

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 an 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.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hooper, Dr. D. D., House

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 773 West Main Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Sylva N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Jackson code 099 zip code 28779

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeffrey Crow SHPO 3/10/00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of 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 official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

<p>I hereby certify that the property is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain: _____)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Signature of the Keeper</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Date of Action</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Hooper House  
Name of Property

Jackson County, NC  
County and State

**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**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling  
Health Care/ Medical Business Office

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education / Library

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian / Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood / Weatherboard

roof asphalt composition shingles

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Hooper House  
Name of Property

Jackson County, NC  
County and State

**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 or 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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1906

**Significant Dates**

1906

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Wells, Charles M. (Wells and Wilson, Sylva, NC)

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

**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:

WCU Special Collections

Hooper House  
Name of Property

Jackson County, NC  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 0.258 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

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 Mahaley Odell Thompson, Architect

organization Mahaley Odell Thompson, Architect date June 23, 1999

street & number P.O. Box 1197 telephone 828-293-0248

city or town Cullowhee state NC zip code 28723

**Additional Documentation**

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Hooper House Preservation Foundation, Inc., Jay Spiro, President

street & number 629 W. Main Street telephone 828-586-1577

city or town Sylva state NC zip code 28779

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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### 7. NARRATIVE STATEMENT

#### Summary:

The Dr. D. D. Hooper House, located facing north at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and Keener Street, a busy commercial district, in downtown Sylva, North Carolina, was designed and constructed in 1906 by architect/ builder Charles M. Wells for Delos Dexter Hooper, a locally prominent physician. The house is a good example of the Queen Anne style built in the United States at the turn of the century. It is a two-story structure with one-story wings on the south and east sides. The main hipped roof with asymmetrical lower cross gables is typical of Queen Anne style massing. It is balloon framed with horizontal weatherboard siding and moderate levels of decorative detailing. The entire house sits on brick foundation walls with a variety of different crawlspace vent details. It stands on the original one quarter of an acre of land purchased by Dr. Hooper in 1906 from Belle Smith. The house maintains its position as the last house west on Sylva's downtown Main Street; at the base of the hill upon which the Jackson County Courthouse stands. From period photographs and the 1933 Sanborn tax map, it is clear that there were at least two different out buildings to the south of the Hooper House that no longer exist. Functions of the outbuildings included storage for coal, lumber, a dairy, a garage and what appears to be a chicken coop (Hooper, Dr. Charles, telephone interview with Julie Spiro).

The one-story wing on the south side of the house appears in photographs prior to 1913, and is likely to be original. It contains the kitchen and master bedroom. The one-story wing to the east was added by Dr. Hooper in the mid 1930s at which time some minor modifications were also made to the fenestration on the east and west elevations. All of the operable windows have non-original hinged screens. Most of the interior beaded board walls of the house are covered with wall paper. The house faces Main Street and sits within a front yard well defined by a low, paneled concrete wall which was built at the same time as the concrete steps to the house, in the mid 1930s. According to Charles Hooper, son of Dr. D.D. Hooper, the concrete work at the house was done at the same time as the concrete steps were built up to the Jackson County Courthouse just to the west of the Hooper House (Hooper, Dr. Charles, telephone interview with Odell Thompson). While the north and west sides of the lot have not been substantially altered from the original, the east and south sides of the lot have been paved to provide parking and a driveway for the Jackson County Library. A Sanborn map from 1933 shows the lot with the Hooper House (without the doctor's office) and a detached garage in the back. The rear porch is shown enclosed in the configuration as it is today. All the lots to the immediate north and east of the Hooper House are shown with residential dwellings, which are now gone.

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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### Front (north) elevation, facing Main Street- refer to figure 1:

From the front of the house, the irregular massing of the original two-story Queen Anne style house with hipped roof and lower cross gables is easily seen. The doctor's office addition that was built in the mid 1930s stands out due to its one-story height and lower pitched roof. The roofing material throughout is asphalt composition shingles, which replaced the original metal shingles. A central porch contains the front door to the house and the entry to the office. At the west end of the porch is a decorated pediment that defined the main entry. The non-original concrete steps and flanking brick walls were constructed at the same time as the addition. The office wing was designed to be consistent with several aspects of the original house; the single hung window with decorative leaded glass top sash on the ground floor is symmetrical with that of the original gabled bay, the width of the bay is similar to the width of the gabled bay, the pitch and the scale of the dormer roof matches the pediment over the entry to the porch, the horizontal wood siding matches the existing siding on the original house, and the rake trim at the dormer is the same as the rake trim at the entry pediment. Square edged corner boards for the siding are consistent with the corner boards from the rest of the house. Features of the addition that are not consistent with the original include the following: the vertical siding in the gable end of the dormer, the lower roof pitch of the main roof over the addition is lower than the roof pitches of the original house, the wood trim around the fixed window.

The front door to the residence is on the west side of the porch; it is a fifteen-light, full light door with Art Deco hardware. This is not the original front door for this residence. The door to the office is on the east side; it is also a fifteen-light, full light door, and it is flanked on each side by ten-light full height side lights. Between the two doors is a fixed stained glass window that is located at the first landing up the main staircase. The front porch roof is supported by three turned wood posts with a balustrade of turned balusters that have replaced the more decorative original ones. The beam carried by the porch columns has bearing blocks above each column that are gently radiused to make it appear that the beam is reaching down to sit upon the column capitals. Above the pediment of the porch roof is a balcony from the second floor stair hall. It is defined by two free standing turned wood columns similar to those on the ground floor porch, and two engaged pilasters of the same design. The balcony is covered by a shed roof the pitch of which is lower than that of the main roof that it ties into. The shed roof is supported by beams with the same bearing block detail as the porch beam below. The rake boards at each side of this shed roof contain decorative verge board trim at the bottom where the rake meets the eave. Water damage has caused some structural problems at this balcony, and the east end of it is lower than the west end.

The windows on the front elevation appear to be original. The ground floor window in the west bay of the original structure is an oversized single hung window with a leaded glass top sash. Centered on the second story of the west bay is a pair of one-over-one double hung windows, trimmed with simple square edged wood trim. A sixteen-over-one fixed glass, round top window is located in the gable end of the west bay. This window provides light for the attic space. A smaller gabled dormer to the east

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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contains a small rectangular attic window with a fixed, eight-over-one configuration. Both the dormer and the main gable have skirt roof elements, also known as pent roofs, that tie into their respective eaves. A tall single hung window that extends to the floor allows access to the second floor balcony. It has been modified to operate via a hinge on the bottom sash. A one-over-one double hung window was originally centered on the north facing wall of the upstairs bedroom, but it was changed when the office addition was being built to the current smaller in-swinging casement window. The head of the wood trim of the upstairs windows aligns with a band of wood trim that matches the window trim. Just above the horizontal wood trim is a frieze of vertical beaded board siding that extends up to the eave soffit. The soffit is finished out in beaded board and the junction between soffit and frieze is trimmed out with standard ogee trim.

