

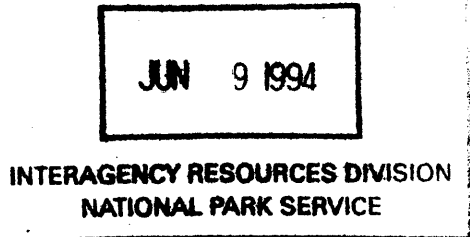
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OMB No. 1024-0015

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Allen Grove

other names/site number Allen, Charles Edward III, House

2. Location

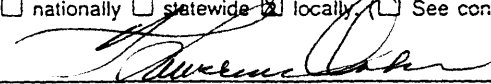
street & number Marengo County Road 1 N/A not for publication

city or town Old Spring Hill vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Marengo code 091 zip code 36742

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 June 1, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

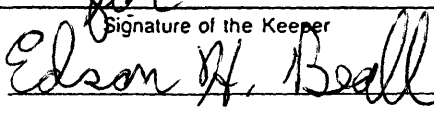
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.

for
 Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register 7-7-94
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

other (explain) _____

REVISED

Allen Grove
Name of Property

Marengo County, Alabama
County and State

5. Classification

- Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)
- private
 - public-local
 - public-State
 - public-Federal
- Category of Property (Check only one box)
- building(s)
 - district
 - site
 - structure
 - object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
2		sites
		structures
		objects
5	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Plantation Houses of the Alabama Canebreak and
their Associated Outbuildings (1818-1942)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Vacant/not in use

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Allen Grove
Name of Property

Marengo County, Alabama
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1857-1890

Significant Dates

ca. 1857, 1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

David Rudisill (Builder)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Allen Grove
Old Spring Hill vicinity
Marengo County, Alabama

Built in 1857, Allen Grove is a two and a half story frame dwelling located near Old Spring Hill resting just west of Marengo County Road 1. The property includes not only the main house but a number of supporting structures and outbuildings. Also located on the property, fronting the county road, is a picket fence which is original to the property. Allen Grove is a significant example of a Canebrake plantation house and was constructed for Charles Edward Allen by David Rudisill, a builder from Demopolis.

The two and a half story dwelling is of frame construction, rests on low brick piers, and features a hipped roof of asphalt shingles with centrally placed, gable roofed dormer windows located on the north, west and south elevations. The dwelling is basically a square with a one story side ell located on the southwest corner; this ell was constructed in the 1890s and was originally attached to the dwelling with a lattice work breezeway. The breezeway was later enclosed and the wing today contains a modern kitchen, pantry, and utility room. The exterior is covered in simple weatherboarding while the wall surface protected by the porch is flush boarding. The five bay facade is dominated by a full height pedimented portico supported by two square columns with banisters. Matching pilasters are located on the corners of the dwelling and flank the columns on the porch. The windows are all 6/6 double hung sash and are protected by the original shutters. The single leaf entrance is set in a door surround which contains a full transom and sidelights. The second floor entrance has a full transom and the doorway opens onto a small balcony. The rear elevation features a three bay over three bay facade and a two tiered full width porch which was added to the structure in the 1890s; an exterior staircase allows access to the upper tier of the rear porch. A one story porch is located along the rear of the ell.

The interior of Allen Grove is based on a double pile plan with a central hall; the focal point of the hall is the reverse stair with an unusual curved newel post. Throughout the house, all windows and doors feature Greek Revival key or shoulder surrounds and moldings and all of the woodwork retains its original graining. The walls of the house are plastered and are painted white. The mantle in the northeast room contains a flattened arch motif and is of marble. The remainder of the mantles are wood and are of a more simple design. All rooms with the exception of the northeast room or parlor contain closets. The floorplan is repeated on the second floor and where in the hall, an enclosed staircase rises to the attic floor. Also located at the rear of the second floor hallway is a modern bath addition. The third floor is one large room, plastered and lit by the three dormer windows. A small doorway allows access into the gable roof of the portico.

Located on the grounds are the remnants of four support structures, a smokehouse, chicken house, a carriage house and a barn. The barn is a simple structure constructed of logs with a front facing gable roof and side shed wings. Similarly, the carriage house is a simple frame gabled roof structure. The remainder of the support structures, the chicken house and smokehouse, have been abandoned and are ruinous and are therefore classified as contributing sites. Also located on the property is a non-contributing garage. The Allen Grove nomination includes three contributing buildings, two contributing sites, and one non-contributing building.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Allen Grove
Old Spring Hill vicinity
Marengo County, Alabama

Criterion C: Architecture

Allen Grove is a significant example of a Canebrake plantation house based on the double pile plan and reflecting the Greek Revival influence. The house and the complex of outbuildings yield information regarding the styles, form, construction methods, techniques, and craftsmanship utilized by the residents of the Canebrake from 1830-1942. The house retains a high degree of integrity in regard to design, materials, workmanship, feeling and setting.

Historical Summary

Allen Grove was constructed in 1857 for John Gray Allen, a native of North Carolina who migrated to Alabama in 1841. Allen moved to Spring Hill in 1847 and acquired a plantation (approximately 300 acres) and the site for his dwelling from Edwin Glover. According to the 1850 Marengo County census, Allen held real estate valued at \$4,500.00. and was the father of seven children. The Allen family resided in a one and a half story log dogtrot dwelling on the plantation while the present house was being constructed. The builder of the house was David Rudisill, a carpenter from Demopolis who is listed in the 1850 census as being from North Carolina; according to receipts in the possession of the present owner, the interior graining work was executed by a Mr. Dixon of Demopolis. The house has remained in the Allen family and today is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Allen, III. ¹

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made at Allen Grove, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Properties to this type were sited with a constellation of dependencies such as those found at Allen Grove. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

¹United State Census Schedule, Marengo County, 1850; Interview with Mrs. Charles E. Allen, June 11, 1993; "A Short History of Spring Hill." Mrs. Charles E. Allen, III, private paper, n.p.;

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 3

Allen Grove
Old Spring Hill vicinity
Marengo County, Alabama

Bibliography

Allen, Mrs. Charles Edward, III. Interview with author. June 11, 1993.

_____. "A Short History of Spring Hill." private paper, n.d.

United States Federal Census Schedule for Marengo County, 1850.

Verbal Boundary Description

That tract of land comprising 5 acres, being described as lying in the southwest quarter of section twenty two, Township Seventeen, Range 3 East being the same property conveyed by Edwin A. Glover to John Gray Allen as recorded on June 2, 1851. This information is located in the tax assessor's office in the Marengo County Courthouse, Linden, Alabama. For exact boundaries, please refer to tax map.

Boundary Description

The boundaries were drawn to include five acres of the original 300 acres purchase and to include all of the resources associated with Allen Grove.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 4

Allen Grove
Old Spring Hill vicinity
Marengo County, Alabama

The information included in items 1-5 is the same for all photographs. The site has not been altered since a site visit in June, 1993.

1. Allen Grove
 2. Old Spring Hill vicinity, Marengo County, Alabama
 3. Jeff Mansell - Photographer
 4. Summer, 1993
 5. Negatives on file with the Alabama Historical Commission
- Photograph #1, facade, camera facing west

Photograph #2, facade, camera facing northwest

Photograph #3, southeast corner, camera facing northwest

Photograph #4, north elevation, camera facing south

Photograph #5, rear elevation, camera facing east

Photograph #6, southwest elevation, camera facing northeast

Photograph #7, interior, parlor mantle, camera facing west

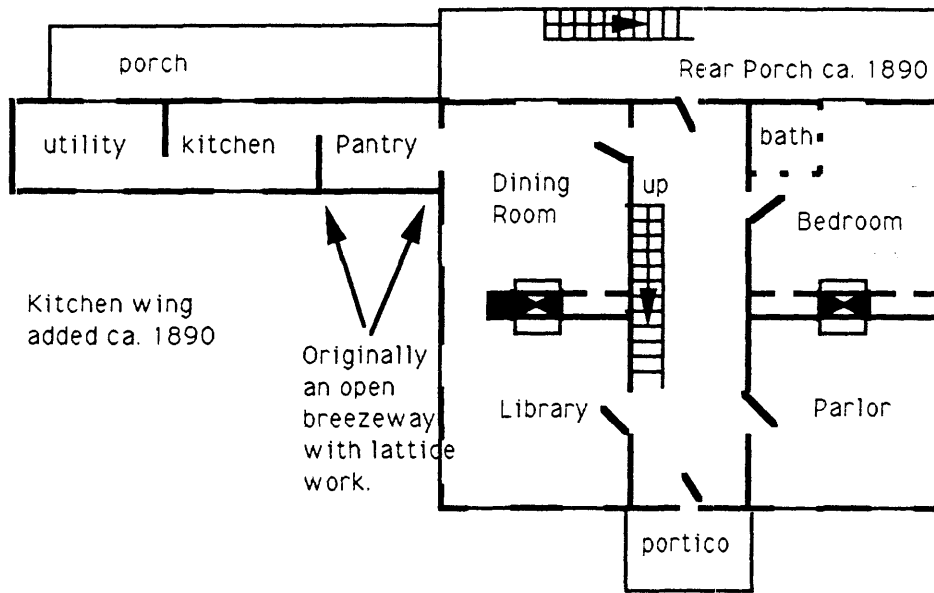
Photograph #8, interior, stairhall, camera facing east

Photograph #9, interior, staircase detail, camera facing south

Photograph #10, interior, rear entrance, detail of door surround, camera facing west

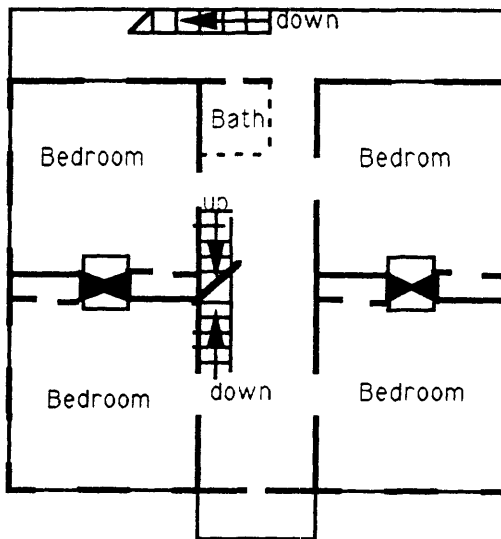
Photograph #11, Barn, camera facing west

Photograph #12, Carriage house, camera facing south

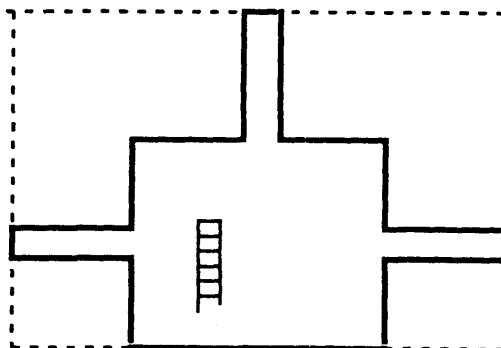


First Floor Plan

Floorplan for
Allen Grove
 ca. 1857
 Old Spring Hill,
 Marengo County,
 Alabama



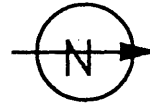
Second Floor Plan



Third Floor (Attic) Plan



Barn



Carriage house

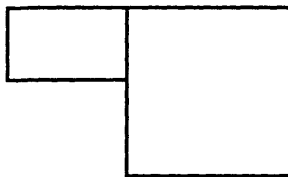


chicken house



smokehouse

Fence Row



Main House

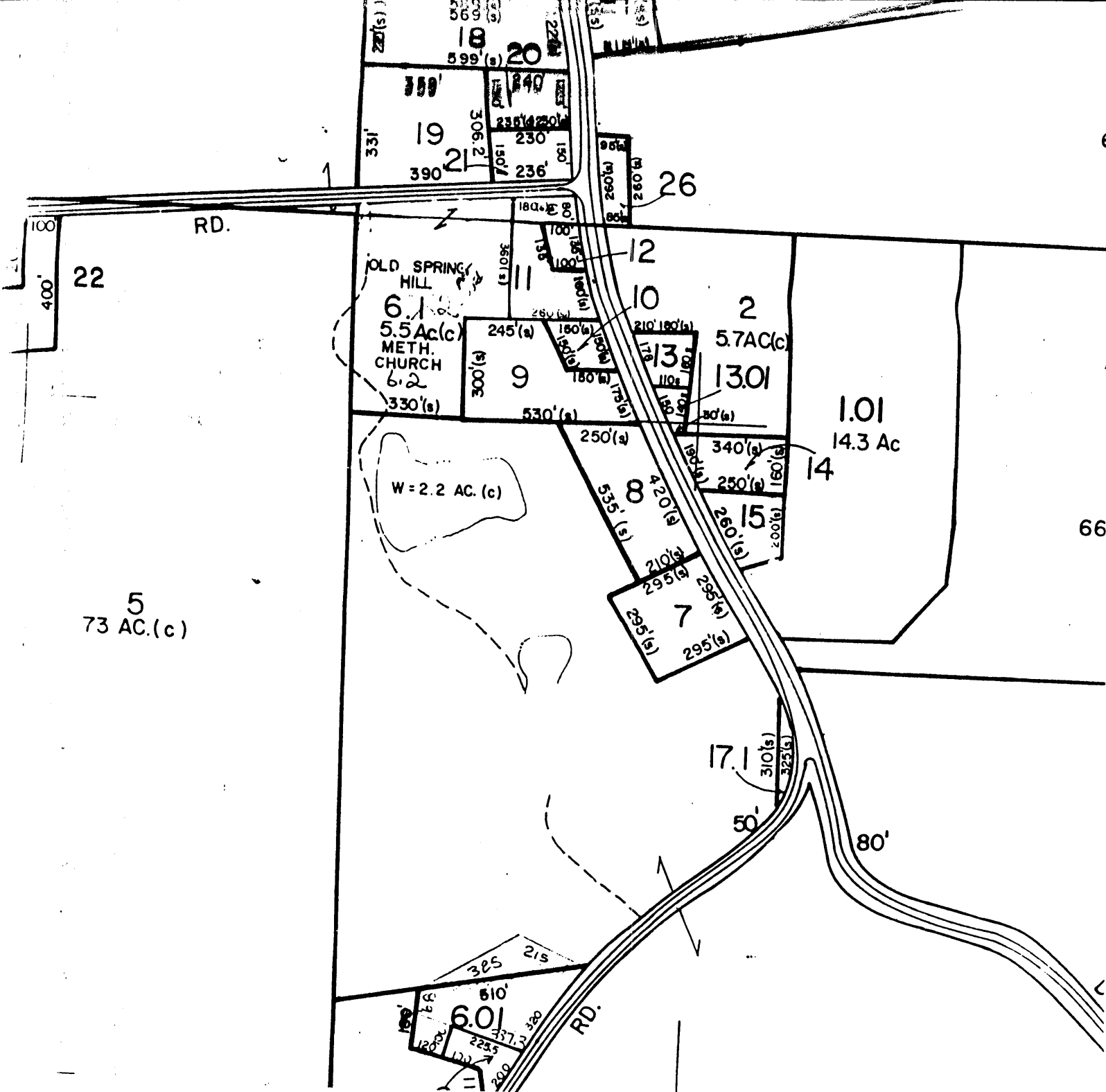


Garage

Picket Fence

Marengo County Road 1

Site Plan for
Allen Grove
ca. 1857
Old Spring Hill
Marengo County, Alabama



227'(s)
599'(s)
331'
390'
359'
306.2'
150'
230'
236'
20
236'
230'
236'

100'
400'

RD.

22

OLD SPRING HILL

6.1
5.5 AC.(c)
METH. CHURCH
6.2

330'(s)

245'(a)
300'(s)
9

530'(s)

260'(s)
260'(s)
26

12

10

2
5.7 AC.(c)

13.01

1.01
14.3 Ac

14

W = 2.2 AC. (c)

250'(a)

535'(s)

420'(s)

210'(s)

295'(s)

295'(s)

295'(s)

295'(s)

295'(s)

295'(s)

295'(s)

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260'(s)

260'(s)

260'(s)

260'(s)

260'(s)

260'(s)

17.1

310'(s)

325'(s)

50'

80'

385
215
610'
6.01
337.3
223.5
200

RD.

66