

Temporary Exhibits

The courthouse hallways house a number of temporary exhibits available to museum visitors. These changing exhibits highlight various aspects of Chatham County History. Currently on display:

Chatham Places Old and New



Familiar places and other's you've probably never heard of—all on a current Chatham map—along with postmarks from former Chatham places.

Discover places like Pluck, Waldo, Griffin's Crossroads, Riggsbee and more—all a part of Chatham's history. Share what you know about places whose locations we've not learned.

There's a new exhibit in the display case as well, highlighting new acquisitions in the CCHA collection.

Come spend a few hours exploring the museum this summer! We'll keep the air conditioning on for you!



Pittsboro High School 1923-1970

Class photos, band, clubs, athletic teams and more – covering much of Pittsboro High School's 47-year lifespan. Don't miss this great collection of photos and memorabilia! The display will be up through April 2018.

Additional PHS items are on display in the mobile display case in the museum.



Chatham County Mills

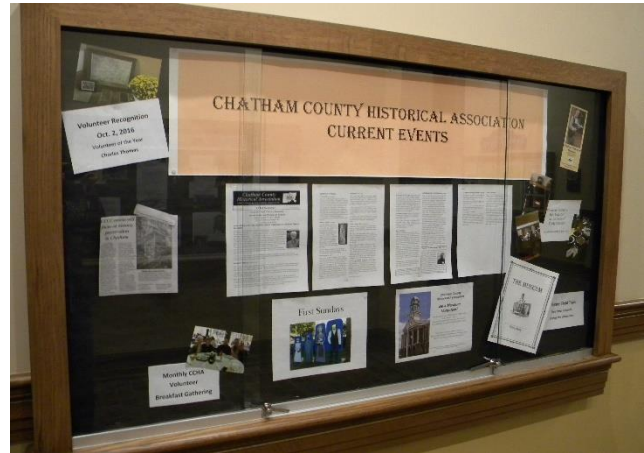


Mills played a vital role in the commercial and social life of Chatham County, and in the quality of life for the many families for whom they ground corn, wheat, oats, and other grains for cash, credit, or shares.

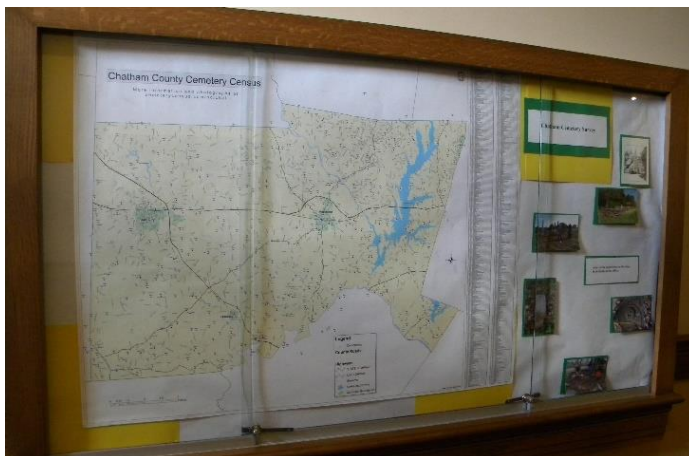
This exhibit shows the locations of fifty Chatham County mills on the Haw, Rocky and Deep Rivers, along with several historical photographs. Research by Louise Hobbs, Charles Thomas, and Clinton Walker.

CCHA's Current Events

If you're in the Historic Courthouse and wonder what the Chatham County Historical Association is up to, check out the Current Events display.



Chatham Cemetery Map Exhibit



The Chatham Cemetery Map in the courthouse hallway shows the locations and names of all known cemeteries in Chatham County. If you know of a cemetery that doesn't appear to be on the map, please let us know! Our goal is to document every gravesite in the county. To learn more about our Chatham Cemetery Survey, [click here](#).

The cemetery map was updated in January 2018. Several "new" old cemeteries have been added.

Please share your knowledge about cemeteries in Chatham! Help us document those identified and find those not previously reported.

Contact us at CemeterySurvey@chathamhistory.org

Chatham Preservation Successes



This display highlights some of Chatham County's recent preservation success stories. Currently, the three Pittsboro houses moved to Small Street when the county's new justice center was built are displayed—the Patrick St. Lawrence house, The Taylor house, and the McClenahan house. CCHA championed the preservation of all three of these houses, which had been vacant and neglected for years. Now, all three have been purchased by individuals committed to their renovation.

Also part of the display are two ongoing preservation projects: Reconstruction of the mid-1800s smokehouse found on the property now occupied by the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center is nearing completion by CCHA volunteers. CCHA continues to work toward a preservation solution for the Griffin-White house on US 64 East, which must be moved from Chatham Park property.

Learn more about these preservation projects and the history of the houses:

[St. Lawrence house](#)

[Taylor house](#)

[McClenahan house](#)

[Smokehouse](#)

[Griffin-White house](#)

Chatham Courthouse Fire 2010

In recent years, one of the most significant historical events in Chatham County was the 2010 courthouse fire. This exhibit tells the story of the fire and the subsequent reconstruction of the courthouse in pictures.



The fire began in the attic on March 25, 2010 due to a construction accident during a renovation of the structure. Firefighters battled the blaze for several days. The interior of the building was extensively damaged, but the heavy masonry walls were found to be structurally sound.

The building's significance to the community was evident in the strong desire that residents expressed to have the building restored rather than replaced. County officials acted on that wish and the courthouse was reconstructed over the next two years. It reopened in April of 2013, housing CCHA's office and museum on the first floor and a courtroom on the upper floor.

Mobile Display Cabinet

The museum's mobile display cabinet is made from mahogany from the historic courthouse that survived the fire in 2010. It was designed and built by CCHA volunteer Rouse Wilson III and contains items from the Museum's Collection. The display changes as the archivist accepts new artifacts into the collection.

