

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED

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 Ashburn Hall

AND/OR COMMON
Capehart House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side SR 1101, just North of junction with SR 1100

CITY, TOWN Kittrell VICINITY OF 2nd
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE North Carolina CODE 37 COUNTY Vance CODE 181

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME John H. Davis

STREET & NUMBER Holly Hills Farm

CITY, TOWN Kittrell VICINITY OF STATE North Carolina 27544

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, VANCE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Henderson STATE North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Ashburn Hall is a handsome, restrained Greek Revival plantation house, sensitively renovated and well maintained. Its appearance is little changed from that shown in a turn-of-the-century documentary photograph. The house stands amid outbuildings and large trees in a pleasant, rolling rural section of Vance County. Among the notable outbuildings --all frame--are the meat house, well house, a couple of small dwellings or kitchens with chimneys, and two barns.

The main house is a substantial two-story, three-bay T-shaped frame structure with two features very unusual in the eastern Piedmont: the pedimented bay windows that occupy the flanking bays of the first level of the facade, and the exposed face interior end chimneys that rise on either side of the house. With these exceptions, the house is a very representative example of the Greek Revival plantation house expressive of the growing wealth of the northeastern Piedmont in the 1830-1860 era.

The facade is defined by a heavy baseboard from which rise cornerposts treated as symmetrically molded pilasters with simple caps. These carry a broad, plain entablature beneath the overhang of the gable roof, with a simple cornice that returns slightly into the gable ends. Dominating the facade is a broad, one-story pedimented entrance portico, its pediment carried on four rather widely spaced, paired fluted Tuscan columns. Engaged pillars recur at the facade at the ends of the porch. The entrance sheltered by the porch consists of a double door with sidelights, transom, and cornerlights, separated by heavy moldings. The bay windows on either side repeat the pedimented motif of the porch. Panels occur beneath long, vertical windows; over each bay window are an entablature and pediment with molded cornice. The second level features broad windows topped with simplified entablatures. The central window is a triple one; the flanking ones of normal configuration. Eight-over-eight sash is used, and windows are fitted with blinds.

The ends of the house are windowless, interrupted only by the interior end chimneys whose face is exposed to nearly the level of the top of the second-level windows; the chimney stack, with molded cap, rises as an interior chimney a small distance from the end of the roof.

To the rear projects the ell creating the T form of the house. The two-story height of the ell is somewhat shorter than the front portion, and the chimney rising at its rear is an exterior one. Porches and additions have expanded the rear of the house considerably.

The spacious interior of the house consists of two rooms in the front section, separated by a central hall and, in the rear ell, a cross hall, containing the stair and leading to a large rear room. The finish is consistently of a simple but distinctive Greek Revival character of considerable force and clarity. A vigorous crossetted molding is employed in the door frames from the hall into the left parlor and in that room's mantel and door and window frames. Other door and window frames are of the standard Greek Revival type with bold, symmetrically molded strips joining at corner blocks. Window frames typically extend to the floor and frame panels beneath the windows.

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In the front bay windows of each parlor, the nearly full-length windows extend to the high baseboard.

Mantels in remaining rooms feature molded or fluted pilasters and heavy entablatures enriched with moldings. Walls are plastered above heavy molded baseboards. The stair, which rises in the rear cross hall, has simple posts and newel square-in-section, and thin square balusters which carry a rounded handrail. The open string is ornamented with very simple curvilinear brackets. Throughout, the house has been renovated with sensitivity, so that the simplicity and vigor of the Greek Revival finish is enhanced, as well as the openness and spaciousness of the large, high-ceilinged rooms with their large windows and bay windows.

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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ashburn Hall is a handsome, representative example of rural domestic Greek Revival architecture, one of the best-preserved of several Greek Revival plantation houses in the northeastern Piedmont, an area that flourished in the antebellum years. Unusual features of the house include the twin pedimented bay windows and exposed face interior chimneys. Presumably built for George or William A. Eaton in the 1840s or early 1850s, the house was the seat after 1862 of prominent planter Baldy Ashburn Capehart, in whose family it remained until the mid-twentieth century.

George Eaton obtained a large section of about 1,300 acres in Granville, later Vance, County from Thomas Devereux of Raleigh in September of 1840. He paid \$2,000 for the tract. He farmed the land with the help of sixty slaves. After farming this land for six years, he sold it to his brother William A. Eaton on August 1, 1846;¹ it is possible that either George or William A. Eaton had the house built.

William Eaton, like his brother, was a planter of some prominence in antebellum Granville County. Eaton was born in 1813, the son of John S. Eaton, also of Granville County.² He was married December 17, 1834, and by 1850 had four children. Eaton continued farming the land, maintaining an establishment of eighty slaves in 1850. He owned 1,475 acres, of which 600 were improved. Only one other landowner in the Fishing Creek township owned more cultivated land. Eaton's land was valued at almost seven thousand dollars. Eaton was a staunch Episcopalian, long active in the affairs of the small, rural St. James Episcopal Church. He represented the tiny congregation at the state Episcopal convention in 1853, 1856, and 1857.³ In the summer of 1862 Eaton sold this tract of land to Samuel McLean of Virginia. McLean kept the land for only a few months, however, selling it to B. A. Capehart on November 3, 1862.⁴

Baldy Ashburn Capehart, son of Tristram and Buta Capehart, was born in Murfreesboro on July 4, 1833. (Presumably the name Ashburn Hall comes from the family name Ashburn, Capehart's middle name.) He attended the University of North Carolina, receiving an A. B. degree in 1853. He moved back to Murfreesboro, where he was prominent in a local Episcopal church. It is unclear when he moved into Granville County but when he joined the Confederate Army in 1862 he listed Granville as his home county. Capehart was an officer in the 15th Battalion of the North Carolina Cavalry, of which he later wrote a history for Clark's Regiments. He was appointed captain on October 22, 1863, and was present until the latter part of 1864.⁵

Like Eaton who held the plantation before him, much of Capehart's interest in 1864 and 1865 seems to have been focused on his church. Just before the war the rural St. James Episcopal Church was relocated near Kittrell. The war enforced great hardships on

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the tiny church, of course, and Capehart expended great energy in keeping it alive. The first rector of the church, Reverend M. M. Marshall, lived with the Capeharts while he was in Kittrell. Capehart also allowed the Reverend Marshall to baptize slave children in his house on at least two occasions, both in 1864. Capehart attended the Episcopal convention as a lay delegate on behalf of his church in both 1864 and 1865.⁶

Capehart used his tract to become one of the area's most prominent planters. He utilized his large farm in the production of Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, tobacco, apples, peaches, corn, oats, wheat, cotton, and cattle products. He apparently did not enter the business world, but did, however, serve Granville County as chief judge of the Granville County Inferior Court from 1877 until 1881.⁷

In 1895, following the death of his first wife, he remarried. His wife, the wealthy widow of P. T. Henry, was, at the very least, his social and financial equal. She was the daughter of B. F. Moore, an extremely prominent lawyer who died in 1881. According to the Henderson Gold Leaf, the marriage of B. A. Capehart and Lucy Moore Henry united a lady of "high accomplishments and great personal worth", with a gentleman who was "one of Vance county's most widely known and popular citizens."⁸

The Capeharts soon moved to Raleigh and built a new house on North Wilmington Street. (N.R.) Shortly afterwards, however, on January 5, 1899, B. A. Capehart died of paralysis suffered while hunting. A local paper eulogized him as "a man of intelligence and influence, a lover of his church (the Protestant Episcopal Church) and an influential worker for every good. He possessed all the elegance and refinement of a true Christian gentleman. He was social and convivial in his nature and sincere in his attachments." His family and friends honored him by placing a brass wall plaque with an amethyst cross in the St. James Episcopal Church, where it remains today.

The Capehart tract remained in the family. Before his death, B. A. Capehart deeded a large part of his tract, including the house, to his son, Anthony L. Capehart, who continued to farm it.¹⁰ Lucy Capehart, widow of B. A. Capehart, maintained an interest in the land until 1906. In that year the Wake County Superior Court heard a "Petition to Sell Lands at Private Sale and Re-invest" on behalf of the three minor children of A. L. Capehart. The court appointed a commissioner, M. Gatling, to sell a 400 acre tract of Wake County land owned by Capehart, and use the proceeds to purchase an equivalent tract in Vance County, which turned out to be land containing the Capehart residence. Commissioner Gatling described the land as being "far more valuable than the tract sold, that upon it is a fine residence of ten or more rooms, stables, outhouses, a packhouse, and several other valuable buildings." Lucy Capehart gave up her remaining interest in the house to the children. A Vance County deed confirms that A. L. Capehart did sell this land to his children, subject to their coming of age. When the three children did come of age, in 1920, they deeded the land back to their father.¹¹

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It is uncertain when or where A. L. Capehart died, although he does appear on the Vance County tax rolls as late as 1925. The property remained in the Capehart family until 1941, when Lillian Capehart, the widow of A. L. Capehart, deeded it to Margaret Mitchell. Mitchell willed the land to John Davis, the present owner, in 1960.¹²

FOOTNOTES

¹Granville County Deeds, Book 10, p. 251, Book 14, p. 235; Sixth Census of the United States, 1840, Granville County, North Carolina, Slave Schedule.

