

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 28 1980
DATE ENTERED MAY 28 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Taylor's Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N. Side SR 1120 0.5 mi. W. of jct. w/SR 1124

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Middlesex *ms.*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina

CODE
037

COUNTY
Nash

CODE
127

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. John Tippett

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1

CITY, TOWN
Zebulon

VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 27597

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Nash County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Nashville

STATE
North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin

DATE
1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
N.C. Division of Archives and History--Survey and Planning Branch

CITY, TOWN
Raleigh

STATE
North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at the base of two gradually sloping hills where Nash County meets Johnston County, Taylor's Mill and the ninety-acre pond which bears its name are all that remain of an important late nineteenth century rural industrial complex. According to M. P. Williams, a centenarian who moved from the area in 1894, the complex not only housed a wagon wheel factory, a sawmill, wood shop, paint and blacksmith shop, a large general store and grist mill, but was also a gathering place used for fish fries, political speeches, and baptisms (including his own). Like most North Carolina grist mills, Taylor's Mill was forced to shut down in 1955 due to state safety regulations.

The frame mill building is two stories tall; extending almost completely out over the water of Moccasin Creek, the mill is supported on its western end by two large stone piers. A stone foundation secures the eastern end of the building to the creek bank; the stone dam is the southern boundary of Taylor's Mill Pond and extends to the western side of Moccasin Creek. There are massive beam supports, the mortise and tenon and pegged joints of which may be seen most clearly in the northwest corner of the building. Each corner has an exterior cornerpost which punctuates the horizontal weatherboarding. The heavy double sill which runs around the base of the building is echoed in the heavy sills on the narrow windows. Though the simple gable-roof building is functionally plain, it is well-balanced and carefully finished. Each side is bilaterally symmetrical; the weatherboarding is heart pine, and the roof is tin. The double doors and windows of the eastern entrance facade are neatly paneled, and all of the windows in the building have mitered frames.

Typical of nineteenth century grist mills of the area, this was a turbine mill. The turbine machinery located beneath the building may be viewed beneath the north side of the structure. The only interior machinery which remains is an old corn milling machine in the southwest corner of the first floor.

Taylor's Mill is in an advanced state of deterioration. Heavy storms in recent years have hastened the erosion of the building's eastern foundation; as a result, the wide floorboards have largely fallen away. Now used for storage, the building is unsafe and its owners fear it will collapse. They seek assistance in stabilizing the building, recognizing its historic value.

The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Taylor's Mill represents vividly the small, water-powered industrial site once so vital to the agrarian economy of North Carolina. The stark, functional form of the frame three-story grist mill typifies grist mill construction in the state, and the survival of heavy timber frame construction and other details reveal this structure to be one of the relatively few mid-nineteenth century mills extant in the coastal plain region. Taylor's Mill stands on a site used for milling since James Lee established a mill here in the 1760s, but the present structure is thought to date from the 1850s, during the ownership of A. J. Taylor. Like many of its kind, it was once part of a bigger complex that included several processing and manufacturing operations but, again like many others, it now stands alone. The large mill pond not only creates a highly picturesque and unspoiled rural setting for the mill but also recalls the water power that drove the turbine. Of special significance is the wooden dam that lies beneath the water of the pond, behind the more recent concrete dam. This type of construction, presumably originating centuries ago, persisted into the nineteenth century; recently a wooden dam was uncovered and recorded at the Wake County Falls of the Neuse site. Construction shares the heavy timber mortise and tenon technique of buildings of the period. Although Taylor's Mill is now in disrepair and disuse, its owners have expressed concern for its preservation and rehabilitation.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the small industrial centers, usually water-powered, that served the agrarian economy of rural North Carolina throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century; such grist mills were a vital part and community center of nearly every county until most were closed after development of federal health standards.
- C. Exemplifies the form and construction techniques of eighteenth and nineteenth century industrial sites whose framing, form, and scale were not much dissimilar from domestic and other architecture of the period; it is one of a very few nineteenth century frame mills surviving in the coastal plain area of the state.
- D. Likely to yield information concerning eighteenth and nineteenth hydro-industrial practices.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Battle, Dr. Margaret. Letter to John Tippet, February 19, 1976. Contains research notes. Copy in possession of Edythe Tippet of Zebulon.

Clark, Walter, ed. Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861--'65. Raleigh and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 1901. Five volumes.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quad name: Spring Hope, NC
Quad scale: 1:62500

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 100

UTM REFERENCES

	Lat.	Long.		Lat.	Long.
A	<u>35°47'15"</u>	<u>78°19'40"</u>	B	<u>35°47'05"</u>	<u>78°19'27"</u>
	ZONE EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>35°46'43"</u>	<u>78°19'48"</u>	D	<u>35°46'46"</u>	<u>78°20'01"</u>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Taylor's Mill property is indicated as the red line on the enclosed site plan and includes the mill pond, dam, mill, and land on each side of Moccasin Creek to just south of SR 1120.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Architectural description: Susan Mooring, Intern
Historical statement: Jerry L. Cross, Researcher

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch DATE _____
Archaeological & Historic Preservation Section January, 1980

STREET & NUMBER N.C. Division of Archives and History TELEPHONE _____
109 E. Jones Street (919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN Raleigh STATE North Carolina

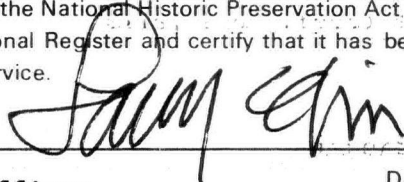
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 13, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Luce

DATE 5/28/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Carol Dubie

DATE 5/27/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1980

date entered MAY 28 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Taylor's Mill, standing in Nash County just inside the Johnston County line, was built by Captain Alsey J. Taylor in the 1850s, but the land and site on Moccasin Creek has an industrial heritage that predates the American Revolution. Starting with a simple grist mill, industrial operations spanned nearly two centuries of almost continuous use, reaching its height in the late nineteenth century, and gradually declining as twentieth century technology surpassed it in efficiency and productivity. Businesses at the site have borne many labels, but the earliest was known as Lee's Mills.

James Lee of Edgecombe County (Nash was carved from Edgecombe in 1777) received a Granville grant for 200 acres on Moccasin Creek in May, 1762, which became the nucleus of his home and mill tract.¹ Sometime between 1762 and 1770 he constructed a pair of grist mills to operate off of a common mill pond.² Early in the American Revolution, the State of North Carolina apparently contracted Lee to provide meal for the patriotic forces because the earliest Nash County court records refer to the "road leading from Tar River Road to the State Mill upon Moccasin Creek."³ Early maps and county road and bridge records confirm the mill's location as being on or very near the site of present day Taylor's Mill.⁴ James Lee died in 1777, leaving his mills to his sons James and James Bud Lee.⁵

Sometime in late 1783 or 1784 the mills appear to have been destroyed either by man-made or natural means. In the latter year, James Bud Lee, who had inherited his father's home tract of 300 acres and one-half of the mills, applied to the county court for permission to build a new mill on Moccasin Creek.⁶ James Bud Lee may never have carried through with his plans, however, since in December of 1785 he married Susannah Alford in Duplin County and thereafter disappears from the records of Nash County.⁷ He must have transferred his property and his mill interest to his brother James who held full title by 1811. Meanwhile, in 1792, James received permission from the court to build a mill on Moccasin Creek at a place formerly called "Lees Mill."⁸ The chronology of events, supported by the documentary records, leaves little doubt that the elder James Lee and his sons were all concerned with a milling operation at the same site on Moccasin Creek.

James Lee's (Jr.) will, dated February 23, 1811, bequeathed the mill to his son Leary Lee who had moved to Johnston County.⁹ On December 5, 1814, Leary Lee sold to his brother, Moore Lee of Wake County, 188 acres "being land whereon James Lee dec^d lived, Beginning at a corner white oak on the side of the Mill Pond . . . together with the mill and premises."¹⁰ Sometime after purchase Moore Lee moved back to Nash County where he established a residence on the old home tract of his father. For more than twenty years Moore Lee owned and operated the grist mill on Moccasin Creek. His will designated his son Jackson as heir to the milling facility, but somehow not explained in the records, another son, Lindsay Lee, became the owner and proprietor.¹¹

Lindsay Lee was a miller by profession, but business matters apparently were not among his best capabilities.¹² By 1852 he had decided to sell the mill, and on June 2, he transferred title for "a certain mill and tract on Moccasin Creek" to Alsey J. Taylor for \$850. Though not explicitly stated, the records suggest an agreement that Lee would be retained as the actual operator and manager of the mill.¹³

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1980

date entered MAY 28 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Alsey Jackson Taylor was born about 1817 but virtually nothing is known of his early life. Since he never learned to read or write, it may be concluded that he had little opportunity for an education. He never married and for many years his sister and mother, both named Mary, were members of his household.¹⁴ Taylor managed to acquire considerable property and slaves, which brought a substantial income and elevated him to the planter class. Although he had acquired some property in the 1840s, Taylor enjoyed a meteoric rise in economic and social status during the 1850s. At the beginning of the decade his real estate was valued at \$2,000, but the census listed his occupation as none. By 1860 he was listed as a farmer, but his assets amounted to \$25,000 in real estate and \$42,850 in personal property. He also owned a total of thirty-nine slaves. Since he did not rely on a cash crop income his financial resources obviously came from other business interests.¹⁵

A. J. Taylor frequently acted as a banker for friends and neighbors, loaning them money to pay off debts. He was forced to foreclose on a number of notes and sometimes acquired valuable property in the settlement process.¹⁶ Too, he operated a successful coopering enterprise which turned out an average of 800 barrels annually valued at \$1,600.¹⁷ But perhaps the most significant portion of his income came from the milling business. Taylor owned two mills, one on Moccasin Creek and the other on Tar River. Both were successful operations; however, he decided to sell the Tar River facility and 202 acres in 1858, at which time James T. Webb became the purchaser for \$2,200. Although much renovated and enlarged, the mill still stands and is currently known as Webb's Mill.¹⁸

The mill on Moccasin Creek, which was named Taylor's Mill, is surrounded by tradition. It has long been believed by residents of the community that A. J. Taylor studied the site for some time and then employed slaves to dig out the mill pond and erect the mill. Furthermore, according to the tradition, Taylor lived about a mile north of the mill pond in a manor house originally built for Eli Strickland in 1812 (the house is gone). There lived also Taylor's brother Joseph, a physician whose office stood near the main house, not far from the row of slave cabins. Most of the tradition stems from the testimonials of M. P. Williams who lived¹⁹ in the old Taylor house for six years (1887-1893) while his father worked in the mill. The oral tradition is accurate in a general context, but the documentary records revealed some slight discrepancies in the details of the story.

The chain of title clearly shows that the millpond existed nearly ninety years before Taylor purchased the property;²⁰ consequently, the millpond was not originally dug out by his slaves. Taylor did, however, enlarge and improve the facilities by building a new turbine operated mill (the one now standing) and perhaps by constructing a new dam to provide adequate power for the larger mill. It seems likely also that a sawmill was constructed about the same time.²¹ All of the changes probably required some digging out of the creek bed and its banks, and possibly expansion of the mill pond—thus the origin of the tradition.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1980

date entered MAY 28 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

The location of A. J. Taylor's residence is a more complicated matter. Census records indicate that from 1850 to 1870 Taylor lived east of the mill between Moccasin and Turkey creeks.²² The home north of the millpond, the one in which M. P. Williams lived, and long believed to have been A. J. Taylor's manor house, was in fact the home of A. J.'s brother, Joseph M. Taylor.²³ The plantation had once belonged to Eli Strickland, and the inscription in the stone chimney, E. S. 1812, suggested that he had built the house.²⁴ A. J. Taylor acquired the property in the late 1840s, but by 1850 it was Joseph and his wife Mary who lived in the house.²⁵ Apparently the brothers had worked out an agreement whereby Joseph would live in the house and manage the plantation for his brother in exchange for an interest in the estate.

In 1850 Joseph M. Taylor was a thirty year old physician, and the doctor's office which he constructed near the manor house stood for many years. The rigorous life of a country doctor, however, seems to have taken its toll. Sometime in the 1850s, Joseph decided to change careers, swapping his doctor's shingle for a lawyer's license.²⁶ Perhaps it was not coincidental that Joseph switched to the legal profession during the period of his brother's rapid rise to prosperity. Joseph's superior education may have been the reason that A. J. Taylor felt his brother was better qualified to run the plantation and to manage business affairs. An indication of the agreement between Joseph and A. J. was the fact that the row of slave cabins on the Taylor plantation, as recalled by M. P. Williams, housed thirty-five of A. J. Taylor's slaves while the remaining four were house servants at A. J.'s home in the vicinity of present day Middlesex. Joseph himself owned only three slaves.²⁷ The arrangement brought prosperity to both, but the Civil War wreaked dramatic changes in the fortunes of the Taylor family.

In the spring of 1861, A. J. Taylor formed a company of volunteers known as Taylor's Company. In May, the group joined the Seventh North Carolina Regiment as Company E; Taylor was awarded the rank of captain. Captain Taylor's military career was short lived as he reluctantly resigned on July 14, 1862, because of chronic laryngitis.²⁸ The war nearly brought A. J. Taylor to financial ruin. Most of his wealth had been tied up in land and slaves, and with emancipation, he was forced to sell more than two thirds of his real estate to avoid bankruptcy. His landholdings which had reached 3,500 acres were reduced to 1,000 acres, most of which stretched from the mill northward between Moccasin and Little creeks.²⁹ Profits from land sales insured survival of the mill which became the main source of Taylor's income. Unfortunately Joseph died a few years after the war, and A. J. found it increasingly difficult to continue the operation.³⁰ On June 27, 1877, Captain Taylor sold the Taylor plantation of 500 acres and the mill tract to James T. Webb for \$13,500.³¹

James T. Webb was a businessman who formed a partnership with Henry Tisdale. Webb lived near the present town of Spring Hope while Tisdale moved to the Taylor's Mill area where he became general manager of a growing industrial complex.³² It is unclear which of the businesses at the millsite were begun by Taylor and which were founded by Webb & Tisdale, but during the decade 1877-1887, Taylor's Mill thrived as a bustling community. M. P. Williams recalled the scene:

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1980

date entered MAY 28 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

At Taylor's Mill there was a big general store; a wood manufacturing factory to turn out hubs and spokes for wagons, carts, and buggys [sic]; a blacksmith shop; a paint shop; a sawmill; and a corn mill . . . lots of men were employed there in those days. The blacksmith was a Negro, George Harrington . . . he knew what to do when it came to welding an axel, buggy, or log cart. Bill Kemp was foreman of the paint shop, Wren Tisdale foreman of the wood shop, and Henry Tisdale general manager and storekeeper . . . I remember one of his ears was craped [cropped] off by a bullet in the Civil War.³³

Webb died in 1887 and without his leadership, the firm of Webb & Tisdale floundered and soon passed into receivership.³⁴ Tisdale died in 1890, and after five³⁵ years of litigation, the property along Moccasin Creek was sold to Alpheus Hinton. The industrial complex at Taylor's Mill dwindled. A few businesses continued during the first decade of the twentieth century, especially the corn mill and Hackney's Body Shop (hubs and spokes). The latter had ceased to exist by 1910,³⁶ but the modern Hackney Company of Wilson may have had its origin at Taylor's Mill.³⁶ Today only the corn mill remains from the once bustling complex.

In 1904 Alpheus Hinton sold 35 acres of the 5¹⁴ acre tract, which included the mill and millpond to J. E. Winston of Johnston County.³⁷ From then until 1943, Taylor's Mill passed through a number of owners in fairly rapid succession, often being the subject of special court proceedings.³⁸ Despite the plethora of owners, the mill continued to function both as a corn mill and as a center of community activity. According to M. P. Williams:

The mill was a gathering place in those days. They would have fish frys and the politicians would come and make speeches . . . I have seen many people baptised there, in fact I was baptised there.³⁹

Mrs. Alton Pulley of Zebulon recalled swimming contests held there in the early 1900s, and others testified to the millpond's attraction for recreation.⁴⁰ According to Marie Tippett, who with her husband John reside at the mill, the stone dam now at the site was erected about 1920, thus enlarging the millpond.⁴¹ The old wooden dam lies underwater about 100 feet above the stonework.

In 1943, Wade Tippett purchased 112 acres including Taylor's Mill.⁴² When his son John returned from World War II, they continued operation of the mill. About 1950 the old abandoned store was moved across the road and a cement block building erected on the site. The gristmill was closed down about 1955 when new state regulations would have required too much investment to put the aging structure into compliance.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1980

date entered

MAY 28 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 5

Footnotes

¹Granville Grants, State Archives, Raleigh, Book 21-E, plat attached.

²The word "mills" is plural in three successive Lee wills. The last, that of Moore Lee, gives a clear indication of two structures, but only one may have existed at the present site of Taylor's Mill. See Nash County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Nash County Courthouse, Nashville, Will Book A, 256; and Book 1, pp. 212, 421, hereinafter cited as Nash County Will Book.

³Nash County Court Records, Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, April, 1778, p. 8, hereinafter cited as County Court Minutes.

⁴See Mouzon's Map of North and South Carolina, 1775; Price-Strother, First Actual Survey of North Carolina, 1808; Nash County Records, State Archives, Raleigh, Road Records, 1768-1887; and Bridge Records, 1779-1874. Compare with United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, North Carolina, Spring Hope Quadrangle, 1902; and Map of Nash County, North Carolina by Wells & Brinkley, Engineers, 1918-1919.

⁵Nash County Will Book A, 256.

⁶That the mill was standing in 1783 is proved by a grant to James Lee for 100 acres adjoining "on the waters of Moccasin Creek beginning at a white oak below the mill." This landmark was mentioned in later boundary descriptions of the enlarged home and mill tract. See Nash County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Nash County Courthouse, Nashville, Deed Book 2, p. 54, hereinafter cited as Nash County Deed Book. See also Nash County Deed Book 9, p. 168 for comparison of boundary description. For James Bud Lee's petition, see research of Dr. Margaret Battle of Rocky Mount as stated in a letter to Mr. John Tippet, February 19, 1976, copy in Taylor's Mill File in possession of Edythe M. Tippet of Zebulon, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as Battle Research. Dr. Battle is a well known local historian and considered to be a thorough and competent researcher by professional historians.

⁷Duplin County Records, State Archives, Raleigh, Marriage Bonds. The bond is dated December 23. A check of Nash County deeds, wills, and estates papers found no entries for James Bud Lee.

⁸Battle Research. Full ownership by James Lee is proved by Lee's will giving the mills to his son Leary. Nash County Will Book 1, p. 212.

⁹Nash County Will Book 1, p. 212. For Leary Lee's residence see deed from him to Moore Lee in which Leary is "of Johnston County." Nash County Deed Book 9, p. 168.

¹⁰Nash County Deed Book 9, p. 168. For fraternal relationship of Leary and Moore Lee, see Nash County Will Book 1, p. 212, will of James Lee. The Larry mentioned is actually Leary Lee.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1980

date entered MAY 28 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 6

¹¹Nash County Will Book 1, p. 421. There is no listed transfer to Lindsay either by deed or will, but Lindsay issued a fee simple deed to A. J. Taylor in 1852. See Nash County Deed Book 24, p. 474.

¹²For profession see Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, North Carolina, Nash County, Population Schedule, 22. Business abilities inferred from estate holdings listed in the same census as \$50. Census records hereinafter cited by number, date, and schedule.

¹³Nash County Deed Book 24, p. 474. The arrangement is indicated by the visitation order of the 1860 census which places Lee in the vicinity of the mill and Taylor in a district farther east. That, plus Lee's lack of real estate, and Taylor's practice of letting others manage his holdings (see pp. 2, 4, 5) strongly suggest that Lee was retained as miller.

¹⁴Data gleaned from facts stated in the population schedules of the Seventh Census, 1850, p. 254; Eighth Census, 1860, p. 36; and Ninth Census, 1870, p. 49.

