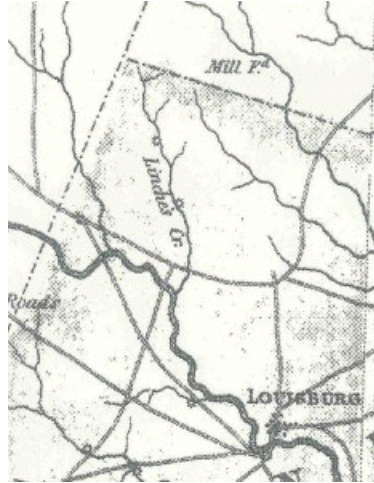




## GILL MILL - 31FK178

circa: prior to 1833 (Mac Rae-Brazier Map) - below marked as \*



### LOCATION

Redacted per OSA Request

### ACCESS

Redacted per OSA Request

### REFERENCES

<https://lynchcreek.com/2008-apr-lynch-creek-mill-tour-with-tom-magnuson/>

<https://lynchcreek.com/2008-jan-lynch-creek-journal-by-bob-radcliffe/>

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### **NC OSA SITE: 31FK178 – GILL MILL**

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===== MAPS =====

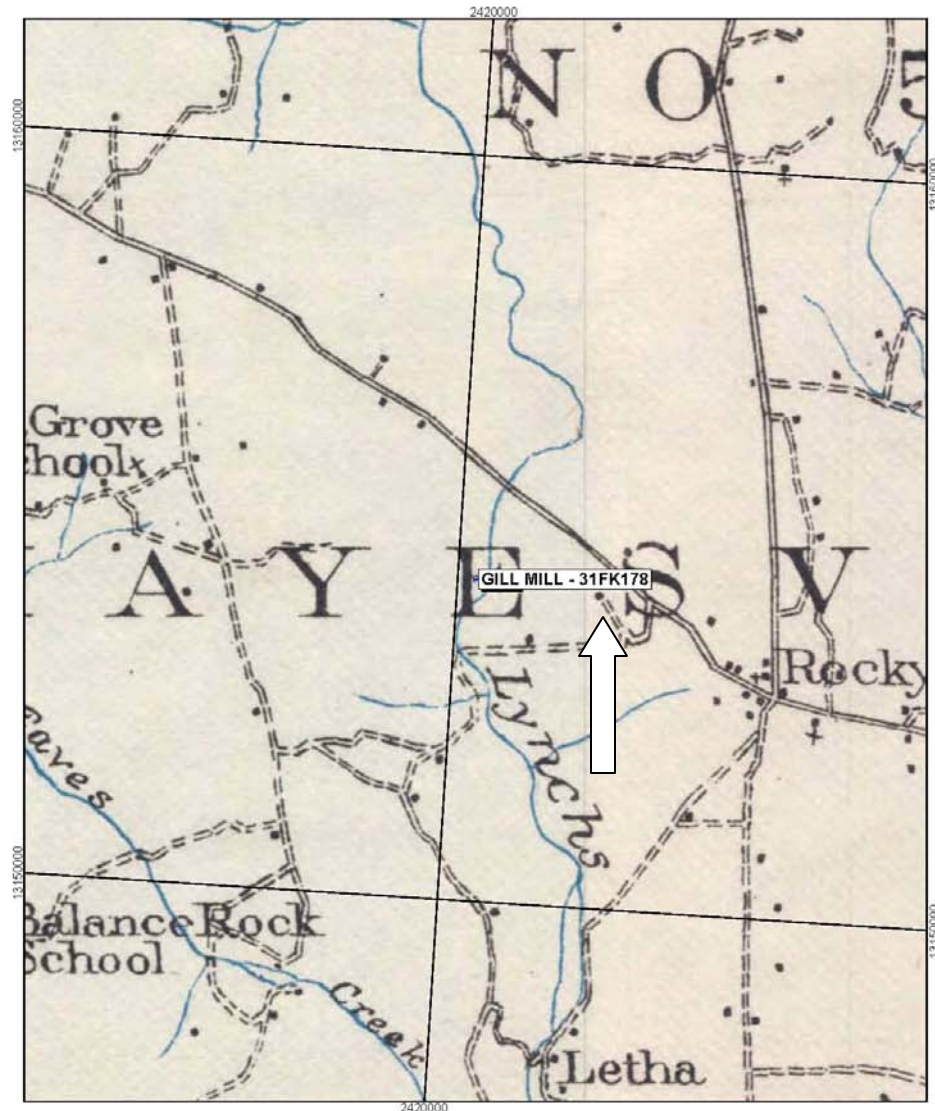


[USGS Topo NC Ingleside, 1:24000, 1979]