²Granville County Wills, Book 11, pp. 502-504; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Granville County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, hereinafter cited as Granville County Census, 1850. John S. Eaton should not be confused with John Henry Eaton (1787-1856), a native of Halifax County, who emigrated from North Carolina and became a governor of Florida, a U. S. senator from Tennessee, and secretary of war in the Jackson administration.

³Granville County Census, 1850, Population Schedule, Slave Schedule; Granville County Index to Marriages, 149-1868, p. 46; Protestant Episcopal Church, North Carolina Diocese, Journal of Convention (Fayetteville, Edward J. Hale and Sons), 1852, p. 31; 1853, p. 6; 1856, p. 8, 1857, p. 7; hereinafter cited as Protestant Episcopal Church.

⁴Granville County Deeds, Book 21, p. 450.

⁵Alumni History of the University of North Carolina (General Alumni Association, Durham, N.C., second edition, 1924), 98; Protestant Episcopal Church, 1858, p. 10; Louis H. Manarin (compiler), North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865, A Roster (Raleigh, State Department of Archives and History, 1966), II, 644.

⁶Samuel Thomas Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, Vance County, North Carolina, a Short History (Durham, Seeman Printery, 1955), 47, hereinafter cited as Peace, Zeb's Black Baby; Protestant Episcopal Church, 1864, p. 6; 1865, p. 6.

⁷Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Granville County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule; Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, p. 21.

⁸Samuel A. Ashe and others (eds.), Biographical History of North Carolina: From Colonial Times to the Present (Greensboro, Charles L. Van Noppen, 8 volumes, 1905-1917), V, p. 275-286; Henderson Gold Leaf, February 21, 1895. The death date of M. A. Capehart, first wife of B. A. Capehart, is uncertain.

⁹Oxford Public Ledger, January 6, 1899.

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¹⁰Vance County Deeds, Book 9, p. 353. B. A. Capehart apparently left no will. It is unclear how his widow obtained her share of the estate.

¹¹Wake County Superior Court, Orders and Decrees, XII, p. 156-168; Vance County Deeds, Book 39, p. 416, Book, 100, p. 130.

¹²Vance County Tax Scrolls, 1925; Vance County Deeds, Book 221, p. 255; Vance County Wills, Book 368, p. 82.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alumni History of the University of North Carolina. General Alumni Association. Durham, North Carolina. Second edition, 1924.

Ashe, Samuel A., and others (eds.). Biographical History of North Carolina: From Colonial Times to the Present. Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen. 8 volumes, 1905-1917.

Granville County Deeds. Microfilm Copy. State Department of Archives and History. Raleigh, North Carolina.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8

UTM REFERENCES

LATITUDE

LONGITUDE

36° 12' 14"

78° 30' 09"

36° 12' 20"

78° 30' 06"

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Description prepared by Catherine W. Cockshutt, Survey Supervisor
Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Survey Specialist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Division of Archives & History

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

109 East Jones Street

829-4763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE January 13, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Durham, North Carolina. Seeman Printery, 1955.

Protestant Episcopal Church, North Carolina Diocese, Journal of Convention. Fayetteville,
North Carolina. Edward J. Hale and Sons. 1852, 1853, 1856, 1858, 1864, and 1865.

Seventh Census of the United States. 1850. Granville County, North Carolina. Population
Schedule. Microfilm copy. Department of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.

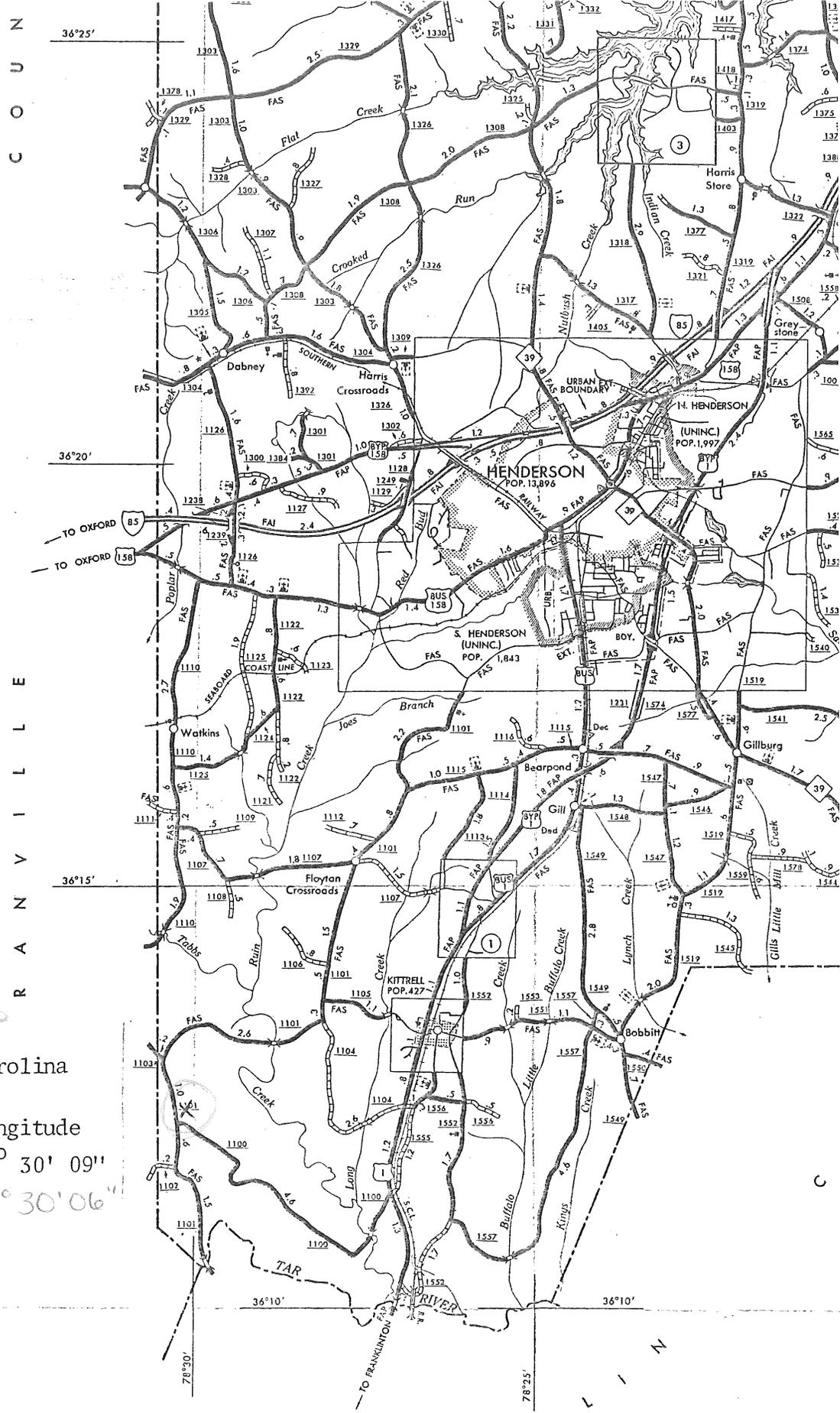
Sixth Census of the United States. 1840. Granville County, North Carolina. Population
Schedule. Slave Schedule. Microfilm Copy. Department of Archives and History.
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Vance County Deeds. Microfilm copy. State Department of Archives and History. Raleigh,
North Carolina.

Vance County Wills. Microfilm copy. State Department of Archives and History. Raleigh,
North Carolina.

Vance County Tax Scrolls. 1925. Microfilm copy. State Department of Archives and History.
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wake County Superior Court. Orders and Decrees. XII. State Department of Archives and
History. Raleigh, North Carolina.



WILTON QUAD

Ashburn Hall
 Kittrell, North Carolina
 Vance County

Latitude	Longitude
36° 12' 14"	78° 30' 09"
36° 12' 20"	78° 30' 06"

NOTE: MAP INCLUDES ONLY STATE MAINTAINED ROADS OR IMPORTANT NON-SYSTEM ROADS. MILEAGE NOT SHOWN ON FRONTAGE ROADS.

