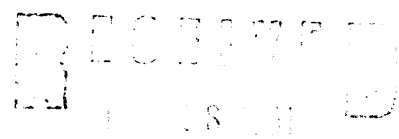


1842

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Guttenberg National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium Historic District
other names/site number Guttenberg National Fish Hatchery

2. Location

street & number 315 South River Park Drive not for publication
city, town Guttenberg vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Clayton code 043 zip code 52052

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 10/31/91
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

[Signature] 12/23/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/fish hatchery

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Same

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

roof asphalt shingleother wood shingle trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Section 7: Physical Description

The Guttenberg National Fish Hatchery and Aquarium Historic District consists of four brick veneer buildings situated on about 2.5 acres of land along the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown Guttenberg. From street level, the ground slopes away quickly to a seawall along the river. Two buildings, the fish hatchery/aquarium building and the superintendent's house, sit at street level. A garage and a pumphouse sit behind them at lower elevations. This site plan obscures street-level view of the latter two buildings. Landscaping, which consists of grassy lawn areas shaded by about 30 mature trees, contributes to a park-like setting, blending the complex into an adjacent city park along the riverfront to the south. Guttenberg Community School and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lock site for Lock and Dam No. 10 are located to the north. A fenced area at the north end of the hatchery grounds is currently being used by the school as a playground.

When the hatchery complex was developed between 1938 and 1941 construction also included five fish rearing ponds located on Twelve Mile Island located opposite Guttenberg in the Mississippi River (see Guttenberg National Fish Hatchery Rearing Ponds). These are no longer in use as rearing ponds; however, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources are currently in the process of altering the three large ponds for use as moist-soil waterfowl units.

Hatchery/Aquarium (GUT-01)

The hatchery and aquarium is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-front building with a full basement. It is rectangular in configuration, measuring 38'x39'. As are all four buildings, the hatchery is of wood-frame construction with brick veneer; the basement story and foundation are of concrete. It is built into the slope so that the full height is revealed at the east rear. At street level the west front facade resembles a cottage with paired windows spaced symmetrically on either side of a stoop entrance. The aquarium room, which is located on the first floor, holds eight viewing tanks (two large, six smaller) recessed flush with walls that are covered in creamy-green glazed tile. The fish hatching room is located in the basement and can be accessed either through an interior stairway or by double doors located centrally along the east rear facade. After the State Conservation Commission assumed management responsibility in 1974, a number of alterations were made. These included replacing the front and rear entrance

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doors, recovering the roof with asphalt shingles, installing vinyl windows and wall insulation in the office (1st floor, northwest corner), and installing a sliding patio door and a wooden balcony along the east rear, upper level, and adding an exterior wooden stairway to provide outside access to the upper level. These alterations do not substantially alter the historic fabric and appearance along the primary public view facades, which are the west front and the north side.

Superintendent's Residence (GUT-02)

The superintendent's residence is a one-and-a-half-story cottage of Craftsman-influenced design. It measures 28' wide by 42' deep with a 6' wooden porch addition on the east rear. It is a side-gable building with a large front gable dormer exposing the upper story. The lower story is covered with brick veneer, the upper gable ends with wood shingles. An exterior brick chimney is located right of center along the north side. The front entrance is centrally located on the west facade, flanked by sidelights and tripled wood-sash windows. Fenestration is asymmetrically arranged on the other three sides. There are several 3/1 wood-sash windows of various sizes which match original fenestration on the other three buildings, but most of the windows here have been replaced with 1/1 wood-sash vinyl windows. Aluminum awnings now shade the front entrance and front windows. These changes constitute the major alterations, which do not seriously compromise the historic fabric. A white picket fence paralleling the front sidewalk adds considerable charm to the setting.

Garage (GUT-03)

The garage is a two-story side-gable building measuring 48'x26', rectangular in configuration. Like the other buildings in this complex, it is of wood-frame construction with brick veneer on a concrete foundation. The building sits downslope on the site, and a wide concrete driveway provides vehicle access as well as parking space along the west front. Two wooden overhead garage doors (one double and one single) occupy the left two-thirds of the west front. Above them, wood-panel double doors fill a large, centrally located gable front dormer, providing access to a storage area for equipment and other oversize items on the upper level. A pass door on the right side of the west front provides access to a carpenter shop. Fenestration on the sides and east rear is arranged symmetrically. Most of the original 3/1 wood-sash

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windows are intact on this building. In fact the only alterations appear to be a replacement pass door and asphalt shingles on the roof.

Pump House (GUT-04)

The pumphouse is a small, two-story side-gable building measuring 15'x11'. It is located directly behind the aquarium and built into the slope so that from the front the structure appears to be only one-story high. The upper story is of brick veneer over wood-frame, and, like the hatchery/aquarium, the foundation and lower story are of board-formed concrete. The west front entry consists of five-panel wooden double doors, identical to those found in the upper story of the garage. A concrete walkway and steps on the south side descend to the east rear, where another set of double doors provides access to the basement level. These are replacement doors. Fenestration on the upper level consists of 6/6 wood-sash windows, probably the originals; on the lower level, there are aluminum frame replacement windows. The basement level houses a deep-well turbine electric pump and a small battery of fish-hatching jars. The first floor is used for storage.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Conservation _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1938-1942 _____

Significant Dates

1938-1940 _____

Significant Person

n/a _____

Architect/Builder

U.S. Bureau of Fisheries; WPA labor _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 2.5 acres

UTM References

A

1	5	6	5	5	8	5	0	4	7	3	8	4	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

1	5	6	5	5	9	0	0	4	7	3	8	2	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

1	5	6	5	5	7	8	0	4	7	3	8	3	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

legal boundaries

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Conard
organization PHR Associates date May 31, 1991
street & number 275 Crescent Park Drive telephone 712/657-3347
city or town Lake View state Iowa zip code 51450

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Section 8: Statement of Significance

Summary Statement

The Guttenberg Fish Hatchery is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with federal activities on behalf of fish conservation as discussed in Subsection II of Section E, "Wildlife Conservation." It was the last of five federally owned and operated facilities to be built in Iowa. The hatchery represents the zenith of the federal government's participation in fish conservation in the state through the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce, which was later consolidated with the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey under the Department of the Interior, and then reorganized as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The hatchery complex, including related rearing ponds on Twelve Mile Island, are the best remaining historic properties associated with federal government involvement in conservation matters in Iowa. The four buildings of the hatchery complex also meet eligibility under Criterion C as good examples of Depression Era institutional architecture. As such, the property contributes to the character of Guttenberg's downtown historic district.

Criterion A

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the only federal agency that has been involved in conservation in Iowa for any length of time. Since the state has no national parks, national forests, or public grazing lands, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management have had no sustained involvement in resource conservation in Iowa. The National Park Service came into the picture briefly during the late 1910s when a national park was proposed for the McGregor area, but it was not until Effigy Mounds National Monument was established in the 1940s that the agency had any real presence in the state. Likewise the U.S. Forest Service established an office in the state briefly during the 1930s to begin land acquisition for a national forest, which never materialized.

Conversely, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a long history of involvement in wildlife conservation in Iowa, particularly fisheries. In 1903, the Bureau of Fisheries began fish rescue operations along the Mississippi River. Three facilities eventually were constructed for this work. The first crew was stationed at Bellevue; a second crew was added in 1904, stationed at Marquette. There were no buildings at either of these locations for several years; rescued fish were simply transported to a hatchery established at Manchester, and from there distributed to

* Part of the Conservation Movement in Iowa MPS

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inland waters throughout the state. In 1910, the Bureau of Fisheries constructed a fisheries research station at Fairport, which became an important center for research on the life cycle of mussels as part of an effort to boost the ailing pearl button industry along the Mississippi River. In 1917, the agency began to expand fish rescue operations. Holding stations were constructed at both Bellevue and Marquette, and a rescue crew began operating out of Fairport. In 1921, another crew began working out of Guttenberg. Rescue work remained an important Bureau function until the late 1930s, when construction began on the locks and dams along the Mississippi. These structures, built to improve navigation, also eliminated many of the backwaters where rescue operations had taken place.

Guttenberg Fish Hatchery was built in 1938. Its construction coincides with the passing of fish rescue as a vital agency function. Official records provide little information concerning the planning and development of this facility. However, it stands to reason that if the Bureau intended to maintain a presence in the state, it would have had to expand fish propagation operations. The construction of a hatchery at Guttenberg and not some inland location seems indicative of the Bureau's long-standing interest in the Mississippi River as both a commercial and sport fishery. The Bureau of Fisheries played a major role in creating the Upper Mississippi Valley Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and it worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers in an effort to reduce the harmful effects of the lock-and-dam system on aquatic life in the river.

