

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 12 1975
DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC (Albemarle) (Allen-Alexander House)
AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER off US 68 near jct. with US 460
CITY, TOWN Maysville Road, near intersection with N. Middletown Pike — NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth
VICINITY OF
STATE Paris CODE 021 COUNTY Bourbon CODE 017
STATE Kentucky

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>house & dairy farm</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sanford Allen Alverson & Louise Wilson Alverson
STREET & NUMBER
Albemarle Farm, Route # 4
CITY, TOWN Paris STATE Kentucky
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bourbon County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Paris STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky (Supplement)
DATE 1972 — FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Albemarle is located on the historic Maysville Road just outside Paris in Bourbon County, Kentucky. It is surrounded by pasture land, with the white fences for which the Bluegrass region is noted enclosing the horse farm now operated by the owners.

The story-and-a-half house is of brick laid in Flemish bond, five bays in width. The roof is steeply pitched with three dormers visible from the front. The most interesting feature of the exterior is the handsome front entranceway. A reeded arch enframes the leaded fanlight (releaded by the J. M. Alversons), side lights, and door. At the corner of the door-frame and transom are concentric cornerblocks matching those on the arch.

The floor plan is typical of the period, a central hall with a large, almost square room to either side. The chambers have 14 feet high ceilings and the original wood trim, chair-rail, and doorfacings with rosettes, can be seen in each room. The mantels are impressive with triple, overscaled Federal sunburst motifs, unusual turned spindle colonnettes, and exquisitely calculated moldings. In the dining room are two large cupboards reaching from floor to ceiling on either side of the fireplace. The floors are ash.

There is an ell on the east end of the main block believed to be original to the house, although there have been extensive interior changes. It now contains a kitchen separated from two rear bedrooms by a stairway and closet where a chimney once had been. Directly behind the entrance hall is a family room added in 1947. The small hall and bath behind is perhaps a section original to the ell.

The upper floor rooms to the front are reached from a stairway with graceful wood trim on the west side of the entrance hall. There are two rooms, one finished and one unfinished. There is another second-story section completely separate from the two front rooms. This is reached from a stairway off the family room and contains two bedrooms and bath (once three rooms).

To the right rear (southeast) of the house is a dairy barn and adjacent to it is a small stable. A tobacco barn is located approximately 15 yards northeast of the residence. Directly behind the house is a swimming pool and pool house.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1815

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Albemarle, a country house just outside Paris in the Bluegrass area of the state, is an example of the simple elegance of Federal architecture in Kentucky. Particularly noteworthy is the reeded arched doorframe, the leaded fanlight doorway, and the extensive fine wood trim of the interior.

Although residential subdivisions are moving into the surrounding farms, Albemarle has retained much of its original agricultural setting. The house is particularly striking as seen from the road, as the highly abstract semicircular form of the entrance tells effectively from a distance against the extensive bare spaces of the brick walls (probably originally unpainted). By this simple but daring means a typical one-and-a-half-story Federal house is given a considerable degree of monumentality. Such a treatment of Federal forms represents one extreme of what Rexford Newcomb calls the "Geometric Phase" of early 19th-century Kentucky architecture.

The house is believed to have been built c.1815 by Tandy Allen, lawyer and politician, on land belonging to his father, Major John Allen (1749-1816). Major Allen was a prominent figure in the state, a lawyer and Revolutionary War Veteran who had immigrated to Kentucky from Virginia in 1786. He first settled in Fayette County, then Bourbon, where he became that county's first Commonwealth attorney. In 1788 he moved to Paris, later the county seat, but then only a community of a few log cabins. Paris was a growing town, however, and would increase in importance during the 19th century. It became the southern terminus of the Maysville and Lexington Railroad, Northern Division, and also became an important shipping point on the Kentucky Central Railroad from Covington to Nicholasville. The area, with its gently rolling land, was very rich and fertile, and proved excellent for grazing stock, which became the county's staple article of commerce. The result was that Bourbon County, one of the nine counties organized by the Virginia Legislature before Kentucky became a state, was extremely wealthy, as was Paris, and produced many attractive buildings.

Major Allen quickly made himself known in Paris. He was a businessman, an owner of one of Bourbon County's two cotton factories in the 1810 U. S. Census of Business. In 1792 he was elected to the state senate and was also chosen one of the commissioners to select a site for the permanent seat of government (Allen voted in favor of Frankfort). During James Garrard's term as governor he was appointed judge of the Paris district and, in 1802, was appointed judge of the circuit court.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collins, Richard. History of Kentucky, Vol. II. Louisville: John P. Morton & Co., 1874, pp. 47, 80, 81, 66, 369, 771, 772.
 Bourbon County Deed Book R, p. 87.
Historical Scrapbook. Vol. II. A Record of the Celebration of the One Hundred Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Founding of Bourbon County, Kentucky. Paris, 1961.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Four acres

UTM OK
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 4
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mrs. Louise Wilson Alverson, Owner

(GM)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Albemarle Farm

March, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route # 4

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Paris

Kentucky

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.

SIGNATURE Cedred W. Melton 5-9-75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

DATE 7/24/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE JUL 21 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Allen-Alexander House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

John Allen's son Tandy (?-1835) was also known in political circles. For a time he served as circuit court clerk during his father's term as judge and, in 1822, was elected to the State House of Representatives. In the 1829 presidential election he served as a Kentucky elector.

In 1815 Tandy Allen married Amelia Metcalfe, niece of Thomas Metcalfe, former Governor of Kentucky (1828-1832), and "Albemarle" was apparently constructed about this time.

The property was sold in 1823 to William Alexander, whose wife was related to Mrs. Tandy Allen. Alexander was a lawyer, state representative, and early industrialist and owned near his home in East Paris a hemp factory with a 600-foot long ropewalk, perhaps one of the longest in its day. "The factory made bagging which was hauled south with six-horse teams (he owned as many as 100, according to local memories). The wagons returned with cotton that was converted into clothing in Paris. One hundred slaves are said to have been housed near the home; not far away was housing for factory workers. The section was called Cottontown, a name sometimes still applied to East Paris." (Mastin, Sunday Herald Leader Magazine, March 24, 1968.)

Albemarle was to remain in the Alexander family for a good number of years. In 1946 the house was bought by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Alverson who initiated an extensive restoration of the house under the supervision of Lexington architect Warfield Gratz. It was named "Albemarle" by the Alversons after the home county in Virginia of Mrs. John Allen and where John Allen spent much of his childhood. After the Alversons purchased the residence it was learned that Mrs. Alverson was a descendant of Tandy Allen who, more than one hundred and fifty years earlier, had built Albemarle.

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