



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Building 434 Renovation and Additions Beltsville Agricultural Research Center 6900 Powder Mill Road Beltsville, Maryland	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8185
	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 33212.10(38.00)45260
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service	ACTION TAKEN Approve final site and building plans
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Advisory Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has submitted final site and building plans for the renovation and expansion of Building 434 as a new Poultry Quarantine House (PQH) within the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The site is located at 6900 Powder Mill Road, just west of the Baltimore Washington Parkway in Greenbelt, Maryland. Building 434, a former goat barn, is vacant and has not been in use since 2008. The preliminary project plans were reviewed and approved as a delegated action in July 2020. Since that time, the applicant has completed the environmental and historic preservation reviews. The overall design has not changed substantially.

USDA is transferring approximately 105 acres along Poultry Road to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDT) for construction of a new currency production facility for its Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). While the majority of the buildings on this large parcel of land are vacant and no longer used by BARC, there is one existing function, the Poultry Quarantine operation, which will need to be relocated. Quarantining poultry is necessary to stabilize environmental and biosecurity conditions for a duration of time before live poultry, which are transported from various locations in the United States to BARC, are able to be placed at various research laboratories located at BARC. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Baltimore District, the project manager for the new BEP site, is assisting BARC with the design and construction efforts for the new PQH. BEP is evaluating the proposed construction of a BEP facility in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the project will be submitted to NCPC separately in the future.

The project includes a new PQH for Tom Turkeys, Hen Turkeys, Laying Hens, and Broiler Breeders, each within their own physically separated spaces, which allows controlled and separate management of relevant quarantine conditions. The poultry quarantine program provides an essential step in BARC's research by assuring the health of the research flock housed on BARC. The project includes biosecurity measures to minimize threat of viruses, and manage environmental conditions such as light, temperature, feed, and water. The PQH are not used every day, but rather are utilized when out-of-industry poultry are selected to be added to the general research flock, which typically occurs a few times a year.

The original Building 434 has a brick exterior with a gambrel roof and a one-story wing on either side of the main building. It will be renovated and expanded in order to accommodate its new use as a poultry quarantine. The expansions include two one-story additions set perpendicular to the existing building and attached at the rear of the building. The structural and aesthetic upgrades to the building are designed to preserve the building's historic characteristics to the extent practicable.

The project is consistent with Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, Federal Workplace Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. It will be sited on existing federal property, will be located in an open area and not require tree removal, and will minimize historic resource impacts by reusing the existing historic building that is currently vacant.



Figures 1 and 2 – Existing photographs of the historic Building 434: north elevation (left) and west elevation (right)



Figure 3 – Rendering of the proposed Poultry Quarantine House (Building 434)

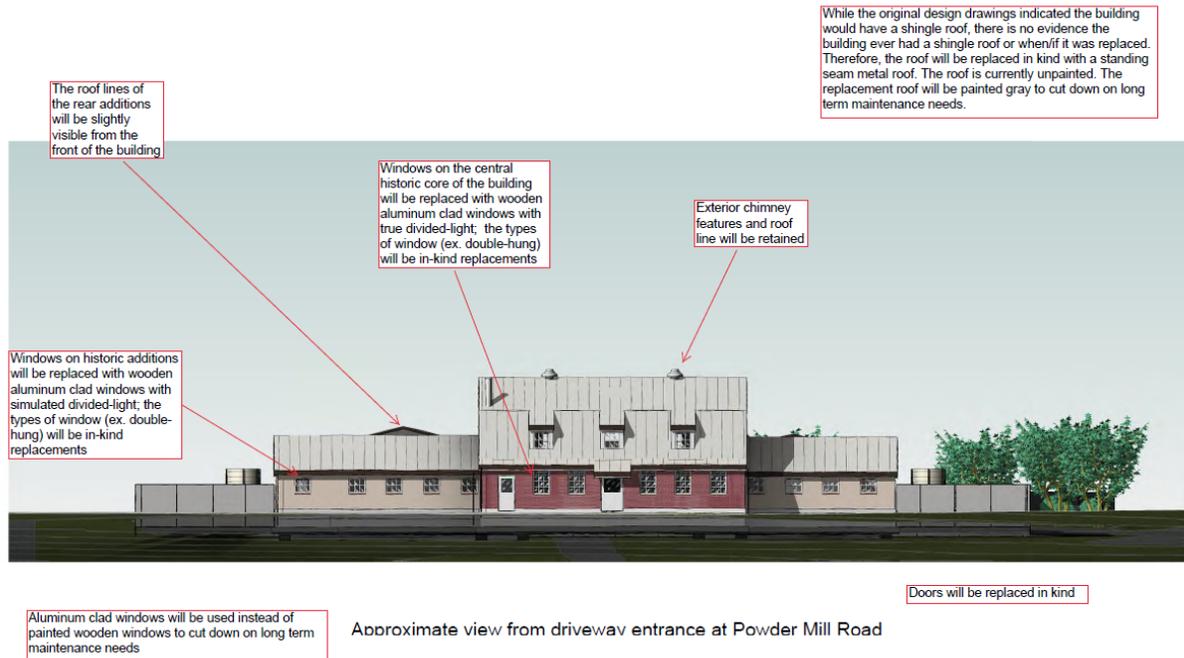


Figure 4 – Main Elevations of the proposed Poultry Quarantine House (Building 434)

The USDA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) to fulfil its National Historic Preservation Act responsibilities. The MHT concurred with a finding of no adverse impact for the project. The applicant prepared an environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact. As this project is located in the environs, NCPC does not have independent Section 106 or NEPA responsibilities.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the final site and building plans for the new Poultry Quarantine House to be located in Building 434, at 6900 Powder Mill Road, on a site west of the Baltimore Washington Parkway at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland.



Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

1/28/21

Date