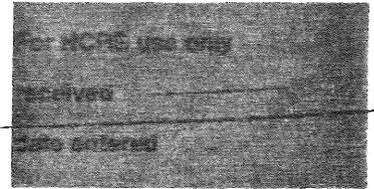


OMP 1 24 0018  
EXP 12-31-84

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic Vinedale

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Southwest corner junction of NC42/43 and SR 1122 — not for publication

city, town Pinetops  vicinity of congressional district Second

state North Carolina code 037 county Edgecombe code 065

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Cobb Estate  
c/o Vines Cobb

street & number Peoples Bank and Trust Company

city, town Pinetops  vicinity of state North Carolina 27864

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Edgecombe County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Tarboro state North Carolina 27864

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Architectural & Historic Resources of the  
Tar-Neuse River Basin has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Survey & Planning Branch, Division of Archives & History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

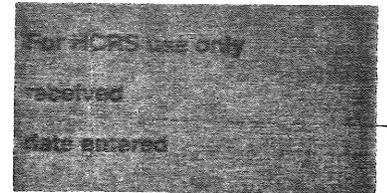
Built about 1855, Vinedale was once the center of a thriving agricultural complex. A two-story, three bay, double pile house with a low hipped standing seam tin roof, Vinedale is related to the more elaborate Italianate villas of northern Edgecombe County and Tarboro. The exterior elements are the one-story porch which wraps the house on four sides; the thin, decorative sawn work piers which support the porch roof; the wide, overhanging, flat eaves supported on carved and sawn brackets and the cupola, with its curved window heads, brackets and decorative finial on its hip roof. The interior Italianate elements are primarily the elaborate plaster work ceiling medallions, panels and crown moldings of the front hall and main parlors of the first floor, and the central hall with perpendicular cross hall plan. These indicate a familiarity with pattern book Italianate just as the plain window frames, unbeaded weatherboard, thin corner posts and large, 6/6 sashes and four recessed panel doors and apparently symmetrical plan are retentions from the more familiar motifs of the Greek Revival.

From the front, a symmetrical house with three windows on each facade suggests it is not just a simple center hall double pile house. Entering through the elaborate front door with its etched panels and side lights there is a deep center hall flanked by parlors, left and right, each with a window centered on the exterior walls and a fireplace centered on the interior party walls. On the right wall, the stair rises to the second floor hall. Under the stair to the right is a door to the dining room which fills the back corner of the house. To the left is a hall which holds an additional back stair. The hall ends against the outside wall with a new bathroom enclosing one of the three windows of that side of the house. The hall creates a small corner bedroom with windows in each wall and an interior fireplace that backs up to the small central backhall sitting room off the dining room. The dining room itself is the largest room of the house. With two windows on its north wall, a door and window on the west wall, picture rail, and glass fronted cabinets filling the niches on either side of the fireplace it is a light and spacious room, somewhat in contrast to the smaller, more stylishly finished rooms of the front. All the doors and window frames share the simplicity of triple molded, but very wide surrounds. There are recessed panels under the windows of the principle rooms which repeat the door motifs. The fireplaces have arched openings with attached pilasters supporting plain entablatures and shelves. The same details are found upstairs.

The stairs mount in one long, enclosed run and have elaborate turned balusters and rail and heavy octagonal newels with a decorative applied bracket on the ends of the risers.

The center hall and cross hall end beneath the cupola creating a plan of two bedrooms on the front and three on the rear of the house. Narrow, steep risers gain access to the cupola above. The cupola has arched three-over-three sash and bits of colored glass in the windows.

The house is cool, gracious and restrained, a fitting fulcrum for the busy plantation. According to Vines Cobb, one of the descents of the family that owns Vinedale, the screened back porch served as a commissary for tenants well into this century. This image of activity is borne out by the outbuildings. These include a pack house, sheep shelter, and garage which are of frame construction, but date from several different periods.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Item number 7

Page 2

The structures of course are closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structures. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probable that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

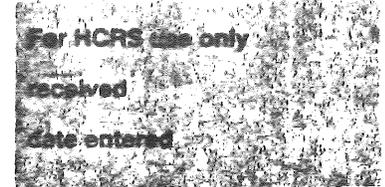
Vinedale was built in the middle of the 1850s by John A. Vine, a well to do Edgecombe County planter. Located near the small community of Pinetops, Vine's plantation was a large and prosperous example of the region's agricultural affluence and sensitivity to stylishness prior to the Civil War. The main house with its cupola, bracketted eaves, and plasterwork is an elegant yet simple adaptation of the more up-to-date Italianate forms to the more familiar, vernacular understanding of the Greek Revival in North Carolina. The house is also related to the Italianate suburban villas being built in Tarboro (NR-MRN) during this period and to Coolmore Plantation (NHL) just west of Tarboro.

### Criteria Assessment:

- A. The plantation house and its outbuildings recall the flourishing plantation culture of antebellum Edgecombe County and the upsurge in prosperity in the 1850s, as well as the continued agricultural economy of the county.
- B. Associated with John A. Vine, prominent Edgecombe County farmer and captain in the 43rd North Carolina regiment which saw service at Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and surrendered with Lee at Appomatox.
- C. Exemplifies the influence of the villa mode on fashion-conscious planters in the 1850s and its simplified execution in a rural setting.
- D. Vinedale with its main house and collection of contemporary outbuildings is likely to yield information about nineteenth century farm life on a prosperous antebellum Edgecombe County plantation.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Continuation sheet      HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE      Item number 8      Page 1

The Edgecombe County plantation house known as Vinedale is located in the southern part of that county near the community of Pinetops. The house was built around 1855 by John A. Vines, a prominent planter, and has been the seat of a large and productive farm for much of its history.

John A. Vines was born in 1815. He and his wife Prudence Ruffin Vines had at least seven children.<sup>1</sup> Antebellum Edgecombe County was a predominately agricultural county with a number of large plantations. Although by no means the largest such plantation, Vinedale was a typical one. The 1860 census shows that Vines owned 1,600 acres, half of them improved. His real estate was valued at \$18,000 while his personal estate was valued at \$85,000. Vines's cash crop was cotton, of which he grew almost 80,000 pounds. He grew 300 bushels of rye, 2,750 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of oats, 20 tons of hay, and lesser amounts of peas, beans, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes. He also produced 31 gallons of wine. Vines owned large amounts of livestock, including 125 swine. His total livestock was valued at \$3,500. Vines owned 65 slaves, a large number even for Edgecombe County.<sup>2</sup>

When the Civil War came, Vines served as a captain in the 43rd North Carolina Regiment of the Confederate Army. The regiment participated in the battles of Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania, and surrendered with Lee at Appomatox.<sup>3</sup>

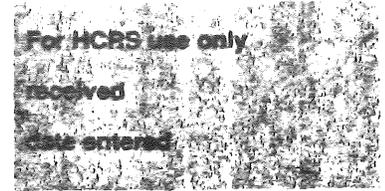
The Civil War and its aftermath devastated Edgecombe County. Vines seems to have weathered the storm better than many, however. The 1870 census shows that his farm was still productive, although not at its prewar capacity. Vines was farming only 325 acres out of a total of 1,300, with a value of \$15,000. Cotton was still the main crop, with a production of over 60,000 pounds.<sup>4</sup>

Vines died intestate in 1872 and his widow died intestate in 1875. Legal proceedings kept the land tied up for several years. Eventually the house and the better part of the estate were awarded to Linda Vines Cobb, the youngest of the Vines children.<sup>5</sup> She married James T. Cobb in 1881. They had five children and continued to farm the land.<sup>6</sup> Linda Vines Cobb died intestate in July of 1928, being survived by one daughter and two sons. The estate was hopelessly insolvent and the property was ordered sold. It was purchased in 1934 by Mrs. Mary Cobb Bynum, the youngest of the Cobb children and the wife of R. A. Bynum, for \$18,000.<sup>7</sup>

In 1943 Mrs. Bynum sold the house and over 400 acres of land to her brother John Vines Cobb, who was a farmer and civic leader. Cobb served as the chairman of the Edgecombe County Commissioners, was a member of the county welfare and hospital boards, and served as an elder in the Pinetops Presbyterian Church. He died in 1967.<sup>8</sup> His heirs are the owners of the house.

