## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

-	IVE	D 2280
NAT. R	JN 29	2005
		75.

	I day to	PLACES
1. Name of Property		- Martin Committee
historic name Cooper, Davis C., House		
other names/site numberN/A		
2. Location		
street & number 301 Main Street		not for publication N/A
city or town Oxford		vicinity N/A zip code 36203
state Alabama code AL county Calhoun	code <u>015</u>	zip code <u>36203</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic P nomination request for determination of eligibility the National Register of Historic Places and meets the profess. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet be considered significant nationally statewide lo	meets the documentation st ocedural and professional re et the National Register Cri-	andards for registering properties in equirements set forth in 36 CFR Part teria. I recommend that this property
Stiraudh Am Brown		
Signature of certifying official/Title		Junu 18, 1005  Date
In my opinion, the property $\square$ meets $\square$ does not meet additional comments.)	the National Register crite	eria. ( See continuation sheet for
Signature of commenting or other official		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. Natjonal 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):	Edson H	Beall 8/12/09
	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action

Property Name: Cooper, Davis C., County and State: Calhoun County, A	L	Page
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  4 1 buildings  0 0 sites  0 0 structures  0 0 objects  4 1 Total
Name of related multiple property is not part of a N/A	multiple property listing.) in th	nber of contributing resources previously listed the National Register:
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (Enter categorate DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling	
Current Functions (Enter categorate: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling	
7. Description		

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation: BRICK
roof: COMPOSITION
wells: WEATHERPOARD

walls: WEATHERBOARD

other:

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

USDI/NPS Registration Form	
Property Name: Cooper, Davis C., House County and State: Calhoun County, AL	Page 3
0.01.1.1.1.00	
8. Statement of Significance	
Register listing)  A Property is associated with events that have made B Property is associated with the lives of persons sig C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics work of a master, or possesses high artistic value	nore boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. nificant in our past. of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the s, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose
components lack individual distinction.  D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield informat.	ion important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that appl  A owned by a religious institution or used for religious 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	ous purposes.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  Architecture Politics/Government Commerce	
Period of Significance 1911-circa 1925	
Significant Dates 1911, circa 1925	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A	
Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Cultural Attituation IN/A	
Architect/Builder N/A	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significanc	e of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this for	orm 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 #	Primary Location of Additional Data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering  Record #	

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 Robert & Virginia Pope		
street & number 4947 Chapel Crossing		telephone 770-947-2585
city or town Douglasville	state_GA	zip code30135

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

#### 7. Narrative Description

The Davis C. Cooper House is located on the east side of Main Street in Oxford, Alabama with a street address of 301 Main Street. The property is bounded to the south by the property of the Oxford Baptist Church, to the east by a wooded area and adjacent residential development, and to the north and west by residential areas. The front portion of the site rises gently from the street to the rear of the house and then more steeply to the rear of the property. In addition to the house, the property retains three contributing resources: a recreation building, garage, and a gazebo. An additional frame garden shed is noncontributing.

The Cooper House is an irregular-shaped two-story frame dwelling with a truncated hipped composition shingle roof with exposed rafter ends. The house faces west and has a principal rectangular three by three bay two-story core. An original one-story flat-roofed sunroom extends southward from the west bay of the south elevation. The two eastern bays of the south elevation extend one bay to the south of the core under an intersecting hipped roof. A two-story one by one bay wing with a hipped roof and a two story porch project to the east from the rear of the core and its extension. The western end of the north elevation has a wide projecting polygonal bay under an intersecting hipped roof.

The principal west facade is three bays wide and is clad with wood weatherboard siding with mitered corners. Exposed roof rafters are shaped. A central one-story gable front portico with paired wooden columns access the entrance which has a has a multi-light transom and sidelights. Each bay flanking the entrance has a tripartite grouped window within a molded surround. Each grouping has a central six over one light double hung sash window flanked by similar four over one windows. A smaller profile tripartite window grouping at the central bay of the upper level has a central double wood six-light casement window flanked by similar single windows. Double six over one windows are set within the outer bays. The west elevation of the sunroom is aligned with the principal facade and has an entablature supported by four sets of paired square wooden pilasters and enframed by weatherboard siding. French doors with transoms are set between each set of pilasters. A series of shaped rafter ends project above the entablature.

The three western bays of the south elevation represent the core of the house and the eastern bay its rear wing. The west bay recedes slightly from the remainder of the elevation and its first floor level is obscured by the sunroom. A single six over one light double hung sash window is located at the second level of the west bay and is flanked to the east by two bays of similar double windows. The upper level of the rear wing has a smaller profile four-unit grouped window with six-light casements. A similar single window is located at the east bay of first floor level and is flanked to the west by two double windows that are similar to those at the upper level. The south elevation of the sunroom is similar to its facade but with a central French door flanked by fixed window panels with transoms. The entrance has a round canvas awning.

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

The southern bays of the eastern elevation consist of the rear wall of the wing and a two-story porch. The first level of the porch is enclosed and the upper level is screened. The two northern bays have single six over one windows at the second level and are separated by an exterior brick chimney. A double casement window at the north bay of first floor is flanked to the south by a one-story hipped enclosure. The two eastern bays of the north elevation have triple casement windows at each level. A wide full-height polygonal bay to the west has single six over one windows at each level of its angled side walls and fixed ten-light windows at its center wall.

A brick walk leads from the street to a set of brick stairs accessing the principal entrance. A brick retaining wall encloses a deck that extends along the facade to the south of the entrance. Formal landscaping includes a variety of mature trees and ornamental shrubs.

The interior plan of the house is irregular. Rooms are grouped around a central open well stairhall with a monumental staircase. The principal parlor is located to the west of the stairhall along the front of the house. The large rectangular room has an off-center fireplace along its east wall. French doors with transoms provide light and access between the parlor and the sunroom to the south, the stairhall, and a secondary parlor and "plant room" to the north. The plant room is a narrow room located along the front of the house and has a fixed planter box along its north wall and a clay tile floor. The secondary parlor has a polygonal north wall and a fireplace along its east wall. A kitchen, family dining room, and bathroom are located east of the secondary parlor. A small hallway to the rear of the stairhall opens to a secondary rear hall to the north, a bathroom to the east, and a small bedroom to the south. A large den is located to the west of the bedroom immediately south of the stairhall. The room has an off-center fireplace along its west wall. A second kitchen is located at the southeast (rear) corner of the house. A stair to the north of the kitchen along the rear wall provides access to the upper level screened porch. The second floor level has a series of bedrooms grouped around the large open central stairhall. Walls and ceilings throughout the house are typically finished with plaster and floors are typically exposed wood except at bathrooms or as otherwise noted. Bathrooms appear to have been remodeled circa 1925 and typically exhibit later alterations to fixtures and finishes. Trim and mantelpieces include a mix of styles with simple Colonial Revival style elements found in the principal first floor spaces and late-Victorian elements found elsewhere.

The Davis C. Cooper House has seen very little alteration since it was remodeled to its present form circa 1925 and it retains integrity to that period. The overall condition of the building is good.

### Recreation Building

The contributing recreation building (circa 1911) is located on the hillside to the rear of the house and is a narrow one-story frame building with a front facing gable composition shingle roof. The building faces south, is clad with wood novelty siding, and has a full facade gable porch with wood posts. The principal facade has an entrance at its west bay and a single light window at its north bay. Similar windows are located in the four bays of its west elevation and three southern bays of its east elevation.

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

The north bay of the east elevation is an entrance. The north wall has no openings. The interior contains a single open room with exposed roof and sidewall framing and a wood floor. A freestanding wood box ball alley remains as the principal historic feature of the room. The recreation building has seen little alteration.

### Garage

The contributing garage (circa 1911) is located to the south of the house and is a rectangular one-story brick building with a hipped pressed metal shingle roof. The building rests on a patterned concrete block foundation. The original garage door opening at the south elevation has been altered and now encloses a garage door to the west and a pedestrian entrance to the east. The east elevation has a single one-light window. Remaining elevations have no openings. The garage retains its overall integrity and is in good condition.

#### Gazebo

The contributing gazebo (circa 1925) is located to the southeast of the garage and is an open polygonal structure with a polygonal composition shingle roof. The roof is supported by a series of log posts. The gazebo retains its overall integrity and is in good condition.

#### Garden Shed

The noncontributing garden shed (circa 1960) is located to the east of the house and is a simple rectangular frame building measuring approximately six by eight feet with a shed roof.

#### Archaeology

While no formal archaeological survey has been made, potential subsurface remains could provide additional information about the historical development of the site.

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

The Davis C. Cooper House is architecturally significant as the only example of large scale Colonial Revival residential architecture in the city of Oxford. Physical and documentary evidence indicates that the house was constructed in 1911 and then greatly remodeled to its present form circa 1925 for Davis C. Cooper. Cooper served as President of the Bank of Oxford (later the First National Bank of Oxford) for forty-five years and as Mayor of the City of Oxford for twenty years. In addition to numerous business interests, Cooper was active in local and state religious and civic affairs. The 1976 historic sites survey of Oxford refers to the house as Oxford's most sophisticated example of Colonial Revival. The building's period of significance extends from 1911 through 1925.

#### Historical Narrative

Davis Clay Cooper (22 May 1866-15 November 1943) was a prominent Calhoun County business and political leader. An editorial in the <u>Anniston Star</u> once noted that Cooper "extended his activities beyond the confines of Calhoun County and is regarded as one of the most substantial citizens of Alabama." On February 18, 1907, Cooper purchased a portion of lot #1 in block #8 in the town of Oxford from the Williams' estate of for \$600.¹ The 1908-1909 city directory records Cooper, his wife Annie, and son Davis Jr. residing at 301 Main Street in what was shown on a 1905 Sanborn map as a one story house. Local tradition holds that the Coopers built the present house in 1911 and it is mentioned in a deed dated June 25,1912 when Davis acquired a parcel to the south of the lot "on which D.C. Cooper residence now stands."<sup>2</sup>

Davis C. Cooper had a long and successful career and was noted for his business, civic, religious and political leadership. The youngest son of Charles J. and Harriett Johnson Cooper, Davis was born on a farm in what later became the city of Anniston. After graduating from Oxford College, Cooper started in business with his father Charles J. Cooper, a prominent local merchant and banker. D.C. Cooper became the first president of the Bank of Oxford, established in 1888, and was at the time the youngest person in Alabama to hold such a position.<sup>3</sup> The bank was later reorganized as the First National Bank of Oxford and Cooper remained its president for forty-five years. He was instrumental in the development of Oxford Lake as a local resort area and was an organizer of the streetcar company that provided transportation to it and the nearby city of Anniston. In addition, Cooper was involved with the establishment and operation of the Blue Springs Cotton Mill in Oxford and the Oxford Oil Mill.<sup>4</sup>

The 1908-1909 city directory records Cooper as the President of the First National Bank, the secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Oxford Oil Company, and the proprietor of the Oxford Ginnery. Davis obtained the Nu-Grape Bottling Co. franchise for most of Calhoun County in 1922.<sup>5</sup> In 1925, he established the Cooper and Sons Motor Company and by 1935 was listed as the manager of the Choccolocco Valley Warehouse Company.<sup>6</sup> He was a founder of the Alabama Home Building and Loan Association and the Alabama Home Mortgage Company.

Cooper served on the city council of the town of Oxanna before it became part of the city of Anniston. He subsequently served on the city councils of Anniston and Oxford. He chaired the Oxford Board of

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

Education for sixteen years. In 1910, Cooper was elected Mayor of Oxford, an office he held for two decades. Cooper also served as a member of the Democratic Executive Committee of Alabama.

Among his many civic activities, Cooper was the first director of the annual fair at Oxford Lake and was a prominent member of the Baptist Church. In addition to having served forty-four years as the moderator of the Calhoun County Baptist Association, Cooper also served thirty years as a member of the Alabama State Missions Board and as president of the Alabama Baptist Association. During this time, Cooper also served on the Board of Trustees for Howard College in Birmingham.

Cooper was also highly praised for his personal character. When the Bank of Oxford was forced to close during the Depression, Cooper and his family mortgaged all of their personal properties in order to insure that all the bank's depositors received their money.

Cooper married Annie Cunningham in June 1888 and the couple had the following children: Davis Clay, Jr., Annie A., Roberta, Dominique C., Eugene C., and Bessie Mae. The Coopers employed two servants at the property. One was a cook and the other was a driver, gardener, and butler. In addition to his home in Oxford, Cooper owned several farms. He operated a cotton gin and a grist mill on the Coldwater Farm along Coldwater Creek. He also owned the "Borders Place" in the Choccolocco Valley, "one of the oldest and best known farms in Calhoun County."

Davis' daughter Annie continued to occupy the house at 301 Main Street after her parents deaths, her mother's occurring on December 31, 1934 and her father's on November 15, 1943. She listed her occupation as a nurseryman in the 1969 city directory. The house sat vacant from about 1970 until 1974, Annie having first relocated to a retirement home and then passing away on December 10, 1972. Her will devised the property to her nephew, William K. Weaver Jr., who subsequently sold it to Harvey F. Campbell, Jr. In 1978, Kent M. and Jan Smith purchased the property and resided there until 2002.

#### Architecture

The Davis C. Cooper House represents a good example of the Colonial Revival style and is the only large scale example of this design within the town of Oxford. While relatively subdued in its architectural features, the house has a symmetrical principal facade, accentuated front door with an entrance bay gable front portico supported by slender paired columns, double and triple windows, and hipped roof, all of which are common elements of the style. Examination of historic sites survey information compiled in 1979 noted no buildings in the town of a similar architectural style. The survey form completed for the house referred to it as Oxford's most sophisticated example of Colonial Revival.

Local tradition has long held that the present Cooper House was constructed in 1911 and that date appears in several published sources. A 1905 Sanborn map indicates a one-story dwelling at approximately this location. Cooper acquired this property in 1907 and is recorded as living there by the

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

time the 1908-1908 city directory was compiled. A 1921 Sanborn map indicates a two story house of approximately the same size but in a different configuration from the present house. If the local tradition is correct, the house shown on the later Sanborn map replaced the earlier one-story house and was built for Cooper about 1911. A house of the same configuration as the present house is shown for the first time on a 1928 Sanborn map. There is conflicting documentary and physical evidence as to whether the present house represents a remodeling of the earlier house or a new house that replaced it. A direct comparison of the maps and overlaying the present plan on the 1921 map indicate distinct similarities. Notable among these similarities is the consistency in the overall dimensions of the house and between the size of the projecting bay at the north end of the facade shown on the 1924 map and the width of the present northwest room. Further evidence that the present house represents a remodeling of the earlier house is found in diversity of interior trim, which includes both Colonial Revival style elements and mantelpieces, molded trim and cornerblocks consistent with the earlier period. Most likely, the present house represents a substantial remodeling of the circa 1911 house that occurred circa 1925. Much of the exterior appearance of the house, its roof form, and its interior layout and the detailing of its principal parlor date from the remodeling.

In addition to the house, the site retains three additional historic resources. A small frame recreational building (circa 1925) to the rear of the house retains a rare box ball alley, a precursor to the modern bowling alley. The building was in use by at least 1919, when the Oxford Baptist Church held a social at "Cooper's Box Ball Alley." To the southeast of the house, a rustic gazebo is located in the garden and was constructed circa 1925. A brick garage (circa 1911) is located to the south of the house.

#### Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Calhoun County Probate Court, Deed Book 119, p. 211.
- <sup>2</sup> Deed Boox 161, p. 34.
- <sup>3</sup> "Davis Clay Cooper, 77, Dies At Oxford Home," Anniston Star, November 16, 1943, p. 1...
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup> "Coopers Have Big Holdings; Long Bankers," newspaper clipping, vertical files, Oxford Public Library.
- <sup>6</sup> Anniston City Directory, 1926, p. 97; 1935, n.p.
- <sup>7</sup> William K. Weaver, Jr., "Davis Clay Cooper, Sr., A Lay Leader Aming Baptists in Alabama" (n.p.: By the author, n.d.), p. 3. Note: Weaver is the grandson of Davis C. Cooper, Sr.
  - <sup>8</sup> Weaver, p. 5.
  - <sup>9</sup> Anniston City Directory, 1969, p. 136.
  - Dorothy Clifton Bishop and William Sep Love, <u>History of the First Baptist Church of Oxford, Alabama</u>, <u>150 Years 1836-1986</u> (Oxford, AL: First Baptist Church of Oxford, 1985), p. 140.

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Weaver, William K., Jr. "Davis Clay Cooper, Sr., A Lay Leader Aming Baptists in Alabama." n.p.: By the

author, n.d. Note: Weaver is the grandson of Davis C. Cooper, Sr.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

### 10. Geographic Data

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated boundary includes the entire parcel recorded in the Assessor's Office for Calhoun County, Alabama as parcel number 21-04-19-005-026.000.

### **Boundary Justification**

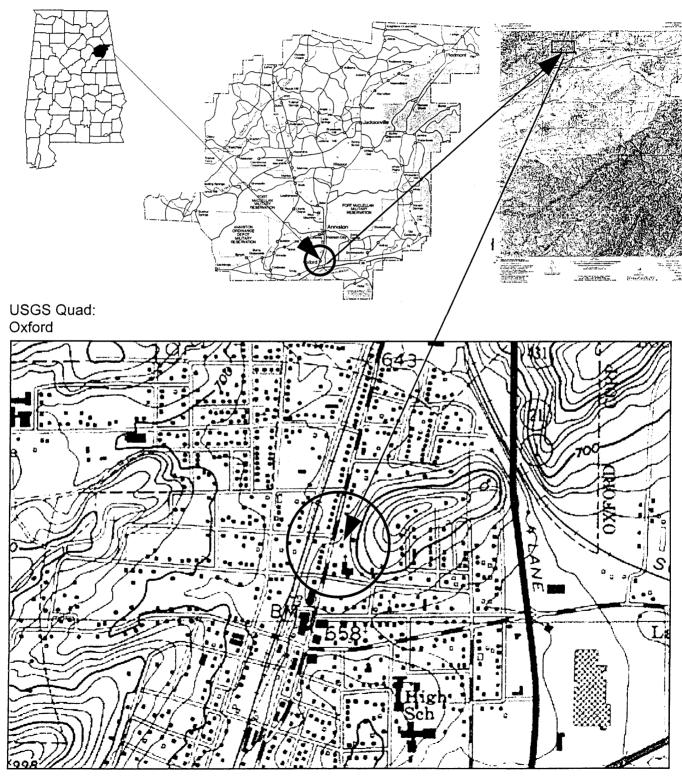
The boundary includes the entire current parcel only, which represent the total remaining acreage historically associated with the resource.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #1

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #2

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

### Photographs:

- 1. Davis C. Cooper House
- 2. Oxford, Calhoun County, Alabama
- 3. David B. Schneider
- 4. June 2004
- 5. 411 E. 6th St., Anniston AL 36207
- 6. Facade, camera facing E
- 7. Photo #1
- 6. Streetscape, camera facing NE
- 7. Photo #2
- 6. Oblique, camera facing NE
- 7. Photo #3
- 6. Oblique, camera facing SW
- 7. Photo #4
- 6. Parlor, camera facing SE
- 7. Photo #5
- 6. Parlor, camera facing NW
- 7. Photo #6
- 6. Parlor, camera facing NW
- 7. Photo #7
- 6. Bedroom, detail of mantelpiece
- 7. Photo #8
- 6. Recreation Building, camera facing NE
- 7. Photo #9
- 6. Recreation Building, detail of box ball alley
- 7. Photo #10
- 6. Garage, camera facing NW
- 7. Photo #11
- 6. Gazebo, camera facing SE
- 7. Photo #12

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

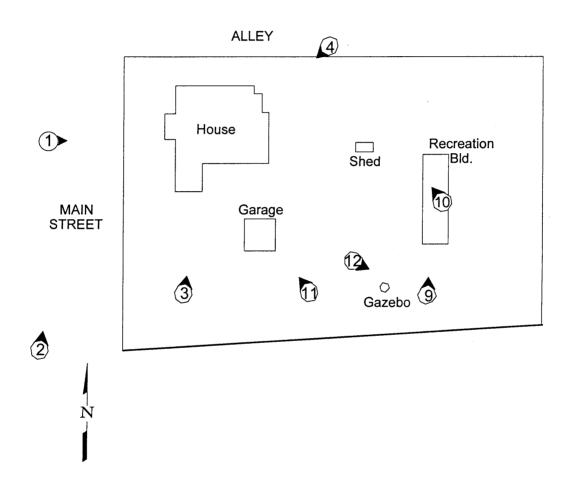
Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #3

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_

Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

### Siteplan

Sketch Plan, Not to Scale



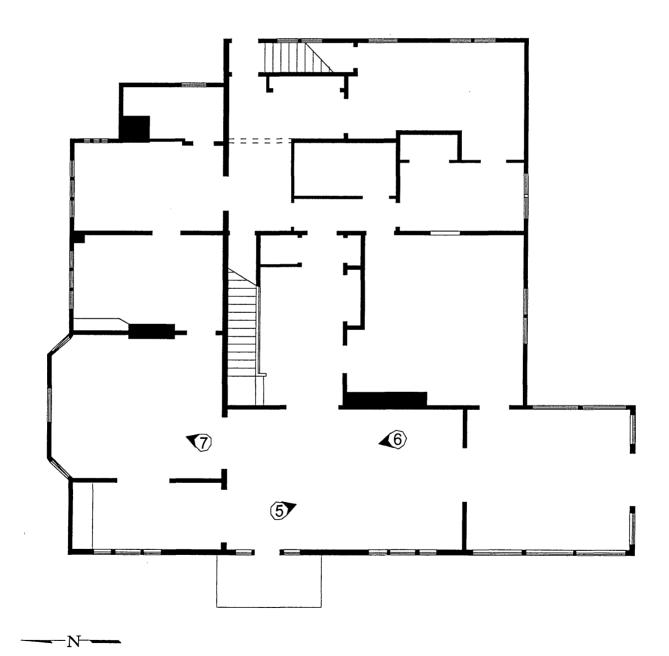
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #4

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

### First Floor Plan Sketch Plan, Not to Scale



# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

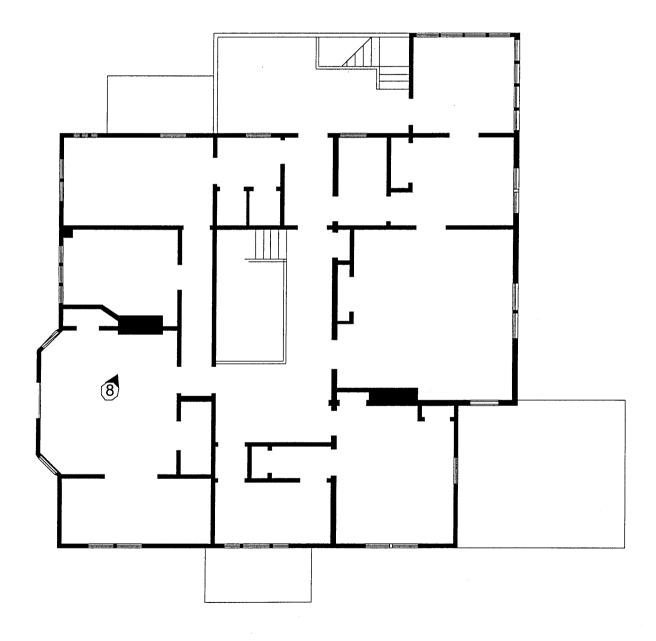
Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #5

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL

### **Second Floor Plan**

Sketch Plan, Not to Scale



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #6

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Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL



- 1. Davis C. Cooper House
- 2. Oxford, Calhoun County, Alabama
- 3. David B. Schneider
- 4. June 2004
- 5. 411 E. 6th St., Anniston AL 36207



7. Photo #1



- 6. Streetscape, camera facing NE
- 7. Photo #2



- 6. Oblique, camera facing NE
- 7. Photo #3



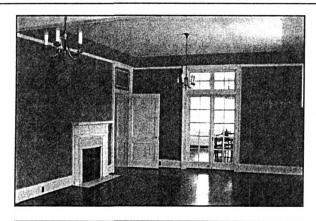
- 6. Oblique, camera facing SW
- 7. Photo #4

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

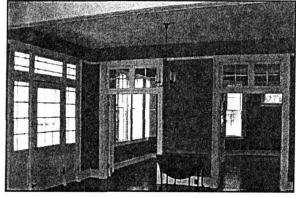
Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #7

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_

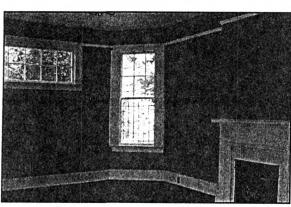
Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL



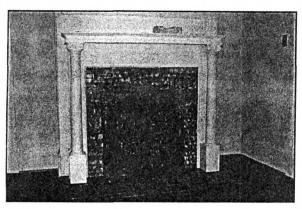
- 6. Parlor, camera facing SE
- 7. Photo #5



- 6. Parlor, camera facing NW
- 7. Photo #6



- 6. Parlor, camera facing NW
- 7. Photo #7



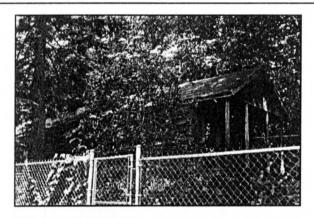
- 6. Bedroom, Detail of Mantelpiece
- 7. Photo #8

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

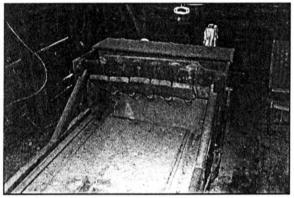
Accompanying Documentation, Continuation Sheet #8

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_

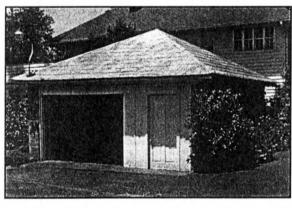
Cooper, Davis C., House Calhoun County, AL



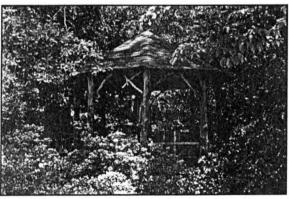
- 6. Recreation Building, camera facing NE
- 7. Photo #9



- 6. Recreation Building, detail of box ball alley
- 7. Photo #10



- 6. Garage, camera facing NW
- 7. Photo #11



- 6. Gazebo, camera facing SE
- 7. Photo #12