



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

The proposed district was a part of Vint Hill Farms Station (VHFS), a mid-20th century United States Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) post, significant for its intelligence gathering groundwork during World War II and its role as a center for research, development, and maintenance of intelligence equipment during the Cold War (1945-1991). In preparation of the post's closure in 1997, about 50 percent of the existing buildings were recorded through reconnaissance survey. The entire 700-acre base was then evaluated as a historic district (DHR Inventory No. 030-0020) and found to be potentially eligible for National Register listing. During the ensuing years, several changes have been made. First, the locality designated the former military post an economic development area. The land was subdivided, and parcels were sold. New construction and demolition occurred. Nevertheless, the core of this important INSCOM installation still conveys the character of the historic place.

In 2012, a new road, Vint Hill Parkway, was proposed along the north side of the property with funding granted from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Demolition of approximately 20 subsidiary buildings was proposed to construct the road (VDOT Project No. 0920-030-R38; UPC 101191; VDHR File No. 2012-4111). An adverse effect determination was made. DHR staff concurred with this determination, and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was established. One stipulation of the MOA requires a reevaluation of the VHFS Historic District through a Preliminary Information Form.

It is the opinion of the Fauquier County Preservation Planner that the core of the old Vint Hill Farms Station, approximately 125 acres, has retained sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing as a historic district and is significant under Criterion A for its association with and contribution to U.S. military history. However, a formal reevaluation is needed.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes _____ No X
Note: In the past, at least three property owners within the proposed district boundary have inquired about the use of historic tax credits.

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR's easement program? Yes _____ No X

1. General Information

District name(s): Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District
DHR ID Number: 030-0020

Main Streets and/or Routes: Aiken Drive, Sigler Road, Bludau Drive, Lineweaver Road, and sections of Kennedy Road and Cosner Court
City or Town: N/A

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Fauquier County

2. Physical Aspects

Acreege: approximately 125 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town _____ Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural X

Briefly describe the district's overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

The Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District is located in central Fauquier County, approximately 5 miles northeast of the town of Warrenton and .8 miles west of the Fauquier County--Prince William County border. It is surrounded by agricultural land, single family homes and a variety of privately-owned businesses and federal properties. Once a 700-acre Army post that served as an intelligence gathering station from 1942 through 1997, it is now a complex of office, commercial, residential, and recreational space used today much in the same way as it was by the Army and civilian personnel who lived and worked there.

Almost all of the buildings within the newly-proposed district boundaries were either repurposed and/or constructed by the military to meet its mission as it evolved over time. Showing a diverse assortment of building forms and plans that were modified periodically over the years, the buildings represent the overall development of the base from 1942, the year the Army acquired the property, through 1974, the year that wide-band extraction of recorded messages, a technology associated solely with Vint Hill Farms Stations, became obsolete, and the "Operations Center" building was adaptively used for other purposes.

The district includes approximately 40 buildings dating from 1866 to 1990 and two sites, the former parade grounds/baseball fields and a small cemetery. They are associated with the following post uses and activities: (1) the interception of enemy radio transmissions, code-breaking operations, and espionage research and imagery development; (2) military housing; (3) indoor and outdoor recreation for military personnel and their families; (4) administrative office use; (5) religious services; (6) medical care; and (7) equipment and vehicle storage and maintenance. Buildings of note include "The Barn" (030-0020-0019 & 0020), the first permanent intelligence monitoring station; an officers' club (030-0020-0031); a gymnasium; movie theater (030-0020-0037); chapel (030-0020-0048); medical office/dispensary; a provost marshal office; a post exchange (PX); a telephone exchange building (030-0020-0027); an enlisted men's large barracks/mess hall complex; heating plant (030-0020-0076); women's barracks; non-commissioned officers' (NCO) club; signal photo lab; the post headquarters (030-0020-0001); a motor pool (030-0020-0041, 0042, 0043); the post library (030-5800); and "Building 2400," which was mostly used for research, development, and storage of intelligence equipment.

The construction of the buildings falls into four separate periods of property use—(1) a mid-19th century—early 20th century agricultural estate (1865-1942); (2) conversion from a farm to a large field intelligence monitoring station during World War II (1942-1945); (3) post development during the Cold War (1945-1980); and (4) the post's conversion to an Army garrison devoted to providing services to a variety of tenant agencies (1981-1995). Most of the buildings constructed by the Army are wood frame, concrete block, and brick, and exhibit the utilitarian and rugged design of the Brutalism style generally applied during the 1950s-1960s. However, the ca. 1949 barracks includes features indicative of the International and Colonial Revival styles, and the officers' club (originally the main farm house) was constructed ca. 1866 in the Italianate style with later Colonial Revival style architectural features added around 1916. Other early buildings adaptively used by the Army include Silvermead (030-0020-0015), a ca. 1888 two-story vernacular frame tenant house subsequently used as the post commander's quarters; a ca. 1916 half story, Colonial Revival style brick pump house (030-0020-0029); a ca. 1917 Colonial Revival style carriage house/servants' quarters; and several early 20th century agricultural outbuildings.

The old post network of streets and pedestrian walkways continues to be utilized. Although the post was not built on a grid, the streets still define the Army compound and delineate spatial relationships between uses. At the center of the complex lies an open green space that was used historically as the parade grounds and recreational area. The main street, Aiken Drive, follows the same orientation of the early 20th century farm road through the property (east-west). While the routes have been renamed, the old road alignments have

remained the same. Aiken Drive runs through the district, connecting with Kennedy Road (Route 652) on the west side and Sigler Road on the east. The proposed district includes approximately 125 acres.

3. Architectural/Physical Description

Architectural Style(s): Colonial Revival, International, Brutalism

If any individual properties within the district were designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: post engineers under Capt. H. F. Collins

If any builders or developers are known, please list here: Blackwell Engineering Company of Warrenton, Laburnum Construction Company of Richmond

Date(s) of construction (can be approximate): 1866; ca. 1916-17; 1942-1990

Are there any known threats to this district? Yes, encroaching development.

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire historic district, such as building patterns, types, features, and the general architectural quality of the proposed district. Include prominent materials and noteworthy building details within the district, as well as typical updates, additions, remodelings, or other alterations that characterize the district.

Discuss the district's general setting and/or streetscapes, including current property uses (and historic uses if different), such as industrial, residential, commercial, religious, etc. For rural historic districts, please include a description of land uses.

The covert missions of the various commands and other supporting activities of the men and women who served at Vint Hill Farms Station (VHFS) are represented through the buildings and structures, which have been modified and reused, built, demolished, and rebuilt over the years, depending on the needs of the Army at a given time. The area within the proposed district boundary appears to retain the aspects of setting, materials, feeling, and association, which convey a sense of place during the period of significance (1942-1974).

The Vint Hill Farms Station Historic District is entered from the northwest along Kennedy Road (Route 652) where it intersects with Aiken Drive, the primary road through the district. Historically, the main gate house stood at this intersection. At the heart of the district is a 30-acre, open green space that was used as the parade grounds and baseball fields as early as 1943. This land is currently owned by Fauquier County government and continues to be utilized as baseball and soccer fields managed by the County Parks and Recreation Department. The buildings are generally positioned along the narrow, paved streets and include landscaped lawns that front the buildings and small paved parking facilities. Concrete pedestrian walks connect the buildings. The area is reminiscent of a 1950s suburban neighborhood, which would have been the standard streetscape model at the time of extensive post expansion.

The Army Arrives – the Reuse of Existing Farm Buildings

When Army personnel arrived at Vint Hill farm on June 12, 1942, the objective was to activate the post as quickly as possible. Post activation involved first establishing a facility to monitor and intercept radio traffic, train Signal Intelligence Service (SIS) Corps personnel, and provide immediate staff housing and dining amenities. The first OIC (officer in charge), Lt. Robert F. Pope, ordered the modification of existing farm buildings. Temporary living quarters were first established on the second floor of the farm's "mansion house" (renamed Building 247). The first floor was renovated into an initial operations center and classroom. This building (030-0020-0031), located at 4200 Aiken Drive on an expansive, landscaped lawn, is a 2 ½ story,

Flemish bond brick dwelling constructed ca. 1866 in the Italianate style. Most of the Italianate features, such as the deep overhanging eaves and large brackets, were removed by a subsequent property owner around 1916 when Colonial Revival style features were added. At that time, a one-story porch on the southwest corner was replaced with a 2-story brick addition and porte cochere, and a one-story solarium was constructed on the west side. Other early 20th century additions include returning eaves, dormers, Chinese fretwork, and intricate balustrades. The building has 6/6 double hung sash windows with jack arch brick lintels and stone sills. A front gabled overhang supported by cast iron posts is positioned over the primary entrance on the façade, and a rectangular bay window is centrally located on the first floor of the south side. The cross-gabled roof is covered with slate shingles, and there are three interior brick chimneys. Two, one-story, frame, shed-roofed additions were constructed off the north side. The Army installed a swimming pool in 1950 located approximately 100 feet northwest of the house.

Although the old mansion house first served as the initial radio interception space and classroom area, it was reused as bachelor officers' quarters after work was completed on a more-permanent "listening station." After World War II, it was adaptively used as an Officers' Club, which it remained until the post's closure in 1997. The building now sits on a privately-owned 5.5 acre parcel and serves as the Inn at Vint Hill, a bed and breakfast and restaurant.

Approximately 100 feet northeast of Building 247, the Army constructed a one-story, "igloo-type," 20 ft. x 40 ft., poured concrete, barrel-arch distribution transformer vault (030-0020-0026). This unusual, earth-covered resource, initially called Building 239, was built in 1942 into the hillside adjacent to the main house. One chief priority of the OIC was to secure sufficient electrical power to operate the station. It is speculated that this transformer vault helped to fulfill this objective.

The first farm outbuildings to undergo major renovations were the ca. 1917 shorthorn cattle barn (030-0020-0019, renamed Building 2290); the ca. 1917 work horse barn (030-0020-0020, renamed Building 2300); and the ca. 1925 Shropshire sheep barn (030-0020-0021, renamed Building 2310). This barn complex was located approximately 750 feet southeast of the main house. Building 2300 was adapted in 1942 to house the center for radio transmission interception and decoding—the most critical and safeguarded activities at Vint Hill Farms Station during World War II.

Located at 7162 Lineweaver Drive, the barn complex is comprised of two, long, 2-story frame barns with gambrel roofs and slate shingle roofing, positioned perpendicular to each other (originally the shorthorn cattle barn and work horse barn). Between the two barns stands a silo that was originally constructed of brown tile but is now sheathed in metal with a slate roof. At the time of the 1942 renovation, several dormer windows and double hung sash windows were added to provide light into the buildings. The old Shropshire sheep barn is a smaller building that sits separately to the west of the work horse barn. It is also a 2-story, frame building with a gambrel roof, slate roofing, and large roof vents. It is believed that the classrooms were immediately moved to this building after renovation. Army personnel fondly referred to this entire complex of buildings as "The Barn." It served as the hub of radio interception operations until 1953 when Building 260, "the Operations Center," was constructed for that purpose. The barns were later used for administrative office space. The complex presently houses Vint Hill Winery and the Cold War Museum.

Other farm buildings repurposed by the Army included the old carriage house and servants' quarters (030-0020-0027), a ca. 1917 two-story, Colonial Revival style, Flemish bond brick building with gambrel roof and slate roofing, molded boxed cornice with flared eaves and return ends, one-story, 2-bay front porch, 1/1 double hung sash windows with snap-in muntins, dormer windows on the second story, and fixed fanlights in the attic space of the gambrel ends. A two-story wing, which originally housed vehicles on the ground floor, extends off the north side. This building, located at 4192 Aiken Drive approximately 230 feet southeast of the main house, housed the Army post's telephone exchange. A ca. 1916 one-story frame T-form building with gable roof and asphalt shingle roofing (renamed Building 241) sits behind the old carriage house. It served as a buggy shed and dog kennel when the property was a farm, while Army personnel used it as administrative offices.

About 70 feet west of the old carriage house sits the ca. 1916, ½ story, Colonial Revival Flemish bond brick pump house (030-0020-0029) with concrete foundation, 3-light casement windows with jack arch brick lintels and stone sills, arched double leaf two panel door with brick voussoirs, a dentilated cornice with return ends, stone keystone, and front gable roof covered with slate roofing. The Army mostly used this building as a water pumping station.

A ca. 1888 two-story, frame vernacular house with stone foundation, exterior brick chimney, vinyl siding, side-gable roof and asphalt shingle roofing stands approximately 260 feet south of “The Barn” at 4152 Aiken Drive. Originally constructed as a dwelling for the property owner’s son and daughter-in-law and named “Silvermeade,” it later became the farm manager’s house. After the Army made renovations in 1942, it served as housing for the post commander and his family until the post’s closure in 1997. It is currently vacant.

Located approximately 90 feet south of “The Barn,” is a concentration of smaller farm buildings that were adaptively used by the military, including the blacksmith shop, a ca. 1917 1½-story, frame building with side gable roof and slate roofing, converted into administrative offices by the Army. It is now a small restaurant called the Covert Café. Located directly southeast of the old blacksmith shop is a ca. 1917, one story, frame building that originally provided “toilet rooms” for farm workers. In 1942, the Army converted this building into a power plant with a concrete block rear addition. It is now used for storage.

The Army chose to reuse three tenant houses that were located along the eastern edge of the farm near Rogues Road (Route 602) for temporary non-commissioned officers’ housing. Additionally, in 1942, prefabricated buildings were moved from an old Civilian Conservation Corps camp to the west side of the post to provide additional housing during the war. The Army demolished the tenant houses and prefabricated buildings after new, more-permanent accommodations were secured.