Actual construction of the fish hatchery and aquarium at Guttenberg was the result of a local-federal partnership. According to contemporary newspaper reports, citizens of Guttenberg initiated the proposal for a fish hatchery, and Congressman Fred Biermann of Decorah, representing Iowa's Fourth District, succeeded in having the project included in a relief appropriations bill passed by Congress in June of 1938. The appropriation included \$30,000 allocated by the Public Works Administration and \$40,000 by the Works Progress Administration. The Town of Guttenberg then donated approximately .7 acre of land to the federal government on December 5, 1938. This parcel was occupied by the old town hall, built in 1887, which was razed to make room for the hatchery buildings; new city facilities were built elsewhere. In 1940, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted the Bureau permission to use an additional 1.84 acres of land along the river adjacent to the town hall property. Under authority of the 1924 Upper Mississippi Valley Wildlife Refuge Act, the federal government purchased Twelve Mile Island, comprising approximately 1130 acres of land situated in the Mississippi River opposite Guttenberg.

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An unusually grand assemblage of state and federal officials turned out for the groundbreaking ceremony on July 29, 1938. Governor Nelson G. Kraschel and Senator Clyde L. Herring arrived aboard the Bureau of Fisheries cruiser to open the celebration. They were joined by U.S. Congressman Fred Biermann; Iowa WPA Director George J. Keller; State Relief Administrator N.S. Genung; Iowa State Planning Board Director Frank Hopkins; C.F. Culler, District Supervisor of the Bureau of Fisheries; Louise (Mrs. Addison) Parker of the Iowa State Conservation Commission; and Col. E.E. Gesler of the Rock Island District, Army Corps of Engineers. The gathering of so many politicians and agency heads indicates that either the hatchery project had symbolic importance as an intergovernmental undertaking or that the town staged a very successful public relations campaign. An editorial appearing in the local newspaper following the groundbreaking suggests the former. Editor Finley McGrew wrote in his column of August 4, 1938:

Huge fish hatcheries do not fall into towns' laps....They are built where they will do most good at least expense.

Captain C.F. Culler, district supervisor of the bureau of fisheries, first saw the efficacy of the location here several years ago. Ever since that time, he has worked tirelessly to get the necessary money.

Fortunately, he did not have to work alone. Frank T. Bell of Washington, D.C., commissioner of the bureau of fisheries, aided him at every turn. His work probably was the deciding factor in getting allocations from WPA and PWA for the hatchery.

We acknowledge no indebtedness to Mr. Bell or Captain Culler. They did not work to see the hatchery here because of Guttenberg but because of the location.

We do on the other hand acknowledged them as public servants of the highest type. They are men of vision and of integrity, of progress and of loyalty.

Construction began in late 1938, and the hatchery and aquarium building, the superintendent's residence, and the garage were completed in 1939. The pump house was added in 1940. WPA project records indicate that the fish rearing ponds were constructed on the Twelve Mile Island between 1939 and 1941.

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Eldon Saeugling was appointed the first manager of the fish hatchery, a post he held until the facility was transferred to the State of Iowa in 1974. From about 1938 to 1942, Saeugling supervised about fifteen young men employed under the National Youth Authority. This crew helped to survey the fish rearing ponds, maintain the ponds, seine fish, and decorate and maintain the aquarium tanks. After that, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employed a regular crew of fisheries technicians. During Saeugling's tenure as hatchery manager several species of fish were reared to fingerling stage in the ponds and then distributed to lakes, rivers, and ponds across Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The hatchery also supplied specimen fish to the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago; the National Aquarium in Washington, D.C.; aquaria in Dallas, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia; the LaCrosse Fish Control Laboratory; and several university research laboratories.

The Guttenberg Fish Hatchery is particularly important because it marks a transition phase in the history of wildlife conservation. The Bureau of Fisheries, which operated under the Department of Commerce, generally approached fisheries work as an exercise in conserving economic resources. Indeed, this was the *raison d'etre* of the Fairport Fisheries Biological Station, which was created principally to save the pearl button industry. But that focus began shifting in the 1920s with the creation of the Upper Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Refuge, and during the 1930s wildlife conservation refocused on resource management. Transfer of the Bureau from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Interior acknowledged this shift administratively.

