

NAVAL PROVING GROUND INDIAN HEAD,
CONDITIONING STORAGE MAGAZINE
(Naval Proving Ground Indian Head, Building 573)
Northeast of West Schoeffel Circle
Indian Head
Charles County
Maryland

HAER No. MD-179-DG

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Regional Office
U. S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

NAVAL PROVING GROUND INDIAN HEAD, CONDITIONING STORAGE MAGAZINE

(Naval Proving Ground Indian Head, Building 573)

HAER No. MD-179-DG

Name: Building 573 – Conditioning Storage Magazine, Extrusion Plant

Location: Northeast of West Schoeffel Circle, Indian Head, Charles County, Maryland
UTM: 18/310470/4272504

**Date of
Construction:** 1943

Architect: Unknown

Original Owner: Naval Proving Ground Indian Head

Original Use: Conditioning Storage Magazine (7-day Storage)

Present Owner: Naval Support Facility Indian Head

Present Use: Inactive Magazine

Significance: In 1900, the U.S. Department of the Navy expanded the mission of the Naval Proving Ground Indian Head to include a smokeless powder factory, the first chemical manufacturing plant operated by the Service. The facility was a major manufactory for smokeless powder during World War I. The powder factory was expanded further during the World War II mobilization effort. In the postwar period, the Navy shifted emphasis from the production of smokeless powder to rocket propellant. The Indian Head Extrusion Plant was a very important part of this base expansion. The Extrusion Plant is significant as the first full-scale solid rocket propellant facility operated by and for the Navy. Both the layout of the plant and the buildings comprising the plant illustrate an industrial process important to the Navy and its historical development of ordnance technology. The layout utilizes the natural landscape features, allowing for the use of the ordnance technology available for the period of significance. The Extrusion Plant was identified as an historic property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Building 547 is significant as an integral part of the Extrusion Plant process.

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Description: Building 573, constructed in 1943, is a one-story, one-bay, concrete magazine. The front (east) elevation is highlighted by paired metal doors that are accessed by concrete steps that lead to a concrete platform on the southeast corner. The west and south elevations are covered with earth. The north elevation is constructed of exposed concrete. A recessed entry is located on the northeast corner of the north elevation.

History: Building 573 was constructed in 1943 as a conditioning storage magazine for seven day storage. The building was an integral part of the Extrusion Plant process. Building 573 is currently inactive (Real Property Records 1994).

Sources: Naval Support Facility Indian Head
var. Drawing on file at the Engineering Archives, Indian Head, Maryland.

Naval Support Facility Indian Head
2011 Real Property Records on file at the Asset Management Branch, Indian Head, Maryland.

Historians: Roger Lee Ciuffo, Senior Project Manager, and Benjamin M. Riggle, Historic Preservation Specialist, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Frederick, Maryland, August 2011.

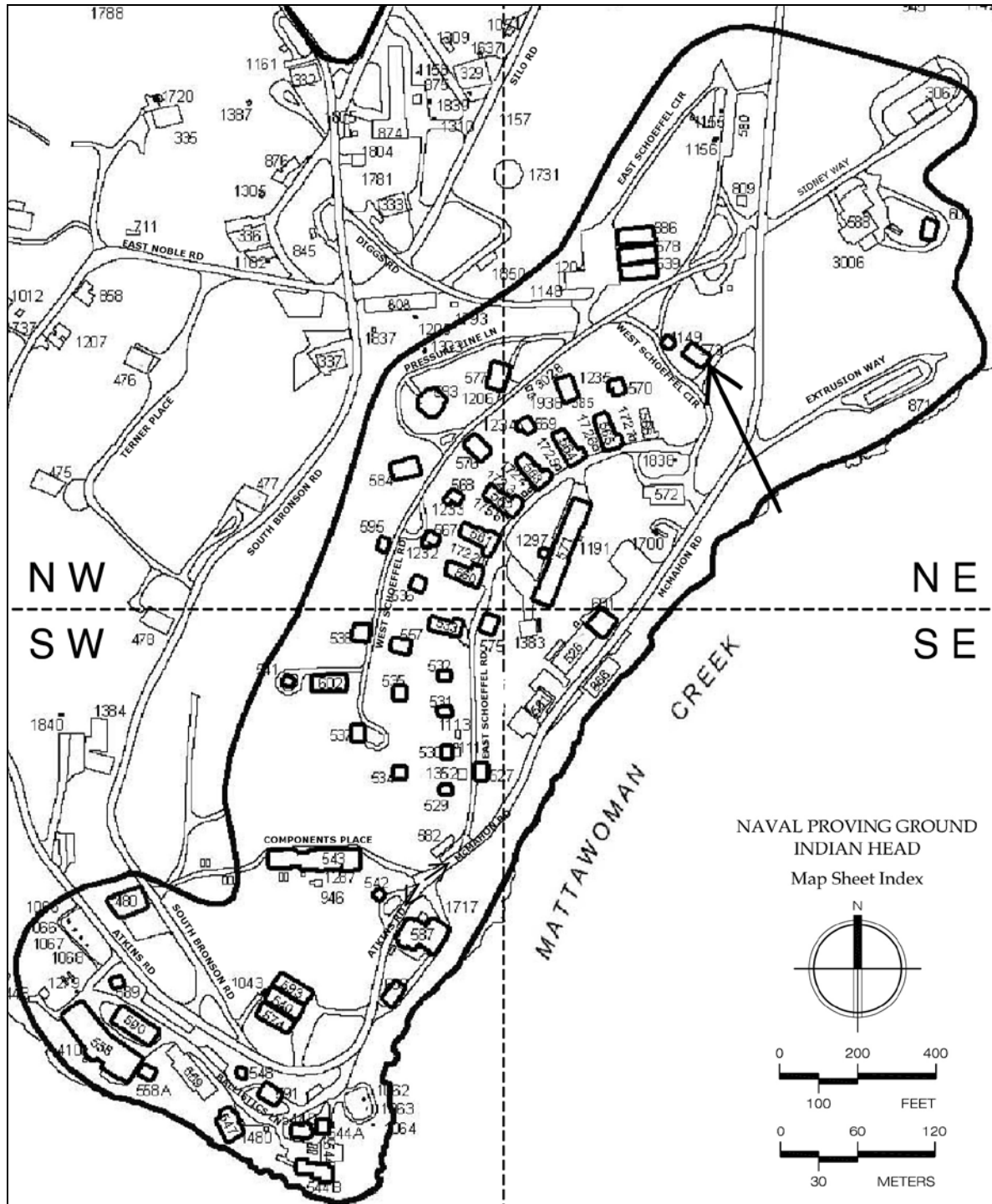
Project

Information: Approximately 207 excess buildings at Naval Proving Ground Indian Head are scheduled for removal to control utility costs and to provide space for future construction. The undertaking includes the demolition of contributing elements to the Indian Head Extrusion Plant Historic District. Measures to mitigate the adverse effects to this historic property are identified in a September 2010 Memorandum of Agreement executed among the Commandant, Naval District Washington; the Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity South Potomac; and the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Documentation of the Extrusion Plant Historic District (MIHP # CH-493) to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) is among these measures. The recordation project was undertaken by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. on behalf of the Eastern Research Group, Inc. for the Department of the Navy. Technical oversight was provided by the Naval

