



**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

June 8, 2011

**Pam Breaux**  
**State Historic Preservation Officer**  
**Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism**  
**P.O. Box 44247**  
**Baton Rouge LA 70804**

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina**

**Applicant: Facility Planning and Control**

**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 (lat 30.320344°N, long 89.943550°W)**

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declaration:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated August 29, 2005, as amended.

FEMA, through its Public Assistance Program, proposes to fund the construction of an administrative office building and parking lot, demolition of a pole barn, and modifications to fish hatchery ponds at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery along Davis Avenue in Lacombe, Louisiana (Undertaking) as requested by Facility Planning and Control (Applicant). The new facility will replace damaged trailers that were located at Harbor Inn Marina in Slidell, St. Tammany Parish and a mobile field office in Plaquemines Parish. FEMA is initiating Section 106 review for the above referenced properties in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation dated August 17, 2009 and providing the State Historic Preservation Office with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking.

**The Undertaking**

The funding for the current Undertaking is being transferred from three donor projects, which were previously reviewed by FEMA Historic Preservation. Two projects would have replaced a Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) storage trailer and office trailer located in Harbor Inn Marina on Lake Pontchartrain in Slidell, which were damaged by storm surge and wind (PWs 14715 and 14982). The third project would have replaced the LDWF Point A La Hache Mobile Field Office located in Plaquemines Parish, which was destroyed by tidal storm surges (PW 17095). FEMA Historic Preservation applied programmatic allowances found in the 2009 Statewide PA, Appendix C to clear the demolition and replacement of the structures on June 5, 2007, June 19, 2007, and January 3, 2008 respectively. The Applicant currently plans to use the funds from the aforementioned PWs to construct a new LDWF office building and parking lot on the existing Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery property in Lacombe (Figures 1-3). The building will house offices, a laboratory, and administrative spaces. The building will be placed on an earth platform and wood piles to raise it above the flood level. A parking lot will be constructed immediately north of the new building. One permanent building (pole barn) will be demolished as part of the project, and several temporary mobile buildings will be repositioned on the site during construction. The project will also require one of the existing southern fish hatchery ponds to be partially filled. In addition, the divider between the two existing southern ponds will be removed to create one large pond. Ground disturbing activities will include construction of the new building and parking lot, demolition of the pole barn, and excavation for the pond reconfiguration.

### **Area of Potential Effect**

In accordance with Stipulation VIIA of the 2009 Statewide PA, the standing structures Area of Potential Effects (APE) was developed in coordination with SHPO staff and includes the entire Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery property (Figure 2). The standing structures APE takes into account potential visual impacts of the proposed Undertaking. The archaeological APE, also developed in coordination with SHPO staff, includes all areas of proposed ground disturbance and encompasses approximately 2.25 acres (Figure 2).

### **Description of the Steps to Identify Historic Properties in the APE**

#### Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties within the Standing Structures APE

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map and determined that the standing structures APE is not located within a listed or eligible National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Historic District. There is one property aged fifty years or older within the APE: the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery (1931-32). FEMA determined this property is not eligible for listing in the NRHP due to a lack of significance. There are no additional properties within the APE. An NRHP eligibility evaluation and photographs are attached to this letter.

#### Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties within the Archaeological APE

Upon consultation of data provided by SHPO, there are no previously identified archaeological sites located within a 0.5 mile radius from the proposed construction location (Figure 1). The project area is situated along the banks of Bayou Lacombe, a drainage that empties into Lake Pontchartrain 4.3 miles to the south of the project area. The proximity of the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery to a large waterway indicates a potential for the presence of prehistoric archaeological deposits. In addition,

the proximity of the facility to Davis Road indicates a potential for the presence of historic archaeological deposits. The soils consist of well-drained Cahaba fine sandy loam near Davis Road and frequently flooded Ouachita and Bibb soils near the fish ponds. A review of historic maps was also conducted. The fish hatchery is shown on the 1935 USGS topographic map (Figure 4). While the fish ponds are present, no structures are shown in close proximity to the project area. Other USGS topographic maps and the Lake Pontchartrain Lake Charts do not show any significant detail of the Lacombe area.

A newspaper articles in the *Times-Picayune* (New Orleans), dated July 2, 1939, mentioned an archaeological site in the vicinity of the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery. The article states,

Indian mound, the center of settlement...is located directly opposite the Huey P. Long fish hatchery. A residence now obscures the historic spot, where the remains of the early Choctaws; pottery, tools and weapons are said to have been buried and later excavated by ethnologists seeking to trace the history of the tribe (section 2, page 4).

The article does not mention if the mound lay on the opposite side of a road, the bayou, or other landmark or at what distance/direction. Residential houses and other structures currently exist on the opposite side of Davis Avenue as well as on the opposite side of the bayou.

FEMA Archaeologist Daphne Owens and Environmentalists Holly Mittel and Melanie Sibley made a field visit on May 4, 2011. The project area consisted of a grassy field flanked by large oaks and bushes and occupied by a row of several small portable buildings and a pole barn. A gravel access road runs into the facility along the northern boundary of the project area then turns south to bisect the APE. In addition, the project area partially overlaps one of the fish ponds with associated earth berms and utility roads. The tract slopes to the east toward the fish ponds and is generally eroded due to the use of trucks, boat trailers, and tractors around the pole barn in the corner of the lot. The area adjacent to the fish pond has been partially excavated to create a level ground surface in the location of the gravel access road and an adjacent shallow ditch. Surface visibility was over 50%. Three soil probes were spaced along the western edge of the APE nearest the Davis Avenue in the least disturbed and most elevated area (Figure 2). Nonetheless, the elevation of this area was lower than the road adjacent land on the opposite side of the road. The probes revealed 10cm of tan sand mixed with gravel and shell becoming shallower to the west. The sand was underlain by 10cm of light orange sandy clay with a subsoil of orange sandy clay. The soils were very compact and dry. No cultural material was identified during the probing or on the ground surface. According to a Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife employee, the ponds have been re-dug several times which may partially account for the soil compaction and depletion. No cultural material was identified within the project boundaries.

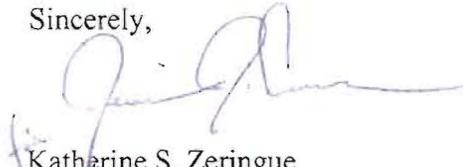
### **Description of Effects to Historic Properties**

Based on the results of the field work and background research, the highly depleted soils, and the lack of historic properties within the APE, FEMA has determined that the Undertaking will result in **No Historic Properties Affected** and is submitting this determination to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 15 days.

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

Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Elizabeth Amisson, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2086 or [elizabeth.amisson@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.amisson@associates.dhs.gov) or Daphne Owens, Historic Preservation Archaeologist, at (504) 762-2235 or [daphne.owens@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:daphne.owens@associates.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine S. Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA

CC: File  
Rachel Watson, Division of Archaeology Reviewer  
David Livingstone, Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer  
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures

6/8/2011

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

The Division of Archaeology Reviewer concurs with the finding that there will be **No Historic Properties Affected** as a result of this Undertaking.

---

Division of Archaeology Reviewer

---

Date

The Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer concurs with the finding that there will be **No Historic Properties Affected** as a result of this Undertaking.

---

Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer

---

Date

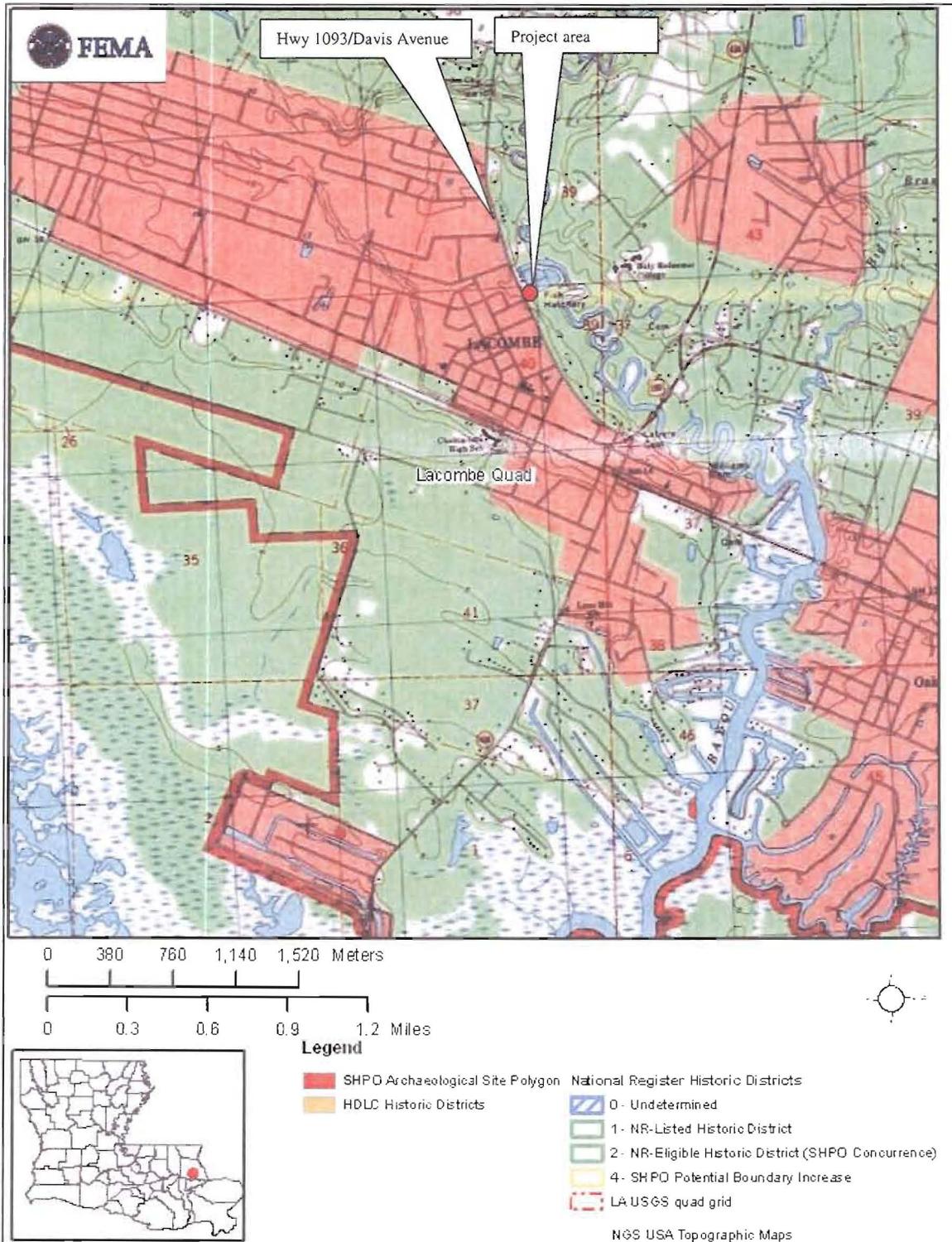


Figure 1. A portion of the USGS 7.5' Lacombe topographic map showing the approximate location of the project area.



Figure 2. Aerial photograph showing the archaeological APE outlined in yellow and standing structures outlined in red.

6/8/2011

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

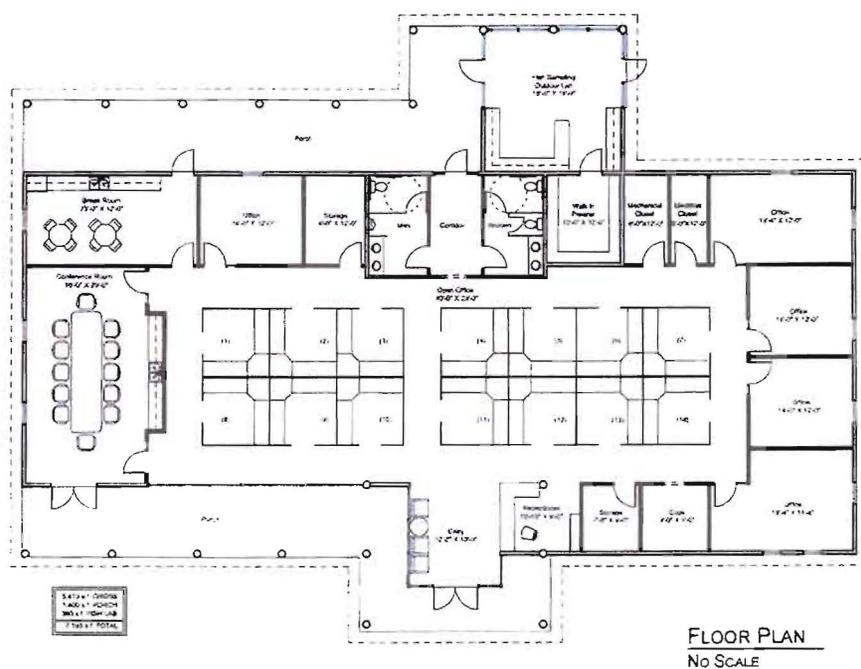


Figure 3. Site plan and floor plan.

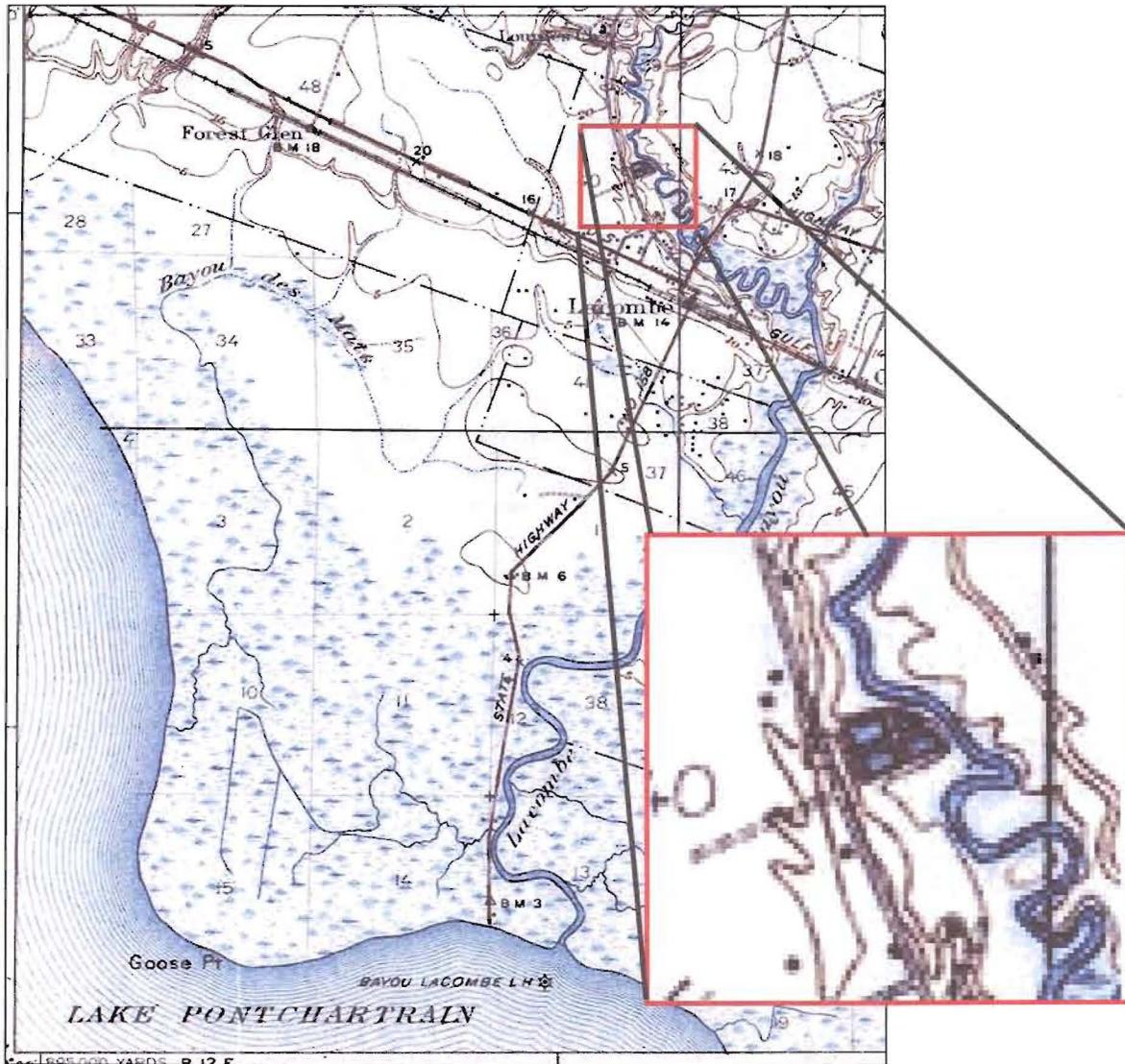


Figure 4. A portion of the USGS 7.5' Slidell (1935) topographic map showing the general location of the project area. Note the fish ponds.

**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 1:**  
Entrance to Huey  
P. Long Fish  
Hatchery. View  
looking northeast  
from Davis  
Avenue. (FEMA,  
May 2011)



**Photograph 2:**  
Plaque attached  
to column at  
entrance to Huey  
P. Long Fish  
Hatchery. View  
looking northeast.  
(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 3:**  
Fountain at Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery. View looking northeast. (FEMA, May 2011)



**Photograph 4:**  
Overview of ponds at Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery. View looking east from entrance. (FEMA, May 2011)