### **West Elevation- facing Keener Street- refer to figure 2:**

From the west side of the house, one can clearly see the hierarchy of interior spaces due to the stepping down in mass as the house gets further away from Main Street. The two-story Queen Anne portion is divided into two distinct bays: the main body of the house toward Main Street and the gabled cross wing at the center of this elevation. A third bay is defined by the one-story, gabled kitchen wing. The ground floor of the main block currently has a pair of one-over-one double hung wood windows. Originally, only one window was located on the ground floor, and it was centered on the single one-over-one window above. It is likely that when the extra windows were removed from the original structure during the addition of the office, they were re-cycled in other parts of the house. All of the windows in this bay are trimmed in the same simple square edged wood trim as on the front elevation. The horizontal wood siding is the same as on the rest of the house, and it terminates at the bottom at a wood watertable built up of a sloped sill, a horizontal board, and an ogee molding between them. The siding terminates at the top with the same vertical board frieze as described on the front elevation.

The projecting gable cross-bay contains a skirt roof (pent roof) that aligns with the eaves of the main roof. The windows of this bay are the same as those of the main block, and there are two windows on the ground floor and two on the second floor. A round-top louvered gable end vent serves the attic. The brick chimney visible on this elevation rises from the main fireplace in the front parlor. The chimney is in poor condition, and has lost much of the original corbelled detailing. The original design for the house also incorporated sheet metal finials at the gable ends of the roof ridges and at the peak of the hipped roof, but these were removed due to rust during Dr. Hooper's lifetime.

The one-story gabled kitchen bay contains two separate one-over-one double hung windows with typical wood trim. A rectangular, louvered, gable end vent for the attic space above the kitchen is located above each window. The gable rake incorporates decorative verge board trim at the bottom where the rake meets the eave with the same design as shows up elsewhere around the roof. A shed roof porch extends to the south from the kitchen bay. The end of the shed roof is enclosed and finished with vertical boards similar to those in the dormer above the office. The porch opens to a set of concrete

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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steps that was built at the same time as the front steps and connects in a similar manner to the sidewalks and low wall of the front yard.

### **South Elevation- Rear of house- refer to figure 3:**

The rear elevation includes features from the one-story kitchen wing and portions of the second story bedrooms beyond. The one-story portion is covered by a single shed roof with a small gable over the east quarter of the wing; this gable defines the master bathroom that projects from the master bedroom. The roof hips back to the wall at the east side of the wing. There is evidence on the roof where a chimney was removed from the west end of the kitchen. Although this kitchen wing shows up in the earliest photographs of this house, the rear porch has been modified from the original. Originally the porch to the west of the gable was open as is evident from the wall/ floor junction. The middle half of the porch was enclosed to provide a utility room and storage. The west quarter of the porch remains open and serves as the back entrance to the building. The enclosed portion of the original porch contains a row of three in-swinging hopper windows mounted high on the wall to provide light for the utility room but no views. The east gabled end of the wing contains a small, non-original aluminum, one-over-one double hung window centered under the gable, with a gable vent centered over the window. The gable contains the same verge board trim at the eave intersection as elsewhere on the house.

The southern wall of the two-story portion of the house is partially visible over the shed roof and to the east of the kitchen wing. A typical one-over-one double hung window sits within the area of wall exposed on the east and the west ends of the second floor; these were for the upstairs bedrooms. An attic dormer with a non-pent roof gable is centered on the peak of the main hipped roof. The rake trim has the typical verge board detail at the lower end of the rake. The vent is comprised of two square louvered vents under a single gothic arched louvered vent. In the narrow width of the ground floor that extends to the east of the kitchen wing, there is a fifteen-light, full-light door beneath a small shed roof attached to the wall above the door. With neither a stoop nor steps, it is doubtful that this door is original to the house. The fifteen-light, full-light door type indicates that it may have been added at the same time as the office wing. To the east of this is the rear of the doctor's office. This elevation of the doctor's office is clad in horizontal German siding of the same exposure dimension as the typical horizontal siding elsewhere on the structure. Three nine-light in-swinging hopper windows are centered on the one-story wall. The grade at this end of the house is quite close to the top of the brick foundation wall, and seems to be related to the earthwork done during the construction of the library to the east.

### **East Elevation- facing the library- refer to figure 4:**

The east elevation is the most hidden due to the proximity of the library and due to the landscaping. The south "bay" is the side of the one-story gabled extension of the rear wing (master bathroom), and has no windows. The east end of the one-story wing has two typical one-over-one double hung windows that

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serve the master bedroom. The two-story, main portion of the house projecting cross-gable bays are partially overlapped by the one-story doctor's office addition. On the ground floor of the original house, there are two one-over-one, double hung windows - the right one was repositioned when the office was added. Two typical double hung windows are also located on the second floor, including one window that was recycled to this position when the office was built. A round-top louvered gable end vent above the pent (skirt) roof of the gable end is centered on the gable and matches that from the west elevation. A stained glass window at the top landing of the stairwell is located on the second story of the main block. The east elevation of the office wing, which projects from the main block of the house, is a low pitched, gable end with horizontal wood German siding to match the south elevation of this addition. Two pairs of fifteen-light, in-swinging hopper windows are positioned symmetrically about the center of the gable. All of the hopper windows for the office are elevated relative to the interior finished floor for privacy. Between the pairs of windows and centered on the gable is a rectangular gable end vent. The brick chimney for the office is visible from this elevation, and the corbelling details are still present.

### **Interior- refer to figure 5 for plans:**

The floor plan of the house (ground floor and second floor) is arranged about a central circulation hall in what could be described as a modified "L" arrangement. The rooms occupy three quadrants of the plan and the main staircase occupies the northeast quadrant. The floor plan of the office is a simple three room arrangement with a waiting room, office and pharmacy in the rear. A small bathroom accessed from the waiting room occupies the space beneath the upper landing of the main staircase in the house. The porch provides the only access between the house and the office. With few exceptions, the plan of the house appears to be in its original configuration. (Please refer to figure 5 for the diagrammatic floor plans.)

Throughout the house, the beaded board walls have been papered except for in closets. It is unclear if any of the wallpaper is original. The finishes in the office (wood paneling and carpet) are not original, but could be readily removed to expose original materials. The most notable feature of the interior of the house is the finish carpentry. The staircase displays fine craftsmanship, and show the influence of the Eastlake style in the turned wood balusters and newel posts with open stringers. It is possible that the balusters of the staircase are the same design as the original balusters from the porch outside. Doors and windows are cased in a 4 1/2 inch fluted square edged casing trim with 4 1/2 inch square corner blocks and 4 1/2 x 10 inch plinth blocks. There are two notable exceptions to openings having this decorative casing trim; the north window of the pair in the front parlor which originally was a single window has plane square edged casing, and the doorway between the entry foyer and the central hall has plane square edged trim. The floor base board molding measures 9 1/2 inches and is a profile common to the pattern books at the time. The wood flooring is comprised of a random mixture of widths of pine boards ranging from 2 1/2 inches to 4 1/2 inches. The type of floor and its condition under carpet and vinyl flooring are unclear in parts of the house. The entry foyer and front two west-facing rooms display a beaded board wainscot made of 3 inch boards with intermediate beads to appear as 1 1/2 inch beaded

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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board. The wainscot is trimmed at the top with a common chair rail molding. All the woodwork is currently painted white.

