



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

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper

Secretary D. Reid Wilson

July 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Katherine Husband klhusband@ncdot.gov
N.C. Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit, Historic Architecture Group

FROM: Renee Gledhill-Earley *RGE for Ramona M. Bartos*
Environmental Review Coordinator

SUBJECT: Historic Structures Survey Report, R-5913A: Widen Elm Street & Add Bike/Pedestrian Improvements, PA No. 21-02-0001, Jonesville, Yadkin County, ER 21-1627

Thank you for your July 7, 2021, memorandum transmitting the above-referenced report. We have reviewed the report and concur that the Martin Family Mill Houses (YD0678) are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for the reasons outlined in the report.

We are unable to determine the eligibility of the Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), under Criterion C, without additional information.

- The report summary argues the Burch-Mathis House is eligible under C as an example of a vernacular type.
 - What is the type?
 - What are the character-defining features of the type?
 - How is this house a good example of that type and how does it retain integrity to convey its architectural significance?
- We do not have enough interior photos to understand the interior integrity of its plan or materials.
- The evolution is unclear. For Criterion C a dated floor plan would be helpful.
- When were the lower porch posts replaced?

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, 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.

cc: Mary Pope Furr, NCDOT mpfurr@ncdot.gov

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT WIDEN ELM STREET AND ADD BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Yadkin County, North Carolina

TIP No. R-5913A / WBS No. 48468.1.1 / PA No. 21-02-0001



Prepared for:



North Carolina Department of Transportation
Environmental Analysis Unit
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598

Prepared by:



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May 28, 2021

HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY REPORT WIDEN ELM STREET AND ADD BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

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Prepared for:

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Steven M. Bedford, Principal Investigator
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05/28/2021

Date

Mary Pope Furr, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section
North Carolina Department of Transportation

Date

May 28, 2021

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), WSP conducted an architectural survey and evaluation in preparation to widen Elm Street and add bike and pedestrian improvements in Yadkin County in the Town of Jonesville, North Carolina. The TIP No. is R-5913A, the state project number is WBS No. 48468.1.1, and the PA No. is 21-02-0001.

The project is located in northwestern Yadkin County on the south banks of the Yadkin River in the small Town of Jonesville, immediately south of the Town of Elkin in Surry County. The project Area of Potential Effects (APE) follows the study area diagram for the project delineated by NCDOT. Forming an irregular, H-shaped polygon, the APE includes the area extending approximately 75 to 100 feet from either side of the centerline for the entirety of Elm Street in Jonesville. In addition, small sections of the roadways of W. Main Street and N. Bridge Street at their intersections with Elm Street compose the end pieces of the APE.

In March 2021 NCDOT requested WSP to complete an architectural survey and eligibility evaluation for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for two resources that fall within the APE: the Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), a previously recorded property, and the Martin Family Mill Houses (YD0678), also previously recorded. Both resources are located along Cherry Street, which borders the southern side of Elm Street in Jonesville. Kirk Franklin Mahoney and Lewis Brumfield conducted Yadkin County's last county-wide architectural survey in 1985, during which both the Burch-Mathis House and the Martin Family Mill Houses were documented. Neither Yadkin County nor Jonesville appears to have undergone an updated architectural survey since the 1985 survey.

As a result of the current survey and evaluation, WSP concluded that the Burch-Mathis House (YD0617) is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture. The house is an excellent example of the two-story, frame I-House form with an impressive two-tier, wraparound porch with Queen Anne-style architectural details, and it retains a high degree of integrity. Few houses in the Town of Jonesville with similar architectural styles and forms retain the level of historical integrity that the Burch-Mathis House possesses. WSP did not find the Martin Family Mill Houses (YD0678) eligible for the NRHP because they lack both integrity and documented significance for their connection to the Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company.

TABLE MS-1: SURVEYED PROPERTIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOURCE NAME	SITE NUMBER	NRHP ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION	SITE ADDRESS/PIN No.
Burch-Mathis House	YD0617	Eligible, Criterion C	Cherry Street Jonesville, NC 28642/ 495118417169
Martin Family Mill Houses	YD0678	Not Eligible	201-219 Cherry Street Jonesville, NC/various

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), WSP conducted an architectural survey and evaluation in preparation to widen Elm Street and add bike and pedestrian improvements in Yadkin County, North Carolina (Figure 1). The scope of the current evaluation included the survey and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of two previously surveyed resources: the Burch-Mathis House (YD0617) and the Martin Family Mill Houses (YD0678), both in the Town of Jonesville. The latter resource includes approximately 10 one-story houses built from around 1920 to 1940, many of which housed employees of the Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company in nearby Elkin.

Yadkin County's gently rolling hills, various waterways, and small mountainous areas are typical of the western Piedmont region of North Carolina. The Yadkin River serves as the area's major waterway and provides a geographical boundary for the county's border with Surry County. The project location, although technically in Jonesville, is strongly connected to the Town of Elkin both geographically and economically. The project lies on the south banks of the Yadkin River on the border with Surry County in the northwestern portion of the Yadkin County, across the river from the Town of Elkin to the north (Figure 2).

1.2 Methodology

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this project consists of the project study area as delineated by NCDOT (see Figure 2). Forming an irregular, H-shaped polygon, the APE includes the area extending approximately 75 to 100 feet from either side of the centerline for the entirety of Elm Street in Jonesville. In addition, small sections of the roadways of W. Main Street and N. Bridge Street at their intersections with Elm Street compose the end pieces of the APE. The total APE covers roughly 250,000 square feet and overlaps with some parcel boundaries of residential properties on Elm Street (see Figure 1). NCDOT Architectural Historian Kate Husband conducted a preliminary screening for the project and determined that the Burch-Mathis House and the Martin Family Mill Houses, late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century properties that fall within the project APE, warranted additional evaluation for NRHP eligibility. Preliminary design plans were not available from NCDOT at the time of this survey.

WSP's survey and evaluation consisted of research and fieldwork. Prior to the fieldwork, WSP consulted the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office's (NC HPO) online geographic information system (GIS) mapping system, HPOweb, as well as the NC HPO project survey files for the Burch-Mathis House, the Martin Family Mill Houses, and others. Research also included primary and secondary sources at various local and state archival repositories, including the Jonesville History Center, the Yadkin County Public Library, and the Jonesville Northwestern Regional Library. Online sources such as UNC Maps Collection, Ancestry.com, newspapers.com, and U.S. Census records were consulted for information on the history of the properties (United States Bureau of the Census [U.S. Census] 1860a, 1860b, 1880, 1900a, 1900b, 1910, 1920, 1930). WSP also acquired property information online through Yadkin County's Register of Deeds office, the Yadkin County (2021) website, and from interviews with local residents such as Charles Mathis of Jonesville. The most recent Yadkin County architectural survey, conducted in 1985 (Brumfield and Mahoney 1987), was used for basic geographical and contextual information on the project APE. Both evaluated resources, last surveyed in 1985, have changed little in the years since the survey; in 2006 the Burch-Mathis House, owned at the time by the Yadkin County Historical Society, was deeded to Preservation North Carolina, which placed protective covenants upon the property prior to selling to new private owners.

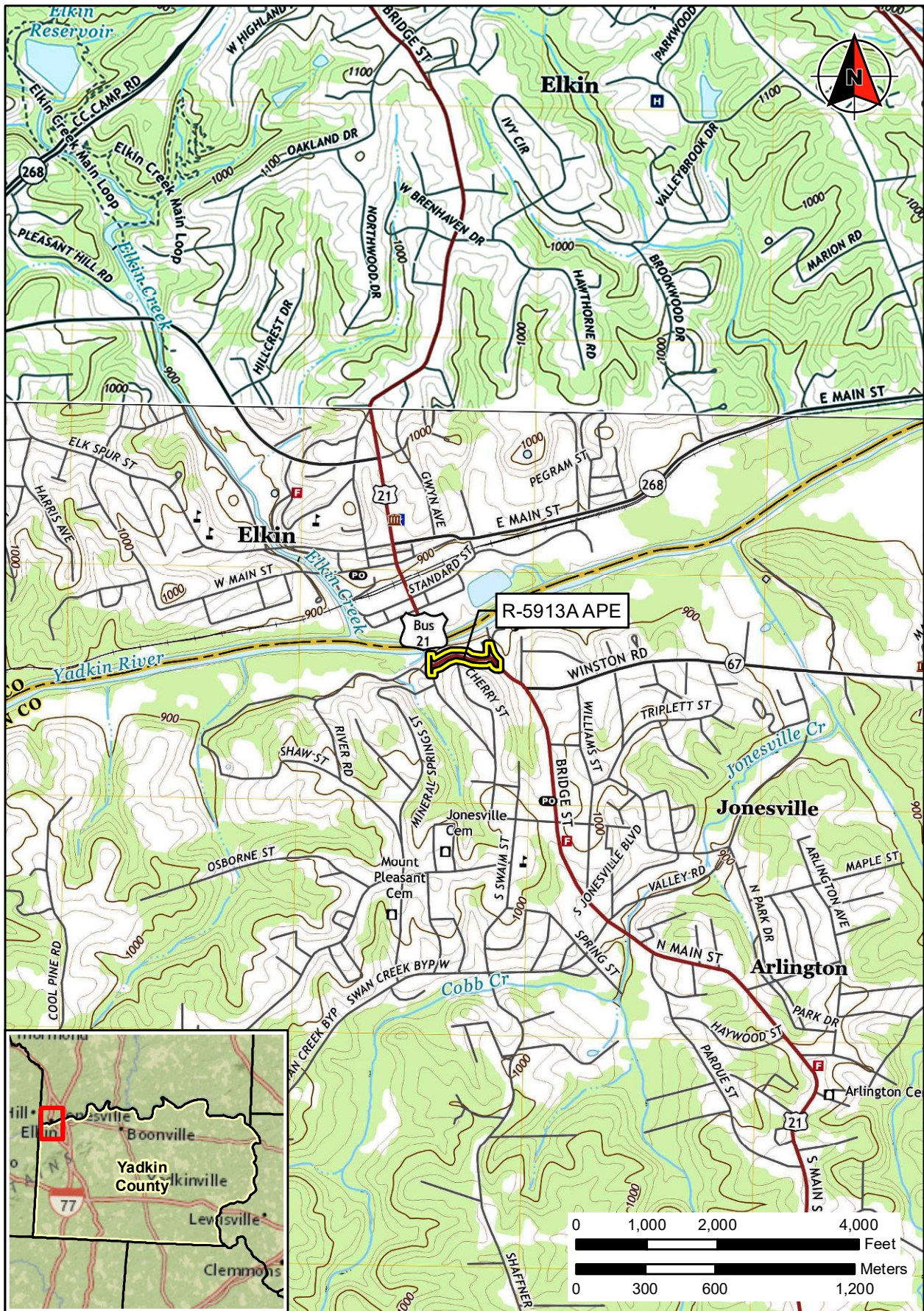


FIGURE 1: R-5913A Project Vicinity Map, Yadkin County, North Carolina (USGS Elkin North 2019a, Elkin South 2019b)



FIGURE 2: R-5913A Area of Potential Effects (APE), Yadkin County, North Carolina (NC OneMap 2018)

WSP Architectural Historian Megan Privett completed the research, and also conducted the fieldwork on March 30-31, 2021. Fieldwork included surveying and photographing the exteriors of resources in the APE on foot along with interviewing local residents. Survey of some properties was restricted to the right-of-way because of requests by property owners, concern for the safety of the surveyor, and social distancing measures implemented in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Privett conducted a windshield survey of nearby comparable resources in the area on April 20 and April 23, 2021, photographing the resources for architectural context. Ms. Privett wrote the report.

This report was prepared in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation of 1983 (48 *Federal Register* 44716), as amended; *Architectural Survey Manual: Practical Advice for Recording Historic Resources* (North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources [NC DCR] 2008); NCDOT's current *Historic Architecture Group Procedures and Work Products* (NCDOT 2015) and the NC HPO's *Report Standards for Historic Structure Survey Reports/Determinations of Eligibility/Section 106/110 Compliance Reports in North Carolina* (NC HPO 2018). The architectural historian who performed the assessments meets or exceeds the Professional Qualifications Standards specified in 36 CFR 61.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY EVALUATIONS

2.1 Burch-Mathis House

Resource Name	Burch-Mathis House
HPO Survey Site No.	YD0617
Location	223 Cherry Street
PIN	495118417169
Date(s) of Construction	ca. 1890
NRHP Recommendation	Eligible, Criterion C



2.1.1 Setting

Situated atop a bluff looking north across W. Main and Elm streets to the Yadkin River and Elkin, the Burch-Mathis House faces Cherry Street at the southeastern corner of the intersection of Cherry and W. Main streets on a 0.41-acre parcel. Located in the Town of Jonesville in northwestern Yadkin County, the house is a prominent part of the view from downtown Elkin looking south along S. Bridge Street. A precipitous drop in elevation from Cherry Street to Elm Street and the Yadkin River defines much of the landscape surrounding the Burch-Mathis House. To the south modest residential properties dot the land bordered by W. Main Street and N. Bridge Street. Many of these houses were constructed as rental houses for the workers employed at the Chatham Manufacturing Company located in Elkin. The western and northern portions of the parcel are steeply sloped, with a driveway running adjacent to the eastern border of the parcel. A one-story metal garage and small metal storage shed stand at the southern edge of the parcel. A set of concrete steps provides access from W. Main Street up to the house's west elevation. Rock retaining walls border much of Cherry Street and the driveways to each of the houses sited along it. A large tree apparently once stood on the northwestern portion of the parcel; only a few smaller ornamental trees remain (Figure 3).

2.1.2 Description

The two-and-one-half-story, wood-frame Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), built ca. 1890, features an impressive two-tier, hipped, wraparound porch that continues from the north elevation (façade) along the west elevation of the house and along the west elevation of the two-story rear ell. The porch is supported by turned posts with decorative sawn brackets, connected by a balustrade of turned balusters on the second story, with replacement Tuscan columns on the first story (Plate 1). Porch floors are wood tongue-and-groove painted gray. Pent gables punctuate the side-gable roofline on the main block, and the rear ell also features a pent gable on the west elevation, all of which are pierced by a window bay that contains a decorative multi-light sash with stained-glass panes lining the perimeter over one undivided sash (Plate 2). The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. A brick exterior end chimney rises along the side of the west elevation, rising through the roofline and sheltered partially by the wraparound porch (Plate 3). Clad in plain weatherboards, the house features an irregular fenestration pattern, particularly evident on its north elevation, sheltered very slightly by overhanging eaves. Some windows appear to have been replaced with other sash variations; the pent-gable bottom window sashes were apparently replaced at some point but with undivided wood sashes. From east to west, the first story is pierced by a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window bay; a single-leaf, 12-light entrance bay; and a paired six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window bay (Plate 4). From east to west, the second story contains another paired six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window bay; a single-leaf entrance bay; another single-leaf entrance bay; and a single,



FIGURE 3: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617) Site Plan, Yadkin County, North Carolina (NC OneMap 2018)



PLATE 1: Oblique View of Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), North and West Elevations, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 2: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), South Elevation of Main Block and West Elevation of Rear Ell, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 3: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), West Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 4: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), North Elevation (façade), Yadkin County, North Carolina

six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window bay. The west elevation of the main block is pierced by two six-light window bays flanking the chimney on the first story only. The rear ell's west elevation features multiple entrances and window types: the first story (from north to south) contains a 12-light, single-leaf entrance; a six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window bay; and another 12-light, single-leaf entrance with glass storm door. The second story (from north to south) has a two-light-over-three-panel, single-leaf entrance; a five-panel, wood, single-leaf entrance; a four-over-four, wood-sash window bay; and another five-panel, wood, single-leaf entrance (Plate 5). The rear ell extends from the eastern half of the main block, and the wraparound porch extends around the west elevation to the south elevation of the main block. This elevation features a paired, six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window bay and a 12-light, single-leaf entrance on its first story. The second story contains a single six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window bay and a five-panel, wood, single-leaf entrance (Plate 6). The south elevation of the rear ell is pierced by a single, four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash window on each story except for the upper half-story, which contains a decorative, double-hung wood window of stained-glass divided lights forming a square at the outer edge of each sash. This elevation also features partial cornice returns, corner boards, and a wide frieze board visually separating the upper half-story of the house (Plate 7). The house's east elevation is pierced by five window bays on its first story and four on its second story, most of which are four-over-four, wood, double-hung single bays (Plate 8). The house rests on a stone pier and concrete-block foundation, much of which is obstructed or screened from view with wood lattice or wood siding.

Access to the interior of the house was limited by the tenants to the rear entryway (the primary entrance currently used), and therefore the surveyor obtained limited photographs and knowledge of the interior. From what was visible, the first-story living room appears to have dropped ceilings and a replacement mantel and fireplace surround, probably built during the 1940s. The stair with landing is a plain design with a boxed newel and square balusters, with minimal architectural detailing. Vertical wood paneling sheaths interior walls, and narrow-plank wood floors survive throughout the house (Plate 9).

