

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hayes-Byrum Store and House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Shopton Road (SR 1155)  
W side NC 160 approx. .1 mi. S jct w/  not for publication  
city, town Charlotte  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Mecklenburg code 119 zip code 28210

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Architectural and Historic Resources of Rural  
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Rain 12-13-90  
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_
- determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

vacant/not in use

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

other: vernacular commercial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

weatherboard

roof metal

other asphalt

wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Erected ca. 1890, the Hayes-Byrum Store is rural Mecklenburg County's oldest surviving commercial building. With many of its key original elements intact, the store stands one-story high and is constructed of load-bearing brick walls laid in a common bond. The store remains in operation, selling an array of foodstuffs and general merchandise. North of the store is the ca. 1900 Hayes-Byrum House, a simplified, popular interpretation of the Queen Anne style. It is two story, frame, and has an asymmetrical form. Behind the house is a noncontributing auto garage, as well as a noncontributing barn and shed/dog kennel, and a small swimming pool, which is a noncontributing structure. North and west of the house is cultivated farmland constituting about eight acres and currently farmed in hay. Both the store and the house face southeast towards Steele Creek Road (NC 160). Although Steele Creek Road has witnessed residential and commercial development in recent years, it is also the site of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church and cemetery, which stands less than one mile north of the Hayes-Byrum Store and House and are important historic and architectural landmarks in this area. Furthermore, the store and house are key elements of the small crossroads community of Shopton. This rural assemblage of residential, commercial, civic, and industrial architecture boasts a collection of bungalows, 19th- and early 20th-century farmhouses reflecting vernacular I-house and hip-roofed, double-pile domestic forms, and a ca. 1945 brick industrial building that is a former dairy. Directly south of the Hayes-Byrum Store is a ca. 1960 volunteer fire station. Shopton, therefore, continues to reflect the many roles performed by the traditional crossroads settlement.

### Hayes-Byrum Store

Measuring about 35 feet by 60 feet, and capped by a standing-seam metal gable-front roof, the Hayes-Byrum Store includes a host of original exterior and interior elements. The original three-bay front facade has a wide, arched entrance with wooden double doors. This recessed entry flanked by large sash windows with two panes in each sash and original wooden shutters, which, like the doors, consist of two recessed panels in each leaf. The front facade was partially remodelled in the 1950s, when the original one-step parapet

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet Hayes-Byrum Store and House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

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was remodelled as the current taller flat parapet and the original shed-roofed frame porch was replaced by a flat-roofed metal canopy suspended over the windows and entrance. The remodelled facade, like the original, has a simple flat-topped parapet. Along the south elevation is a one-bay addition erected in the early 20th century where cotton was stored. The rear (west) facade has a one-step parapet roof which appears to be original (Henry Freeman Interview 1989; Agnes Byrum Interview 1989; Gatza 1987).

The interior of the store retains original wooden floors, tongue-and-groove ceiling, and shelves along the north and south walls. These shelves include wide moulded cornices treated with decorative brackets. These wooden brackets feature pendants and give the utilitarian interior a Victorian flair. Typical of general stores, the interior originally included a large wood-burning stove placed in the middle of the store. It was removed in the 1950s, along with display tables, when the store was up-dated with new counters and refrigerators.

### Hayes-Byrum House

Erected about 1900, the Hayes-Byrum House is a handsome, largely intact version of the Queen Anne style. The two-story weatherboarded dwelling has an irregular form that is essentially T-shaped. Topped by a cross-gable roof with asphalt shingles, the house has decorative vents in the gables and sash windows with two panes in each sash and simply moulded surrounds. While the standard lapped weatherboarding covers most of the exterior, that portion of the first-floor facade shielded by the veranda is covered by thinner German siding. The hip-roofed wraparound veranda extends around one bay of the north elevation and has a small front-facing roof gable that marks the main entrance. The original heavy Tuscan porch columns are intact, though the balustrade was removed in the 1960s. The front facade also features a cutaway bay on the north side, and a main entry with fluted surround and bull's-eye corner blocks. The rear elevation includes a gable-roofed, one-story kitchen on the north side, an original hip-roofed, two-story wing on the south side, and a porch that was enclosed in the 1960s.

