

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0688185

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 20 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 29 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC General Nathan Cooper Mansion

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER NJ, Route 24, north of Twinbrooks Trail

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Chester Township

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 13th

STATE New Jersey

CODE 34

COUNTY Morris

CODE 027

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Ms. Lillian McGourty

STREET & NUMBER R.R. 1, Box 400, Route 24

CITY, TOWN Chester Township

VICINITY OF

STATE New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Morris County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Washington Street

CITY, TOWN Morristown

STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#685.3)

DATE 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Trenton

STATE New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1860, the Nathan Cooper Mansion is an elegant 2 1/2 story, 5 bay, center hall, brick (painted white) residence with a smaller 2 1/2 story kitchen wing.

All major windows in the structure are original 2/4 sash with louvered shutters and hooded window arches. These cornices are cast iron, an unusual feature in Morris County. The front entrance doorway appears 20th century.

The roof (originally slate, now composition) of the Cooper Mansion is gable with a return at the eaves. On the gable ends there are brackets abutted against a frieze, but the brackets at the front have been removed.

There are two chimneys in the gable end of the 5 bay facade and a single brick chimney on the kitchen wing.

A detailed drawing of the General N.A. Cooper Residence establishes that numerous changes had been completed since construction. This picture shows an ornate Victorian porch projecting over the center 3 bays of the main unit. A similar porch protruded over the first floor of the kitchen wing and what appears to have been a greenhouse is attached to the south gable end.

Originally built with a cross gable, this feature was apparently removed in the 1950's subsequent to a substantial fire. The paneled frieze beneath the eaves and the brackets were also a fatality of this phase of remodeling.

Numerous outbuildings are indicated on the property in the 1880's drawing of the estate. All of these outbuildings have subsequently been torn down. The original configuration of the circular drive, however, has been retained. Foundations behind the house may be of the carriage house and stables.

The main section is approximately 33' by 45' and has two rooms, front and back, on either side of the center hall. The stairway is a relatively narrow straight enclosure against the south wall of the hall.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

General Nathan Cooper Mansion
Chester Township
Morris County
New JERSEY 034

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Description (continued)

The north rooms are divided by an exceptionally decorative plaster archway, which, in effect, creates the impression of a double room, but is a double parlor. Each ceiling of this double parlor has an elaborate plaster modillion ceiling border and heavy grape cluster plaster cornice. The two mantels in the double parlor are white marble. The double parlor and the two south rooms retain most of their original detailing including door molding, fireplace mantels, stairway, and the front door with octagonal panels.

The kitchen wing is 27' x 21' and is a single room with kitchen fireplace and oven. Details in this section are identical to the main unit, but have been altered somewhat.

The second floor plan conforms basically to the first with much less elaboration of detailing.

The attic is braced queen-post framing with hewn beams and sawn intermediate supports. In the basement the main beams are also hewn with vertical sawn intermediate bracing. The flooring in the basement is brick. A summer kitchen fireplace is in the south.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The residence of a prominent Morris County military and political figure, the General Nathan A. Cooper Mansion is a particularly good example of a high style Victorian house.

ARCHITECTURE

A good example of Victorian architecture, the Cooper Mansion exhibits superior Victorian details on the interior. One of the best examples of this style of architecture in Chester Township, the splendid plaster moldings throughout the house, but particularly in the double parlor, represent one of the finest Victorian interiors in the county. Even the Italianate Villa Acorn Hall in Morristown (National Register 1976. p.471) does not have as exquisite an interior as the Cooper Mansion.

MILITARY/POLITICAL

Nathan Cooper was a gentleman farmer with ownership in several small agri-industrial pursuits in this area. Born in 1802, at the age of sixteen he inherited the estate his family owned. It included extensive farming lands, an iron mine (operated by Marsh, Craig and Evans), much undeveloped mineral property, and a grist mill.

Around 1860 the home of his birth was demolished and the present building was constructed. The brick, sand, lime and timber used in the building were all produced or manufactured on the Cooper Estate.

Cooper was always an active and prominent man in the public affairs of Morris County. His influence is indicated in his numerous official positions. He served as Justice of the Peace (1834) and as one of three County Judges (1844).

Appointed Second Lieutenant in the Morris County militia in 1822, by 1854 he was commissioned a Brigadier General of the Morris County Cavalry of the State Militia. At the time of his death, he was the oldest general officer in the State. He died on July 25, 1879.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Munsell, W.W., History of Morris County, New Jersey. 1882. pp. 211-12, 241, 243.

Greenidge, Frances, Chester, New Jersey, A Scrapbook of History 1713-1971, Chester Historical Society, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Chester

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 | 5,2,8,0,4,0 | 4,5,1,4,0,8,0

B | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Chester Township Tax Map (1977): Section 26-5, Lot 10.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terry Karschner, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

N.J. Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

6/5/78

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2028

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Terry Karschner
Deputy Commissioner
N.J. Department of Environmental Protection

DATE 10-13-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

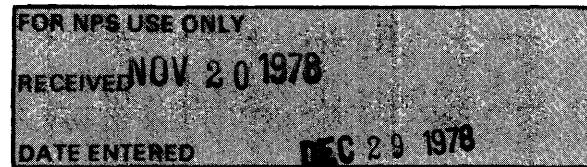
DATE 12/29/78

ATTEST: *Jan H. C. Moore*

DATE 12/29/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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General Nathan C ooper Mansion
Chester Township
Morris County New Jersey 034

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BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)

Morris County Deeds, B-279, N-60, V-10-117, V-10-120, C-12-327,
K-34-432, R-14-329, A-36-218, Q-38-403, X-6-527, B-68-220

Officers of the New Jersey Militia 1806-1942. p. 157.

Officers of the New Jersey Militia 1830-1861. p. 193.

Officers of the New Jersey Militia 1861. p. 627.