




HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES
SURVEY REPORT

**Replace Bridge No. 18 on SR 1561
over the Haw River
Alamance County, North Carolina
TIP No. B-3400
State Project No. 8.272401
Federal Aid No. BRZ-1561(3)**

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Report Prepared by Mary Pope Furr

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Mary Pope Furr

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

5.25.2000

Date

Barbara Church

Barbara Church
Historic Architecture Section Head
North Carolina Department of Transportation

5/26/00

Date

**REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 18 ON SR 1561
OVER THE HAW RIVER
ALAMANCE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
TIP NO. B-3400**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 18 on SR 1561 over the Haw River in Alamance County with a new structure (Figure 1). Bridge No. 18 is a two-lane timber and steel bridge built in 1971 and has a sufficiency rating of 41 out of 100.

One alternative is being evaluated for replacing Bridge No. 18 (Figure 2). It is are:

Alternative One - The existing bridge will be replaced with a two-lane bridge on a new alignment northeast of the existing bridge. Traffic will be detoured on other roads during construction. Bridge No. 18 will be removed upon completion of the new bridge.

PURPOSE OF SURVEY AND REPORT

NCDOT conducted a survey and compiled this report in order to identify historic architectural resources located within the APE as part of the environmental studies performed by NCDOT and documented by a Categorical Exclusion (CE). This report is prepared as a technical appendix to the CE and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment. This report is on file at NCDOT and available for review by the public.

METHODOLOGY

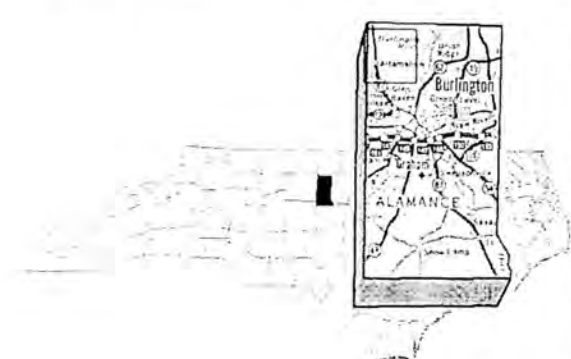
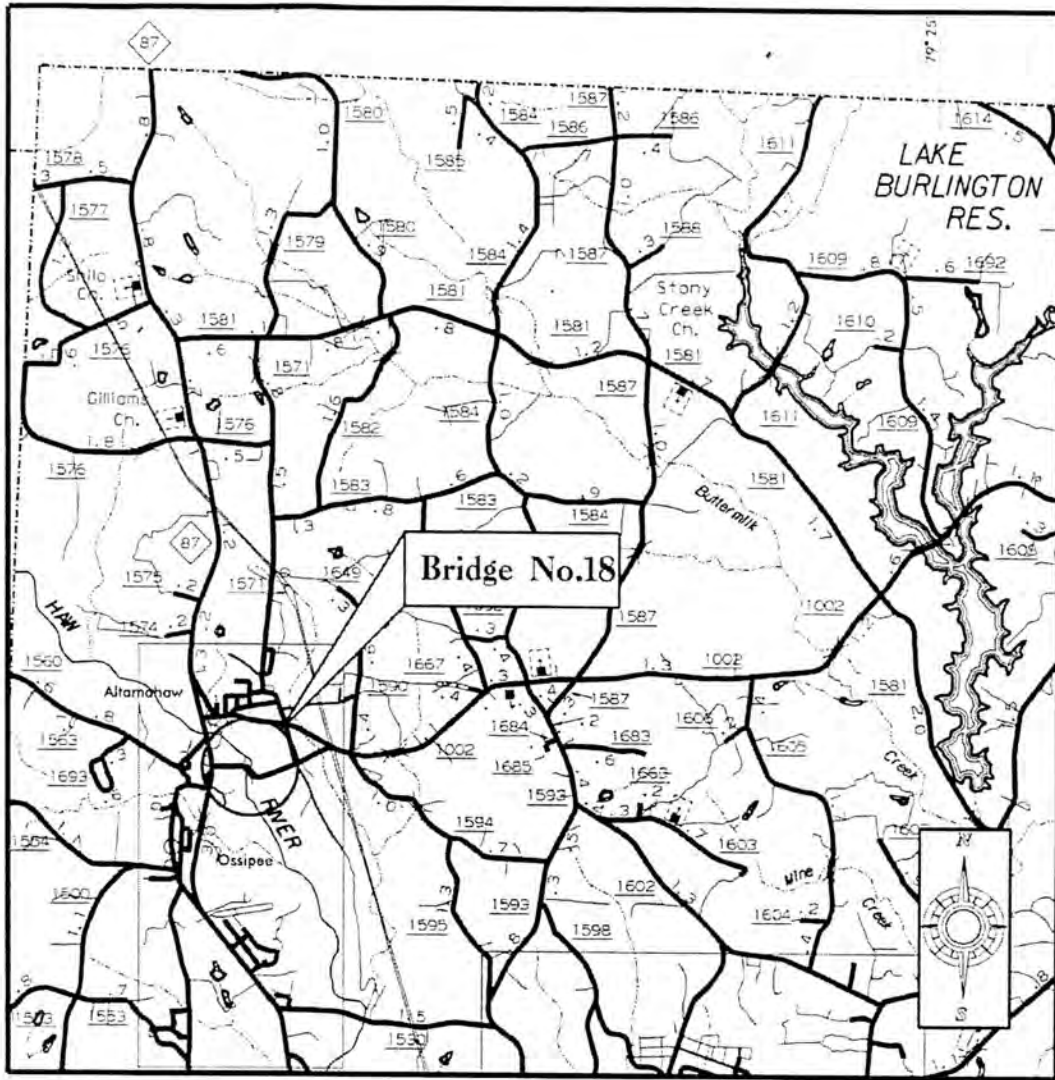
NCDOT conducted the survey and prepared this report in accordance with the provisions of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT. This survey and report meet the guidelines of NCDOT and the National Park Service. In addition, this report conforms to the expanded requirements for architectural survey reports developed by NCDOT and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) dated February 2, 1996.

NCDOT conducted an intensive survey with the following goals: (1) to determine the Area of Potential Effects (APE), defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; (2) to identify all significant resources within the APE; and (3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The APE for historic architectural resources was delineated by a NCDOT staff architectural historian and reviewed in the field. The APE boundary is shown on the attached map (Figure 3).

The survey methodology consisted of a field survey and background research on the project area. A NCDOT staff architectural historian conducted a field survey on March 24, 2000, by car and on foot. All structures over fifty years of age in the APE were photographed and keyed to an area map.

Background research was conducted at the SHPO in Raleigh, the North Carolina State Library and Archives in Raleigh, and the Alamance County Courthouse in Graham.




	North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Highways Planning & Environmental Branch
	Alamance County Replace Bridge No. 18 on SR 1561 Over Haw River B-3400
FIGURE 1	

Figure 1 - Project Vicinity Map

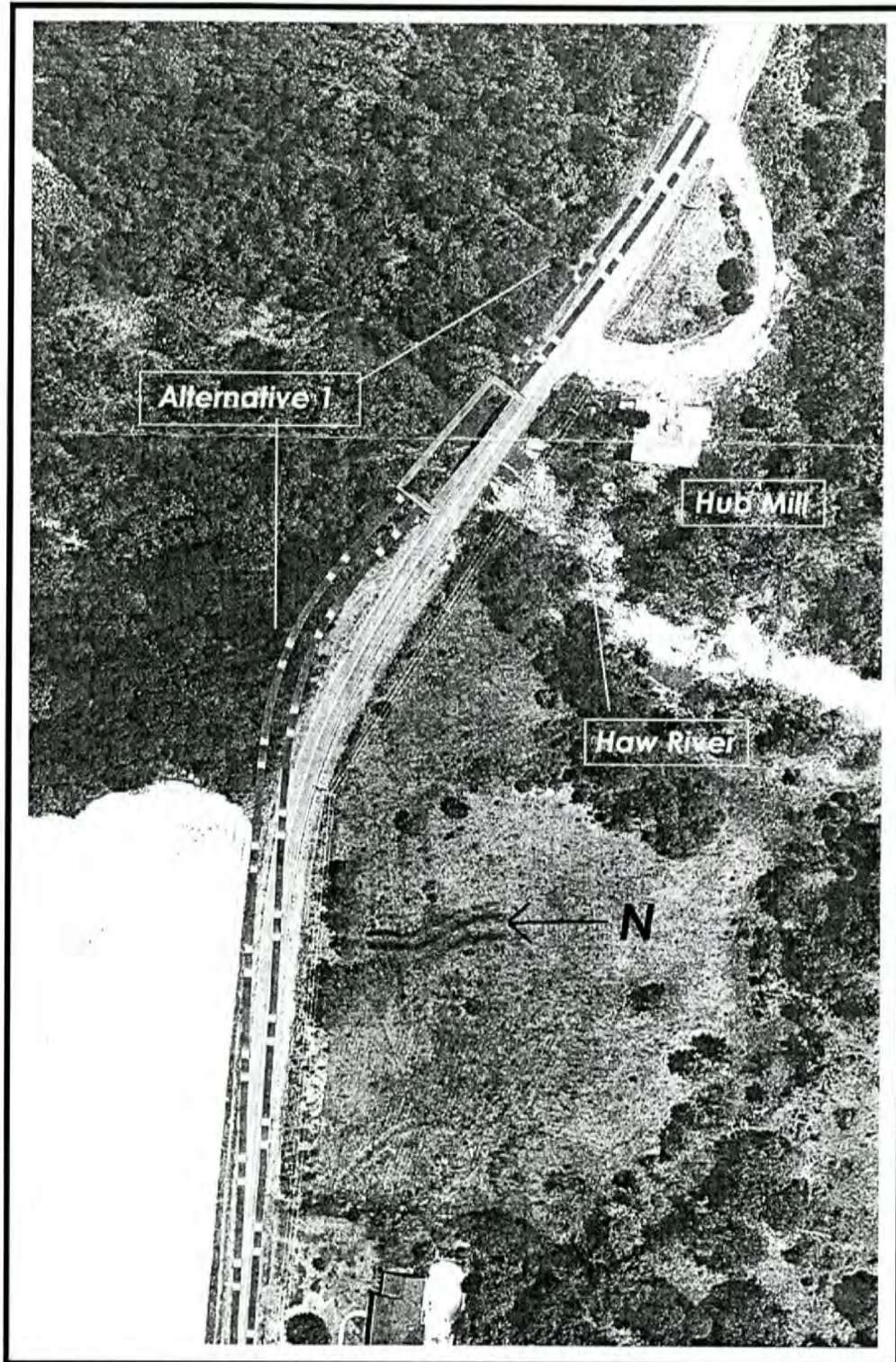


Figure 2 - Project Alternative

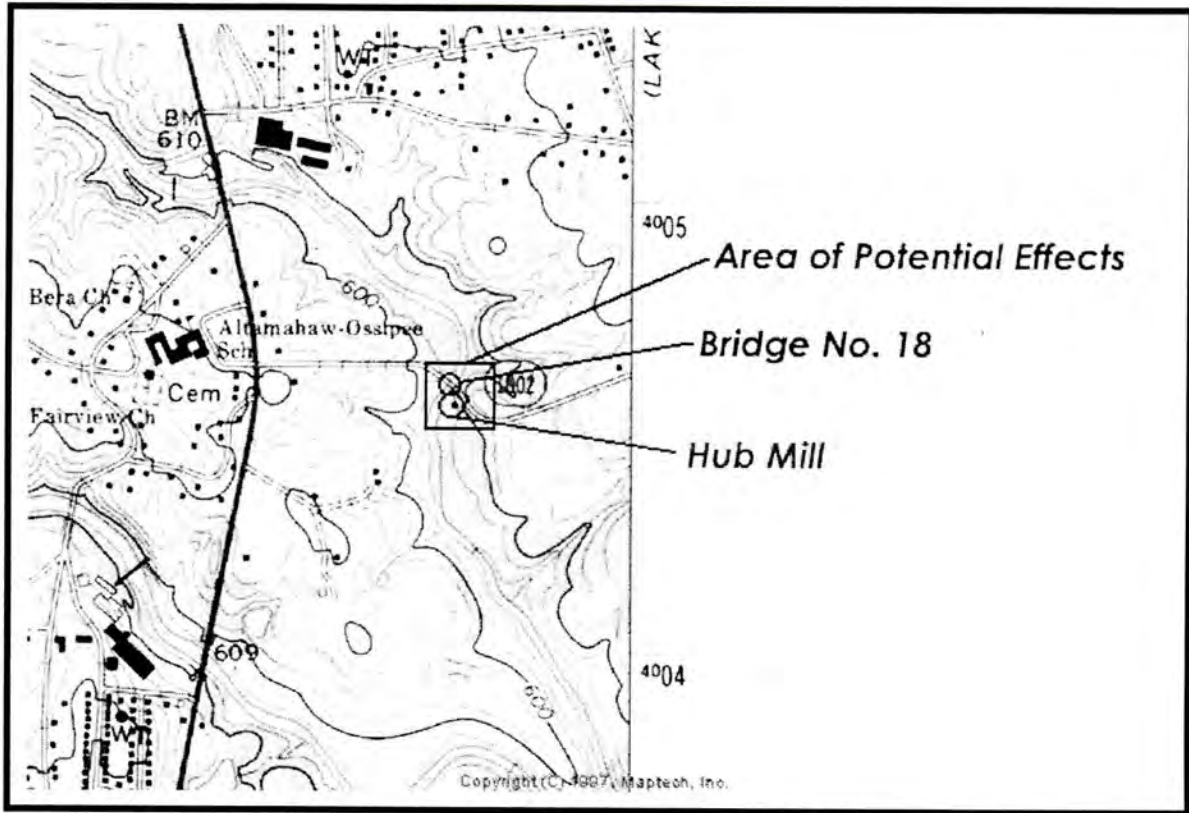


Figure 3 – Project Area Map (Ossipee Quad)

SUMMARY FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

There are no properties less than fifty years of age within the APE that qualify for the National Register under Criterion Consideration G.¹ There are no properties listed on the National Register or the North Carolina State Study List located within the APE for the subject project.

Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:
Hub Mill (SHPO Survey Site # AM 208)

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Properties Evaluated and Considered Eligible for the National Register:

Hub Mill (SHPO Survey Site # AM 208)

Location.

Located between the mill villages of Altamahaw and Ossipee, Hub Mill is located on the south side of SR 1561 (Hub Mill Road), 0.3 miles east of the roads junction with NC 87. Hub Mill stands on the east bank of the Haw River and Bridge No. 18 spans the river approximately 200 feet upstream from the mill.

Description.

Hub Mill is a c.1890s timber-framed saw and gristmill with several additions, all anchored by fieldstone and concrete block foundations.² According to a survey by the SHPO in 1978, a heavy timber frame with mortise and tenon construction supports the original core of the structure, which appears to have been the two-and-a-half story section with a gable roof and fieldstone sub-basement. Subsequent shed roof additions have been made to the north, east, and south elevations. The entire structure has been sheathed in corrugated metal and the roof is covered in "five-V" metal sheets. The majority of the windows have been removed, but the few that remain are six-over-six sash. In 1978 the mill was still in operation and most of the original equipment, while not in use, remained inside. Access to the interior was not gained during this survey, but an investigation of the exterior revealed that the water wheel and its timber-framed shelter have disappeared since 1978.

¹ Criterion Consideration G states that properties less than fifty years of age may be listed on the National Register only if they are of exceptional importance or if they are integral parts of districts eligible for the National Register.

² Carl Lounsbury, *Alamance County Architectural Heritage*, (Graham: The Alamance Historic Properties Commission, 1980). In the 1978 SHPO survey of Alamance County's historic architecture, Lounsbury noted that Hub Mill was constructed c.1860. Archival investigations for this survey cannot support this early date for the mill. The current survey proposes a c.1890s date for Hub Mill based on archival data that is discussed in the "Background" section on page 8 of this report.

The mill stands on the east bank of the Haw River, alongside a short race created to power the missing water wheel. Large fieldstones line the sides of the race and similar stones are seen scattered in a linear pattern across the river, perhaps the remains of an associated dam.

Background Information.

The Haw River has always been Alamance County's most significant geographical feature, sustaining not only agriculture, but industry and manufacturing as well. In fact, Altamahaw was founded in 1880 as a cotton mill village on the banks of the Haw River.³ Berry Davidson was a local saw and gristmill operator who joined forces with John Q. Gant to build a cotton mill across the river from Davidson's saw and gristmill. In 1881 the Altamahaw Cotton Mill began production and was soon followed by the nearby Ossipee Cotton Mill in 1882.⁴ These two mills were very profitable and within ten years the area had developed into the manufacturing center of northwestern Alamance County. The need for saw and gristmills increased accordingly and the region grew from one saw and gristmill in 1879 to four in 1897.⁵ However an 1893 Alamance County map, which identifies numerous saw, grist, and cotton mills throughout the county, does not show a mill at the site of Hub Mill.⁶ Thus, Hub Mill appears to be constructed after 1893. Indeed, a Chain of Title search on the property only confirms the presence of Hub Mill and its operating association, the Hub Milling Company through 1906.⁷ Prior to that time, the property deeds do not mention a mill, a mill site, or appurtenances. In addition, the name "Hub" is of unknown origin and could be merely a descriptive term for the mill, which is located at the midpoint between Altamahaw and Ossipee.