The interior of the house contains a broad central hall with

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two first-floor rooms on each side. The open-string stairway in the hall rises in two runs to bedrooms arranged around a hallway on the second floor. The stairway has turned balusters and a heavy square newel. Original mantels and other woodwork survive in most of the rooms. Notable is the mantel in the living room (north front room) which features free-standing colonettes and a mirrored overmantel. It is the dwelling's only classical mantel. The other mantels are less pretentious, with reeded pilasters and friezes and brackets supporting shelves. Doors have five panels and heavily moulded surrounds; walls are plaster; and ceilings are tongue-and-groove. The center hall and flanking rooms have tongue-and-groove wainscot. Although the majority of rooms are basically intact, both the kitchen and bedroom in the south, front upper-story room have been extensively remodelled. Both, for example, have dropped ceilings covering the original wood ceilings, and panelling over the plaster walls. The mantel in the remodelled bedroom has been removed.

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### Noncontributing Outbuildings

#### Storage Building

Built in the 1950s, this simple gable-front building is frame constructed and sheathed in metal. It has a shed addition on the north side. Measuring about 10 feet by 15 feet, the building is used for all-purpose storage and has been adapted to house dogs as well.

#### Barn

Built about 1910, this barn is a four-unit, central-passage building with a gable-front roof. The barn is weatherboarded and the roof is sheathed in metal. Reflecting a traditional barn form and plan, this barn is basically intact and is currently used for all-purpose storage.

#### Auto Garage

Built about 1930, this garage reflects a popular garage type of this period. It has a metal gable-front roof with exposed rafters. Measuring about 20 feet on a side, it is covered with wood shingles and boasts a simple, decorative truss in the front-facing gable. Standing intact, this garage accommodates two autos.

### Noncontributing Structure

This small swimming pool with surrounding concrete patio measures about 20 feet by 30 feet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
ca. 1890; ca. 1900

Significant Dates  
ca. 1890  
ca. 1900

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
various/unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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### Summary

Standing in the small crossroads settlement of Shopton, the Hayes-Byrum Store and House are excellent vernacular renditions of turn-of-the-century commercial and Queen Anne architecture in rural Mecklenburg County. The ca. 1890 Hayes-Byrum Store is not only the oldest surviving commercial building in rural Mecklenburg, but retains significant original elements of design. Key exterior features include the front facade's windows, shutters, doors, and shallow entryway. The major post-World War II changes on the exterior have been the replacement of the original porch by a flat metal canopy, and the remodeling of the front one-step parapet to a taller flat parapet. Despite these changes, the basic utilitarian rectangular shape and flat-topped parapet roof which characterized the original building remain. The interior of the store retains much of its original finish, notably the bracketed wooden shelves lining the north and south walls. Consequently, the Hayes-Byrum Store is architecturally significant under Criterion C (see Associated Property Type V--Commercial Buildings--Crossroads Stores). The ca. 1900 Hayes-Byrum House also qualifies for the National Register under Criterion C (see Associated Property Type I--Houses--Postbellum Farmhouses). The Hayes-Byrum House exhibits such hallmarks of the Queen Anne as a consciously irregular shape, including a cutaway bay, a variety of wall textures, and a wraparound porch. It is among rural Mecklenburg County's few relatively intact examples of this style, reflecting in its classical porch columns and classical mantel in the parlor the "Free Classic" subtype of the Queen Anne (Gatza 1987; McAlester and McAlester 1984). The interior of the dwelling remains essentially intact, with original woodwork surviving throughout the house. The noncontributing elements consisting of a ca. 1910 barn, ca. 1930 auto garage, and ca. 1950 storage building do not detract from the architectural integrity of the property.

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The Hayes-Byrum General Store and House are an integral part of the history of the Steele Creek community, and the focal point of the small Shopton settlement. The general store, once so important a part of the post-bellum economy, has been disappearing from the rural landscape. The relationship between the storekeeper and the farmers was essential for the maintenance of the rural way of life. The Hayes-Byrum store is the oldest surviving example of its kind in the county.