2.1.3 Historical Background

The Burch-Mathis House is said to have been constructed by a group of Elkin businessmen around 1890, possibly as an investment property, who used J.E. Burch as the builder/carpenter. Numerous nineteenth-century houses are said to have been constructed on the bluffs in Jonesville overlooking the Elkin and the Yadkin River for their strategic location, advantageous breezes, protection from flooding, and commanding views. The earliest deed traced to the property reveals that 142 acres of land had been owned by the Mathis family since 1849; however, the parcel containing the house itself was not purchased by the Mathis family until James Mathis bought it in 1912, even though his wife's family members had lived there since the turn of the twentieth century (Plate 10). Early newspaper accounts reveal that Burch sold part of his land, Woodruff Farm, to W.C. Shores in 1897, and Shores appears to have been related to James Mathis's wife Lamyra, according to census records and oral history interviews. This large tract was eventually subdivided and smaller tracts sold off. Mathis family members claim that a handful of the houses on the Jonesville bluffs overlooking the Yadkin River were built by the Mathis family and a few were reportedly built by J.E. Burch. James H. Mathis's grandson recalls that the rear ell and wraparound porch were added to Burch-Mathis House at the time of the 1912 purchase, but this has not been confirmed (Charles Mathis phone interview, April 29, 2021; Yadkin County Deed Book [YCDB] 1849A/563-564).

James H. Mathis (1859-1933) (North Carolina State Archives 2007), a schoolteacher, married Lamyra Messick and they had two children, Mary L. and Charles. Charles Mathis is listed in the 1930 census records as operating a retail grocery store (U.S. Census 1930), and Mary is listed as a bookkeeper and co-owner of Fidelity Finance in Elkin. Charles and his wife Maude had four children. According to newspaper accounts, James Mathis also served as constable in 1914 and opened a store stocking general merchandise near Marler in 1896 (Bell 1896:2; *The Elkin Tribune* 1914:19).



PLATE 5: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), West Elevation of Rear Ell, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 6: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), South Elevation of Main Block, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 7: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), South Elevation of Rear Ell, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 8: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), Oblique View of East Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 9: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), Interior Entryway from South Elevation, Facing North, Yadkin County, North Carolina

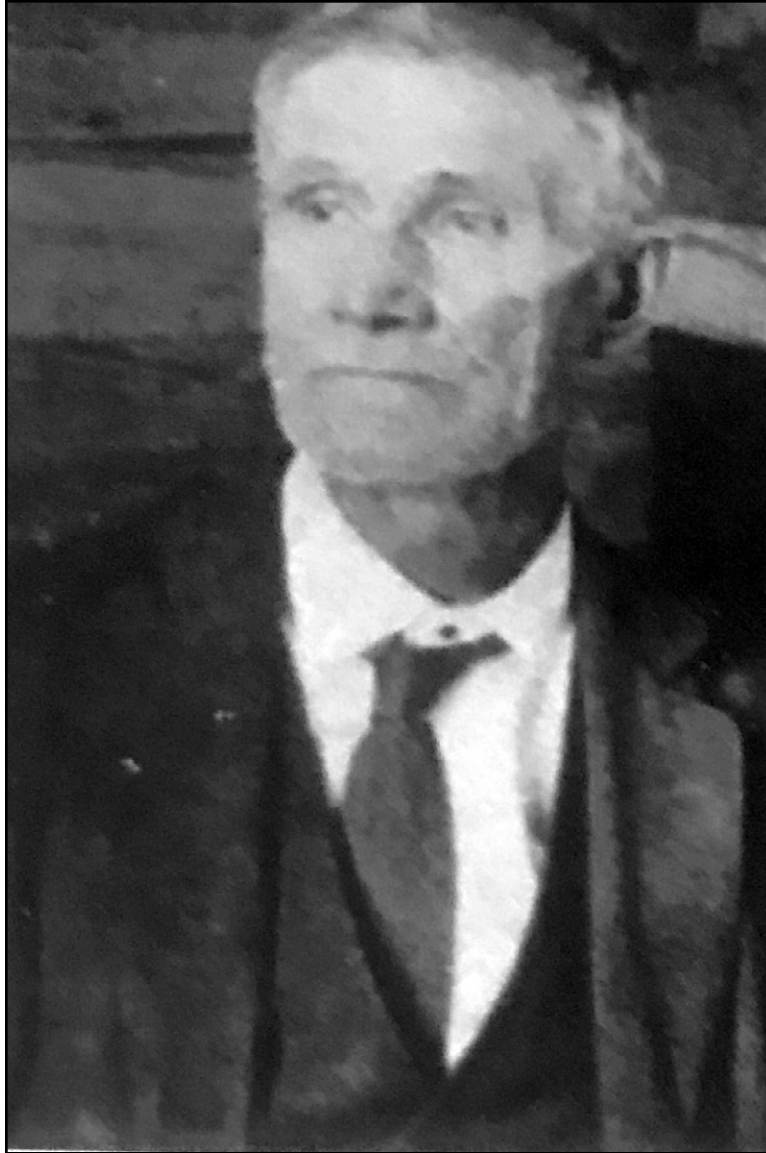


PLATE 10: James Henry Mathis (Jonesville History Museum and the Charles Mathis family, Yadkin County, North Carolina)

At the time of the Burch-Mathis House's construction, Jonesville's development was heavily influenced by the industrial growth of Elkin, across the river in Surry County. Much of Yadkin County throughout the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries continued to be largely agricultural, with no railroads to ignite economic development, and roads remained in poor condition throughout the county. The rapid rise of manufacturing in Elkin, driven in large part by the Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company (*Wilkes Journal Patriot* 2017), resulted in a building boom in nearby Jonesville for mill employees, when smaller, modest houses were built, breaking up the larger estates of earlier nineteenth-century properties.

The oldest town in Yadkin County, Jonesville was first chartered as Martinsboro in 1811 (it became Jonesville in 1821) and contained a town plan with 98 roughly 0.5-acre lots (Canipe 1981:58-59). Prior to the construction of the first bridge at Jonesville spanning the Yadkin River in 1872, travelers crossed the river using a ferry, which naturally helped propel business activity and overnight lodging during Jonesville's early years. Jonesville became an early educational, resort, and business center in the region during the antebellum era, with the Jonesville Academy drawing hundreds of students from all over North Carolina and adjoining states. The town had one of the earliest newspapers in the western part of the state, *The Jonesville Enterprise*, and small industries such as distilleries, tanneries, iron works, gristmills, a tobacco factory, and retail establishments, all helping to develop Jonesville as an important early leader of growth in Yadkin County.

The Civil War proved devastating to Jonesville's economy and development, however, as was the case in many small towns throughout the South. Agriculture continued to dominate the vast majority of the county well into the twentieth century, with most enterprises operating as family-run farms producing cash crops such as wheat, Indian corn, tobacco, oats, and hay (Casstevens 1981:61). In 1900 the population of Yadkin County totaled 14,083, and by 1930 the number had only grown to 18,010. Outward migration had always been a problem in the county, and in the early part of the twentieth century, especially during the Great Depression, many residents left for eastern North Carolina or larger cities for employment (Canipe 1981:8-10; Casstevens 1981:7).

In 1971 the Gwyn-McNeil Bridge connecting W. Main Street in Jonesville to Elkin was constructed to replace the 1917 metal truss bridge spanning the Yadkin River at Bridge Street. It was around that time that Elm Street was built directly underneath the bluff in Jonesville along the banks of the Yadkin River, providing a thoroughfare to W. Main Street from Bridge Street for ease of access to the new bridge. This greatly changed the setting and increased traffic near the Burch-Mathis House, which had once occupied a sparsely populated bluff with only a few neighboring houses (Charles Mathis, phone interview, April 29, 2021). Considerable growth came to Jonesville during the 1960s-1970s, facilitated not only by the new bridge but also by road improvements, a five-lane link with I-77 and other major highways, and the installation of a water system and water treatment plant. Fewer than 200 people lived in Jonesville during the 1890s, but by 1970 the population had increased to 1,653 (Casstevens 1981:31).

The Mathis family occupied the house until the 1940s, when they began renting the property to various tenants. In 1975 Charles Mathis, Jr. renovated the house and converted it into apartments (Plate 11). The house remained in the hands of the Mathis family and their descendants until 1999, when the family conveyed the property to the Yadkin County Historical Society, who later sold it to Preservation North Carolina. In 2006 the house was sold, with protective covenants placed on the property, to Glenn and Frances Sanford of Lexington, North Carolina, who restored the house to a single-family home (Plate 12). Since 2017 the house has been occupied by Octavio and Karen Rodriguez (Charles Mathis, phone interview, April 29, 2021; YCDB 462/86, 789/33, 1219/467).



PLATE 11: Burch Mathis-House (YD0617), West Elevation, 1976 (Courtesy of Jonesville History Museum and Charles Mathis family, Yadkin County, North Carolina)



PLATE 12: Glenn and Frances Sanford of Lexington, North Carolina, Standing on the Stairs Inside the Burch-Mathis House, ca. 2006 (Courtesy of Jonesville History Museum and Charles Mathis family, Yadkin County, North Carolina)

2.1.4 Architecture Context and NRHP Evaluation

Early settlement in Yadkin County near Jonesville began in the eighteenth century with settlers following the old wagon roads from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia from Fancy Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains, crossing over the Yadkin River near present-day Jonesville. These migrants brought with them their building traditions and cultural building patterns. Most families in Yadkin County were engaged in subsistence farming, and many of the earliest dwellings reflected frontier conditions and used the materials surrounding their home sites, such as log and stone (Brumfield and Mahoney 1987:2). During the nineteenth century families who could afford to do so built houses in the Federal style or constructed frame or log vernacular dwellings with simple hall and parlor plans. Very few early brick houses survive in Yadkin County, as wood seems to have been the preferred building material for residential construction during the nineteenth century. Beginning in the 1840s, the Greek Revival style became popular in Yadkin County, followed in the post-Civil War period by the Queen Anne style and various vernacular forms with nationally popular detailing. One form that is still extremely prevalent throughout the rural county, which was widespread in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is the two-story I-House with a two-tiered, center or full-width porch. This type also frequently contained pent gables in the center of the side-gable roof as well as a prominent gabled porch roof or pediment set within a two-story portico. A surprisingly high number of these Victorian-era farmhouses survive in Yadkin County, a testament to the county's strong ties to an agricultural economy. Many of these I-Houses were also built in small towns, such as East Bend and Jonesville (Brumfield and Mahoney 1987:3-10).

The builder of the Burch-Mathis House is reported to have been John E. Burch, but it is not known whether he completed the work himself or hired a local craftsman. In any case the builder followed fashionable trends in regional house construction of the period, including sawn, decorative brackets attached to turned porch posts, pent gables pierced with multi-light window bays, and a wraparound, two-tiered porch that took advantage of the property's siting high up on the Jonesville bluffs (Plate 13) (Charles Mathis, phone interview, April 29, 2021; YD0671 Survey File).

Yadkin County retains a strong collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century two-story, vernacular dwellings with modest Queen Anne elements, testifying to the popular architectural fashion of the day. One of the most handsome surviving examples is the Charles A. Hall House (YD0144), near Smithtown. Built in 1894 by carpenter W.A. Martin, the Charles A. Hall House is sheathed in weatherboards and features a two-story, three-bay façade with a gabled, two-tier center porch (Plate 14). Chamfered posts are decorated with richly ornamented sawn brackets and connecting balustrade; window bays are topped with shallow pediments. Like the Burch-Mathis House and so many other farmhouses in Yadkin County, the Charles A. Hall House has a two-story ell extending off the rear elevation, which also contained a porch (now enclosed). The Charles A. Hall House is listed in the North Carolina State Study List for the NRHP (YD0144 Survey File).

The Conrad-Gladstone House (YD126) near East Bend is one of the most comparable examples to the Burch-Mathis House, as the two-tier, open porch still survives on the side and rear elevations of the house and rear ell. Constructed ca. 1890 for John Thomas Conrad, the three-bay façade features a one-story, gabled portico sheltering the entrance and brick exterior end chimneys at each side elevation of the main block. The farmhouse underwent a substantial renovation during the 1950s under the ownership of Walter E. Gladstone. Currently, the house is covered in vinyl siding and possesses some replacement windows throughout. Although certainly less stylish than the Burch-Mathis House, considering its absence of pent gables, ornamented porch posts, decorative trim, and fancy window sash, the Conrad-Gladstone House echoes the building form and traditions so prevalent in late nineteenth-century Yadkin County (Plate 15) (YD0126 Survey File).



PLATE 13: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), Detail of Decorative Bracket and Porch Posts, North Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 14: Charles A. Hall House (YD0144), West Elevation,
Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 15: Conrad-Gladstone House (YD0126), South and West Elevations, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 16: Frank Reece House (YD0400), Oblique View of South Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina

The Frank Reece House (YD0400), a modest, two-story, frame farmhouse in rural Yadkin County near the Center community, exhibits a similar vernacular form that is common to the county's farmlands and repeated throughout its small towns. The Frank Reece House contains an older, two-story rear ell with an attached hipped porch and a brick, exterior end chimney; a three-bay façade sheltered on the first story by a partial-width hipped porch defines the ca. 1900 main block (Plate 16). That house is deteriorated and in poor condition, but six-over-six and two-over-two wood-sash window bays still survive throughout.

Other examples similar to the Burch-Mathis House are present in Yadkin County's small towns, where residents often employed skilled craftsmen or builders to implement nationally popular architectural patterns, styles, and forms of the period. East Bend boasts a number of two-story stylish residences with two-tier front porches dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One of the most notable is the James A. Smitherman House on Main Street (YD0339). Like the Burch-Mathis House, this property was built "in town" as opposed to in the center of a working farm, and perhaps its architectural detailing is much more refined and exuberant as a result. The two-tier, partial-width, handsome gabled porch displays ornate, scrolled porch brackets and connecting balustrade, sheltering wide entrances with divided-light surrounds on each story. Paneled decorative corner boards, friezes, corbelled brick chimneys, and window surrounds provide additional architectural detail not seen as commonly in the county's rural areas (Plate 17). The Lunsford W. Jones House (YD0422) in Boonville exhibits a similar form in its side-gabled, two-story main block and attached shed-roofed two-tier porch. As a strong example of the type in Boonville, the house was placed on the North Carolina State Study List in 1986 (YD0422 Survey File; YD0345 Survey File).

Located just south of the Burch-Mathis House on Cherry Street, the R.W. Cummings House (YD0677) is another example of a two-story, frame residence with subtle Queen Anne stylistic influences in the Town of Jonesville. Although substantially modified, the T-shaped, three-bay house was built ca. 1884 and purchased by Cummings in the early twentieth century. Its two-story portico was at one time a one-story shed porch, and a stairwell with second-story landing to access the second story of the portico appears to be a fairly recent addition. Replacement siding and windows compose other alterations, but the house retains its interior brick chimneys (Plate 18). The Cummings House is one of several examples of Jonesville properties previously recorded in architectural surveys that does not retain a strong degree of integrity in comparison to the Burch-Mathis House (YD0677 Survey File).

The Burch-Mathis House retains a high degree of integrity, with the primary alterations consisting of the replacement of the first-story original porch members and interior alterations as well as the replacement of a few of the exterior doors on the two-story ell and rear elevation (Plate 19), so that its integrity of materials and workmanship have been only slightly compromised and it retains nearly full integrity of design. The house also has integrity of location, as it has not been moved from its original site high on the bluff overlooking the Yadkin River. The property retains integrity of setting despite the increased traffic and development of Elm Street and Main Street connecting to Elkin. Its surroundings are still residential and also slightly commercial as well as industrial in nature; one of the most significant changes is the new Gwyn-McNeil Bridge constructed during the 1970s crossing the Yadkin River directly north of the house (Plate 20). The property retains its feeling and association as a prominent Jonesville residence with a commanding view of the Yadkin River and the Town of Elkin.

WSP finds the Burch-Mathis House not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for an association with historical events or significance in representing the broader patterns of history in Yadkin County. No events of local or state significance are known to have occurred in association with the house, nor does it have an association with important historical trends.

WSP finds the Burch-Mathis House not eligible under Criterion B for an association with significant individuals in history. Although J.H. Mathis was a prominent community member and a schoolteacher,



PLATE 17: James A. Smitherman House (YD0339), South Elevation, East Bend, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 18: R.W. Cummings House (YD0677), West Elevation, Jonesville, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 19: Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), Detail of First-story Replacement Porch Columns, North Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 20: Gwyn-McNeill Bridge at W. Main Street from Burch-Mathis House Property, Facing North, Yadkin County, North Carolina

neither he nor later family members were found to contribute significantly to the history of Yadkin County in an outstanding and documented way.

WSP finds the Burch-Mathis House eligible under Criterion C for architecture, as a strong example of a vernacular form with nationally popular styling in Yadkin County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The house retains a high degree of integrity and is one of the strongest examples of its type in Jonesville, containing an impressive two-tier, wraparound porch and paired pent gables adorning the façade. It sits high up on the Jonesville bluffs as a visual landmark, commanding a spectacular view of the Yadkin River and the Town of Elkin, and can be seen from nearly anywhere in downtown Elkin. The interior retains several of its original architectural features, although some were altered in the 1940s and later during the 1970s remodeling.

A property may be eligible under Criterion D if the buildings and/or structures have the potential to yield important information pertaining to undocumented or rare local building traditions (National Park Service [NPS] 1990). The Burch-Mathis House is not likely to reveal this type of information and therefore does not meet Criterion D.

2.1.5 Recommended NRHP Boundaries

The recommended NRHP boundaries for the Burch-Mathis House are drawn to include the house and its associated landscape features and outbuildings (Figure 4). The boundaries loosely follow the tax parcel boundary lines, which encompass approximately 0.30 acre. Beginning adjacent to W. Main Street near the concrete steps following the ditch line, the boundary runs approximately 87 feet to the north, where it turns at the corner of W. Main Street and Cherry Street, then east along the ditch line adjacent to Cherry Street for approximately 98 feet, including the stone retaining wall. The boundary then turns south to follow the eastern edge of the driveway and stretches south for 189 feet until it turns west to capture the garage and shed. Then the boundary turns north for roughly 74 feet along the ridge line until turning west again to complete the polygon. NRHP boundaries follow NCDOT ROW lines and include boundary features such as trees, rock and stone retaining walls, a set of concrete steps, and rear outbuildings (see Figure 4).



FIGURE 4: Recommended NRHP Boundaries for Burch-Mathis House (YD0617), Yadkin County, North Carolina (NC OneMap 2018)

2.2 Martin Family Mill Houses

Resource Name	Martin Family Mill Houses
HPO Survey Site No.	YD0678
Location	201-219 Cherry Street
PIN	Various
Date(s) of Construction	ca. 1920-1940
NRHP Recommendation	Not Eligible



2.2.1 Setting

Located upon a knoll in the small Town of Jonesville with a commanding view of the Yadkin River, the Martin Family Mill Houses (YD0678) stand along the southern, eastern, and western sides of Cherry Street (Figure 5) and occupy parcels totaling less than 1 acre each. A few of the parcels contain more than one house. Cherry Street runs east from W. Main Street, parallel to Elm Street, then turns approximately 90 degrees south, winding until it connects back to W. Main Street. The landscaping surrounding the Martin Family Mill Houses is dominated by a sharp decline in elevation from Cherry Street down to Elm Street and the banks of the Yadkin River, which forms the border with the Town of Elkin in Surry County. Mature trees dot the yards of the houses, and rock retaining walls line streets and driveways (Plate 21). Although the roads surrounding the houses are heavily trafficked, the sharp elevation changes and trees screen the houses and give the neighborhood a more secluded feeling. Constructed around 1920 by various members of the Elkin and Jonesville communities, the Martin Family Mill Houses were likely built as rental houses for workers employed by the Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company in Elkin, which could be seen directly across the river from the houses. Prior to the construction of Elm Street, the bluffs extended slightly farther north and contained additional mill houses built by the Chatham Manufacturing Company, but they have since been demolished (Charles Mathis, phone interview, April 29, 2021).

Judging from their forms, styles, and materials, six of the 10 houses included in the original (1985) survey appear to date to slightly later, ca. 1940, than the four houses that face north along Cherry Street. Nearly all are one or one-and-one-half story, frame houses with simple, vernacular forms and modest stylistic detailing. According to Mathis family descendant Charles Mathis, the later houses along the southern portion of Cherry Street do not necessarily hold a connection to the industrial mills in Elkin, other than that they may have coincidentally housed tenants who worked for the textile factories at one time.

Access to the interiors of the Martin Family Mill Houses was not available at the time of the survey.

2.2.2 Description

2.2.2.1 219 Cherry Street, ca. 1920 (YD0719)

The one-story, frame house possesses an L-shaped footprint with a side-gabled roof. A small, gabled addition extends off the west elevation of the house. Sheathed in vinyl siding, the house has replacement windows and doors and an asphalt-shingle roof. The house rests on a stone foundation covered in wood skirting. The north elevation of the front-gabled main block is pierced by one window bay; the center of the house features an engaged porch, which contains a single-leaf entrance bay, and a small replacement bay pierces the side ell on the north elevation (Plate 22). Three window bays pierce the east elevation, adjacent to which the driveway leads to the rear yard containing a freestanding metal carport, a pre-fabricated, frame, gambrel-roofed storage shed, and a smaller frame, side-gabled storage shed. The south

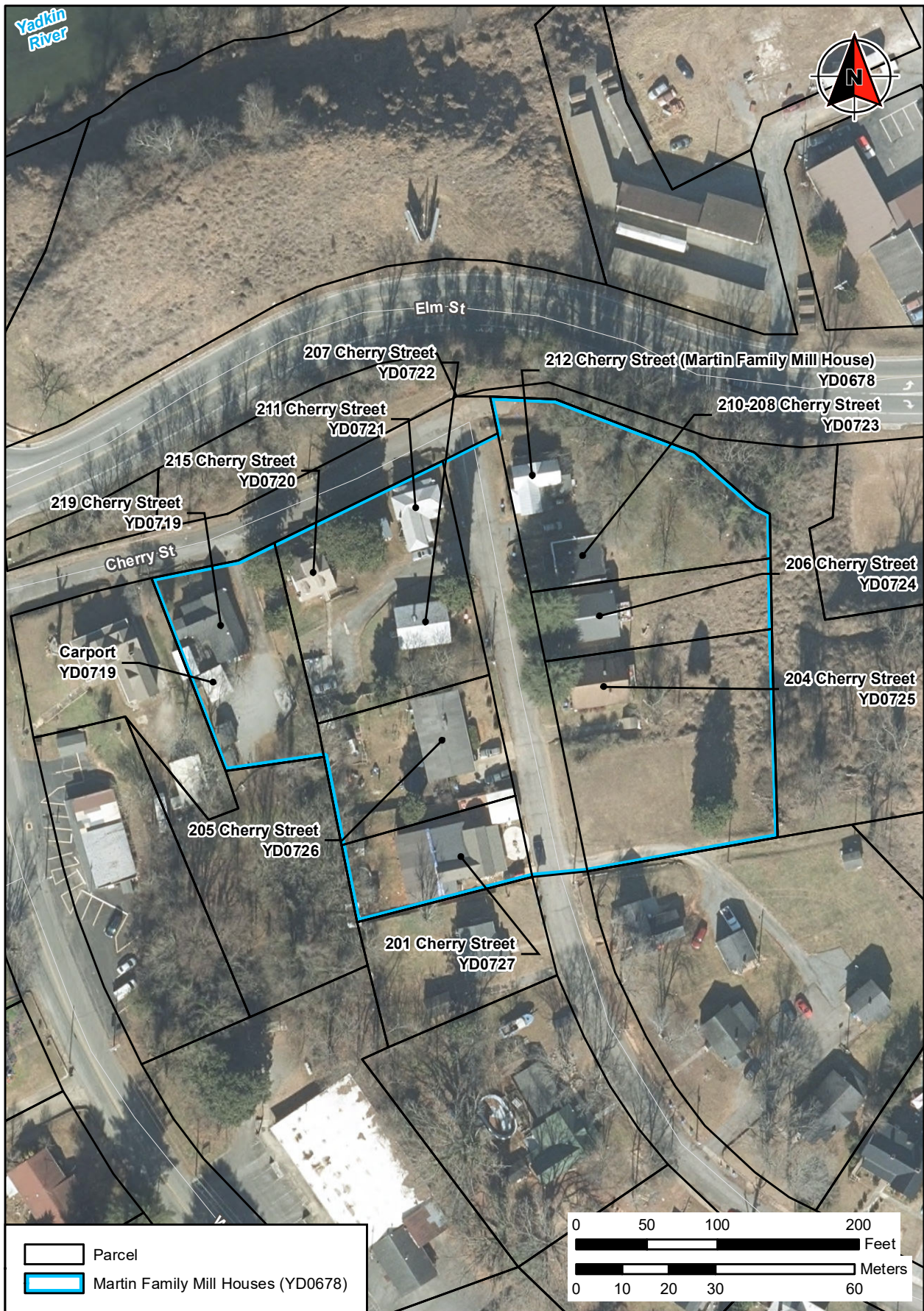


FIGURE 5: Martin Family Mill Houses (YD0678) Site Plan, Yadkin County, North Carolina (NC OneMap 2018)



PLATE 21: Cherry Street, Facing South, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 22: House at 219 Cherry Street (YD0719), North Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina

(rear) elevation is pierced by one small window bay on the front-gabled main block. A long set of concrete stairs extends from the main entrance to Cherry Street below.

2.2.2.2 *215 Cherry Street, ca. 1920 (YD 0720)*

This house possesses a different form from the others, with a boxy, square footprint, a large dormer window, and an attached porch sheltering the entrance only. The one-and-one-half story, frame house has a side-gabled roof featuring a large shed dormer pierced by three replacement window bays. A brick interior chimney rises through the roofline. Walls are clad in vinyl siding, and most windows are replacement bays. A single-leaf, 12-light entrance pierces the asymmetrical façade, sheltered by a gabled porch supported by square posts resting atop a stoop and foundation of stone and mortar accessed by a set of rock and stone steps at the side. The stone foundation appears to function as a raised basement or large crawlspace, with window bays piercing at the foundation level. A set of stone steps provides access to the house from Cherry Street below (Plate 23).