World War II Construction

Much of the Army’s earliest construction at Vint Hill Farms Station was considered “temporary;” it was built to Army standard specifications with little or no ornamentation. Activated shortly after the Army secured the property, the post engineers division under Capt. H. F. Collins was made responsible for property maintenance and contracting for new construction. New temporary buildings were usually one-story and wood frame with foundations of concrete block or wooden piers, poured concrete or wood floors, and composition roofing. Temporary buildings constructed between 1942 and 1945 included: an enlisted men’s barracks; a barracks for Women’s Army Corps (WAC) personnel; a mess hall; Building T-270 (a temporary movie theater and recreation hall); a firehouse; a bus station; a hospital administration building and hospital personnel quarters; a dispensary; generator house; and several store houses. Most of the temporary structures built during WWII no longer exist. However Building T-270 still remains at 6862 Johnson Drive. A swimming pool was later constructed next to Building T-270, but it has since been filled. Initial road improvements were also completed during this time.

The Army also constructed “permanent” buildings 1942-1945. They included Post Headquarters (030-0020-0001), a post exchange building (030-0020-0002), a chapel (030-0020-0048), chapel administration building (030-0020-0047), four motor pool buildings (030-0020-0041-44), a fire station, three hospital wings (currently non-extant), a dispensary (non-extant), and four classroom buildings (non-extant).

Post Headquarters (030-0020-0001), also called Building 101, is located along the north side of the open green at 4265 Aiken Drive. Built in 1942, it is a one-story, frame, T-form building with a low-pitched cross gable roof. By 1950, two wings had been added to the rear, as well as a small, corrugated metal Quonset hut. A flag pole surrounded by a circle of low hedges stands adjacent to the road in front of this building. After the post closed in 1997, Post Headquarters was used by the Economic Development Authority as an administration building.

Approximately 80 feet to the east of Post Headquarters stands the original post exchange (PX) building (030-0020-0002) at 4257 Aiken Drive. Also built in 1942, it is a one-story, frame, rectangular building constructed

in 1943 with aluminum siding and metal casement windows. As a PX, it offered merchandise for sale to military personnel and authorized civilians. It became an administrative building when the second PX was constructed in 1956. This building currently houses the Vint Hill community post office, a barber shop, and a coffee house. The old Post Headquarters and original post exchange building are currently located on a separate parcel owned by Fauquier County government.

The chapel (030-0020-0048), located west of Post Headquarters at 4295 Aiken Drive, was constructed in 1943 as a one-story, frame, cruciform building sided in stucco with a low-pitched front gable roof, 6/6 double hung replacement sash and fixed 4-light windows. A square bell tower was constructed on the west façade, which includes the building's main entrance. The tower is divided into three levels by two pent roofs; the third level features arched openings and is capped by a conical roof with asphalt shingle roofing.

Behind the chapel at 4270 Aiken Drive, stands the old chapel administration office (030-0020-0047), a one-story, rectangular form, frame building constructed in 1943 with a low-pitched side gable roof, 1/1 double hung sash windows, and poured concrete foundation. A small playground is located to the southwest of the chapel administration building.

The 1943 motor pool complex originally consisted of four, "temporary," long rectangular, one-story buildings, approximately 20 feet x 100 feet, that were constructed sequentially in a row directly south of the chapel administration building. The first motor pool building (030-0020-0041) is frame with asbestos panel siding, 6/6 double hung sash windows and 9-light wood casement windows, a front gable roof, overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails; it served as the motor pool administration building. The second building (030-0020-0042) is also a frame building constructed with the same dimensions, building materials and features. The third building (030-0020-0043) is a concrete block building constructed with the same dimensions, although it has large, 9-light steel sash hopper windows and metal garage doors; this building first served as a garage. These three buildings are currently vacant. The fourth building (030-0020-0044) was demolished. The motor pool complex, as well as the chapel and chapel administration building, are located on a separate parcel now owned by Vint Hill Village LLC.

Building 226 was constructed in 1942 as the post's first fire station. Located at 7167 Lineweaver Road northeast of the old post commander's house, it is a 1-story, T-form, frame building with concrete pier foundation, 9/12 wood casement windows, vinyl siding, and cross gable roof with asphalt shingle roofing.

Post Expansion – Late 1940s-1950s

After the end of World War II, many changes occurred at Vint Hill Farms Station. In early October 1945, the War Department announced that Monitoring Station 1 was approved as a permanent camp and that operations would continue. In May 1947, the War Department announced that major construction would take place at the post, which would include a recreation building with gymnasium for enlisted personnel, seven units of officer family quarters, and six Quonset-style buildings to serve as additions to existing structures. As reported by the Warrenton newspaper, the *Fauquier Democrat*, on May 22, 1947, "In line with the War Department's policy of maintaining silence 'for security reasons,' they have not revealed details of the construction program, ...but it is considered likely that the temporary structures on the post will be replaced by others of a more permanent design and usefulness."

Plans for the gymnasium (designated Building 190) called for a "cinderblock structure measuring 78 feet by 136 feet, with the basketball court, lockers, showers, and storage on the first floor." A balcony and lounge was to overlook the "playing floor" or court. By the time this project was put out for bids, a barracks building "to house at least 500 men and provide them with mess facilities" was added to the proposal, bringing the authorized cost of improvements to over \$1.4 million. Blackwell Engineering Company of Warrenton won the contract for the gymnasium and officers' family quarters (about \$400,000), and the Laburnum Construction Company of Richmond was selected to build the barracks building (\$1,040,101).

The gymnasium was completed in 1949. Located at 4235 Aiken Drive, east of Post Headquarters, it is a 2-story concrete block building, consisting of approximately 20,000 square feet, with a large, fixed, multi-pane window on the second floor, now inoperable double hung sash windows along the west side, a one-story concrete block addition on the rear, an exterior metal staircase on the west side, an enclosed, shed-roofed porch along the north side that shelters the main entrance, and a low-pitched side gable roof. Still used as a recreational building and gym, it now serves as the Vint Hill Community Center and is currently owned and operated by the Fauquier County Parks and Recreation Department.

An enlisted men's barracks with mess hall was also completed in 1949 in a design then considered "a new type developed by the Corps of Engineers." Located on the south side of the open green, this massive, 3-story, brick building of over 130,000 square feet was built with a rectangular core and long, narrow perpendicular cross wings, a flat roof with composition roofing, and poured concrete foundation. The building includes a combination of architectural features indicative of the International and Colonial Revival styles with brick quoins, double hung sash windows that extended to the corners, concrete entrance surrounds with vertical glass block lights, rounded metal overhangs over the entryways, and geometrical-shaped metal bannisters. Landscaping, as well as the concrete stairs and connecting walkways, were installed deliberately around the barracks with the use of the residents in mind. This building has been vacant since the post's closure and has suffered from deferred maintenance and vandalism. However, it is currently undergoing renovation. Most of the windows are now covered with plywood; some are missing. The proposed new purpose for the building is unknown. This parcel is owned by Vint Hill Village LLC.

To provide heating for the new large barracks, a one-story brick heating plant or "boiler house" was constructed in 1949 just south of the barracks along what is now Bicher Road. This building was also constructed with decorative brick quoins, 9-light fixed metal windows, and a flat roof with composition roofing. A tall, brick smoke stack is positioned at the southeast corner of the building. Considering its resemblance to the barracks, it is believed that it was built at the same time by the same builder, Laburnum Construction Company.

Between 1947 and 1950, eight officers' family housing townhouse units were constructed to the east of the post commander's house. These townhouses are no longer extant.

A permanent movie theater (030-0020-0037) was completed in 1951 along the north side of the green. Located at 4225 Aiken Drive, the theater is characterized by its projecting facade and parapet, topped with large horizontal metal lettering spelling "THEATER"—features reminiscent of the Art Deco style. A marquee below the sign advertises showings. It is a one-story, brick building constructed in a simple rectangular plan with a flat roof and concrete block foundation. The façade has long, storefront windows with aluminum frames and exterior ticket windows. The interior of the theater features a small lobby in the front and full stage with a curved proscenium in the rear. The theater seating is arranged in slightly curved rows on a sloping concrete floor, typical for this type of venue. On the rear wall of the auditorium is the window for the original projection booth. Although built as a single-screen cinema, the interior was modified after the base closed to accommodate plays and other live performances. It now serves as a venue for a local performing arts group. The property is currently owned by Fauquier County government.

As the Cold War progressed, message transmission technology and the equipment used to decode it began to change dramatically. Soon after World War II, an encryption device called AFSAM-7 was developed. This advancement heralded changes to code breaking operations and the development of first-generation computers known as rapid analytic machines or RAMS, which were used to interpret massive amounts of intercepted data. In the 1950s, message interpretation technology took a greater leap forward when National Security Agency (NSA) scientists developed an in-house computer called SOLO, which used new transfer-resistor (transistor) technology.

Because of these technological advances, additional space was required for message interception and decryption. In the early 1950s, work was completed on a new, spacious "Operations Center" (Building 260),

which replaced “the Barn” for intelligence intercepting, monitoring and decrypting operations. Building 260, now located at 6872 Watson Court, was constructed as a one-story, windowless facility with thick concrete walls and a single entrance. Oral history indicates that this entrance was under constant armed guard and the building was patrolled with guard dogs at night. A 1995 survey report claims that Building 260 was constructed in 1953.¹ The survey report further states that this building was expanded in 1967 by 34,364 square feet and expanded again the following year by an additional 10,000 square feet. A 1965 aerial photograph of the post corroborates this information, indicating a much smaller building constructed at that time. Although historically significant, the building is not within the proposed historic district due to its location north of a newly-constructed road, Vint Hill Parkway. The building has been renovated and is currently used as a data center.

Other significant construction completed during the 1950s included:

- a ca. 1952 one-story, narrow concrete block building that was used as a general warehouse and now serves as Old Bust Head Brewery, among other businesses (7116 Farm Station Road);
- the ca. 1956 Post Exchange (Building 273), a one-story concrete block building constructed with a bowling alley in the basement that has undergone recent rehabilitation into office space (4228 Aiken Drive);
- the ca. 1958 Photo Signal Lab (Building 166), a large, two-story, 22,000 square foot concrete block building that was used to process surveillance photographs taken from military airplanes (4260 Sigler Road);
- the ca. 1959 post library (Building 165), a two-story red brick building with flat roof, renovated after post closure, and now owned and operated by a company called RALT LLC (4245 Sigler Road); and
- the ca. 1959 non-commissioned officers’ (NCO) club (Building 502), a one-story red brick building with flat roof that now serves as office space for the Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority (7172 Kennedy Road).

While in the process of disturbing land for new construction in 1952, the Army discovered seven historic burials that were disinterred and later reinterred along the west side of Kennedy Road. On October 16, 1960, a dedication and consecration ceremony was held at the new cemetery. All seven burials are now marked with simple rectangular concrete burial markers with the engraved word “UNKNOWN.” A plaque at the cemetery reads, “Renovation of this plot was sponsored by VHFS Men of the Chapel in affirmation of our belief that in the eyes of our Maker all men are created equal. -1960 A.D.” Although it is apparent that at the time of the dedication ceremony little was known about the buried individuals beyond “they were not persons of wealth or distinction because of the common graves without markings in which they were found,” current local lore maintains that they were Civil War soldiers killed in action.

Technological Changes – 1960-1974

To accommodate the growing number of military personnel and their families on the post, additional buildings were constructed in the 1960s. A one-story, brick building with metal casement windows and flat roof was constructed in 1961 as the provost marshal office. This building is located 4260 Bludau Drive. A large one-story brick building with concrete water table, fixed windows, and aqua blue panels affixed around the north-side entrance was constructed in 1965 as a dental office; it was eventually used for other medical offices and a dispensary. It is located at 4227 Bludau Drive. The old MP office and dental office are currently owned by Fauquier County government.

In 1969, a three-story brick building with 1/1 double hung sash windows and a flat roof was constructed as the women’s barracks at 4285 Bludau Drive.

In the 1960s, there was a clear need for improved and expanded space to house intelligence monitoring and communications equipment at Vint Hill due mostly to growing technological changes. The use of high-

¹ *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*, 1996, p. 31, p. 36

capacity, wide-band recording tapes allowed the USASA and other intelligence-gathering agencies to tape radio transmissions in the field. Taped transmissions were sent to Vint Hill, the foremost central monitoring station, where critical information was extracted from the tape drives. These tapes required abundant storage space. Building 260 (the Operations Center) was the Army's principal location for interpretation and analysis of "extracted" messages until 1974, when the wide-band recording technology was discontinued.

To maintain the equipment needed for the extraction process and house the classified taped recordings, a large, one-story brick structure, first designated Building 268 and later called Building 2400, was completed in 1964. While the building was officially used to maintain the equipment, it is likely that much of the National Security Agency's research and development—most of which is still undisclosed—occurred in Building 2400. Today, the building is located at 4175 Bludau Drive and sits on a 4.4-acre parcel. It is owned by Building 2400 LLC. This building was rehabilitated in 2018 and now serves as the Farm Station Café.

Since Vint Hill was the main depot for Army intelligence equipment and vehicle maintenance, a number of additional buildings were constructed to meet these demands during the 1960s and early 1970s. Two large motor pool garages (Buildings 288 and 290) and a motor pool dispatch office (Building 286) were constructed behind the Officers' Club. These buildings were demolished in 2014 for the construction of Vint Hill Parkway. Additional storage buildings (Buildings 244, 291 and 297) were added in 1967-68. To provide classified document removal, a large incinerator (Building 282) was completed in 1965 (currently non-extant). In 1973, single family houses and apartments were constructed west of the chapel outside of the proposed district boundary. Most of these housing units have been demolished, but three apartment buildings remain. They are currently owned by Fauquier Family Shelter Services and provide transitional housing for homeless families.

Garrison Post - 1974-1996

With the reassignment of wide-band extraction activities in 1974 to Lackland Air Force Base, Florida, and the end of the Vietnam War, Vint Hill Farms Station was reorganized as an Army garrison post. The focus at that time was maintaining the different tenant operations assigned to the post.

The 1980s were a quieter time at Vint Hill, with construction focused both on changing operational needs and providing facilities for post personnel. New storehouses (Buildings 159, 193, 217, 311, 802, 2420 and 2480) were erected in the 1980s. For post personnel, a youth center (Building 200), child support center (Building 189,) and concession stands (Buildings 103 and 191) were built, as well as administrative offices in Buildings 198, 199, 207, 208 and 210.

In 1983, a directive in the form of the Military Construction Authorization Bill required the demolition of World War II-era (1939-1946) "temporary" structures on Department of Defense installations. The bill further required that "...the historical significance of all affected buildings be documented and assessed, as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act." However, the surviving WWII temporary structures that remained on Vint Hill Farms Station by that time were not determined historic and most were demolished without documentation.

By 1990, plans were being considered to close Vint Hill when it was then renamed the U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command Intelligence Materiel Management Center (IMMC). In spite of closing rumors, new construction was still underway at that time. Metal warehouse facilities were constructed (Buildings 105, 2430 and 2490), as well as buildings for oil storage (Buildings 325 and 750). Administrative offices (Buildings 181 and 182) and a new communications facility (Building 179) were completed in 1990. This same year, a one-story brick, seven-unit motel building was constructed for temporary military and visitor housing at 4301 Bludau Drive. The north side of the motel building includes a beautifully-painted mural that depicts a Fauquier County fox hunting scene. The mural's date and artist are unknown, but it is believed that the mural was painted after the post's closure.

The post's intelligence monitoring functions ceased in November 1995. Over the following two years, the various support functions were also discontinued. The formal post closure occurred on June 12, 1997. The U.S. Army sold the land to the Vint Hill Economic Development Authority in 1999. Fauquier County government subsequently purchased approximately 35 acres; the County currently maintains it as a public recreational space with a community center (the old enlisted men's gymnasium), community theater/playhouse, baseball and soccer fields, and a public pool and pool house, constructed ca. 2003.

The buildings that most represent the activities of Vint Hill Farms Station during the period of significance, especially those connected to national security, still survive and retain integrity.

4. District's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the district, such as when it was established, how it developed over time, and significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.) Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

If the district is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The history of Vint Hill Farms Station remains in large part a mystery. It is recognized as one of the most significant intelligence gathering stations during World War II, playing a pivotal role in eavesdropping on enemy communications. During this time, it also served as the Signal Intelligence Service's main cryptography school and refitting station (for units returning from combat). Because the post's missions were classified as "Top Secret" throughout most of its duration (1942–1997) and the quantity of declassified records is negligible, only about five years of the station's 55-year existence can be described in any detail. The majority of accessible records pertain to the WWII era. Some documents have been released for the years of the Cold War, but they are generally unrelated to each other. Nevertheless, glimpses of Vint Hill's story can be gathered from the documentary fragments and from the post buildings that survive, which hint of the covert missions of this nationally-significant site.

Vint Hill Farm

Although the ownership of the farm can be traced back to the Colonial era, it was Thomas Hooe who, in 1803, first named it "Vint Hill." At that time, it was a large tract of approximately 1,041 acres, which spanned Fauquier and Prince William Counties. Tax records indicate that this property was largely unimproved until Andrew Low purchased 729 acres in 1860 and began an ambitious series of property enhancements. Low, a native of Liverpool, England, immigrated to America in his youth and settled in Savannah, Georgia where he prospered in the cotton industry before moving to Virginia. The construction of his 2 ½ story, Italianate style brick "mansion house" was completed in 1866.²

During the late nineteenth century, Andrew Low's Vint Hill estate was a substantial working farm consisting of the main house that fronted an outlet road passing through the center of the farm (now Aiken Drive), agricultural outbuildings northeast of the main house that included a spring house, ice house, wood shed, dairy barn, hay barn, tenant house at the southeast entrance of the estate, an orchard of 25 apple trees and 1,000 peach trees, and several acres of fields and pasture. Low and his wife Elizabeth (Bessie) raised 11 children at Vint Hill. Their eldest son, Douglass, married Frances Marion Green in 1890, and the couple lived three years at "Silvermead," a new house built for them on the farm. Following the death of Bessie in 1904, Andrew Low sold the property.

Vint Hill farm passed through two other owners before S. Mitchell Harrison purchased it in 1910. A wealthy man with a variety of interests, Harrison was a former owner of the Franklin Sugar Refining Company of Philadelphia. He was an expert horseman and an active member of the Radnor Hunt Club near Philadelphia. Like many of his contemporaries, Harrison sought to purchase a country house estate in Virginia. Soon after his acquisition of Vint Hill, he began an immense undertaking to transform the farm into an agricultural showplace. In 1913, Harrison purchased two adjoining farms. He changed the name of the property from Vint Hill to Vint Hill Farms and began to develop "a breeding plant from which to supply the South, and Virginia in particular, with high grade, pure bred animals in Shorthorns, Berkshires and Dorsets." He raised prize-winning cattle, horses and sheep and established a dairy operation. In addition to an extensive transformation of the main house in the Colonial Revival style, Harrison remodeled Silvermead to be his farm

² It is assumed that completion of the main house and many of the outbuildings was delayed by the Civil War.

manager's house. He also added several new outbuildings, including stables, a carriage house/motor car garage and servants' quarters, buggy shed/dog kennel, pump house, and a sturdy slate-roofed complex of livestock barns that included a blacksmith shop and workers' restroom facilities. Harrison constructed two worker houses near Andrew Low's old tenant house. A "Fancy Barn," where the show horses and hunters were stabled, was located directly southeast of the main house; this building is no longer extant.

Mitchell Harrison died suddenly at home in August 1927. His son, John K. M. Harrison, became sole owner of Vint Hill Farms following the death of his mother in 1940. In May 1942, the U.S. Government initiated negotiations with him to buy the property. When negotiations stalled, the transaction shifted into the realm of the courts. A suit was filed on July 7, 1942 in the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria Division. Attorneys for the U.S. Government moved for a court order confirming the vesting of two tracts of land "in the counties of Fauquier and Prince William," totaling approximately 721 acres. Compensation for the taking was \$93,500.

There are several local stories that intimate the reasons why the U.S. Government took exceptional efforts to obtain Vint Hill Farms. One account states that the Harrison property caretaker was an avid amateur ham radio operator. In his nightly radio communications, he would sometimes overhear odd transmissions in different languages. This story was said to be retold at a local dinner party during which highly-positioned military officers attended and took note of the occurrences. Nevertheless, it is believed that Vint Hill Farms was chosen by the Army partly due to its proximity and easy access to Washington, D.C., closeness to a rail line, and its isolated location, which afforded relative security.

