

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 Faucett Mill and House

other names/site number "Coach House"

Chatwood

2. Location

street & number S side SR 1328 (Faucette Mill Rd) on E side of Eno River not for publication

city, town Hillsborough vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Orange code 135 zip code 27278

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
	structures
	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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. Fain
Signature of certifying official

6-9-88
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

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)

Industry: manufacturing facility

Domestic: hotel

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions);

Vacant/Not in Use

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: heavy timber vernacular

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other brick

metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Faucett Mill, nearby mill cottage, and Faucett House stand along a quarter mile section of the old "Great Road" which forded the Eno River at this point, two miles northwest of Hillsborough, an important colonial town in piedmont North Carolina. The crossroads formed by this early highway and the reliable Eno River was an advantageous place for a grist mill, operating at least from the early 1790s to ca. 1920. Although repaired and enlarged several times, the frame mill still shows its hand-hewn frame and handmade nails. The small frame mill cottage, of indeterminate age, sits on a rise above the mill, pond and race and 200 yards from the river ford. The stately Faucett House, said to have been an inn for travelers when the ford was uncrossable, stands on a wooded hill a short distance east of the mill. The "Great Road," now State Road 1328, was superseded by N.C. Highway 70 in the 1920s, and the "Great Road" is now a dirt lane ending at the mill.

1. Faucett Mill. Pre-1792 Contributing Building

Faucett Mill is an imposing 2½ story weatherboarded building which sits alongside a reconstructed mill race (1960s) on its east side with the Eno River 100 feet to the west. The heavy timber, hand-hewn frame, handmade nails, and dry laid stone foundation indicate that the building has an eighteenth century construction date. It is apparently the same mill which stood on the site in 1792. Typical of grist mills, it is apparent that periodic floods have caused extensive reworking of the fabric. The exterior has wide plain weatherboarding and small square windows with some batten shutters and no window sash. Stabilization work in the 1930s included a new metal roof. On the interior, most of the mill machinery is gone but some milling gears and bolters are still in place. Mill stones, apparently from this mill, are reused in various places on the property, including a well cover. The mill race and dam were also repaired in the 1930s.

2. Faucett House circa 1808 Contributing Building

The Faucett House is a very well-preserved 2½ story frame Federal style house, one room deep, with an original one-story rear wing. The house has a gable roof, exterior end single shoulder brick chimneys, and a one-story shed porch extending the length of the main facade. Between 1938 and 1940, the house underwent a substantial restoration by F. L. Altvater, then owner. Although Altvater moved an early house from its nearby site to this property, and attached it as a rear wing at the southwest corner of the house, architectural analysis indicates that the restoration respected the original fabric of the main block. The house retains integrity from its estimated construction, ca. 1808.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Faucett House retains the following exterior architectural features, all apparently original: chimneys of oversize brick laid in common bond, doors with six raised panels, six-over-six and four-over-four sash windows, wide molded door and window surrounds, and boxed molded eaves. The front porch has slender chamfered posts and no railing. The placement of openings on the main facade is asymmetrical, with two individual doors flanked by one window to the east and two windows to the west. The wall surface beneath the porch is flush-sheathed.

The original floor plan is basically intact and is an unusual, perhaps unique variation on the standard center hall one-room-deep plan of the Federal period. The house has a center hall dividing two large rooms, with the usual front door opening into the center hall but with an unusual second door opening into the east room. The stair, an enclosed type with winders, rises in the rear corner of the hall. The rear wing, believed to have housed the kitchen is now one large room. However prior to the 1950s a small, windowless room accessible from the front east room occupied a portion of the wing. This room was incorporated into the kitchen in the 1950s. On the second floor are three bedrooms, one on each side of the hall and one behind and only accessible from the east bedroom.

The unusual floor plan reinforces the local tradition that the house was an inn and tavern, and that the larger, east room and adjacent kitchen served as the inn while the smaller west room was private family quarters. The two doors would have allowed some privacy for the family, since one door would have opened to the "publicroom" and the other door to the center hall. The windowless room might have been for provisions. Upstairs, the east bedroom might have served the family and the adjacent west side bedrooms the travellers.

The following interior architectural features are apparently original: random width wood sheathed walls, wide board pine floors, six raised-panel doors with some strap iron hinges and box locks, molded door and window surrounds, and five Federal style mantels. The mantels in the two front rooms have tripartite designs, with raised panels, while the mantels in the kitchen and second floor are simpler designs with raised panels.

During the 1938-1940 restoration, an asphalt shingle roof was put on the Faucett House. Modern plumbing was installed, and a modern kitchen added to the south side where a covered rear entry was located. A pre-restoration documentary of the house shows a three-bay wide front shed porch. The owners removed that porch and erected the present full facade shed porch. In the kitchen wing, because of severe deterioration, the walls and roof were rebuilt, although the chimney and fireplace mantel were retained. Electricity was installed in the late 1940s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

Naile Johnson Wing. Early 19th c. house, moved and reconstructed as wing ca. 1938

The southwest wing, actually a separate house added to the southwest corner of the main block, is known as the Naile Johnson House. It is a Federal period two-story frame house from the St. Mary's Road area of Hillsborough, some five miles from this site. The house was dismantled and reconstructed in its present location by the Altvaters during their restoration of the main house. Wallboards and paneling from several other old houses were used to reconstruct the interior of this Naile Johnson wing. Since this house is actually connected to the main house, it constitutes a wing rather than a separate, noncontributing building. As is obvious from the photograph showing the rear of the Faucett House, the Naile Johnson Wing has some modern exterior elements, including the small pane picture window on the second story and a full width screen porch. The architectural integrity of this house has been lost because of its move, because of the reuse of old materials from other houses, and because of the addition of a modern picture window. Although noncontributing, this wing retains an adequately separate identity so that it does not destroy the integrity of the Faucett House itself.

3. Mill Cottage. Nineteenth century. Contributing Building

The humble, one story frame cottage has a low gable roof, an exterior end single shoulder fieldstone chimney, and rests on a fieldstone foundation with a partial basement. The three bay wide facade has a center door flanked by 6/6 sash windows. The plain boxed eaves have eave returns on the gable ends. A hip roof front porch has one bay enclosed as a room. A small kitchen wing was added to the rear in the 1930s, and the entrance stoop to this wing now serves as the main entrance. The interior has recent wood paneling and a Federal style mantel. It is not known if this is an original Federal mantel or a reproduction, nor if this is its original location. According to local tradition, the cottage is quite old, but its present appearance is late nineteenth century. The Altvaters did some rehabilitation in the late 1930s, including reconstruction of the fieldstone chimney.

4. Barn. Early 20th century. Contributing Building

A one-story frame horse barn is located east of the Faucett House near the road (SR 1328). Some of the framing members are handhewn beams. A 1938 letter from F. V. Altvater mentions that, according to local hearsay, some of these timbers were reused from an early three-story barn across the road from the house. (Letter to Elizabeth Cotton, 1938, copy in file).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

5. Garage and Laboratory. 1940s. Noncontributing building

Southeast of the Faucett House is a long one-story frame garage and workshed built in the 1940s. In the 1950s the workshed was converted into a laboratory for use in bird-banding by its new owner, Dr. Charles Blake.

6. Greenhouse. 1950s. Noncontributing building

In the 1950s, Mrs. Charles Blake, the present owner, had this one-story metal and glass greenhouse built just east of the garage.

7. Rose and Perennial Garden. 1950s. Noncontributing site

In the 1950s Dr. and Mrs. Charles Blake began to landscape the yard southwest of the Faucett House into a rose and perennial garden. This garden now comprises nearly two acres and is well-known as one of the finest heritage rose gardens in North Carolina. The surrounding 200 acres of woodland in the ownership of Mrs. Charles Blake, present owner, is a local wildlife preserve and bird habitat. The Blakes named the farm "Chatwood" because of their interest in birds.

