

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Oak Ridge Turnpike

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Oak Ridge

vicinity: N/A

state: TN

county: Roane

code: 145

zip code: 37830

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Oak Ridge

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Y See continuation sheet.

Jois M. Shomper 3/18/92  
Signature of certifying official Date

Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Energy

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Hays 7/18/91  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Coral Shue 5-5-92  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DEFENSE Sub: Military facility  
Current : VACANT Sub: Not in use

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

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Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation concrete roof rolled  
walls concrete other steel

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: National.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : G

Areas of Significance: MILITARY

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Period(s) of Significance: 1949-1959

Significant Dates : N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

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Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office  
 Other state agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other--Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A 16 740360 3984860    B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_    D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kimberley A. Murphy

Organization: Thomason & Associates    Date: 4/5/91

Street & Number: P.O. Box 121225    Telephone: (615)383-0227

City or Town: Nashville    State: TN    ZIP: 37212

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   7  

Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station Page #1

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The Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station is composed of two separate concrete structures located opposite each other on the Oak Ridge Turnpike. The main building is located on the north side of the road and is one story in height with a two story tower at the southwest corner. On the south side of the road is a smaller one-story guard house. Both buildings are constructed adjacent to the road and there are no other buildings or structures associated with the property.

Both buildings are of concrete construction and have flat roofs of rolled asphalt surface with wide eaves. The main building has a one-story incised porch with a flat roof and steel column. The primary entrance on the south facade is of solid metal design and has a large single light sidelight and rectangular transom which have been enclosed with wood panels. A secondary entrance on the west facade is also of solid metal design. Windows in the one-story section have been covered or enclosed with wood panels. Windows in the two-story tower are narrow and horizontal in form with glass and metal lights. At the top of the tower is a large metal and glass light fixture. The one-story guard post also has narrow horizontal windows and a solid metal door. This guard post has been converted into a small electrical substation and a metal chain link fence has been added on the east facade.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8  

Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station Page #1

---

The Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station is significant under criterion A for its association with the military history of Oak Ridge. This checking station is one of three which were built in 1947 to control access from Oak Ridge into the restricted K-25 plant in the post-war years. These checking stations remain but have not been occupied since 1959 and are presently vacant.

The Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station replaces a war-time checking station that was used for the Manhattan Project. Security at government installations at Oak Ridge was, and remains, a paramount concern. Following the purchase of the reservation in 1942, the entire perimeter was cordoned off with a barbed wire fence and seven entry points were established. At each one of these were guarded gates to identify personnel and residents entering Oak Ridge. There were three additional checking stations constructed to monitor traffic between the townsite and the three plant sites. The Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station controlled access into the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant and is representative of the security conditions of Oak Ridge in the post-war years while under government control.

Despite the end of World War II, the need for security continued at Oak Ridge. When Congress announced that operations at Oak Ridge would continue on a permanent basis, new checking stations of permanent concrete block construction were built to replace the wartime stations. The gates surrounding the townsite itself were removed in 1949.

Each checking station was identical in design and consisted of a main building with a two-story guard tower while opposite the road was a one-story guard house. A metal gate between the two buildings was controlled and operated by military police at the checking stations. Security at the checking stations was discontinued in 1959 when the community was incorporated. Modern security check points are now located only at the three plants themselves.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   9  

Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station Page #1

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Basic Facts on the Oak Ridge Area of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Community of Oak Ridge. Office of Public Information, Office of Oak Ridge Operations, Atomic Energy Commission. Issued October 15, 1949.

A City is Born. Oak Ridge Operations, Community Affairs Division, Atomic Energy Commission, 1961.

Gosling, F.G., The Manhattan Project: Science in the Second World War. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Energy, Office Administration and Human Resources Management, Executive Secretariat, History Division, August, 1990.

Groeff, Stephane. Manhattan Project: The Untold Story of the Making of the Atomic Bomb. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1967.

Jackson, Charles O. and Charles W. Johnson. City Behind A Fence. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1981.

"Oak Ridge Area." U.S. Army Map #S-16A. July, 1959.

Rhodes, Richard. The Making of the Atomic Bomb. New York: Simon and Schuster Inc., 1986.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   10  

Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station Page #1

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Verbal Boundary Description: The Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station boundary is a rectangle which is bounded as follows: on the northwest by an intersecting line which is located twenty feet from the northwest facade of the main building; on the northeast by an intersecting line located twenty feet from the northeast facade of the main building; on the southeast by an intersecting line located twenty feet from the southeast facade of the guard house; and on the southwest by an intersecting line which is located twenty feet from the southwest facade of the main building. The boundary is drawn to include a section of the adjoining Oak Ridge Turnpike.

Boundary Justification: The boundary for the Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station is drawn to include the main building, guard house, and adjoining section of the Oak Ridge Turnpike. The boundary includes all property historically associated with the site.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs                      Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station    Page #1

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Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station  
Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

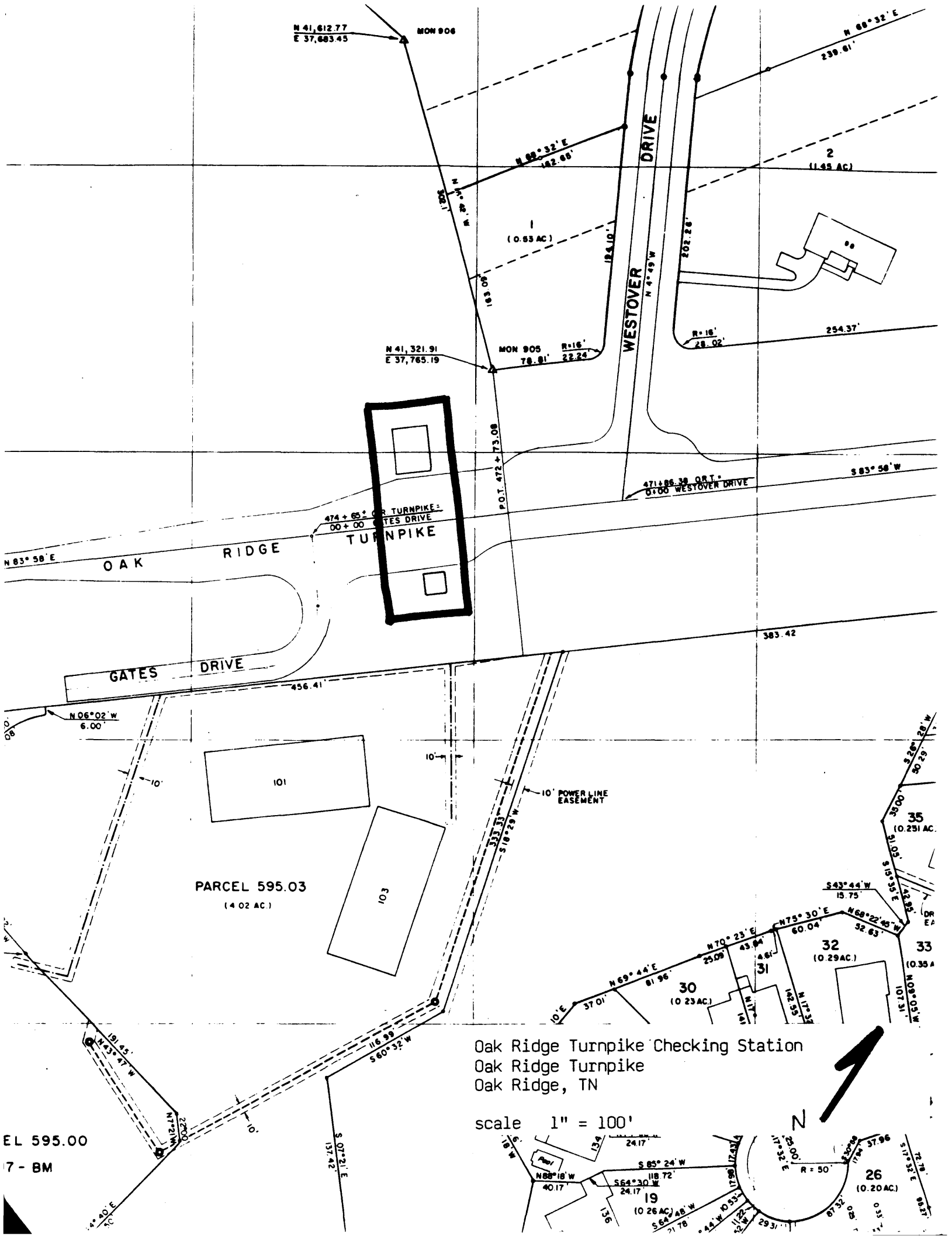
Photographed by Philip Thomason

Negatives located at: Tennessee Historical Commission  
701 Broadway  
nashville, TN 37203

Photo #1 of 3:    View looking southwest at main facade of building.

Photo #2 of 3:    View looking northeast at rear facade of main building.

Photo #3 of 3:    View looking southwest at secondary building.



MON 906  
N 41,612.77  
E 37,683.45

N 89°32'E  
142.86'

N 68°32'E  
239.61'

2  
(1.45 AC)

(0.83 AC)

MON 905  
N 41,321.91  
E 37,765.19

R=16'  
78.81' 22.24'

254.37'

474 + 65' OR TURNPIKE  
00 + 00 GATES DRIVE  
TURNPIKE

471 + 86.38 ORT  
0 + 00 WESTOVER DRIVE

S 85°58'W

P.O.T. 472 + 73.08

383.42

GATES DRIVE

456.41'

N 06°02'W  
6.00'

101

PARCEL 595.03  
(4.02 AC)

103

10' POWER LINE  
EASEMENT

35  
(0.251 AC)

S 43°44'W  
15.75'

32  
(0.29 AC)

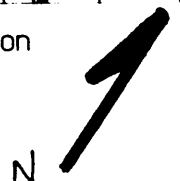
33  
(0.35 AC)

30  
(0.23 AC)

31

Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station  
Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN

scale 1" = 100'



EL 595.00

7 - BM