¹⁵For property acquisition see Nash County Deed Book 18, pp. 88, 464; and Nash County Records, State Archives, Estates Papers, Alsey Taylor, hereinafter cited as Taylor Estate Papers. For statistical data see Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 254; Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, 36, Slave Schedule, 1, 56, and Agricultural Schedule, 7.

¹⁶For a few instances, see Nash County Deed Book 18, pp. 88, 464; and Deed Book 21, p. 729.

¹⁷Seventh Census, 1850, Industrial Schedule, no page number.

¹⁸Nash County Deed Book 21, p. 474. For a description of Webb's Mill see T. E. Ricks (ed.). By Faith and Heritage Are We Joined: A Compilation of Nash County Historical Notes (Rocky Mount: The Nash County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 234-235, hereinafter cited as Ricks, Nash County Historical Notes.

¹⁹Testimonials of M. P. Williams of Norfolk, Virginia, dated November 8, 1955, and March 7, 1959. Originals in possession of John C. Tippet, Sr. of Taylor's Mill, hereinafter cited as Williams Testimonials. Mr. Williams recently died at the age of 102.

²⁰See reference to millpond in will of James Lee dated 1771. Nash County Will Book A, 256.

²¹Improvements were obvious by the increase in selling price after the war. The amount \$13,500 was exceedingly high, especially for a period of reduced prosperity. A sawmill would seem reasonable considering the need for barrels to store cornmeal and for the coopering operation mentioned in the 1850 census and by M. P. Williams. See Nash County Deed Book 30, p. 580; Seventh Census, 1850, Industrial Schedule; and Williams Testimonials.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1980

date entered MAY 28 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 7

²²See order of visitation in Seventh Census, 1850. Population Schedule, 254; Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, 36; and Ninth Census, 1870, Population Schedule, 49. Taylor lived some distance from the Stricklands and others known to have resided in the mill vicinity. For a description of the original townships, see Ricks, Nash County Historical Notes, 277-278.

²³Compare Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, 10, 22, 36, with Williams Testimonials. See also Nash County Deed Book 18, pp. 88, 464, and Taylor Estate Papers.

²⁴Williams Testimonials. The house was destroyed many years ago and the only knowledge of the inscription comes from Mr. Williams.

²⁵See footnote 23.

²⁶See occupations listed in Seventh Census, 1850, Population Schedule, 292, and Eighth Census, 1860, Population Schedule, 10.

²⁷Eighth Census, 1860, Slave Schedule, 1, 56.

²⁸Walter Clark (ed.), Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-'65 (Raleigh and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 5 volumes, 1901), I, 361; and Louis H. Manarin and Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., (eds.), North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster (Raleigh: Archives and History, 7 volumes, 1966-1979), IV, 452.

²⁹See Agricultural Schedules in Eighth Census, 1860, p. 7, and Ninth Census, 1870, p. 3. For location, see deed from Taylor to Webb, 1877, in Nash County Deed Book 30, p. 580.

³⁰In the deed to Webb, there is a reference to the dower rights of Mary Taylor, Joseph's wife, proving that he had died before the agreement to sell the property. Nash County Deed Book 30, p. 580.

³¹Nash County Deed Book 30, p. 580.

³²Williams Testimonials. See also Ricks, Nash County Historical Notes, 234-235.

³³Williams Testimonials.

³⁴Nash County Deed Book 97, p. 20.

³⁵Nash County Deed Book 97, p. 20; and Williams Testimonials.

³⁶Susan Mooring Hollis. Interview with John C. Tippet, Sr., of Taylor's Mill, summer, 1979, hereinafter cited as John Tippet interview. See also Williams Testimonials for description of hub and spoke shop.

³⁷Nash County Deed Book 132, p. 467.

³⁸See Nash County Deed Book 132, p. 497; Book 238, p. 586; Book 239, pp. 466-467;

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

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

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Item number 8

Page 8

Book 260, pp. 38, 320; Book 302, p. 6; Book 316, p. 239; Book 291, p. 571; Book 426, p. 575; and Book 455, p. 321.

³⁹Williams Testimonials.

⁴⁰The Zebulon Record, August 28, 1975.

⁴¹Jerry L. Cross. Interview with Marie Tippett of Taylor's Mill, January 22, 1980, hereinafter cited as Marie Tippett interview.

⁴²Nash County Deed Book 486, p. 339.

