1 NAME
HISTORIC
Lake Mattamuskeet Pump Station
AND/OR COMMON
Mattamuskeet Lodge

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
CITY, TOWN
Swanquarter
STATE
North Carolina

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
PUBLIC BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
STRUCTURE
PRIVATE

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

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER FWS

4 AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, (if applicable)
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
STREET & NUMBER
75 Spring St., S. W.
CITY, TOWN
Atlanta
STATE
Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, 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
LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Soil Systems, Inc. (Project No. ES-960)
CITY, TOWN
Marietta
STATE
Ga.
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.
## SIGNIFICANCE

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC</th>
<th>ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC</th>
<th>COMMUNITY PLANNING</th>
<th>LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</th>
<th>RELIGION</th>
<th>SCIENCE</th>
<th>SCULPTURE</th>
<th>SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</th>
<th>THEATER</th>
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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.
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.

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<th>10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA</th>
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<th>VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION</th>
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<td>Located at the headquarters site of Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Geographical location is 12 miles east of Swanquarter, N. C., 3/4 mile south of U. S. Highway 264.</td>
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME / TITLE</th>
<th>Steven W. Frick - Refuge Manager</th>
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<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>U. S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service, Mattamuskeet NWR</td>
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<td>STREET &amp; NUMBER</td>
<td>Rt. 1 Box N-2</td>
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<td>CITY OR TOWN</td>
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<td>STATE</td>
<td>N. C.</td>
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12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

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<th>STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION</th>
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<td>YES</td>
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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.

STATE-HISTORIC-PRESERVATION-OFFICER SIGNATURE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER