

BENTON COUNTY CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY II
1984 - 1986

COUNTY AREA: Alsea

RESOURCE #: 605

PHOTO #: FFF 1-36

PROP. CLASS: 401

ORIGINAL USE: Fish Hatchery

SIZE: 21.77 acres

PRESENT USE: Fish Hatchery

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 29014-29088 Fish Hatchery Road

T 13S R 7W S 20 1/4 SE

TAX LOT: 701, 800

COMMON NAME: Alsea River Trout Hatchery

HISTORIC NAME:

PRESENT OWNER: State of Oregon Game Commission

OWNER'S ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3503, Portland, Oregon 97208

ORIGINAL OWNER: State Of Oregon Game Commission

ARCHITECT: G.C. Webb

BUILDER:

THEME: State Government/ Outdoor Recreation/ Science

PERIOD/ DATE: Mid-20th Century/ c. 1934-36

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNATION/ TYPE: Utilitarian/ Fish Hatchery

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - #1) One story duplex with colonial design elements.

Plan type/shape: U-shaped

No. of Stories: One

Foundation material: Poured concrete

Basement (y/n): No

Roof form & materials: Intersecting hip and gable roof with composition shingles. Overhanging eaves.

Wall construction: Wood

Structural frame: Wood

Primary window type: Six over one double hung sash windows.

Primary exterior surfacing materials: Horizontal lap siding with cornerboards.

Outstanding decorative features: Two front porches with one bay colonial style porches. Shutters on main facade windows. Eave returns on gable ends.

Exterior alterations/additions (dated):

Comments: Behind this house is a double auto garage with a jerkin head gable roof. Doors to garage on long axis.

Condition: Good (Excellent, Good, Fair, Deteriorated, Moved-Date)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - #2) Colonial style house

Plan type/shape: L-shaped with shed roof extension off rear.

No. of Stories: One and one-half

Foundation material: Poured concrete

Basement (y/n): No

Roof form & materials: Hip and gable roof clad with composition shingles. Overhanging eaves. Jerkin head on gable end of elevation.

Wall construction: Wood

Structural frame: Wood

Primary window type: Six over one double hung sash windows with architrave trim.

Primary exterior surfacing materials: Horizontal lap siding with cornerboards.

Outstanding decorative features: Eave returns on gable ends. One bay colonial entry porch.

Exterior alterations/additions (dated):

Comments: Large garage behind house. Entry on long axis. Garage has jerkin head gable roof, single sash windows each with nine lights.

Condition: Good (Excellent, Good, Fair, Deteriorated, Moved-Date)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - #3) Main Hatchery

Plan type/shape: Rectangular

No. of Stories: One and one-half

Foundation material: Concrete

Basement (y/n):

Roof form & materials: Broad gable roof with slightly overhanging eaves.

Roof clad with composition shingles.

Wall construction: Wood

Structural frame: Wood

Primary window type: Eight over two double hung sash windows (bottom sash divided horizontally).

Primary exterior surfacing materials: Horizontal lap siding.

Outstanding decorative features: None noted.

Exterior alterations/additions (dated): None noted.

Condition: Good (Excellent, Good, Fair, Deteriorated, Moved-Date)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - #4) Feed Room

Plan type/shape: Rectangular

No. of Stories: One and one-half

Foundation material: High concrete

Basement (y/n):

Roof form & materials: Steep gable roof with closed eaves. Roof clad with composition shingles.

Wall construction: Wood

Structural frame: Wood

Primary window type: Six over six double hung sash windows

Primary exterior surfacing materials: Horizontal drop siding

Outstanding decorative features: None noted.

Exterior alterations/additions (dated): None noted.

Condition: Good (Excellent, Good, Fair, Deteriorated, Moved-Date)

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND IMMEDIATE SETTING

The Alsea River Trout Hatchery is located in the Coast Range on the north fork of the Alsea River approximately three miles east of the town of Alsea. The hatchery complex is located on the southwest side of Fish

Hatchery Road one-half mile from the intersection of Rt. 34 and Fish Hatchery Road. The complex fronts northeast.

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Much of the landscaping dates to the 1930's and was probably planted as part of the original hatchery design. The site is lined on the north and south side by a row of Sequoia trees interspersed with cedars of Lebanon. Other planting include Linden trees and cherry trees, low cedar hedges, scattered rhododendrans and hydrangea. A series of concrete ponds or "raceways" are located behind the hatchery buildings. Historic photographs show coniferous trees in rows between each pond. These trees have been removed.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Alsea River Trout Hatchery was built for the Oregon State Game Commission between 1934 and 1936. G.C. Weeb designed the hatchery. Much of the 1934 construction work was supplied by the Civil Works Administration as part of the depression era Federal Work Projects. The purpose of the hatchery was to raise cutthroat trout and steelhead for the coast area streams. Fish populations in coast area streams were decreasing at that time because of improved transportation routes which allowed more fishermen into the area. The Biennial Report of the Oregon State Game Commission for the year 1935-36 noted that, "the Alsea Hatchery ... has been completed and is now in operation with a capacity of 5,000,000 fry. A considerable portion of the work of excavation of ponds and installation of pipe lines has been done with federal relief work at small cost to the state." During that year, the Oregon Game Commission had 16 hatcheries in operation.

One of the innovations at the Alsea Hatchery was the use of long shallow raceways, instead of ponds, to hold cutthroat trout. This technique allowed for the development and maintenance of a brood stock of cutthroat trout, previously not successful when ponds were used.

The Alsea Hatchery today consists of several c. 1930's houses and duplexes, with colonial design elements, for hatchery workers; the main hatchery building; the feed room; the concrete raceways (not currently being used); rearing ponds; settling ponds; display ponds; and fish ladder. Today, the Alsea River Trout Hatchery is one of the biggest producers of Steelhead trout eggs in the state.

The Alsea River Fish Hatchery, with its intact design, location, and setting, may be significant for its association with the depression era Federal Work Projects Administration. Many of the buildings and the landscaping reflect that era of building and design.

SOURCES CONSULTED

"Alsea Trout Hatchery Feeds Coastal Streams," in Gazette-Times, Centennial Edition, Corvallis, Oregon, March 17, 1959, Sec. 1.

Biennial Reports of the Game Commission of the State of Oregon, 1933-34, 1935-36, 1937-38, 1939-1940.

Gump, Steve, "Its Milking Time at the Alsea River Trout Hatchery," in Gazette-Times, Corvallis, Oregon, Dec. 31, 1981.



Photo No. FFF 5

View to southwest

Housing associated with fish hatchery.



Photo No. FFF 1

View to south

Feed room.

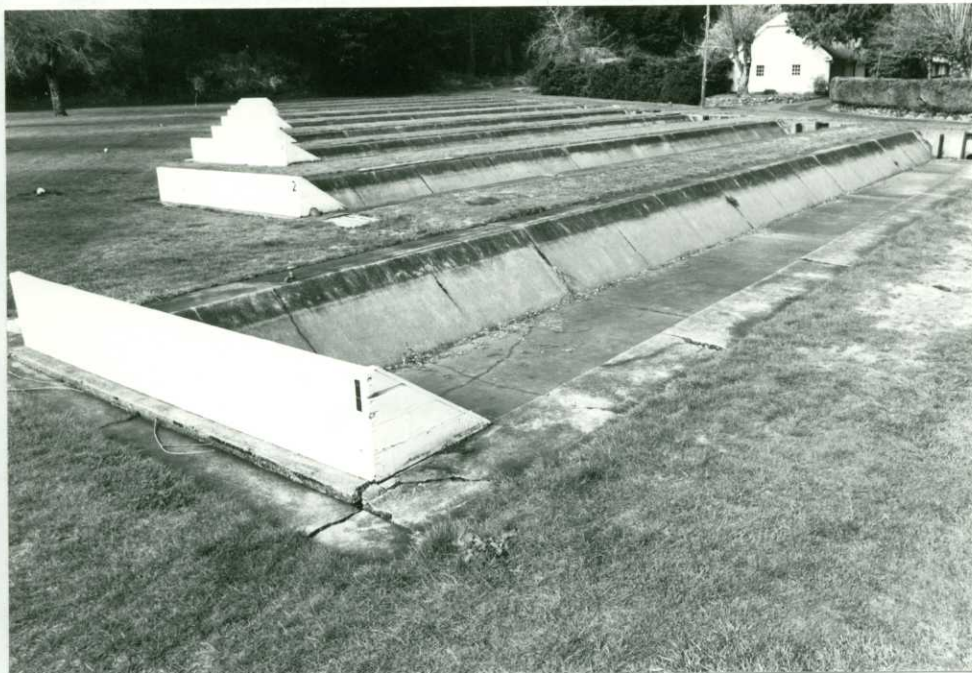


Photo No. FFF 30
Fish raceways.



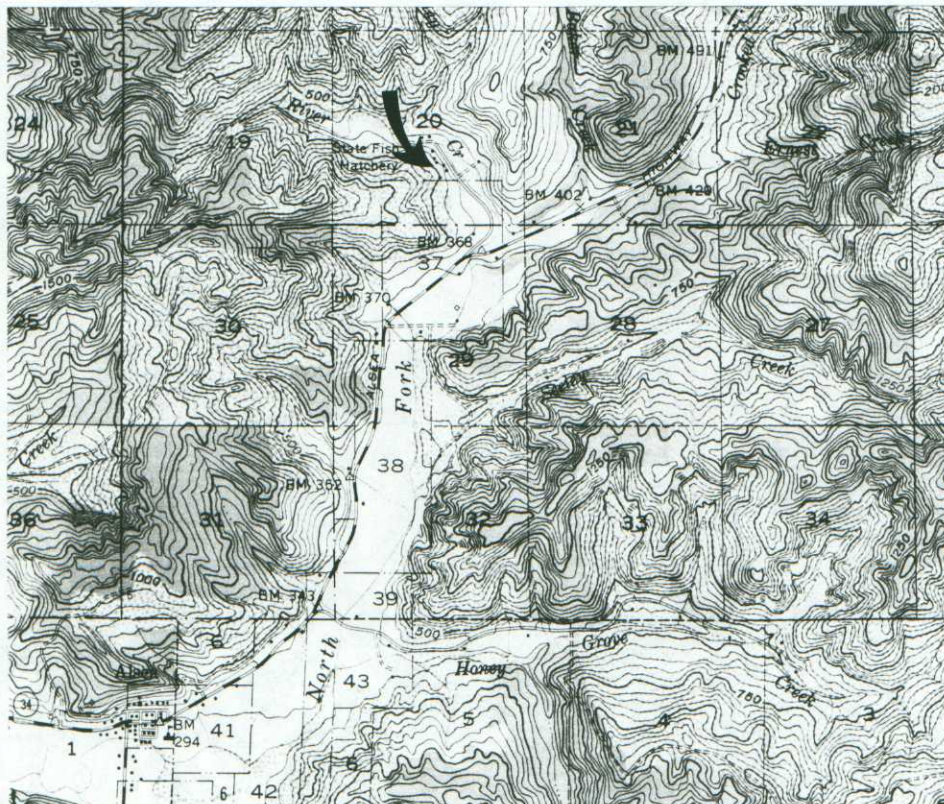
Photo No. FFF 22
Fish ladder.

Resource No. 605



Photo No. FFF 9

View to northeast



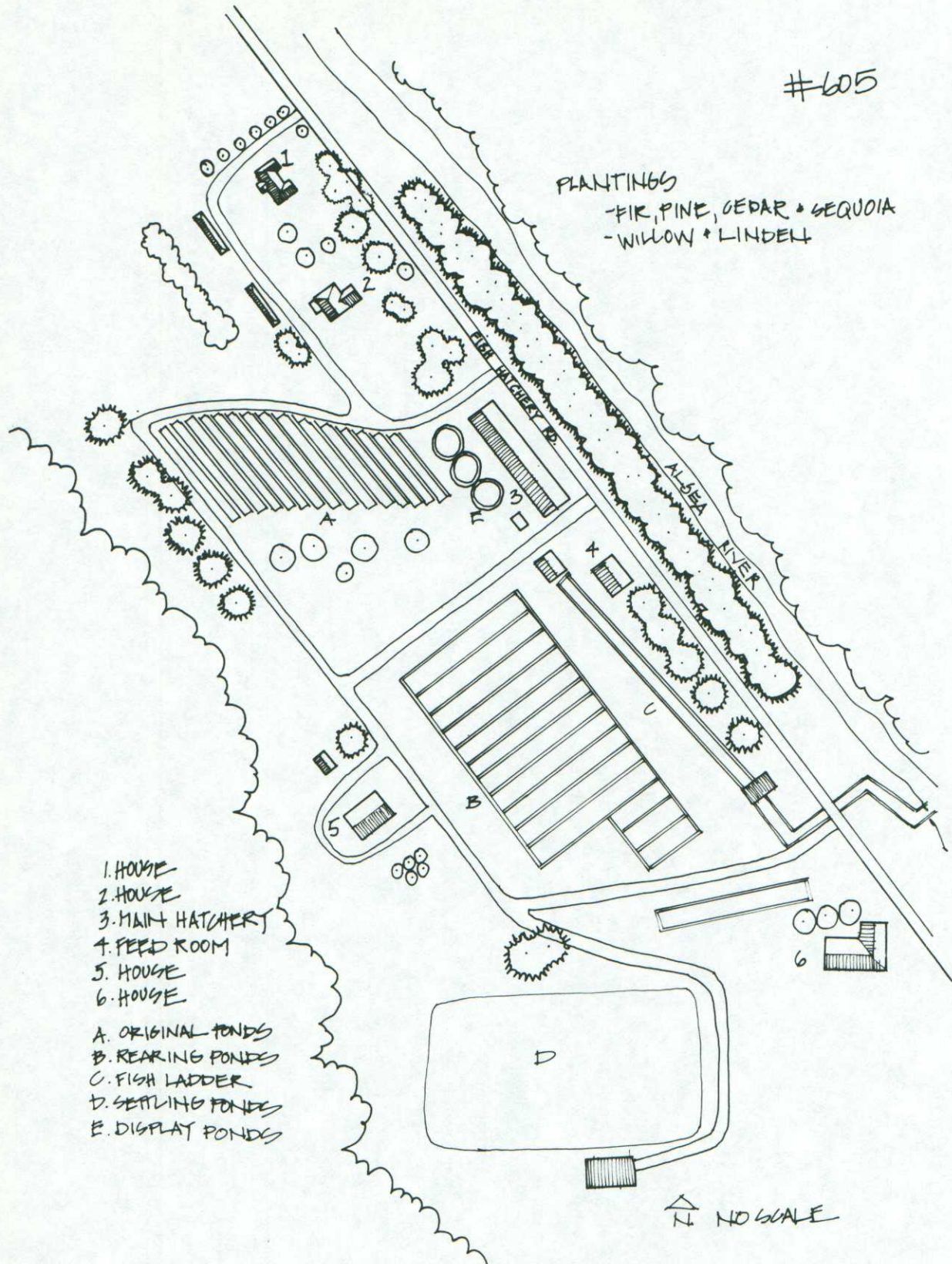
ALSEA QUADRANGLE

T 13S R 7W S 20

#605

PLANTINGS

- FIR, PINE, CEDAR & SEQUOIA
- WILLOW & LINDBL



1. HOUSE
2. HOUSE
3. MAIN HATCHERY
4. FEED ROOM
5. HOUSE
6. HOUSE

- A. ORIGINAL PONDS
- B. REARING PONDS
- C. FISH LADDER
- D. SETTLING PONDS
- E. DISPLAY PONDS

N NO SCALE