

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Bynum Historic District

Bynum, Chatham County, CH0875, Listed 04/15/2025
Nomination by Cynthia de Miranda, MdM Historical Consultants, Inc.
Photographs by Cynthia de Miranda, March 2024



View S toward J.G. Williams Store (R) with Auto Repair Garage (L).



View W at Bynum Hill showing mill housing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bynum Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Bynum Church Road, Bynum Hill, Bynum Road, Charlie Fields Road, Durham Eubanks Road, Roy Hatley Road, Wheeler Road, Williams Pond Road

City or town: Bynum State: NC County: Chatham

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


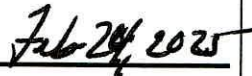
I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

| | |
|--|---|
|  Signature of certifying official/Title: State Historic Preservation Officer |  Date |
| _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

| | |
|---|--|
| In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. | |
| _____ | _____ |
| Signature of commenting official: | Date |
| _____ | _____ |
| Title : | State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District

Bynum Historic District
 Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
 County and State

Site

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>91</u> | <u>64</u> | buildings |
| <u>3</u> | <u>1</u> | sites |
| <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>103</u> | <u>75</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/village site
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- COMMERCE/department store
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- RELIGION/religious facility
- INDUSTRY/water works
- INDUSTRY/energy facility
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC/village site
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
- SOCIAL/meeting hall
- RELIGION/religious facility
- INDUSTRY/water works
- INDUSTRY/energy facility
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: *(enter categories from instructions.)*

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/Weatherboard, WOOD/Log, WOOD/Plywood, BRICK, STONE, STUCCO, ASPHALT, ASBESTOS, CONCRETE, GLASS, SYNTHETICS/Vinyl, METAL/Tin, METAL/Aluminum

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Bynum is a small community north of Pittsboro in the rolling hills of eastern Chatham County, all situated in Piedmont North Carolina. Bynum comprises a riverside rural agricultural neighborhood and a mill village historically associated with a water-powered cotton yarn spinning factory that is mostly no longer extant. The community has its origin in the nineteenth century, but economic and other forces continued to shape its built environment into the twentieth century. Bynum occupies the east bank of the Haw River at Bynum Bridge (NRHP 2020), the 1923 concrete structure at a river crossing first made in the early nineteenth century.

Narrative Description

There are roughly eighty primary properties in the rural community, which has never been incorporated. The dam, millrace, and a generator house survive from the cotton plant. Also extant is the mill village, containing more than three dozen dwellings. The majority date from 1875 through 1928. Farmhouses north of the village flank Bynum Road, which used to be the

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

main route between Pittsboro and Chapel Hill, the state's iconic college town to the north. Houses throughout the community are generally of frame construction and are vernacular types; the most common architectural detailing evokes the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. These nineteenth-century houses stand on hillsides well back from Bynum Road, which bisects the community at its lower elevations, while early twentieth-century Craftsman-influenced dwellings and vernacular commercial buildings are along and closer to the same roadway. A creek bed parallels the roadway to its north and flows west into the Haw River, to which Bynum owes its existence. An earlier alignment of Bynum Road once existed closer to the creek.

Of the past two mills at Bynum, all that remains are a brick-clad generator house sheltering a water-driven electric turbine, the gravity dam, and a mill race where flow is controlled by two Tainter gates.

The mill village, commonly known as "Mill Hill," comprises thirty-seven mill houses, a baseball field, and some water system and power system structures historically associated with two milling concerns, the Bynum Manufacturing Company (1873-1886) and its successor the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company (1886-1972). Most mill houses are saddlebags with a rear ell; the oldest, built in 1875, originally had remarkably nice molded cornices, side-gabled roofs with end returns, weatherboard exteriors, shed-roofed front porches on chamfered posts, six-over-six sash, two façade doors, pilastered cornerboards, brick chimneys and foundation piers, and shingle roofs. A handful of mill houses are a story-and-a-half, both hall-parlor and double-pile types. One is an I-house with a triple-A roof, weatherboard exterior, molded eaves and cornice returns, and Queen Anne detailing; it reportedly has Eastlake detailing at the interior. Today, many of the houses have vinyl siding and replacement windows, but most retain their essential form, including a distinctive shed-roofed porch roof that extends from the eave at the façade and the metal roofing installed to replace the wood shingles in 1903. Several have additions of an undetermined date, often another mill house or section of mill house. A few have rear gable-roofed additions that post-date the period of significance, where the apex of the intersecting new roof is higher than the original ridge, and one has a two-story addition. The rear yards are large enough for vegetable gardens, chicken houses, and animal pens. Garden lots remain common throughout the community. An original company owner's house predates but is also in the village; it is also an I-house with Queen Anne detailing. It has a mid-nineteenth-century rear ell and a mid-nineteenth-century smokehouse with brick floor stands in the rear yard. A privy and well also survive in the rear yard. Five houses in the mill village post-date the period of significance. At the east end of the village is a turn-of-the century baseball field and an early twentieth-century water-supply system standpipe and filtration plant. An emptied reservoir is reportedly buried under today's community garden.

The farmhouses north of the mill village are uniformly of frame construction and appear to date from about 1880 through the 1930s with a few later outliers that are brick veneer or loadbearing concrete block. The houses are vernacular in form, many with some degree of Queen Anne detailing, including turned porch posts, balustrades, and spindle friezes; sawn brackets and vergeboard; and front-facing gables. One house features a half-octagonal room with conical roof at a wraparound porch and accents weatherboard siding with some sections of shingle siding. A

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

number of these farmhouses have outbuildings, typically sheds or small livestock barns, and at least three have older rear ells that were likely the first residence. Several others have rear ell additions, often with enclosed side porches.

The community's several commercial buildings are all one-story and feature parapet roofs. Most are of frame construction; exceptions include a concrete-block garage and the ruin of a stone store building. All stand along Bynum Road, mostly concentrated at the west end near the bridge. Other non-residential buildings include the masonry-veneered church and concrete-block Ruritan club building that also stand near the bride at the west end of Bynum Road.

During the period of significance, most houses, particularly in the mill village, retained their original weatherboard exteriors, original double-hung wood sash windows, and tongue-and-groove porch floors. Porch posts were usually turned columns or plain with chamfered corners. Many houses throughout the district have side-gabled roofs with molded eaves and cornice returns. Commercial buildings feature large, one-over-one sash windows often seen on buildings one or two decades older. Two buildings are of loadbearing stone construction; one a single-story store building on a basement, now a ruin, and the other a frame store with stone basement, altered for use as a dwelling. Few trees dotted the landscape in the period of significance, but stands of trees now offer shade and obstruct views across the community.

A long history of grist milling is associated with the island in the Haw River immediately upstream of the east end of the Bynum Bridge, and the large brick foundation piers from the nineteenth-century grist mill remain. Archaeological sites may exist on the island and could reveal the location of other early businesses known to have operated there, including a blacksmith shop and a cotton gin.

The folk art of Clyde Jones, a long-time resident of the mill village, is evident in every yard in the community. In 1982, Jones began sculpting animals from cedar logs with a chainsaw and decorating the pigs, horses, gators, giraffes, and other creatures with found items like bottlecaps or decorative plastic items like flowers. Jones also paints murals and signs. Examples are seen everywhere throughout the community.

Overall, Bynum retains a strong integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The spatial organization of riverside industrial property, associated mill village, and nearby residential development remains intact, as do roadway circulation patterns that existed and evolved during the period of significance. Despite some additions to individual dwellings, the rhythm of mill houses in the village, with their common setback and overwhelmingly similar forms, survives today. Along and north of Bynum Road, the historic pattern of development reflects the historic change in the alignment of the roadway. Integrity of materials, design, and workmanship survive in the many houses that exhibit original and early siding, windows, cornice and cornerboard trim, and roofing. Additionally, the preponderance of contributing properties—sixty-seven of the primary resources are contributing, while fourteen are noncontributing—evidences the intact nature of the district's integrity. Most noncontributing properties were erected after the period of significance, and many are secondary resources like

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

small sheds and outbuildings in rear yards. They do not overwhelm the district's overall integrity. Eighty-three percent of the primary resources contribute to the district, and sixty-one percent of all resources are contributing.

Bynum historically and today is unlike its surrounding area, which features a more typical rural pattern of widely spaced houses from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that do not coalesce into a rural community. The intersection of river, roadway, and residences, both the farm houses and the mill houses, gives Bynum a distinctive and discernable character.

District Inventory

The inventory for the district follows, arranged in two sections.

The first portion lists properties outside the residential mill village and includes buildings and structures on the Haw River and on Bynum Road, Charlie Fields Road, Roy Hatley Road, Wheeler Road, Williams Pond Road. The list is arranged alphabetically by street. Each entry has a primary resource indicated by a bolded heading listing the property name, estimated or documented date of construction, and contributing/noncontributing status. Description and property history follow. Secondary resources visible from the right of way, such as sheds and garages, follow the description and history of the primary resource, including their estimated construction date, contributing/noncontributing status, and short description. Secondary resources not visible from the right of way and/or very small buildings and structures without historical or architectural merit are not listed in the inventory but are mentioned in the overall description if they are known to exist.

The second part of the inventory comprises the houses of the mill village. Again, the list is arranged alphabetically by street. These listings appear to be abbreviated in comparison to those in the first portion. However, the majority of mill buildings fall into a few types and share a common development history due to the ownership by the mill throughout the Period of Significance. Each mill house type is described in a short introduction to the mill village section, followed by a history of the development of the village. In the individual listings of houses that meet the mill house typology, the type is identified, a construction date is estimated, alterations and or changes made to the house are noted, and contributing/noncontributing status is listed. For houses within the village that do not meet the typology, a fuller description is included.

Primary and secondary sources inform the historical information in the inventory. Property owners and long-time Bynum residents provided a good deal of oral history. Primary sources included deeds, plat maps, the federal census and other genealogical records, and aerial photography. The county's land records include construction dates; those inconsistently match research and survey findings. Secondary sources used in preparation of the inventory include newspaper accounts from the period; the previous architectural survey by Rachel Osborn in 1982; information gathered by folklorist Douglas DeNatale for his master's thesis, which focused on Bynum; and other sources listed in the bibliography. The website Findagrave.com proved particularly helpful for determining birth and death dates as well as family relationships.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Noncontributing properties are those that post-date the period of significance, those that have been substantially modified, and, in some cases, those in such a state of disrepair that their original form cannot be read. The exception is the site of the nineteenth-century grist mill on an island in the Haw River. All that is visible are a few of the brick piers from the building. However, they do mark the site of the mill, which is important information for understanding the early development of both the community and the later cotton mill.

Bynum Bridge

Bynum Bridge, 1923, 1999

Previously listed (NRHP 2020), not counted

The bridge is a nineteen-span T-beam structure with three reinforced-concrete deck girders supported by cast-in-place abutments and piers. Solid parapets with recessed panels flank the deck. Since closure to automobile traffic and subsequent designation as a pedestrian bridge, slender metal railings have been installed atop the parapets to increase the height of side rails. A water pipe is suspended under the deck on the south side of the bridge piers.

The State Highway Commission began the bridge in 1922 and completed it in 1923, funded by a 1921 bond issue that created State Route 175 connecting Chapel Hill with Pittsboro. The road, later designated US 15-501, has crossed the Haw River via a new bridge roughly five hundred yards upstream since its realignment in 1952. The 1923 Bynum Bridge closed to automobile traffic in 1999 and has been listed in the NRHP under Criteria A and C since 2020. The nomination calls it the “longest unaltered reinforced concrete tee beam bridge in the state.”

Highway 15-501 Bridge, 1952, ca. 2005

Noncontributing structure

Divided-highway concrete girder bridges with concrete piers and abutments carry the rerouted Highway 15-501 over the Haw River northwest of Bynum and the original alignment of the highway.

The highway first bypassed Bynum in 1952 with a single bridge to carry traffic in both directions. A second bridge erected between 2002 and 2007 carries northbound traffic on the now-divided highway. Noncontributing due to alteration of the roadway requiring addition of the second bridge after the Period of Significance.

BYNUM ROAD, south side, west to east

Odell Lake Dam, 1895, 1903, 1922

Contributing structure

Gravity dam spanning the Haw River at a point upstream of both the Bynum Bridge (NRHP 2020) and Highway 15-501 bridges over the Haw River. Two steel Tainter gates in a 150-foot-wide section built of rock at the north end are operated hydraulically. They lift to allow water to flow into to the Power Canal that extends downstream alongside the river’s east bank to the Generator House. The rest of the span of the nine-hundred-foot-wide dam is an uncontrolled

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

spillway; the structure is completely underwater and the construction material is therefore undetermined. The dam can impound a reservoir with twenty acres of surface area storing one hundred acre-feet of water. The original name of Odell Lake Dam has been supplanted by the name Bynum Dam.

Carney Bynum (1809-1877) likely built a timber and plank dam in 1860, reportedly costing \$500. That dam is recorded in the 1880 Census Department report on waterpower in the US. Some date the existing dam to 1874 and refer to it as a stone dam. No evidence for that date has been found; it may have been an assumption based on the construction of the cotton mill in that year by Bynum Manufacturing Company. Tainter gates were invented in 1886, and other dams, as detailed above, were known to exist prior to 1874. The Tainter gates may have been installed in 1895, as noted in a report to stockholders that year: "We have widened the race above and below the mill, repaired the dam—put in iron rack, new Head Gates."

The J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company replaced the 1860 dam with a new dam in 1903, according to newspaper reports, perhaps adding the stone abutments and Tainter gates in this period. The articles are short on detail about the dam, noting only that it would be an improvement over the old and that the blacksmith A. B. Riddle made 3,116 drill points in the course of construction. In 1907, the *Chatham Record* stated that the new dam saved the mill from shutting down in a period of low water that, in the past, would have precluded the machinery from running. Odell upgraded the dam substantially in 1922 with a dam said to be of concrete. It may be that the uncontrolled spillway section of the dam is concrete and dates to 1922, while the stone abutments and Tainter gates remain from 1895 improvements to an older dam.

Bynum Manufacturing Company / Odell Manufacturing Company Power Canal, ca. 1838, 1846, 1875, 1903, 1920, 1922, 1928, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1948

Contributing structure

A roughly two-thousand-foot-long canal generally forty feet wide extends from the Tainter gates at Odell Lake Dam to the mill site, paralleling the east bank of the Haw River before taking a sharp turn south to the Generator House. A wood trestle bridge crosses the Power Canal immediately downstream of Bynum Bridge and provides access from the east bank of the river to the island along the right side of the tailrace.

A canal would have been built along with the grist mill built by Berry Davidson for the Bynums in 1846, but a mill race existed as early as 1838, as documented in a deed that year. Undoubtedly, the canal underwent constant maintenance with dredging and perhaps occasional realignment. The trestle, likewise, would have had many repairs over the active lifetime of the Power Canal; the dates above relate to dates of changes to the dam and to the mill buildings. The canal would have been extended from the grist mill site to the cotton mill in 1872 and again in 1940 to meet the Generator House.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Odell Manufacturing Company Generator House, 1940 Contributing building

This composite structure includes a single-story-on-basement, brick-clad, concrete-block building joined at its northwest corner to a poured concrete retaining wall fitted with a metal lifting gate to create a spillway in times of high water. A single turbine unit and switchboard is at the first story and the (likely vertical) waterwheel is in the raised basement. Industrial metal sash windows pierce first story walls at the northwest and southwest elevations of the building. A garage door is at the southeast (rear) elevation, where the concrete block is not clad. This side of the Generator House directly adjoined the mill building that preexisted it. At the northwest basement side, a metal trash rack protects an intake into the lower level; water flows through the basement to turn the water wheel and exits at the southwest side into a five-hundred-foot tailrace. Two unglazed window openings in the brick wall above allow water to escape if the level is sufficiently high through the basement. A three-phase induction motor operates the metal lifting gate in the retaining wall.

This Generator House dates to 1940, erected for a 600-kilowatt electric turbine and generator to could augment water power generated at the plant and electrical power generated at a distance and supplied by Carolina Power and Light (CP&L). According to Douglas DeNatale, from sometime after the 1917 rebuild, the mill had operated on a combination of hydropower and electricity. The plant first generated its own electricity and used it in combination with waterpower, but in the late 1920s, CP&L supplied electricity generated elsewhere and transmitted over power lines to the plant. With the new Generator House, the plant converted to all-electric power, generating some from a river-driven turbine and augmenting with CP&L power. The company demolished the old water house at that time. Jannette McCall, a lifelong Bynum resident, reports that her great-grandfather Hobert Johnson installed the turbine.

Bynum Grist Mill / Atwater & Lambeth Mill ruins, ca. 1856 Contributing site

A couple of upturned brick foundation piers appear to be all that remain above ground of the grist mill that once stood on an island in the Haw River. They are visible from and northwest of Bynum Bridge on an island between the Power Canal and one of the main channels of the Haw River.

Writer and Elon University professor Anne Melyn Cassebaum, in her history of the Haw River, states that the hunks of brickwork are the ruin of the Bynum grist mill, later operated by the local firm of Atwater & Lambeth. In the nineteenth century, a commodious, two-story frame building on massive brick piers housed the mill; the structure appears in a photo reproduced in Hadley et al. *Chatham County 1771-1971*, along with a covered bridge that crossed the Haw River here. The first mill on this site went up before 1838; in that year, Mark Bynum deeded it to his sons Joseph and Mark. In 1853, Joseph and the younger Mark Bynum sold the mill, miller's house, mill race, dam, and the island that the mill occupied, to Carney Bynum (1809-1877). Joseph Bynum, a son of Mark Bynum and grandson of Luke Bynum, hired Berry Davidson in 1846 to build a new mill. Joseph later sold it to his brother Carney Bynum, who left his "flouring and grist mill and one third part of the cotton gin, with all the tract of land upon which said mills and

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

gin are situated” to his sons Luther B. Bynum and Carney W. Bynum upon his death in 1877. Douglas DeNatale’s research revealed that the Bynum brothers retained ownership of the grist mill—and the water rights—until about 1904. In that year, the property went up for sale at public auction, and J. M. Odell purchased both the mill and the water rights, having just built a new dam for his mill. Odell leased the mill to local mercantile firm Atwater & Lambeth. Atwater’s two sisters had married the Bynum brothers, making him their brother-in-law. Lambeth & Atwater later converted the grist mill into a roller mill. It remained in operation as late as 1907, but the date it finally stopped running has not been determined.

House, 1997

724 Bynum Road

Noncontributing building

Two-story, frame, double-pile, side-gabled dwelling with three-bay façade and single-story front porch that wraps around the north elevation. The house is clad in vinyl and has nine-over-six vinyl sash at the first floor and six-over-six at the second; façade windows are flanked by faux shutters. The porch has slender rectangular posts and a matchstick balustrade, and roofing is metal. The house stands well back from the roadway behind a thick stand of trees and is not very visible from the street. The county GIS system lists three lean-to shelters built in 1998 and 2014 and a storage building erected in 1998; those were not observed during survey. A 2014 garage is not visible from the street. Noncontributing due to age.

This land belonged to Luther B. Bynum (1833-1905) at the turn of the twentieth century and became part of a six-acre parcel sold in a dispute over the execution of his will. A deed resulting from that sale has not been located, but the land may have been purchased by the Odell Manufacturing Company at some point. In the mid-twentieth century, a playground occupied the site, including swings, basketball goals, and space for football games. There are said to be stairs leading up the grade that are directly across the road from the doorway at the ruin of Carey Durham’s stone store building. By 1978, the Chatham County Housing Authority owned at least some portion of the six acres and that year sold this parcel, together with the neighboring lot to the east, as a single 1.88-acre parcel to Gretchen and Gregory Wolf. The property changed hands a few times but went undeveloped before a 1996 sale to Cynthia Cole Hermans and Jan Hermans, who subdivided it and built two spec houses.

House, 2001

726 Bynum Road

Noncontributing building

One-and-a-half-story, frame, single-pile, side-gabled dwelling with three-bay façade, hipped porch, composite siding, one-over-one wood windows, and added gable at the center front roof in the style of triple-A cottages. The house stands well back from the roadway behind a thick stand of trees and is not very visible from the street. The current owners have landscaped the rear yard in a naturalistic manner, incorporating ponds to combat the boggy nature of the landscape previously. Noncontributing due to age. Also on the property are several sheds and outbuildings erected after 2000; none are visible from the right of way of Bynum Road.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

This land belonged to Luther B. Bynum (1833-1905) at the turn of the twentieth century and became part of a six-acre parcel sold in a dispute over the execution of his will. A deed resulting from that sale has not been located, but the land may have been purchased by the Odell Manufacturing Company at some point. In the mid-twentieth century, a playground occupied the site, including swings, basketball goals, and space for football games. There are said to be stairs leading up the grade that are directly across the road from the doorway at the ruin of Carey Durham's stone store building. By 1978, the Chatham County Housing Authority owned at least some portion of the six acres and that year sold this parcel, together with the neighboring lot to the west, as a single 1.88-acre parcel to Gretchen and Gregory Wolf. The Wolfs sold the single large parcel to Cynthia Cole Hermans and Jan Hermans, who subdivided it and built two houses.

Vacant lot

Methodist Parsonage, 1975

774 Bynum Road

Noncontributing building

Ranch house with side-gabled roof, brick veneer, six-bay façade, single-leaf entrance, replacement one-over-one sash with faux shutters, and a carport accessed from the rear elevation and camouflaged behind the façade wall of the east-most bay on the house. The dwelling sits back farther on the lot than older houses, a clue that it is the second parsonage and once stood behind the first. Today's Bynum Road bisects the original parcel.

In October 1893, Luther B. Bynum sold a 1-7/16-acre parcel on the south side the old Pittsboro and Chapel Hill Highway to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for \$1 "and other valuable considerations" not named in the deed. The deed stipulated that the parcel be used for a parsonage for the preacher assigned by the church to the Haw River circuit. If not, the property would revert back to Luther Bynum or his heirs and/or assigns. In such a circumstance, the church could have the opportunity to first remove any buildings it had erected there. A frame parsonage dating to 1894 and served until the Ranch house functionally replaced it. Both buildings sat on the parcel for a time. Efforts to move the building rather than demolish it failed, and the owner demolished the original parsonage. The vacant parcel to the west, also previously Bynum's land and once part of the community playground, was deeded from the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company to the church in 1974. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, 1990

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated, frame, side-gabled shed with plywood siding and storm windows stands southwest of the Ranch house. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, 2000

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated, frame, front-gabled shed with plywood siding, double-leaf doors, and no windows stands west of the Ranch house. Noncontributing due to age.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Atwater-Durham House, ca. 1905, ca. 1980, ca. 2020

816 Bynum Road

Contributing building

Single-story-on-high-foundation frame Queen Anne-style double-pile dwelling with cross-gabled roof, five-bay façade, full-width hipped front porch with conical roof at half-octagonal section at west end, weatherboard and shingle siding, replacement one-over-one sash, and asphalt shingle roof. The house retains sawn bargeboard in the peak of the front-facing gable, molded boxed eaves and eave returns, turned porch columns with sawn brackets, turned-spindle frieze with sawn trim below, and turned-balustrade railing. Shingle siding is in gable ends, a four-sided bay at the west end of the main block of the house, and above the half-octagonal section of the porch frieze. Alterations include the window and roofing replacements, replacement of an interior brick stack with a metal-clad chimney, installation of new doors at the façade leading to the half-octagonal section of the porch, and additions at the rear.

Deeds as early as the 1930s refer to this as the “J. B. Atwater Homeplace.” James B. Atwater (1864-1930) grew up in or around Pittsboro, the son of weather farmer Jehiel Atwater (1817-1876). The elder Atwater enslaved 22 people in 1850, and even in 1870, the federal census lists his real estate at \$3,000 and his personal estate at \$10,000. By 1880, James Atwater, age 18, lived with his 22-year-old brother John in the household of their brother-in-law, Carney W. Bynum (1844-1909), who had married their sister Mary Atwater. James Atwater worked on a farm, presumably Bynum’s, while John clerked in a store, also likely to be Bynum’s. Both Atwaters were single at the time. James Atwater inherited 267 acres from his father in 1882; he bought and sold real estate actively from at least 1891. In 1900, while still boarding with Carney Bynum and his family, Atwater purchased three acres on the old alignment of the Chapel Hill and Pittsboro Road from Luther Bynum for \$125. A parcel meeting the description in the deed would include the site of this house. Atwater took out two mortgages totaling \$2,100 in 1900 and 1902, using other land as collateral, and satisfied in both in 1906.

The deeds, then, suggest a narrative at odds with community lore that holds that a contractor called Mr. Lattimore built the house for Carney Bynum, Jr. This story is repeated in the 1991 book *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina*, which author Rachel Osborn attributes to John Snipes, a life-long Bynum resident that Osborn interviewed at 82 years of age in 1983. The 1900 deed and the two mortgages, as well as the later deeds identifying the house as the Atwater Homeplace, imply that Atwater had the house built for himself. The story that this house initially Carney Bynum’s is not impossible, however, as the men were related by marriage. Perhaps Atwater had the house built for Bynum in gratitude for the years boarding in Bynum’s household, or perhaps the families had some other arrangement. In any case, Carey E. Durham Sr. (1904-1977) acquired the house in 1931 in a sale resulting from special proceedings to settle the estate of R. J. Johnson. Shortly after, Nettie Johnson deeded a small rectangular acreage between the south line of the Methodist Parsonage and the north line of the mill village. These two purchases created the parcel as it exists today. Many in Bynum today know it as the Warren Durham House. The house remained in the Durham family into the early twenty-first century.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Carport, ca. 2023

Noncontributing structure

Freestanding carport of treated lumber with metal roofing stands northwest of the house in the rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Ellington-Fowler House, 1945, ca. 2005

848 Bynum Road

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, double-pile, side-gabled, three-bay with side wing, Minimal Traditional-style house with gabled front porch, vinyl siding and windows, and a recently installed metal roof. The extant German siding in the porch gable hints at original cladding; an original octagonal vent survives in the gable. The original door also remains: It has three vertical lights over three horizontal panels. The small side wing has smaller window openings and a brick exterior stack. A shed porch is at the rear and has been screened; a long gabled rear addition at the southwest corner of the house dates to a year between 2002 and 2007, according to aerials in the county GIS system. The GIS system also reports sheds built in 2000 and 2024, but those were not observed during survey.

J. Manley Durham sold this parcel to Sallie Mae Bryant Ellington (1869-1954) in 1931. Sallie Ellington, a long-time resident of Bynum, had been widowed twice by 1931: her first husband, J.Q.A. Bryant, died in 1917 and her second husband, J.R. Ellington, died in 1933. In 1927, she purchased the parcel immediately east, where a triple-A dwelling stands, and added this acreage soon after. County records date the house on this parcel to 1945; it has not been determined if Sallie Ellington ever lived in this house or the triple-A next door. In July 1947, Sallie Ellington sold this parcel to Alice and John W. Fowler. John worked in the cotton mill, and Alice kept the house. Their son worked at the mill as well. The house remained in the Fowler family through 1996.

Catherine and Claiborne Jones House, 1962

890 Bynum Road

Contributing building

Brick-veneered Ranch house with side-gabled roof, four-bay façade with screened porch at east end, picture window flanked by sidelight windows to the west of the single-leaf door. A broad brick exterior chimney rises along the west gable wall. All windows are replaced with one-over-one sash.

A current resident identified the house as belonging to “an original Bynum family.” The earliest deed located is the 1958 transfer of the property from Lessie and John Wesley Snipes to Catherine and Claiborne Jones. The Snipes family does have a long history in the area, but the county land records date the Ranch house to 1962. John W. Snipes owned a saw mill in 1950, and Lessie worked in the cotton mill. Several deeds were transferred to John and Lessie Snipes in Bynum and around Chatham County between 1945 and 1961, but the deed transferring this parcel to the Snipes has not been identified, and other deeds identify the house at 199 Bynum

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Hill to the couple. It seems likely that Claiborne and Catherine Jones built the house in 1962, the county GIS system date for the house, after purchasing the parcel in 1958.

Claiborne Jones (1931-2003) likely grew up in the mill village. The 1940 federal census lists his family renting in Baldwin Township and his father working in the textile industry. The 1950 census is more specific: the family lived in a mill house on the "1st Hard Surface Off US 501." The eighteen-year-old may have been a college student in 1950, as his occupation is listed as "other." His father worked as a doffer in the mill and his mother kept house.

Deeds in the middle of the twentieth century refer to this stretch of Bynum Hill Road as "Ball Park Road," and today's Bynum Road alignment still carried Highway 150-501 through the area. Catherine Jones (1939-2021) outlived her husband and owned the house until 2004.

Carport, ca. 1990
Noncontributing structure

Gable-roofed carport with wide composite lap siding in gable end, plywood ceiling, asphalt shingle roofing, and squared support posts with knee bracing. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 1970
Contributing building

Front-gabled outbuilding with large shed room at south side elevation also has plywood siding; six-light, single-sash windows; a single-leaf door with six lights over horizontal panels; a plywood door; and asphalt single roofing.

Daisy and W. C. Abernathy House, ca. 1925
916 Bynum Road
Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story, frame, double-pile, side-gabled bungalow; three-bay façade; wraparound hipped porch with battered posts on brick piers; weatherboard siding; replacement one-over-one sash; large shed dormer with centered front-facing gable; two interior brick chimneys. The gable in the dormer may be a later alteration. A plat drawn in 1996 shows a well southwest of the house and a shed toward the southeast corner of the parcel; those were not observed during survey.

W. C. Abernathy purchased a quarter acre on the "National Highway," the realigned road between Chapel Hill and Pittsboro and today's Bynum Road, from Atwater & Lambeth in 1925. As the parcel cost \$400, it is unlikely that the bungalow predated Abernathy's purchase. Atwater & Lambeth had established a mercantile firm in Bynum in 1907, announcing themselves with an advertisement in the Chatham Record of September 12: "New Firm: New Goods. Atwater & Lambeth, Bynum N.C., Have opened a New Stock, full in all lines, of Dry Goods, Groceries, Clothing, Shoes, Hats and Millinery. Car-load of Wheat Guano for sale." Two years later, they were selling carriages built by the Oxford Buggy Company. The store remained a Bynum fixture

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

for over twenty years, judging by recurring advertisements in the local paper, and for at least some period existed in the old company store building near the Bynum Grist Mill, which the firm would also take over. The partnership appeared in the paper in the 1930s as a real estate firm; whether or not they still ran the store or the mill has not been determined. The 1930 federal census lists William C. Abernathy, a foreman at the cotton mill, as owner of his house, valued by then at \$2,500. Daisy E. Abernathy, William's wife, managed the household, which included their adult son Robert Ora Abernathy, who eventually purchased a house across the road from the heirs of J.Q.A. Bryant (see entry for Bryant-Abernathy House at 941 Bynum Road). Daisy died at home in 1957, and William sold the house two years later.

Garage, ca. 1930

Contributing building

Front-gabled, frame, weatherboard siding, metal roofing, exposed rafter tails, and windows in the west side elevation. Stands east of the house in a side yard. The entire north side under the gable had originally been an open bay; it is now enclosed with plywood walls and a double-leaf plywood door on exposed metal hinges.

J. G. Williams Store/Harris & Farrell Store/Bynum General Store, 1938, ca. 1940

950 Bynum Road

Contributing building

One-and-a-half story, frame, front-gabled roof behind a stepped parapet; three-bay façade; hipped front porch with fluted metal columns; German siding; two-over-two wood sash windows with dripcap molding and thick wood sills; replacement horizontal two-over-two sash windows in parapet above the porch; an inset centered front entrance with partially glazed double-leaf doors; and gabled dormer with six-panel wood door in the east roof slope. The back portion of the store is built over a creek bed. Metal signage at porch roof with black lettering against a white ground, supported by metal bracket and reads "Bynum General Store" (the current name of the building), "Groceries and Meats," and "Dry Goods and Shoes." There are circular Coca-Cola branded signs with white script in a red ground as well. This signage appears to be a recent replacement of identical signage that had weathered substantially; photographs from the 1982 survey show the same type of signage with "Harris & Farrell" on the east and west ends of the signage. An undated addition expanded the store building to the rear; all the materials match so well that it must have been soon after initial construction.

The interior is an open space with partitions added in the south east corner to create a modern bathroom. A single row of wood columns with chamfered edges runs down the center of the space to support the floor above. This space also retains its wood flooring. The ceiling is later acoustic tile. A single-leaf back door in the rear elevation is wood with six horizontal panels. Some flooring toward the back of the space has been recovered, and a small stage has been built at the northwest corner. The bank of mailboxes used for the community until the 1990s remains in the space, although they have been moved to the back of the building from their earlier location just inside the front door.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

The county's online tax and land records date the store building to 1917. Although its massing and windows are compatible with that date, Bynum local Ted Williams reports that his parents, James Gurney "Sleepy" Williams and Ida Ruth Williams, built the store around the time they purchased the property and expanded it sometime later. A 1938 deed reflects the purchase, which included the street frontage from the corner with Williams Pond Road to a point west of the frame store as well as a two-room house on the hill to the southeast (See Ward-Williams House entry on Williams Pond Road). The Williamses, Bynum locals who had married before 1930, expanded the house into a side-gabled bungalow for their own use. They had previously lived with Ida Ruth's father and brother, likely in a mill house on Bynum Hill, as all four are listed as employed in a cotton mill in the federal census of 1930. After purchasing the parcel from C. J. Morris, Williams built and ran the general store and raised livestock on land southeast of his house that had likely belonged to his father, James Vernon Williams.

A brief historical sketch of the store, published in *The Chatham Record* on August 5, 1976, noted that the Williamses built the store in 1937. The sketch reports that Mr. and Mrs. Frank Harris and Frank Farrell purchased the store in April 1947, but in fact, the Williams family still maintained ownership of the property as late as 2024, during preparation of this nomination. Harris and Farrell did run the store for a period in the middle of the twentieth century, and mentions of the store by the name Harris & Farrell do appear in the local paper as early as 1952. It closed at some point, and on November 5, 1990, the store reopened as Tuck's Country Store, stocking "Groceries, Gas, and Gifts," according to an announcement in the local paper. The new name honored Tuck Snipes, father of the then-operator Frankie Jones, who lived in the I-house opposite the store.

Bob Wachs writing in *The Chatham Record*, also recalls the Harris & Farrell Grocery, noting that "There used to be a 'beauty shop' upstairs with an outside entrance.... Later that store went through some slow times until it reopened as 'Tuck's,' named in honor of Tuck Snipes. Frankie ran it for a while before the Partin brothers bought it. [By 1996, it operated as] the Bynum General Store—complete with groceries, milk, soft drinks, antiques, Clyde Jones and his animals, and assorted stuff." The store shut down after the bridge closed to vehicular traffic in 1999. Since then, the building has been used as a community center, hosting regionally popular concerts called Front Porch Music Series and, more recently, Bynum Front Porch. The history of live music at the store dates back to at least the middle of the twentieth-century, when the Chatham Rabbits, a group composed of Frank Ferrell on fiddle and Frank Durham and Talton "Talt" Rigsby on guitar, played at the store in the 1940s.

Bynum Front Porch Stage, ca. 2001, ca. 2005
Noncontributing structure

A stage comprising two upturned concrete septic tanks stands east of the store, set well back from the roadway. A brick patio in front of the stage acts as both a dance floor and commemorative community marker; many bricks are imprinted with dedications to friends and family. A later shed roof on wood posts provides shade and shelter to the performers. Large concrete planters sit in a raised planting bed across the front of the stage; smaller raised beds are along each side, with a set of steps at the west side up to the stage. Noncontributing due to age.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

The stage reflects the success of the concerts played at the front porch of the Bynum Store around the turn of the twenty-first century. The concerts were organized by Jerry Partin and Molly Matlock, according to several Bynum locals, as business declined at the store after the bridge over the Haw River closed to vehicular traffic in 1999. According to Bynum native Ron Hatley, an electric gristmill used to operate at this location.

Auto Repair Garage, ca. 1950

Contributing building

Single-story, single-room, concrete-block store building with straight parapet capped with brick coping that steps down along the side elevations, a large storefront window opening at the east end of the facade, and a door and sidelight window opening at the west end. All the facade fenestration is capped with transoms. Single metal-sash awning windows pierce the center of the east and west side elevations, and the back of the building retains two original metal awning windows, evenly spaced at the elevation. These metal sash windows all have concrete sills and flat metal lintels supporting the block above the openings. The large window and the transoms at the facade are all boarded; in some places, the boards at the transom are missing and reveal that whatever sash or treatment existed in the transom has been removed. A metal lintel spans all the openings, and a horizontal pipe extends from the center of the lintel to carry a signboard for the store. The double-leaf plywood door that fills the opening at the facade is likely a replacement; above it is a metal light fixture that projects out from the building. The sidelight features a fixed-sash multilight window with wide wood muntins. The exterior has been painted with murals by local artist Clyde Jones (see also CH0918).

According to Ted Williams, the building dates to the middle of the twentieth century, erected by his parents James Gurney "Sleepy" Williams and Ida Ruth Williams, who had also built frame store to the west in 1938. J.W. Williams, a son of Sleepy and Ida, told Rachel Osborn in 1982 that his father and an uncle erected the building in the late 1940s or early 1950s for a "postwar mechanic," perhaps replacing the frame auto-repair garage that stood nearby in the yard of the Gales House at 833 Bynum Road. This building later housed an antique store and then a cabinet shop. It is currently used for storage and the roof is in poor repair.

BYNUM ROAD, north side, west to east

House (ruinous), 1935

647 Bynum Road

Noncontributing site

Single-story, frame building in ruinous condition stands near the center of a long, narrow parcel that extends along the north side of Bynum Road between Eubanks-Durham Road west to Charlie Fields Road. Volunteer trees, poison ivy, and other growth obscure the ruin from close viewing. Toward the east end of the parcel, flooring is all that remains of a tiny commercial store that many residents remember as a bait shop, pointed out by a resident who knew exactly where to look. Noncontributing due to its ruinous state and location in an overgrown area.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

The county GIS system lists a date of 1935 for a building on the parcel, presumably the ruinous house. Douglas DeNatale reported in his master's thesis that "the men of Bynum constructed a fishing shack on the bank of the Haw River opposite the village, outfitted with pots and pans" for the communal meal that would follow their preferred method of fishing. According to his interviews, men in the community generally fished by seining, dragging a thirty-foot wide upstream. Women preferred fishing in the river, and sometimes in the race, with a cornbread-baited line. The Haw River Assembly acquired the parcel in 2006. The assembly reportedly erected the shed; the rest of the parcel is overgrown.

Shed, ca. 2020

Noncontributing building

Tall, narrow, frame building resembling an outhouse; recently built, according to residents.
Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2020

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated gambrel-roofed shed with plywood walls at the east end of the parcel.
Noncontributing due to age.

C. E. Durham Store I, ca. 1920

715 Bynum Road

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, front-gabled, weatherboarded building with shed room along the east side elevation and stepped parapet across the entire three-storefront, seven-bay façade. Two rectangular vents pierce the parapet wall over a hipped front porch that spans the width of the building. Paired wood posts support the porch roof; some retain wood latticework between the pairs. An inset porch is at the gabled part of the rear elevation; one original chamfered porch post remains at the northwest corner. There are gabled dormers midway along each side elevation; the west-facing one has a vent while that on the east elevation holds a six-over-six wood sash window. Other windows are two-over-two sash. Five-V tin finishes all roofs. Each side elevation also has a brick stack and two or three window openings. They are boarded on the west side, but the original two-over-two wood sash remain behind iron security bars at the east elevation. The building stands on a partial basement at the front, while roughly half the building at its north end stands on brick piers that allow a creek to run underneath. Photographs dating to the 1982 survey by Rachel Osborn show wide two-over-two, nearly full-height windows at the façade and single square porch posts, which appear to have been replacements. The back porch had flat sawn balusters in the rail at the west and north sides of the northwest corner of the porch.

In a videotaped 1987 interview between Eddie Ellis and W. H. (Dub) Morris, they discuss that this is the store where Carey E. Durham Sr. (1904-1977), a prominent local merchant throughout much of the twentieth century, "got his start" in the general store business. There had been a barbershop and post office in the building. Many in Bynum remember that the post office operated out of the storefront at the corner.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Star Movie theater, ca. 1950

Bynum Road

Contributing building

Single-story, concrete-block theater with brick lintels and coping at what is likely a straight parapet and flat or shallow-pitched roof. There are boarded window openings at the ground level of the façade that flank double-leaf, metal clad doors in a recessed center entry under the framework of a metal canopy supported with cables attached to the upper portion of the façade below three window openings. To the west of the entry doors is a boarded ticket window. The side elevations are windowless and step down toward the back. The west elevation has a boarded, single-leaf door opening near the back of the structure. A metal sign near the parapet at the front end of the west side elevation shows that the building later served as an appliance store; there are “Pepsi” signs on that side as well. Like the two surviving store buildings in Bynum, the back end of the building is built across a creek bed.

In a videotaped 1987 interview between Eddie Ellis and W. H. (Dub) Morris, they discuss that Carey E. Durham Sr. (1904-1977), a prominent local merchant throughout much of the twentieth century, built the theater. The Star Theater advertised its current shows in the Chatham Record from March 1948 through May 1952.

C.E. Durham Store II ruin, ca. 1940

Bynum Road

Contributing site

Ruinous single-story-on-basement store with load-bearing stone walls standing adjacent to the east side of the concrete-block movie theater. Black-and-white ceramic tile remains at the threshold to the storefront entry, as does a concrete sidewalk edging the façade. All the storefront glass is gone, but two-over-two sash windows—without glazing—remain in a few openings on the east side elevation. Iron security grates are also extant at the east side. Garage openings, lacking doors, are at the east and north (rear) elevation at the basement level. A stone wall within the footprint of the building shows that the basement comprised two rooms. The store has been roofless long enough that volunteer trees have grown up past the height of the basement and first floor level.

Carey E. Durham Sr. (1904-1977), a prominent local merchant throughout much of the twentieth century, built this store and operated it into the 1970s. Several residents remember it as a department store, carrying a wide range of goods from penny candy to appliances. Many referred to it as “Mr. Carey’s store” or the “Rock Store.” In a videotaped 1987 interview between Eddie Ellis and W. H. (Dub) Morris, they discuss that Durham had a barber shop and a restaurant in the lower level of the store. One informant reveals that he helped Durham move into the new store in the 1940s.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Lewis Durham Store, 1945

801 Bynum Road

Noncontributing building

One-story-on-basement, frame, front-gabled building with pent-roof over three-bay façade. The main story of the house has vinyl siding and replacement windows with faux shutters, but the basement is partially constructed of stone and partially of brick and structural clay tile. An exterior brick stack rises at the west elevation and through the eave of the asphalt-covered roof. Noncontributing due to substantial alterations to the façade.

Historically part of the J. B. Atwater homeplace and continuous with the parcel south of the current Bynum Road, the north boundary of this parcel matches the old alignment of the Chapel Hill to Pittsboro. Nettie Johnson sold the parcel to J. M. Durham in 1934. The county GIS system dates the building to 1945; an historic photo shows that the massing is generally the same, but the façade featured large wood-framed storefront windows. Several current Bynum residents identified it as the Lewis Durham Store. Lewis Durham (1910-2007) was a son of Flossie and Manly Durham and a brother of Carey E. Durham Sr. (1904-1977), a prominent local merchant throughout much of the twentieth century. Lewis Durham had worked in the mill during the Depression, but the 1940 federal census lists him as a merchant. The census enumerated him living in a house he and his wife Ona Mae Hancock Durham owned in Bynum; the census recorded its value at \$1,500. Ona Mae worked in the mill as a winder, and the Durhams were enumerated just after Carey Durham and just before Martha Neal. The family later moved to Durham, but Lewis continued to operate the store here.

Odell Rental House / Riggsbee House, 1938

843 Bynum Road

Contributing building

One-and-one-half-story, frame, double-pile, side-gabled bungalow with three-bay façade; shed-roofed, full-width, partially screened front porch with battered posts on brick piers; asbestos shingle siding; gabled dormer in front roof slope over with weatherboard siding and two-light, awning-style window sash; replacement one-over-one sash windows elsewhere. The front door is half-glazed with three horizontal raised panels. The metal roof has been recently installed. Concrete-block and plywood infill between the brick foundation piers has created a basement. A split-rail fence encircles the large west side yard.

Nettie and R. J. Johnson purchased this parcel from Mamie and Coley Oldham in June 1930. In June 1933, Nettie Johnson, by then a widow, sold it to the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company. The company may have built the house as rental housing for employees, as the county land records date it to 1938. A 1950 deed adds weight to the theory, revealing that a water pipe line led from the parcel to the mill village. The deed stipulates that Odell retained the right to cut the line at the property line at the company's discretion. That deed also conveyed the property to Vivian (1923-2002) and Clyde T. Riggsbee (1923-2008). Both appear to have grown up in Bynum. The family lived in a rental house, likely in the mill village; Clyde's father worked as a foreman in the mill. Vivian lived with her parents, Lessie and John Wesley Snipes, who owned a

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

house just outside the mill village on the road up to the ball park. This house remained in the Riggsbee family until 2008.

Shed, ca. 2007

Noncontributing building

Shed-roofed, frame building with plank siding, sheet-metal roof stands west of the house in the rear yard and first appeared on aerial photos after 2007. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2019

Noncontributing building

Small equipment shed with treated wood poles and metal roofing stands east of the house at the end of a driveway. Noncontributing due to age.

Riddle-Gales House, ca. 1923, ca. 1925, ca. 1940

883 Bynum Road

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, double-pile, side-gabled, three bay façade, shed-roofed porch on battered posts on brick piers, asbestos shingle siding, six-over-six sash, new metal roof. The house has a front-facing gable at the center of the front roof eave and a small side wing at the west gable end. The front and east gables have louvered wood vents. Two stucco-covered chimneys emerge from the roof near the peak, suggesting a center-hall plan inside, and a brick stack rises at the rear elevation of the side wing. Brick foundation piers are evident, but a skirt wall has been installed, infilling the spaces between the piers at the perimeter and creating at least a partial basement. In the side and rear yards, there are a number of outbuildings, detailed below, as well as stone retaining walls to define a front yard and a large fenced garden at the east end of the parcel.

The house is difficult to date, due to the alterations in the 1940s. Although the county GIS system lists a date of 1900, it seems more likely to post-date the establishment of the roadway that is now Bynum Road, generally thought to have been constructed along with the Bynum Bridge in 1922-1923. C.C. Brewer (1888-1978), very active in real estate in Chatham County in the 1920s, owned the parcel in that period; the date he acquired it has not been determined. Brewer had grown up in Alamance County, the son of a textile worker, and had also made a living as a farmer. He sold this parcel in October 1922 to Pearl (1882-1951) and Walter (1885-1957) Riddle, who also purchased an adjoining parcel to the east from Atwater & Lambeth. The Brewers or the Riddles may have had the house built, but the Riddles were likely the first residents. The 1930 federal census lists Walter Riddle as a chauffeur who drove a taxicab; he had one adult daughter at home who worked in the mill. The census also shows that the Charlie and Mammie King family lived with the Riddles as boarders; all but an infant King worked in the mill. Eventually, the Riddles lost the house when they defaulted on a mortgage in 1939; the 1940 census, however, lists Riddle as a miller who “owns grist mill.” The current owner reports that an electric grist mill once stood on the parcel near the creek as. The Riddles were, however, living in a rented house at that time. Beulah (1898-1986) and H. Gaston Gales (1894-1967) purchased the house sometime after, and the current owner reports that the Gales added the wing

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

in the 1940s. Gaston and Beulah both worked at the mill, as did a number of their children a brother of Gaston's who lived in the household.

For some time in the early- to mid-twentieth century, an auto-repair garage stood on the east end of the parcel. Cars could drive from the main road (today's Bynum Road) directly into the shop, and mechanics could access the underside of vehicles from the basement level entered at the back of the building. The building is clearly visible on a 1955 aerial photo and fell into serious disrepair by the time of the 1982 survey. It does not appear to be extant by 1983. The small building next to the house, reportedly the ballpark snack bar, had been relocated to this property sometime by 1955, according to aerials. Beulah Gales left the property to her children in her will, and the family retained ownership until 1987.

Spring House, ca. 1920

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, front-gabled building on clay-tile foundation with weatherboard exterior, diagonally sheathed door, corner boards, exposed rafter tails, and 5-v tin roofing. The building stands immediately west of the house.

Chicken House/Shed, ca. 1940

Contributing building

Broad, single-story building of frame construction at the west end and concrete-block construction at roughly the east third. The frame west end is a chicken house with half-height walls. The center frame section and the concrete-block portion are storage sheds. A shed roof covered in 5-v tin spans the entire buildings, which stands at the edge of the creek at the property line and northeast of the house.

(former) Ballpark snack bar, ca. 1920, ca. 1955

Contributing building

Shed-roofed weatherboarded building with two bay façade featuring six-over-six sash and a five-panel door. The back elevation has an opening covered with plywood hinged at the top to open awning-style. The building has exposed rafter tails and 5-V tin roofing and stands immediately east of the house. The building is said to have been the snack bar at the ballpark; it is visible in this location in an aerial photo from 1955.

Bryant-Abernathy House, ca. 1905, ca. 1920

941 Bynum Road

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, single-pile, triple-A cottage with rear ell, three-bay façade, hipped front porch with battered posts on brick piers, vinyl siding, replacement windows, five-V tin roofing. A round vent is in the front-facing gable, and rectangular vents are in the gable ends. A brick stack rises from the roof ridge of the rear ell. Craftsman-style porch posts are likely replacements by a second owner. There is also a brick skirt wall infilling between brick foundation piers and a concrete stoop edged with brick cheek walls capped with concrete. A frame and metal shed,

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

listed below, stand northeast of the house. A smaller shed listed in the county's online tax and land records is dated to 2000 and was not visible from the street.

Sallie Mae Tillman Bryant (1869-1954) and James Q. A. Bryant (1843-1908) were Chatham County farmers living in New Hope Township with their year-old son in 1900. They had married on December 27, 1896, in the county. They owned their New Hope home by the time of the 1900 census, but in 1905, Bryant purchased three and three-eighths acres on the north side of the "Chapel Hill and Pittsboro Public road" in Bynum from Carney W. Bynum. Bryant paid \$50 outright, and owed \$62 to Bynum. The Bryants likely built the house that same year, although the county GIS system lists the construction date as 1903. Given the price Bryant paid for the property, it does not seem likely that a house had been built, but perhaps he had an arrangement with Bynum not listed in the deed. James Bryant died in 1908, willing his real estate and personal property in equal shares to his wife Sallie and his son, James William Daniel Bryant. In 1920, they sold three and 3/8 acres to Ella and C. L. Andrews. The Andrews sold to R. O. Abernathy in 1934. The parcel at that time included this nearly two-and-a-half-acre parcel and the one-acre, wedge-shaped parcel to the west on which Abernathy apparently built a bungalow in 1940 (see the entry for 84 Wheeler Road for more information.)

Garage, 1970

Contributing building

Front-gabled frame equipment garage with corrugated metal siding and metal roofing stands just north of the turn in the gravel drive that edges the east property line.

Shed, 1990

Noncontributing building

Front-gabled metal shed with corrugated siding stands behind the equipment garage, northeast of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mobile Home, 1985

Noncontributing building

The mobile home in the front yard dates to 1985, according to the county's online tax and land records. Noncontributing due to age.

Spring house, ca. 1930

Contributing building

Gable-roofed, concrete-block building, likely a springhouse, with weatherboards in gable end and metal roofing. Building stands in the southwest corner of the property, right at the creek and the old Chapel Hill to Pittsboro roadbed.

Neal-Snipes House, 1908, ca. 2000

967 Bynum Road

Contributing building

Triple-A I-house with three-bay façade; hipped front porch with turned columns, sawn brackets, and turned balustrade; weatherboard exterior; replacement one-over-one sash; brick end

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

chimneys with corbelled caps; five-V metal roofing; and a single-story rear ell with interior corbelled brick chimney at the center of its roof ridge. Additions have been made at the west side of the rear ell and the east side of the rear corner of the two-story block.

The county's online tax and land records date the house to 1908, and deeds record the sale of this land, and the parcel immediately north to total 2 1/8 acres, from Mary and Carney Bynum to Charles W. Neal (1872-1930) in January 1906. Neal had been working as a machinist at the cotton mill in 1900. He lived in a rented house with his wife of five years, Martha Williamson, a Bynum native who had lived in the mill village with her family and worked in the mill before her marriage. According to the deed, he paid \$20 outright and owed \$54.37 to the Bynums in 1906. Charlie Neal's obituary in the Chatham Record notes that he worked "for a number of years the efficient superintendent of the Bynum mill," but the 1910 federal census notes that he owned a cotton mill. Some other records appear contradictory as well: Martha and Charles Neal sold the property in 1909 to Jas. R. Durham, although the 1910 federal census recorded the Neal family in a house they owned in Bynum, listing them between grocer Joseph W. Mann and postmaster James Q. A. Bryant, who owned neighboring parcels on the north side of the old Chapel Hill to Pittsboro Road. All three owned their houses, according to the census, although Mann had mortgaged. In any case, Durham sold the house he'd purchased from the Neals in 1910 to Lucian S. Burnette and Cara and Robert J. Moore for \$625, a curiously low price. Robert Moore ran a general store near the river, on the old Chapel Hill to Pittsboro Road, for over forty years; it had been demolished by about 1960. From 1929, he lived in the brick foursquare just northeast of Bynum (Robert Joseph Moore House, NRHP1998). Charlie Snipes bought this property for \$3,000 in 1921, moving from the family homestead at the ca. 1820 Federal-style Snipes House in the vicinity of Bynum so that his younger children could attend school in the village. This house remained in the Snipes family through much of the rest of the twentieth century. A 1990 plat records the subdivision of the parcel and refers to the land as the estate of Thomas L. "Tuck" Snipes.

Shed, ca. 1960

Contributing building

Front-gabled shed with board-and-batten exterior stands in the rear yard and features a single-leaf glazed entry door under a four-light sash window, likely salvaged from another building, and metal roofing.

BYNUM HILL, west side, south to north

Lessie and John Wesley Snipes House, 1945, ca. 1985

199 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, double-pile, side-gabled dwelling with gabled front porch, German siding, and replacement windows with faux six-over-six grids. Octagonal windows are at the side gable peaks, and a rectangular vent is at the front gable. A shed room runs across the rear elevation. The front porch appears to have been altered with paired columns decorated with sawn ornaments at the interstices. A similar treatment creates a frieze across the top of the open porch

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

area. The porch may have been screened at some point, and wood lattice has been added to create the effect of a balustrade wall. A smaller side-gabled wing with German siding at the north end has a screened front porch with weatherboard skirt wall and a shed room with German siding at the rear. Windows here are replacement one-over-one sash as well.

The house may have first been owned by Lessie and John W. Snipes, who both worked in the mill and lived in a rental house in 1930 and in 1940. County property records date the house to 1945. Their daughter, Vivian Snipes Riggsbee, inherited the house and sold it in 1985.

House, 1948

201 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, single-pile, side-gabled, three-bay façade, shed front porch, German siding, replacement windows, and smaller side-gabled wing at north end. The front porch is screened and features squared porch posts and a simple balustrade composed of framing lumber accented with matchstick balusters. A shed room is at the rear elevation. Roofing is metal, recently installed.

Deeds for this parcel could not be traced back to the period of significance. The county property records date the house to 1948, which fits with its appearance. Two houses to the east of this were also built in the immediate post-war period at 199 and 192 Bynum Hill. At the time, the roadway extending from today's Bynum Road ended just past these houses, at the ballpark, and did not connect to the roadway in the mill village.

Lucy and Isaac West House, ca. 1903, ca. 2010

207 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story, frame, single-pile, Triple-A house with rear ell, three-bay façade, hipped front porch on turned posts with turned balustrade, composite lap siding, replacement six-over-six vinyl, new five-V metal roof. Original wood shingles remain in the front-facing gable. The house also retains molded trim at the eaves in the gables. The east-facing porch at the rear ell has been enclosed and another porch added along that side. There is a side-gabled wing that extends from the west side of the rearmost portion of the rear ell. Although the house has a Bynum Hill address, it fronts Bynum Road.

This may be the house of Lucy and Isaac Armon West. In 1900, the couple lived with Lucy's parents in Cumberland County, where Isaac worked as a cotton mill warper. Isaac purchased two acres on the south side of the Chapel Hill to Pittsboro Road in November 1902 from Luther Bynum. The 1910 federal census enumerated the couple in Chatham's Baldwin Township, both working in the mill, and living in a house they owned with their children and Lucy's widowed mother. In late 1931, Sallie Mae Bryant Ellington (1869-1954) made several purchases of land in the area between the Chapel Hill to Pittsboro Road and the Odell Manufacturing Company mill village. Deeds note parcels adjoining J. B. Atwater's home parcel and "covering the original I. A. West homeplace." For the latter, Ellington paid \$1,400 to Deborah and C. C. Brewer, who were

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

also active in real estate transactions in the 1920s. It is not clear, however, if the Brewers or ever Sallie Ellington lived in this house; both parties purchased a good deal of property in the period. The 1940 federal census enumerates Sallie Ellington as head of her household and living in a house she owned, valued at \$1,200. Her small household included just her 41-year-old son Willie Bryant. She previously lived, while married to James A. A. Bryant (1843-1908), in the house at 941 Bynum Road.

Carport, ca. 2011

Noncontributing structure

Two-car open-sided gabled shelter constructed of treated wood with metal roof stands behind the house and is accessed from Bynum Hill Road. Noncontributing due to age.

Gazebo, ca. 2010

Noncontributing structure

Open-sided structure with shallow pyramidal roof and matchstick railing constructed of treated lumber stands behind the house in the rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Outbuilding, ca. 1920

Contributing building

Gable-roofed frame outbuilding with board-and-batten siding at façade and weatherboards elsewhere, 5-V tin roof, and a cantilevered shed roof to protect a wood pile. The door hangs on metal hinges and features a ceramic knob. A cupola has been added as a whimsical touch.

BYNUM HILL, east side

House, 1950, ca. 1995

192 Bynum Hill

Noncontributing building

Single-story, concrete-block, side-gabled, double-pile, shed-extension front and back porch enclosures, stucco exterior with German siding in gable ends, shed-extension front and back porch enclosures, and 5-V tin roofing. An exterior stuccoed stack rises at the south side elevation. Part of the front porch enclosure is done with bottle ends embedded in concrete. A stuccoed wall encircles part of the north side yard. A 1994 plat shows that the front porch had been screened by this time. The shed already stood behind the fence. Noted along the north side of the ball park immediately south of this parcel is described as “Old Bynum Lane” along with the note that the former roadway is only a footpath now. Noncontributing due to extensive alterations at the façade.

Salle Bryant Ellington sold this parcel to Lessie and John W. Snipes in the early 1940s, who sold it to Emma and Andy Dawson in 1945. They sold it back to the Snipes in 1949. The Snipes likely lived across the street in the house at 199 Bynum Hill; they also owned the parcel to the north, later the site of the Catherine and Claiborne Jones House. County land records date this house to 1950, but an owner and/or resident in that year could not be determined.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Outbuilding, ca. 1950

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, front-gabled outbuilding with plank walls, exposed rafter tails, and 5-V tin roofing stands behind the house.

CHARLIE FIELDS ROAD

Bynum Ruritan Club, 1959

28 Charlie Fields Road

Contributing building

Single-story, loadbearing concrete-block, single-pile, side-gabled, five-bay, shed porch at center three bays, replacement one-over-one sash. Entry is at a double-leaf, partially glazed door with horizontal panels fronted by wood-framed screen doors. A concrete porch is under the shed roof, and concrete steps and ramps allow access from the front and side. The metal roof appears to be a recent installation. A broad end chimney at the west gable end has a concrete cap. German siding covers the gable ends above concrete-block walls. A culvert pipe with stone surround to mimic a stone bridge carries a creek under the front yard.

Blanche and C. E. Durham sold this parcel to the Bynum Ruritan Club in August 1962 for \$10. The county land records date the building to 1959. The first mention of the Bynum Ruritan Club in the local papers occurred in 1960, but no mention of the building's erection or dedication appeared in the paper. The club appeared to be active until at least 2018. In 2020, the club deeded the building to the Bynum Methodist Church.

DURHAM-EUBANKS ROAD

Bynum-Durham House, ca. 1800, ca. 1840, ca. 1880, ca. 1911, ca. 1970, 1997, 2018

169 Durham Eubanks Road

Contributing building

Two-story, frame, double-pile, cross-gabled dwelling with attic, three-bay façade, full-width hipped front porch, screened side porch, weatherboard siding, and brick foundation. The house features molded eaves, gable end returns, pilastered cornerboards with molded caps, and two-over-two wood sash windows with molded architraves and thick squared sills. Windows at the attic story are later six-over-six sash; in previous survey documentation, attic window openings were covered with louvered blinds that are no longer on the house. The porch features chamfered porch posts with molded caps featuring pyramidal blocks on all four sides. These elements, missing in previous survey, were found by the current owner on the property and reinstalled. The balustrade features sawn ornament that suggests the profile of chunky turned balusters. Narrow two-light sidelights and a transom frame the front door, and the entire entry features a molded architrave matching those at the windows. The façade of the house appears to date to the 1880s, and represents a substantial addition to an earlier, smaller dwelling. A gabled room added to the back of the expanded house at its northwest corner dates to about 1911; the current owner has been told that it was "dragged up the hill by mules" around that time and notes that it is framed with dimensional oak. The gabled garage appended to the northwest corner of the house dates to

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

the 1970s. The owners redid the perimeter foundation wall and front steps at that time as well, and screened the side porch. The current owner reworked the back of the house in 1997 to update and add bathrooms; the rear-facing gable wall dates to that alteration.

The interior features an Italianate-style open-stringer, straight-run stair with a stair rail composed of matchstick balusters, molded handrail, and octagonal newel. Mantels feature chamfered pilasters under a wide, flat friezes and flat shelf. Both have chamfered corners, and the frieze has a slightly peaked lower edge, creating an arched look to the firebox opening. Other details in the house reveal earlier iterations, including six-panel doors and single-panel doors, as well as some fragments of surviving plank wainscot capped with torus molding. There is also a mid-nineteenth-century boxed winder stair leading from the late-nineteenth-century second story to the attic. The current owner reports that Dr. Taylor, a son-in-law of Carney Bynum Jr. who lived in the house immediately east, installed a spiral stair in the front west room and used both the first and second story rooms as his medical office for some time. That alteration does not remain in the house.

Commonly known as the Carney Bynum Jr. House, this dwelling (in its earlier form) had been in the Bynum family long before the younger Carney Bynum's ownership and has mostly been owned by the Durham family since. Carney Bynum Jr. (1844-1909), often mentioned as a grandson of eighteenth-century landowner Luke Bynum (1730-ca.1810), was actually one of his great grandsons. Mark Bynum Sr. (1774-1840) was a son of Luke, the father of Carney William Bynum Sr. (1809-1877,) and a grandfather of the brothers Carney and Luther.

The house is known to have been built in sections, with the first said to date to the early 1800s, according to previous owner Flossie Moore Durham, who bought the house in 1919. Given this information, the first section, thought by the current owner to be the northwest room of the main block, may have been built for Mark Bynum Sr. The 1800 federal census enumerated him for the first time as a head of household, a possible indication that the first section of the house had been built by that time. An 1842 deed describes this parcel as part of a 750-acre tract "whereon Mark Bynum, deceased, lived and died." The tract is described as running alongside the river "beginning from Browns Mill to Joseph & Mark Bynum's Mill including all the island and river that belonged to the said Mark Bynum." The Bynums cited in the 1842 deed as owners of the mill, Joseph and Mark, were a grandson and son, respectively, of Mark Bynum Sr. The 1842 deed conveyed the large tract to Turner Bynum, another of Mark Bynum's sons, for \$650. The deed would go into effect upon the death of Mark Bynum's widow and excepted fifty acres on the south side of the Haw River that the younger Mark Bynum Jr. (1815-1893) would sell to his half-brother Carney Bynum, Sr, in 1853. According to the papers of Alvis J. Bynum, a son of Turner Bynum, the elder Mark Bynum's homestead did become Turner Bynum's home. Alvis Bynum also reported that Luke Bynum's house stood "on a hill near Cool Springs on Pokeberry Creek" and that it later became known as William Snipes Place, after Luke Bynum's daughter, Martha "Patsy" Bynum and her husband William Snipes bought it. That house is likely the dwelling previously documented as the Snipes House, CH0279, which is no longer extant. It stood on a hill southeast of Pokeberry Creek, near Williams Pond.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

The current owner, who has lived in and examined it since 1988, has observed a variety of materials that suggest three or four construction phases. He reports that the northwest room has round-log floor joists with the bark intact. A room added to the east side of the first room may date to around 1840, and the house appears at some point to have been two rooms wide with a half-story or second story, likely accessed with the boxed winder stair that now leads to the attic. Carney Bynum Jr. probably added the front two rooms and the upper story and attic around 1880.

Franklin Durham reported that Carney Bynum Jr.'s family left the village in 1910, shortly after his death, and deeds support that story. A banker, Ed Ward, a Bynum native then living in Virginia, bought the house "to resell it," having known the place in his childhood. Flossie and Manly Durham purchased it from Sallie and A. T. Ward in 1919 for \$2,750, along with a larger tract of land. Flossie and Manly Durham had both grown up in Bynum, each moving in from the countryside having lost their fathers in childhood. They married and lived in a house nearby, until they bought this house and the neighboring Taylor House for \$5,250 in 1919. The Durhams were said to have run a boarding house in the dwelling for many years in the twentieth century, until the 1960s. The couple later deeded the house on the current tract to their son Franklin Durham, who had largely grown up in the house, and daughter-in-law Louise Durham. It is referred to in a number of deeds as the J. M. Durham Homeplace. The Durham family owned it until 1988. The current owner made a rear addition with a fourth gable wall to house modern bathrooms on both floors and stabilized the foundation by adding twenty-nine new masonry piers.

Taylor-Durham House, ca. 1904, ca. 1934, ca. 1987

237 Durham Eubanks Road

Contributing building

Two-story, frame, gable-front-and-wing house with vinyl German siding; one-over-one sash, including originals at the first floor and replacements at the second; and a hipped front porch supported by reproduction turned columns (based on surviving pilasters) with sawn brackets and a replacement sawn balustrade. The house stands near the crest of the hill north of today's Bynum Road, set far back from the road. The porch originally extended across the entire façade, but the west half has been enclosed into a sunporch using the original window sash from the second story. Large single-story addition across the rear elevation, and shed-roofed sunroom at the east elevation. Previous surveys documented a Craftsman-style replacement porch. The current owners restored the east end of the original porch and created the sunroom after they purchased it in 1987.

The current owners report that Carney Bynum Jr. had the house built right after 1900 for his daughter Annie Bynum Taylor (1882-1960) and her husband Dr. James Taylor (1909-1976). The couple married in 1904 at the church in Bynum. In 1910, shortly after her father's death, Annie Bynum Taylor and her husband sold a large parcel that likely included the house to Edward H. Ward of Virginia. The Taylors moved to Burlington and later to Greensboro. In 1934, Flossie and J. Manley Durham purchased the house. It was later the home of Carey E. Durham Sr. (1904-1977), a prominent local merchant throughout much of the twentieth century.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Barn, ca. 1935

Contributing building

Front-gabled and on concrete blocks with plank siding, open aisle, and loft; board and batten siding in the shed bay to the east. The barn stands in the rear yard, northeast of the house. A real estate listing for the house in the 1980s called it a “small horse barn” but it might also have housed mules.

Carney W. Bynum Tenement House, ca. 1890, ca. 2020

245 Durham Eubanks Road

Contributing building

Frame, front-gabled, massed, Queen Anne-style cottage with large side wing extending to the west from the north end of the west side elevation; porch with turned posts and replacement matchstick balustrade runs across the façade and wraps around the west elevation and wing; replacement one-over-one windows. The east end of the porch is enclosed. Sawn ornament in gable end.

This parcel has been owned by Carney W. Bynum, then Annie and J. N. Taylor, and later C. W. Neal. It is likely the house referred to in an 1893 deed for the parsonage property, describing that property as being “almost directly south of the tenement house of C. W. Bynum, now occupied by Rev. J. H. Hall.” The rear wing is said to be the original kitchen for the Annie and J. N. Taylor house to the northwest.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Gabled frame shed with weatherboard siding and shed bay at north eave wall stands behind the house and faces west. Noncontributing due to age.

ROY HATLEY ROAD, west side

C. W. Neal House, ca. 1920

55 Roy Hatley Road

Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story Craftsman-style bungalow with side-gabled and metal-clad roof, front-gabled dormer with paired windows, three-bay façade, corbelled brick chimney, brick foundation, and concrete stoop with concrete-capped brick cheek walls, weatherboard exterior, replacement nine-over-one sash, battered posts on brick piers.

Annie Bynum Taylor and J. N. Taylor conveyed this property to C. W. “Charlie” Neal, and in 1933 from Neal to G. E. Moore. Charlie and Martha Williamson Neal may have moved here from the triple-A I-house at 967 Bynum Road. Charlie Neal’s obituary in the Chatham Record notes that he served “for a number of years the efficient superintendent of the Bynum mill,” but the 1910 federal census notes that he owned a cotton mill. Martha Williamson Neal, a Bynum

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

native, had lived in the mill village with her family and worked in the mill before her marriage. Their son, Carl Neal, later lived in the house with his family.

Shed, ca. 2020

Noncontributing building

Front-gabled shed with plywood sheathing and metal roof stands behind the house.

Noncontributing due to age.

Well, ca. 1930

Contributing structure

A concrete-block, wood-capped well casing is in the front yard. A cylindrical, poured-concrete casing with concrete cap is immediately behind it.

ROY HATLEY ROAD, east side

Roy Hatley House, 1953, ca. 1970

24 Roy Hatley Road

Contributing building

Single-story, side-gabled Ranch house with attached garage at west end, smaller side wing at east end, wide-reveal composite siding, six-light paired windows, picture windows, and two-over-two horizontal sash windows, concrete-block chimney, and shed-roofed front porch.

Roy Hatley built this house in 1953, adding on in the 1960s with the help of his son Ron Hatley.

Shed, ca. 1940, moved ca. 1970

Contributing building

Gable-roofed frame shed with weatherboard siding and metal roof stands east of the house. The shed has been moved here from Hatley land on Highway 64.

Carport, ca. 1980

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated metal carport with corrugated metal roof stands northwest of the shed in the side yard of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Sturdivant-Hatley House, ca. 1890, ca. 2020

58 Roy Hatley Road

Contributing building

Triple-A I-house with three-bay façade, hipped front porch with turned columns with spindlework brackets and turned balustrade, German vinyl siding, six-over-six sash, and recently installed metal roof. Plain weatherboards on the I-house remain uncovered by vinyl at the hip-roofed back porch. The house has brick infill between original brick foundation piers to create a foundation wall and has exterior chimneys laid in common bond at the gable ends flanked by windows; there is a diamond-shaped vent in the front-facing gable. Previous documentation noted bargeboard trim in the gable. A two-room rear ell has a porch along the west eave wall

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

with a pantry enclosure at the end. Previous survey showed that the pantry had weatherboard siding, while the ell itself had board-and-batten siding. Windows are nine-over-six and six-over-six in the ell and four-over-four sash in the pantry. There is an interior brick stack. Several outbuildings stand behind the house and are listed below. The small, two-story barn documented in a previous survey has collapsed completely.

The I-house appears to have been built around the turn of the twentieth century. The ell is difficult to date due to the siding, although the windows suggest that it is older than the I-house or used salvaged material in its construction. At some point in the early twentieth century, Alice Mitchell Sturdivant (1860-1917) and J. E. Sturdivant (1858-1928) owned the I-house-with-ell and farmed the few acres around it. Some of their children worked in the mill in any given year. The family kept a boarder at least some of the time; in 1910, Owen Parker, a carpenter, boarded at the house. J. E. Sturdivant bought land in Chatham County as early as 1885; the deed for his purchase of this parcel has not been identified. He is, however, listed in the 1900 census as renting in Baldwin Township. In 1929, Sturdivant sold the property to Nora and Walter Leon Hatley; it remains in the Hatley family. The current owner notes that the interior is a mirror-image twin of the Neal-Snipes House (CH0938).

Wellhouse, ca. 1890

Contributing structure

Pyramidal-roof wellhouse with lattice walls and metal roof stands in the nook of the ell behind the house.

Garage, ca. 1920, moved here ca. 1960

Contributing building

Single-bay frame garage with asphalt shingle siding and metal roof stands behind the house. The garage housed a Model T; the owners relocated here around 1960 from Hatley land on today's Highway 64.

Crib, ca. 1890

Contributing building

Saddle-notched log crib with gable roof and metal roofing stands northwest of the house in deteriorating condition.

Shed, ca. 1890

Contributing building

Shed-roofed, plank-sided shed with single open bay stands north of crib in the yard behind the house.

Chicken house, ca. 1920

Contributing building

Shed-roofed, plank-sided chicken house with metal roof, in poor repair, stands north of the plank-sided shed in the yard behind the house.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Well, ca. 1940

Contributing building

Concrete-block well casing with wood-framed cap stands behind the house.

Mobile home, ca. 1990

Noncontributing building

Mobile home with rear ell stands northeast of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Greenhouse, ca. 1990

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated Greenhouse stands northeast of the house and immediately west of the mobile home. Noncontributing due to age.

WHEELER ROAD, west side

Mann-Wheeler House, ca. 1905

71 Wheeler Road

Contributing building

Triple-A I-house with three-bay façade; hipped porch with turned posts, spindlework brackets, and turned balustrade; weatherboard siding; two-over-two sash windows; rear chimneys; rear ell with shed room added in nook; and 5-v metal roofing. The center gable at the façade has sawnwork bargeboard trim and a diamond-shaped vent. A few windows have been replaced with one-over-one sash, and some four-over-four sash are at the rear shed. Kimberly Steiner reported during her 2019-2021 update of some parts of the Chatham County architectural survey that the owner reported that the house had an interior floor plan similar to the Neal-Snipes House at 967 Bynum Road. A notable feature of the Mann-Wheeler House, however, is the well located in the screened section the porch at the rear ell.

Anne O. Strowd Mann and Joseph W. Mann (b. 1889) likely built the house shortly after their marriage in Chatham County in 1903. Joe Mann, a Baldwin Township native, grew up with farming parents. Joe purchased the three-and-five-eighths-acre parcel from C. W. and Mary C. Bynum in 1906 for \$140, and he and Anne likely built the house right away. The federal census in 1910 lists Joe working as a grocer while he and Anne lived here with their three daughters and Anne's brother James Stroud, an eighteen-year-old college student. In January, 1910, they had mortgaged the property with the Bank of Pittsboro in the amount of \$1,000. Within a couple of years, the Manns defaulted on the loan. The property sold at the courthouse in Pittsboro in January 1912 for \$1,105 to highest bidders Rufus J. Johnson, Lucian S. Burnett, James B. Atwater, and Rufus B. Lambeth. The Manns had also owned, and mortgaged, four acres immediately north of their home parcel, and they lost that acreage as well. By 1920, according to the federal census, Joe and Anne had moved their large family to Greensboro. Mann worked as a salesman of road machinery in a house he owned on South Spring Street.

R. T. Hobby briefly owned the house and adjacent four-acre parcel, but by 1922, he deeded it to Hampton Knight (1877-1954). Hampton and Hobby may have been related; Hampton had

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

married Cara Hobby in 1910. He and Cara moved their farming family from Center Township to Bynum and continued farming. Hampton willed the property to Cara Knight in 1954, who sold it to Clarence E. and Helen R. Wheeler in 1956. The Wheelers worked in the mill; in 1950, they had been living in the village in mill housing.

Garage, ca. 1940

Contributing building

Gable-roofed frame garage with plywood walls and weatherboards in gable end has open side sheds and metal roofing; it stands behind the house and is in poor repair.

Grape arbor, ca. 1940

Contributing structure

Large grape arbor built of wood poles and concrete posts stands toward the north end of the parcel.

Mule barn, ca. 1905

Contributing building

Saddle-notched log barn with gable roof stands north of the house and west of the garage. The building has plank and metal siding and metal roofing, weatherboards in the gable ends, a single-leaf vertical plank door, and two unglazed window openings, one with a vertical-plank hatch.

WHEELER ROAD, east side

Mozelle and Robert Ora Abernathy House, ca. 1934, ca. 1990, 2003

84 Wheeler Road

Contributing building

Front-gabled bungalow, three-bay façade, hipped front porch on tapered columns, German siding, replacement windows, and more recently installed metal roof. The house stands on a one-acre, wedge-shaped parcel on the north side of Bynum Road.

The one-acre, wedge-shaped parcel that the house stands on had been part of a then-larger parcel deeded to Robert Ora Abernathy (1907-1993) in 1934. The larger parcel included the slightly less-than two-and-a-half acres immediately east, on which a triple-A cottage stood at the time of Abernathy's purchase. (See inventory entry for 941 Bynum Road for more information about that house). Abernathy married Mozelle Evie Carson (1923-2016) sometime between 1950 and 1958. The current owner repeated local lore that Abernathy built the dwelling as a guest house when he lived in the triple-A cottage on the hill immediately east; it seems more likely to have been built for rental income for the Abernathys. The one-acre-parcel was subdivided from the Abernathy land in 1998, when Mozelle deeded the house and a surrounding acre to William Dale Goodrich, II, for ten dollars.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Gable-roofed, plywood-sided shed with salvaged windows, single-leaf door, and corrugated metal roof. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Shed-roofed shed with plywood walls, single-leaf door, and window. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Vinyl -sided shed with open bay. Noncontributing due to age.

