

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Doctor Franklin King House (Idlewilde)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 700 Block of Bridge St. ___ not for publication

city, town Eden ___ vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state North Carolina code 037 county Rockingham code 157

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 checked="" 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 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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 27644

city, town Raleigh ___ vicinity of state N. C., 27611-7644

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Wentworth state N. C.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

ONE 10-1701-0013
EXP. 12/31/04

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The entrance itself has a two-leaf door with a tall, horseshoe-arched window over a square, molded panel on each leaf. Above the door is a transom of etched glass in a grape-and leaves design. The door is topped with a hoodmold; such hoodmolds embellish most of the openings on the front and side elevations of the house, and give the King residence much of its Gothic Revival flavor.

The second story of the tower is relatively unembellished. Paired two-over-two sash windows, topped by a hoodmold, open out onto the small balcony above the principal entrance. In contrast, the upper stages of the tower are elaborately decorated. The tower's third level, which flares slightly at its base, is sheathed in fish-scale wooden shingles emblematic of the Queen Anne style. These shingles partially frame a tall window with a pointed arch, whose upper sash faintly suggests tracery and which is topped with a hoodmold. This window is the most conspicuously Gothic element of the house's design. Above the shingled third story of the tower is a frieze punctuated by Italianate style pendant drop brackets. These brackets uphold a plain cornice from which rises the tower's flared pyramidal roof. The roof is pierced at the front and sides by dormers with pointed arches and single-pane windows; the tower's roof retains a late nineteenth or early twentieth century covering of wood shingles. The roof terminates in a flared finial topped with a lightning rod of ornamental iron.

The tower is flanked by two identical gable fronts. Each has square, two-story projecting bays, which contain paired two-over-two sash windows topped with the hoodmolds seen elsewhere on the house. The bays are embellished with molded and paneled aprons at the first floor; at the second floor they have simply molded cornices. Above the second story bays, small two-over-two sash windows illuminate the attic. Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the flanking gable fronts is the ornament applied to the gables themselves. Each has a molded bargeboard punctuated by projecting, triangular cut-outs. In the peaks of the gables are large ornamental boards embellished with unusual trefoil and quatrefoil patterns that give the house's design yet another Gothic Revival touch. Short, turned kingposts project from the center of each ornamental board.

The side elevations of the King house are less elaborately treated than the front facade, but display most of the basic decorative elements seen on the front of the house. The side elevations differ from each other somewhat, giving the house an asymmetry not suggested by the design of the principal facade.

The most notable elements of the south elevation are a pair of slanted, projecting bays that provide additional space for the ground floor rooms on this side of the house. The smaller of these two bays is located nearer the front of the house; it is a three-sided, slanted bay with a two-over-two sash window flanked by narrow one-over-one sash openings. This bay has a molded and paneled apron and a plain frieze. The second, much

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larger bay has five sides and considerably increases the space in the rear room, which appears to have served as the dining room. Three sides of this bay have two-over-two sash windows; the sides closest to the house's main block each have four-panel doors. The door facing the rear of the house opens onto a breezeway between the house and one of the frame outbuildings; there is no surviving indication as to why the door was placed on the side of the bay facing the front of the house. The second story windows on the house's south elevation, which consist of paired two-over-two sash windows for the front room and a single two-over-two sash opening for the rear room, are both topped with the Gothic-inspired hoodmolds seen on the principal facade. The gable over the rear window has the same bargeboard, ornamental gable board, and kingpost displayed on the principal facade gables.

Like the south elevation, the north elevation of the King house has bays intended to provide additional light and space for various rooms in the main block. The placement of the bays on the north side differs from that of the south side, and unlike the south side the north's first floor is sheltered by the previously described porch. A slanted, ground floor bay furnishes light and space for the north front parlor; it is identical in form and detailing to the corresponding bay on the house's south elevation. The window directly above it is also identical to the corresponding opening on the south elevation. A two-story square bay is located at the rear of the north elevation; it is similar in design to the square bays of the principal facade. Above this two-story bay, the gable is treated like those of the front and side elevations.

The rear of the King house is utterly plain and virtually blind; there are only two windows on the entire elevation, one at the center of the main block's second story, and another on the southern portion of a rear shed wing.

The rich detailing of the King house interior mirrors that seen on the outside of the residence. Perhaps the most remarkable characteristic of the interior, however, is the large size of the eight rooms and the broad center halls around which they are grouped.

The first floor hall has a highly unusual finish consisting of a vertical wainscot with closely spaced beading and an exceptionally broad multi-part chair rail, with horizontal beaded board above. Broad, elaborately paneled, two-leaf sliding doors open onto the two front parlors. Behind these doors, an arched frieze adorned with quatrefoils, turned latticework, and a keystone spans the hall and separates the front reception area from the rear portion of the hall containing the stair.

The four-run stair displays the most distinctive woodwork in the house. The stair rises two steps to a broad landing, then rises on its longest run to a second rear landing. It then rises north four steps to a smaller landing just below the second floor and finally rises two steps forward to the second story. The first two-step run and landing are enclosed by a balustrade composed of a tall, unusually chamfered newel post, a molded handrail, and vertical and horizontal chamfered balusters with sawn pieces set between them. Below the balusters is low wall adorned with panels and applied molding. The balustrade of the stair displays the same decorative elements as it runs parallel to the stair's main front-to-back run; the closed string is adorned with the same panels and molding seen on the balustrade enclosing the first landing.

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The balustrade on the second story is identical to those of the first floor.

The two front parlors are the most elaborately detailed of the house's eight rooms. Like the other rooms of the main block, they are finished in plaster. Both have deep, heavily molded baseboards typical of Italianate design, and have symmetrically molded surrounds with bullseye corner blocks; those surrounds are found throughout the rest of the main block. Both front rooms have projecting bays on the front and sides, each of which has an arched frieze with a keystone supported by turned brackets. Both rooms also have gilt picture moldings adorned with garlands, and the north parlor is further embellished with an intricately detailed plaster ceiling medallion. The two rooms have notable but strikingly different mantels: the north parlor has an elaborate, two-level wooden mantel with thick colonettes upholding a broad shelf and an overmantel with much lighter turned pieces surrounding a mirror; the south parlor has a single-level black marble mantel whose broad frieze has decorative marble inlays and which has a handsome hearth of black and yellow tile.

The largest room in the house is the south rear first floor chamber, once used as a dining room, which is greatly enlarged by the projecting, five-sided bay described earlier. The finish in this room is relatively plain, but it does possess a single level, black and maroon marble mantel with a hearth of black and maroon tiles.

The five remaining rooms on the first two floors, like the three rooms previously described, have symmetrically molded surrounds with bullseye corner blocks, four-and-five-panel doors, and tall, molded baseboards. Two mantels in these rooms are worth noting. The first of these is in the rear north room of the first floor; it has a mirrored overmantel over a shelf, with an inlay of pink tile around the hearth. Its classically-inspired details, including plant-like plaster ornament in the frieze, the scroll-like brackets that support the shelf, and the swan's neck pediment over the mirror, indicate that it was installed some years after the house was built, perhaps during the 1895-1910 period. The second mantel of note is located in the south front room on the second story. This mantel is a single-level facing with applied plaster ornament and a fine hearth of orange, maroon, and black tile.

The second floor hall has the same distinctive finish as the hall at the ground story. An open string stair with a thin turned newel, molded handrail, and turned balusters rises forward from near the front of the hall to the attic level of the house. The finished portion of the attic is a broad hall with simple beaded board over a vertically beaded wainscot. A very steep stair with a thin turned newel and thin, widely spaced balusters rises forward from this hall into the upper level of the tower, which affords a fine view of Leaksville.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1875 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Doctor Franklin King House, erected in 1875, is the largest and architecturally most significant residence from the late Victorian period still standing in Leaksville, which became a part of Eden in 1967. The profusely detailed and remarkably eclectic design of this two-and-a-half story frame house with an impressive three-and-a-half story tower combines elements of the Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne styles. The house was erected and occupied for nearly half a century by Doctor Franklin King (1843-1922). King moved to Leaksville around 1870 and became involved in Rockingham County's lucrative tobacco business, first as a buyer and seller, and later as a manufacturer. He became one of the county's wealthiest businessmen and one of its most influential. In 1889 he helped found the Bank of Leaksville, the town's first, and served as its president for many years. King was a church, civic, and educational leader in Rockingham County and the State. He was a member of Meredith College's first Board of Trustees and contributed heavily to that institution. The house has remained in the family to the present.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The Doctor Franklin King House is associated with the late nineteenth and early twentieth century growth of Leaksville, an important center of the textile and tobacco industries in piedmont North Carolina.
- B. The house is associated with Doctor Franklin King (1843-1922), one of Rockingham County's most prosperous and influential businessmen during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and a leader in church, civic, and educational activities in Rockingham County and the state.
- C. The house has a remarkably eclectic late Victorian design combining elements of the Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne styles.
- D. Is likely to yield information important in history.

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The D. F. King House was built in the middle 1870s in the Rockingham County town of Leaksville (now Eden). The house, also known as Idlewild, was King's home for almost half a century. King was one of the county's outstanding business leaders and philanthropists.

Doctor Franklin King was born in Henry County, Virginia in July of 1843. He was the youngest son of Joseph Seward King and Elizabeth Lester King. His father was a Virginia state legislator while his grandfather, John King, was a Baptist minister. King was a second lieutenant in the Forty-Second Virginia Regiment in the Civil War. His six brothers also volunteered for Confederate service. Three of them were killed during the conflict. In 1868, while still living in Virginia, King married Eliza Dyer, also of Henry County. She was the daughter of Jabez and Martha Dyer and was a graduate of Danville's Averette College. Their first child, Irene King, was born in 1869, about one year before the King family moved to Leaksville.²

King quickly became one of the business leaders of Leaksville. The town was settled in the late eighteenth century, but was not incorporated until 1874. King was a member of the town's first board of commissioners. Leaksville was a textile center prior to the Civil War. After the war tobacco manufacturing and marketing became profitable and it was in tobacco that King made his fortune. He bought and sold tobacco and later turned to its manufacture. In 1889 he helped found the Bank of Leaksville, with capital assets of \$10,000. The bank was Leaksville's first. King was president of the firm for many years. He became the eventual owner of warehouses, stores, farms, and other pieces of real estate. The 1904 Rockingham County tax list credits King with personal and real estate valued in excess of \$56,000.³

The King family lived in a house facing Washington Street until about 1874. During that period a second daughter, Lottie Elizabeth, was born in May of 1874. In the latter part of the year construction began on the King House. It was located on a four acre lot purchased from the Morehead family. The four story, 16 room mansion was completed in 1875 and was considered one of the architectural marvels of Leaksville. Five children were born to D. F. and Eliza King in this house. They were Daisy Evelyn, 1877; Myrtle, 1880; Mary Lily, 1885; Jessie Elise, 1886; and Durward Frank, 1891.⁴

In addition to his financial importance to the community King was a civic, social, and church leader. He was a devout Baptist and served as a deacon for forty-five years and a moderator of the Pilot Mountain Association for twenty-five years. King contributed heavily towards the establishment of Raleigh's Meredith College, a Baptist women's college, and was a member of the school's first Board of Trustees in 1889. Three of his daughters and seven of his granddaughters attended Meredith. He also contributed to the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville, the Baptist hospital in Winston-Salem, and a junior college in Leaksville. Mrs. King helped organize the Women's Missionary Society of Leaksville's First Baptist Church and a Leaksville study club. The King home was the "hub of Leaksville society for many years."⁵

Six of the seven King children continued to live in and around Leaksville and all were prominent members of that community. King built houses in the town for all of his children. Irene King married Jesse Benjamin Taylor. She was a graduate of the Baptist Female Institute at Thomasville and was an active member of Leaksville's First Baptist Church. She was also a founding member of the Leaksville History Club. Her husband

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was a businessman who was involved for many years in the tobacco business and later in real estate. He died in 1928 and his wife died in 1955.⁶ Lottie Elizabeth married Reverend S. J. Beeker in 1908. Beeker was a Baptist minister in Leaksville, Spray, Kannapolis, and Dunn. She attended Hollins College in Virginia, from which she graduated at age 16. She was also a charter member of the Leaksville History Club and was a district president of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. Reverend Beeker died in 1918. Mrs. Beeker lived in Leaksville until the death of her parents, at which time she moved to the Nashville, Tennessee home of her daughter.⁷

Daisy Evelyn married Thomas Hayes Barker in 1909. She was also a graduate of Hollins College. She was an accomplished musician and local historian, who served as president of a variety of Leaksville organizations including the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Her husband was a successful businessman. He engaged in the banking business with his father-in-law prior to entering the wholesale grocery business. He was executive officer of the Twin City Grocery Company, executive officer of the Orange Crush Bottling Company, president of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company in Asheville, director of Home Building and Loan Association, vice-president of Leaksville Bank and Trust Company, and president of the North Carolina Wholesalers Association. They both died in Leaksville in 1944.⁸

Ann Myrtle married Joseph Platt Turner in 1909 at the same time that her sister Daisy married Thomas Barker. The double wedding at the First Baptist Church took place on November 2, the first day that electricity was delivered to Leaksville. Mrs. Turner was a graduate of Meredith College. Like her sisters she was active in a number of Leaksville organizations, including the Leaksville History Club. Her husband was the first graduate of the North Carolina State College (now University) School of Textiles in 1902. He was also one of that school's first football stars. Turner became superintendent and later vice-president of the Lily Mill. He also owned a wholesale and grocery business in Leaksville. He died in 1970, while his wife died in 1972.⁹