Both Gill Mill and Whitaker Mill are shown with an \* on the 1833 NC Mac Rae-Brazier Map  
Both the Gill Mill and Alford Mill (aka Whitaker) are shown by handwritten name on the 1869 Franklin County Fuller Map

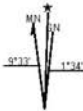
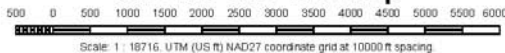
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ExpertGPS

Gill Mill on Pratt Map

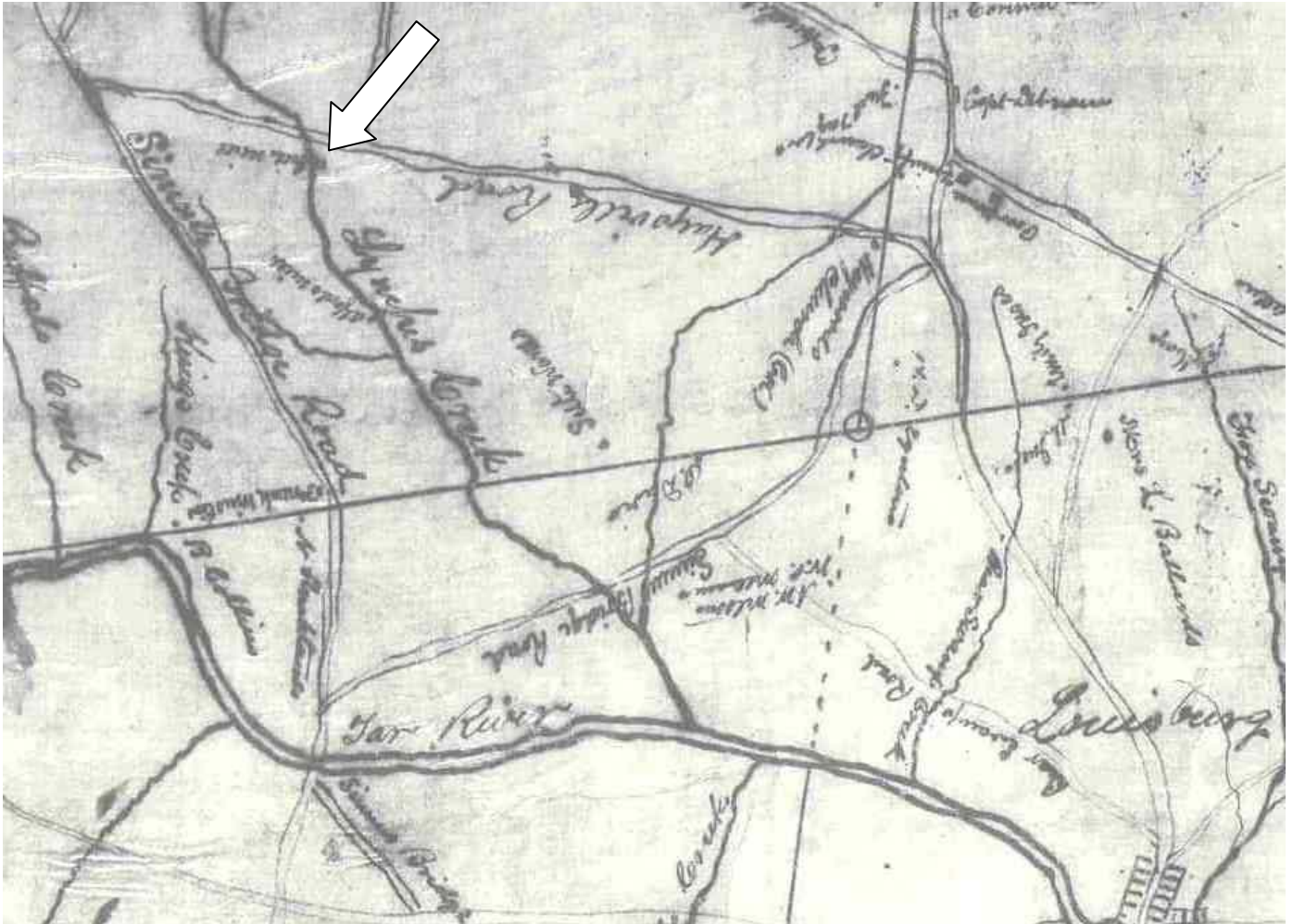


[Franklin County, NC Pratt Map 1906-1907]

Gill Mill shown downstream of the Dam at the Bridge and upstream of the path shown crossing Lynchs Creek. The Stone House (31FK183) on Rocky Ford Road, may be the building indicated by the ARROW off the path to Gill Mill - perhaps defining a reason for its purpose.

