NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

176

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Salisbury Fish Hatchery

other names/site number Salisbury Fish Culture Station

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route 53 N/A☒ not for publication

city or town Salisbury N/A☐ vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Addison code 001 zip code 05769

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (☑ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 2/2/94

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper — Date of Action 3/24/94

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☒ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	3	buildings
		sites
	2	structures
		objects
2	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Fish Culture Resources of Vermont

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / fishing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / fishing facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow / Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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DESCRIPTION

The Salisbury Fish Culture Station, located on Vermont Route 53, one-half mile east of U. S. Route 7 in the town of Salisbury, Vermont, is one of five state-owned fish culture stations managed by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The 68.13 acre facility mainly houses brood trout and some wall-eye. Eggs, fry and fingerlings are increasingly being sent to other hatcheries and rearing stations throughout Vermont, though limited production continues to be carried out at the Salisbury site. The facility is fed by several springs and an excellent supply of ground water; in other words, this is a "closed" water system, that is surface water does not co-mingle with spring and well water. The site was chosen in 1930 specifically because of the abundance and quality of the ground water. The natural springs on the property suggest possible aboriginal occupation, though archeological testing has not been done. Built in 1931, the Salisbury hatchery, as it is commonly called, is different from earlier hatcheries in that it is not located on a railroad line. Well into the 1920s, the state and federal fisheries shipped fish, eggs, fry and fingerlings by train, but with the advent of the automobile, trucks replaced the railroad and horse-drawn wagons for most regional shipping. The Salisbury Fish Culture Station contains the original 1931, Craftsman style hatchery building and superintendent's house, designed by Walker and Walker Architects of Montpelier, a 1954 feed storage house, a residential trailer, added c. 1977, twenty raceways dating from c. 1958, including three that were enclosed within an elongated shed in 1993, and one raceway from c. 1940 that has lost its integrity due to deterioration. When built, the water system was designed by H. M. McIntosh Engineers of Burlington. Springs that are now expanded, wooden in-ground pipes and iron pipes in the hatchery building are all that remain from the original 1931 system. The buildings, structures, landscape and waterways that make up the Salisbury Fish Culture Station are an excellent example of an automobile-era fish hatchery that has adapted to new technology in fish culture practice while maintaining its historic buildings. This district retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and represents an important chapter of Vermont's architectural and agricultural heritage.

Because the Salisbury Fish Culture Station is actively involved in fish propagation, a description of the utilitarian buildings necessarily involves a brief description of fish culture. The Salisbury facility houses mostly brood brook, lake, rainbow, steelhead and brown trout, and several walleye, in a series of concrete raceways built c. 1958 (#4 & #5). During spawning season, eggs and milt are expressed from the brood stock, and the fertilized eggs are placed in incubation trays, which are then transferred to the hatchery building (#1). The hatchery, a prominent, 1931, Craftsman style building designed by Walker and Walker Architects of Montpelier with engineering plans by H. M. McIntosh Engineers of Burlington, is the visual and operational center of the facility. Here the eggs are incubated, hatched, and the subsequent fry are raised to a fingerling stage in twelve concrete troughs. The fingerlings are then transported to production raceways (#6) or rearing pools here and throughout Vermont, where they are either cultivated until released each spring to area streams and lakes, or are raised to replace aging brood stock. Critical to the operation is a continuous supply of fresh water pumped from springs and an in-ground aquifer. Salisbury has a "closed" water system, that is well and spring water are not mixed with surface water. Interruption of the water supply for even a matter of minutes would devastate all aspects of the operation, so not only is there a set of alarms and a backup electrical generator to run the pumps in case of a power outage, but also a site manager lives at the facility to provide around-the-clock monitoring. The superintendent's house (#2), also designed by Walker and Walker Architects, was built at the same time as the hatchery building and is attached to it. In the 1930s and 1940s, seasonal assistants lived at the station in a bunk-room on the second story of the hatchery building. Now the state provides housing for an assistant in a house trailer (#7) at the eastern boundary of the property. Adjacent to the west of the hatchery building is a feed storage building (#3), built in 1953-54. This vernacular Colonial Revival style structure replaced an ice house that was located here, and houses a cold storage room for storing meat for fish food. Following the introduction of dry pellet food in 1957, the building was mainly used to store dry food. The newest addition to the facility is an elongated vernacular building, built in the summer of 1993 to enclose the northern series of raceways (#5). Here brood stock are kept in a photo-controlled environment to induce early spawning. This unobtrusive building is set away from the historic hatchery

building and superintendent's house, and does not detract from the historic setting of the district.

1. Hatchery Building, 1931

The hatchery building is 1-1/2 stories, 28' wide by 132' long, facing north-northeast and Vermont Route 53. The north end of the building houses offices at ground level in the first 18' of the length. Stretching 114' behind, the elongated hatchery is typical in that it is slightly below grade, designed to take advantage of gravity for water flowage. The exterior of the hatchery building is generally unchanged from when it was built in 1931. The 3 x 11 bay building sits on a concrete foundation, with clapboard siding, cornerboard trim, a watertable, and a plain frieze. The facades are regularly punctuated with mostly paired 6/1 sash with 2/2 wooden storm windows. According to Tom Dumont, the site manager, the glass was manufactured in Salisbury.* The principal entrance, a multi-paned, half-glass paneled door is at the center bay of the gable-front facade. An identical door is at the left-hand bay at the rear of the hatchery building. A similar door at the west eaves side, second bay from the left, is crowned with a gable hood supported by plain brackets, and may have been added c. 1950. The gable roof over the office section is approximately 4' higher than the gable roof over the hatchery section, exposing a "Vermont" or raking window under at the rear of the office section. Both gable roofs are sheathed with asphalt shingles laid in a basket-weave pattern. The cornice molding is finely detailed with a cyma recta over cavetto profile terminating in a plain fascia board supported by exposed rafter tails. A single metal ventilator is at the roof ridge, centered above the hatchery proper. A corbeled brick chimney with concrete cap pierces the west slope of the office section.

In 1931 fish culture primarily meant fish propagation. By the 1940s the practice was more complex and included the analysis and treatment of fish disease. This broadened interest is reflected in changes to the hatchery building. When built, the hatchery had eighty cypress rearing troughs. As prevailing fish culture scholarship suggested that wood could harbor harmful microorganisms, the cypress troughs were replaced in the 1960s with 4' x 2 1/2' x 20' concrete troughs that remain today. Modern technology recommends the use of plastic rather than concrete

* This can not currently be confirmed. The last known glass to be made was in 1839, the year the Lake Dunmore Glass Company closed its doors.

because plastic is more easily maintained and less abrasive to young fish. In response, several plastic tubs now line the concrete troughs, a precursor to changes that are anticipated at the site. As it appears now, the hatchery proper interior has a concrete floor with concrete half walls, and is equipped with eight double rows of concrete rearing troughs. During incubation, hatching trays are at the east end of the troughs, each supplied with a fresh flow of spring water delivered through a vertical cadence of PVC pipes. Resultant fry are kept in the troughs until they reach a fingerling stage and are transported to production raceways and ponds here and throughout the state.

The front (north) 18' office section of the hatchery building is at grade, up five steps from the hatchery proper. Besides the main office, this area has a workroom, closets and lavatory. On the second story is a 14' x 23' room, once used as a bunk-room for seasonal help, now used for storage.

The Craftsman style architectural detail and finely proportioned facades express a superior quality of design and workmanship as outlined in the architects' specifications. Walker wrote that the building should be assembled with the finest grade of materials with all labor "performed in a thorough, first-class workmanlike manner." The blueprints are dated September 1931, but the specifications require that "the hatchery proper with water supply, drainage etc [sic] shall be turned over to the Fish & Game Department on or before October 25, 1931, to receive this season's fry," an ambitious schedule that was apparently met, according to the department's biennial report!

2. Superintendent's House, 1931

Because of the ambitious construction schedule, the superintendent's house was probably built after the hatchery building, probably in October 1931. The 1-1/2 story, 3 x 2 bay, eaves-front superintendent's house is attached to the northeast corner of the hatchery building forming an "L"-shaped complex. The residence repeats the Craftsman style architectural detail found on the hatchery building. In contrast to the hatchery, which is below grade and simply designed expressing a utilitarian function, the residence is more formal, elevated on higher ground with a prominent, Colonial Revival style entry porch dominating

the facade. The porch, at the left bay of the facade, balances the hatchery building set back to the right. The porch is formed by a broad roof overhang supported by square Tuscan posts on a ship-lap half-wall with screened panels above and a lattice skirt below. Wooden stairs lead to a replacement door in a center bay entrance that is set off by a gable peak. Secondary entrances are at the rear of the house within a three-quarter-width, bungaloid porch. One entrance leads to the house proper, the other to the hatchery building. The house is elevated on a concrete foundation and built into the bank, so that the west side, toward the hatchery building, is exposed with a two-bay garage opening to the basement level. Overhead sectional garage doors replace original paneled, double-leaf doors. The house has clapboard siding, cornerboard trim, a watertable, and a plain frieze. Cornice molding is finely detailed with a cyma recta over cavetto profile, supported by exposed rafter tails. The moderately sloped gable roof has a two-bay shed dormer at the rear and is covered with asphalt shingles laid in a basket-weave pattern.

