

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bear Creek Road Checking Station

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: South Illinois Avenue at Bear Creek Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Oak Ridge

vicinity: N/A

state: TN county: Anderson

code: 001

zip code: 37830

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

X See continuation sheet.

Leis M. Thompson 3/18/92  
Signature of certifying official Date

Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Energy  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Herbert L. Inge 7/18/91  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Carol Shue 5-6-92  
     See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register       
     See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

     Signature of Keeper      Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: <u>DEFENSE</u>	Sub: <u>Military facility</u>
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
Current : <u>VACANT</u>	Sub: <u>Not in use</u>
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

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Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation concrete roof rolled  
walls concrete other steel

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : G

Areas of Significance: MILITARY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1949-1959

Significant Dates : N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Bear Creek Road Checking Station Page # 1

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The Bear Creek Road Checking Station is composed of two separate concrete structures located opposite each other on Bear Creek Road. The main building is located on the west side of the road and is one story in height with a two story tower at the northeast corner. On the east side of the road is a smaller one-story guard house. Both buildings are constructed adjacent to the road and there are no other buildings or structures associated with the property.

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Bear Creek Road Checking Station Page # 1

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The Bear Creek Road Checking Station is significant under criterion A for its association with the military history of Oak Ridge. This checking station is one of three which were built in 1947 to control access from Oak Ridge into the restricted Y-12 plant in the post-war years. These checking stations remain but have not been occupied since 1959 and are presently vacant.

The Bear Creek Road Checking Station replaces a war-time checking station that was used for the Manhattan Project. Security at government installations at Oak Ridge continues to remain a paramount concern. Following the purchase of the reservation in 1942, the entire perimeter was cordoned off with a barbed wire fence and seven entry points were established. At each one of these were guarded gates to identify personnel and residents entering Oak Ridge. There were three additional checking stations constructed to monitor traffic heading directly to the plant sites. When Congress announced that operations at Oak Ridge would continue on a permanent basis, new checking stations of permanent concrete block construction were built to replace the wartime stations. The gates surrounding the townsite itself were removed in 1949.

Bear Creek Road Checking Station controlled access into the Y-12 uranium processing plant and is representative of the security conditions of Oak Ridge in the post-war years while under government control. Each checking station was identical in design and consisted of a main building with a two-story guard tower while opposite the road was a one-story guard house. A metal gate between the two buildings was controlled and operated by military police at the checking stations. Security at the checking stations was discontinued in 1959 when the community was incorporated. Modern security check points are now located only at the three plants themselves.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   9  

Bethel Valley Road Checking Station Page # 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   10  

Bear Creek Road Checking Station Page # 1

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Verbal Boundary Description: The Bear Creek Road Checking Station boundary is a rectangle which is bounded as follows: on the west by an intersecting line located twenty feet from the west facade of the main building; on the north by an intersecting line located twenty feet from the north wall of the main building; on the east by an intersecting line located twenty feet from the east facade of the guard house; and on the south by an intersecting line located twenty feet from the south facade of the main building. The boundary is drawn to include a portion of the Bear Creek Road right-of-way.

Boundary Justification: The boundary for the Bear Creek Road Checking Station is drawn to include the main building, guard house and an adjoining section of the Bear Creek Road right-of-way. The boundary includes all property associated with the checking station.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs                      Bear Creek Road Checking Station    Page # 1

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Bear Creek Road Checking Station  
Old Scarboro Road at Illinois Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

