Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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EINTERIOR	STATE: Kansas				
RIC PLACES	COUNTY: Rice				
FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY				
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NAME   COMMON:   COOPER Hall (preferred name)   AND/OR HISTORIC:   COOPER Memorial College					1	NTRY DATE			
COMMONS COOPER Hall (preferred name)  AND/OR HISTORIC: AND/OR HISTORIC: COOPER Memorial College f. f. f.  Z. LOCATION  STREET AND SUMBER: North Broadway  CITY OR TOWN: Sterling  STATE  Kansas 67579  CODE COUNTY!  Kansas 67579  CODE COUNTY!  STATUS  CATEGORY (Check One)  District Bench Public Acquisition: District Bench Private Bench Bening Considered Preservation week In progress  PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agricultural Government Private Residence Agricultural Government Private Residence Commercial Industrial Private Residence Bench Scientific  A OWNER OF PROPERTY  OWNER'S NAME: Sterling College Trustees STREET AND NUMBER:  COOPER Kansas 67554  E. COOT OF VOWN: STATE: Register of Deeds STREET AND NUMBER:  COOPER STATE: COOPE STATE: Register of Deeds STREET AND NUMBER:  COOPE STATE: COOPE STA		(Type all entries	- complete appl	icable sectio	ns)	1	MAY 3 1974	4	
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CONDITION		(Check O	ne)		(Ch	eck One)
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Cooper Hall is a three-story irregularly shaped building with a high basement. The building is located toward the north end of the Sterling College campus and faces east. It is approximately 120 feet long and 50 feet wide. The Gothic-influenced structure features an entry tower with an overall height of 75 feet.

The exterior walls are constructed of rough hewn limestone blocks quarried at Strong City in Chase county and laid in irregular courses. The individual stones vary in size. A belt course is featured at the floor line; the stones below it are larger than those above. Eight circular corner towers surmounted with decorative caps begin in the top half of the building and extend above the roof line.

The gable roof is covered with wood shingles and features simple dormers with windows to provide light to the attic. A number of stone chimneys with plain stone caps enhance the roof line. The roof is separated from the wall by a decorative cornice. The entry tower, which originally had an additional story with a pyramidal roof, now has a crenelated wall extending above a flat roof. (The tower was damaged by a windstorm around 1949 and the upper portion had to be removed.) The entry porch dominates the facade with its gable roof and simple arch opening for the entry door.

Most windows are tall slender rectangles with a flat single stone lintel at the heads; however, some have arched heads of heavy stone. A few windows consist of half-circle openings with heavy stone trim. Some of the window glazing is done with stained glass. All windows in the north wall have been closed with stone. Metal window frames are being used to replace the deteriorated wood frames.

An examination of old photographs reveals that the second floor windows at the north end of the east facade have undergone considerable modifications over the years. Presently there are three window openings with pointed arches. Formerly all windows at that spot were framed within one large arched opening.

The interior has been completely remodeled except for the stair cases.

The east entrance is no longer used as the main entry. Since the campus has grown to the west and south, what was the west basement entrance has become by common usage the main entrance.

Except for the removal of part of the tower and the window alterations the exterior is basically unchanged.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1887		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	🔀 Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	<del></del>
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Architecture	Landscape	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cooper Memorial College came into existence through the efforts of a group of Sterling businessmen who wanted to expand the growth and prosperity of their town. In 1886 they formed the Sterling Land and Investment Company to attract railroads and new residents.

Those involved in the investment company reasoned that the presence of a college would encourage emigration of the quality people Sterling sought to attract. Thus, the investors contacted the Kansas Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in October, 1886, and offered to donate a choice ten acre site upon which would be erected a \$25,000 structure provided that the church would endow, operate and maintain the college. The synod had been interested in founding a college in the Midwest and agreed to the offer with the stipulation that it be given five years to raise the \$25,000 endowment fund. The contract was signed October 22, 1886.

The school was to be named Cooper Memorial College in honor of the Rev. Joseph Tate Cooper, a respected Presbyterian clergyman and college administrator from Allegheny, Pennsylvania, who had recently died.

Plans for Cooper Memorial, drawn up by architect William Gall of Arkansas City, called for a three-story building with a high basement. The contract was awarded to George H. Evans of Topeka and construction began in March, 1887.

When Cooper Memorial College opened its doors for the fall term November 1, 1887, the structure itself was completed, but only the second floor rooms had been finished and readied for occupancy. Enrollment that first year consisted of 13 preparatory students and none at the college level. There were only three instructors. In 1889, Dr. F. M. Spencer was named as the college's first president, and with time the enrollment gradually but steadily increased.

The building was slowly finished as funds permitted and as the rising enrollment necessitated more classrooms. In its early years Cooper Memorial served the community as more than a college. Its chapel was the place of worship for the local congregation of the

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL R	EFERENCES									IυR
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Bell, Talmon, "Cooper Hall," <u>Sterling Quarterly</u> (Sterling College, Sterling, Ks., Nov. 1940).							1.12 1020					
Blackmar, Frank W., <u>Higher Education in Kansas</u> (Government Printing							14/5693 4/2305					
Office, Washington, 1900), pp. 151-154.							1087					
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Blackmar, Frank W., editor, <u>Kansas</u> , <u>A Cyclopedia of State History</u> (Standard Pub. Co., Chicago, 1912), v. 1, pp. 444, 445.												
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November 30, 1973

Date

Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Kansas	
COUNTY	
Rice	_
FOR NPS USE C	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Second United Presbyterian church. Classrooms were also used for Sunday school and young people's meetings. Such usage served to bring the community into the college and fostered their regard for it.

Cooper remained the only permanent structure on the campus until 1919. The name of the college was changed to Sterling College in 1920.

Cooper Memorial College building, now known as Cooper Hall, continues to provide classrooms and serve as the administration building. It is the focal point on the Sterling College campus and a landmark in the community. Architecturally, the structure is a fine example of Gothic-influenced Kansas institutional architecture.

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