

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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date entered

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Thomas L. Allen House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 98 North Main Street not for publication
city, town Coalville vicinity of congressional district 01
state Utah code 049 county Summit code 043

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Fred and Sylvia Mortensen
street & number 98 North Main Street
city, town Coalville vicinity of state Utah 84017

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Summit County Courthouse
street & number Main Street
city, town Coalville state Utah 84017

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1980 federal state county local
depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society
city, town Salt Lake City state Utah 84101

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas L. Allen house is a two-story structure originally built in a modified T shape. The original home contained a main entry hall that continued through the structure. To the left of the hall was a parlor and to the right a living room and behind it a bedroom, probably originally used as a kitchen. Three bedrooms on the second floor correspond to those rooms on the main floor. A staircase connects the two floors from the main hallway.

The house was built of light red brick, with a sandstone foundation. The exterior of the house was stuccoed ca. 1948. The foundation extends from the basement level to approximately two or three feet above the ground, where it is capped with a stone water table. The roof is hipped shaped with dormer windows protruding from it. Detailing is of wood, except for stone lintels.

The house is eclectic in style and reflects Italianate features. The house is asymmetrical in shape and includes pronounced moldings and details. The house also reflects, however, features that show a variance from the Italianate style. This includes the use of dormer windows and a bay window and a higher pitched roof.

For the most part the buildings materials were of local origin and were similar to those used in the Coalville Tabernacle, which was under construction at the time. Throughout the house the carpentry skills of Mr. Allen are evident. Wood detailing is included in the cornice, fanned brackets, and frieze that continues around the original portion of the house. More wood trim is seen in the rounded dormer windows with large brackets or pilasters supporting the cornice and roof. Each dormer window has a delicately cut out flower facing over it. The hipped roof of the house, with its slight concave bell-like flare, has the same lines carried through on the dormer window roofs. The bay window to the front is done completely in wood, including a wood sill.

The woodworking skills of Mr. Allen are also seen in the interior moldings, doors, and window frames. One highlight is the central staircase, which makes a sharp ascent to the second floor. It combines square pillars at the base of the stairs with turned spindles to create an interesting effect. On the left side of the house the usual squared corners were shaved off, which creates a softened effect. At least two chimneys were incorporated in the house, one along the left wall and one on the right side of the house, dividing the living room and the downstairs bedroom.

Some changes to the house have taken place over the years. It appears that soon after the main portion of the house was completed as described, a new one and a half story addition was built on the left rear of the house. The section was of the same brick construction, but lacked the distinct rock foundation. It has a pitched gable roof with a return cornice on the ends, unlike the others in the house, and lacks the wide frieze and brackets. According to Arthur T. Allen, son of Thomas L. Allen, this portion of the house was used as the family gathering place with the kitchen and pantry

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Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

1

occupying the back portion of the addition. An extension from the left bedroom was made on the second floor over this family room, allowing for storage and later a bathroom. An indoor bathroom was added about 1920, when a sewer line was run from the Summit County Court House to Chalk Creek. At about the same time, an addition to the front porch was made. Prior to that time there existed only a wooden deck in front with no covered porch. The porch was built with a cement base and square wooden columns. No further structural changes in the house were made until the Allen family sold it to Grant Y. Bullock in 1939. He divided the house into apartments and operated a boarding house. In 1947 the house was re-converted into a single family dwelling for Bullock's son, Frank S. In about 1948, the spruce trees surrounding the house were removed. This left only the white birch tree to the rear of the house as the only original landscaping. At this time the two fireplaces in the house were removed and the right chimney torn down. The house was also stuccoed over at this time, and modifications of the interior were made, including expansion of the kitchen, a bathroom addition, and the creation of an arch in the living room to open it up into the hall. It appears that the front doorway was also altered at this time by the removal of the Italianate double doors with the replacement of a single door. The rounded transom window over the doors was also blocked off at this time. No more alterations to the house have taken place since that time, other than modernization of the kitchen and baths by the present owner.

A highlight of the interior space is the painted plaster ceiling of the main-floor parlour. The painting is dated February 5, 1892 and signed "C. M. Olsen." He also painted the ceiling and the portraits in the Coalville Tabernacle. Little is known about him. A Danish convert to the Mormon Church, he initially settled in Ogden, and then traveled about the state, and perhaps the intermountain west, as a itinerant painter. Though he did similar paintings in several other houses in the Coalville area, none are known to have survived to the present.

Olsen's ceiling painting in the Allen house is similar to that in the Coalville Tabernacle, though smaller and less ornate. It does not appear that any alterations have been made to the Allen house ceiling other than the removal of the twelve oil lamps that hung from the sides of the ceiling. Mr Olsen used soft pastel colors on the ceilings, including shades of greens, blues and roses. He incorporated various designs that encircled the ceiling, culminating on the raised center main light fixture. The motif includes the use of dragon figures, cherry strands, ivy strands, fluted swans and the central fixture of flowers and leaves. The cherry strand is especially similar to leaf patterns used in the Tabernacle, although his use of dragon figures and fluted swans indicates his freedom in diverting from his artistry in a religious building.

Another fine feature of the house is the rounded stained glass window over the front bay window. The use of stained glass in the Coalville community was limited, and this is one of the few remaining examples.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1880s **Builder/Architect** Thomas L. Allen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

built in the 1880s
 This house/is significant because of its association with Thomas L. Allen, a well-known Utah businessman, LDS Church leader, and architect-builder, whose most important project was the Coalville Tabernacle (NR until its demolition in 1971). Allen designed and built the house and occupied it until his death in 1928. A fine example of Victorian Eclectic architecture with Italianate influences, it also testifies to the high level of taste and craftsmanship available in a small Utah town in the late Nineteenth Century. Particularly significant is a ceiling painting in the house's parlour. The artist was C. M. Olsen, who did similar paintings in the Coalville Tabernacle.

Allen built and designed the house sometime in the 1880's. He occupied it until his death in 1928, and it remained in the Allen family until 1939. Allen was born in Antrim, Ireland on June 2, 1849, a son of Robert B. and Jane Ferguson Allen. In 1869 he and his family came to Utah as converts to the Mormon Church. He worked briefly in Salt Lake City and then settled in Coalville, where he eventually became one of the town's leading citizens. He operated a carpentry shop and stonecutting business and a mortuary, was mayor of Coalville from 1898 to 1900, and served several terms in the State Legislature. Active in Mormon Church affairs, he was President of the Summit Stake of the LDS Church from 1921 until 1925.

Allen designed and built a number of other buildings in the Coalville area, including the Summit County Jail, the Alma Eldredge House, the Boyden Block, and the Upton Church house. The most important building for which he was architect and builder, however, was the Coalville Tabernacle. He was appointed to design it in 1878. Mormon church architect Truman O. Angell and prominent builder Obed Taylor reviewed and approved the plans, which were modeled on the Salt Lake Assembly Hall on Temple Square. Built between 1879 and 1899, the Tabernacle dominated the community, its 117 foot tower visible for miles until the building was demolished in the Spring of 1971.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, Summit County Centennial History, 1947, p. 118.

Roberts, Allan D. "Utah's Unknown Pioneer Architect," Sunstone, Spring 1976, p. 72-73.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Coalville, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	6	0	4	3	0	4	5	2	9	6	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the northwest corner of Block 110, Plat B, Coalville Townsite, thence north 66° 30' east 10 rods; south 23° 30' east 114.5 ft; thence south 66° 30' west 166.53'; thence north 23° 30' west 114.5' to beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McCormick, Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date September 1980

street & number 307 West 200 South

telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah 84101

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 21, 1980

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

Keeper of the National Register Bruce Van Duzend

date 7-23-82

Attest: Ermine Jane Saye

date 7-16-82

Chief of Registration