Form 10-300  UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
   COMMON: Nash-Hooper House  (William Hooper House)
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Nash-Hooper House

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 118 West Tryon Street, near Queen Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough
   STATE: North Carolina 27278

3. CLASSIFICATION

   CATEGORY (Check One)
   District  Site
   Building  Structure
   Object

   OWNERSHIP
   Public
   Private
   Both

   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   Yes:
   No:

   PUBLIC ACQUISITION
   Public
   Private

   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   Agricultural
   Commercial
   Educational
   Entertainment
   Government
   Industrial
   Military
   Private Residence
   Religious
   Museum
   Scientific
   Transportation
   Other (Specify)
   Preservation work in progress

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME: Dr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Engstrom
   STREET AND NUMBER: 403 Lake Shore Lane
   CITY OR TOWN: Chapel Hill
   STATE: North Carolina

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, Etc.
   City Hall
   STREET AND NUMBER: 118 W. Tryon St.
   CITY OR TOWN: Hillsborough
   STATE: North Carolina

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (4 photos, 4 data pages)
   DATE OF SURVEY: 1963, 1965
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   Division of Prints and Photograph, Library of Congress
   STREET AND NUMBER: Washington, D.C.
   CITY OR TOWN: Washington
   STATE: D.C.
As built in 1772, the Nash-Hooper House was a two-story over elevated-basement frame structure with gable roof and an exterior chimney at either end. Rectangular in shape, the house was three-bays wide and three bays deep. The high foundation were of shale and the full cellar had two rooms and a center hall; the cellar partition walls and floors were of brick. The house is of braced oak frame construction and put together with pegs and pins. In 1819 a one-story frame "sitting room" (later a dining room) wing was added to the north (or rear) elevation of the main house. This addition, resting on a log base, gave the house its present L-shape. The south (front) elevation of the main block and both sides of the north wing have weatherboarded siding. All windows are adorned with exterior louvered shutters. The one-story porch that extends across the front of the main house dates from the late 19th century. From 1819 until about 1908 a separate frame kitchen stood just to the east of the house--only a few steps from the store-room and dining room in the north wing. This 19th-century kitchen structure was demolished about 1908 and in the period 1939-59 the dining room in the north wing was converted into the existing kitchen. During this same period bathrooms were also installed in the house.

The house has a center hall plan; the hall extends through the structure and is divided towards the rear into two sections by means of an arch. To the left (or west) of the hall is a large library and behind this, a smaller study or bedroom. To the right of the hall is the east parlor and in the rear corner, a lateral stairhall, with the stair set against the north (rear) wall. The pine bookcases and early pine wainscoting in the east parlor were installed in the period 1939-59. There are three bedrooms on the second floor and the attic is unfinished. The house has its original wide pine board floors, but in the lateral stair hall and the dining-room or kitchen of the north wing, these floors have been overlaid. The pine mantel in the dining room is original and the other pine mantels in the house were installed between 1939 and 1959 and are period replacements of the originals. The original double-leaved front door was replaced with the existing door in the period 1906-18.

The Nash-Hooper House has never been restored and is structurally little-altered. While structurally sound, the building requires extensive painting and plaster work to return it to good condition. Presently unoccupied, the house has been consistently utilized as a private residence and is not open to visitors. The house and its three acres of land will probably be put up for sale in the near future.
Built in 1772, the Nash-Hooper House was the home of William Hooper, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for North Carolina, lawyer, and politician, from 1782 until his death in 1790. The little-altered structure is the only surviving building that can be associated with William Hooper.

Brief Sketch of the Life of William Hooper, 1742-1790

William Hooper was born June 17, 1742 at Boston, Massachusetts, the son of a clergyman. He graduated from Harvard College in 1760 and studied law under James Otis in 1761. Admitted to the bar, Hooper moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1764, where he quickly built up a practice among the planters of the Lower Cape Fear area. In 1767 he married Anne Clarke of Wilmington.

Hooper was attorney-general for the province in 1770-71. In 1773 he was elected to the assembly and remained a member of that body until the royal government was overthrown. He served in the five provincial congresses of North Carolina and was a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1775 to April 29, 1777, when he resigned and retired to "Finian," his country home on Masonboro Sound near Wilmington. His fortune depleted by his public service, Hooper began to practice law again; from 1777 to 1782 he was also a borough member of the North Carolina House of Commons. The impending capture of Wilmington in 1781, however, forced him to flee and to leave his family in that city for safety. His family was finally restored to him, but much of his property, including "Finian," was destroyed by the British and Hooper also became seriously ill with malaria. In 1782 he moved to Hillsborough, where he resided to the end of his life. In 1784 he was again elected to the state House of Commons. He died at Hillsborough on October 14, 1790 and was buried in the adjacent town cemetery, behind the Presbyterian Church. In 1894 his remains were removed and reinterred at Guilford Courthouse battleground, near Greensboro, North Carolina.

History of the House

The Nash-Hooper House was built in 1772 by Francis Nash, the Revolutionary War hero and general who was killed at the Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1777. William Hooper purchased the house and nine acres of land in 1782 and resided there until his death in 1790.
8. **Significance**: (1) Nash-Hooper House (William Hooper House)

Governor William A. Graham of North Carolina also lived in the house from 1869 to 1875.

When Hooper died in 1790 he was buried in what was then the garden to the east of his home. A part of this garden, which included his grave, was later added to the town cemetery. His original gravestone still remains in the town cemetery, although his ashes were removed to Guilford Courthouse Battlefield Park in 1894.
### Major Bibliographical References


### Geographical Data

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Approximate acreage of nominated property:

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

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#### Form Prepared By

**Name and Title:**
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

**Organization:** Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

**Street and Number:**
801 - 19th Street, N.W.

**City or Town:**
Washington

**State:** D.C.

#### State Liaison Officer Certification

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

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#### National Register Verification

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

**Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

**Date**

**Attest:**

**Keeper of The National Register**

**Date**