

Long Island Duck Farm History
and
Ecosystem Restoration Opportunities
Suffolk County, Long Island, New York



February 2009



**US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District**



Suffolk County, NY

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

Long Island Duck Farming History

prepared by

Suffolk County Department of Planning

H. Lee Dennison Building - 4th Floor

100 Veterans Memorial Highway

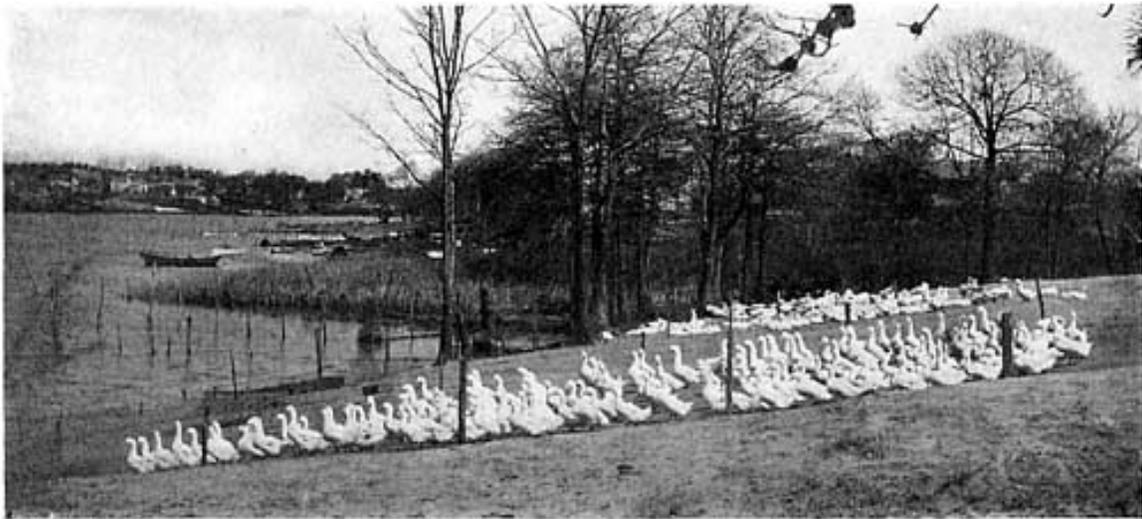
P.O. Box 6100

Hauppauge, New York 11788

Ronald Verbarg

Principal Planner

A Brief History of the Eastern Long Island Duck Farm Industry



Ducks! Eastport

Introduction

The duck farm industry during the twentieth century was an important segment of the agricultural economy in Suffolk County. It was also a period of extremely intensive land use along stream and bay shorelines. There were ninety duck farms located in the Towns of Brookhaven, Southampton and Riverhead in 1940. The impacts of duck farming were dramatic, both on-site and off-site. Extensive landform alterations were made to construct animal pens, feed lots and swim ponds, which were often located directly on or adjacent to streams/coves of the bays. Waste effluent discharges from the farms created thick organic matter deposits, degraded water quality and altered phytoplankton and benthic populations of the area immediately surrounding the discharged drains. The significance of the impacts is reflected by the magnitude of the industry and the waste load generated. The total annual production from the duck farms in Suffolk County peaked at nearly eight million ducks in 1959. By this time, effluent waste loadings from the farms, in the form of suspended solids, nutrients and coliform bacteria, were a problem (Davies 1993; Civiletti 2005). Between 1951 and 1968 several regulations and laws were enacted that required use of treatment technology to treat the waste. The legacy that the duck farming industry left behind was one of degraded shoreline sites, altered bay and creek hydrology, and bay bottoms that are soft and oxygen depleted. These conditions on many former duck farm sites made them less desirable for development, as compared to other locations. Had the duck farms not existed on these now valuable waterfront areas, most likely many of these properties would surely have been residentially developed by now.

Development of the Long Island Duck Industry

The history of the Pekin duck in the United States dates back to 1873. Legend has it that the nine Pekin ducks that were brought to the United States were obtained from the Chinese Imperial City of Peking by Ed McGrath in 1873. In the spring of 1872 Mr. McGrath saw some white ducks of extraordinary size, and was able to obtain some eggs from this stock. He took these eggs with him to Shanghai, had them incubated and raised from them fifteen ducks. Mr. McGrath arranged with James E. Palmer, an American poultry fancier, to take these ducks with him. Six of the ducks were lost in a storm at sea. The remaining nine ducks, three drakes and six ducks, arrived in New York City on March 13, 1873, after a voyage of 124 days (Anonymous 1930:15).

Duck growers quickly discovered the economic advantages of raising Pekin duck over other varieties of duck and began to replace their existing stock with Pekin ducklings as fast as the stock could be obtained. The Pekin duck quickly became the most popular market duck in the United States because of its favorable market characteristics and profitability. An article in the *Sunrise – The Magazine of Long Island* from September 1929 states that the Pekin duck is a quick-growing, tender, juicy bird that only requires 10 to 12 weeks to grow to a market size of between 5.5 and 6 pounds, while their closest competitors, the Western ducks, take from five to six months to mature. It also indicates that the Western ducks are smaller and tougher and sell for much lower prices per pound than Long Island duck (Flatow 1929:14)

Market ducks had been grown on Long Island on a small scale prior to the introduction of the Pekin duck in 1873, but it was the meaty, quick-growing Pekin, so suitable for large-scale commercial farming, that made the thriving industry possible. Long Island was the perfect environment for the production of Pekin duck with its moderate growing climate, extensive shoreline property, sandy soil, abundant fresh water and ability to produce its own grain. Proximity to New York City and other east coast cities was also a significant advantage in marketing fresh duck to a population that was comprised of duck-loving immigrants. The duck industry thrived on many of the waterways in eastern Suffolk (De Silva 1992:59).

The duck industry appears to have begun on Long Island in the Speonk/Eastport area. The raising of ducks did not become a full-time industry on Long Island until sometime between 1880 and 1885; prior to that time the raising of ducks was a supplemental activity to farming and fishing. Duck farmers experimented with different methods of productions in the late 1800s and early 1900s before the duck industry began its steady production expansion. The great increase in productivity on individual duck farms can be attributed primarily to the use of artificial methods in hatching and brooding (Wilcox 1949:2:441).

Long Island and eastern Massachusetts were the production centers of the early duck industry. The Massachusetts farmers started raising ducks via the dry duck farming method, which did not utilize creeks or streams. In contrast, most ducks grown on Long Island were raised on ranches that utilized adjacent streams and ponds. In the 1880s and 1890s there were a number of early duck farms - located primarily in the Remsenburg area - that were dry operations located entirely upland. Allowing ducks access to streams and ponds proved to be more economical than dry duck farming. By 1949, only one duck farm on Long Island was located upland (Wilcox 1949:2:441).

By 1900, approximately thirty duck farms were in operating in the Moriches, Eastport and Riverhead. The first duck farm in the Riverhead area was begun by Asa Fordham in an old ramshackle building on what was to become known as the A. B. Soyars Duck Farm, located on the Peconic River. In 1902, Mr. Soyars bought the duck farm from Mr. Fordham and eventually it became one of the larger duck farms. Mr. Soyars had previously worked at the A.J. Hallock Duck Farm in Speonk. The Atlantic Duck Farm, located in Speonk on the Speonk River and operated by the Hallock family, grew to become one of the largest duck farms under continuous operation since the 1880s. From 1916 until 1938 the Atlantic Duck Farm was the largest duck farm in the world producing 125,000 ducks in 1916 and 260,000 ducks in 1938. The farm was destroyed by the 1938 hurricane. After 1938, Hollis Warner of Riverhead became the largest producer of ducks with a peak annual production of 500,000 ducks per year (Yeager 1972:144).

Martin Maurer, an early duck farmer from Riverhead, found a unique way to market his product. He had what is now known as the Big Duck built on his farm (later purchased and operated by Carmine Bruno) in Upper Mills, Riverhead, on the north side of Route 25. The Big Duck, approximately 20 feet high, 30 feet long and 15 feet wide, officially opened for business in June, 1931, selling both eggs and ducks. The duck structure was constructed to attract more business during the Depression and its prime location, on one of the main roads leading east from NYC to the Hamptons, earned it a lot of attention. The 30 ton Big Duck, which was constructed from wood, wire mesh, and concrete, has been moved twice. In 1936, Mr. Maurer purchased a duck

farm in Flanders (property on Reeves Bay now owned by the Town of Southampton) and had the Big Duck moved to his new location some four miles to the east. In 1988, the Big Duck was moved to its current resting place at the entrance to Sears Bellows County Park, which is located several miles further east on the south side of Route 24 (Yeager 1972:144).

The Big Duck's uniqueness and longevity has resulted in its listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As such, it is known not only on Long Island but throughout the nation as an example of what is commonly referred to as "roadside architecture". The Big Duck has gained notoriety in the world of architecture, since any building shaped like its product is referred to as a "duck." In November, 1932, the Big Duck was featured in *Popular Mechanics* under the title "Concrete Bird Draws Attention to Duck Farm." The Atlas Cement Company used it on their Promotional calendar for 1931, and the Drake Cake Company erected a smaller version of the Big Duck for the 1939 NYC World's Fair. Mr. Maurer wanted to keep control over the rights to the Big Duck, so he had the design patented with the US Patent Office. Mr. Maurer's farm is long gone, but his Big Duck sits by the side of the road in Hampton Bays as a reminder of a once thriving industry on Long Island (Davies 1993:35).

Eastport had the largest number of early duck farms and continued to have the highest concentration of duck farms on Long Island until the 1970s. Early commercial duck farms were established in a number of Long Island hamlets including Rockville Center, Wantagh, Amityville, Islip and Fishers Island. However, the Eastport and Riverhead areas grew to become the centers for duck raising on Long Island. Although fewer in number, sizable duck farms existed on tributaries to the eastern reaches of the Great South Bay (Gallo Bros. Duck Farm on Mud Creek, Leskowitz Duck Farm on Little Neck Creek which is a tributary to the Carmans River and Robinsons Duck Farm on the Carmans River.) The Egnatz Leskowitz Duck Farm, actually three farms located on both sides of Little Neck Creek, was probably the third largest duck farm operation in Suffolk County in the late 1940s. In the post WW II era, commercial duck farms extended no further west than Mud Creek, East Patchogue (Wilcox 1949:456). Interestingly, municipal zoning had little influence on determining where the duck farms would locate, since zoning ordinances for the Towns of Brookhaven, Southampton and Riverhead were only first adopted in 1937, 1957 and 1959, respectively.

Historically, duck growing was a seasonal business that began in late March and ended in the beginning of December. Duck farmers have always practiced selective breeding by choosing only the healthiest, meatiest birds to serve as breeders for the next generation of ducks. The Pekin duck is a good breeder laying about 150 eggs in its laying span each year. After being laid, the eggs were placed in large coolers until needed for hatching. Before the introduction of the first incubators in 1890, "broody" hens were used to hatch out ducklings. The incubators that replaced the setting hens were fire hazards since they were fueled by kerosene. The eggs in these early incubators all had to be turned each day by hand. The technology then advanced to hot water incubators and, finally, the electric incubator came into use on Long Island in the 1920s. After 28 days in the incubator, the ducklings peck their way out of their eggs and were placed in a heated indoor nursery, known as a brooder house, for two to six weeks depending upon the season. As the ducks matured, they were herded into larger stream front pens where they developed for market. The ducks lost their yellow, fuzzy appearance at about four weeks but haven't yet grown their adult feathers. Through selective breeding and improved management

practices over the years, the growing cycle for a five to seven pound marketable duck has been reduced from ten to twelve weeks to only six to seven weeks. After reaching market size, the ducks – which consume an amount of food equal to five times their market weight – are either sent to the processing plant or set aside as breeders. Most Long Island duck growers sent their marketable ducks to the Long Island Duck Growers Cooperative Processing Plant that had been located in Eastport (Yeager 1972:144).

During the late 1940s, when the duck industry on Long Island was thriving, duck growers requested help from Cornell University in conducting research on all aspects of raising ducks. With financial support from the growers, the Cornell Duck Research Laboratory was established in Eastport in 1949. By the late 1950s, production of ducks outpaced consumer demand. By 1959, most duck farm operations were no longer profitable and at the beginning of the 1960 season faced serious financial problems. To more effectively promote and market Long Island duck, 44 duck farmers founded the Long Island Duck Farmers Cooperative, Inc. in May 1960. The farmers found they had over five million pounds of duck in storage. With the assistance the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, a full-scale nationwide promotional campaign was launched. To effectively process and market the ducks, the Cooperative established two processing plants – one located in Eastport and the other in Riverhead. The two plants would process, flash freeze and immediately ship the product to market via refrigerator trucks (www.longislandgenealogy.com/ducks 2007:4).

Duck farms abounded on Long Island during the majority of the twentieth century, and Long Island duck was among the most famous of the world's regionally named products. During the peak production years of the Long Island duck industry, which spanned the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s, duck farms could be found on almost all the freshwater streams in the Riverhead, Eastport and Moriches areas. Duck farms continued to spring up on Long Island until the 1950s. By the end of the 1930s, about six million ducks were produced on approximately 90 farms located in Suffolk County. By the late 1940s and early 1950s, the approximately 70 duck farms located in Suffolk County produced about two-thirds of all the ducks eaten in the United States. At that time, the duck industry was as valuable as the entire commercial fishing industry in the State. Production peaked around the late 1950s and early 1960s with the production of 7.5 million ducks per year. The number of active farms had been reduced to 48 by 1963. Of this total, three farms were located on tributaries to Bellport Bay; 30 farms were on tributaries and coves along Moriches Bay; one farm was located on Mecox Bay; and 14 farms were on tributaries to and the shoreline of Flanders Bay. The geographic distribution (and number) of these farms is shown in Table 1. Even by the mid-1960s, as environmental regulations were slowly strangling the duck industry, there were 1,500 people working on Long Island's duck farms, and between six to seven million ducks were sent to market annually. The annual duck production on Long Island in contrast to the number of duck farms on Long Island from 1897 to 2004 is graphically depicted in Figure 1 (Dean 2005).

Bellport Bay:
Mud Creek (1)
Carmans River (2)

Moriches Bay:
Swift Stream (3)
Forge River (3)
Old Neck Creek (2)
Terrell River (7)
Tuthill Cove (2)
Pamachee Creek (1)
Little Seatuck Creek (1)
Seatuck Cove (5)
Seatuck Creek (2)
Speonk Cove (1)
Speonk River/Tanners Neck Creek (3)

Flanders Bay:
Peconic River (4)
Sawmill Creek (4)
Terry's Creek (3)
Meetinghouse Creek (1)
Peconic Bay (1)
Peconic Creek (1)

Mecox Bay:
Mecox Bay (1)

Table 1. The Geographic Distribution and Number of Active Duck Farms in 1963.

The duck industry on Long Island began to decline in the 1960s due to a number of factors. First, it was generally accepted that summer residents and suburbanites, both appearing in ever greater numbers, found the odor and waste emanating from local duck farms offensive. Second, the pollution control measures that duck farmers were required to comply with significantly added to the cost of production, and many of the smaller duck farm operations that could not afford to comply with the requirements were forced out of business. Third, steeply increasing property taxes and utility rates also added to production costs. Fourth, as more of Long Island changed from farmland to suburbs, grain increasingly had to be imported from the Midwest, thereby making the growing of ducks on Long Island more expensive. Fifth, Long Island duck farmers, who once cornered the market, faced increasing competition from out-of-state duck farms. Finally, as the building boom rolled east in Suffolk County, many duck farmers found it more profitable to sell their waterfront property for residential development (De Silva 1992:62).

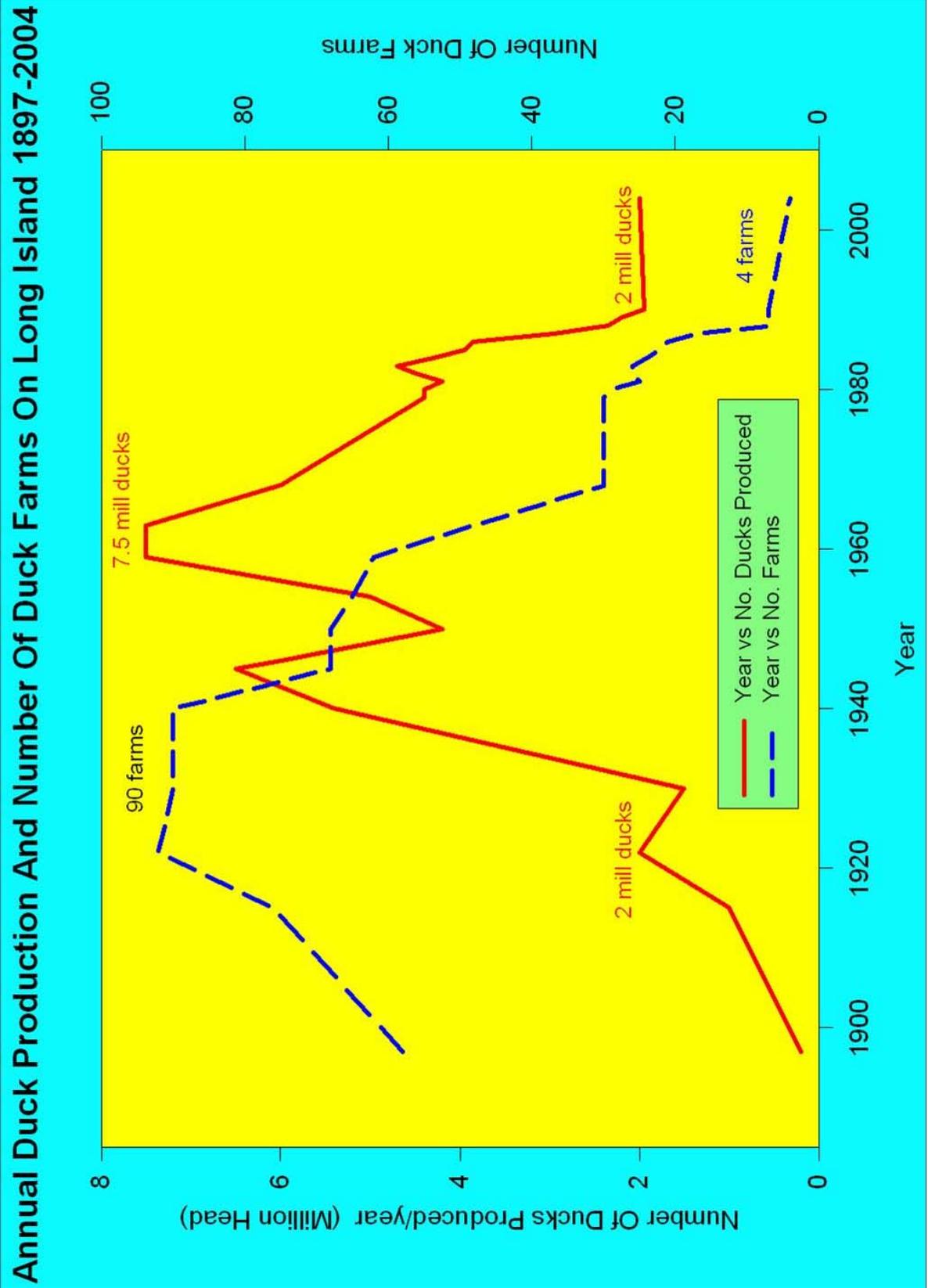


Figure 1: annual duck production on Long Island

With the smell came concerns about the harm the farms were doing to local streams and bays. The untreated excrement from millions of ducks polluted many of the receiving streams, which emptied into the bays and, subsequently, ruined these waterbodies for bathing and fishing. The demand for clean water became great and, as a result, the State instituted regulations to curtail pollution of the streams and bays. The history of pollution control within the Long Island duck industry dates back to 1951, when local civic associations sent petitions to the governor requesting that the State hold hearings to classify the surface waters within the State of New York as environmentally susceptible to the increasing pollutants being deposited in the waters. The result was a four point plan requiring duck farmers to remove their ducks' access to open water, remove the settleable excrement, disinfect waste water and remove nutrients, namely nitrogen and phosphorus. However, it was not until 1968 that treatment plants became a reality, marking the first substantial step toward the removal of duck wastes from surface waters (Wegner 1974:11). Prior to the government required wastewater treatment systems, commercially grown ducks swam in pens in the local creeks and discharged their wastes directly into the streams that eventually flowed into the bays. Environmental regulations, by the 1970s, prohibited the discharging of waste by-products into estuaries. As a result of the continuing costs of upgrading their treatment plants to comply with the ever more stringent pollution control requirements, many of the duck farmers folded or relocated to the Midwest, where costs were cheaper and environmental regulations less rigorous.

In the 1960s, county officials sought to close duck farms because of such environmental concerns as pollution of surface waters. Many closed and some, such as the Hollis Warner Duck Farm in Riverhead, were acquired by the County for active parkland purposes. The County took title to the Hollis Warner property in 1964 and redeveloped it into the Suffolk County Indian Island Golf Course. Suffolk County Executive H. Lee Dennison, an ardent opponent of the duck industry, was quoted in 1970 as having said that "one of the wild-eyed dreams I've always had is an absolutely duckless county" (Gilgoff 1972:A32). In a 1971 New York Times article, Dennison stated that "without question, the value of the duck to private industry is far outweighed by resulting cost to the general public in pollution, nuisance, losses in bathing, recreation, fishing and lowering of real estate values." Dennison labeled the duck farms as "major contributors to the pollution of the county's waterways" and an "undesirable private industry" that he would like to eliminate from the County. In a move in this direction, Dennison asked the County Legislature to appropriate \$2 million to buy 600 acres of duck farms around Flanders Bay. He asserted that that Flanders Bay was so polluted from duck wastes that the County has had to restrict swimming at its Indian Island Park, which the County developed in the mid-1960s. The duck farmers were highly resistant to the idea of the County buying them out and vowed that, if the Legislature appropriated the money, their farms would have to be taken by condemnation. Dennison's request for the \$2 million was subsequently denied by an economy-minded County Legislature (Bird 1971:75).

The required construction and operation of treatment plants for duck wastes did not necessarily quiet critics of the duck industry. Duck farm treatment plants did make a difference in water pollution levels, but the effluent from the early treatment plants didn't always meet state pollution standards for a variety of reasons. In 1975, Dr. George Woodwell, a scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory and a member of the Suffolk County Council on

Environmental Quality, stated that the pollution of public watercourses resulting from duck farm effluent should be stopped completely. “The public is giving an enormous subsidy – the quality of those creeks – to the duck farmers. It’s an industry that thrives by degrading common resources,” according to Dr. Woodwell (Soper 1976:9).

Long Island Duck Industry Today

Most of the ducks raised in the United States today are the Pekin breed. Almost all ducks are now raised indoors to protect them from predators, to control odors and to manage their manure, which is collected and used elsewhere selectively as fertilizer. Most ducks are now raised in Wisconsin and Indiana and are fed corn and soybeans fortified with vitamins and minerals. Duck represents only a very small portion of the overall domestic poultry market. About 23 million ducks were slaughtered in the US in 2003. Although Suffolk County now only accounts for about 10% of all the ducks grown for the national market, Long Island is still renowned throughout the world for its production of high quality ducklings (Thomas 2004:G10).

From its peak production years of a half a century ago, the Long Island duck industry in Suffolk County has shrunk to currently just three duck farms producing a little over two million ducks annually. These three farms - Jurgielewicz Duck Farm in Moriches, Crescent Duck Farm (owned by the Corwin family) in Aquebogue and the smaller scale Massey Duck Farm in Eastport – currently employ several hundred workers and generate about \$25 million in business. The Jurgielewicz Duck Farm and the Crescent Duck Farm are family farms that were founded in 1919 and 1908, respectively, and are currently ranked as the 2nd and 5th largest duck producers in the country, respectively, producing 1.25 million and 0.9 million ducks apiece annually (Thomas 2004:G7). Controlling the means of production on site from beginning to end (from incubation of eggs to the processing of ducks) has helped both farms survive. Both farms have heavily invested in upgrading facilities on site and appear to be viable operations for the foreseeable future.

Environmental regulations now require that waste by-products be contained on-site and not discharged into the estuary as was the practice historically. In order to treat the waste generated at Crescent Duck Farm – where some 140,000 ducks are raised at any given time – the Corwins are building a new state-of-the-art treatment facility that will cost \$3.25 million and handle up to 100,000 gallons per day. The effluent from the treatment facility will then be discharged to artificial wetlands located on-site. Sludge and other solids will be composted on about an acre of land at the farm (Civiletti 2005:15).

The remaining duck farm operations on Long Island owe their success to finding a niche in the market and being willing and able to adapt to changing circumstances, including stricter environmental regulations. The Jurgielewicz Duck Farm raises “free range” ducks in outdoor pens, which command a premium price, and ships 12,000 ducks a week to upscale restaurants in the City of New York, including specific areas such as Chinatown. Crescent Duck Farm produces ducks for the upper end of the market and supplies almost half of the New York metropolitan area restaurants that serve duck. Most of the ducks at Crescent are kept inside for their entire life span (Civiletti 2005:15).

The duck industry in the United States began on Long Island and a lot of the expertise that went into the development of the overall operation occurred on Long Island. Long Island growers have worked to make their ducks distinctive. Selective breeding year after year to develop better strains of duck is considered the most important factor in differentiating Long Island duck from out-of-state competitors. Famous restaurants in New York City want their duck to be absolutely fresh and of premium quality. The Long Island duck produces continue to fill that bill.

The Acquisition and Restoration Challenge

Over 2,000 acres and nearly 20 miles of shoreline have been utilized during the last century for the commercial production of ducks in Suffolk County. Approximately a dozen former duck farms are now publicly owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State, Suffolk County, and the Towns of Brookhaven, Southampton and Riverhead. A list of these sites, along with two other former duck farm sites containing conservation easements, is shown in Appendix A. The County of Suffolk and the Town of Brookhaven are also in contract to purchase the development rights to four parcels comprising the Jurgielewicz Duck Farm in Moriches. The purchase of development rights to the 47 acre Jurgielewicz Duck Farm, located on the east side of the Forge River between Sunrise Highway and Montauk Highway and west of Barnes Road, will cost each municipality \$2.8 million. Suffolk County parkland includes former duck farms located on the Peconic River, Mud Creek, Forge River and Carmans River. Many other former duck farms have been developed for private residential use. However, a significant amount of former duck farm acreage remains underutilized and available for development. Of the approximately 2,000 acres in Suffolk County that have been devoted to the rearing of ducks:

- 11% are still used by active duck farm operations
- 24% are publicly owned
- 28% are inactive duck farms sites available for development
- 37% have been redeveloped primarily for single family residential use.

Appendix B displays information on active and former duck farms regarding their location, ownership, acreage, shoreline length, development status and current municipal zoning. The use of these properties in the future poses a unique planning challenge. The duck farm legacy has important ramifications for coastal development, open space acquisition, stream corridor/wetland habitat restoration, and marine resource management. Ten former duck farm sites have been proposed for open space acquisition by the County alone. The sites are listed in Appendix C. The extent to which habitats on former duck farm sites, tributaries and bay bottoms can/should be restored remains a subject for technical evaluation and regulatory debate. To this end, the Suffolk County Planning Department has embarked on a more thorough understanding of the location and extent of former duck farm sites within the County, with the goal of identifying potential restoration opportunities. As part of this several images were uncovered and are presented in Appendix D.

As part of this research, an interview was held with the former owner and operators of the Gallo Duck Farm in East Patchogue, New York. This initial interview provided an overview of the Gallo farm, and duck farming in general from the 1940s through the 1980s. Notes and transcripts from that interview are presented in Appendix E.

FUTURE WORK AND RESEARCH POTENTIAL FOR DUCK FARMS

From a governmental point of view, it is easy to answer the question of what to do with former Duck Farm sites. Federal, State and many local regulations state that any project that uses public funds must undertake some form of cultural resource survey to determine potential significance and impact to these historic sites. The potential project on an individual site must be taken into consideration with regard to how the proposal may impact potential significant above and below ground cultural resources.

As each individual project arises, at least a Phase I Project, including the IA - Documentary Report and the IB - Field Survey Report, would be undertaken to determine the potential significance of the individual site.

As part of the Phase I survey's several issues should have to be addressed. Does the site(s) retain any visual reminders of the former farm? Are they structures? Landscape feature? If these remain, when were they constructed? What is the projected plan for these former structures and/or landscapes? Is there a potential for buried cultural resource? What was on the site prior to becoming a duck farm? Was a significant/historic person residing on the property? Did the former farm contribute towards a significant industry or cultural history/event of the region? Can any of the former features be retained in the proposed plan? These are but some of the questions that will have to be asked/answered for each individual site.

However, for each individual former Duck Farms site, this may not be the most prudent approach. Individually, most of these Duck Farms have undergone major transformations that would most likely destroy their integrity, rendering them ineligible for potential inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Geographically, they are too far apart to be a succinct Historic District.

This does not mean that these former Duck Farms are not significant. In fact, these sites are a testament to an industry that was incredibly significant for Suffolk County, and the overall region. As highlighted in the brief history of duck farming, the industry helped shaped a specific food industry. It employed families, contributed to the economy and, although not the intention, helped, in part, to usher in environmental regulations that would apply to more than just duck farms.

As stated, due to the widespread geographic area, the Duck Farms cannot be lumped into a Historic District. However, using the approach of the determination for Historic Districts should be incorporated for these Duck Farms.

Beyond the standard Section 106-type questions, outlined above, that must be answered, there are a myriad of research oriented questions that can be asked of these sites. For example:

From an historical perspective:

How did the farms develop and evolve over time?

Were the changes based on cultural, geographic, economic or regulatory concerns?

From an environmental perspective:

Did the farmscape (landscape) changes occur because of regulations alone, or did some other environmental concern cause a change in layout?

For instance, farms started out as open field where the ducks could roam and discard waste material directly into the watershed. This changed to the development of ponds. These ponds were surrounded by a series of dikes to insure that the effluent did not flow into the rivers and streams. From there, as regulations increased, separate pools were created to insure that no runoff made it into the waterway.

These research questions can, and should be included as part of any Scope of Work and/or plan for the reuse of these former sites. These questions can be undertaken in corporation with research institutions (i.e. colleges and universities), the County or local municipality and/or as joint efforts with other agencies (Federal and non-Federal).

Future research into the history of the former Duck Farms will continue to help develop the story of the Duck Farming industry of Long Island. This important economic and social industry helped to define what Suffolk County was like in the eighteenth to the beginning of the last quarter of the twentieth century. The information gathered will not only provide supporting background material for the history of these sites, but may be used in the whatever future development for the former farms that are in the County's control. Historic and landscape information can be used to recreate the former landscapes of these farms, be used in passive recreational displays, or be incorporated into the landscape in terms of potential reconstruction and museum displays. Many avenues of opportunities exist by conducting research into these former farm sites that will help sustain the memory of the past while providing information for the future.

References

Anonymous.

1930 "The Long Island Duck Growing Industry". *Long Island Almanac and Year Book*, 15.

Bird, David.

1971 "Duck Farms on Long Island: Economic Asset or a Liability." *New York Times*, April 11:67.

Civiletti, Denise.

2005 "Farm Adapting to Survive." *The Suffolk Times*, April 21:15.

Davies, Carolyn L'Hommedieu.

1993 "Creating a Landmark – Hatching the Big Duck." *Long Island Forum – the Magazine of Long Island History and Heritage*, Winter:30-35.

Dean, William, Dr.

2005 The History of the Duck Farm Industry on Long Island. Presentation at conference on The Legacy of Duck Farms in Suffolk County: Issues and Opportunities, Riverhead Free Library, February 8.

De Silva, Cara.

1992 "The Vanishing Flock." *Newsday*, July 8:59.

Flatow, George.

1929 "Famous Long Island Ducks." *Sunrise – The Magazine of Long Island*, September:13-14.

Gilgoff, Henry.

1972 "A Lame-Duck Industry." *Newsday*, October 31:A32.

Soper, Susan.

1976 "Long Island Ducks: Indelicate." *Newsday*, 9.

Thomas, Katie.

2004 "The Long History of a Fabled Fowl – Long Island Duck." *Newsday*, March 21:Section G:G6-G11.

Wegner, Frances.

1974 "Long Island Duck May Become Extinct Species." *Long Island Press*, July 28:11.

Wilcox, LeRoy.

1949 Duck Industry. In Paul Bailey (editor), *Long Island – A History of Two Great Counties – Nassau and Suffolk, Volume 2:439-458*. Lewis Historical Publication Company, Inc. New York, New York.

Yeager, Edna Howell.

1972 “The Big Duck.” *Long Island Forum – the Magazine of Long Island History and Heritage*, July:142-147.

www.longislandgenealogy.com/ducks

2007 “The Story of Our Long Island Duckling”:4.

APPENDIX A:

Former Duck Farm Sites Owned by the Public or Containing Conservation Easements

Former Gallo Duck Farm
Mud Creek, Town of Brookhaven
Owned by Suffolk County
38.6 acres; 62 parcels
Sections 97360 & 97570 of the SCRPTM
Approx. 1,600' of shoreline on Mud Creek

Former Robinsons Duck Farm
Carmens River, Town of Brookhaven
Owned by Suffolk County
86.3 acres; 2 parcels
SCRPTM 0200-84900-0300-011000 (24.1 acres)
SCRPTM 0200-87800-0100-001005 (62.2 acres)
Approx. 1,500' of shoreline on Carmens River

Former Duck Farm on Fanning Landing Road
Forge River, Town of Brookhaven
Jointly owned by Suffolk County & Town of Brookhaven
18.2 acres; 1 parcel
SCRPTM 0200-82500-0300-004001
Approx. 1,000' of shoreline on Forge River

Former duck farm on Godzieba property
Forge River, west branch north of East Mill Pond, Moriches, Town of Brookhaven
Owned by Suffolk County & Town of Brookhaven
Approx. 36 acres; 1 parcel
SCRPTM 0200-78800-0300-003000
Approx. 2,000' of shoreline on Forge River, west branch north of East Mill Pond

Indian Island County Golf Course located on former Hollis Warner Duck Farm
Peconic River & Sawmill Creek; Town of Riverhead
Owned by Suffolk County
156.4 acres; 2 parcels
SCRPTM 0600-13200-0100-002000 (86.9 acres)
SCRPTM 0600-13200-0100-003000 (69.5 acres)
Approx. 10,000' of shoreline on Peconic River & Sawmill Creek

Former Shubert Duck Farm on N/W corner of C.R. 58 & Northville Turnpike
Sawmill Creek; Town of Riverhead
Owned by Suffolk County
42.8 acres; 1 parcel
SCRPTM 0600-08400-0100-014001
Approx. 1,800' of shoreline on Sawmill Creek

Former Martin Maurer Duck Farm
Reeves Bay, Flanders Bay, Town of Southampton
Owned by Town of Southampton
37.9 acres; 3 parcels
SCRPTM 0900-14600-0100-016000; 018000; and 041001
Approx. 800' of shoreline on Reeves Bay

Former duck farm located between Northville Tpk. and Elton Street
Sawmill Creek, Town of Riverhead
Owned by Town of Riverhead
37.6 acres; 2 parcels
SCRPTM 0600-10900-0100-009005 and 011002
Approx. 1,800' of shoreline on Sawmill Creek

Former Peconic River duck farm # 1
Peconic River, Calverton, Town of Riverhead
Owned by State of New York and within Central Pine Barrens Core
Approx. 10.0 acres; p/o 1 parcel
SCRPTM 0600-14300-0100-004001 p/o
Approx. 1,200' of shoreline on Peconic River

Former Peconic River duck farm # 2
Peconic River, Calverton, Town of Riverhead
Owned by State of New York and within Central Pine Barrens Core
Approx. 5.0 acres; p/o 1 parcel
SCRPTM 0600-14300-0100-001000 p/o
Approx. 300' of shoreline on Peconic River

Former Leszkowicz Duck Farms

Three locations on Little Neck Creek, tributary to Carmans River, Town of Brookhaven

Owned by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

56.8 acres; 6 parcels

SCRPTM 0200-93300-0300-001001 and 001003

SCRPTM 0200-93300-0100-001000

SCRPTM 0200-93300-0200-001000

SCRPTM 0200-96300-0100-026001 and 026003

Approx. 4,400' of shoreline on Little Neck Creek

Former Olin Warner Duck Farm

Peconic River, Calverton, Town of Riverhead

Owned by the Warner family

CPB Joint Planning and Policy Commission has conservation easement on property

Within Central Pine Barrens Core

29.8 acres; 3 parcels

SCRPTM 0600-11800-0400-005008; 005009; and 005010

Approx. 800' of shoreline on Peconic River

Former White Broad Duck Farm

Peconic Creek, tributary to Peconic River, Riverside, Town of Southampton

Owned by Gloria Kisch; Peconic Land Trust has conservation easement on property

Within the Compatible Growth Area of the CPB

40.0 acres; 1 parcel

SCRPTM 0900-14200-0100-05300

Approx. 700' of shoreline on tributary to Peconic River

Appendix B:

Active and former duck farms (geographic information)

Table 3. Acreage & Shoreline Length of Active & Former Duck Farms in Suffolk County – 2007

Town	Waterbody	Duck Farm/ Location	SCRIPTM	Acreage	Shoreline Length (in feet)	Current Ownership	Development Status	Zoning	Acreage of Former Duck Farms not yet Subdivided/Developed	Shoreline of Former Duck Farms not yet Subdivided/Developed
Brookhaven	Mud Creek	Gallo	Sec. 97360 & 97570	39	1,600	Suffolk County	Former duck farm - buildings in deteriorated condition	A-1 Res.	0	0
	Carmens R.	Robinsons	Sec. 84900 & 87800	86	1,500	Suffolk County	Former duck farm - buildings in deteriorated condition	A-10 Res.	0	0
	Little Neck Creek	Leskowicz (between Montauk Hwy. and LIRR)	Sec. 93300	24	2,000	U.S. Fish & Wildlife (p/o former Wertheim Est.)	Former duck farm - no buildings remain	A-10 Res.	0	0
	Little Neck Creek	Leskowicz (south of LIRR)	Sec. 96300	20	2,400	U.S. Fish & Wildlife (p/o former Wertheim Est.)	Former duck farm - site restoration underway	A-10 Res.	0	0
	Forge R.	north of Sunrise Hwy.	Sec. 75000	16	1,000	Shulz Holding Corp.	Former duck farm - buildings in deteriorated condition	A Res.	16	1,000
	Forge R.	Timus/ Jurgielewicz	Sec. 75000, 75100 & 78800	66	3,600	Timus/ Jurgielewicz	Active duck farms	K Bus. & L-1 Ind.	0	0
	Forge R.	Fanning Landing Road	Sec. 82500	18	1,000	County of Suffolk/ Town of Brookhaven	Former duck farm - no buildings remain	A-2 Res.	0	0
	Forge R.	East Mill Pond (west branch)	Sec. 78800	66	2,100	Godzieba, Suffolk County and Town of Brookhaven	Active poultry farm; former duck farm recently acquired by Suffolk County and Town of Brookhaven (36 acres, 2,100')	K Bus.	0	0
	Forge R.	East Mill Pond (east branch)	Sec. 82500	13	1,300	Newton & Nevins	Trailer truck storage yard	J-3 Bus.	13	1,300
	Forge R. / ElyCreek	south of Montauk Hwy.	Sec. 85400, 85410, 85420, 85500, 88300 & 88400	102	6,700	The Waterways at Bay Pointe Condominiums (2,900' on Forge River and 3,800' on Ely Creek)	Condominiums – 346 units	PRC	0	0
	Swift Stream	Swift Stream Farms	Sec. 82400, 82500 & 85300	49	1,900	Swift Stream Farms, Inc. & Punit Complex LLC	Former duck farm - no buildings remain – vacant, shopping center, & nursery	A-1 & A-2 Res.	34	1,900
	Old Neck Creek	Hallock Brookside/Forge River Farm	Sec. 88400, 88500, 91100 & 91200	82	4,000	Private residential ownership	Single family residential - approx. 1 acre lots	A-1 Res.	0	0

	Terrells River	Smith, Chornoma, Chi-Dux, Podlaski, Vigiotta	Sec. 85900, 88800, 88900, 91500 & 91600	76	4,000	Smith, Kansas, Chornoma, Bay Ave. Properties LLC, Cedar Tree Farms Inc, Podlaski	Former duck farms - most buildings in deteriorated condition but 1 farm restored & used for livestock (8 acres, 600')	K Bus.	68	3,400
	Tuthill Cove	Kanas/Soroka	Sec. 86000 & 88900	32	2,000	Kamas	Residential estate with restored farm buildings	K Bus.	0	0
	Harts Cove	Pamreches Creek, Breezy Acres	Sec. 79500, 83200 & 86100	56	2,400	Private residential ownership	The Villas at Harts Cove - 75 villas & large open spaces	A-1 Res.	0	0
	Little Seetuck Cr.	e/s south of E. Moriches Blvd.	Sec. 72300 & 76000	60	2,800	Private residential ownership	Single family residential mostly - 1+ acre lots; 1 former duck farm (15 acres, 900') - no buildings remain	A-2 Res.	15	900
	Seetuck Creek w/s	w/s south of LIRR	Sec. 68600, 72300 & 76000	55	3,300	Private residential ownership, 1 active duck farm (Massey)	Single family residential mostly - 1+ acre lots; 1 active duck farm (17 acres, 850')	K Bus., A-2 Res., A-1 Res.	0	0
Southampton	Seetuck Creek e/s	e/s south of LIRR	Sec. 35100 & 36500	72	3,500	Private residential ownership, 1 active duck farm (Massey)	Single family residential mostly - 1+ acre lots; 1 active duck farm (6 acres, 300'); 1 former duck farm (7 acres, no shoreline) - no buildings remain; 1 former duck farm (5 acres, no shoreline) - buildings used for storage	R-40	12	0
	East River w/s	w/s south of LIRR	Sec. 35200 & 36500	40	4,000	Private residential ownership, Seetuck Cove Marina	Single family residential mostly - 1+ acre lots; 1 former duck farm (7 acres, 800') - no buildings remain, 1 former duck farm (5 acres, 550') now a marina	R-40 & RWB	7	800
	East River e/s	e/s south of LIRR	Sec. 35200 & 36600	50	3,100	Kamas, Lomaga, Melzer, Stachnik East River Marina	2 former duck farms (26 acres, 1700') - buildings intact; 1 former duck farm (8 acres, 1800') - buildings used for storage; 1 former duck farm (6 acres, 400') now a marina, buildings used for boat storage & repair	R-60	34	3,500

	Speonk River w/s	w/s south of Montauk Hwy.	Sec. 36900	15	1,100	Private residential ownership	Single family residential mostly - 1+ acre lots	R-40	0	0
	Speonk River e/s	e/s south of Montauk Hwy.	Sec. 36900 & 38100	90	5,300	Private residential ownership	Single family residential mostly - 1+ acre lots	R-40 & R-80	0	0
	Brushy Neck Creek	w/s south of Montauk Hwy.	Sec. 36900 & 38100	41	4,500	Private residential ownership	Single family residential mostly - 1+ acre lots	R-40 & R-80	0	0
	Tanners Neck Creek	C & R Duck Farm	Sec. 36900	27	1,400	Private residential ownership	Single family residential mostly - 1+ acre lots	R-40	0	0
	Mecox Bay	Hayground Cove	Sec. 10200	11	800	Mecox Landing Condominium	Condominiums - 30 units	MF-44	0	0
	Peconic Creek	White Broad Duck Farm - south of SR 24, west of CR 105	Sec. 14200	40	700	Private residential ownership - within Compatible Growth area of CPBJPPC	Single family residence - Conservation Easement held by Peconic Land Trust	R-80	0	0
	Reeves Bay	north of SR 24	Sec. 14600	40	800	Town of Southampton	Former duck farm - buildings in deteriorated condition	R-40 & RWB	0	0
Riverhead	Peconic River	between River Rd & Peconic R.	Sec. 14300	10	1,200	State of New York - within Core area of CPBJPPC	Former duck farm - no buildings remain	Open Space	0	0
	Peconic River	between River Rd & Peconic R.	Sec. 14300	5	300	State of New York - within Core area of CPBJPPC	Former duck farm - no buildings remain	Open Space	0	0
	Peconic River	Clearview Duck Farm - between River Rd. & Peconic R.	Sec. 13800	18	2,000	Schmelzer, Miloski - within Core area of CPBJPPC	Former duck farm - buildings in deteriorated condition	Ind. A	18	2,000
	Peconic River	Olin Warner Duck Farm - between River Rd & LIRR	Sec. 11800	33	800	Warner - CPBJPPC conservation easement & within Core area of CPBJPPC	Former duck farm - some buildings used to board horses & other buildings in deteriorated condition	Rec.	33	800
	Peconic River	Bridgeview Duck Farm	Sec. 11900	16	1,200	Gedo	Former duck farm - a few buildings remain that are in deteriorated condition	Bus. A	16	1,200
	Peconic River	Carmine Bruno Duck Farm	Sec. 12500	16	1,100	Peconic Bay Realty Corp., Eghrani	Former duck farm - single family residence	Bus. A & Ind. A	16	1,100
	Sawmill Creek	Shubert Duck Farm - north of Northville Tpke.	Sec. 08400 & 10900	43	1,500	East Erd Commons Associates, LLC	BJ's warehouse retailer, vacant n/s CR 58	Bus. B & Office/Service	11	600

			Sec. 10900	65	3,300	Town of Riverhead, Tremper, Mill Pond Developers LLC	Former duck farm now owned by Town - no buildings remain (42 acres, 2,300'); 100 residential units under construction at Mill Pond Commons	Res. C	0	0
Sawmill Creek	between Northville Tpk. & E. Main St.									
			Sec. 11200 & 13200	250	14,300	Suffolk County (6,000' Sawmill, 4,000' Peconic), Hubbard & Benjamin Development Co., Inc.	SC Indian Island Golf Course; 1 former duck farm - buildings in deteriorated condition (90 acres, 4300')	Bus. A - Hubbard; Res. C - SCHGC	90	4,300
Sawmill Creek/ Peconic River	south of E. Main St. - Hubbard & Warner Duck Farms									
			Sec. 10900 & 11200	68	4,200	Garry Smith Properties LLC & private residential ownership	1 former duck farm - no buildings remain (38 acres, 2200'); 2 former duck farms now single family developments - 1/2 acre lots	Res. C	38	2,200
Terry Creek	between E. Main St. & LIRR									
			Sec. 08600	95	4,400	Walo LLC	Former duck farm - buildings in deteriorated condition	Bus. A	95	4,400
Terry Creek	south of LIRR - Broad Cove Duck Farm									
			Sec. 08000	127	2,200	Corwin	Active duck farm	Ind. B & Agr. A	0	0
Meeting-house Creek	Crescent Duck Farm									
				2032	105,300				516	29,400
TOTAL										

Appendix C:

Proposed Suffolk County Open Space Acquisitions of Former Duck Farms

The following former duck farm sites have been proposed for open space acquisition in Master List I and II or by Suffolk County Resolution:

Broad Cove Duck Farm

Riverhead, Town of Riverhead

94.6 acres; 1 parcel

SCRPTM 0600-08600-0100-036000

Resolution 970-1999 Authorizing acquisition under the Old ¼% Drinking Water Program