Vint Hill Farms Station

By 1942, the Signal Intelligence Service (SIS) functioned as the Army's principal intelligence agency. The SIS evolved out of the Military Intelligence Section of the War Department's General Staff, which organized in 1917 around the time of the United States' entry into World War I. During the war, the Military Intelligence Section created a Cipher Bureau, known as MI-8, to provide expertise in cryptanalysis. After the war, MI-8 functioned as a covert cryptanalysis agency funded by both the State and War Departments. In 1929, MI-8 was discontinued and its functions were taken over by the SIS, which was responsible for code and cipher compilation for the U.S. Army. The Army hired William Freidman to head the SIS. Freidman, who served as a cryptologic officer with an American Expeditionary Force in France during World War I, was well regarded in his field. He and his staff guided the SIS to significant intelligence breakthroughs that proved invaluable. By the late 1930s, Freidman and the SIS had developed electromechanical cipher machines that provided unprecedented security for American communications and enabled Freidman's staff to break the PURPLE cipher system used to transmit highly confidential Japanese diplomatic messages.

By the time the United States entered into World War II in December 1941, all U.S. Army signal intelligence and security functions were carried out by the SIS and its operating arm, the Second Signal Service Company. After the outbreak of the war, SIS's mission expanded, presaging the need for a new headquarters and the establishment of an East Coast Monitoring Station to receive intercepted messages from the European and Pacific theaters. In early summer of 1942, the SIS headquarters in Washington, D.C. was moved to Arlington Hall, a former junior college for young women that was located five miles southwest of Washington, D.C.

While the Army had small mobile signal intelligence detachments located throughout the United States and abroad, none served as substantial monitoring field stations. The idea was to consolidate several mobile units into one large field station, allowing faster processing of information. On May 7, 1942, the SIS approved plans for establishing the first extensive monitoring field station at Vint Hill Farms. In addition to monitoring radio traffic, the initial mission at Vint Hill would involve training Army Signal Corps personnel at various levels and providing a refitting station for signal units returning from overseas before being re-deployed. Signal intelligence and security functions at Vint Hill were to be carried out by the 2nd Signal Service Battalion. (On April 14, 1942, the 2nd Signal Service Company was reorganized as the 2nd Signal

Service Battalion.) Post engineers were activated on May 26, 1942. While Army personnel were permitted to enter the site in June, final negotiations with the Harrison family were not complete until July 7, 1942 due to the condemnation case.

First Lieutenant Robert Pope, Battalion Adjutant of Second Signal Service Battalion, arrived at Vint Hill Farms in May 1942 to assume the role of Officer in Charge (OIC) and began preparations for activating the post. Most of the existing buildings were found to be in good condition and easily adapted for military use. A detachment of 83 enlisted men arrived on June 12, 1942, and immediately began to install doublet antennas near the main house, then designated Building 247. That same day, the small monitoring station at Fort Hunt, Virginia, was closed and its equipment and personnel were transferred to Vint Hill. The first floor of Building 247 was initially used as the new monitoring station, and temporary sleeping quarters were established on the second floor. On June 16, 1942, just after midnight, the new station was officially activated. It was designated Monitoring Station 1. Pope assumed formal command of the new post on July 1, 1942. The property, then renamed Vint Hill Farms Station, was officially transferred to the Army on July 7. On July 8, the 2nd Signal Service Battalion detachment from Fort Hancock, New Jersey arrived and set up operations on the sun porch of Building 247.

An early drawing of the newly-activated installation indicates that the Army planned to retain the majority of the standing buildings and to construct a new temporary mess hall, garage, hospital unit, firehouse, bus station, generator house, some road improvements, and approximately eleven barracks (no longer extant) that were located east of the barn complex. The Post Engineers under Captain H. F. Collins were responsible for building maintenance and contracting for new construction. The first existing building to undergo major renovation was the Harrison work horse barn, which the Army renamed Building 2300. By early October 1942, part of the west wing of this building was adapted for training classes, but the entire second floor housed the center for radio transmission interception and decoding, which consisted of several individual radio and cryptologic “listening posts” where military personnel worked long shifts to gather intelligence from audio messages. Buildings demolished at this time included the Harrison’s “Fancy Barn” east of the main house and a tenant cottage east of Silvermead. After August 1942, Silvermead was renovated to become the quarters of the Post Commander and remained so throughout the Army’s occupation. The machine shop and radio repair divisions began using the first floor of the former carriage house (renamed Building 240), which was also used to store excess equipment and parts. Building 240 later became the post Telephone Exchange Building.

When the United States entered WWII, the Army Signal School was located at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. It primarily trained enlisted men in cryptanalysis, which mostly involved the principles of encoding and decoding messages, and linguistics. During the summer of 1942, military authorities decided to transfer the entire cryptanalysis training program to Vint Hill Farms Station. By October, Vint Hill’s first school unit was established. Preliminary classes were held on the first floor of Building 247. Officers were trained to assume the following positions: Message Center Officer, Cryptanalysis; Cryptanalytic Officer, General; Cryptanalytic Officer, Translator; Cryptanalytic Officer, Traffic Analysis; and, after January 1944, Cryptographic Equipment Maintenance and Repair Officer. At this time, the Army required that all officers selected for training had to be college graduates and “of the white race.” Almost all positions to which these officers would be assigned were in overseas units or installations.

On October 5, 1942, 43 officers and 239 enlisted men were transferred from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, and attached to Company A (Provisional). “The primary mission of this company was to provide quarters, rations and administrative support to the personnel of the post,” according to David P. Mowry in *The Vint Hill Farms Station, 1942-1945 (USM-1)*, written for the Center for Cryptologic History, National Security Agency. He added: “The company set up business in several old prefabricated buildings that had been moved in from a Civilian Conservation Corps camp.” In November 1942, the Signal Intelligence unit at Two Rock Ranch in Petaluma, California was upgraded to a primary monitoring station, and this unit’s personnel was assigned to Vint Hill for training. Due to the flood of students, classes spilled into an existing building

behind the main barn complex and a temporary combination mess hall and barracks in the company area. The lack of classroom space required that instruction be conducted in shifts, until the spring of 1943 when four new classroom buildings (Buildings 316-319) were constructed. These temporary classroom buildings were located approximately 500 yards west of Building 247. During the first four months of 1943, students attended classes thirteen days every two weeks. The student body was divided into two shifts. Sunday classes were scheduled from 0800 to 1645, and each shift attended on alternate Sundays.

As the number of personnel at Vint Hill increased and training intensified, unit designations were modified and expanded. Company A remained a support unit; Companies B, C, D and E were student companies; and a Headquarters Detachment was eventually designated. Company C was activated on December 6 1942 with 512 enlisted men, most of whom were transferred from reception centers in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. A week later, 150 limited service draftees were added to the company. With the few facilities that were available, the commanding officer initiated a basic training program. The men were divided into groups of about 50, each with an officer in charge. Up to May 1943, this training emphasized marches, physical training, and close and extended order drills. There were several 25-mile marches with full field packs and several night bivouacs at Thoroughfare Gap.

The first female soldiers arrived at Vint Hill in early October 1943, when 17 members of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) were transferred from Arlington Hall. The WAC unit, designated the First Detachment/Second Signal Detachment, was commanded by 2nd Lt. Ethel R. Sears and assigned to Company A. Until the temporary women's barracks (Building T-174 and Building T-175) were completed in late October, the women were billeted at the nurses' quarters at the post hospital. In November 1943, about 145 Women's Army Corps personnel formerly assigned to Camp Crowder, Missouri were reassigned to Vint Hill as a part of Company B for training in radio and cryptologic equipment maintenance and repair. Beginning in July 1944, a group of WACs, who had traditionally served in support roles, were trained as Cryptanalysis Technicians for eventual overseas assignment.

