



# YATES MILL REVISITED

JOE LIPKA



Preservation is a double edged sword. Preserving buildings and artifacts is a wonderful thing because it helps us understand what life was like in the past.

We also preserve through finding objects and maintaining the skills and crafts of times gone by.









We look at these old machines and wonder if we could have survived in such a time. These machines were built and used for two centuries before our modern conveniences were even imagined.









We look at the tools of the past and marvel at the sophistication of the artifacts created with such simple hand tools. We wonder how complex machines and structures could be created with simple tools.

Technology has made us less creative, less ingenious and more willing to let an app or a machine instantaneously solve a problem.





We can see the technology of the past. It is large, out in the open and there is no mystery of how it works. It is accessible and easy to fix.

Our smart phones are small, totally enclosed and we don't have a clue about their internal workings. We can't possibly fix them if they break.





**NORTHERN  
WATER SNAKE  
HABITAT  
PLEASE DON'T  
DISTURB THE  
SNAKES**

**PUBLIC  
ACCESS  
PROHIBITED**

**DANGER**  
**KEEP OUT**

Preservation also subjects us to restriction. Access to the location is denied because to do so would jeopardize the preservation. It is ironic; our love of the past can hasten its destruction.



My original photographs of Yates Mill were made in 2008 and they lay fallow for more than a decade. Life went on and more exciting projects elbowed their way to the fore.

In 2019 I returned to Yates Mill. My memories were photoshopped; nothing was as I remembered.

We had both changed in the intervening decade; me far more than Yates Mill. I now could see the mill was a story of preservation and technology.







Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last thirty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and have been printed in both *LensWork* and *Black & White Photography* (UK) Magazines.

His website [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com) has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, is a collection of his photographs and thoughts on the creative process.

## COLOPHON

### Yates Mill Revisited

*Joe Lipka*

*The images in this portfolio*

*were made in November 2009 and April 2019*

*Historic Yates Mill, Raleigh, North Carolina*

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Web site: [www.joelipkaphoto.com](http://www.joelipkaphoto.com)

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