with the Navy's communication program since the installation was commissioned in 1939. Established as a radio receiving station before World War II, the installation's mission evolved to administration during the Cold War era. The installation does not possess the qualities of significance for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with World War II. The installation does not possess direct, important associations with the communications activities of World War II operations. In addition, based on available unclassified sources, the Cold War era history of Cheltenham does not appear to be associated with exceptional events. The World War II built resources at Cheltenham do not appear to possess sufficient physical integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The integrity of the buildings and the site has been compromised by the removal of key elements and the construction of additions to many of the principal buildings. The antennas, which marked the site as a communications facility, have been rendered inoperable; the metal antennas were removed during the late 1980's and the few remaining creosoted antenna poles were abandoned among the woods and swamps. Many permanent brick buildings completed during the late 1930s and 1940s have received massive windowless additions that compromise the original design integrity of the earlier buildings.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Phase I Architectural Survey and Archeological Investigations at Naval Communication Detachment Cheltenham

Prepared by: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

[Signature] 12/1998
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
[Signature] 3/24/00 (revid)
Reviewer, NR program Date [Signature]

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

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

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

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

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

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

IV. Historic Period Themes:

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

V. Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Military Communications

Known Design Source: U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks

PG: 81A-20
U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham
Prince George's County
Vicinity of Clinton, MD
1936
Public: Not accessible

CAPSULE SUMMARY

The 102 buildings and structures located at U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, include 44 buildings and structures constructed between 1938 and 1945 and 58 constructed after 1946. The permanent brick buildings constructed between 1938 and 1946 feature Georgian Colonial Revival style ornamentation typical of Navy and general military design during the inter-war period, particularly at installations located in the east half of the U.S. Construction completed during the Cold War-era resulted in modern blind (windowless) additions to most operations buildings and two modern barracks buildings that reflect contemporary Navy design, rather than the Georgian Colonial Revival style character of the original installation. Common alterations noted on buildings include replacement window and door units. The original antenna fields, comprising creosoted wood telephone poles and metal antenna towers, were located in the acreage surrounding the buildings. All metal antenna poles have been removed from the installation. Some abandoned creosoted wood poles remain in the wooded and swampy sections of the installation.

Established as a radio receiving station before World War II, the installation's mission evolved to administration during the Cold War era. The installation does not appear to possess the qualities of significance for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with World War II. The installation does not possess direct, important associations with the communications activities of World War II operations. In addition, based on available unclassified sources, the Cold War-era history of the installation does not appear to be associated with exceptional events. The World War II built resources at U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, do not appear to possess sufficient physical integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The integrity of the buildings and the site has been compromised by the removal of key elements and the construction of additions to many of the principal buildings.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenhamand/or common Naval Communication Detachment, Cheltenham

2. Location

street & number 7700 Redman Ave.

N/A not for publication

city, town Cheltenham

___ vicinity of

congressional district 5thstate Marylandcounty Prince George's County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
			___ museum
			___ park
			___ private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

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

name Engineering Field Activities, Chesapeake, U.S. Navy, DOD, U.S. Governmentstreet & number Washington Navy Yard, Blding 212
901 M St., S.E.telephone no.: 202-685-3068city, town Washingtonstate and zip code DC 20374

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouseliber 426street & number Main Streetfolio 435city, town Upper Marlborostate Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:81A-20

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG:81A-20

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 232.06

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Brandywine

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	Maryland	code	county	Prince George's County	code
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state		code	county		code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine Grandine/Historian

organization R. Christopher Goodwin & Assoc., Inc. date November 3, 1998

street & number 241 East Fourth St., Suite 100 telephone 301-694-0428

city or town Frederick, state Maryland

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

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

return to: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~Shaw House~~
~~21 State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 269-2438~~

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

SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION

RESOURCE COUNT: 102

Summary

At U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, the buildings occupy the center of the installation's original acreage. Redman Avenue, the major north-south road, bisects the installation. The road originally linked the main entrance at the southern boundary of the installation with Building 1. The southern section of Redman Avenue is framed with maple trees and features cast stone street lights capped with glass globes installed during the initial construction of the installation. By 1947, Redman Avenue was extended to the north gate, and subsequently became the main entry to the installation. The buildings are oriented toward Redman Road in a line following a slight ridge. The original antenna fields, comprising creosoted wood telephone poles and metal antenna towers, were located in the acreage surrounding the buildings. All metal antenna poles have been removed from the installation. Some abandoned creosoted wood poles remain in the wooded and swampy sections of the installation.

The buildings located at the installation include both permanent and temporary construction. The permanent brick buildings constructed between 1938 and 1946 feature Georgian Colonial Revival style ornamentation. The use of Georgian Colonial Revival style ornamentation was typical of Navy and general military design during the inter-war period, particularly at installations located in the eastern half of the U.S. Examples of temporary World War II buildings on the installation include wood-frame defense housing and metal Quonset huts. Construction completed during the Cold War-era resulted in modern blind (windowless) additions to most of the operations buildings and two modern barracks buildings that reflected contemporary Navy design, rather than the Georgian Colonial Revival style character of the original installation. Common alterations noted on buildings include replacement window and door units. With the exception of the operational buildings, most of the buildings located on the installation have been mothballed pending disposal of the property. The following description of the buildings and structures located at U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, is organized by property types.

Description

Operations Buildings

Building 1 was completed in 1938 as the radio receiving building and the main operations building on the installation. The original brick building comprised a central, one-and-a-half-story block with a full basement flanked by one-story wings. The design of the original building incorporates Georgian Colonial Revival style decorative elements exemplified by the slate side-gable roof with gable end parapets, end wall brick chimneys, arched roof dormers, molded brick watertable, first floor window flat jack arches, and an arched door surround defining the central entry. Subsequent alterations to the original building included replacing window and door units and encasing the main entry surround in aluminum. The building is marked by a metal flagpole (Facility 60).

By 1947, the original side wings of Building 1 were replaced by larger, one-story, brick wings that transformed the building from a rectangular footprint to a U-shaped footprint. By 1955, a massive windowless brick and concrete-panel addition (Building 1A) was attached to Building 1 through the front of the west wing. During the 1960s, Building 1A was doubled in size by the completion of Building 1B.

The functions undertaken in Building 1 were supported by the activities housed in Buildings 64 and 55. Building 64 was constructed in 1959 as a standby generator. The one-story brick building terminates in a flat roof. Windows are metal-frame industrial units. The building exhibits large vent openings in both the east and west elevations. A one-story, metal-frame, metal-sided addition extends from the west elevation of the building. Building 55, constructed in 1954, served as an antenna maintenance shop. This one-story, rectangular, concrete-block and vinyl-sided building features a single plywood door and terminates in a flat roof.

Building 10, completed in 1941 as a high frequency direction finding building, originally was located in a field of high frequency direction finding antennas. It was classified as a temporary building in a 1947 real property list prepared by the Bureau of Yards and Docks (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks 1947b). The wood-frame building rests on a concrete slab foundation and currently is clad with vinyl siding. The building recently served as a hobby shop and boy scout hut.

Building 31 was completed in 1946 as a Special Projects Laboratory. The one-and-half-story, symmetrical, T-shaped, brick building is located near the southern entrance to the installation. The design incorporates simplified Georgian Colonial Revival style elements, including a segmental arched pediment over the main door, molded brick watertable, and arched roof dormers. Alterations to the building included replacing window and door units and encasing the original entry surround in aluminum. By 1955, a massive two-story, windowless, concrete-panel and brick addition was appended on the south end of the building. The addition contained a modern entry and altered the overall symmetrical design of the original building. Several other additions also were appended to the rear of the building. One special project conducted in this building was research to support the Communication Moon Relay system established during the 1950s. During the last period of occupancy, this building was used to test computer applications.

The activities undertaken in Building 31 were supported by the construction of a complex of one-story brick buildings. Building 40 was completed in 1951 as a storehouse. This brick building has a flat metal roof. Building 231, completed in 1969, is a tall brick building with a flat concrete overhanging roof. The front elevation features exterior brick piers. By 1964, a separate brick guard shack (Building 216) was completed to control access to the complex.

Building 84 was completed in 1957 to house the Communication Moon Relay (CMR) system. This rectangular, poured concrete building exhibits few openings. The front elevation contains paired metal doors and one small window. The flat roof originally featured an 84-foot steerable parabolic antenna known as the moon dish; this antenna was removed in 1986. A one-story, wood-sided storage shed abuts the east side of the building.

The 1998 real property inventory contains no listings for antennas. No metal antenna towers are located within the current property boundaries. However, a 1991 real property list recorded six antennas identified as dating from 1938: five rhombic and one fishbone antennas. These structures comprise creosoted telephone poles linked together via wires; they are abandoned in the swamps and woods of the installation. None of these antenna structures are operational. The rhombic antennas were formed by four creosoted telephone poles set in a diamond shape and connected by wires. The fishbone antenna was formed by six creosoted telephone poles set in lines of three to form a rectangle. Archival data suggests that the date of construction recorded in the 1991 real property inventory is incorrect. These antenna configurations actually represent antenna installations installed later than 1938. The 1938 antenna configurations comprised nine large rhombics. The smaller rhombic antenna arrangements were introduced during the 1940s and the fishbone antennas first appeared on an installation map dated 1942.

Housing

Building 3, constructed in 1938, was a barracks with mess hall. This rectangular, two-story, brick building originally had a one-story open porch on the south end. The facade was symmetrical with a central three-bay projecting pedimented gable containing the main entry. The design of the original building incorporated Georgian Colonial Revival style decorative elements exemplified by the cornice, pedimented front gable with circular window, arched roof dormers, molded brick watertable, brick stringcourse, and a broken pediment surround defining the central entry. Subsequent alterations to the original building included replacement of window and door units, encasement of the main entry surround in aluminum, and enclosure of the original side porch. By 1955, a large, flat-roof, one-story addition was appended to the west side of the building to expand the mess hall and commissary space. This addition included a one-story projection added to the front of the building that altered the original symmetrical design. Building 68, located north of Building 3, was constructed in 1959 as a garbage house. It is a one-story, one-bay, brick building with a flat roof.

Building 4 was completed in 1938 to house chief petty officers. This two-story building terminates in a hipped roof. Two-story enclosed porches are attached to the side elevations. The front elevation features an enclosed projecting portico with two-story square wood columns that support the gable roof.

Building 13, completed in 1941, is a two-story, H-plan, brick barracks. The intersecting gable roofs are sheathed in slate shingles. The building features a raking cornice and lunettes with brick header surrounds in each gable end. The main entrance contains modern replacement door units. The door surround features a fanlight and brick surround with stone imposts and central keystone. The rear elevation features the addition of two exterior brick stair towers.

Two barracks (Buildings 50 and 230) were added to the installation during the Cold War era. The designs of both barracks reflect contemporary standardized plans used by the Navy. No attempts were made to introduce Colonial Revival detailing on the buildings. Building 50, completed in 1958, is a three-story, concrete-block building faced in brick. The flat roof features concrete overhangs. Flat concrete pent roofs project from the first and second floors. A one-story enclosed sun porch is attached to the north end. The windows are metal-frame paired and tripled casement units. Building 230, completed in 1969, is a four-story brick building that features horizontal bands of concrete panels that shield open corridors linking the rooms on the west elevation. The east elevation features vertical stacks of sliding windows separated by stuccoed spandrels.

Family housing on the installation included both housing for officers and enlisted personnel. Building 100, completed in 1937, housed the commanding officer. This two-and-a-half-story, rectangular building features a three-bay symmetrical facade with a one-story pedimented entry porch supported by four Doric columns. The side gable roof is sheathed with slate shingles. A two-story gambrel-roof, enclosed porch is attached to the west elevation. The rear elevation features a one-story, shed-roof porch and an open metal fire escape. The windows and shutters are replacement units; original shutter hardware remains on the building. The first floor plan of the building features a living room, a central hall, a front dining room, and a rear kitchen. The interior features narrow wood flooring, a dog-legged turned wood stair, and an Adamesque wood mantel over the living room fireplace. Arched built-in cupboards are located on either side of the living room windows.

Building 101, completed in 1937, was constructed for the radio electrician. This one-and-a-half-story brick cottage features a brick cornice and gabled dormers on the front roof elevation. A one-story, wood-frame, vinyl-clad enclosed porch is located on the south elevation.

Building 32, completed in 1946, was constructed for married officers. This two-story, rectangular, brick building has a side gable roof sheathed with slate shingles. The gable ends feature brick chimneys. A one-story, hipped roof entry porch is located on the front elevation.

Housing for enlisted personnel was first completed in 1941 as part of a nationwide program for low-cost defense housing. Thirteen buildings (Buildings 86-98), known as White City, were arranged in a loop located east of Redman Avenue. The buildings face inward onto an open green space. A service road encircles the outer periphery of the housing area. The one-story houses were constructed with concrete foundation footings, wood framing, wood siding, and asphalt roofs. The buildings lack ornamentation. These units were classified as temporary construction in 1947 and have been remodeled several times since their original construction. Currently the houses are sheathed with vinyl siding and the windows are replacement units. A one-story, concrete-block building (Building 27) was constructed as a fire and wash house to support the housing complex.

In 1950, four additional wood-frame, single-family dwellings (Buildings 102-105) were constructed east of Redman Avenue to augment housing available for married officers. These one-story buildings exhibit no ornamentation and are sheathed with vinyl siding. The original siding was horizontal wood boards.

Four garages support the housing area. Building 5, completed in 1938, is a one-story, wood-frame, side-gable building with three overhead garage doors. The exterior is clad with horizontal wood boards. Buildings 65, 66, and 67 are one-story, front-gable garages with single overhead track doors. Building 67 is finished in brick; Buildings 65 and 66 are stuccoed. Building 67 features a screened porch on the north elevation.

Installation Support Buildings

Installation support buildings include shops, a fire station, and storage buildings. In 1941, Buildings 14 and 15 were constructed as permanent buildings. Building 14, a facilities building, is a one-story brick building that terminates in a flat roof with parapet. Building 15, originally a garage, is constructed of structural clay tile. The building originally contained four garage bays along the east elevation; two openings were infilled with brick, wood, and concrete block. The west elevation features a concrete block office extension and a shed-roofed area supported on metal posts to provide covered storage. Building 215 is attached to the north end of Building 15. This one-story, brick building with a flat roof was constructed in 1957 as a gas station for the Public Works Department.

Building 11 was constructed in 1941 as a temporary building for antenna storage. This rectangular, wood-frame building is clad with corrugated metal and wood siding. A shed-roof addition on the west elevation contains two open bays and three enclosed bays for storage. The front gable roof is sheathed with composition shingles.

Other storage buildings on the installation include two Butler buildings and seven Quonset huts. Buildings 232 and 239 are metal-frame, metal-sided, metal-roofed Butler buildings. Buildings 19 (A-C), 33, 41, 110, and 111 are examples of Quonset huts. This adaptable metal-arched and metal-sided building type was used for storage and offices. In the case of Building 19, three were linked together to form a chapel. Most Quonset huts are set on concrete block foundations. Several buildings have wood ends and several others have been sprayed with a green styrofoam covering.

Building 22, constructed in 1951, served as the installation gas station. This utilitarian one-story, concrete-block building terminates in a flat slab roof. Gas tanks (Facility 240) are located south of the building.

The boundaries of the installation are marked by two metal sentry stations. Building 29 is listed with a date of 1940. However, in 1947, this building was classified as a wood-frame temporary building. The current Building 29 is a metal box with large windows similar to Building 85 that is listed with a construction date of 1959. It is presumed the original Building 29 was replaced at the same time. Building 29 was relocated ca. 1987 when the southern end of the property was leased to the Prince George's Fire Training Academy.

Infrastructure

Building 2 was constructed in 1937 as the boiler plant to produce steam heat. This one-story, rectangular brick building terminates in a flat roof defined by a parapet and rests on a concrete slab foundation. The building is ornamented with a concrete stringcourse at the base of the roof parapet. The windows are industrial steel sash units. Three sets of paired metal doors with glass lights are located in the east elevation. Metal vents were installed to replace the original transoms. The west elevation features two metal overhead track loading doors. During the late 1970s or early 1980s, a brick addition was constructed on the north end of the building, adding a third bay to the building.

Originally, the installation was equipped with a standby generator to guard against power outages. The oldest transformer station is located near the south end of Building 2. This transformer station features a rusting metal frame and old generating equipment.

The remaining substations and switching stations appear to be modern. Facilities 52, 53, 121, and Substation 7 comprise modern metal transformer units set on concrete pads surrounded by chain link fences. These substations are dispersed throughout the installation; most major operations buildings have substations located nearby. Building 99 represents an older style of transformer station and is located in White City. This one-story brick building terminates in a concrete slab roof; it rests on a concrete slab foundation.