In 1943 and 1944, much "special" training was performed to send units with Colonel Bicher, the director of DISETOUSA (Defense Intelligence Service, European Theater of Operations, USA). Among the specialized courses taught was the Advanced Systems course, which was established in October-November 1943. It was a two week, 96-hour course for officers and included military geography, paraphrasing, operation of the M-209 cryptodevice, strip systems, double transposition systems, decryption of codes, and operation of SIGABA, which was the primary cryptodevice used by the U.S. armed forces. Unlike Allied success in breaking the Purple code and the intricacies of the famous German ENIGMA machine, Japan and Germany never deciphered SIGABA. Since the Vint Hill school had only four SIGABA devices, it was necessary to conduct the training on an 18-hour schedule so that students could have a sufficient amount of time learning the operation of the machine. During 1943, the Vint Hill school trained 2,299 enlisted personnel in 64 specialties and 230 officers in 9 specialties. In addition to the men and women who were given specialized training at the post, a number of Japanese-American and German-American soldiers served at Vint Hill as lingual translators.

As more and more personnel arrived at Vint Hill, the Army was obligated to provide other facilities beyond housing and other basic services. In 1942-43, three hospital wings (Buildings 140-142), a dispensary, dental clinic, and hospital administration building were constructed. Also in 1942-43, Post Headquarters (Building S-101), a post exchange (Building S-102), and several storehouses were built. The first religious service was conducted at Vint Hill on February 7, 1943 in one of the barracks of Company C. Soon afterward, services were moved to the temporary post theater for a brief time until March 7, 1943 when a fire occurred there. By that time, work on the permanent chapel (Building 314) was nearly finished.

While the majority of the work done at Monitor Station No. 1 is still classified, the most well-known wartime achievement occurred during late morning of November 10, 1943 while enlisted men of the 2nd Signal Service Battalion sat by their radio receivers in "the Barn" monitoring enemy channels. Private Leonard A. Mudloff

was listening to a German channel while anticipating the approaching lunch break, when he intercepted a repeated transmission in Japanese: “Urgent message, urgent message, Berlin calling Tokyo.” Lunch was skipped as Mudloff concentrated on transcribing a long, coded message from Oshima Hiroshi, the Japanese Ambassador to Germany, who was transmitting from Berlin to the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo.³ This critical message, which was enciphered in the Purple code, detailed Nazi strategies for defending the coast of Normandy from Allied invasion. Although the Purple code had been broken three years earlier, deciphering and translating Purple messages accurately was always a difficult task, since they were usually transmitted in sections that were deliberately out of order, and opportunities for making critical errors were in every step of the tedious process of composition, encryption, transmission, decryption, and translation. At smaller monitoring stations scattered across the globe, other radio monitors were recording parts of this transmission. It was not until December 9, 1943 that the complete message was deciphered. However, the Vint Hill Farms Station intercept draft, appears to have been the first to be delivered the next morning, November 11, to General George C. Marshall at the Pentagon and Admiral William D. Leahy in the Map Room at the White House. It caused a sensation because the report not only described the German coastal fortifications in western France in detail but also explained the principles and strategies behind their construction, troop strengths and dispositions, and contingency plans. The timing could not have been better for the Allies. Although General Dwight D. Eisenhower had not yet been named Supreme Allied Commander, the planning for the invasion of Europe, code-named Operation OVERLORD, was in process.

Pvt. Mudloff’s interception of this message would confirm Allied suspicions and make a major contribution to developing the plans for D-Day, which occurred on June 6, 1944. As a reward for his accomplishment, Mudloff was promoted one grade. After the war, General Omar M. Bradley, commander of the Allied ground forces involved in D-Day, visited Vint Hill Farms to express his gratitude to staff for contributing significantly to the success of the operation, “for serving...so silently, yet so magnificently.”

Postwar Changes

After World War II, Vint Hill underwent many administrative changes as the Army stepped back from wartime efforts. The Army Security Agency (ASA) was established to replace the Signal Intelligence Service. Vint Hill Farms Station became the first field station of the ASA. The WAC unit at Vint Hill was redesignated WAC Detachment VHFS, and in April 1946, this unit was transferred to Arlington Hall. In January 1946, there was a full reorganization of the post training facilities, then redesignated Vint Hill Farms School. By October 1946, it was renamed the Army Security Agency School, being the leading ASA training facility at that time. The demobilization and drastic military spending cuts after the end of World War II affected the various intelligence agencies, but the ASA fared better than others perhaps due in part to the Army’s reliance on civilian employees, many whom stayed on after the war.

When the U.S. Air Force was established in 1947, thirty-two ASA officers moved to their new command at Vint Hill Farms Station, becoming the “founding fathers” of Air Force cryptology in a division called the U.S.

³ Ambassador Oshima was uniquely qualified to analyze the German defenses. He possessed military as well as diplomatic expertise, spoke perfect German, was unusually gregarious and charming for a Japanese diplomat, and could converse and debate easily with German generals about strategy. Oshima was a true believer in the Nazi cause and had a clear understanding of German strategy and tactics. Between October 24 and November 3, 1943, Oshima had toured the defenses against Allied invasion along the western coast of France. The intercepted message was his report on the tour. Amid all of Oshima’s detailed observations, the most important one may have been the following general statement: “The Straits area [Calais, or Strait of Dover] is given first place in the German Army’s fortification scheme and troop dispositions, and Normandy and the Brittany peninsula come next in importance.” He had heard this not only from the German generals but also from Adolf Hitler himself. The statement confirmed Allied suspicions that the Germans’ primary focus was on the area of Calais, not Normandy. It contributed to the decision to reinforce the German bias with several feints toward Calais (codenamed FORTITUDE), including the famous rubber tanks and phony landing craft subsequently planted in eastern England. The intercepted message thereby contributed to the success of D-Day by enabling the Allies to keep the German forces concentrated at Calais until it was too late to stop the invasion at Normandy.

Air Force Security Service (USAFSS). In March 1949, the cryptanalysis school was transferred from Vint Hill to Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Vint Hill classroom buildings were then converted to officers' quarters.

The Cold War and Korean War

As the Cold War commenced, Vint Hill Farms Station focused on the mission of monitoring key Soviet diplomatic and military communications, as well as testing cryptodevices. To fulfill this mission, additional facilities were needed. In May 1947, the War Department announced that major construction would take place at Vint Hill Farms Station, which would include a recreation building with gymnasium for enlisted personnel, seven permanent units of officer family quarters built to the east of the Post Commander's quarters, and six Quonset-style buildings to serve as additions to existing structures. Soon after, there was a plan to construct a large, permanent barracks to house at least 500 men and provide them with mess facilities, which was completed in 1949. Additional living quarters were constructed between 1947 and 1950 and included eight units of family housing along Beaugard Road (now Sigler Road).

