

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Dr. J.A. Savage House

and/or common The Albion Academy

2. Location

street & number 124 College Street not for publication

city, town Franklinton vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state North Carolina code 37 county Franklin code 069

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Carrie Savage Hawkins

street & number 150 Savage Street

city, town Franklinton vicinity of state N.C. 27525

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Franklin County Courthouse

street & number Court Street

city, town Louisburg state North Carolina

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 checked="" 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

According to Dr. J.A. Savage's daughter, Carrie Savage Hawkins, this house was a one-story frame house without porches or a kitchen ell on the rear facade at the time her father arrived in Franklinton circa 1895. The original house or building would have followed a central hall, one-pile plan (a total of three rooms), and it would have been a simple, one-story frame building with what was probably a gable roof. This building was constructed as a classroom and/or dormitory during the early directorship of Rev. M.A. Hopkins.

Dr. John A. Savage became the principal of the Albion Academy circa 1895, shortly after which he began adding to the original, one-story building as his private residence. Dr. Savage added the second floor, the kitchen ell, the bell tower on the northwest corner of the house, and the two-story, wraparound porches between 1895 and 1905.

The Savage House is situated on a corner lot amid large oak trees. It is a two-story frame house with a tin crossgable roof, sheathed with plain weatherboards, that rests on a brick and stone pier foundation with brick infill. The rear (south) facade of weatherboards has been coated with stucco. Three interior chimneys; two brick and one stuccoed brick; pierce the roof. A frame, two-story porch wraps around the north and west facades of the house. The porch is supported with stuccoed brick square columns on the first floor and simple, square wooden columns on the second floor. A plain wooden railing with only occasional balusters protects the second floor porch, while the first floor porch has no balustrade.

The house is three bays wide on the north or front facade and three bays deep on the east facade. The windows are double hung sash with 6/6 panes. The main entrance on the north facade extends slightly into the front porch to accentuate the five-paneled, wooden front door with two-pane sidelights over molded panels. This doorway is completed with molded pilasters on the corners of the entrance extension. A few louvered shutters remain in poor condition on the second floor of the house.

The bell tower on the northwest corner of the roofline is octagonal and covered with decorative wooden shingles. Louvered attic vents are found in three of the four returned cornice gable ends of the house.

The interior of the house follows a central hall, one-pile plan with a rear ell for the kitchen. The central hall has front and back doors and a single flight of stairs rising to the second floor. The simple railing and balusters of the open string stairway end in a heavy, turned newel post. A few beaded board ceilings remain on the first floor of the house. The floors still feature wide pine boards except where linoleum has been put down. The interior doors on the first floor are wooden with four flat panels. No original hardware remains. Simple mantels remain in the two front, or north, rooms that display plain, heavy pilasters with a segmental-arched lintel and small mantel shelf.

One outbuilding stands in the southwest corner of the property. This is a one-story frame building with an asbestos shingled hipped roof. One small brick chimney pierces the ridge point of the hipped roof. The building is sheathed with plain weatherboards. It is two bays wide on the east facade with a wooden paneled door and a large opening for a vehicle, and three bays deep on the north facade with windows that have been boarded up. A large flat stone acts as a stoop for the door on the east facade. A wooden lean-to has been constructed the south facade of the outbuilding, probably for chickens.

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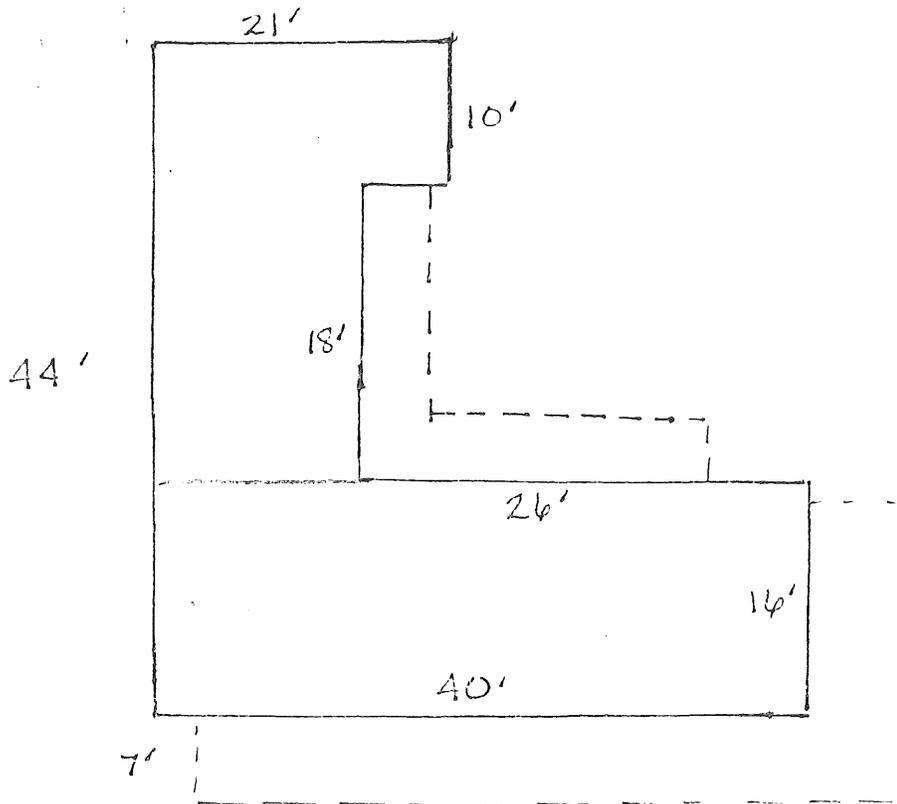
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The Dr. J.A. Savage House, 124 College Street, Franklinton, Franklinton is shown on Tax Map #7, Block 63, Lot 8 at the Franklin County Courthouse in Louisburg. The house contains 1,102 square feet of space.



indicates the one-story original portion of the house.



# 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) black history

Specific dates original part c. 1880 addition c. 1895 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dr. John A. Savage House is one of only two remaining buildings that mark the existence of the Albion Academy (1878-1933), a school for black elementary and high school students founded by the Presbyterian Board of Missions for Freedmen. This building was originally built c. 1880 as a classroom and/or dormitory. Dr. John A. Savage enlarged it c. 1895 for use as his private residence. Dr. Savage was the second principal appointed to the school, and its primary leader throughout its operation. The Albion Academy played an important role in post-Civil War black history as one of the first major educational facilities in North Carolina and the surrounding states.

Criteria: (A) associated with the Post-Civil War humanitarian move for black education, (B) was the home of Dr. John A. Savage, second principal and dynamic leader of the development of Albion Academy, one of the earliest and largest facilities for black education in the region.

Dr. Moses Aaron Hopkins, a black Virginian, educated at the College and Theological Seminary of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, came to Franklinton in 1878 as an educator and minister.<sup>1</sup> His school, the Albion Academy,<sup>2</sup> was funded by the Presbyterian Board of Missions for Freedmen and opened in that same year.<sup>2</sup> The Academy was one of several such schools funded by the Board of Missions throughout Virginia and North Carolina as part of their humanitarian effort to provide necessary training to freed slaves. The headquarters of the Board of Missions was in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hopkins served as the principal of the Albion Academy until 1885 when he was appointed the United States Minister and Consul to Liberia in Africa where he died of a contracted fever in 1886.<sup>3</sup>

Dr. John A. Savage was the next appointed principal of the Albion Academy, arriving in Franklinton around 1895. Savage was born in Louisburg, North Carolina, but grew up in Africa with his missionary parents. He returned to America to be educated and, as did Hopkins, received his college degree from Lincoln University. Dr. Savage served as a highly capable and dynamic leader of the Academy until his death in 1933, shortly after which the school closed its doors to students.<sup>4</sup>

The Albion Academy first opened on the corner of College and Main Streets, but soon relocated east of the railroad tracks on College Street.<sup>5</sup> From a small tract of land and only a few frame classroom and dormitory buildings, the school grew rapidly to accommodate some 500 students at its peak. By 1924 the Academy owned 60 acres on which stood a large frame classroom with a central tower; a brick dormitory for boys and a frame dormitory for girls; teachers cottages; a brick dining hall and laundry; an infirmary; the principal's home and several barns.<sup>6</sup> Of this extensive facility, only the dining hall and the principal's home remain.

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Students at the Academy came from all over North Carolina and some neighboring states. They attended classes from elementary through high school grades that prepared the students to be teachers, farmers, nurses, and mechanics as well as other vocational skills.<sup>7</sup>

The Albion Academy was the first "community" to generate its own running water in the county before 1900. The students developed a ram system from a natural spring on the Academy grounds, drawing water into the various buildings. Electricity was provided through underground wires.

Following Dr. Hopkin's death in 1886, the Albion Academy was operated by some of his associates until Dr. Savage was appointed principal circa 1895. The State of North Carolina began to assist the Board of Missions in funding the school when the Academy was chartered as a Normal School in 1881 along with four other schools in the state.<sup>9</sup> The Albion Academy in Franklinton, and the other Normal Schools in New Bern, Plymouth and Salisbury were given \$500 annually from 1881 to 1887 when the amount was increased to \$1,500.<sup>10</sup>

Dr. John Savage was the main promoter and force of the Albion Academy. It was through his efforts that the school grew to be such a large and well-equipped facility. Dr. Savage's motto to his students was "Make money, save money, and behave yourselves."<sup>11</sup> When the State Department of Education began to accredit schools in the 1920's, the Albion Academy Highschool received an "A" rating.<sup>12</sup>

Upon Dr. Savage's death in 1933, Reverend John Percy Mangrum became the principal of the Albion Academy. The school was assimilated into the Franklinton Public School system in 1933-1934, but when water pipes burst in the winter of 1934, the town school board refused to repair the damage. The city voted to construct a new school - the B.F. Person-Albion School - which is today the Franklinton Elementary School, leaving the Albion Academy to deteriorate and be ravaged by fire and vandalism until there are only two buildings remaining.<sup>13</sup> Dr. Savage's house is still owned by his daughter, Carrie Savage Hawkins, and is rented as a duplex while the former dining hall/laundry is owned and used by the Holiness Trinity Church.

The struggle to provide education for the freed blacks in North Carolina after the Civil War was hindered by lack of support for new legislation to provide such education, lack of money and lack of qualified black teachers. Long-held beliefs among the white population maintained that blacks should not and could not be educated. This basic premise, combined with the total, war-time depletion of monies from the state coffers, created serious stumblingblocks against the movement to write the needed legislation to provide equal public education for blacks and whites.<sup>14</sup>

The lack of qualified black teachers was a major problem not only because there were not enough to staff schoolrooms, but also because black leaders believed that white teachers with black pupils would try to continue the doctrine that blacks were inferior to whites.<sup>15</sup> This need for more black teachers was an issue supported by Governor Zebulon Baird Vance in 1877-1879 and again by Governor Thomas J. Jarvis 1881-1885, resulting in the increased expenditures for State Normal Schools in 1881, one of which was the Albion Academy.<sup>16</sup>

The Albion Academy provided excellent training and education for black students in North Carolina and the surrounding states. It is unfortunate that in the process of trying to transfer the responsibility for such schools from the private organizations that founded them to the states, many of the schools were lost.

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## FOOTNOTES:

- 1 The Franklin Times. "Education and Progress of Franklin County Blacks Linked", 3/1/79.
- 2 Hawkins, Carrie S., A Brief History of Albion Academy, 1966, p.2.
- 3 The Franklin Times. "Education and Progress ...", 3/1/79
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Hawkins, Carrie S., A Brief History ..., p.2.
- 6 The Franklin News. "Albion Academy Leads Carolina Negro High Schools in Service", 9/11/24.
- 7 Hawkins, Carrie S., A Brief History ... p.3.
- 8 Ibid, p.3.
- 9 Ibid, p.2.
- 10 Noble, M.C.S., A History of the Public Schools in North Carolina, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1930, pp. 425-426.
- 11 Mangrum, Rev. John Percy, Interview, 10/15/79.
- 12 Mangrum, Interview.
- 13 Mangrum, Interview.
- 14 Noble, M.C.S., A History of the Public Schools ..., pp. 272-274.
- 15 Ibid, pp. 272-273.
- 16 Knight, Edgar W., Public School Education in North Carolina, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916.

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Hawkins, Mrs. Carrie Savage. Interview. 10/15/79.

Hawkins, Mrs. Carrie Savage. Interview. 10/15/79.

Knight, Edward W., Public School Education in North Carolina, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916.

Logan, Frenise A., The Negro in North Carolina, 1876-1894, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1964.

Mangrum, Rev. John Percy, Interview, 10/15/79.

Noble, M.C.S., A History of the Public Schools in North Carolina, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1930.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Franklin County Records. Franklin County Courthouse. Louisburg, North Carolina. Deed Books 125, 156, 370, and 377.  
The Franklin News. "Albion Academy Leads Carolina Negro High Schools in Service", 9/11/24.  
The Franklin Times. "Education and Progress of Franklin County Blacks Linked", 3/1/79.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 1.21 acres (260' x 203')

Quadrangle name Franklinton Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	7	7	2	8	8	9	0	3	9	9	7	6	8	0
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

This property is bordered on the north by College Street; on the south by private residential property; on the east by Hawkins Street; and on the west by a vacant lot owned by the Franklinton Cotton Mill.

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 A. Melanie Murphy, Consultant

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 NCPS use only

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

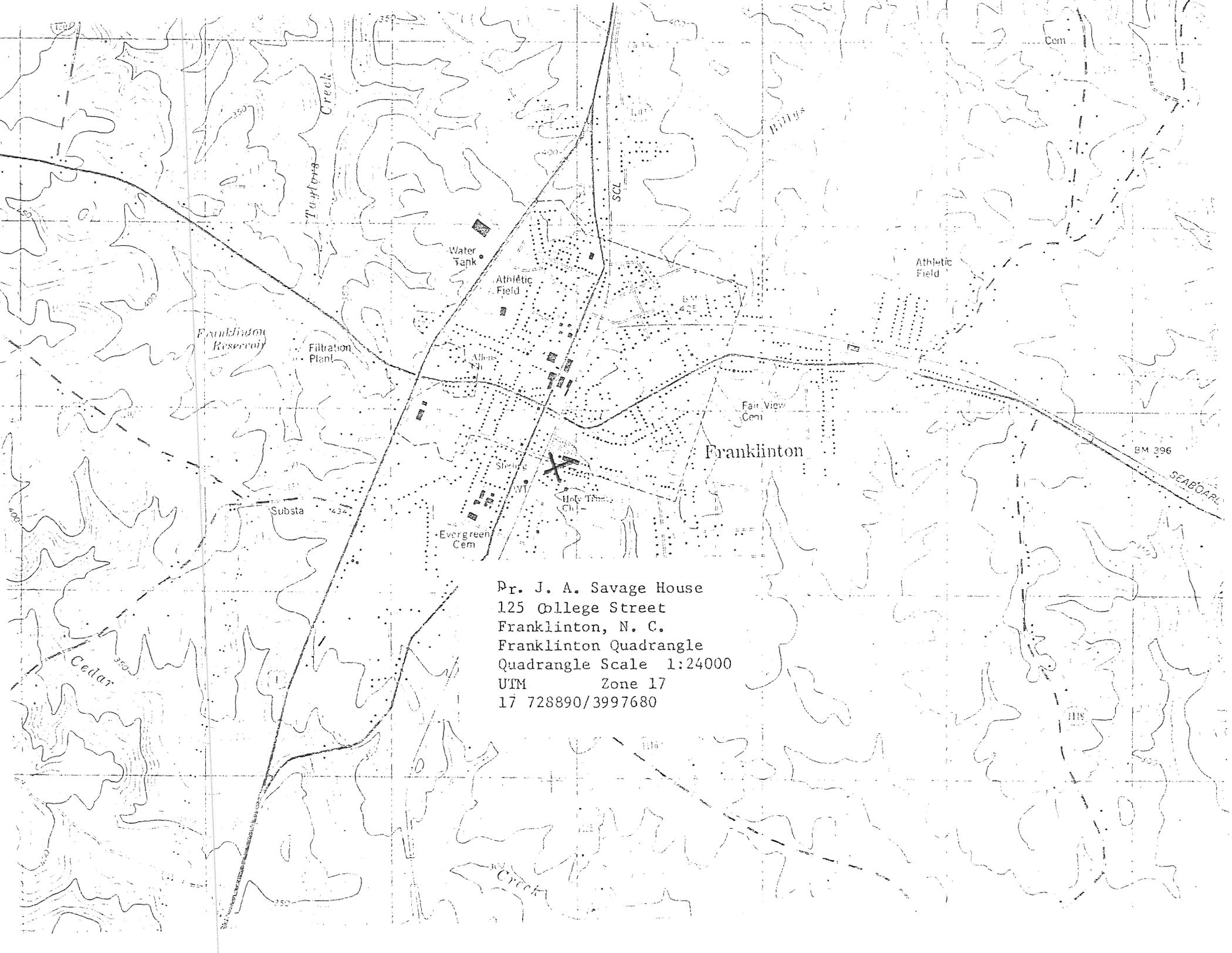
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Dr. J. A. Savage House  
125 College Street  
Franklinton, N. C.  
Franklinton Quadrangle  
Quadrangle Scale 1:24000  
UTM Zone 17  
17 728890/3997680

\*  
J.A. Savage  
House

COLLEGE ST.

Hawkins ST.

ACADEMY ST.

BLOCK

BLOCK

SAVAGE HALL

Church

(former dining hall)

boys dormitory  
(now demolished)

present home  
of Mrs. Carrie  
Savage Hawkins

Hawkins

1957 map

