

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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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 Westlawn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1505 Fort Bragg Road _____ not for publication

city, town Fayetteville _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Seventh

state North Carolina code 037 county Cumberland code 051

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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<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 First Christian Church

street & number 1505 Fort Bragg Road

city, town Fayetteville _____ vicinity of _____ state North Carolina 28305

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cumberland County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Fayetteville, _____ state North Carolina 28305

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

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

One of the most outstanding Greek Revival country houses remaining in the Fayetteville area; Westlawn was built by two prominent local builders, Ruffin and Christopher Vaughn early in their career. Situated behind giant magnolia trees, Westlawn stands today on a little less than an acre of land with one surviving outbuilding, a smokehouse on the site. The site and house plans are typical of the Vaughn brothers' early designs with the outbuildings placed to the rear forming a U-shaped courtyard and accentuated by a two-room ell at each rear corner of the house. Both Westlawn and the nearby Fair Oaks exemplify this early building design; however Westlawn is a simplified variation of the farm.

Basically Westlawn is a simple two-story frame dwelling with a double-pile center-hall plan and stands on a typical brick pier foundation since infilled. The house is covered by a hip-roof sheathed with standing-seam tin and skirted by a simple box cornice and a plain frieze band. The first story of the five-bay front facade is protected also by a hip roof porch supported by Doric columns. A simple balustrade further defines the porch. What was once an open one-story porch at the rear has since been enclosed; however the original columns and openings have not been disturbed. The central entrance is framed by four sidelights and a multi-panel overhead transom surmounting a simple raised panel door. Only four beautifully etched and cut original sidelights survive. The entrance surround is a plain beveled edge Greek Revival one with a simple pilaster at each side of the double doorway. Each double sash window has six-over-six lights and a typical Greek Revival surround.

To the west is located a single room appendage used for a study which may very well have been an addition to the main house not long after its completion. Each face of the projecting front bay is elaborately defined with a single horizontal panel surmounted by a window framed to each side by paneled pilasters which support delicately sawn brackets. These brackets support the deep cornice overhang for not only the bay but also the study's principal roof.

Originally there was a two-room structure at each rear corner of the dwelling; one of these survives. According to a 1930 Sanborn insurance map, the one to the southeast was an independent building which probably served as a separate diningroom/kitchen. This building has since been removed from the site. To the southwest the companion two-room ell is connected to the dwelling and repeats the simple exterior detailing. A hip roof porch extends along part of the west facade and it is supported by square posts with simple capitals. A plain balustrade further defines the porch.

The interior following a double-pile center-hall plan is characterized throughout by the simple Greek Revival detailing. The hall is divided into a more formal front-hall and a rear stairhall. Each room entered from the front hall has massive six flat-panel doors. A lattice gallery extends across each interior doorway in the front hall and further defines the front and rear hall. The stair which rises from front-to-back has handsome and beautifully turned mahogany newel and balusters with a molded handrail.

The public rooms on the first floor have a more formal woodwork treatment than the private areas of the house. These formal rooms have fluted door and window surrounds which contain square buttoned corner blocks. Below each window is a single horizontal flat panel. The baseboards are approximately 14 inches with a heavy beveled molded edge. Molded plaster cornices are also present in each of these rooms. In contrast, the doors and windows in the private areas of the house have simple beveled edge Greek Revival surrounds. The baseboards in these areas are plain 10 inch boards.

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Of the two original interior chimneys in the main house only one survives which serves the four west rooms. In the first floor parlor, a highly decorative marble mantel with a curled acanthus leaf keystone and sculptural grapevine motifs still remains. On the other hand, simple Greek Revival wooden mantels with a deep plain frieze band are found on the second floor. The study wing has a marble version of the second floor mantel.

From the original complex only the smokehouse survives. A distinctive frame structure, the smokehouse has a hip-roof with a cupola air circulator and a covered entry into the fire pit below.

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1858 **Builder/Architect** Ruffin & Christopher Vaughn

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1858 by two prominent Fayetteville builders Christopher and Ruffin Vaughn, Westlawn is an impressive two-story Greek Revival house which characterizes the early building forms of the Vaughn brothers. Situated closely to the rapidly developing city of Fayetteville, this country estate was owned by John D. Williams, an important banker, merchant, and civic leader in the area until his death in 1895. Westlawn remains one of Fayetteville's best preserved antebellum Greek Revival country houses, and a vivid reminder of the gracious living of one of the state's most successful business and civic leaders.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the antebellum and reconstruction development of Fayetteville, one of the state's commercial and financial centers.
- B. Associated with John D. Williams, a prominent banker, merchant, and civic leader in Fayetteville.
- C. Embodies the characteristics of Greek Revival domestic architecture as practiced early in the careers of Christopher and Ruffin Vaughn, two prominent Fayetteville builders.
- D. Westlawn is likely to yield information about mid-nineteenth century life on the outskirts of Fayetteville, one of the state's commercial and financial centers.

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Westlawn was built in Fayetteville in 1858 for prominent banker John D. Williams. Its builders are believed to have been Fayetteville brothers Ruffin and Christopher Vaughn. The Vaughns were among the most important builders in mid-nineteenth century Fayetteville, and much of their work survives today, including the MacPherson Presbyterian Church, the Camp Ground Methodist Church, the James C. Dobbin House and the E. A. Poe House.¹

John D. Williams was born on January 3, 1817, in Chatham County, the son of William Nathaniel Williams, a native of Wales, and his wife Martha deRouth Williams, a native of France. He came to Fayetteville about 1836 and became a clerk in the store of Charles T. Haigh. In 1842 he married Isabella Jane Murchison of the Little River section of Cumberland County. The Murchisons were one of the area's most influential business families. Sometime in the 1840s he went into business for himself as the proprietor of a general store. He was president of the Bank of Clarendon "sometime before the war."² In 1849 the Bank of Fayetteville was chartered. The bank "was one of the largest banking houses in the State with a capital stock of \$800,000." Williams became the bank's first president, a post he held until the 1890s. The Fayetteville Observer maintained that Williams was "a gentlemen whose name in the commercial world insures the confidence of a watchful and cautious people." At this time Fayetteville was one of the state's commercial and financial centers, with a population in 1850 of 4,646, and in 1860 of 4,790. Williams also served before the war as Director of the Fayetteville Mutual Insurance Company.³

Westlawn survived the Civil War in good condition, although family tradition maintains that the family silver and other valuables had to be buried in the yard to keep them out of the hands of Union troops.⁴ As Fayetteville regained its pre-war business stature Williams regained his place as one of its leading citizens. He became a director of the Beaver Creek Mills, the president of the Little River Manufacturing Company, the owner of the Merchants Mill on Blount Creek, owner of a candle factory, and president of the Fayetteville Oil Mill, which produced 50,000 gallons of cotton oil annually in the 1870s.⁵ As a director of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad Company he was credited with preventing "the removal of the work shops of the railroad and many of its employees from Fayetteville" in the difficult days after the war.⁶

Williams was also active in civic, religious, and educational affairs in Fayetteville. He was a member of the city's Committee of Safety during the Civil War. In 1866 he was a member of a committee formed "to secure supplies for the sufferers in Wilmington on account of yellow fever." In 1877 Williams was on a committee set up by the city "to fund the old indebtedness" of Fayetteville. He was named chairman of the trustees of Fayetteville's newly established grade schools in 1878 and became a member of a board of finance created to resolve another fiscal crisis in the city, in 1880. He was appointed to another such committee in 1881, while in 1883 he was elected to the Fayetteville Board of Commissioners. For many years he was treasurer of the local board of managers of the Fayetteville State Normal School (now Fayetteville State University). After his death he was remembered by the predominantly black school as "a sincere friend and helper."⁸ Williams was a member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, which was organized in 1878. He gave the trustees the land upon which they built their church, and served as a member of numerous church committees.⁹

In spite of his long record record of financial success Williams died virtually penniless. The Fayetteville Observer in a memorial section to Williams tells how this happened:

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Mr. Williams made a large fortune, which he might have enjoyed in retirement, as he was urged to do by kindred and friends, but his nature spurned the idea of glorious ease; he proposed to remain in harness . . . to serve others Unfortunately for himself and us, in his efforts with those of the Improvement Company (the North State Improvement Company of which Williams became president in the late 1870s) to assist in developing our state, he went too far, risked too much, and lost. Nobly did he bear his misfortunes. With the blow impending for months which was to sweep away the work of a life time and leave him penniless, he went about as usual in his daily round and none knew his troubles. When the crash came he yielded to the inevitable because it was inevitable.¹⁰

The Panic of 1893 ruined Williams financially and he died at Westlawn shortly afterwards, in September of 1895. He was eulogized by the Fayetteville Observer as "for many years since the war, the most prominent citizen of Fayetteville, and a man who stood in the very rank of the leading business men in the state."¹¹

In 1878 Williams's first wife died and he remarried. His second wife was Jane Eliot Williams Murchison, widow of Colonel John Reid Murchison, who was killed at the Battle of Cold Harbor in 1864. Williams had 12 children, all by his first wife, several of whom died in infancy.¹² In 1894 Williams sold Westlawn to his son William Nathaniel Williams, who also assumed his father's debts. Westlawn was sold to Jamie R. Williams in 1898. In 1904 it left the Williams family when it was purchased by Dr. J. H. Judd, a Fayetteville dentist. Judd kept the property until 1923 when it was sold to P. W. Olive, a physician. Olive sold Westlawn to the First Christian Church of Fayetteville in 1951.¹³ They use the house as their educational building. Westlawn remains one of Fayetteville's best preserved antebellum Greek Revival mansions, and a vivid reminder of the gracious living of one of the state's most successful business and civic leaders.

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.

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¹ Fayetteville Observer, July 21, 1964, October 3, 1976. Williams obtained the six acre tract on which he built Westlawn from James Martin in 1858 for \$273. Cumberland County Deed Book 54, p. 294.

² Fayetteville Observer, September 19, 1895, July 21, 1964.

³ John A. Oates, The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear (Raleigh: Litho Industries, Second Edition, 1972), 558, hereinafter cited as Oates, The Story of Fayetteville.

⁴ Fayetteville Observer, July 21, 1964.

⁵ Fayetteville Observer, September 19, 1895, July 21, 1964.

⁶ Fayetteville Observer, September 19, 1895.

⁷ Oates, The Story of Fayetteville, 233, 238, 269, 270, 294, 298, 306; Fayetteville Observer, September 18, 1895, July 21, 1964; Lucille Johnson, Hometown Heritage (Fayetteville: Colonel Robert Rowan Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1978), 69-71, hereinafter cited as Johnson, Hometown Heritage.

⁸ Fayetteville Observer, September 19, 1895.

⁹ Fayetteville Observer, September 19, 1895, July 21, 1964.

¹⁰ Fayetteville Observer, September 19, 1895.

¹¹ Fayetteville Observer, September 19, 1895.

¹² Fayetteville Observer, July 21, 1964; Johnson, Hometown Heritage, 69-70.

¹³ Cumberland County Deed Book 96, p. 272; Book C Number 5, p. 17; Book X, Number 5, p. 133; Book 286, p. 303; Book 567, p. 200; Fayetteville Observer, July 21, 1964.

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Johnson, Lucille. Hometown Heritage. Fayetteville: Colonel Robert Rowan Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1978.

Oates, John A. The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear. Raleigh: Litho Industries, Second Edition, 1972.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cumberland County Deed Books. Microfilm Copy, Raleigh, Division of Archives and History.
 Fayetteville Observer. September 19, 1895, July 21, 1964, October 3, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Appx. 1 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Fayetteville, NC

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	7	6	9	0	9	5	0	3	8	8	1	4	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The area included in the Westlawn nomination is shown within the red line on the attached Sanborn Insurance map (1930) and deed of Dr. J.H. Judd property (1922).

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Architectural description: Drucilla G. Haley, Survey Specialist

name/title Significance: Jim Sumner, Researcher

Division of Archives and History

organization Archaeology and Historic Preservation

date June 1980

Survey and Planning Branch

street & number 109 East Jones Street

telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh,

state North Carolina 27611

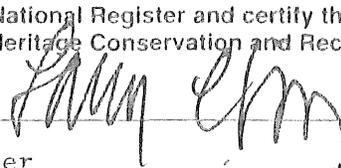
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 25, 1980

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

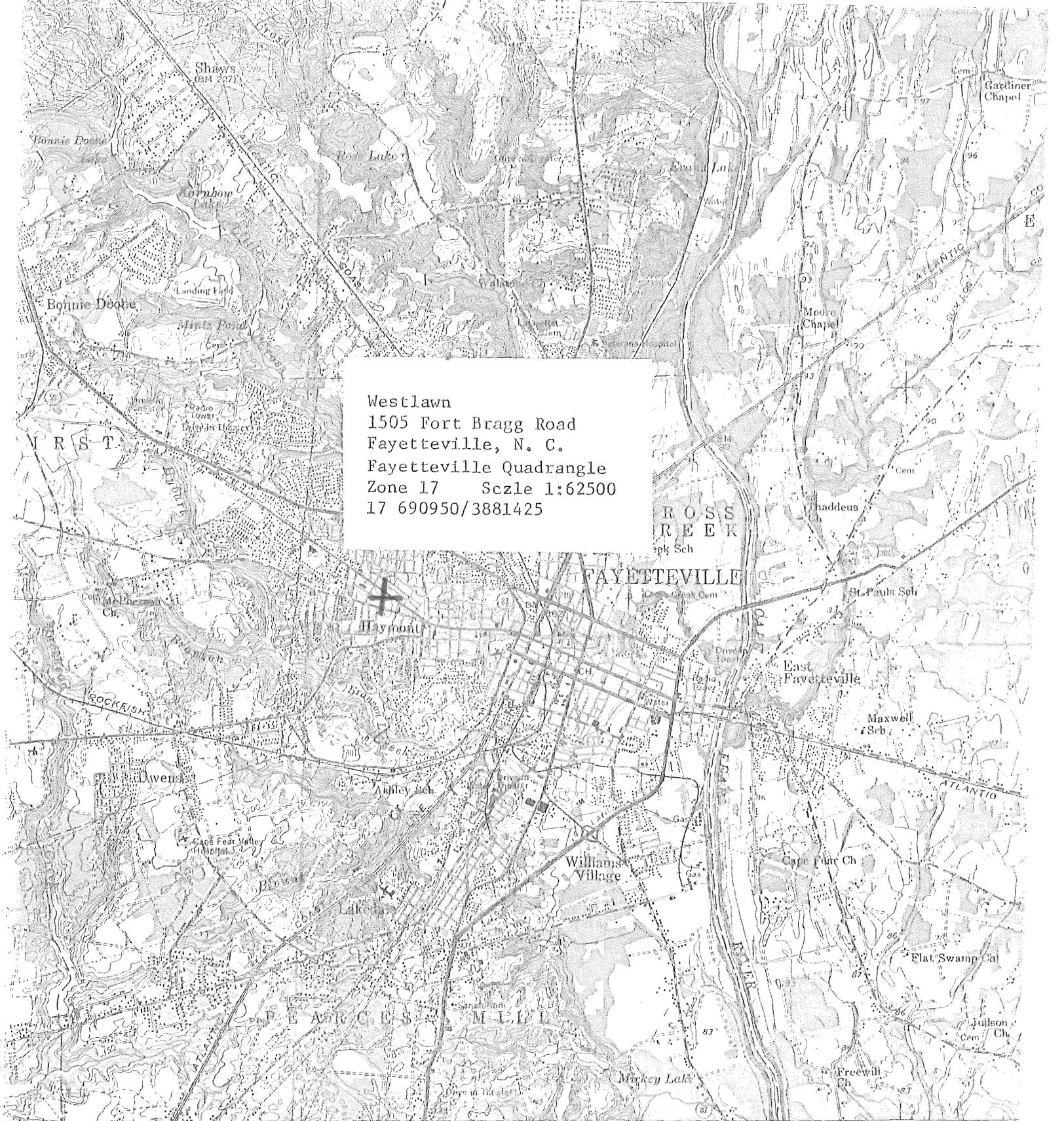
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

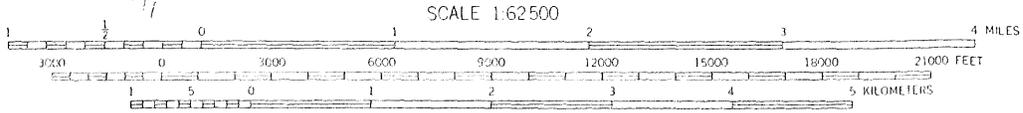
date

Chief of Registration



Westlawn
 1505 Fort Bragg Road
 Fayetteville, N. C.
 Fayetteville Quadrangle
 Zone 17 Sczle 1:62500
 17 690950/3881425

HOPE MILLS 3.4 MI. 155' ARDULSEA 2.0 MI. (SAINT PAULS) GRAYS CREEK 3.3 MI. ELIZABETHTOWN 3.9 MI. 50' CROFT ELIZABETH



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1957

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



100

Welcome
**FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
- Disciples of Christ -