³ Julian Huges. *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*. (Burlington: Burlington Letter Shop. 1965). 88.

⁴ Huges. 105.

⁵ Rev. Levi Branson. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1897*. (Raleigh: Levi Branson. 1897). 68.

⁶ William L. Spoon. *Map of Alamance County, North Carolina*. map (Burlington. 1893).

⁷ Alamance County. North Carolina. Tax Records and Deed Books. (Graham: Alamance County Courthouse).

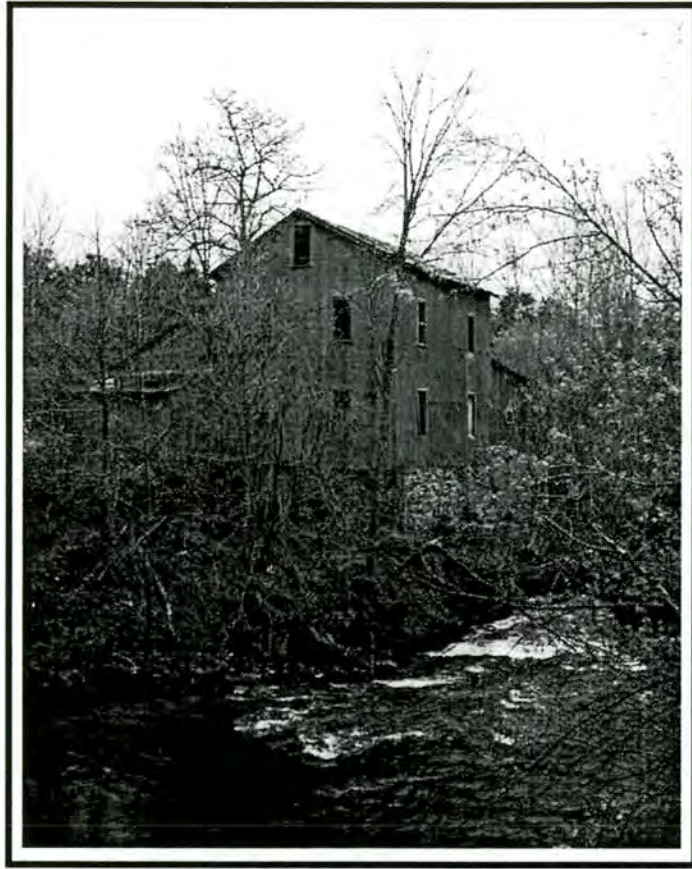


Figure 4 - Hub Mill, view from Bridge No. 18



Figure 5 - Hub Mill, NE elevation



Figure 6 - Hub Mill, entrance on E elevation



Figure 7 - Hub Mill, SE elevation



Figure 8 – Mill Race



Figure 9 – Haw River with fieldstone debris

Evaluation.

Hub Mill is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion A (event) for its significance in local industry. *To be eligible for significance under Criterion A the property must retain integrity and must be associated with a specific event marking an important moment in American history or a pattern of events or historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community. Furthermore, the property must have existed at the time and be documented to be associated with the events. Finally, the property's specific association must be important as well.*⁸ Hub Mill played an important role in the economy of the area by providing a market for locally grown wheat and corn, as well as timber. Its survival and continued operation through the 1970s demonstrates the continued importance of saw and gristmills in the economic development and survival of small communities in Alamance County in the twentieth century.

Hub Mill is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion B (person). *For a property to be eligible for significance under Criterion B, it must retain integrity and 1) be associated the lives of persons significant in our past, i.e., individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context; 2) be normally associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when she achieved significance; and 3) should be compared to other associated properties to identify those that best represent the person's historic contributions. Furthermore, a property is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is or was a member of an identifiable profession, class or social or ethnic group.*⁹

There are no persons of national, state, or local significance associated with the Hub Mill.

Hub Mill is **eligible** for the National Register under Criterion C (Design/Construction) for its significance in architecture. *For a property to be eligible under this criterion, it must retain integrity and either 1) embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; 2) represent the work of a master; 3) possess high artistic value; or 4) represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*¹⁰ While there have been several additions and modifications to the original structure, Hub Mill retains enough of the physical features or traits of mill construction, including its heavy timber frame structure of mortise and tenon construction, to be considered a good representative of the type and method of assembly.

Hub Mill is **not eligible** for the National Register under Criterion D (Information Potential). *For a property to be eligible under Criterion D, it must meet two requirements: 1) the*

⁸ National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin 15* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1991), 12.

⁹ National Park Service, 15.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 17.

*property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and 2) the information must be considered important.*¹¹

The architectural and engineering components of Hub Mill are not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

Historic Boundary.

The Historic Boundary for Hub Mill has been drawn according to the guidelines of National Register Bulletin 21, "Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties." The Historic Boundary for Hub Mill follows the property line for Lot #2 as recorded on Alamance County Tax Map 4-9 of 1997. The site contains 1 acre and contains the mill and machinery known as Hub Mill.

The Historic Boundary for Hub Mill is delineated on Alamance County Tax Map 4-9 (Figure 11).

Historic Boundary Justification.

The Historic Boundary for Hub Mill includes all of the significant resources that retain integrity and contribute to the property's significance. This includes the mill building and the remains of the race.

¹¹ Ibid., 21.

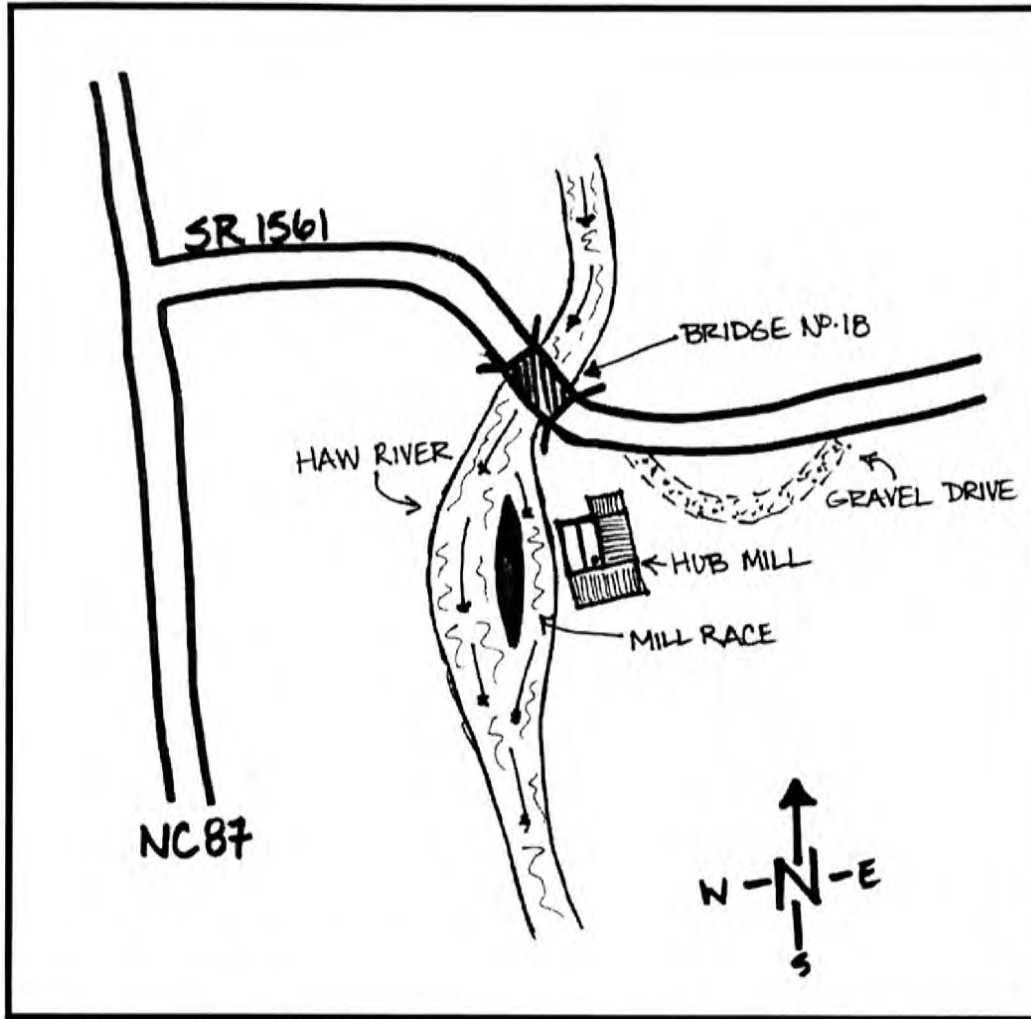


Figure 10 – Site Map for Hub Mill

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