

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 6 1985

date entered MAR 22 1985

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

**1. Name**

historic C. L. COOPER BUILDING

and/or common Anna Cooper Eastside Community Center

**2. Location**

street & number 5 B and Harrison (NE Corner) N/A not for publication

city, town Eufaula N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county McIntosh code 091

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: (Lodge Hall)

**4. Owner of Property**

name George D. Alexander

street & number 300 Harrison Avenue

city, town Eufaula N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 74432

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of County Clerk

street & number McIntosh County Courthouse

city, town Eufaula state Oklahoma 74432

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma 73105

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The C.L. Cooper Building is a two story, detached (20'X60'), rectangular, commercial building constructed of common bond red brick. It has a sloping roof with a stepped parapet on 2 sides.

The facade (west side) consists of one bay. The original configuration of doors and windows in the first floor is unknown but presently there are a pair of eight panel wooden doors and a pair of 2/2, double hung sash windows. Presently some watherboard siding has been applied around these doors and windows. At second floor level there are a pair of 3/2, double hung metal windows with brick sills and brick segmental arched surrounds. Originally there was a small arched transom light above each of these windows but they have been bricked in. The facade is framed with two-story brick pilasters

The south side wall is broken at the first floor level with holes and stove flue. At the second floor level there are five 2/2, double hung, metal windows with brick sill and brick segmental arches.

The rear (east wall) contains a nine panel door with an exterior screen door and a brick segmental arch. Just above and to the left of the rear door is one small, square, fixed pane window with brick segmental archs. Presently only the window and the brick arch remain. At the second floor level there were originally two 2/2, double hung sash windows with brick sills and segmental arches. The arches have been removed and the windows are now bricked in.

The north side wall was originally unbroken except for two windows and a door. Presently all three are bricked in thereby providing an unbroken wall. Originally, the two second floor windows were 2/2, double hung, sash windows with arched transoms, brick sills, and brick, segmental arches. The door was originally located at the first floor level at the northwest corner of the wall. It did not have the brick arch that the rear door had.

Decorative features are modest. They include tothing of brick at cornice level of facade, corner pilasters framing facade, and segmental arched openings on second story of facade and south side as well as first story of rear.

Alterations are minimal. First story fenestration in facade was changed in early 1970s with weatherboarding and new doors and windows replacing original display windows. Other changes include bricking in of window openings in second floor of north and rear walls. The basic architectural integrity of the building has remained intact for almost 70 years.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) (Ethnicity)

**Specific dates** ca. 1915–ca. 1935      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The C.L. Cooper Building is historically significant because: (1) it is the only remaining commercial building associated with the black business district of Eufaula, Oklahoma and (2) its historic association with Dr. C.L. Cooper, the first and only black physician in Eufaula from ca. 1908 to mid-1930s.

Eufaula was founded in 1902 as a rural market center for the surrounding agricultural area and became county seat of McIntosh County following statehood in 1907. The town developed a substantial black community from its outset because of the large concentration of blacks in eastern Oklahoma who had migrated into Indian Territory prior to statehood as well as those black freedmen who remained in the area following the Civil War. Prior to statehood in 1907, approximately 8,000 blacks moved into Oklahoma and Indian Territories seeking homesteads. Moreover, the all-black towns in Oklahoma resulted in additional black migration. Three of the twenty-nine all-black towns were located in McIntosh County (Rentiesville, Vernon, and North Fork). The population of Eufaula has remained relatively stable hovering around 2,000–2,500 inhabitants from 1910 to present with roughly 15 percent of that total being black residents.

Shortly after statehood, Dr. C.L. Cooper acquired a lot on Harrison Street and constructed a two-story brick building on it in ca. 1915. His offices were housed on the second floor and a grocery was located on the ground level. Cooper, the first and only black physician in Eufaula, maintained his office in the building until his death in the mid-1930s. He served not only the black community of Eufaula but also the surrounding all-black towns and rural blacks as well. The grocery, although changing names over the years, occupied the first floor until the mid-1940s when the building was converted into the Cooper Eastside Community Center. The building was used as a recreation and social focal point for the black community from the mid-1940s until 1972. Since that time it has been the meeting place for two black organizations--Anna H. Cooper Chapter of the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs of Oklahoma and the Paradise Lodge #54 of the Prince Hall Masons. Both organizations have deep historical roots in the social history of blacks in Oklahoma having been founded ca. 1910.

Although occupants of the nominated property have varied over the years, the C.L. Cooper Building has retained its historic role as a social and commercial center for the black community of Eufaula for almost 70 years and no other extant properties associated with Dr. C.L. Cooper remain.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Tolson, Arthur L., The Black Oklahomans, A History: 1541-1972, New Orleans: Edwards Printing Co., 1972.  
 Franklin, Jimmie Lewis, Blacks in Oklahoma Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1980.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Eufaula, OK

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minutes

### UTM References

A 

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 10, Block 42, Original Townsite of Eufaula

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bryan C. Brown Supervised by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Dept. of Geography

date December, 1984

street & number Oklahoma State University

telephone 405/624-6250

city or town Stillwater

state Oklahoma 74078

## 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

*C. M. Petcal*

1-22-85

title

date

### For NPS use only

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

*Beth Ann...  
for*

Keeper of the National Register

date

3/23/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration