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CONDITION

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XEXCELLENT
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Village of Fisher was constructed at the turn of the century by the Louisiana Long Leaf Lumber Company, as a company town. There are at present 81 buildings, which, though relatively widely spaced, do form a distinct group. The boundaries of the district were drawn to encompass these buildings. The village is almost completely surrounded by pine forest where lumbering operations are continuing. The only exception to this is a new lumber mill which is built west of the district behind the commissary. But the land falls away sharply behind the commissary, and the new mill is consequently on lower ground than the district. As a result, intrusive though it is, the new mill does not have a strong visual presence, even in the western part of the village. There are also a pair of mobile homes on the edge of the village which have been excluded from the district.

One of the most unusual aspects of the district is that most of the streets have never been paved. As a result, the experience of walking down the street in Fisher today is approximately the same as it would have been in 1905. Although Main Street was recently asphalted over, it retains the appearance of a dirt road because so much clay gets deposited on it from the other streets by automobile tires. This turn-of-the-century character is particularly strong in the area of the southern part of "4L" Drive. This area contains the town center, which includes the company office, the post office, the commissary, and the opera house. It also contains five two-story, vaguely Queen Anne residences which housed the upper echelon employees of the company. But more than just the buildings and the dirt road, the original wooden fences still traverse the area, thus conveying an almost perfect picture of an early 20th century townscape.

Smaller, one-story, four, six, or eight room houses characterize the other parts of the district (working class areas). There are few fences in these humbler areas and little landscaping. Generally lawns come right to the edge of the dirt roads, with houses 30 to 60 feet apart.

Intrusions

The intrusions are confined to the area of smaller houses east of the railroad and they consist of mobile homes.

But these are only eight in number.

Lingar Fill.

There are no new buildings.

processing the second of the s

The Buildings

In general the buildings are simple, frame, clapboard structures without much ornamentation. Plate glass windows have simple framing boards. The larger workers houses and the upper echelon houses have wooden friezes and gable end returns. Some of the special public buildings have a greater degree of ornamentation, but even this is comparatively low key when compared with many builder-vernacular structures of the period.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION `	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X ₁₉₀₀₋	COMMUNICATIONS	XINDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

ca. 1899-1914

15:01 1:

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Builder: Louisiana Long Leaf

Lumber Company

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Village of Fisher is of significance in the areas of "architecture" and "industry." Although the village possesses no buildings of great architectural distinction, it is probably the best preserved turn-of-the-century townscape in the entire state. In addition, it has industrial significance as an excellent example of a sawmill town from about 1900. Unlike many sawmill towns, Fisher was not a shanty town but was built to be something more substantial. In its early years, it was recognized as an outstanding sawmill town, and since it has survived with few changes down to the present day, Fisher is now, among Louisiana sawmill towns, in a class by itself.

Although there are no buildings in the Village of Fisher which possess major architectural distinction, the village is probably the best preserved turn-of-the-century townscape in Louisiana, with 90 percent of its original buildings, most of its original dirt streets, and many of its original wooden fences. Indeed parts of the district present an almost photographic impression of town life at the turn of the century. For example the old commissary is completely intact right down to the plate glass panel in the original commercial shop-front windows. The opera house, the railroad station, the company office, and many of the other buildings are nearly as well preserved. It is the largely unpaved streets and the woodland setting which give Fisher what is probably the closest approximation of the feeling of an early 20th century townscape in the state.

Fisher is of industrial significance as an excellently-preserved example of a sawmill town from around 1900. According to local historian Viola Carruth, Fisher is "the last of the old sawmill towns built around the turn of the century when virgin pine was being harvested in Western Louisiana" (See Viola Carruth, "Would Fisher Die?" Forests and People (April 1974), p. 31). Fisher's industrial significance is closely associated with the Louisiana Long Leaf Lumber Company, which built the town during 1899-1901 and named it after Oliver Williams Fisher, the company's president. The "4-L Company," which owned Fisher until 1966, was an important factor in the historical development of Sabine Parish. As historian John G. Belisle noted in 1912. "Fisher furnished Sabine parish with the first large sawmill plant and has perhaps done more for the prosperity of the people than any other institution" (John G. Belisle, History of Sabine Parish (1912), p. 262). Carruth adds that Fisher "contributed immeasurably to the economy" of the area. "It was considered one of the most important sawmill towns on the Kansas City Southern Railway" (Carruth, p. 33).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Belisle, John G., History of Sabine Parish (1912).

