

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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

June 10, 2020

Sean Yates

sean.yates@kimley-horn.com

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
3930 East Jones Bridge Road, Suite 350
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

RE: Little River Dam, Hurricane Matthew Recovery (DR-4285-NC), 1811 West Gannon Avenue, Zebulon, Wake County, ER 19-1034

Dear Mr. Yates:

Thank you for your letter of May 27, 2020, transmitting the revised survey report, "Historic Architecture Survey Report, Moore's Mill (WA2084), Wake County" prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates. We have reviewed the report and offer the following comments.

We note the incorporation of our recommendations of May 27, 2020. No further revisions are required. We accept this draft as final and will file it within our environmental review survey report library.

However, until the property has been assessed for eligibility under Criterion D our office cannot make a final determination of effect for the project mentioned in your letter. We look forward to receiving the requested archaeological survey report for review and comment.

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 comments, please contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@ncdcr.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above-referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renee Gledhill-Earley".

Ramona Bartos, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Chris Ray, Zebulon Public Works Department
Mary Duffy, Zebulon Public Works Department

cray@townofzebulon.org
mduffy@townofzebulon.org



May 27, 2020

Renee Gledhill-Earley
State Historic Preservation Office
109 East Jones Street, Room 258
Raleigh, NC 27601

SUBJECT: Historic Architecture Survey Report for Moore's Mill (WA2084), Wake County, ER 19-1034

Dear Ms. Gledhill-Earley:

Please find the revised Historic Architecture Survey Report for the subject project. The Town of Zebulon proposes to restore a section of the Little River within the Town-owned Little River Park. The stream restoration is in response to impacts resulting from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The restoration is anticipated to include the partial removal of the Little River Dam (Moore's Mill Dam – WA2084). The Town is seeking funding through FEMA to help pay for the impacts resulting from Hurricane Matthew. In October 2019, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., conducted a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluation of the Moore's Mill complex. Survey data was collected and a North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCHPO) survey form was completed. Background research was conducted to determine historical land uses of the area and chains of ownership. Kimley-Horn used the survey data and historical research to assess the NRHP eligibility of the dam and the mill complex. Kimley-Horn recommends the Moore's Mill complex as ineligible for the NRHP due to a lack of integrity.

Included are the following deliverables:

- Revised Historic Architecture Survey Report for Moore's Mill (WA2084)

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Yates".

Sean Yates
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
3930 East Jones Bridge Road, Suite 350
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
678-710-9486 -- sean.yates@kimley-horn.com

Applicant: Town of Zebulon
Chris Ray, Director of Public Works
919-269-5285 -- cray@townofzebulon.org

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE SURVEY REPORT
MOORE'S MILL (WA2084)
WAKE COUNTY

Stream Restoration at Little River Park

Prepared for:

Town of Zebulon
Public Works Department
450 East Horton Street
Zebulon, NC 27597

Prepared by:

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
3930 East Jones Bridge Road
Suite 350
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

May 2020

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Town of Zebulon proposes to restore a section of the Little River within the Town-owned Little River Park. The stream restoration is in response to impacts resulting from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The restoration is anticipated to include the partial removal of the Little River Dam (Moore's Mill Dam – WA2084). The Town is seeking funding through FEMA to help pay for the restoration project. In October 2019, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., conducted a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility evaluation of the Moore's Mill complex in response to a request made to the Town of Zebulon by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office in a letter dated April 30, 2019. Survey data was collected and a NCHPO survey form was completed. Background research was conducted to determine historical land uses of the area and chains of ownership. Kimley-Horn used the survey data and historical research to assess the NRHP eligibility of the dam and the mill complex.

Kimley-Horn recommends the Moore's Mill complex as ineligible for the NRHP due to a lack of integrity. The former mill complex retains very little of its historic fabric. The foundation blocks are all that remain of the mill building. The dam itself has been damaged by impacts from hurricanes and repaired multiple times since the 1990s. It is currently damaged from impacts of Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Table 1. Surveyed Properties in Project Area

Survey Site Number	Property Name	NR Evaluation	Date of Construction
WA2084	Moore's Mill Complex	Not Eligible	c. 1868

Methodology

On October 18, 2019, Kimley-Horn Architectural Historian Sean Yates visited the Moore's Mill complex, completed photo-documentation, and visited a comparable property in Wake County. The investigator also undertook research at Olivia Raney Local History Library as well as accessing files from the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Additionally, the investigator spoke with representatives from the Town of Zebulon and local historians about the Moore's Mill complex and used online resources, including the Wake County Register of Deeds and Wake County online tax mapping.

