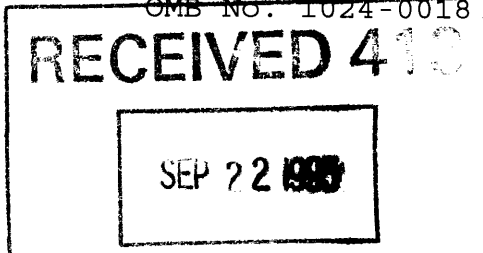


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIV
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

=====

1. Name of Property

historic name Frelinghuysen University
other names/site number Edwin P. Goodwin House

2. Location

street & number 1800 Vermont Avenue, N.W. not for publication N/A
city or town Washington, DC
vicinity X
state District of Columbia code DC county N/A code 001 zip code 20009

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Hamilton Cross Signature of certifying official 9/8/95 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
(See continuation sheet).
- determined eligible for the
National Register
(See continuation sheet).
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Patrick Andrews 11/6/95

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single-Dwelling</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>School</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single-Dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:
Queen Anne

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>BRICK</u>
roof	<u>SLATE, METAL</u>
walls	<u>BRICK</u>
other	_____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance 1879-1927

Significant Dates 1879
1921-27

=====
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Diller B. Groff, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Cooper Papers, Howard University

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>324260</u>	<u>4309100</u>	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	___ See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Stephen Callcott, Architectural Historian

organization D.C. Historic Preservation Division date August 17, 1995

street & number 614 H Street, N.W., Suite 305 telephone (202) 727-7360

city or town Washington state D.C. zip code 20001

=====

Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Paul K. Williams

street & number 1800 Vermont Avenue, N.W. telephone 202-462-6251

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20009

=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Frelinghuysen University
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The building at 1800 Vermont Avenue, N.W. is a wedged-shaped building which responds to its triangular-shape lot, created by the intersection of Vermont Avenue and 11th Street, N.W. The structure is two stories high with a prominent raised basement, and measures approximately 45 feet along Vermont Avenue and 50 feet along 11th Street. The house has several notable projections along each of its two street elevations.

The building is clad in red brick, currently painted white, and topped by a steeply pitched slate roof. The building features an eight-sided turret at the corner topped by an octagonal tower with a patterned slate roof. The entrance on Vermont Avenue is located within a projecting bay, which has decorative brickwork, a bulls eye window on the second floor, and is capped by a steeply pitched gable roof. The roof slope of the Vermont Avenue elevation also features a dormer with three small double hung windows. The 11th Street elevation features a rounded bay with a conical-shaped slate roof. A recessed wing on the north side of the house connects the building to the neighboring dwelling. The house has decorative brick corbelling, brick banding, and projecting segmental brick window hoods on each elevation. The windows are one-over-one wood sash. Each of the projections is capped by a decorative iron finial; the one atop the corner tower has the date "1879" stamped into it.

The interior plan, as one would expect from the different projections, is quite unusual. The most interesting room is the eight-sided parlor, in which no walls appear to be parallel to one another, or have the same dimensions. The house has a single curved stair in the middle of the building, flanked by a room on either side.

The site surrounding the house was reduced in size by approximately 10 feet on the eastern side in 1948, due to the widening of Vermont Avenue to include a separate lane for access to 11th Street at the southernmost point. The four original exterior doors were removed in the 1960s. The concrete entry stairs date from the 1960s; historic photographs indicate the original stairs were wood.

Stylistically, the property employs design elements typical of the period. The house is quite fanciful and picturesque in the Victorian tradition, and responds well to its small, irregularly shaped lot. The use of so many different projections on such a small house is unusual, and creates an animated exterior appearance with an atypical interior plan. While somewhat awkward from a purely architectural standpoint, 1800 Vermont Avenue illustrates how speculative builders of the post-Civil War era freely adapted the Queen Anne design vocabulary of the period to create romantic, picturesque and eclectic buildings.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

<p>RECEIVED 113</p> <p>SEP 22 1995</p> <p>FRELINGHUYSEN UNIVERSITY</p> <p>NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</p> <p>Washington, D.C.</p> <p>County and State</p>

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Historical Background

The building at 1800 Vermont Avenue was constructed as part of the first wave of speculative development which came to the Northern Shaw-Strivers area of Washington, D.C. following the Civil War. Prior to that time, the area included the types of land uses typical of the urban fringe -- some scattered agricultural parcels and shanties, and a good deal of unimproved land being held on speculation. In 1863, a streetcar line was constructed along 14th Street to Boundary Street (now Florida Avenue), but it was not until more regular streetcar service and the paving of both 14th and 11th Street to Boundary Street in 1872 that the area above Massachusetts Avenue really opened up to widespread development. During the 1870s and 80s, the area evolved from largely vacant land to a thriving, racially-mixed, middle class neighborhood. In 1882, an additional streetcar line was extended immediately behind the property along 11th Street to Boundary Street to serve the growing community.