Carruth, Viola, "Would Fisher Die?" Forests and People (April 1974): 31-35.

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Mayor Roscoe Car ORGANIZATION Fisher Heritage STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 207	ruth and Mr. Ralph l	(March 1979 TELEPHONE 318) 256-2913
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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1

PROPERTY OWNERS

S. E. Anderson P. O. Box 176 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Myrtle Beardilli P. O. Box 204 Fisher, LA 71426

R. C. Bearden P. O. Box 178 Fisher, LA 71426

Norman A. Belisle P. O. Box 191 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Frances Bethel P. O. Box 215 Many, LA 71449

James R. Brooks P. O. Box 215 Fisher, LA 71426

Cledith and Patsy Brown P. O. Box 194 Fisher, LA 71426

Sam E. Burleson P. O. Box 147 Fisher, LA 71426

Rev. E. C. Browning P. O. Box 15 Fisher, LA 71426 Mrs. Charlene B. Burnett P. O. Box 135 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Annie Barron Carnline P. O. Box 194 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Kathy Carroll P. O. Box 113 Fisher, LA 71426

Roscoe C. Carruth P. O. Box 208 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Ellenora Chambers P. O. Box 123 Fisher, LA 71426

Karl Chaney P. O. Box 205 Fisher, LA 71426

Gordon O. Cook P. O. Box 4 Fisher, LA 71426

J. G. Davis P. O. Box 227 Fisher, LA 71426

Jessie C. Downs
P. O. Box 206
Fisher, LA 71426

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2

Property Owners (continued).

Richard W. Elliott P. O. Box 14 Fisher, LA 71426

E. Troy Evans
P. O. Box 197
Fisher, LA 71426

Ethel M. Ezernack (deceased) Zwolle, LA

Ruby Lee Gentry P. O. Box 134 Fisher, LA 71426

M. C. Gains P. O. Box 226 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. E. W. Hippler c/o T. F. Hippler Fisher, LA 71426

T. F. Hippler Fisher, LA 71426

G. W. House 215 Daniel Many, LA 71449

Mrs. Carol Johnson P. O. Box 26 Fisher, LA 71426 I. C. Knippers
P. O. Box 167
Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. D. Leggett P. O. Box 115 Fisher, LA 71426

Allen Lewing, Jr. Rt. 1 Florien, LA 71429

Bobbie D. Lockwood Fisher, LA 71426

L. H. Lockwood P. O. Box 224 Fisher, LA 71426

George Harmon Manasca P. O. Box 707 Many, LA 71449

Louis C. Mattler P. O. Box 171 Fisher, LA 71426

Garland Mitchell P. O. Box 183 Fisher, LA 71426

W. Gene Mitchell Fisher, LA 71426

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Property Owners (continued).

Norman S. Montana P. O. Box 124 Fisher, LA 71426

Roy McCauslin Fisher, LA 71426

Bobby J. McCormic Rt. 2 Box 316 Many, LA 71449

Mrs. Edward McDaniel P. O. Box 192 Fisher, LA 71426

S. Q. Nichols Fisher, LA 71426

G. C. Norsworthy P. O. Box 222 Fisher, LA 71426

W. E. O'Bannon P. O. Box 152 Fisher, LA 71426

Gary W. Pennington P. O. Box 196 Fisher, LA 71426

William A. Pharr Fisher, LA 71426 James C. Phelps P. O. Box 162 Fisher, LA 71426

Robert H. Proce11 P. O. Box 122 Fisher, LA 71426

F. W. Reeves P. O. Box 662 Many, LA 71449

Ralph Russell P. O. Box 3 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Eulalie Salter P. O. Box 117 Fisher, LA 71426

Glen Salter P. O. Box 117 Fisher, LA 71426

Marvin J. Salter c/o Gary D. Salter 1405 Captain Shreve Shreveport, LA 71105

Clement J. Scroggins P. O. Box 1012 Many, LA 71449

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

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Property Owners (continued).