Kimley-Horn conducted all fieldwork, research, and evaluations to meet the provisions of Section 106 of the National Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.

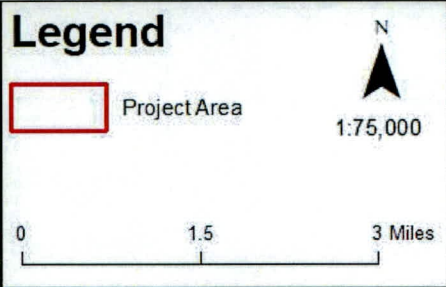
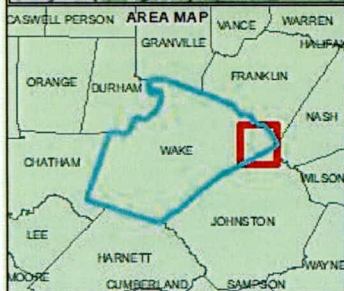
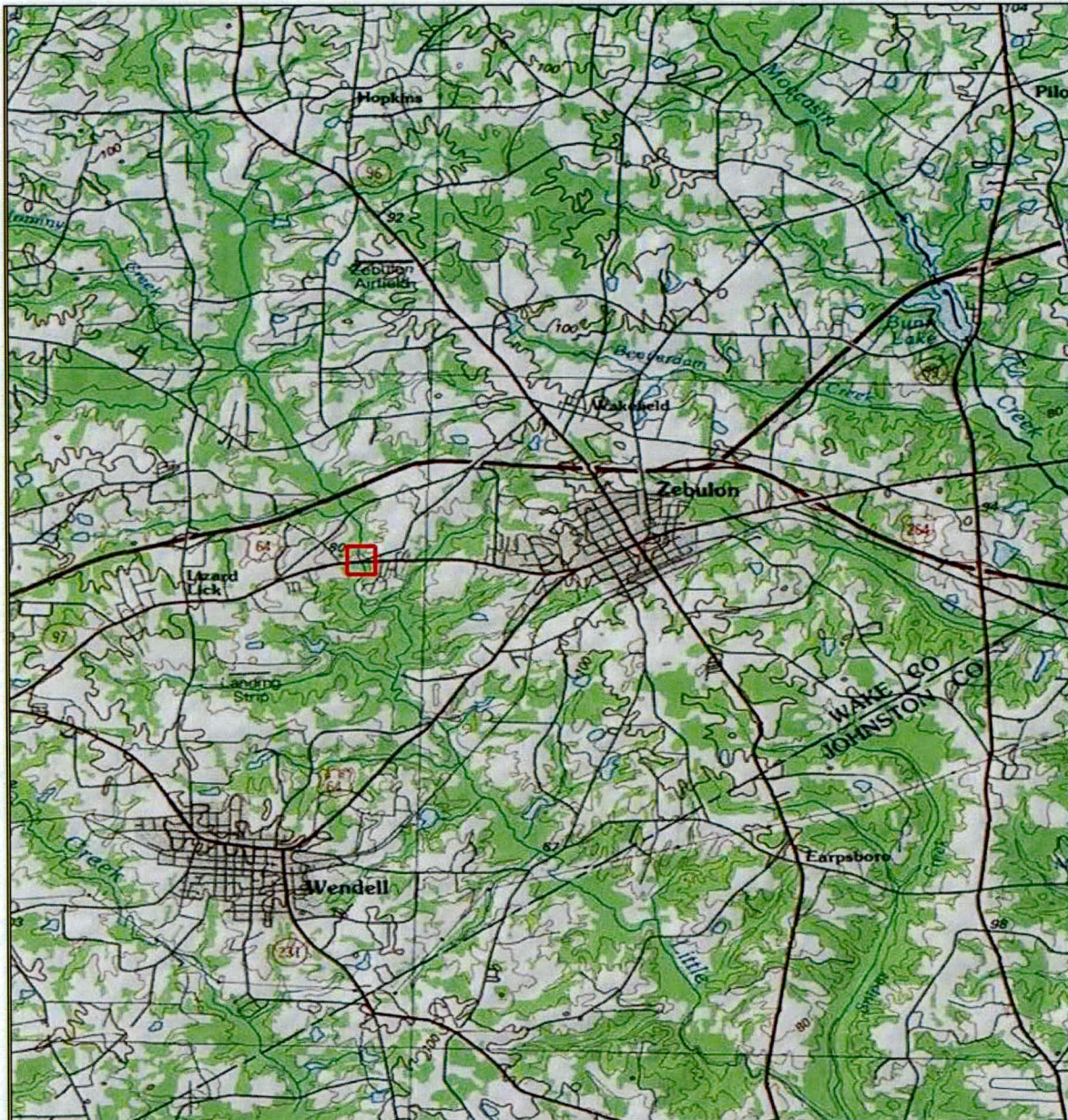
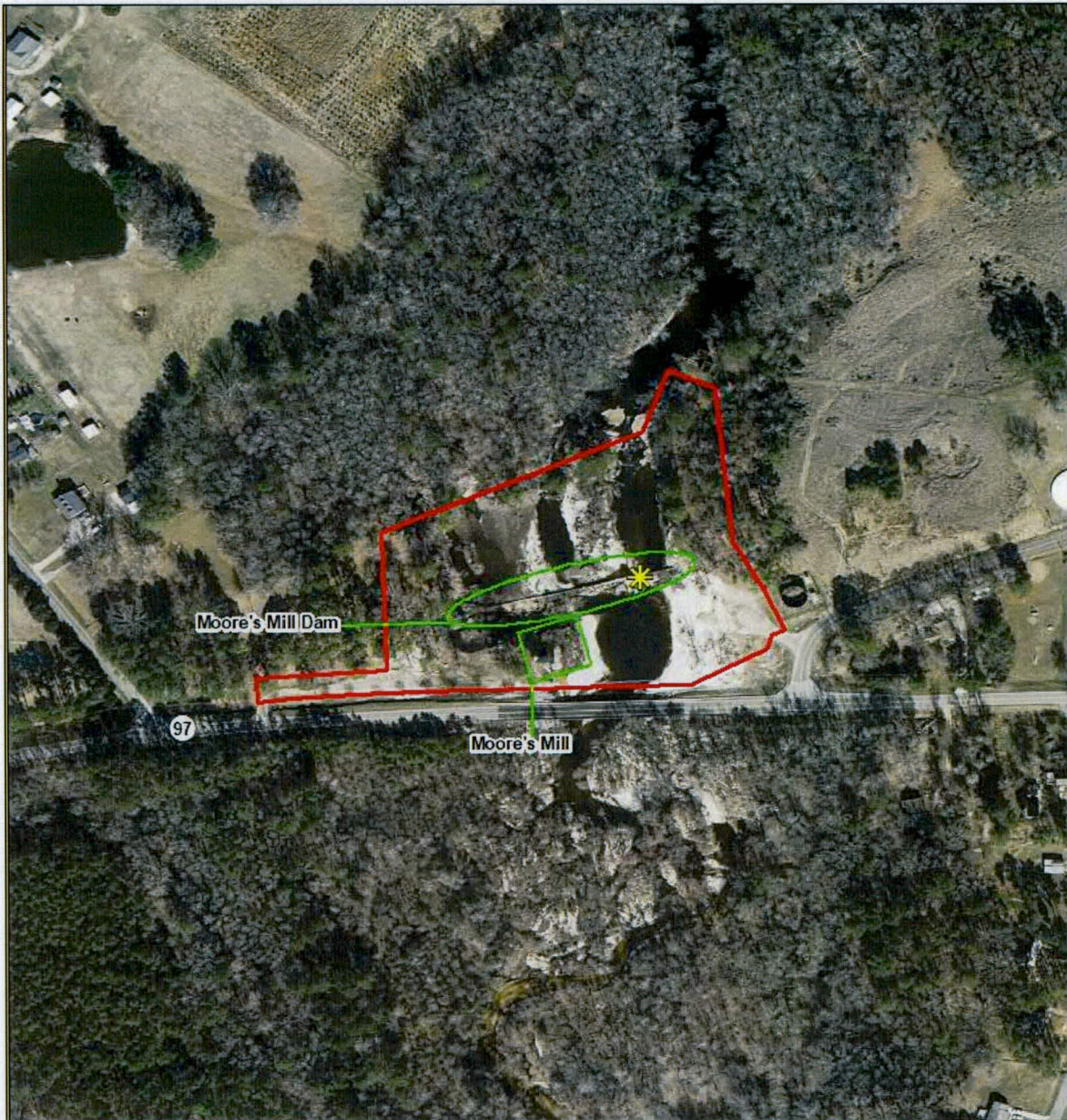


