



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 14001008

Date Listed: 12/10/2014

Property Name: Wing – Allore House

Multiple Name:

County: Monroe

State: MI

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

12/10/2014
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to make a technical correction in Section 8 of the form, where National Register Criterion C and Architecture as an Area of Significance are checked. The Michigan SHPO has informed us that this was a clerical error and only Criteria A and B apply. The form is amended to delete Criterion C and Architecture.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Registry property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1004

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Wing - Allore House

Other names/site number: "N/A"

Name of related multiple property listing:

"N/A"

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 203 East Elm Avenue

City or town: Monroe State: MI 48161 County: Monroe

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national x statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

 x A x B C D

<u>Mark J. Martorel</u>	<u>10/21/14</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>MI SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Patricia Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

12/10/2014
Date of Action

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

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Funerary/Mortuary

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Funerary/Mortuary

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Brick

Aluminum

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The original part of the Wing-Allore House, built sometime during the 1829-39 period, is a two-story gable-front Italianate structure with red brick walls. It was expanded with smaller side and rear extensions in the nineteenth century while it served as a house and has been expanded with multiple mostly flat-roof additions in generally complementary style since it became a funeral home in 1938. The porch-fronted funeral home and residence today totals around 9,190 square feet.

Narrative Description

The Setting:

The house today stands on a less-than-one-acre site at the northeast corner of streets aligned with the routes of early trails dating from the eighteenth century before the United States obtained possession of the area from England. Today's stable and well kept neighborhood contains a mix of multi-unit 1920s apartment buildings, commercial office space, churches and many 100 + year old homes in what is now the East Elm-North Macomb Street Historic District. To the east on Elm Avenue is the River Raisin Battlefield National Park, a National Park Service-operated property that contains a substantial portion of an 1813 battlefield site in the War of 1812. North

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four blocks on Macomb Street is the Mercy-Memorial Medical Center; to the south across the River Raisin are Monroe's central business district and the Old Village Plat that formed the Village of Monroe in 1817.

The Building:

The house has evolved substantially over its 175 years of continuous use. The nomination includes nine first-floor plans that document as fully as possible the process of expansion and evolution of the floor plan, starting with the original house and finishing with the improvements made to it as a funeral home since 1938.

The original house's limestone foundation supports the exterior and interior load bearing walls, which are three bricks thick. The house has a full basement, a large attic and two ten-foot plus tall stories of livable space. Its three brick thick walls are formed with the hardened edge of a soft brick on the exterior course with an air space between this outer and two inner rows of soft brick. The brick are laid up to the interior wood structure that secured the finish walls and the room partitions and supported the floors. On the main floor were five floor-to-ceiling double-hung double-pane windows each 39" wide by 105" tall with wood trim, and all of them had limestone headers. There were two of these windows in the front parlor facing south onto Water Street. On the west, North Macomb Street side of the house was the reading parlor and a small porch with an entry door facing west. The gable roof with its 2" by 12" planking on wooden rafters had large overhangs supported by nineteen paired brackets and had two large chimneys for fireplaces that served the house. The oldest known roof was a metal one.

Each of the parlors on the first floor enjoy lots of daylight because of large double-hung, double-pane windows, some on them floor-to-ceiling. All the windows on the exterior had wood shutters. The exterior doors were of wood with glass lights, and the porch floors and steps, the columns, the exterior soffits, and the nineteen paired brackets were of wood. Both the main gable roof and the front porch roof were metal covered.

The large front porch with its four columns and the large double door entrance that is 82" wide by 108" tall look out unto Water Street. The wooden and glass Victorian double doors opened into a reception hall, with a stairway with wooden spindle railing on the left going to the second floor. On the hall's right is a six-foot wide eight feet tall double doorway with doors opening into a formal parlor with its fireplace on the east wall. The parlor had three floor-to-ceiling windows, one to the north or left of the fireplace, the other two facing south on the front porch. Continuing back (north) in the front hallway, a single-door under the stairway upper landing led into the reading parlor in the house's northwest corner. The reading parlor has windows on the left and a fireplace on the north (rear) wall. Looking east from the reading parlor, through a Victorian 7'2" wide and 9'0" tall wooden archway is a small third parlor in the northeast corner that had a doorway to the outside through its north wall and a doorway in its south wall leading into the formal parlor. This small parlor had two large windows in its east wall. The interior walls of all of these rooms were plastered with horse hair and papered. These rooms had hardwood floors over hand-hewn timber joists and the rooms were trimmed with wide wood Victorian molding and had wooden doors. The ceilings were 10'4" tall throughout the first floor.

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The second floor displayed eleven 38" x 70" standard double-hung windows with limestone heads and Victorian broad wooden trim. The second floor contained one room across the front side with the balance of the second floor an open space. This space was also plastered and all the windows had wooden storm shutters that could be closed as needed.

The original interior basement walls are in good repair. The last open inspection of the outside foundation wall on the North Macomb Street side was in 1968¹ when a new foundation wall was built two feet west of it and deeper than the original wall. This original foundation wall was found to be in good and stable shape. Today there are still three windows on the east basement wall, none on the East Elm Avenue side, one window remaining on the North Macomb Street side and none on the north side, except for a doorway into the newer basement under the new kitchen area built in 1857-66 era. All the basement walls are of limestone, with a plastered finish on the inside, and are very thick to support the three brick thick walls. Of these remaining basement windows used, the first window on the east wall near the south wall remains open to the outside and is used to remove excess heat from the two steam boilers in that furnace room. The next window provides steam line access to the Talcott E. Wing East Parlor (1857-66) crawl space and the last window near an old outside stairway provides access to another crawl space under an addition built in 1953/54 for steam lines and plumbing. The window on the west side provides access between the old and the new 1968 basement wall to support electrical, heating, air-conditioning/ventilation needs and service.

After 1940 Eli Allore dug out the dirt floor to make the old basement² deeper under the original house by hand and poured a new concrete floor. That is why today the floor joist and beams under the first floor have had steel floor jacks installed in the basement at key structural points to help preserve the structural strength of the original structure.

The timber framing and wood roof structure over the original second floor remains the same as built. There has been additional structural reinforcement installed to keep the roof from pushing the exterior walls out. The old metal roof was replaced with shingles in 2002.

Talcott E. Wing created the first addition (see floor plan 2 of 9) to the "Wing-Allore House" sometime in the 1857-66 period. He added a new East Parlor attached to the east side of the original house extending east from the former Small Parlor. This addition had a length of twenty-eight feet and depth of twenty feet. This addition also has three brick thick walls and is one story tall with a flat roof above a crawl space. It had a large fireplace on its east wall, with one 38" wide by 70" tall window on each side of it. The south wall contained two 36" wide and 102" tall floor-to-ceiling openings, with limestone heads, looking out unto a three-columned porch facing East Elm Ave. One opening contained a 3' x 7' door, with a transom, and the other a 36" x 102" double-hung, double-pane wooden window. The ceiling height in the new parlor was 10'2" compared to the original house's 10'4." The original part of the house's Victorian wood trim theme on the walls, windows and doors was continued in this space. The walls were papered

¹ Building Permit No. 18018 City of Monroe Building Department June 25, 1968

² Personal conversation with Eli Allore by James D. Peltier, the author in 1958

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over plaster walls and the ceiling plastered. The added room had one 36" x 70" double-hung window and a three-foot wide exterior door in the north wall.

At the same time, during the 1857-66 period, a new 20' x 20' rear wing containing a kitchen and rear stairway to the upstairs was added the north side of the original house. Its walls were also built three bricks thick. Its west side was offset about eight feet from the northwest corner of the Reading Parlor. The rear addition's new west wall had a doorway and double hung window looking out on a new west-side columned porch facing North Macomb Street.

According to Robert Allore³ when he lived there with his parents in 1938, the north wall of this addition had a 36" wide stairway starting on the east wall of the kitchen up three steps to a landing, then left along the north wall up to another landing and then left again one step (south) into a bedroom in the low roof space above this added kitchen wing. This space was his parents' bedroom and also provided access up two more steps into the original house. This entrance from the bedroom into the back part of the original house's upper story led into a large open room used as a casket display room then and to a large bedroom across the front that had two windows and to a bathroom with a window over the front stairway. The fireplace opening in the kitchen backed up to the existing chimney in the north wall of the main house. From the former Small Parlor, which became the new Dining Room, a three-foot wide doorway opened into the new kitchen. In the northwest corner of the kitchen's north wall beneath the stairway was a small landing with a 36" door from which a stairway ran east down to the basement. The kitchen's east side had a doorway out to a small porch, with steps down to grade. Adjacent was the entrance to a separate, outside stairway down to the kitchen addition's basement; this basement entrance was located seven feet south from the kitchen addition's north wall. This 17' long x 13'-8" wide full basement is connected to the original house's basement by an archway and a short five foot hallway. It is shallower by 16" than the original basement and has a limestone foundation and wall supporting the three brick thick walls. The ceiling in this new kitchen was 8'6" tall compared to the original house of 10'-4." The new porch facing North Macomb Street was eight feet wide and twenty feet long beginning at the NW corner of the original house and running alongside the new west wall of the kitchen.

The Italianate style became popular in the United States beginning in the 1840s and soon resulted in constructed of Italianate houses in Monroe. In the 1850s nearby east of the "Wing-Allore House" two new large Italianate homes were built. These may have inspired Austin E. Wing's son, Talcott E. Wing, who by then resided here, to modernize and expand the house, adding Italianate details such as the paired brackets under the eaves and interior trim and constructing the new East Parlor on the house's east side. The three houses became known locally as the Three Mansions on the north bank of the River Raisin.⁴

Sometime after 1866 and before 1890, as illustrated in floor plan 3 of 9, Talcott Wing added a three-window, five-sided bay window to the west façade of the west or Reading Parlor. It opened from a 9'0" tall Victorian archway that was 7'2" wide. The new bay window replaced two

³Conversation March 2013 between Robert Allore and James D. Peltier, the author

⁴ Talcott E. Wing- *History of Monroe County 1890* – Munsell and Company, New York

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double-hung windows. Wing also had built a new carriage house and stable twenty by twenty-four feet in ground dimensions attached to the north side of the kitchen. It had a high gable metal roof with ridge in the same direction of the main house and wooden windows and a barn door facing east. Talcott Wing also had the house electrified before 1900.

New owner/occupant Theodore E. Ilgenfritz after 1899 upgraded the house with city water and city sewer service. Floor plan 4 of 9 shows his addition of a nine-foot by twelve-foot kitchen to the north of the east end of the 1857-66 East Parlor's north wall. This addition was shown in the 1916 Sanborn map and its size confirmed in a 1954 City of Monroe tax assessor record showing it was demolished for a 1953-54 addition. The kitchen was a one-story wood frame structure with a brick exterior and shingled roof. It had a wooden door to a small wooden porch and steps down to grade on the west. Ilgenfritz also added a five-by-ten-foot bathroom in the former northwest corner of the East Parlor against the east wall of the original house. He also converted the carriage house/stable into a garage.

Eli Allore bought the house in 1938 for a funeral home. Floor plan 5 of 9 shows the first-floor plan as of about 1940 as drawn from memory by Allore's son Robert Allore. This illustrates Eli Allore's 1940⁵ renovation of the old carriage house with a ten-foot by fourteen-foot wood frame extension from the east end of the carriage house's north side. The north part of this part of the building became the garage, with a new garage door facing east, providing a garage length of thirty feet. The south ten feet of the old carriage house then became a ten by twenty-foot body preparation/embalming room and storage area.

On the first floor Allore converted the old kitchen, used by the Ilgenfritz family as their dining room, into a new office, and the former hallway between the former East and Reading Parlors into a new Organ Room, the west Reading Parlor into a Visitation Room, and the former East Parlor into the Allores' living room. This arrangement of spaces with the garage at the north end and the embalming room next door to the south allowed for a deceased person to be placed in their casket and brought through the office into the Organ Room and placed into a visitation room. The office still retained outside access to either porch. The Formal (front) and Reading Parlors each became visitation rooms, and the former Dining Parlor became the Organ Room/hallway. Off the large East Parlor there was already a bathroom and a storage closet, with a small hallway between them, with a door to separate the space to the east, the remaining East Parlor. This became the Allores' living room, but could also be used as an additional visitation area if needed. The casket selection room was on the second floor of the original house, which required the caskets to be carried up and down the front stairway. The casket room took up about 60% of the upstairs with son Robert's bedroom and bathroom on the south side in the front to the depth of the front stairway. In the center of the north wall was a doorway that led down to Eli Allore's bedroom (above the office) that allowed access to the back set of inside steps going down to the office.

⁵ Building Permit Number 5073A, City of Monroe Building Department, 1940

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Eli Allore's 1953-54 addition and renovation was a major project illustrated in floor plan 6 of 9. The former carriage house rear addition that in the 1940s housed the garage and embalming room was demolished and a much larger rear extension constructed whose side walls extended out to and, on the west, slightly beyond the old east and west side walls. The addition's first-floor exterior walls were faced in red brick similar to the old walls. A large garage area at the back has concrete block interior walls and the other new spaces' walls are plastered over standard wood framing. A flat roof covers the rear addition garage, office, embalming room, hallways, the restrooms and the new chapel. A front-gable-roof second-story part of the addition, set well back unobtrusively from the street-facing south and west facades behind the original house, contains an apartment on the second floor. This second story is of standard wood frame construction with aluminum siding. Its front-gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

The funeral home was expanded to provide more space to meet better the business growth and customer needs. This expansion provided greater flexibility for funeral services and family visitations by the use of folding doors and larger door openings. The old 20" x 24' garage was removed as well as the Macomb Street small side porch, the east porch of the office and the 9'x12' kitchen and its porch and the low second-story walls and roof over the 1857-66 period kitchen.

The project included, as a first phase, revising the rear stairway up to the new living quarters on the new second story and making that area into a new living room, a kitchen, dining area, and two new bedrooms. In a second phase, a new garage, preparation room, restrooms, office, hallways, chapel space, and casket showroom, storage and rear entry were built, and central air conditioning installed. In the old East Parlor area the bathroom and storage rooms were removed and the East Parlor visitation room expanded back to its former size. A small three-sided bay window replacing the old fireplace and two windows in the East Parlor's east wall was built to increase the area for casket viewing. A new French exterior glass door was installed to provide access to the east porch and the sidewalk. North of the East Parlor new restrooms, storage room, and casket selection room (replacing the old second-floor one) were built replacing the 9' x 12' kitchen and occupying formerly outdoor space to its north and west. Louis Tillie and Eli Allore's brother Linus Allore were the builders. In 1955 the "Wing-Allore House" became known as the Allore Funeral Home.

The small projecting three-sided bay window in the house's Bay Chapel was replaced in 1964 with a broader five-sided projection, 7'8" deep by 16' wide and 10' tall, containing a single custom stained glass window in the center side. The new structure was designed by the late Robert Gustafson, a local architect.⁶ Gratton Construction Company of Monroe, Michigan, founded in 1941, built this 1964, and also 1968 and 1994, construction projects.

On July 2, 1966, for the only time ever at the funeral home, there were five funerals held the same day (while Robert Allore served as the best man at the writer's wedding). The cramped conditions resulting from holding five funerals spurred Allore to plan for the largest expansion of

⁶ Building Permit Numbers 9286 & 9547, City of Monroe Building Department, 1953

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the "Wing- Allore House." In 1968⁷ a new west "Memorial Chapel" was added to the building's west side; fifty by thirty-two feet in size, it could be divided into two large viewing parlors by a moving sound proof wall. This required removing the historic five-sided bay window in the former Reading Parlor/Bay Parlor's west side. The 9' wide and 9'-2" tall archway leading into the former bay window was retained and is used as an entry point into the south half of the new chapel. In this new space Victorian wood trim and doors designed to match the existing building were used. The addition also allowed for a new casket selection room to be built in the new basement with a funeral arrangement office, more storage, and an elevator entry.

This 1968 addition⁸ shown in floor plan 7 of 9 added about 3000 new square feet. It has red brick walls, a flat roof with wooden cornice and balustrade all around, floor-to-ceiling double-hung, double-pane wooden windows facing south on Elm Street, and a front porch, with three columns, designed to match the porches fronting the older parts of the building to the east. This addition on the west side of the original house exposed the entire west foundation and basement wall of the original house. A new and deeper basement was built under the entire addition. The two slightly projecting triple windows on the west, Macomb Street side are colonial in style. All the floors were carpeted, except a terrazzo floor in the preparation room. A new wooden balustrade system was installed at the roof's edge over the porches and flat roof areas of the funeral home.

On the first floor of the new west addition, north of the chapel were new restrooms, preparation room, elevator and storage. The former casket selection room north of the Bay Chapel was added to the Bay Chapel for expanded visitation and service space. The new configuration allowed for three very comfortable and larger visitation areas at one time in the funeral home and a fourth visitation option if necessary.

Robert Allore's architectural training focused him to maintain as much as possible the house's historic character despite all the expansions. Those features such as the large floor-to-ceiling double-hung windows and the third front porch with columns on the new 1968 Memorial Chapel were designed to complement the house's historic features. The two shallow triple-window bays of that addition were designed to appear different on the North Macomb Street side, reflecting the 1968 period.

Frank McAuliffe, PE, was the project professional for the 1968 addition, and James D. Peltier was the planner handling drafting services, site design and zoning issues. This major addition was tied into the original structure and has not caused any damage to the original structural soundness.

In the period 1984-1998, Robert Allore personally restored existing and added new Victorian style wood trim in each room on the first floor of the funeral home and also repaired all plastered walls and repainted the entire first floor. The author provided assistance with this project.

⁷ Building Permit Number 15127, City of Monroe Building Department, August 1964

⁸ Building Permit Number 18018, City of Monroe Building Department, June 25, 1968

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In 1982 additional living space was provided upstairs in the funeral home for Robert's family.⁹ This included adding a new family room, with fireplace, that opened up to an enclosed deck, located north of the back stairway, and a new small private office and elevator entrance over the existing flat roof area.

In 1987-8¹⁰ a new ADA enclosed main entrance was built in the rear of the house facing the off street parking lot. This one-story brick structure had a small porch with roof supported by two columns. Two small Roman arch windows provide light into the lobby with its ramps and steps, salt water fish tank, tile, carpet, wallpaper, tiled ceiling and furnishings. The late Don Johnson AIA designed this work. Floor plan 8 of 9 illustrates this important change.

In 1989¹¹ the porches fronting the original house and east wing were rebuilt. The old wooden floors and structures and steps were removed and new concrete floors and steps and new roof supports and aluminum columns installed.

In 1994¹² the Martenson Family, new owners, upgraded the restrooms to ADA standards and removed the office and storage to enlarge the main reception area inside what had become the main entrance at the back of the building's east side. They also decorated the entire first floor with new carpet, added more furnishings, installed new wallpaper, and painted and added new lighting.

The building's roofing systems are being updated, brick and mortar restoration is planned, and energy upgrades are being carried out to keep the building useable and healthy for years to come.

⁹Building Permit Number 34755, City of Monroe Building Department, May 1982

¹⁰Building Permit Number 43081, City of Monroe Building Department, June 10, 1987

¹¹ Building Permit Number 46538, City of Monroe Building Department, June 13, 1989

¹²Building Permit Number BD-94-1039 City of Monroe Building Department, August 19, 1994

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Commerce

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Period of Significance

1828 to 1964

Significant Dates

1829
1844
1890
1899
1938
1953/54

Significant Persons

Austin E. Wing
Talcott E. Wing
Theodore E. Ilgenfritz
Eli Allore

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Robert Gustafson AIA, Historic
Frank McAuliffe PE
Donald Thompson AIA
Gratton Construction – Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Wing-Allore House meets national register criterion B for its associations with Austin E. Wing, his son Talcott E. Wing, local nurseryman Theodore E. Ilgenfritz, and long-time funeral director and mortician Eli Allore. The house possesses a state level of significance for its association with Austin E. Wing. Wing (1792-1849) was an official of the government of Michigan Territory, serving as delegate or representative for the territory to the U. S. Congress in 1825-29 and 1831-33 and as the sheriff for the territory. Few if any other homes associated with other officials from the territorial period prior to Michigan's being recognized as a state by the federal government have survived. The house possesses a local level of historic significance for its association with Talcott E. Wing (1819-90). A Monroe County probate judge elected in 1864 and 1868, U. S. Circuit Court commissioner, and local banker, Talcott Wing is most important for his association with history – as president of the Historical Society of Michigan in 1887-89 but especially for his compiling the first history of Monroe County, published shortly after his

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death after four years of work. The house is also notable at the local level for its associations with Theodore E. Ilgenfritz (1856-1919), general manager of I. E. Ilgenfritz & Sons, the oldest and most important nursery business in Monroe, and with Eli Allore (1907-98), whose role in Monroe's funeral industry ran from 1925 til shortly before his death in 1998. Allore was a partner in or sole proprietor of a funeral home business housed in the Wing-Allore House from 1938 until 1973. The Wing-Allore House also possesses significance under criterion A for serving continuously since 1938 as the place of business of an undertaking/funeral home business that is now the only one left in Monroe.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Austin E. Wing Era from 1828 until 1844

On July 28, 1828, Austin E. Wing of Detroit bought the property on which the house stands from Colonel John Anderson and his wife by a deed that described the land as being

on the north side of the River Raisin bounded and described as follows to wit: beginning at a post on the north line of the Highway between this tract and a tract confirmed by the United States to Robert dit Fonton Navarre, thence running north nineteen degrees east on the west line of said Navarre's lands to a post on the rear of said tract as confirmed by the United States to the said John Anderson. Thence – north seventy one degrees west on a line parallel with the first mentioned boundary to a post on the north side of the highway aforementioned, thence eastwardly upon the north line of the highway aforesaid leading up and down the River Raisin, thirteen rods and ten feet to the place of beginning, containing forty-two acres, more or less, meaning and intending to convey to said Wing by these presents thirteen rods and ten feet of land in front upon the road aforesaid off from the east side of a tract of land containing 99 14/100 Acres patented to me the said John Anderson by the United States the twentieth day of April AD 1811.¹³

An 1839 *Map of the City of Monroe's Fourth Ward*¹⁴ shows Austin E. Wing as the owner of the property, located on the east side of North Macomb Street from Water Street (now East Elm Avenue) east to Lorain Street.

Austin E. Wing,¹⁵ Michigan Territory and early state-era governmental official and attorney, was born in Conway, Massachusetts, February 3, 1792. He attended Athens College, Ohio, and Williams College, Massachusetts, and graduated from Williams with honors in 1814. General

¹³Recorded in Liber I pages 88 to 91 in the Monroe County Register of Deeds Office

¹⁴“1839 *Map of the City of Monroe's- Fourth Ward* on displayed in the Monroe County Historic Museum - Map Room

¹⁵ Picture of Austin E. Wing from Talcott E. *Wing's History of Monroe County, Michigan-1890*

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Lewis Cass, Governor of Michigan Territory from 1813 until 1831, and William Woodbridge, the Michigan territorial secretary under Cass, influenced Austin Wing to join them in Michigan Territory, where he entered Woodbridge's law office. Austin was appointed Sheriff of the territory, which then included Wisconsin and Illinois as well as Michigan. He served as delegate or representative from the territory to Congress in 1825-29 and 1831-33, successor to the famous Catholic priest Rev. Gabriel Richard. He then served as United States marshal for the Southern District of Michigan and later, in 1842, represented Monroe County in the state legislature.

Austin Wing and his family lived in Detroit before moving to Monroe. The 1828 deed lists Wing as already a resident of Monroe, but a biography of son Talcott E. Wing states the family moved there in 1829. It seems likely Wing purchased the property in 1828 with the idea of building his home there, and the house could have been built soon after, so that the family moved into it in 1829. No documentation of the house's date of construction has been located, but the 1890 obituary of son Talcott E. Wing, who was deeded the property by his parents in 1844, states that the son had then been living there more than fifty years – thus suggesting a construction date sometime prior to 1840. Austin E. Wing and his wife Harriet had the one son, Talcott E., and two daughters, