



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

May 3, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Shelby Reap
Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation

slreap@ncdot.gov

FROM: Ramona M. Bartos, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

Reap for Ramona M. Bartos

SUBJECT Proposed Boundary Change for Yates Mill - Replace Bridge No. 302 on SR 1371 (Lake Wheeler Road) over the Yates Mill Spillway, PA 16-01-0032, WBS No. 45638.1.1, B-5683, Wake County, ER 23-1529

Thank you for your submission concerning the above-referenced project. We have reviewed the materials provided and offer the following comments.

As shown on the attached maps, the revised boundary for the National Register-listed Yates Mill (WA0050) follows the normal pool elevation of Yates Mill Pond, including the pond boardwalk (Non-Contributing). The eastern side of the boundary encompasses the mill building (Contributing), the log cabin (NC), and dam (C). The boundary includes Steep Hill Creek (C) east for a distance of 125 feet beyond the dam, which necessitates crossing Lake Wheeler Road (SR 1371) (NC) and includes Wake County Bridge Number 302 (NC). The boundary follows the western right-of way of Lake Wheeler Road south to the intersection of Penny Road (SR 1379), then follows the northern right-of-way along Penny Road for a distance of 250 feet where it turns south to encompass the former mill site. The boundary crosses Penny Road before rejoining Yates Mill Pond. This portion includes the mill overlook deck, modern fences (NC), picnic benches and tables (NC), boat ramp (NC), and pathways (NC). Other features outside of the proposed boundary are the A. E. Finely Center, the outdoor classroom, and the park entrance. The revised boundary also includes the Former Mill Site, designated as archaeological site 31WA2666, which represents the remains of a milling operation on Long Branch, believed to be associated with the varied milling industry complex at Yates Mill.

We concur with the proposed National Register Historic Property boundary change for Yates Mill and will move to provide the necessary information to the National Register for updating of the nomination.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

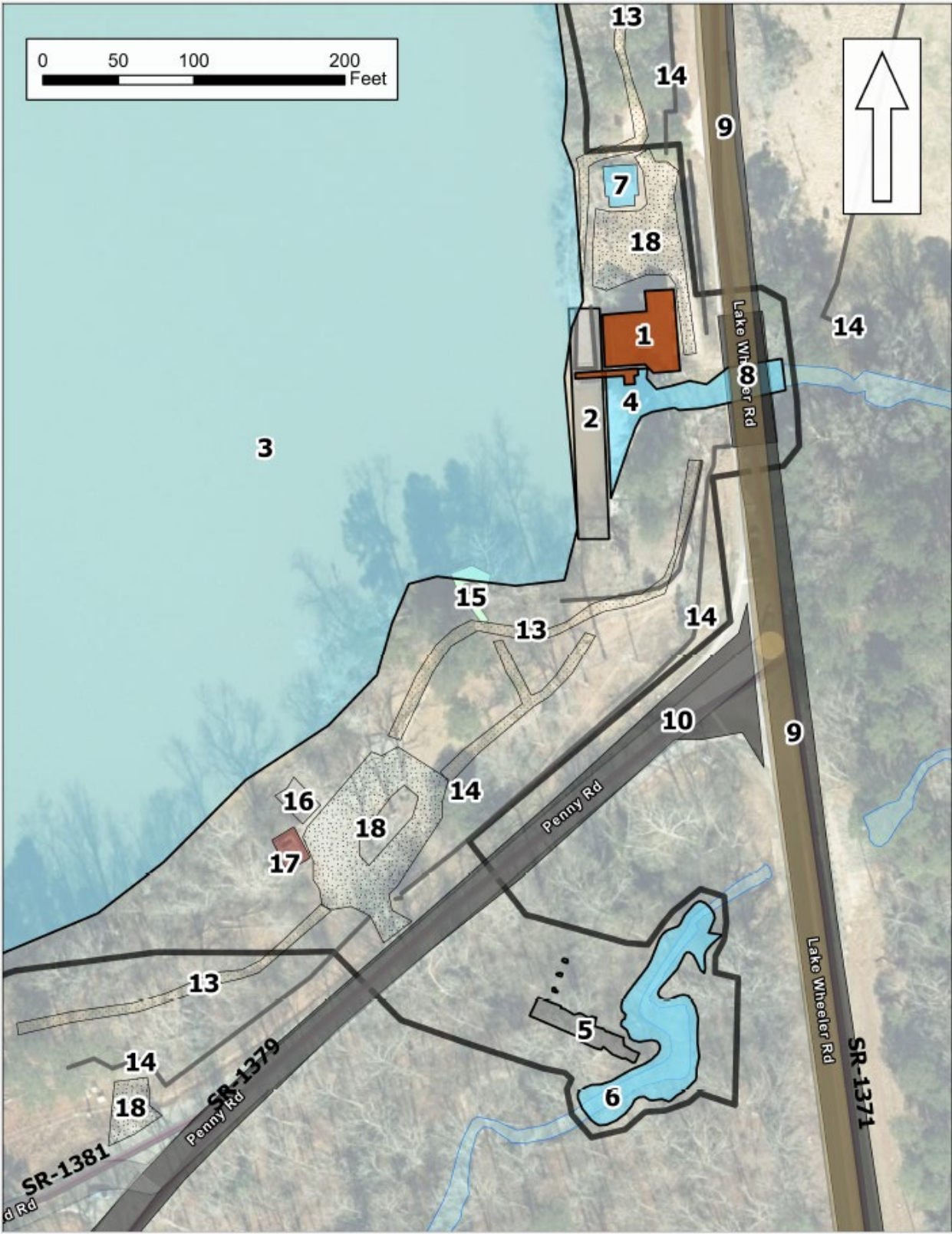
Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@dncr.nc.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

Attachment: Maps showing revised National Register boundary for Yates Mill

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT
Matt Wilkerson, NCDOT
Jeffrey S. Smith, NC SHPO/NR

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ER 23-1529

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J.R. "JOEY" HOPKINS
SECRETARY

April 10, 2024

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley
Environmental Review Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office
North Carolina Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617

Dear Renee:

RE: Historic Structure Report: Replace Bridge No. 302 on SR 1371 (Lake Wheeler Road) over Yates Mill Spillway in Wake County TIP no. B-5683, WBS No. 45638.1.1, PA No. 16-01-0032

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Wake County Bridge Number 302, which is adjacent to Historic Yates Mill County Park. Yates Mill (WA0050), in the National Register of Historic Places (NR) in 1970, has never had a National Register boundary. The historic property is recorded spatially as a single point in HPO data. Recent archaeological review and survey efforts by NCDOT archaeologists have documented ruins of a second dam and mill building associated with the greater resource. Establishing a NR boundary for Yates Mill is necessary as part of the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act review.

NCDOT proposes a contiguous NR boundary which would encompass well known aspects of Yates Mill and the former mill seat. Attached, please find boundary mapping which includes contributing structures of the mill building, mill wheel, race, and dam, the former mill site (31WA2666), as well as a landscape feature of the mill pond and natural resources of Steep Hill Creek's spillway and a segment of Long Branch at the dam breach. Noncontributing structures within, adjacent or crossing the boundary include Wake County Bridge 302, Lake Wheeler Road (SR 1371), Penny Road (SR 1379), a modern-built log cabin, park pathways, pond boardwalk, the mill overlook deck, modern fences, picnic benches and tables, a boat ramp, a dock, and other maintained pathways.

Inventory:

1. Yates Mill — Contributing. A 18th century mill building in regular operation until its closing around 1953. The extant structure has been reconfigured, improved, expanded, and repaired in phases spanning two and a half centuries. Following

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Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location:
10020 BARRINGER RD
RALEIGH, NC 27610

- hurricane-related destruction of the dam around 1996, turn of the twenty-first century restoration had the old mill operating once again. Yates Mill as it stands today is the only historic operating grist mill in Wake County.
2. Yates Mill Pond— Contributing. Formed upstream by the construction of the dam. Contributing.
 3. Dam— Contributing. Coursed stone dam likely constructed around the time of the milling operation's origin before the first survey of the property in 1756, the dam was largely reconstructed in 1997 after Hurricane Fran.
 4. Steep Hill Creek—Dammed to provide water-driven power.
 5. Former Mill Site (31WA2666)— The remains of a milling operation on Long Branch, believed to be associated with the varied milling industry complex at Yates Mill, has been documented and recorded as archaeological site 31WA2666. The site consists of a breached stone and earthen-berm mill dam, stone supports and foundation piers for an attached millhouse, and the immediate surroundings, which include the spillway, rock outcrop on the opposite bank of Long Branch, and the mill building foundation and footprint across an elevated landform. These abandoned mill remains are interpreted as either an earlier iteration of the milling operations established in the eighteenth century, or a secondary, auxiliary grist or saw mill contemporaneous with nearby Yates Mill.
 6. Long Branch—Dammed to provide power at a now breached former mill site. Contributing.
 7. Log cabin— Non-contributing. Constructed in circa 1975 by North Carolina State University School of Design Students.
 8. Wake County Bridge Number 302— Non-Contributing. Precast, prestressed concrete cored slab bridge constructed in 1969.
 9. Lake Wheeler Road (SR 1371). Non-Contributing.
 10. Penny Road (SR 1379). Non-Contributing.

Elements associated with Wake County Park, opened in 2006.

11. Pond Boardwalk—a pedestrian walkway spanning the mill pond as a park feature. Non-contributing.
12. A. E. Finley Center for Education and Research, constructed in 2006, for use as a park center and research facility for NCSU. Outside the proposed boundary. Non-Contributing.
13. Pathways. Non-Contributing.
14. Modern Fences—A variety of materials including chain-link and wood. Non-Contributing.
15. Mill Overlook Deck. Non-Contributing.
16. Boat Ramp. Non-Contributing.
17. Picnic Tables and Benches. Non-Contributing.
18. Graveled Area. Non-Contributing.
19. Outdoor Classroom—Outside the proposed boundary.
20. Park Entrance. Outside the proposed boundary.

Boundary Description and Justification: The recommended NR Historic Property Boundary follows the normal pool elevation of Yates Mill Pond, including the pond boardwalk (NC). The eastern side of the boundary encompasses the mill building (C), the log cabin (NC), and dam (C). The boundary includes Steep Hill Creek (C) east for a

distance of 125 feet beyond the dam, which necessitates a crossing of Lake Wheeler Road (SR 1371) (NC), and includes Wake County Bridge Number 302 (NC). The boundary follows the western right-of way of Lake Wheeler Road south to the intersection of Penny Road (SR 1379), then follows the northern right-of-way along Penny Road for a distance of 250 feet where it turns south to encompass the former mill site. The boundary crosses Penny Road before rejoining Yates Mill Pond. This portion includes the mill overlook deck, modern fences (NC), picnic benches and tables (NC), boat ramp (NC), and pathways (NC). Others features outside of the proposed boundary are the A. E. Finely Center, the outdoor classroom and the park entrance.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding this project. I can be reached at (919) 707-6088 or by email at sleap@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelby Reap". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelby Reap
Historic Architecture Team

Attachments

CC: David J. Cranford, PhD, RPA