Figure 1: Project Vicinity



Little River Stream Restoration
Moore's Mill Complex

NC 97 at Little River
Wake County, NC

Source: Esri



Legend

-  WA2084
-  APE Boundary

N
1:3,000

0 250 500 Feet

Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects

Little River Stream Restoration
Moore's Mill Complex (WA2084)

NC 97 at Little River
Wake County, NC

Source: Esri

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Property Evaluation: Moore's Mill Complex

Physical Description

The Moore's Mill complex lies on the north side of NC 97 and includes the foundation of the mill building and the dam. The dam runs roughly adjacent to NC 97 as it crosses the Little River. The mill complex is situated on the Little River just north of the NC 97 bridge. The APE consists of the former Moore's Mill complex. The site is located in rural Wake County, west of Zebulon, in the eastern portion of North Carolina's Piedmont region.

The mill building retains nothing but its foundation blocks. The foundation blocks lie adjacent to and within a ponded area south of the dam. Little can be gleaned about the former appearance or precise configuration of the former mill building. No remnants of the vertical structure remain nor do the millstones remain. A local resident stated that the former mill building was two stories tall and measured 28 feet by 34 feet.¹

The mill dam is a weir-type dam and spans the Little River north of the former mill building. It is approximately 300 feet across in a roughly east-to-west alignment. The dam varies in height and is approximately 6 to 8 feet tall at its tallest point. The dam is approximately 3 to 4 feet in width at the river crossing. The dam is constructed of stacked quarried stone and mortar.

The dam has been significantly damaged by floodwater from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Additionally, the dam was previously damaged by Hurricanes Fran (1996) and Floyd (1999). The dam was repaired after each of the hurricanes in the 1990s with locally quarried granite and any of the historic stones which could be salvaged, according to Town of Zebulon officials. Temporary coffer dams were installed during each of the previous restoration efforts of the dam.

¹ Carpenter, MaryBeth, "Moore's Mills and Little River Dam Reflect 150 Years in Zebulon," accessed via <http://preservationzebulon.org/pdf/files/littleriverdam.pdf>.



Moore's Mill (date unknown),
Source: Edythe M. Tippet Collection, Olivia Raney Local History Library



Photo 1: Moore's Mill Dam from NC 97, facing north.



Photo 2: Moore's Mill Dam, facing northwest.



Photo 3: Moore's Mill Dam, facing west.



Photo 4: Moore's Mill Dam, facing southwest.



Photo 5: Moore's Mill Dam, facing south.



Photo 6: Moore's Mill Dam, facing northeast.



Photo 7: Moore's Mill Dam, facing east.

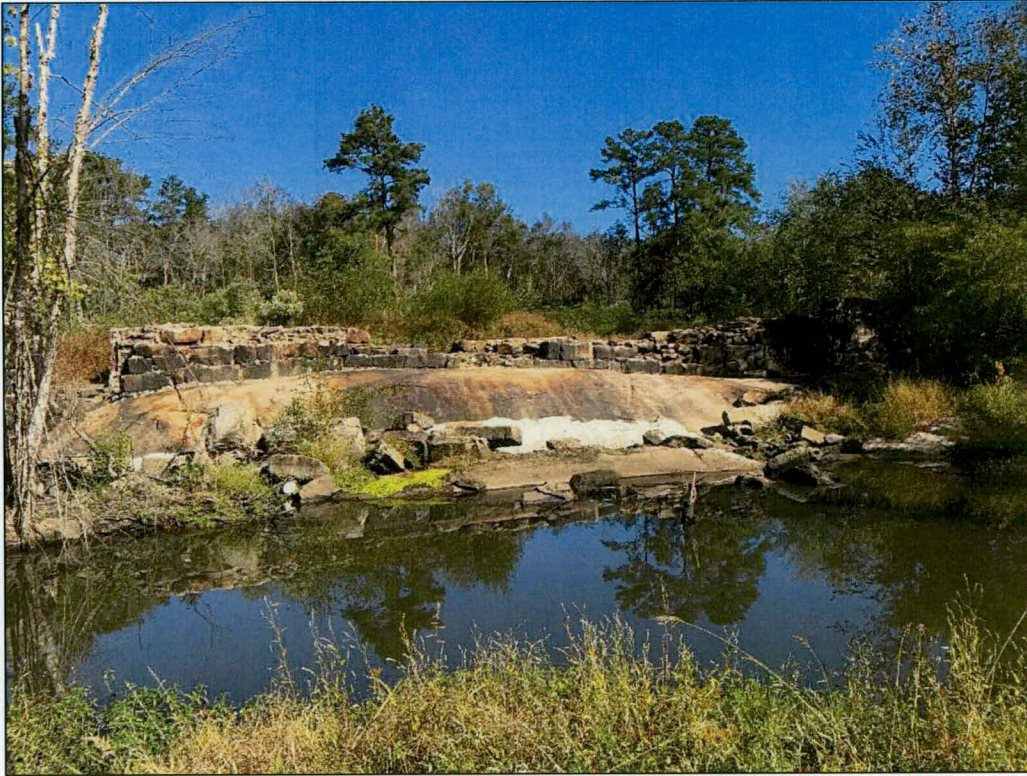


Photo 8: Western side of Moore's Mill Dam, facing north.



