

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Monmouth
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 8 1974

HB
 Z 118
 N 4463920
 E 579660

1. NAME

COMMON: ~~The~~ Allen House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Broad Street and Sycamore Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Shrewsbury CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third

STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34 COUNTY: Monmouth CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Monmouth County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 70 Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Freehold STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Monmouth County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: Court and Main Sts.

CITY OR TOWN: Freehold STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: HABS #228

DATE OF SURVEY: 1/25/37 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)							
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		
	(Check One)				(Check One)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Allen House was built sometime after 1670 and before 1688 by Judah Allen with a kitchen wing and milk room added at a later date. The house suffered many additions and alterations, particularly during the Victorian era. These have been removed and the house restored to its mid-18th C. appearance when it was a tavern known as the Sign of the Blue Ball.

EXTERIOR The main portion of the house faces south. It is a 2½ story with a full gambrel roof with a curved overhang rear. The roof is newly wooden shingled and the sides are covered with round-butt shingles made of redwood, 3 ft. long with 14" to the weather. The original shingles were Jersey white cedar, but were changed to redwood for durability.

The kitchen wing, or west wing, is one story with a gable roof of new wooden shingles. In the front there is an overhanging eave which is sheathed beneath with a boxed wooden cornice. The wing is covered with clapboarding with a beaded edge, some of which is old (probably original) on the south wall. In the rear, a lean-to was added at a later date to enclose a milkroom and a woodshed.

There are two chimneys in the house, one in the center of the interior at the west gable and one at the west gable end of the kitchen wing. The middle chimney has been restored from the roof line up and the kitchen chimney has been heavily altered. The back of the kitchen fireplace is exposed on the outside wall and the back of the middle fireplace, originally outside, is exposed as the eastern interior wall of the kitchen. A beehive oven has been restored from openings in the original kitchen fireplace to protrude beyond the outer wall of the west gable end of the wing.

All window frames and sash have been restored. 12/12 on the first floor of the main structure, 12/8 on the second, and 6/6 in the kitchen wing. Panelled shutters have been restored on all ground floor windows on the south, east and north sides.

INTERIOR The first two stories of the main house have two rooms of identical size on the first and second floors and an open attic which was partitioned off in the early 19th century. The front door opens directly into the main room on the first floor. A stair hall is enclosed in the northeast corner, access being gained from the main room. The small rear room opens directly into the main room. The arrangement is the same on the second floor.

The massive chimney at the west gable end of the main structure supports four fireplaces, two down and two up. The fireplace in the main room measures 7½ ft. and has round sides and plastered interior. The hearth is composed of old square bricks not original to the house. The fireplace

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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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

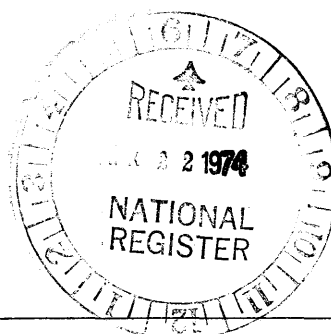
The Allen House is significant architecturally because it is one of the earliest remaining pre-Revolutionary houses still standing in Monmouth County. It is a unique local example of the combination of English and Dutch building styles. Essentially Georgian in style, it has a number of details which illustrate the Dutch influence prevalent in northeastern New Jersey. The size and proportions of the two and a half story house are quite remarkable for its early date, making it perhaps one of the most substantial and pretentious survivals of this early time.

The house is an integral part of a group of buildings known as the historic Four Corners of Shrewsbury. The town is one of the earliest settlements in New Jersey and was settled under the terms of the Monmouth Patent granted by Governor Nicolls of New York in April, 1665. Judah Allen is listed as a patentee in Shrewsbury in 1670, receiving 272 acres. The house was built prior to 1688, as it is mentioned in the Shrewsbury Friends' Records as a scene of a family wedding.

On or about 1754, after intervening owners, the property was acquired by Josiah Halstead who operated it as a tavern for twenty years. It is to this period the house has been restored.