Asa J. Self P. O. Box 155 Fisher, LA 71426

Lee E. Self Fisher, LA 71426

Randy Sepulvade Rt. 1 Florien, LA 71429

Darrell W. Sexton P. O. Box 151 Fisher, LA 71426

John M. Slay P. O. Box 137 Fisher, LA 71426

Herbert Small P. O. Box 112 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Charlene Smith P. O. Box 153 Fisher, LA 71426

Jack Smith P. O. Box 175 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Clyde H. Sneed, Sr. P. O. Box 174
Fisher, LA 71426

Miguel H. Tapia P. O. Box 155 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Barbara Thaxton P. O. Box 132 Fisher, LA 71426 S. M. Tynes P. O. Box 166 Fisher, LA 71426

Mrs. Latha Underwood Fisher, LA 71426

Marvin H. Veuleman P. O. Box 146 Fisher, LA 71426

James Winningnear P. O. Box 184 Fisher, LA 71426

James A. Withers P. O. Box 132 Fisher, IA 71426

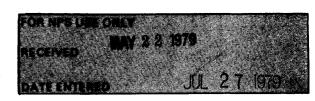
George F. Woode1 P. O. Box 131 Fisher, LA 71426

Johnnie E. Woodel P. O. Box 12 Fisher, LA 71426

Lee Zumwalt P. O. Box 128 Many, LA 71449

Robert Flippa c/o Appalla Apt. Many, LA 71449

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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INVENTORY

The numbers below refer to those on the attached map.

- 1. Railroad Depot A broad, spreading Queen Anne colonial railroad station with gablet-ends, decorated with lunettes, fanforms, end returns, and keystones. Sheathed with narrow and wide gauge clapboarding. Roof has extended beams.
- 2. Opera House Has quadra-style Roman Doric temple-fronted portico. There are large overhangs on all four sides of the building. Sheathed in narrow gauge clapboard. Especially notable is the semi-octagonal paneled, pavilion-style box office in the front. Interior has wainscotting, an arched procenium, one original cast iron stove, and all of the original theater seats with leaf work pattern.
- 3. Post Office-Library A gable-fronted clapboard building with a new porch. The posts are made of plywood cores.
- 4. Commissary Built in two sections, one in 1900, the other in 1914. A large clapboard frame commercial building with its original plate glass shop-front windows paneled below a chamfered colonnade. Has imitation Baroque front.
- 5. Louisiana Long Leaf Lumber Company Office 2½ story frame building with narrow gauge clapboarding, a forward facing Jerkin head gable, a front pay window, and a simple 3-bay front porch. Rear wing is later addition.
- 6 10 Residences of upper echelon members of 4-L Company.
- 6. W. W. Warren House 2-story colonial revival style frame clapboard house with a simple Queen Anne side bay.
- 7. One-story frame house with beaded clapboarding and L-shaped plan. Gallery-fronted.
- 8. One-story simple frame house with gallery. Four rooms with new extensions.
- 9. Two-story house sheathed in narrow gauge clapboard. Has L-shaped plan and Oriental porch balustrade.

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- 10. 1½-story raised, gallery-fronted house sheathed in narrow gauge clapboard with a gable at each end of the facade. Has L-shaped plan.
- 11. Church Victorian Gothic style church noteworthy for large lancet windows with wooden tracery. Interior has corner blocks and framing boards around the windows and doors; also has new panelling and pressed board ceiling.
- 12 73. Workers' residences All date from 1899-1910 and have 4 to 8 rooms. Simple frame houses sheathed in narrow or wide gauge clapboarding. They have L-shaped plans with slight variations. Often have large plate glass windows. Are basically in their original condition.
- 74 81. Modern mobile homes (intrusions). All are relatively small.

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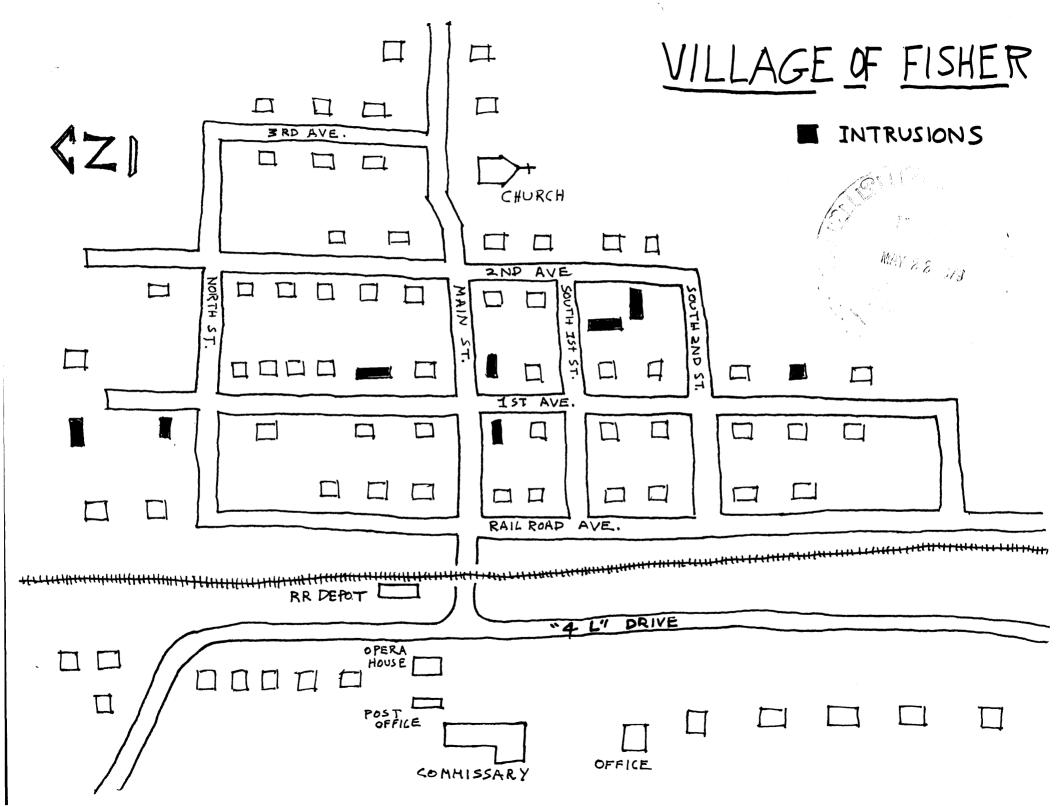
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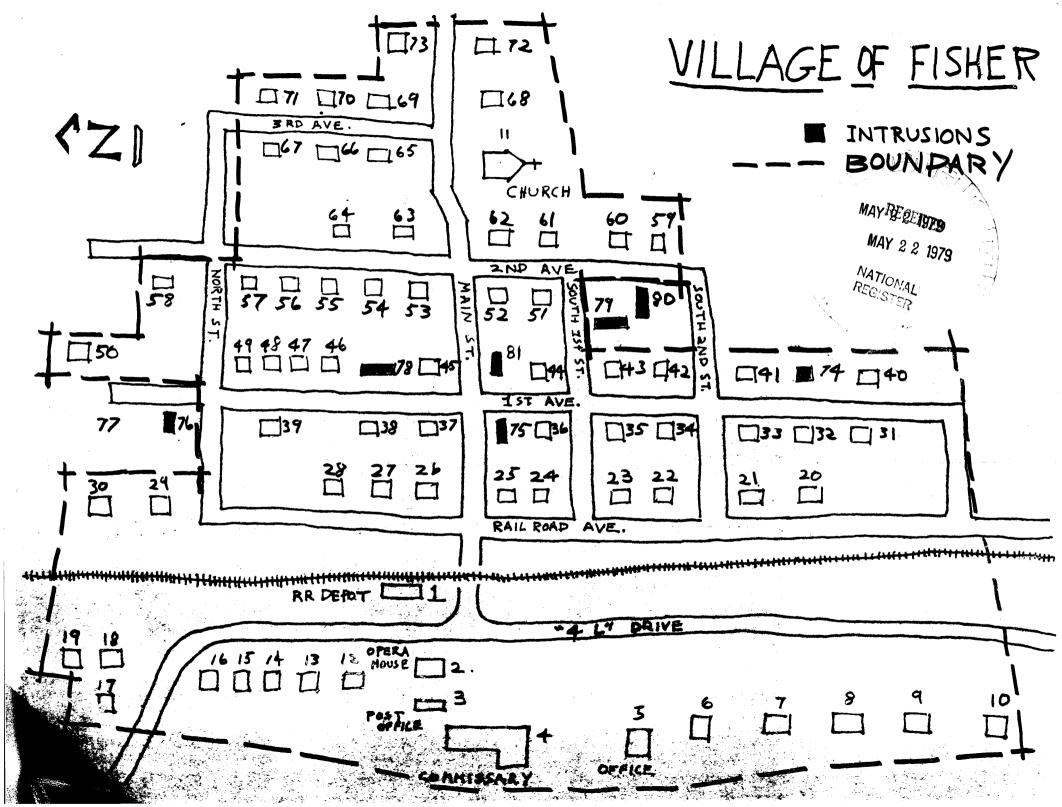
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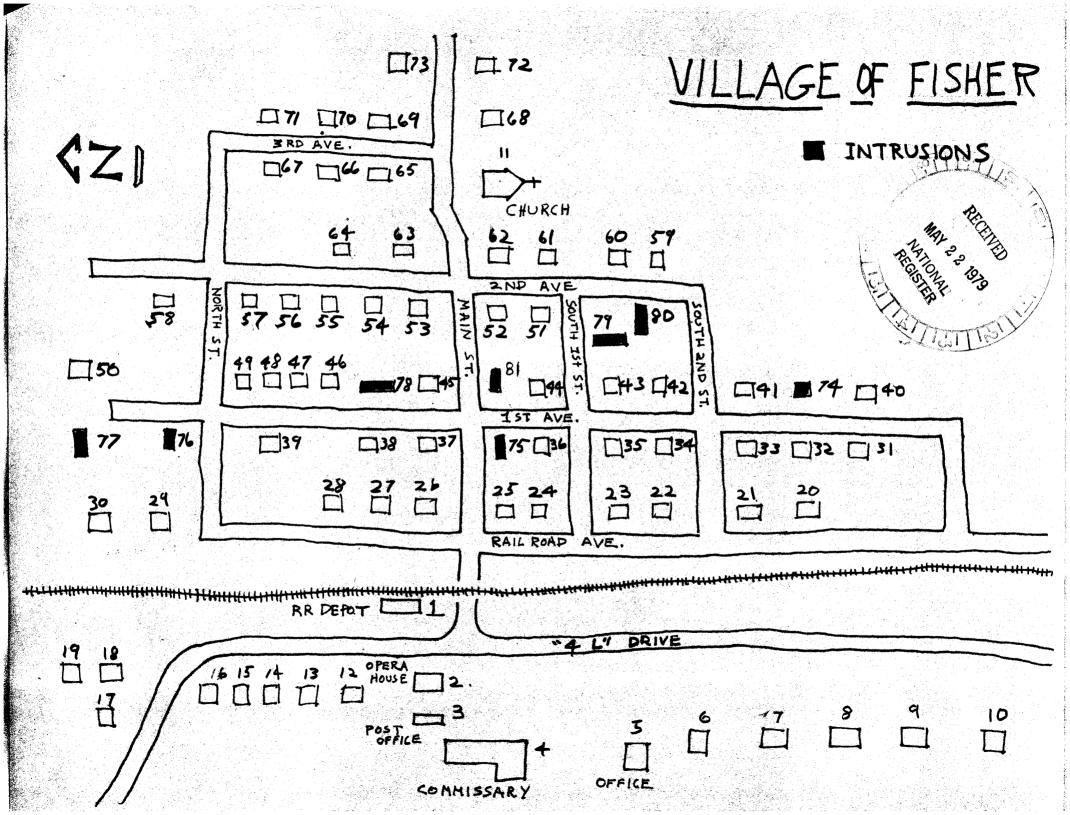
Unlike some lumber companies of the time, the 4-L Company did not build merely a shanty town. As Belisle said in 1912, "The town of Fisher was laid out with a view of making something more substantial than the ordinary sawmill town. The townsite is among the prettiest in Sabine parish and was platted with uniform streets and avenues. Splendid homes have been built for the employees, and in numerous instances furnished with all conveniences of a city, including electric lights and waterworks. . . The town has a splendid public school for the benefit of children of employees, and religious services by different denominations are held at stated periods" (Belisle, P. 263).