⁴³The Zebulon Record, August 28, 1975; and Marie Tippett interview.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet

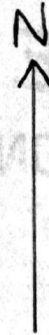
Item number 9

Page 1

- Corbitt, David Leroy. The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943. Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950.
- Cross, Jerry L. Interview with Marie Tippett, January 22, 1980.
- Duplin County Marriage Bonds. State Archives, Raleigh.
- Edgecombe County Records. Deeds, Estates Papers, and Wills.
- Granville Grants. State Archives, Raleigh.
- Hollis, Susan Mooring. Interview with John C. Tippett, Sr., summer, 1979.
- Manarin, Louis H. and Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., eds. North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A Roster. Raleigh: Archives and History, 1966-1979. Seven volumes.
- Maps. Mouzon's Map of North and South Carolina, 1775. Price-Strother, First Actual Survey of North Carolina, 1808. United States Department of Interior Geological Survey, Nash County, North Carolina, Spring Hope Quadrangle, 1902. Wells & Brinkley, Engineers, Map of Nash County, North Carolina, 1918-1919.
- Nash County Records. Bridge Records, Deeds, Estates Papers, Inventories and Settlements, Minutes of Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Orders and Decrees, Road Records, and Wills.
- Powell, William S. The North Carolina Gazetteer. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968.
- Thorpe, John H. Roster of Nash County Confederate Soldiers. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1925.
- Turner, J. Kelly and John L. Bridgers, Jr. History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1920.
- United States Census Records, 1850-1870.
- Williams, M. P. Testimonials, November 8, 1955. March 7, 1959. Originals in possession of John C. Tippett of Taylor's Mill.
- The Zebulon Record. August 28, 1975.



TAYLOR'S MILL POND

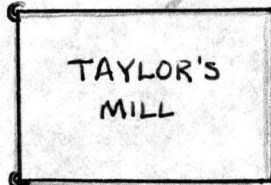


Boundary of Nominated Area

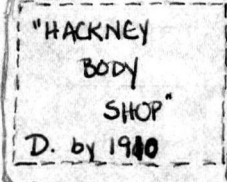
----- OLD WOODEN DAM (SUBMERGED) ~100' ABOVE PRESENT DAM

STONE DAM BUILT ~1920

SMALL BOAT LANDING



JOHNSTON CO.



NASH CO.