Photo 9: Western side of Moore's Mill Dam, facing west.



Photo 10: Western side of Moore's Mill Dam, facing north.

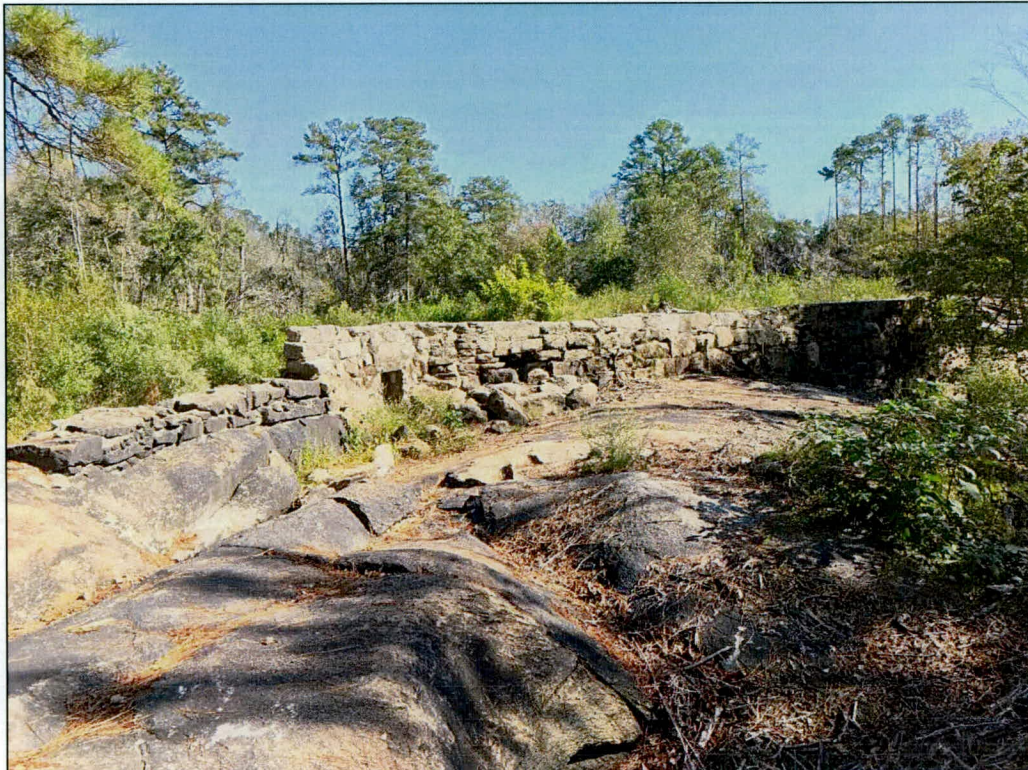


Photo 11: Western end of Moore's Mill Dam, facing northeast.



Photo 12: Foundation of Moore's Mill, facing east.



Photo 13: Foundation of Moore's Mill, facing east.



Photo 14: Foundation of Moore's Mill, facing north.



Photo 15: Foundation of Moore's Mill, facing northwest.



Photo 16: Foundation of Moore's Mill, facing west.



Photo 17: Foundation of Moore's Mill, facing southwest.



Photo 18: NC 97 bridge (left) and Moore's Mill Dam (right), facing west.

Historical & Architectural Context

Moore's Mill was constructed during the heyday of gristmills in the United States, North Carolina, and Wake County. There was at one time more than 70 gristmills in Wake County alone, with the 1891 Southern Interstates Exposition Committee stating that the county "is traversed by many bold streams that flow in a south-eastern direction. The largest of these are Neuse and Little rivers, Walnut, Marsh, Boston's, Big Lick, Crabtree, Swift, Middle, White Oak, Buckhorn, Buffalo, Moccasin, Mark's and Richland creeks. These streams flow rapidly, and furnish many excellent mill-sites...Many corn and flour-mills are found on the creeks and rivers. There are fully seventy-five mills of this kind in the county."² While many of the 75 mills are long gone, the remaining gristmill dams in Wake County have been referred to as "handsome structures of carefully laid stone blocks."³

The date of construction for Moore's Mill is somewhat debatable. Some sources state the mill was "probably constructed in the mid-nineteenth century or earlier."⁴ Others state it

² Hawkins, Leslie Erin. "I Am History, Don't Destroy Please: Three Gristmills and Their Communities in Wake County North Carolina." North Carolina State University: 2008, pp 2-3.

