

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Delafield Fish Hatchery

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town Delafield _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Ninth

state Wisconsin code 55 county Waukesha code 133

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Delafield, Ted Chentis, Mayor

street & number 500 Genesee Street

city, town Delafield _____ vicinity of _____ state Wisconsin 53018

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waukesha County Courthouse

street & number 515 West Moreland Boulevard

city, town Waukesha _____ state Wisconsin 53186

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Wisconsin Inventory of
title Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison _____ state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Removed a short distance to the west of the center of the small city of Delafield, the Delafield Fish Hatchery site occupies some thirty acres between the Bark River and Main Street. The isolation of the building in a park-like setting underscores the significance of the structure as a point of interest and visual landmark. Only one small pond now remains (west of the hatchery) of the six which once covered the site.

A curved paved drive, parking lot, and walk preface the south facade of the one-and-one-half-story random fieldstone building. As suits the design of the interior tanks, the emphasis of the building is horizontal, with a long east-west rectangular plan augmented by the square office section appended at the northwest corner. Three prominent shouldered gable dormers, trimmed in limestone, rise through the roofline on the south (front) facade; the peaks of the pyramidal and hipped roofs covering the building rise behind. Two similar dormers light the attic spaces on the west, north, and east sides. Grouped rectangular openings (once multi-paned casements; now boarded) on the ground story of the south and north facades are enclosed by continuous wide limestone lintels and narrower sills. Over the office block windows at the west end of the front facade is a building stone inscribed with the year of construction and centered over fenestration below. The shed roof and stone pier which once formed a simple porch in the angle of the front facade have been removed; and the doors in the angle, east end of the front facade, and center of the west side have been covered. A single fieldstone chimney rises behind the peak of the pyramidal roof.

The concrete slab which serves as the building foundation provides the interior flooring. The single open room east of the offices contains two long concrete fish tanks. Upper and lower walls are of contrasting glazed brick. Simple wood frames surround windows and doors, and an open dog-leg stair with balustrade rises to the attic at the northwest corner of the interior.

Alterations have been limited to removal of the porch, replacement of the original tile roof with asbestos shingles, and covering the openings to discourage trespassing.

The site also includes a three-car garage with large wood overhead doors to the northwest of the hatchery. Two small gable dormers in the front slope of the gable roof provide light to the interior and decorative interest to the straightforward design.

The City of Delafield hopes to use the vacant building as a library, restoring the exterior appearance and remodeling the interior as function requires.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1907¹

Builder/Architect J. T. W. Jennings²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1907, the Delafield Fish Hatchery is significant as a representative of the system of state fish hatcheries established in the first part of the twentieth century. The hatchery building is also locally-significant architecturally and has served as a community landmark for over seventy years.

CONSERVATION. The Delafield Fish Hatchery was established in 1906 as part of the system of state fish hatcheries as authorized by Wisconsin Statutes 23.09. Two bass-rearing ponds were constructed that year with work completed in 1907 with the erection of the large fieldstone hatchery building and the addition of four rearing ponds. In total, the property consisted of 32 acres of land, six ponds, the hatchery building and 1,430 feet of pipe line. The water supply for the hatchery and the ponds was drawn from Nagawicka Lake.³

Pond culture was peculiar to members of the sunfish family, such as bass. Adult fish were paired off by putting a certain number of males and females in each pond and allowing them to follow their natural methods of nest-building, egg-laying and hatching. After the young bass were hatched and large enough, they were taken out of the ponds and planted in lakes and rivers to which they were already well adapted. In its first year of operation,⁴ the Delafield hatchery supplied over 300 cans of bass fry to southern Wisconsin waters.