SR 1120

MOCCASIN CREEK

OLD ROAD

ERASABLE BOND
COTTON CONTENT

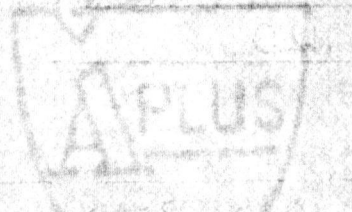
100% COTTON
100% BOND



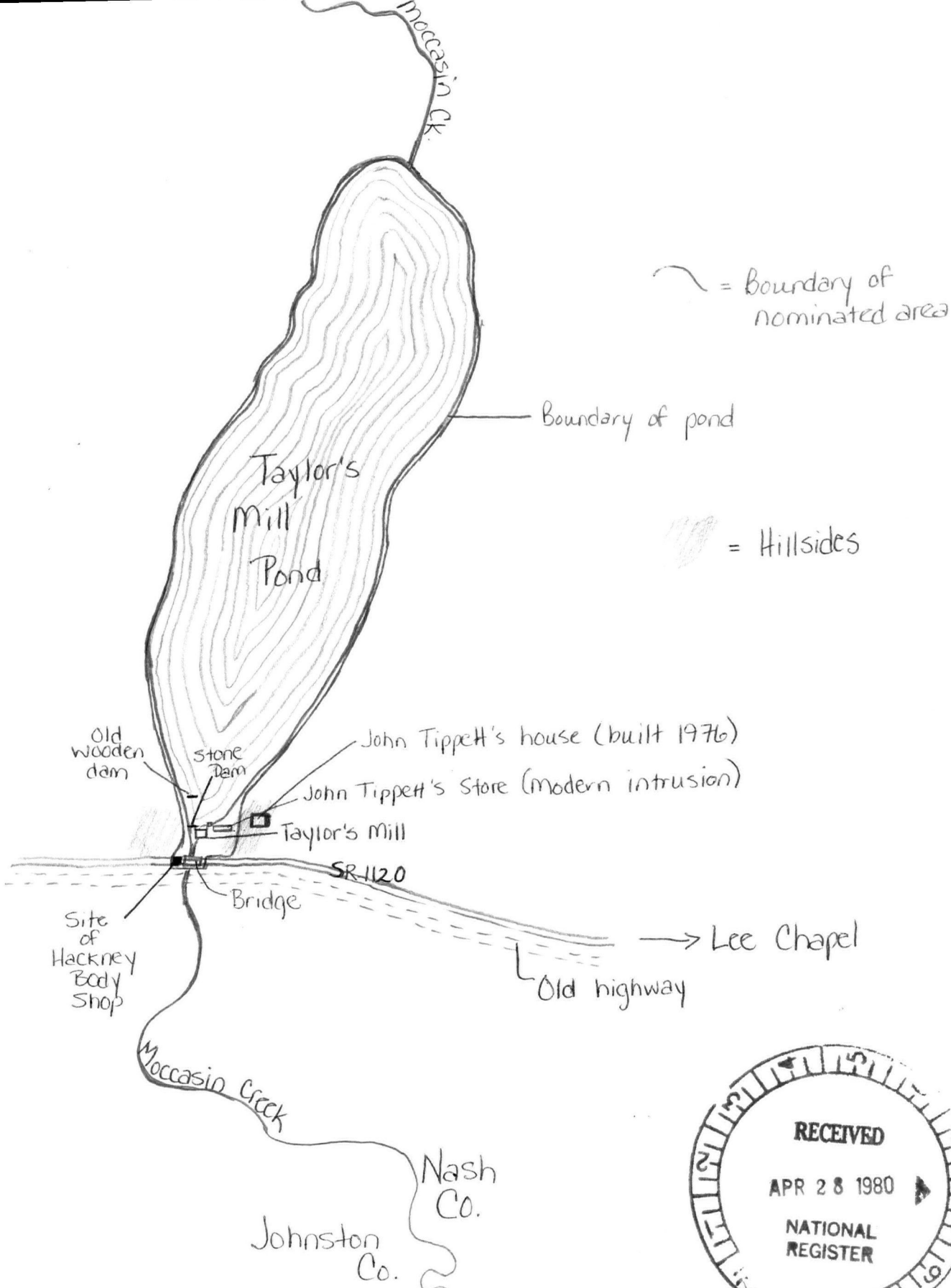
POST OFFICE
CITY, STATE, ZIP

POSTAGE
PAID

POSTAGE
PAID

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MAY 28 1980



Property

Saylor's Mill

State

NC - Nash

Working Number

4-28-80 1240

80002889

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 6

Maps 3

19th c gristmill with surviving turbine, some interior HISTORIAN
equipment; 2 intact mill dams - good collection + assessed by State
to be unusual for the region. Need to call about description other
items. " Other details class is

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT
FUBIE
5/27/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered MAY 28 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-79-7-919

PHOTOGRAPHER SUSAN MORRIS (HOLLIS)

MAY 28 1980

FROM DIVISION OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

PHOTO DATE 6-12-79

SEP 21 1979

SUBJECT (TAYLOR'S MILL) + MILL POND
WASH CO.

PRINT BY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION

APR 28 1980

1/6

919



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-79-7-913

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RALEIGH, N. C.

PHOTOGRAPHER SUSAN MOORING (HOLLIS)

PHOTO DATE 6-12-79

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PHOTO DATE 6-12-79
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5/6

922



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-79-7-926
PHOTOGRAPHER SUSAN MORRIS (HOLLIS)
PHOTO DATE 6-12-79
SUBJECT (TAYLOR'S MILL) + MILL POND
WASH CO.