According to D.C. building permits, 1800 Vermont Avenue was constructed in 1879 by builder Diller Baer Groff. Groff was a prominent speculative builder in this area of the city, who lived in a house he built in the next block at 1901 11th Street. Formerly a Civil War captain who came to the District from Pennsylvania sometime prior to 1873, Groff has been documented as the builder of over 140 houses in the Northern Shaw-Strivers area between 1873-1896. Groff was also responsible for the development of 231 lots in Brightwood Park between 1891 and 1910. A row of alley houses, constructed in 1892, still stand in Groff Court on Capitol Hill, which bears his name.

The house is one of three developed by Diller Groff which punctuate the corners of this triangular block. The corner buildings at 1842 Vermont Avenue and 1016 T Street also have similar towers, gables, bays, turrets and decorative iron finials. All were originally designed as semi-detached residences which took maximum advantage of their corner sites to create a picturesque appearance. Corners of the surrounding blocks, many of which have wedged shaped lots due to the juncture of Vermont Avenue with S, T, and 11th Streets, also have houses with prominent corner towers, creating an impressive collection of Victorian designs.

The first owner of 1800 Vermont Avenue was Edwin P. Goodwin, an insurance agent. Between 1885-1915, the household included Goodwin, his wife, his son, Edwin P. Goodwin, Jr., and junior's wife. In the 1880s, Goodwin, Jr. was employed as a clerk in his father's insurance business; together they opened up a publishing and printing business in 1895. The family's various business ventures were located downtown, with father and son no doubt commuting to work every day on the street car line which gave rise to their neighborhood.

In 1921, the property was purchased for use as a classroom building by the Frelinghuysen University. The institution was founded by Jesse and Rosetta Lawson and others in 1917, to provide academic programs, vocational training, social services and religious education for working-class African-Americans. The school was named for Senator Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen, an advocate for the rights

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of blacks during Reconstruction. Dr. Anna J. Cooper (1859-1964), a leading black educator during the period, was closely involved with the curricular development of the University, and later served as its president from 1930-1941. 1800 Vermont Avenue served as the first permanent home of the University. The property served as a classroom building for the University until 1927, at which time it was sold and a larger residential building at 601 M Street, N.W. (since demolished), was purchased.

By 1930, the school's fundraising efforts and the effects of the Depression forced the sale of 601 M Street, and classes were moved to Dr. Cooper's own house at 201 T Street, N.W. Despite legal incorporation and meeting the accreditation requirements, the D.C. Board of Education, bowing to racially motivated political pressure, refused accreditation to the University in 1937. Without the authority to confer degrees, on which it depended to attract operating funds and students, the institution became the Frelinghuysen Group of Schools for Colored Working People. Declining enrollment forced the institution to dissolve in the 1950s.

The property reverted back to residential use, and changed ownership several times after Frelinghuysen sold it. The building has not been substantially altered since its construction in 1879.

Significance

The property's primary area of significance is its association with Frelinghuysen University and Anna J. Cooper, a leading figure in the education of African-Americans in the District of Columbia. As the first permanent location which housed an institution devoted to providing education, vocational training and social services to African-Americans, the property is an important component of the U Street neighborhood, the center of African-American life in Washington between 1900-1945, and significant to the history of African-American education in the city.

The property's change in use from a middle-class white residence to a classroom building for an African-American university is reflective of the larger changes which took place in this neighborhood during the early 20th century. Frelinghuysen University was only one of the many cultural, educational, religious, recreational, social and business enterprises which sprung up in the Northern Shaw-Strivers neighborhood in the early 20th century to serve the growing African-American community. As has been well documented in the "Blacks in the Arts" and "Northern Shaw-Strivers" surveys, the neighborhood around U Street, with its theaters, stores, banks, fraternal institutions and hotels owned and operated by African-Americans, was the center of Black Washington.

The various reforms and laws aimed at protecting African-Americans in Washington during the Reconstruction period were eventually ignored and then legally dropped from the city's legal code in 1901. Racially-mixed neighborhoods in the inner city were abandoned by many whites for newer, restricted suburban neighborhoods outside the city limits. This exodus, together with restrictive covenants that

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barred African-Americans from other parts of the city, created a neighborhood around 1800 Vermont Avenue that was almost exclusively black by 1920. During this period, the neighborhood commercial and entertainment area centered on U Street, which became internationally recognized as Washington's "Black Broadway." African-American leaders during the period promoted racial solidarity and self-sufficiency as the answer to the city's increasingly intense climate of segregation.

Frelinghuysen University was established in 1917 when two existing organizations, the Bible Educational Association and the Inter-Denominational Bible College, were merged. In its early years, Frelinghuysen operated by offering classes in homes, businesses and churches throughout the city. However, by 1921, the school was successful enough to purchase 1800 Vermont Avenue for use as a full-time classroom building. Several years later, at the height of its success in 1926-27, the school offered academic and business courses at the high school level ranging from short-hand, typing, bookkeeping, business mathematics, business law, and English, and junior and college level courses including sociology, applied sciences, fine arts, applied Christianity, theology, law and pharmacy. It was also during the 1926-27 academic year that the school was officially incorporated in the District of Columbia. Unlike nearby Howard University, Frelinghuysen was intended solely as a continuing education institution for working adults, many of whom were poorly educated, recent migrants from the rural south. Dr. Cooper and Frelinghuysen's other founders believed that academic and vocational education would provide African-Americans with the skills needed for economic and social advancement.

Frelinghuysen University filled a much-needed role in the education of blacks during the early 20th century. In the journal of the Alumnae Club in the 1930s, Dr. Cooper noted that of the seven full-time universities in Washington, only one was open to blacks (Howard), while not a single one of the scores of part-time and special schools admitted blacks. Frelinghuysen University was an important educational component of the city, providing much needed educational opportunities to African-Americans who were eager to better themselves and the situation of their families.

Dr. Anna J. Cooper (1858-1964) was a well-known scholar, civil rights advocate, and author. Born the daughter of a slave woman and her master, Cooper was able to attend school and became a student teacher at the age of eleven. She attended Oberlin College, being one of the first African-American women in the country to attend college; and earned a B.A. and M.A. in Classics. Cooper taught, lectured, wrote, and traveled extensively between 1887 and her death in 1964 at the age of 106. She organized and joined numerous anti-slavery groups, abolitionist societies, women's rights groups, literary and self-improvement clubs, and benevolent organizations.

In Washington, Cooper was a teacher at the M Street High School (later named Dunbar High School), and served as principal between 1902-1906. At the time, teaching in the D.C. Public School system was one of the most prestigious and

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well-compensated jobs an educated African-American could attain in the city, and the M Street High School was the leading academic school for blacks in the city. Cooper was not reappointed to the principal's position due to her outspoken opposition to the Board of Education's efforts to dilute the curriculum of the "colored schools" by eliminating academic courses in favor of vocational training. She left Washington to teach in Missouri and study at Columbia University and the Sorbonne in Paris, returning once again to accept a teaching position at Dunbar, which she held between 1911-1930. Cooper was awarded her Ph.D. in 1925 by the Sorbonne at a ceremony at Howard University. Between 1930-1941, after retiring from the school system, Cooper devoted a large part of her time to running Frelinghuysen University, which by that time was operated out of her own home. While her efforts to promote the University and gain its accreditation were thwarted by her long-standing opposition to the Board of Education's unequal treatment of the city's African-American schools, Cooper and the University were nevertheless successful in fulfilling its mission to provide needed educational opportunities to hundreds of black Washingtonians.

Among Cooper's many writings are: A Voice From the South (1892), a collection of her essays and lectures; Le Pelerinage de Charlemagne (1925), an edited version of the medieval tale; The L'Attitude de la France a l'egard de escavage pendant la Revolution (1925), her dissertation on the French Revolution and France's attitude toward slavery; and The Third Step (penned in the 1950s), an autobiographical essay.

While the property at 1800 Vermont Avenue was not the headquarters of Frelinghuysen University when Cooper served as its president, it is closely associated with her life and achievements. Since its early years, Cooper had worked closely with the University's curricular development. While Frelinghuysen University would come to be associated directly with Dr. Cooper and her own home, this association was actually in the declining years of the institution. The property at 1800 Vermont Avenue represents the high point of the University in its enrollment and educational influence.

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Frelinghuysen University

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Section 10 Page 1

Frelinghuysen University
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The property is located at 1800 Vermont Avenue, N.W. on lot 16 of Square 334-N in the northwest quadrant of Washington, D.C. The parcel on which the building is located is at the southern tip of the triangular-shaped block, which is bound by Vermont Avenue to the east, S Street to the south, 11th Street to the west, and T Street to the north. The lot measures 87 feet along Vermont Avenue, 96 feet on 11th Street, and 40 feet deep at the northern property line.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95001228 Date Listed: 11/6/95

Frelinghuysen University DC
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

11/6/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Period of Significance defined in the nomination form does not reflect the Areas of Significance (Education, Ethnic Heritage). The nomination is amended to define the Period of Significance as extending from 1921 - 1927, the years in which the building was used for educational purposes. A technical correction is made to Section 5 of the form to note that the building is privately owned.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**