### 1. Name

**Historic**
Josiah Crudup House

**AND/OR Common**

### 2. Location

**Street & Number:** West side of U.S. 1 1.0 mi. N of junction w/SR 1552

**City, Town:** Kittrell

**State:** North Carolina

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<td><em>Occupied</em></td>
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<td>Object</td>
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<td>_Being Considered_</td>
<td><em>Yes: Unrestricted</em></td>
<td><em>Religious</em></td>
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### 4. Owner of Property

**Name:** Malcolm E. Pulley

**Street & Number:** Route 1

**City, Town:** Kittrell

**State:** North Carolina

### 5. Location of Legal Description

**Courthouse:** Vance County Courthouse

**City, Town:** Henderson

**State:** North Carolina

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

**Title:** Tar-Neuse Survey

**Date:** 1976

**Depository for Survey Records:** Department of Cultural Resources

**Address:** Archives and History Division 109 East Jones Street

**City, Town:** Raleigh

**State:** North Carolina

**Code:** 27611
DESCRIPTION

The Josiah Crudup House is a large frame dwelling dramatically sited on the prow of a gentle hill overlooking the highway (U.S. 1) and the railroad that runs north-south, slightly east of the house. Once the seat of a plantation, the house is now accompanied not by its original complement of outbuildings but by later small dwelling units characteristic of North Carolina's changing rural landscape—a couple of mobile homes and a brick ranch house within a few hundred yards. Despite the changes to its surroundings and despite substantial late nineteenth century alteration, the house is significant architecturally as a rare survivor of the rather grand, richly finished late Federal plantation houses of the northern Piedmont in the early nineteenth century. It retains significant elements of plan, form, and especially handsome detail from this original period; the late nineteenth century expansion and renovation, which repeated elements of the original, are of interest in themselves as a variety, perhaps, of individualized "colonial revival." This work was evidently done for the son of the builder.

Surface examination of the house as it now stands suggests that it was originally a version of the tripartite composition, a late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century form found in northeastern North Carolina's plantation houses (for example, the Sally-Billy House and The Hermitage in Halifax County, William Jeffreys House in Franklin County, etc.). Examination of the house with framing and other components exposed, of course, would reveal more about the nature of its original appearance and subsequent development. It appears, however, that there was originally the two-story, three-bay (two at second level) central section, plus substantial one-story flanking wings, composing the front elevation. Probably additional extensions projected to the sides at the rear of the house. The central section was pedimented, and probably had a pedimented porch. Sometime in the late nineteenth century, the flanking sections were raised to two stories and perhaps expanded slightly to the rear. Possibly the angle of the central pediment was made more steep. Subsequent to that—perhaps because of difficulties with the valleys created by these intersecting roofs—a higher roof was placed over the roofs to create the present composition of central gable and flanking hip roofs. (In the attic of the central portion one may see, through an opening, earlier second-level gable roofs of the flanking sections, now covered by the present roofs. These had wood shingles.) Further, the present south side was treated with the pair of bay windows, creating sort of a second front to the house, where once there was an open space between two wings. The evolution of the house merits further study which would underlie any restoration of the house.

At present, the main (east) facade is composed of the two-story central portion, topped by a steep pediment, and flanking two-story sections each with a rather steep
hip roof, and each two bays wide. Across the central four bays stretches a one-story porch whose roofline reflects the three-part hip-gable-hip rhythm of the main house. The central element of the porch features a shallow pediment with molded cornice and central arched window with keystone—possibly early nineteenth century. The porch has late nineteenth century posts with molded neckings and simple pierced brackets, and a turned balustrade. A cornice of pierced dentils may be or reflect the original cornice motif.

Sheltered by the porch is a handsome doorway, a double door with four flat panels and simple applied moldings. Above is a transom, now of plate glass. (Possibly the lower element of the arched window in the main pediment was removed from here: measurements would indicate the truth of this.) The door is enframed by an elaborate treatment that recurs throughout the openings of the facade and many of those on the side of the house. Some of these, especially those on the sides, appear to date from the early nineteenth century, and others are "revivals" or ca. 1900 replications of the same motifs. Pilaster (slightly reeded on the original ones) rise to support a decorative entablature. The end blocks of the frieze feature incised rosettes resembling a flat tudor rose. Across the frieze stretches a circular geometric repetitive motif, slightly resembling a guilloche. The caps of the pilasters are heavy and almost cusion-like, beneath a heavy molded cornice.

This treatment recurs to frame the windows of this elevation, which are large and contain one-over-one sash—sash obviously from the late nineteenth century work. Molded weatherboard survives with fair consistency. The cornice of the house—again apparently some original, some replication—is a delicate arcaded motif with arches terminating in molded pendants. This arcaded element repeats along the steep sides of the central pediment, framing a shingled tympanum centered on a two-part window: an arched element with tracery and keystone, above a transom-like lower member. It seems likely that the original situation had the upper element only, with its standard early nineteenth century tracery, but that the lower part was added when the pediment was made steeper and shingled.

The fenestration of the sides is irregular. On the south the two bay windows occur at the first level, flanking an entrance. Above are five windows, the rear three having six-over-six sash, the front two having one over one. The arcaded cornice continues, as does the use of molded weatherboards. On the north side there are several apparently original windows with the decorative enframement. A single bay window occurs at the front bay. At the rear bay of this side projects a wing, said to be an old kitchen.
Here, accessible from the kitchen’s front porch, near the main house, is a curious and significant early brick structure—an ice house, of massive brickwork and fitted with insulated interior and shelving. The ice was placed at the top and cooled the foods below; water drained out below as the ice melted.

At the rear of the house stand two chimneys, one serving the central two-story block, the other serving the south block. The central one appears to be the oldest. It is of brick laid in common bond, standing on a projecting stone base. Shoulders are paved below the free-standing stack. The southern one is similar but of a slightly different brick and a form that suggests it may be a bit later. They appear to date from the early nineteenth century. Like many houses in the region (which has a large streak of granite) the house has foundations of big blocks of stone. There is a cellar beneath the central part.

Probably chimneys originally rose at the north and south ends of the house, heating the wing rooms. These are now gone; most likely they were replaced by the bag windows. Now interior chimneys rise at the rear of the wing rooms, appearing as heavy molded stacks of late nineteenth century type.

The original floor plan of the house appears actually little altered except by additions around it. This reflected the tripartite composition of the house, and it also accommodated the formal way of life and entertainment, with large, richly decorated rooms. The first floor composed a rather grand suite of rooms. The front portion of the central block was (and is) a large entry hall, brightly lit by the doorway and flanking windows. To left and right were (and are) flanking parlors. To the rear is the transverse stair hall, and to the rear of that a large, grand room, a salon or drawing room, lighted on the sides by large windows, and richly decorated. Now rooms exist on either side of this room, and possibly a one-story wing originally extended to the south.

The second-floor plan is generally similar, with again a grand rear central room.

The interior finish of the house is far less confusing than the exterior. The identity of the excellent early nineteenth century elements and the later additions is more obvious. The second-floor added rooms have simple late nineteenth century type finish, confirming the time of their creation. There is one exception to this rule: the first-floor south wing room has late finish, and the second-floor north room has
early nineteenth century finish. Probably the woodwork of the lower room was moved to the upper one when the house was remodeled.

The collection of nineteenth century woodwork in the house is regionally important for its richness and fine detail. It is similar in its form and individuality to contemporary work in Warren County—for example Tusculum, Dalkeith, and Elgin, which have an association stylistically with the Montmorenci school. In both the two great rear central rooms there is a full program of decoration. Mantels are of three-part composition, doors and windows are framed by pilasters carrying full entablatures, and wainscots are composed to reflect the presence of these openings. All are lavishly adorned with intricately carved sunbursts, gougework, frets, reeding, and the like. The front right wing room also possesses a fine sunburst mantel. The sunbursts are executed in unusually high relief and good detail.

In the first-floor rear room pilasters are half-round and reeded, and reeding occurs in the frieze of the window entablatures. The chair rail has gouge work and floral motifs. The mantel repeats the same elements. Unfortunately the present owner has installed imitation wood sheathing above the chair rail and in the process chopped off the corners of the window cornices. The room retains a heavy molded ceiling cornice.

The second-floor rear room is perhaps even grander. Its mantel may have been switched with the north first-floor wing room, as that mantel seems to match the window treatments here. Window pilasters are again reeded, and they carry entablatures enriched with a pierced lozenge motif. (This, plus a fret and a reeded course, occurs on the present first-floor north wing mantel.) The chair rail here is reeded, and the ceiling cornice is quite lavish, with the lozenge motif and a reeded cable band. Expert false grained finish survives here throughout. Though in bad condition, the room is fortunate unaltered.

The north second-story wing room is of simpler Federal character, all finished in false graining to resemble birdseye maple.

The stair hall apparently follows the original form, but the heavy molded handrail of the stair probably is from the reworking. A thinner, ramping rail is engaged on the stair wall, suggesting the original character.

To the southwest of the house is a nineteenth century barn, said to have once been five stories high. It is now roughly 2½-stories. It is apparently in neglected condition and is separated from the house by later buildings.
The Josiah Crudup House is significant architecturally as one of the elaborately finished early-nineteenth century tripartite houses in the northeastern Piedmont of North Carolina. The floor plan, with central rooms flanked by wing rooms, survives amid later additions. The decorative Federal-type detail of the exterior, and the unusually fine finish of the large formal rooms of the interior, particularly the rear central rooms, represent the taste of the plantation society and craftsmanship of regional builders in this period. The late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century expansion of the house is notable in its reinterpretation of the Federal motifs of the original portion. The house was evidently built in the 1830s for Josiah Crudup, though it may be slightly earlier. Crudup was a planter, Baptist minister, and legislator, and his son, John, who inherited the residence, was a prosperous businessman.

Criteria Assessment:

C. The Crudup House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the elaborate late Federal period domestic architecture of the northeastern Piedmont, a region dominated in this period by prosperous planters. One of the most ambitious houses of its period in Vance County, the house is significant as one of a small surviving group of early-nineteenth century plantation houses distinguished by the tripartite form and rich Federal style detail. The lavish use of sunbursts, reeding, intricate frets, as well as unusual exterior guilloche and floral motifs, is notable.
The Josiah Crudup House, a few miles south of Kittrell, in Vance County, remained in the family for over a hundred years (1791-1872). Josiah Crudup may have constructed the house between September, 1834, and September, 1837. The tax lists for the intervening years are missing; therefore, it is impossible to pinpoint a more precise time for the building date. A local tradition claims that an old tavern existed on the property when Crudup acquired it and that he remodeled the structure for his home. This is late for Federal, but the similarity of the house's woodwork to that at Elgin (1825-1832) and Tusculum (1830s) in Warren County suggest that 1834 is not an impossible date. Late 1820s would be perhaps a more likely date, with the house extant when Crudup bought it. This is not certain, and Crudup is traditionally associated with the place.

Josiah Crudup was born on January 13, 1791, on the plantation of his father in Wakelon (now Wakefield-Zebulon area) in eastern Wake County. Josiah's father, also named Josiah, had moved from Virginia before the Revolution. Josiah, Sr., became by 1790 a wealthy planter with thousands of acres and twenty-three slaves. Josiah, Jr., was among the last of his children.

Josiah, Jr. attended the academy at Louisburg and continued his education at Columbia College (now George Washington University), but he early felt a calling to the ministry. He was ordained as a Baptist minister and actively pursued his calling for nearly sixty years. Josiah, Sr., died about 1818 and Josiah, Jr., apparently inherited his father's Wake County plantation, which he made his home for fifteen years.

While a resident of Wake County, Crudup made his most significant contribution to the state as a representative in the Seventeenth Congress (1821-1823). Earlier Crudup had fallen victim to a provision in the North Carolina Constitution forbidding active preachers to hold legislative positions, and even though he was elected to the state senate in 1820, his seat was declared vacant and a new election ordered.

By 1833, Crudup's plantation in Wakelon totaled 2,434 acres and he owned twenty-two slaves. In that year Josiah Crudup sold his Wake County lands and moved his family and slaves to Granville County. Although no records exist to substantiate it, the move may have been prompted by the death of his first wife, Ann M. Brickell, whom he had married in 1813. Crudup purchased 1,200 acres from Warner Taylor for $7,482.46 on December 25, 1833. The property lay in both Granville and Franklin counties and was bounded by Tabbs Creek and the Tar River. Forty-eight years later (1881) Vance County was carved from Granville and Franklin leaving the Crudup property in the new county. The Crudup home was located near Tabbs Creek in the Granville County portion.
If Josiah Crudup had his new home built soon after purchasing the land, it was probably completed late in 1834 or early in 1835. The tax assessment for 1837 is nearly double that of 1834, but without the lists for 1835 and 1836, the precise year of construction cannot be determined. The purchase price (about $6.25 an acre) is not very revealing. An older structure could have existed on the property, but a major dwelling house with improved farm land certainly would have commanded a higher price.

In Granville County, Josiah settled into the life of a planter and Baptist minister. His only political activity after leaving Wake County came as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1835 where he supported the causes of the newly created Whig Party in North Carolina. When the Civil War erupted, Josiah Crudup was nearly seventy years old and well past the age of enlistment. Three of his sons, George, Josiah, Jr., and John, however, volunteered for Confederate service. Josiah, Jr., a member of Company Twelfth Regiment, died of disease just thirteen weeks after enlistment. He was twenty-one years old. John served for the duration under the command of Colonel Sion H. Rogers of Wake County. After the war he returned to his father's home near Kittrell.

Josiah Crudup had seven children, two girls and five boys. As they reached maturity each was given a parcel of his land, thus reducing the size of the home tract. The loss of a labor force as a result of the war necessitated sale of still more land, and by 1870 the home tract had been reduced to 255 acres. Josiah Crudup became increasingly feeble as his health declined. Management of the farm was turned over to his son, John E. Crudup, who in 1869 had married Ellen McNeil, a native of Kentucky. The newlyweds resided in Josiah's household. During his last illness, Josiah was attended by his house servants, former slaves who had remained with him after the war. He died on May 20, 1872. His will left the home place to his son, John B. Crudup.

John Boddie Crudup became a successful businessman in the years following the Civil War. Not only did he shrewdly manage the home place and farm, but he also amassed a small fortune in real estate and investments, owning valuable property in such growing cities as Chicago. He and his wife Ellen lived in the home near Kittrell for thirty years, during which time he made some unusual improvements to the house. At some point, Crudup installed a hand powered elevator to carry passengers and freight to the upper floor and attic. The date of installation is uncertain but possibly the elevator was put in to aid old Josiah who by 1870 was too feeble to climb the stairs.
Crudup also installed an indoor plumbing and running water system. To operate the system, Crudup placed a hydraulic ram (forerunner of the pump) in a spring near the house. The power source was the natural energy generated by flowing water and the basic principle of gravity. To insure an adequate water supply, John Crudup devised a water tank to fit in the upper floor of the five-story barn his father had built some years earlier. The date of this improvement is uncertain. This barn has been severely changed. As late as the mid 1950s the original bath tubs and the elevator were visible features of the Crudup home, though the latter was no longer operative. Presumably the remodeling of the house was also done for John B. Crudup in the late nineteenth century.

When Vance County was created out of Granville and Franklin counties, John Crudup was recognized as one of the wealthiest and most influential residents. He apparently never aspired to political office, but he did become one of the first members of the Vance County Board of Commissioners. Crudup was devoted to the home place and never considered moving despite his valuable landholdings in more urbanized areas. Just as devoted to him were his house servants and farm laborers, many of whom had been his father's slaves. John B. Crudup died on January 2, 1899, while on a business trip to Chicago. His body was returned to Vance County and buried in the family graveyard near his home. He was survived by his wife Ellen M., his daughter Ellen (Mrs. James R.) Rogers, and his son Thomas H. Crudup.

John B. Crudup's will was probated on January 27, 1899. Ellen M. Crudup, widow, received a life estate in all properties belonging to the deceased, which included the home place. After her death, the property was to be divided between his two children and their heirs. Ellen M. Crudup lived until August 1, 1928, but she divided her time between her children Ellen Rogers and Thomas H. Crudup. The latter had moved into the home near Kittrell. Ellen Crudup died at the home of her daughter in Raleigh, with whom she had lived while in declining health. She was buried beside her husband in the family cemetery near Kittrell.

In compliance with John B. Crudup's will, the property passed to Ellen Rogers and Thomas H. Crudup and their heirs, after Ellen M. Crudup's death. As of August 27, 1929 the owners of the Crudup home place were: Ellen C. Rogers and her children Mischew Ellen, James R., Jr., John Crudup, and Carey; and Thomas H. Crudup and his children John Boddie, Laura L., Mischew McNeil, and Thomas H., Jr. On September 21, 1935, Thomas H. Crudup, Sr., acquired the interests of his sister, nephews, and nieces to the Vance County estate.
which included two tracts. The home tract contained 199.4 acres and lay on the west side of the railroad, while the adjoining tract on the east side of the railroad amounted to 55.9 acres.\footnote{Granville County Records, Tax Lists 1834-1846, original volumes in State Archives, Raleigh. The jump of nearly fifteen dollars in assessed taxes when the acreage remained essentially the same and the number of slaves was reduced by seven, indicates major improvement to the property. Tax records hereinafter cited as Granville Tax Lists with appropriate years.}

Thomas H. Crudup, Sr., died in 1938 and his will bequeathed the property to his four children and his grandson James B. Bullitt, III.\footnote{Samuel Thomas Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby": Vance County, North Carolina (Henderson, 1955), 226, hereinafter cited as Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby."} On June 10, 1946, John B. Crudup, Jr., and Thomas H. Crudup, Jr., purchased the interests of the other heirs for $3,500.\footnote{Vance Heritage Remembered: Architectural and Historical Sketches (Henderson: Vance County Historical Society, Inc., 1976), unpaginated but arranged alphabetically by name of structure, hereinafter cited as Vance Heritage Remembered.} Ten years later they sold the old Crudup home and both tracts containing about 255 acres to Malcolm E. Pulley, the current owner.\footnote{Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1949 (U. S. Government Printing Office, 1950), 1039, hereinafter cited as Biographical Directory.}

The house passed out of the Crudup family approximately 122 years after its construction. It was occupied continuously by members of the family at least until 1938. Apparently Malcolm Pulley rented the property for some time before purchase, as the consideration was for $100 "plus all rents and crops for the year 1956."\footnote{Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," 226; Walter Clark (ed.), The State Records of North Carolina (Winston and Goldsboro: State of North Carolina, 16 volumes, numbered XI-XXVI, 1895-1906), XXVI (Census of 1790), 1166; and Wake County Records, Tax Lists, 1781-1790, Little River District, State Archives, Raleigh, hereinafter cited as Wake Tax Lists with appropriate dates.}
Biographical Directory, 1039; and Sentinel (Raleigh), May 24, 1872 (obituary), hereinafter cited as Sentinel.

7 Wake Tax Lists, 1815-1833. In 1819, the head of household, Josiah Crudup, is too young to be the first Josiah, and must, therefore, be the one born in 1791. Since only one Josiah shows in the list, the father must have died in 1818. There was no recorded will. See also Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," 226.


10 Wake Tax List, Little River District, 1833.

11 Crudup owned no taxable property in Wake County after 1833. See Wake Tax Lists, 1833-1840. He first appears in the Granville Tax Lists in 1834 and for every year thereafter until his death. See also Sentinel, May 24, 1872.

12 Franklin County Marriage Bonds, State Archives, Raleigh. Two children, William and George, apparently were born of this marriage. George was born in 1833, the same year Crudup left Wake County. See Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: North Carolina, Granville County, Population Schedule, 73, hereinafter cited as Seventh Census, 1850.


14 David Leroy Corbitt, The Formation of the North Carolina Counties 1663-1943 (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1950), 211; and Township Map of Granville County from an Actual Survey, 1868.
15. If completed in 1834, it had to be after September when the taxes were assessed, since the tax rate showed no increase for that year. Granville Tax Lists, 1834-1837.


17. John W. Moore, Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War Between the States (Raleigh, 4 vols., 1882), index, State Archives, Raleigh; and The News and Observer (Raleigh), January 7, 1899, obituary of John B. Crudup, hereinafter cited as The News and Observer.

18. Seventh Census, 1850, 73; and Peace, "Zeb's Black Baby," 226. See also acreage handed down by will and subsequently sold in Vance County Deed Books, Office of the Register of Deeds, Vance County Courthouse, Henderson, Deed Book 188, p. 190, hereinafter cited as Vance County Deed Book.

19. Daily News (Raleigh), May 21, 1872; Sentinel, May 24, 1872; The News and Observer, January 7, 1899; August 2, 1928 (obituary of Mrs. John Crudup); and Vance County Wills, Office of the Clerk of Superior Court, Vance County Courthouse, Henderson, Will of John E. Crudup, Will Book B, 312, hereinafter cited as Vance County Will Book.


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<tr>
<td>27. Vance County Will Book B, 312.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28. The News and Observer, August 2, 1928. See also Vance County Will Book D, 197, will of Ellen M. Crudup.</td>
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<td>29. Vance County Will Book B, 312; Book D, 197; and The News and Observer, August 2, 1928.</td>
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<td>30. Vance County Deed Book 188, p. 190.</td>
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<td>31. Vance County Will Book E, 528.</td>
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<td>32. Vance County Deed Book 252, p. 72.</td>
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<td>34. Vance County Deed Book 340, p. 55.</td>
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

A

B

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

An area to extend 30 feet on either side and rear of the house and to the highway (US 1) in front. The recent buildings adjacent to the house are not significant.

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

STATE   CODE   COUNTY   CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE  Description prepared by Catherine W. Bishir, Head
Significance prepared by Jerry Cross, Researcher

ORGANIZATION  Survey and Planning Branch
North Carolina Division of Archives and History

STREET & NUMBER  109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN  Raleigh

STATE  North Carolina

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  State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE  July 12, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER


Franklin County Marriage Bonds. State Archives, Raleigh.

Granville County Records
Deeds
Estate Papers
Marriage Bonds
Tax Lists
Wills

Moore, John W., ed. Roster of North Carolina Troops in the War Between the States. Raleigh, 1882. 4 volumes, index.

Newspapers


Vance County Records
Deeds
Estate Papers
Marriage Register
Wills

Josiah Crudup house

US 1, Kittrell Vicinity
Vance County, North Carolina
Vance County Highway Map
Latitude 36° 11' 03"
Longitude 78° 27' 09"

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.