46

MAY 28 1980

FROM DIVISION OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

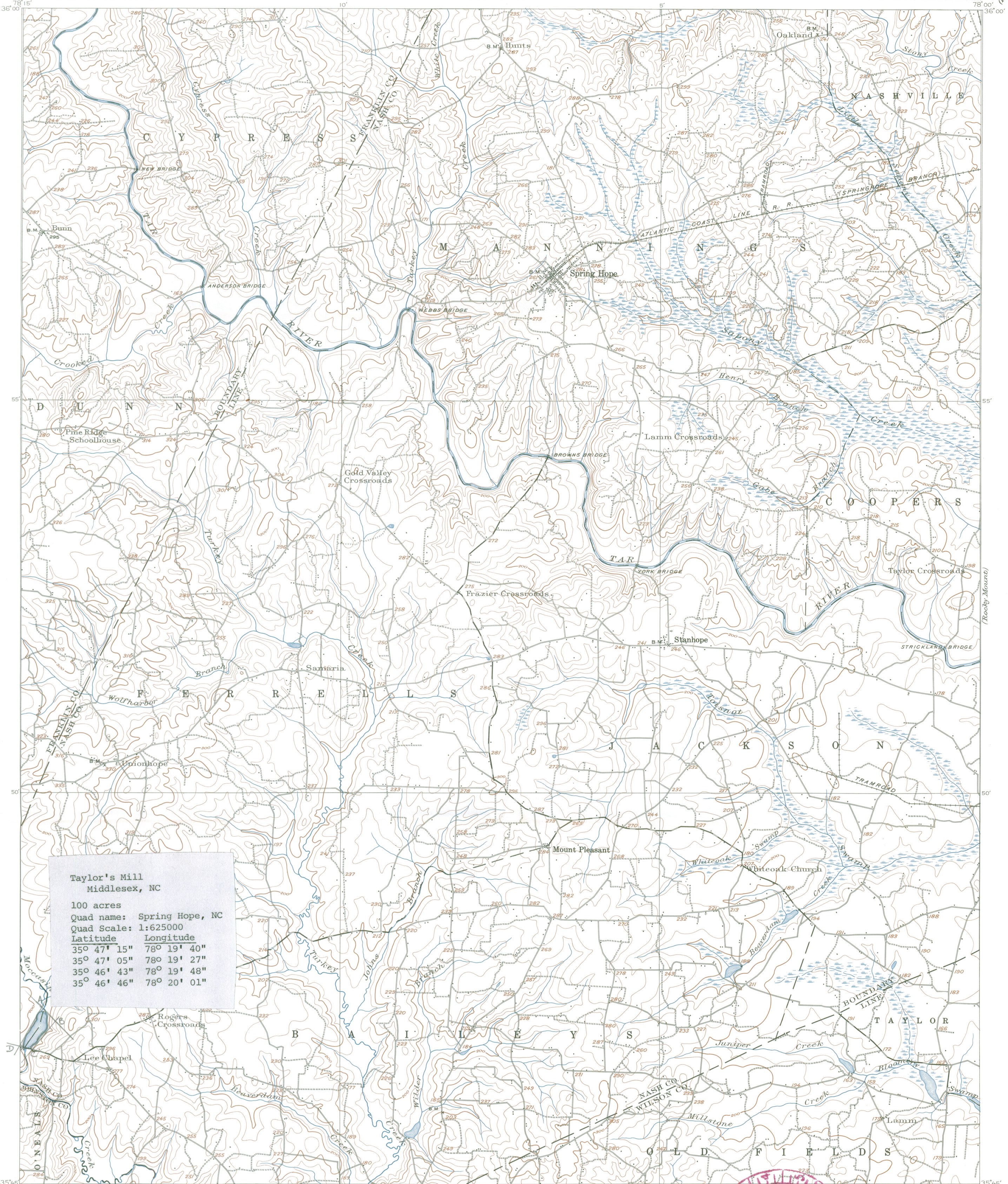
SEP 21 1979

PRINT BY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION

APR 28 1980

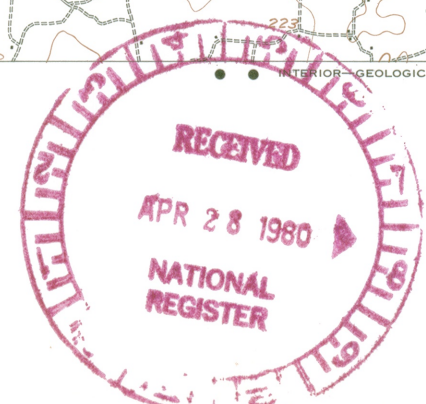
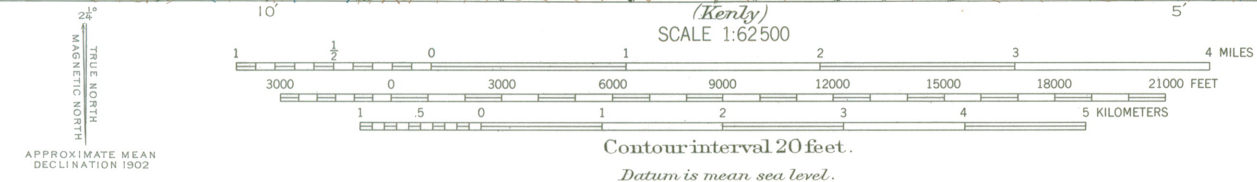
926

(Road Oak 1:24,000)



Taylor's Mill
Middlesex, NC
100 acres
Quad name: Spring Hope, NC
Quad Scale: 1:625000
Latitude Longitude
35° 47' 15" 78° 19' 40"
35° 47' 05" 78° 19' 27"
35° 46' 43" 78° 19' 48"
35° 46' 46" 78° 20' 01"

H. M. Wilson, Geographer in charge.
Control by Sledge Tatum, and Robert Coe.
Topography by A. H. Bumstead, Robert Coe and T. F. Slaughter.
SURVEYED IN 1902



SPRING HOPE, N. C.
N3545-W7800/15

MAY 28 1980

S55

NORTH
CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES

Raleigh,
North Carolina
27611

Division of
Archives and History
Larry E. Tise, Director

April 8, 1980



Mrs. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is the nomination for the Taylor's Mill in Nash County, North Carolina, to be entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find this nomination in order. If there are any questions, please call us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry E. Tise".

Larry E. Tise
State Historic Preservation Officer

LET/fr

Enclosures

cc: Honorable Robert Morgan
Honorable Jesse Helms
Honorable L. H. Fountain

Sara W. Hodgkins,
Secretary
James B. Hunt, Jr.,
Governor



DATE 5/27/80
TIME OF CALL 4:00 AM

TELEPHONE REPORT

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

Renee

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Taylor Mill - what about the other elements?
- dams, bridge, other building? current

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Some dam structure on one line
condition of site of body shop?
reason for inclusion of

= Renee doesn't know about the bridge -
assumes this is part of the ownership -
there is a concrete bridge there now -
not an historic one -

= cleared site of body shop - nothing
there above ground

= mill pond has grown since USGS
made

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

DOBIE

TITLE

HIST

OFFICE

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NORTH CAROLINA

Date Entered MAY 28 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Lake Mattamuskeet Pump Station	Swanquarter vicinity Hyde County
Currituck Shooting Club	Corolla vicinity Currituck County
Taylor's Mill	Middlesex vicinity Nash County
Boxwoods, The	Madison Rockingham County
Covington Plantation House	Rockingham Richmond County
Irvin-Hamrick Log House	Boiling Springs vicinity Cleveland County

Honorable Jesse Helms

Also Notified

Honorable Robert B. Morgan
Honorable Walter B. Jones
Honorable L. H. Fountain
Honorable Lunsford R. Preyer
Honorable W. G. Hafner
Honorable James T. Broyhill
Mr. David F. Hales,
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Mr. James W. Pulliam, Jr.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Larry E. Tise
Director, Division of Archives
and History
Department of Cultural Resources
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

6/4/80

Byers/bjr

NR