U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Name of Property

Montgomery County, Maryland
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name: U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

Other names/site number: Energy Research and Development Administration; Department of Energy-Germantown Campus; M:19 - 41

2. Location

street & number: 19901 Germantown Road ☐ not for publication

city of town: Germantown ☐ vicinity

State: Maryland code: MD county: Montgomery code: 031 zip code: 20874

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

___national ___statewide X local

Signature of certifying official — Date: 4/5/2016

Federal Preservation Officer — U.S. General Services Administration

Title — State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date: 11.13.15

Director/State Historic Preservation Officer, Maryland Historical Trust

Title — State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

X entered in the National Register — Edson H. Beall 5.23.16

___determined eligible for the National Register

___determined not eligible for the National Register

___removed from the National Register

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

	private
	public - Local
	public - State
X	public - Federal
	private

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	building(s)
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	3	buildings
		sites
2		structures
		objects
		districts
7	3	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Government Office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Government Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE; BRICK

roof: CONCRETE; STONE; METAL

other: METAL (entry canopies)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) campus, which currently operates as the Germantown Campus for the Department of Energy (DOE), is located at 19901 Germantown Road in Montgomery County, Maryland. The campus occupies approximately 98.6 acres in the southwest quadrant of I-270 and MD 118 (Germantown Road). The campus consists of eight buildings, five of which date from 1957 to 1958 when the site was first developed for use as the AEC administrative headquarters. In addition, the campus also includes an original water tower and pond. Two buildings as well as the construction of one wing to the Main Building date to the early 1970s, before the AEC was abolished. The Child Development Center was constructed in 1992 for the use of the DOE. In 2009, the campus operates as the larger of two administrative headquarters for the DOE, under management of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.10.

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Politics/Government
Science

Period of Significance
1956-1958

Significant Dates
1956; 1957; 1958

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
Unknown

Architect/Builder
Voorhees, Walker, Smith, & Smith, Architects
McShain, John; Contractor

Period of Significance (justification)

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission campus is significant in the areas of Science, Politics/Government, and Architecture for the years 1956-1958. The property is significant for its association as the first permanent headquarters developed solely for use by the Atomic Energy Commission and designed by the prominent architectural firm of Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith. The period of significance begins in 1956, with the initial construction and development of the AEC campus and extends to 1958. The campus retains its historic function as it remains the larger of the two headquarters for the Department of Energy, the successor of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and applicable criteria)

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission campus is significant under Criterion A in the area of Science as the first campus developed solely for use as the headquarters of the Atomic Energy Commission, the nation's first federal agency established to exclusively foster and control the development of atomic science and technology. The property is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as the first post-World War II property developed outside of Washington, D.C.'s monumental core and the 1930s suburban ring for use by a federal agency. The AEC campus is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as a mid-twentieth-century governmental campus designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, a prominent New York City-based architectural firm renowned for designing laboratories, research facilities, and associated office buildings.

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

Science

The first buildings on the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) campus were completed in 1957 specifically to house the headquarters and support functions of the AEC. The AEC, an independent federal commission, was established in 1946 as the first federal agency created for the sole purpose of fostering and controling the development of atomic science and technology. From its creation until its abolishment in 1975, the AEC either conducted research and development programs or regulated research and development for military, scientific, medical, and industrial purposes at government and private facilities throughout the country. The AEC campus at Germantown was designed to consolidate the AEC's administrative operations from various locations in Washington, D.C. into one location in order to better oversee the AEC's extensive operations. The Main Building housed the AEC commissioners and chairman, as well as over one thousand staff members. The construction of the building provided a public face and a single location for the federal government's "Atoms-for-Peace" program, which helped to create "peaceful" in lieu of military uses of the atom for the American public. In addition, licensing hearings for private power companies were held in the Auditorium at the AEC.

Politics/Government

With the development of the campus at Germantown beginning in 1956, the AEC became the first federal agency since World War II to be located outside of Washington, D.C.'s monumental core and its 1930s suburban ring. The sensitivity of the AEC's programs made it an ideal candidate for the federal government's dispersal policy, which gained momentum after World War II and the discovery of the Soviet Union's success at developing the atomic bomb in 1949. After World War II and the proliferation of the atomic bomb, agency officials in Washington, D.C. were aware of the capital's vulnerability to intercontinental attack, and therefore, were forced to seriously consider urban dispersal as a means of defense. In response to the recognized threat of an atomic attack on Washington, D.C., the AEC's administrative operations were relocated and consolidated to the Germantown site, which was located more than twenty-five miles outside of the nation's capital. As mandated by the U.S. Congress, the AEC facilities, although constructed outside of the capital core, were still accessible to the city by automobile and were built of special materials resistant to blast and atomic fallout. This relocation and consolidation of the AEC headquarters also provided a centralized location that was recognizable by the public from which to operate their programs and oversee the vast aspects of the AEC's research and development.

Architecture

The AEC campus is an example of a mid-twentieth-century campus designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, a prominent New York City-based architectural firm. The property's design is based on earlier office and laboratory building designs for which the firm was well known. Due to the firm's experience in designing large laboratory buildings located in rural sites, the firm provided a plan that included ample parking lots, a cafeteria, barbershop, sundry store, and integral landscaping features. These features enabled those who worked in the buildings to have ease of access to not only the site but to amenities, as well. The buildings' forms take their design from other laboratories designed by the firm in that they are streamlined, rectilinear shapes that lack embellishment. The similarity of massing, design, and utilitarian detailing of the buildings erected between 1956 and 1958 at the AEC campus, as well as the water tower, pond, and interconnected series of pedestrian and vehicular circulation paths all contribute to its significance under Criterion C as a distinguishable unified entity. The campus included interrelated buildings and areas for its staff, all of which have persevered and contribute to the overall campus-like feel of the property.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.22.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

__X__State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
__X__Federal agency
____Local government
____University
__X__Other

Name of repository: **See Continuation Sheets 9.1 through 9.3.**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): M: 19-41

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 98.6
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	304681	4339329
2	18	305348	4339417
3	18	305475	4338911
4	18	305035	4338840

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary includes the approximately 98.6-acre tax parcel (Montgomery County Tax ID # 00777827) upon which the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission campus is located. The northern boundary is delineated by MD 118 (Germantown Road), and I-270 forms the eastern boundary. Millbrook Road and the tax parcel line forms the southern boundary. The western boundary is defined by the property's tax parcel line that extends between the campus and the residential development.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The National Register boundary for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission campus includes the 98.6 acres currently maintained by the Department of Energy that is historically associated with the campus during its period of significance (1956-1958). The boundary encompasses all of the significant resources and features that comprise the property. The size of the campus changed from the original 109 acres following the widening of I-270.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emma K. Young/Architectural Historian; revisions JeffreyM. Jensen

organization A.D. Marble & Company, prepared for U.S. General Services Administration

date September 2010, October 2015

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state PA

zip code 17011

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) campus is located in the growing residential area of Germantown, located approximately twenty-five miles northwest of Washington, D.C, along the I-270 corridor. MD 118 bounds the site to the north, and I-270 forms the boundary to the east. Middlebrook Road lines the property to the south. Residential neighborhoods border the property to the west, and low-rise commercial and service buildings are located across MD 118, to the north.

The campus is primarily accessed via the north from MD 118. A secondary entry for employees only is located via Middlebrook Road, to the south. All entries are through security guardhouses. The northern portion of the site is densely developed with the prominent four-story Main Building, one-story auditorium, boiler plant, radio building, and associated roadways and parking lots. The southern portion of the site is sparsely developed with the one-story Child Development Center and equipment buildings. The northeast corner of the campus contains a manmade pond, with a recreational trail surrounding a forested area to the south. Woodland separates the campus from the residential development, to the east. Chain-link fencing encircles the property, with a more decorative wrought-iron fence bordering the campus along MD 118 at the primary entry.

Five buildings and two structures (water tower and pond) date from the original period of construction for the AEC (1957-1958). The expansive four-story, multi-wing, Main Building is the largest building on the campus, with the auditorium, radio building, boiler plant/garage, and old equipment building also erected during the same period. These utilitarian buildings are constructed of reinforced concrete, with the exterior walls clad primarily in red-colored brick. The new equipment building, as well as the computer center and CA wing attached to the Main Building, were constructed in the early 1970s utilizing the same practical, strictly functional design and ornamentation.[1] The Child Development Center, the most recent of buildings constructed on the site, was erected in 1992 and has the same utilitarian appearance as the earlier buildings on the campus.

A description of each of the buildings in the campus follows.

Main Building (1957; Contributing)
The Main Building is the most prominent within the AEC campus and is located in the north-central portion of the campus. The building was designed by the New York architectural firm of Vorhees, Walker, Smith, and Smith. The building is comprised of four east-west oriented wings (A, C, E, and G), each connected by three unaligned, north-south oriented wings (B, D, and F). The three north-south wings are staggered, leading from north to southeast, so that it gives the building a stepped appearance from the air.[2] Two additional smaller north-south wings (J and H) extend from the southernmost east-west wing of the building. Grass courtyards dotted with mature deciduous trees are located at each wing junction. The main portion of the building (wings A through F) was completed in 1957, and areas of the building, particularly the basement level, were designed to withstand a nuclear blast. Wings G, H, and J were completed in 1958. An additional wing and computer

1. ~~C~~A" refers to the lettering system used to identify the various wings of the Main Building.
2. The staggering of the north-south connecting wings allows for each wing of the building to be closed off from one another internally.

center were added to the building in the early 1970s. The building originally housed the AEC commissioners as well as administrative and support staff, and is currently used to house administrative and support offices for the DOE.

The Main Building measures four stories in height atop a full basement level. The building is partially banked into a hill that slopes downward from west to east and from north to south so that a portion of the basement is visible on the east elevations of each wing, as well as portions of the south elevations. A limestone beltcourse is visible between the basement level and first story on the east elevation of each wing. Brick, laid in a bond of continuous-running stretchers, primarily covers the exterior walls of the building, except where noted. A simple overhanging concrete cornice, with visible expansion joints, caps the flat tar and gravel roof. The roof is built-up in places to include small half-story, flat-roof penthouse levels that house mechanical equipment for the building. The exterior walls of the penthouses are encased in brick. Brick exterior chimneys are also located on the elevations on some of the wings. The building is lit by single-light, fixed-sash, rectangular-shaped, aluminum replacement windows. Each window is set into a white-colored, simple, aluminum surround. Each window is evenly spaced throughout each elevation.

The Main Building faces north towards MD 118. The north elevation of A wing, which serves as the northernmost east-west wing of the building, consists of a taller block to the east that measures twenty-seven-bays wide, with the four easternmost bays grouped apart from the rest of the elevation. A shorter block measuring fourteen-bays wide is offset, sitting approximately one-foot to the south from the face of the north elevation. Continuous limestone surrounds accentuate the fourth-story windows in the eastern block.[3]

The main entry into Building 1 is located in the western end of the taller east block. A flat metal-roof canopy supported by evenly spaced square, metal columns extends outward from the facade, approximately thirteen bays to the east and approximately three bays to the west. The canopy shelters the entry vestibule as well as the sidewalk leading to the entry. The main entry vestibule protrudes approximately three feet from the facade. The face of the vestibule is concrete, with the east and west elevations comprised of brick. The entry into the building consists of a set of multi-light, metal, replacement sliding doors topped by a six-light transom that extends from the top of the entry doors to the canopy. A date stone, which bears the date 1957, is situated to the east of the entry doors. A set of three, two-light, fixed-sash, aluminum windows flank the entry vestibule and extend the full height of the first story.

The east and west elevations of A wing each measure one bay wide. The west elevation is largely devoid of openings, with the exception of a single-leaf, steel door that provides access into the basement level. A one-story, single-bay garage, with brick exterior walls and topped by a flat roof with concrete coping, extends outward from the southwest corner of the wing.[4] The south elevation of A wing contains the same basic

3. The limestone accentuates the windows of the suites originally occupied by the AEC commissioners and is only present on the north and south elevations of A wing; Mike Watkins (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration) in conversation with author, 17 July 2009.
4. The garage historically housed an ambulance for the AEC campus.

utilitarian appearance as the north elevation. The fourth floor windows in the east block also feature the same continuous limestone surround.

Each of the remaining wings of the Main Building contains the same basic utilitarian appearance as A wing, with the exception of the following details below.

Additional entries into the Main Building are located in the west and south sides of the building as well as through the cafeteria in the east side (detailed below). The west entry is located on the north corner of the west elevation of C wing. The sidewalk leading to the entry and its vestibule is sheltered by a canopy similar in appearance to the canopy at the main entry. Four simple square columns support the flat metal, gravel, and concrete roof, which features inset canister lighting underneath. The entry vestibule extends from the face of the elevation, and its exterior walls are brick. The entry consists of a sliding door, flanked by full-height, single-light panels, topped by a four-light transom. The south entry is located on the east corner of the south elevation of H wing and is similar in appearance and detailing to the west entry.

The cafeteria, which dates to the building‘s initial construction date (1957), is a one-story block located on the east side of E wing, at the northeast corner of F wing. The building is accessed from the exterior via entries situated in the east and south elevations. The east elevation is L-shaped, with the entry set back from the face of the elevation, in the northern half of the elevation. A set of poured-concrete steps flanked by metal-pipe railings lead to the entry, which consists of a single-light, aluminum storefront door. Two single-light, full-height windows are located to the north of the entry. The entry and windows are each surmounted by a single-light, rectangular window. An expanse of windows, comprised of long rectangular single-light windows, lights the rest of the elevation. The windows are grouped into sets of three by aluminum dividers, and each window is topped by a smaller, square, single-light window A cream-colored aluminum faux transom tops each window series. The window series wraps around from the east elevation to the south elevation. The entry in the south elevation occupies the westernmost bays. The five-part entry contains the same basic detailing as the east entry, with storefront doors providing points of ingress and egress in the outermost bays and separated by a set of sliding glass doors.

The one-story warehouse building, completed circa 1958, extends between E wing and G wing. The warehouse contains the same overall basic detailing as the rest of the building. However, the west elevation contains a poured-concrete loading dock, sheltered by a flat-roof canopy, and storage garages, accessed via aluminum overhead garage doors near the northern end.

The CA wing, which is oriented on a north-south axis, was added to the east elevation of the C wing circa 1970. The wing uses the same materials, finishes, and design as the rest of the Main Building. The Computer Center, completed in 1970, wraps around the northeast corner of C wing. The one-story center is clad in brick on the exterior walls with wide concrete panels situated near the wall/roof junction on each elevation. Heavy wide concrete pilasters buttress the walls on the north, east, and south sides. A narrow rectangular, full-height window is located between each pilaster.

Two small flat-roof buildings, the exterior walls of which are comprised of brick, are located in the courtyard to the east of D wing. The southernmost building is square-shaped and contains metal louvered vents in the east and south elevations. The northernmost building consists of two rectangular buildings that form an L shape, with metal louvered vents in the east and west elevations. These buildings house the ventilation for the underground generator.

The interior of the Main Building has been continuously altered in order to adapt to the changing technologies and advancements of bombs and weaponry. Most of the original equipment from the basement-level bomb and blast shelter has been removed.

The interior floor and walls of the main entry vestibule are comprised of granite panels. The north wall of the vestibule features the building's dedication information carved directly into the wall face. A metal vent is located underneath the dedication.

Sliding doors provide access through the south wall of the vestibule into the north lobby of the Main Building. The floors are comprised of "Gammapar" parquet flooring.[5] Industrial carpeting covers the floors in the waiting area situated in the west side of the lobby. Marble panels cover the walls and extend almost to ceiling height. The ceiling is comprised of plaster and features drywall-encased ductwork. Suspended rectangular-shaped tube fluorescent lights hang from the ceiling. Marble-encased raised planters line the south wall of the lobby. Two wide marble pilasters flank the corners of the four-sided receptionist desk situated in the center of the south wall. The Department of Energy seal is applied to the marble-clad wall immediately behind the desk.

Metal security turnstiles and a screening area separate the southeast corner of the lobby from a set of stairs that provide the only access from the north lobby to the rest of the building. The stair treads are covered in parquet, and the stairs are lined with metal railings.

The corridors throughout the Main Building are comprised of vinyl-tile flooring with rubber baseboards, plaster walls, some of which have been covered with wallpaper, and suspended acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting. Some of the corridors, particularly in the lower levels, retain plaster ceilings concealed by exposed ductwork. The doors consist of single-leaf, steel types, some of which have small windows or vertical vents. Some of the hallways contain electric clocks, attached near the ceiling, that were installed in the 1970s.

The offices within the Main Building largely consist of industrial carpeting, drywall partitions, and dropped acoustical-tiles with inset fluorescent lighting. The fourth-floor former AEC commissioner suites retain the original wood wainscoting and floor-to-ceiling-height windows.[6]

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5. The parquet flooring was installed in the 1970s and replaced the original blue slate tiles. "Gammapar" flooring is a type of parquet flooring that is made harder through the use of gamma irradiation; Watkins (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration), in conversation, 17 July 2009.
6. Jim Devilbiss (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration), in conversation, 3 June 2009.

Auditorium (1957; Contributing)
The auditorium, located to the northeast of the Main Building, was also completed in 1957 based on the designs by the New York architectural firm of Vorhees, Walker, Smith, and Smith. The building has undergone minimal alterations since its completion. The auditorium, which seats 317 persons, originally housed the hearings before the AEC commissioners and continues to maintain its original function as the site of major U.S. Department of Energy meetings and presentations.

The auditorium measures one-and-one-half-stories in height and sits atop a poured-concrete foundation. The exterior walls are comprised of reinforced concrete and clad in a bond of continuous-running brick stretchers. The walls are stepped and taper downward from west to east. The flat tar-and-gravel-clad roof features a concrete overhang that is curved on the south end. The roof features inset canister lighting. A standing-seam metal-clad hipped roof is centrally located atop the building.

The building faces west towards the main entry into the AEC campus. The main entry into the building is situated slightly off-center, to the south in the west elevation. The entry consists of three single-leaf storefront doors, flanked by single-light full-height windows. Five square limestone-clad, faux windows top the entry and are surmounted by elongated rectangular, aluminum single-light windows that extend to roof height. The entire entry bay is flanked by full-height limestone pilasters. The north and south elevations of the auditorium are devoid of openings. Two single-leaf, steel fire doors are situated in the north and south corners of the east elevation.

The interior of the auditorium underwent extensive remodeling in the 1980s.[7] Three single-leaf doors in the west elevation lead into the auditorium lobby. The lobby stretches the length of the west elevation, and the west wall of the lobby is curved. The floors are clad in vinyl tile, and the walls are painted plaster. The original acoustical-tile ceiling remains and features the original inset large circular light fixtures. The east wall of the lobby contains various single-leaf metal doors that provide access into storage rooms, closets, and restrooms.

An exhibit displaying artifacts from the AEC‘s groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies is centered on the east wall of the lobby, opposite the main entry doors. The shadowbox exhibit includes the shovel used in the groundbreaking ceremony (May 29, 1956); a trowel used in cornerstone laying ceremony (November 8, 1957); plastic box containing the first earth removed at the AEC campus; a mallet used by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the cornerstone laying ceremony; and a symbolic trowel comprised of a uranium blade, a handle made from a squash court floor, and a ferrule made from zirconium taken from a submarine nautilus prototype reactor.

Entry vestibules leading from the lobby into the auditorium are located at the north and south ends of the lobby. A set of double-leaf wood doors, each containing a small square light, provides access into the vestibule. The

7. Devilbiss (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration), in conversation, 3 June 2009.

walls of the vestibules are clad in punched square-shaped wood panels. The ceilings are acoustical tiles with original inset rectangular fluorescent light fixtures.

Many features in the auditorium date to the remodeling carried out in the 1980s. An additional set of double-leaf wood doors provides access from each vestibule into the rear (west) of the auditorium. Twelve rows of stadium seating lead to a stage area located in the east end. The auditorium floor is clad in plush carpeting, which conceals the original cork-tile flooring. The walls are comprised of concrete block, which feature hanging replacement fabric acoustical panels, inset with the original speakers. Light-colored wood paneling covers the walls and ceiling of the stage. The slanted acoustical ceiling that shelters the auditorium features inset lighting and slopes downward from east to west. Staircases leading from the auditorium entry vestibules in the east wall down to the stage flank the seating area. Two evenly spaced faux marble-painted columns extend to ceiling height and are set into the staircases. The individual seats feature folding, upholstered seat cushions, upholstered backrests and polished-wood armrests.[8]

A staircase accessed via the center of the east wall of the auditorium lobby leads to the auditorium‘s upper level, which consists of a pressroom, corridor, conference room, and two restrooms. The staircase is comprised of metal and the treads are covered in rubber. The staircase retains the original polished-wood handrail. The pressroom, which houses media equipment, is comprised of a poured-concrete floor, concrete block walls, and a plaster ceiling. Small square holes are located in the east wall in order to all cameras to film presentations in the auditorium below. A narrow corridor connects the pressroom to the conference room. The corridor is contains vinyl-tile flooring, plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. One of the few remaining original emergency air horns in the campus is situated in this corridor near the ceiling. The two restrooms, accessed via swinging doors, are accessed via the corridor.

The conference room, which occupies the central portion of the upper level, on the west side of the hall, contains industrial carpeting with a rubber baseboard, painted-plaster walls featuring a wood chair rail, and a suspended acoustical-tile ceiling with inset fluorescent lighting.

Radio Building and Water Tower (1957; Contributing)
The radio building, located to the south of the J wing of the Main Building, was completed in 1957, to house communications equipment. The radiation detection monitoring system also operated from the radio building.[9] The building continues to house communications functions for the campus.

The small one-story structure is banked into a hill that slopes downward from east to west and rests on a poured-concrete slab foundation. The building contains a small square block to the west, with a long rectangular block

8. Originally, the auditorium included 325 individual seats. In 2009, 317 seats remain after eight were removed to accommodate audio-visual changes; Devilbiss (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration), in conversation, 3 June 2009.
9. In the event of a nuclear attack, radiation sensors would have raised from the building in order to detect the radiation levels in the area; Ibid.

appended to the east elevation. The building is comprised of reinforced concrete, with the exterior walls clad in brick. A built-up concrete and gravel shed roof caps the building. An aluminum canopy, supported by four aluminum posts, extends out from the west elevation, which contains the only openings in the building. A single-leaf steel door occupies the northernmost bay, and an overhead aluminum garage door occupies the southernmost bay. Purportedly, an underground tunnel connecting the radio building to the G wing of the Main Building remains.[10]

A large metal, 150,000-gallon water tower is located immediately to the east of the radio building. The water tower is original to the 1957 construction of the campus.

Garage and Boiler Plant (1957; Contributing)

The garage and boiler plant, which were constructed in 1957, are located to the northwest of the radio building and water tower and to the southwest of the Main Building's J wing. The garage continues to house maintenance equipment for the campus. The boiler plant, which was converted from fuel oil to natural gas in the mid 1990s, houses the major equipment for providing chilled water and steam used for heating and cooling the buildings on campus.[11]

The one-story U-shaped building rests upon a poured-concrete slab. The buildings are comprised of reinforced concrete with the exterior walls clad in brick. The taller rectangular boiler plant occupies the east end of the block, with the L-shaped garage extends from the southwest corner of the boiler plant. An additional rectangular-shaped block is appended parallel to the west elevation of the garage. The building is banked into a hill that slopes downward from east to west. The buildings face north, and each section is capped by a flat concrete-and-gravel roof. Metal chimneys pierce the roof of the boiler plant. The north end of the boiler plant, which contains a single vehicle bay in the west elevation, was appended to the original boiler plant in the ca. 1995.[12] A seam in the exterior brick walls denotes the old and new sections. Three metal cooling towers are located immediately to the north of the boiler plant.

The north elevation of the boiler plant is devoid of openings, with the exception of a single-leaf steel door and a two-light window to the west situated in a one-story flat-roof extension off the southwest corner. The garage contains an overhead aluminum garage door in the easternmost bay. A single-leaf one-light garage door and a tripartite metal louvered vent flanked by single-light rectangular windows are located in the western rectangular section of the garage.

The west elevation of the boiler plant contains metal louvered vents near the roof. The west elevation of the garage contains blocks of tripartite, single-light windows, each set separated by brick columns, near the roof. The west elevation of the west section of the garage contains three single-leaf steel doors. The south elevation of the boiler plant contains one single-leaf steel door sheltered by an asphalt shingle-clad shed roof supported by

10. Ibid.
11. U.S. Department of Energy, *Agency Master Plan for the Department of Energy Headquarters*, August 1994 (on file at the U.S. General Services Administration-National Capital Region, Washington, D.C.), B-25.
12. Ibid.

two wood posts. The south elevation of the central block of the garage contains six groups of tripartite single-light windows separated by brick columns. Some of the windows are inset with window air conditioning units. The east elevation of the boiler plant contains six single-light windows near the roof at the southern end of the elevation. Each window sits atop a poured-concrete sill.

Old Equipment Building (1957; Contributing)
The old equipment building on the AEC campus is situated to the southeast of the Main Building near the southernmost boundary of the property. The building, which originally housed equipment for the campus, presently provides equipment storage as well as document shredding services.

The one-story building rests atop a poured-concrete slab. The building is comprised of reinforced concrete, and the exterior walls are clad in brick. The low-pitched side-gable roof is sheathed in standing seam metal. Several metal chimneys punctuate the roof.

The east elevation contains six overhead aluminum garage doors separated by brick columns. Standing seam metal covers the upper portion of the east elevation, above the doors and columns. A smaller one-story, shed-roof metal garage is attached to the north elevation of the building. The garage contains one open vehicular bay in the east elevation and a small louvered vent near the center of the north elevation.

The west elevation of the equipment building contains a continuous row of twenty-two, four-light, metal-sash windows, with the two-centermost lights hinged as an awning sash. The lowermost light in the eighth window from the north (left) has been replaced with a metal panel inset with a small square louvered vent. The exterior wall above the windows is clad in standing-seam metal. A small one-story one-bay block extends from the southeast corner of the building. A single-leaf steel door is situated off-center, to the south of the east elevation. The south elevation of the one-bay block contains a louvered metal vent. A former door opening to the east of the vent has been filled in with brick. A single-leaf steel door is located near the north end of the south elevation of the equipment shed.

New Equipment Building (1973; Non-Contributing)
The new equipment building, which is located immediately west of the old equipment building, was constructed in 1973 to house additional maintenance functions and to store additional equipment for the campus. A poured-concrete parking area stretches between the old and new equipment buildings.

The two-story new building was designed to be similar in appearance to the old equipment building. The equipment building sits atop a poured-concrete slab. The building is comprised of reinforced concrete with the exterior walls clad in brick. The low-pitched shed roof is covered in standing-seam metal, and standing-seam metal covers portions of the east and west elevations near the roof. An exterior brick chimney extends upwards near the west end of the north elevation.

The east elevation of the building measures five bays wide. Four brick columns separate the bays, mimicking the garage door appearance of the west elevation of the old equipment building. A metal cage sheltered by a

metal shed roof conceals the openings in the north end of the elevation. An overhead garage door sheltered by a metal roof occupies the centermost bay, and a single-leaf steel door is situated to the south. A single-leaf steel door is situated in the second story, above the first-story opening. The north and south elevations of the building contain two evenly spaced single-light, fixed-sash metal windows in the first and second stories. The west elevation is devoid of openings.

A metal four-bay, shed-roof, prefabricated equipment shed is located to the southeast of the new equipment building. Two one-story, plywood, prefabricated buildings are located to the east of the equipment building.

Child Development Center (1992; Non-Contributing)
The Child Development Center, which is located to the southeast of the Main Building, was constructed in 1992 in the area of the former helicopter-landing pad. The one-story reinforced-concrete building accommodates approximately eighty children. The exterior walls are clad in brick and a flat metal roof caps the building. A separate, secured playground for the children is also provided, to the southeast of the building.

Exterior Landscape Features

The buildings of the AEC campus are connected through a series of vehicular and pedestrian circulation paths. Paved-asphalt roadways featuring vast parking lots are located throughout the campus. Several gravel ancillary maintenance roads are also located in the southern quadrant of the campus. Brick pavers line the outermost portion of the sidewalk that stretches between the Main Building and Auditorium. An original metal flagpole is located to the northeast of the Main Building. The remaining sidewalks throughout the AEC are poured concrete. These sidewalks are located near the immediate areas of building entrances and provide for pedestrian flow throughout the campus. Various shaded seating areas are scattered throughout the campus. Landscaping consists of expanses of grass lawn interspersed with flowerbeds, mature shrubs, and trees, including walnut, cherry, and pin oaks. Grass and planting borders are located adjacent to buildings and along fence lines. A stone retaining wall along the east side of the Main building between the A and CA wings as well as stone bollards bordering the parking lots were installed after September 11, 2001.

A large triangular-shaped pond is located in the northeast quadrant of the campus. This original feature was intended to support the air conditioning functions of the bomb shelter. A recreational trail, named in honor of former AEC Chairman, Glenn Seaborg (1961 – 1971), extends from the southeast corner of the pond and encircles a woodland area, which occupies the east and southeast quadrants of the campus.

Alterations

The buildings within the AEC campus retain their original massing, design, and wall and roof cladding. Exterior alterations to the buildings generally consist of window and door replacements. Exterior alterations to the campus in its entirety consist of security upgrades and equipment installations, and the construction of the

Computer Center, CA Wing, New Equipment Building, and Child Development Center as well as the addition of prefabricated storage buildings. The original 109-acre parcel has been reduced to approximately 98.6 acres due mainly to comply with local and state right-of-way acquisitions for the 1970s improvements to I-270. However, this reduction did not affect any of the contributing buildings or features historically associated with the property.

In order to adapt to the changing technologies of warfare as well as to accommodate the needs of tenants, the interior of the Main Building has undergone extensive alterations. Interior alterations include the removal of details associated with the original bomb shelters, including original air horns and blast doors. Alterations also include the construction of drywall partitions, replacement flooring, and ceilings throughout the Main Building and Auditorium.

Ongoing construction, maintenance, and update projects are frequent throughout the campus and within the individual buildings; however, these small projects do not detract from the overall design and campus-like feel of the complex.

Historical Narrative:

Beginning of the Atomic Era, including the Establishment and Early Workings of the Atomic Energy Commission, 1945 -1954

The Atomic Era, also known as the Atomic Age, typically refers to the decades following the detonation of the first nuclear bomb. In August 1945, the United States released two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan during World War II, thus signaling the beginning of the Atomic Era. Although debated by scholars, generally the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 is used to delineate the end of the Atomic Era.

The U.S. government began efforts to construct a nuclear bomb following the advice of Albert Einstein, who signed a letter sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt in August 1939. The letter, referred to as the Einstein–Szilárd letter, warned President Roosevelt that German scientists were working to develop an atomic bomb. The letter also advised President Roosevelt that the United States should also start studying the use of nuclear fission to create an atomic bomb.[13]

In early October 1939, President Roosevelt authorized the secret creation of the small Uranium Committee, which was later overseen by the National Defense Research Committee. This committee eventually evolved into the Manhattan Project in 1942, whose purpose was to develop the first atomic bomb. The Manhattan Project was housed initially at Columbia University in New York City under the auspices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Manhattan Engineer District (MED). Manhattan was the ideal location for this secret research due to its port facilities, the military presence, a large available work force, and the population of expatriate European physicists; as well as for Columbia University, a center of early nuclear research. Project research also took place at over thirty additional sites across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. On July 14, 1945, just three years after the establishment of the Manhattan Project, scientists conducted their first nuclear test, referred to as "Trinity," near Alamagordo, New Mexico. Less than a month later, the United States released the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and the second on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. On August 15, 1945, Japan accepted the unconditional terms of surrender, which lead to the end of World War II and the beginning of the Atomic Era.[14]

13 .The letter, although signed by Albert Einstein, was largely written by Leo Szilárd in consultation with his fellow Hungarian physicists Edward Teller and Eugene Wigner; As available via E-World Website, "Albert Einstein's Letters to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt," http://hypertextbook.com/eworld/einstein.shtml (accessed 23 July 2009).

14. F.G. Gosling, *The Manhattan Project, Making the Atomic Bomb*, National Security History Series (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Energy, December 2005), 109.

Atomic Energy Act of 1946

Following the end of World War II, the U.S. Congress sought ways to develop and utilize practical, peacetime uses for atomic energy.[15] After months of debate among politicians, military planners, and atomic scientists, President Harry S. Truman signed the Atomic Energy Act into law on August 1, 1946. The most significant aspects of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 ruled that nuclear weapon technology and nuclear power management would be under civilian rather than military control, and consequently, established the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) for this purpose. The Act, which went into effect on January 1, 1947, transferred control of the nuclear sciences from the MED to the newly established AEC.[16]

The 1946 Act declared that the policy of the U.S. was to direct the development and utilization of atomic energy toward ~~"i~~improving the public welfare, increasing the standard of living, strengthening free competition among private enterprises so far as practicable, and cementing world peace."[17] In order to effectuate these polices, the 1946 Act also provided for the creation of major intiatives, such as a program to assist and foster private research and development, a program to provide free dissemination of scientific information, and a program of federally conducted research.[18]

Further, the 1946 Act established the AEC under certain restrictions and regulations. The Act declared:

> (a) There is hereby established an Atomic Energy Commission (herein called the Commission), which shall be composed of five members. Three members shall constitute a quorum of the Commission. The President shall designate one member as a Chairman of the Commission.
> (b) Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the President. In submitting nominations to the Senate, the President shall set forth the experience and qualifications of each person so nominated…No member of the Commission shall engage in any other business, vocation, or employment than that of serving as a member of the Commission.
> (c) The principal office of the Commission shall be in the District of Columbia, but the Commission may exercise any or all of its powers in any place. The Commission shall hold such meetings, conduct such hearings, and receive such reports as will enable it to meet its responsibilities for carrying out the purpose of this Act.[19]

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15. Alice L. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Energy, History Division, July 1983), 1.
16. U.S. Department of Energy, "Atomic Energy Act of 1946," http://wwwhttp://science.energy.gov/~/media/bes/pdf/Atomic_Energy_Act_of_1946.pdf (accessed 8 August 2015).
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Ibid.

Due to high security needs, all production facilities and nuclear reactors would be government owned, while all technical information and research results would be under the control of the AEC.[20]

On January 1, 1947, the AEC took over the atomic energy program from the MED under the leadership of AEC Chairman David E. Lilienthal, a lawyer and former head of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The AEC established their first permanent headquarters at 19th Street and Constitution Avenue, in the northwestern quadrant of Washington, D.C. Their headquarters were housed in a 1930s building previously occupied by the Public Health Service and later by the Joints Chief of Staff during World War II.[21] However, AEC laboratories, which oversaw research and testing, were constructed well outside the Nation's capital, including the Argonne Laboratory at Lemont, Illinois; Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico; Hanford Site in Washington State; and Oak Ridge in Tennessee.[22]

Atomic Energy Commission, 1947 – 1954
The 1946 Act gave the new civilian AEC extraordinary power and independence to carry out its significant responsibilities. From its establishment, the AEC faced a challenging future. In 1949, quickly following the end of World War II, the U.S. Air Force detected a large radioactive mass over the Pacific Ocean, indicating that the Soviet Union had successfully detonated a nuclear device. This signaled the beginning of the Cold War and triggered the allocation of most of the AEC's resources to weapon development and production.[23]

On February 15, 1950, Chairman Lilienthal resigned after three years of leading the AEC from a fledging commission into an effective government institution. By mid-July 1950, President Truman appointed Gordon Dean as Chairman of the AEC. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. entered the Korean War to the aid of South Korea. Increased military demands combined with President Truman's desire to develop the hydrogen bomb, threatened to exhaust the AEC's production capacity. As a result, the AEC embarked on a vast expansion program beginning in October 1950. The subsequent three-year, three billion dollar expansion campaign fueled the construction of huge plants and reactors throughout the United States, including facilities in Fernald and Portsmouth, Ohio; Paducah, Kentucky; the Savannah River site in South Carolina; and a test site in Las Vegas, Nevada.[24]

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20. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 1.
21. This building, which is still extant, now houses the U.S. Department of the Interior; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration, History Division, and the Office of Science Intern Program, ―Atomic Energy Commission: Why Germantown?" http://wwwhttp://science.energy.gov/bes/about/organizational-history/germantown-natural-history/germantown-site-history/ (accessed 5 August 2015).
22. Anne Bruder, ―Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," prepared for the State Highway Administration, Baltimore, Maryland, December 2006, 8-1.
23. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 1.
24. Ibid., 2.

