THEME: WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

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

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)

 District  X Building  
 Site  
 Structure  
 Object

 OWNERSHIP

 Public  
 Private  
 Public Acquisition:
 In Process  
 Being Considered

 STATUS

 Occupied
 Unoccupied
 Preservation work in progress

 ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

 Yes:
 Restricted
 Unrestricted

 PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

 Agricultural  
 Commercial  
 Educational  
 Entertainment  
 Government  
 Industrial  
 Military  
 Museum  
 Park  
 Private Residence
 Religious
 Scientific

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:
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:
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, 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 stairhall 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.
**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 18th Century
- 20th Century
- 15th Century
- 17th Century
- 19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**1782-1790**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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.

See Continuation Sheet
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. IX, 204. Article by J. G. deRoulhac
Hamilton.
Elizabeth Fields and Dr. C.E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of
the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 5.
(Chapel Hill, 1944), 369.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES

DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY

OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE: 36 04 03
LONGITUDE: 79 06 03

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

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

DATE: 3/27/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 - 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

12. 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 []

Name ____________________________
Title ____________________________
Date ____________________________

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 ____________________________
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.