2.2.2.3 *211 Cherry Street, ca. 1920 (YD0721)*

The modest, one-story, frame house faces north on Cherry Street at the corner where the street turns southward. Unlike its neighboring houses, the dwelling at 211 Cherry Street features a hipped roof with a central pent gable and an attached, hipped porch sheathed in pressed metal supported by plain wood posts attached by a lattice railing. The porch shelters a three-bay façade of replacement windows flanking a central, single-leaf replacement door. A hipped, rear ell extends from the south elevation of the house, to which is attached a hipped, partially enclosed side porch on the ell's east elevation. The house is clad with vinyl siding, its eaves are boxed, and elevations are pierced with regularly spaced, replacement sash windows. The house rests on a stone foundation. A stone retaining wall outlines the northern edge of the parcel and wraps around to the east. Stone steps descend from the front yard to Cherry Street (Plate 24).

2.2.2.4 *212 Cherry Street, ca. 1920 (YD0678)*

The one-story, frame cottage at 212 Cherry Street may be the least altered Martin Family Mill House still surviving. The house features a central pent gable pierced by a square vent, punctuating the side-gable roof sheathed in standing-seam metal as well as a handsome hipped porch supported by chamfered posts with decorative sawn brackets, connected by a wood lattice railing. The porch shelters a three-bay façade with a single-leaf, nine-light-over-two-panel door flanked by one-over-one replacement windows (Plate 25). Clad in asbestos-shingle siding, walls are pierced by replacement window bays on the remaining elevations with slightly overhanging eaves. A one-story, gabled rear ell extends southward from the main block of the house with a small hipped addition extending from its west elevation. A single replacement window and a five-paneled wood door compose the fenestration on the south elevation of the house. A gabled addition stands attached to the rear (south) of the main block of the house, quite possibly an enclosure of a former porch (Plate 26). The house rests on a foundation that may have been stone and now appears to be augmented with concrete. A paved driveway runs along the house's south (rear) elevation, and stone retaining walls border the northern and western edges of the parcel.

2.2.2.5 *207 Cherry Street, ca. 1940 (YD0722)*

Facing Cherry Street to the east, the one-story, front-gabled frame house is identical in its square form to three other houses along the southern portion of Cherry Street. The house features an engaged porch on its northeastern corner supported by a wood post, sheltering one window bay and a single-leaf entrance. Another window bay pierces the remainder of the façade. Walls are clad in vinyl siding, sheltered by overhanging eaves; all windows and doors are modern replacements. The roof is sheathed in asphalt



PLATE 23: House at 215 Cherry Street (YD0720), North Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 24: House at 211 Cherry Street (YD0721), Oblique View of North and East Elevations, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 25: House at 212 Cherry Street (YD0678), North Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 26: House at 212 Cherry Street (YD0678), South Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina

shingles, and the house appears to rest on a concrete-block foundation. A driveway runs along the north elevation of the house and extends westward to the rear of the house (Plate 27).

2.2.2.6 *210-208 Cherry Street, ca. 1945 (YD0723)*

The one-story, stucco duplex featuring a flat roof and partial flat-roofed porch faces west on Cherry Street. Its symmetrical façade is pierced by two evenly-spaced, six-light-over-three-panel wood doors flanked on each side by eight-over-eight, wood-sash windows. Its flat-roofed porch appears to have been modified with replacement materials, supported by plain, square posts resting on a concrete porch floor. A secondary, single-leaf entrance pierces the north elevation, which also contains six-over-six, wood-sash window bays and smaller, four-over-four, sash bays. The south elevation has an identical fenestration pattern. A paved driveway runs adjacent to the house's north elevation, bordered by a stone retaining wall (Plate 28).

2.2.2.7 *206 Cherry Street, ca. 1940 (YD0724)*

Facing Cherry Street and located on the eastern side, the one-story, front-gabled frame house is identical in its square form to three other houses along Cherry Street. The house features an engaged porch on its northwestern corner, supported by a wood post and connected by a lattice railing, which shelters one window bay and a single-leaf entrance. Another window bay pierces the remainder of the façade. Walls are clad in vinyl siding, sheltered by overhanging eaves, while all windows and doors are modern replacements. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingle, and the house appears to rest on a concrete-block foundation. A stone retaining wall borders the northern edge of the parcel while a large evergreen tree shades the front yard. A paved driveway runs adjacent to the south elevation of the house (Plate 29).

2.2.2.8 *204 Cherry Street, ca. 1940 (YD0725)*

Facing Cherry Street and located on the eastern side, the one-story, front-gabled frame house is identical in its square form to three other houses along Cherry Street. The house features an engaged porch on its northwestern corner, supported by a half-wall connecting to the main block of the house, which shelters one window bay and a single-leaf entrance. Another window bay pierces the remainder of the façade. Walls are clad in vinyl siding, sheltered by overhanging eaves, and all windows and doors are modern replacements except for a six-light window piercing the center of the gable end of the façade. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and the house appears to rest on a concrete-block foundation. A driveway runs adjacent to the south elevation of the house, and concrete steps lead down to Cherry Street from the front walk and porch. A large evergreen tree shades the front yard (Plate 30).

2.2.2.9 *205 Cherry Street, ca. 1950 (YD0726)*

The one-story, brick Ranch house faces east on Cherry Street and features a side-gabled roof sheathed in asphalt shingles with slightly overhanging eaves. A wide, brick chimney rises through the center of the roofline. Brick walls laid in a running bond are pierced by paired, two-over-two, horizontal light sash with metal storms, and a single-leaf entrance pierces the center of the façade. The southern end of the house contains an engaged carport supported by brick posts and a connecting brick half-wall. The house's gable ends are sheathed in vinyl siding. A secondary entrance is located on the south elevation and accessed through the carport (Plate 31).

2.2.2.10 *201 Cherry Street, ca. 1930 (YD0727)*

The one-story, frame house with side-gabled roof and attached shed porch has been substantially altered both in its footprint and its materials. Its walls are covered in vinyl, and all windows, doors, and porch materials are replacements. A gabled rear ell extends from the west elevation, onto which a large addition has been constructed. Other additions extend from the main block, and there are multiple landscape and



PLATE 27: House at 207 Cherry Street (YD0722), East Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 28: Duplex at 210-208 Cherry Street (YD0723), West Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 29: House at 206 Cherry Street (YD0724), West Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 30: House at 204 Cherry Street (YD0725), West Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 31: House at 205 Cherry Street (YD0726), East Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina



PLATE 32: House at 201 Cherry Street (YD0727), East Elevation, Yadkin County, North Carolina

hardscape features such as decks, pergolas, a metal carport, decorative hardscaping, and landscape features. A paired window, a single-bay window, and a single-leaf entrance pierce the façade. The roof is covered in asphalt singles; the foundation material is unknown (Plate 32).

2.2.3 *Historical Background*

The houses along Cherry Street, constructed from about 1920 through the 1940s, were most likely built by members of the Martin family, the Mathis family, the Cheek family, and Sherriff G.T. White as rental houses for the rising numbers of people drawn to Elkin for employment in the mills (Plate 33). A few of the earliest may have been built by John E. Burch, according to Mathis family descendant Charles Mathis. Other families known to have owned at least one or more of the houses include C.G. and Maude Pinnix and Fred and Dorothy Dorsett. A majority of the 10 houses surveyed were at one time on a few larger parcels owned by the Cheek, Mathis, Pinnix, and Martin families and are now owned by Noez Properties, LLC (Charles Mathis, phone interview, April 29, 2021; YCDB 818/215, 280/48-52, 496/814, 83/201, 55/300, 30/186, 29/297, 63/218, U/521, 29/297, 506/381, 70/584, 267/36, 55/430).

Earlier owners Media and Rufus G. Cheek are listed as working in the manufacturing sector in the 1910 census. The Mathis family acquired some of the earliest properties, now demolished, from the Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company and the Cheek family. Grady C. Pinnix, a blanket inspector for the Chatham Blanket Mills, and his wife Maude had three daughters; one of the daughters, Frances, married James Robert Martin, who eventually acquired the Cherry Street properties. The Martin family, identified during the 1985 survey, owned many of the rental houses along Cherry Street. The Pinnix family, well known in Jonesville and Yadkin County, owned several tracts of land in Jonesville (Charles Mathis, phone interview, April 29, 2021; U.S. Census 1910).

Surveyed in 1985 and thought to be “mill houses” built for employees of the nearby Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company and other Elkin factories, the properties were built during a time of significant growth of the working class in Jonesville. Houses that were indeed built by Chatham Blanket Company occupied the bluff slightly north of Cherry Street, before the bluff was shortened to accommodate the construction of Elm Street. Those mill houses were likely demolished during the 1970s when the new road was constructed to connect with Main Street to access the new Gwyn-McNeil Bridge (Plate 34). It is still unclear whether the currently standing Martin Family Mill Houses facing north on Cherry Street were originally built by the mills or by private citizens (Charles Mathis, phone interview, 2021; YD0678 Survey File).