In January, 1881, Joseph Rufus Hayes (1849-1914) bought a one-acre lot fronting on what became the Shopton Road (now Steele Creek Road), but did not record the deed until 1888.<sup>1</sup> It was his intention to build a general store to serve the rural Steele Creek community and also build a house next door. On January 10, 1882, the 32-year-old Hayes married Emma Spratt, age 21, and they set up housekeeping in the community.<sup>2</sup> It wasn't until about 1890 or so that he built his store, however, and somewhat later, about 1900, that the house was constructed.<sup>3</sup>

The crossroads community of Shopton (a shortening of Shoptown) came into being because a blacksmith's shop, wood shop, saw mill, and flour mill all were built in the vicinity of the store. There was also a cotton gin nearby, and, by the end of the century, the Shopton Post Office was located in Hayes' store. A schoolhouse completed the services available in the small community. If a farmer did need anything that wasn't located there, such as fertilizer, a day-long trip to Charlotte was necessary. He would get his horses shod, then start out the next day at 4:00 a.m. and get back after dark, if there were no delays.<sup>4</sup>

J. R. Hayes ran his store until his death in 1914, and was survived by his wife and two daughters, Maud and Ruth Hayes. At the time, a newspaper article described him as follows:

Mr. Hayes was one of the best known men of the county. For the past 35 years he has been engaged in the mercantile business at Shopton and during that long period he built up a fine trade abiding always in the respect and confidence of his neighbors and those with whom he had to do in a business way.<sup>5</sup>

Some years before his death, he hired a local young man, William Lester Byrum (1879-1952), to work in the store.<sup>6</sup> In 1919, W. L. Byrum bought the one-acre lot that contained the house and store, as well as eleven other tracts belonging to Mrs. Hayes, and became the long-time owner and operator of the store.<sup>7</sup> The store remains today in the ownership and

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operation of the Byrum family. When W. L. Byrum, who was a bachelor, died in 1952, ownership of the house and store passed to his nephew, Robert Franklin Byrum (1925-1973), and his farmland went to another nephew, Erskine Byrum (1920-).<sup>8</sup> The store and house are currently owned by Robert Franklin's widow, Agnes Byrum, who lives in the house.<sup>9</sup> Two of her children, Robert Franklin, Jr. (Robby) and Linda Ann (Bunny) Slye, continue the family tradition by operating the store.<sup>10</sup>

Although the character of rural Mecklenburg County is rapidly changing; the Hayes-Byrum store remains as a rare surviving country general store that has been in continuous operation for nearly one hundred years. The house associated with the store is also still occupied by the owner of the latter.

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<sup>1</sup>Mecklenburg County Deed Book 60, p. 499.

<sup>2</sup>Mecklenburg County Marriage Register, 1872-1888.

<sup>3</sup>Interview with Erskine Byrum (1920-), nephew of W. L. Byrum, by William H. Huffman, 1989. Erskine Byrum has tape recorded interviews with two of his uncles, one of whom was Samuel Knox. The latter was born about 1890 and remembers seeing the store built as a child. The date of the house is from family interviews and the style of the house.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.; The History of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, 3rd edition. (Charlotte: Craftsman Printing and Publishing, 1978), pp. 171-172.

<sup>5</sup>Charlotte Observer, August 22, 1914, p. 6.

<sup>6</sup>Interview with Erskine Byrum, cited above.

<sup>7</sup>Mecklenburg County Deed Book 409, p. 193.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 1555, p. 309.

<sup>9</sup>Interview with Robert Franklin (Robby) Byrum by William H. Huffman, 1989; interview with Erskine Byrum, cited above; Mecklenburg County Deed Book 3753, p. 974.

<sup>10</sup>Interview with Robert Franklin (Robby) Byrum, cited above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

N.C. Division of Archives and History;  
Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 1.2 acres

UTM References

A. 17 503350 891700  
Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Hayes-Byrum Store and House is indicated on the accompanying <sup>sketch</sup> map entitled "Hayes-Byrum Store and House." It is a portion of parcel 12 on page 24 of Mecklenburg County Tax Book 199.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary comprises the major resources contributing to the architectural significance of the Hayes-Byrum Store and House, encompassing the store, adjacent house, and its associated yard.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Mattson and William Huffman  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July, 1990  
 street & number 422 Rensselaer telephone 704-375-4236  
 city or town Charlotte state N.C. zip code 28203

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Byrum, Agnes. Long-time resident of house and owner of the house and store. Interview by Richard Mattson, 1989.

Byrum, Erskine. Nephew of W. L. Byrum. Interview by William H. Huffman, 1989.

Byrum, Robert Franklin, Jr. (Robby). Son of Agnes Byrum. Interview by William H. Huffman, 1989.

Charlotte Observer, August 22, 1914.

Freeman, Henry. Long-time resident of Shopton. Interview by Richard Mattson, 1989.

Gatza, Mary Beth. "Architectural Inventory of Rural Mecklenburg County." 1987. On file at North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh.

The History of Steele Creek Church. 3rd edition. Charlotte: Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, 1978.

McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.

Mecklenburg County. Deed Books.

----- Marriage Register, 1872-1888.

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Hayes-Byrum Store and House, Mecklenburg Co., NC

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## IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Hayes-Byrum Store and House

W side NC 160 .1 mi. S jct w/ SR 1155

Charlotte vicinity

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina

Photographer: Richard Mattson

7-5-89

North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh

1. Front facade store and front facade house, looking northeast
2. Store, north elevation and front facade, looking west
3. Store, entrance and window on front facade, looking north
4. Store, south elevation, looking north
5. Store, interior, bracketed shelves, looking southwest
6. Store, interior, detail of brackets and cornice of shelving, looking northeast
7. House, front facade and north elevation, looking west
8. House, rear (west) elevation, looking southeast
9. House, interior, parlor mantel, looking northwest
10. Swimming pool and outbuildings, looking northwest
11. Barn, east elevation, looking west
12. Auto garage, front facade, looking east

# Hayes-Byrum Store and House

Approx. 3 acres

Scale - 1" = 100'

Boundary - 

Based on Mecklenburg Co.  
tax map, Book 199, p. 24.



## Contributing Buildings

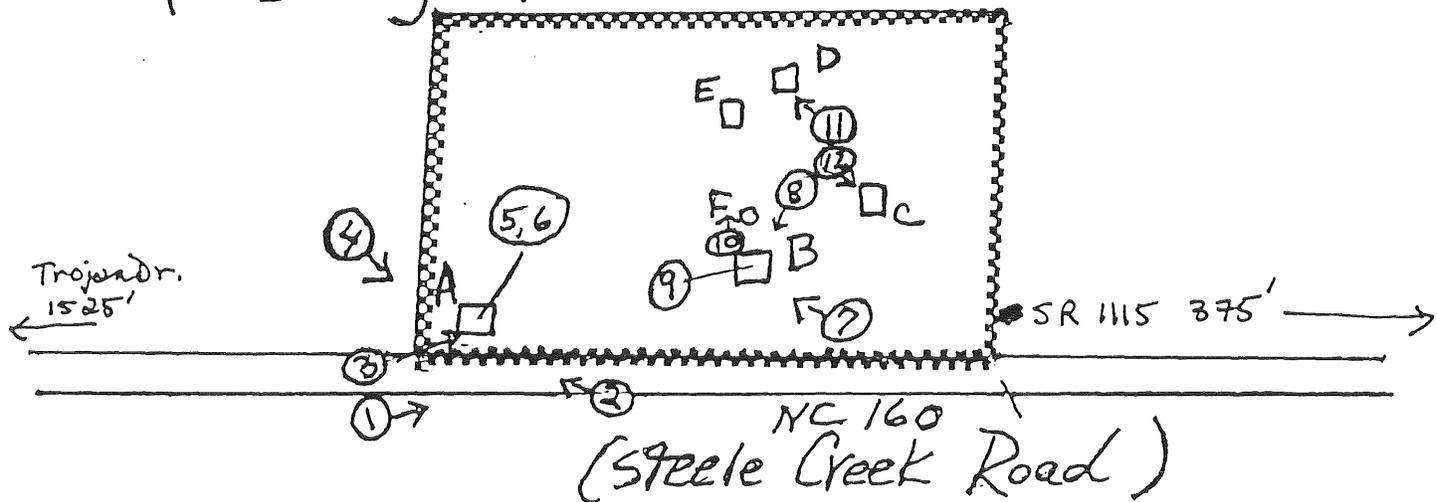
- A - Hayes-Byrum Store
- B - Hayes-Byrum House

## Noncontributing Buildings

- C - Auto garage
- D - Barn
- E - Shed/dog kennel

## Noncontributing Structure

- F - Swimming Pool



Hayes-Byrum  
Store and  
House

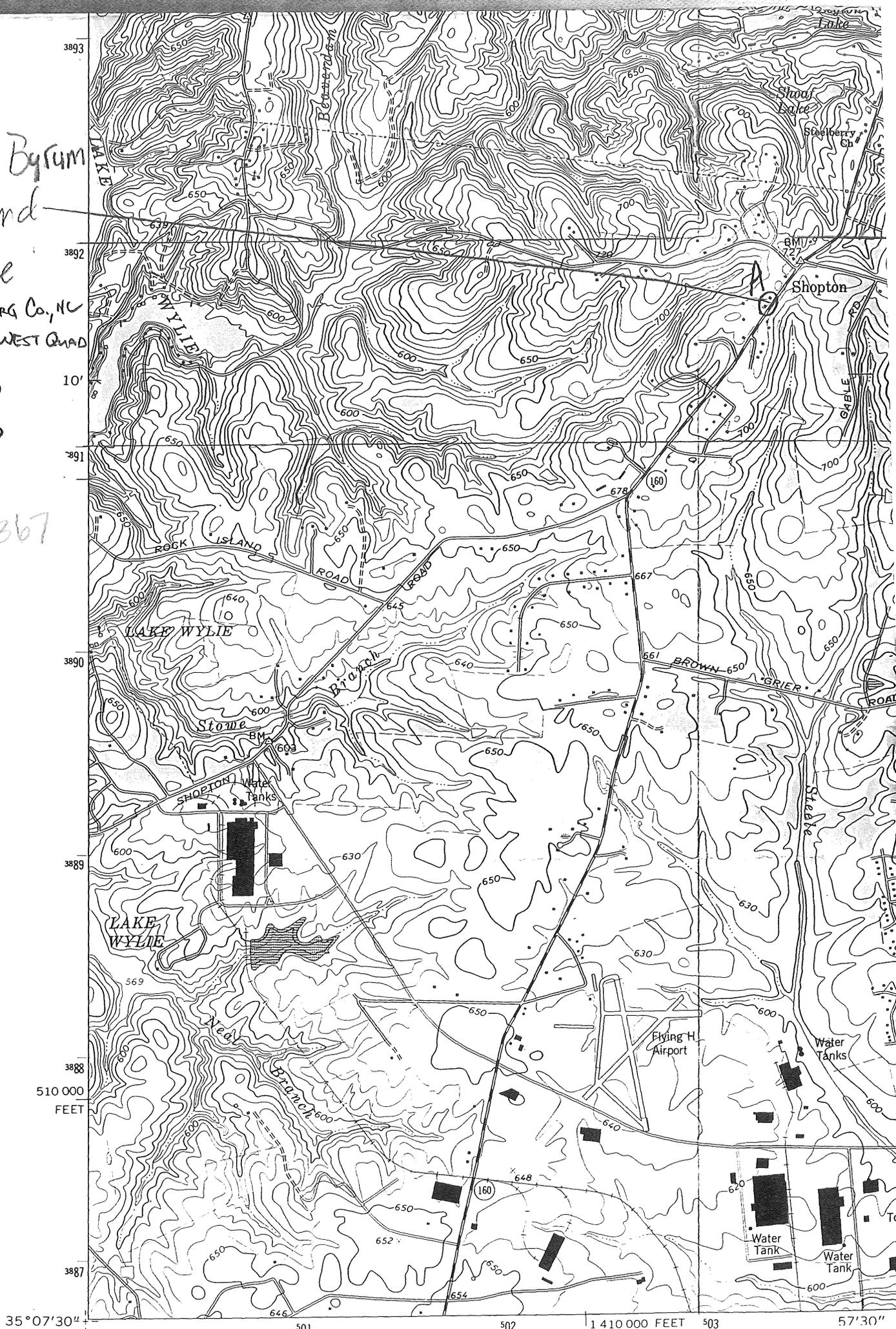
MECKLENBURG Co., NC

CHARLOTTE WEST QUAD  
ZONE 17

N 3891700

E 503350

MK 1367



35°07'30"

501

502

1 410 000 FEET 503

57'30"