8. Section of "Great Road" roadbed and ford. 18th century. Contributing site

The old highway between the Faucett House and Mill with its river ford, long a state-maintained road (S.R. 1328), is now closed, and the Faucett House, Mill, and Cottage are secluded from commercial traffic. The old road (variously named the "Great Road," "Buffaloe Road," "King's Highway," "Oxford-Salisbury Road," "Old Durham-Greensboro Stage Road," and "County Home Road ") appears on the earliest maps of the area and is locally associated with the movement of Cornwallis' army and Revolutionary forces. The road is always prominently mentioned in deed transactions for this property. Though now a private lane, this portion of the old highway is identifiable because the roadbed is eroded several feet below ground level all the way to the Eno River and the site of the river ford.

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
Commerce

Period of Significance

pre-1792 - ca. 1930

Significant Dates

1792
ca. 1808

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Faucett Mill and House, located on the old "Great Road" at its ford on the Eno River about two miles northwest of Hillsborough in Orange County, are an eighteenth century grist mill and associated house of statewide significance both architecturally and as rare survivals of piedmont back country commerce during the settlement period of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Hillsborough was an important political center of backcountry North Carolina (Hillsborough Historic District, NR). The Faucett Mill, a two-story frame grist mill with a heavy timber frame, handmade nails, and much later refurbishing, is the only intact mill on the Eno River in Orange County, and may be the earliest mill established in the area. According to strong local tradition, the two-story frame Federal style house served as a tavern until about 1860. Architectural analysis indicates an early nineteenth century date of construction, and the floor plan has a unique feature: a center hall plan with two front doors, one to the center hall and the other to the reputed "public room."

Architecture Context

Both the Faucett Mill and House are significant locally as late 18th-early 19th century landmarks, and both are unique in their functions in the county-- the only surviving examples of a grist mill and a rural antebellum inn. Because of periodic reworkings of the mill building, only the fieldstone foundation and the heavy timber frame reflect its late eighteenth century beginnings. The rest of the building fabric expresses the continuity of use through generations, rather than a building of a particular architectural period. Faucett Mill is the only intact water-powered grist mill in Orange County.

The Faucett House, unlike the mill, is an unusually well-preserved building and has undergone very little alteration through the generations. It is a simple, two-story frame early Federal style house, one-room deep, with exterior end chimneys and a gable roof parallel to the facade. This is the most prevalent house form in the Hillsborough area. Prominent early examples of the form in the nearby Hillsborough

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

Historic District (NR) are the Nash-Hooper House (NHL), Seven Hearths, Twin Chimneys and the Peter Brown Ruffin House. The early Federal style interior trim of the Faucett House, including raised panel doors and mantels, are typical of the handsome, conservative woodwork in other Orange County houses of the period.

Commerce Context

The Faucett Mill and House, a grist mill and tavern complex situated on the east side of the Eno River where the major east-west highway through Hillsborough forded the river on its way to Greensboro and Salisbury, represent an unusual survival of a rural, antebellum commercial center. It is the only known mill-tavern complex surviving in North Carolina. The tavern ceased operation about 1860, according to local tradition, although the mill operated until ca. 1930. The local name of the Faucett House, the "Coach House," comes from the tradition that the house was a stagecoach stop, and old residents remembered a large three-story barn across the road from the house where spare horses were stabled. In his famous 1858 travelogue, A Journey in the Seaboard Slave States, Frederick Law Olmsted mentions a number of stagecoach stops where he spent the night in North Carolina, including Walker's Inn, still standing in Cherokee County, but he does not mention the Faucett House.

Faucett House is of statewide significance in the area of commerce because of its early function as a tavern. Although there are a small number of antebellum taverns surviving in North Carolina, including the Eagle Tavern in Halifax (pre-1772), Yellow Tavern (NHL) in Milton (ca. 1818), Wright Tavern, Wentworth (pre-1814), and Person's Ordinary, Littleton, Halifax County (late 18th c.), the Faucett House is one of only two whose original floor plans reflect commercial functions. The floor plans of most of these taverns are indistinguishable from dwellings of the period. However, the Yellow Tavern in Milton has three front entrances, and the first floor was originally two "great rooms," (each "great room" is actually two rooms connected by a wide wooden archway through the middle). The unusual variation on a center hall plan in the Faucett House, with one front door entering the center hall and a second front door entering the so-called "public room," implies that ~~this~~ building was built as a tavern.

Historical Background

Actual construction dates and ownership through the nearly two hundred years of the mill and house are difficult to determine. Deed searches are complicated by the fact that the Faucett family was large and active in land purchases in this section of Orange County, and boundaries of these purchases are difficult to plot.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

An early map of piedmont North Carolina, the Mouzon Map of 1775, shows a mill on the Eno in this vicinity, with the name "Isaac Low." Local historian Mary Claire Engstrom believes that the Faucett Mill is this same mill, and that it was built by the Isaac Lowe [sic] family, a prominent Quaker milling family who left the area in the 1770s at the beginning of the Regulator agitation [an upcountry revolt against colonial government.] Mrs. Engstrom believes that Richard Faucett operated the mill from the 1770s on, and then David Faucett. (undated notes by Mary Claire Engstrom in collection of Mrs. Charles Blake, now Mrs. Ralph Watkins, present owner of Faucett House). The earliest deed found for the mill property corroborates this tradition. In 1792 Richard Faucett sold 150 acres to his son David Faucett "on the River Eno in the said County of Orange whereon the Mill and other improvements are now situated and where the said David Faucett now dwells...53 3/4 of this land...being parts or parcels of land granted to the said Richard Faucett by Deed from Isaac Low bearing date the 22d day of October [1768]." (Orange County Deed Book 13, pp. 94-95). Although it cannot be proven that the Faucett Mill is the same mill shown on the Mouzon Map, it is likely that it is the mill referred to in this 1792 deed.

According to local tradition, the first Faucett House-Tavern stood closer to the ford than the present Faucett House, and burned about 1808. Some of its timbers and hardware are said to be reused in the construction of the present house, built soon after the fire. An examination of the building materials in the Faucett House by a restoration expert dated the house to circa 1810 (Inspection Notes by Todd Dickinson, February 1988, copy in file). Efforts to research a chain of title from David Faucett in 1792 forward to the present were unsuccessful. However, the chain of ownership for the mill and house during the twentieth century is substantiated.

The following information concerning ownership of the mill and house in the nineteenth century comes from family descendents, and cannot be verified as referring to the particular property nominated here. David Faucett sold some of his mill tract to his sons (or step-sons) James and William Clarke in the early nineteenth century, and the William Clarke Faucett(e) name continued in the family for many years. (Interview with Anne John Williams, Durham, a Faucett descendant, notes in file). An 1808 deed, Orange County D.B. 13, pp. 95-96, confirms the sale of 146 acres from David Faucett to William and James Clarke. This land is on the Eno and the Great Road, but does not mention a mill. The next possible transaction involving the mill and house is in 1876, when Albert Faucette sold 196 acres on the Eno to his daughter Martha G. Paul, and her husband John. In the deed Albert reserved the right to build a six-foot high dam on the "Big Branch" (a creek just below the Great Road). (Orange County D.B. 45, p. 393). Apparently Martha Paul lived in the Faucett House for some time, because local residents still remember that the present dining room was "Aunt Martha Paul's bedroom."

