

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Fish House Historic District *DRAFT*

Other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city of town Northampton vicinity

State NY code _____ county Fulton code _____ zip code _____

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 at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official Date

Title State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|
| I, hereby, certify that this property is: | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
| ___ entered in the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| ___ determined eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| ___ determined not eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| ___ removed from the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| ___ other (explain:) | _____ | _____ |

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | private |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 20 | 24 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 3 | | Des Land |
| | | Objects |
| 1 | | NRL |
| 24 | 24 | Total |

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Fish House Historic District

(1) Godfrey Shew House 1784

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Residential Area (both seasonal and year-round)

Community of stores, churches & services

Historic road intersection,

Shew Hill look out

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Residential (both seasonal and year-round)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mixed

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: stone

walls: wood

roof: Asphalt

other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Fish House area was the earliest occupied area in the Town of Northampton. Fish House takes its name from the hunting and fishing lodge that Sir William Johnson built at the end of the French and Indian War, in 1762. Fish House lies just inside the southern border of the Adirondack Park. It is nestled in the far northeast corner of Fulton County; it borders, Saratoga County to the east, the town of Broadablin to the south and east, and the Great Sacandaga Lake to the north. Once apart of the town of Broadbalin it became its own in 1799. The community of Fish House is approximately 60 acres.

Narrative Description

This settlement, once called Northampton, was made up of five intersecting Native American trails that later became roads. To the west was Broadalbin, to the northwest was Vlaie Creek, to the north was Osborn Bridge and Northville beyond, and to the east were Fayville and Batchellerville. A plank road led from Amsterdam to Fish House starting in 1849. This intersection was marked with a hand pump and two hotels.

The most significant asset of Fish House is its small collection of Victorian, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Italianate, and vernacular homes. This community was impacted by the creation of the reservoir but over half of the buildings survive.

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)

- 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.
- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

First Settlement in Northampton

Home to Sir William Johnson's Fish-house

M.E. Church and Community Center

Presbyterian Church

Residences

Period of Significance

1784 - 1929

Significant Dates

1762 Sir Wil. Johnson builds Fish house

1771 Godfrey Shew moves to Fish house

1778 Raid

1818 380' covered bridge completed o/t Sacandaga River

1835 smaller covered bridge built o/t Vlaie

1859 M.E. Church built

1849 Plank Road built

1929 The creation of the reservoir

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Sir. William Johnson

Cultural Affiliation

Period of Significance (justification)

The draw to this area started when Sir William Johnson was shown the plentiful bounty that nature provided here. This became a known hunting and fishing destination from 1762 on. Then around 1799 this area became residential, starting with mills, doctors, stores, and a hotel. A plank road was laid from Broadalbin to Fish House in 1849. The railroad never came to Fish House but the stages continued. By 1920 Fish House with full of prominent families, and large homes. The creation of the reservoir abandoned Fish House from the rest of the town clear across the reservoir in 1930.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

~None apply~

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Fish House is significant to the **state** because its history involves the development of early settlements, transportation (river, plank road, covered bridges), religion, and architecture. The creation of the reservoir was severe and was felt by all that lived, worked and visited Fish House. Today it is mainly a seasonal-residential community.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

Architecture - There is a mix of style here in Fish House; starting from G. Shew's second home built in 1784 in the Federal Style, Dr. Woods c. 1820's traditional 1 ½ story N.E. colonial, Grinnell and Olmstead's Greek Revivals c. 1811, Stark and Swart's Victorian homes, and the Queen Anne harness shop.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Fish House takes its name from the hunting and fishing lodge that Sir William Johnson built at the end of the French and Indian War, in 1762. Johnson was known for his good relationship with the Native Americans - he was the British Superintendent of Indian Affairs. It is believed that Johnson was personally shown this location by the Native Americans because of its abundance of fish and game in the low, marshy area, surrounding the Vlaie Kill, where the Sacandaga River turned to run easterly and then northeasterly. Sometime between 1767 and 1771, Godfrey Shew, a German farmer, moved his family from Johnstown at Johnson's request to this isolated outpost to oversee this hunting and fishing lodge on Johnson's land. In 1778, in a raid by Indians and Tories, Shew and three of his sons - all of whom were Revolutionary War Patriots-- were taken prisoner; his home and barn were burned. After his release, in 1779, Shew returned to Fish House. He built a new home in 1784. His second home is a reminder of the sacrifices that our early settlers made living in remote, hostile areas. Godfrey Shew died in 1804. In 2006, the Godfrey Shew House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

After Sir William Johnson's death in 1774 and the confiscation of his lands by the Patriots after the Revolutionary War, his property was sold; and nearly 100 acres became Alexander St. John's, who later became the town's first supervisor at the first town meeting in 1799. His home still stands on Old Fish House Road.

John Fay came to Fish House in 1805 and built what would later become the Fish House Hotel. It was a two-story, wood-frame residence with wraparound porches on both the first and second story, detailed with wood brackets.

This settlement, once called Northampton, was made up of five intersecting Native American trails that later became roads. To the west was Broadalbin, to the northwest was Vlaie Creek, to the north was Osborn Bridge and Northville beyond, and to the east were

Fayville and Batchellerville. A plank road led from Amsterdam to Fish House starting in 1849. This intersection was marked with a hand pump and two hotels.

The Presbyterian Church was formally organized about the same time as construction of the plank road. According to the Northampton 1860 map, the community contained four churches, a harness shop, two physicians, two hotels, a store, two schools, and several prominent families with large homes. Once the railroad was extended from Gloversville to Northville, bypassing Fish House, the Adirondack Park tourist traffic was diverted away from Fish House.

The 1930 reservoir would prove fatal to the heart of the community by flooding its epicenter, but many significant historic buildings remain and some were relocated. About half (everything north of the yellow line depicted below) of Fish House was lost.

Covered Bridges (not inside historic district but apart of area history)

The Fish House covered bridge was built 1814 to 1818 by Daniel Stewart and his laborers. The bridge consisted of 12 timber arches and was 380 feet long. It was considered a well built and engineered bridge while it lasted -- 112 years, until the reservoir came. When the flooding began, the bridge was cabled down to try and save it, but the bridge was eventually set afloat when the reservoir water rose and it was cut free. Wood was salvaged from this landmark and reused by Fish House residents. Thousands of wooden pegs or pins used to hold the bridge together were sold by the Ladies Aid Society of the Fish House Methodist Church with the identifying Fish House Bridge name and date painted on them. The timbers and uprights were bought by a contractor named Wells Brothers and were used to construct what is called the Greta Room at Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

In 1835 a small covered bridge was constructed over the Vlaie in Fish House. In 1883 it burned down and a new one was constructed the same year. Then it was burned down in 1930 in preparation for the reservoir.

Archeology

(Site file search)

| OPRHP# | NYSM# | NAME | DESCRIPTION | Other INFO |
|---------------|-------|------------|---|--------------------------|
| A03507.000006 | 1434 | Fish House | No information | In Fish House |
| - | 3315 | None given | Fish House to Sinclair Point | The oxbow, now submerged |
| - | 8590 | None given | Brick, cut stone, transfer-ware, hand-blown glass | On shore of Fish House |

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 (G. Shew House 1784)
 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:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
 Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 60
 (Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A | <u>18</u> Zone | <u>566625.32m</u> Easting | <u>4786323.17m</u> Northing | C | <u>18</u> Zone | <u>567521.7m</u> Easting | <u>4785457.80m</u> Northing |
| B | <u>18</u> Zone | <u>567021.28m</u> Easting | <u>4786885.19m</u> Northing | D | <u>18</u> Zone | <u>566561.31m</u> Easting | <u>4786101.78m</u> Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries can be justified by the Godfrey Shew house at the east end of town (county line), the lake to the north, to the original road bed to Broadalbin to the west, and to the town line to the south.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Becker
organization _____ date _____
street & number 1946 West Glenville Road telephone 518-265-0531
city or town Amsterdam State NY zip code 12010
e-mail ipreserve@aol.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. SEE ATTACHED
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** News Articles, Website, Photographs (both historic and present)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

These are photos of the area and not inclusive of all properties inside the proposed Historic District.



Name of Property: Godfrey Shew House (NRL)

City or Vicinity: Fish House

County: Fulton

State: NY



Name of Property: Grinnell House on "Shew Hill"

City or Vicinity: Fish House

County: Fulton

State: NY



Name of Property:M.E. Church

City or Vicinity:Fish House

County: Fulton

State:NY



Name of Property:Olmstead House, 1631 Cohwy 110

City or Vicinity:Fish House

County:Fulton

State:NY



Name of Property:Fish House Presbyterian Church (vacant) Near 101 Cohwy 109

City or Vicinity:Fish House

County: Fulton

State:NY



Name of Property: Fish House Community Center, 1624 Cohwy 110

City or Vicinity: Fish House

County: Fulton

State: NY

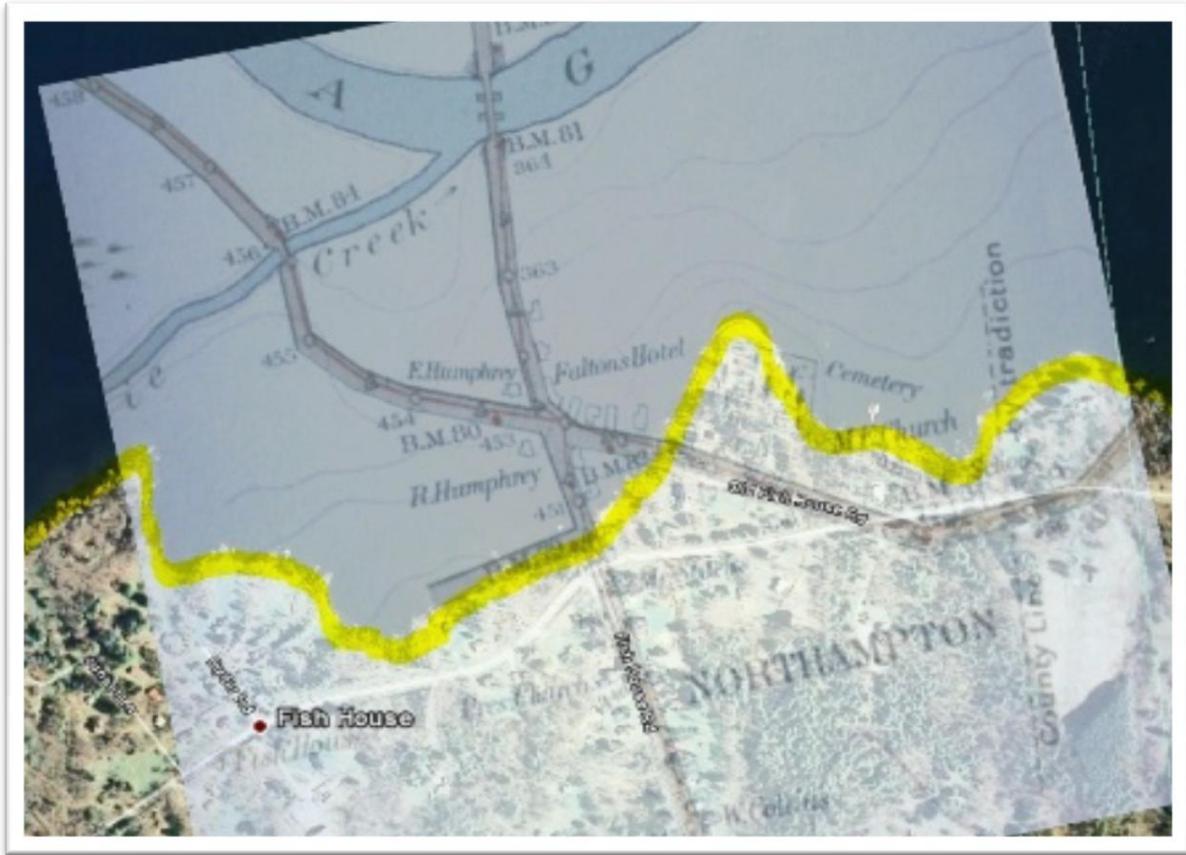


Name of Property:Harness Shop, 1584 Cohwy 110

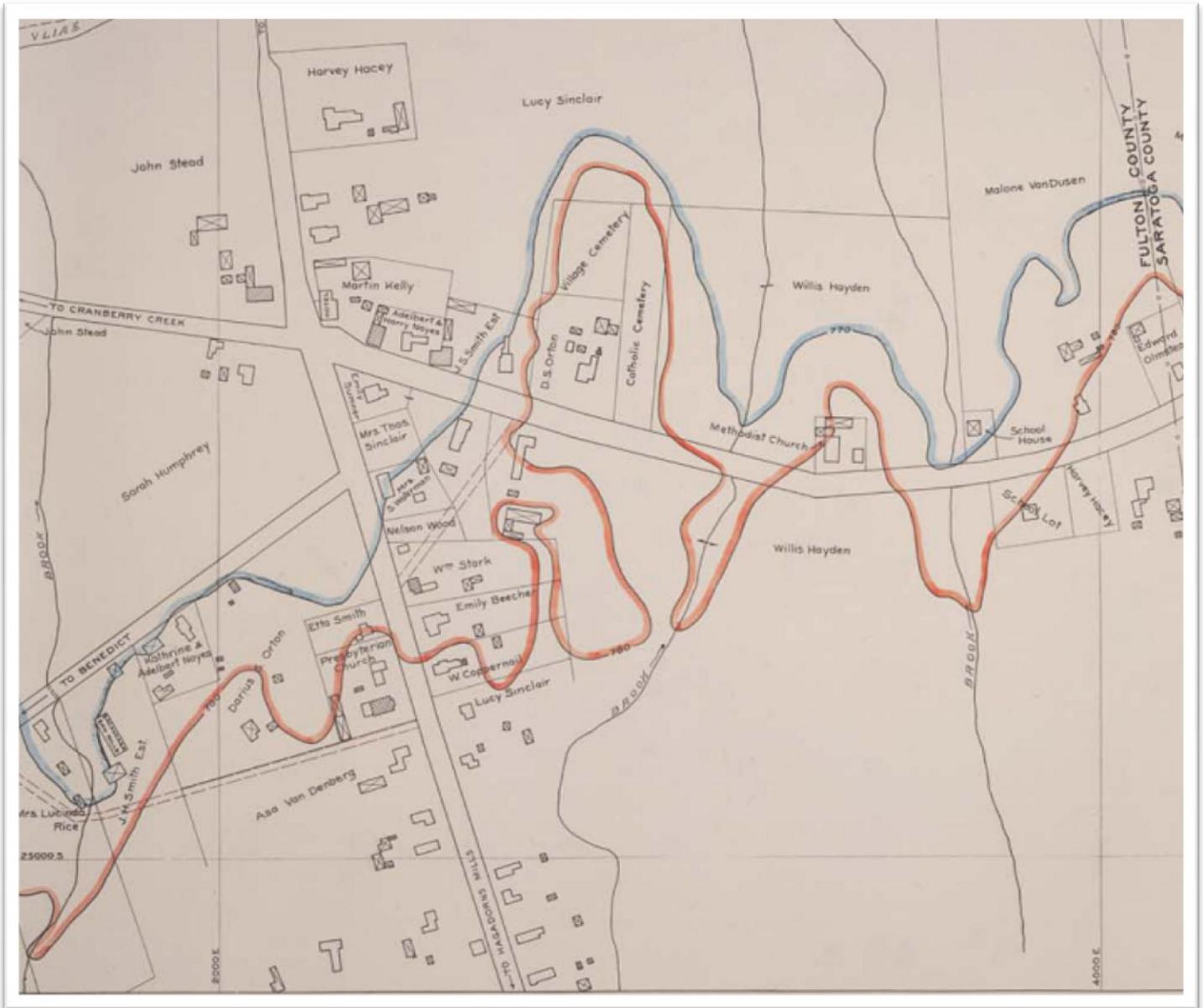
City or Vicinity:Fish House

County:Fulton

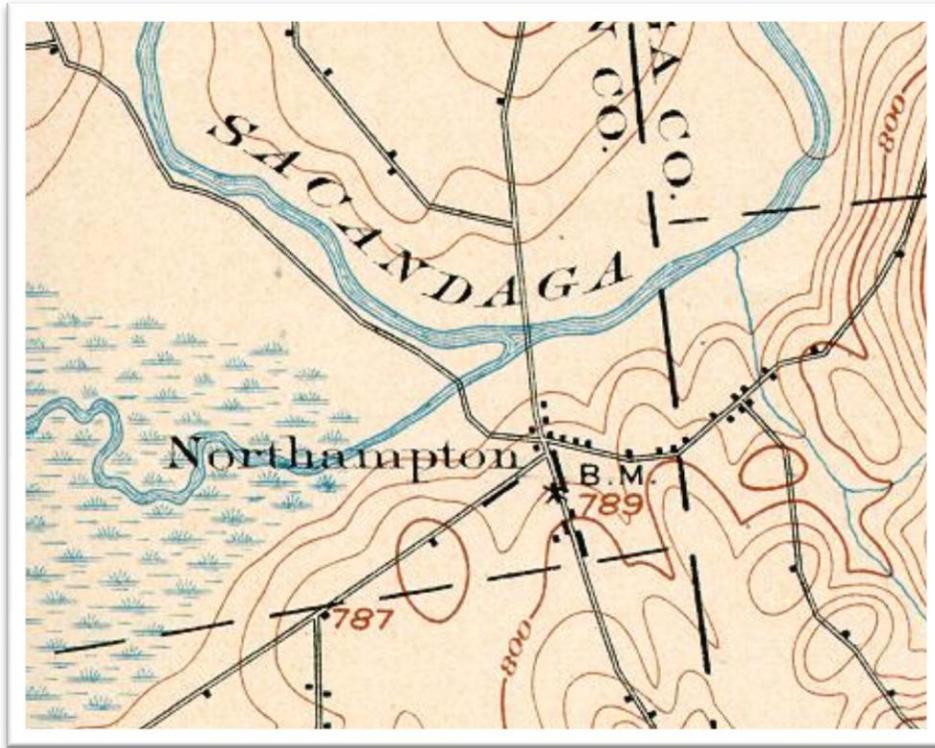
State:NY



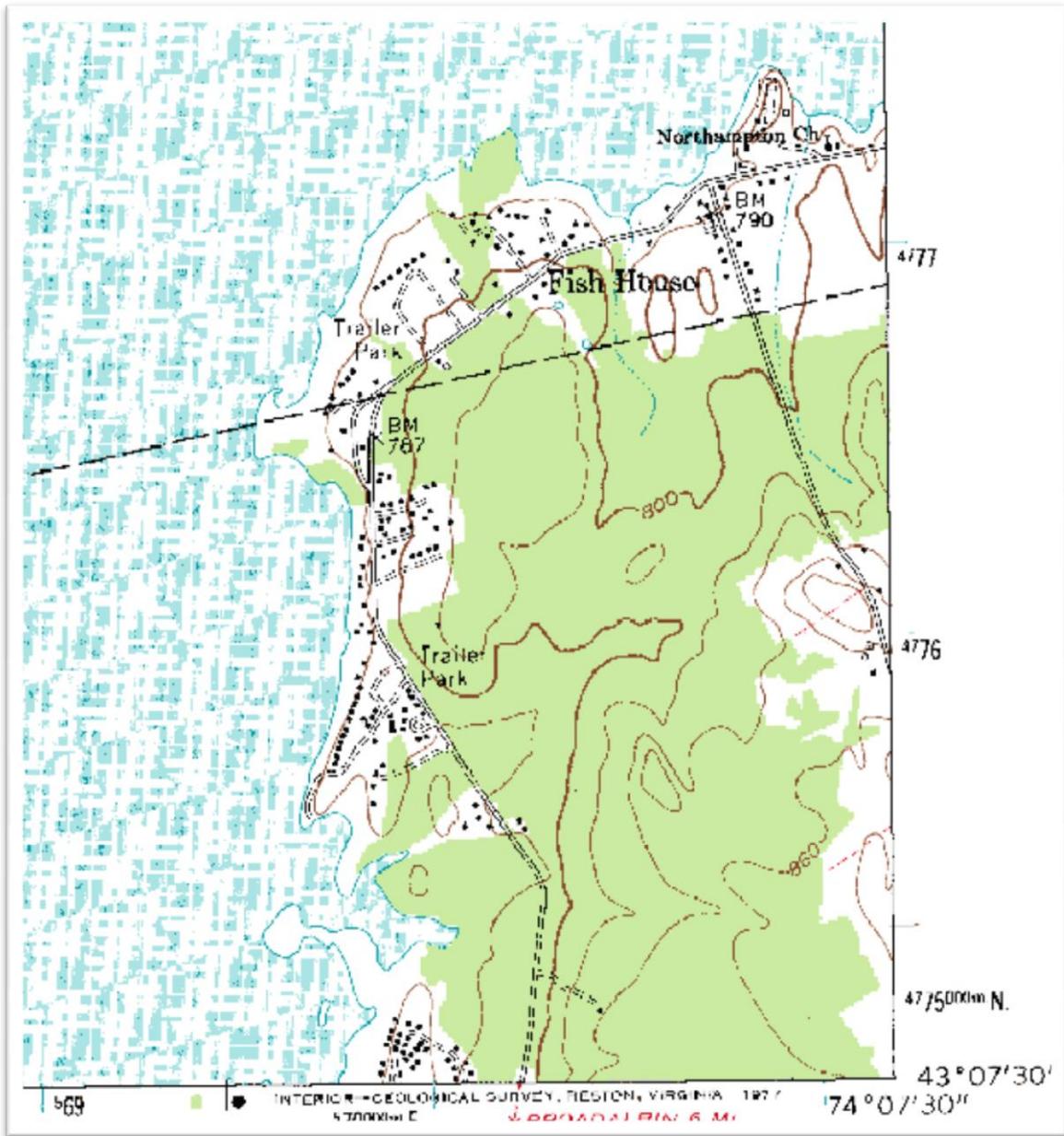
1897 map (by C.G. Locke) North of the yellow line is flooded.



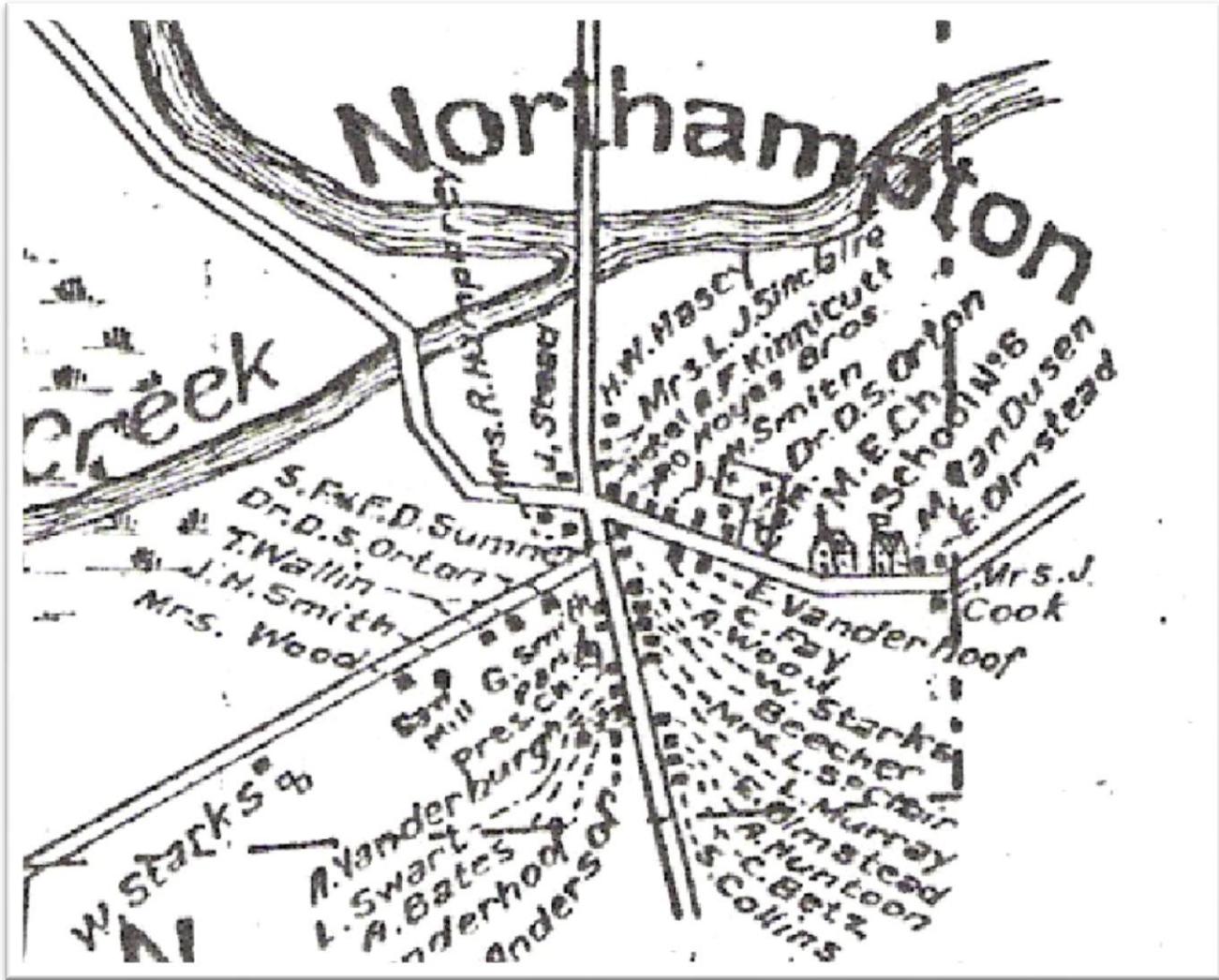
1911 Preliminary Project Plans for the Hudson River Improvement Project
(Shoreline is about at the blue line currently)



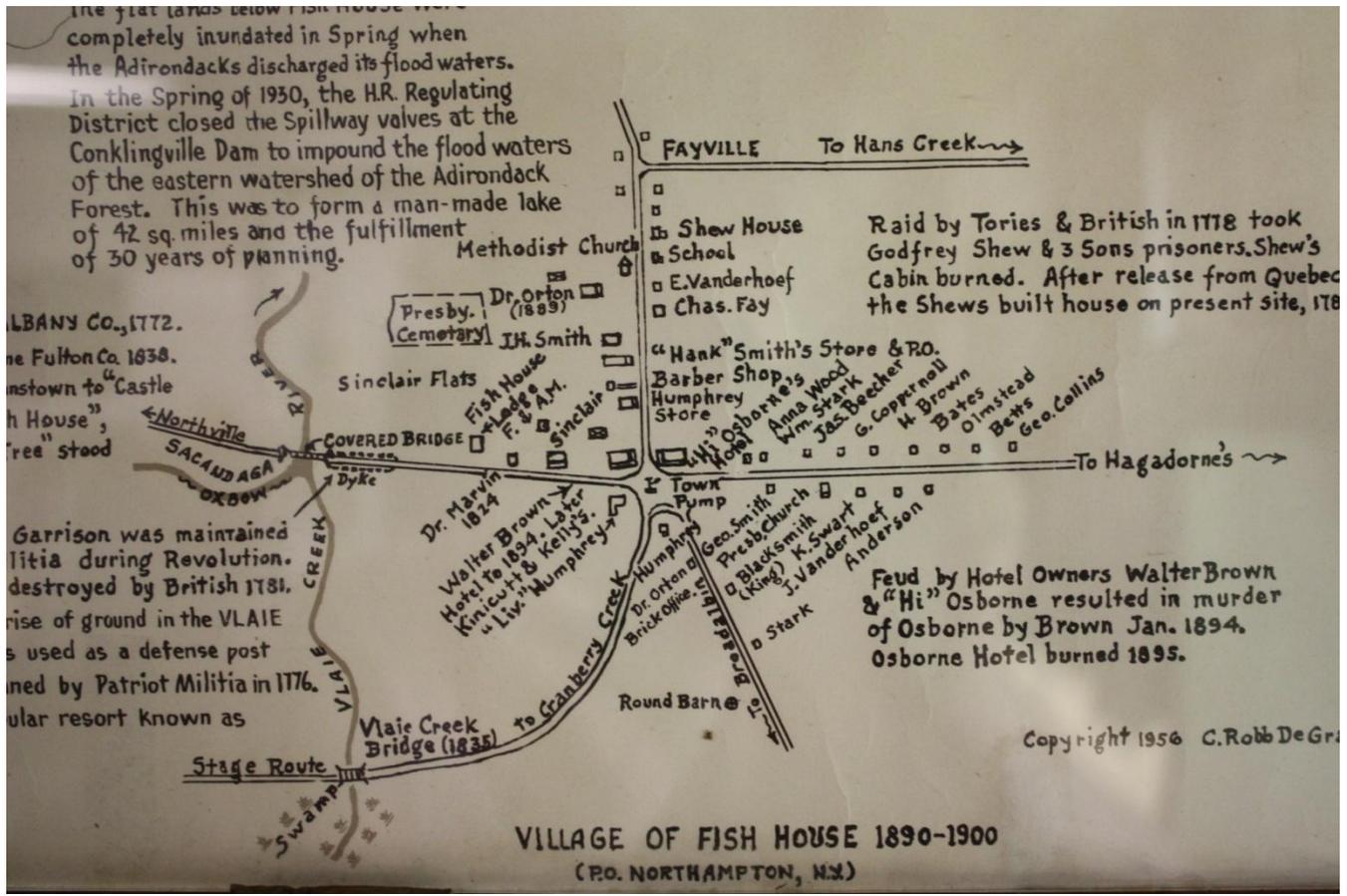
USGS Quad: Northville 1902



USGS 1970



1915 Map of Northampton (Fish House)



← North

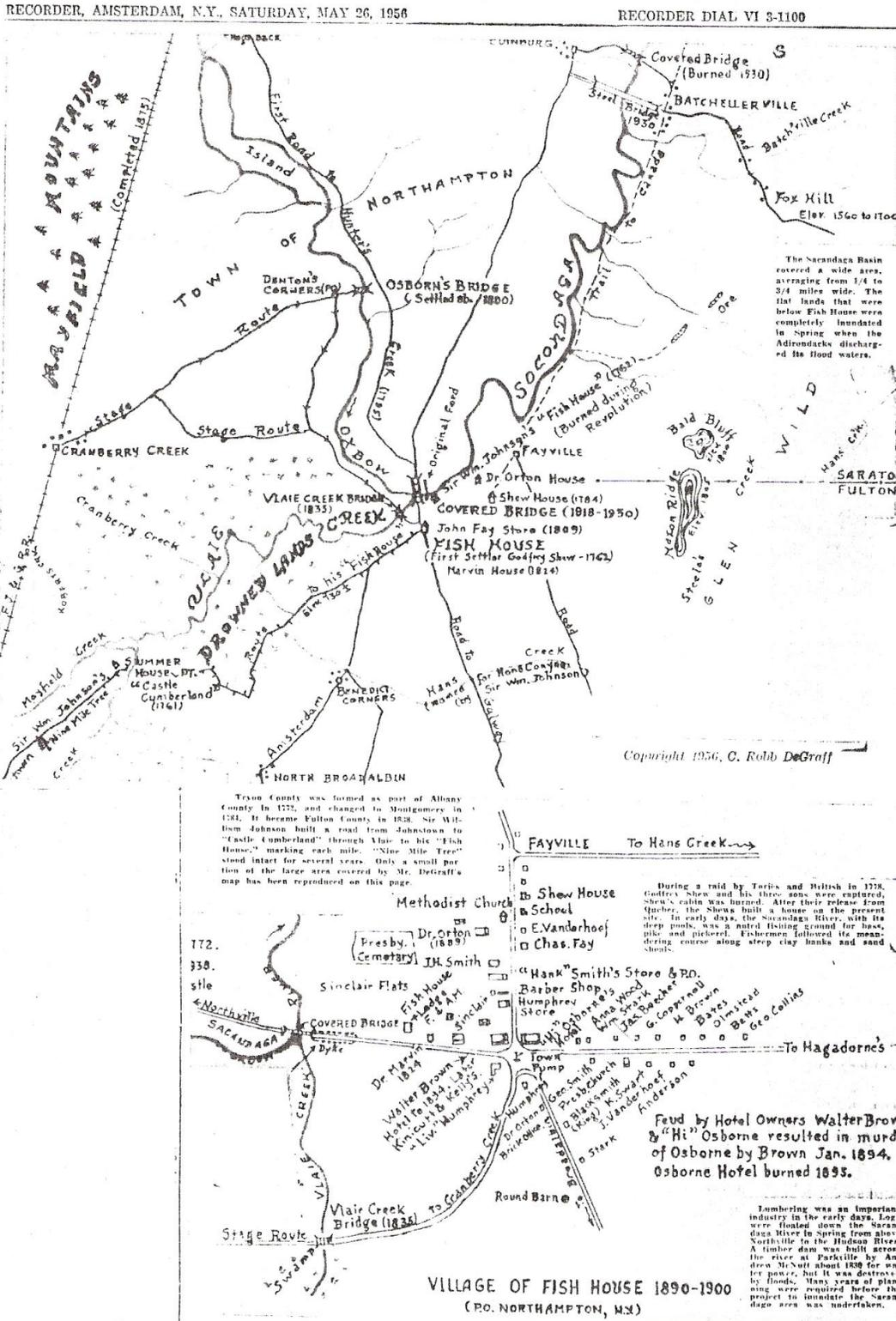


Illustration supplied by Katherine Strobel

These maps were drawn by C. Robb DeGraff, the engineer with the Hudson Valley Regulating District, which closed the spillway valves at Conklingville Dam in 1930 to form the Sacandaga Lake. DeGraff made the maps in 1956 to show the villages and other points of interest that existed in the area before the dam was built. These reproductions of two parts of the map accompanied a news story on their creation in The Recorder on May 26, 1956.

NRE

| | | | |
|--------------|------|--|----------------|
| 76.3-2-12* | 101 | | Cohwy 109 |
| 76.3-3-1 | 101 | | Cohwy 109 |
| 76.17-1-24* | 1513 | | Cohwy 110 |
| 76.17-1-26.5 | 1521 | | Cohwy 110 |
| 76.3-3-4 | 1584 | | Cohwy 110 |
| 76.3-3-10* | 1624 | | Cohwy 110 |
| 76.3-3-25 * | 1631 | | Cohwy 110 |
| 76.3-2-22 | 0 | | Fish House |
| 76.3-1-4 | 0 | | Old Fish House |
| 76.3-1-3 | 0 | | Old Fish house |
| 76.3-1-2* | 122 | | Old Fish House |
| 76.3-3-23 | 105 | | Cohwy 109 |
| 76.3-1-7 | 1607 | | Cohwy 110 |
| 76.3-1-1.1 | 125 | | Fish House |

Contributing (not NRE)

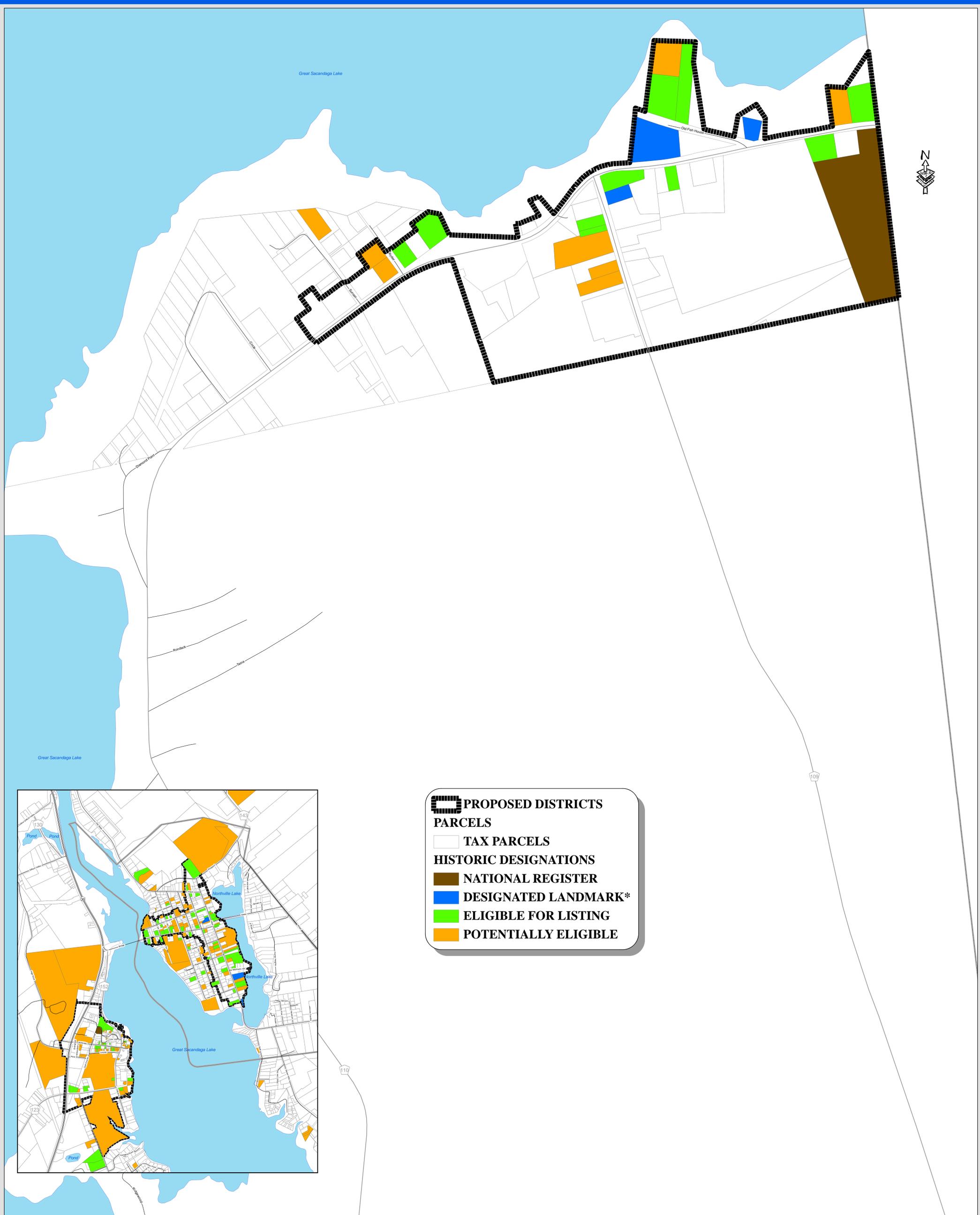
| | | | |
|------------|------|--|-----------|
| 76.3-3-1 | 101 | | Cohwy 109 |
| 76.3-2-13 | 116 | | Cohwy 109 |
| 76.3-2-15 | 122 | | Cohwy 109 |
| 76.3-2-16 | 126 | | Cohwy 109 |
| 76.3-3-24 | 1627 | | Cohwy 110 |
| 32.-4-24 | 468 | | Cohwy 113 |
| 76.17-1-16 | 103 | | Ryder |
| 76.17-1-17 | 107 | | Ryder |
| 76.17-1-9 | 122 | | Sunset |



Recommended Historic District

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| A | 18T566625.32m E | 4786323.17m N |
| B | 18T567021.28m E | 4786885.19m N |
| C | 18T567521.79m E | 4785457.80m N |
| D | 18T566561.31m E | 4786101.78m N |

Also see Fish House HD Map.pdf



PROPOSED DISTRICTS

PARCELS

□ TAX PARCELS

HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS

■ NATIONAL REGISTER

■ DESIGNATED LANDMARK*

■ ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING

■ POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE

TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON & VILLAGE OF NORTHVILLE
ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION
11/17/2009

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<http://books.google.com/books?id=6btOAAAAMAAJ&dq=simms%20trapper&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q=&f=false>