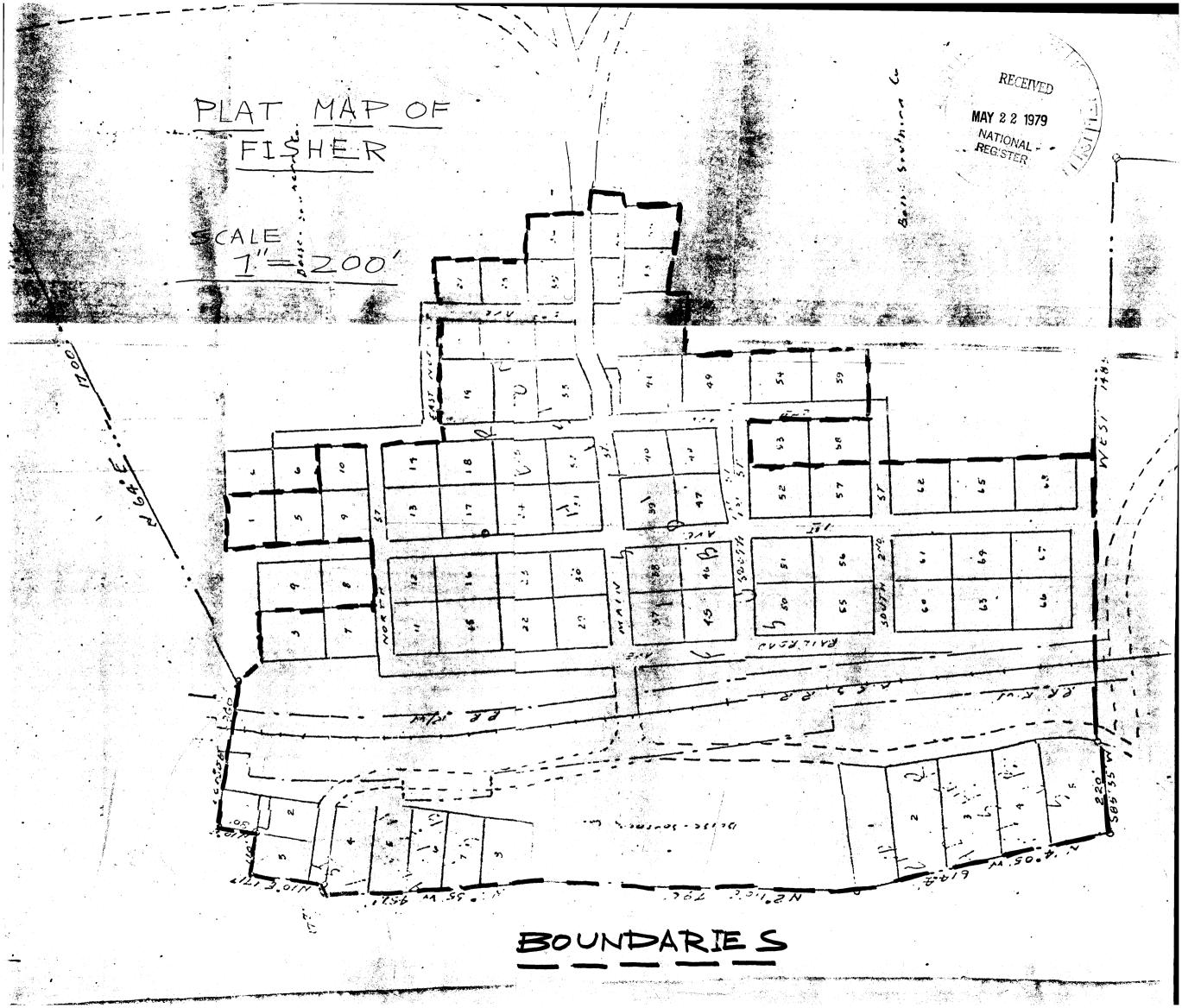
It is readily apparent today that Fisher was built to last. But the era of company ownership ended in 1966, when the 4-L Company sold the village and sawmill to Boise Cascade Corporation. It was later transferred to Boise Southern. Although the new owners continued to operate the sawmill for a time, they subdivided the village and sold the homes and lots to the residents. The old mill ceased operation in 1970 and has since been demolished. In 1971 the village was incorporated and the Fisher Heritage Foundation, dedicated to preservation of the village and its historic atmosphere, was founded. Boise Southern strengthened the preservation efforts by transferring the office complex which is the center of the village to the Heritage Foundation in 1972 (Carruth, pp. 31-34).