WILLIAMS POND ROAD

Ward-Williams House, ca. 1917, 1938, ca. 2000

46 Williams Pond Road

Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story, frame, side-gabled bungalow, three-bay façade, shed-roof front porch with battered posts on brick piers, vinyl siding, replacement windows, shed dormer on front roof slope, rear shed rooms, screened hip-roofed back porch, and original pressed-metal roofing. A large gabled dormer sits on the west roof slope toward the back of the rear section. The house stands back from Bynum Road on a 3.6-acre parcel at the corner with Williams Pond Road. There are several outbuildings in the clearing around the house, as detailed below, as well as a dilapidated chicken house that stands in woods behind the smokehouse.

The east side of the rear section is said to incorporate a two-room house that predates the bungalow. The brick chimney that pierces the east roof slope toward the front of the rear section perhaps marks the middle wall between the two rooms. If the two-room house dates to 1917, as the county property records record, it is likely that Sallie and A. T. “Don” Ward, who owned the land at the time, built it. Don Ward bought land in Chatham as early as 1905, and a 1907 deed description appears to refer to this parcel, noting land on the south side of the Pittsboro-Chapel Hill Road that abuts the lands of J. M. Odell. The 1910 federal census lists Don Ward as a carpenter, employed as an hourly wage earner in the housing industry. It also records that he lived on a farm and owned his own home. By 1920, the census lists him as a farmer rather than a carpenter. Ultimately, he became well-known as the superintendent of county roads, and later of state roads in Chatham County. His obituary praised his road work thus: “...he was always just one step ahead of surrounding counties. Years ago Chatham county had the reputation of having the worst roads in the state, and today, chiefly through the untiring efforts of Mr. Ward, Chatham ranks high in roads.”

The Wards sold the parcel to C. J. Morris in 1924, who sold it to Ida Ruth Williams (1907-2000) and James Gurney “Sleepy” Williams (1903-1994) in 1938. The couple, both Bynum locals, had married before 1930, when the federal census recorded them living with Ida Ruth’s father and brother, likely in a mill house on Bynum Hill, as all four are listed as employed in a cotton mill.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

After purchasing the parcel from Morris, Williams added to the two-room house substantially, transforming it into the bungalow that survives today. He also built both the frame and the concrete-block stores at the front of the parcel, in 1938 and around 1950 respectively. Williams ran a grocery business in the frame store and raised livestock on land southeast of his house that had likely belonged to his father, James Vernon Williams.

Smokehouse, ca. 1940

Contributing building

Frame, front-gabled with side shed rooms open at the front and rear; stands immediately behind the house. The weatherboarded center section stands on stone piers and has a concrete stoop leading to a single-leaf plank door in the center gabled section. Above is a square opening to the attic space. Ted Williams, a son of Sleepy and Ruth Williams, reports that his father cured ham in the building.

Brick well & Wellhouse, ca. 1917

Contributing structure

A well stands immediately west of the house and features a brick surround, square in plan with a poured concrete cap. The opening is protected with plywood resting on the concrete cap, and the whole structure sheltered under a frame wellhouse with square posts with chamfered edges and a gabled roof with metal roofing and vertical boards in the gable end. The well remained in use until the 1950s.

Pole shed, 1950

Contributing structure

An open, frame, shed-roofed shelter stands northwest of the house and north of the concrete-block garage. The upright supports are skinned logs; milled lumber braces the uprights and create the support for the metal roofing.

Garage, ca. 1950

Contributing building

The front-gabled, concrete-block, single-bay garage has metal roofing and is open at the façade below the German-sided gable end and stands just southwest of the house, on the opposite side of a driveway that leads from Bynum Road and passes behind the house to exit the parcel at Williams Pond Road.

Cattle Barn, ca. 1940

Contributing building

A larger front-gabled, frame barn with enclosed shed rooms at each side elevation stands behind the concrete-block garage. This barn has a weatherboard exterior and metal roofing. A hay loft is accessible at the front gable. Doors are of wood planks. The shed rooms were likely open at the façade originally, as the siding there does not match the siding at the center section of the barn. The building is deteriorated and is not used other than for storage. Ted Williams reports that the family kept a milking cow in the barn.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Stone well & Wellhouse, ca. 1930

Contributing structure

A second well on the property stands north-northwest of the house, on the east side of the driveway. The portion of the well that is above ground has a stone surround on a poured concrete base, square in plan and capped with a poured concrete slab. A piece of sheet metal covers the well opening. The structure is sheltered under a pyramidal-roof well house with bracketed skinned-log posts supporting a roof structure clad with sheet metal pressed to resemble shingles, as seen at the house. The rafter tails are exposed at the eaves.

BYNUM MILL VILLAGE

The mill village occupies Bynum Church Road and Bynum Hill from the riverside mill site east to the baseball field. Bynum Hill runs roughly a thousand feet northeast from Bynum Church Road, up a hill to high ground. Bynum Church Road extends southwest from Bynum Road, then bends southeast to roughly parallel the river for about eleven hundred feet. The roadway turns to the northeast, extending south from Bynum Road before turning northeast for about four hundred feet, and then northwest for about 375 feet to wrap back to the upper portion of Bynum Hill.

Today, the mill village comprises thirty-three mill houses built between 1875 and 1928; the house owned by Carney Bynum Sr. and Luther Bangs Bynum; one church; a water tower and filtration plant; a baseball diamond; and five houses built after 1928. Primary source records of its development or construction dates have not been found. The county property information cards list most houses in the village built before 1945 as having been built in 1900 or 1910. Dates in the system are presumably compiled from building permits and taxation records, but in the absence of such records, the dates in county systems tend to be estimates. The online property information cards in the Chatham County system do not note the source of the dates in its system. There are a number of previous histories written of the village, and those appear to have collected information from survey, from oral histories conducted in the 1970s, and from suppositions based on the development of the cotton mill and typical patterns.

Houses in the mill village are nearly all one- to one-and-a-half stories with front porches and common setbacks, creating a clear rhythm along each block face. Dwellings have small front yards and larger back yards. Three parcels are set back behind street-fronting parcels, accessed through gravel driveways that meet the street. Houses that directly overlook the street generally do not have driveways. Trees dot front, side, and rear yards, and foundation shrubs are planted at many houses. A number of gardens are evident in rear and side yards. A few houses have fences in the front or rear yard; most do not. The roadways are paved with asphalt and edged with concrete curb and gutter; these finishes post-date the period of significance.

There are roughly three dwelling types repeat in the village: one-and-a-half story hall-parlor-plan houses, 1-1/2 story double-pile houses, and saddlebag houses, most with a single-room rear ell. All have side-gabled roofs, weatherboard exteriors, front porches, brick chimneys, and were built on brick pier foundations. The earliest houses had wood shake roofs that were replaced with iron in 1903; later houses originally were roofed with iron. The earliest houses also had chamfered or

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

turned porch posts, often with sawn brackets. Nearly every house has a shed roof at the front porch that shelters the center bays of the dwelling rather than the full-width of the façade; most extend that from the main roof's eave.

All the houses have been altered to varying degrees, including additions; synthetic siding; window and door replacement; porch enclosure, screening, or porch post replacement; infill at perimeter foundation piers to create a foundation wall; chimney removal; stucco cladding at original brick masonry; alterations to porch posts and rails; and re-roofing with asphalt. A few houses have ramps installed for easier porch access. Some houses have additions that appear to have been made in the period of significance, including additions with what appears to be another mill house or perhaps a previously unattached kitchen.

One-and-a-half story, hall-parlor plan type

There are four examples of a one-and-a-half-story hall-parlor plan house, all clustered near the intersection of Bynum Church Road with Bynum Hill. The dwellings appear to have originally had three-bay facades, a single exterior chimney with stepped shoulders and corbelled cap at one gable end, and windows at each story in the opposite gable end. Houses retaining old windows today have a combination six-over-six sash at the first-floor façade, a single sash with six lites at the shorter half-story façade windows, and four-over-four sash at side elevations, but the original configuration is unknown. This dwelling type reportedly had detached kitchens connected to the main house with a breezeway to create a rear ell.¹ These kitchens were outfitted with a cooking fireplace. No examples of this arrangement were identified in the survey. Jannette McCall, a lifelong Bynum resident who grew up in and still lives in the I-house in the mill village, noted that this house type was intended for two families.² All houses of this type have been altered enough to make dating them by appearance difficult. They are all dated to 1875, however, based on their location behind the Bynum house and the detail about the detached kitchens, a nineteenth-century feature.

Three one-and-a-half-story, double-pile houses are in the village. They have three-bay facades with slightly off-center doors and, curiously, none has a chimney. The most intact example, at 277 Bynum Church Road, has six-over-six sash windows with dripcap molding and thick sills, simple cornerboards, and plain trim and cornice at both eaves and rake. Four turned columns support the porch roof and are complemented by a turned balustrade. The shed-porch roofs on this type do not extend from the roof eave. Rather, they are attached to the façade wall about a foot below the eave. These houses are dated to 1890 based on the overall appearance of the most intact example and on a mention of work in the mill village in that year in a report to stockholders. The annual report at the fourth annual stockholders meeting of the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company that year noted that the company had “built some additions to our

¹ Helen Bresler, “The Bynum Mill Village: Unplanned Perfection,” 1978 typescript, CH0685, File Room, NC Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

² Jannette McCall, interview with the author, March 29, 2024.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

tenement houses.” No additional information is given, except that the additions and a new Denn warper machine had cost \$1,608.37.³

The majority of the houses in the village are saddlebags: two-room, single-story houses with a central chimney to heat both rooms. The saddlebag mill houses were built on brick pier foundations and with a shed-roofed front porch and single-room rear ell to house a kitchen. Original windows are six-over-six wood sash and doors had horizontal panels. Rear ells featured a porch and back door at one eave wall.

There are two floor-plan variations of the mill village saddlebag, and some variations even among same-floor-plan types. The oldest simply have two rooms across the front, with two doors at a three-bay façade enabling ingress directly into each room, and the rear ell. A second version of this same floor plan also has three bays at the façade but feature a single, off-center door flanked by windows. The second front room, then, could only be accessed through the other front room or from the kitchen. The other floor plan adds a vestibule between the two front rooms. The resulting façade features a centered door between two windows. The vestibule occupied space on one side of the fireplace; closets for each room shared the space on the other side.

Additionally, there is variety in the level of decorative detail at the exterior that likely reflects differences in construction dates. Several two-door, three-room type saddlebag houses, mainly grouped at the top of Bynum hill, have pilastered cornerboards that meet at quarter-round molding and terminate with a simple cap at the cornice. They also have molded eaves over plain cornices that return at the gable ends and matching molded rakes with plain raked cornices. This treatment is also seen at the I-house at 94 Bynum Church Road in the mill village, thought to have been built early in village’s history, and is similar to various stages of the Bynum House at 21 Bynum Church Road. These saddlebags houses are dated to 1875 in the inventory on this basis. Porch posts at these early saddlebags appear to have been chamfered posts with sawn brackets. The three-room saddlebags with single, off-center doors at their facades tend to have a simplified version of the above, with cornerboards lacking the quarter-round molding and cap. Instead, some have simple vertical trim pieces added to create a shadow line. There is simplified or no molding in the eaves, but the houses still have plain cornices and gable-end returns. These houses are dated in the inventory as ca. 1922, following the development history documented by previous surveyor Rachel Osborne. Finally, the vestibule-type saddlebags generally do not have molded eaves, cornice trim, or gable-end returns. Cornerboards are plain and flat. These houses are dated in the inventory to ca. 1928, the last building phase that Osborne and DeNatale chronicled.

Only a few interiors and rear elevations could be viewed during survey, but common interior finishes among the houses appear to include doors with horizontal panels, rim locks, and ceramic knobs; grooved pine sheathing at walls and ceilings; heart-pine flooring; and oak doors. There may have been wood stoves in the kitchens, as was the case at 232 Bynum Church Road. The stove that originally heated the rear ell there had a brick stack above the stove pipe.

³ “Fourth Annual Meeting of Stockholders,” March 11, 1890, Vol. 1., J.M. Odell Manufacturing Company 1887-1916, MS4371, Southern Historical Collection, UNC-CH.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

In addition to these three types, there are a few outliers, such as the ca. 1872 I-house, the 1945 house at 294 Bynum Church Road, and the five new houses built since 2000. There is an early triple-A cottage and some saddlebags with hipped-roof porches.

All the houses have been altered to varying degrees, including additions; synthetic siding; window and door replacement; porch enclosure or screening; infill at perimeter foundation piers to create a foundation wall; chimney removal; cladding masonry with stucco; alterations to porch posts and rails; and re-roofing with asphalt. Some houses have additions that appear to have been made in the period of significance, including the addition of what appears to be another mill house or perhaps a previously unattached kitchen. A later addition made to a few saddlebags is a two-room rear block roughly the same width as the original two rooms but with an end-gabled roof that is higher than the ridge of the original house. A few houses have ramps installed for easier porch access.

Mill village history

The Bynum Manufacturing Company hired millwright Berry Davidson to design its first plant; construction began in 1874 and continued into 1875.⁴ No record of construction of the mill village has been found, but it the first houses would undoubtedly date to this period; whether Berry Davidson also designed them is not known. The 1880 census suggests that fifteen dwellings stood in the “Village of Bynum Cotton Mills,” as the census called it.⁵ One housed the Luther B. Bynum family; fourteen others appear to be houses built directly behind the Bynum House as well as at the top of Bynum Hill.

Only a couple of mentions of the mill housing appears in surviving company records, which are limited to minutes of stockholders’ meetings and a single ledger book covering a few years at the turn of the twentieth century. In 1890, the J.M. Odell Manufacturing Company, the successor to the Bynum Manufacturing Company, reported to stockholders that they had “built some additions to our tenement houses.”⁶ Notes in a company ledger from 1899 indicate that lumber and shingles were being purchased for dwellings, implying that the original roofing material may have been wood shingles.⁷ A report to the stockholders in 1903 mentions that “We have had several houses covered, and have bought and paid for iron roofing with which to cover the Factory.”⁸ Houses built after 1903 were likely originally roofed with metal. The company also purchased nineteen acres “adjoining our current land for about \$660.” Apparently, some of the mill village had been built over the property line, and this purchase brought the houses fully onto

⁴ Catherine Bishir and Helen Walton, “Berry Davidson (1831-1915), *North Carolina Architects and Builders*, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/>.

⁵ *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], May 4, 2024.

⁶ Annual Report to Stockholders, March 11, 1890, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁷ Account Book, 1899-1901, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁸ Semi-annual Report to Stockholders, September 15, 1903, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

company property; it also created an opportunity for expansion, as encouraged in the semi-annual report to stockholders in 1903. "We now have plenty of land to build as many new houses as we now have if we see fit to enlarge our plant, which I hope will do in the next year as we are now improving our water power at quite a heavy expense," W. L. London noted to the stockholders at that meeting.⁹

There is no mention of building the new houses in the minutes for meetings in subsequent years in the records, which survive through 1933. Oral history holds that fifteen houses were built in 1922 during a major building and upgrade effort. The remainder of the houses were built in 1928 during another expansion.¹⁰

Because the mill houses have a common development history through 1972, the history that appears above applies to all the houses built during the Period of Significance; there is also development history along with more analysis in Section 8. In the inventory that follows, entries contain only description for each house. All the houses, as noted above, are side-gabled and of frame construction with weatherboard exterior and most are single-pile; exceptions are noted in the individual entries. In the inventory, the type is named and differences or alterations are noted. Outlier houses are described individually. The original floor plan of each house is presumed based on exterior appearance.

BYNUM CHURCH ROAD, south side, west to east

Bynum Methodist Church, 1901, 1950, 1965

54 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

One-bay by five-bay gabled church with brick veneer, Gothic-arch windows, and belcast belfry with shingle siding. Windows include stained glass and textured glass with a pebbled finish. Interior not accessed; previous survey notes a basilica plan. Addition at rear dates to 1950; brick veneer added 1965.

According to Hadley, et al. in *Chatham County, 1771-1971*, the Bynum Methodist Church organized in 1901 as part of the Haw River Circuit. The Methodist parsonage, then, pre-dates the organization of the local congregation and the construction of the church. Early deeds relating to the land have not been located, but ultimately the Odell Manufacturing Company deeded the parcel to the trustees of the Bynum United Methodist Church in 1972. This implies that the Bynums, or the Bynum Manufacturing Company, retained ownership of the land and likely sold it to Odell along with the rest of the mill village. The church is currently known as the Bynum United Methodist Church.

Picnic shelter, ca. 2010

⁹ Semi-annual Report to Stockholders, September 15, 1903, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

¹⁰ Rachel Osborn and Ruth Selden-Sturgill, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* (Pittsboro: The Chatham County Historic Architecture Survey Committee, 1991), 173.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Noncontributing structure

Gabled picnic shelter with thick squared posts on brick piers stands south of the church. Curved beams support the roof and carry a wood ceiling over a poured concrete pad. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2010

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated storage shed stands south of the shelter. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1875, ca. 1890, ca. 1950

94 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

I-house with weatherboard exterior, two-over-two wood sash, hipped front porch, turned columns and balustrade, sawn porch-post brackets, molded eaves with gable end returns, trefoil vents in gable ends, and two rear chimneys; later two-room rear ell with pantry and screened porch on the west side; and even later shed room at rear elevation. A neighbor reports that the interior features Eastlake detailing.

County property records date the house to 1900, but its appearance and the report of Eastlake detailing make it likely that the building dates to the establishment of the mill and mill village. Family of the current owners, who purchased the house from the Chatham County Housing Authority in 1978, report that this functioned as a Superintendent's House and that it has finer finishes at the interior than other houses in the village. The name "Edgar Pace Moore" is written on a door in the basement, according to the residents. He was a nephew of George Edgar Moore (1874-1970), superintendent of the mill from 1904 to 1955, and a son of Robert J. Moore, who ran a dry goods store (not extant) on Chapel Hill to Pittsboro Road for over forty years.

Garage, ca. 1960

Contributing building

Gable-roofed plywood garage with metal roofing and awning window stands behind the house.

Shed, ca. 2024

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated gable-roofed storage shed stands west of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1928

232 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag type with vestibule and simplified details; vinyl siding and stucco at foundation; enclosed porch at rear ell; screened front porch. The mantel at the interior is a replacement, but the owner reports that there was originally no surround and simply a shelf nailed into the wall above the firebox. This house retains many of the features reportedly typical of mill house interiors: doors with horizontal panels, rim locks, and ceramic knobs; grooved pine sheathing at walls and ceilings; heart-pine flooring; and partially glazed, oak front door.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Mill House, ca. 1928
248 Bynum Church Road
Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag type with vestibule and simplified details; replacement front door and windows.

Woodshed, ca. 2020
Noncontributing structure
Shed-roofed wood shed stands southwest of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1928
262 Bynum Church Road
Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag type with vestibule and simplified details: vinyl siding; replacement windows; replacement six-panel door; stucco at foundation wall; and screening at front porch.

Shed, ca. 2000
Noncontributing building
Gabled plywood shed stands in rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

House, 2002
278 Bynum Church Road
Noncontributing building

Single-story, frame, massed dwelling with gabled and shed roofs, three-bay façade, shed-roof at front stoop, cement-fiber siding, and one-over-one wood sash on continuous foundation wall with stucco exterior. A shed appears on a 2023 aerial but was not observed in the field. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, 1945
294 Bynum Church Road
Contributing building

Single-story, frame, single-pile, side-gabled, dwelling with four-bay façade, gabled front porch with screening, asbestos shingle siding, two-over-two horizontal sash and one-over-one replacement windows, concrete-block foundation, and metal roofing. Rear shed room and westmost bay at façade may be later additions.

Mill House, ca. 1928
302 Bynum Church Road
Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag type with vestibule and simplified details; replacement windows; added shed rooms across the back; and hipped front porch; now screened.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Mill House, ca. 1928, moved ca. 1977, ca. 2010

314 Bynum Church Road

Noncontributing building

Single-door saddlebag type, likely originally with vestibule and simplified details; added rooms at each gable end; cement-fiber siding; replacement windows; added rear room; and attached carport at north end. The house had been built on Lot 19 and remained there into the late 1970s, according to long-time local resident Virgil Johnson. Noncontributing due to alterations to each gable end that broaden the width of the house substantially.

Chicken house, ca. 2010

Noncontributing building

Tiny shed-roofed chicken house with plywood siding and wire-fence enclosure stands northeast of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2010

Noncontributing building

Gable-roofed storage shed attached to gable-roofed garage stands in rear yard; sheds have plywood and weatherboard siding, wood shakes in gable end, and metal roofing.

Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1922

334 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type, but with the simpler detailing of the single, off-center saddlebags and an addition to north gable of an older house or portion of a house. The addition features the same six-over-six sash, molded eaves that return at gable ends, and pilastered cornerboards seen on the older saddlebags but with exterior chimney at the north gable end with four-over-four sash. The date of the addition has not been determined.

Shed, ca. 1990

Noncontributing building

Gabled storage shed with plywood siding and doors stands behind the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1922

356 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with one door converted to a window, sawn brackets at squared porch posts with high plinths, shed-room rear addition in nook of ell, and two-over-two sash windows. This house is unusual in that it appeared to originally have two doors, but it also has the simplified eave, end return, and cornerboard detailing of the single-door, no-vestibule type. The rear ell, on the other hand, does have the more decorative detailing and appears to be older.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Shed, ca. 2014

Noncontributing building

Gabled shed made with salvaged building materials, treated wood, screened walls, and metal roofing stands behind the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2014

Noncontributing building

Gabled shed with vertical plank siding and six-light window sash installed awning style stands northwest of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

BYNUM CHURCH ROAD, north side, west to east

Bynum House, ca. 1840, ca. 1870, ca. 1892, ca. 1950, ca. 2000

21 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Timber-framed I-house with gabled roof; three-bay façade; hipped front porch supported by paired columns with molded caps and sawn brackets; balustrade; weatherboard exterior, six-over-six and four-over-four wood sash, molded eaves and gable-end returns, end chimneys, and metal roofing. The two-room rear section with center chimney predates the I-house, and previous survey notes state that evidence at its interior indicates it originally stood as a separate building.

A one-room, late nineteenth-century addition to the east side of the I-house features weatherboards, molded gable-end returns, an exterior chimney at its rear gabled wall, and six-over-six wood sash. Previous documentation showed a four-over-four sash window in a converted door opening; there is now a six-over-six sash window in that location with no evidence of the previous door opening. Additionally, sawn brackets have been added to the porch posts at the rear ell; the enclosed room added at the east side of the ell has been converted into a screened porch; and the enclosed porch between the two added rooms at the east side has been opened again. The current owner reports that the enclosed room they converted to a screened porch appeared to have been built in the 1950s using scrap materials from the mill. She also notes that even the I-house is of timber frame, but of lighter members than those of the rear ell. The previous documentation also notes a Greek Revival/early Victorian mantel; no further detail or photographs are available.

F. J. Dallett, a family member conducting genealogical research identified the house as the home of Carney William Bynum Sr. (1809-1877). Carney Bynum grew up in this area, and he married Margaret Clegg in 1834, an event that often goes along with building a house. In 1853, he purchased land on the south side of the bank at this location and bought the grist mill, so it seems plausible that the rear ell dates between 1834 and 1853. The I-house may have been built by 1870. The census that year enumerates Carney and Margaret Bynum in a house they owned and values all their real estate at \$8,000. It also lists Carney Bynum Jr. (1844-1909) and Mary C. Bynum in a separate household; there is no listing for real estate owned. Luther Bangs Bynum (1833-1905), another son of Carney's and the second owner of the house, is listed as head of a separate household and with real estate valued at \$2,000. Interestingly, all three are described as living on the "North side Pittsboro Road." So many households are enumerated with that general

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

location that it may have simply meant the roadway on the north side of the Haw River relative to Pittsboro. The date Luther Bynum acquired the house has not been determined. The elder Carney Bynum's will stipulated that all his real estate should be valued by impartial judges and his two sons Carney and Luther given the opportunity to purchase it. The brothers did just that: An 1879 agreement filed with the Register of Deeds shows that the independent judges valued Bynum's "mill, mill lot, and appurtenances" for \$2,500 and "the lands supposed to be 400 acres" for \$5,300. Documents relating to their division of the property have not been found. The one-room addition at the east end of the I-house appears to be late nineteenth-century construction and may have been added at Luther Bynum's second marriage Bynum in 1892.

Privy, ca. 1920

Contributing building

Single-stall frame privy with horizontal plank siding, vertical plank door, and metal roofing stands at the southeast corner of the parcel in a bamboo grove.

Smokehouse, ca. 1850

Contributing building

Frame smokehouse with gabled roof, weatherboard exterior, and brick foundation. The owner reports brick flooring inside, a pegged timber frame, cut nails.

Barn, ca. 2005

Noncontributing building

Gable-roofed storage barn with vertical siding and vertical plank doors, six-light sash, and metal roof. Noncontributing due to age.

Carport, ca. 1977

Noncontributing structure

Shed-roofed structure on squared supports stands east of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Well, ca. 1872

Contributing structure

Concrete-capped brick well casing stands several inches above the ground just behind the house. The owner reports that this was a shared well, and that there were perhaps four such shared wells in the mill village.

Mill House, ca. 1875, ca. 1922 house added

109 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story hall-parlor type with replacement sash, stucco at chimney; appended to its north gable wall is a saddlebag type with enclosed porch. The saddlebag may have been the single-door three-room type, based on the visible cornerboard with simple vertical trim seen at its southwest corner. The date it was appended to the hall-parlor house has not been determined, but it appears on aerials as early as 1997. The saddlebag's original construction date may be ca. 1922. Sheds in the southeast corner of the parcel were not observed during survey.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Single-story shed-roofed storage building with plywood siding, single-leaf door, storm window, and metal roof stands north of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1875

125 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story hall-parlor type with replacement two-over-two horizontal sash in upper story façade windows, vinyl sheathing at eaves, lattice porch balustrade, and shed room across rear elevation.