Two metal elevated water storage tanks and concrete pump stations document the water supply system for the installation. The elevated metal water storage tanks were constructed in 1938 (Facility 7) and 1959 (Facility 107). Buildings 6, 9, 106, and 108 are small, one-story, concrete block or poured concrete pumping stations.

Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities comprise outdoor playing fields for softball, volleyball, and football; a paved basketball court; and, tennis courts. During World War II, an outdoor swimming pool (Facility 17) was opened; the pool was infilled during the 1980s. Two, one-story, wood-frame bathhouses (Buildings 79 and 217) joined by a brick water filtration plant (Building 122, constructed in 1956) define the south end of the former pool site. A snack shack (Building 218, constructed in 1964) and concrete dance pavilion (Facility 161, constructed in 1963) define the north end of the former pool. Picnic areas A and B are located near the former pool area. The picnic shelters are modern wood or metal-frame structures that support metal roofs. Building 214 is a one-story, concrete-block building constructed in 1969 as an auto hobby shop.

LIST OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Fac. #	Building Use	Date	Original Use	NR Potential
1	Communication Center	1938	Radio Receiving Building	None
1A	Addition	1955	Operations Building	None
1B	Addition	1960s	Operations Building	None
2	Heat Plant/Stand-by Generator Building	1936-37	Boiler House	None
3	Galley/Officers And Enlisted Men's Mess	1938	Barracks and Mess Hall	None
4	EM Quarters	1938	Quarters, Chief Petty Officers	None
5	Garage	1938	Garage	None
6	Valve House	1938	Pump shelter and Well	None
7	Elevated Water Storage Tank (Potable)	1938	Elevated Water Tank	None
9	Well/Reservoir (Potable)	1949	Water Pump Station	None
10	Hobby Shop	1941	High Frequency/Direction Finder Hse	None
11	Public Works Maintenance Storage	1941	Antenna Storage Shed	None
13	Exchange/Administration/Recreation Center	1941	Barracks	None
14	Public Works Shop	1941	Facilities Building	None
15	Fire station/Vehicle Maintenance Shop	1941	Garage	None
17	Swimming Pool	1943	Swimming Pool	None
19	Administration Office	1951	Quonset Huts (3)	None
22	Supply, Gas	1951	Gas Station	None
27	General Storage Shed	1941	Fire and Wash House	None
29	Sentry Station	1940	Sentry Station	None
31	Communications Laboratory	1946	Laboratory, Special Projects	None
32	MOQ	1946	BOQ	None
33	General Warehouse Bulk	1947	Quonset Hut	None
36	Playing Court	1942	Tennis Courts	None
40	General Warehouse Bulk	1951	Electrical Equipment Storage	None
41	Applied Instruction Building	1948	Quonset Hut	None
50	General Instruction Building	1958	Barracks	None
52	Substation	1953	Substation 1	None
53	Transformer Station near Stone Court	1953	Substation 4	None
55	Storage	1954	Antenna Maintenance Shop	None
56	Playing Court		Volleyball Court	None
57	Playing Field	1947	Football Field	None
60	Flagpole	1938	Flagpole	None
62	Other Paved Areas	1951	Concrete Dance Pad	None
64	Public Works Shop	1959	Generator Building	None
65	Garage	1957	Garage	None
66	Garage	1957	Garage	None
67	Garage	1957	Garage	None
68	Refrigeration/Air Conditioning Bldg.	1959	Garbage House	None
70	Playing Field	1942	Softball Field	None
79	Bathhouse	1943	Bathhouse	None
84	Electric/Communication Sys Int Bldg.	1957	Communication Moon Relay Building	None
85	Sentry Station	1959	Sentry Station	None
86	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
87	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
88	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
89	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
90	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
91	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
92	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
93	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
94	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None

Fac. #	Building Use	Date	Original Use	NR Potential
95	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
96	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
97	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
98	EM Quarters	1941	White City, Low Cost Housing	None
99	Transformer Station	1947	Transformer Station	None
100	Quarters A	1937	Quarters, Officer in Charge	None
101	Quarters B	1937	Quarters, Radio Electrician	None
102	MOQ, Quarters E	1950	Quarters	None
103	MOQ, Quarters F	1950	Quarters	None
104	MOQ, Quarters G	1950	Quarters	None
105	MOQ, Quarters H	1950	Quarters	None
106	Valve House	1944	Valve House	None
107	Elevated Water Storage Tank (Potable)	1959	Water Tank	None
108	Water Pump Station	1951	Water Pump Station	None
110	Public Works Shop Storage	1960	Quonset Hut	None
111	Public Works Maintenance Storage	1960	Quonset Hut	None
121	Substation Pad 3 (near B-239)	1958	Substation	None
122	Water Treatment Facility Building	1956	Water Filtration Plant-Pool	None
127	Public Toilet	1960	Public Toilet	None
145	General Storage Shed	1963	Recreation Equipment Storage	None
148	Playing Court	1962	Basketball Court	None
161	Dance Pavilion	1963	Paved Pool Patio	None
162	Playing Field	1962	Practice Softball Field	None
163	Antenna	1938	Rhombic-1 (R-1)	None
169	Antenna	1938	Rhombic-10 (R-10)	None
171	Antenna	1938	Rhombic-15 (R-15)	None
172	Antenna	1938	Rhombic-16 (R-16)	None
191	Antenna	1938	Rhombic-13-S (R-13-S)	None
206	Antenna	1938	Fishbone-8-S (F-8-S)	None
210	Recreation Grounds	1963	Barbecue Pit	None
214	Auto Hobby Shop	1969	Grease Pit	None
215	Administration Office	1957	Public Works Gas Station	None
216	General Storage Shed	1964	Security Guard House	None
217	Bathhouse	1943	Bathhouse	None
218	Recreation Pavilion	1964	Snack Stand	None
229	Recreation Grounds	1968	Picnic Shelter	None
230	BEQ/Administration	1969	Barracks	None
231	Controlled Humidity Warehouse	1969	ACTU Shops	None
232	General Warehouse Bulk	1958	Butler Building	None
233	Recreation Grounds	1969	Picnic Shelter	None
234	Recreation Grounds	1969	Picnic Shelter	None
236	Recreation Grounds	1969	Picnic Shelter	None
237	Playing Court	1978	Volleyball Court	None
238	Playing Court	1945	Playing Court	None
239	General Warehouse Bulk	1991	Butler Building	None
240	Gas Tank Building		Tanks	None
	Street Lighting	1937	Street Lighting	None
	Transformer Station	1967	Transformer Station	None
	Switching Stations (2)	1967	Switching Stations (2)	None
	Transformer Pad Substation 7 (near B-13)		Substation 7	None

SECTION 8: SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Naval Communication Detachment, Cheltenham, contains 102 buildings and structures that are associated with the Navy's communication program since the commissioning of the installation in 1939. Established as a radio receiving station before World War II, the mission of the installation evolved to administration during the Cold War era. The installation contains operations buildings, housing, installation support buildings, infrastructure, and recreational facilities. Evaluation of the National Register eligibility of the installation was prompted by the scheduled base closure.

The U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, does not appear to possess the qualities of significance for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with World War II. The installation does not possess direct, important associations with the communications activities of World War II operations. In addition, based on available unclassified sources, the Cold War-era history of U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, does not appear to be associated with exceptional events. The World War II built resources at U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, do not appear to possess sufficient physical integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The integrity of the buildings and the site has been compromised by the removal of key elements and the construction of additions to many of the principal buildings.

Historic Context

Inter-war and World War II (1936-1946)

U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, was commissioned as a radio receiver station in 1939 with a staff of two officers and 45 enlisted personnel. The installation was located on 559 acres purchased by the U.S. government in 1935 from G. Irene and Frank Tippett. The site was selected because, at the time, this area was located amid woods and farmlands and was relatively free from interference with radio communications.

U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, was constructed as part of the Naval Communication Service. The service, officially established in 1916 under the Chief of Naval Operations, resulted from efforts to maintain an effective communication system between shore-based command headquarters and the fleet at sea. Efforts to establish a communications network began during the early years of the twentieth century. By the end of 1904, 33 ships and 18 shore installation were equipped with radio. By 1908, the Navy had established a chain of radio stations that allowed communication between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. In 1909, a high-powered radio transmitting station was opened in Arlington, Virginia. In 1912, the Navy instituted a program to construct a chain of high-powered communications stations around the globe (Office of the Chief of Naval Operations 1963).

