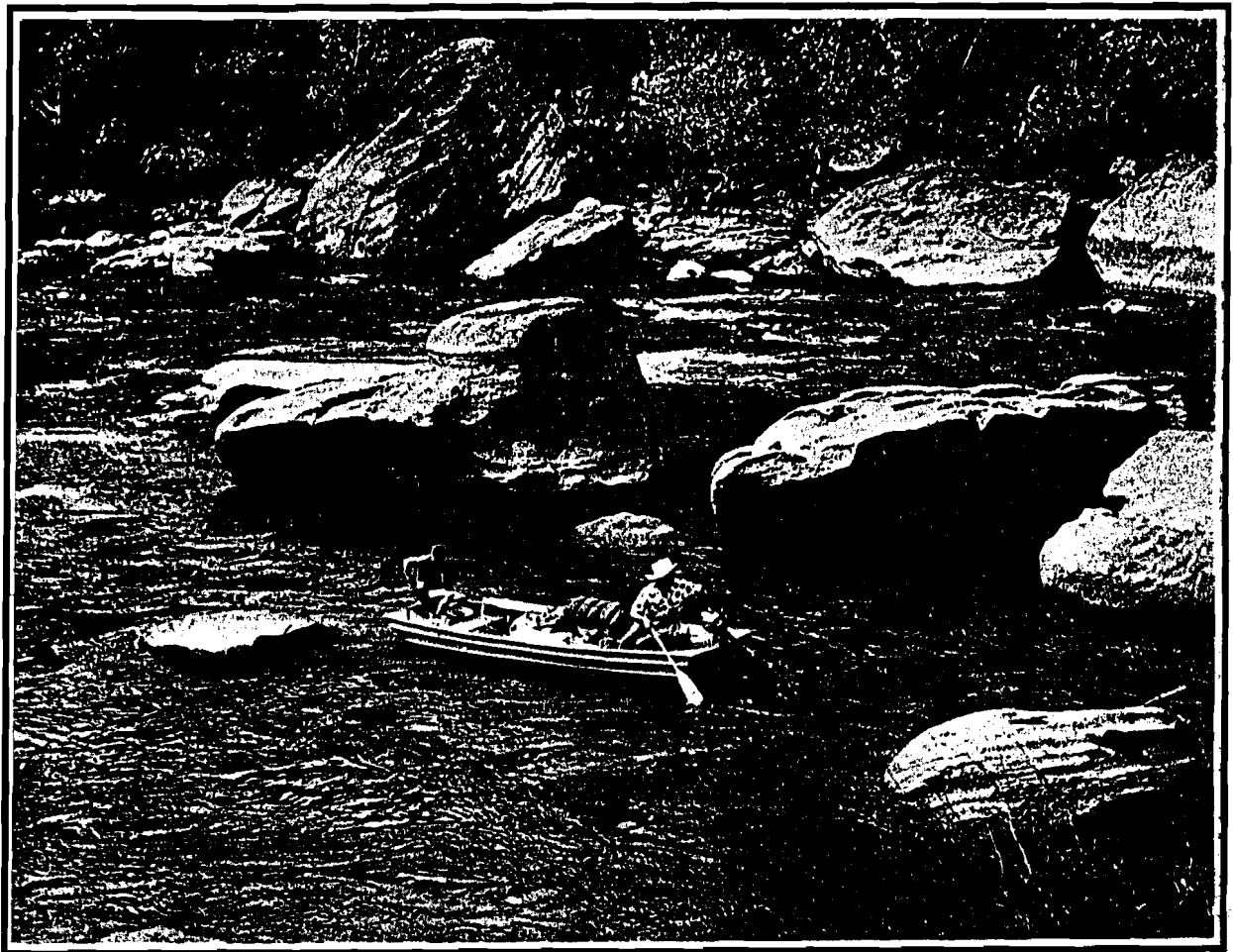


SURVEY OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTIES:

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries



Land and Community Associates

SURVEY OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTIES: DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

**Prepared For:
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**Prepared By:
Land and Community Associates
Charlottesville, Virginia**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT PURPOSE AND GOALS	1
SURVEY METHODOLOGY	1
Criteria for the Virginia Landmarks Register	1
Criteria for the National Register of Historic Places	1
SURVEY SOURCES AND PRODUCTS	2
SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDING AND RESULTS	2
HISTORIC CONTEXT THEMES	3
THEME: SOCIAL/CULTURAL: The History of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	4
PART I: The Development of Fish Hatcheries and Wildlife Management Areas in Virginia	4
The Development of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service	4
Creation and Organization of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	4
The Current Role of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries	5
PART II: The Design of State-Owned Wildlife Management Areas and Fish Hatcheries in Virginia	7
Fish Hatcheries	7
The Front Royal Fish Hatchery	7
Stephensville Hatchery	9
The Marion Fish Hatchery	10
Hatcheries Since 1940	10
Wildlife Management Areas	10
Chester Phelps Wildlife Management Area	10
Crooked Creek Wildlife Management Area	11
Horsepen Lake Wildlife Management Area	12
EVALUATION OF PROPERTIES	13
Stephensville Hatchery	13
Marion Fish Hatchery	13
Front Royal Cultivation Station	13
Crooked Creek WMA	14
Horsepen Lake WMA	14
Chester Phelps WMA	15
CURRENT PRESERVATION POLICIES AND LEGISLATION	16
National Role in Historic Preservation	16
Role of the Department of Historic Resources	16
Enabling Legislation	16
Departmental Policy and Authority	17
Application and Review Procedures	17
PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS	17
APPENDIX 1: BIBLIOGRAPHY	19
APPENDIX 2: LIST OF FIGURES	20

PROJECT PURPOSE AND GOALS

The purpose and intent of this survey was to document all state-owned buildings managed by the commonwealth's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to determine which properties forty years old or older may be eligible for nomination to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The survey has been undertaken to reduce the uncertainties that have existed regarding the eligibility of state-owned properties for placement on the state and national registers.

The major goal of this survey was to improve the level of protection of state-owned architectural and historic resources in Virginia through identification and evaluation. Related survey objectives included the preparation of a historic context report for buildings owned by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in Virginia, completion of state survey forms, mapping of historic resources, and documentary black-and-white and color slide photography. The scope of work for the survey did not include survey of any archaeological resources on state-owned lands.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the guidelines for survey outlined in *Bulletin #24* (of the National Register of Historic Places, U. S. National Park Service, Department of the Interior), an initial historic context was developed under the social/cultural theme. The context provided the basis for development of survey strategies for additional research and field work. Field work was organized geographically. Each property was evaluated for its applicability to the historic context, as a representative or outstanding example of its type, according to its ability to meet the criteria established for the National Register of Historic Places, and for its physical integrity. Finally, the historic context was revised and supplemented based on the results of field work and the additional research conducted during the survey.

Criteria for the Virginia Landmarks Register

The Commonwealth of Virginia has established the following criteria for the Virginia Landmarks Register:

No structure or site shall be deemed to be a historic one unless it has been prominently identified with, or best represents, some major aspect of the cultural, political, economic, military, or social history of the State or nation, or has had a relationship with the life of an historic personage or event representing some major aspect of, or ideals related to, the history of the State or nation. In the case of structures which are to be so designated, they shall embody the principal or unique features of an architectural style or demonstrate the style of a period of our history or method of construction, or serve as an illustration of the work of a master builder, designer, or architect whose genius influenced the period in which he worked or has significance in current times. In order for a site to qualify as an archaeological site, it shall be an area from which it is reasonable to expect that artifacts, materials, and other specimens may be found which give insight to an understanding of aboriginal man or the colonial and early history and architecture of the State or nation.

Criteria for the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places lists properties that possess quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture that is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

SURVEY SOURCES AND PRODUCTS

This report summarizes the main findings and recommendations of the survey. To obtain a complete understanding of the nature of the resources investigated and evaluated in the survey, the reader may need to become familiar with the materials collected, compiled, and consulted during the course of the survey. These materials include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- a complete DHR file envelope for each property. Each file envelope contains at a minimum a completed DHR survey form, labeled black-and-white documentation photographs in a labeled envelope, and a copy of a USGS map showing the location of the property. Some envelopes may also contain the following:
 - supplementary information such as copies of news articles, scholarly papers, etc. that were collected and consulted during the survey;
 - field notes from observations and interviews that may contain information not included on the DHR form but which may be useful in future investigations or evaluations;
 - additional bibliographical data;
 - sketches, maps, and other graphics prepared during the survey to document or analyze the property and its resources;
 - copies of historic photographs; and
 - copies of available maps and brochures (both contemporary and historic) documenting the property.
- selected color 35-mm. slides documenting the properties surveyed and relevant features and conditions; and
- a scripted presentation to be given orally with accompanying slides that documents the findings of the survey.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDINGS AND RESULTS

This survey has resulted in the documentation and evaluation of twenty-three individual buildings and structures owned by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Of these, two are believed to be eligible for the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places as contributing resources within a historic district or as part of a thematic nomination related to the context of fish hatcheries in Virginia. However, it should be noted that this survey also included several buildings that were standing before they were acquired by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Although not eligible for individual nomination, all of these should be re-evaluated in the context of local history and architecture and considered for inclusion in any future multiple property nominations developed in their respective geographic areas. In addition, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries owns several buildings that were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Although at this point none of these appear to be unusual or exemplary examples of CCC-era craftsmanship, they should be re-evaluated in the context of CCC buildings in Virginia.

HISTORIC CONTEXT THEMES

The Social/Cultural Theme is divided into two sections: 1) the History of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in Virginia; and 2) the Design and Construction of Buildings Owned by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The first section presents a chronological summary of the origins of fish hatcheries and wildlife management areas in Virginia with reference to national trends. The second part discusses the construction and acquisition of recreational, maintenance, and residential buildings included in this survey. Two property types were identified: 1) CCC-era fish hatcheries and maintenance buildings; and 2) older residences (and associated outbuildings) acquired by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

**THEME: SOCIAL/CULTURAL
THE HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND
INLAND FISHERIES**

**PART I: THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISH HATCHERIES AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREAS IN VIRGINIA**

The Development of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Public interest in the promotion of fish culture in the United States developed in the late nineteenth century in response to a growing concern over the widespread decline in the domestic fish population. The earliest fish hatchery in the United States is said to have been a salmon egg collecting station established on the McCloud River in California by Livingston Stone in 1871. That same year the position of Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries was created by the United States Congress to protect and promote the nation's varied and valuable fishery resources. The following year, in 1872, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (originally the United States Fish Commission) was established as part of the Department of the Interior.

One of the major problems in the early years of the United States Fish Commission was how to move fish quickly from hatcheries to distant waters throughout the country. During the "fish car era" (from the late nineteenth century to the 1940s) fish were transported cross-country by train. Rail shipments of fish increased as interest in managing streams and lakes spread. With the volume of such traffic steadily rising, the fish commission purchased in 1881 its first fish car, or baggage car, specifically equipped for carrying fish (figs. 1-2). New and improved models of fish cars were developed later, and from that time until the fish car era ended, federally-raised fish were transported in specially designed railroad cars from coast to coast (fig. 3).¹ By 1930, owing to the introduction of fish transportation by airplane and truck, the fish car era began to wane (figs. 4-5). Budget cutbacks also were restricting fish car operations. Distributing fish by truck was less costly and more efficient. There were only three fish cars in service in 1940, and by 1947 the fleet was finally taken out of service.²

The United States Fish Commission established fish hatcheries throughout the United States, including several in Virginia. The first hatchery in Virginia was the federal facility established in 1896 in Wytheville. Other federally-owned fish hatcheries in Virginia include the Fort Belvoir (Fort Humphries) Hatchery (1928); the Harrison Lake Hatchery (1934); the New Castle Hatchery (1936); and the Paint Bank Hatchery (1958). These facilities still are owned by the federal government, though the Wytheville Hatchery and the Paint Bank Hatchery are on long-term loan to the state.

Creation and Organization of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (formerly the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries) was created by an act of the General Assembly in 1916 to assume the responsibility for issuing hunting, fishing, and dog licenses as well as enforcing existing game and inland fish laws. The 1916 Act also provided for the special funding of this agency with the creation of the "game protection fund." This fund was composed of the proceeds from license sales and was designated for use in supporting the activities of the commission. In 1926 the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries became the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. In 1930 the name was changed again to the

¹*The Fish Car Era* (U. S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1979).

²Ibid.

Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries with the consolidation of all statutes relating to game, fish, and dog laws.

Land acquisition and work on developing fish hatcheries in Virginia began in the late 1920s, in response to fishermen's demands for fish stocking. Stocking catchable-size fish was viewed then as a panacea for poor fishing. Certain of the commonwealth's fresh water fish populations, especially brook trout, had been severely depleted owing to uncontrolled forest fires, primitive farming practises, and soil erosion in general. The first state-owned fish hatcheries established were the Marion Trout Hatchery, just south of the town of Marion in Smyth County, and the Front Royal Hatchery, five miles east of Strasburg in Warren County. Both took several years to build and were officially dedicated in 1932. The New Castle Station in Craig County (closed and disposed of circa 1980) and the Montebello Station in Nelson County were established about the same time. The Stevensville Hatchery in King and Queen County was dedicated in 1936. The original policy was to raise fish to catchable size and release them routinely in public waters. This costly "put and take" policy differed dramatically from the current goals of the Fish Division, which is to re-establish and augment fish populations and species.³

The predecessors to today's wildlife management areas appear to have been state-owned game farms, where game including wild turkeys, quail, and pheasant were bred specifically for hunting (much like stocking a stream for fishing). The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries operated game farms in Sussex and Cumberland Counties as early as the 1930s; there were additional game farms in other locations in the state. Several of these early game-hunting lands are still owned by the department; the Havens Wildlife Management Area (northwest of the Roanoke-Salem Area), purchased in 1930, is one of the early acquisitions still retained by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

It was not until the 1960s and 1970s that most of the state's wildlife management areas were established. The movement to establish WMAs was owing, in part, to increased demand for public hunting areas; all of the WMAs established during this period were paid for with money raised from fees for fishing and hunting licences. In addition, however, support for the establishment of WMAs during this period also was due to the environmental movement, and increased public interest in preserving open land and wildlife in Virginia. By 1986, revenues from sporting licenses and taxes on hunting equipment had enabled the Department to acquire and manage thirty-three wildlife areas located all across the state (fig. 6).⁴

The Current Role of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Since the time of its establishment in 1926 the role of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has dramatically expanded. In 1989 the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries became the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.⁵ Unique among state agencies, the department does not receive funding from general tax revenues. The department receives its funds from the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses; boat registration and titling fees; and federal excise taxes on guns, ammunition, and fishing supplies. In addition, the department receives a modest sum from the federal government and voluntary contributions for the protection of endangered and non-game species. All

³From telephone conversations with Jack Hoffman, Chief of the Fish Division, Game and Inland Fisheries, 1/11/90 and 2/26/90.

⁴*Virginia's Environment: 1984-1986 Biennial Report* (Richmond: Council on the Environment, March 1987): 23.

⁵Commission on State Governmental Management, *Information Papers on the Agencies of State Governments* (Richmond: 1976): 148-151; Lewis Williamson Tyus, "The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Divorced from the Commission of Fisheries," *Game and Fish Conservationist* (March-April, 1926): 6.

finest collected for fish and game violations go into the State Literary Fund in support of education.⁶

As population growth and development continues in the commonwealth, pressures on fish and wildlife resources are increasing. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Marine Resources Commission are the agencies primarily responsible for the management and regulatory control of Virginia's fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Until recently, programs have focused on game species. However, in 1981 a non-game program was established, allowing the development of research and recovery programs for nearly every threatened or endangered species found in Virginia. This program has resulted in improvements in the status of several species including the peregrine falcon and the bald eagle.⁷

Through direct ownership or cooperative agreements with other agencies, the department conducts wildlife management programs on all of the approximately four million acres of public lands in Virginia. In addition, the department has jurisdiction over all fish located within tidal brackish and freshwater creeks, rivers, and lakes. Their fish hatchery and stocking programs, supported by license fees and taxes on fishing equipment manufacturers, have proven to be successful in establishing, strengthening, and replenishing fish populations. In addition, since nearly eighty percent of Virginia's wildlife habitat is in private ownership, the department also provides important educational and outreach programs to help landowners and the public at large to understand and enhance wildlife habitats on both public and private lands.⁸

Currently the department is responsible for the enforcement of all game, inland fish, and boating safety laws, as well as the adoption of regulations to cover hunting, inland fishing, and boating. The agency has a staff of about four hundred people, providing state-wide enforcement of fish, boating, and wildlife laws; biological investigations of our fish and wildlife areas; public information and education concerning our fish and wildlife resources; and extensive training in firearms and boating safety. The department administers more than 170,000 acres of recreational lands; operates a game farm, nine fish hatchery facilities (five trout and four warm-water species), and thirty-three wildlife management areas; and provides the public with hunting and fishing resources. At this time the administration of fish and wildlife resources within the department is divided into two divisions: 1) the Fish Division, which controls fish hatcheries and other fishing facilities; and 2) the Wildlife Division, which controls wildlife management areas.⁹

⁶*Facts About the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries* (Richmond: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Education Division, 1989): 2.

⁷*Virginia's Environment: 1984-1986 Biennial Report* (Richmond: Council on the Environment, March 1987): 23.

⁸*Ibid.*

⁹*Facts About the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*, 2; Commission on State Governmental Management, 148-151.

PART II: THE DESIGN OF STATE-OWNED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND FISH HATCHERIES IN VIRGINIA

Game and Inland Fisheries sites surveyed include three wildlife management areas (WMAs), two fish hatcheries, and a fish culture station, all dating from the 1920s to early 1940s.

Fish Hatcheries

Virginia's earliest fish hatcheries all were designed by Guy W. Buller, a Pennsylvania native who held the position of state fish biologist at that time, and were built by Public Works Administration craftsmen with Civilian Conservation Corps laborers.¹⁰

Buller selected each of the hatchery sites based on three criteria: the lay of the land, local water supply, and geographic location within the state. The terrain had to be conducive to the construction of fish ponds, the water supply had to be of good quality and quantity, and the station needed to be strategically located to serve an area of the state. Sites in flood plains or similar areas were ideal locations; each hatchery needed a dependable source of water, and locations contiguous to a spring, lake, stream, or river were essential so that the fish ponds could be kept well supplied with fresh water. Since fish were transported by truck to the state's waterways, hatcheries were centered in areas requiring stocking of hatchery-raised fish.¹¹

The Front Royal Fish Hatchery

The Front Royal Fish Cultural Station, located about five miles east of Strasburg on Highway 55 in Warren County, was one of the first state-owned hatcheries to be established. The 108-acre property was acquired by the commonwealth in the 1920s. The hatchery was originally intended for smallmouth bass used in stocking the state's public waters, in particular, the Shenandoah River system. The water supply for the hatchery was from the nearby Passage Creek. Work was completed in 1932 with all excavation and grading done by mule-drawn slips manned by WPA operators and CCC laborers. The hatchery facility includes the main hatchery building with an office and small laboratory, twenty-two earthen ponds, twenty-four concrete raceways, a storage building, and the managers residence (fig. 7).¹²

The site of the Front Royal Fish Hatchery originally was known as Wakeman's Mill and included an operating grist and lumber mill at the time of acquisition. Mills powered by water wheels were declining in number even at that time and each was important to local history. Wakeman's Mill, was moved to Mount Vernon to serve as replica of George Washington's Grist Mill, possibly because it was in excellent condition and relatively nearby. It has been restored to operating condition and can be visited today.¹³

The fish originally were bred in the earthen ponds and in the concrete raceways. The young fish were transferred to the earthen ponds for grow-out. Unwanted animal parts and commercial fish products were ground up for fish feed, and were stored in the large, now defunct, freezer.¹⁴

¹⁰From telephone conversations with Jack Hoffman, Chief of the Fish Division, Game and Inland Fisheries, 1/11/90 and 2/26/90.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²"Front Royal Fish Cultural Station Briefing Sheet," furnished by Kenneth D. Mitchell, Hatchery Superintendent; and telephone conversations with Jack Hoffman, Chief of the Fish Division, Game and Inland Fisheries, 1/11/90 and 2/26/90.

¹³"Front Royal Fish Cultural Station Briefing Sheet"; and telephone conversation with Jack Hoffman, Chief of the Fish Division, Game and Inland Fisheries, 2/26/90.

¹⁴"Front Royal Fish Cultural Station Briefing Sheet."

Today, final grow-out is still accomplished in the earthen ponds, which are managed to establish and maintain dense populations of zooplankton as the primary food source for most species of fish. Use of artificial food is usually restricted now to minnows and catfish, although some supplemental feeding of other species does occur. The hatchery now cultivates and provides northern pike, muskie, and striped bass for stocking in the state's waters. The station currently averages four to five hundred thousand stockable fish per year. Fish are distributed throughout the state from this hatchery.¹⁵

The Front Royal Hatchery complex, dating from the 1930s, is located in a scenic wooded landscape surrounded by forested hills at the base of the Blue Ridge mountains. The fish hatchery is a handsome, well-crafted, stone building that is testament to the skill of the architects, engineers, and craftsmen employed by the Public Works Administration, and the high level of workmanship performed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the New Deal Era. Contiguous to the hatchery are the earthen ponds and concrete fish runs. Sited on a hill overlooking the hatchery, there is a stone residence of the same high-quality craftsmanship as the hatchery building. There is an additional frame residence located on another hill north of the hatchery.

The hatchery, built in 1931, is a one-story, twelve-bay, dressed ashlar building. The gable roof and four dormers feature slate shingles. Although it is a utilitarian building, the craftsmanship exhibited throughout the structure distinguishes the hatchery as one of the finest in the state. The stonework surrounding the windows and doors of the facility is of superior quality, as is the woodwork of the rafter tails and the dormers. The hatchery building and complex of earthen ponds and concrete raceways are executed with superior craftsmanship and exhibit functional clarity in their design. There is a large hatchery cultivation room in the center of the building, that is flanked by small work rooms on each end. Egg-hatching troughs line the walls of the hatchery room next to large windows on the southeastern side of the building that provide necessary warmth and light to the eggs and small fry. Laboratory equipment and workstations are located at each end of the rectangular room. An office occupies one end of the building, and a workroom and a refrigeration room the other. Allées of walnut trees and earthen berms surround the building, running northwest to southeast. The earthen ponds and concrete fish runs are located within the allées, and are complemented by the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape.

The Old Residence, built in 1937 on a hill overlooking the hatchery, is of similar CCC construction and workmanship to the hatchery building. It is a 1 1/2-story structure constructed of dressed ashlar, with a gable roof and cross gables on each side of the house. It has a large, four-bay, screened porch constructed of stone encompassing the entire facade, and a central chimney. It probably was built with local stone, and exhibits a high level of craftsmanship in its stone and woodwork. The plan and massing of the house resemble a late Craftsman bungalow.

A typical 1930s vernacular frame residence is located on a hill north of the hatchery. Built in 1937, it is a three-bay, front-gabled, one-story, wood-frame house on a concrete foundation, with weatherboard siding and a standing-seam metal roof. Porches are attached to the front and rear of the house.

¹⁵"Front Royal Fish Cultural Station Briefing Sheet"; and telephone conversation with Jack Hoffman, Chief of the Fish Division, Game and Inland Fisheries, 2/26/90.

Stephensville Hatchery

The second warmwater fish hatchery to be built in Virginia was the Stephensville Hatchery, located in Stevensville, off Route 14 in King and Queen County. The Stephensville Hatchery was designed by Buller to grow largemouth bass, which is done exclusively in ponds, no jar culture being necessary. Therefore, no main hatchery building was constructed for jar culture as there were at other hatcheries.¹⁶

The site chosen for the hatchery was contiguous to three privately owned lakes. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries owns only the acreage upon which its buildings and ponds are located. The state property borders these lakes on the downstream side but does not include the lakes themselves. The state entered into an agreement with the lake owners, whereby, in return for using the lake as a hatchery water supply, the state would furnish fish management services and certain other services to the lake owners. Land suitable for fish pond construction, the dependable water supply, and a strategic location in an area of need were all factors in the selection of the site.¹⁷

Presently, the hatchery raises wall-eye, striped bass, channel catfish, and largemouth bass. The largemouth bass are now only a minor part of the operation. There is some jar culture of striped bass that now takes place in part of the shop building.¹⁸

It appears that all of the buildings at the Stephensville Hatchery were built by PWA designers and craftsmen with the assistance of CCC troops. The manager's residence is a 1 1/2-story, four-bay, side-gabled, vernacular building with a brick lower story, and a wood-framed upper story with weatherboard siding. It has a one-story, screened front porch with a hipped roof; a one-story wing addition to the right; and a second-story, two-bay, shed-roofed dormer off the rear. The wing addition has a standing-seam metal roof, while the remainder of the building is roofed with composition asphalt shingles. The residence is sited on a rise surrounded by hardwood trees, with large evergreen shrubs in front.

A vacant wood-frame, vernacular residence built in 1936 is sited on a rise overlooking irrigated fields. It is a plain, three-bay, side-gabled house with a standing-seam metal roof, two interior brick chimneys, and weatherboard siding. At this point it appears that this building has rotted significantly and may no longer be repairable.

The complex of four utilitarian buildings includes a concrete-block combination garage and shop, a brick refrigeration building, and two corrugated metal storage buildings. The 1936 combination garage and shop is a seven-bay, side-gabled, concrete-block, utilitarian building with four garage bays, and a shop marked by a small projecting gabled porch supported by brackets. The refrigeration building from 1939 is a one-story, utilitarian structure which has a T-shaped plan made up of a front gabled facade, with a cross gable to the rear. The finely detailed, one-bay, six-course American-bond brick building has a heavy wooden cornice, a standing-seam metal roof, an interior brick flue, a small projecting gabled porch supported by brackets, and concrete steps.

The two corrugated metal storage buildings are of the typical utilitarian buildings found in Virginia's state parks and fish hatcheries. The first garage was built in 1936; it is a shed-roofed, eight-bay, wood-frame structure clad in corrugated metal. Garage #2 is a larger,

¹⁶From telephone conversation with Jack Hoffman, Chief of the Fish Division, Game and Inland Fisheries, 2/26/90.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Ibid.

side-gabled, two-bay structure, also of wood frame and clad in corrugated metal. Both are in poor condition.

The Marion Fish Hatchery

The Marion Fish Hatchery includes a brick hatchery building (1940) with associated trout raceways, a 1 1/2-story brick residence (1944), and a brick cold storage building (1940). The two earlier buildings were constructed using WPA and CCC manpower. The brick-faced, one-story, combination office/storage and shop building was added in the 1950s. The hatchery building and fish races were designed by Buller. Originally, the Marion Hatchery produced all the trout for the state program until the smaller Montebello Hatchery came into the program shortly thereafter.

The state initially purchased for the hatchery a ten-acre tract adjacent to a cattle farm owned by Southwestern State Hospital. The state made an agreement with the hospital for use of its spring for a water supply to the hatchery. The hatchery acreage was increased significantly around 1968 when the farm sold, and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries purchased the property to preserve the water supply for the hatchery.¹⁹

The hatchery building, built in 1940, is a one-story, side-gabled, eight-bay structure, with a composition asphalt shingle roof and an interior chimney. The fish impoundments are of concrete and stone, and include a concrete water purification and aeration structure. The 1 1/2-story brick residence was built in 1947 and has an interior chimney, a side-gabled roof, and a cross gable with a three-bay, flat-roofed, wooden porch. The porch has four square columns with balustrades between them. Finally, the 1940 cold storage building is a brick, one-story, two-bay structure, with a standing-seam metal roof and a small, gabled, wood porch supported by brackets. Beside the porch, the storage building features heavy wooden cornices, a brick chimney, and stone window sills.

Hatcheries Since 1940

Since 1950, three additional state fish hatcheries have been constructed including Buller, near Sugar Grove in Smyth County; Coursey Springs, near Williamsville in Bath County; and Brookneal, near the town of Brookneal in Campbell County. In addition, two trout hatcheries owned by the federal government, Wytheville and Paint Bank, are currently leased to the commonwealth.

Wildlife Management Areas

The majority of the state's thirty-three wildlife management areas were established during the 1960s and 1970s. According to the assistant chief of wildlife, sites were chosen based on cost and availability, with final review by a search committee composed of members from both inside and outside of the department. An effort has been made to distribute the WMAs evenly across the state. Currently only three of the state's thirty-three WMAs appear to have resources that qualify for inclusion in this survey.

Chester Phelps Wildlife Management Area

The Chester Phelps WMA was named after longtime director of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Chester F. Phelps. It is located in Fauquier and Culpeper counties northwest of Fredericksburg adjacent to the Rappahannock River. The site was selected as a prime location for a WMA because of its proximity to heavily populated Northern Virginia, as well as to the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Rappahannock River. According to a department spokesman, the land was purchased with funds generated from the Pittman-Robertson Act, a federal excise tax on firearms.

¹⁹Ibid.

The topography of the area is rolling Piedmont country that is well supplied with streams, valleys, and hills, with some level bottomland along the river. The area consists of 4,500 acres with 1,100 acres being in open grassy-shrubby habitat and 3,400 acres in forested habitat. Prior to the department's purchase of the property in 1976, most of the land was used for agriculture. Today the vegetation on the area is being manipulated to create optimum conditions for all types of wildlife.²⁰

The Phelps WMA features a large brick farmhouse and several associated farm buildings located on an impressive site near the Rappahannock River (fig. 8). A small exhibit building near the resident manager's home houses memorabilia obtained from former Game Commission Executive Director Chester F. Phelps.²¹

The Colonial Revival brick farmhouse (1920) is a gabled, two-story, five-bay structure with end chimneys, and a one-story wing addition to the left. Distinctive features include a finely detailed classical portal and a colonnaded back porch with a hipped roof that extends the full width of the house. The exhibit building, built around 1920 and located near the main house, is a typical small vernacular outbuilding. It is a one-story, two-bay, wood-frame structure with an end gable, standing-seam metal roof, and weatherboard siding.

The remaining farm buildings are also typical agricultural outbuildings. There are two barns in the farm complex, a chicken coop, and an icehouse. The earlier barn (circa 1920) is wood-frame on a brick foundation with weatherboard siding, a standing-seam metal roof, an end gable, and two shed roofs extending to the left and right. The later wood-frame barn (circa 1940) is located in a large field near the river. It is one story and features a loft, a side-gabled standing-seam metal roof, two asymmetrical bays, weatherboard siding, and a rear addition with vertical board-and-batten siding. The small, wood-frame chicken coop (circa 1920) has three bays, weatherboard siding, and a standing-seam metal shed roof. The icehouse (1926), located near the main house, is a wood-frame, end-gabled, one-bay structure with vertical board-and-batten siding and a standing-seam metal roof.

Crooked Creek Wildlife Management Area

The Crooked Creek WMA, although technically controlled by the Wildlife Management Division, is managed by the Fish Division. It was purchased primarily to provide a trout fishing facility for southwestern Virginia, with hunting as a secondary activity. It is located in the mountainous region of Carroll County, and encompasses Crooked Creek proper and a major tributary, the East Fork Crooked Creek, which together comprise six miles of trout water. Acquired by the state in 1984, much of the 1,750 acres of land was originally farms and farmland. For many years it was open grassland, but is now changing to forest like the remainder of the area (fig. 9).

Facilities at Crooked Creek include a concession stand, located near the headquarters area, where fishing permits, licenses, and food can be purchased during the fee-fishing season. There are also picnic tables under a covered shelter, restrooms, and parking.

The Oshea House is a simple, one-story, wood-frame, vernacular structure (1938) that serves as the concessionaire's residence. The front porch was enclosed some time after the

²⁰*A Guide to Virginia's Wildlife Management Areas* (Richmond: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 1988): 42.

²¹*Ibid.*

house was built. There are three small sheds, two of wood, and one of prefabricated metal, that serve as outbuildings.

Horsepen Lake Wildlife Management Area

The Horsepen Lake WMA, located in Buckingham County, was originally part of a massive tract of land located in Buckingham, Appomattox, and Prince Edward counties that was purchased for a resettlement project by the federal government in 1934.²² In 1939 the bulk of this land was leased to the state for use as state forests and in 1954 it was acquired by the state. However, this small portion of land was maintained by the federal government as the Lee Experimental Forest, a forest research area managed by the United States Forest Service. Purchased by the state in 1974, the property consists of 2,688 acres of rolling hills with well-drained springs and small streams supporting a forest of pine and hardwoods. The eighteen-acre Horsepen Lake was formed by a dam across Horsepen Creek (fig. 10).²³

An attractive, mid-twentieth-century, Colonial Revival residence overlooks Horsepen Lake, with a complex of work buildings for Horsepen WMA located nearby. According to a department spokesman, the house was built by Leon Minkler, a silviculturalist for the National Forest Service who lived on the site for over thirty years. The residence, built in 1940, is a 1 1/2-story, side-gabled, four-bay, wood-frame structure with weatherboard siding, a slate roof, an exterior end chimney, and two gabled dormers on both front and rear. It has a front porch with four square columns and a stone floor. Stone steps lead from the porch to the water. There is a cross gable off the rear with another exterior end chimney. It is built on a stone foundation and exhibits simple but well-executed woodwork in the construction of the porch and in such architectural details as the fan and side lights, door and window enframements, and the cornice.

Two nearby utilitarian work buildings include an office and a shop. The four-bay, 1 1/2-story, wood-frame shop was built in 1940 with weatherboard siding, a T-shaped plan, and cross-gabled slate roof. The 1924 office is a wood-frame, one-story, side-gabled structure on a concrete foundation with weatherboard siding, a slate roof, a central stone chimney, and a right wing addition.

Also located in Horsepen Lake WMA is a three-bay, rustic, open picnic shelter typical of those built in Virginia's state parks by the CCC. It is, perhaps, a remnant from the period when the United States Forest Service owned the area and conducted its forestry research project there.

²²See *Survey of State-Owned Property, Department of Forestry*, unpublished report, Land and Community Associates, 1990.

²³*A Guide to Virginia's Wildlife Management Areas*, p. 34.

EVALUATION OF PROPERTIES

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries properties have been evaluated to determine their significance in American and Virginia history, design, and culture. Land and Community Associates applied two tests for significance: a property must 1) represent a significant pattern or theme in the history, design, or culture of the nation, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or the locality in which it is located; and 2) possess integrity—that is, it must retain the essential characteristics that make it a good representative of its property type. National Register criteria recognize the following seven aspects or qualities, which, in various combinations define integrity: historic location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Stephensville Hatchery Stephensville, Virginia King and Queen County

Built in 1936 by WPA and CCC personnel, the Stephensville Hatchery was the second state-owned fish hatchery to be built in Virginia. Resources surveyed include the Manager's Residence, a vacant, vernacular, wood-frame residence, a concrete-block combination garage/shop, a one-story brick refrigeration building, and two corrugated metal storage buildings. Although significant as one of the earliest fish hatcheries in Virginia, the resources at the Stephensville Hatchery do not appear to be eligible for nomination to the national or state registers at this time. However, they should be reevaluated in context of WPA/CCC buildings in Virginia if such a context is developed.

403-00028-00001	Manager's Residence	1936	49-149
403-00028-00002	Garage and Shop	1936	49-150
402-00028-00003	Old Residence	1936	49-151
402-00028-00004	Refrigeration Bldg	1939	49-152
402-00028-00005	Garage	1936	49-153
402-00028-0000?	Garage #2	?	49-153-2

Marion Fish Hatchery Route 1 Box 107 Marion, Virginia

Resources surveyed at the Marion Fish Hatchery include a brick hatchery building with associated fish impoundments, a 1 1/2-story brick residence, and a cold storage building. Although significant as one of the earlier state-owned fish hatcheries built in Virginia, none of the resources at the Marion Fish Hatchery appear to be eligible for nomination to the state or national registers at this time. However, they should be reevaluated in context of CCC buildings in Virginia if such a context is developed.

403-00056-000B1	Residence	1944/1947	86-23
403-00056-000B2	Hatchery Bldg	1940	86-24
403-00056-000B3	Cold Storage Bldg	1940	86-25

Front Royal Cultivation Station Warren, Virginia Warren County

The Front Royal Cultivation Station is the one of the oldest state-owned hatcheries in Virginia. The facility covers 108 acres of land and includes twenty-two earthen ponds and twenty-four concrete raceways, the original hatchery building with offices and a small laboratory, a storage shed, a stone residence, and a wood-frame residence. The well-crafted stone hatchery building and surrounding fish impoundments were designed and by WPA and CCC personnel using local materials. The facility is executed with superior

craftsmanship and exhibits functional clarity in its design, which is complemented by the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape. The hatchery building and surrounding fish impoundments possess a high level of design integrity and provide an excellent example of hatchery technology and design for the period. The Old Residence sited on a hill overlooking the hatchery is of similar CCC construction and workmanship as the hatchery building.

The Front Royal Fish Hatchery has state-wide significance as the first state-owned fish-hatchery in Virginia; its design and layout may have influenced the design of later state hatcheries. Finally, it has significance under National Register Criteria C, in that it embodies the characteristics of CCC construction. Based on this evaluation, it appears that the Front Royal Fish Hatchery is eligible for nomination as a small district to both the state and national registers.

403-00061-00001	Old Residence	1937	93-173
403-00061-00002	Hatchery	1931	93-174
403-00061-00004	Residence	1937	93-175

Crooked Creek WMA

Oshea House

Carroll County, Virginia

Purchased by the state in 1984, the 1,750-acre Crooked Creek WMA is a unique WMA because it is managed by the Fish Division, and was purchased mainly to provide trout fishing, with hunting as a secondary activity. Resources surveyed include the Oshea House, a modest, one-story, vernacular structure built in 1938 that serves as the concessionaire's residence, and several utilitarian outbuildings. None of the buildings at the Crooked Creek WMA appear to be eligible for nomination to the state or national registers at this time.

403-00010-00010	Concessionaire Res.	1984/1938	17-9
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Horsepen Lake WMA

Buckingham, Virginia

The Horsepen Lake WMA, purchased by the state from the federal government in 1974, consists of 2,688 acres of forested rolling hills surrounding the eighteen-acre Horsepen Lake. Resources surveyed at the WMA include a handsome, mid-twentieth-century, Colonial Revival residence and a complex of workbuildings nearby overlooks Horsepen Lake. Although the residence is a well-executed example of Colonial Revival architecture, and the remaining workbuildings are well-built structures, they do not appear to be eligible for nomination to the state or national registers at this time. However, they should be reevaluated in the context of local history and architecture.

Also located in Horsepen Lake WMA is a three-bay rustic open picnic shelter typical of those built in Virginia's State Parks by the CCC. It is, perhaps, a remnant from the period when the land was owned by the United States Forest Service. Although not considered eligible for listing as an individual resource, this well-crafted picnic shelter should be reevaluated in the context of CCC buildings in Virginia.

403-00218-00001	Residence	1974/1940	14-129
403-00218-0000?	Picnic Shelter	1974/c.1935	14-129-2
403-00218-00002	Office	1974/1940	14-130
403-00218-00003	Shop	1974/1940	14-131

Chester Phelps WMA
Fauquier County, Virginia

Resources surveyed at the Chester Phelps Wildlife Management Area include early-twentieth-century farm buildings that were pre-existing on the site at the time that it was acquired by the state in 1976. The brick farmhouse from 1920 is a good example of Colonial Revival architecture and has distinctive features including a classical portal, and a colonnaded back porch that extends the full width of the house. The remaining farm buildings, which are typical of their period, include an exhibit building which may have been a dairy previously, an ice house, a chicken coop, and two barns. Although not considered eligible for listing on the state or national registers as an individual property, the farm complex should be reevaluated in the context of local history and architecture, and considered for inclusion in future multiple property or district nominations developed in this vicinity.

403-0224A-00001	Residence	1976/1920	30-331-1
403-0224A-0000?	Chicken Coop	c. 1920	30-331-2
403-0224A-0000?	Barn	c. 1920	30-331-3
403-0224A-00002	Barn	c. 1940	30-332
403-0224A-00003	Ice House	1926	30-333-1
403-0224A-0000?	Exhibit House	c. 1920	30-333-2

CURRENT PRESERVATION POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

National Role in Historic Preservation

Preserving historic resources has been a national policy since the passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906; significant expansion in historic preservation has occurred through the subsequent Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. These last two acts made the Secretary of the Interior responsible for maintaining the National Register of Historic Places, a list of properties that have been evaluated as significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture, and found to be worthy of preservation. The National Park Service maintains and expands the National Register of Historic Places on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

Nominations to the National Register for state-owned properties in Virginia are made by the State Historic Preservation Officer, who is also the Director of the Department of Historic Resources. Federal agencies request determinations of eligibility for properties that are subject to federal, federally assisted, or federally licensed activities in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. For state-owned properties in Virginia, a National Register designation accomplishes the following:

- increases public awareness of historic resources and may encourage preservation,
- mandates reviews of the negative impact of projects using federal funds or requiring federal licensing, but
- does not restrict the use of private funds, and
- makes designated properties eligible to compete for state grants.

Role of the Department of Historic Resources

The General Assembly, in recognition of the value of the commonwealth's cultural resources, provides for the review by the Department of Historic Resources of all rehabilitation and restoration plans for state-owned properties listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register to insure the preservation of their historic and architectural integrity. In this respect the Virginia Landmarks Register is a planning tool to encourage the protection and wise use of significant historic properties in the commonwealth.

Enabling Legislation

The specific provisions for review are defined in the 1990 Appropriations Act, 1990 Session, Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 972, Section 4-4.01.(o):

State-Owned Registered Historic Landmarks: To guarantee that the historical and/or architectural integrity of any state-owned properties listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the knowledge to be gained from archaeological sites will not be adversely affected because of inappropriate changes, the heads of those agencies in charge of such properties are directed to submit all plans for significant alterations, remodeling, redecoration, restoration, or repairs that may basically alter the appearance of the structure, landscaping, or demolition to the Department of Historic Resources. Such plans shall be reviewed within thirty days and the comments of that Department shall be submitted to the governor through the Department of General Services for use in making a final determination.

The 1990 Appropriations Act, which supersedes the similar provisions of the earlier appropriations acts, places into the code the provisions of Executive Order Forty-Seven issued by Governor Mills Godwin in 1976. In that executive order Governor Godwin stated the rationale for safeguarding state-owned historic resources:

Virginia's many historic landmarks are among her most priceless possessions. The preservation of this historic resource should be of prime concern to all citizens. As Governor, I believe the Commonwealth should set an example by maintaining State-owned properties listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register according to the highest possible standards.

Departmental Policy and Authority

Hugh C. Miller, Director of the Department of Historic Resources, subject to his continuing and ultimate authority, is vested with the responsibility for review of all plans for significant alterations, remodeling, redecoration, restoration, and repairs that may basically alter the integrity of state-owned registered historic landmarks, and to provide comments related to such plans to the governor, through the Department of General Services.

Application and Review Procedures

The 1990 Appropriations Act directs the heads of state agencies in charge of state-owned landmark properties to submit all plans for significant alterations, remodeling, redecoration, restoration, or repairs that may basically alter the appearance of the structure, landscaping, or demolition to the Department of Historic Resources. Although capital projects represent the most obvious state-funded activities that affect historic resources, state agencies should notify the Department of any remodeling, redecoration, restoration, or repair that could affect the structure or visual character of a state-owned landmark or archaeological site. Even such normal maintenance including repointing brickwork, cleaning masonry, painting woodwork, or landscaping can compromise the integrity of a landmark if not done in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. The *Standards* encompass the most widely accepted principles regarding work undertaken on historic buildings in the United States and are used in review of all federal projects involving historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the the National Register of Historic Places. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources uses the *Standards* as a basis for evaluating proposed alterations to state-owned historic landmarks. The *Standards* are available without cost from the Department of Historic Resources.

PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Front Royal Fish Hatchery appears to possess inherent historic and design values that should be respected. The necessary first step in its preservation is a recognition by the commonwealth that this is, indeed, a significant resource. This recognition should be achieved through listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and through the adoption of an official preservation policy by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. This statement should reiterate the nature of the Front Royal Hatchery, and its significance to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the commonwealth.

The historic hatchery, residence, fish ponds, and landscape elements at the Front Royal Fish Hatchery constitute a finite resource worthy of protection. Since the entire complex dates from the mid-1930s, adoption of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* could provide an excellent source for standards of maintenance and repair. In general, expansion and repair at the site should be respectful of the original character of the place; significantly altering either the buildings or the landscape would diminish its integrity.

In addition to the Front Royal Hatchery, other properties owned by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and developed by the CCC may be of interest to future historians. Despite the fact that many of the buildings constructed by the CCC were of

modest design and built as temporary structures, many have survived to this date. A number CCC buildings have been documented for this and other state departments. However, it is known that there are many other CCC buildings located throughout the commonwealth and owned by the federal government, the commonwealth, city and county governments, and private individuals. Because a significant portion of all CCC buildings in Virginia have not been identified and evaluated, it is difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the relative significance of individual CCC properties. It is recommended that a thematic survey of all properties built by the CCC be undertaken so that those sites that best represent CCC workmanship can be identified and management plans developed for them.

Since this study did not include an archaeological component, potential archaeological sites have not been considered. Some properties owned by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries could be expected to yield information significant to archaeology. Consequently there should be an archaeological investigation by a qualified archaeologist whenever any site is proposed for major new construction or other land disturbing activity.

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APPENDIX 2: LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1. Photograph of an early fish car (circa 1885).
(From *The Fish Car Era*, Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1979, p. 5)
- Figure 2. Unloading a fish car (circa 1885).
(From *The Fish Car Era*, Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1979, p. 6)
- Figure 3. Fish car, interior (circa 1920).
(From *The Fish Car Era*, Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1979, p. 11)
- Figure 4. Fish transportation by truck (circa 1930).
(From *The Fish Car Era*, Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1979, p. 14)
- Figure 5. Fish transportation and stocking by airplane (circa 1930).
(From *The Fish Car Era*, Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1979, p. 13)
- Figure 6. Land Ownership Location Map, Major Management Areas (1989).
(Map available from The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Education Division)
- Figure 7. Front Royal Cultivation Station, site plan (1986).
(Drawn from USGS map, Land and Community Associates)
- Figure 8. Chester Phelps WMA, site plan (1988).
(From *A Guide to Virginia's Wildlife Management Areas*, Richmond: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 1988, p. 43)
- Figure 9. Crooked Creek WMA, site plan (1988).
(From *A Guide to Virginia's Wildlife Management Areas*, Richmond: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 1988, p. 13)
- Figure 10. Horsepen Lake WMA, site plan (1988).
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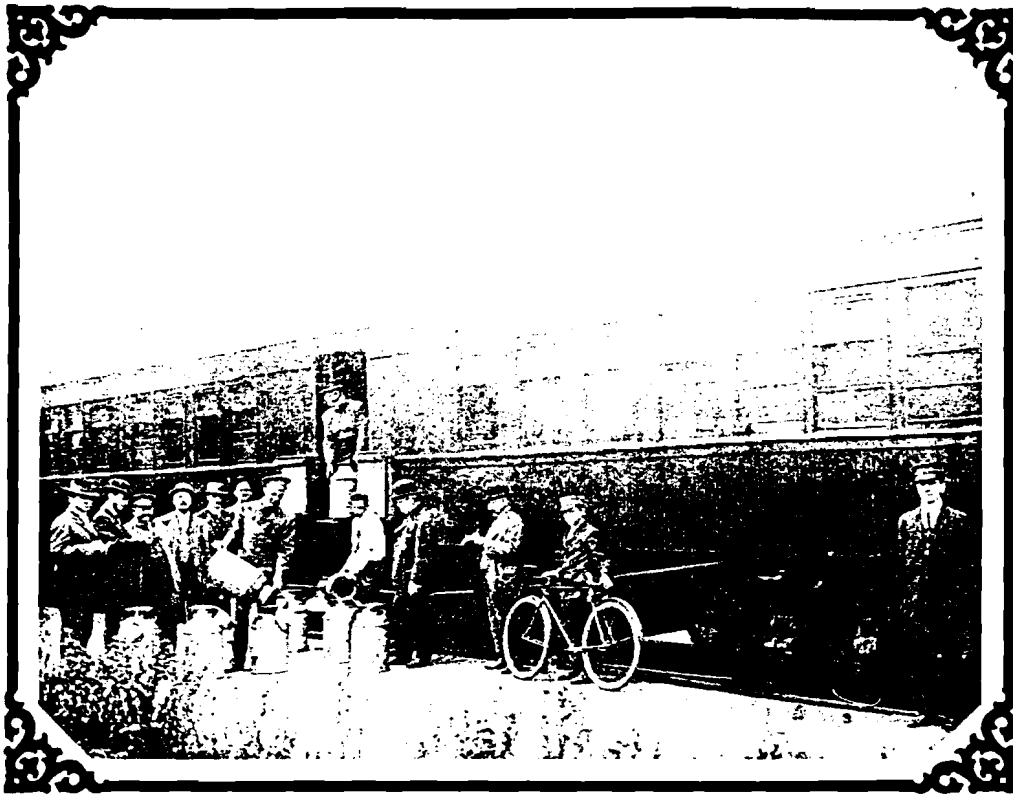


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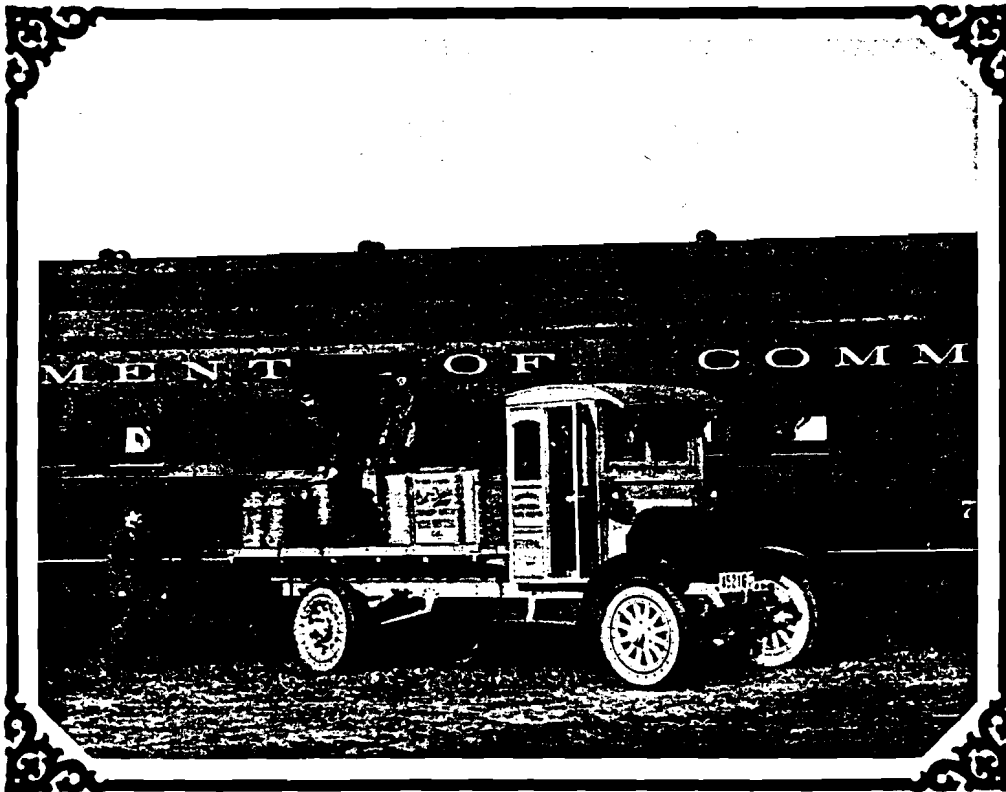


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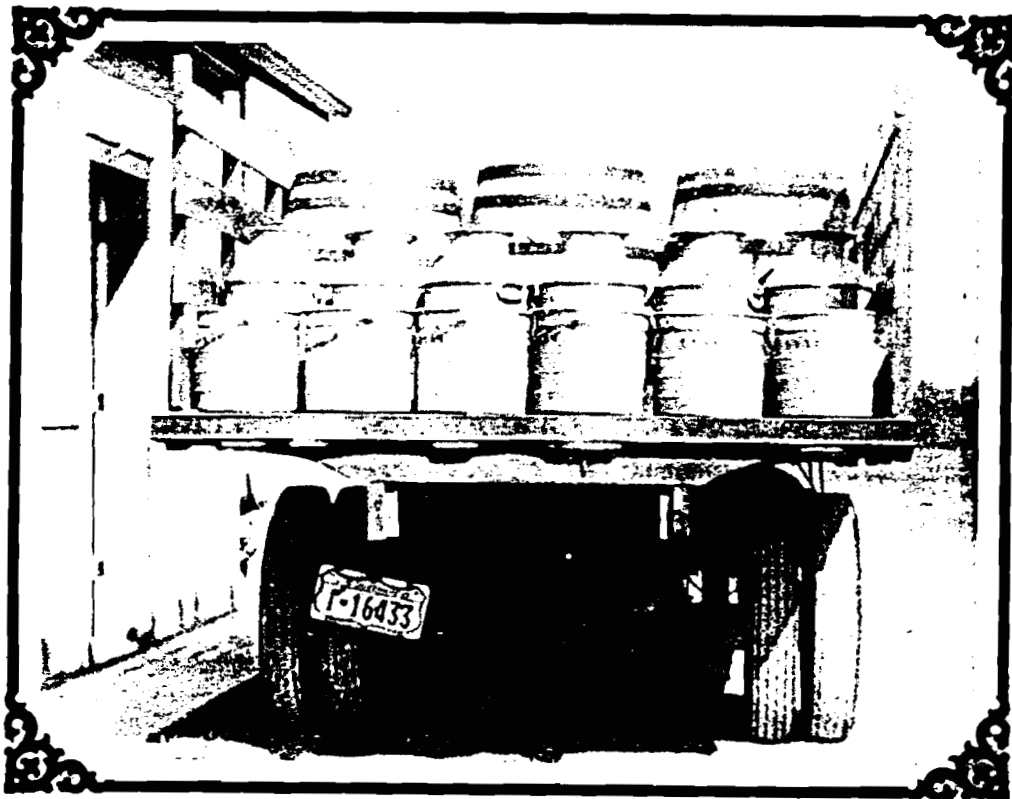


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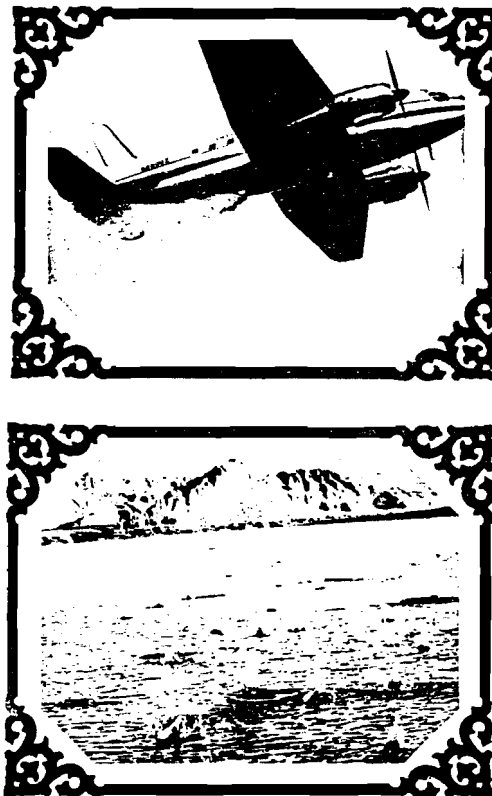


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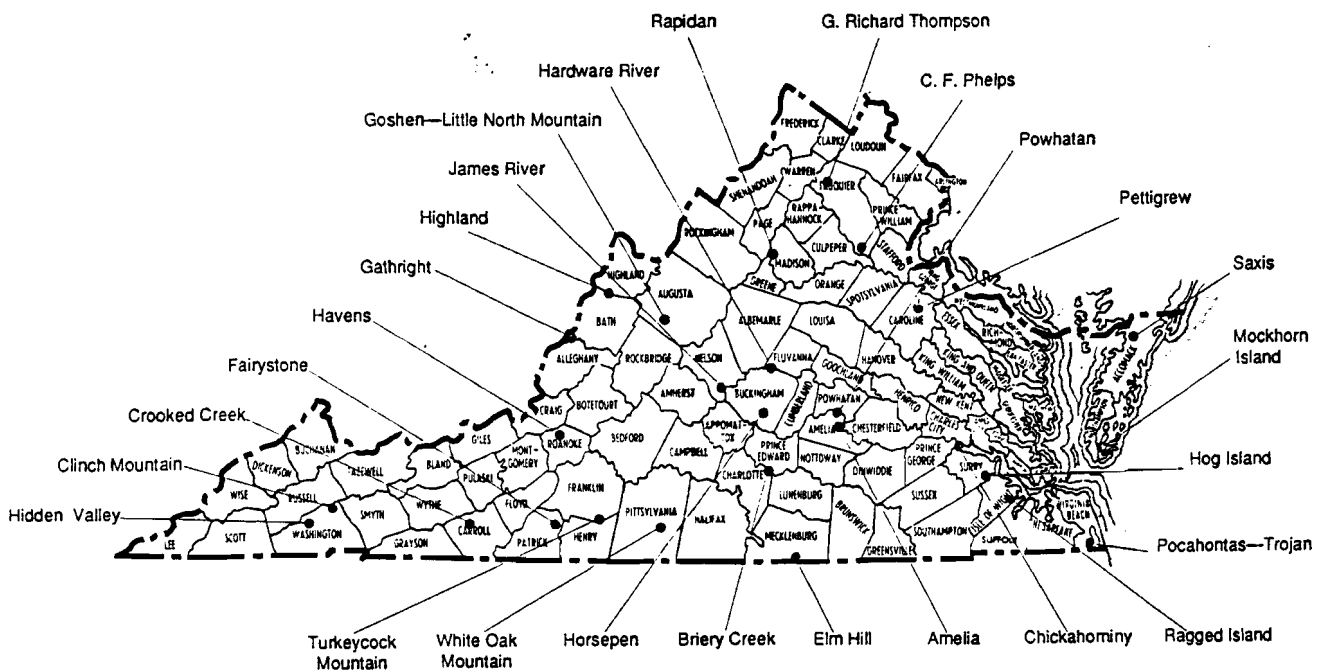


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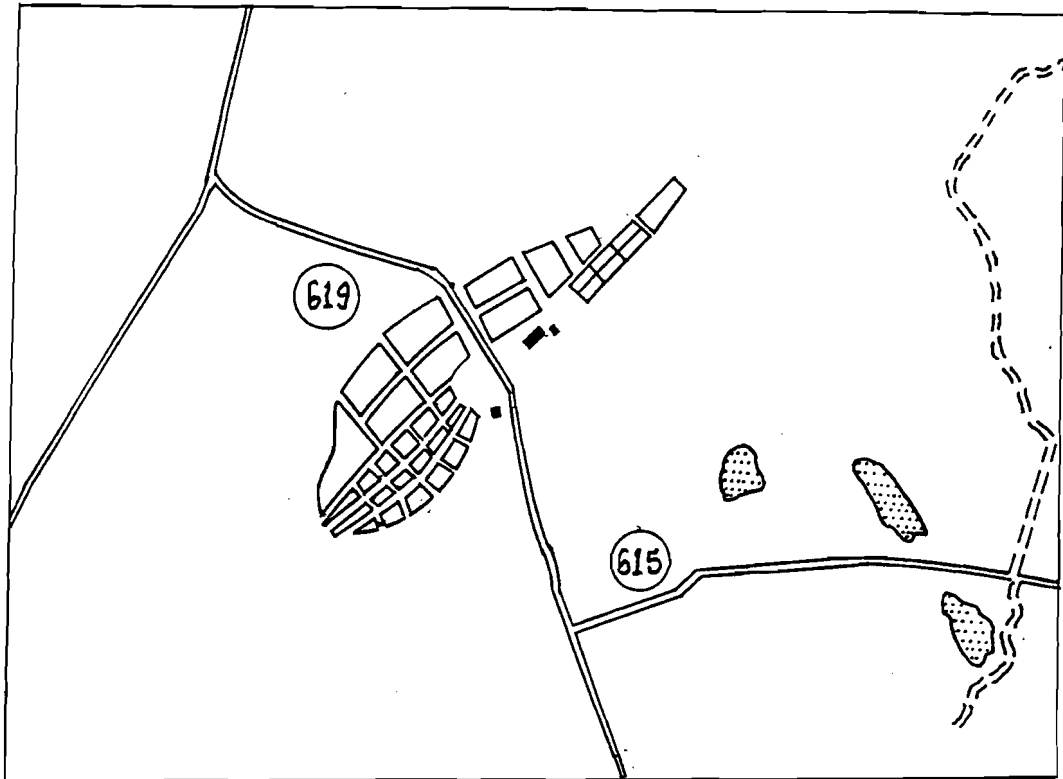


Figure 7. Front Royal Cultivation Station, site plan (1986).
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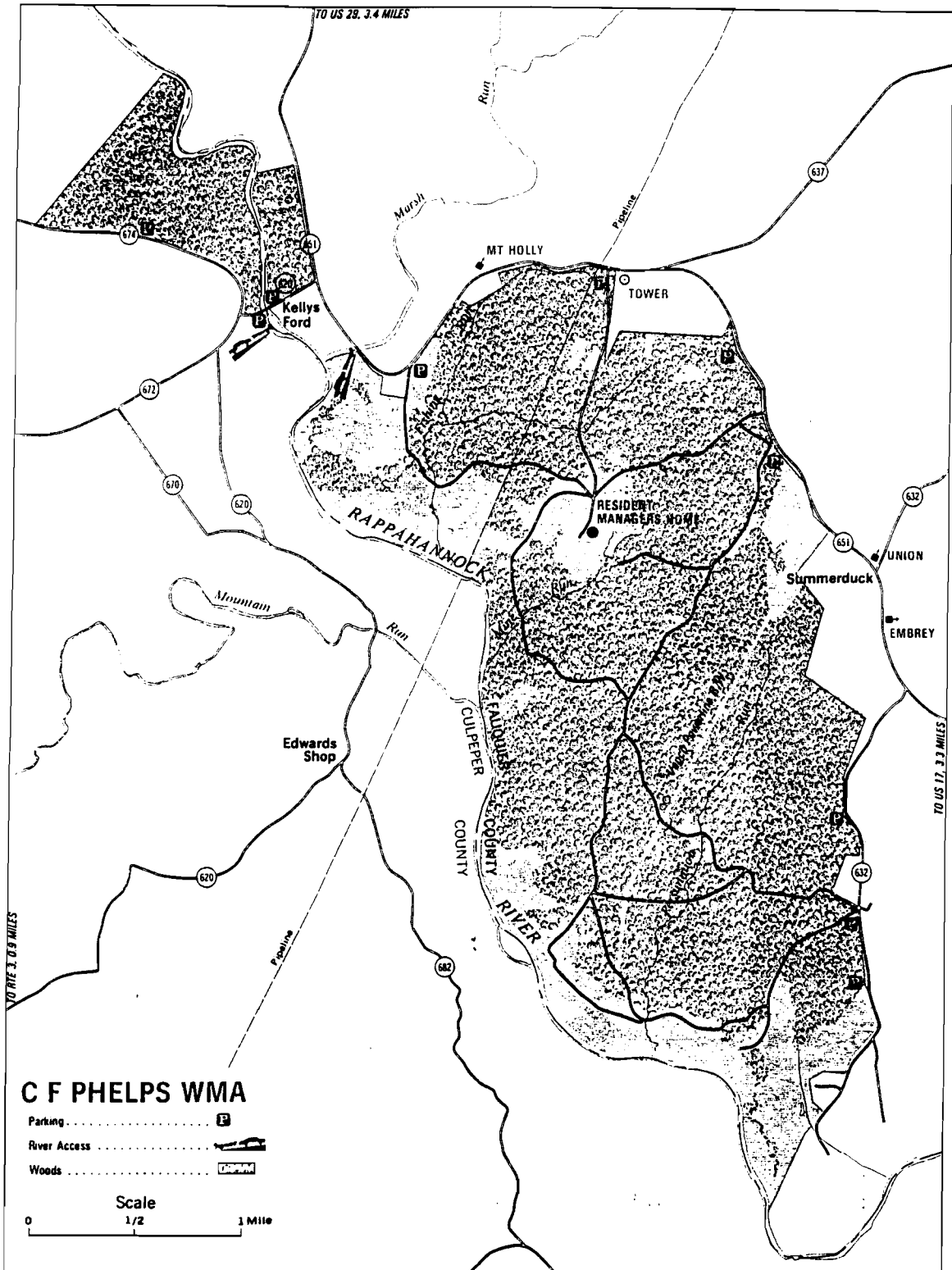


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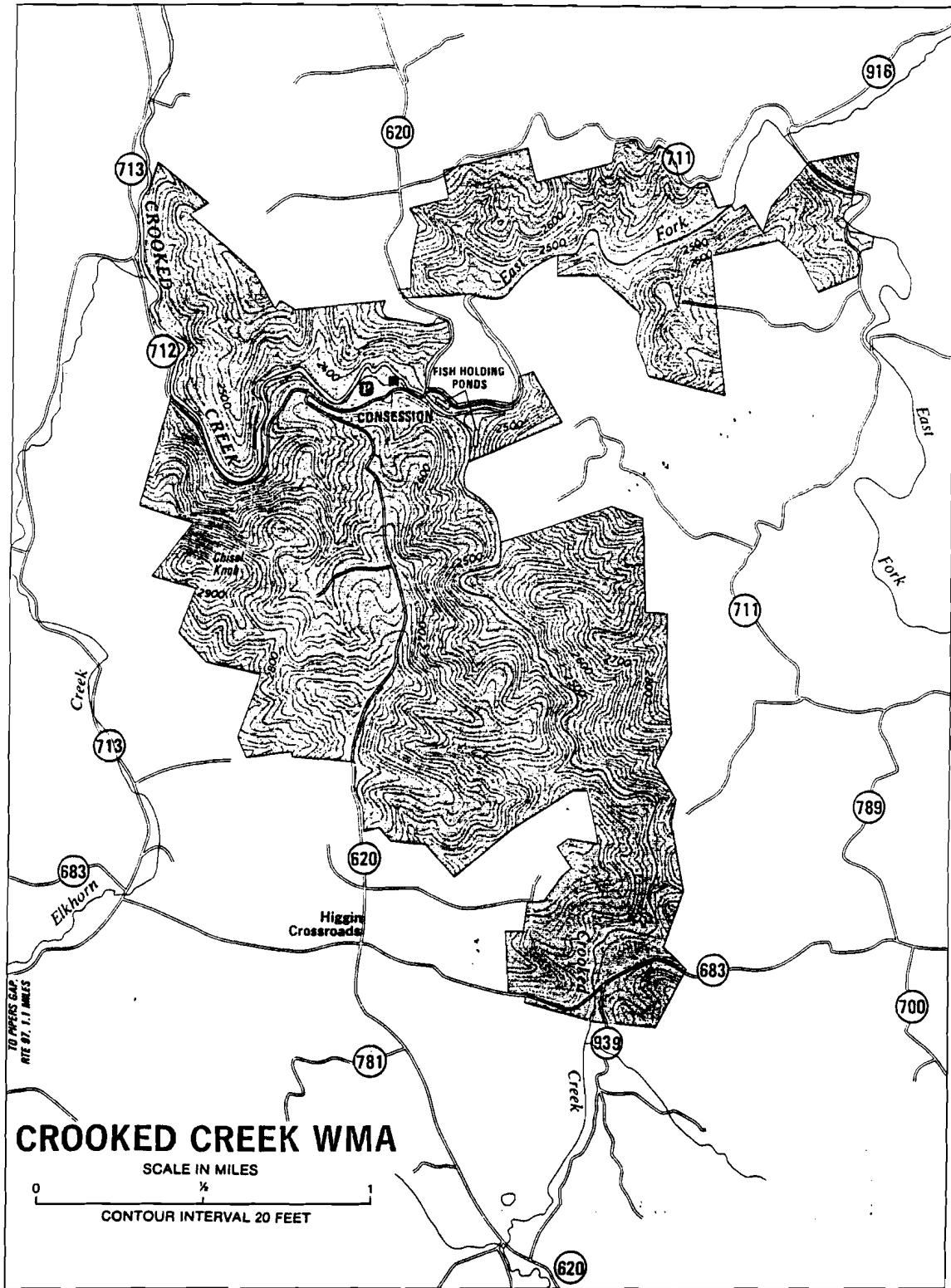


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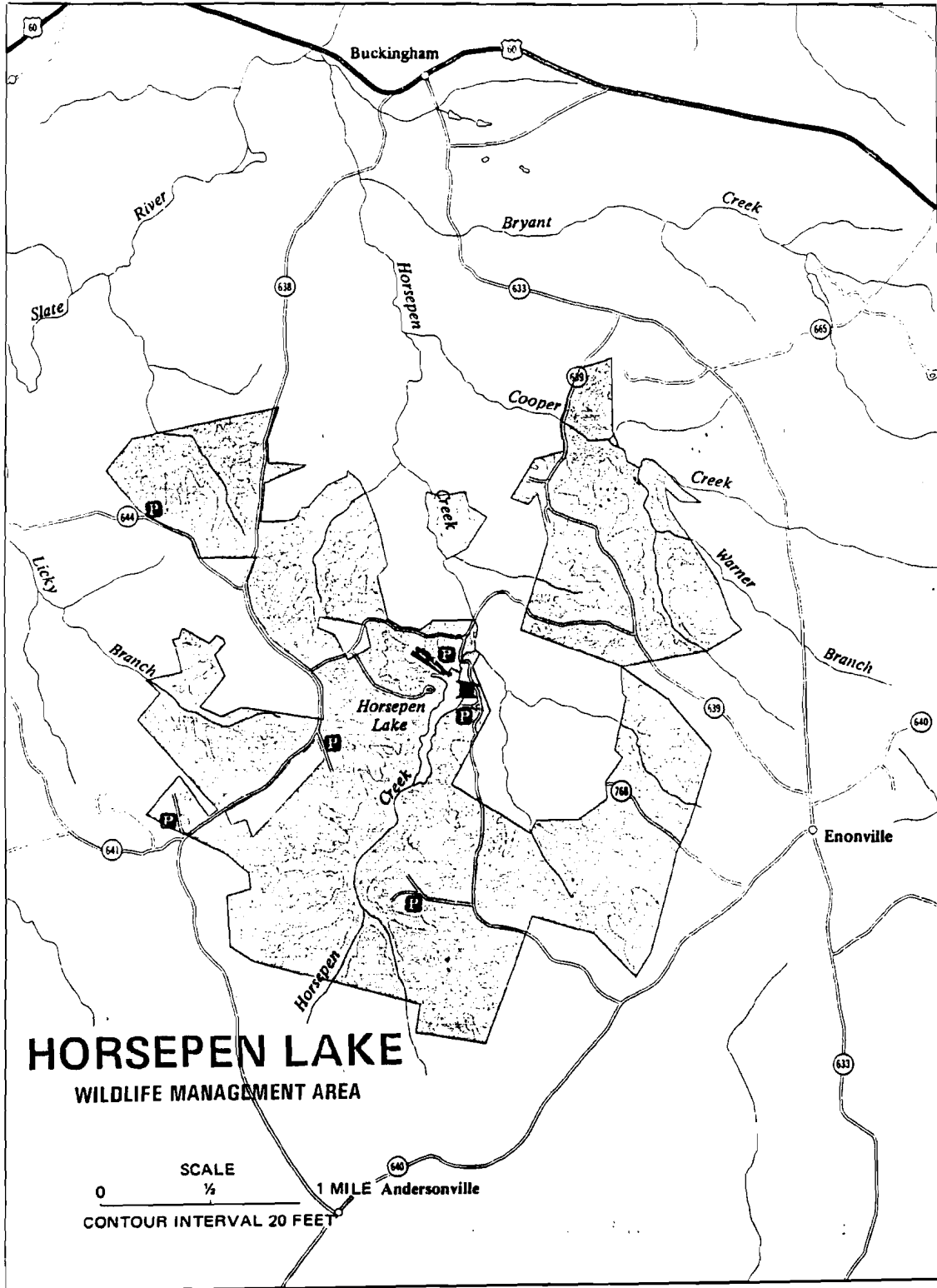


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