The status of Vinedale is uncertain. However, there is hope that this house, which so well represents the antebellum splendor of agricultural Edgecombe County can be renovated.

Architecturally Vinedale is part of a collection of ambitious houses born of Edgecombe's 1850s prosperity, showing the influence of stylish architectural models. In Tarboro a series of villas rose along the street (now Main) north of town, with the Pender-Lanier House (Greek Revival but with cupola and other aspects of the villa) the closest in type to Vinedale. The end of the decade produced the culmination of this trend: the Barracks in Tarboro and Coolmore nearby are prime examples, both architect-designed.

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## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. The children and their ages in 1860 were: Mary, 19; Charles, 17; Sam, 15; Olivia, 13; Lina, 10; Emma, 3; and Linda, 1. A school teacher also lived with the family giving credence to the local tradition that the house was the seat of a private academy for a brief period before the war.

<sup>2</sup>Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

<sup>3</sup>J. Kelly Turner and John L. Bridgers, Jr., History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1920), 224-226; Walter Clark (ed.), Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-'65 (Raleigh and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 5 volumes, 1901), III, 2-12.

<sup>4</sup>Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule.

<sup>5</sup>Edgecombe County Estates Papers, John A. Vines, Prudence S. Vines; Edgecombe County Deed Book 82, p. 38; Edgecombe County Will Book J, p. 31.

<sup>6</sup>Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. The five children were John Vines Cobb, born 1882; James L. Cobb, born 1885; Charles B. Cobb, born 1888; Willis E. Cobb, born 1891; and Mary A. Cobb, born 1896.

<sup>7</sup>News and Observer (Raleigh), July 13, 1928; Edgecombe County Estates Papers, Linda Vines Cobb.

<sup>8</sup>Edgecombe County Deed Book 409, p. 244; News and Observer (Raleigh), May 6, 1967.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9.55 acres

Quadrangle name Tarboro

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References Lat. 35 36' 51" Long. 77 36' 20"

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See survey map dated March 18, 1981. Property is outlined in red.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	code	county	code		

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charlotte V. Brown, Architectural Historian  
Jim Sumner, Researcher  
 organization Survey & Planning Branch  
Archeology & Historic Preservation Section date September, 1981  
Division of Archives & History  
 street & number 109 East Jones Street telephone (919) 733-6545  
 city or town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Phipps

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 15, 1982

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NCRS use only
Indexed
Date entered

Continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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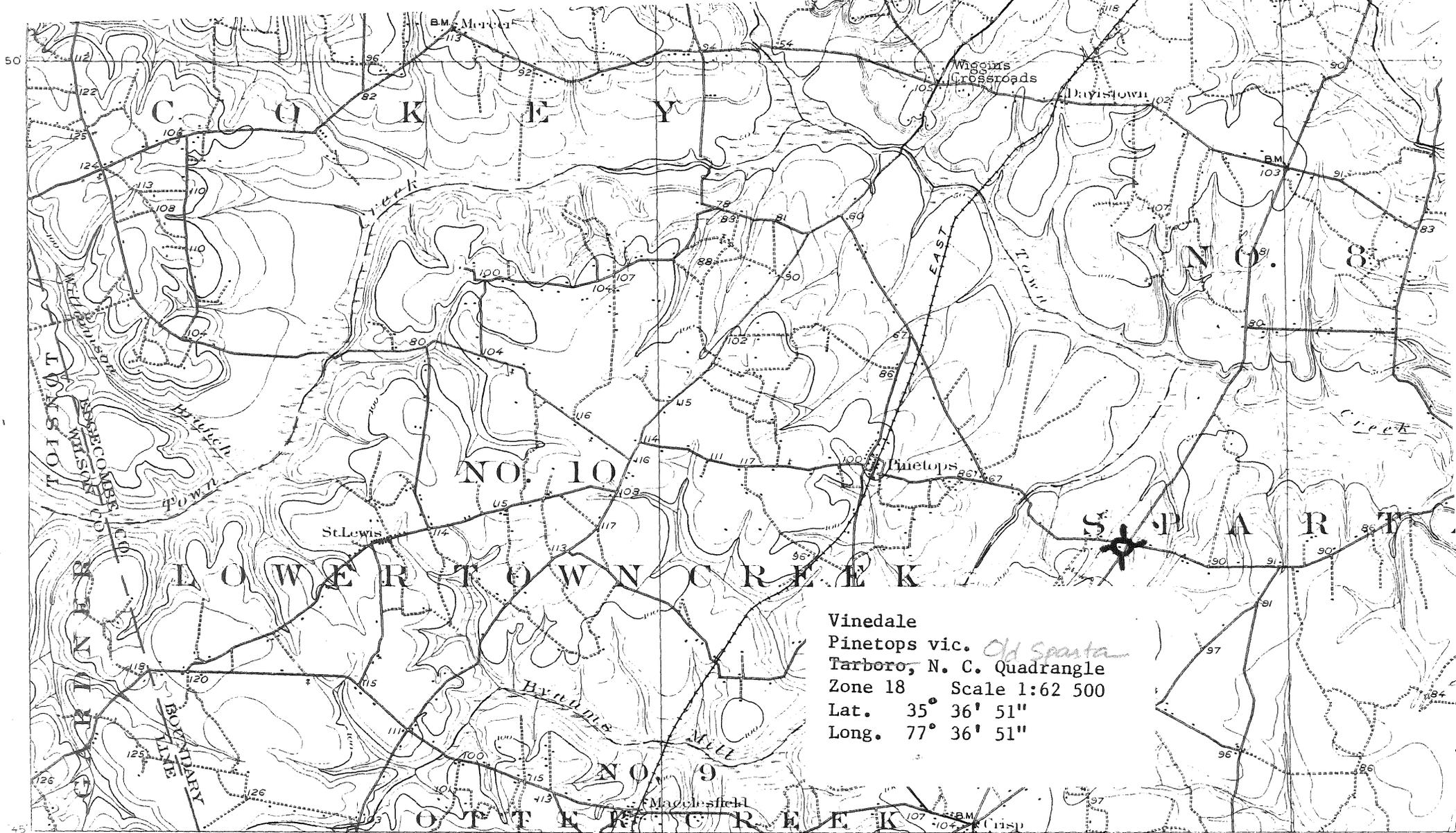
Clark, Walter (ed.). Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-'65. Raleigh and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 5 volumes, 1901.

Edgecombe County Records. Deed Books, Will Books. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History. Estates Papers. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.

News and Observer (Raleigh). July 13, 1928; May 6, 1967.

Turner, J. Kelly and Bridgers, Jr., John L. History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1920.

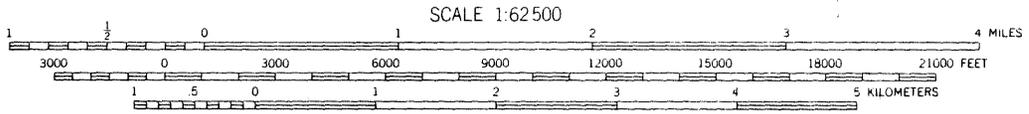
United States Census Office. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, Population Schedule. Microfilm copies. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History.



Vinedale  
 Pinetops vic. *Old Sparta*  
 Tarboro, N. C. Quadrangle  
 Zone 18 Scale 1:62 500  
 Lat. 35° 36' 51"  
 Long. 77° 36' 51"

H M Wilson, Geographer in charge.  
 Control by Sledge Tatum, Oscar Jones and Robert Coe.  
 Topography by Albert Pike.  
 Surveyed in 1901-1902 in cooperation with the  
 North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

TRUE NORTH  
 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 APPROXIMATE MEAN  
 DECLINATION 1902



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

*Pinetops Quad*

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

