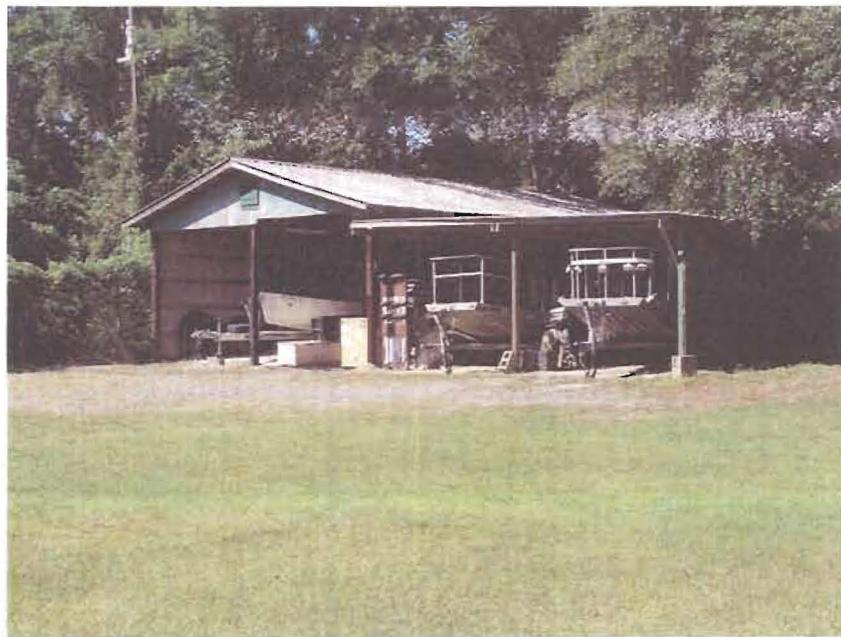


**A/I 1138 and 1139, Construction of a New Office Building,
Demolition of a Pole Barn, and Modifications to Fish Hatchery Ponds
at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery, Davis Avenue, Lacombe, St.
Tammany Parish (lat 30.320344N, long 89.943550W)**

Photograph 5:
Overview of
ponds at Huey P.
Long Fish
Hatchery. View
looking northeast
from entrance.
(FEMA, May
2011)



Photograph 6:
Pole barn on
Huey P. Long
Fish Hatchery
property (to be
demolished).
View looking
southwest.
(FEMA, May
2011)



**A/I 1138 and 1139, Construction of a New Office Building,
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Tammany Parish (lat 30.320344N, long 89.943550W)**

Photograph 7:
Mobile trailers and sheds on
Huey P. Long
Fish Hatchery
property. View
looking
southwest.
(FEMA, May
2011)

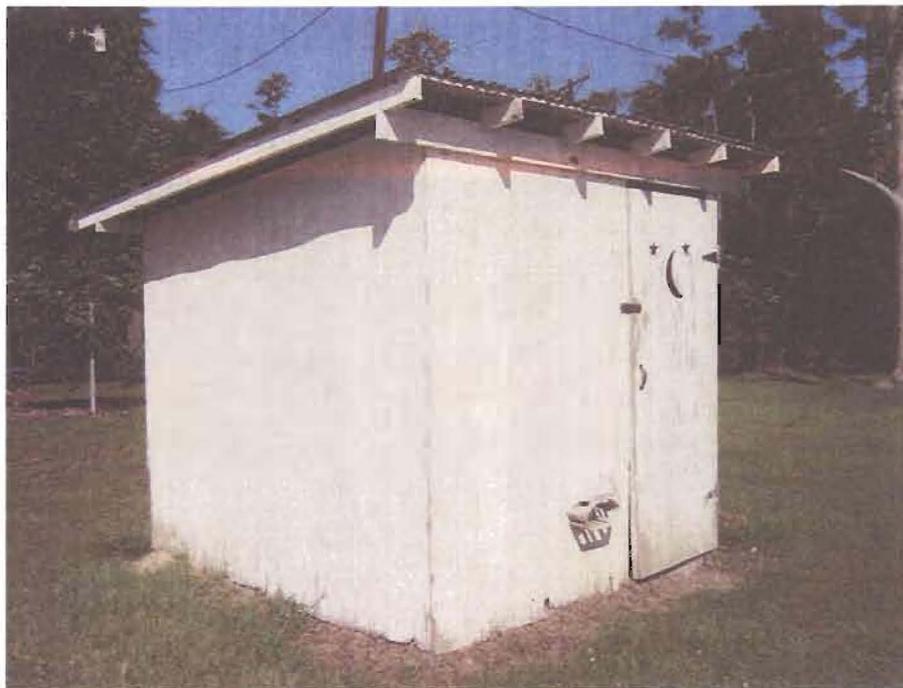


Photograph 8:
Mobile trailer on
Huey P. Long
Fish Hatchery
property. View
looking northeast.
(FEMA, May
2011)

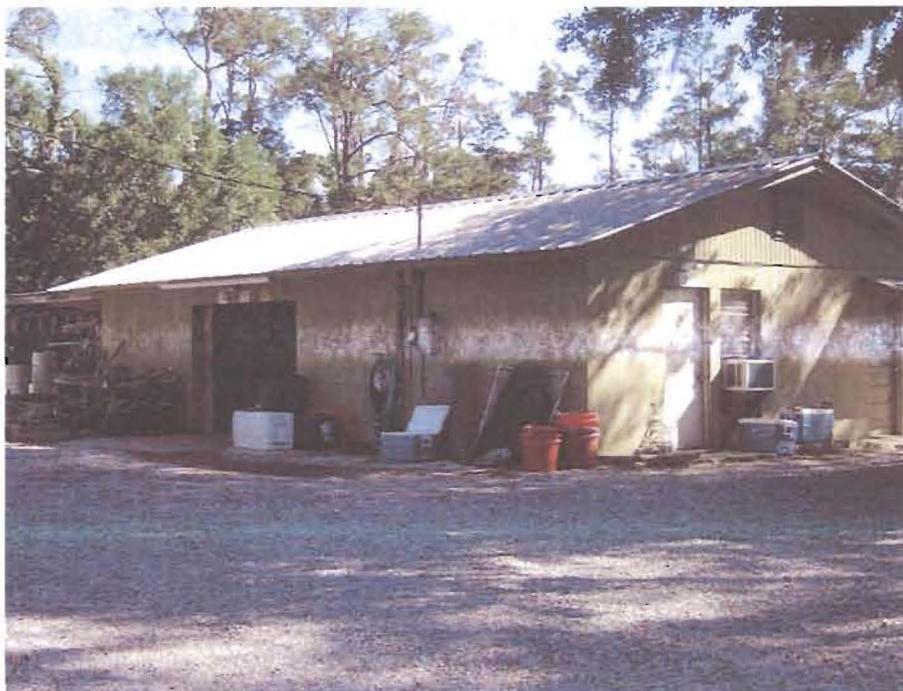


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Photograph 9:
Outhouse on
Huey P. Long
Fish Hatchery
property. View
looking
northwest.
(FEMA, May
2011)

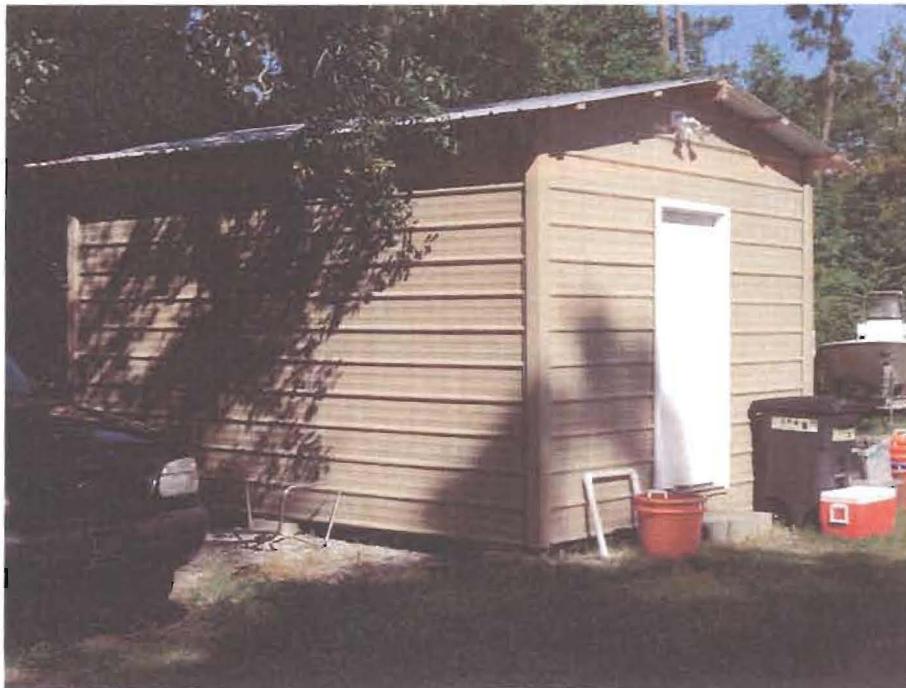


Photograph 10:
Storage building
on Huey P. Long
Fish Hatchery
property. View
looking northeast.
(FEMA, May
2011)



***A/I 1138 and 1139, Construction of a New Office Building,
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at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery, Davis Avenue, Lacombe, St.
Tammany Parish (lat 30.320344N, long 89.943550W)***

Photograph 11:
Shed on Huey P.
Long Fish
Hatchery
property. View
looking southeast.
(FEMA, May
2011)



Photograph 12:
Mobile trailer and
shed on Huey P.
Long Fish
Hatchery
property. View
looking southeast.
(FEMA, May
2011)



A/I 1138 and 1139, Construction of a New Office Building, Demolition of a Pole Barn, and Modifications to Fish Hatchery Ponds at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery, Davis Avenue, Lacombe, St. Tammany Parish (lat 30.320344N, long 89.943550W)

Photograph 13: Overview of gravel access drive at Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery. View looking southeast. (FEMA, May 2011)



Photograph 14: Overview looking northwest along Davis Avenue (Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery at right). (FEMA, May 2011)



National Register Eligibility Evaluation

Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery, Lacombe, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Rita

Undertaking: A/I 1138 and 1139, Construction of a New Office Building, Demolition of a Pole Barn, and Modifications to Fish Hatchery Ponds at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery, Davis Avenue, Lacombe, St. Tammany Parish

Applicant: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Property History

The Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery was constructed in 1931-32 by the Louisiana Department of Conservation, which later became the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the state's fish and game regulatory agency. The agency's first predecessor was established in 1872 as the Oyster Commission of Louisiana. In 1908, the Louisiana General Assembly created the Louisiana Board of Commissioners for the Protection of Birds, Game and Fish. In 1910, the latter commission merged with the Oyster Commission to create the Conservation Commission of Louisiana. The Louisiana Department of Conservation was officially created in 1918, providing for a Commissioner of Conservation appointed by the governor. The LDWF was officially established in 1944.

Fish hatcheries are designed to spawn, hatch, and raise young fish in order to provide the best chance of survival upon release in the wild. State and federal hatcheries have been components of the nation's conservation and natural resources management programs since the early twentieth century, when President Theodore Roosevelt initiated a national conservation movement and urged all states to take responsibility for natural resource conservation. The Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery is the smallest of three state-owned hatcheries established in Louisiana during the early- to mid- twentieth century, along with Beechwood hatchery (1917) near Forest Hill and James A. Noe hatchery (1932) near Monroe (both extant). The three state-owned hatcheries were dedicated to spawning and providing fresh water fingerlings, particularly bass and bluegills, to stock streams, small farm ponds, and lakes, and to provide information in support of farm stocking or commercial aquaculture. Each hatchery was small, consisting of a few earthen ponds of approximately one acre each (Toledo Bend Tri-State Alliance website, accessed 7 June 2011).

Huey P. Long served as governor of Louisiana from 1928 to 1932, during the period of the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery's planning and construction. Long appointed Robert S. Maestri as Commissioner of Conservation for his administration. Several newspaper articles suggest Long promoted the hatchery as a public relations tool (to what end is unknown); however, research did not reveal a significant association with Long. The hatchery was funded primarily by a Department of Conservation budget surplus (*Times Picayune* 12 August 1932 p3). The hatchery was originally called Ozone Fish Hatchery, but the name was changed in 1932.

A contract in the amount of \$5,906.50 for excavation and concrete work at the hatchery was awarded to H.P. and James Eagan in August 1931, and construction began immediately (*Times Picayune* 12 August 1932 p3). The St. Tammany Parish police jury donated \$1,500 toward the project. The total cost was approximately \$30,000. The

hatchery occupied a 15-acre lot; 6 acres were donated in 1931 by W.H. Davis of Lacombe, a member of the St. Tammany Parish police jury, and the remaining 9 acres were acquired from the state land office in 1932 (*Times Picayune* 9 September 1932 p1; *Times Picayune* 12 September 1932 p4; *Times Picayune* 24 June 1932 p6). The hatchery featured four pools measuring 450 feet long by 175 feet wide with depths up to 8.5 feet. The ponds were fed by two artesian wells, measuring 1300 and 1200 feet deep and providing 500 and 400 gallons per minute, respectively. A newspaper article published shortly after the September 10, 1932 dedication included the following description of the property: "Shelled roads with flowering borders wind between the pools and ornamental standards topped by large globes, connected with a high tension power line from the Covington-Slidell Highway, a half-mile away, lend brilliancy to the hatchery at night, the lights, two placed through the long way of each pool, also attracting many species of bugs which feed the young fish" (*Times Picayune* 9 September 1932 p1; *Times Picayune* 12 September 1932 p4). An excerpt from a 1947 publication reinforces the earlier description of the lighting: "...Large lights swinging over the ponds serve to attract insects, which fall into the water and constitute the main food supply for more than 200,000 fish..." (Federal Writers Project 1947:446).

The hatchery was intended to replenish the larger streams of the Florida parishes, including the Tchefuncte River, with game fish. The pools were stocked with 600 fish in the summer of 1932, including large and small mouth bass, bream, goggle eye and sun perch (*Times Picayune* 9 September 1932 p1; *Times Picayune* 12 September 1932 p4). Percy Viosca, Jr., who served as director of fisheries for the Department of Conservation prior to 1928, denounced the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery as an "old-time" facility that did not address core issues surrounding the reduction of fish life in the Florida parishes, including unwise drainage, water hyacinths, alligator gars, and stream pollution, and stated that its creation was a political move by Commissioner Maestri (*Times Picayune* 15 November 1931 p30). Major James Brown, director of the wildlife program for the Department of Conservation, mirrored Viosca's sentiments in early 1941, as the hatchery was about to undergo conversion to an experimental unit for production of large mouth black bass (a.k.a. green trout). Brown charged, "The Lacombe hatchery never could be made to yield the number of fingerling game fish that should be produced by a fish hatchery – at least 100 water acres should be available for such a purpose." Brown said the same of the other two state-owned hatcheries, Beechwood and James A. Noc, which were larger than the Huey P. Long hatchery (*Times Picayune* 8 February 1941 p3). A newspaper article published in 1985 also referenced early production deficiencies of the Huey P. Long hatchery: "When Huey P. Long was governor, the state fish hatchery in Lacombe served as a public relations tool. Long stocked the six-acre grounds with peacocks, egrets and other feathered friends to impress his guests, neglecting the finned creatures that the hatchery was built for" (*Times Picayune* 25 July 1985 F1).

As part of the 1941 conversion, the ponds were drained so the bottoms could be fertilized and planted with proper foods for the new fish, and the water supply was rearranged. A nearby Civilian Conservation Corps camps supplied the labor for the project (*Times Picayune* 8 February 1941). In 1963, the hatchery produced large mouth bass and bluegill sunfish, and was also an experimental area for screening fish species of fish with sport or commercial value (Summers 1963). Additional alterations were made in 1973, as evidenced by a request for bids posted in the *Times Picayune* for "performing all work

required to repair and renovate the facilities at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana” (*Times Picayune* 15 June 1973 section 6 p1). In 1983, a small version of an experimental crab-shedding system used for harvesting soft-shell crabs was built at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery for study by the state (*Times Picayune* 18 December 1983 p7). In 1989, the LDWF created the Booker Fowler Hatchery, and the three smaller state-owned hatcheries assumed new roles in support of the Booker Fowler facility (Toledo Bend Tri-State Alliance website, accessed 7 June 2011).

The Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery ponds are shown on a 1935 USGS topographic map. It appears based on this map, early published descriptions of the property, and field observation that the ponds have been reconfigured since their initial construction. A photograph of the hatchery taken by Works Progress Administration (WPA) photographers in 1938 further supports that the ponds have been altered. The photograph depicts a large pond in a park-like setting, with a light post rising from the water (Figure A). The four original ponds have been subdivided into six smaller ponds. There is no visible evidence of the lights or light post in 2011. An arched entryway along Davis Avenue is visible in the 1938 photograph and remains extant. No buildings are shown in the photograph or on the 1935 USGS map, nor are they mentioned in early published descriptions of the property. Any buildings that may have been originally associated with the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery have been removed, with the exception of a small outhouse that appears to have been constructed in the 1930s or 40s. A small fountain located near the entrance appears to be an original feature of the property. With the exception of the aforementioned features, all of the buildings on the property appear to have been constructed in the late twentieth century.

Property Description

The Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery is situated in a wooded area north of Lacombe, on the east side of Davis Avenue. The property consists of six fish hatchery ponds and eleven small temporary and permanent buildings. The entrance along Davis Avenue is marked by a decorative cast iron archway bearing the name “Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery.” Square concrete columns support the archway. An iron gate and fence are also present at the entrance. Two additional concrete columns flanking the fence sections are topped by glass lanterns. A small rubble stone fountain surrounded by a circular garden is located just inside the entrance. A gravel driveway provides access from Davis Avenue. All of the buildings on the property are arranged in a linear plan along the western boundary of the property, close to Davis Avenue. The buildings are generally wood frame, single-story, utilitarian buildings constructed ca. 1970 and later, including an open-sided pole barn, four mobile trailers, four prefabricated sheds, and a concrete block storage building. A small wood frame outhouse with vertical board siding and a shed roof clad in corrugated aluminum sheathing appears to date to the 1930s or 1940s, but lacks architectural significance. Five fish hatchery ponds occupy the majority of the property, with raised earthen berms separating them.

Eligibility Determination

The Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), either individually or as part of a historic district. The property is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A because it is not an important or representative example of a significant event or trend. The Louisiana Department of

Conservation constructed three fish hatcheries between 1917 and 1932, and period newspaper articles indicate the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery was not a significant or representative example due to its size. The other two state-owned fish hatcheries, Beechwood and James A. Noe, remain extant. In addition, research did not reveal any important associations with significant scientific developments or cultural events. The property is not eligible under Criterion B because it is not directly associated with a significant person. Huey P. Long was governor at the time of the hatchery's construction and reportedly promoted the facility; however, Long was not directly involved in securing funding for the project and the property does not illustrate Long's important achievements. The property is not eligible under Criterion C because it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor did it represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Only the portion of the property that is included in the archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) has been evaluated under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important to history or prehistory. It is FEMA's opinion that this property is not eligible under Criterion D. This determination is based on the fact that no prehistoric or historic cultural material was identified in the APE. The identified cultural features are limited to entrance and decorative elements and the fish ponds themselves, which have undergone successive changes in configuration and created severe disturbance to the subsurface within the APE. Generally, the information available within the APE is not significant in history or prehistory.

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Prepared by: Elizabeth Amisson, FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist

Date: June 7, 2011

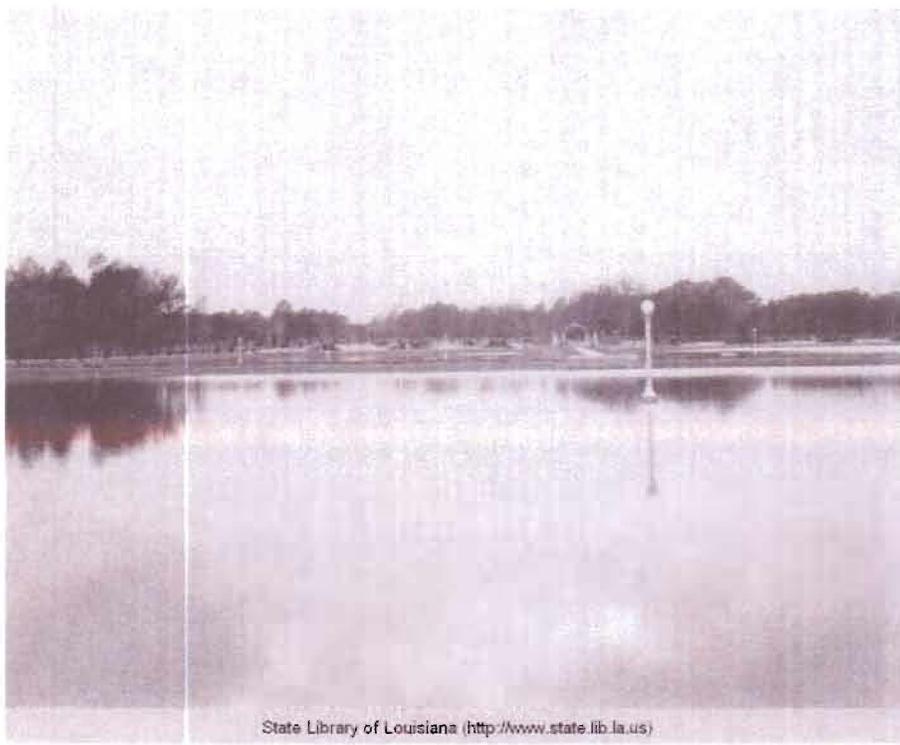


Figure A. 1938 WPA photograph of Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery.