

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Tulare	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Allensworth Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Allensworth

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **On State Highway 43 between Wasco and Corcoran approximately 9 miles west of U. S. Highway 99.**

CITY OR TOWN:
Allensworth

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Tulare	CODE 107
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Multiple public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:
City of Allensworth

CITY OR TOWN:
Allensworth

STATE: California	CODE 06
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Tulare County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
County Civic Center

CITY OR TOWN:
Visalia

STATE: California	CODE 06
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **150 acres+**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Allensworth State Historic Park Study

DATE OF SURVEY: **November 1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
1416 9th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Sacramento

STATE: California	CODE 06
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The townsite consists of about 15 square blocks and contains approximately 60 acres including streets. Allensworth is typical of California's southern San Joaquin Valley's small farming communities.

Originally the settlement had 8 commercial and public buildings, and 31 residential dwellings. The 8 buildings were the school, church, library, general store, drugstore, hotel, post office, and railroad ticket office. There is no dominant architectural style evident in the town's structures.

Some residential structures have deteriorated and collapsed. A large number of those that have withstood the years are in need of extensive repairs, including the home of Col. Allensworth, the town founder. The school which is the largest structure in Allensworth is in excellent condition and is currently being used for school purposes. Many residences are in an advanced stage of deterioration but are still salvageable.

Allensworth's early citizens conducted a successful tree planting program. Today vegetation is virtually non-existent due to a number of critical water shortages experienced by the town over the years.

The townsite is located on the outer edge of the Tulare Lake Basin and the general terrain is extremely flat. Large deposits of alkali and saline salts are visible on the ground surface.

Originally the town was ringed with farms. This condition has changed with large farming corporations dominating the scene.

Current development proposals by the State recommend the preservation and restoration of the entire townsite. Those structures non-worthy of restoration will be preserved in their existing stage of deterioration. Those structures that are restorable will be opened to the general public for viewing. The preservation program will focus on the 1908 through 1918 historical scene.

The Allensworth school was constructed in 1912 and is 40' x 40'. Its construction is wood frame with wood siding, cedar shingles and a concrete foundation. The building's interior can be separated by a sliding partition and has two dressing rooms, and a stage. It has served the community as a school, social hall, and place for community entertainment.

Col. Allensworth's house is wood framed with wood siding. Originally the house had shingles but has been altered to composition roofing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) **August 3, 1908 founding date**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Agriculture | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Art | Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Commerce | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | | _____ | |
| Communications | Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Conservation | Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

AGRICULTURE: Agriculture played a major role in the birth and death of Allensworth as a prosperous community. Originally the townsite was ringed with farms. Historians predicted Allensworth as destined to become a great center for raising sugar beets and poultry. Current development proposals by the Department of Parks and Recreation recommend acquiring an area adjacent to the townsite to interpret and illustrate the history of the area's agriculture.

EDUCATION: The Allensworth school was known throughout the State by black people. The school was involved in numerous heated political decisions concerning segregated school systems. During the 1913 through 1915 era, Allensworth and Furlong Tract, another black colony located near Los Angeles, successfully defended the right of black children to an education in this State.

LITERATURE: Black literature, specifically California Black History has placed the life of Col. Allensworth and the founding of the town of Allensworth at the forefront of black accomplishments in the State. Col. Allensworth's biography titled, "The Battles and Victories of Allen Allensworth" and "The Negro Trail Blazers of Calif." by D. L. Beasley along with numerous other articles have documented the founding of the town.

MILITARY: Col. Allensworth, the town founder, held the highest military rank by a black American during his day. Practically all of the founding fathers of the town were military men. Some white historians have described the town as a rest home for retired military men.

POLITICAL: Allensworth's political influence figured significantly in the political destiny of Black Americans throughout the State. Numerous political actions relative to black people were originated from the efforts of the citizens of Allensworth.

RELIGIOUS/PHILOSOPHY: A philosophy relative to the life and experiences of Black Americans has been a long sought goal of black people. Numerous attempts at formulating this philosophy have perished prior to arriving at a condition of conclusion. Col. Allensworth's personal writings placed the development of a black oriented philosophy foremost in tasks to be achieved. Religion, as perceived by Black Americans, has always played a major role in attempts to formulate a philosophical line of thought relative to the black experience. Allen Allensworth entered the ministry of the First Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, on April 9, 1871. After wide experience as a minister, lecturer and teacher, on April 30, 1886 he received an appointment as Chaplain, 24th Infantry, Army of the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Negro Trail Blazers of California by D. L. Beasley (1919)

The Battles and Victories of Allen Allensworth by Professor Charles Alexander (1914)

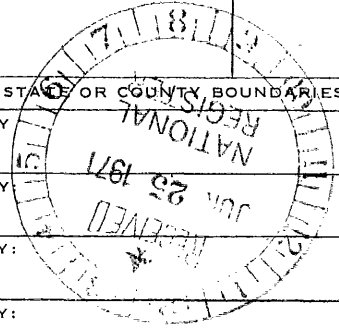
Allensworth State Historic Park Study by the State Department of Parks and Recreation (1970)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	35° 51' 58"	119° 23' 33"		0	'	"
NE	35° 51' 58"	119° 22' 51"				
SE	35° 51' 30"	119° 22' 51"				
SW	35° 51' 30"	119° 23' 33"				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Elena Albert - Program Director - San Francisco
African American Historical and Cultural Society

ORGANIZATION: Allensworth Advisory Commission DATE: 1-30-71

STREET AND NUMBER: 1812 Delaware Street, Apt. 301

CITY OR TOWN: Berkeley STATE: California CODE: 06

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: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: June 21, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: February 14, 1972

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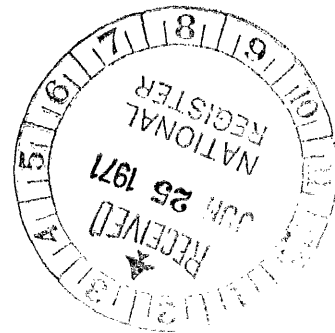
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7. Description

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Approximate boundaries of Allensworth Historic District: Beginning at a point on the southeast corner of two streets designated "Rd. not on ground" as shown on Allensworth Proposed Acquisition Plan (Drawing No. 11426), said point being about 750' west of Young Road and about 375' north of Palmer Avenue, thence south about 1312', thence east about 825' to a point near the center of Road 81, thence south about 1650', thence east about 2760' to the westerly line of the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe Railroad right of way, thence northwesterly along said line about 1950', thence west about 187' to the easterly line of Higby Road, thence northwesterly about 1525' along said line and the westerly line of the canal right of way, thence west about 1575' to the point of beginning.



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(Number all entries) RELIGIOUS/PHILOSOPHY (cont.)

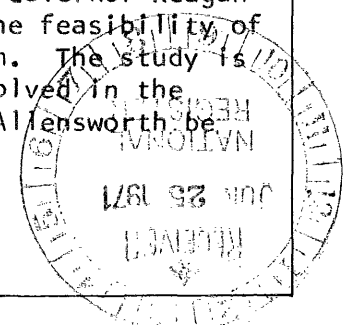
United States. His appointment was at the rank of Captain and his first duty as an army Chaplain was at Fort Supply, Indian Territory. He served at numerous posts with a broad range of duties through the Spanish American War, with distinguished service in Cuba and the Philippines. Having attained the service rank of Major, Chaplain Allensworth retired from the army April 7, 1906, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. After founding the Allensworth Colony, he continued in the ministry until his death in 1914.

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN: Allensworth is California's only town which was founded, financed and governed by black Americans. While Allensworth is not nominated to the National Register primarily as a memorial to its founder, the townsite and proposed park and Historic District represent in fact a memorial to Colonel Allen Allensworth and his pioneering colonists, and to the black race in America. Colonized in 1908 by Col. Allensworth and the California colony and Home Promotion Assoc., this unique pioneering venture presented to the black Americans a critical element in the struggle for total freedom. Although this nation had outlawed slavery with the emancipation proclamation, no efforts were being directed towards psychological emancipation for the millions of newly freed slaves. Col. Allensworth, who was born a slave and sold twice at slave auctions, became cognizant of this condition and dedicated himself to creating an environment which might fill this critical need. His dream was to establish a community where his people might live and develop themselves free from the direct influences of slave oriented attitudes. His dream became a reality on August 3, 1908 when the town of Allensworth was officially founded. On August 8, 1908 the Tulare Register newspaper described the town as the only enterprise of its kind in the United States. Early historians specializing in California Black History predicted Allensworth as destined to become a great city.

In 1914, there were a reported 160 persons in Allensworth - farmers, dairymen and businessmen. The citizens were depicted as "prosperous, happy and contented". Allensworth has remained a small rural community wholly dependent on the surrounding agricultural economy. Aridity and the presence of alkaline and saline deposits in the soil have inhibited productive growth and development.

The California State Department of Parks and Recreation with assistance from the Allensworth Advisory Commission is currently attempting to develop Allensworth as a State Historic Park dedicated to the Black Pioneers of California.

Senate Resolution No. 66, and Senate Bill No. 557, signed by Governor Reagan on September 18, 1970, requested that the Department study the feasibility of Allensworth for inclusion in the California State Park System. The study is currently (1971) being submitted to the various agencies involved in the development of the project and its recommendations are that Allensworth be developed.



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(Number all entries) SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN (cont.)

The primary purpose of developing a State Historic Park dedicated to the Black Pioneers of California is to assist the general public in developing healthy attitudes towards people of different backgrounds and cultures.

