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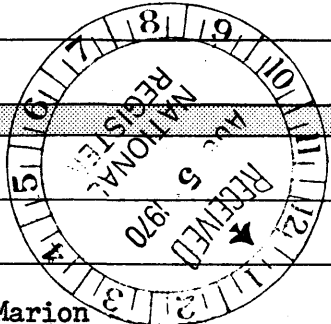
STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.12.18.0005	DATE 12/18/70

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME	
COMMON: Allison Mansion	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Riverdale, Marian College Library	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 3200 Cold Spring Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis,			
STATE Indiana	CODE 46222	COUNTY: Marion	CODE 097



3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>vacating will make "living museum"</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Sisters of Saint Francis			
STREET AND NUMBER: 3200 Cold Spring Road (Marian College)			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE: Indiana	CODE 13	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: City-County Building, Office of Marion County Recorder, Transfer Dept.			
STREET AND NUMBER: 200 East Washington Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE: Indiana	CODE 46204	CODE 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory			
DATE OF SURVEY: November 5, 1963 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service office of HABS and Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C.	STATE:	CODE A08	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____
COUNTY: _____
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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The physical appearance of the James A. Allison Mansion scarcely varies from that of 1914 when the building was completed, the only major alterations being enclosure of two porches and removal of a stained glass roof from one room. It is preserved and will be reinstated. The exterior, red brick veneered on poured concrete reinforced with steel, has hand carved stone trim. Iron gates inset with glass open into the expansive entrance hall.

The two-story hall features a German silver and bronze chandelier valued at \$10,000 in 1914, a hand carved fireplace large enough to stand in, and a sweeping staircase leading to the lobby's balcony and the second floor. Velour covers the walls.

The French sitting room, immediately off the hall, is in the style of Louis the XV with light gold, hand embroidered silk on the walls. White marble fireplace, hand carved chair rail and sconce light fixtures accent the decor.

The dining room features fruit motif intricately carved on the fireplace. Walls are covered with velour. Adjoining it is the white gumwood breakfast room. Rose branch designs taper up the walls and across the ceiling.

The sunken conservatory, at the back of the first floor, once housed a rare Aeolian organ, valued at \$18,000. Its pipes were covered by an elaborately carved wood screen. The carved white mahogany paneling carries a music motif duplicated in plaster castings on the ceiling. French doors, protected by wood screens, open to the sun porch, now enclosed.

Allison's library is across the hall from the conservatory and features intricate mahogany carvings, rockwood pottery fireplace and walls covered with carved designs on pressed leather. The bookcase doors are wrought iron and glass.

At the end of the hall is the sunken, white Italian marble aviary. Italian sculptors matched the marble perfectly and topped banisters with hand carved Phoenix. Its stained glass roof will be restored.

The ground floor contains several social rooms and the 30 X 60 foot heated swimming pool. Perhaps the gem of the mansion is here in the small den whose sloping Gothic ceiling is covered with carved, pressed leather sporting scenes. Its stained glass windows and doors are bottoms of multi-sized and colored bottles set in wrought iron.

Five large bedrooms and baths and a long summer porch, now glass enclosed and heated, comprise the second floor. Each bedroom has its own fireplace.

Floors throughout the house are of oak parquet and all woodwork is hand carved, solid mahogany (except sitting and breakfast rooms which are gum). The arches and doors are gothic and ceilings are high beamed.

The attic has three storage rooms, the elevator mechanism and a gigantic reinforced concrete support for the chandelier. Four observation porches provide expansive views of the surrounding community.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

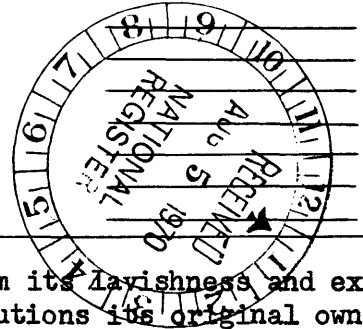
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1911-1914 H. Bass, architect

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Allison Mansion derives its significance from its lavishness and exceptional workmanship, and also from the contributions its original owner made to the Indianapolis community and, ultimately, to other parts of the country.

A pioneer in the automobile business, James A. Allison co-founded the Prest-O-Lite Company of Speedway, Indiana, which produced the first efficient headlight for early automobiles. He later sold his interest to Union Carbide Corporation which now owns the firm. He helped develop Speedway City, the world's first industrial^{city} designed for the people employed in a specific industry, Prest-O-Lite.

He was founder of Allison Engineering Company which designed and developed high-powered motor launch engines later adapted to airplanes. Several years after his death in 1928 the company was sold to General Motors and now excels principally in airplane engines.

In conjunction with Carl G. Fisher and Frank Wheeler, whose estates also are part of the Marian campus, Allison founded the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. He also worked with Fisher, largely through financial backing, in the development of Miami Beach, Florida.

The mansion is estimated to have cost at least \$2 million when constructed over a three year period, 1911 to 1914. A super^{structure} was built around the construction site so workmen could continue their crafts regardless of weather conditions.

Artisans were imported from Switzerland and Italy to handle the wood and marble carvings, all of exceptionally fine workmanship.

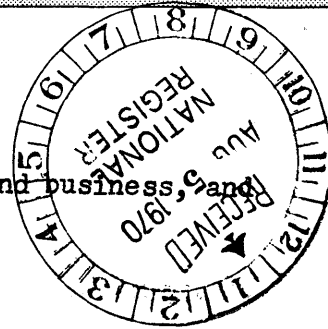
The solidness of the building itself makes it something of an architectural wonder as exemplified by its use as a library^{since} 1936. The indoor swimming pool, used year-round, is a testimonial to the sound construction in that its humidity does not effect the books, magazines and newspapers stored in an adjacent room.

Uniquely, even the main electric service and breaker panels are mounted on a solid marble slab approximately 1½" thick, 72" high and 50" wide.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Indianapolis Times 10/16/36
 Indianapolis News 10/17/36
 Indianapolis Star 8/27/37
 Files of Allison Division, General Motors
 Interviews with former employees, personal and business, and
 associates and relatives



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		39° 48' 22"	86° 12' 05"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

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:
Jane C. Sprague, Director of Public Information

ORGANIZATION: **Marian College** DATE: **6-25-70**

STREET AND NUMBER:
3200 Cold Spring Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Indianapolis** STATE: **Indiana 46222** CODE: **13**

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 Joh R Ruyf

Title Dir of Nat. Resources

Date 8-3-70

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 18 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **NOV 27 1970**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

X

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

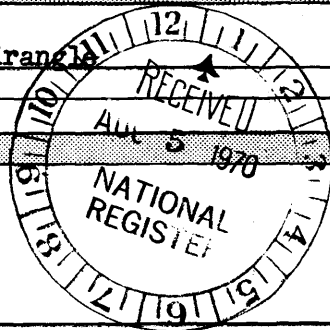
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Indiana	
COUNTY	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Riverdale, Marian College Library			
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CITY OR TOWN:			
Indianapolis			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Indiana	13	Marion	097
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U. S. Geological Survey Map, Indianapolis West Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1 to 24,000, 7.5 minute series scale			
DATE: 1959			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





Wynandale

Stouffville Hall

39° 18' 05"

86° 13' 05"

WINDSOR RIVER

WINDSOR RIVER

WINDSOR RIVER

Richmond Park