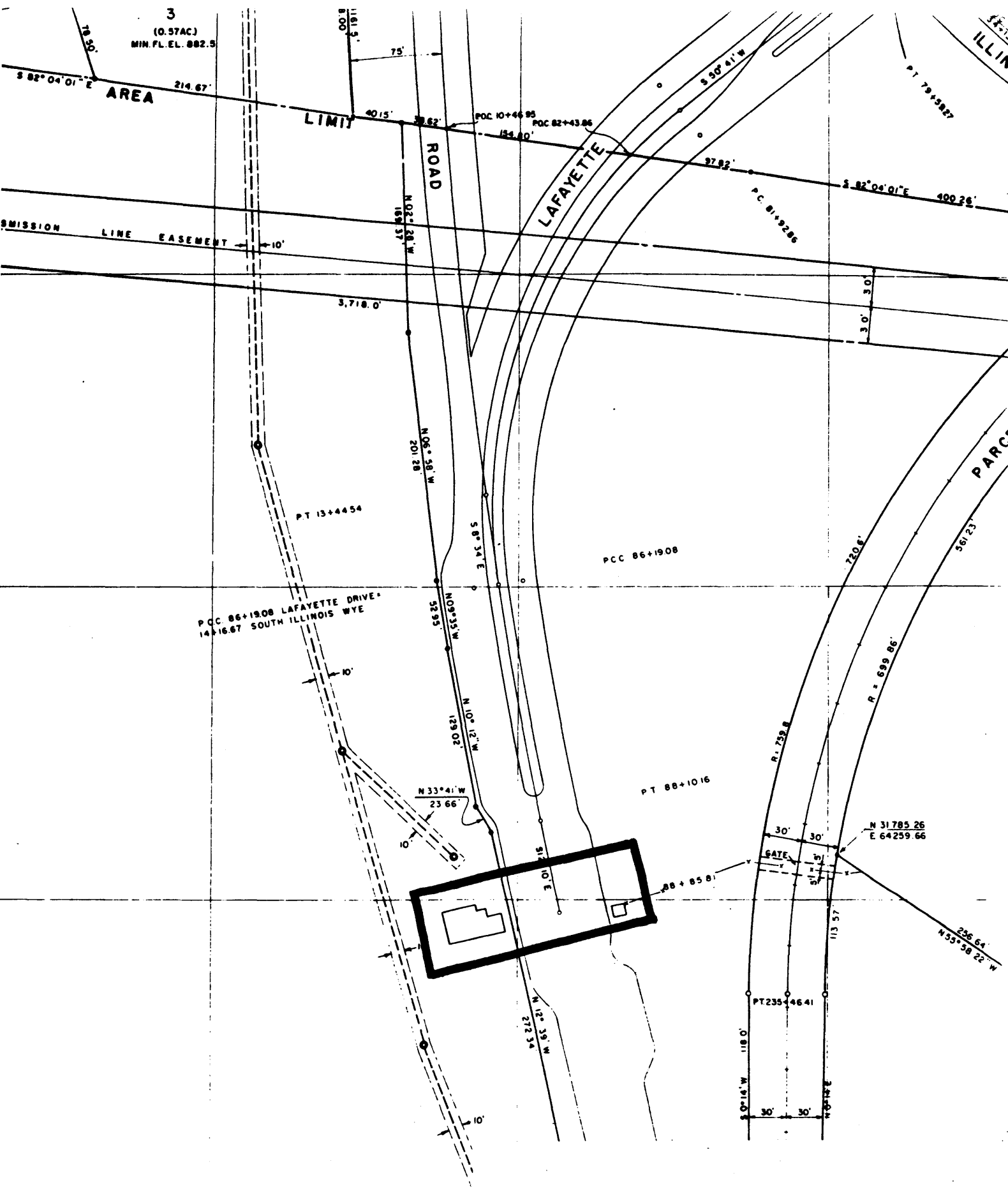
Photographed by Philip Thomason

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

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

Photo #2 of 3:    View looking west at secondary facade of main building.

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

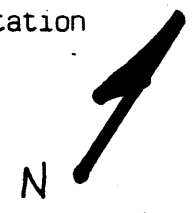


E 63.750'  
 SEE 24 - CB

22CA	22CB	22CC
23CA	23CB	23CC

Bear Creek Road Checking Station  
 Old Scarborough Road  
 Oak Ridge, TN

scale 1" = 100'





Bear Creek Road Checking Station  
Old Scarborough Rd at South Minors  
Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN  
View looking southwest

photographed by Phil Thomason

location of negs: Tenn Historical Commission  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203

photo #1 of 3



Bear Creek Road Checking Station  
Old Scarborough Road at S. Illinois Ave  
Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN

view looking west

photo by Phil Thompson

location of negs: Tenn. Historical Comm  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, TN

Photo # 2 of 3



Bear Creek Road Checking Station  
Old Scarborough Rd at S. Illinois Ave  
Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN

view looking northwest  
photo by Phil Inomason

location of negs: Tenn. Historical Comm.  
101 Broadway  
Nashville TN 37203

photo # 3 of 3