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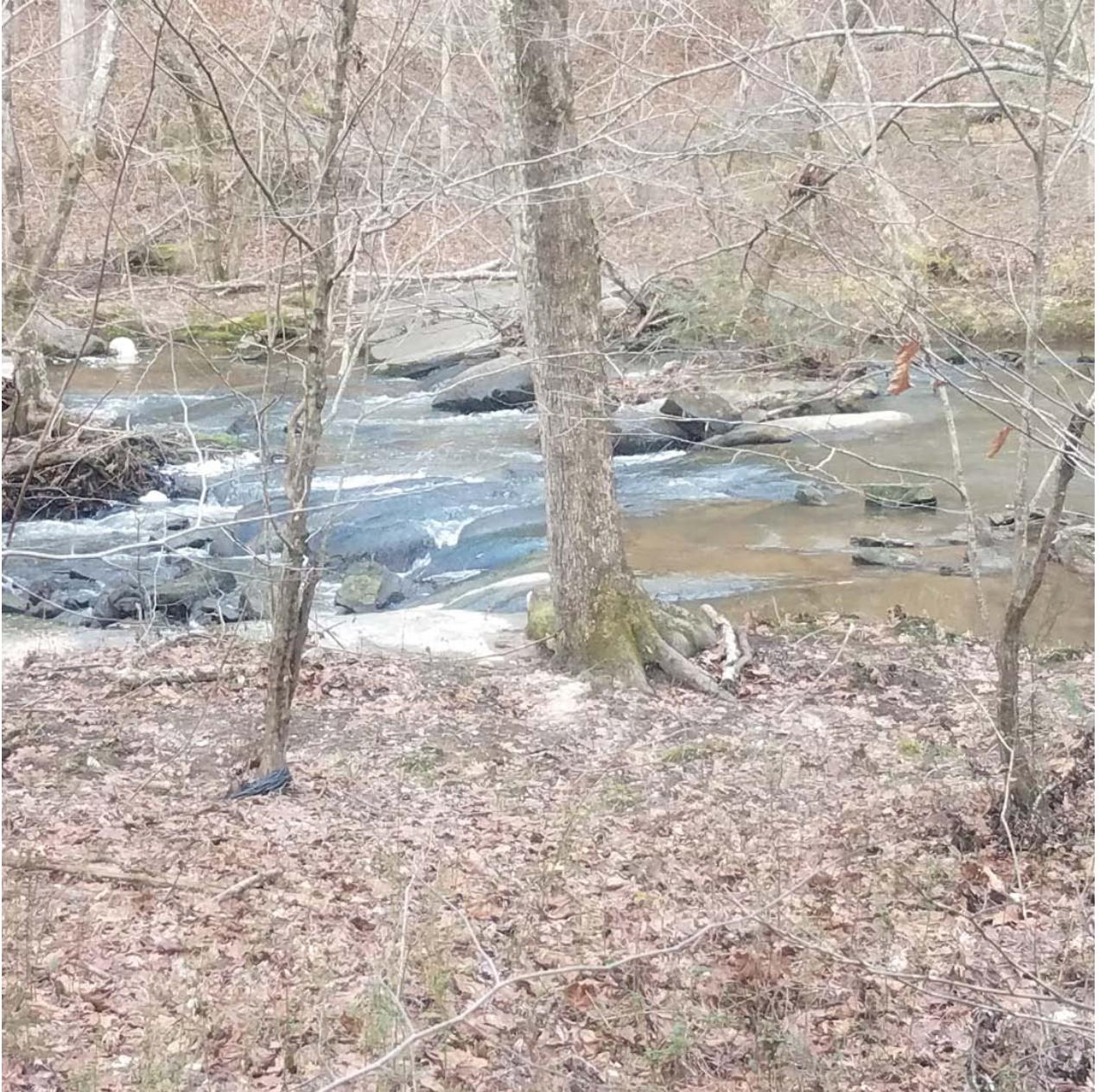
1869 Franklin County Fuller Map - ARROW pointing to Gill Mill on Lynch Creek south of the bridge on Haysville Road (now Rocky Ford Road). Map orientation: North is up.

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===== PHOTOGRAPHY =====



Gill Mill Dam Site - "blown-out" - just downstream of present-day Bridge on Rocky Ford Road  
(looking west) Photo by Bob Radcliffe, Jan/2019

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Earthen Race at Dam on east side of Lynch Creek (looking downstream)

Photo by Bob Radcliffe, Jan/2019

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Earthen Race (looking upstream) below Dam (bridge in background)  
Photo by Bob Radcliffe, Feb/2019

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First Take-off (looking west) from Earthen Race - roughly 500 ft below the Dam  
Photo by Bob Radcliffe, Feb/2019

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First Take-off (looking east) towards Earthen Race showing Wheel well and water return to Lynch Creek. Perhaps a simple reciprocating Lumber Saw. Photo by Bob Radcliffe, Feb/2019

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Second Take-off from Earthen Race roughly 750 ft below the Dam  
Photo by Bob Radcliffe, Jan/2019

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Second take-off showing height of fall and Wheel well.

Photo by Bob Radcliffe, Jan/2019.

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**Secoond take-off – Water Wheel well and discharge back to Lynch Creek**  
Photo by Bob Radcliffe, Jan/2019

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===== REFERENCE MATERIALS =====

GILL and WHITAKER MILLS

FROM: <https://lynchcreek.com/2008-jan-lynch-creek-journal-by-bob-radcliffe/>

Evidence of two separate mills along Lynch Creek – today commonly called the Gill and Whitaker Mills – dam, race and foundation remains exist.

Both have been noted on early NC maps. The 1833 McRae-Brazier North Carolina State Map shows (via its Legend \*) both the Gill and Whitaker Mill sites. The 1869 Franklin County Fuller Map shows them by handwritten name (Alford – aka Whitaker and Gill). Both Mills therefore pre-date 1833 and had dams across Lynch Creek.

In a NC State Archive document (Shop Work Journal of Joseph W. Johnson for R.F. Gill – from the Will Folder of R.F. Gill) dated 12th July 1899, it appears that much unpaid repair work was performed on the Gill Mill from the period 13th November 1893 through 16th August 1897 prior to R.F. Gills death in 1898 (*From the records of the Plank Chapel Cemetery, Vance County, North Carolina, 3046 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC it is noted: Gill, Robert F, b. 1831, d. 1898, Plot #61*).

The Probated Will document itemizes many new mill “picks”, cold chisels, water wheel bands, rivets, threaded bolts etc. suggesting this may have also been a Saw Mill. (an aside – thanks to Doug Swords, the mystery of the term “frick” vs. “pick” in the hand-written manuscript was solved by a hand-writing expert). Payment to Johnson at times in the Journal was made in cash, or in bushels of Corn and Corn Meal. John A. Rogers recalls that Johnson (a black man) had a blacksmith/repair shop on now John Rogers Road opposite his present residence at 2543 Rocky Ford Road.

The first hand-drawn overlay version (1868, NC State Archives) of the 1869 Fuller Map exists. The Legend of the Map references an earlier Josiah Bridges 1840 (May 20th) Map that was mandated by NC State statute to establish FC School Districts – fifteen in all.

No copy of the 1840 Bridges Map itself has been located, but a written description of the school district boundaries has been located (Will Book “K”, Page 247). It appears that the first overlay version of the Fuller Map was hand-drawn to either reconcile the 1840 Bridges Map to the desired scale of the 1869 Fuller Map or to re-create the Bridges Map from the written description - indicating that the Gill and Sims/Goswick/Whitaker Mill existed prior to 1840.

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Both the Gill and Whitaker Mills had earthen races with takeoffs made of wood. A sluice gate at the Dam was used to control the flow of water in the race. Each "take-off" point along the race had a gate for control where water power was used to run equipment (millstone, lumber saw, cotton gin etc.).

The elevation of the race is usually nearly level, while the stream below "falls". The fall (slope) of the Creek and length of the race develop more "head" or feet-of-water-fall from which power is created.

The Whitaker Mill had a higher dam and Lynch Creek had more fall than the Gill Mill.

Both the Gill and Whitaker Mills appear to have two "take-off" points, but the "head" or height of the water was much higher at the Whitaker Mill; hence it was more powerful than the Gill Mill.

The field stone foundations of the Gill Mill indicate it was built earlier (and more primitively) than the cut stone foundations evident at the Whitaker Mill.