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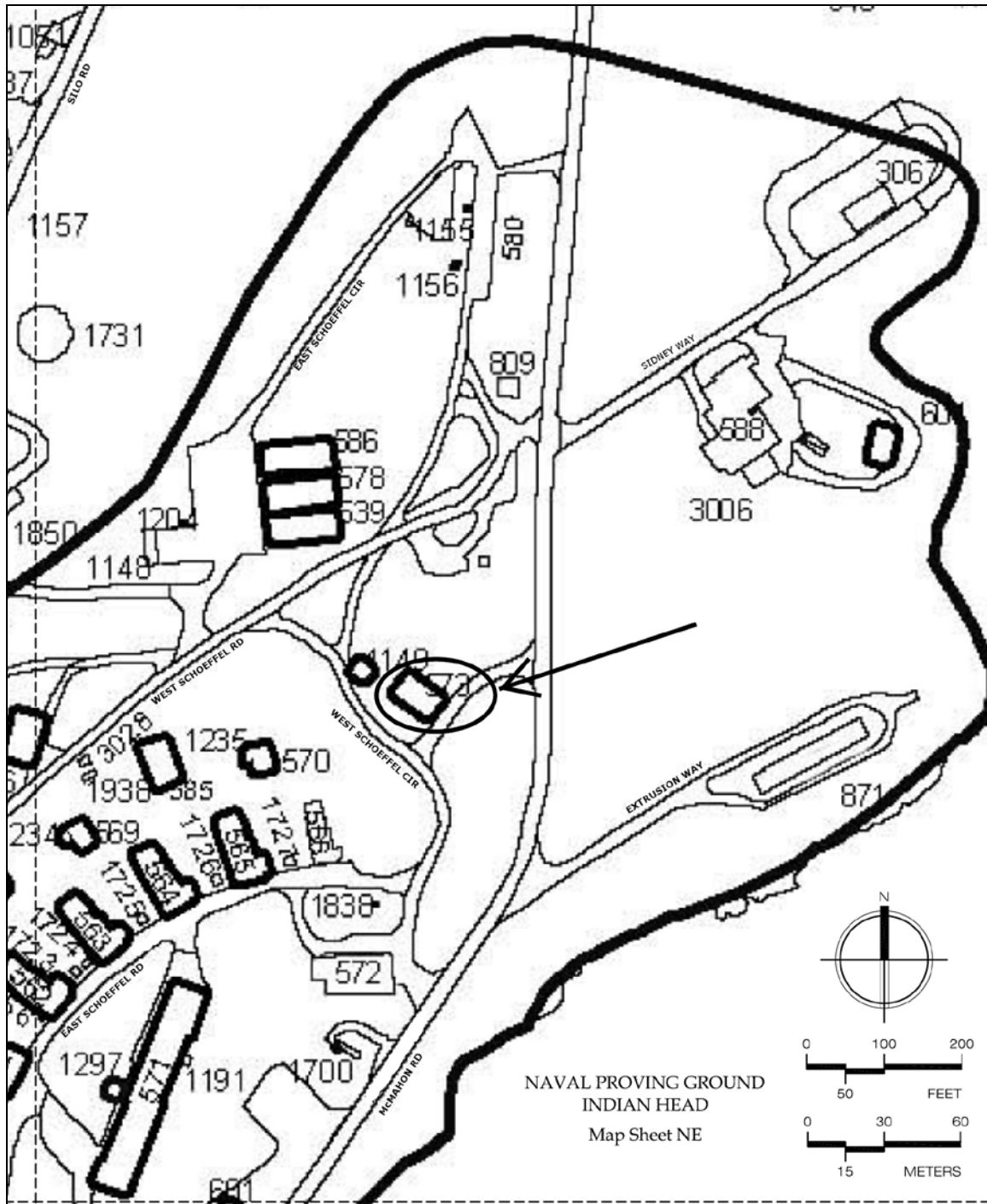
Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division, Naval Facilities Engineering
Command, NPS, and the Maryland Historical Trust.