Shed, ca. 2019

Noncontributing building

Side-gabled shed with plywood siding, single-leaf door, and metal roof. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1875, ca. 1875 house added

143 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Single-story, frame, triple-A with hipped porch on chamfered posts on high plinths and with sawn brackets; two-over-two sash windows; pointed-arch vent in gable ends; stuccoed chimney rises through the roof ridge slightly off-center (suggesting a hall-parlor plan); vinyl siding; stucco foundation wall; new metal roofing; replacement porch rail and stairs. One-and-a-half-story hall-parlor type appended as a rear ell rear and situated at a corner so that each front porch fronts a roadway; steeply pitched hip-roof porch on squared posts; six-over-six sash at first-floor façade, six-light sash in half-story windows above porch, and four-over-four sash in exposed gable end wall; vinyl siding, stucco foundation wall. The taller house also has a rear ell, creating a C-shaped floor plan overall. Local artist Clyde Jones has painted murals at the foundation and also, reportedly, at one mantel at the interior (see also CH0918).

Mill House, ca. 1875, ca. 1920

163 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag with centered entry suggesting vestibule or center-hall floor plan but with finer exterior detailing: boxed eaves with molded gable-end returns; molded rake; cornice and raking cornice finished with molding under soffit, hipped porch with squared posts and sawn brackets; replacement windows. Rear ell has lower, flatter gable roof, lacks molding at eave and rake, and has a shed addition at south eave wall.

Shed, ca. 1980

Noncontributing building

Corrugated metal gabled shed stands in rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Mill house, ca. 1928, ca. 1980

179 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag type with gabled rear addition with higher roof ridge that required removal of chimney; replacement windows and porch balustrade; thick squared porch posts and sawn brackets likely original to the house, based on other detailing; stucco foundation wall.

Mill House, ca. 1928, ca. 1997

235 Bynum Church Road

Noncontributing building

Single-door saddlebag type with two-story addition at rear, windows added in gable ends, replacement windows and door. Noncontributing due to alterations, including two-story rear addition and addition of windows in the gables.

Carport, 1999

Noncontributing structure

Flat-roofed carport with braced timber posts stands southwest of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, 1997

Noncontributing building

Shed-roofed building with plywood siding, salvaged windows and doors, and sheltered wood pile bay at south side stands south of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Accessory Dwelling Unit, 2003

Noncontributing building

Two-story gable roofed building in rear yard with shed porch with rooftop deck at east elevation. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1928

249 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag type with vestibule and simplified details; gabled rear addition with higher roof ridge that required removal of chimney; replacement windows, porch posts, and balustrade; stucco at foundation wall.

Mill House, ca. 1928

263 Bynum Church Road

Contributing building

Single-story hall-parlor plan type with hipped roof front porch, sawn brackets at plain square porch posts, replacement windows, diamond vents in gable ends, concrete-block stack at west gable end.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Mill House, ca. 1890
277 Bynum Church Road
Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story double-pile type, turned porch posts, turned balustrade, and rear screened porch under hipped roof. There is a no apparent heat source; a metal pipe on the north gable end that extends from the crawlspace, up the side of the dwelling, and extends through the overhanging eave. A shed appears in a 2023 aerial in the northwest corner of the parcel that was not observed in survey.

Mill House, ca. 1922
311 Bynum Church Road
Contributing building

Unusual two-door saddlebag type with broader proportions; two window openings in façade; unmolded gable-end returns, screened front porch; rear ell with enclosed porch; replacement windows; new metal roof. Mary Council, a mill worker who grew up in the village, lived here for many years.

Shed, ca. 1990
Noncontributing building
Plywood gabled shed with metal roof stands in rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca.1922, 2017
339 Bynum Church Road
Contributing building

Single-door three-room saddlebag type with simple gable-end returns and trimmed cornerboards; replacement composite siding, replacement windows, gable-end returns without molding, stucco at foundation wall. A one-room building of about the same age as the house was added to the rear wing, creating a U-shaped footprint. In 2017, the building was expanded to meet the rear ell and the roof configuration changed.

Shed, ca. 2000
Noncontributing building
Shed-roofed storage building of salvaged materials and plywood stands northwest of house.
Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1922
353 Bynum Church Road
Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with vinyl siding that covers one door, replacement windows, asphalt shingle roofing, sheathed gable-end returns; chimney removed.

Shed, ca. 1980
Noncontributing building

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Frame shed-roofed and partially open storage building has half-walls of weatherboard and metal roofing; stands southwest of house. Noncontributing due to age.

BYNUM HILL, south side, west to east

House, 1989

36 Bynum Hill

Noncontributing building

Single-story, frame, double-pile, side-gabled house with three-bay façade, shed porch extending from roof eave, weatherboards, one-over-one sash windows, metal roofing, and stucco at foundation wall. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building.

Prefabricated shed stands in rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1875

64 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag type that doesn't fit the usual types: chamfered porch posts; six-over-six sash (although replacement windows at façade), sheathed gable-end returns, vinyl siding; stucco foundation wall; no rear ell. The vinyl siding and sheathing in the gable-end returns may hide information helpful for dating the house.

Shed, ca. 1980

Noncontributing building

Shallow-gabled metal shed stands immediately behind the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1875, ca 1922 house added

74 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Single-door saddlebag type with vestibule but also with molded gable-end returns; pointed-arch vents in gables; hip-roofed front porch; rear ell. A second two-room house with simpler gable-end returns added parallel to the first two rooms at the end of a rear ell to create a U-shaped footprint; the house lacks a chimney but a wood-burning stove under a shelf is in the north front room.

Mill House, ca. 1875

82 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with vinyl siding, sheathed gable-end returns, stucco at foundation wall and at chimney, and added shed room in the nook of the ell.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Bynum Church Road intersects

Mill House, ca. 1875, addition ca. 1990

114 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with one door converted into a window; replacement windows, including a group of three windows added at one gable end; no chimney. Gabled addition at the west side with gable-end returns. A free-standing gabled building behind the house is joined to it with a back porch.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated gabled shed stands behind the house. Noncontributing due to age.

House, 2024

118 Bynum Hill

Noncontributing building

A two-story L-plan gabled house is under construction behind the house at 114 Bynum Hill, on the spot where a mill house used to stand. The house has gable-end returns, in an intentional nod to the architecture of the mill village. Aerial photographs show that a south-facing mill house with rear ell stood on the lot as recently as 2023. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, 2024

Noncontributing building

Gable-roofed, plywood-sided shed stands just northwest of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, 2024

Noncontributing building

Shed-roofed building on a trailer stands on the east side of the parcel; it may be a temporary construction office. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1875

130 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with replacement windows and doors; infill brick between original brick piers to form a foundation wall; stucco at chimney.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated gambrel-roofed shed on skids in rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Mill House, ca. 1875
150 Bynum Hill
Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with replacement windows and doors, stucco at chimney, enclosed porch at rear ell.

Shed, ca. 2000
Noncontributing building
Prefabricated gambrel-roofed shed on skids in rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1890
156 Bynum Hill
Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story double-pile type with replacement windows, vinyl siding, shed-roofed porches at both eave walls.

Shed, ca. 2000
Noncontributing building
Gabled shed with plywood siding and metal roof. Noncontributing due to age.

J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Standpipe Water Tower, ca. 1917
162 Bynum Hill
Contributing structure

Metal standpipe water tower on poured concrete base occupies a high point in the village west of the ballpark. A metal ladder attached to the south side of the cylinder provides access to the top. A circular reservoir east of the tower has been filled with soil and is no longer visible above-ground. The area around the water tower and associated buildings is being used as a community garden and is encircled by a chain-link fence.

A water supply system, including the standpipe to produce water pressure, dates to 1917. The system allowed the addition of a sprinkler system inside the new building; in addition to the more fire-resistant brick construction, the sprinklers were an obvious precaution in the aftermath of the destructive 1916 fire. A deed from 1950 mentions that the water system extended to at least one house on Bynum Road, outside the village. Standpipe water distribution systems have been used in the United States since the mid-nineteenth century. The system did not supply running water to each house. Current residents described, instead, a system of outdoor spigots shared by at least four houses that remained in use until the mid-1970s. Pittsboro eventually added the village to its water system in 1976. Chatham County acquired the parcel in 1991. The Bynum Community Garden that surrounds the tower, pumphouse, and nearby storage building was established in 2009.

The 1977 deed conveying the property from Odell Manufacturing Company to Chatham County Housing Authority mentions a filtration plant on the parcel; it may have been combined with the pumping equipment or housed separately in the hip-roofed brick building south of the tower.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Pumphouse, ca. 1960

Contributing building

Flat-roofed loadbearing masonry building clad with concrete-panels with pebbled aggregate; there is a ventilator at the flat roof and a pair of metal doors provide access to pumping equipment inside. The building stands immediately south of the standpipe tower.

Filtration Plant or Storage Building, ca. 1917

Contributing building

Hip-roofed brick building with metal-sash windows stands south of the standpipe tower. The building is wired for electricity and has a fire sprinkler system.

Ballpark, ca. 1899, ca. 1960

170 Bynum Hill

Contributing site

A baseball diamond occupies a flat playing field on the high ground at the east end of the mill village. There is a chain-link fence separating the infield from the home team's and opposing team's benches. Shed-roofed shade structures built of treated wood shelter the benches. Metal bleachers provide seating for spectators. An electric scoreboard just beyond the outfield stands on two poles.

Newspaper accounts of the Bynum baseball team—and games played in Bynum—appear as early as 1899. Fixtures at the ballpark date into the middle of the twentieth century, at least. The county acquired twenty-three acres east and south of the mill village, including the ballpark, in 1979 from the Chatham County Housing Authority.

Snack Bar/Public Toilets, ca. 1960

Contributing building

A gable-roofed concrete-block building features a snack bar at one end and public toilets at the other. It stands behind home plate at the ball park. The previous snack bar is said to be the small shed-roofed building standing east of the Riddle-Gales House, moved to that location after 1955.

BYNUM HILL, north side, west to east

Mill House, ca. 1875

39 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

One-and-a-half-story hall-parlor type with replacement windows and door; replacement porch posts and balustrade at hipped front porch; and single-story gabled addition at the back, which is sheathed in shakes.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Shed, ca. 1990

Noncontributing building

Vertical plank, gable-roofed shed stands in the northeast corner of rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Gabled shed with single-leaf door and window in the façade stands northeast of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Prefabricated gambrel-roof shed stands behind the shed above. Noncontributing due to age.

Wood shed, ca. 1940

Contributing building

Side-gabled woodshed with weatherboard exterior and open bay at façade stands west of the house.

Shed, ca. 1990

Noncontributing building

Gable-roofed shed with plywood siding and four-light-sash windows stands northwest of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1922

63 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Single-door three-room saddlebag type with simple gable-end returns and trimmed cornerboards; replacement windows; capped porch posts on high plinths; stucco at chimney; brick infill between original brick piers to create foundation wall; enclosed porch at rear ell.

Mill House, ca. 1922, ca. 1980

75 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Single-door three-room saddlebag type with simple gable-end returns and trimmed cornerboards; replacement windows. Rear addition is gabled with a roof ridge higher than that of the original dwelling, requiring removal of the chimney. Sheds that appear on a recent aerial were not observed in the field.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Mill House, ca. 1922
81 Bynum Hill
Contributing building

Single-door three-room saddlebag type with simple gable-end returns and trimmed cornerboards; brick foundation wall; replacement windows; and screened porch added at the east end of the rear elevation. This house may have a two-room house added at the rear elevation.

Mill House, ca. 1922, ca. 1990
105 Bynum Hill
Noncontributing building

Likely single-door three-room saddlebag type with simple gable-end returns and trimmed cornerboards; gabled and screened front porch added to the façade obscures some details. Replacement windows, replacement siding, back addition may originally have been a two-room house. Noncontributing due to alterations changing character-defining form.

Shed, ca. 2020
Noncontributing building
Prefabricated shed stands at the end of a concrete driveway northeast of the house.
Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 2000
Noncontributing building
Shed-roofed, metal sided and roofed shed stands just east of the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1875
119 Bynum Hill
Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with finer detailing, chimney removed and asphalt shingles installed. Rear ell has open shed-roofed porch with replacement posts and rail, evidence of a back door in the east front room. Brick infill between original brick piers creates a foundation wall. Accessibility ramp has been added in the front yard.

Shed, ca. 2000
Noncontributing building
Prefabricated plywood shed stands in rear yard. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1875
137 Bynum Hill
Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with finer detailing, five-panel doors; large, open-bay shed added in nook of ell; replacement windows; brick infill to create foundation wall; and stucco at chimney. Accessibility ramp has been added in the front yard. The house also notable as the home of folk artist Clyde Jones: The exterior walls are painted with colorful animals on peach, blue, white,

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

orange, green, and yellow backgrounds, an exuberant expression of his work. His trademark chainsaw critters, which are seen in nearly every yard in Bynum, are in the lawn and on the porch.

Shed, ca. 1980

Noncontributing building

Metal shed stands behind the house. Noncontributing due to age.

Shed, ca. 1940

Contributing building

Gabled shed with metal roof and plank siding at three walls; fourth wall is open. The shed is overgrown and stands in rear yard.

Mill House, 1875

145 Bynum Hill

Contributing building

Two-door saddlebag type with finer exterior detailing; squared porch posts with some surviving sawn brackets and some added brackets; replacement six-over-six sash; replacement porch posts and railing and added sawnwork; brick infill to create brick foundation wall.

Shed, ca. 2020

Noncontributing building

Shed-roofed outbuilding with plywood walls, plywood door, and several windows; stands northwest of house. Noncontributing due to age.

Mill House, ca. 1890, ca. 1990

179 Bynum Hill

Noncontributing building

One-and-a-half-story, double-pile type with vinyl siding and windows, shed-roof front porch, side addition with enclosed front porch, brick foundation, and three-car garage attached with hyphen. Noncontributing due to alterations and substantial size and position of the garage additions.

Log storage building, ca. 2000

Noncontributing building

Front-gabled building constructed of slender, saddle-notched logs. Noncontributing due to age.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

Located along the Haw River, the Bynum Historic District likely contains both precontact and historic archaeological sites. Archaeological deposits, such as structural remains from the non-extant mill, debris that accumulated during operation of the mill, underground infrastructural components such as water pipes and drainage features may be present within the mill property. Information concerning worker health, nutrition, daily life, worker identity, and the relationship

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

between the mill company and its employees, can be obtained from archaeological investigations within the mill village and can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the district and its residents. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the Bynum Historic District. At this time, no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

ca. 1800-1972

Significant Dates

ca. 1830

1875

1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Davidson, Berry (millwright)

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Bynum Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development as a planned mill village with related rural development dating from the late nineteenth century and continuing into the twentieth century. The district comprises the planned mill village; twentieth-century commercial and institutional buildings; and nineteenth- and twentieth-century rural residential development. The district is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the collection of mostly vernacular architecture that exemplifies construction and stylistic trends in the county in the same period. Other rural neighborhoods in Chatham County do not retain the level of integrity or density of properties that Bynum exhibits in reflection of these criteria. The period of significance is ca. 1800 through 1972, which reflects the time span represented by the construction and significant use of the majority of properties in the district. The earliest extant construction dates to around 1800 and marks the beginning of the Period of Significance. The J.M. Odell Manufacturing Company's operation of the cotton spinning mill that established the mill village ended in 1972 when management changed to another company and production switched to synthetic yarns, marking the end of the period.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Narrative

The Haw River drains a portion of the North Carolina Piedmont as it flows to meet the Deep River in eastern Chatham County. That confluence creates the Cape Fear River.¹¹ As many as ten thousand years ago, such riverways attracted the native peoples who lived in North America, and several groups lived in succession along the Haw River in Chatham County.¹² In the period immediately predating white colonization and settlement, the Occaneechie, Saponi, and Keyauwee tribes, members of the Siouan Indian linguistic group, lived along the rivers of Chatham County and near intersecting trading paths. By the mid-eighteenth-century, however, after the arrival of white settlers, many had left the area.¹³

From the colonial period on, the Haw has stood out among the five rivers of Chatham County as most prominent in providing waterpower. It flows through fertile land and over a rocky riverbed.

¹¹ Rachel Osborn and Ruth Selden-Sturgill, *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* (Pittsboro: The Chatham County Historic Architecture Survey Committee, 1991), 3.

¹² Stephen R. Claggett and John S. Cable, "The Haw River Sites: Archeological Investigations at Two Stratified Sites in the North Carolina Piedmont," (Commonwealth Associates Inc. for the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1982, <https://archive.org/search?query=creator%3A%22Claggett%2C+Stephen+R%22>), iii, 30, 34.

¹³ Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, 6.

Bynum Historic District

Name of Property

Chatham County, NC

County and State

Rainfall occurs at a roughly even rate year-round. The river rarely freezes, although it is subject to sudden floods, or freshets. Elevation steadily decreases as the Haw flows toward the Deep River. In the early nineteenth century, all of this was good news for the landowning farmer who had the money and the knowhow to establish a grist mill.¹⁴

The Bynum community owes its name to the mills, ferries, and bridges built at the Haw River by descendants of Luke Bynum (1730-1810), who relocated here from Virginia as early as 1755. He married Martha Patterson in 1757, and the couple had at least nine children. Luke and Martha Bynum purchased land at the Haw River and Pokeberry Creek in 1779.¹⁵ The first national census in 1790 recorded twenty-three people in their household, including fifteen enslaved people and the eight white people that presumably were immediate family. Luke Bynum acquired other lands as well: his 1809 will notes that he had already given some of his plantation to his son William and retained three hundred acres that would pass to his son Mark after Martha's death. The will also named the enslaved members then of the household: adults Ned, Keser, and Phebe, and children Hardy, Joe, Peter, Anna, Lyda, and Phebe.¹⁶

No mention of a mill, ferry, or bridge is made in Luke Bynum's will or the estate inventory prepared after his 1810 death by his sons William and Mark. Mark Bynum (1774-1840) apparently began the milling business: His dam, mill race, and mill are all mentioned in an 1838 deed conveying the same, along with an island in the Haw River and an associated "Miller's house," to his sons Mark (1815-1893) and Joseph Bynum. The area totaled about seven acres.¹⁷ Joseph Bynum hired millwright Berry Davidson (1831-1915) in 1846 to build a grist and sawmill, upgrading or replacing the first version.¹⁸ The Bynums apparently also operated a ferry in this period, for the younger Mark Bynum would later relate in a letter to the *Chatham Record* editor that, in 1839, the county first built a bridge here, replacing "Bynum's ferry" and costing \$2,350 of county funds.¹⁹ The bridge, and the ferry before it, provided access from the southwest side of the Haw River to the grist mill and improved travel between Pittsboro and Chapel Hill. In the nineteenth century, the road through the area followed a creek bed north of and roughly parallel to today's Bynum Road, which is an early twentieth-century realignment of the earlier Chapel Hill to Pittsboro Road.

¹⁴ Census Office, Department of the Interior, *Reports on the Water-Power of the United States, 1880* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1885), 63-67.

¹⁵ Robert Baird, "The Line of William Bynum (c1690-1746), grandson of John Bynum," *Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet*, May 3, 2024, www.genfiles.com; Wade Hampton Hadley, Doris Goerch Horton, and Nell Craig Strowd, *Chatham County 1771-1971* (Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1976), 406-407; *Geneanet Community Trees Index* [database on-line], March 1, 2024, www.ancestry.com; U.S., *Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970* [database on-line], March 1, 2024, www.ancestry.com; William Hatley et al. to Luke Bynum, June 6, 1779, Chatham County Deed Book B, page 178.

¹⁶ *North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998* [database on-line], March 1, 2024, www.ancestry.com; *Wills and Estate Papers (Chatham County), 1663-1978*, May 3, 2024, www.ancestry.com.

¹⁷ Mark Bynum to Joseph Bynum and Mark Bynum, January 11, 1838, Chatham County Deed Book A-E, 354.

¹⁸ Catherine Bishir and Helen Walton, "Berry Davidson," *North Carolina Architects & Builders: A Biographical Dictionary*, NC State University Libraries, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu>.

¹⁹ "Bridge at Henley's Mill," *Chatham Record*, January 10, 1884.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

The elder Mark Bynum also likely built the first section of the house on the hill above the river known today as the Bynum-Durham House (and variously as the Carney W. Bynum House and the J.M. Durham Homeplace). Mark Bynum appears in the federal census as a head of household in 1800, at age 23; this may indicate that he built the first part of this dwelling at the turn of the nineteenth century on his father's land. Mark Bynum sold or left the house to his son Turner Bynum (1808-1863) at his death in 1840; Alvis J. Bynum, a son of Turner Bynum, confirmed that it had been his father's home in his childhood.²⁰

In the early nineteenth century, southeastern Chatham County was moderately well-populated with settlers of European origin and people of African origin enslaved by the settlers; they were engaged in agricultural pursuits.²¹ The Bynum households in the first half of the century often included a majority of enslaved persons, like Luke Bynum's twenty-three-person household in 1790 that included fifteen enslaved people. In 1840, Carney Bynum's household included eleven enslaved people in addition to his wife Margaret Clegg Bynum and their three children.²² The enslaved people are likely to have lived in a separate building that is no longer extant. Before 1840, the neighborhood also included the miller who ran the grist mill and apparently lived in a house Bynum supplied. This would have been a bustling place already, with farmers from the surrounding area coming and going, bringing grains to the grist mill for grinding. There is said to have been a tavern at some point in the eighteenth century, operated out of a side-gabled, single-story building with long, gabled rear ell that stood on the south side of today's Bynum Road at the east bank of the Haw River. It is no longer extant.²³

In 1853, Joseph Bynum and Mark Bynum sold the mill, dam, and the island in the Haw River to their brother Carney Bynum (1809-1877).²⁴ In 1860, Carney built a new 475' wide wood dam across the river. The three-foot height of the dam created a ten-acre pond and cost Carney Bynum five hundred dollars.²⁵ He brought Berry Davidson back to work on the flour mill, perhaps due to improved water flow resulting from the new dam.²⁶ Carney Bynum also owned and operated a cotton gin, a blacksmith shop, and a store, apparently all on the island at the east bank of the river. He built a house for himself near the river, likely the rear ell of the Bynum House on today's Bynum Church Road.²⁷ He may have done this before 1840, when the federal census first enumerated him as head of household. As noted above, household members included eleven enslaved persons and five white people.²⁸

²⁰ 1800 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line], May 4, 2024; Alvis J. Bynum, "The Old Letter," in the survey file for Bynum (CH0875) at the Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

²¹ Hadley, et al., 5-7.

²² 1840 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line], May 4, 2024; "Carney William Bynum," *Findagrave*, May 4, 2024, www.findagrave.com.

²³ F. J. Dallett to North Carolina Historic Sites Survey, letter in the Bynum file (CH0875) at the Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

²⁴ Joseph Bynum and Mark Bynum to Carney Bynum, September 19, 1853, Chatham County Deed Book A-N, 511.

²⁵ Census Office, *Reports on Water-Power, 1880*, 63-67.

²⁶ Bishir and Walton, "Berry Davidson."

²⁷ Baird, "The Line of William Bynum," 117, *Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet*, www.genfiles.com; Dallett letter.

²⁸ 1840 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line], May 4, 2024.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

In 1867, Carney Bynum sold the covered bridge over the Haw “near my mill” for five hundred dollars to the county, represented in the deed by H. A. London, Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions.²⁹ That it was his to sell implies that he built it, making it perhaps the second bridge over the Haw River at this location. The area was still little more than a rural neighborhood of landowners, but another generation of Bynums was about to change that.

The Bynum Manufacturing Company Era, 1872-1886

Carney’s two sons, Luther Bangs Bynum (1833-1905) and Carney William Bynum (1844-1909), organized the Bynum Manufacturing Company in 1872 with the intent to build a cotton mill that would operate using the hydropower produced by their father’s dam. Their brother-in-law Edward W. Atwater and a land-owning neighbor, George W. Thompson also invested.³⁰ They received substantial support from their father, who deeded eleven acres on the east bank of the river below the bridge to Bynum Manufacturing Company in 1872, along with “all the water power that can be commanded over and above an ample sufficiency to drive all the machinery now in the grist mill” for one thousand dollars in company stock. The deed also gave right-of-way for hauling building supplies or cotton or other manufacturing raw goods over Carney Bynum’s land to the anticipated new factory.³¹ The Bynums brought back millwright Berry Davidson to design the mill, a two-story frame structure with twelve-over-twelve wood windows and a three-story central tower with arched windows and a flat roof finished with Italianate cornice brackets. Davidson moved spinning machinery from the 1872 factory owned by A.F. Page in Cary to use in the Bynum’s new factory. Davidson’s notes indicate that Bynum’s new factory was under construction from 1874-1875.³²

Likely in the same short period, the company built simple dwellings to house the workers they would hire from the wider local area. Records of the construction of mill houses have not been found, but the 1880 census separates enumeration for the “Village of Bynum Cotton Mills” from the rest of Baldwin Township. The census recorded fifteen dwellings in the village, including the home of Luther B. Bynum, who lived in the house his father had occupied on the south side of today’s Bynum Road. Luther Bynum’s household consisted of his wife Sophronia Atwater Bynum; a sixteen-year-old son and his seventeen-year-old sister-in-law, both at school; and John M.W. Hicks, a clerk and bookkeeper. Eleven other households contained members who all shared a family name, leaving three dwellings that each sheltered a family group along with other residents who didn’t share the family name.³³ Oral history from current and former mill village residents holds that the story-and-a-half dwellings were built to house more than one

²⁹ Carney Bynum to H.A. London, May 18, 1867, Chatham County Deed Book A-M, 527. An often-repeated story is that he sold it for five dollars, but the deed says five hundred dollars.