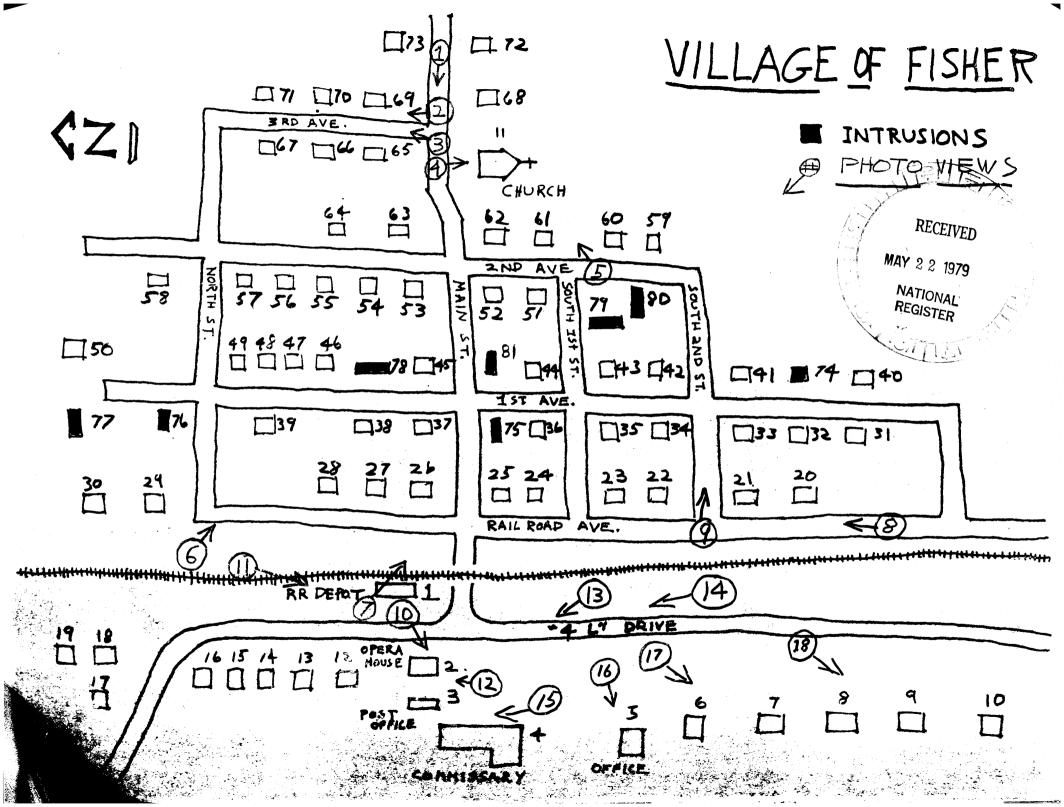
Some of the village's major buildings, including the hospital, the school, and the hotel, are gone, but the most important remain. The commissary store is perhaps the most striking. Carruth notes that it provided all the necessities of life for the village's inhabitants and was also the community's center of political and intellectual life. The opera house, in which people came from all over the area to see movies and plays and stage shows, also remains. Country music singer Hank Williams is said to have sung in the opera house (Carruth, p. 32). Other important buildings include the home of W. W. Warren, the first general superintendent of the 4-L Company's operation in Fisher, the company's office building, the railroad station, and the church. Long-range plans of the Heritage Foundation call for the village's development into a tourist attraction, but the leaders stress their commitment to retaining Fisher's historic character.











OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Place Continuation Sheet

Fisher Historic District (Additional Documentation), Sabine Parish, LA Section number $\frac{3}{7}$ Page $\frac{1}{1}$

FISHER HISTORIC DISTRICT, SABINE PARISH -- ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Item 3

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination addendum 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.

Jonathan Fricker, LA Deputy SHPO, Dept. of Culture,

8/6/97 Date

Recreation and Tourism

Additional Documentation According

Item 7

In 1992 the historic Fisher Baptist Church was moved from one location in the former sawmill community's National Register district to another. The purpose of this submission is to confirm that the building is still a contributing element in its new location. The attached map from the original submission (Fisher Historic District) shows the location when the district was listed (July 1979) and its present location. Please note that the map is not to scale. For example, buildings 5 & 6, between which the church is now located, are not as close together as the map might lead one to believe. The distance between the church and #5 is shown in one of the enclosed photos. A staff member has been to Fisher since the church was moved and reports that a similar distance is between the church and #6.

The enclosed photos show the church in its new location. The Division of Historic Preservation does not have access at present to any pre-move photos; however, one is on file in Washington with the original application.

The church was moved in order to save it from demolition. In August 1992 church members donated it to the Fisher Heritage Foundation providing it was removed from the property. A new church has since been built on the site.

Fortunately, the old church was moved completely intact. Formerly it was located amid workers' houses in the turn-of-the-century sawmill town. Now it is located between the lumber

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United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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company office (#5) and a row of five houses occupied by upper echelon employees. Although larger than typical workers' houses, none of the five are pretentious (see descriptions in original application). Two are two stories, two are one story, and one is one-and-a-half stories.

In the opinion of the SHPO, the new setting is compatible. In short, if someone familiar with Louisiana's lumber company towns were to visit Fisher today, they would not find the church out of place in its new location. It is located in that section of the community where public buildings were found -- the company office, the old opera house, the depot, the commissary, etc. The church and other public buildings are important components of the Fisher district because they illustrate the nature of a company town. Built by the 4-L Company to provide for the religious needs of its workers, the church was originally non-denominational, as was typical in company towns. Fortunately, this important building has been saved from demolition. The purpose of confirming its contributing status is to better position the Fisher Heritage Foundation for receiving grant funds to aid in its restoration.