It is significant militarily because in 1779 it was the scene of a famous local massacre. A guard of 12 men were quartered in the house for the protection of the village. A band of 5 Tory refugees from Sandy Hook hid among the tombstones of Christ Church and surprised the troops in the house. They killed three of them and took the other 9 prisoner.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, Rosalie, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York, Dover, N.J., 1968.
 Ellis, Franklin, History of Monmouth County, N.J., P.T. Peck & co. Philadelphia, 1885.
 Nelson, William, Documents Relating to the Col. Hist. of the State of N.J., Press Printing and Publ., Patterson, 1901.
 Pomfret, John, Province of Eastern New Jersey, 1609-1702, Princeton University Press, 1962.
 Thompson, David, George Allen, One Line of Their Descendents in N.J. with Some Fragments of History, Albany, 1910.

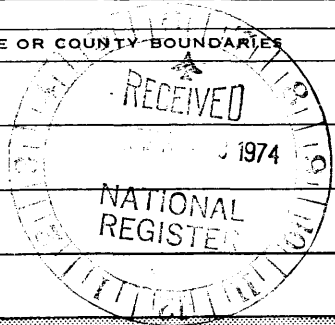
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		40 . 19 . 26 .	74 . 03 . 44 .	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Mary Lou Strong, Trustee; Charles Lyle, Director

ORGANIZATION: Monmouth County Historical Society DATE: March 28, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 70 Court St.

CITY OR TOWN: Freehold STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: Joseph T. Barber

Title: Acting Comm., Dept. of Env. Protection

Date: April 16, 1974

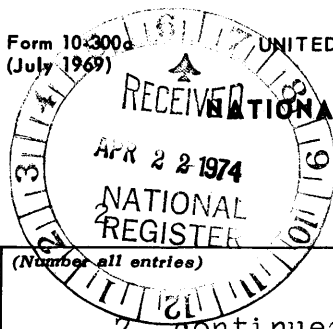
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Montrose
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/8/74

ATTEST: Wm. Hunt
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.7.74



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Monmouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1974

(Number all entries)

7. continued

Allen House
Monmouth 025
New Jersey 34

in the rear chamber is diagonal on the west inner wall with an arched opening. The woodwork, floorboards, chair rail and doors on the first floor have been restored and the walls and ceilings replastered.

The front upstairs chamber contains a mid 18th century panelled room-end with a central fireplace. To the left of the fireplace is a panelled closet door. The rear chamber has a diagonal fireplace corresponding to the room beneath with a simple mantelpiece, c. 1800. In the rear chamber some panelling and a panelled closet door with Queen Ann hinges remains to the right of the fireplace. On the east wall original vertical sheathing with tongue and groove construction remains. The floorboards, chair rail, doors, baseboard, doorway and window moldings have been restored in both rooms and the ceilings and walls have been replastered.

The stairs are an original feature, rising to the second floor with one landing and continuing to the attic from a small second floor stairhall. The handrail and balusters rise directly from the stringer, not the threads. The downstairs stair hall has a wall separating it from the rear chamber which contains the original partition of wide vertical boards with a beaded edge and still retaining their old red stain.

In the kitchen wing a large hearth is located on the west wall with a hewn lintel (mostly original) 9½ ft. long. Two bake oven openings were discovered and restored in the hearth, one on the back wall and the other on the right side. The hearth has been restored with old square brick. To the left is a door opening to a boxed stairway leading to an open attic. The original beams are exposed on the ceiling and the floorboards; baseboards, door and window moldings have been restored on the west, south and east walls. Two door openings are located on the north wall leading to a lean-to addition with a milk room, constructed 3 ft. below ground level and woodshed (now used as a kitchen and toilet).

OUTBUILDINGS A short distance to the west of the kitchen wing is a brick smokehouse covered with a gable roof with new wooden shingles. The south wall has a double door constructed of vertical boards with beaded edge. Two of the four strap hinges appear to be the original. There is a small window on the east gable end which is a later addition. Three small ventilating holes can be seen high on the same east wall and one in the middle of the north wall.

Restoration of the house began in 1970. The house will be a museum.