

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received OCT 3 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Allen Dale Farm

and/or common "Old Henning Place"

2. Location

street & number ~~Route 5, Box 388~~ ^{off U.S. 60} _____ not for publication

city, town Shelbyville *vic.* _____ 3 mi. s of U.S. 60 on Zaring Mill
 vicinity of Road

state Kentucky code _____ county Shelby code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<i>NA</i> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<i>NA</i> 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Susanne M. deCharette Van Stockum

street & number Route 5, Box 388

city, town Shelbyville vicinity of _____ state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shelby County Courthouse

street & number 501 Main Street

city, town Shelbyville state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory-
Shelby County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance Allen Dale Farm is located in southwestern Shelby County, Kentucky on Zaring Mill Road, three miles south of U.S. Highway 60 and approximately six miles from the courthouse in Shelbyville. The farm comprises about 473 acres of gently rolling land with some steep banks bordering the watercourses.

The nominated site includes only a part of the farm--a farmstead tract of approximately 13.4 acres. This tract contains the main house, smokehouse, frame "boarding house," dairy barn, and a feed and stock barn. The buildings are situated about 600-700 feet west of the county highway. Access is by way of two driveways from the road. One leads to the barns and the other leads to the house and passes through the porte cochère to the rear yard and garden where the two driveways are connected. The nominated site includes some wooded land and areas of gently rolling meadow and lawn. The lawns around the house contain many large deciduous trees and some evergreens. Much of this area is enclosed by a stone wall built in 1904. (Aerial view photocopy)

The main house was built in 1904 and replaced a 19th century house which had burned. It is a expansive two-story structure built of rock-faced limestone quarried on the farm. Two large cross gables are prominent on the front elevation. A broad, arched porte cochère with large stone voussoirs leads through the body of the house to the gardens and service area. A one-story front porch has four Tuscan columns supporting a low-pitched roof with broad overhanging eaves. Wings at each side of the central block emphasize the horizontal lines of the house. The wings are joined to a low stone wall which encloses about five acres of the tract immediately surrounding the main house. This wall is topped with stones cut in a half-moon shape. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash and most have stone jackarches above. A five-sided bay window on the rear elevation is located on the first stair landing. Pictures of the house from about 1918-1920 show that few changes have been made on the exterior. (photos 1,2,3,4,5 and photocopy 1)

Near the rear of the main house is a fieldstone smokehouse which was also built in 1904. It is a square building with a pyramidal roof. About 200 feet west of the main house is a two-story frame house probably dating from the turn of the century. It is referred to as the "boarding" house and has generally been rented out. It has a gable roof with the front elevation being the northwest gable end. There are two front doors, paired windows, and broad extended eaves with small brackets. (Photos 6,7)

The dairy barn, located west of the house, is a two-story U-shaped frame structure with red cypress weatherboarding. The base of the "U" and one wing were built in 1915 and joined to an existing barn to form the U-shape. Two large silos constructed of glazed tile are centered at the rear. The barn was designed by F.R. McGrath, an architect from Frankfort, Kentucky. Specifications (but not plans) for its construction are extant. (Photo 8)

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1904-1918

Builder/Architect L.H. Gruber & Sons; Joseph and Joseph;
F.R. McGrath

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Allen Dale Farm was from the early 1900s to the late 1920s, a nationally known breeding farm for registered Jersey cattle. The main house, a significant example of "English country house" architecture, and the two existing barns were built during that period.

The farm, established in 1795 by Robert Polk Allen, has been owned by Allen descendants since that time. Sue Meriwether Henning, great-granddaughter of Robert Polk Allen was responsible for bringing the farm to prominence as a Jersey cattle breeding and dairy farm, not only in Kentucky but throughout the country. Mrs. Henning's mother, Betty Allen Meriwether, has been credited with being one of four farm owners who, in the 1880s, introduced the Jersey breed of milk cow into Shelby County, Kentucky.

In 1907 Mrs. Henning imported 80 head of registered Jerseys, from the Isle of Jersey, and this herd became the foundation of Allen Dale Farm's prize-winning dairy and breeding herd. The rise of Allen Dale to prominence in the early 20th century can be traced through entries in the Herd Register, an inventory of registered Jersey cattle published by the American Jersey Cattle Club, and articles in The Jersey Bulletin, the Club's official publication. In 1908 Sue Henning became a member of the American Jersey Cattle Club and in 1912 she was the first woman elected to its board of directors.

The Jersey breeding operation at Allen Dale reached its zenith in about 1918. Cattle bred there were sold to other breeders and became the foundation stock of registered Jersey herds across the country. The prize-winning show herd was exhibited at national Jersey and dairy shows, the Kentucky State Fair, and other regional cattle shows and state fairs across the country. Allen Dale Farm was the most widely known Jersey farm in Shelby County--a county described in 1911 as the "Jersey Isle of America" because of the extensive Jersey cattle industry there.

During Allen Dale Farm's years of prominence, the main house, smokehouse, and the two existing barns were built. The architect of the house, built in 1904, is unknown, although locally the design has been attributed to the builders, L.H. Gruber and Sons of Shelbyville. The Grubers built some of Shelby County's larger and finer turn-of-the-century residences, including the house at Undulata Farm, also situated on Zaring Mill Road about one mile north of Allen Dale. Undulata was built in 1902 and designed by Louisville architects Kenneth McDonald and J.F. Sheblessey. (National Register-June 1982).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Van Stockum, Brig. Gen. Ronald R., USMC Ret. "The Allens of Allen Dale-The Family and the Farm," Unpublished manuscript.

Shelby County (Ky) Deed Books.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 13.4

Quadrangle name Shelbyville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	53	3	00	4	2	2	14	00	10
Zone		Easting				Northing					

B

16	6	53	70	10	4	2	24	08	10
Zone		Easting			Northing				

C

1	6	6	53	7	10	4	2	2	13	89	10
Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

16	6	53	34	10	4	2	23	8	05
Zone		Easting			Northing				

E

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H

Zone		Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated site is shown as a red line on the attached aerial photograph (SCALE: 1"=660). The site contains 13.4 acres.

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 Brig. Gen. Ronald R. Van Stockum, USMC Ret.

organization

date 31 Aug. 1983

street & number Route 5, Box 388

telephone (502) 633-5521

city or town Shelbyville

state Kentucky 40065

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Susan Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 23, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrews

date 11/12/83

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

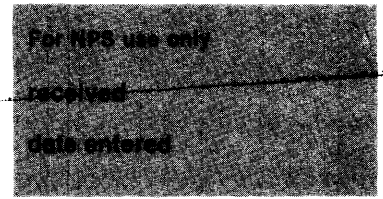
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Northwest of the main house is the feed and stock barn also described as the "tile barn." Built in 1918, it was designed by the Louisville architectural firm of Joseph and Joseph. This barn is a bank barn with three levels on the north end and two on the south end. The walls are of glazed, terra cotta tile on the exterior and interior. There are three large vents or cupolas on the tin roof. Original plans for this barn are in the possession of the owner. (Photo 9)

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Allen Dale is very similar in its "English country house" appearance to a house near Louisville, Ladless Hill (JF-532-National Register pending) designed in 1911-12 by Kenneth McDonald and William J. Dodd. The popular architectural themes of the early 20th century--Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts--are evident in both houses and call to mind the work of English architect C.F.A. Voysey. Allen Dale and Ladless Hill each have large, transverse gables, dormers set evenly with the wallplane, and a porte cochere which penetrates the body of the house--all typical Voyseyesque details. (See xerox #1) Considering the Hennings probable awareness of Kenneth McDonald's work at nearby Undulata in 1902 and the similarities in Allen Dale (1904) and McDonald's Ladless Hill (1911), it is possible that McDonald and Sheblessey also designed the Allen Dale house.

The dairy barn (1915) and the "tile barn" (1918) were considered models of efficiency and modern barn construction. The "tile barn" was designed by a well-known Louisville architectural firm, Joseph and Joseph, and the original plans are extant. The detailed specifications for the dairy barn, designed by F.R. McGrath of Frankfort, Ky., also still exist.

By the 1920s the expansion and improvement of facilities at Allen Dale and the expense of maintaining and exhibiting the show herd resulted in extreme financial reverses for Mrs. Henning. The breeding of cattle was ended and the herd gradually sold. A dairy operation was also closed. By 1933, when Mrs. Henning died, Allen Dale Farm's well-deserved reputation as an important Jersey cattle breeding farm was only a memory.

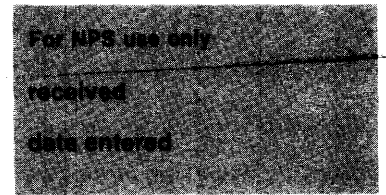
Today there are no plans to revitalize the cattle breeding operation. The farm is now occupied by Mrs. Henning's granddaughter and her husband and children--the seventh generation of Allen descendants to live on the farm. The present farming operations are leased out. Renovation of the main house, occupied by the owners, is nearly complete and rehabilitation work on the barns is in progress.

Allen Dale Farm contains a complex of early 20th century structures built when the farm was nationally prominent as a breeding establishment for registered Jersey cattle. The main house has architectural significance as an example of an estate house in the "English country house" style popular in the early 1900s. The barns (both architect-designed) are examples of modern and efficient farm buildings of the early 20th century. Together, the main house, outbuildings, and the barns are tangible evidences of what was once a nationally reknowned Jersey cattle breeding and dairy farm which was important to our nation's agricultural economy.

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- "The Jersey in Shelby County, Kentucky." Farmer's Home Journal, March 1911.
- "Palatial Home." The Shelby Record, 11 March 1904.
- Herd Register of The American Jersey Cattle Club 1883-1918. New York:
The American Jersey Cattle Club.
- "Tribute to Allen Dale," The Jersey Bulletin and Dairy World, September 1918.
- Seymour, E.L.D. "In the Jersey Isle of America," undated clipping.
- Thomas, Elizabeth Patterson. Old Kentucky Homes and Gardens. Louisville:
The Standard Printing Company, 1939.
- Original plans for feed and stock barn, Joseph and Joseph, Architects
and Engineers, Louisville, Kentucky, 21 October 1918.
- Specifications for dairy barn, F.R. McGrath, Architect, Frankfort, Kentucky,
1915, 1916.
- "Sunset and Evening Star," obituary of Mrs. S.T. Henning, The Shelby
Sentinal, 14 July 1933.

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Mary Jean Kinsman
4012 Druid Hills Rd.
Louisville, Kentucky

893-5731
31 August 1983

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Allen Dale Farm Site # SH-198

Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title _____

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. 16 653300 4222000 D. 16 653340 4223805

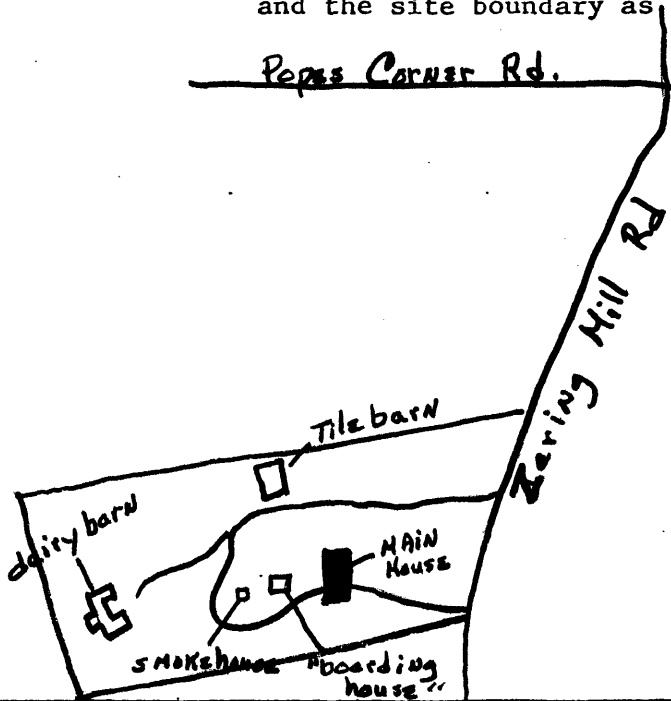
B. 16 653700 4224080 E. _____

C. 16 653710 4223890 F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description Acreage 13.4 acres

The boundary of the nominated site is shown as a red line on the attached aerial photograph (SCALE: 1" = 660').

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

Description as recorded in Deed Book U-3 page 385, July 1891. Shelby County Courthouse.