³ Lally, Kelly A. *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*. Wake County Government: 1994, p. 56.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 207.

was constructed by 1868, when the property was sold to William C. Moore by A.J. Foster.⁵ Still other sources indicate the mill was constructed in 1871.⁶ Regardless, the gristmill appears to have been constructed by 1871 at the latest and became known as Moore's Mill shortly after being purchased by William C. Moore. The mill is labeled "Moor's Mill" on the 1871 Map of Wake County. Locals would bring their corn and wheat to be ground at the mill for a fee or a portion of the cornmeal or flour. Moore purchased other adjacent property, and by 1874 he had constructed a post office on the mill property, indicating a growing community. Nancy N. Liles was the first postmaster at the Moore's Mill post office.⁷ The post office relocated to Wakefield in 1888. Moore also donated land offsite for a local school, lent money to local landowners, and became a Wake County Commissioner.⁸



Moore's Mill (depicted as Moor's Mill) on 1871 Map of Wake County.

Moore died in 1913 and the mill was sold to C.B. Barbee. The property is labeled "Barbees Mill" on the 1914 U.S. Department of Agriculture Soils Map. Deed research shows that the Town of Zebulon acquired the property in 1920. In the early 1920s, the "mill had a generator powered by a 12 cylinder Cadillac engine, and electricity was provided two

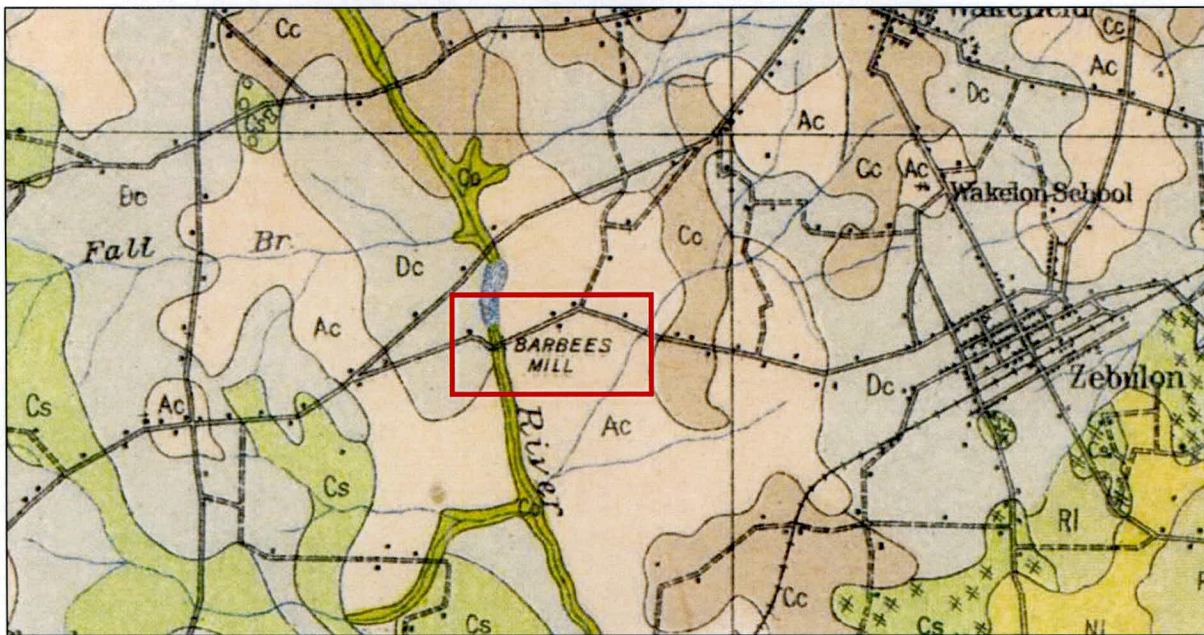
⁵ Carpenter, MaryBeth, "Moore's Mills and Little River Dam Reflect 150 Years in Zebulon," accessed via <http://preservationzebulon.org/pdf/files/littleriverdam.pdf>.

⁶ "Hurricane Matthew breached town's historic dam. Now, a flood of emotions over its future." *Charlotte Observer*, August 10, 2018. Accessed via <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article216423430.html>.

⁷ Murray, Elizabeth Reed. *Wake: Capital County of North Carolina*. Capital County Publishing Co: 1983, p. 662.

⁸ Carpenter, MaryBeth, "Moore's Mills and Little River Dam Reflect 150 Years in Zebulon," accessed via <http://preservationzebulon.org/pdf/files/littleriverdam.pdf>.

days a week, on Fridays and Saturdays, for local people."⁹ The mill was at one time briefly converted to an ice plant by R.H. Bridgers and was converted back into a gristmill by A. Dave Privette.¹⁰ Sand was hauled in to the water's edge and local residents swam in the water below the dam in the summers during the 1950s. The Town of Zebulon continued to run the mill until the 1950s when it ceased operations. The Town constructed a water treatment plant on an adjacent parcel in 1963 (closed in 2003), and the mill property became a local park in the 1970s. The dam has been damaged three times by hurricanes since 1996 and segments of it have been restored twice in that span.¹¹



Moore's Mill (depicted as Barbees Mill) on 1914 USDA Soils Map of Wake County.

Because much of the Moore's Mill complex has been destroyed or damaged, its historic architecture is difficult to discern. Based on an undated historic photograph, local resident accounts, and the remaining foundation blocks, it was likely a typical mid-nineteenth century mill of wood construction. Today, what remains of the former mill complex consists of the badly damaged dam with non-historic patchwork repairs and the foundation blocks of the mill building.

⁹ Carpenter, MaryBeth, "Moore's Mills and Little River Dam Reflect 150 Years in Zebulon," accessed via <http://preservationzebulon.org/pdf/files/littleriverdam.pdf>.

¹⁰ "Annual Society Picnic to be Held Saturday, May 17, at Old Moore's Mill Site on NC 97." *Newsletter of the Little River Historical Society*. April 1980.

¹¹ Carpenter, MaryBeth, "Moore's Mills and Little River Dam Reflect 150 Years in Zebulon," accessed via <http://preservationzebulon.org/pdf/files/littleriverdam.pdf>.



1950 aerial photograph of Moore's Mill,
(Source: USGS Earth Explorer).



1964 aerial photograph of Moore's Mill,
(Source: USGS Earth Explorer).



Moore's Mill Dam before current damage (date unknown),
(Source: Town of Zebulon).

Comparable Examples

As stated above, Wake County has a rich history of gristmills. Because of this, there are multiple extant representative examples of gristmills remaining in the county. The best-preserved gristmill complex in Wake County is the Yates Mill complex, located along Steep Hill Creek, south of Raleigh. Yates Mill (WA0050) was listed in the National Register in 1970 and became a Wake County park in 1996. It is also a designated Raleigh Historic Landmark. The Myatt's Mill Complex (WA1139), determined eligible for the National Register in 2013, is a heavily-altered but standing gristmill complex located in the Panther Branch community.

Both of these mill complexes feature extant mill buildings and dams, and each retains far more historic fabric than the Moore's Mill complex. As a result of exhibiting higher architectural integrity, these mills communicate the area's gristmill history more effectively than the Moore's Mill complex. Yates Mill is significant for its association with the history of the milling industry in Wake County and for its classic mill architecture. Myatt's Mill is presumably also significant for its association with the history of the milling industry in Wake County. It is also significant for its association with the Myatt family, some of Wake County's earliest settlers. While the Moore's Mill complex is a contemporary of these mills and shares an association with Wake County's milling industry, its architecture has been significantly compromised.