The fireplace in the front parlor features a mantle that was probably selected from one of the popular catalogs of the day. This wood mantle includes a composite order column on each side of the fireplace opening that supports the simple shelf above. The tile surround and the hearth tile are 1 1/2 inch x 6 inch multicolored, mottled, glazed tiles similar to that described in the Sears, Roebuck Home Builder's Catalog of the day. The fireplace opening is covered by a cast iron mantle grate similar to those sold in the catalogs. The fireplace in the living room adjacent to the stairway is a more utilitarian example without a decorative mantle. The oval grate cover suggests that this may have been the chimney for a stove rather than a typical fireplace. According to Charles Hooper, the original fireplace was closed and converted to serve as the flue for a coal burning stove in the late 1920s (Hooper, Dr. Charles, telephone interview by Odell Thompson). The grates between the ground floor and the second were installed to allow heat to get to the upstairs from the stove. A third fireplace on the west wall of the kitchen is also utilitarian in appearance with an exposed red brick surround and hearth and a simple wood mantle. The chimney for this fireplace has been removed. Much of the door hardware seems to be original and is consistent with Mayfair designed and Emerald Design hardware found in period catalogs. Dr. Hooper was one of the first people to have electric lights in Sylva. Some of the light fixtures are early, and the designs are consistent with the designs of the Emerald door hardware. Two types of raised panel interior wood doors are found throughout the house: a simple five stacked panel design and a two-over-one-over-two design. The exterior doors do not appear to be from the original design but look to have been added in the 1930s when the office was added. The hardware for the front door is Art Deco in style, which was common to the 1930s. Plumbing fixtures in the house are consistent with the 1920s when the master bathroom was remodeled and the upstairs bathroom was added. A claw foot tub sits in the upstairs bathroom, and the porcelain enameled sinks in the bathrooms and kitchen are consistent with 1920s fixtures.

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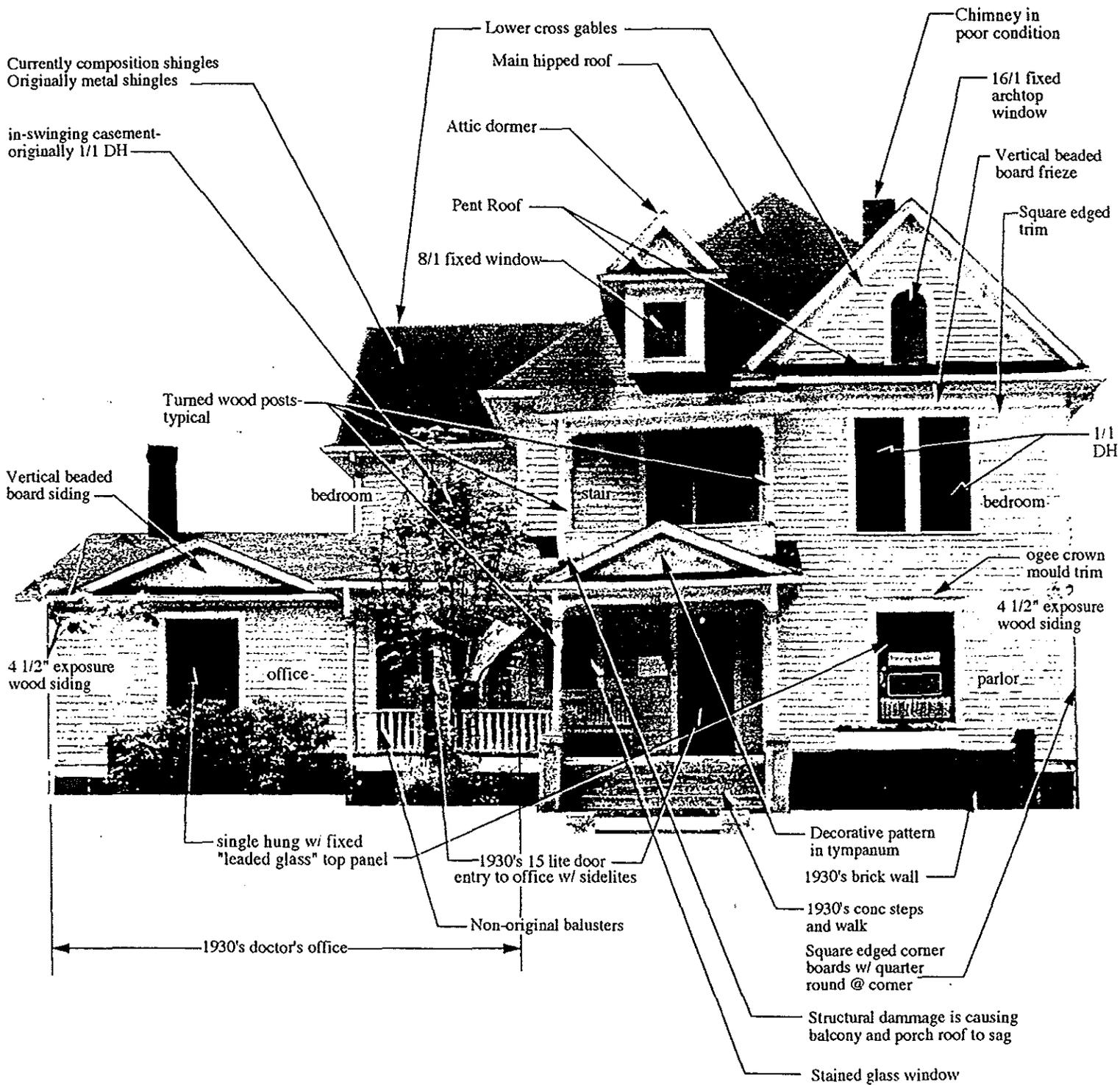


Figure 1. Front Elevation (facing north)

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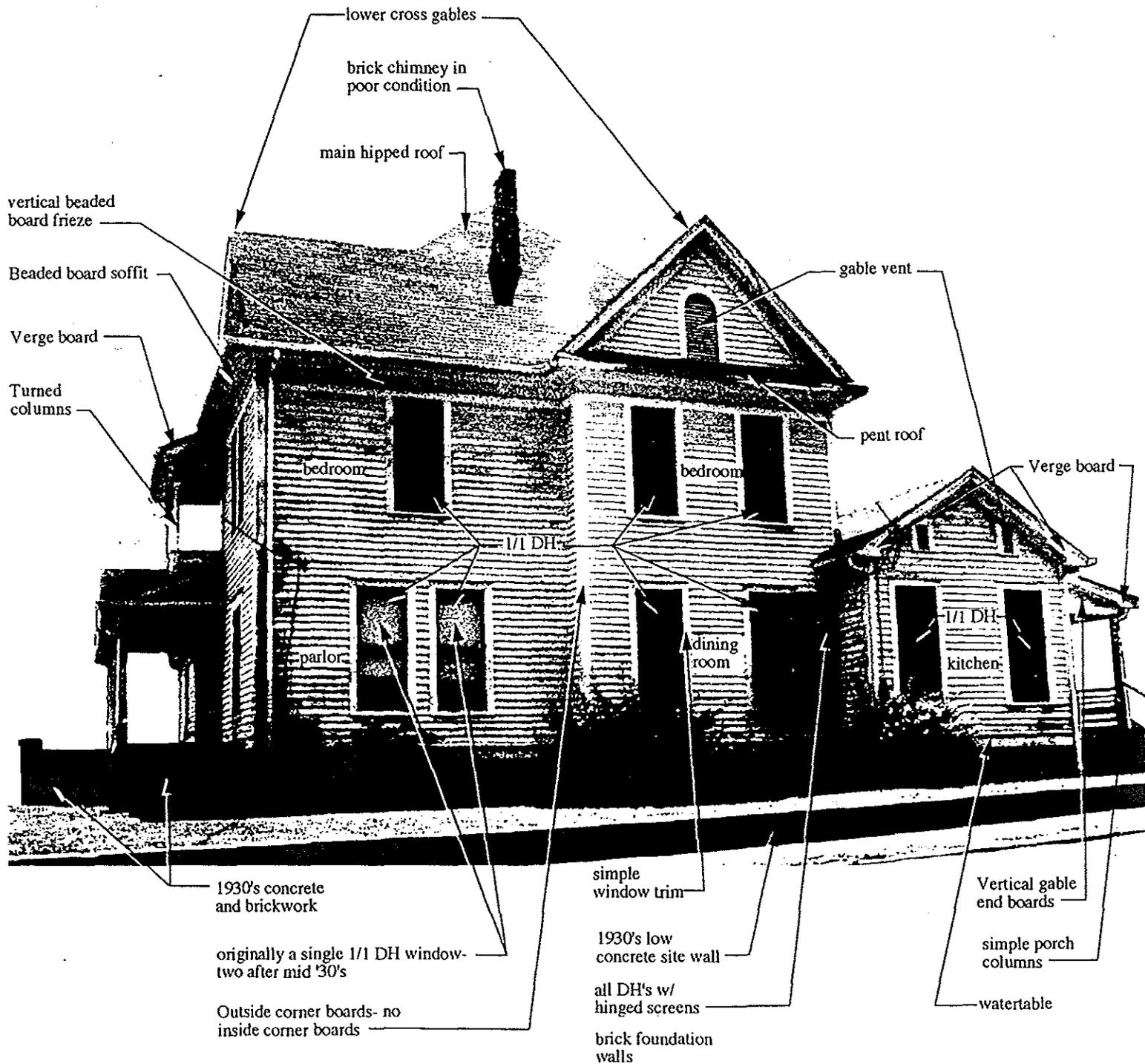


Figure 2. Side Elevation (facing west)

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

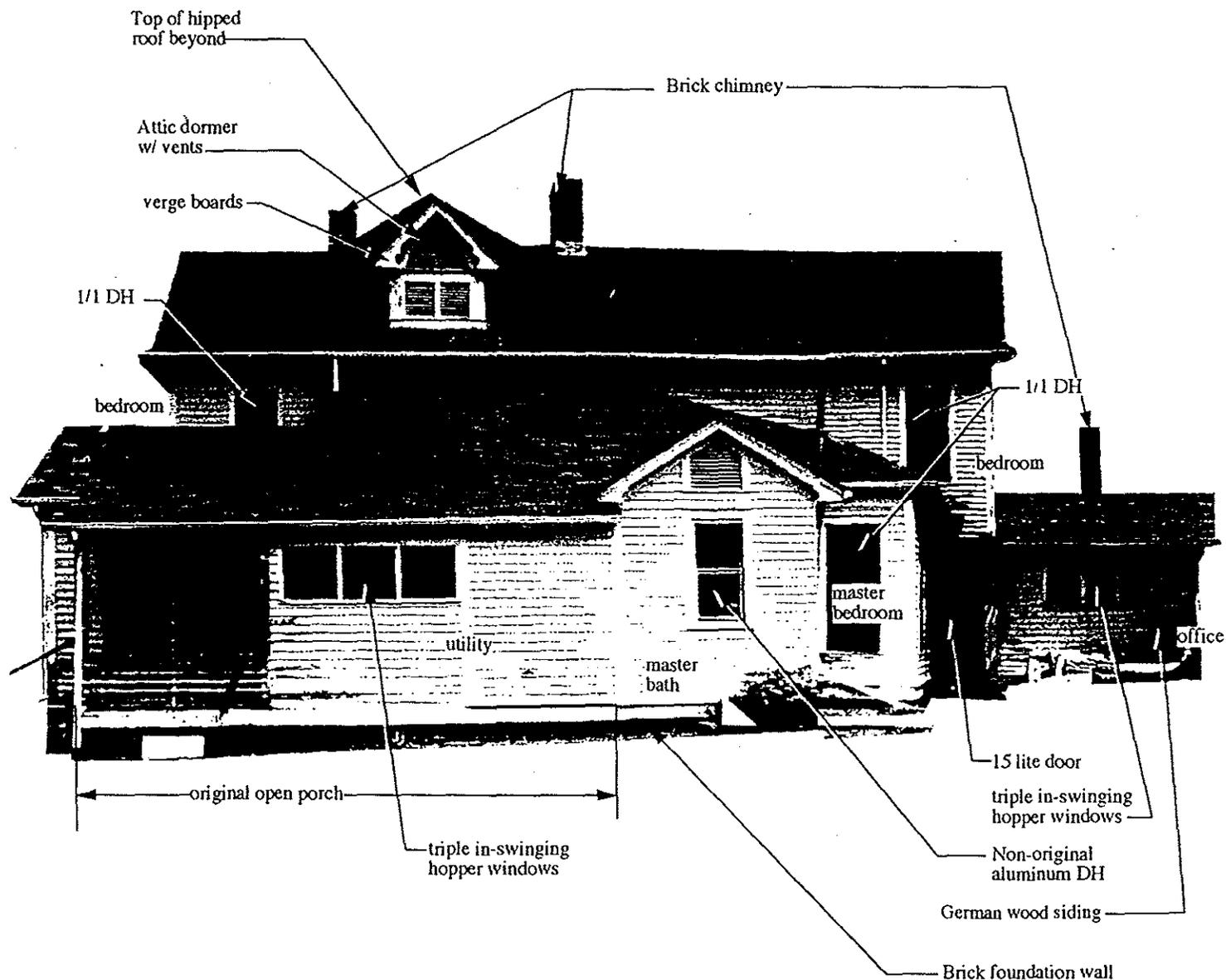


Figure 3. Rear Elevation (facing south)

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

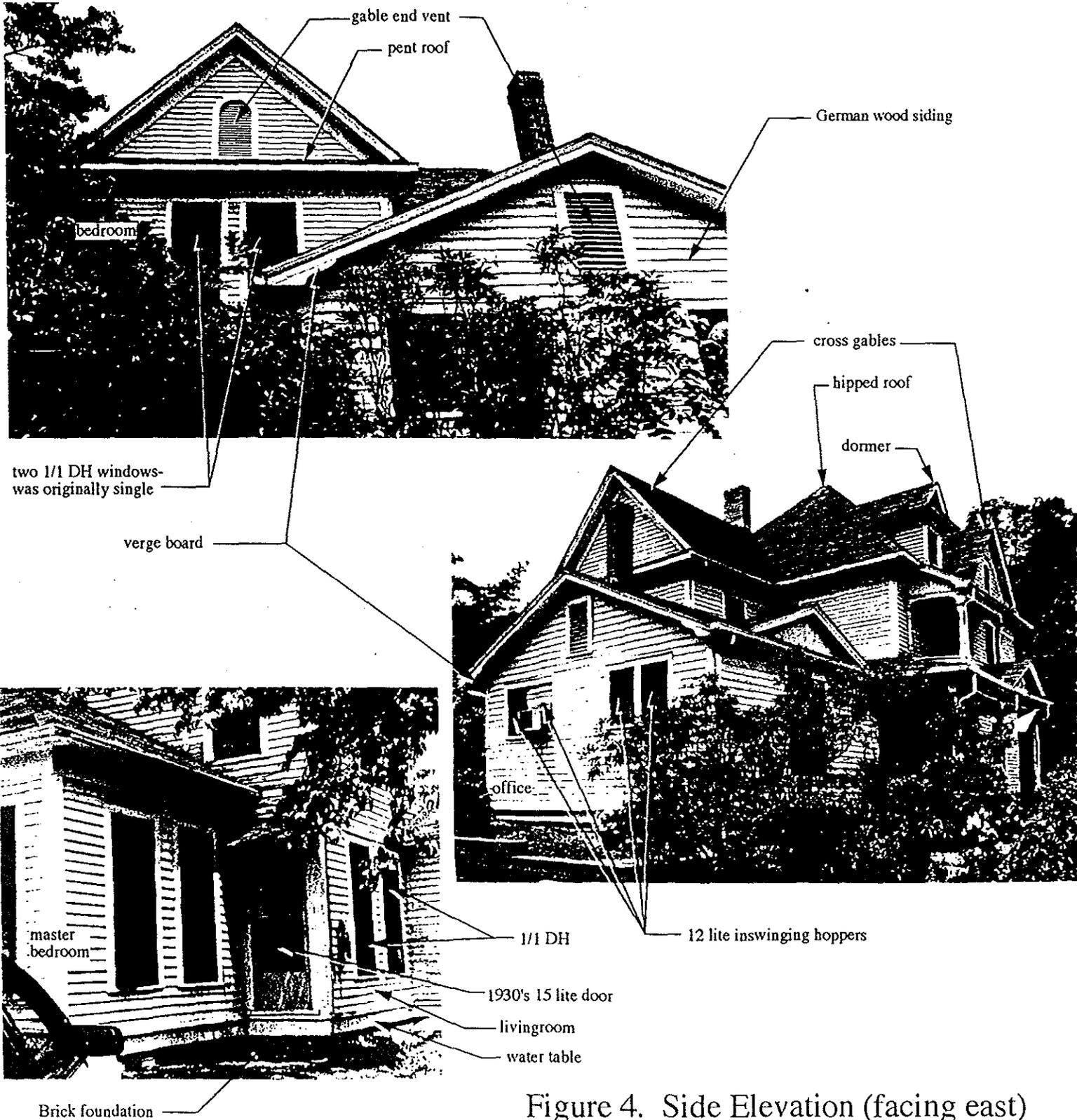
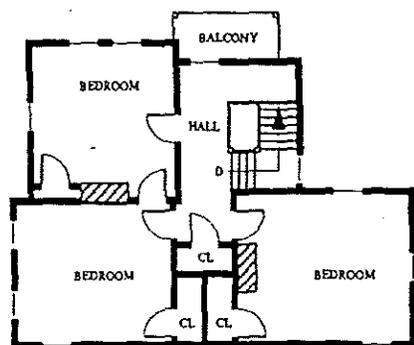


Figure 4. Side Elevation (facing east)

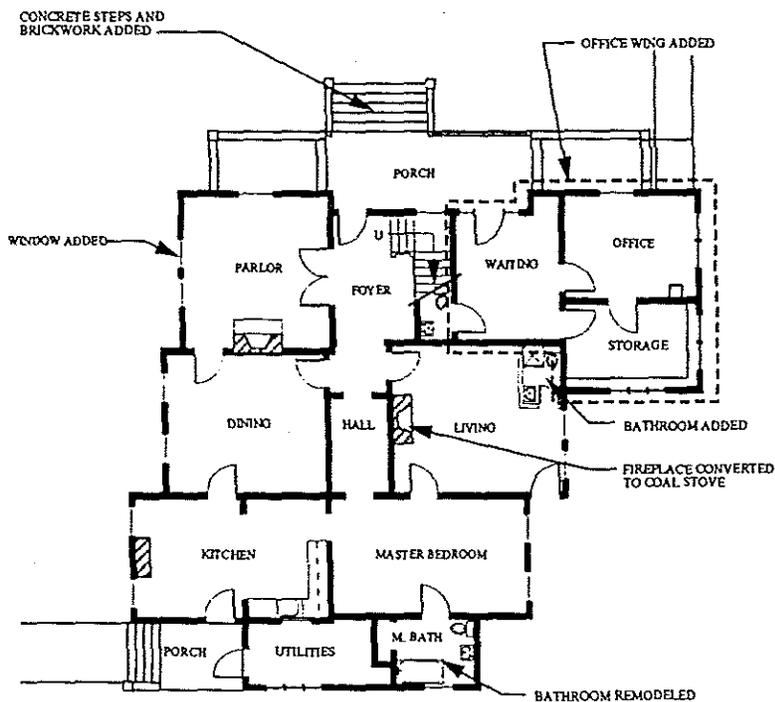
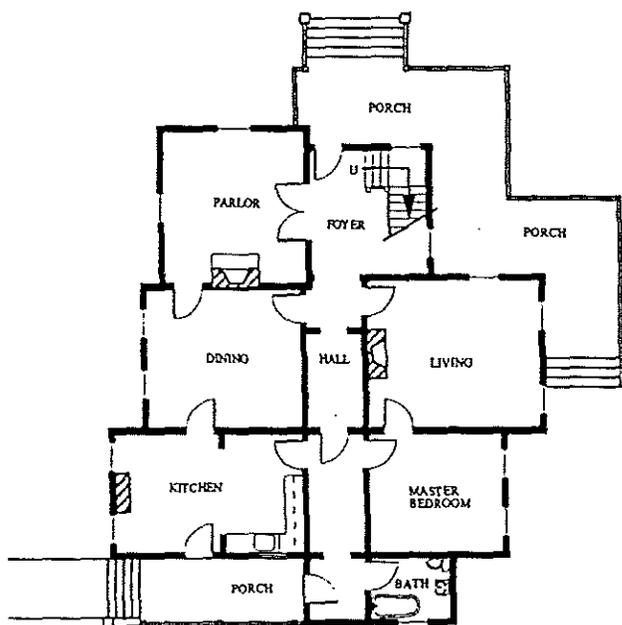
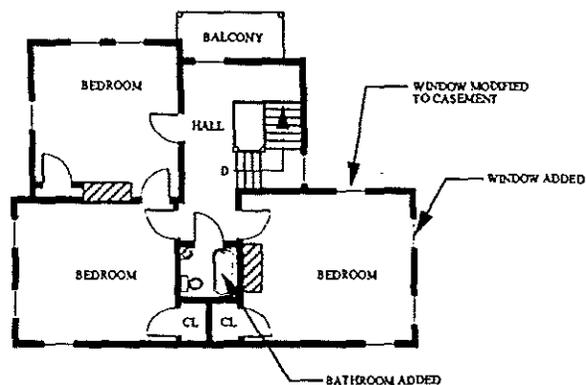
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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC



Second Floor  
SCALE: 1" = 20'



Ground Floor  
SCALE: 1" = 20'

**Original Plans**  
(best guess)

**1930's + Plans**

Figure 5. Diagrammatic Floorplans

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary:

The Dr. D. D. Hooper House is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as a significant intact example of a locally important building that embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Queen Anne style. The Dr. Hooper House is a two-story Queen Anne style house with an original one-story wing to the south side, and a one-story office addition to the east side. It was built in 1906 by Sylva architect/builder Charles M. Wells for Dr. Hooper, a locally prominent member of the rapidly growing community of Sylva, North Carolina. Many features of this house indicate that a great deal of importance was placed in contemporary nationally available catalogs such as Sears, Roebuck and Co. for building ideas and materials. The Hooper house is remarkably similar to a Queen Anne style house design number 118 from the Sears, Roebuck Catalog of the early 1900s. While currently in need of repairs, the Hooper House maintains many significant original details and examples of fine craftsmanship, and represents one of only two remaining Queen Anne houses in downtown Sylva. The other, the Dr. Nichols House on Walnut and Jackson Streets, dates from the same period. The doctor's office was added in the mid 1930s.

The Dr. Hooper House is the second oldest structure on Main Street, (the C. J. Harris Building of 1898 is the oldest), and it predates the Jackson County courthouse which was built in 1913. The house represents the investment that local citizens made in Sylva, which was lobbying to relocate the county seat of government to Sylva from Webster. In the 1930s, Dr. Hooper improved the house and grounds and added an office wing to the east of the house so that he could accept and treat patients. Two other prominent Sylva doctors, Dr. Nichols and Dr. Candler, also added office wings to their downtown houses. Dr. Hooper lived in this house from 1906 until he died in 1973. The Hooper House remained a private residence until 1986 when it was deeded to Jackson County for use as an annex to the Jackson County Library.

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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### Historical Background:

Dr. Delos Dexter Hooper was a prominent local citizen, born in Tuckaseegee on December 5, 1879. He graduated from the University of Virginia Medical School in 1905, and in the same year started his medical practice in Sylva. He purchased what later became the Hooper Drug Store on Main Street where he practiced medicine and sold medication. This was his office until the mid 30s when he would add an office to his Main Street house. Before his house was completed, Dr. Hooper lived at a Main Street hotel located where the Citizens Bank is currently located.

"While he was boarding at the hotel, Thomas Edison came to Sylva looking for barium. the two became friends and boarded together for six months. While Edison was in Sylva, Henry Ford drove his first version of the Model T to visit him. Dr. Hooper rode to Webster and back with them. He was very excited to know these two great men. Later, Dr. Hooper purchased the first "Motor Car" in Jackson County" (Jackson County Genealogical Society, *Jackson County Heritage, Volume One*, 296, 297)

It is noteworthy that Dr. Hooper's house was one of the first three houses to get electricity when it was brought into Sylva in 1911 by the Dillsboro and Sylva Electric and Light Company (Williams, 202).

Dr. Hooper practiced medicine in Sylva for 68 years. He was surgeon for the Southern Railway, a physician for the Western Carolina University athletic department for many years. He was a Rotarian, a 32nd Degree mason in the Scottish Rite, a Shriner in the Oasis Temple, a trustee of the First Baptist Church of Sylva, and a life board member of the First Union National Bank.

In 1906, when the Hooper House was constructed, the town of Sylva was in a state of rapid growth and was competing with Webster for, and would win in 1913, the county seat. In the 1880s the Western North Carolina Railroad (now known as the Murphy Branch of the Southern Railway) was built through Sylva and not through Webster. This initiated the rapid growth of Sylva and the decline of Webster. The debate over the relocation of the county seat from Webster to Sylva began in 1901, but with the economic health resulting from the railroad, industry, Sylva's success was assured.

"Sylva's growth was spurred by the establishment in 1903 of the Harris Tannery, the town having already experienced the familiar pattern of churches and schools opening as communities formed. The Sylva Collegiate Institute had opened its doors to fifty-seven students in 1900. Sylva put up \$773 as financial inducement. The institution's site became known as "College Hill." The Jackson County Bank opened in Sylva in 1905. In the same era the county's newspaper was published in Sylva rather than in Webster. Sylva became the site for the county fair, a gala event that drew big crowds yearly. Thus with an industrial base, Sylva had within a matter of a couple of decades become the financial, transportation and communication center of the county" (Williams, 120).

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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### Architectural Context:

Dr. Hooper bought the quarter of an acre lot from a Mrs. Belle Smith in 1906 for \$150 (Deed Book KK, 413). By building in a popular architectural style rather than a simple vernacular in such a prominent location, Dr. Hooper showed a "pride of place" which could be interpreted as a symbolic gesture of confidence in the growing town of Sylva. Dr. Hooper hired Charles M. Wells to design and build his downtown home. It is likely, given the similarity of Design number 118 from Sears, Roebuck & Co.'s *Book of Modern Homes and Building Plans*, that Mr. Wells and Dr. Hooper used a nationally published book of house designs to establish the basic massing of the Hooper house (see figure 6 and 7 for examples of similarities). As in many towns across the country, the doctors of Sylva were among the few who could afford such fine homes. Dr.s Hooper, Nichols and Candler each built large houses in downtown. The Nichols House is another fine extant example of a Queen Anne style house located in downtown. It displays a similar cross gabled massing with a later (ca 1935) doctor's office addition to the rear of the structure. Unfortunately, Dr. Candler's house, a newer and more elaborate house than the Hooper House or the Nichols House, and also on Main Street, was razed in the mid-1990s by the First Baptist Church. The Hooper House was not only one of the first large houses on Main Street downtown, it is now the only grand dwelling from Sylva's boom period of the early 20th century.

The Queen Anne Style, as we know it, originated in England in the late nineteenth century, ironically, as an attempt to "strive for an artistic confection of such mixed heredity that it would amount, as one practitioner put it, to "an absence of style." The more quaint and old-fashioned it all looked, the better" (Kostof, 640). Masonry examples predominated in England, but in the United States, the style evolved into wood frame residences with decorative pre-cut wood details, wood spindlework and wood shingles or siding replacing the decorative patterned masonry of the English examples. The style spread quickly throughout the United States due to the popularity of pattern books and the first architectural magazine, *The American Architect and Building News* (McAlester, 266).

Although not numerous, there are a few fine example of Queen Anne style structures in or near Sylva from the same general time period. Already noted above, the Nichols House was built after the Hooper House, but employs similar massing and more elaborate pattern book detailing. It has been restored recently, and is a valuable landmark in downtown Sylva. The Elisha Calor Hedden House in Webster of 1902 was constructed for a local lumber baron, and was the boyhood home of former Governor Dan K. Moore. The Lucius C. Hall House in Webster is a unique example of an original log structure that was remodeled and added-on to in 1892 in the Queen Anne Style. This house was the home of Congressman David Hall, and is currently the home of Attorney General Lacy Thornburg. Just west of Dillsboro stands the Squire Watkins Inn, which was constructed in 1895 as the home of John C. Watkins, a local entrepreneur. It features two towers and elaborate wood patternbook detailing. From these examples it is evident that only the most prominent members of the community could afford such structures, so each

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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in its own way has significance beyond its physical presence- each relates to part of the evolution of this region of Jackson County.

When the county seat was moved to Sylva in 1913, the courthouse was built atop the hill to the west of the Hooper House. This augmented the prominence of the location of the Hooper House. Such a visible terminus to the axis of Main street not only drew attention to itself as a landmark, but it also "completed" the urban outdoor room of Main Street. A post card from between 1914 and 1922 shows the courthouse at the end of (unpaved) Main Street with several residences lining the street. The "old Coward house" on the north side of the street appears to be Queen Anne style. The date of its construction is unknown. The additional daily traffic due to the courthouse encouraged more commercial growth along main Street. Eventually this would lead to the removal of all but one of the many houses at the West end of Main Street; the Hooper House. Between 1933 and 1935, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) re-built the concrete steps leading up to the courthouse. From accounts of Charles Hooper, Dr. D.D. Hooper's son, this is also when the concrete steps and walkways around the Hooper house were constructed (Hooper, Dr. Charles, telephone interview with Odell Thompson). Inspection of the concrete materials of the courthouse steps and the Hooper House steps indicates a marked similarity in aging and in aggregate materials. It is possible that Dr. Hooper hired the same workers who built the courthouse steps to build his own. This is also the same general time period that the doctor's office wing was added to the east side of the front of the house.

Dr. Hooper built his home in 1906 and lived in it until he died in 1973. The house was willed to Dr. Hooper's three living children: Annie Jo Hooper Williams, Charles M. Hooper, and Kathleen Hooper Nash. In 1978 Annie Jo Hooper Williams and Charles M. Hooper sold their portions of the house to Kathleen Hooper Nash for ten dollars (Deed Book 490, 534). In 1981, Ms. Nash sold the house to Keith L. Clark (Deed Book 534, 655). Mr. Clark and his family lived in the house until 1985 when the mortgage holder foreclosed on the property. Kathleen Hooper Nash then purchased the house at auction for one hundred twenty three thousand dollars (Deed Book 612, 132). In 1986 she granted it to Jackson County which continues to use it as the annex to the county library (Deed Book 632, 70). On December 2, 1999, Jackson County voted to deed the house over to the Hooper House Preservation Foundation, a non-profit organization that intends to rehabilitate the house for use as the offices for the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, the Jackson County Travel and Tourism and Authority, the Jackson County Historical Society, and Sylva Partners In Renewal, Inc. (SPIR).

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC



No. 118

FOR \$1,288.00 We will furnish all the material to build this nine-room house. This price includes all work, lumber, building paper, glass, paint, nails, hardware and building material. It allows for a fair price for labor for the house and for a profit of \$278.00.

Reversed image of Design Number 118 from the 1910 edition of Sears, Roebuck Home Builder's Catalog.



Photo taken in 1913 of Hooper House appearing in Information to Visitors Concerning Greater Western North Carolina, "Land of the Sky".

Figure 6. Similar Massing to No. 118

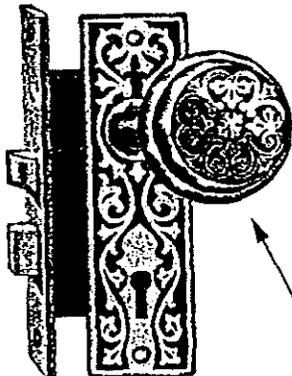
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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

### MAYFAIR DESIGN INSIDE DOOR LOCK SETS

ONE SET IN BOX, WITH SCREWS TO MATCH.



The mantle in the Hooper House has Classical Composite Order Capitals on the columns and no carved detail in the backboard. The 1 1/2" x 6" tile and cast iron mantle grate are very similar to these in the catalog.

Very similar to lockset found in Hooper House.

**FINISH.** Electro plated; raised surfaces polished bronze finish; background, dull black.

**LOCK.** Easy spring action. Reversible. Size, lock, 3 1/2 x 3 1/4 inches; face, 5 1/4 x 7/8 inch.

**ESCUTCHEONS.** Bronze metal. Size, 1 3/4 x 5 1/2 inches.

**KNOBS.** Bronze metal. Size, 2 1/4 inches.

**BRONZE METAL** front and bolts.

**KEY.** Nickel plated steel.

No. 9B45268 Price, per set.....\$0.74  
Per dozen sets..... 8.80

Same as above, except with electro bronze plated steel front bolts, knobs and escutcheons.

No. 9B45278 Price, per set.....\$0.39  
Per dozen sets..... 4.50

Same as above, except with electro bronze plated front bolts and escutcheons and with jet or black knobs.

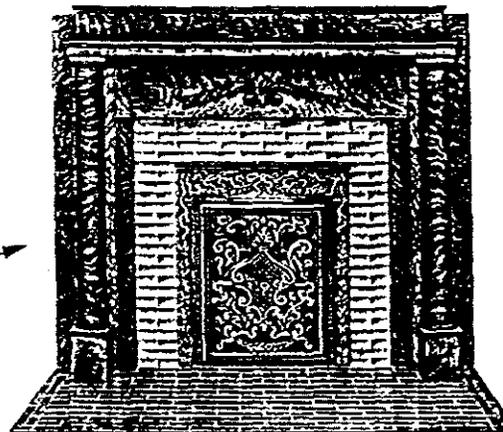
No. 9B45298 Price, per set.....\$0.29  
Per dozen sets..... 3.46

Portions of the  
1910 Sears,  
Roebuck Home  
Builder's Catalog.

Although certain aspects are different, it is possible that Charles Wells, the architect and builder, and Dr. Hooper had access to and selected items, including basic house shape and style, door locksets, mantle and mottled tile surround, etc., from the current Sears, Roebuck Catalog or another popular catalog.

Mantel Base No. 281.

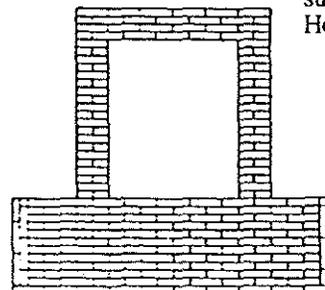
### \$6<sup>99</sup> Quarter Sawn Mantel Base, with Back Board.



This ever popular style of mantel is furnished in full quarter sawed solid oak, velvet rubbed, the same elegant finish as in our velvet rubbed quarter sawed full mirrored mantels. The workmanship is equal in every particular, the selection of the lumber that goes to make them is the same, the care taken in the cabinet work is fully as great, and in every particular these mantel bases receive the utmost attention from

the selection of the lumber to the finishing, packing and shipping. Quarter Sawn Velvet Rubbed Solid Oak Mantel Base with Back Board. Total height, 4 feet 4 inches. Furnished 4 1/2 feet wide, with wall plates set to 5 feet. Quartering oak veneered columns, 1 inches in diameter. The opening, 36x36 inches, requiring a tile hearth 60x18 inches. Profile, 7/8 inch. Shipping weight, 140 pounds. Price, delivered on the cars at the factory in Indiana. No. 61B3426 Woodwork and Mirror Only. Price reduced to.....\$6.99  
Coal and gas grates extra, see page 96.  
Tile facing and hearth extra, see page 97.

This describes the tile surround in the Hooper House quite well.



Brilliant, Glazed, Iridescent Luster. Multicolored Tile in beautiful blends and motifs. These are the conventional, brilliant, glazed enameled tiles most popular for mantel facings and hearth. We furnish them in more beautiful shades of mottled tints than ever before. We furnish them in the most brilliant enamel glazes, in colors, tints and shades that neither fade nor tarnish. Mantel tile will always be furnished 6x1 1/2 inches unless other sizes are ordered. We can always

furnish them in the other standard sizes and half sizes when desired. Price in barrel lots, 22 1/2 cents per square foot.

Figure 7. Similar Details as in Catalogs

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Hooper House, Jackson county, NC

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

**Verbal Boundary Description:** Refer also to Tax map and Enlarged version of tax map.

Parcel I.D. number 7641-07-2691 Recorded in book number 632 page 70.

Beginning at a point in the southern margin of the sidewalk, the northwest corner of the property owned by the County of Jackson and occupied by the Jackson County Library, and runs thence with the westerly boundary of the said library property S 02°34' W 150 feet to a stake, corner of the Mrs. Walter (Wilma) Jones property; thence with the northerly boundary line of the Jones property N 87° 26' W 75 feet to an iron pin in a rock wall on the easterly side of Keener Street; thence with the easterly margin of said sidewalk, N 02° 34' E 150 feet to a point, said point being the intersection with the easterly side of the sidewalk adjacent to Keener Street and the southerly side of the sidewalk on the south side of main Street; thence S 87° 26' E 75 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 0.258 of an acre, more or less, as per survey prepared by H.F. Green & Associates, dated April 21, 1986.

### **Boundary Justification:**

The boundary of this site is the same quarter of an acre lot purchased by Dr. Hooper in 1906. It is bounded on the north by Main Street, on the West by Keener Street, on the south by the Jones property, and on the east by the Jackson County Library. Please refer to figures 8, 9, and 10 for graphic documentation of geographic and boundary data.

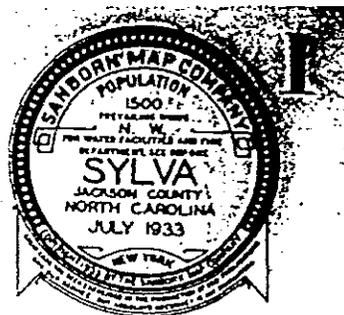
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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

Hooper House in 1933- no office addition yet, and an outbuilding (garage) which has since been removed. Notice the pattern of residential structures along Main Street. The Hooper House is now the last one left.

These steps were replaced between 1933 and 1935 by CWA and ERA projects. That is when the doctor's office and site concrete was constructed at the Hooper House.



OCT 19 1933  
Cof. SAN. 1328  
INCLUDING  
DILLSBORO

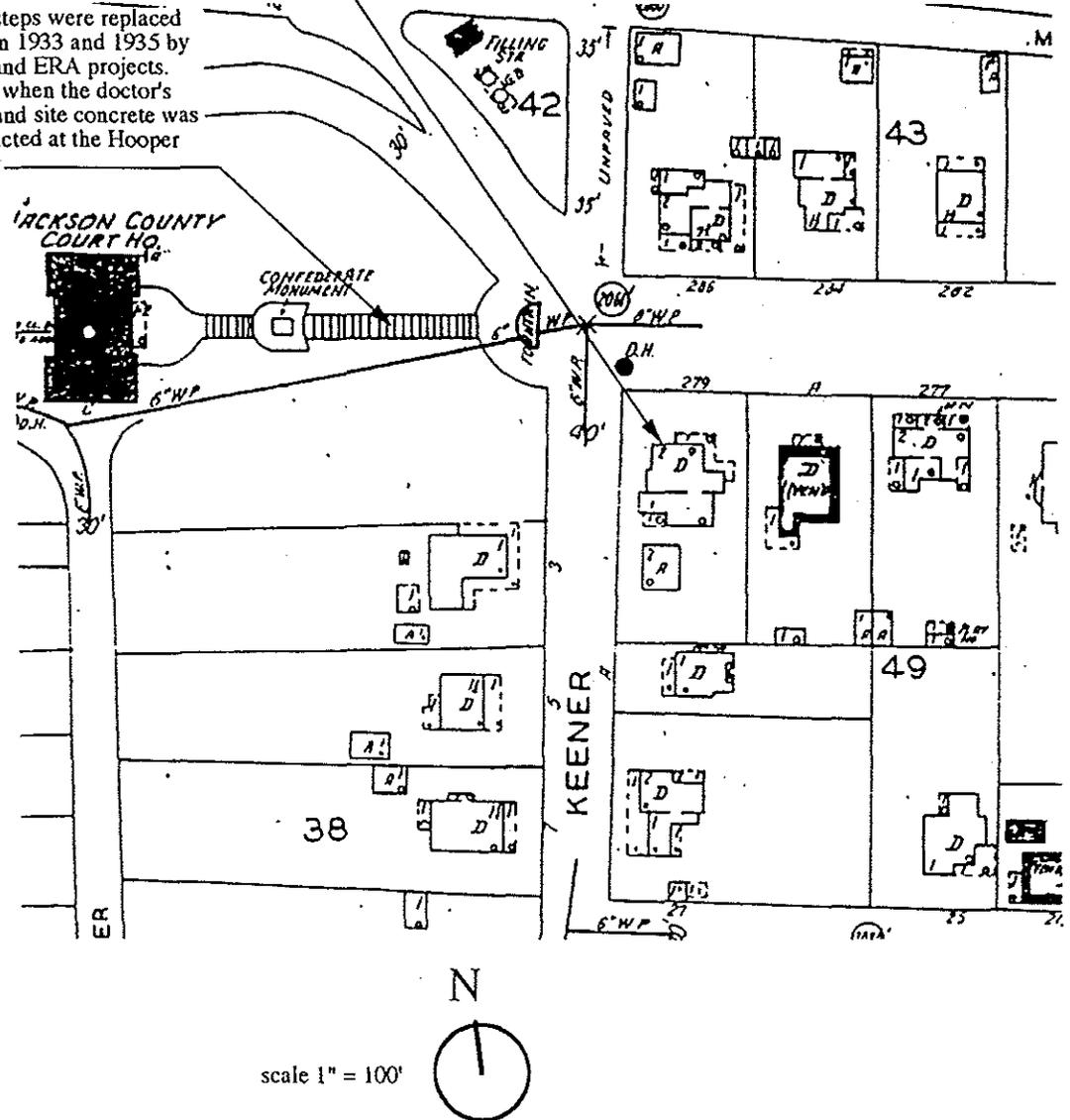


Figure 8. Sanborn map of 1933- partial

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Hooper House, Jackson County, NC

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

Dr. D. D. Hooper House  
Jackson County, North Carolina  
Mahaley Odell Thompson  
June 1999  
State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh North Carolina

1. N elevation, view from south
2. W & S elevations, view from southwest
3. Façade details, view from northeast
4. Stairwell detail
5. Parlor fireplace detail



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