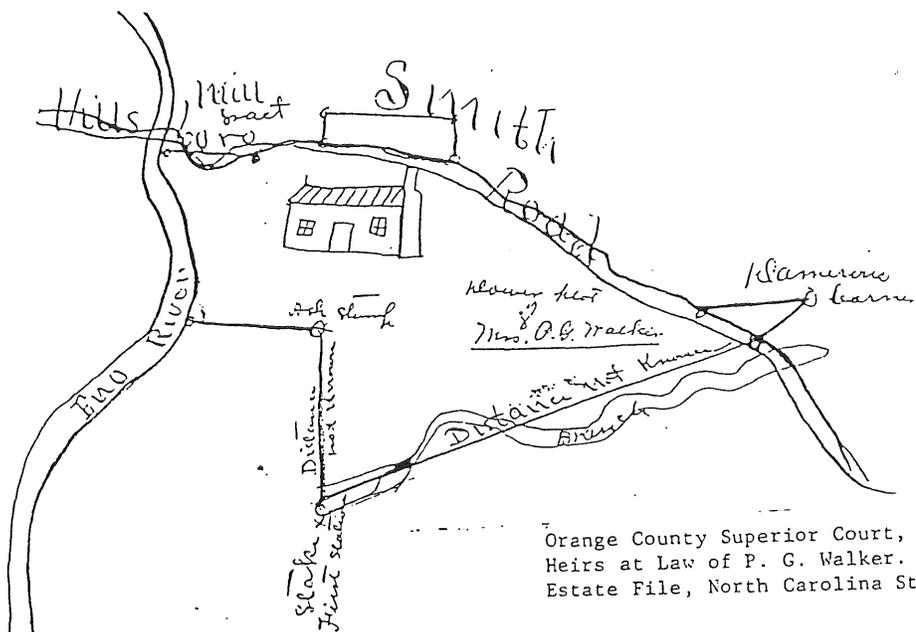
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Faucett House Ownership

By the early twentieth century, the house and the mill were in separate ownership, and continued in this way until the F. V. Altvaters reassembled them in the late 1930s. A hand-drawn plat map of Mary A. Walker ("Granny Walker") fifty-acre dower found in Orange County Superior Court records of 1905 and illustrated below provides the first certain verification of ownership of the Faucett House. This plat shows the river, the road, the "Mill tract," the old barn site, and a generic drawing of a house on the exact site where the Faucett House stands today.



Orange County Superior Court, 14 April 1905, Mary A. Walker vs. Heirs at Law of P. G. Walker. Document located in P. G. Walker Estate File, North Carolina State Archives

Granny Walker lived in the Faucett House until her death a few years later. Apparently she and her husband, Pinckney George Washington Walker (P.G.) had lived there for some time, and P. G. died there. (Interview with Robert Davis, son of Archie Davis, notes in file). Although the Faucett House had larger amounts of acreage associated with it at various times, this fifty-acre dower tract laid out in 1905 is the acreage nominated here with the house because it constitutes the earliest verifiable home tract.

At Granny Walker's death, her home tract reverted to Cash A. Boggs, a local farmer who had purchased the 157 acres which included the dower at public estate sale in 1905 (Orange County D.B. 58, pp. 311-312). Boggs did not ever live in the Faucett House. He died about 1913 (Davis interview). His widow,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4

Lily Smith Boggs, had a dower right in the property which was not recorded until 1925 (Orange County D.B. 106, p. 310.) This dower deed contains a hand-drawn plat showing a slightly different dower tract from that awarded to Granny Walker. Mrs. Boggs' dower contained fifty-two acres located on both sides of the Eno River. In the meantime, Mrs. Boggs remarried J. Archie Davis in 1915, and they lived in the Faucett House for a few years. Because Mrs. Davis did not own the Faucett home tract outright, and she and her husband could not purchase it until the Boggs children reached the age of majority, the Davises purchased a nearby house in the early 1920s and moved away from the Faucett House. About 1931, when the youngest Boggs child reached majority, Archie Davis bought their shares and owned the 50 acre Faucett House dower tract outright. In 1937 he sold this tract, specifically identified as being Lily Boggs Davis' dower, to Mr. and Mrs. F. Vernon Altvater (Orange County D.B. 108, p. 125½). The Altvaters undertook a major restoration of the house between 1938 and 1940 and lived there until relocating to Colorado in 1946. They named the house the "Coach House," and reassembled much of the land that was probably associated with the house, including the mill tract. (Interviews with Mrs. F. V. Altvater, Robert Davis).

In 1950 the Altvaters leased the "Coach House" tract, containing 122 acres, to Jake L. Conners and his wife. By 1954 the Conners owned the tract (1954 survey of Conners property, copy in file). In 1956 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blake bought the "Coach House" tract (Orange County D.B. 161, p. 3). Mr. Blake was a retired M.I.T. professor whose hobby was bird banding, and they renamed the place "Chatwood." After his death, Mrs. Blake married Ralph Watkins. Mrs. Watkins, now widowed again, still resides at Chatwood and maintains a heritage rose garden of statewide prominence.

Faucett Mill Ownership

Faucett Mill remained in the Faucett family until 1904, when W. W. Faucette sold the approximately thirty-acre mill tract to W. A. Hall (Orange County D.B. 58, p. 154). Robert Davis, grandson of one of the last millers, recalls that the mill went through the hands of several owner-operators during the early twentieth century. Davis's grandfather, Enoch Turner Smith, was the next-to-last miller. The last miller was William A. Collins. About 1930 William Mitchell, a Hillsborough businessman, bought the mill tract. He was the first owner who did not operate the mill, and it has not been operated since this time. (Davis interview). In 1937 Mitchell sold the 35 acre mill tract to Mr. and Mrs. Altvater (Orange County D.B. 105, p. 208). The Altvaters sold 16.13 acres (one-half) to a friend, Mrs. Carter, and kept the 17 acre section containing the mill, dam, cottage and river ford for themselves. Mrs. Altvater and her daughter, Mrs. Andrew Wallace, both of Durham, still own the 17 acre tract. (Altvater interview).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dickinson, Todd. Field notes of structural inspection, February 1988, in SHPO file.
Davis, Robert. Hillsborough vicinity. Telephone interview with M. Ruth Little, 7 June 1988. Notes in SHPO file.
Altwater, Mrs. F. V. Durham. Telephone interview with M. Ruth Little, May 1988. Notes in SHPO file.
Engstrom, Mary Claire. Unpublished notes, copy in SHPO file.
Orange County Deeds. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
Orange County Estate Records. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

See continuation sheet

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 67 acres more or less

UTM References

A Zone Easting Northing
C

B Zone Easting Northing
D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is outlined in red on the enclosed Orange County Tax Map #15, Cheeks Township. The Faucett House tract of 50 acres is that portion of Tract No. 8 awarded to Mary A. Walker as her dower tract in Orange County Superior Court, April 14, 1905. The Faucett Mill tract of 17 acres is Tract No. 4A in its entirety.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The 50 acre dower tract of 1905 constitutes the earliest verifiable home tract associated with the Faucett House, and includes all of the standing outbuildings. The 17 acre mill tract is the acreage which has been associated with the mill since approximately 1940, and contains the mill, dam, mill cottage, and the river ford.

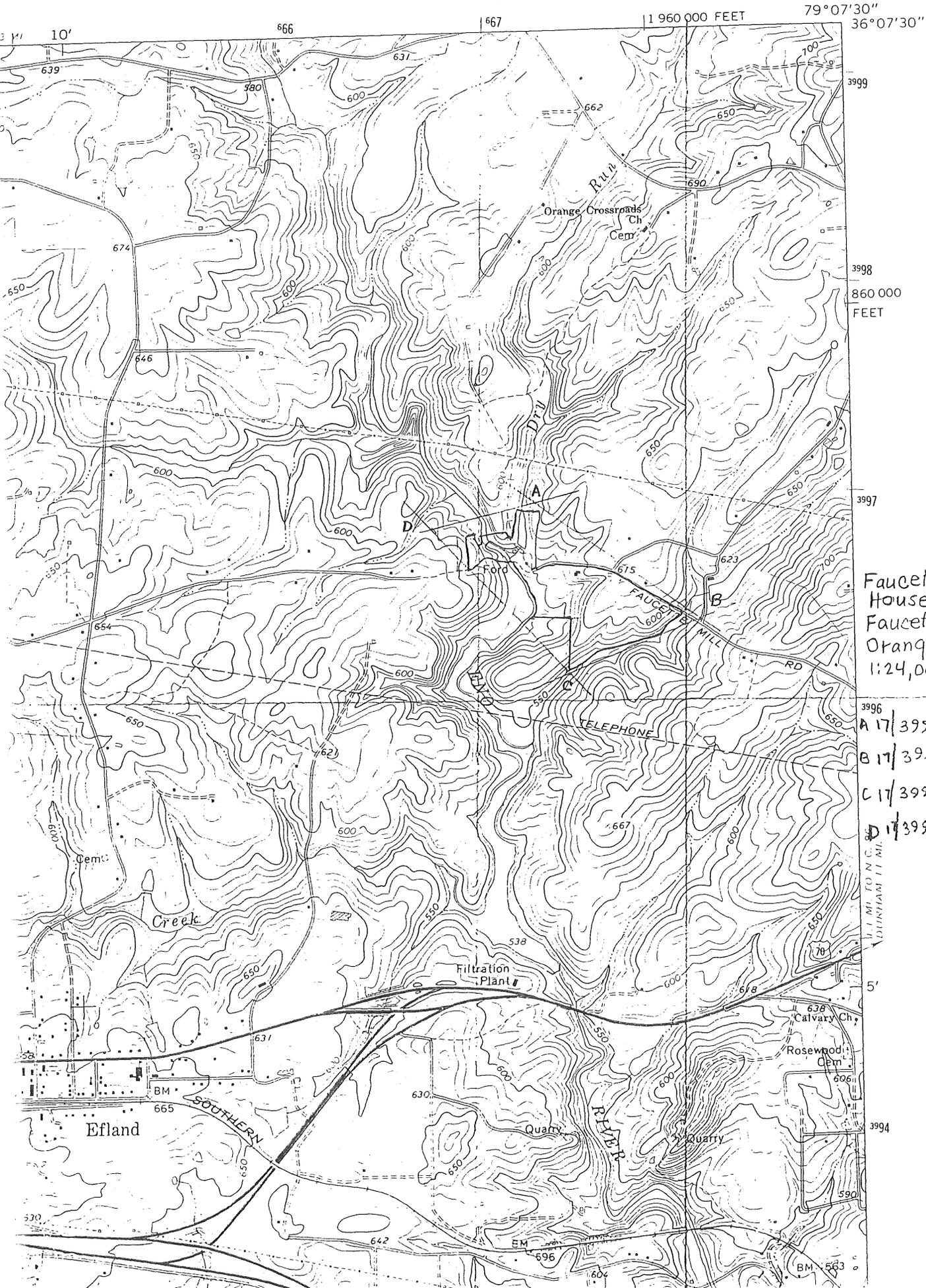
See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia Egelhoff, Patricia Dickinson, M. Ruth Little
organization State Historic Preservation Office date December - June 1987-1988
street & number Survey and Planning, 109 E. Jones St. telephone (919) 733 6545
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27609

EFLAND QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA - ORANGE CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5155 II NE
 CALDWELL



Fauceit Mill and House
 Fauceit Mill Rd.
 Orange Co.
 1:24,000

- A 17/3996950 667270
- B 17/3996390 668070
- C 17/3996140 667440
- D 17/3996830 666770