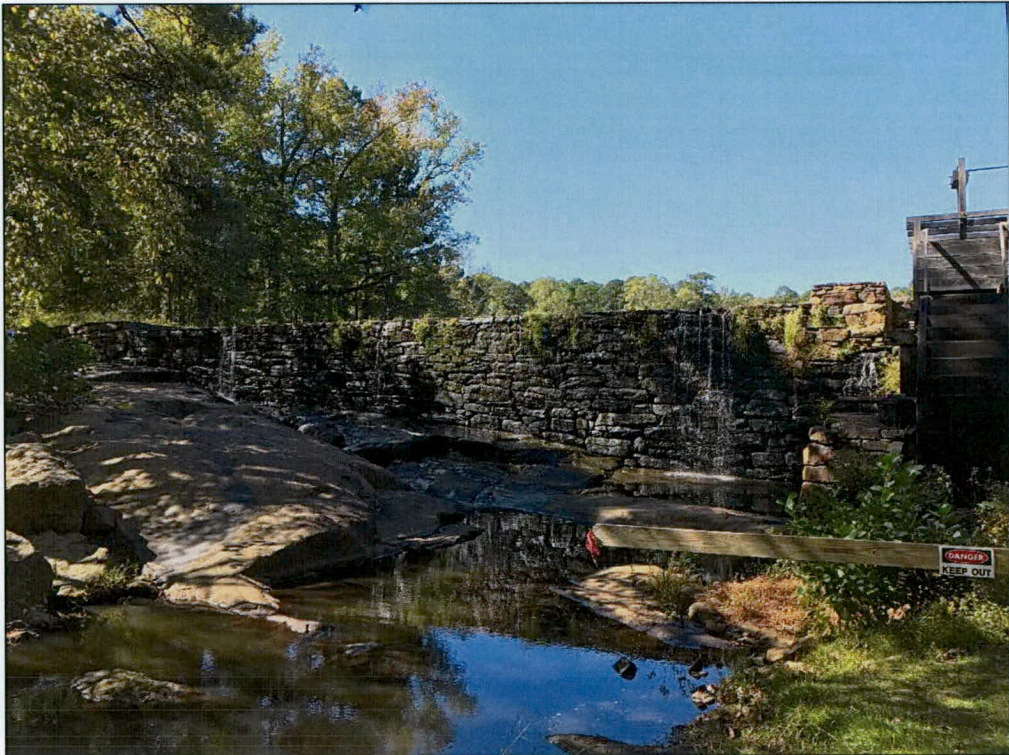
Mill complexes and dams are common features of the North Carolina and Wake County landscapes. Many of them were constructed in the nineteenth century and feature stone dam construction, such as the dam at Moore's Mill. There are better intact and representative examples of gristmill complexes and dams in Wake County than the Moore's Mill complex.



View of north and east elevations of Yates Mill, facing southwest.



View of south elevation of Yates Mill, facing north.



View of Yates Mill dam, facing west.



View of east elevation of Myatt's Mill,
(Source: "Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis of Myatt's Mill Complex for the Replacement of
Bridge 277 on SR 1006 over Black Creek," New South Associates, 2013).



View of west elevation of Myatt's Mill,
(Source: "Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis of Myatt's Mill Complex for the Replacement of
Bridge 277 on SR 1006 over Black Creek," New South Associates, 2013).



View of Myatt's Mill dam,

(Source: "Intensive-Level Historic Architectural Analysis of Myatt's Mill Complex for the Replacement of Bridge 277 on SR 1006 over Black Creek," New South Associates, 2013).

National Register Evaluation

Integrity

The Moore's Mill complex retains its integrity of location because it has not been moved. It retains integrity of setting and association because it stands along the banks of the Little River among the former nineteenth century mill site and its millpond. The complex does not retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling because the mill building itself has been destroyed except for its foundation and the dam has been repeatedly damaged and restored.

Criteria Evaluation

The Moore's Mill complex is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because the mill building does not retain enough historic fabric to communicate its association with the history of the gristmill industry in Wake County. The dam remains partially intact, but it lacks integrity and its individual association with the county's gristmill industry is unremarkable.

The Moore's Mill complex is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B because the mill building does not retain enough historic fabric to communicate its association with William C. Moore, nor does Moore rise to a level of particular significance. The dam is a typical form in the county and does not communicate a particular association with any person of historical significance.

The Moore's Mill complex is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because the remains of the mill building and dam do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor do they represent the work of a master, possess high artistic value or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. The mill building has been destroyed except for its foundation, and the dam has been altered with non-historic repairs to the degree that it is difficult to differentiate what is historic. The mill complex's original design features have been compromised so that it no longer has the distinctive characteristics of a nineteenth century gristmill. Yates Mill and Myatt's Mill in Wake County both retain much higher architectural integrity. Moore's Mill retains little architectural integrity and, likewise, little architectural significance.

The Moore's Mill complex was not assessed for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for archaeology within this report. Potential for eligibility under Criterion D will be assessed in a separate archaeology report.

Works Cited

"Annual Society Picnic to be Held Saturday, May 17, at Old Moore's Mill Site on NC 97." *Newsletter of the Little River Historical Society*. April 1980.

Carpenter, MaryBeth, "Moore's Mills and Little River Dam Reflect 150 Years in Zebulon," accessed via <http://preservationzebulon.org/pdf/files/littleriverdam.pdf>.

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"Hurricane Matthew breached town's historic dam. Now, a flood of emotions over its future." *Charlotte Observer*, August 10, 2018. Accessed via <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/politics-government/article216423430.html>.

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