The Northwestern North Carolina Railroad running adjacent to the Yadkin River in Elkin was built in 1890 and by the 1870s the Chatham Manufacturing Company had been established by Alexander Chatham and Thomas L. Gwyn. The mills produced blankets, flannels, jeans, and knitting yarns and grew into a large, flourishing operation with factories located in Elkin, Eden, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte. At one time the company was the largest wool mill producing blankets in the world (Hunt 2006:1; Underwood 1934:1). There is no evidence that the Chatham Manufacturing Company constructed a nearby mill village for its employees, but rather it appears most workers commuted from elsewhere or lived throughout Elkin and Jonesville. Many one-story, frame cottages typical of other mill houses in North Carolina at the time were constructed during the early twentieth century in Jonesville in its most populous areas, especially along Cherry Street, Mineral Springs Drive, Main Street, and connecting secondary roads. A painting located in the Jonesville History Museum shows these houses nearly identical in form and painted white sitting atop the bluff on or near Cherry Street, revealing the numerous alterations and later additions most of the properties have undergone (see Plate 34).

Although Jonesville early on in the nineteenth century had established itself as a significant economic and educational center in Yadkin County prior to the onset of large amounts of industry in Elkin, by the late

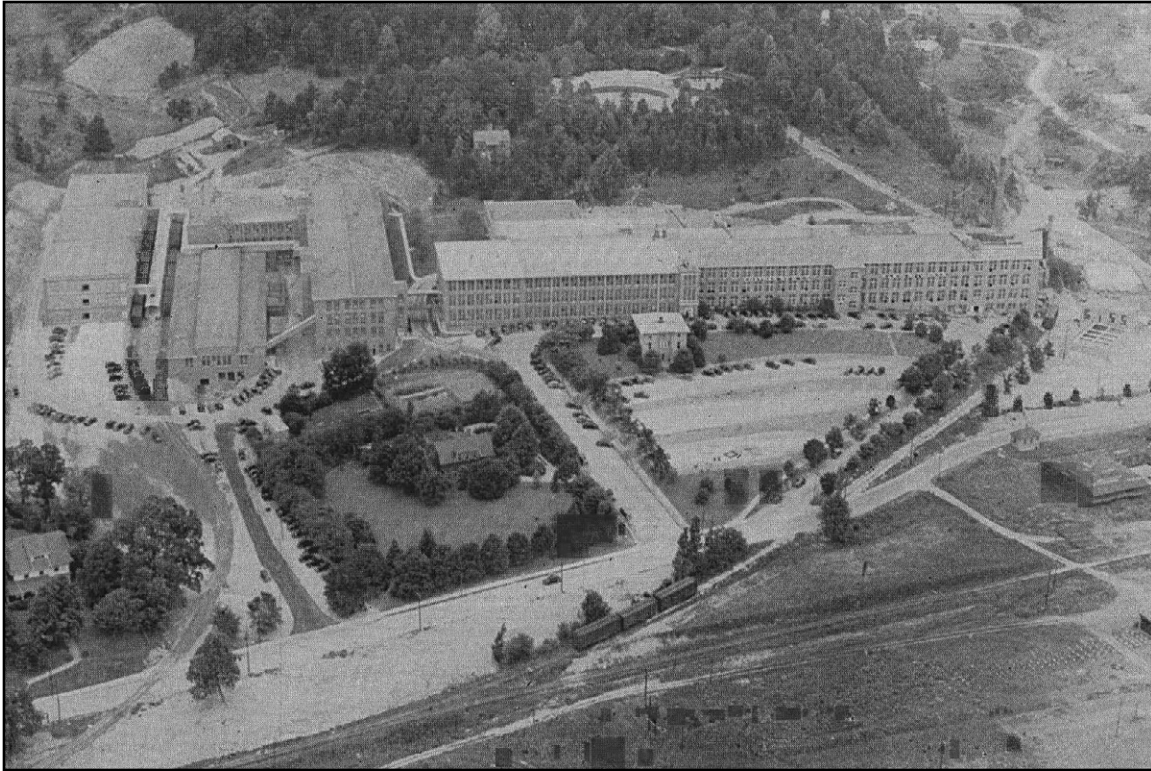


PLATE 33: Aerial View of Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company Mill Buildings in Elkin, North Carolina, Facing North Across the Yadkin River, Yadkin County, North Carolina, 1940 (*Chatham Blanketeer* 6, no. 15 [July 1940], digitalNC.org)



PLATE 34: Painting of the Jonesville Bluffs (2016), Facing North on Bridge Street Toward Elkin, North Carolina, ca. 1940s. The "mill" houses on the bluffs in the painting have been demolished, likely in the 1970s during the construction of Elm Street. (Courtesy Jonesville History Museum)

nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, its growth was fueled by Elkin's industrial base. Jonesville lacks a central, typical "main street" such as those that usually sprang up in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries because Elkin was close by. People living in Jonesville needing to "go to town" for anything simply crossed the river into Elkin; there was no need for a competing commercial "main street" in Jonesville. The mid-twentieth-century brought major transportation improvements, such as a five-lane link to I-77, the new Gwyn-McNeil Bridge, and connecting highways, that have boosted the small town's growth, so that Jonesville is the second largest town and one of the fastest growing areas in Yadkin County. Commercial businesses, industry, and economic development, however, are still very much intertwined with that of neighboring Elkin (Casstevens 1981:31-32; Macy n.d.:16).

2.2.4 *Architecture Context and NRHP Evaluation*

It appears that three of the Martin Family Mill Houses (204, 206, and 207 Cherry Street) are identical in form and were likely built at the same time by the same builder. The older houses of the group are those facing north along Cherry Street toward the Yadkin River. The flat-roofed duplex and the brick minimal traditional house are later infill, built during the 1950s.

Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century and continuing through the late nineteenth-century Reconstruction era, the South's economic base transformed rapidly with the increase of manufacturing. Rural landscapes dramatically changed as factories dotted the hills and former farmland, and impoverished communities blossomed as villages sprung up around the newly established mills that attracted former farmhands with the hope of a better way of life. Textile manufacturing proved to be significant in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, and this was the case in Elkin. Waterpower, rail access, and cheap labor attracted Northern capitalists to invest in North Carolina enterprises. As textile businessmen with connections to New England began locating mills and villages on the outskirts of cities more often, small previous rural communities became light industrial towns. At the time of the construction of the late nineteenth-century portions of the Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company in Elkin, textile plants were beginning to make the transition from steam power to electric power. Textile industrialists drew heavily from New England mill layouts and plans while frequently constructing additions onto earlier mills as expansion was needed. Large, brick complexes replaced the smaller isolated mills of the nineteenth century and used fire-resistant brick and heavy timber construction with architectural references to the Romanesque and Italianate styles in the brickwork and fenestration patterns (Plate 35). Architectural historian Catherine Bishir writes of mill design trends, "These boldly expressive buildings partook of the international and industrial style and encompassed the manufacturing centers of Europe and America and blended the demands of factory organization with European antecedents and virtuoso displays of the bricklayer's art" (Bishir 1990:431-438).

Accompanying almost every mill's landscape was the mill village, functioning as an entire unit, composed of individual frame houses for mill workers, commercial buildings, churches, schools, and places for entertainment. Entrepreneur and textile leader D.A. Tompkins helped to establish and design hundreds of textile mills across the Piedmont region, publishing books that recommended standard designs for mills and villages that were incorporated into mill construction throughout the Carolinas (Bishir 1990:435-437).

It is interesting that no evidence of a nearby mill village survives in Elkin, but mill houses were built in adjacent Jonesville. A common mill house form found in the Carolinas as seen on Cherry Street in Jonesville is the one-story, frame, side-gabled cottage with attached front porch and rear ell. Many times these houses contained a central gable within the side-gabled roof centered over the porch, in addition to center or exterior end chimneys. The interiors may have had two or three rooms with a center hall or side passage connecting to the rear ell, which likely contained a kitchen. In the Charlotte area Tompkins was well known for mill architecture and urged mill owners to provide mill operatives with small lots for gardens in a semi-rural atmosphere with open, green space to help ease the transition from farm living to a more urban environment. Bishir expounds upon this tendency as she concludes, "The southern mill village thus



PLATE 35: Portion of the Former Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company Complex, Facing North, Elkin, Surry County, North Carolina

represented a careful and pragmatic architectural balance between the paternalism of the southern industrialist and the vestigial rural independence that the mill owner knew to be essential to maintaining a ‘contented’ and stable work force” (Bishir 1990:436).

Yadkin County does not possess any documented mill villages or clusters of mill houses for comparison with the Martin Family Mill Houses on the Jonesville bluffs, and given the county’s largely agricultural economy, large industrial complexes are few in number. To properly compare these resources to others in a county-wide setting, it is necessary to look at other working-class neighborhoods and similar documented architectural types outside the mill village prototype. Neighboring Surry County may prove more fruitful in the search for similar mill house resources, considering that industry was far more plentiful there.

Several similar property types in Jonesville are found nearby on Cherry Street and continuing south, such as 116 Cherry Street, and also on Mineral Springs Drive (Figure 6). Most are one-story, frame, side-gabled cottages with modest porches and simple architectural detail. These working-class houses would have been similar in form, materials, and style to the typical “mill house” constructed throughout North Carolina’s numerous textile mill villages. Many possess rear additions and central gabled accents in their rooflines. Nearly all have been heavily modified with replacement materials (Plate 36). None of these comparable properties have been previously documented for architectural survey, thus making their eligibility difficult to determine in a county-wide context.

Elsewhere in the county, smaller modest house types are found in East Bend and Yadkinville, such as the frame, one-story Martin Davis House (YD0337) on Fairground Road in East Bend. The L-shaped cottage is clad in weatherboards and features handsome brackets adorning turned porch posts supporting a hipped porch. Partial cornice returns, four-over-four wood-sash window bays, and a diamond vent piercing the gable end on the façade make up other notable architectural details (Plate 37). Very few if any similar house types have been determined eligible for or are listed in the NRHP in Yadkin County, although a number have been recorded in previous surveys. Across the river in Elkin, early twentieth-century working-class housing is clustered off Pegram and Veneer streets near the Chatham Blanket Mills, as well as in the neighborhoods off Elk Spur Street west of the mills; however, these have not been previously recorded or evaluated for NRHP eligibility (Figure 7).

The Martin Family Mill Houses are not near as uniform as they probably once were. The earliest houses built by Chatham Mills were demolished when the bluffs were shortened for the Elm Street construction. Each surviving house has undergone substantial renovation, replacement of original materials such as windows, siding, and trim, and alterations to original fabric. Newer infill during the 1940s and 1950s continued along Cherry Street, creating more of a typical middle- or working-class neighborhood rather than something akin to the model of a mill village. The physical distance between the cottages and the mills disrupts the visual and situational connection of the mill houses to the factories themselves, located across the river in the separate Town of Elkin. Furthermore, other features common to a typical mill village including identical massing, nearby churches and schools, easy access to the factory of employment, and recreational features. These features are not seen with the Martin Family Mill Houses. It may be more accurate to describe these houses as early twentieth-century rental cottages built for working-class families, although they display some features of typical mill houses (Plate 38).

The Martin Family Mill Houses possess integrity of location, as they have not been moved from their original sites. Their integrity of setting is relatively intact, although newer thoroughfares such as Elm Street and the widening of Main Street at the Gwyn-McNeil Bridge have changed the general surroundings to a more urban environment. The geographical siting high up on the Jonesville bluffs overlooking the Yadkin River remains intact, however, and is a key element to the houses’ significance. Integrity of materials and workmanship have been compromised with the application of replacement materials on a majority of the

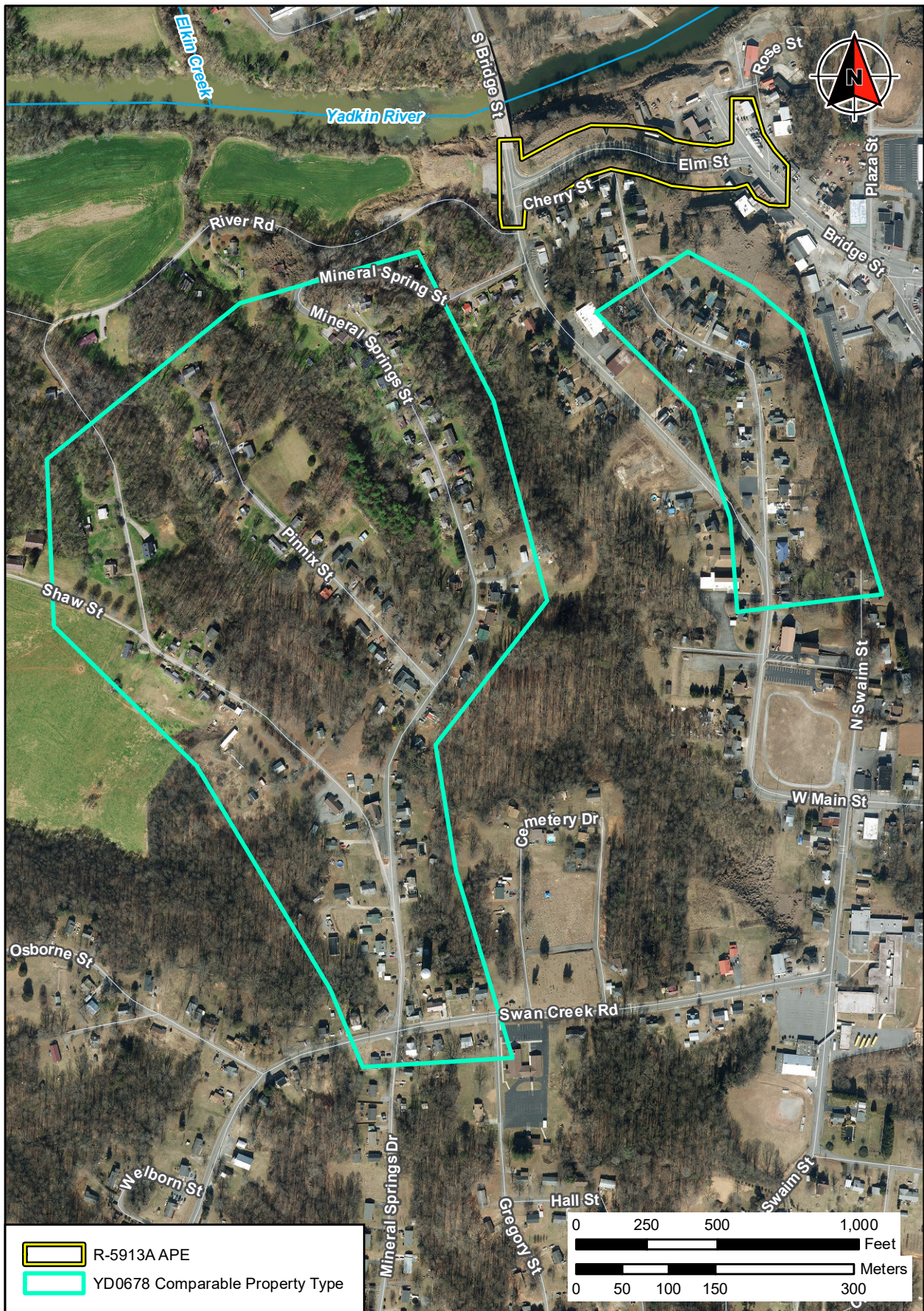


FIGURE 6: Aerial Map Showing Other Areas in Jonesville with Comparable Property Types to the Martin Family Mill Houses (YD0678), Yadkin County, North Carolina (NC OneMap 2018)



PLATE 36: Typical One-story Frame Cottages Built Along Cherry Street
Potentially for Working-class Families, ca. 1915-1930



PLATE 37: Martin Davis House (YD0337), East Bend, Yadkin County, North Carolina



FIGURE 7: Aerial Map of Elkin, North Carolina, Identifying a Small Group of Working-class Housing near the Former Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company Mills, Surry County, North Carolina (NC OneMap 2018)



PLATE 38: Facing North on Cherry Street Toward Martin Family Mill Houses (YD0678), Yadkin County, North Carolina

houses, and the integrity of design has also been somewhat affected by later additions and porch modifications on a few houses. The resources retain a fair degree of integrity of feeling and association, functioning in their original purpose as residences, but they lack the direct connection to the nearby Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company and other factories and do not retain a connection to the families that built the properties. Overall, the Martin Family Mill Houses possess a medium degree of the seven aspects of integrity that are required for listing in the NRHP.

WSP finds the Martin Family Mill Houses not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for significance with events or the broad patterns of history in North Carolina. Although likely built as rental cottages for working-class families of the nearby textile mills in Elkin, their direct visual and spatial relationship with the mills and cultural significance as a “mill house” type is weak and unsubstantiated. No known historically significant events occurred in connection with the houses.

The Martin Family Mill Houses are also not eligible under Criterion B for association with significant individuals in history. Although the families who constructed the houses were prominent community members of Jonesville, no single individual could be identified as contributing significantly to the history of Yadkin County in an outstanding way that has been documented in direct connection with the houses

The Martin Family Mill Houses are not eligible under Criterion C for architecture as they lack integrity. To qualify under Criterion C, a property must display the seven aspects of integrity, which, in the case of the Martin Family Mill Houses, has been compromised with replacement of original materials, changes to porch designs and additions, and later infill along Cherry Street. The houses no longer reflect any type of uniform, “village” type or visual association as a textile “mill house” for the Chatham Blanket Manufacturing Company.

A property may be eligible under Criterion D if the buildings and/or structures have the potential to yield important information pertaining to undocumented or rare local building traditions (NPS 1990). The Martin Family Mill Houses are not likely to uncover this type of information and do not meet Criterion D.

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