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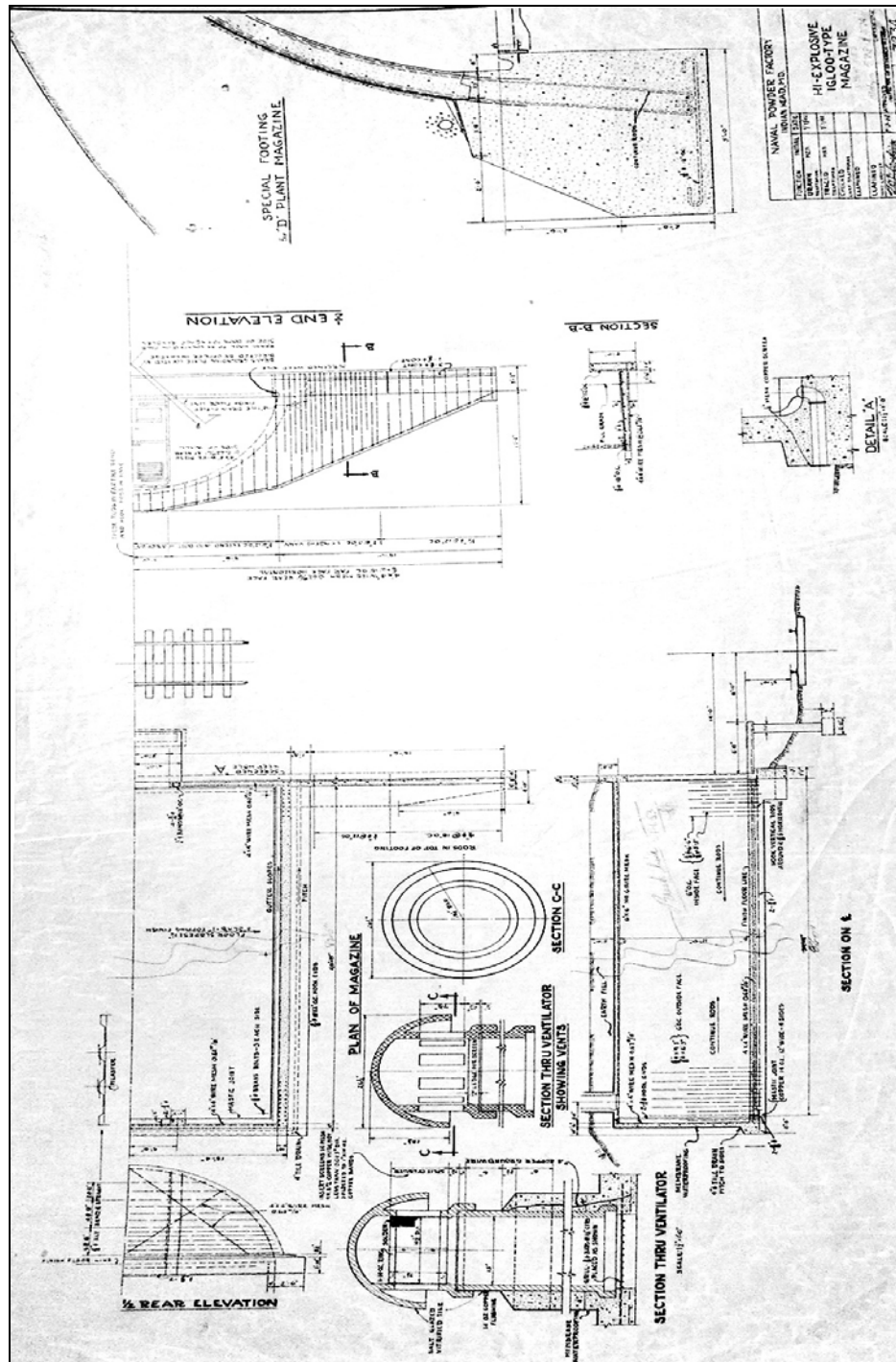
Indian Head Extrusion Plant Historic District

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Building 573, Indian Head Extrusion Plant Historic District, Northeast Quadrant

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Building 573, Elevations, Floor Plan, and Details, dated 1944 (Indian Head Engineer Records, Department of the Navy)