As the Cold War progressed, there was a clear need for improved and expanded monitoring and communications equipment at Vint Hill Farms Station. During WWII, High Frequency (HF) radio systems were the standard, but HF messages required multiple intercept sites to capture transmissions. The drawback was that a message could be intercepted by any of the intercept stations. The AFSAM-7, an effective encryption device, was developed to correct this problem. After World War II, first-generation computers—known as rapid analytic machines (or RAMS)—were created to interpret massive amounts of intercepted data. As technology changed the way messages were sent, deciphered, and stored, code breaking techniques were revised, as well. Technology took a great leap forward in the 1950s when National Security Agency (NSA) scientists developed an in-house computer called SOLO, which used new transfer-resistor (transistor) technology.

During the early days of the Korean War, both ASA and the USAFSS monitored Chinese and Soviet air traffic in Korea. One notable success was the interception and decryption of messages sent between North Korean generals just before their attack on U.S. forces trapped in the Pusan Perimeter. Received the day before the attack was to begin, General Walton Walker, the U.S. commander at Pusan, was able to shift his forces and hold off the North Koreans until a plan was made to move troops out.

However, this incident and others indicated that there was a weakness in intra-military service cooperation. In response to the lack of intelligence coordination during the early days of the Korean War, the National Security Agency (NSA) was established in November 1952. NSA coordination extended to research and development (R&D). Specific research and development tasks were assigned to the umbrella agencies, including the ASA field sites, like Vint Hill Farms Station. This necessitated the construction of additional facilities at Vint Hill, including more quarters and a new wing on the barracks (Building 160) in 1952.

During the 1950s, other substantial construction projects at Vint Hill included the Post Theater (Building 188), Enlisted Service Club (Building 165), Signal Photo Lab (Building 166), and the Post Exchange and Bowling Alley (Building 273). Building 396 was originally constructed as a general warehouse, but became the Post Commissary, which opened in September 1952. Security was increased with a new sentry station and gatehouse. Structures built to support the technical demands of new equipment at Vint Hill included new switching stations, three transformer houses, and a power plant (Building 261).

The most significant change occurred at Vint Hill when the Barn Complex was replaced by a new one-story concrete building called the "Operations Center." Building 260 and a related warehouse, were completed in March 1953 at a cost of \$904,052. Building 260 was enlarged in 1967 by 34,364 square feet. It was further

expanded the following year by an additional 10,000 square feet.⁴ After 1978, the function of Building 260 changed from the post's Operations Center to the site of electronic warfare research and the home of the Intelligence and Electronic Warfare Directorate (IEWD). In the late 1980s, two associated agencies were housed out of this building to oversee IEWD operations—the Program Executive Office (PEO) and its subordinate agency, Project Manager Signal Warfare (PMSW). The PEO-IEW's mission was to develop, test, and produce equipment systems for the Army's ground and airborne surveillance.

The 1960s, Vietnam War, and Post Closure

In 1962, another influential technological advance occurred when tape drives were invented, a development that brought about the growth of large-scale computers capable of handling enormous data loads. Later advances led to the IBM 700 series, which was the NSA mainstay for many years. By the late 1960s, the use of high-capacity, wide-band recording tapes allowed the USASA and other intelligence-gathering agencies to tape radio transmissions in the field. Field-taped transmissions were sent to monitoring stations where critical information could be “extracted.” In the 1960s, Vint Hill Farms Station was the Army's central station for the interpretation and analysis of these recordings until this technology was discontinued in 1974.

During the mid-1960s, Vint Hill Farms Station was directly affected by a reorganization of the Army's intelligence services, which separated intelligence gathering, data interpretation, and research and development (R&D) from the post's logistical support activities, which were then called the Material Support Command (MSC). The MSC designation at Vint Hill became the main depot for Army intelligence equipment and top-secret document storage. New buildings were required to meet this demand. Two large motor pool garages and a motor pool dispatch office (non-extant) were constructed behind the Post Commander's house, and additional storage buildings were added in 1967-68. To provide secure document destruction, a large incinerator was completed in 1965.

In 1964, a large, one-story brick building, first designated Building 268 and later Building 2400, was completed at Vint Hill. While described in an earlier survey report as a building as used for “electronic equipment maintenance,” it is likely that much of the NSA's research and development— which is still secret—occurred in Building 2400 and played a major role in intelligence gathering and decoding operations while wide-band recording technology was used. Originally designated a National Inventory Control Point (NICP), Building 2400 was constructed as part of the 1964 reorganization that brought MSC to the post.

During the Vietnam War, Vint Hill and other ASA monitoring stations spied on American citizens, as well as on the Soviets. According to an individual who was stationed at the post between November 1967 and April 1968, “The assigned mission was to intercept Diplomatic Communications and intercept everything from Cuba. Also, during the Peace Rallies in D.C. we monitored [intercepted] everything we could from their radios & communications methods.”⁵ Vint Hill also eavesdropped on the Republican and Democratic national conventions during the Vietnam War.

With the reassignment of wide-band extraction activities to Lackland Air Force Base, Florida in 1974, and the end of the Vietnam War, Vint Hill Farms Station was reorganized as an Army garrison post, still under the USASA. At this point, the emphasis was on maintaining the tenant operations assigned to the post. Major organizational changes followed in 1977 when the USASA was succeeded by the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), which handled the operation of the garrison and the Communications Electronics Command (CECOM). INSCOM was responsible for security and handling the day-to-day responsibilities, including building and infrastructure maintenance and security.

⁴ *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*, 1996, p. 36.

⁵ Salmon, p. 8.

In 1993, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended that Vint Hill Farms Station (VHFS) be closed. At that time, Vint Hill employed 846 military personnel, 1,356 civilian personnel, and 454 contractors. The post's monitoring functions ceased in November 1995. Over the following two years, the various support functions were shut down. The formal post closure ceremony was held on June 12, 1997. VHFS was the last remaining monitoring station constructed by the United States Army during World War II.

During the 55 years of its existence (1942-1997), most of the missions conducted at Vint Hill Farms Station were secret; many are still classified today. However, some accounts of the achievements of the men and women who served there have occasionally come to light. From these accounts, we learn that Vint Hill Farms Station was a place that significantly influenced national and international events, a place important enough to preserve.

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5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local X Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

6. Applicant/Sponsor (Individual and/or organization sponsoring preparation of the PIF, with contact information. For more than one sponsor, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Wendy Wheatcraft, Preservation Planner
organization: Fauquier County Community Development Department
street & number: Planning Division, 10 Hotel Street, Suite 305
city or town: Warrenton state: VA zip code: 20186
e-mail: wendy.wheatcraft@fauquiercounty.gov telephone: (540) 422-8210

Applicant's Signature: _____
Date: 4/24/19

•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of organization sponsorship, you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____
Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than applicant/sponsor listed above)

name/title: _____
organization: _____
street & number: _____
city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____
e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

7. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager.

name/title: Paul McCaula, County Administrator
locality: Fauquier County
street & number: 10 Hotel Street, Suite 204
city or town: Warrenton state: VA zip code: 20186
telephone: (540) 422-8001