The Guttenberg hatchery was to be the last federal facility built in Iowa. The Bureau of Fisheries, reorganized as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, maintained its operations at Fairport, Manchester, and Guttenberg until the 1970s. In 1971, the fish rearing ponds on Twelve Mile Island were closed and transferred to the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. In 1974 the onshore facilities at Guttenberg as well as the Manchester and Fairport fish hatcheries were transferred to state management under terms of an agreement with the Iowa State Conservation Commission. In 1986, the State of Iowa acquired title to these properties as part of a land exchange with the federal government. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources currently operates the Guttenberg facility.

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Criterion C

The four buildings of the Guttenberg Fish Hatchery reflect the design aesthetics which governed many building projects carried out with federal relief funding during the Great Depression. They are modest in size, conservative in ornamentation, and substantial in construction. All four buildings are of similar design, reflecting Craftsman influence with low-pitched gable roofs, roof dormers, multipane windows, and wood-shingle trim on the upper levels. They are also of like construction: wood-frame with brick veneer on the first level, board-formed concrete on the lower level. The similarity of design and construction identifies these buildings with a specific period of time and sets the hatchery complex apart from the older downtown historic district. Still, because these institutional buildings were designed with a cottage-like appearance, they are comfortable neighbors with the mixture of 19th century stone commercial and residential buildings located across the street, and they are major contributors to the park-like setting established along the riverfront.

Plans for the buildings could not be located. However, according to Cletus Saeugling, their design and construction was supervised by John Gardner of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, LaCrosse regional headquarters office. Materials were purchased locally, and a crew of twenty or so local carpenters, bricklayers, equipment operators, and laborers constructed the building. Anton Willie of Guttenberg supervised the bricklaying.

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Section 9: Bibliography

Ackerman, Gary. "The Guttenberg Fishery Management Station." *Iowa Conservationist*, December 1976, pp. 8-9,15. Mr. Ackerman is the DNR Fisheries Biologist at Guttenberg Fish Hatchery. He researched *The Guttenberg Press* for newspaper accounts covering construction of the hatchery, provided access to official records housed at the facility, and identified local residents who might have personal knowledge concerning the history of operations. He also arranged and conducted a field tour of the rearing ponds on April 22, 1991.

Annual Report, 1965. Guttenberg Fish Hatchery. Submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, August 23, 1965. Record Group 22 (Fish and Wildlife Service), National Archives, Great Lakes Region, Chicago.

Gnabasik, Virginia. Draft Report. Phase I Cultural Resources Investigation of a Proposed Fish Pond Adjacent to Existing Guttenberg Ponds Below Lock & Dam No. 10, Clayton County, Iowa. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, December 1990.

Guttenberg Fish Hatchery, building records, 1974-1982. Located at Guttenberg Fish Hatchery.

Guttenberg Press, The.

"To Build Federal Fish Hatchery on Island," July 16, 1938.

"Work on Fish Hatchery Here Will Start Soon," July 7, 1938.

"Will Start Hatchery Next Week," July 21, 1938.

"U.S., State Officials Coming Here Friday; Senator Herring to Turn First Spadeful of Earth for Hatchery; Kraschel, Biermann to Speak," July 28, 1938.

"Dismantling of Former Town Hall Started; First Step in Preparation for Fish Hatchery," August 4, 1938.

"As the Fish Hatchery Starts," August 4, 1938.

"1st Hatchery Bids Opened This Week," August 18, 1938.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Land acquisition file for Guttenberg Fish Hatchery and Aquarium.

Saeugling, Cletus. Telephone conversation with Rebecca Conard, May 31, 1991.

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Tangeman, Robyn (Guttenberg, Iowa). Personal conversation with Rebecca Conard, April 22, 1991.

Tujetsch, Gene (Guttenberg, Iowa). Telephone conversation with Rebecca Conard, May 31, 1991.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. *Bussey Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, Definite Project Report/Environmental Assessment (SP-5)*, Draft Report, August 1990.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. *Guttenberg Waterfowl Ponds Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, Definite Project Report/Environmental Documentation (SP-2)*, July 1988.

Works Progress Administration Records (RG 69). Records for Guttenberg Fish Hatchery Rearing Ponds, Project WP 5062. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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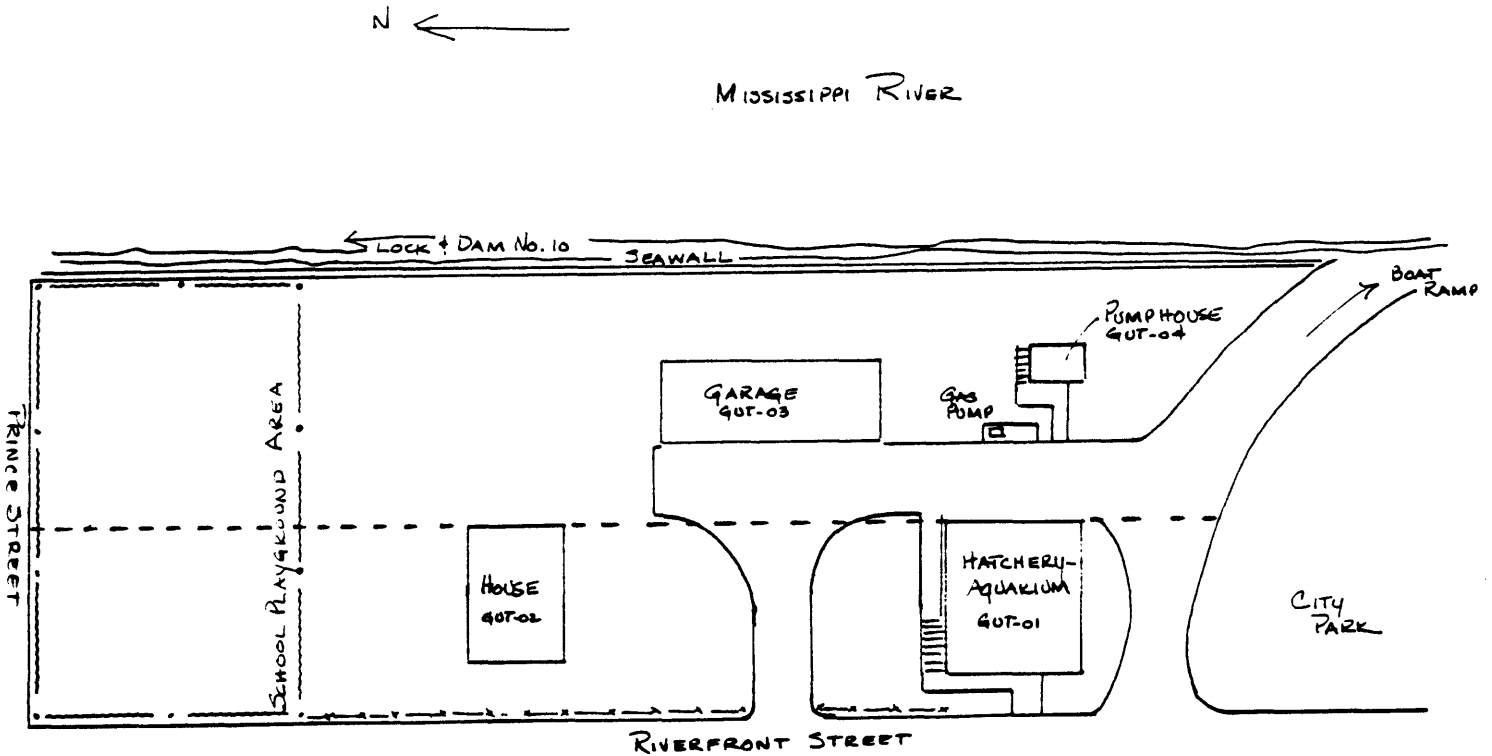
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Section 10: Geographical Data

Boundary Description: The Guttenberg Fish Hatchery and Aquarium Historic District covers approximately 2.5 acres bounded by Riverfront Street on the west, Prince Street on the north, a seawall along the Mississippi River on the east, and a concrete drive leading to a boat ramp on the south. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources owns a .72 acre portion fronting on Riverfront Street. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns a 1.84 acre portion fronting on the Mississippi River, property which currently is leased to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The approximate division between these two parcels is shown with a dashed line.

Boundary Justification: These are the geographical limits of the property.



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Vicinity Map
Source: Guttenberg Quadrangle, 7.5', 1962 (photoinspected 1978)