Mary Lily married William Bert Weaver, an executive with the textile firm of Marshall Field and Co. She died in 1921 at the age of 36.¹⁰ Jessie Elise King married Lister A. Martin. She was the only one of the King daughters to live most of her life away from Leaksville. Martin was an attorney who received his law degree from the University of North Carolina and set up practice in Lexington, North Carolina. From 1909 until 1913 he was judge at Recorder's Court in Thomasville and was judge of Davidson County Court in 1920. He was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives as a Democrat in 1927. In 1929 and 1937 he was elected to the North Carolina Senate. Martin was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor in 1940, and closed out his political career with his election to the North Carolina House in 1949. Jessie King Martin died in 1934 and he later remarried. He died in 1979.¹¹

Frank King, the only son born to D. F. and Eliza King, also lived most of his life near Leaksville, where he was a prominent businessman. He married Anadeal King. Frank King was the owner and operator of King's Chandelier Company.¹²

D. F. King died in 1922 and Mrs. King died in 1933. The house remained in the King estate until the early 1940s and was used by the various members of the family as a gathering place. In 1942 Thomas Hayes Barker, Jr., a grandson of the original owner,

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purchased the home. Barker, like his father, was a prominent Leaksville corporation official. He restored the house and used it as a rental property until his death in the late 1960s. Mrs. Barker is the present owner of the house, which has been unoccupied for some time. Efforts are being made to find a buyer sympathetic to restoring the house, which has considerable historical significance to Rockingham County. D. F. King, his wife, and their children were influential in a wide variety of areas including business, finance, education, church, and social affairs.

The structure, of course, is 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 structure. Information regarding 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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NOTES

¹In 1967 the Rockingham County towns of Leaksville, Spray, and Draper merged to form Eden. William S. Powell, The North Carolina Gazetteer (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1968).

²Leaksville-Spray: A Sketch of Its Interests and Industries (Leaksville: Gazette Job Press, 1919), 37, hereinafter cited as Leaksville-Spray; Winston-Salem Journal, November 1, 1922; Eliza Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King," unpublished typescript, copy in file, hereinafter cited as Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King." According to family tradition Doctor Franklin King was so named because his parents thought he would grow up to become a physician.

³Lindley A. Butler, Our Proud History: A Pictorial History of Rockingham County, North Carolina (Bassett, Virginia: The Bassett Printing Corporation, 1971), 21-22, hereinafter cited as Butler, Our Proud Heritage; Leaksville-Spray, 37; Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King"; Rockingham County Tax Lists, 1904.

⁴Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King"; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Rockingham County, North Carolina; Rockingham County Deed Book 3-D, p. 473.

⁵Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King"; Winston-Salem Journal, November 1, 1922; Mary Lynch Johnson, A History of Meredith College (Raleigh: Meredith College, 1956), 23-27.

⁶The Leaksville News, January 18, 1928, April 22, 1955; Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King."

⁷The Leaksville News, November 15, 1953; Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King."

⁸Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King"; Leaksville News, June 8, 1944; Winston-Salem Journal, July 30, 1944.

⁹Greensboro Daily News, November 1, 1969, July 31, 1970, September 19, 1972; "Fieldcrest Retiree Made Famous Touchdown," The Mill Whistle, Vol. XXIV, No. 18, March 21, 1966, pp. 2-3. Turner played football at North Carolina State from 1898 until 1902 and was captain of the team. In 1900 he scored that school's first touchdown against the rival team from the University of North Carolina.

¹⁰Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King."

¹¹The Lexington Dispatch, September 10, 1934; Winston-Salem Journal, October 11, 1979.

¹²Bingham, "Mr. and Mrs. D. F. King."

¹³The Eden News, March 5, 1969; July 12, 1979; Rockingham County Deed Book 398, p. 351.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4

Quadrangle name Southwest Eden

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property being nominated includes the 4-acre house lot. See attached plat map.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Description and criteria assessment by Peter R. Kaplan, Preservation Planner
name/title Significance prepared by Jim Sumner, Researcher

organization N. C. Dept. of Archives and History date June, 1982

street & number 109 East Jones St. telephone (919) 733-6545

city or town Raleigh state N. C. 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 William S. Price, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 11, 1985

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

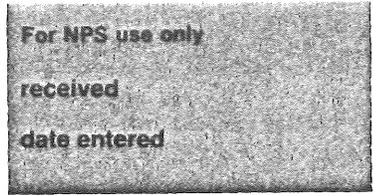
date

Chief of Registration

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E.A.
2013

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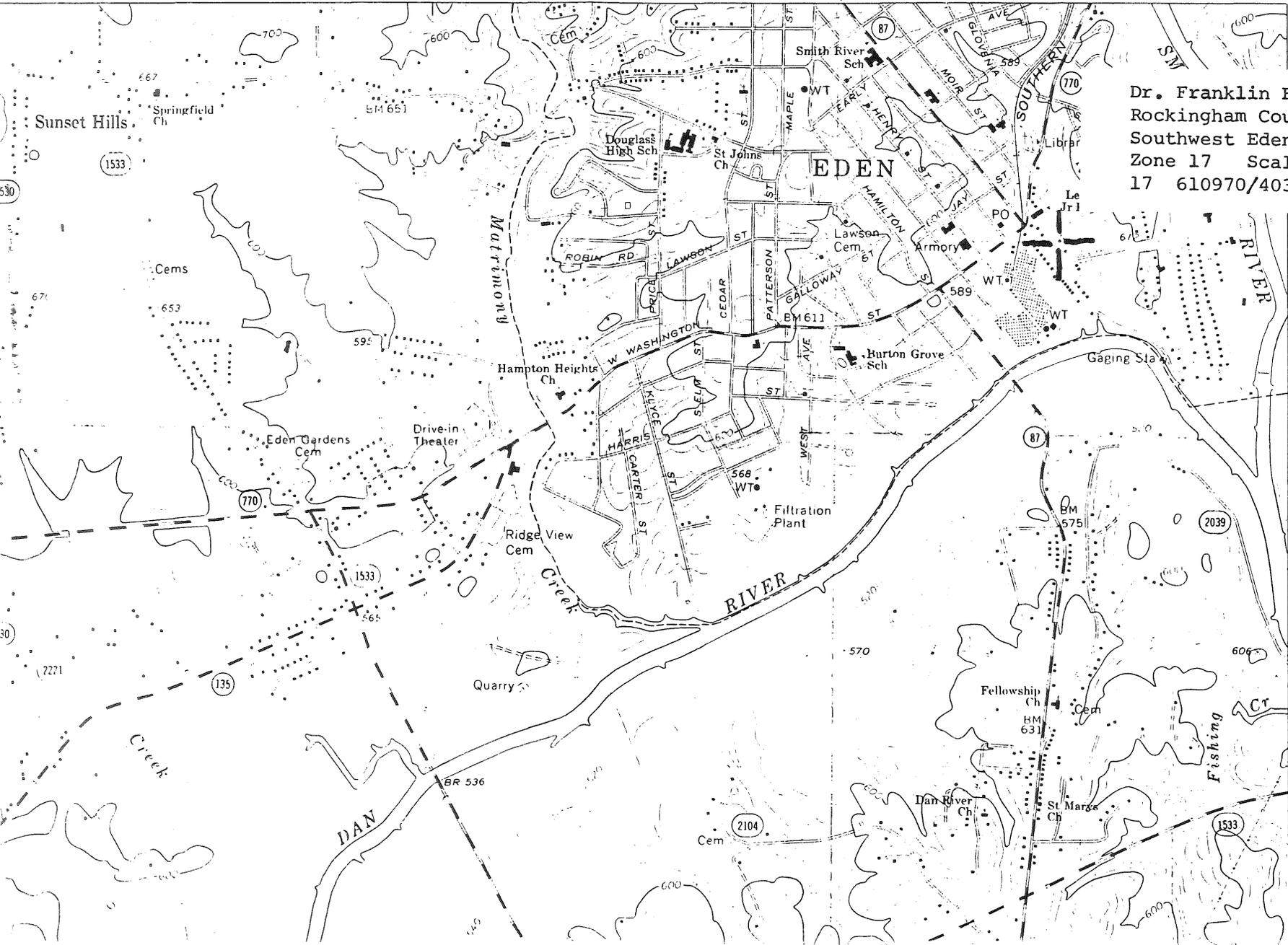
Continuation sheet BIBLIOGRAPHY Item number 9 Page 1

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SOUTHWEST EDEN QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA—ROCKINGHAM CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5057 II SW
 (NORTHEAST EDEN)

607 608 47'30" 609 1 770 000 FEET 611 79°45' 36°30'



Dr. Franklin F. King House
 Rockingham County
 Southwest Eden Quadrangle
 Zone 17 Scale 1:24,000
 17 610970/4038860

4039
 4038
 4036
 0.9 MI. TO N.C. 14