The concentrated effort on weapon production during the expansion campaign did not result in the total neglect of the AEC's research laboratories. The AEC recognized the need to maintain the vitality of the national labs and to continue to encourage university research teams and industry groups focused on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.[25] Consequently, the federal government began declassifying materials from the AEC about nuclear sciences. In addition, private industry as well as foreign and local governments began to investigate ways to utilize the new technologies developed under the auspices of the AEC. One subject focused on the experiments that produced electricity from fissionable materials, which had been conducted at the Argonne National Laboratory in 1951.[26] In addition, the use of nuclear medicines to treat illnesses such as cancer was also being studied. As part of that research, the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital, where scientists and doctors studied the effects of radiation on cancer, was built at the University of Chicago in 1952.[27]

In January 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower, the former Supreme Commander of the Allied Troops and first Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), became the thirty-fourth President of the United States. In June 1953, President Eisenhower appointed AEC Commissioner Lewis Strauss to succeed Gordon Dean as the Chairman of the AEC. An article published in *The New York Times* published about the time of Strauss' apointment proclaimed that the AEC:

> is probably the most important technical body in the world today. It commands intellectual, financial, and industrial resources of unprecedented magnitude. Its power is immense, its decisions have an influence which is far reaching. For these reasons it has responsibilities that far transcend those of most other Government agencies.[28]

Lewis Strauss, a New York financier and rear admiral in the U.S. Naval Reserve, had served as a commissioner for the AEC since its establishment in 1946. Since March 1953, Admiral Strauss had served as a special assistant to President Eisenhower as "liaison advisor on atomic energy matters."[29] Strauss's appointment was expected to receive unanimous approval in the U.S. Congress since he was officially credited with pressing the development of the detection system that informed the United States that the "Soviet Union had solved the secret of producing atomic weapons and had exploded its own bomb in 1949."[30] Admiral Strauss, who would serve as AEC Chairman for the next five years, would be key in the implementation of President Eisenhower's Atoms-for-Peace program and would also oversee the conception and construction of the new AEC headquarters.

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25. Ibid.
26. Nuclear fission refers to the splitting of an atomic nucleus that results in the release of large amounts of energy.
27. Bruder, "Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," 8-1.
28. "Mr. Strauss And the A.E.C.," *The New York Times*, 25 June 1953.
29. W.H. Lawrence, "President Chooses Strauss to Head Atom Commission," *The New York Times*, 24 June 1953.
30. Ibid.

Atoms- for-Peace Program
On December 8, 1953, President Eisenhower spoke before the United Nations' (UN) General Assembly and declared "peaceful power from atomic energy is no dream of the future…that capability, already proved, is here today." In what became known as the "Atoms-for-Peace" program, President Eisenhower stated that the United States "wants to be constructive not destructive," and sought "more than the mere reduction or elimination of atomic materials for military purposes…It must be put into the hands of those who will know how to strip its military casing and adapt it to the arts of peace."[31]

Before the UN's General Assembly, President Eisenhower outlined a program wherein those nations that had stockpiles of either uranium or other fissionable materials would donate the reserves to the International Atomic Energy Agency, a new UN organization that would work to identify peaceful projects in nations around the world.[32] President Eisenhower pledged the determination of the United States to "help solve the fearful atomic dilemma—to devote its entire heart and mind to finding the way by which the miraculous inventiveness of man shall not be dedicated to his death, but consecrated to his life."[33]

The Atoms-for-Peace program became a major pronouncement of America's public policy concerning the international management of nuclear energy. With a sufficient supply of uranium to satisfy its own military needs, so that by 1954, the United States could refocus attention on the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.[34]

Atomic Energy Act of 1954
Following President Eisenhower's "Atoms-for-Peace" speech before the UN, attention was refocused on revising the Atomic Energy Act of 1946. On February 17, 1954, President Eisenhower asked the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that would allow "American atomic energy development, public and private, to play a full and effective part in leading mankind into a new era of progress and peace."[35] Throughout the spring of 1954, exhaustive hearings and Congressional debates resulted in the passage of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 on August 30, 1954, which updated the previous 1946 Act. The 1954 Act encouraged peaceful applications of atomic energy in medicine, industry, and science throughout the United States. The 1954 Act also allowed the AEC to exchange technical and scientific information with foreign governments. The act also afforded for liberal licensing provisions, greater access to technical data, and the right for private industry to own reactors, which provided essential conditions for the private development of nuclear power in the United States, although industry was not able to own fissionable material.[36] Thus, the 1954 Act ended exclusive government use of the

31. International Atomic Energy Agency, "History: Atoms for Peace Speech," http://www.iaea.org/About/history_speech.html (accessed 22 July 2009).
32. Bruder, "Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," 8-1.
33. International Atomic Energy Agency, "History: Atoms for Peace Speech," accessed 2009.
34. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 3.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.

atom and began the growth of the commercial nuclear power industry, giving the AEC authority to regulate the new industry.[37]

Atomic Energy Commission and the Selection of the Germantown Site, 1955

As new applications for nuclear sciences were identified and developed, the staff of the AEC continued to grow. Consequently, the various AEC administrative staff was housed in two separate buildings as well as a warehouse, all of which were at "widely separated points" throughout Washington, D.C.[38] AEC officials considered the widely dispersed offices to be a security issue and an inefficient use of time due to the distances between offices. Furthermore, the lack of a single identifiable building associated with the AEC caused disconnect between the commission and the public particularly in its effort to highlight the peaceful uses of nuclear science.

Efforts to relocate the AEC outside of Washington, D.C. began as early as 1949 when the AEC prepared a report entitled "The City of Washington and an Atomic Bomb Attack." According to the report, if an attack was to occur on the AEC building at 19th Street and Constitution Avenues, "the building would be completely destroyed and following the attack those who emerged from the shelter would be quite helpless to carry on the far-flung operations of the atomic energy program."[39] However, the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 stipulated that the headquarters of the AEC were required to be in Washington, D.C., so the commission remained dispersed throughout Washington, D.C.

In November 1954, K.E. Fields, General Manager of AEC, advised AEC Secretary J.B. McCool that it was "desirable for the Atomic Energy Commission headquarters to occupy a single building," which coupled with the federal government's investigation into permanent dispersal of federal agencies. The dispersal policy had begun in earnest during World War II, when some agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, were sent to areas outside of the Nation's Capital to operate. After World War II and the proliferation of the atomic bomb, Washington, D.C. was aware of its vulnerability to intercontinental attack, and therefore, was forced to seriously consider urban dispersal as a means of defense.[40] On December 16, 1950, a national emergency was declared due to the recognized threat of atomic attack. Bills presented to the U.S. Congress outlined the dispersal of cross-sections of the government to eight facilities with a total of forty-thousand employees. These facilities were to be constructed in a radius outside of Washington, D.C. but accessible to the city and were to be

37. Atomic power is interchangeably used with nuclear power as atomic/nuclear energy is derived from the nucleus of an atom; in terms of energy production, *nuclear* appears to be the preferred terminology (in lieu of *atomic*). Therefore, both terms are used throughout the narrative.
38. "A.E.C. Seeks Building Site," *The New York Times*, 1 May 1955.
39 .U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration, History Division, and the Office of Science Intern Program, 2009.
40. Frederick Guitheim, and Antoinette Lee, *Worthy of the Nation, Washington, DC, from L'Enfant to the National Capital Planning Commission, Second Edition* (Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), 247.

built of special materials resistant to blast and atomic fallout.[41] Thus, the seed was planted for the relocation of the AEC outside of Washington, D.C. to a new permanent headquarters.

The U.S. Congress approved a bill to relocate the AEC headquarters outside of Washington, D.C. on April 25, 1955. The bill revised the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 by providing that the AEC may have its principal office ~~in~~ or near the District of Columbia."[42] An appropriation of ten-million-dollars to construct the new headquarters and approval of the relocation by the U.S. General Services Administration, the overseer of the majority of federal buildings, were also included. The headquarters would house all of the administrative functions of the AEC, as well as the commissioners. No research or testing would be conducted at the facility. By mid May 1955, upon approval of the bill by President Eisenhower, the AEC was searching for an appropriate site upon which to erect the new facility that would house the 1,300 employees expected by 1956. The site would have to include at least twenty acres, and that building would be without ~~a~~ny special ornamentation or monumental construction."[43]

The AEC complied with the federal government's dispersal policy and began searching for a site that was at least twenty miles from the Washington Monument and west of the north-south line running through the Monument grounds.[44] In addition, the site was to include good access roads and developed communities in order to relocate staff. Furthermore, the proximity to the Nation's Capital would enable the AEC to maintain frequent and personal contact with the U.S. Congress and other government agencies.[45]

In July 1955, after considering over fifty locations, the AEC selected a 109-acre farm, owned by William O. Dosh, at the junction of MD 118 and the Washington National Pike (which would eventually become I-270) near the rural town of Germantown in Montgomery County, Maryland.[46] Mr. William O. Dosh's livestock farm was bisected by the relocation of the Washington National Pike in the early 1950s, thus creating a 109-acre partially wooded parcel on the west side of the new four-lane highway. On November 1, 1955, the AEC filed a condemnation suit on the farm, and subsequently paid $64,000 for the property.[47]

Shortly after the purchase of the Dosh farm property, the AEC selected the New York-based architectural firm of Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, who had designed space at Columbia University for the Manhattan

41. Ibid., 248.
42. ~~A~~"A.E.C. May Move Site To Avoid Atom Bombing," *The New York Times*, 16 April 1955.
43. ~~A~~"A.E.C. Seeks Building Site," *The New York Times*, 1 May 1955.
44. This distance took into account the largest weapon conceivable at the time—twenty megatons (the bomb dropped over Hiroshima had a yield of much less than one megaton); U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration, History Division, and the Office of Science Intern Program, 2009.
45 .U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration, History Division, and the Office of Science Intern Program, 2009.
46. At the time that the AEC purchased the Dosh farm property, Germantown included approximately one-thousand residents.
47. Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book HMS 6087, Page 254 (Rockville, Maryland).

Project, to design their new headquarters. The result was a 516,000-square-foot, four-story building with a full basement, purely functional in design, with minimal embellishment or ornamentation. The building included several wings that were staggered in placement in order to be sealed off from each other, if necessary. Many protections were built into the building in order to safeguard it against a nuclear blast. It included its own water, sewer, and heating and air support functions. In designing the new building, the firm also considered the needs of the AEC employees, as well as the office designs. Due to the rural location of the new facility, the nearby town did not have many of the necessary services to support more the more than one-thousand employees. As a result, the building included a large cafeteria, as well as ample parking spaces due to the recognized need to travel by car since Germantown was not accessible by rail or bus.

Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, Architectural Firm[48]
Cyrus L.W. Eidlitz opened the architectural firm of what would become Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, in 1885.[49] Eidlitz designed the first telephone building in New York City for the Metropolitan Phone Company, and as the new technology grew rapidly, he took on his first partner, Andrew McKenzie, in 1900. Throughout the next decade, the firm was primarily engaged in designing telephone buildings in New York and northern New Jersey. In 1910, Stephen Voorhees was made partner, followed by Ralph Walker in 1926, and the bulk of the firm's practice continued in design of telephone buildings, including the Barclay-Vesey Building in lower Manhattan, completed in 1926. *American Architect* devoted an entire issue to the building's design, which placed the central operating system at the core of the building with the offices arranged on the perimeter, and, as a result, contributed to the growth and prominence of the architectural firm.

By the mid 1930s, Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith were renown throughout the architectural world. From 1935 to 1937, Voorhees served as President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and was selected to be the Chairman of the 1939 World's Fair Board of Design. The firm also designed several pavilions at the Fair, including the Petroleum Industries and others for General Electric, Borden, American Telephone & Telegraph, American Radiator, and Equitable Life.[50]

Between 1939 and the 1960s, Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith designed research and development laboratories for the automobile, chemical, electrical, and nuclear industries, among others. The firm used as a team approach of an architect project manager and engineer, who worked under a senior partner for each project. In 1939, the firm received the commission to design and construct the Bell Laboratory in Murray Hill, New Jersey, completing the project in 1942. The design of the building was unique in that all of the piping and

48. Bruder, "Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," pages 8-2 through 8-5, except where noted.
49. The architectural firm has changed names numerous times, but for clarity will be referred to as Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith throughout this nomination. By 1969, the firm had become Haines, Lundberg, & Whaeler. In 2010, the firm is known as HLW International, LLP.
50. Farnsworth Fowle, "Ralph T. Walker is Dead at 83; Hailed as 'Architect of the Century,'" *New York Times*, 18 January 1973.

wiring was accessible from anywhere in the laboratory. In addition, work groups of varying sizes could use the laboratory space to meet the needs of each project, housing as few as two and as many as eight scientists.

