

# YATES MILL ASSOCIATES

**Yates Mill Associates** was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit in North Carolina on July 11, 1989, with a mission of spearheading efforts to restore and preserve Yates Mill, a magnificent gristmill constructed in colonial days on land just south of what later became North Carolina's state capitol, Raleigh.

**Yates Mill** was built on the banks of Steep Hill Creek by Samuel Pearson in the 1750s. Little is known about its early appearance, but it is believed to have served as a commercial custom mill for local yeoman farmers and their families.

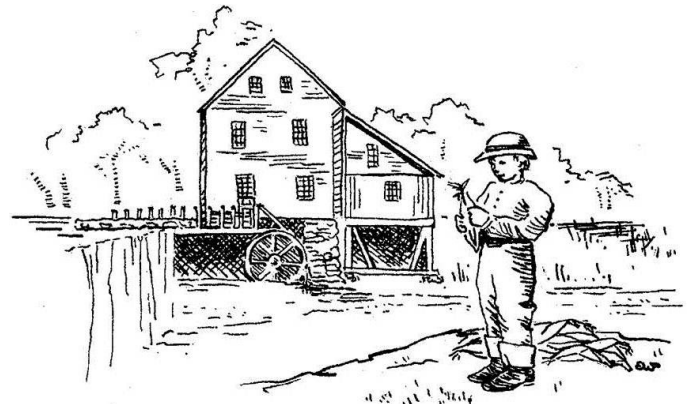
At some point, the building was improved to incorporate the Oliver Evans automatic milling system – a system that received the third U.S. patent in 1790. It remained in operation as a commercial mill and community focal point until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when it closed for lack of business.

But it remained a hub for the people of Wake County, cherished by neighbors and its caretaker owners. Businessman A.E. Finley built a lodge retreat on Yates Mill Pond and protected the decaying old mill. Design students at North Carolina State University, which acquired the mill in 1963, were the first to clearly document the building's structure, drawing blueprints that later proved essential for the mill's restoration and upkeep.

N.C. State's protection bought time for the fragile structure to win attention and support from an increasingly enthusiastic group of community leaders, who recognized its historic, cultural, mechanical and natural value of the mill, pond and surrounding property. They formed Yates Mill Associates to raise funds and manage restoration efforts. Ultimately, YMA teamed with N.C. State and Wake County in a unique partnership to surround Yates Mill with a lush nature preserve that provides a refuge for native wildlife and a research area for university scientists and students.

More than 100,000 people per year now visit **Historic Yates Mill County Park**, which features a visitor center and museum focused on milling and on the natural history of the area as well as with classrooms, an auditorium and space for university research. The park includes the 20-acre mill pond and walking trails.

The centerpiece is still Yates Mill. It's the last operating gristmill of about 70 that existed over the years in Wake County. It has been carefully restored to its operational state during the mid-1800s, with machinery that can process corn and wheat from the cob or husk into ground meal ready for baking.



Yates Mill Associates and the staff of Historic Yates Mill County Park work together to provide weekend public tours and a variety of educational programs during the week. Modest tour fees support regular upkeep, while Yates Mill Associates solicits additional funding for major repairs from private gifts, foundations and government entities. As an all-volunteer organization, Yates Mill Associates channels all funding to the mill's repair and management.

Yates Mill Associates is governed by a 15-member board of directors, which includes an executive committee composed of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and one at-large board representative. Board members serve three-year terms; officers are elected annually from among active members of the board. The executive committee meets monthly and the full board meets quarterly, including an annual meeting each May to which all YMA members are invited.

**We welcome your support for Yates Mill Associates and our mission to maintain historic Yates Mill as a unique treasure for Wake County and North Carolina.**

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