The earliest on-shore radio stations included both transmitting and receiving capabilities. As radio traffic increased, transmitting and receiving functions were located at separate sites. Transmitting sites, in particular, generally required separate facilities to accommodate more powerful radio transmitting towers.

When the United States entered World War I, President Woodrow Wilson directed the Navy Department to assume responsibility to establish and operate a transatlantic communication system. This system comprised facilities taken over by the Navy from commercial interests, particularly the

Marconi Wireless Company. Transmitting facilities included New Brunswick, New Jersey; Tuckerton, New Jersey; and, Sayville, Long Island. The transmitting station at Chollas Heights, California, was commissioned in 1917. Transmitting stations were used to broadcast orders to the fleet, including naval ships at sea and U.S. merchant ships. Receiving stations were established at Belmar, New Jersey; Chatham, Massachusetts; and, Bar Harbor, Maine (Gebhard 1979:20). By the end of World War I, the Navy's on-shore radio installations were augmented by the construction of high-powered transmitting stations at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Cavite, Philippines; and, Annapolis, Maryland (Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1997c).

The Naval Communication Service was expanded during the inter-war era in response to increased radio traffic and technological improvements. U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, was constructed to support naval communications generated by the Navy Department headquarters located in Washington, D.C. The new station complemented the transmitting capabilities of Naval Radio Station, Arlington, and Naval Radio Station, Annapolis. The operational headquarters remained located in buildings occupied by the Navy Department in Washington, D.C. Before the outbreak of World War II, the Naval Communication Service comprised 8 stations providing primary fixed point-to-point service, 23 secondary stations, and 32 radio direction finder stations (U.S. Office of Naval Operations 1946).

The initial building campaign at U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, occurred between 1936 and 1938. The original installation comprised the following buildings: radio receiving building (Building 1), boiler house (Building 2), barracks with galley (Building 3), Chief Petty Officers Quarters (Building 4), radio electrician quarters (Quarters B, Building 101), officer in charge quarters (Quarters A, Building 100), and a garage (Building 5). The buildings were designed by the Bureau of Yards and Docks. The major buildings were constructed of brick and featured Georgian Colonial Revival style ornamentation.

The buildings were located along a slight ridge near the middle of the property. The original main entrance was located along the southern boundary of the installation. The original road extended from the southern boundary to Building 2; Building 1 was approached by a long sidewalk. In 1938, nine large rhombic antennas were located in the woods and fields surrounding Building 1 (U.S. Naval Communication Detachment, Cheltenham, maps). The rhombic antennas were formed by four creosoted telephone poles set in a diamond shape and connected by wires. In addition, the installation was equipped with high-frequency direction finders (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks 1947b).

During World War II, U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham (receiving), functioned as part of Radio Washington. Radio Washington also included the Navy Department Communication Office in Washington, D.C., U.S. Naval Radio Station, Arlington (transmitting), and U.S. Naval Radio Station, Annapolis (transmitting). Because of its proximity to Navy headquarters, Radio Washington functioned as the key station for the entire Naval Communication Service (U.S. Office of Naval Operations 1946). All radio messages from the Navy Department to ships at sea and naval bases were transmitted through U.S. Naval Radio Station, Annapolis; all messages from ships at sea and naval bases were received at U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham. This included the fateful message, transmitted from Chollas Heights, California, of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.

Technological innovations also were implemented at Cheltenham. By 1941, the naval teletypewriter system was activated to link Washington, Norfolk, Philadelphia, New York, New London, Boston, and Portsmouth. The teletypewriter allowed for faster, semi-automatic transmission of messages. In addition, technological advances resulted in the use of multi-channel radio circuits and the installation of high-frequency direction finders.

As a receiving station, U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, also served as an intercept station for radio traffic broadcast by friends and foes. By 1939, a Security Group Detachment was located at Cheltenham to intercept radio traffic. On 4 December 1941, this radio interception group intercepted a "Winds Execute" message addressed to the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., that indicated impending war. During 1942, an informal training session occurred at Cheltenham to train Navy and Marine Corps radio operators in radio interception techniques. Intercepts of foreign radio transmissions were then submitted to codebreakers working in the Navy Department Headquarters for deciphering (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Operational Archives, Phillips file).

Additional permanent brick buildings constructed at the radio station between 1941 and 1945 included a barracks (Building 13), a facilities building (Building 14), and a garage (Building 15). While Buildings 13 and 15 were constructed of brick as permanent facilities, the use of Georgian Colonial Revival design elements, although present, were minimal. Temporary wood-frame construction was employed to erect the high frequency direction finder house (Building 10) and an antenna storage building (Building 11).

In addition, thirteen wood-frame housing units were constructed at the installation. These buildings were constructed as part of a nationwide program to provide low-cost housing for defense personnel. Of approximately 19,000 defense housing units constructed during 1941, 745 units were located in and around Washington, D.C. Twenty-five units comprising one single dwelling and twelve duplexes were constructed at U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham. These low-cost housing units utilized wood-frame construction, wood siding, and asphalt roofing (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks 1947a).

During World War II, the Naval Communication Service grew to include 25 primary stations and 55 secondary stations that provided high-speed, point-to-point communications to naval activities around the globe, as well as 72 direction finding stations. In terms of construction costs, allocations for construction at naval communications stations totaled \$25 million dollars, less than one-half percent of the total World War II naval construction budget. In terms of personnel, the communication service employed 250,000 personnel out of a Navy numbering 3,400,000 and roughly twenty times the number employed in the communication service in 1939. During the last months of the war, Radio Washington transmitted and received about 41 million groups of dispatches (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks 1947a; U.S. Office of Naval Operations 1946).

Cold War (1946-1989)

Following the end of World War II, the U.S. military was reorganized in response to lessons learned during the war and to the strategic challenges ushered in by the Cold War era. The Cold War era generally is defined as the period beginning in 1946 following Soviet activities to retain territory liberated from Nazi Germany during World War II and extending to the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989. This period was marked by a tense, hostile relationship between the Warsaw Pact countries led by the U.S.S.R. and the NATO Allies led by the U.S.A. The primary role of the U.S. Navy during the Cold War era was maintaining U.S. control at sea, containing the Communist threat, upgrading hardware (such as aircraft carriers, submarines, guided missiles), improving communications, researching and developing technology, and training (Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1995b).

In 1950, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) officially established the "Naval Communication System." The Naval Communication System was an integrated network for rapid naval communication service on a worldwide scale. Under the direction of the CNO, this system was responsible for providing the means of transmitting CNO directives and instructions to the principal

fleet area and to force commanders, and to collect intelligence from these commanders (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel 1954).

The Naval Communication System comprised a network of primary and secondary naval communications stations or facilities, as well as ancillary stations. Six naval communication stations were designated as primary communication centers: Washington, D.C.; San Francisco, California; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Guam; Balboa, Canal Zone; and, Port Lyautey, French Morocco. These primary communication stations furnished complete radio coverage over the strategic ocean areas. Secondary fleet and general broadcast stations included: San Juan, Puerto Rico; Key West, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; Charleston, South Carolina; Norfolk, Virginia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York City, New York; Newport, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts; San Diego, California; Seattle, Washington; Kodiak and Adak, Alaska; Yokosuka, Japan; Sangley Point, Philippines (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel 1954).

Each primary and secondary naval communication station was equipped with all communication facilities and ancillary equipment required to provide essential communication services for a specific area. All naval communications stations performed the following tasks: 1) teletypewriter tape relay functions; 2) radio transmitting or receiving for a communication center; and, 3) primary, secondary, or limited fleet support. In addition, most naval communications stations provided communication support for Naval Districts; the commanders of naval bases, stations, or shipyards; and, Marine Corps commanders (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel 1954).

A typical naval communication station included three components: a communication center that contained a message center, a cryptographic center, and transmitting and receiving facilities. The communication center was responsible for receipt, transmission, and delivery of messages. The communication center either consolidated these functions at a single location or separated transmitting and receiving facilities from the communication center (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel 1954; U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks 1953). A naval radio station was responsible for performing radio transmitting, receiving, or link relay functions at a location geographically distant from the communication center. A type-designating letter (T or R) was added in parentheses to indicate the functions (transmitting or receiving) that a radio station performed (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel 1954). Naval radio stations primarily handled administration traffic for everyday operations.

One responsibility of the Naval Communication System was to provide a secure means to handle operational, or security, communications within the network. One of the organizational components of a naval communication station was a Naval Security Group department, or detachment, which handled these special communications functions. These detachments were detailed to naval radio stations worldwide to perform security interception, transmission, or reception of radio signals (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Naval Personnel 1954).

During the 1950s, the Navy Department established general guidelines to construct, upgrade, and/or expand the on-shore naval communications stations. For new radio receiving installations, the Navy recommended that the receiver building and the antenna fields be located in the center of the installation, separated from the other installation support buildings and housing areas. The best location for the installation support buildings was near the boundary of the installation so as to allow the greatest possible space for the antenna field. The construction recommended for the communications stations was masonry and/or reinforced concrete windowless buildings with mechanical ventilation or air conditioning (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks 1953). Construction during the 1950s of new radio stations such as Naval Radio Station (Transmitting), Driver, and Naval Radio Station (Receiving), Northwest, in southeastern Virginia exhibited many of these new guidelines (Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1997a,e). Expansion that occurred at NCD,

Cheltenham, adopted as many of these standards as practicable within the constraints of previous installation planning.

On 15 August 1953, the installation at Cheltenham was commissioned as U.S. Naval Communication Station, Washington, D.C., becoming a primary communication station within the overall Naval Communication System (U.S. NCD, Cheltenham, historical plaque) with direct links to Navy Headquarters in Washington, D.C. This station functioned both as a communications center and as a receiving station. The station also oversaw operations at Naval Radio Station Arlington (transmitting) and Naval Radio Station Annapolis (transmitting). In 1956, Naval Radio Station, Arlington, was disestablished.

During the 1950s, the communication station at Cheltenham performed administrative duties and received routine communications traffic for everyday operations. As at other communications stations, communications technology was constantly upgraded. During the 1940s, the primary antennas in use at the installation were numerous small rhombic (that replaced the large rhombics in use in 1938) and fishbone antennas. The rhombic antennas were smaller versions of the original antennas, formed by four creosoted telephone poles set in a diamond pattern connected by wires; five small rhombic configurations remain abandoned in the woods and swamps on the installation. The fishbone antennas were formed by six creosoted telephone poles set in lines of three to form a rectangle connected by wires.

By 1955, a microwave communication system installed between Cheltenham and Annapolis replaced telephone land lines. Large metal antenna towers were added to the installation in response to technological changes; however, these antenna towers subsequently were removed. During the 1960s, RSA antennas were added to the antenna field. The RSA antennas were depicted on the installation development maps of the 1960s with three-quarter circle footprints.

Construction undertaken immediately after the end of World War II included a married officers quarters (Building 32) and a Special Projects Laboratory (Building 31), both completed in 1946. These two buildings were the last substantial buildings constructed using Georgian Colonial Revival style design elements. During the 1950s, additions to existing buildings and new operations buildings emphasized utilitarian design concepts, resulting in large windowless additions to Buildings 1 and 31 and the construction of Building 84. Barracks added to the installation in 1958 and 1969 reflected contemporary Navy design with few references to previously existing installation design. Installation support buildings constructed during the Cold War era included Quonset huts, utilities (transformer stations and water storage tank and pump houses), Butler buildings, and small one-story brick shops or storage buildings.

The installation also was closely involved in technological upgrades of equipment. In 1947, Building 31 was completed as a Special Projects Communications Laboratory and work was undertaken to improve communications technology. During the 1950s, the Naval Research Laboratory began a series of experiments to bounce radio waves off the moon. The advantage of this system was that it could not be jammed by enemy communications, nor disrupted by atmospheric disturbances. One disadvantage was that the moon had to be above the horizon at both Hawaii and Washington, D.C. In 1956, the first messages were relayed using Moon Bounce between Honolulu, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C. Cheltenham served as the receiver site, while NRTF Annapolis transmitted signals. The two other sites involved in Moon Bounce were located on Oahu, Hawaii (Office of the Chief of Naval Operations 1963). In 1957, Building 84 was constructed for the Communication Moon Relay (CMR) project. This concrete-block building featured an 84-foot steerable parabolic antenna known as the moon dish (removed 1986) on the roof.

During the late 1950s, the Navy inaugurated automatic teletypewriter switching. The first automatic switching was installed in 1958 at Trenton, New Jersey. In 1959, automatic teletypewriter

switching stations were installed at Cheltenham, Maryland; Norfolk, Virginia; Stockton, California; and, New Orleans, Louisiana. The new system served 236 stations in the basic network and connected 85 stations with Trenton, New Jersey. This resulted in the elimination of many small message centers within the system.

In 1965, U.S. Naval Communication Station, Washington, at Cheltenham performed the basic services of message reception, transmission control, and teletypewriter relay. The installation received radio messages from ships in the Atlantic Ocean and other communication stations around the world. Radio signals for transmission were sent by microwave to NRTF Annapolis for amplification and transmission around the world. The station also comprised U.S. Naval Station (Transmitter), Annapolis, Maryland; Chief of Naval Operations Communication Office at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia; the Message Center Delivery Desk, Main Navy Building, Washington, D.C.; and, the new receiver site at Sugar Grove, West Virginia. In 1963, a radio transmitter station was constructed at Lewes, Delaware. Because of its location, Naval Communication Station, Washington, D.C., functioned as a vital link between the hub of military activity and the operating forces (Naval Communications *Bulletin* ca. January 1965).

As the 1960s progressed, the mission of the installation at Cheltenham became primarily administrative, particularly as satellite communications technology began to replace radio. In addition, the development of the surrounding area of Prince George's County and the expansion of Andrews Air Force Base reduced the effectiveness of the station as a communications receiving site.

In 1961, the Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, was disestablished to prepare for the development of a receiving station located at Sugar Grove, West Virginia. This site was located in a National Radio Quiet Zone. In 1963, Sugar Grove opened as a satellite communication receiving station to replace operations at Cheltenham. Between 1967 and 1970, the radio receiving station at Sugar Grove was completed at a cost of \$11 million (Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1997d; Office of the Chief of Naval Operations 1963).

During the 1970s, the Naval Communication System was reorganized into the Naval Telecommunications System. Naval Communication Area Master Stations were established to serve as the major interface between shore-based communications systems and afloat sources and to maintain operational control over naval radio stations within their geographic areas of responsibility (U.S. Navy, Office of Information 1990). The transmitting and receiving components of the U.S. Naval Communication Station, Washington, D.C., were transferred to Naval Communication Station, Norfolk, designated Naval Communication Area Master Station, Atlantic under the Naval Telecommunications Command.

In August 1975, U.S. Naval Communication Station, Washington, D.C., was designated Naval Communication Unit, Cheltenham. Naval Communication Unit, Cheltenham, functioned as the headquarters for the Commanding Officer. The installation provided command, administrative, and logistics support for the Commanding Officer and staff. The other components in the unit included the telecommunications center at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia; Naval Telecommunications Center Crystal Plaza, Arlington, Virginia; Naval Telecommunications Center Ward Circle, Washington, D.C.; Naval Telecommunications Command Operations Center; Naval Telecommunications Center Newport, Rhode Island; Naval Telecommunications Center Great Lakes, Illinois; and, Naval Telecommunications Center Brooklyn, New York (Naval Historical Center, Operational Archives, Command history 1989).

During the 1970s and 1980s, the acreage of the installation was decreased. In 1977, 217 acres were transferred to the U.S. Department of Energy, and, in 1980, 125 acres were transferred to Prince George's County for a wetlands area (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Command history 1992). The antenna fields remaining on the installation were planted with pine trees. During 1986, the Field Calibration Activity was disestablished and sixteen antennas and the moon dish were removed. The

remaining creosoted telephone poles that supported the original antenna configurations were abandoned in the wooded areas and swamps.

Post Cold War era

In 1991, the computer and the telecommunications disciplines were merged. The Naval Communication Unit at Cheltenham was redesignated as Naval Communication Detachment, Cheltenham, and became an activity under the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station (NTCS) Washington. The NTCS included activities located at Cheltenham, Maryland; Crystal Plaza, Virginia; Ward Circle, Washington, D.C.; Dahlgren, Virginia; Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.; Indian Head, Maryland; and, Patuxent River NAS, Maryland. During the early 1990s, the headquarters of this activity was assigned to the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Command Histories 1992, 1993).

The mission of the Naval Communication Detachment, Cheltenham, was to provide regional communications (Local Digital Message Exchange, Personal Computer Message Terminal, Multi-Level Mail Server, Newsdealer) and automated information systems support and services to metropolitan Washington and northeastern DoD and DoT activities. The base provided administration, mail, personnel, budget control, purchases, contracting, telephone, and security services. In 1992, all activities to support software, applications, and user clients were consolidated at the Naval Headquarters Information System central computing facility located at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. (U.S. Naval Historical Center, Command Histories 1992, 1993).

Evaluation

The Naval Communication Detachment, Cheltenham, comprises approximately 232 acres located in Prince George's County, Maryland. The 102 buildings and structures evaluated as part of this investigation are associated with the Navy's communication program since the commissioning of the installation in 1939. Established as a radio receiving station before World War II, the mission of the installation evolved to administration during the Cold War era. The installation contains operations buildings, housing, installation support buildings, infrastructure, and recreational facilities. Evaluation of the National Register eligibility of the installation was prompted by the scheduled base closure.

In 1991, Greenhome and O'Mara prepared a *Historic and Archeological Resources Protection (HARP) Plan* for the installation. This document identified periods of construction for the buildings and recommended intensive-level survey to assess potential National Register eligibility for resources older than fifty years. No potential historic districts were identified as a result of a windshield overview survey conducted in 1990 to support the plan. In a letter dated 27 April 1998, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) recommended intensive architectural evaluation of the entire complex at Cheltenham in accordance with *Guidelines for Completing the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form* and the National Register program.

During the 1990s, the Navy and the Department of Defense commissioned several studies to develop nationwide historic contexts to assist in evaluating buildings and structures constructed during the twentieth century. These studies include: *National Historic Context for Department of Defense Installations, 1790-1940* (Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1995a); *Historic Context for Department of Defense Facilities World War II Permanent Construction* (Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1997b); *Navy Cold War Guided Missile Context: Resources Associated with the Navy's Guided Missile Program, 1946-1989* (Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1995b); and, *Navy Cold Communication Context: Resources Associated with the Navy's Communication Program, 1946-1989* (Goodwin &

Associates, Inc. 1997c). These studies provide historic contexts, information for comparative analysis, descriptions of building typologies, and methodologies for evaluation that are useful tools in approaching the evaluation of the buildings and structures located at Naval Communication Detachment, Cheltenham. While nationwide historic contexts exist to explain the role of U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, within the overall Naval Communication System, many specific records dealing with the installation during the 1950s remain classified and are unavailable for research, so that a definitive history of the NCD, Cheltenham, is not possible at present.

The historic context developed for NCD, Cheltenham, documented the role of the installation under the themes of military, communications technology, and architecture. The time period for the installation ranges from 1930 to the present and spans the military development periods of inter-war (1919-1939), World War II (1939-1945), and Cold War (1946-1989). While the initial construction of the NCD, Cheltenham, was completed in 1938 as part of the inter-war construction, the earliest history of the installation is tied to developments that led to World War II and its contribution to the war effort.

The most appropriate level for evaluation is on the national level in comparison to other properties that made up Radio Washington. In terms of state or local significance, NCD, Cheltenham, was a relatively small installation in comparison to other Army and Navy installations developed in and around Washington, D.C. Its impact on the local development of Prince George's County was minimal. The site originally was chosen for its relative isolation amid woodlands and farmland, and the installation was constructed as an enclosed compound. The decline in effectiveness of the installation as an operational communications center was brought on by the suburban development that occurred in the county after World War II.

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation that apply most aptly to evaluating the significance of U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, are Criteria A for historical associations as a communications station and Criteria C for architecture. These two criteria are inter-related; i.e., the integrity of the World War II built resources has been affected by construction that occurred during the Cold War era. The installation appears to have no known associations with the lives of significant people under Criterion B. It is not anticipated that the installation will yield information important to the World War II or Cold War historic context.

While World War II is a crucial event in U.S. history, not all property constructed by the military or by civilians under contract to the federal government immediately preceding or during World War II is necessarily significant within the historic context of World War II. Military construction typically was planned and executed as part of a national defense program that expended billions of dollars in the construction of thousands of facilities. It is important to evaluate World War II properties within the larger national historic context. To evaluate a property as significant within the context of World War II permanent construction, that property must have an important and specific association with World War II. This approach for evaluating World War II properties was outlined in the *Historic Context for Department of Defense World War II Permanent Construction* (Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 1997b); this document was prepared in consultation with the National Register staff, who reviewed and participated in the development of the above-cited documentation.

The U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, does not appear to possess the qualities of significance for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with World War II. The installation does not possess direct, important associations with the communications activities of World War II operations. During World War II, the U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, operated as a radio receiving station. It functioned as one part of an integrated nationwide communication system, more specifically, as one of four components comprising Radio Washington. As a radio receiving station, all messages bound for the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., passed through this installation. However, the heart of Radio Washington was

the Navy Department Communication Office in Washington, D.C., where received messages were routed and analyzed, and responses and orders formulated.

In general, buildings must be older than 50 years of age to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Criterion Consideration G of the National Register allows properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years to be eligible for listing if they are of *exceptional importance* (U.S. Department of the Interior 1991). During the 1990s, the Department of Defense sought to provide general guidance in evaluating built resources constructed during the Cold War era (1946-1989). In 1993, the U.S. Air Force prepared interim guidance for the treatment of Cold War (1946-1989) resources. In 1997, the U.S. Army prepared a study entitled *Thematic Study and Guidelines: Identification and Evaluation of U.S. Army Cold War Era Military-Industrial Historic Properties* (AEC 1997) to document the impact of the Cold War on the Army's military-industrial complex, emphasizing the Army's direct response to the Cold War. These reports recommend that, within the framework of Cold War-era history of each armed service, buildings and structures eligible for National Register listing must demonstrate national significance with major national events, operational programs and missions, or persons important during the Cold War era. Resources constructed for administration, maintenance, storage, and housing and community support generally will not meet Criterion Consideration G.

Based on available unclassified sources, the Cold War-era history of U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, does not appear to be associated with significant events. The installation continued its role as a receiving station during the 1950s and became the administrative headquarters for U.S. Naval Communication Station, Washington, in 1953. The installation served as one of six primary communication centers in the Naval Communication System and was complemented by two transmitting stations.

Because of its proximity to Washington, D.C., the installation generally was equipped with up-to-date equipment, as with the communication moon relay receiving antenna and the naval teletypewriter. After 1960, the installation no longer participated in the forefront of communication technology. The role of receiving station was transferred to a more remote location.

The Communication Moon Relay (CMR) project, known as Moonbounce, appears to be the only significant documented event that occurred during the Cold War era. Although this project is significant under Criterion A, Building 84 constructed to house the operations no longer possesses sufficient physical integrity to illustrate that event. The parabolic antenna that capped the building has been removed and the building emptied of equipment.

The World War II built resources at U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, do not appear to possess sufficient physical integrity to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The integrity of the buildings and the site has been compromised by the removal of key elements and the construction of additions to many of the principal buildings. Key elements missing from the site are the metal antennas, which marked the site as a communications facility; the metal antennas were removed during the late 1980s. Some creosoted telephone poles of the 1940s rhombic and fishbone antennas remain in the swamps and woods on the installation, but these are obscured by vegetation. Many permanent brick buildings completed during the late 1930s and the early 1940s have received massive windowless additions that compromise the original design integrity of the earlier buildings. In addition, the communications technology contained in the buildings was upgraded constantly until all radio receiving equipment was removed from the buildings. The removal of radio receiving equipment coincided with the change in mission from operations to administration. Thus, the installation's buildings and structures do not exhibit integrity of use. **In conclusion, the installation does not appear to possess the qualities of significance or integrity required for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.**

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PG: 81A-20
U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham
Prince George's County
Section 9.3

U.S. Office of Naval Operations
1946 World War II Administrative Histories. U.S. Naval Historical Center Library.

SECTION 10: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The boundaries of the U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham, property are depicted on the resources sketch map. These boundaries depict the acreage currently owned by the U.S. Navy.

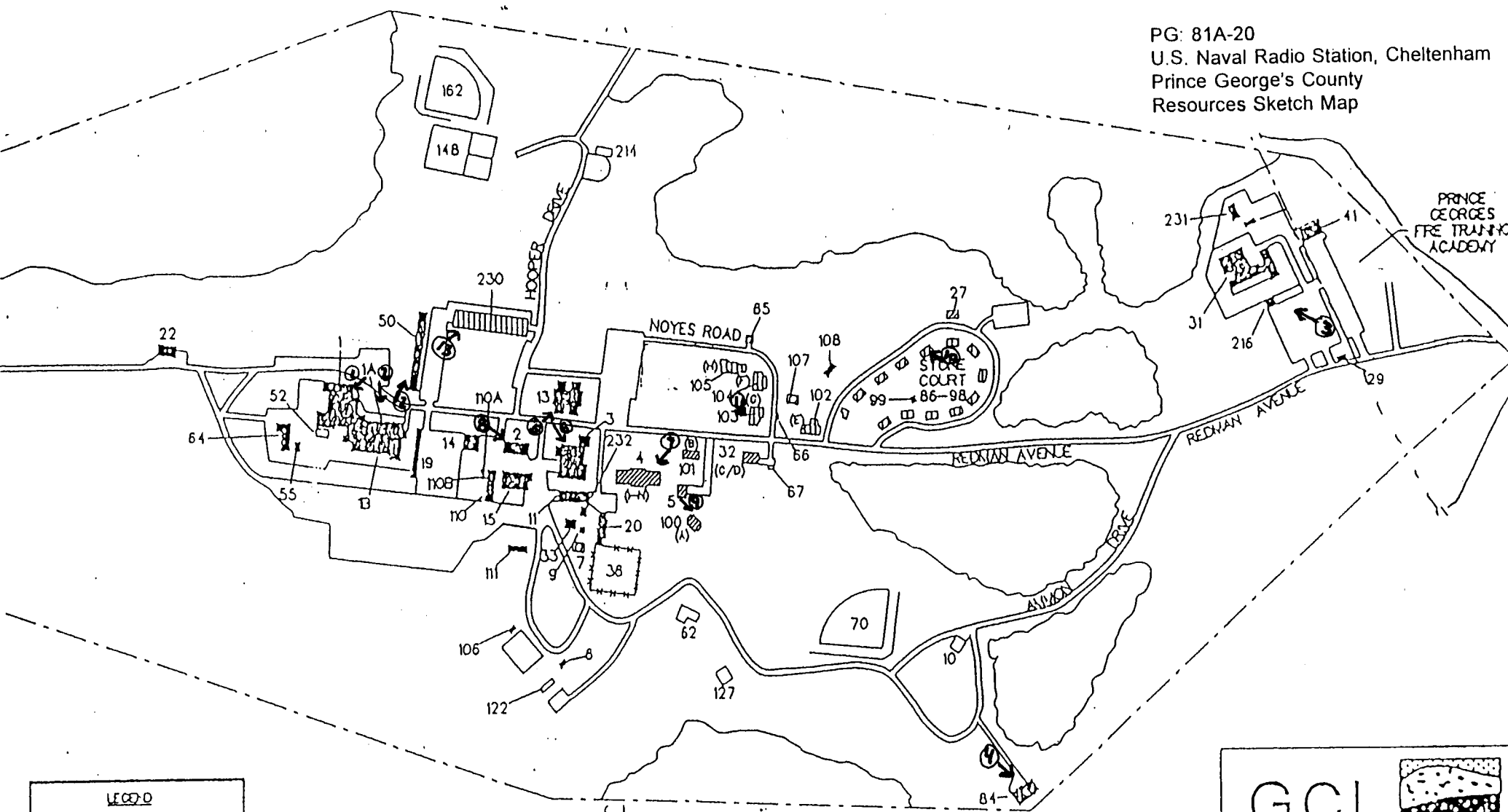
MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore
Chronological/Development Periods: A.D. 1930-Present
Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes: Military

Resource Type:

Category: District
Historic Environment: Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Military communications
Known Design Source: U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks

PG: 81A-20
 U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham
 Prince George's County
 Resources Sketch Map



PRINCE
 GEORGE'S
 FIRE TRAINING
 ACADEMY

LEGEND

- ▣ OPERATIONAL FACILITIES
- ▨ HOUSING
- RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

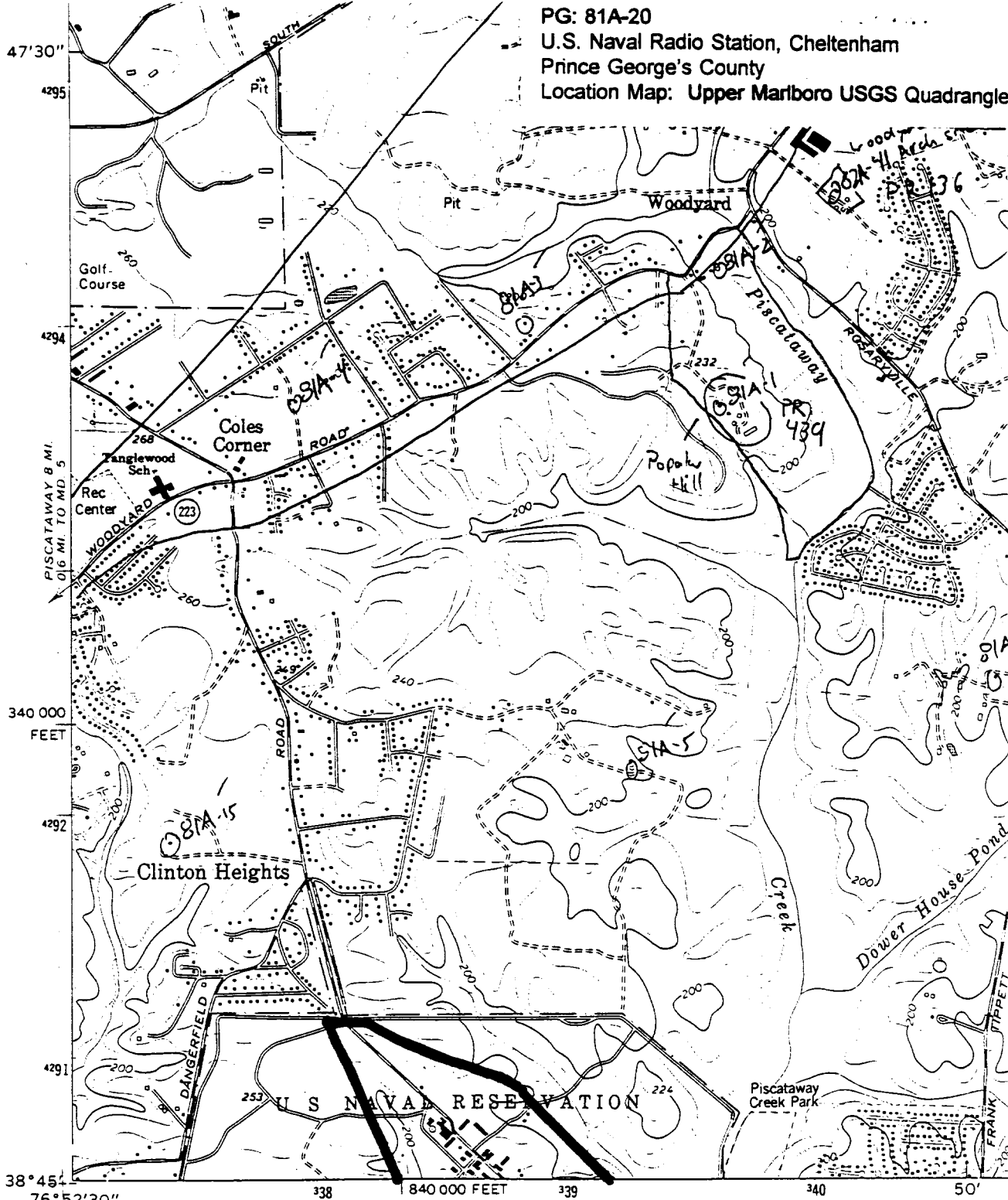


NOT TO SCALE

GCL 

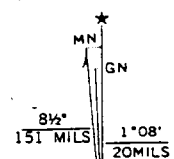
FIGURE 2-4
 SITE PLAN
 NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS DETACHMENT
 CHELTENHAM, MARYLAND

CLIENT: NAVY	REVISION NO: 4
DATE: 11/08/94	DRAWN BY: TSH
AUTHOR: M.H.	FILE: 2003-06
CHECKED: M.H.	



Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and WSSC
 Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1937, 1938, and 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
 Revised by the Geological Survey 1965
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

(PISCATAWAY)
 5661 III NW



UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

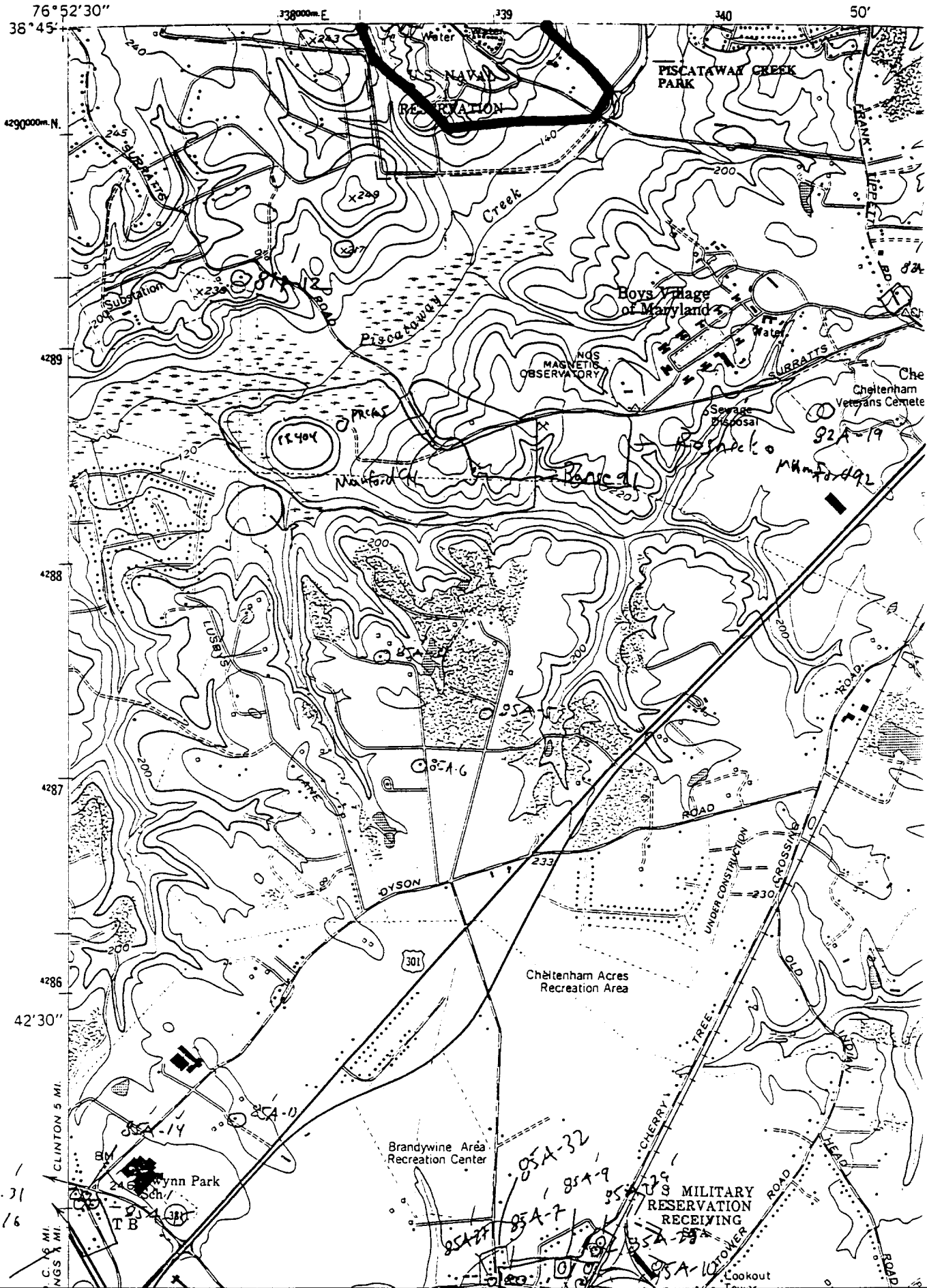
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 8 meters south and 27 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

5681 N SW
(ANACOSTIA)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PG: 81A-20
U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham
Prince George's County
Location Map: Brandywine USGS Quadrangle



The following is the same for all the photographs.

U.S. Naval Radio Station, Cheltenham
Prince George's County, Maryland
Brian Clevon, Photographer
October 1998
Negatives will be on file with MHT

Number

1. Building 1
View facing northwest
2. Building 1A
View facing west
3. Building 31
View facing north
4. Building 84
View facing south
5. Building 13
View facing east
6. Building 3
View facing south
7. Building 4
View facing west
8. Building 2
View facing south
9. Building 100
View facing south
10. Building 90
View facing north
11. Building 103
View facing south
12. Building 50
View facing east
13. Building 230
View facing southeast





STOP





84





GROW'S

HOLDER





PG: 81A 300

U.S.

...

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HT

Group -

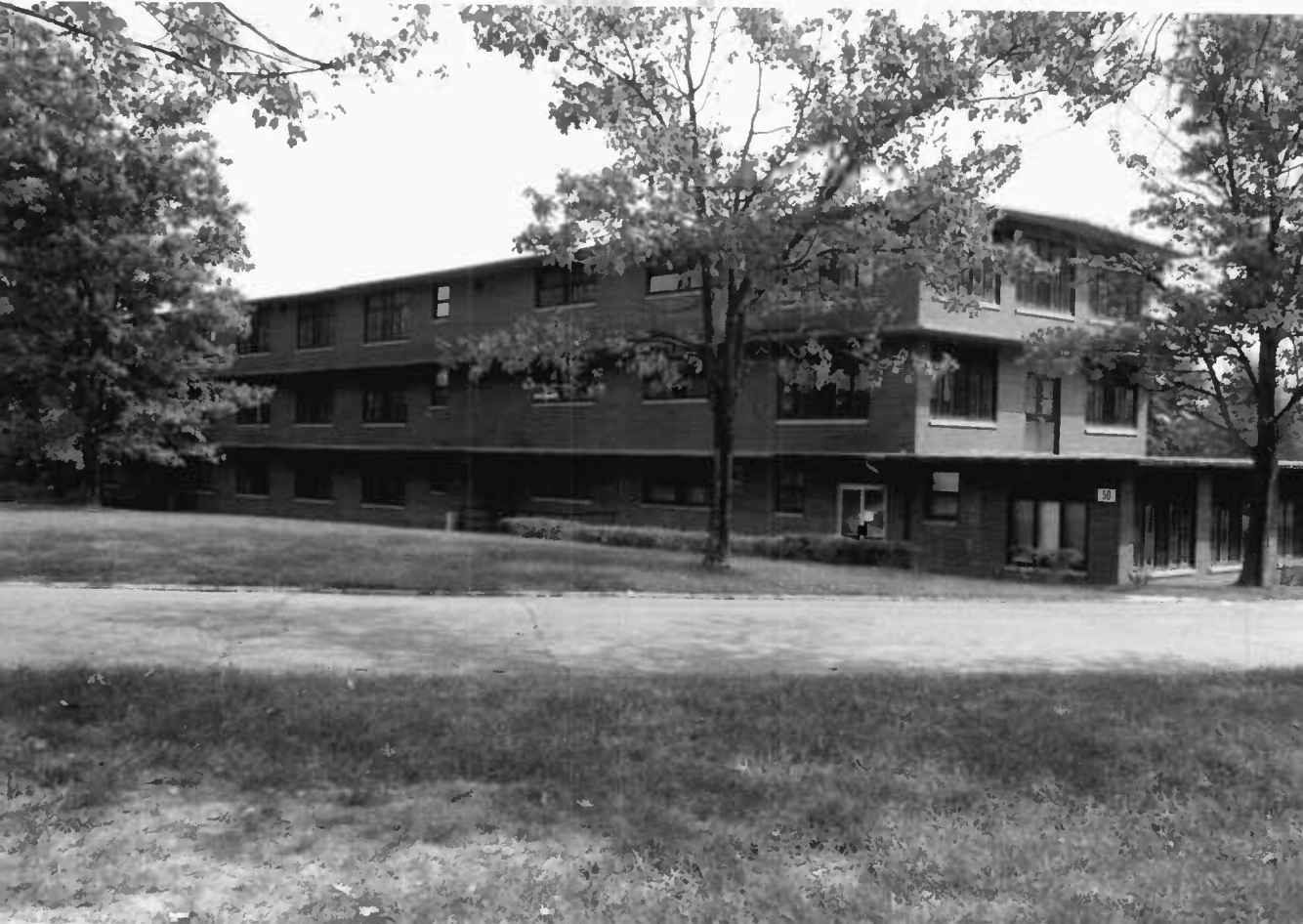
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PG 181A-20
V = 19270
E = 10000
Pr = 20000

Er = 20000

Er = 20000
October 1718

1147

V = 19270

12/13

19270