Resolution 605-2001 Declaring Superior Governmental Need (Tax Lien Procedures)

Master List II

Hubbard Duck Farm

Riverhead, Town of Riverhead

77.5 acres; 1 parcel

SCRPTM 0600-11200-0100-016001

Resolution 257-2002 Authorizing Planning Steps for acquisition under the New Drinking Water Program

Godzieba Duck Farm

Forge River, Town of Brookhaven

36 acres; 1 parcel

SCRPTM 0200-78800-0300-003000

Master List I

Recently acquired by Suffolk County and Town of Brookhaven

Newton/Nevins property

Forge River, Town of Brookhaven

12 acres; 1 parcel

SCRPTM 0200-82500-0200-020000

Master List I

Swift Stream Farms

Forge River, Town of Brookhaven

34 acres; 1 parcel

SCRPTM 0200-85300-1000-002000

Master List I

Carmine Bruno Duck Farm
Upper Mills, tributary to Peconic River, Town of Riverhead
21 acres; 4 parcels
SCRPTM 0600-12500-0200-008001; 008002; 008003 & 008004
Master List I

Shubert Duck Farm
Sawmill Creek, Town of Riverhead
37 acres; 3 parcels
SCRPTM 0600-08400-0100-007000; 012000 & 018002
Master List I

AJDN Realty Corp. property
Sawmill Creek, Town of Riverhead
30 acres; 1 parcel
SCRPTM 0600-10900-0100-009005
Master List I
Recently Acquired by Town of Riverhead

Garry Smith Properties
Terrys Creek, Town of Riverhead
38 acres; 1 parcel
SCRPTM 0600-10900-0300-003002
Master List I

Chornoma Duck Farm
Forge River, Town of Brookhaven
16 acres, 1 parcel
SCRPTM 0200-75000-0300-040002
Master List II

APPENDIX D:

Images

DUCK FARMS

REF. NO.	OWNER	RECEIVING STREAM	REF. NO.	OWNER	RECEIVING STREAM	REF. NO.	OWNER	RECEIVING STREAM	REF. NO.	OWNER	RECEIVING STREAM
1.	GALLO BROTHERS	GREAT SOUTH BAY	13.	WALTER R. SMITH	MORICHES BAY	25.	ANTONE ANCIUROWSKI	MORICHES BAY	37.	BRIDGEVIEW DUCK FARM	FLANDERS BAY
2.	LESKOWICZ	ROBINSON POND	14.	ROBERT H. SMITH	TERRELL RIVER	26.	PETER KOSTUK	SEATUCK COVE	38.	RIVERSIDE FARM	PECONIC RIVER
3.	CARMEN RIVER FARM	CARMENS RIVER	15.	STANLEY CHORNOMA	TERRELL RIVER	27.	TUTTLE BROTHERS	SEATUCK COVE	39.	BROAD COVE FARM	SAWMILL CREEK
		MORICHES BAY	16.	CHI-DUX FARM	TERRELL RIVER	28.	EASTPORT SPECIAL	SEATUCK COVE	40.	BROAD COVE FARM	TERRY'S CREEK
4.	PAUL CHORNOMA	SWIFT STREAM	17.	JOSEPH POOLASKI	TERRELL RIVER	29.	DUCK DISTRICT	SEATUCK COVE			METING HOUSE CREEK
5.	DE PIAZZY	SWIFT STREAM	18.	VIELIOTTA & SON	TERRELL RIVER	30.	SPRING WATER FARM	DISCHARGED THRU N° 20	41.	JOHN BELLINI	MECOX BAY
6.	JURGIELEWICZ	SWIFT STREAM	19.	ADAM SOROKA	TUTMILL COVE	31.	ANNA PACHOLK	SEATUCK COVE			MECOX BAY
7.	SWIFT STREAM FARMS	FORGE RIVER	20.	ADAM KANAS	TUTMILL COVE	32.	STEPHEN KUCZMA	SPEONK RIVER			FLANDERS BAY
8.	BORAX FARM	FORGE RIVER	21.	BREEZY ACRES	PANACHEE CREEK	33.	LEROY WILCOX	SPEONK RIVER	42.	CARMINE BRUNO	PECONIC BAY
9.	LUKERT	FORGE RIVER	22.	ZYSMUNT RABINSKI	LITTLE SEATUCK CREEK	34.	C & R FARM	SPEONK RIV-TENNERS MECK CR.	43.	SHUBERT FARM	SAWMILL CREEK
10.	HALLOCK BROOKSIDE	OLD NECK CREEK	23.	CHESTER MASSLY	SEATUCK COVE	35.	PECONIC RIVER FARM	FLANDERS BAY	44.	WESLEY WARNER	TERRY'S CREEK
11.	FORGE RIVER FARM	OLD NECK CREEK	24.	BIG SEATUCK FARMS	SEATUCK CREEK	36.	CLEARVIEW FARM	PECONIC RIVER	45.	ANNA DROP	TERRY'S CREEK
12.	HARRY A. SMITH	TERRELL RIVER				38.	OLIN WARNER	PECONIC RIVER	46.	BONNEVIEW FARM	SAWMILL CREEK
						39.		PECONIC RIVER	47.	SUNRISE FARM	SAWMILL CREEK
									48.	WHITE BROAD FARM	PECONIC CREEK

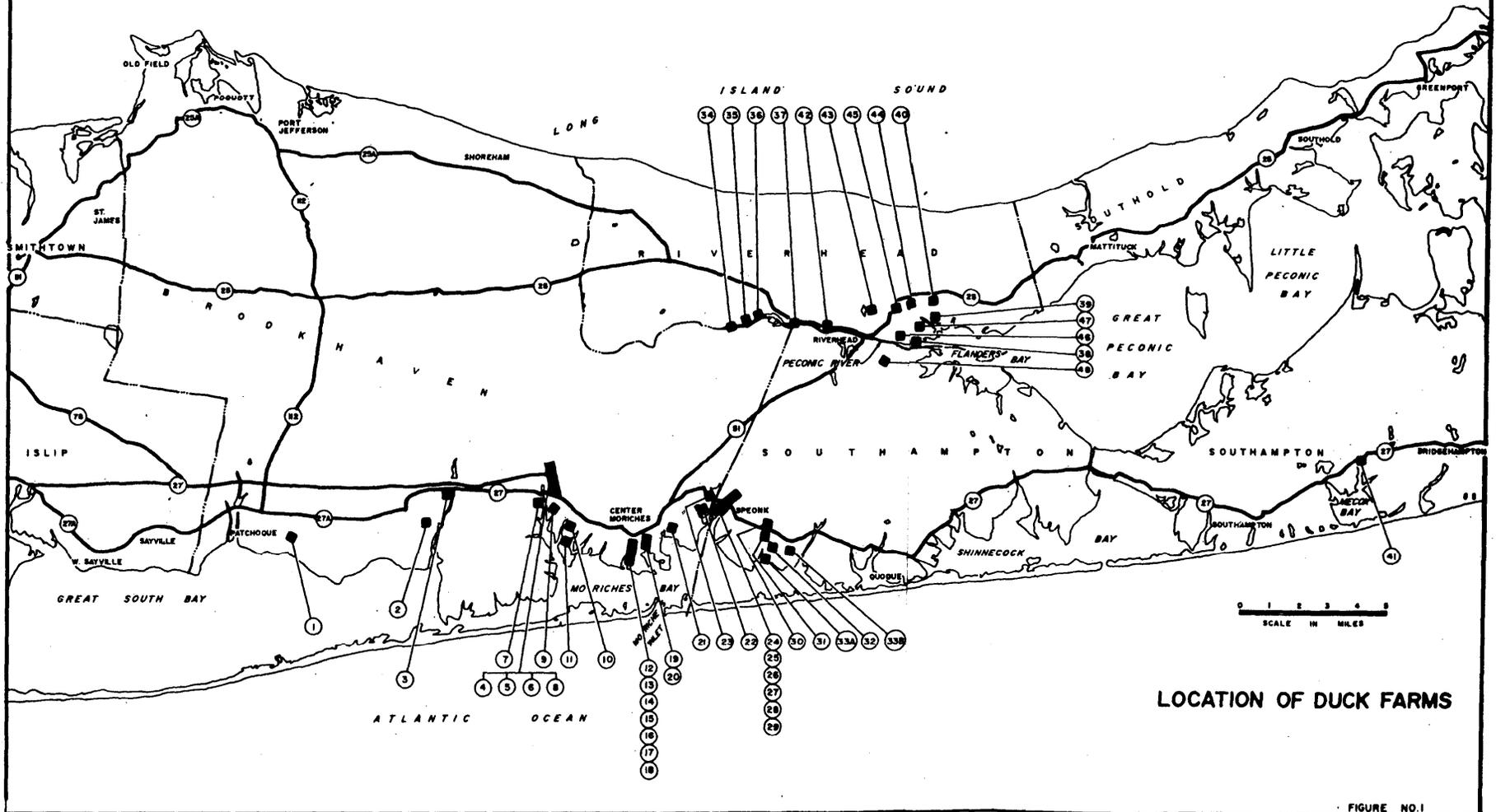
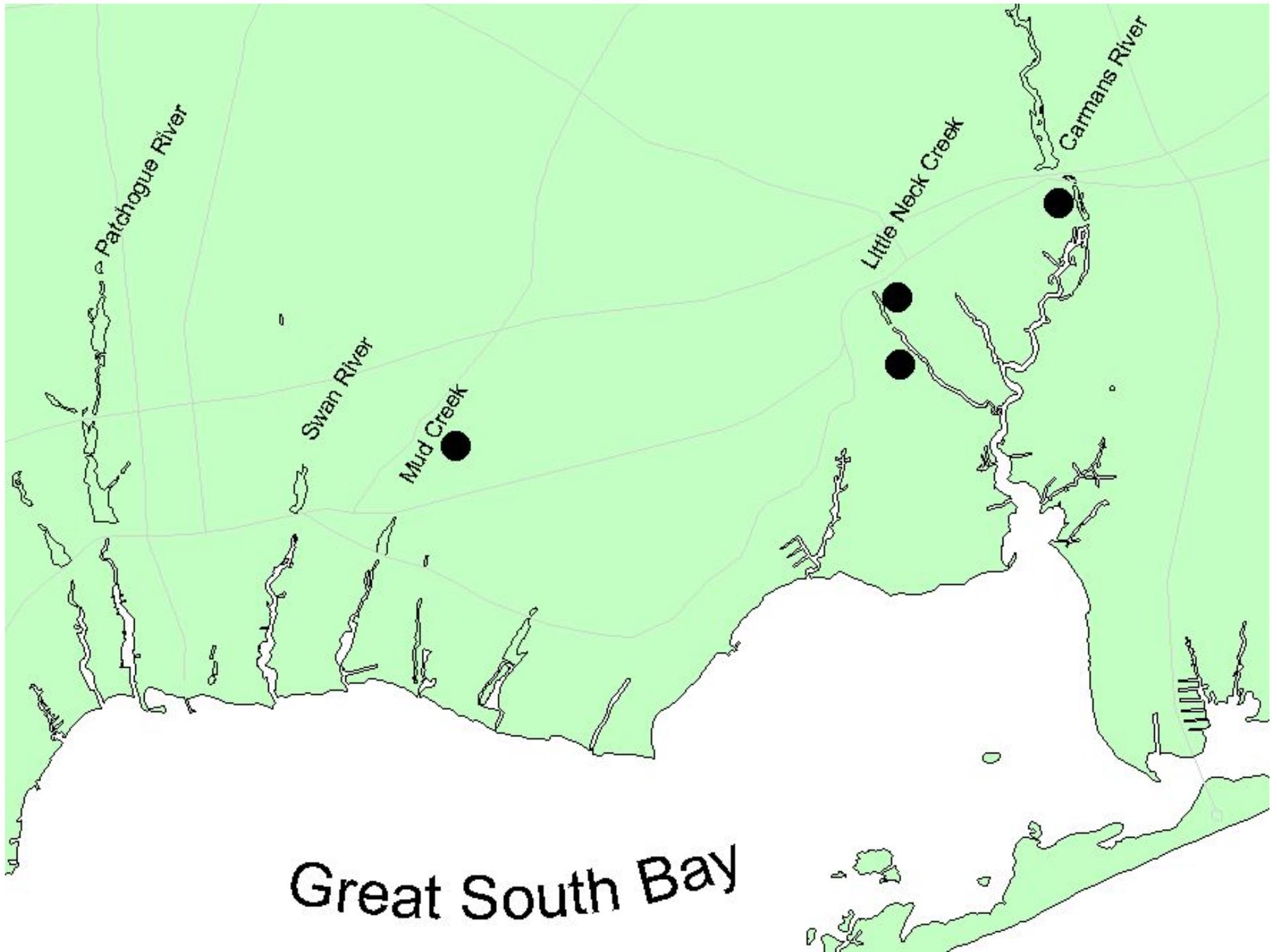


FIGURE NO. 1



Gallo Duck Farm - 1951

photo provided by Marv Lou Varney



AIR-VIEW OF DUCK FARM 1951

Gallo Duck Farm - Mud Creek, Town of Brookhaven

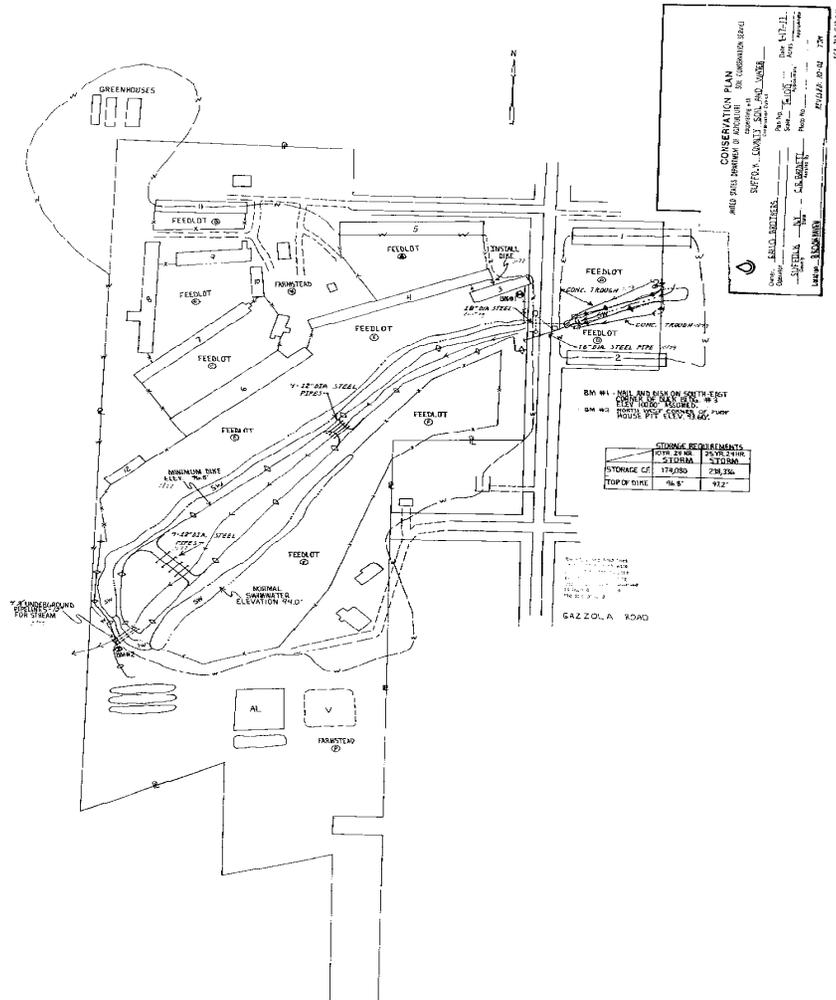
1966

2001



Conservation Plan for Gallo Duck Farm

Provided by Thomas McMahon, SC Soil & Water



Carmans River, Town of Brookhaven

1966

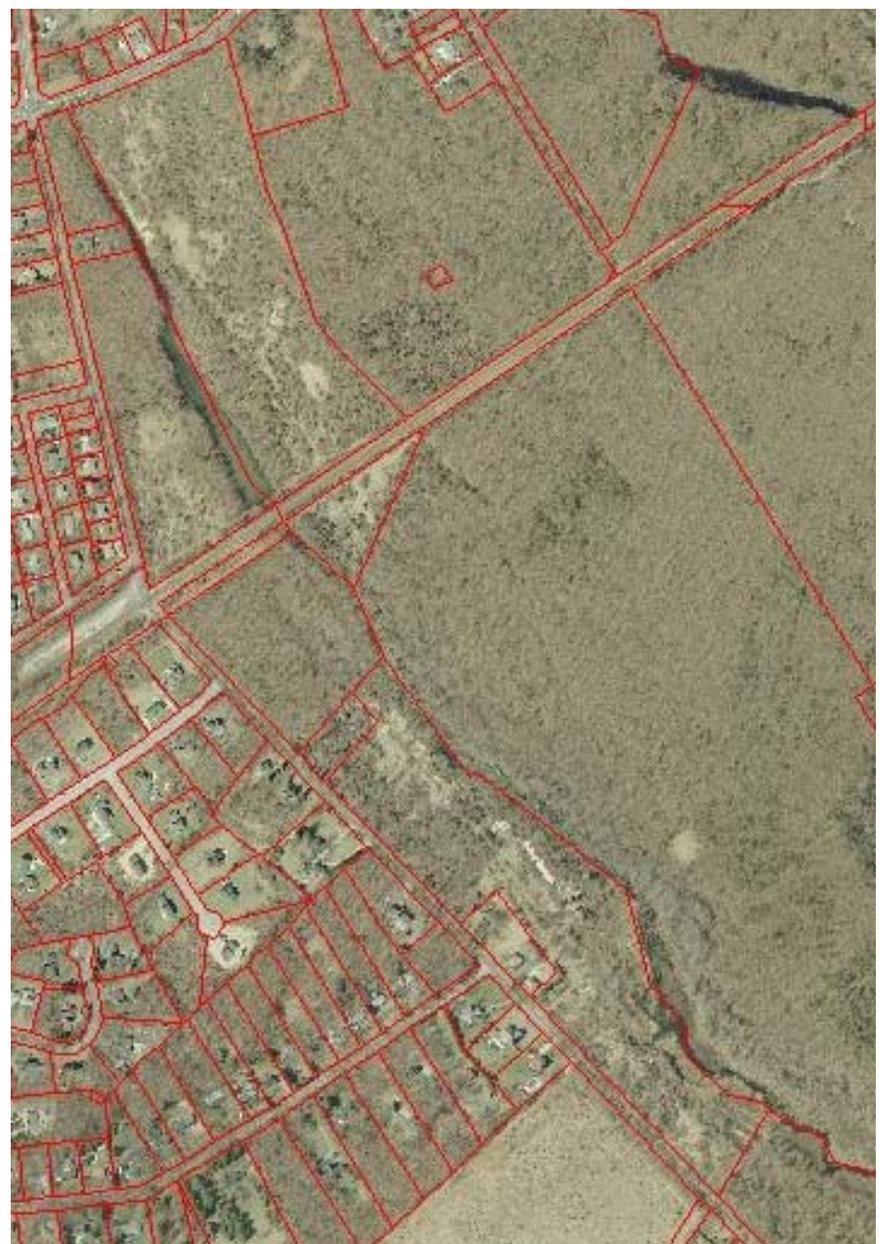
2001

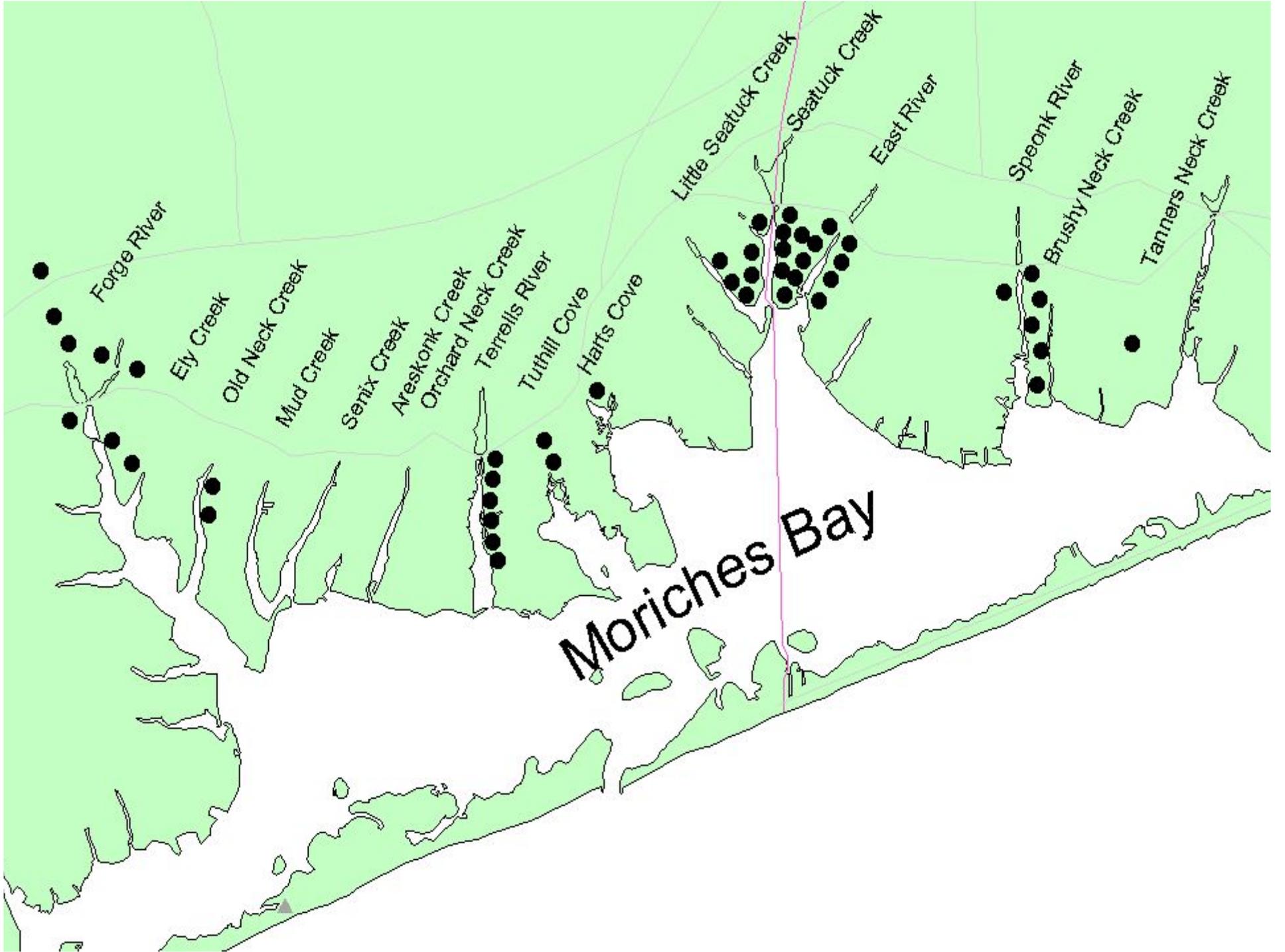


Little Neck Creek, Town of Brookhaven

1966

2001





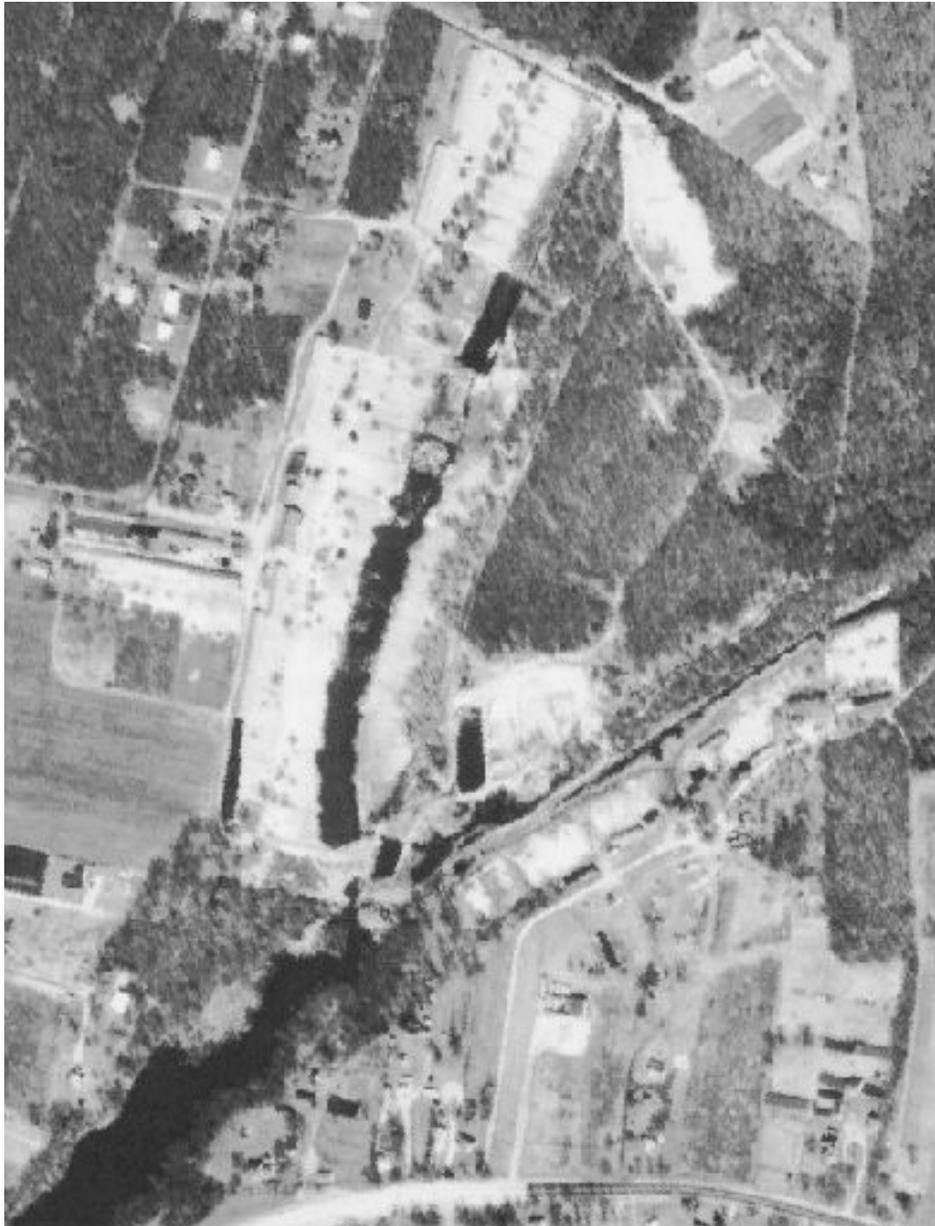
Swift Stream Farm & Fanning Landing Road, Forge River 1966 / 2001



Forge River, n/s Sunrise Highway, Town of Brookhaven
1966 / 2001



East Millpond Creek - Forge River, Town of Brookhaven
1966



2001

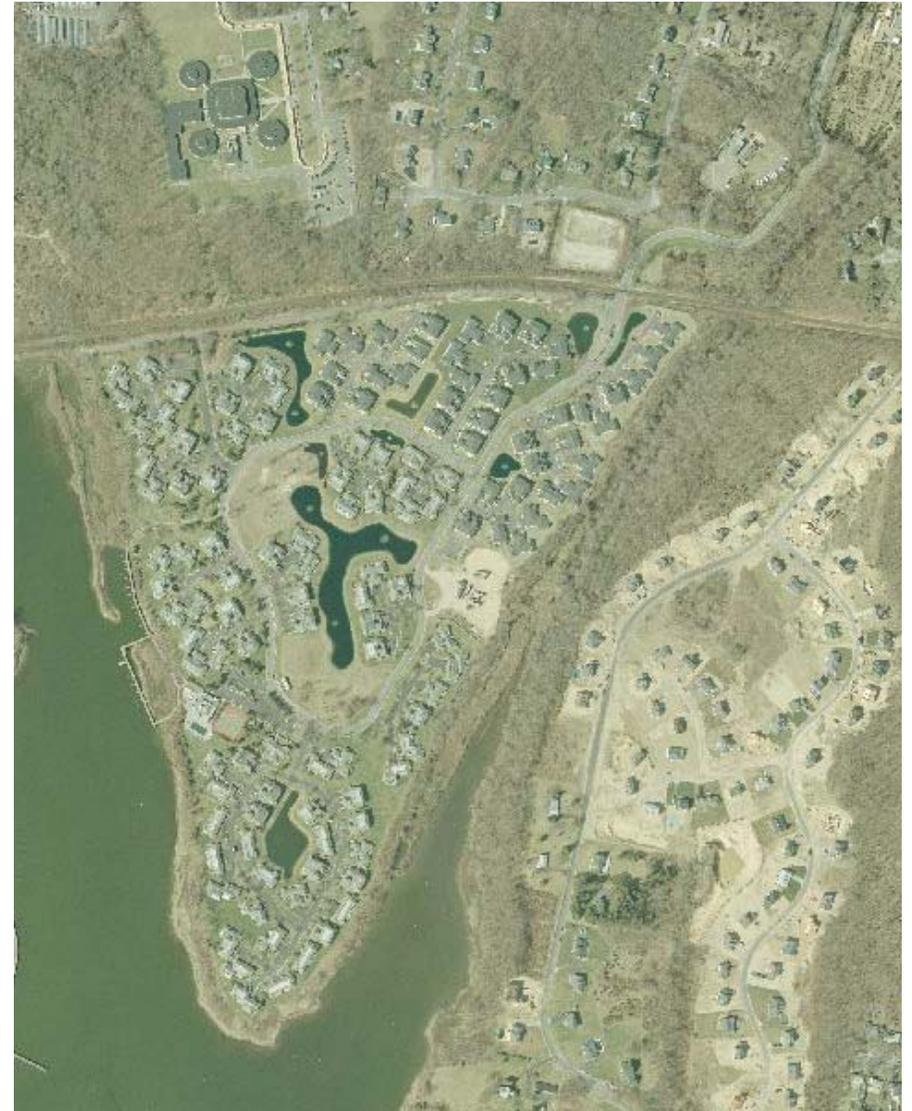


Swift Stream Farm & Fanning Landing Road, Forge River 1966 / 2001



Ely Creek - Forge River, Town of Brookhaven
1966

2001



Old Neck Creek, Town of Brookhaven

1966



2001



Terrell River, Town of Brookhaven

1966



2001



Tuthill Cove, Town of Brookhaven

1966



2001

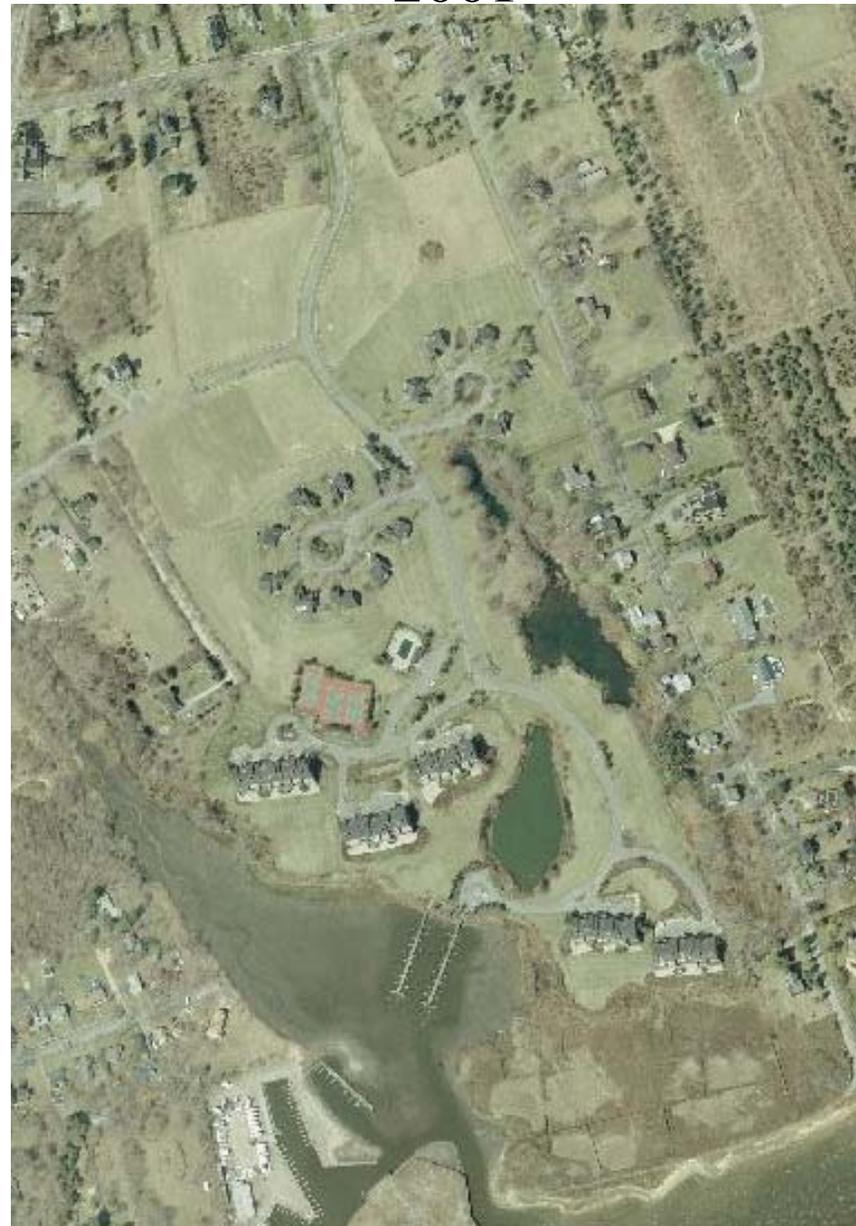


Harts Cove, Town of Brookhaven

1966



2001



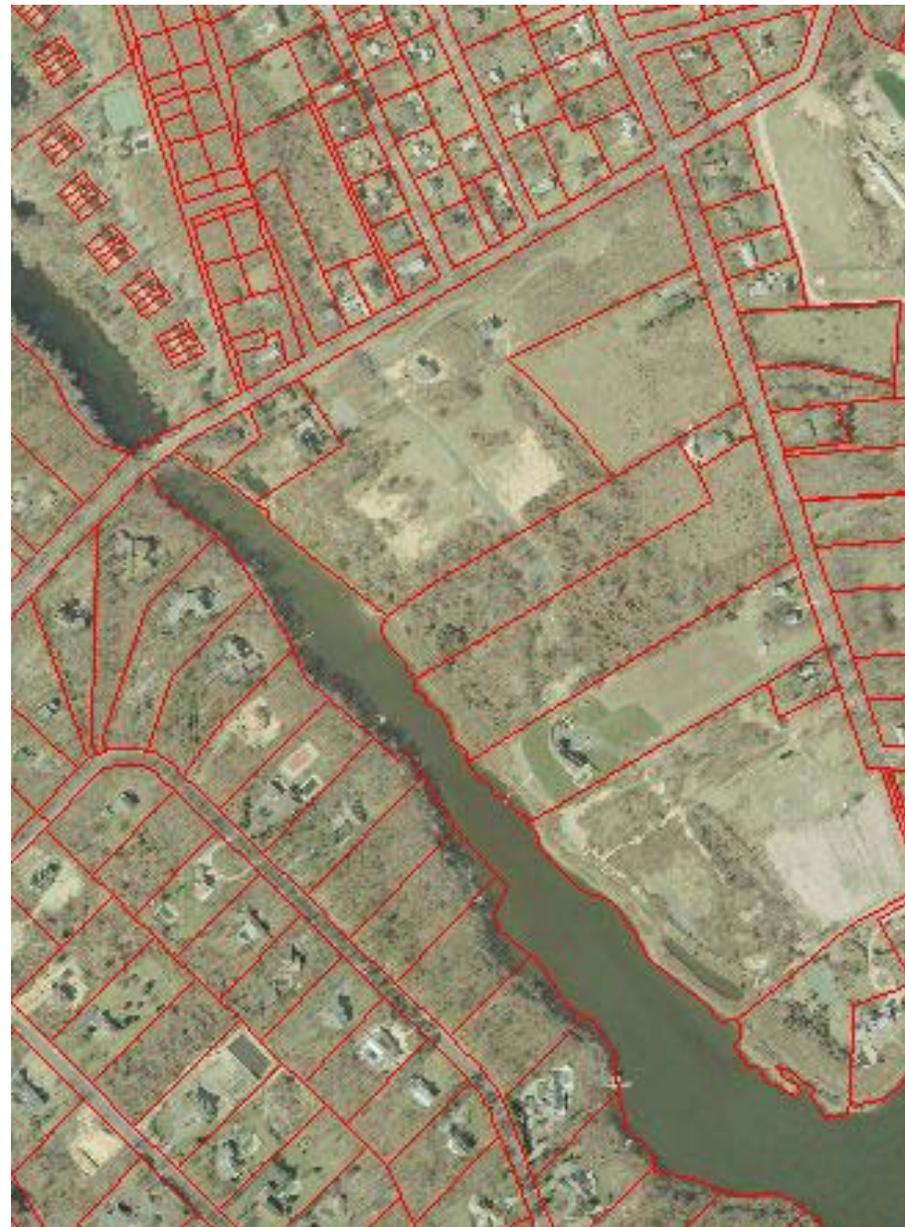


7-6-38

Little Seatuck Creek, Town of Brookhaven
1966



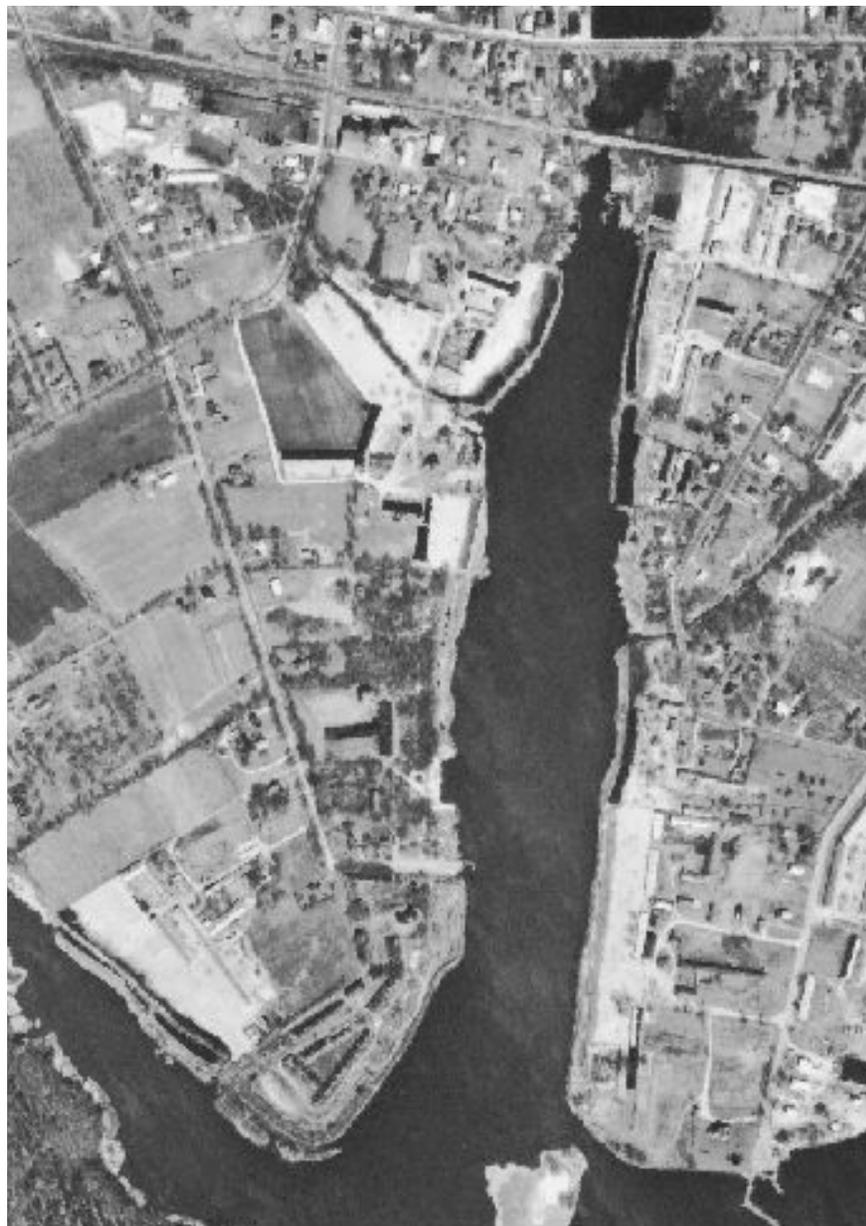
2001



Seatuck Creek, Town of Brookhaven

1966

2001



East River, Town of Southampton

1966



2001



Speonk River / Brushy Neck Creek, Town of Southampton

1930



2001

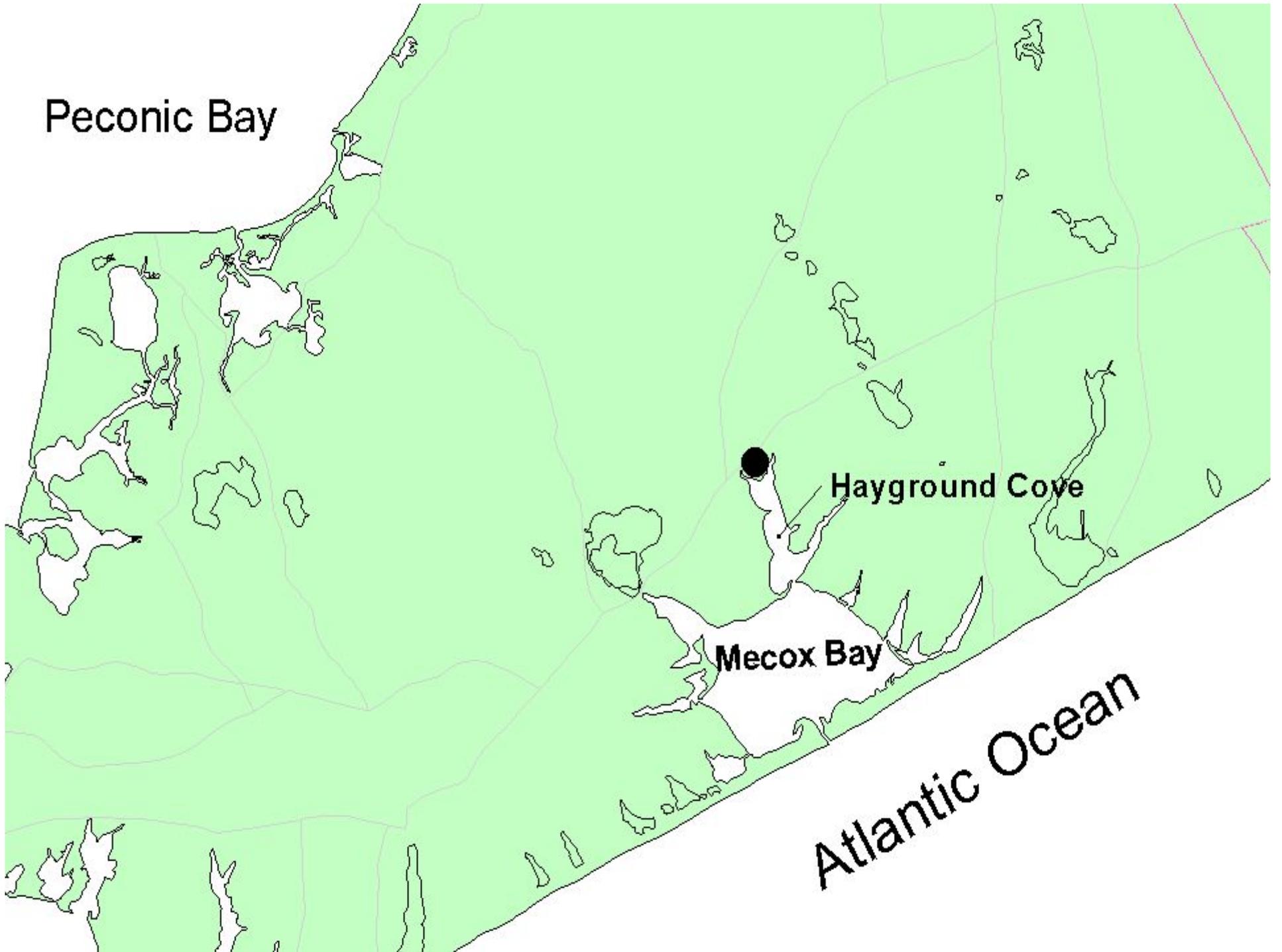


Tanners Neck Creek

1966

2001





Peconic Bay

Hayground Cove

Mecox Bay

Atlantic Ocean

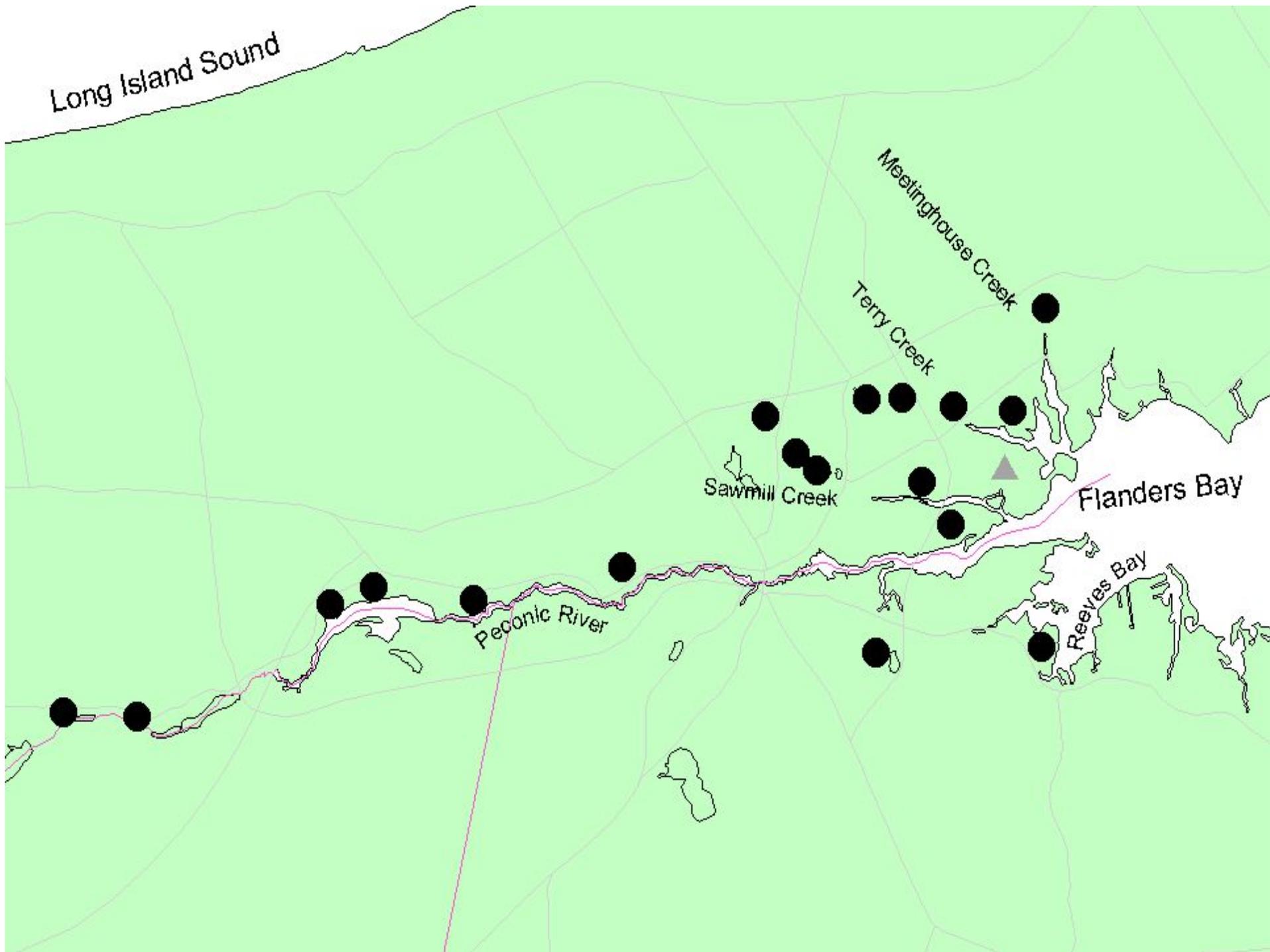
Hayground Cove - Mecox Bay

1966



2001





Reeves Bay, Town of Southampton

1930



2001



Peconic Creek, Town of Southampton

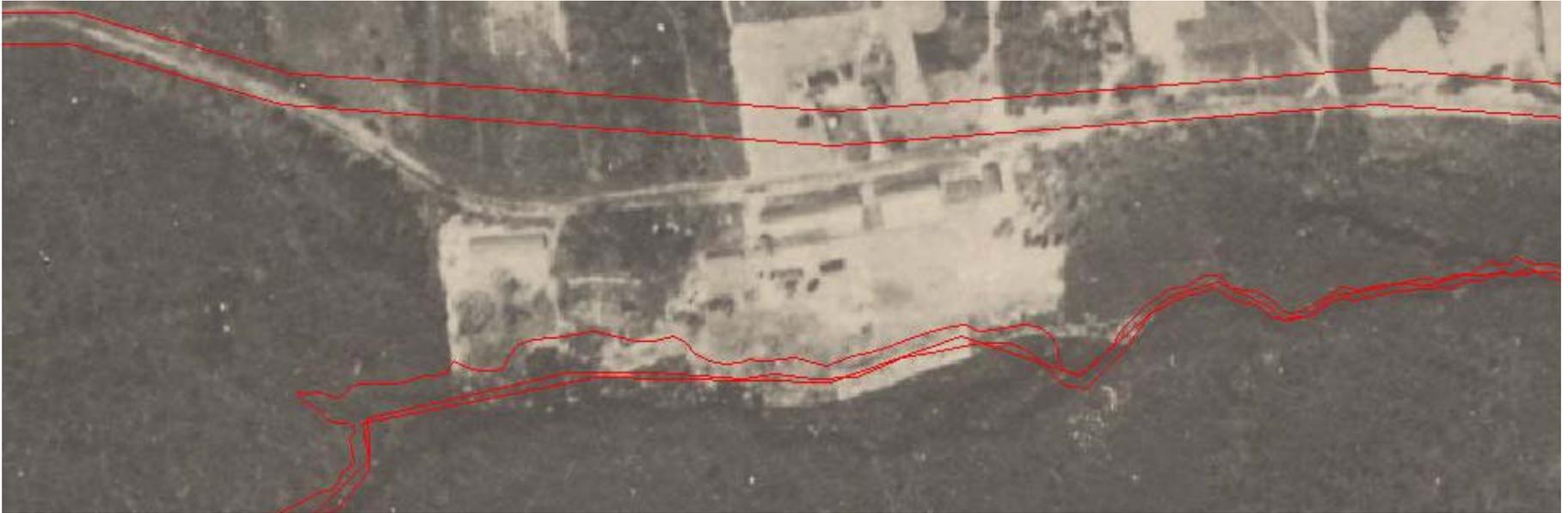
1930



2001

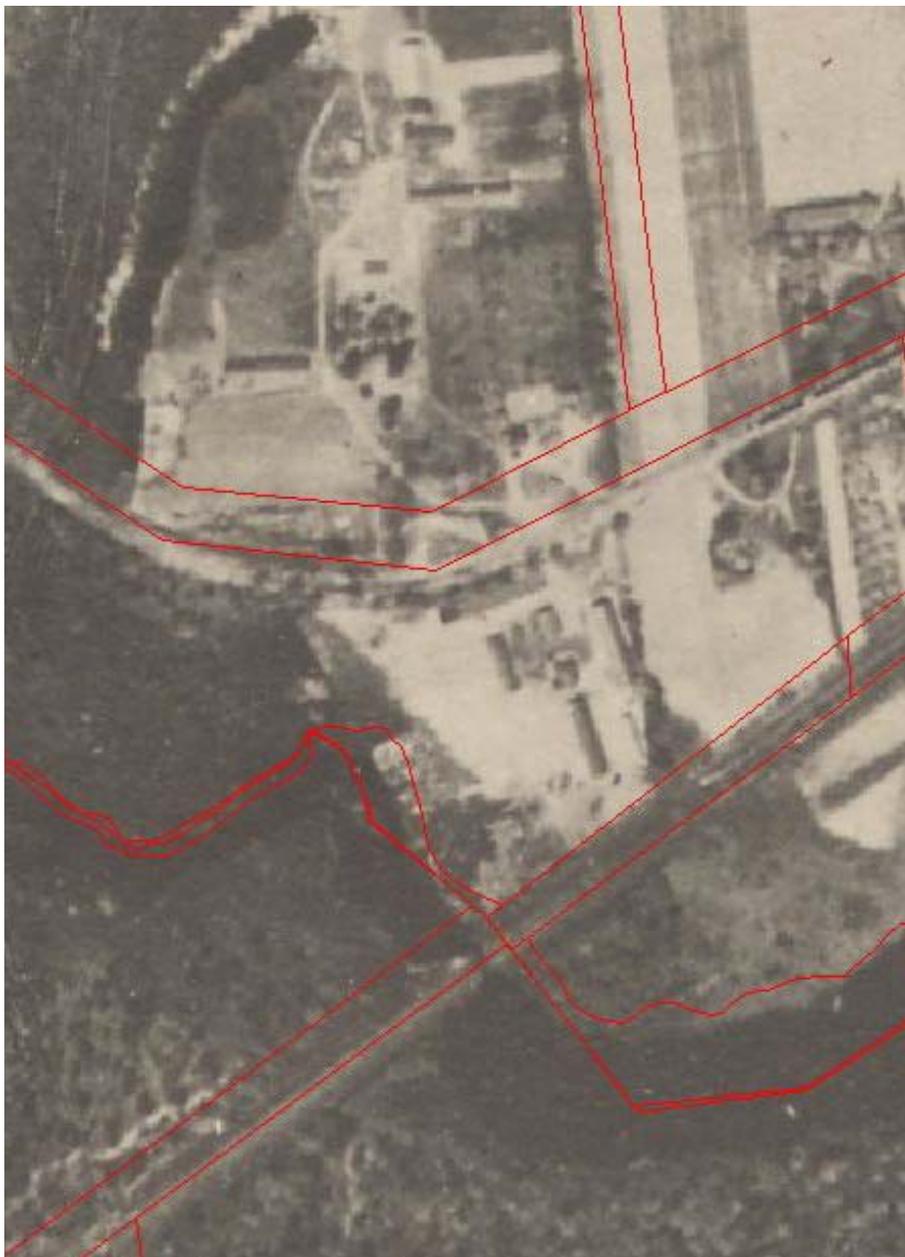


Peconic River, Town of Riverhead
1930 / 2001



Peconic River, Town of Riverhead

1930



2001



Clearview Duck Farm - Peconic River, Town of Riverhead

1966



2001



Olin Warner Duck Farm - Peconic River, Town of Riverhead 1966 / 2001



Bridgeview Duck Farm - Peconic River, Town of Riverhead 1966 / 2001



Carmine Bruno Duck Farm - Peconic River, Town of Riverhead
1966

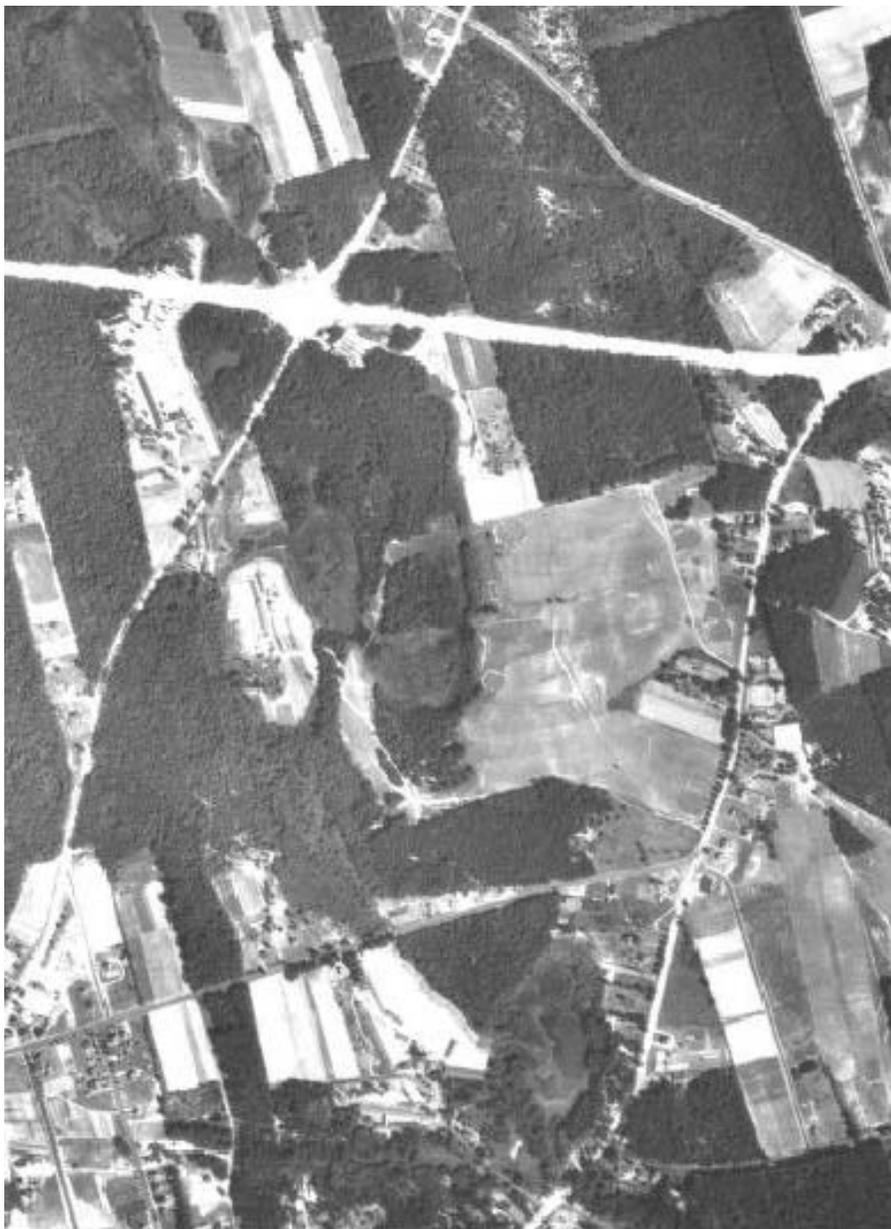


2001



Sawmill Creek, Town of Riverhead

1938



2001



Terry Creek, Town of Riverhead

2001

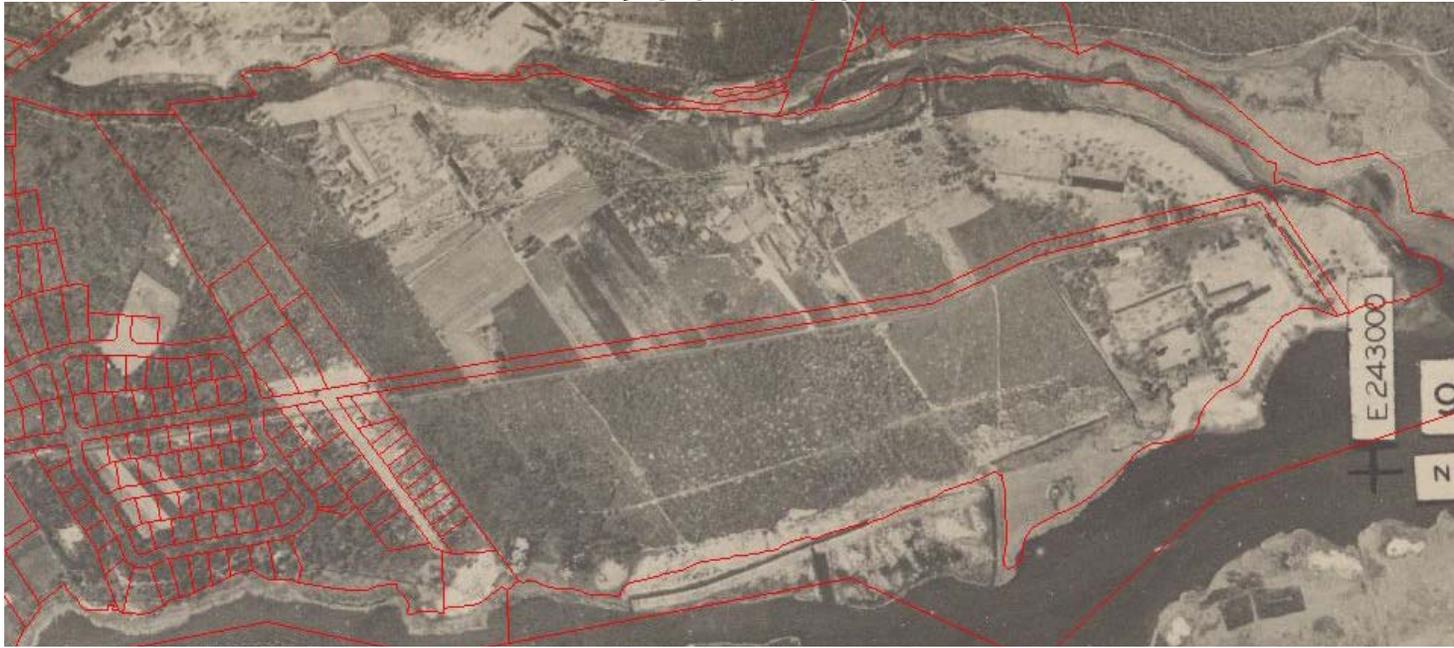
1938



Hubbard Duck Farm - Sawmill Creek, Town of Riverhead 1966 / 2001



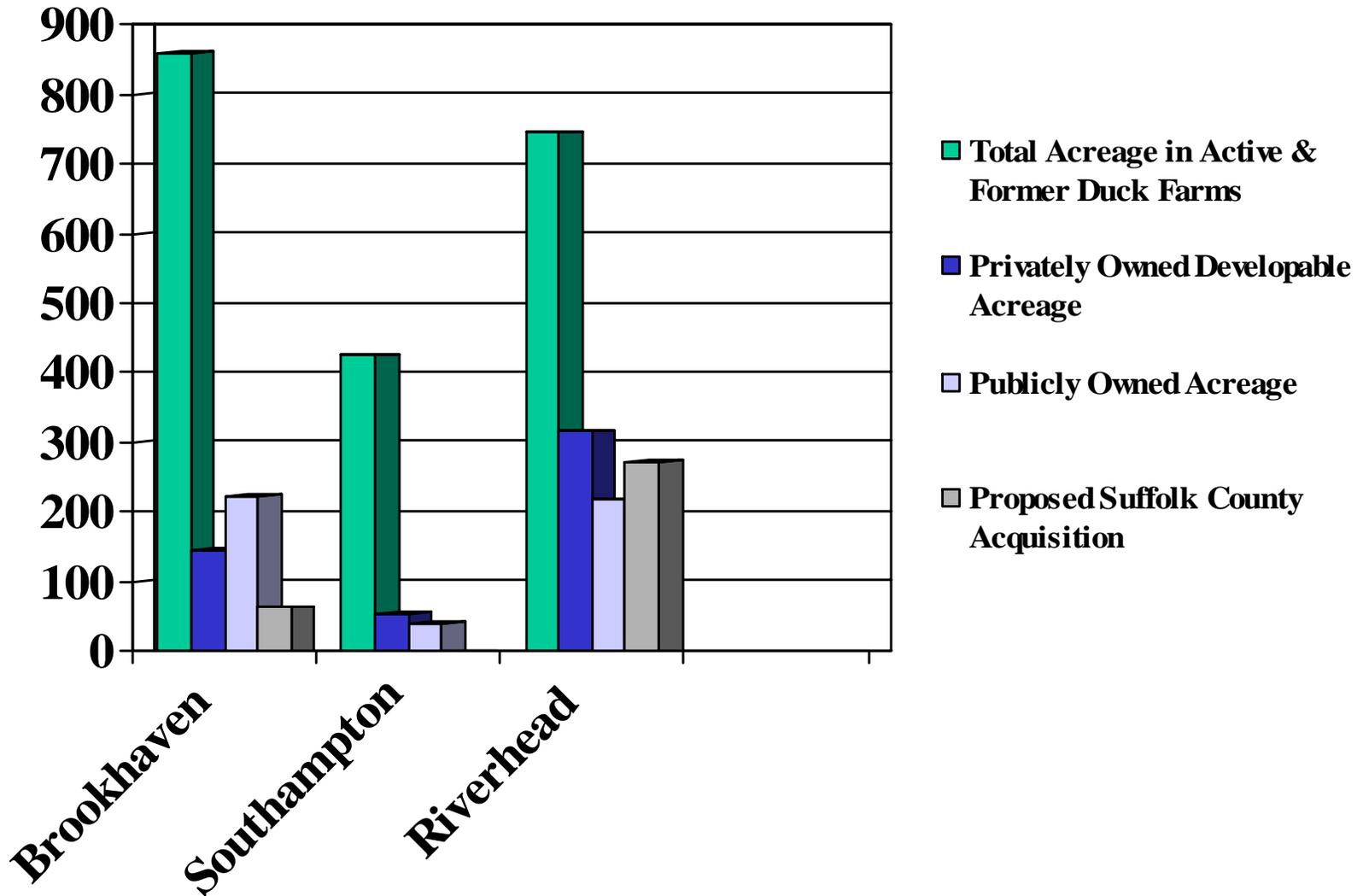
Warner Duck Farm - Peconic River, Town of Riverhead 1930 / 2001



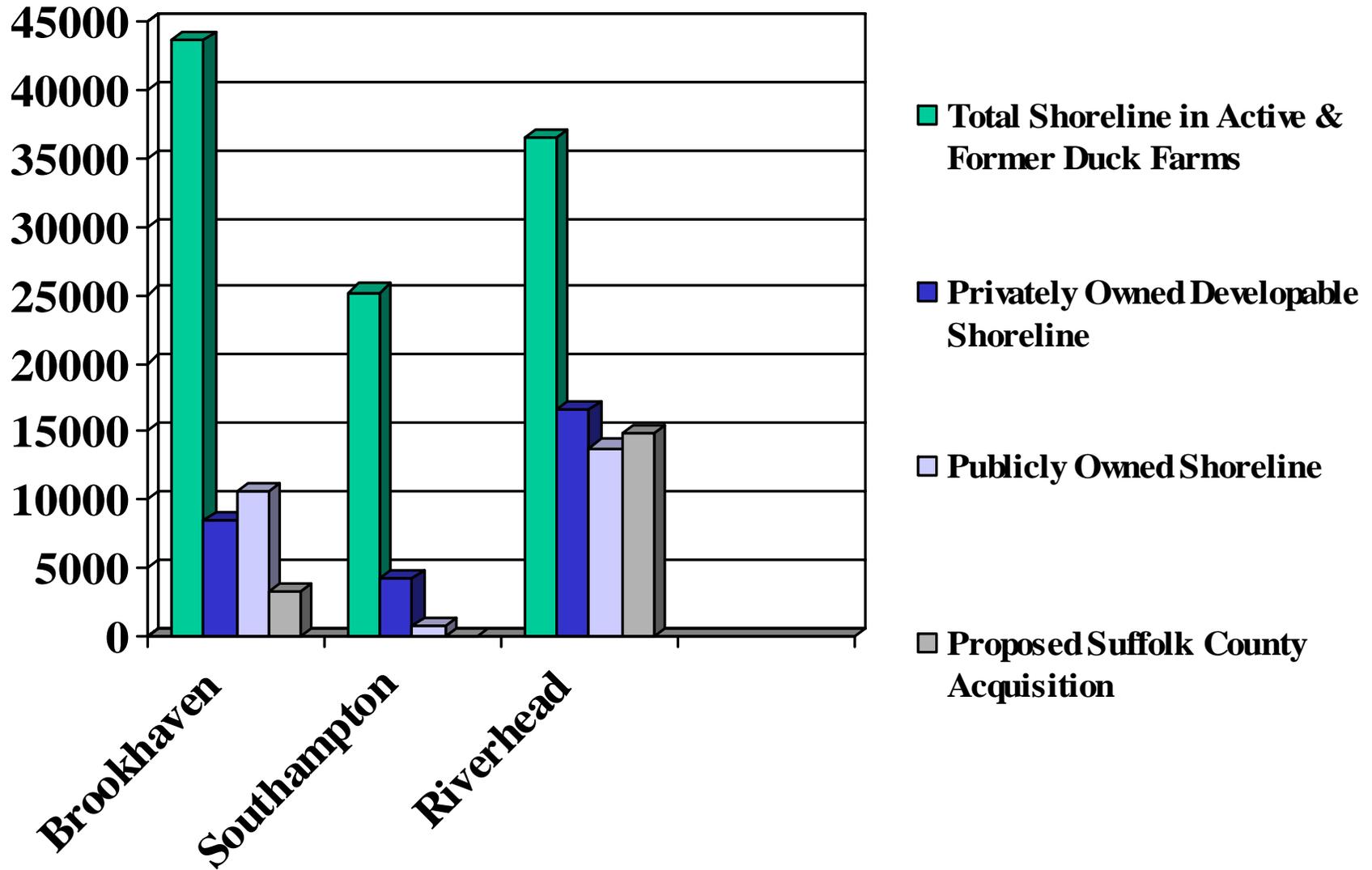
Broad Cove - Terry Creek, Town of Riverhead
1966 2001



Acreage of Active & Former Duck Farms in Suffolk County



Shoreline Length (in feet) of Active & Former Duck Farms in Suffolk County



APPENDIX E:

Interview Transcription Notes

On November 21, 2007, Ron Verbarg of the Suffolk County Planning Department and Christopher Ricciardi of the Army Corps of Engineers – New York District, conducted an interview with Louis and Mike Gallo, former owners and operators of the Gallo Duck Farm located in East Patchogue, New York. The interview was arranged with the assistance of Mary Lou Varney, also of the Suffolk County Planning Department, Louis Gallo's daughter. The interview was held in the home of Louis Gallo.

What follows are the notes from Mr. Verbarg and Mr. Ricciardi. They are presented in raw-form (i.e. as they were submitted for the record).

From: Ron Verberg - Suffolk County Planning Department

Christopher Ricciardi, ACOE, and Ron Verberg, SC Planning Department, conducted an interview with Lou and Mike Gallo on November 21st 2007 regarding the operation of the former Gallo Brothers Duck Farm. Mary Lou Varney, SC Parks Department, is the daughter of Lou Gallo and helped arranged the interview and was present at the interview. The interview took place around the kitchen table at the home of Lou Gallo (616 Gazzola Drive) and was conducted as part of one of the tasks associated with the Planning Assistance to States (PAS) contract that the Planning Department entered into with the ACOE regarding historic duck farm activity in Suffolk County. The Gallo brothers revealed the following information regarding their former duck on Mud Creek in East Patchogue:

- The Gallo Duck Farm was started in 1922 by the parents of Lou and Mike Gallo and was first called Oak Duck Farm. The brothers said that their parents, who were involved in trucking and selling fresh fruits and vegetables from eastern Suffolk County to city dwellers in New York, noticed that duck farmers appeared prosperous and thus decided to establish a duck farm on Mud Creek. They said the area was wooded and swampy before the duck farm was established, first just on the west side of Gazzola Drive and later on both sides.
- Ducks were raised on the west side of Gazzola Drive and both ducks and turkeys were grown on the east side. The Gallos started growing turkeys in the early 1950's just for the Thanksgiving Day trade.
- The Gallos originally constructed the duck barns from recycled wood obtained from the decommissioned WWI Camp Upton.
- Ducks were grown from April to November and each crop of ducks reached maturity at seven weeks and three days. Economically it made no sense to keep the ducks any longer than 52 days because they didn't gain any additional weight.
- Ducks were fed a mix of corn (80%) and fish meal (20%) that was mixed by hand.
- **350,000** ducks were raised on the Gallo Brothers Duck Farm every year.
- Each duck was inoculated by hand on three separate occasions.
- The ducks were originally slaughtered on site and packed in ice in wooden barrels and shipped to NYC. The barrels were made in the Sayville/Bayport area. Later on the ducks were sent to a processing plant in Riverhead and beginning in the late 1940's they were shipped to the Co-op processing facility in Eastport. The Co-op would process 25,000 ducks daily and had a staff of nearly 100 people. At the end (in the 1980's) they would be lucky to process 15,000 ducks per week. The Co-op tried to keep the people employed by also processing fish.
- In 1966 Mike and Lou took over the farm from their parents and renamed the Gallo Duck Farm to the Gallo Brothers Duck Farm. The brothers sold the farm in 1986 to a housing developer (Structural Technologies) and shipped their last ducks to the Co-op processing facility in 1987. Suffolk County picked up the property several years later after the new owner failed to pay the property taxes.
- They shipped a lot of live ducks to the city for the kosher trade and later for the Chinese restaurant trade.
- The family was in the duck farm business for 65 years from 1922 until 1987.

- Almost all parts of the duck were economically utilized except for the blood. The intestines and heads went to mink farms as feed. The feathers were highly sought after during WWII as insulation material for sleeping bags and aviator jackets.
- A family from Maryland lived on the farm and assisted the Gallo family in operating the farm. Seasonal farm workers were hired primarily from the Bellport area. Starting in the 1950's, seasonal farm workers from Puerto Rico were utilized.
- Pollution abatement regulations first began in 1967. Wastewater from the swimways first went to the aeration pond, then to the settling basins, and finally to the chlorine contact tank before the water left the farm.
- The swimways flanked the center channel which was meant to function as Mud Creek. The center channel, which we assumed was Mud Creek, was actually dug by the Gallo family. The brothers mentioned that much of the main channel was spring fed.
- The greenhouses immediately north of the duck farm were constructed by the brothers and other family members, and used to grow roses.
- Gallo's ducks, as well as most of the LI ducks, were known for their quality. The owner of one of the largest Mid-West duck farms, Maple Leaf, had wanted to purchase 6,000 of their best breeders. The brothers refused to sell their breeders to their out-of-state competitors.
- Straw lined the floors of the duck barns. The manure and straw mixture was sold and later given away to farmers in Yaphank. The duck manure/straw mixture was considered to be a better fertilizer than straight chicken manure because it was not as hot.
- Part of one photo album contained pictures of the farms as well as newspaper articles featuring the farm. Mary Lou indicated she would make copies of the articles and forward them to us via Nick Gibbons.
- Lou Gallo had a large framed photo (approximately 4' x 8') of a scene from the Carmine Bruno Duck Farm in his garage. He would like to find a home for the large photo. I suggested that Mary Lou contact the Town of Southampton and SC Parks to see if they would be interested in the photo. (Martin Maurer was the original owner of the Carmine Bruno Duck Farm located at Upper Falls in Riverhead and constructed The Big Duck at that site and housed it there from 1931 to 1936.)

From: Chris Ricciardi, Ph.D. – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New York District

Gallo family comes at the end of the nineteenth century from Italy

Circa 1918 – parents had a fruit business in Hamptons – wanted the “American Dream” of a big house – and thought duck farming would make them lots of money

First farm in the area known as the Robinson Duck Farm – started by the Leskowitz family

Two other farms in the area – both closed early on

Farms begins in 1922 – started by the brothers Perry/Gallo –

the area was one of streams, swamps and woods – not open farm lands for things such as fruits and vegetables

bought lumber to build farm buildings from Camp Upton – as it was being de-commissioned

ducks obtained from local dealers and “the area”

Ducks adapted well to the area

15-20 acres of land – not much needed to start a farm

Bought lands from Gazolla family – bought surrounding property to keep people away

Railroad ended in Patchogue – known as “Brooklyn East” for all the weekend residents

Farmed only on the west side of Gazola

All hands worked the farm – after grade and high school

Turkey farming starts in 1950 on east side of Gazola Driver – just done around the holiday times – sold fresh/locally only – to NYC

Always worked farm – no desire for anything else

Season was from April through November

Turned to full time once heated buildings came in – 1950s

Ducks were kept alive for seven weeks and 3 days only – based on weight issues – no

value keeping them alive beyond that

Food – feed was “mixed mashed” – from Bellport railroad – trucked it back to farm –

80% corn, 20% protein feed, locally caught “junk” fish added in as a treat

Rail tracks added to property to make it easy to push food carts around

Feed was modified based on age of duck

Farm staff – beyond family – 6-8 persons on farm – some lived on provided housing – migrant workers used often

WWII – exempt from service – since food production was needed – supported war effort

Sometimes sold directly to NYC markets – would travel to NYC to sell

Farming Cooperative – started in Riverhead (late 1940s) –
the East Port Cooperative started after that –
about 16-20 farms participated -
built processing facility in Crescent
Agway comes in – 1950s and takes over

Raised approximately 350,000 ducks per year

1966 – Cousins take full of farm from parents (later sold on November 20, 1987)

Sold ducks to Kosher and Chinese facilities in NYC

1967-1968 – Environmental Regulations start
Pollution abatement treatment plants
No guidance from NYS – just ordered to “clean things up”
Re-formed farm to allow for the re-use of water
Build diversion channels (two streams with a by-pass)
Two side streams were swim tanks – flowed into a lagoon
Catch basin fed two side rivers
Water recycled – and settled into the ground
Lots of natural streams and outlets on the property

Duck Manure –
Initially sold to farmers for fertilizers – but by 1970s, no one would pay for it –
Gave it away – for food mixtures
Better than chicken manure – less volatile’s
Crated sandy beached with purchased and minded sand

Duck production drops by end of the 1970s
Earned about \$25k per week – then down to \$15k per week
Younger Gallo generation did not want the farm
Land was worth more than the farm was

Fun to grow up on the farm – still miss it

Killing of ducks would happen off site till 1960s

Tried to get into the flower market – built a larger greenhouse – did not work

Overall size of farm when closed was 45 acres

Health issues – ducks had to get shots due to regulations – also lots of feathers along the roads

Lots of wild foxes and dogs killed the ducks – kept vigilant

Ducks that died were recycled – food, soap, fill – on site disposal used

Built housing for the workers – all buildings on site built by the family