³⁰Hadley, et al., 377; *North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741-2011*[database on-line], May 4, 2024, www.ancestry.com.

³¹ Carney Bynum to Bynum Manufacturing Company, April 27, 1872, Chatham County Deed Book A-U, 442.

³² Bishir and Walton, “Berry Davidson;” a photo of the mill building Davidson built for the company is at Osborn and Selden-Sturgill, 45.

³³ 1880 *United States Federal Census* [database on-line], May 4, 2024; “Pittsboro formally asked to operate Bynum systems,” *Chatham Record*, September 29, 1977.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

family. Combined, the 1880 census and the oral history seem to indicate that three houses of that type had been built during the initial 1874-1875 construction period. None of the houses had indoor bathrooms, as was common in the period, so frame privies with vertical plank doors, horizontal plank siding, plain cornerboards, shed roofs with metal roofing were built as well.³⁴

The people who came to work in the new cotton factory were from farming families in the surrounding area. Not uncommon were families headed by widowed mothers who came with their children for the mill employment. In other cases, small landowners who lost their land moved their family for employment in the mill.³⁵ All the residents of the mill village were white, as were all the people working inside the mill. Odell employed a few African Americans as groundskeepers, and some residents of the mill village employed African Americans for some household tasks like laundry or mending.³⁶

Sorting out which houses were built in this first phase is extremely difficult. The 1880 census records fifteen dwellings in the village, including Luther B. Bynum's house, which is known to have been constructed before the factory itself. As detailed in Section 7, there were a limited number of house types as well as variations within each type. Both type and variation can be a helpful means of dating. The saddle-bag dwellings with rear ells and two façade doors at the west end of Bynum Hill have finer detailing at eaves, gable ends, and cornerboards than many other mill dwellings and may have been among the earliest houses built. They are higher on the hill, which is a logical first building site. There are four surviving examples of the one-and-a-half-story dwellings said to have been built for two families to occupy, yet the 1880 census implies that only three of that type existed at the time. All of those have alterations that make estimating an original construction date very difficult.³⁷

Specifying which families enumerated in 1880 lived in which dwelling is impossible. Households in the census are generally recorded in the order the enumerator encountered them, which is a combination of traveling through the area as well as finding people at home to respond. The enumeration order, then, can help place families generally within the village. The first household enumerated was that of Joseph C. Sumner, the foreman at the mill, followed by six single-family households.³⁸ These may be the saddle-bag houses at the west end of Bynum Hill. One house that is known to have stood in the grouping has been moved to Hearne Road; it is said to have stood at the termination of Bynum Hill at the top of the hill near the ball park. According to Bynum native Virgil Johnson, the house was similar and possibly slightly larger than the others.³⁹ Luther B. Bynum's house was enumerated eighth and William J. Williamson's household immediately after. Williamson had been operating the flour mill since about 1874. The next three households are in three dwellings that appear to contain more than a single

³⁴ An undated, unmarked photograph of a privy in the village is in a collection of newspaper clippings dating from 1975 through 1978 in the Bynum File (CH0875) at the North Carolina Preservation Office File Room.

³⁵ Douglas DeNatale, "Traditional Culture and Community in a Piedmont Textile Mill Village," (UNC-CH Master's Thesis, 1980), 13-19.

³⁶ *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], May 4, 2024; DeNatale, 7.

³⁷ *1880 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], May 4, 2024.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ Virgil Johnson, interview with the author, May 11, 2024.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

family. This order implies that Williams lived in the I-house on the west side of Bynum Church Road, and that three one-and-a-half-story dwellings were built nearby. Current residents often refer to the I-house as a superintendent's house, however. Perhaps it had been built as a replacement for the early-nineteenth century "Miller's house" mentioned in the 1838 deed described above and later used for a superintendent. Alternatively, what has been in 1880 the Miller's House may be no longer extant. This part of the village does contain all of the two-family dwellings that survive.⁴⁰

The elder Carney Bynum died in 1877, shortly after the cotton mill began operation, leaving everything to his wife for the duration of her life. Bynum's two sons Carney William Bynum and Luther Bangs Bynum were to manage the estate to her benefit. Carney Bynum explicitly listed in his will "my flouring and grist mill and one-third part of the cotton gin, with all the tract of land upon which said mills and gin are situated." He also mentioned a fifty-acre tract on the opposite side of the river, presumably where the dam's western abutment was located, as well as "farming implements, stock of horses, mules, cows, hogs, household & kitchen furniture." Bynum stipulated that all his real estate should be valued by impartial judges and his two sons Carney and Luther given the opportunity to purchase it. The brothers did just that: An 1879 agreement filed with the Register of Deeds shows that the independent judges valued Bynum's "mill, mill lot, and appurtenances" for \$2,500 and "the lands supposed to be 400 acres" for \$2,800. Documents relating to their division of the property have not been found, but Luther lived in what had been his father's house after 1877. Carney, meanwhile, lived in the house on the hill that his uncle Turner Bynum had occupied after his father Mark Bynum had lived there. Both houses were remodeled around 1880, either by Luther and Carney Bynum or by the earlier generation.⁴¹

Bynum's factory ran both day and night shifts in 1880, producing six hundred pounds of cotton yarn and seven hundred yards of cotton sheeting daily, and still water passed by unused for power. The Bynum Manufacturing Company also owned another fall downstream that had been used at some point. By 1880, when the Census Department prepared its report on waterpower in the United States, the site had been abandoned.⁴²

The 1880 census shows Carney W. Bynum enumerated as a farmer (and Luther B. Bynum as a cotton manufacturer). The younger Carney's household also included two Black members, Betsy Thompson, age sixty, and Edward Norwood, age ten, who worked in the house and a Black farm worker, Alvis Jones, age twenty-one. Most of Bynum's neighbors in that year were farming, keeping house, working in households, or were children who did not work. Notable exceptions were Dr. Ambrose Mann, a physician, and Aaron Leroy, a whiskey distiller. Many households in the area had Black or biracial members, working as "domestic servants" or farm laborers. There were of course several all-Black households, including Robert Bynum, who farmed and lived

⁴⁰ 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line], May 4, 2024; "Local Records," *Chatham Record*, January 4, 1894.

⁴¹ *North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998* [database on-line], March 1, 2024, www.ancestry.com; Bynum, "The Old Letter."

⁴² Census Office, "Reports on Water Power," 66; Hadley, et al., 377.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

with his wife Cornelia Bynum. Living with them were Simon Snipes, fourteen years old and working on the farm, and Harry Brooks, age twenty-four, and his wife Susan Brooks, age seventeen. Generally, the census indicates a person's relationship to the head of the household, but no relationship is noted for the Brooks and for Snipes. Farmer Louis Burnett was a Black head-of-household, living with his wife and seven children. James Lea was another, living with his wife and six children, some of whom were adults.⁴³ Houses associated with these families have not been identified, and they may have lived outside of the bounds of the district.

The county commissioners voted in 1879 to replace the Bynum Bridge, apparently in need of some repairs.⁴⁴ This decision created a vigorous debate in the newspaper in the form of letters to the editor. Opponents were from the western part of the county, complaining about the high cost of the bridge, which would serve only a small number of county inhabitants, and about the fact that there were already a number of other Haw River crossings.⁴⁵ Proponents praised the benefits of good river crossings and generally teased and chided the opponents for their position. Regardless of the debate, bridge construction was under way in 1879 and complete early the next year.⁴⁶ Three years later, a spring freshet damaged or destroyed all the Chatham County bridges on the Haw River except the new covered bridge at Bynum. "Haw River came rushing through our county like a devouring monster," the paper reported. "The bridge at Bynum stood firm and unmoved... The wisdom of building so substantial a bridge is now shown, for it is the only one on the Haw river that escaped injury, and now affords the only way of crossing that stream.... In the meantime the farmers of the western part of the county, in hauling their produce to Raleigh, must go by way of Bynum's."⁴⁷

The J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Era, 1886-1972

One of Bynum Manufacturing Company's biggest customers was a weaving plant in Concord owned by the J.M. Odell Company. In 1886, John Milton Odell (1821-1910) negotiated with the Bynum Manufacturing Company to purchase its cotton factory. The Bynum brothers and others executed a quit-claim deed transferring ownership of twenty-two acres to John M. Odell, James A. Odell, and Julian S. Carr.⁴⁸ Reporting to the stockholders, Odell noted that the company had made repairs to the plant and started spinning yarn. Soon, they abandoned the sheeting production and sold "the 60 looms that were there for \$2,925 and have ordered Spinning Machinery in place of the looms... The machinery we expect to put in will cost about \$6,000, which will almost double our present production, and we hope will increase our profits."⁴⁹ In 1895, they updated the dam with "new Head Gates" and an iron rack and widened the race.⁵⁰

⁴³ 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line], May 4, 2024.

⁴⁴ Hadley, et al., 53.

⁴⁵ "Correspondence," *Chatham Record*, April 24, 1879; "Taxpayer," *Chatham Record*, May 1, 1879; "For the Record," *Chatham Record*, May 15, 1879.

⁴⁶ "Bridge at Henley's Mill," *Chatham Record*, January 10, 1884.

⁴⁷ "In Chatham County," *The Farmer and Mechanic*, May 2, 1883.

⁴⁸ L.B. Bynum et al. to J.M. Odell et al., September 21, 1886, Chatham County Deed Book B-R, 335.

⁴⁹ Minutes of the Annual Meeting, March 10, 1887, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁵⁰ Minutes of the Semi-annual meeting, September 12, 1895, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Some elements of management remained the same after the buyout, at least initially; Luther Bynum remained the superintendent in the first several years after the buyout, and Carney Bynum succeeded him after 1898.⁵¹ Beginning in the early twentieth century, William Lord London of Pittsboro, who had been supplying cotton to the mill for years, became the manager of the milling concern. In 1904, he made Edgar Moore the superintendent, and Moore stayed in that position for most of the next fifty years.⁵²

As the turn of the century neared, Bynum was more bustling than ever. An island in the Haw River just north of the bridge had a grist mill, cotton gin, blacksmith's shop, and general store. Flossie Moore Durham (a sister of Edgar Moore) had moved to Bynum as a ten-year-old in 1894 and recalled that two men ran the busy grist mill at that time. "Usually, the yard all around there in front of the mill was full of horses and wagons and different carts and different things, bringing in the stuff here. They kept the mill going; sometimes they couldn't keep up even in the daytime."⁵³ In 1904, Odell purchased the grist mill and water rights from the Bynums at public auction and leased the mill to Atwater & Lambeth. The local firm ran the company store as well.⁵⁴ The comings and goings got the community interested in better roads, a sentiment shared around the county and the state. As early as 1907, residents around the bridge were contributing funds to improve the roadway to Pittsboro: The rolling terrain caused problems, and a survey in 1911 made by an engineer from the state's Geological Service proposed a route with lower grades overall.⁵⁵ The newspaper in 1913 noted that the road south of the bridge was being improved to go around, rather than over, the hills, and realignment north of Bynum had been completed as well. County coffers partly funded the project, in addition to funds raised "by the people of the Bynum community."⁵⁶ The paper made particular note that both Black and white residents had contributed, but the mention also shows that Bynum had moved beyond being just a place and was an acknowledged community.

Some new mill houses may have been built by the J.M. Odell Company before the end of the nineteenth century. "Most of the houses that's over there on that hill was here then," Flossie Durham recalled, referencing her arrival to live in Bynum in 1894, "but a lot of them was practically new."⁵⁷ It seems likely that Odell expanded the mill village soon after acquiring the mill and during its expansion of machinery and output. At any rate, the mill village had been in place several years, increasing the population of the rural neighborhood. More than half of the households in the mill village were headed by women. Generally, the matriarch "kept house" in rented mill housing and her children went to work in the factory.⁵⁸ Keeping house involved

⁵¹ DeNatale, 4.

⁵² DeNatale, 5.

⁵³ Flossie Moore Durham interview with Mary Frederickson and Brent Glass, Interview H-0666, 1976, The Industrialization of North Carolina's Piedmont Region, Oral Histories of the American South, Documenting the American South, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/> (henceforth DocSouth).

⁵⁴ DeNatale, 4.

⁵⁵ "Local Records," *Chatham Record*, September 12, 1907; "New Road to Bynum," *Chatham Record*, August 23, 1911.

⁵⁶ "Road Improvements," *Chatham Record*, September 17, 1913.

⁵⁷ Flossie Moore Durham interview, DocSouth.

⁵⁸ 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line], May 4, 2024.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

caring for children too young to work in the factory, cooking, cleaning, and tending to vegetable gardens, chickens, and sometimes hogs to supplement household food supplies.⁵⁹ The company purchased nineteen more acres for tenant houses in 1903, hoping to expand further.⁶⁰

The larger community also expanded at the turn of the twentieth century with several new houses north of the mill village and along the Chapel Hill to Pittsboro Road. Three were I-houses on the north side of the road, and others were one- or one-and-a-half stories. Most featured some Queen Anne detailing in the form of turned porch columns and balustrades, shingle siding in gables, and sawnwork brackets and verge board. The houses all featured the triple-A roof form prominent in vernacular dwellings of the period. The federal census from the early years of the twentieth century show that many families took in boarders, likely millworkers, to supplement their income.⁶¹ Carney Bynum built a tenement house to take in even more boarders. In the years before the Methodist parsonage was built, Carney rented a room in the tenement house to Rev. J.H. Hall. In 1893, Luther Bynum sold the Methodist Church a parcel of land immediately south of the dwelling for the purpose of building a parsonage. That two-story dwelling is no longer extant, replaced by a brick Ranch house on the same lot in 1975.⁶²

Some properties reflect community members' pursuit of interests outside of work. Residents, or the mill, organized a baseball team as early as 1899; the *Chatham Record* reported on the "inglorious defeat" of the Pittsboro team when they lost by 26 runs at Bynum in August 1899.⁶³ The Bynum brothers, still active in both the village and the wider community, were devout Methodists who attended church at Mount Pleasant, organized in 1779. A local church for the mill village was organized and built on Luther Bynum's land in 1901 as part of the Haw River Circuit. Carney W. Bynum acted as the Sunday School superintendent for the rest of his life. Not all millworkers attended church, but the institution added another element of community life to the growing settlement.⁶⁴

The dam was showing its age by the turn of the century, sometimes requiring repairs that caused the mill to shut down. The company built a new dam. In 1903, the *Chatham Record* reported that "The dam will be completed this week....It is a huge affair and had been the medium of placing several thousand dollars in circulation in this neighborhood," presumably by hiring local residents for the construction. Few details were reported except to praise the work of local blacksmith A.B. Riddle (1864-1928).⁶⁵ William Lord London reported to the stockholders that "We have already spent on dam, head gates, race, and water house \$8,170.68 up to September 1

⁵⁹ DeNatale, 34-36.

⁶⁰ Semi-annual Stockholders Meeting Minutes, September 15, 1903, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁶¹ DeNatale, 19-23; *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line], May 4, 2024.

⁶² Bynum to Methodist Episcopal Church, October 11, 1893, Chatham County Deed Book C-M, 502-504.

⁶³ "Local Records," *Chatham Record*, August 24, 1899.

⁶⁴ Hadley, et al., 243.

⁶⁵ "Local Records," *Chatham Record*, September 7, 1899 and November 12, 1903.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

and I think it will take \$7,000 to finish it, which will increase our water power to 600 horses.”⁶⁶ Within a few years, the paper noted that the dam was so effective that a low-water period that in the past would have shut down the factory and flour mill, updated now to a roller mill type, had no ill effect on operations.⁶⁷ However, the dam and the millrace were damaged in another freshet in 1908 and required repairs again.⁶⁸

A summer storm one Sunday in July 1916 caused a much greater catastrophe, when lightning struck the factory and caused a fire that destroyed the building entirely. Roughly one hundred people worked in the mill in this period, but the building was closed and empty at the time of the fire. The J.M. Odell Manufacturing Company was now majority-owned by founder Odell along with prominent Pittsboro residents W.L. London and Arthur H. London, father and son. At the time of the fire, W.L. London was also the manager of the factory, and George E. Moore was the superintendent.⁶⁹

The stockholders quickly decided to rebuild, and a new brick building—more fire resistant—had been erected before the end of 1917.⁷⁰ The company outfitted the building with a fire sprinkler system in the hope of avoiding another conflagration. Perhaps to support the sprinkler system, the company installed a water distribution system in the village.⁷¹ It likely required the standpipe at the top of Bynum Hill to regulate water pressure. The Odell company continued to invest in the factory. The *Chatham County Record* reported an acknowledged rumor in 1919 that Odell planned to update the dam and install a dynamo to provide electricity for the mill and village.⁷² Within three years, the company did replace the existing timber and plank dam with a new concrete gravity dam.⁷³ The paper reported on the new dam but did not note whether the rumored dynamo had been installed. However, DeNatale’s oral history interviews indicate that it must have been, citing stories that the electricity enabled a second shift with the addition of electric light to the building. The company reportedly added fifteen houses for workers in 1922 and electrified the village as well. An influx of people moved from surrounding mill communities, such as Saxapahaw, Siler City, Gibsonville, and Fayetteville.⁷⁴

⁶⁶ Semi-annual Stockholders Meeting Minutes, September 15, 1903, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁶⁷ “Local Records,” *Chatham Record*, November 21, 1907.

⁶⁸ “Wanted at once,” *Chatham Record*, September 9, 1908.

⁶⁹ “Destructive fire,” *Chatham Record*, July 5, 1916.

⁷⁰ Stockholders Meeting, July 13, 1916, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁷¹ Minutes of Stockholders Annual Meeting, March 15, 1917, and Minutes of Director’s Meeting, July 9, 1917, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁷² “Only a rumor,” *Chatham Record*, February 13, 1919.

⁷³ “Wanted 10 carpenters,” *Chatham Record*, October 20, 1921.

⁷⁴ DeNatale, 8, 140-142. The first use of electrical light in the plant and the mill village has not been definitively determined. The 1880 report on waterpower prepared by the Census Department stated that the mill ran a day and a night shift, and a Determination of Eligibility Report on the Rocky River Power and Light Company Dam and Powerhouse noted in a context on rural electrification that excess electrical power generated by the Odell

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Other upgrades came to Bynum at this time as well, replacing more nineteenth-century technology with modern iterations. A steel-reinforced concrete bridge replaced the covered bridge in 1923.⁷⁵ The county realigned the Chapel Hill to Pittsboro Road to the south, away from the creek; the new road bisected several residential parcels. A few bungalow-style houses went up on the resulting subdivided parcels and fronting the new road. The realignment created the distinctive pattern of two rows of houses overlooking the roadway on its north side, reflecting both turn-of-the-century and early-to-mid twentieth-century streetscapes. Flanking both ends of this residential corridor were commercial buildings that housed general stores, auto-repair garages, and a movie theater.

While the plant now had electricity, water power generated it and so the mill's operation remained subject to the river flow. The water level could get low enough to close the mill, and closures could last for hours or days. Stockholders' meetings regularly included a report of how many days the mill had run along with reasons for stoppage. The water level or repairs to the dam were the usual culprits, although high cotton prices had caused shutdowns in the past, to avoid operating at a loss for the current month.⁷⁶ This natural rhythm of the river eventually led the plant to use power from Carolina Power & Light, run over long-distance transmission lines installed in 1928, to run the machinery and free the mill from its full reliance on the river. Community lore holds that the rest of the mill village had been built out in 1928.⁷⁷

The mill kept running during the Depression, although at a reduced rate, forcing workers to share shifts. Some investigated or made efforts toward unionization or striking in this period, but nothing materialized locally beyond a one-day walkout. In 1934, Congress enacted a child labor law that dramatically limited the number of children working in the mill. Women (and children, before 1934) had always worked in the mill, so the wartime years were no great change in that respect. Finding housing was difficult, and households took in more boarders than usual.⁷⁸ In the post-WWII years, the factory resumed full operation. Odell expanded and improved the mill several times in this period, including in 1920, 1922, 1928, 1939, 1941, 1948, and adding the new generator house in 1940. After World War II, Bynum residents outside the mill village were increasingly likely to work outside of the community, in Pittsboro to the south or in Chapel Hill to the north. Bynum also saw a little more residential development between the ballpark and the realignment of the Pittsboro to Chapel Hill Road, which eventually was designated Highway 15-501, then later re-routed again to bypass Bynum in the 1950s.

and Hadley-Peoples mills in Chatham County was sent to working housing in company mill villages in the early 1900s.

⁷⁵ Diane Swan and Debbie Tunnell, "Bynum Bridge," National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Nomination, 2020, <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/nr/ch0658/download>.

⁷⁶ Semi-annual Stockholders Meeting Minutes, September 10, 1889, and Semi-annual Stockholders Meeting Minutes, September 15, 1903, in the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

⁷⁷ DeNatale, 106-107, 143.

⁷⁸ DeNatale, 8-11; Ron Hatley, interview with the author, March 25, 2023.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

J.M. Odell Manufacturing Company made a major change in production in 1972, switching from all-cotton yarn to synthetic blends. The company brought in Tuscarora Yarns to manage the switch, and eventually Odell became a division of the managing firm. Tuscarora installed updated machinery to handle to the new yarns, increased the use of water power, and increased the pace of work. New overseers, from outside the community, were hired to keep workers at task. This prompted some employees, particularly those eligible for Social Security, to quit working in the mill. The company increased pension benefits, perhaps in response, but ultimately, the relationship between workers and management changed permanently.⁷⁹ Similarly, the kinship of the mill with the land eroded with the switch to synthetic fibers. The mill had always spun cotton—a product of the Piedmont fields and farms that surrounded it—into yarn. By the 1972 switch to synthetic yarn, just shy of a hundred years of operation, the plant no longer reflected the industrialized processing of an important Piedmont crop. These two important changes in the life and work of much of Bynum’s population mark an end to the district’s Period of Significance.

After the close of the Period of Significance

Around 1975, the county decided to apply for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to fund upgrades to substandard housing in rural areas. CDGB money typically went to projects in cities, but the county thought a bold proposal could be successful. Bynum Hill, where houses lacked indoor toilets and insulation and were generally in disrepair, rose to the top of the priority list. There was “no sewer and no bathrooms on the hill” according to Earl Thompson, county commissioner. The county imagined purchasing the mill village from Odell, updating the houses, providing water and sewage systems, and selling each house back to the current resident. The Bynum community enthusiastically agreed with the plan, filling the Ruritan Club Building down by the bridge one Sunday in December to hear the county’s plans. Only two attendees at the meeting had indoor toilets, and those were on private septic tanks. No one was on a reliable municipal water system. Roughly fifty households in Bynum got water from Odell, including the forty-six on the hill, and another eighty or ninety were on private wells.⁸⁰

The project won a half-million-dollar grant, enabling the Chatham County Housing Authority (CCHA) to purchase and improve the mill village. The CCHA updated the houses; installed asphalt pavement and curb and gutter; connected the village to the Town of Pittsboro’s water system; and established a sewage treatment plant for Bynum. At the start of the project, CCHA assessed each dwelling to identify individual needs. Updates and repairs generally consisted of rehabilitation of chimneys, foundations, and any other brickwork; rewiring and upgrading the electrical service to one hundred amps; installing bathrooms; and improving porches and

⁷⁹ DeNatale, 11, 133-135; Jim Wiggins, “The Story of the Bynum Cotton Mill as Told by the Workers Themselves,” Chatham County Historical Association, <https://chathamhistory.org/resources/Documents/PDFs/ResearchArticles/BynumCottonMillinWorkersWords.pdf>; Interview with Eula and Vernon Durham, November 29, 1978, Interview H-0064, Southern Oral History Program Collection, #4007, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/H-0064/H-0064.html>.

⁸⁰“County Plan to Rebuild Bynum Hill Makes Sense to Local Residents,” *Pittsboro Herald*, December 30, 1975; “Bynum Mill Village most eligible for Community Development Funding,” *Chatham Record*, December 18, 1975; “Bynum villagers support CD plan,” *Pittsboro Herald*, March 10, 1976.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

staircases. A separate grant improved the ballpark, paying for bleachers, fencing, lighting, and a concession stand, as well as a playground and picnic area.⁸¹

The CCHA purchased the residential and recreational sections of the mill village in two separate transactions in January and March of 1977. The residential section totaled just under twenty acres, including the Bynum House and the I-house across the road from it and forty-two parcels along today's Bynum Hill and Bynum Church Road. The recreational parcel included the old ballpark as well as undeveloped land west and south of the village totaling just over twenty-two acres. The water filter plant, elevated tank, and reservoir at the top of Bynum Hill between the two parcels was excepted, being part of the water supply system operated by J.M. Odell Manufacturing Company for the plant as well as for the village.⁸²

The *Chatham Record* reported that, when the updates were complete in February 1978, residents of thirty-six houses were given the option to buy the house they were in, paying either a set percentage of the newly appraised market value or twenty percent of their adjusted income less utilities. The Housing Authority had arranged for Farm Credit Service to provide financing for anyone unable to get a bank loan. Prices paid averaged around \$3,000, less than the average update cost of \$3,900 per house. Three houses were reserved from sale to residents: the Bynum House at 21 Bynum Church Road and two of the story-and-a-half, hall-parlor dwellings at 125 Bynum Church Road and 39 Bynum Hill. Those were sold at auction, along with (according to the newspaper) six empty lots of about a half-acre each, and the nearly two-acre vacant lot fronting Bynum Road immediately east of the Bynum House. The auctioned houses sold for between \$11,000 and \$14,000 each, well above the new appraised values. The two smaller houses had not been updated, according to information in the deed, which stipulated that the buyer must bring them up to code or demolish them. The Bynum House, again according to the paper, had been updated.⁸³

Tuscarora Yarn closed the mill in 1981. Twenty years later, another fire destroyed the abandoned mill building. Most of the ruins have been cleared from the site, leaving just the small building that houses the water-driven electrical turbine, the mill race, and the dam. Much of the land surrounding the former mill site is now part of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area.

Architectural and Historical Contexts

Bynum Historic District includes generally modest residential, commercial, institutional, recreational, and industrial properties. The buildings exhibit architectural styles typical of the late-nineteenth- and early- through mid-twentieth century period, including vernacular

⁸¹"H.A. ready to sell houses," *Pittsboro Herald*, October 5, 1977; "Commissioners amend Bynum Park Funds," *Chatham Record*, December 15, 1977.

⁸²J.M. Odell Manufacturing Company to Chatham County Housing Authority, January 18, 1977, Chatham County Deed Book 401, 256; J.M. Odell Manufacturing Company to Chatham County Housing Authority, March 30, 1977, Chatham County Deed Book 403, 52; Bynum Mill Village Plat, Chatham County Plat Book 22, 43.

⁸³"H.A. ready to sell houses," *Pittsboro Herald*, October 5, 1977; "Bynum sale raises \$53,000," *Chatham Record* August 17, 1978; "Bynum repairs ending," *Chatham Record*, February 8, 1978; Chatham County Housing Authority to Greg Wolf et al., September 25, 1978, Chatham County Deed Book 416, 521-522.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

interpretations of the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and Gothic Revival styles. Architectural context for these building types and architectural styles occurring in Chatham County during Bynum’s Period of Significance is contained in the 1985 “Chatham County National Register of Historic Places Multiple Resource Nomination Form” (MRN) under “The Architectural Development of Chatham County” on pages on 7.2-7.22.

Bynum Historic District comprises a late-nineteenth-century mill village established at a nineteenth-century crossroads. Development of both continued into the twentieth century. Despite these overlapping development patterns, this document treats the entire district as a mill village and evaluates it under the MRN’s mill village development context. That context can be found in the MRN under “Prosperity, War, and Rebuilding: late 1830s through 1870s” beginning at page 8.13 and under “Villages, Industries, and Farms: Modernization After 1880” beginning at 8.22. Context for the development of unincorporated crossroads clusters in Chatham County can be found in the MRN under the section titled “Physical Relationships of Buildings” and beginning at page 7.2 and in the sections “Settlement and Growth: 1740s to mid 1830s” beginning at page 8.2; “Prosperity, War, and Rebuilding: late 1830s through 1870s” beginning at page 8.13; and “Villages, Industries, and Farms: Modernization After 1880” beginning at 8.22.

The mill village context is primary for the district for two reasons. First, the original mid-nineteenth-century buildings are now all gone or overbuilt. Second, from its establishment, the mill became the dominant force shaping the built environment at Bynum. Surviving development of the crossroads cluster occurred after construction of the mill and its village and was intimately tied to mill operations and the people who worked there. Commercial buildings housed businesses developed for the benefit of millworkers, and the informal residential development in the northern part of the district functioned as an extension of the mill village. Some elements of the MRN’s discussion of unincorporated rural crossroads are referenced here, and in fact begin the discussion below, due to the fact that what developed into the Bynum mill village originated as a rural crossroads cluster. Additional historical context is included below.

Characteristics of Chatham County’s crossroads communities included transportation crossings and some sort of public amenity, like a grist mill or post office, that brought rural neighbors from their farms to the crossroads. Civic, institutional, and commercial structures often followed.⁸⁴ Rivers, roads, and their crossings drove the development of farms and communities in early Chatham County, as they did at Bynum. The original alignment of Highway 15-501, which used the Bynum Bridge (CH0658, NR2020) to cross the Haw River in the first half of the twentieth century, followed a route developed before the middle of the nineteenth century that connected Chapel Hill with Pittsboro and Sanford.⁸⁵ The mid-nineteenth-century amenities established at Bynum that took advantage of traffic crossing the river here—the grist mill, blacksmith shop, cotton gin, sawmill, early store, and tavern—are no longer extant. The twentieth-century continuation of that development pattern survives, including Carey Durham’s stores and movie theater close to the bridge and the Williams’s store and auto-repair garage at the east end of the district.

⁸⁴ Rachel S. Osborn, “Chatham County Multiple Resource Nomination” (hereafter Chatham MRN), NRHP Nomination, 1983, <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/nr/CH0830.pdf>, 7.23.

⁸⁵ Chatham MRN, 7.1-2.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Railroad development also created small communities in late-nineteenth-century Chatham County, either at newly established depots or by boosting existing crossroads. In fact, few Chatham County crossroads grew to the size of Bynum without associated rail development. Moncure is a rail-related unincorporated community that developed to a size similar to Bynum and also benefitted from its proximity to the historically navigable Neuse River. Moncure retains a small commercial district of one- and two-story brick buildings dating from the early- to mid-twentieth century. The three buildings stand on the east side of Post Office Road, just north of the rail line. A small grid of residential streets lies southwest of the commercial district, populated with late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth century dwellings of frame construction, often vernacular in character. Some resemble larger versions of the mill houses in Bynum with gabled roofs, molded end returns, weatherboard exteriors with pilastered corner boards, and shed-roofed front porches. Others are more richly decorated, like the Charles Thomas House (CH0157), a single-story Queen Anne-style house with wraparound porch, multiple gables with end returns, turned porch post with sawn brackets, and a turned porch balustrade. Other buildings previously documented are no longer extant, such as the Bryant Davenport House (CH0156) and the Moncure Depot (CH0734). Both Bynum and Moncure retain a concentration of commercial buildings that have integrity from their period of construction, as well as residential buildings from the period of major development that illustrate the growth and prosperity of the place in the historic period. The two communities reflect very different development histories, and both are important to understanding the full scope of Chatham County history.

The county's two surviving workers' villages are at Bynum and Siler City. Siler City, originally known as Matthews Crossroads, grew into the county's largest city after becoming a railroad stop in 1884. Bynum didn't have the benefit of the railroad to spur its growth later in the century, but, like Siler City, it had a textile mill. Both mills and their associated workers' villages developed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and were largely built-out by the 1920s. The two villages have much in common: small frame dwellings that repeated types along compact streetscapes adjacent to the site of a mill. The Hadley-Peoples houses were slightly larger than those at Bynum, generally featuring four rooms in an L-plan. Common types are single-story triple-A cottages with rear ells, double-pile houses with very high pyramidal roofs, and side-gabled houses with German siding, hipped porches, and six-over-six sash. As at Bynum, a few outlier house types exist, including some two-story dwellings that may have been supervisors' houses. Much of the milling complex survives adjacent to the Hadley-Peoples village, but the residential blocks do not retain the same level of integrity seen in the Bynum village. Although there are repeated dwelling types, the streetscapes do not achieve or retain the visual rhythm seen at Bynum due to individual alterations. At Hadley-Peoples, unlike at Bynum, it is not clear where the mill village begins or ends. A third Chatham County worker's village, erected near Moncure in the early twentieth century to support the electrical power plant built by Carolina Power & Light, does not survive. The village dated to 1923. They layout included a

Bynum Historic District

Name of Property

Chatham County, NC

County and State

village green surrounded by bungalow dwellings on a circular road, including a superintendent's house, a boarding house, tennis courts, and the collection of single-story bungalows.⁸⁶

The architecture of mill villages reflects the conservatism of rural architectural styles, with variations due to different construction dates or various contractors' interpretations of specifications. D.A. Tompkins, a textile industrialist who wrote books on textile milling operations and helped establish the textile school at North Carolina State College (now University), outlined methodology for building mill villages in his 1899 book, *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features: A Test Book for the Use of Textile Schools*. Tompkins offered schematic plans for various house types and sample specifications, recommending small, low-cost housing for the majority of mill workers. Repeating the same dwelling plan, or same few plans, throughout the village kept costs down. Tompkins's designs exhibited architectural style, however, and featured molding, turned posts, and sawn brackets.⁸⁷

Chatham County's two mill villages follow this pattern. At Bynum, the saddlebag type repeats dozens of times to fill most of the lots in the two streets north of the mill side. Two other dwelling types seen in the mill village are also vernacular types: a story-and-a-half hall-parlor-plan house and a story-and-a-half double-pile type. Both are side-gabled and tend to have been heavily altered since construction in the late nineteenth through early twentieth centuries. The hall-parlor type is said to have been originally built with separate kitchen rooms attached as rear ells by a breezeway; none appear to remain with even an altered version of this iteration. The Hadley Peoples village in Siler City features single-pile and double-pile types built simply, including single-story, side-gabled houses with front porches and rear ells and pyramidal-roof double-pile houses. They have less decorative detail than the houses at Bynum, with plain boxed eaves and porch posts as opposed to molded and chamfered versions.

While the architectural detail and building massing unifies the village at Bynum, the arrangement of dwellings on the landscape represents the importance that transportation, waterpower, and topography had on development. Houses outside the mill village address historic and current roadways, with older houses oriented to an earlier (and no longer extant) alignment of the road between Pittsboro and Chapel Hill. These houses are more likely to have remaining small farm-related outbuildings, including livestock barns, smokehouses, and equipment sheds. After the new road went in during the 1920s, houses addressed that roadway. While they stood on smaller lots, they were still large enough for chicken coops, small grist mills, and/or commercial buildings. The older houses took the better building sites at the ridges of rolling hills. Likewise, the mill village originated at the top of a hill back from the east bank of the river, where the mill itself stood.

⁸⁶ Chatham MRN, 8.31.

⁸⁷ Catherine Bishir and Catherine Westergaard, "Daniel A. Tompkins," North Carolina Architects & Builders: A Biographical Dictionary, NC State University Libraries, <https://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu>; D.A. Tompkins, *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features: A Test Book for the Use of Textile Schools and Investors* (Charlotte: D.A. Tompkins, 1899), 112-128.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

The development of Bynum reflects typical patterns that occurred at crossroads clusters and mill villages in Chatham County in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Additionally, Bynum's vernacular residential and commercial architecture exemplifies construction and stylistic trends seen throughout the county in the same periods. Bynum Historic District retains all seven aspects of integrity; in fact, the district's integrity is unmatched in the county. The district is an excellent example of a Chatham County rural residential mill village associated with an industrial plant rooted in processing of an agricultural product.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Published Works

Hadley, Wade Hampton, Doris Goerch Horton, and Nell Craig Strowd. *Chatham County 1771-1971*, 2nd ed. Durham: Moore Publishing Company, 1976.

Hall, Jacquelyn Dowd, James Leloudis, Robert Korstad, Mary Murphy, Lu Ann Jones, and Christopher B. Daly. *Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1987.

Osborn, Rachel, and Ruth Selden-Sturgill. *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina*. Pittsboro: The Chatham County Historic Architecture Survey Committee, 1991.

Tompkins, D.A. *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features: A Text Book for the Use of Textile Schools and Investors*. Charlotte: D.A. Thompkins, 1899.

Unpublished Sources

Bresler, Helen. "The Bynum Mill Village: Unplanned Perfection." Photocopied manuscript in the Bynum Mill Village file in the Architectural Survey File Room, Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh.

Claggett, Stephen R., and John S. Cable. "The Haw River Sites: Archeological Investigations at Two Stratified Sites in the North Carolina Piedmont." Commonwealth Associates Inc. for the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1982,
<https://archive.org/search?query=creator%3A%22Claggett%2C+Stephen+R%22>.

DeNatale, Douglas. "Traditional Culture and Community in a Piedmont Textile Mill Village." UNC-CH Master's Thesis, 1980.

New South Associates. "National Register Eligibility Evaluation of the Rocky River Power and Light Company Dam and Powerhouse, Chatham County, NC."
<https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/PDFs/ER%2013-0776.pdf>.

Wiggins, Jim. "The Story of the Bynum Cotton Mill as Told by the Workers Themselves." Chatham County Historical Association,
<https://chathamhistory.org/resources/Documents/PDFs/ResearchArticles/BynumCottonMillinWorkersWords.pdf>.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Government Documents

Census Office, Department of the Interior. *Reports on the Water-Power of the United States*, 1880. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1885.

United States Federal Censuses, 1790-1950. Viewed online at <https://www.ancestry.com>.

Chatham County Deed Books. Viewed online at <https://www.chathamncrod.org>.

Genealogical Research Sources

Baird, Robert. "The Line of William Bynum (c1690-1746), grandson of John Bynum." *Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet*. Viewed online at www.genfiles.com

Chatham County Historical Association, Architectural Update 2019-2021. Viewed online at <https://chathamhistory.org/Architectural-Update-2019-2021>.

Findagrave website. Viewed online at <https://www.findagrave.com>.

Geneanet Community Trees Index [database on-line]. Viewed online at <https://www.ancestry.com>.

North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741-2011 [database on-line]. Viewed online at <https://www.ancestry.com>.

North Carolina, U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970 [database on-line]. Viewed online at <https://www.ancestry.com>.

North Carolina, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1665-1998 [database on-line]. Viewed online at <https://www.ancestry.com>.

Newspaper Articles

"Correspondence." *Chatham Record*, April 24, 1879.

"Taxpayer." *Chatham Record*, May 1, 1879.

"For the Record." *Chatham Record*, May 15, 1879.

"In Chatham County." *The Farmer and Mechanic*, May 2, 1883.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

- “Bridge at Henley’s Mill,” *Chatham Record*, January 10, 1884.
- “Local Records.” *Chatham Record*, August 24, 1899.
- “Local Records.” *Chatham Record*, September 12, 1907.
- “Local Records.” *Chatham Record*, November 21, 1907.
- “Wanted at once.” *Chatham Record*, September 9, 1908.
- “New Road to Bynum.” *Chatham Record*, August 23, 1911.
- “Road Improvements.” *Chatham Record*, September 17, 1913.
- “Destructive fire.” *Chatham Record*, July 5, 1916.
- “Only a rumor.” *Chatham Record*, February 13, 1919.
- “Wanted 10 carpenters.” *Chatham Record*, October 20, 1921.
- “County Plan to Rebuild Bynum Hill Makes Sense to Local Residents.” *Pittsboro Herald*,
December 30, 1975.
- “Bynum Mill Village most eligible for Community Development Funding.” *Chatham Record*,
December 18, 1975.
- “Bynum villagers support CD plan.” *Pittsboro Herald*, March 10, 1976.
- “H.A. ready to sell houses.” *Pittsboro Herald*, October 5, 1977.
- “Commissioners amend Bynum Park Funds.” *Chatham Record*, December 15, 1977.
- “Bynum repairs ending.” *Chatham Record*, February 8, 1978.
- “Bynum sale raises \$53,000.” *Chatham Record* August 17, 1978.
- “Ruth W. Williams.” *Raleigh News and Observer*, February 7, 2000.

Survey Files, NC Historic Preservation Office

Bynum Bridge. CH0658

Bynum Mill and Mill Village. CH0685.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Bynum Mill Village. CH0875.

Carney Bynum House. CH0324.

Durham House. CH0750.

Jim Atwater House. CH0327.

Luther Bynum House. CH0232.

Manuscript Collections

Durham, Eula and Vernon. Interview H-0064, 1978, The Industrialization of North Carolina's Piedmont Region, Oral Histories of the American South. Documenting the American South, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/>.

Durham, Flossie Moore. Interview H-0666, 1976, The Industrialization of North Carolina's Piedmont Region, Oral Histories of the American South. Documenting the American South, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/>.

Durham, Franklin. Interview H-0067, 1979, The Industrialization of North Carolina's Piedmont Region, Oral Histories of the American South. Documenting the American South, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/>.

J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company Records #4371-z, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Interviews

Burger, Jan. Interview with the author, March 13, 2024.

Considine, Robert T. Interview with the author, March 8, 2024.

Hatley, Ron. Interviews with the author, March 13 and 25, 2024.

Johnson, Virgil. Interview with the author, May 11, 2024.

La Palme, Sharon. Interview with the author, March 13, 2024.

McCall, Jannette. Interview with the author, March 29, 2024.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Williams, James. Interview with the author, February 26, 2024.

Williams, Ted. Interview with the author, March 13, 2024.

NRHP Nominations

Manieri, Ray. "Gregson-Hadley House." National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1983.
<https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/nr/CH0477.pdf>.

Manieri, Ray. "Goodwin Farm Complex." National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1983. <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/nr/CH0200.pdf>.

Osborn, Rachel S. "Chatham County Multiple Resource Nomination." National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1983, <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/nr/CH0830.pdf>.

Swan, Diane, and Debbie Tunnell. "Bynum Bridge." National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2020. <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/nr/ch0658/download>.

Thomas, Beth, Brent Glass, and Wilson Angeley. "Lockville Dam, Canal and Powerhouse." National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1984. <https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/nr/CH0018.pdf>.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CH0685, CH0875, CH0658

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 121 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.776350 | Longitude: -79.150590 |
| 2. Latitude: 35.777586 | Longitude: -79.135934 |
| 3. Latitude: 35.769319 | Longitude: -79.135633 |
| 4. Latitude: 35.770208 | Longitude: -79.150293 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

At the right bank of the Haw River just upstream of Odell Dam and beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel identified by the PIN 9753-57-3107, the boundary extends northeast across the Haw River to the northwest corner of the parcel on the east bank of the river identified by the PIN 9753-66-9732. The boundary then follows the north and east parcel lines of that parcel as far as the south side of Dixon Road. At Dixon Road, the boundary turns to the northeast and follows the rear parcel line of the property at 28 Charlie Fields Road until it turns southeast to follow the northeast side parcel line to the rear parcel line of the lot at 647 Bynum Road. The boundary turns to the northeast and follows the rear parcel line of that parcel as far as its northeast corner.

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

The boundary crosses Durham Eubanks Road and then turns northwest to follow the west parcel lines of the parcels at 715 Bynum Road and 237 and 169 Durham Eubanks Road. At the northwest corner of the parcel at 169 Durham Eubanks Road, the boundary turns to the northeast and follows the rear (and sometimes side) parcel lines of the parcels at 169, 237, and 245 Durham Eubanks Road as well as the rear parcel lines of the parcels at Roy Hatley Road and Wheeler Road. At the northeast corner of the parcel at 84 Wheeler Road, the boundary continues along the rear line of the parcel at 941 Bynum Road. At the northeast corner of that parcel, the boundary turns south to follow the east parcel line as far as the rear line of the parcel at 967 Bynum Road. The boundary then turns south at the northeast corner of that parcel and crosses Bynum Road, then turning east-northeast to follow the east portion of the north line of the parcel at 46 Williams Pond Road. The boundary follows the lines of this parcel to a point 370 feet west of the southeast corner of the parcel, where it turns south-southeast and runs 400 feet to a point southeast of the south corner of the left outfield. This 400-foot stretch of the boundary line is parallel to and 100 feet east of the chain-link fence enclosing the baseball diamond at left field. At the point southeast of the rear corner of the left outfield, the boundary line turns to the southwest and follows a line parallel to and 20 feet south and southwest of the chain link fence until the boundary meets the east line of the parcel at PIN 9753-86-8389. The boundary then turns southeast and follows the east and then rear lot lines of that parcel. The boundary then follows the rear lot lines of the parcels at 156 and 118 Bynum Hill and the rear lot lines of the parcels at the south side of the south arm of Bynum Church Road. From the southwest corner of the parcel at 232 Bynum Church Road, the boundary crosses the roadway to meet the northeast line of the parcel identified by PIN 9753-75-8819. The boundary then turns to the southeast to follow the line to the southeast corner of the parcel, where it crosses the Haw River, passing between the two islands to meet the right bank at the east line of the parcel identified by PIN 9753-75-3165 at a point 1,100 feet from the point at the east bank. The boundary then turns to the northwest and follows the riverbank lines of the parcels identified by PINs 9753-75-3165, 9753-75-2207, 9753-75-0475, and 9753-65-9559. At the northeast corner of the parcel at PIN 9753-65-9559, the boundary meets the boundary on the south side of and near the west end of the Bynum Bridge. The Bynum Historic District boundary coincides with the Bynum Bridge boundary to the southwest, turning northwest at the end of the bridge, and turning again to the northeast to a point about 105 feet northeast of the west end of the bridge. The boundary then turns to the northwest to follow the riverbank lines of the parcels at 9753-65-8723, 9753-65-6604, 9753-65-3743, 9753-6500768, and 9753-66-0157. At the northeast corner of the parcel at PIN 9753-66-0157, the boundary continues to the northwest to meet the southeast corner of the parcel at PIN 9753-56-5755. From this point, the boundary continues along the riverbank lines of this parcel and the portion of the riverbank line of the parcel at PIN 9753-47-6560 south of the parcel at PIN 9753-57-3107, and the riverbank line of the parcel at PIN 9753-57-3107 back to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary has been selected to encompass the greatest concentration of significant resources retaining integrity and associated with the areas of significance for the Bynum Historic District. The boundary includes the Bynum Bridge and houses fronting both the previous and current

Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

alignment of Bynum Road, as the river crossing and the roadway between Chapel Hill and Pittsboro contributed to the development of Bynum as a significant transportation corridor. The boundary includes the mill village, including residences and the baseball field, along Bynum Hill and Bynum Church Road. The boundary includes the Odell Dam as well as the land that the power canal, powerhouse, and grist mill ruins occupy. Finally, the boundary includes a section of the Haw River that extends immediately upstream of the Odell Dam down to the lowest point of the parcel that the powerhouse occupies, as the interaction of the river with these structures and the river's proximity to Bynum are both significant in the history and development of the community.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Cynthia de Miranda
organization: MdM Historical Consultants, Inc.
street & number: PO Box 1399
city or town: Durham state: NC zip code: 27702
e-mail cynthia@mdmhc.com
telephone: 919-906-3136
date: September 20, 2024

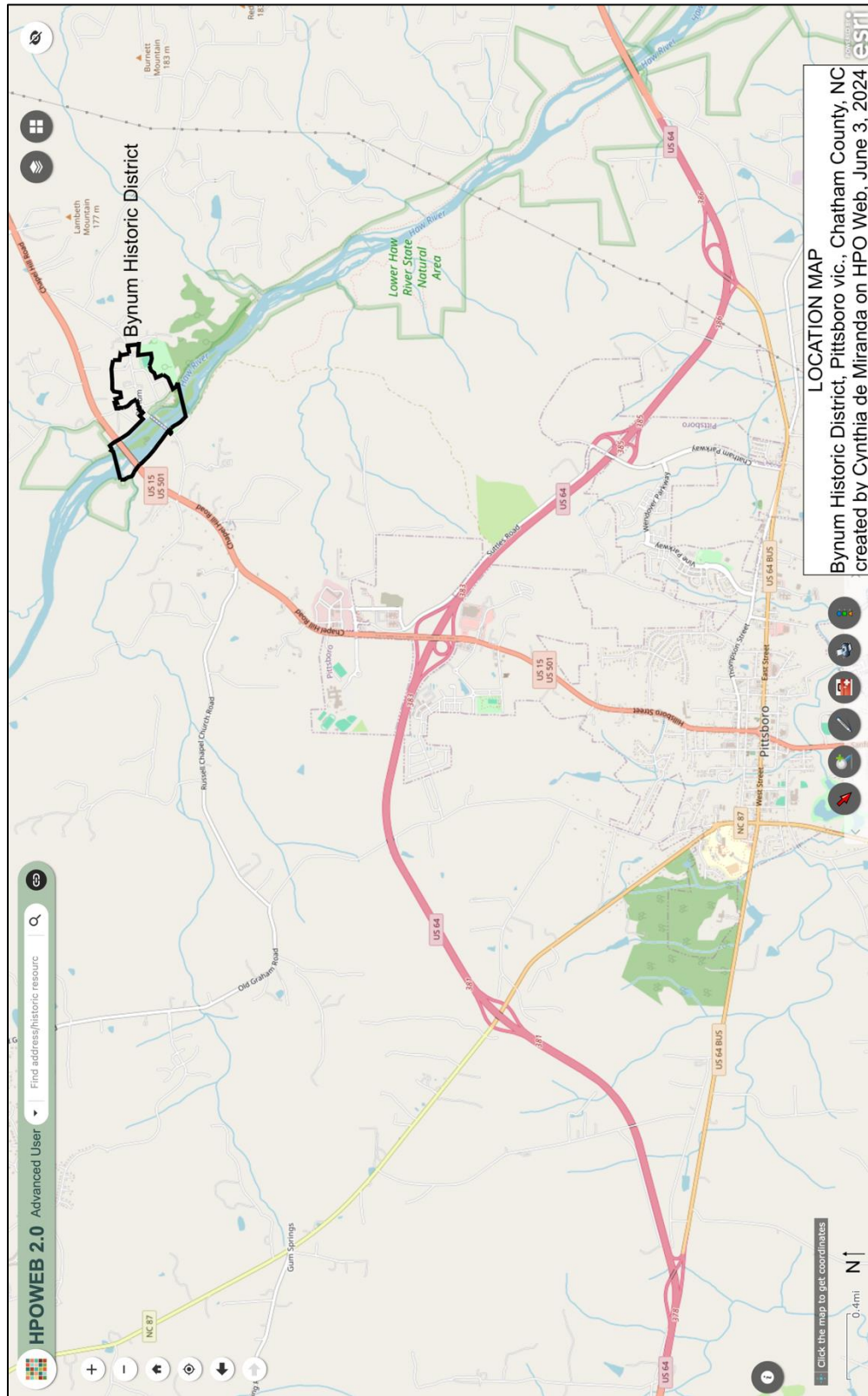
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

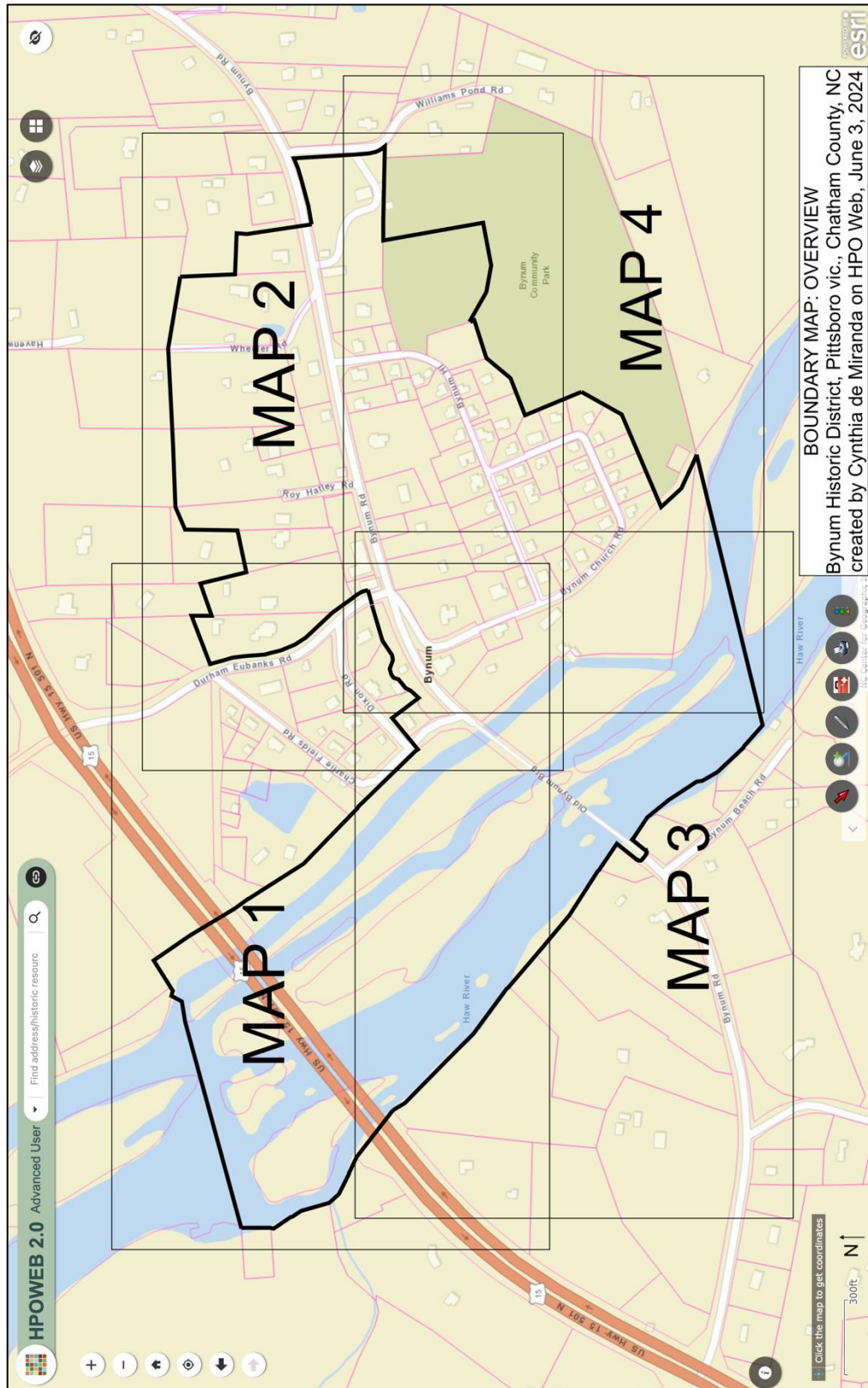
Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State



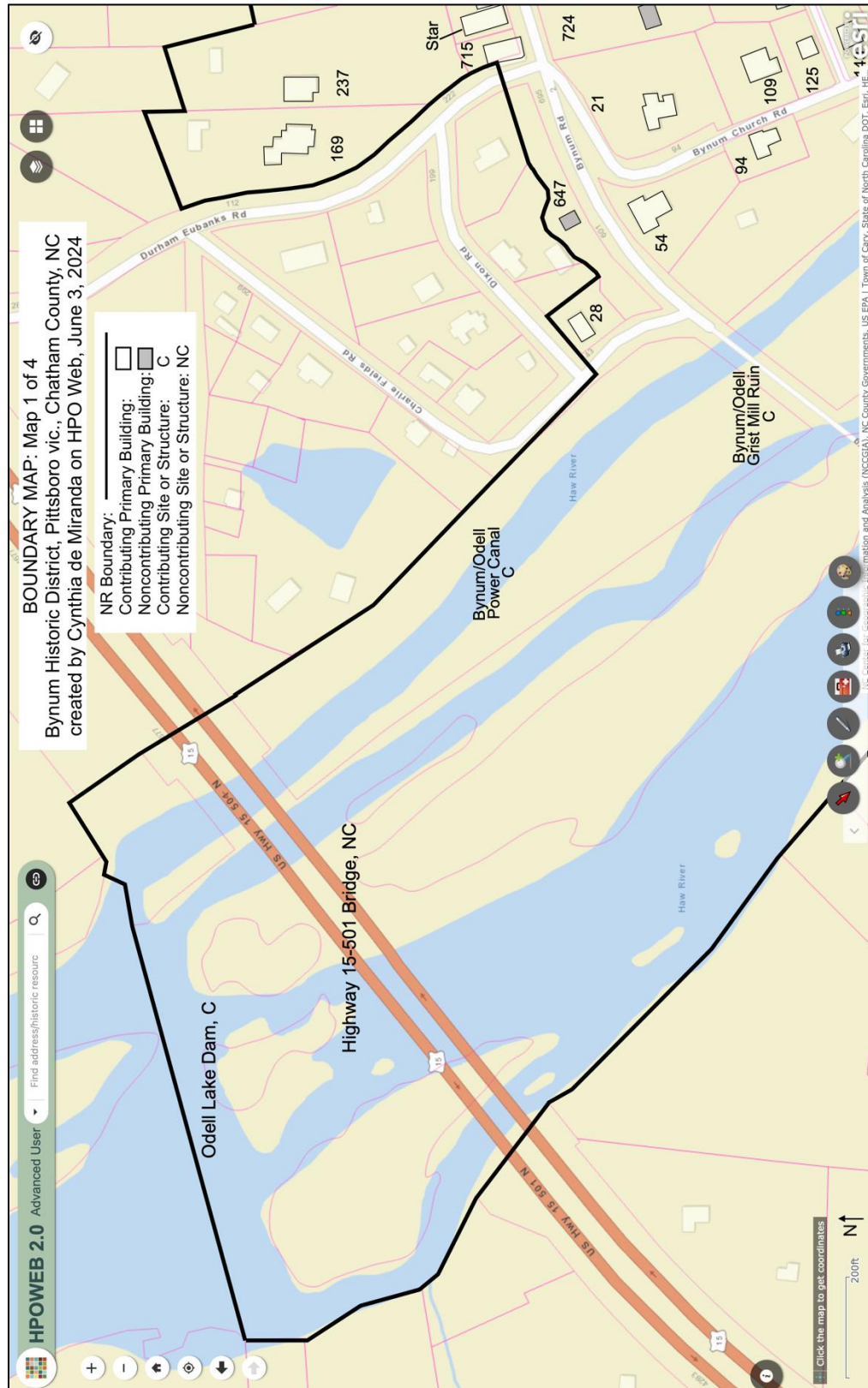
Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State



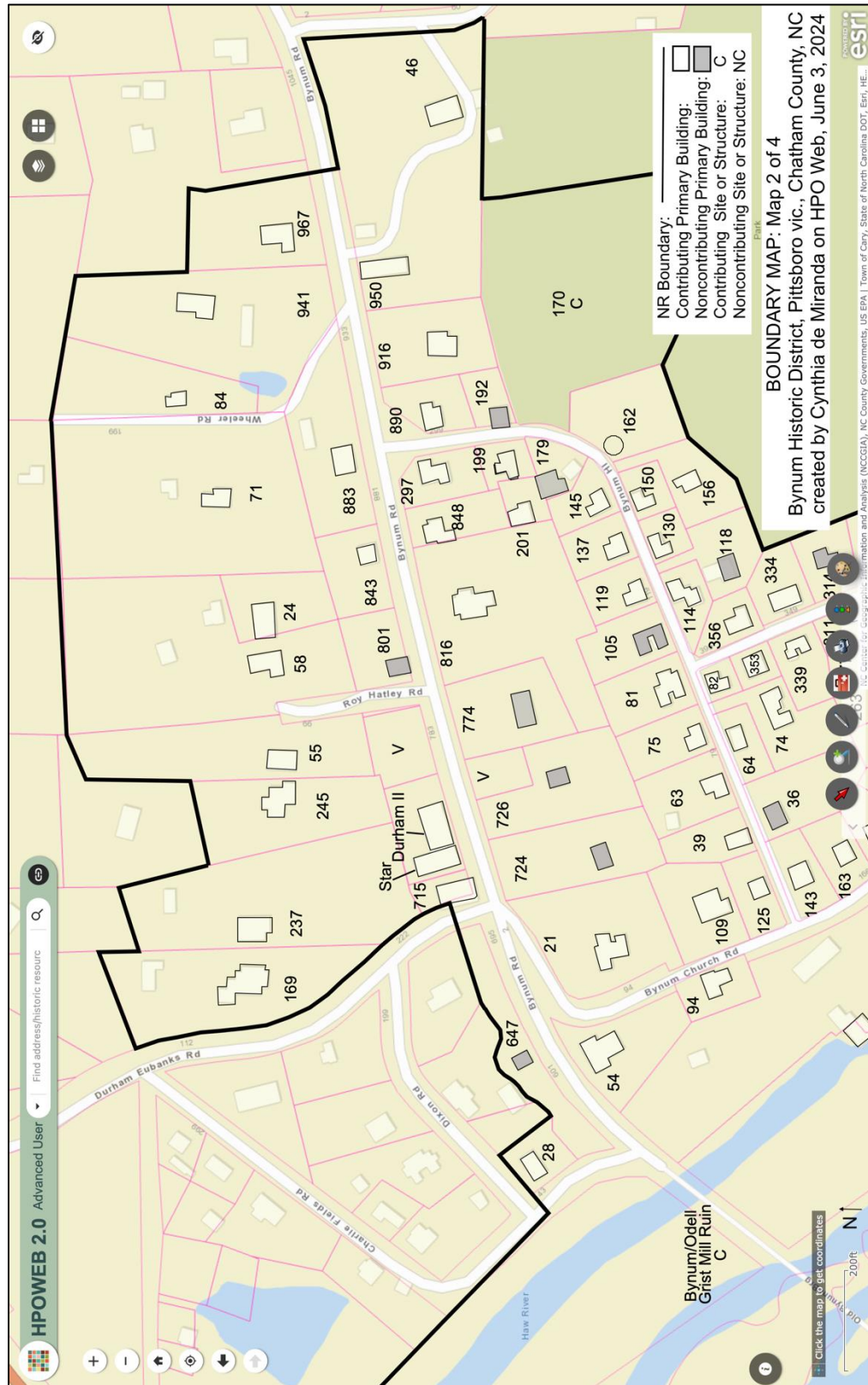
Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State



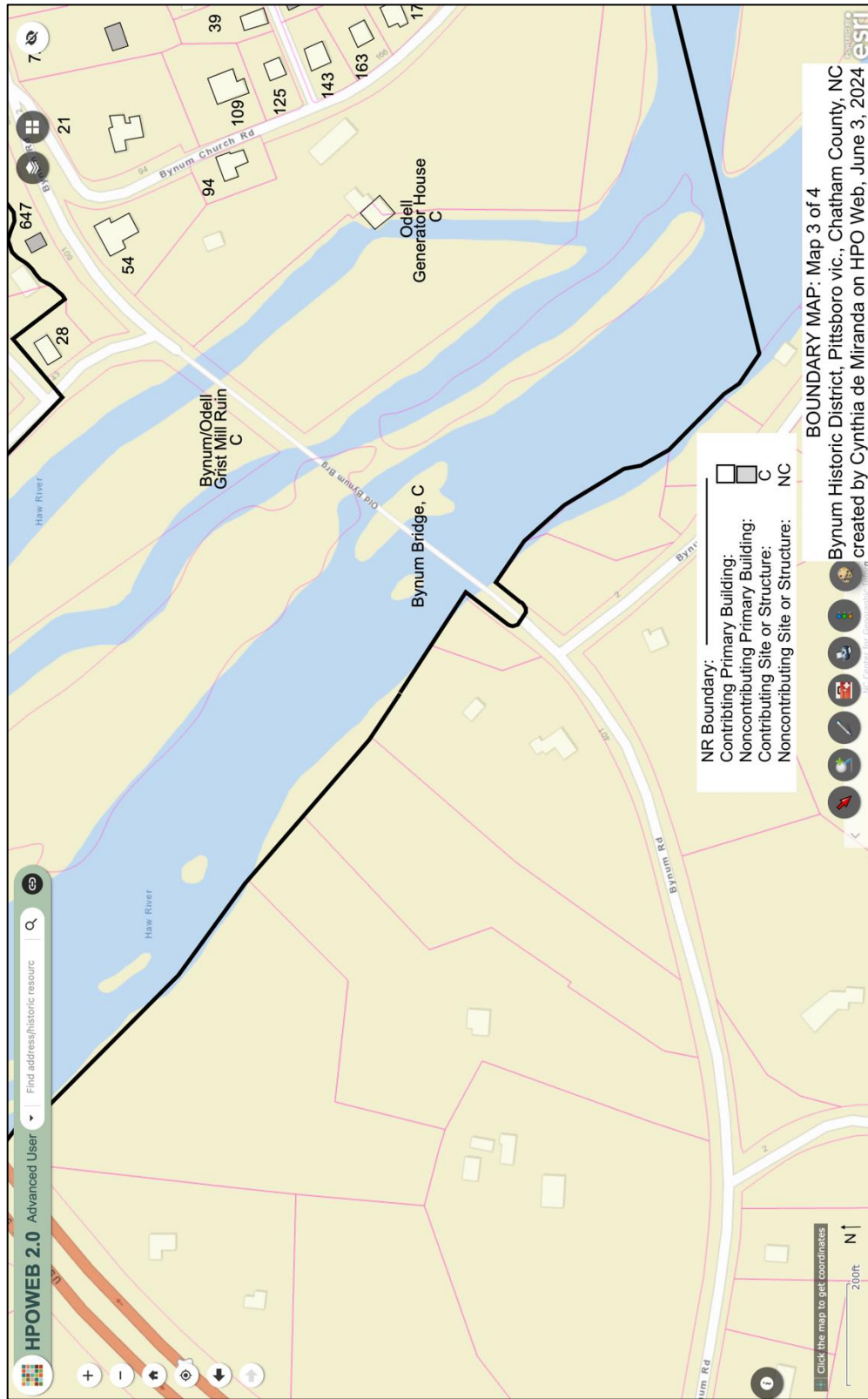
Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State



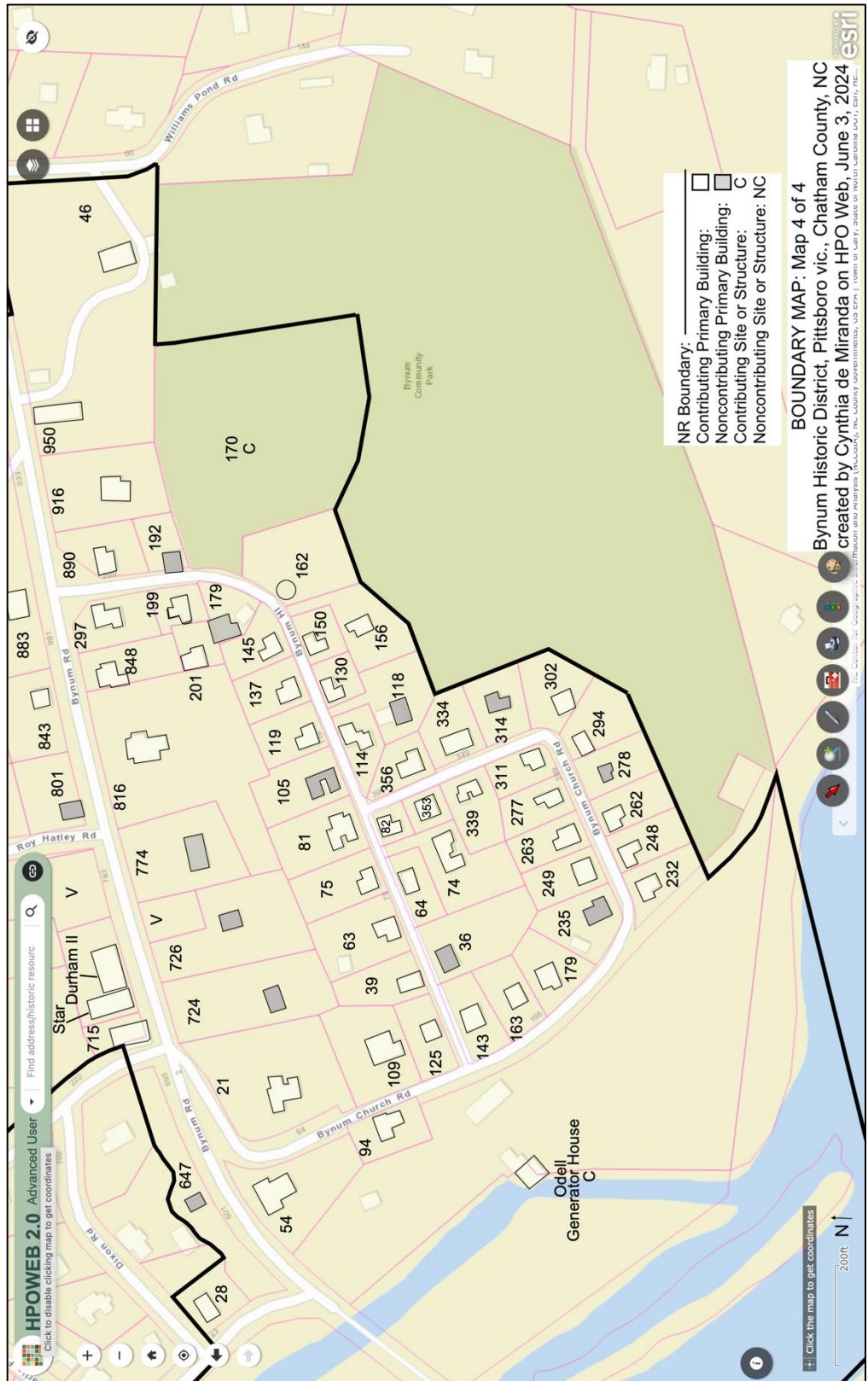
Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State



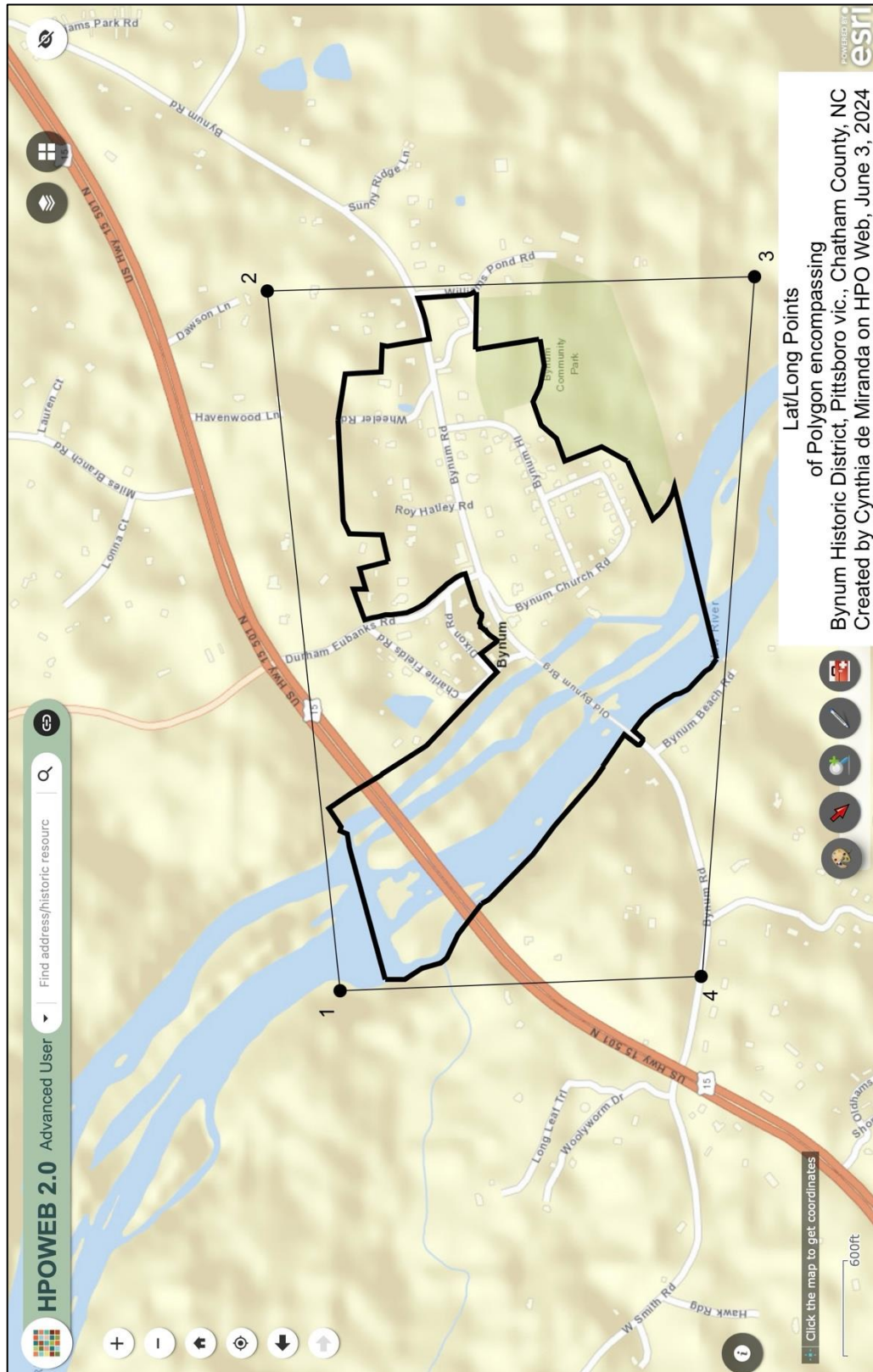
Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State



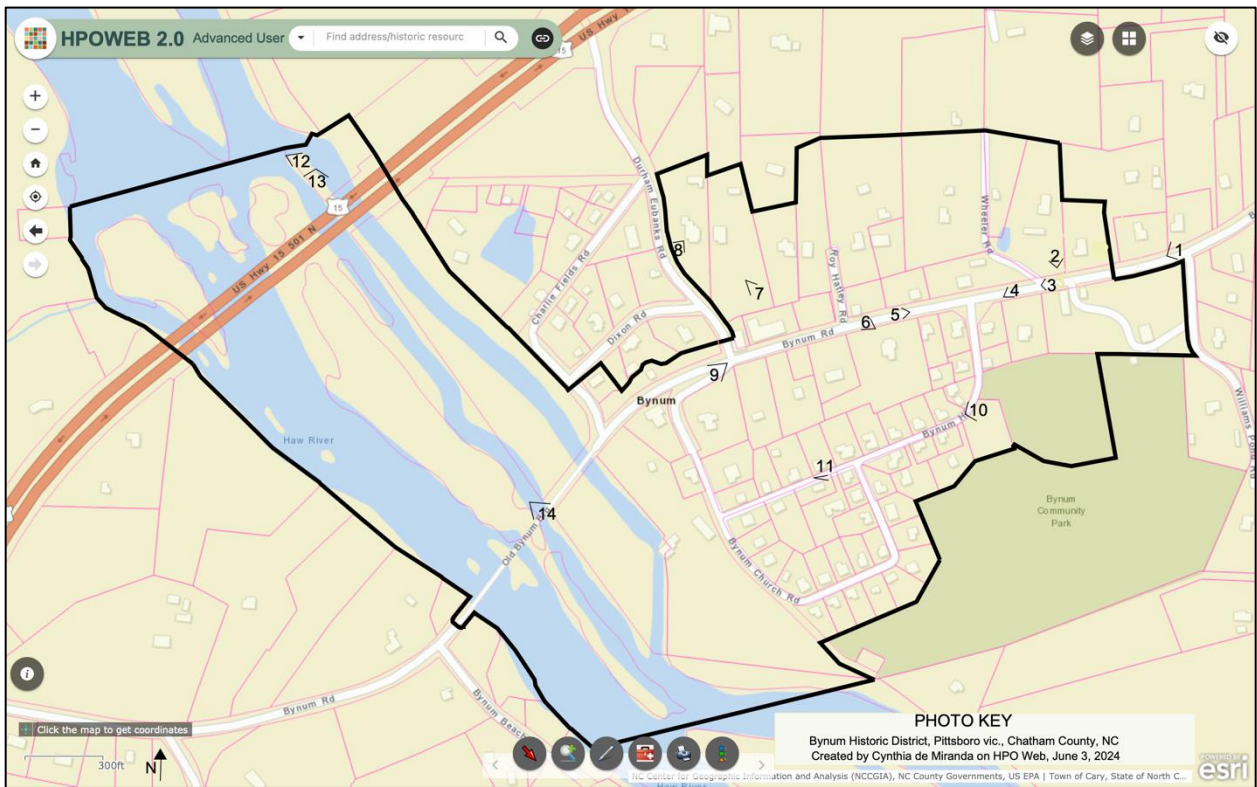
Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State



Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State



Bynum Historic District
Name of Property

Chatham County, NC
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Bynum Historic District
City or Vicinity: Bynum
County: Chatham County State: NC
Photographer: Cynthia de Miranda
Date Photographed: March 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. View WSW at Bynum Road from Williams Pond Road.
2. View S toward J.G. Williams Store (R) with Auto Repair Garage (L).
3. View W at Bynum Road at Wheeler Road.
4. View SW at Bynum Hill showing standpipe and mill village.
5. View NE at Bynum Road.
6. View SE toward Atwater-Durham House.
7. View NW toward Bynum-Durham House and Taylor-Durham House.
8. View NE toward Bynum-Durham House.
9. View NE at Bynum Church Road toward Bynum Road commercial buildings.
10. View SW at Bynum Hill showing mill housing.
11. View W at Bynum Hill showing mill housing.
12. View W at Odell Dam.
13. View N to sluice gates at Odell Dam.
14. View NW at Haw River from Bynum Bridge.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.