

analyzers could be used individually as a 6-channel analyzer or ganged to make a single 24-channel analyzer. These were large pieces of equipment; 6 channels with their power supplies were housed in a single 6-ft-tall relay rack. Ganged together to provide 24 channels, they were 8 ft long.

By 1952 both RPY (in 1951) and BIM (in 1952) had moved to their new, permanent quarters at Site D, the current Argonne location (Figure 7). One of the first projects at the new site was to construct a low-background facility in which the gamma rays from contaminated individuals could be measured. A room in Building 202 was dedicated to the purpose, and its walls were covered with 1/8 in. of sheet lead to reduce the background radiation.

Whole-body gamma-ray measurements had previously been made in a lead-lined room at Site B. The new facility was found to have a much lower background, perhaps because the new building was uncontaminated. However, the Site B facility was the only one available when a number of employees from a firm in Cincinnati, Ohio, were brought to Argonne to have their radium levels determined. These employees had been exposed to a release of radium sulfate on July 24, 1951, when a platinum capsule containing 50 mg of radium ruptured (Saenger et al. 1952). They were

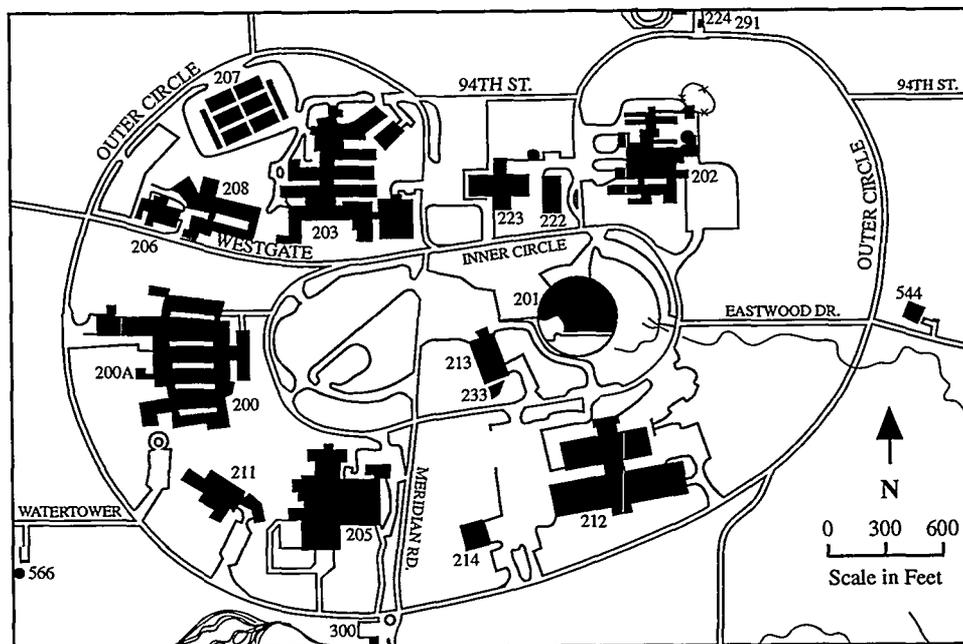


FIGURE 7 Buildings 202 and 203, in the 200 area at Argonne National Laboratory, housed Argonne's radium studies after 1952.