The interior of the house is unchanged with two bedrooms, a dining room, living room and kitchen on the first story and two additional bedrooms upstairs. Interior detail includes hard pine, 4-1/2" casing with a molded cap around all doors and windows.

3. Feed Storage Building, 1953-54

Built in 1954-54, the feed storage building is non-contributing due to age.

Facing the hatchery building (east), this vernacular 32' x 21', 1-story feed storage building has a simple rectangular form with limited fenestration suggesting its utilitarian function. Set on a concrete foundation, the building has clapboard siding with flared, fascia-board trim at the raking eaves. The entrance is at the east, eaves-front facade, right of center, protected by an elongated, gable-roofed portico with fascia-board trim identical to the building proper. To the right of the entrance is a single 1/1 sash. The rear (west) elevation is articulated by a 1/1 sash at the left bay flanked right by a brick wall chimney. The north gable-end (facing Route 53) is two bays wide with paired 1/1 sash. A sign above the window identifies the site as the "SALISBURY FISH HATCHERY - VT FISH AND GAME SERVICE."

The interior of the feed storage building contains a grinding room where meat organs were ground and mixed with grains for fish food, and a large walk-in freezer, though the compressor is now removed. Today fish food is generally in the form of dry pellet, though fresh ground meat with grain is still prepared for wall-eye fry.

Originally there was a 12' x 18' ice house located at this site. An ice house was a necessary resource at fish culture stations for storing meat, and the ice was used in shipping fry in fish cans over long distances. Ice kept the water at optimal temperature and provided necessary oxygen for the fry. While this building is non-contributing due to age, it remains an important resource representing one of the last feed storage buildings dating from an era when fresh meat was stored and ground for fish food.

4. West Series of Raceways, c. 1958

Built c. 1958, the west series of raceways are non-contributing due to age.

The west series of concrete raceways replace earlier raceways that were just to the west of the present series directly behind (south of) the hatchery building,. The raceways are paired, separated by an approximately 8" concrete wall. Each raceway is approximately 3' to 3-1/2' deep x 5' wide. There are three raceways to a length, each approximately 85' long, so that the six raceway series is approximately 255' long x 12' wide. This series holds brood stock, and is fed with a fresh flow of spring water and well water beginning at a "Y"-shaped concrete header at the north end, flowing southerly through the three raceways to terminate in an approximately 100' long x 30' wide settling pond.

Because the raceways are open, fish are exposed to predators such as heron and otters. To reduce damage the raceways are sometimes covered with nylon netting surrounded by an electric fence.

5. North Series of Raceways, and Ponds, c. 1958/1993

The north series of raceways, built in 1958 with three concrete raceways covered in 1993, are non-contributing due to age.

A series of three concrete raceways north of Route 53 hold brood stock. Built c. 1958, they replace similar ponds at this site. The raceways begin at an approximately 30' x 75' half-moon-shaped collection basin, which is occasionally used for production, and stretch southward approximately 165', with each raceway approximately 5' wide x 55' long x 4' deep. The raceways were enclosed in 1993 with a vernacular, T-111-sided, gable-roofed shed, called the "lighthouse." The elongated shed has no windows and provides a photo-controlled environment with artificial lighting. By varying the length of "daylight" the brood fish sense that the days are getting shorter, allowing for an earlier spawn and longer production time, hence larger stock. Running parallel directly east of the concrete series is an earthen raceway, reformed c. 1958, but no longer used for production and no longer flooded, though the concrete headers are in place. To the west of the lighthouse is a small quarantine pond, also no longer used.

Visitors to the fish culture station before 1970 will remember the north series of raceways as the popular "freak" raceways where unusual or abnormal fish were kept.

6. South Series of Raceways, c. 1939, 1969

Parallel to Route 53, an elongated c. 1939 concrete raceway is designated non-contributing, due to its deteriorated condition. Built in 1969, the series of ten raceways perpendicular to the historic raceway are non-contributing due to age.

The newest series of ten concrete raceways, sometimes called the "upper" raceways, are located southeast of the hatchery building on a higher grade. They are approximately 105' long x 6' wide, paired, with a 7-1/2' walkway between, and are oriented parallel to the hatchery building. Perpendicular and north of the series is a c. 1939, concrete raceway that stretches parallel to Rt. 53.

While the c. 1939 raceway is non-contributing due to its poor condition, it remains an important resource, because this raceway may be all that remains of the W.P.A. effort at the Salisbury Fish Culture Station.

7. Residential Trailer, c. 1977

The residential trailer, added to the site c. 1977, is non-contributing due to age.

This aluminum-sided residential trailer is approximately 62' x 12', and was added to the site to provide housing for an assistant about 1977.

Salisbury Fish Hatchery
Name of Property

Addison, Vermont
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] **B** removed from its original location.
- [ ] **C** a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] **D** a cemetery.
- [ ] **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] **F** a commemorative property.
- [ ] **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1930 - 1943

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Walker and Walker Architects

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

Salisbury Fish Hatchery
Name of Property

Addison, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 68.13 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) Please see continuation sheet.

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	652410	4865160
2	18	652540	4865210
3	18	652530	4865220
4	18	653010	4865360

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Cousins

organization Ann Cousins Associates date September 1, 1993

street & number R.R. #1, Box 437-K telephone (802)-434-5193

city or town Richmond state VT zip code 05477

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Vt. Agency of Natural Resources, Attn. Thomas Wiggins

street & number 103 S. Main St., 10 South telephone (802)-224-7331

city or town Waterbury state VT zip code 05676

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Salisbury Fish Culture Station is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its contribution to the broad patterns of Vermont agricultural history within the historic context, "Fish Culture in Vermont, 1850 - 1943." Built in 1931, the Salisbury Fish Culture Station was the fourth state hatchery built in Vermont and represents an automobile-era fish culture station. Before 1930, the Fish and Game Service shipped all fish, fry, fingerlings and eggs by rail. In 1931 the department purchased a fleet of trucks, ending dependency on rail lines. The Salisbury station represents the first time that proximity to a railroad line was not a factor in choosing the location for a hatchery. Rather, this site was chosen for the quality and abundance of its ground water, rendering it one of the finest fish culture stations yet. The Salisbury Fish Culture station also qualifies for statewide significance under National Register Criterion C for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a fish culture station. The facility centers around a white clapboard hatchery building and superintendent's house designed by Walker and Walker Architects of Montpelier. Serving as an excellent example of its property type, the hatchery building is a one-story, elongated building, set below grade, with a regular cadence of paired windows accentuating the 132' length. In comparison to other Vermont hatcheries, the Salisbury station is distinguished by a higher level of architectural detail, manifest in delicately molded cornice trim supported by exposed rafter tails, showing a Craftsman style influence. The interior of the hatchery building retains the characteristic expansive trough room marked by rows of paired concrete rearing troughs. The attached manager's house carries the same architectural detail as the hatchery building, though in contrast, the house is elevated on higher ground and is positioned forward, suggesting a superior function. The facade of the house is characterized by a bungaloid, Colonial Revival style semi-enclosed porch. Series of raceways, a service building and a residential trailer for an attendant complete the fish culture station. While most of the supporting structures are non-contributing due to age or alteration, they are important resources for understanding the evolution of fish culture technology and do not have a negative impact upon the property's integrity of workmanship, setting, location, feeling, and

association. The Salisbury Fish Culture Station is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing, "Fish Culture Resources of Vermont," and meets the registration requirements for the property type fish culture station.

In 1924, the Vermont Fish and Game Department reported that Vermont streams and ponds were in danger of being fished out unless heavy restocking with hatchery-reared fry and fingerlings could reverse the trend. The concern repeated a warning first voiced by George Perkins Marsh in his 1856 report to the state legislature on the causes of and remedies for the decline of native fish population. As before, pollution, erosion, construction of dams, and indiscriminate fishing practices were cited as contributing to the decline observed at state fisheries. While plans were being developed to expand production capabilities at the existing hatcheries, the flood of 1927 severely damaged all of the state-owned sites, setting back expansion plans as the Fish and Game Department worked to replace lost stock.