Charles Haines joined the firm in 1930, following his graduation from Columbia University. In the announcement of his promotion to Senior Partner in 1956 as well as his obituary, Haines is credited with the design of the Bell Telephone Laboratory, the Esso Research and Engineering Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the Westinghouse Laboratory in Pittsburgh, the Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, Illinois, and the AEC headquarters.[51] Carlton P. Roberts was a junior partner and chief engineer for the firm during the design of the AEC headquarters. In addition, Roberts was credited with overseeing the engineering design for the Savannah River atomic energy plant in South Carolina as well as research and development laboratories for the Ford Motor Company and IBM, among others.[52]

In addition to his design work for various laboratories, Haines wrote several articles about laboratory design and was also active on the AIA's Committee on Nuclear Facilities, active between 1948 and 1958. The committee studied AEC and private facilities throughout the country, and produced two articles in the May and June 1957 issues of *The Architectural Record* titled "Architecture, Atoms and a Peaceful World—A Series of Articles Prepared with Members of the Committee on Nuclear Facilities, AIA to Animate Architectural Imagination in a New, Challenging Field." The May article noted that until the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, most of the information about nuclear science buildings had been classified and there was little information provided to the public about their designs. However, the 1954 Act allowed for the declassification of technical materials, which opened up the applications of atomic energy to industry and business. The Cyclotron Building at the Argonne National Laboratory, designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith was one of the buildings featured in the May 1957 article.

Additional articles published by Haines, as well as other members of the architectural firm, were not "how-to" articles but explained the firm's design ideas. These articles, as well as their completed projects, demonstrated that Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith were able to design buildings that supported the scientific research that was conducted inside. Haines noted in the May 1957 that the firm designed buildings from the inside out, and that the building's program dictated its design. The firm's prior work at Argonne and Savannah River National Laboratories made them familiar to those AEC staff responsible for the new AEC headquarters building.

Atomic Energy Commission Campus, Germantown, Maryland, 1956 - 2009

The relocation of the AEC to Germantown was part of the largest federal construction program since the Great Depression that involved more than $400 million just in the capital region. The AEC was the first post-World War II property developed outside of Washington, D.C.'s monumental core and 1930s suburban ring for use by a federal agency. Following the AEC, other agency relocations included the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA),

51. "Architect Advanced; Charles Haines Is Appointed as Senior Partner of Firm," *New York Times*, 17 December 1956.
52. "Carlton Roberts, Engineer. Was 53," *New York Times*, 29 May 1956.

National Bureau of Standards, National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Geological Survey.[53] In addition, the AEC Main Building was only the third building to be completed in the Washington, D.C. area since before World War II.[54]

On April 1, 1956, the AEC sought bids for construction of their new headquarters building, designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, which would include a cafeteria and warehouse, as well as a separate auditorium, radio building, and boiler plant/garage.[55] On May 11, the AEC awarded the contract to the Philadelphia-based construction firm of John McShain, Inc.[56] The firm, which had worked on numerous federal projects, was the lowest of thirteen bidders with a bid of $8,828,900.[57] Construction commenced on May 29, 1956, the bulk of which was completed within eighteen months by November 1958.

By the time of the facility's dedication on November 8, 1957, wings A-F of the Main Building, as well as the auditorium, radio building, boiler plant/garage, and old equipment shed had been completed at a cost of approximately ten-million-dollars.[58] The dedication for the new AEC headquarters took place on a cold, rainy afternoon before an audience of three-thousand persons. President Eisenhower, accompanied by AEC Chairman Lewis Strauss, arrived by helicopter to help dedicate the facility. Other guests at the ceremony included the five commissioners; U.S. Representative Carl T. Durham, North Carolina, chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee; Senator J. Glenn Beall, Maryland; Ambassador Baron Silvercruys of Belgium representing the diplomatic corps; and other members of the federal, state, and local governments.[59]

President Eisenhower, with the assistance of Representative Durham and Chairman Strauss, laid the date stone for the building, behind which was placed a sealed metal box that contained documents and photographs of various milestones in the atomic age, including linens from the Dead Sea Scrolls dated by 35 A.D. by

53. Alvin Shuster, ~~–~~U.S. Agencies Join Rush to Suburbs," *The New York Times*, 15 July 1956.
54. Edwin L. Dale, Jr., ~~–~~President, Dedicating A.E.C. Building, Warns of Dangers in the Atom," *The New York Times*, 9 November 1958.
55. ~~–~~A.E.C. Asks Bids on New Unit," *The New York Times*, 1 April 1956.
56. Carl M. Brauer, *The Man Who Built Washington: A Life of John McShain* (Wilmington, Delaware, Hagley Museum and Library, 1996), 52; The firm of John McShain, Inc., primarily operated out of Philadelphia with ancillary offices maintained in Trenton, New Jersey and Baltimore, Maryland. Some of the more than one-hundred projects that McShain worked on in the greater Washington, D.C. area included the Jefferson Memorial, Pentagon, Bureau of Engraving and Prints, the USDA South Building, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Pentagon, the National Airport (now known as the Ronald Reagan National Airport)and the renovation of the White House. By the late 1950s, John McShain, Inc. had become one of the nation's five largest general contractors.
57. ~~–~~A.E.C. Lets Contract," *The New York Times*, 12 May 1956.
58. Wings G, H, and J were completed by October 1958 at an additional cost of $3.3 million.
59. Dale, Jr., ~~–~~President, Dedicating A.E.C. Building, Warns of Dangers in the Atom," 1958.

radiocarbon technology.[60] In his dedication speech, President Eisenhower expressed his hope that ―the curse of the atomic explosion may pass from man‘s knowledge and only the good that results from this great discovery would be with us always,‖ and stressed the ―peaceful purposes‖ of the United States.[61] At the conclusion of his speech, President Eisenhower unveiled a copy of the building‘s dedication plaque by pushing a button that had been charged by nine of the nation‘s power-producing reactors.[62]

No formal design critique or review of the AEC headquarters appeared in the architectural press or newspapers, such as *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*. The majority of the press‘ discussions about the design of the AEC headquarters centered on its ability to withstand a nuclear blast and provide protection for the atomic ―secrets‖ that purportedly were kept inside the building. The basement was reported to contain bomb shelters with walls that measured 16 ½-inches thick.[63] The radio building, located to the south of the Main Building, was equipped with a radiation detection monitoring system. In the event of a nuclear attack, sensors from the building would raise after the blast to monitor the radiation levels and notify staff in the bomb shelters once it was safe to emerge.[64]

The design of the buildings at the AEC campus was purely functional. The Main Building and Auditorium contain thick walls and roofs with small windows and doors in order to provide protection to the outside world and limits views of the interior. The exteriors are streamlined and lack embellishment.[65] The few aesthetic treatments were reserved for the main entries, as well as the application of limestone at the fourth-story windows of the suites reserved for the AEC commissioners. However, these treatments are subdued and restrained compared to the ornamentation, including prominent entryways and classical detailing, of earlier federal buildings.

Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith‘s design for the AEC amidst its rural setting mimicked other buildings of their design situated outside the urban environment. The landscape designs were as carefully planned as the building designs, with the rural backdrop providing for a campus-like setting of the facility. The surrounding grounds were planted with grass, trees, and shrubs, and the firm incorporated the existing woodlands situated in the east portion of the campus. In addition, a pond, which served both a practical and aesthetic function, was included. The pond was meant to support the air conditioning of the bomb shelter.[66] A helicopter-landing pad was also included to the south of the Main Building.

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60 .Dale, Jr., ―President, Dedicating A.E.C. Building, Warns of Dangers in the Atom,‖ 1958 and U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration, History Division, and the Office of Science Intern Program, 2009.
61. Dale, Jr., ―President, Dedicating A.E.C. Building, Warns of Dangers in the Atom,‖ 1958.
62. Ibid.
63. Bruder, ―Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form,‖ 8-5.
64. Devilbiss, (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration), in conversation, 3 June 2009.
65. Ibid.
66. Ibid.

On January 3, 1958, the AEC began the relocation of ―six-million pounds of documents and office equipment and paraphernalia" from the various buildings throughout Washington, D.C. twenty-eight miles northwest to its new headquarters in Germantown, Maryland.[67] Between January 4 and 14, Curles Movers, Inc., which won the $40,000 moving contract, was expected to work around the clock.[68] The classified documents, which were escorted by an armed AEC guard, occupied two thousand cubic feet, or a pile ―200 feet high, one foot wide, and ten feet long."[69] The transfer of the building contents ―will be the largest single mass movement of its kind ever made into or out of the District of Columbia…will require hauling some 300 loads in twenty-five trailers, each thirty-five feet long."[70]

Due to the relocation of the AEC from downtown Washington, D.C., to the rural area of Germantown, the AEC General Manager noted that it was likely that a portion of the AEC staff would be lost due to the commute, which took approximately one-hour by car from the city.[71] At first, the AEC anticipated as many as one-third of their 1,619 employees would quit because of the shift after a survey had been issued the previous March. However, the relocation only amounted to a five-percent loss, or eighty-nine employees, who did not want to give up their homes in Washington, D.C., and/or commute to Germantown. AEC management attempted to make the campus more convenient by providing a branch bank, cafeteria, barbershop and sundry store.[72] The Main Building also included its own ambulance and healthcare center, on the west side of A wing. In addition, the AEC sought to ease the commuting difficulty by subsidizing a private bus line to carry ―employees from the Washington area to Germantown and by stipulating that the fare must be no more than $1 a day. The [AEC] obtained $75,000 from Congress for this purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30."[73]

All of the issues initially raised by AEC employees, who missed having places to shop on their lunch hour or abhorred the commute, were problems that the local, county, and federal government would tackle within the coming years: roads, goods and services, housing, convenient public transportation, and the impacts on the nearby towns.[74] Consequently, Germantown soon underwent the suburban pattern that typically followed the dispersal of federal agencies outside of Washington, D.C. The relocation to a rural area fostered a campus-like federal installation located on a major transportation artery and surrounded by single-family homes. This initial

67. At this time wings A through F of the Main Building, as well as supporting buildings, were completed; Richard Amper, ―U.S. Atom Secrets Take to the Road," *The New York Times*, 4 January 1958.
68. ―AEC Begins Big Moving Job to New Building," *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 3 January 1958.
69. Amper, ―U.S. Atom Secrets Take to the Road," 1958; Approximately 225 AEC employees remained in private offices until additional wings were completed in September 1958.
70. Ibid.
71. Dale, Jr., ―President, Dedicating A.E.C. Building, Warns of Dangers in the Atom," 1958.
72. The credit union, barbershop, and cafeteria, which are located on the east side of the Main Building, off Wing C, are still present on the campus; however, the sundry store, which was located adjacent to the east lobby, near the cafeteria, is no longer extant.
73. Ibid.
74. Bruder, ―Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," 8-6.

establishment was later followed by the filling-in of open land, additional residential development, commercial centers, schools, and other local government services.[75]

Less than a year after its completion, the new AEC Main Building was expanding. Wings G, H, and J, extending outward from the south of the Main Building, were completed by October 1, 1958. In the meantime, a contract was also awarded for an extension to the cafeteria, which was also designed by the Voorhees, Walker, Smith, & Smith.[76]

In 1961, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg was appointed by President John F. Kennedy as AEC Chairman. Shortly after his appointment, Dr. Seaborg welcomed President Kennedy to the AEC campus at Germantown, where the President toured the facilities and was given an overview of the AEC programs. Dr. Seaborg would later note in his journal "The President seemed to be very interested and asked many questions throughout."[77]

As part of his daily activities, Dr. Seaborg, who would be the longest-serving chairman in the AEC's history, would walk a one-quarter-mile path that wound around the wooded area on the AEC campus, located to the southeast of the pond. This path became known as the "Glenn Seaborg Trail," and is still maintained. The trail includes a number of large, ancient trees: a white oak from the 1750s, a tulip poplar from the 1870s and a large white oak from the 1840s. The trail continues beneath a mix of hickories, oaks, and tulip poplars, ending in an area of Virginia pines that date to the AEC campus's construction in the late 1950s.[78]

As technologies changed, the AEC headquarters had to adapt accordingly. A computer center and additional wing (CA wing), both of which were designed by the successor firm of Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, were added to the Main Building in 1970. A new equipment shed was erected on the property in 1973, adjacent to the old equipment shed, to accommodate additional storage for the vehicles and maintenance equipment for the campus.

The interior of the Main Building continued to undergo numerous updates and alterations in order to defend against the very same technologies that the AEC and its preceding agencies were researching and designing. As atomic weaponry gave way to other more advanced weaponry, the original equipment designed to protect against nuclear attack, such as the blast doors and radiation detection equipment, was removed.

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75. Frederick Gutheim and Antoinette Lee, *Worthy of the Nation, Washington, DC, from L'Enfant to the National Capital Planning Commission, Second Edition*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), 247.
76 .U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration, History Division, and the Office of Science Intern Program, 2009.
77. Ibid.
78. U.S. Department of Energy, "The Glenn Seaborg Trail," http://www.science.doe.gov/SC-80/trail/index.html (accessed 23 July 2009).

In 1971, during the leadership of Chairman James Schlesinger, a portion of the AEC programs and functions were relocated from the Germantown campus to the newly acquired the James V. Forrestal Building located in downtown Washington, D.C. on Independence Avenue.[79] The five-story Brutalist-style building had been erected in 1968 for use by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but was transferred to the use of AEC in 1971. Thus, once more, the administrative functions of the AEC were dispersed between two facilities.[80]

The transfer of AEC programs to the Forrestal building also coincided with the transfer of the Germantown campus out of AEC control into the pool of federal buildings managed by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). In the early 1970s, the U.S. Congress passed a law stipulating that those federal agency office buildings that did not include research laboratories must be turned over to the GSA, with those federal agencies paying yearly rent. GSA maintains the Germantown, Maryland property. In the mid-1980s, GSA delegated the daily operations and maintenance responsibilities of the Germantown, Maryland facility to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which has occupied the campus since 1977 when the DOE absorbed the AEC and its successor agency, the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA),.[81]

By 1975, Washington National Pike located to the east of the campus was renamed I-270, a major connector between Washington, D.C. and Montgomery County. Increasing traffic levels led to a $200 million widening of the road in Montgomery County to its current configuration and further increased traffic, necessitating the construction of a new, higher border fence surrounding the AEC campus. As a result, the original 109-acre parcel upon which the AEC was situated was reduced to approximately 98.6 acres in order to comply with local and state right-of-way acquisitions for the I-270 improvements. However, this reduction did not affect any of the contributing buildings or features historically associated with the property. The east side of the Main Building is partially visible from I-270, and several signs are situated along the roadway providing direction to the Germantown campus.[82]

In 1992, the DOE constructed a large one-story child development center atop the helicopter-landing pad, located to the south of the Main Building. Thie child development center was the first new construction in almost twenty years at the campus, and the last major construction since. The AEC Germantown campus continues to undergo minor exterior alterations, largely for security measures. Security guard stations were installed at the main entry gate, as well as at the south entry gate in the late 1990s. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, stone bollards were placed throughout the parking lots and in areas adjacent to the campus roadways. A low stone wall was also installed to the east of the Main Building. At the interior, the receptionist desk in the north lobby of the Main Building was moved from the northeast corner of the lobby to the south-

79. The tenure of Chairman James Schlesinger is discussed in more detail in the subsequent section.
80. Watkins (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration) in conversation, 17 July 2009.
81. Watkins, (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration), in conversation, 3 June 2009.
82. Ibid.

central portion of the lobby in order to accommodate security turnstiles and security screening equipment in the northeast corner. Additional upgrades and alterations are ongoing.[83]

US. Atomic Energy Commission, 1958 – 1975

In the mid 1950s, as the AEC planned for the construction of its first permanent headquarters constructed for the sole purpose of housing the AEC administrative facilities, the federal government continued to experiment with the atomic bomb, as well as the hydrogen bomb. During this time, the AEC performed public relations efforts in order to reassure the American public that ordinary citizens would not be harmed by the testing fallout particularly after a 1957 Joint Atomic Energy Committee hearing revealed for the first time the extent of the AEC radiation research program. The AEC laboratories and contractors had been analyzing data collected through a worldwide network monitoring the presence of strontium 90 in humans, foods, and soils. The hearing announced to the public that millions of dollars were involved in more than three-hundred AEC-sponsored projects on various aspects of radiation and fallout.[84]

During the 1950s, as the United States continued to test atomic and hydrogen bombs, President Eisenhower and his administration expressed their willingness to suspend nuclear tests as part of a disarmament agreement. At the Conference of Experts held in Geneva in the summer of 1958, President Eisenhower announced that the United States sought to negotiate a test-ban agreement. Subsequently, an un-policed moratorium period began on October 31, 1958, during which both the United States and the Soviet Union refrained from nuclear weapon experiments.[85]

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 entrusted the responsibility of regulating and licensing commercial atomic activities to the AEC. Licensing procedures involved a series of technical reviews and public hearings, which were held in the auditorium at the AEC campus. The AEC served as the final review board for all licenses granted, and carried out continuous surveillance of licensed reactors throughout their operating lifetime.[86] As the AEC began implementing the Atoms-for-Peace programs and sought partners to aid in this endeavor, they developed five- and ten-year initial technology development plans since nuclear technology at that time was so new it was experimental. The plans set goals for what the AEC was to accomplish in five-years‘ and ten-years‘ time. Between 1954 and 1958, the five-year plan developing fuel and reactor models was so successful that the ten-year plan could begin.

> At Congressional hearings in 1958, AEC Chairman John McCone recommended that the Atoms-for-Peace program pursue three different types of reactors that could be constructed as an experiment or prototype. The utility companies were

83. Devilbiss, (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration), in conversation, 3 June 2009.
84. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 4.
85. Ibid.
86. Ibid., 6.

> working with the AEC to develop data about the technology, rather than constructing new power plants for everyday use. [President] Eisenhower was included in the discussions about the power plant program, but he did not want the government to be responsible for financing the construction of plants. Rather, the utility companies needed to have the financial resources for construction and operation of each new plant. Factors such as the expense of atomic fuel when compared to oil- or coal-fueled plants, limited the private sector's ability to embrace the technology. Another fuel issue was the length of time that the material would fission before it had to be replaced. Fuel development experiments were two years before requiring replacement. Experimental and prototype models continued to be constructed throughout the country in the 1960s, and by 1968, the utility companies could afford to choose nuclear power over traditional oil- and coal-fueled plants because it was economically feasible.[87]

Chairman Strauss retired from the AEC in June 1958, but remained in President Eisenhower's administration in a newly created position of special assistant to the President in the Atoms-for-Peace program.[88] According to newspaper accounts, Strauss was forced into retirement due to "political feuding" with members of the U.S. Congress who believed that Chairman Strauss' position as both AEC Chairman and as special advisor to the President on atomic energy meant that he was able to "circumvent the [AEC] in influencing the Administration's atomic policy."[89]

By July 1958, President Eisenhower selected John A. McCrone, a Los Angeles industrialist, to replace Admiral Strauss as AEC Chairman. McCrone's background as an industrialist would help to fuse the public and private enterprise of utilizing atomic energy.[90] McCrone served as AEC Chairman for three years before resigning to become Director of the CIA.

In 1961, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg succeeded McCrone as AEC Chairman. Dr. Seaborg had been one of the original members of the General Advisory Committee and the first scientist appointed as AEC Chairman.[91] He won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1951 for "discoveries in the chemistry of transuranium elements." He was also accredited with contribution to the discovery of more than one hundred isotopes of elements throughout the Periodic Table of Elements (Periodic Table), and was the first to propose how heavy elements fit into the Periodic Table, which led to its current arrangement. Before his appointment by President John F. Kennedy as AEC Chairman in 1961, Dr. Seaborg spent most of his career as an educator and research scientist at the University of California, Berkeley, where he became the second Chancellor in its history. Dr. Seaborg was

87. Bruder, "Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," 8-6.
88. John W. Finney, "Strauss Retires As Head of A.E.C.; Takes New Post," *The New York Times*, 6 June 1958.
89. Ibid.
90. "A.E.C. Head to be Sworn," *The New York Times*, 13 July 1958.
91. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 4.

given a leave of absence from the University of California from 1942-1946, during which time he headed the plutonium work of the Manhattan Project.[92]

While AEC Chairman, Dr. Seaborg participated on the negotiating team for the Limited Test-Ban Treaty, which he would later consider his greatest achievement. With technical support from the Dr. Seaborg and the AEC, President Kennedy pursued an aggressive test-ban agreement with the Soviet Union after the union had abruptly ended the moratorium, which had been in effect since 1958, by announcing on August 31, 1961, that they would resume testing.[93] After months of negotiations, a limited test-ban treaty was signed in Moscow on August 5, 1963, which prohibited nuclear explosion tests in the atmosphere, outer space, or under water, but permitted underground detonations providing that no radioactive debris crossed the borders of the country within which the test was conducted.[94] No comprehensive test-ban treaty was ever negotiated, and President Kennedy, as well as President Lyndon Johnson and President Richard Nixon, continued to authorize underground tests in accordance with the 1963 treaty.

The 1963 treaty also affected the civilian power program, with the hope that the cessation of atmospheric weapon testing would shift a large share of the AEC's time and budget from the "military atom" to the "peaceful atom."[95] In March 1962, President Kennedy requested that the AEC take a "new and hard look at the role of nuclear power" in the economy of the United States.[96] Several months later, Dr. Seaborg's AEC report noted that the ten year civilian power program, adopted in 1958, was set to obtain its primary objective of competitive nuclear power by 1968. Dr. Seaborg and the AEC's goals for the future included, "a concentration of resources in the most promising reactor systems, the early establishment of a self-sufficient and growing nuclear power industry, and increased emphasis on the development of improved converter or breeder reactors, which would conserve natural uranium resources."[97]

Due to the experimental nature of its programs, the AEC had been both responsible for advising utility companies on technology development and regulating the same companies when changes or violations occurred. Members of the U.S. Congress and the executive branch perceived this to be a conflict of interest, and, in the early 1960s, the regulatory branch of the AEC was physically separated from the AEC campus in Germantown and relocated to Bethesda, Maryland.[98]

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92. Nobleprize.Org, "Glenn T. Seaborg-A Biography," http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/1951/seaborg-bio.html (accessed 23 July 2009).
93. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 4.
94. *Ibid*; Despite strict rules from the Soviet Union prohibiting photography at the signing ceremony, Dr. Seaborg purportedly sneaked a tiny camera past the Soviet guards to take a close-up photograph of Soviet Premier Khrushchev as he signed the limited test-ban treaty.
95. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 5.
96. Ibid.
97. Ibid.
98. Bruder, "Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," 8-7.

On November 22, 1963, President Lyndon Johnson assumed office. Shortly thereafter, one of his first and arguably most significant acts was to order a twenty-five-percent cutback in production of enriched uranium and the closure of four plutonium piles, with the expectation that other nations might be prompted to follow. Soviet Premier Krushchev later announced production cutbacks in the Soviet Union, although verification was difficult. [99] On August 26, 1964, President Johnson signed the "Private Ownership of Special Nuclear Materials Act," which ended the eighteen year mandatory government monopoly of special nuclear materials. This meant that enriched uranium for power reactor fuel would no longer have to be leased from the government. Furthermore, after June 20, 1973, private ownership of power reactor fuels would become mandatory. The 1964 Act also authorized the AEC to offer uranium-enriching services to both domestic and foreign customers under long-term contracts, starting in January 1969. [100]

During the Administrations of President Johnson (1963-1968) and President Nixon (1969-1974), the federal government experienced regulatory growth. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Department of Transportation Act became laws in 1966. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) became law on January 1, 1970. The passage of NEPA would directly affect the AEC. In the late 1960s, the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (BGA) began to plan for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Lusby, Maryland. The passage of NEPA in 1970 enabled the Calvert Cliffs' Coordinating Committee to first petition and then sue the AEC regarding their NEPA regulations. By the time that the suit was filed in December 1970, the power plant was thirty-percent complete. Although the AEC had obtained information about environmental issues in the construction site from state and county agencies, they had not considered the potential impacts as required under NEPA. In the District of Columbia's Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Skelly Wright issued the opinion on July 23, 1971, that the AEC, as the federal agency, must comply with NEPA to the fullest extent possible. At the time of the decision, there were sixteen operating nuclear power plants, forty-nine under construction, and another forty-four in various stages of planning throughout the United States. This new regulatory requirement forced the AEC to undergo a vigorous reorganization of its regulatory divisions.[101]

In August 1971, President Nixon appointed James R. Schlesinger to follow Dr. Seaborg as AEC Chairman. Serving in this position for approximately eighteen months, Schlesinger instituted extensive organizational and management changes in an effort to improve the AEC's regulatory performance. The rapid growth of atomic energy activities in the 1960s and changing perspectives of nuclear technology necessitated the substantial reorganization of the AEC's operational and regulatory functions.[102]

Chairman Schlesinger announced the results of the AEC's comprehensive review of the its functions and organization in December 1971. The first reorganization would unite various related programs previously scattered throughout the AEC.

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99. Ibid.
100. Ibid.
101. Bruder, "Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," 8-7.
102. Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 7.

> Developmental and operational functions formerly under the jurisdiction of the general manager would now be under six assistant general managers for Energy and Development Programs, Research, Production and Management of Nuclear Materials, Environment and Safety Programs, National Security, and Administration. Reflecting expanding areas of Commission involvement were new divisions of Controlled Thermonuclear Research, International Security Affairs, and Applied Technology.[103]

Major overhauls of the regulatory organization and functions continued throughout the rest of Schlesinger's term as AEC Chairman. Schlesinger followed in the footsteps of previous AEC Chairman McCrone and resigned as AEC Chairman in January 1973 to become director of the CIA.

In February 1973, Dr. Dixie Lee Ray, a marine biologist from the state of Washington, succeeded Schlesinger as Chairman of the AEC. Dr. Ray, the first woman to head the AEC, took over at a time when the United States was faced with the reconciling energy needs, environmental concerns, and economic goals.[104] The United States faced increasing demands for energy, a leveling out of domestic oil production, limitations on coal use due to environmental concerns, inadequate natural gas supplies, and field delays in the licensing and construction of nuclear power plants. In June 1973, President Nixon asked Dr. Ray to undertake a review of the nation's energy program. Six months later, she submitted a report entitled "The Nation's Energy Future, which recommended a federal commitment to energy research and development through the establishment of an Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). In 1974, in conjunction with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) embargo of selling oil to the United States, the federal government began to take steps to balance the nation's energy needs with the economic and environmental uses. Consequently, the decision was made, based on recommendations presented in Dr. Ray's report, to further separate the development and regulatory functions of the AEC.[105]

Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, Energy Research and Development Administration, and the Department of Energy, 1974 - 2009

President Gerald Ford signed the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 on October 11, thereby abolishing the AEC, which had led and overseen the nation's atomic energy program for twenty-eight years. The Act called for the creation of the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), which assumed the research and development responsibilities of the AEC. The newly established U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

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103. Ibid.
104. Since the commissioner's suites provided kitchenettes, restrooms equipped with showers, and other conveniences, Dr. Ray purportedly lived in a camper parked on the AEC campus during her time as AEC Chairman; Watkins, (U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Management and Administration), in conversation, 17 July 2009.
105 Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 7; Bruder, "Atomic Energy Commission (M: 19-41) Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form," 8-7.

Commission (NRC) assumed the licensing and regulatory functions. As a legacy to the ERDA, the AEC passed on its unique facilities, including the Germantown campus, a network of national laboratories, production facilities, and the proven technological skills, resourcefulness, and experience of its personnel.[106]

However, the extended energy crisis of the 1970s demonstrated the need for a unified energy organization and planning. Consequently, three years after its creation, the ERDA, like the preceding AEC, was subsumed into an even larger organization when President Jimmy Carter created the cabinet-level U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on October 1, 1977, to oversee all of the nation's energy requirements. President Carter appointed former AEC Chairman James Schlesinger as the first U.S. Secretary of Energy. Responsibilities of the DOE include maintaining the safety and reliability of the nation's nuclear weapon stockpile, ensuring energy security, cleaning up the environment from the legacy of the Cold War, and developing innovations in science and technology. The DOE also sponsors more basic and applied scientific research than any other federal agency.[107]

In 2010, the DOE maintains its headquarters at both the AEC campus in Germantown and the Forrestal Building in downtown Washington, D.C., which houses the offices for the U.S. Secretary of Energy. Although the Cold War has passed, the Germantown campus, located over twenty miles from Washington, D.C., continues to provide the public image of the scientific research and development overseen by the AEC and its predecessors. The ~~"p~~eaceful" programs in areas of medicine and energy identified and administered by the staff located at the AEC Germantown campus continue to benefit the American public decades after its establishment.

Statement of Significance and Integrity Evaluation[108]

The Atomic Energy Commission campus is significant under Criterion A in the area of Science as the first campus developed solely for use as the headquarters of the Atomic Energy Commission as well as in the area of Politics/Government as the first post-World War II property developed outside of Washington, D.C.'s monumental core and the 1930s suburban ring for use by a federal agency. The AEC campus is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as a mid-twentieth-century governmental campus designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, a prominent New York City-based architectural firm.

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106 Buck, *A History of the Atomic Energy Commission,* 8.
107 U.S. Department of Energy, ~~"O~~rigins and Evolution of the Department of Energy," http://www.energy.gov/about/print/origins.htm (accessed 22 July 2009).
108. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Building (M: 19-41) was determined eligible by the Maryland Historical Trust (State Historic Preservation Office) in 2007 under Criteria A for its association with AEC and as the first post-World War II government agency to be located outside both Washington, D.C.'s monumental core and the suburban ring constructed in the 1930s. The property was also determined eligible under Criterion C as an example of a mid-twentieth-century office building designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, a prominent New York City-based architectural firm.

Integrity
The Atomic Energy Commission campus retains a high degree of integrity on its exterior. The facility maintains all of the buildings historically associated with the 1957 construction of the AEC headquarters. In addition, the complex retains the original flagpole, water tower, and pond historically associated with the AEC. Each of the contributing buildings has undergone only minor alterations to the exterior, the majority of which are located on side or rear elevations. The interiors of the buildings were later adapted to meet the increasing advancements of weapon technology, as well as to accommodate the use of various tenants. The removal of the sundry store and helicopter landing pad, construction of late-twentieth-century buildings to the south of the historic core, and the construction of perimeter fencing that replaced the 1957 fencing do not detract from the campus-like feel of the site. The campus retains its connecting pathways, associated roadways, and landscape features. Therefore, the AEC retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. In addition, the contributing buildings retain their original location, and the immediate area around the campus, although extensively developed since the 1950s, is still predominantly residential and commercial. Therefore, the campus retains integrity of location and setting. The campus retains some of its overall monumentality as a government entity, all of which contribute to integrity of association. The campus‘ retention of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, and association results in the campus‘ retention of feeling as a utilitarian mid-twentieth-century property constructed to house one the nation‘s most eminent federal agencies.

The AEC includes a total of eight extant buildings, as well as a water tower and pond, all of which date to the period of original construction. Five of the buildings, as well as the water tower and pond, are contributing to the significance of the AEC campus under Criteria A and C for their association with the AEC and the architectural firm of Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith and their retention of historic integrity of design, workmanship, materials, setting, location, association, and feeling. However, the CA Wing of the Main Building, which was erected circa 1970, and the north addition to the boiler plant, which was erected in 1995, are non-contributing since they each post-date the period of significance for the campus (1956-1960). The remaining three buildings were erected after the period of significance for the campus, and are therefore non-contributing. See Table 1 below.

Table 1: List of Built Resources at the Atomic Energy Commission, Germantown Campus, 2010[109]

Building/Structure	**Date of Construction**	**Contributing Status**
Main Building	1957 (A-F Wings, Cafteria); 1958 (G-J Wings)	Contributing; CA Wing (erected 1970) non-contributing
Auditorium	1957	Contributing
Radio Building	1957	Contributing

109 The table does not include prefabricated storage sheds located near the south end of the campus and/or movable, impermanent structures.

Boiler Plant/Garage	1957	Contributing; north addition to boiler plant (erected 1995) non-contributing
Old Equipment Shed	1957	Contributing
Water Tower	1957	Contributing
Pond	1957	Contributing
Computer Center	1970	Non-contributing
New Equipment Shed	1973	Non-contributing
Child Development Center	1992	Non-contributing

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Miscellaneous Records

Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds, Rockville, Maryland. Deed Book HMS 6087, Page 254

Name of Property:	U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
City or Vicinity:	Germantown
County:	Montgomery County
State:	MD
Name of Photographer:	B. Frederick
Date of Photographs:	June 2009
Location of Original Digital Files:	A.D. Marble & Company 375 E. Elm Street, Suite 200 Conshohocken, PA 19428

Photo # 1 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0001)
Main Building, north elevation, view to southeast

Photo # 2 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0002)
Main Building, A wing, east and north elevations, view to southwest

Photo # 3 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0003)
Main Building, C wing-north elevation (left) and D wing-west elevation (right), view to southeast

Photo # 4 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0004)
Main Building, east entry, view to northwest

Photo # 5 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0005)
Main Building, warehouse, west elevation, view to east

Photo # 6 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0006)
Main Building, computer center, north and west elevations, view to southeast

Photo # 7 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0007)
Main Building, interior, north (main lobby), view to south

Photo # 8 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0008)
Main Building, interior, north (main) lobby, view to northwest

Photo # 9 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0009)
Main Building, interior, first floor hallway, A wing, view to west

Photo # 10 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0010)
Auditorium, west and south elevations, view to northeast

Photo # 11 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0011)
Auditorium, interior, lobby, view to south

Photo # 12 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0012)
Auditorium, interior, entry vestibule leading to auditorium, view to west towards lobby

Photo # 13 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0013)
Auditorium, interior, view to southeast

Photo # 14 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0014)
Overview of campus with boiler plant to left and radio tower and east elevation of Main Building (J wing) to right, view to north

Photo # 15 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0015)
Radio tower and water tower, west elevation, view to east

Photo # 16 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0016)
Boiler plant (left) and garage (center), west and north elevations, view to southeast

Photo # 17 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0017)
Old Equipment Building, east and north elevations, view to southwest

Photo # 18 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0018)
Old Equipment Building, west elevation, view to southeast

Photo # 19 (MD_Montgomery County_US Atomic Energy Commission_0019)
Overview of pond, view to west looking towards I-270

U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
UTM: 18/304681/4339329
18/305348/4339417
18/305475/4338911
18/305085/4338840


SPEED
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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CAUTION
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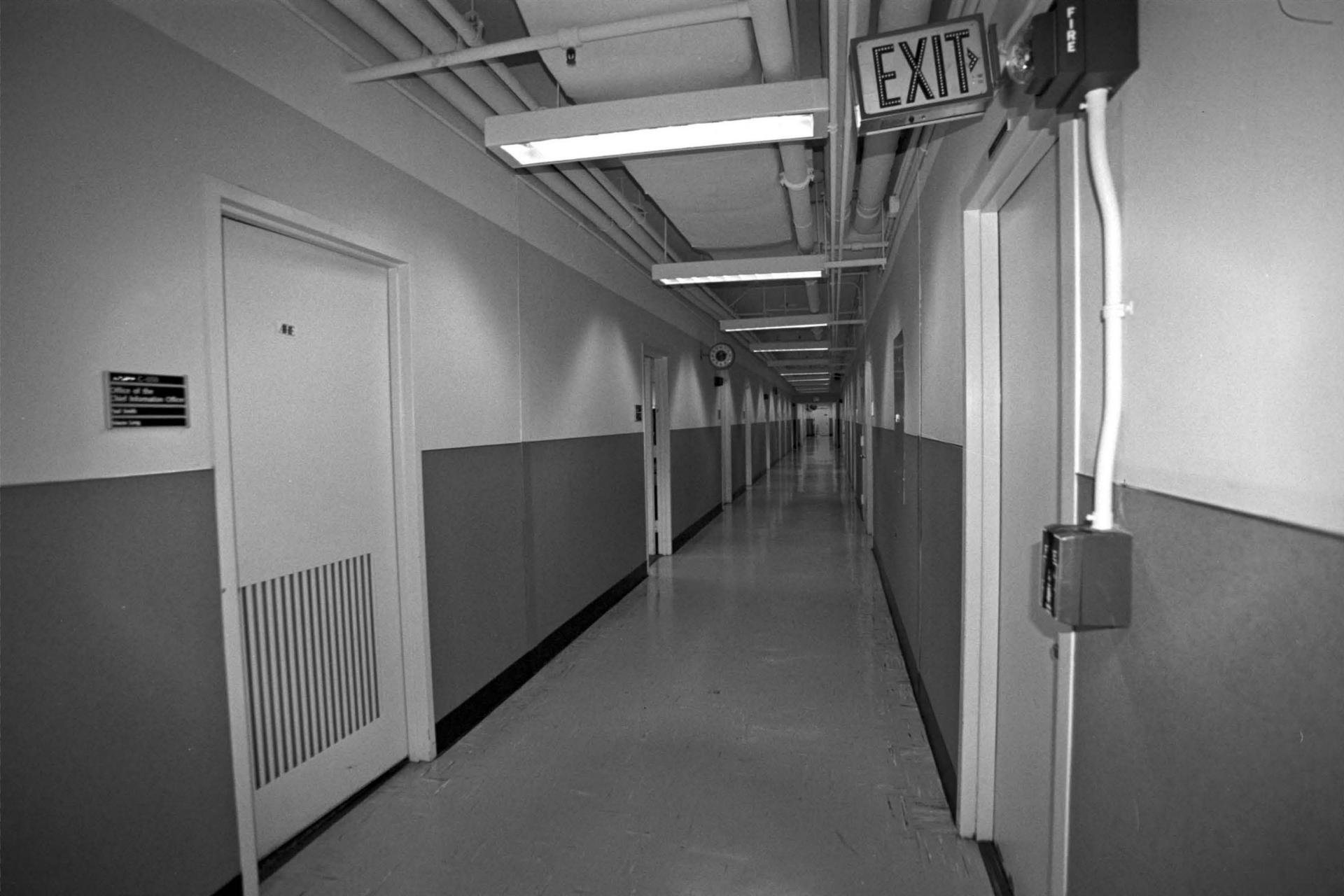
Security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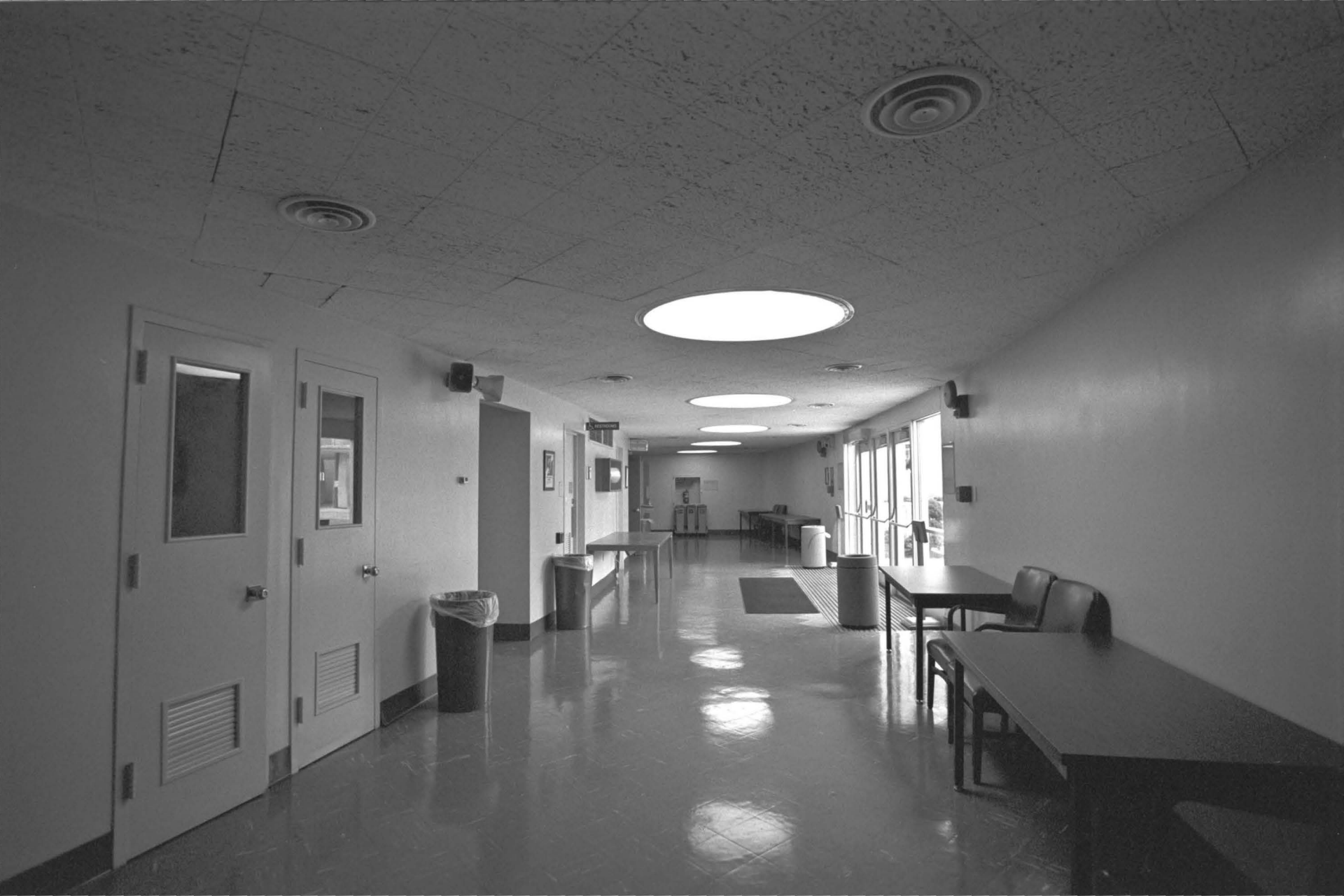


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MARYLAND, Montgomery

DATE RECEIVED: 4/08/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/29/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/16/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/24/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000275

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 5-23-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

GSA

GSA Public Buildings Service

November 20, 2015

Mr. Ike Leggett
County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places registration package for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (current name: Department of Energy-Germantown Campus) located at 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland. The Maryland State Historic Preservation Office has already reviewed the nomination and has concurred that the property meets the National Register criteria.

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) campus occupies approximately 98.6 acres in the southwest quadrant of I-270 and MD 118 (Germantown Road). The campus consists of eight buildings, five of which date from 1957 to 1958 when the site was first developed for use as the AEC administrative headquarters. In addition, the campus also includes an original water tower and pond. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission campus is significant under Criterion A in the area of Science as the first campus developed solely for use as the headquarters of the Atomic Energy Commission, the nation's first federal agency established to exclusively foster and control the development of atomic science and technology. The property is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as the first post-World War II property developed outside of Washington, D.C.'s monumental core and the 1930s suburban ring for use by a federal agency. In addition, the AEC campus is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as a mid-twentieth-century governmental campus designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, a prominent New York City-based architectural firm renowned for designing laboratories, research facilities, and associated office buildings.

In accordance with National Register federal program regulations (36 CFR Part 60.9 (c)), we are notifying you, as an elected official of the political jurisdiction within which the property is located, of our intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. Should you have any comments, please respond within 45 days of receipt of this letter.

The enclosed copy of the nomination is provided for your records. Following receipt of all comments or the completion of the 45-day period, we will forward the original archival package to the National Park Service for approval. Upon listing, a final copy of the nomination will be available through the National Register of Historic Places.

1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
www.gsa.gov

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the nomination package, please contact Beth Hannold at (202) 501-2863.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosure
cc: Scott Whipple, Supervisor of Historic Preservation Unit, MNCPPC
Nancy Witherell, Regional Historic Preservation Officer

GSA

GSA Public Buildings Service

December 11, 2015

Mr. William Kirwin
Chair, Historic Preservation Commission
Historic Preservation Commission Office
Montgomery County Planning Department
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Kirwin: Bill

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate its property, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (current name: Department of Energy-Germantown Campus), located at 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. I regret that I will be unable to attend the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission meeting on December 16, 2015 to speak in support of the nomination. Please accept this letter as my testimony.

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) campus occupies approximately 98.6 acres in the southwest quadrant of I-270 and MD 118 (Germantown Road). The campus consists of eight buildings, five of which date from 1957 to 1958 when the site was first developed for use as the AEC administrative headquarters. In addition, the campus also includes an original water tower and pond. The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission campus is significant under Criterion A in the area of Science as the first campus developed solely for use as the headquarters of the AEC, the nation's first federal agency established to exclusively foster and control the development of atomic science and technology. The property is also significant under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as the first post-World War II property developed outside of Washington, D.C.'s monumental core and the 1930s suburban ring for use by a federal agency. In addition, the AEC campus is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as a mid-twentieth-century governmental campus designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, a prominent New York City-based architectural firm renowned for designing laboratories, research facilities, and associated office buildings. The complex was determined eligible for listing in the National Register in 2006.

GSA is a proactive leader in fulfilling its federal agency responsibilities under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. GSA continually identifies, evaluates and nominates its significant historic assets to the National Register. In its nationwide effort over the last ten years, GSA has submitted more than one hundred nominations for National Register listing and currently has more than forty nominations in process. The present nomination reflects GSA's early recognition of the importance of its Modern-era inventory. Fifteen years ago, GSA began an on-going effort to better understand its buildings from the Modern-era. In 2000, GSA brought together seventy-five leading private-sector architects and preservation experts in a symposium titled, "Architecture of the Great Society," to discuss how to best contend with the aesthetic and performance challenges of the substantial number of GSA buildings constructed between 1960 and 1979. In 2001, GSA convened a Blue Ribbon Panel to develop recommendations for addressing the issues raised at this symposium. As a first step in

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implementing its action plan, GSA completed a study to better understand federal construction of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s within the context of American architecture and the history of federal public building construction. As a result, GSA published *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s* in 2003.

Today, GSA has listed or determined eligible sixty-five of its Modern-era buildings. These range from individual landmarks such as Marcel Breuer's Department of Housing and Urban Development, to complexes such as Mies van der Rohe's Chicago Federal Center and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission campus. Currently GSA's youngest listed property is Marcel Breuer's 1978 Strom Thurmond Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse complex in Columbia, South Carolina. We appreciate the commission's consideration of the nomination and we look forward to the listing of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission complex as an important piece of GSA and Montgomery County's Modern patrimony. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the nomination package, please contact Beth Hannold at (202) 501-2863.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

cc: Clare Lise Kelly, Architectural Historian/Master
Nancy Witherell, Regional Historic Preservation Officer

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
RECOMMENDATION FORM

Property Name: U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Location: 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown
County: Montgomery

Certified Local Government: Montgomery County
Commission Name: Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission

---

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

Nomination Recommended **X** Nomination Not Recommended _____

- Please check the applicable National Register criteria and/or considerations (exceptions) used in making the decision:

  Criteria: X A X B X C __D Considerations: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

- Justification of decision (use continuation of sheets(s) if necessary):

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) campus encompasses about 98.6 acres adjoining I-270 at Germantown Road (MD 118). The complex of eight buildings includes five buildings that date from 1957-1958 when the site was first developed for the administrative headquarters of the AEC. Also original to the campus is a water tower and pond. The proposed resource is eligible for National Register listing for Criterion A for the field of Science, as the first campus developed solely for use as the headquarters of the Atomic Energy Commission, the nation's first federal agency established to exclusively foster and control the development of atomic science and technology; as well as the field of Politics/Government, as the first post-World War II property developed outside of Washington, DC's monumental core and 1930s suburban ring for use by a federal agency. In addition, the resource is significant under Criterion C, Architecture, as a mid-twentieth century governmental campus designed by Voorhees, Walker, Smith & Smith, a prominent New York City-based firm renowned for designing laboratories, research facilities, and associated office buildings. Finally, the HPC found the resource meet Criterion B, for its association with significant persons including Lewis L. Strauss, Secretary of Commerce; and AEC Chairmen John A. McCone and Glenn T. Seaborg.

_____	Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission	2/8/2016
Signature, Commission Chairman	Commission Name	Date

CHIEF ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION:

_____ I concur with the opinion of the historic preservation/district commission.

_____ I do not concur with the opinion of the historic preservation/district commission (please justify disagreement on a separate sheet).

_____	_____	_____
Isiah Leggett	Title	Date

GSA Public Buildings Service

April 6, 2016

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, NRHP & NHL Program
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280), 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (current name: Department of Energy--Germantown Campus) located at 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, Maryland, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is hereby submitted on disk in accordance with the May 6, 2013 guidance and includes the following:

- Signed original first page of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form;
- Disk 1 - The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, located in Germantown, MD, to the National Register of Historic Place; and,
- Disk 2 – The enclosed disk contains the .tif image files for the above referenced nomination.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 60.9(c), the appropriate local elected official was notified of GSA's intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places by letter dated November 20, 2015. The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, representing the Certified Local Government, unanimously endorsed the nomination at its December 16, 2015 meeting.

If for any reason any nomination package that GSA submits needs to be returned, please do so by a delivery service as items returned to our offices via regular mail are irradiated and the materials severely damaged. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this nomination package, please contact Elizabeth Hannold at (202) 501-2863 or elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosures
cc: Elizabeth Hughes, Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer
Nancy Witherell, Regional Historic Preservation Officer

1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
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