

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Thomas Capehart House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side SR 1105, 0.2 mile East of SR 1101

CITY, TOWN

Kittrell

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

37

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

COUNTY

Vance

CODE

181

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	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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. R. G. Kittrell, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

2920 Meadow Lane

CITY, TOWN

Henderson

m/m Johnny Perry

Mrs. Marlene Shirley Lognicka

1109 Pine Trail

Clayton

STATE

North Carolina 27520

VICINITY OF

27536

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Vance County Courthouse

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

The Thomas Capehart House is a small, fully realized Downingsque Gothic cottage, with its ornament intact or restored and its picturesque charm enhanced in recent years by renovation. The contrast of yellow walls and white trim intensifies the cozy, picturesque feeling the mode was intended to communicate. The vertical board and batten-covered walls, steep multiple gables dripping with airy sawn work bargeboards, and lacy front porch, plus the almost ecclesiastical use of tracery-filled lancet windows and lancet panels in the chimney give the cottage a storybook character unique in the several-county region and rare in the state. Its regional identity comes from the use of certain distinctive features suggestive of the work of Warrenton builder Jacob Holt and perhaps his associates--including the bracketed entrance, the treatment of the door frame, and the handling of the stair.

The asymmetrical frame cottage is L-shaped, with a gabled one-bay west wing projecting forward to create the L form. The board and batten walls are defined by rather heavy corner-posts whose bases project from heavy baseboards. This linearity provides a foil for the crisp, lacy confection of sawn bargeboards and porch. The three-bay main (south) facade features, in addition to the projecting gable, steeper false gables over each of the other two bays. The long west side is also punctuated by a steep gable. Each gable is pierced by a lancet window with a heavy molded frame, and each is divided by tracery into two narrower lancets. These are filled with delicate lozenge-patterned tracery, and the spandrel at the intersection of the arches is pierced with a fleur-de-lis-like quatrefoil. The heavy overhang of the eaves is lightened by delicate sawn ornament, which not only outlines the gables but continues along the eaves as well. It consists of a continuous open scallop motif; on the main facade and the side gables this is complicated by a sawn criss-cross motif in each scallop. Most of this trim is original, but missing items were reproduced and replaced when the present owner renewed the house.

Filling in the angle of the L-shaped house is the front porch; it consists of intricate sawn flat posts filled with pierced curvilinear patterns, carrying a frieze composed of a series of alternating small and large pierced circles. Sinuous brackets, also sawn, spring from each sawnwork post. Much of this had rotted away and was reproduced from surviving elements.

At the first level, the projecting gable features a bay window with windows underlined by a slightly different scalloped pattern above flat panels. The central entrance consists of a double door flanked by sidelights, with brackets separating corner lights and transom. The composition is outlined by a very heavy molded frame terminating in a molded foot similar to Jacob Holt's work. The west front bay features a two-leaf french door. Other bays in the main block contain double and single windows with four-over-four sash, except the bays of the east side, where a pair of doors have apparently been added. To the rear of the house are simple shed roof extensions, and a north addition with gable roof and a repeat of the scallop trim.

The interior features a center-hall plan, with one room to the east and two to the left, the latter pair separated by a wall from which rises the chimney, serving both rooms. The walls are plastered above rather plain, but tall, molded baseboards. Mantels are of typical mid-19th century design, with the chief ones featuring lancet panels in

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their pilasters. The floors are original. The bay window features heavy panels beneath the windows, similar to the exterior treatment.

The stair is quite handsome, rising in two flights with a transverse landing, and occupying much of the central hall. The turned urn-shaped newel, slim square balusters, and particularly the ramped, rounded handrail and simple but distinctive moldings at the tread ends, are suggestive of the 1850s work of Jacob Holt and might be the work of a former Holt associate or apprentice. Of special charm are the small bedrooms lighted by the vigorously framed, delicately traceried lancet windows.

Complementing the character of the dwelling is a small outbuilding, also of board and batten, which repeats the open scallop motif.

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 ca. 1866-1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Capehart House, located amid the rolling farmland near the village of Kittrell, is a picturesque, well-preserved frame Gothic cottage of the type popularized by A. J. Downing's publications. Built shortly after the Civil War for Capehart, a Confederate veteran and farmer, the cottage with its ornate bargeboards and traceried windows is one of the few examples of the Gothic domestic mode in the state.

Thomas Capehart was born on August 21, 1840, in Hertford County, North Carolina, the son of Tristram and Buta Capehart. He attended the University of North Carolina from 1858 until 1860, although he did not receive his degree until much later. When the Civil War came, Capehart, living then in Chowan County, joined the Confederate forces almost immediately, enlisting in the First Regiment of the North Carolina Infantry on April 29, 1861. He attained the rank of 3rd Lieutenant on June 29, 1861, and was mustered out when the unit was disbanded in November of 1861. On February 22, 1862, Capehart enlisted in the North Carolina Artillery, where he quickly became a captain, commanding a group known as "Capehart's Battery."¹

Capehart had acquired substantial land holdings in Hertford County by way of his father's will.² In November of 1862, however, he moved to divest himself of this land in a number of transactions. The catalyst for these moves may well have been his marriage to Amelia Epps Tucker of Northampton County on February 12, 1862, at an Episcopal church in that county.³

The Kittrell family (present owners of the place) state that Capehart came to the Kittrell area because of his friendship during the war with George Kittrell. Capehart settled in Granville County during the war and was Kittrell's immediate neighbor. (His brother, B. A. Capehart, had already obtained a farm in the Kittrell area in 1862.) Thomas acquired a little more than forty-two acres from George Blacknall on June 22, 1866, for a purchase price of \$600. This tract adjoined that of George Kittrell. It was on this land, according to strong family tradition, that Capehart built the house where he would live for the rest of his life. Three years later, Capehart purchased an adjacent tract of seventeen acres from Kittrell for \$335. By 1870 he had over one hundred acres and had fathered his first four children.⁴

Capehart, like other Civil War veterans, came to an area severely crippled by the war. Kittrell was probably better off than many areas of North Carolina, however, as it maintained a certain prominence as a resort area with a large hotel (which burned in 1883) and a number of warm springs. Kittrell was said to be particularly popular with the well-to-do residents of New Orleans, a city plagued by recurrent attacks of yellow fever during the 1860s.⁵ Unfortunately for Capehart none of these springs were on his land and any benefits he accrued from them were strictly peripheral. He supported his

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family in more traditional ways: the 1870 census lists him as a merchant and keeper of horses, while the agricultural census shows him producing Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, butter, and slaughtered livestock. Capehart owned two horses, two milk cows, and six sheep.⁶ In 1880 he had under cultivation corn, oats, wheat, cotton, and three acres of tobacco. He had a dry goods store, and his family included seven children.

He had also attained a measure of prominence in his new community. Capehart was a founder of the locally important St. James Episcopal Church of Kittrell, and was listed as one of the members of the first vestry. He was also listed as one of the bondsmen for the first sheriff of newly formed Vance County in 1881.⁸

As Capehart grew older he apparently distributed his land among his children, although he left no will. He died on August 30, 1919.⁹ His widow, Amelia Capehart, eventually moved to Beaufort County where she applied for a Confederate pension, leaving the house and lands in the hands of the children. Amelia Capehart's will of 1930 was probated after her death on November 19, 1936. In it she states, "Having given most of what I possessed to my children years ago, I have little left but the gratitude for their love and tender outlook for my needs. I leave to my four living sons . . . whatever interest I have in the farm. . . the houses and all appurtenances thereof."¹⁰

Shortly after the death of Amelia Capehart, the remaining heirs of Thomas Capehart deeded their interest in the estate to J. T. Capehart of Hamlet.¹¹ He kept the property for eight years, deeding it to R. G. Kittrell in 1945.¹² After only a few days, R. G. Kittrell deeded an undivided one-half interest to J. C. Kittrell on July 28, 1945, while keeping the other half.¹³ J. C. Kittrell died in 1954 and in his will he devised his one-half interest to his daughter, Lucy Kittrell Brothers.¹⁴ Less than a year later, Lucy Brothers and her husband Reginald E. Brothers conveyed this interest to Robert G. Kittrell, Jr.¹⁵ When the elder Kittrell died in 1957 he left his remaining one-half interest to his son, Robert G. Kittrell, Jr., a Henderson attorney, who continues to own the land and house.¹⁶

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FOOTNOTES

¹Alumni History of the University of North Carolina, (General Alumni Association, Durham, N.C., second edition, 1924), 98; Louis H. Manarin (compiler), North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster (Raleigh, Department of Archives and History, 1966) I, p. 358; III, p. 62.

²Hertford County Wills, Microfilm Copy, Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C., Book A, pp. 296-299.

³Hertford County Deeds, Microfilm Copy, Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C., Book A, p. 16, 459, 463, & 662; Northampton County Marriage Register, 1851-1867, p. 99.

⁴Granville County Deeds, Microfilm Copy, Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C., Book 23, p. 126, & 214; Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Granville County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule, hereinafter cited as Granville County Census, 1870.

⁵Samuel Thomas Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, Vance County, North Carolina: A Short History (Durham, N.C., Seeman Printery, 1955) pp. 351-355, hereinafter cited as Peace, Zeb's Black Baby.

⁶Granville County Census, 1870, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule.

⁷Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Granville County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, Agricultural Schedule.

⁸Peace, Zeb's Black Baby, p. 17, 47; Granville County Deeds, Book 25, p. 491.

⁹Vance County Index to Vital Statistics, Births and Deaths, I, 1913-1925.

¹⁰Application for Confederate Pensions (After 1901) (State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C., 1957) I, p. 147; Beaufort County Wills, Book V, p. 519.

¹¹Vance County Deeds, Book 23, p. 64.

¹²Vance County Deeds, Book 243, p. 332.

¹³Vance County Deeds, Book 243, pp. 334-335.

¹⁴Vance County Wills, Book G, p. 488.

¹⁵Vance County Deeds, Book 231, p. 169.

¹⁶Vance County Wills, Book H, p. 63.

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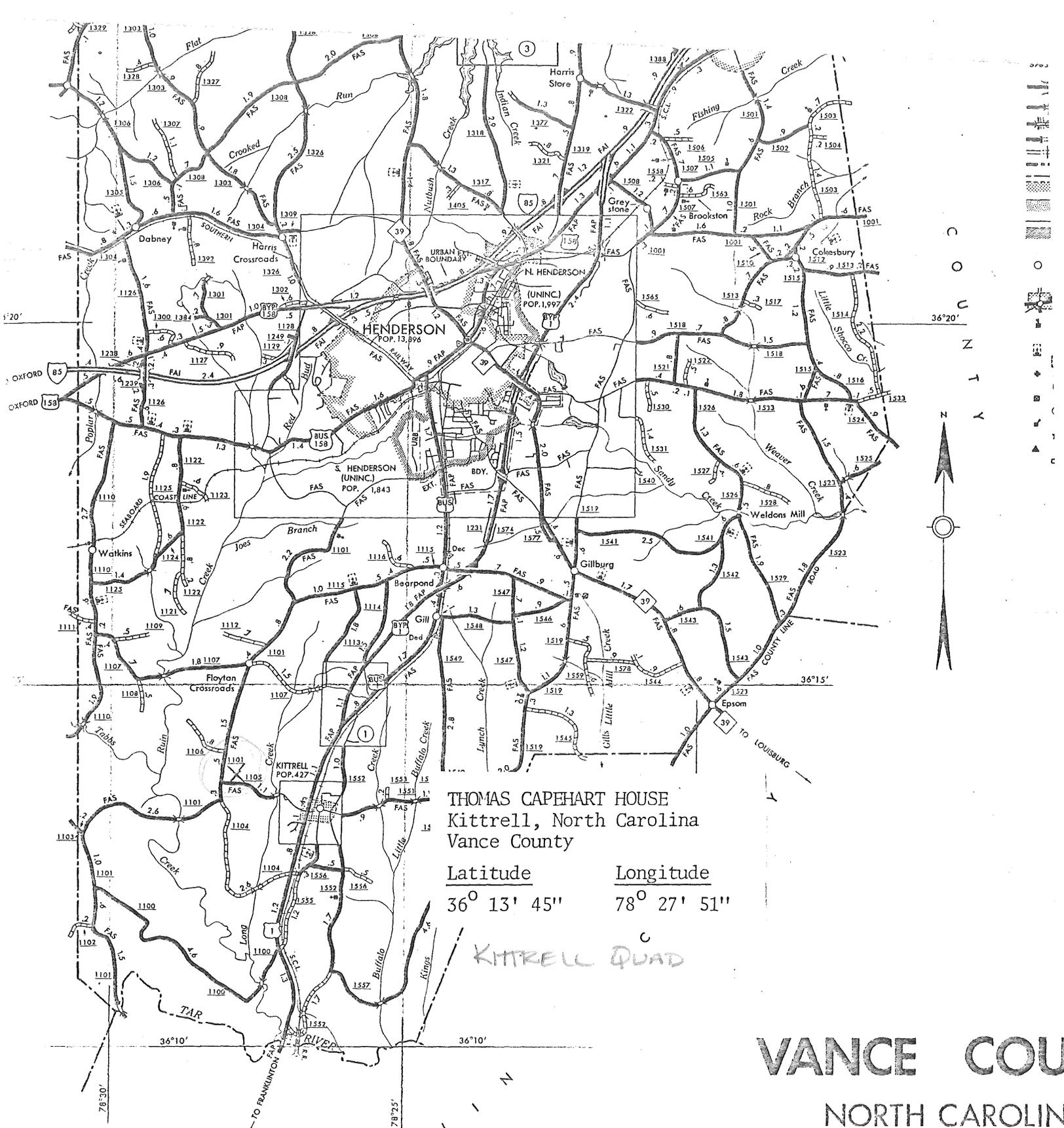
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- Hertford County Deeds. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.
- Hertford County Wills. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.
- Manarin, Louis H., compiler. North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster. 5 Volumes.
Raleigh, N.C. Division of Archives and History. 1966, volume I.
- Ninth Census of the United States, 1870: Granville County, North Carolina. Population
Schedule. Agricultural Schedule. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History.
Raleigh, N.C.
- Northampton County Marriage Register. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History.
Raleigh, N.C.
- Peace, Samuel Thomas. Zeb's Black Baby, Vance County, North Carolina, A Short History.
Durham, N.C. Seeman Printer, 1955.
- Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Granville County, North Carolina. Population
Schedule. Agricultural Schedule. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History.
Raleigh, N.C.
- Vance County Deeds. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.
- Vance County Index to Vital Statistics. Births and Deaths. Microfilm Copy. Division
of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.
- Vance County Wills. Microfilm Copy. Division of Archives and History. Raleigh, N.C.



THOMAS CAPEHART HOUSE
 Kittrell, North Carolina
 Vance County

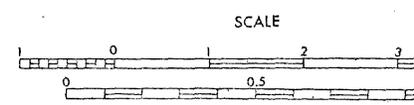
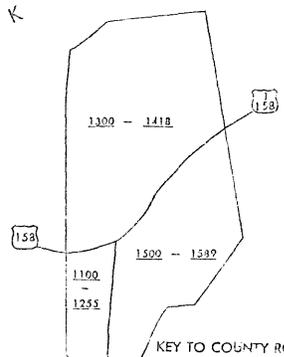
Latitude $36^{\circ} 13' 45''$ Longitude $78^{\circ} 27' 51''$

KITTRELL QUAD

VANCE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

PREPARED BY THE
 NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS - PLANNING AND RESEARCH
 IN COOPERATION WITH THE
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

NOTE: MAP INCLUDES ONLY STATE MAINTAINED ROADS
 OR IMPORTANT NON-SYSTEM ROADS.
 MILEAGE NOT SHOWN ON FRONTAGE ROADS.
 ROADS SHOWN AS OF JAN. 1, 1976.



KEY TO COUNTY ROAD NUMBERS
 ALSO NUMBERS 1501