A general expansion of fish raising facilities was underway statewide by 1930. The program addressed declining fish population, which by then was understood to be caused by environmental factors compounded by increasing pressure associated with the automobile and tourism. The popularity of sport fishing led to greater numbers of fishermen and women, who, because of the automobile, were able to fish at remote ponds and streams. To keep up with demand, in 1930, the state purchased land in Salisbury for a new fish culture station. The Salisbury Fish Culture Station, or hatchery, as it was commonly known, was designed by Walker and Walker Architects of Montpelier and built in 1931. It was the fourth state-owned hatchery to be permanently established. The Roxbury hatchery had opened in 1891, followed by hatcheries at Bennington and Canaan in 1916. By the mid-1930s, there were (or had been) field stations at Arlington, Essex Junction, Burlington, Vernon, Newport and Morgan, as well as a number of rearing pools throughout the state.

The Salisbury site was chosen primarily for the quality and abundance of its ground water, with less concern for transportation or cost (two criteria that had dictated the siting of earlier hatcheries). The single focus of that choice separates the Salisbury hatchery from its predecessors. By 1930, the

automobile had liberated fish culture stations from mandatory siting next to railroad lines, and by then, state-owned fish culture stations were supported by the 1908 introduction of a $.50 fishing license, making the fisheries program self-sustaining.

While transportation and cost were not critical to the site selection, water quality was essential. From the beginning the water supply at the Salisbury Fish Culture Station was praised. In a report by Commissioner James Brown for the biennial period ending June 30, 1932, he commented: "The results from this new station have exceeded our expectations. With an apparently unlimited supply of water at an even temperature of 46 degrees the year round, this station is producing the finest fish ever raised in Vermont." The Salisbury water system was designed in 1931 by civil engineer, H. M. McIntosh of Burlington. It is a closed system; that is, the ponds, raceways and hatch house are supplied with spring and well water without adding surface water.

It is interesting to note that the architects' specifications for the Salisbury Fish Culture Station require that the hatchery building be completed by October, 1931, in time to accept the season's fry--an impressive accomplishment considering that the architectural drawings were dated September, 1931! Walker and Walker Architects are commonly known for designing a number of public buildings throughout Vermont in the early 1900s. The 1912 Encyclopedia of Vermont Biography, compiled by Prentiss C. Dodge, states that Frank Arden Walker was an architect and civil engineer. Born in Williamstown, Vermont, in 1864, and educated at the Vermont Academy and Barre Academy, Walker designed a number of residences in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Among his public buildings are the soldiers' memorial buildings at Stowe and Hardwick, Ludlow town hall, two buildings at Norwich University, schools in Barton and Barre, the Masonic Temple in St. Johnsbury, and the criminal ward for the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury. The specifications and blueprints for the Salisbury Fish Culture Station are kept at the hatchery and provide a valuable resource for historians, as there are few early photographs.

The hatchery building and superintendent's residence were built of the finest materials with stylistic detail representing superior design and craftsmanship. The concern with quality and detail can only be appreciated when viewed in an historic context. The

Salisbury Fish Culture Station was established in the fall of 1931, two years after Black Tuesday. As Walker was signing and dating his blueprints in September, 1931, banks were closing across the country. The C.C.C. and W.P.A. would not be established until 1933 and 1935, respectively. While the economy was grinding to a stop, state cutbacks were apparently not applied to the Vermont Department of Fish and Game's expansion program. Like the federal fisheries, the state hatcheries were shifting emphasis from sport and recreation fishing to increased food production. In 1931 the department planted 618,858 trout, salmon and bass. In 1932, a year after the Salisbury hatchery was established, the department nearly doubled its output to 1,471,222 trout salmon and bass. In 1933, the numbers rose to 3,002,911. In 1934, 30,000,215 wall-eyed pike, yellow perch and pickerel fry were planted in addition to 3,108,267 trout, salmon and bass.

The 1934-35 biennial report states that the Salisbury hatchery was the most modern of the state hatcheries. While the building and equipment remained in good condition, additional rearing facilities were needed. With inadequate rearing pools, fry and fingerlings were distributed to other rearing ponds, some privately owned or managed by fishing clubs, or they were distributed directly to lakes and streams. In 1938 the W.P.A. built seven new pools with concrete head tanks and concrete headers at Salisbury. Again in 1939 a series of six new pools and a pond were built, utilizing a gravity flow of water from the hatchery and spring water from the pools above. At the same time a series of four earthen raceways were built above the hatchery, using spring water that had previously been wasted. These projects greatly increased the rearing capabilities at Salisbury. On the interior the W.P.A. placed a new steel girder in the trough room of the hatchery building to support the ceiling, and strengthened the roof with braces.

In the 1940s, state-wide expansion programs were curtailed by the war due to unavailability of materials and gasoline and a shortage of workers. No major projects were carried out at the Salisbury Fish Culture Station until 1953-54, when a new feed storage building was built to replace a 12' by 18' ice house. The vernacular service building houses a grinding room and a large cold storage room, though compressors are now removed. Before the introduction of dry pellet food, fish food was prepared by grinding meat organs and mixing in grains. Pellet food was first

introduced in Vermont in 1957 on an experimental basis. The dry food was found to be more nutritious, and by adding vitamins and antibiotics, fish were healthier and grew larger. The introduction of pellet food revolutionized daily operations at the fish culture stations. On occasion, attendants still prepare customized ground fish food with fresh meat organs and grains.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Salisbury Fish Culture Station underwent a series of repairs and renovations. A new florescent lighting system was installed in the trough room in 1954, and the original cypress rearing troughs were replaced by pairs of concrete 4' x 2-1/2' x 40' troughs. Beginning in 1959 and continuing into the 1960s, concrete raceways were poured to replace the W.P.A. earthen raceways and ponds. The only structure that remains from the W.P.A. era is a deteriorated concrete raceway that runs parallel to Route 53, east of the hatchery building. The changes to the Salisbury Fish Culture Station were the direct result of a broader approach to fish culture practice concerned with the prevention and treatment of fish disease. In the hatchery setting, concrete was believed to provide a more healthful environment than earthen ponds and wooden troughs, which were found to harbor disease-causing microorganisms. There was also a concern about the water quality downstream from fish culture facilities. At Salisbury, a settling pond was built at the southern terminus. As improvements increased productivity, there was a greater demand for water. Well capacity was expanded. With the increased quantity and pressure of water, pumps quickly became clogged with sediment. As a result, pumps are now on a three-year cyclical maintenance plan to guarantee adequate, uninterrupted water volume. To insure the finest quality of water, aerators and a nitrogen removal system were installed in the hatchery building.

Today, the exterior of the hatchery building and superintendent's house remain remarkably unchanged from when they were built. Inside space remains intact. The only change that is anticipated at the hatchery building is to line or replace the c. 1960 concrete troughs with less abrasive plastic tubs. Outside, the department plans to cover the west series of raceways to protect fish from harmful sunshine and predation. The raceways are now covered with netting and surrounded by an electric fence. Historically, raceways are known to have been covered (at the

Bennington Fish Culture Station), and the plan to cover the raceways need not impact the historic character of the site.

The north series of raceways were enclosed the summer of 1993 with a vernacular, T-111 sided building. Known as the "lighthouse," the enclosed raceway houses brood trout in a photo-controlled environment. By adjusting the length of "daylight", fish are encouraged to spawn up to two months earlier, allowing for a longer rearing period. The resultant larger and older offspring should translate into reduced die-off rates when the fish are stocked in the spring. The enclosed raceways are north of Route 53, away from the historic hatchery building and superintendent's house, and are less intrusive.

The major changes to the fish culture station have been to the water system. From the beginning the Salisbury Fish Culture Station was considered superior because of the quality and quantity of its ground water. With increasing demands, that supply is taxed. As the state continues to develop the site to primarily house brood brook, lake, rainbow, steelhead and brown trout, the current system of wells and springs will need to be expanded. These changes will not effect the historic character of the site.

The 1931 Salisbury Fish Culture Station is an important resource, contributing to the understanding of Vermont's agricultural heritage within the context of "Fish Culture in Vermont, 1850 - 1943." The period of historic significance is 1930 - 1943. The primary structures, the 1931 hatchery building and supervisor's house, surrounded by series of raceways, situated in the rural, park-like environment, provide an excellent example of an automobile-era fish culture station. Modern additions to the fish culture station, from the 1953-54 feed storage building to the 1993 "lighthouse", do not deter from the historic character of the site. Rather, these alterations and addition allow the historic hachery to continue to operate, using modern fish culture practice.

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UTM References:

1) 18/652410/4865160
2) 18/652540/4865210
3) 18/652530/4865220
4) 18/653010/4865360
5) 18/653020/4865450
6) 18/653240/4865510
7) 18/653380/4865070
8) 18/652960/4864950
9) 18/652770/4865020
10) 18/652700/4864970
11) 18/652410/4865040

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Salisbury Fish Culture Sation is indicated as Parcel #10 on Map #5 of the Salisbury Tax Maps.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the entire 68.13 acre parcel, with all buildings, structures, water rights and improvements, historically associated with the site. The acreage includes springs and an underground aquafer. Warranty deeds are found in the Salisbury Land Records, Book 17, Page 369-372.

Salisbury Fish Hatchery

Addison County, Vermont