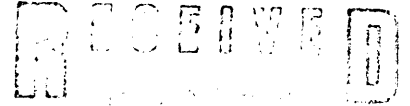


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bethel Valley Road Checking Station

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Bethel Valley Road at Scarboro 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not for publication: N/A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, and Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Huger  
Signature of certifying official

7/12/91  
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Louis M. Thompson  
Signature of commenting or other official

3/18/92  
Date

Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Energy

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Coral Shull 5-6-92

Signature of Keeper

Date  
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DEFENSE

Sub: Military facility

Current : VACANT

Sub: Not in use

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

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Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt  
walls concrete other steel

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : G

Areas of Significance: MILITARY

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Period(s) of Significance: 1949 - 1959

Significant Dates : N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

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Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office

Other state agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other--Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>750880</u>	<u>3985890</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:  See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification:  See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kimberley A. Murphy

Organization: Thomason & Associates

Date: 4/5/91

Street & Number: P.O. Box 121225

Telephone: (615)383-0227

City or Town: Nashville

State: TN      ZIP: 37212

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Bethel Valley Road Checking Station Page# 1

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

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

United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Bethel Valley Road Checking Station Page # 1

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The Bethel Valley 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 1949 to control access from Oak Ridge into the restricted plant areas in the post-war years. These checking stations remain but have not been occupied since 1959 and are presently vacant.

Bethel Valley Road Checking Station is located at the junction of Bethel Valley Road and Old Scarboro Road on the site of a wartime checking station. The checking station controlled access into the Graphic Reactor (X-10) area and is representative of the security conditions of Oak Ridge in the post-war years while the city was under government control.

The Bethel Valley Road Checking Station replaces a war-time checking station that was used for the Manhattan Project. Security at Oak Ridge continues to be 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 monitor and identify personnel and residents entering the reservation. There were three additional checking stations constructed to monitor traffic between the townsite and the three plant sites.

During the war, plant employees from Knoxville would have crossed Solway bridge and entered the Oak Ridge Reservation through the Solway Gate, which monitored only outside traffic entering the reservation. From Solway, traffic traveled southwest along Bethel Valley Road to its intersection with Scarboro Road. Scarboro Road led to the townsite as well as to Y-12, which had its own checking station. The purpose of the checking stations, differentiated from the gates, was 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.

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.

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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.

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

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Bethel Valley Road Checking Station Page # 1

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Verbal Boundary Description: The Bethel Valley Road Checking Station boundary is a rectangle which is bounded as follows: on the north by an intersecting line which is located ten feet from the north facade of the main building; on the east by an intersecting line which is located twenty feet from the east facade of the main building; on the south by an intersecting line located ten feet from the south facade of the guard house; and on the west by an intersecting line located twenty feet from the west facade of the main building. This boundary extends across the right-of-way of Bethel Valley Road.

Boundary Justification: The boundary for the Bethel Valley Road Checking Station is drawn to include both the main building and guard house which comprise the existing buildings and structures at the site. The main building is located on the north side of Bethel Valley Road while the guard house is located on the south side of Bethel Valley Road. To include both buildings the boundary is drawn to include a section of the two lane paved road. No other buildings or structures are associated with the site.



United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Bethel Valley Road Checking Station Page # 1

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Bethel Valley Road Checking Station  
Bethel Valley Road  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

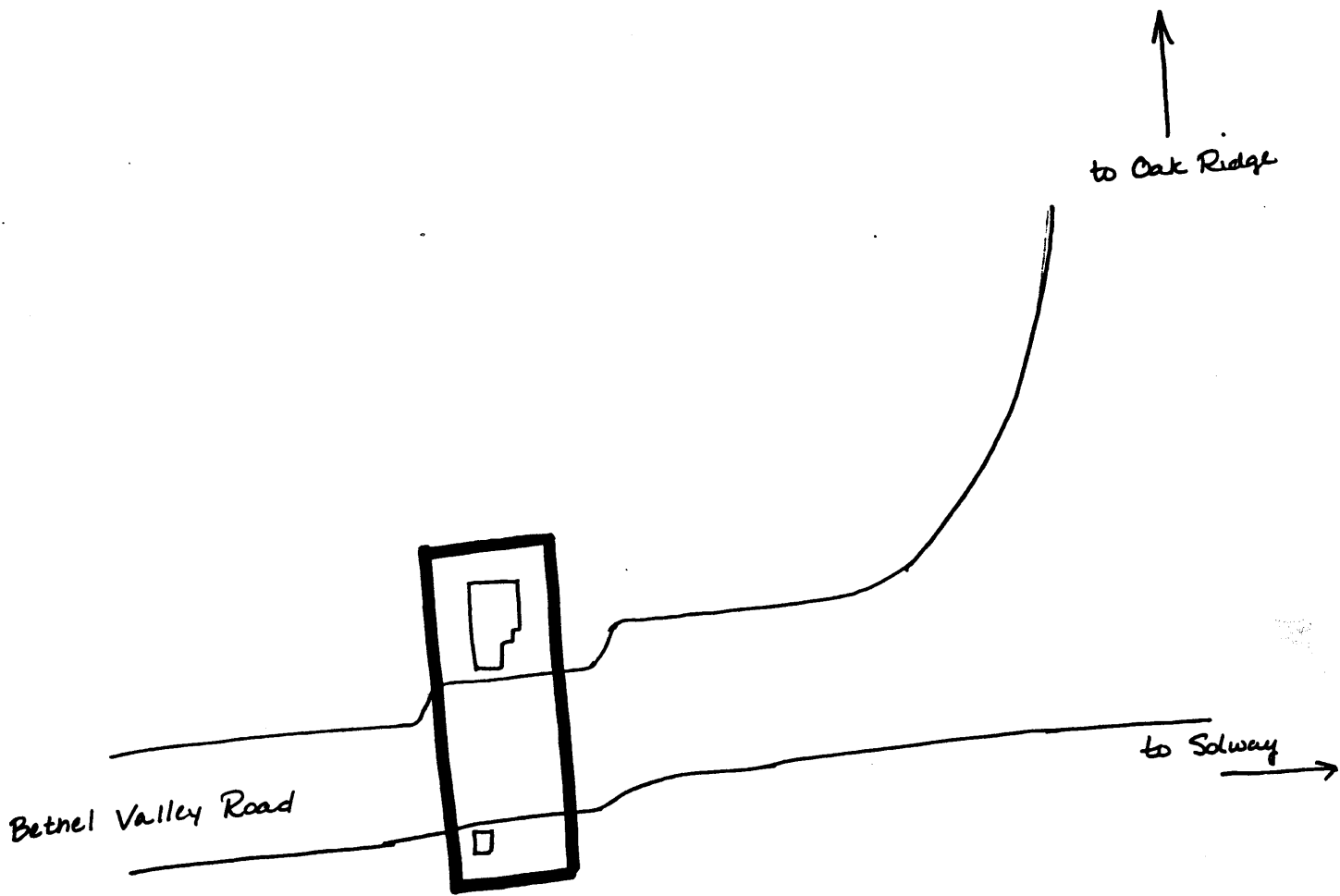
Photographed by Philip Thomason

Negatives located at: Tennessee Historical Commission  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37830

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

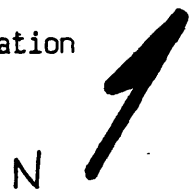
Photo #2 of 3: View looking north at rear facade of main building.

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



Bethel Valley Road Checking Station  
Bethel Valley Road  
Oak Ridge, TN

scale 1" = 100'





Bethel Valley Road Checking Station  
Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN  
View looking southwest.

Photographed by Phil Inomason  
11/90

Location of negs: Tennessee Historical Commission  
201 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203

photo # 1 of 3



Betnel Valley Road Checking Station

Betnel Valley Road

Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN

view looking north

photo by Phil Thomson

location of negs: Tenn. Historical Comm

701 Broadway

Nashville, TN 37203

photo # 2 of 3



Bethel Valley Road Checking Station

Bethel Valley Road

Oak Ridge, Anderson County, TN

View looking south

Photo by Phil Thomason

Location of negs: Tenn Historical Comm

701 Broadway

Nashville, TN 37203

photo # 3 of 3