The hatchery building houses the equipment used for the artificial propagation of walleye-pike which required a technique different than that used for bass culture. Walleye-pike eggs were placed in devices known as Chase jars. Water was introduced into the bottom of the jars by means of a rubber hose and galvanized tube which caused the water to pass through the eggs in the jar before running over the top. Once the fish were hatched, they began to swim and followed the current through the jars out into large tanks where they were held for distribution. Capacity at the Delafield hatchery was about 50 million walleye-pike fry annually as compared to the 40 million raised at each of the other pike hatcheries in the state.⁵

The Delafield Fish Hatchery was active in the propagation of fish for planting until 1950 when rearing operations were suspended. This was due to the success of the natural reproduction of bass outside of the hatchery environment and the decision to concentrate the propagation of walleye-pike in the northern part of the state where demand was greatest. The Delafield Hatchery was then used as a bass and walleye-pike research station until 1978 when the Department of Natural Resources phased-out its district headquarters there.⁶ In 1979, the property was sold to the City of Delafield which intends to preserve this remnant of Wisconsin's early fish management program and a Delafield landmark through its conversion to a library.

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 30

Quadrangle name Oconomowoc East, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property shall consist of a 60' square centered on a point 800' due west of CTH CC on latitude 43°3'40" N.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian
Michael R. Matucheski, Preservation Assistant (continued)

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date September, 1980

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Richard Murray*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 2/27/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Delores Byers</i></u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>5/13/81</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

ARCHITECTURE. The Delafield Fish Hatchery is architecturally significant as an unusual example of period design employed in the construction of a state conservation facility. The small building, with its hipped roofs, shouldered gable-dormers, and picturesque aspect recalls Medieval-inspired railroad buildings of the late Victorian era; not surprisingly, the hatchery's architect, J. T. W. Jennings, first established his reputation with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad.

John T. W. Jennings was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1856 and was educated in the public schools there. An 1877 graduate of New York University with a degree in civil engineering, Jennings took his first architectural assignment with the office of the Astor estate.⁷ Before signing on as assistant engineer of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad in 1883, he was chief engineer of the New York Suburban Transit road. From 1885 to 1893 Jennings was architect of the C. M. & St. P. From 1893 to 1899 he practiced privately in Chicago, then became supervising architect of University of Wisconsin Buildings & Grounds until 1905; thereafter, Jennings practiced privately in the Wisconsin capital city. Works accomplished under his supervision include the University's Agricultural Hall, Dairy Barn, University Stable, Agricultural Power House, Engineering Building, Horticulture Building, and Chemistry Building.

The quality of the random fieldstone construction and the coloristic and textural activity of the surface combine with the historical character of the design in its visually dramatic setting to make the Delafield Fish Hatchery a local landmark. It is one of the few architectural assets of Delafield.

¹ Department of Natural Resources Records; datestone on building.

² Minutes of the Commission of Fisheries, July 10-13, 1907.

³ Oconomowoc Enterprise, October 4, 1907, p. 2

⁴ Biennial Report of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, 1927-28. Madison, Wisconsin, pp. 58-59.

⁵ Ibid., pp. 58-59 and p. 64.

⁶ Biennial Report of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, 1963-64. Madison, Wisconsin, pp. 22-24 and The Largemouth Bass: Its History, Ecology and Management. Madison, Wisconsin. Department of Natural Resources, 1978, p. 3-4.

⁷ Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, Past & Present, 1902, p. 139.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biennial Report of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, 1927-28. Madison, Wisconsin, 1929.

Biennial Report of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, 1963-64. Madison, Wisconsin, 1965.

Department of Natural Resources Records.

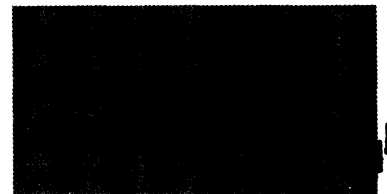
The Largemouth Bass: Its History, Ecology and Management. Madison, Wisconsin. Department of Natural Resources, 1978.

Oconomowoc Enterprise, October 4, 1907.

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Research Assistance By: Ted Chentis, Mayor
City of Delafield
500 Genesee Street
Delafield, Wisconsin 53018

February 1980
(414) 646-3761