

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lake Mattamuskeet Pump Station

AND/OR COMMON

Mattamuskeet Lodge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Swanquarter

 VICINITY OF New Holland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Hyde

CODE

095

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER: FWS

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

STREET & NUMBER

75 Spring St., S. W.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hyde County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Swanquarter

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE A Cultural Resource Investigation of the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Hyde County, North Carolina

DATE

November 9, 1978

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Soil Systems, Inc. (Project No. ES-960)

CITY, TOWN

Marietta

STATE

Ga.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present Physical Appearance:

Mattamuskeet Lodge is a three story, 14,977 square foot brick structure containing 38 rooms and connected to a 120 foot high tower with winding stairway. The outside of the building, in need of painting, is essentially as built. The interior of the building was remodeled as a headquarters building and hotel accommodation for visitors after acquisition by the U. S. Government in 1934. The tower of the pumping plant was remodeled as an observation tower during the initial remodeling. No additional remodeling has been attempted.

Original Physical Appearance:

The Lodge building was originally the pump house for the Southern Land Reclamation Company's drainage project, capable of pumping 1,250,000 gallons of water per minute. The structure is located less than 100 yards (90 meters) east of the present Refuge headquarters, and sits astride the major outfall canal for the lake. The pumping plant contained four centrifugal Corliss engine steam pumps and four boilers capable of producing three thousand horsepower each. No detailed information is available as to the exact description of the interior.

The plant served as the nucleus of the drainage project. A network of canals were dug in Lake Mattamuskeet's shallow bottom (see attached figure) in order to allow farming of the lake's rich bottom land.

Remodeling Impacts:

After purchase of Mattamuskeet Lake in 1934 by the Federal government, the pumping plant was converted into a visitors' lodge and the 120-foot chimney into an observation tower. During the remodeling, the steam pumps and boilers were removed, sold for scrap, and replaced with 38 rooms which served as refuge headquarters and visitor accommodations (18 rooms). A winding stairway around the chimney was used to convert it to an observation tower. Exterior changes consisted of the addition of windows and a few other minor alterations.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT New Holland Corp.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lake Mattamuskeet Pumping Plant stands as a symbol of the troubled history of the Lake Mattamuskeet area -- the digging of a network of canals, the building of pumping plants and a model community, the spending of millions of dollars, the bankruptcy of one company after another and the eventual abandonment of the scheme as impractical and too expensive.

The flat plain between Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds is dominated by extensive swamps, wet savannahs, and low pinelands. The limited agricultural areas, restricted to ridgelands where suitable drainage is possible, produce corn, soybeans, small grains, and truck crops. On the whole, this country has too much rather than too little water. The idea of draining Mattamuskeet Lake has intrigued people since the early 1800's. The lake is the largest natural inland lake in North Carolina. It is a natural, saucer-like depression approximately fifteen miles long and eight miles wide, averaging two to four feet deep.

In 1835 the North Carolina General Assembly passed a bill authorizing the drainage of the lake to get to the rich soil on the bottom. Lake Mattamuskeet and the surrounding property was transferred from state ownership to members of the literary board in 1840, who sold sections of the marsh to raise money for public schools. The first attempt to drain the lake was by gravity flow from two canals dug by slave labor. This initial attempt did not successfully drain the lake, but did lower the lake level. The end result of this venture was a loss of nearly \$200,000.

The dream of farming the lake bottom still remained. The State Legislature passed a bill offering the bottom land for sale in 1909. In 1911 the Southern Land Reclamation Company purchased the 48,820 acre lake for \$99,960, planning to drain and farm the bottom. Large-scale drainage operations began in 1914 by the New Holland Farms Company. This project was patterned after similar drainage projects in Holland.

A village sprang up, soon called New Holland, a hotel was built and settlers were brought over from Holland. The New Holland, Higginsport and Mount Vernon Railroad, the only railroad ever to come into the county, was soon built to service the enterprise.

Due to financial difficulties, New Holland Farms sold to an Ohio firm, North Carolina Farms in 1917. North Carolina Farms continued construction of the canals, pumps and pumping plant until 1925 when they were forced to sell due to lack of finances.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

A New York Philanthropist and builder, August Hecksher, bought the lake bottom and completed construction of the canals and "world's largest" pumping plant. (The plant is listed on the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), North Carolina: An Inventory of Historic and Industrial Sites.) Hecksher brought in large scale farming equipment and technology. Approximately 12,000 acres of lake bottom were planted in corn, flax, sunflowers, rice, sweet potatoes and soybeans. The sweet potato yield was 900 bushels per acre, 9 times the state's average. One plot of soybeans extended over 13 square miles, with an estimated yield of more than a quarter of a million bushels. The New Holland Corporation, formed by August Hecksher, successfully farmed the lake for 6½ years. However, its efforts were defeated by pumping difficulties, excessive rainfall and agricultural pests.

Soon the lake returned, and in 1934 the New Holland Land Company sold 49,925.05 acres to the United States Government as a wildlife refuge for \$311,942.67. By 1936 the pumping station was being converted to a lodge for hunters who were returning to the area. During that period of approximately 20 years, 17 million dollars were spent trying to farm Lake Mattamuskeet.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- (1) Information gathered from refuge files.
- (2) 1978. Garrow, P.H., and G.M. Watson. A Cultural Resource Investigation of the Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Hyde County, North Carolina. Interagency Archeological Services - Atlanta, Order Number PX 5880-8-0191. November 9, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.25 acre Latitude 76°10'30" Longitude 35°27'06"
 UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located at the headquarters site of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Geographic location is 12 miles east of Swanquarter, N. C., 3/4 mile south of U. S. Highway 264.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	DATE
Steven W. Frick - Refuge Manager	7/2/79
ORGANIZATION	DATE
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mattamuskeet NWR	919/926-4021
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
Rt. 1 Box N-2	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Swanquarter	N. C.

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE *[Signature]*
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE _____ DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE _____
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE _____
ATTEST:	DATE _____
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

10'

2 850 000 FEET

Lake Mattamuskeet Pump Station
Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
Swanquarter, N.C.
UTM Ref: Unknown
Latitude Longitude
76° 10' 30" 35° 27' 06"

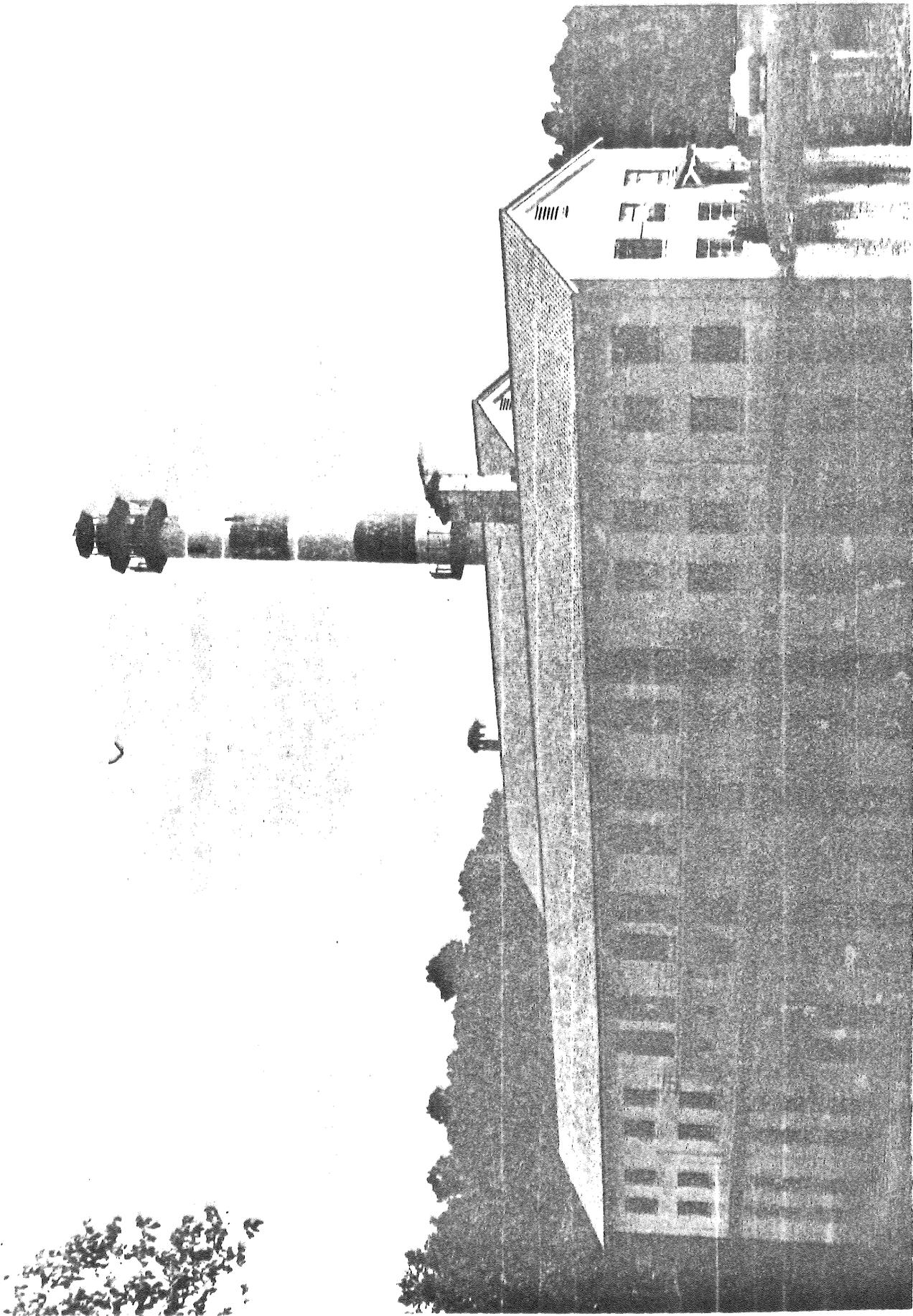
HN 3

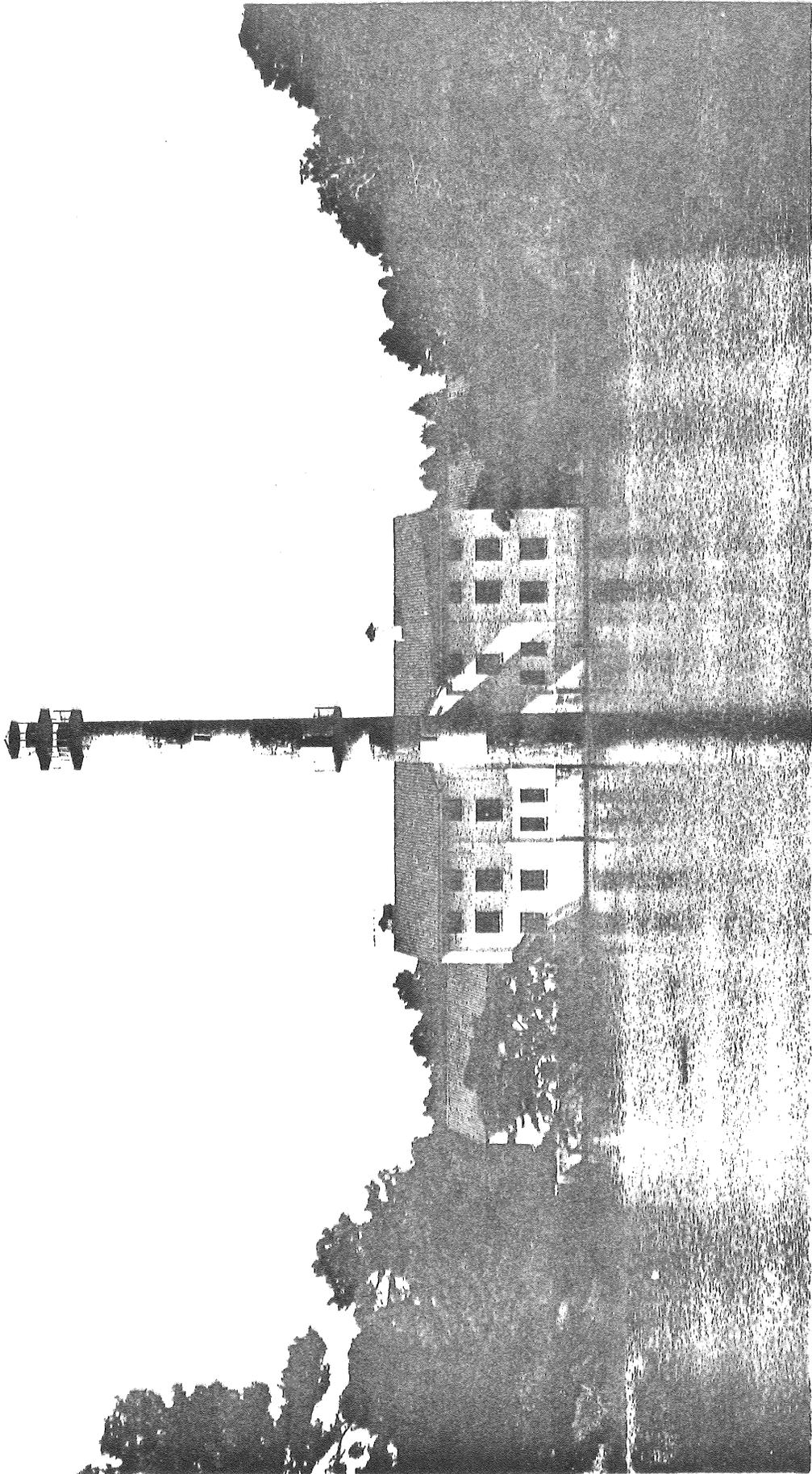
A M U S K E E T

L W I L D L I F E R E F U G E

U S K E E T







M A T T A M U S K E E T

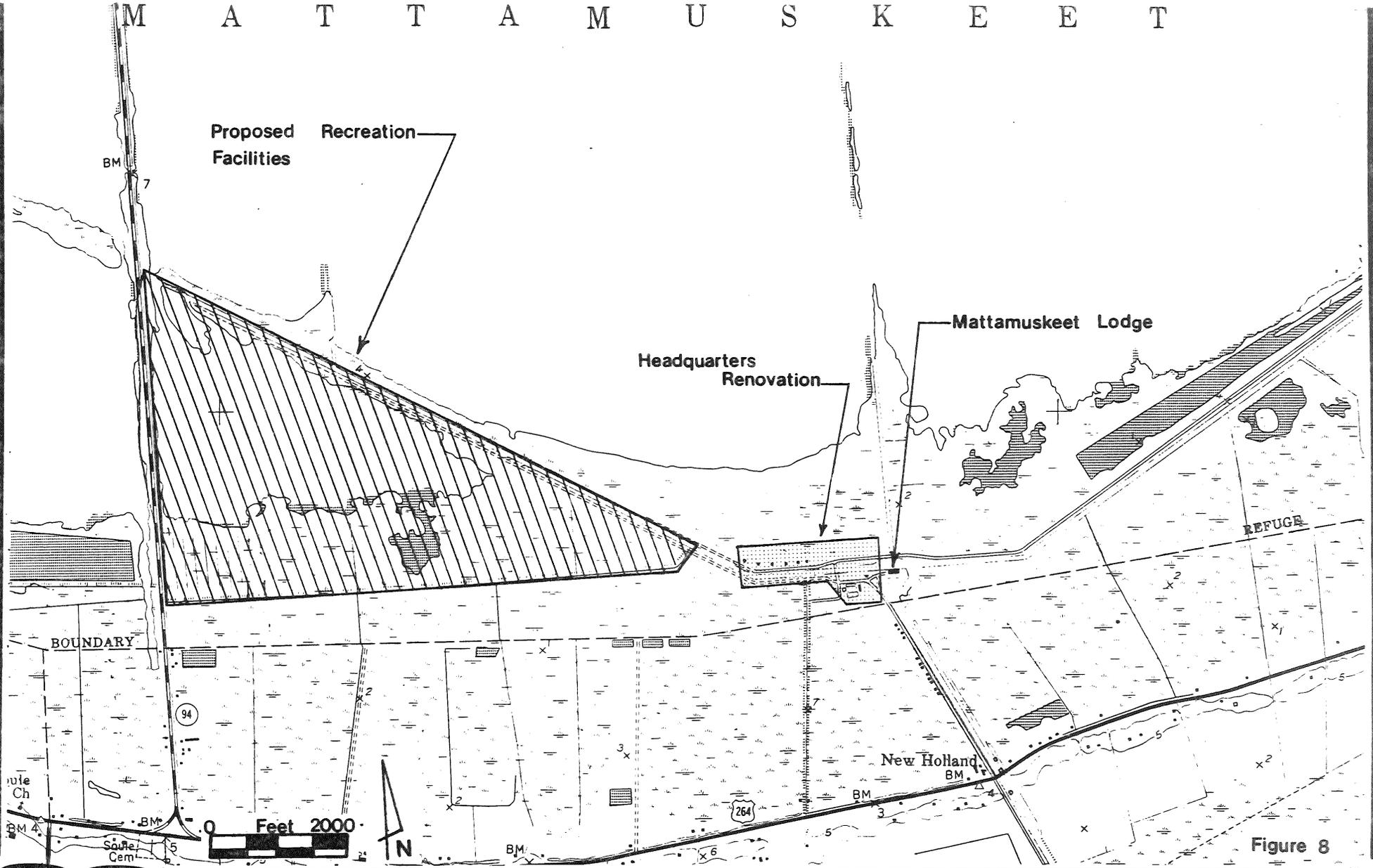
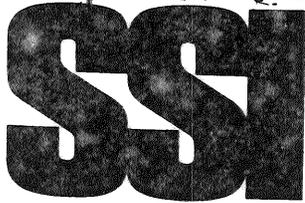


Figure 8



Archaeological Survey
Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
Our Project Number ES-960

New Holland North Carolina
7.5 Quad