

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Nash and Halifax	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Bellamy's Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West side of S.R. 1518, north and south banks of Fishing Creek

CITY OR TOWN:  
Whitakers vicinity  
Second Congressional District  
The Hon. L. H. Fountain

STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37	COUNTY: Nash and Halifax	CODE: Nash 127
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Stewart Gibson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3001 Westridge Circle Dr.

CITY OR TOWN: Rocky Mount, N. C. 27801	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Nash County Courthouse  
Halifax County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Halifax

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

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STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Nash and Halifax

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bellamy's Mill stands on the south side of Fishing Creek; across the creek extends a dam, which has support structures on the north side as well, made like the mill of cut stone blocks. The mill building is quite large, rising three full stories on the side toward the water and two on the land side. It is made of large blocks of stone. Its gable ends face the water and the land side, the roof ridge running perpendicular to the water. The gable end by the water is two bays wide, with windows at the second and third levels and in the weatherboarded gable. The land side is three bays, with the east bay blind; the center bay has a door at both levels and windows occur in the west bay. The gable is like that toward the water. The sides of the building are four bays deep, with windows at the second and third levels. Small rectangular openings--perhaps for ventilation overflow, or joists--pierce the thick walls at the first level. At water level, there is an impressive arched sluice gate opening, with the stone arch handsomely worked.

The interior has two floors, corresponding to the window levels; the lower part of the building is all open. Several partitions divide the space of the usable floors, and milling machinery including the turbine, most of it from the twentieth century operation, remains inside.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1850s and later

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bellamy's Mill is an impressive stone mill, unusual in North Carolina for its size, its stone construction, and its long continuity of use. Local tradition says it was built about 1859 during its ownership by John T. Bellamy and William Hunter, but the site was evidently part of the mill operation of James Grant in the 1820s. After the Civil War, Bellamy operated there an extensive local industrial complex--grist mill, saw mill, cotton factory and gin. The handsome turbine-grist mill, with its still-intact dam, mill pond, and rural setting, is a picturesque and representative vestige of an antebellum local industry vital to an agrarian economy, and of the postwar emergence into the industrial age.

Bellamy's Mill stands on the south side of Fishing Creek, the dividing line between Nash County on the south and Halifax on the north. Transactions involving the mill site--its dam spanning the creek and its operation involving property on both sides--occur in the records of both counties. It appears that the first mill on the site was established by James Grant in 1817. It was usual, if a man wanted to set up a mill and could not arrive at an agreement with the owner of the land across the creek, to petition the county court to appoint commissioners to investigate the necessity for the mill and to set a price on the land needed from the other land owner--a practice reflecting the importance of grist mills to the agricultural economy of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Nash County mill records include the statement of three commissioners who were appointed to evaluate the land of Daniel Walker on the south side of Fishing Creek, Nash County, "where James Grant of the opposite side, Halifax County, is desirous of building a public Water Grist & Saw Mill." After examining Walker's land, they found the "reasonable Value" of one acre to be \$6.50. The commissioners added that

We are further of opinion upon inspection of the Local situation of the lands adjacent to said place, that no person will be materially damaged by the erection of said mill; it taking away neither Houses, Orchards, Gardens, nor other immediate conveniences, except James Grant who is the petitioner, he owning a considerable body of low grounds immediately above; We are further of opinion that, the erection of said Mill cannot possibly in any manner Create a Nuisance to the Neighbourhood, but on the Contrary would be of great, public utility, the people for many miles below in dry seasons, which

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are frequently of long duration, being Compelled to carry their grain to Mr. Isaac Hilliards Mill on said Stream, Seven miles above; and there oblig'd to wait for days, and sometimes weeks before they can return. . .

James Grant was comptroller of North Carolina 1827-1834 and married Elizabeth Whitaker, daughter of Matthew Cary Whitaker, a prominent Halifax County landowner and political figure. Evidently because of financial complications connected with a trust involving members of the Whitaker family, Grant sold in 1827 to Eli B. Whitaker, trustee, considerable property including the mill. The Tarboro Free Press of February 1, 1828, carried an advertisement for a "Trust Sale" on February 6, at which time James Grant's real estate would be sold, including "a valuable MILL, nearly new, across Fishing Creek, which for durability of materials, and local situation is believed to be inferior to none in the State." (Could the "durable" building be the present stone structure?) The mill was bought at auction by Matthew C. Whitaker, Grant's father-in-law or brother-in-law; he in turn appears to have sold it to Cyrus Whitaker and Charles Denny. In 1831, Cyrus Whitaker and Charles Dewey (Denny) trustees sold to William Bustin for \$1,850.25 the lands and mills formerly the property of James Grant; a boundary refers to the creek by "formerly Grants now Nicholsons Mill." Evidently a Nicholson was running the mill.

Ownership of the mill site is not certain for some years, but on June 11, 1850, Samuel W. Branch of Halifax County sold to William Hunter for \$1,000 several tracts, including "three acres of land on Fishing Creek, two acres on the South and one on the North of said Creek, known as the Mill Seat which formerly belonged to Grant."

William Hunter, a physician in nearby Enfield, was the guardian of Joseph C. and John T. Bellamy, following the death of their father, John F. Bellamy of Nash County in 1846. Hunter was apparently married to their sister Ann, and he oversaw the education of the two sons, the former at the University of North Carolina, the latter at the University of Virginia. At the sale of John F. Bellamy's property, William Hunter and John T. bought extensively of the inventory of farm equipment, furniture, etc. In 1852 John T. Bellamy of Edgecombe County bought from Hunter for \$1,000 "one half of the mill & 3 acres of land attached . . . on Fishing Creek (formerly Known as Nicholson's Mill)." Soon after, Hunter and Bellamy bought from William and Gough Ann Bustin an adjoining twenty acres. Local tradition has it that about 1859 Bellamy (and presumably Hunter) had built the first two stories of the large stone building that now exists, and that during the Civil War it was used as a Confederate uniform factory. No documentation has been found to support this. It was, however, apparently a large concern, particularly in the postwar era. On August 20, 1866, Hunter sold to Bellamy for five dollars "my half of . . . land lying . . . on both sides of Fishing Creek known as the Mill Seat." In 1868, as a result of a suit against Hunter by Bellamy and his brother Joseph, writs of fini facias were issued by the Superior Court of Halifax County, ordering Hunter's lands sold. (Joseph purchased 950 acres).

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Hunter's selling out of his half to Bellamy is not reflected in the North Carolina Business Directory. The 1867-1868 issue shows under "Mills," Hunter & Bellamy at Hunter's, Halifax County. The 1872, 1877-1878, and 1890 issues also show Hunter & Bellamy, grist mill, no location in Halifax County (this could result from outdated listings). An 1899 report by the North Carolina Geological Survey on water power in the state provided a description of Bellamy's operation. It reported that Fishing Creek is the first important tributary of the Tar River, and that it crosses the fall line near Enfield. It was one of only two mills described along this creek.

The first power is that of Dr. J. T. Bellamy, at the fall line, 4 miles from Enfield, where there are a saw-and grist-mill, gin, and cotton-yarn mill, the last named of which has not been operated for several years owing to the antiquated character of the machinery and the lack of capital for more modern equipment. The dam is of stone, built in 1857, at a cost of \$9000, and is 168 feet long and 12 feet high, backing the water about 3 miles, and overflowing some 200 acres of swamp land to an average depth of perhaps 7 or 8 feet. At one end of the dam is the cotton-factory, and at the other the saw-and grist-mills, all using a fall of 12 feet and a total of about 50 horsepower, of which the factory formerly used perhaps 30, with a turbine-wheel, and it is said with always a waste of water. . . . This site is 4 miles from the railroad.

This operation is described in various reports of the period, including the Industrial Census of 1880, business directories of the period, and an 1878 report on the state's industries; the latter of which noted it as Tuscarora Mills, a cotton factory begun in 1876, with 1,500 spindles, producing single and double yarns and plow lines, with an investment of \$40,000. (According to the 1872 directory, the cotton mill had begun by then and continued to be listed through 1896.)

Bellamy's will, made in 1896 and proved in 1905, left his property to his son Spier and granddaughter Sadiebelle McGwigan, with the mill and other property to be sold "if a fair evaluation can be had." Sadiebelle M. Hall and Spier Bellamy agreed on a division of the property, with Spier receiving the mill. By 1935, however, Sadiebelle had come into possession of the mill, which she and her husband J. D. Hall sold in that year. After several owners, Bellamy's Mill with its machinery, water rights, and necessary land across the creek was bought by George W. Garriss, who operated it until recently. Machinery is still in the mill, but it no longer operates.

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North Carolina Business Directories, 1867-1896.

North Carolina Geological Survey, Bulletin 8, "Waterpower in North Carolina,"  
1899, State Library

Polk, L. L., Commissioner. Industries and Resources of North Carolina. Board  
of Agriculture, 1878.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Catherine W. Cockshutt, survey supervisor.  
 Halifax County Records, Halifax County Courthouse, Halifax, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Census Records).  
 Halifax County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Census Records).  
 Nash County Records, Nash County Courthouse, Nashville, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).  
 Nash County Records, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills, Guardian Papers, Mill Records).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36° 09' 19"	77° 44' 37"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	36° 09' 19"	77° 44' 32"				
SE	36° 09' 13"	77° 44' 32"				
SW	36° 09' 13"	77° 44' 37"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives and History DATE: 12 August 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Thornton W. Mitchell

Title Acting Director, Division of Archives and History

Date 12 August 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(RINGWOOD)  
GLENVIEW (N. C. 48) 3.5 MI.

Bellamy's Mill  
Whitakers vicinity  
North Carolina

USGS Map, Enfield Quadrangle  
Scale: 1:24,000  
Date: 1961

	<u>Latitude</u>			<u>Longitude</u>		
	degree	minutes	seconds	degree	minutes	seconds
NW	36	09	19	77	44	37
NE	36	09	19	77	44	32
SE	36	09	13	77	44	32
SW	36	09	13	77	44	37

370 000  
FEET



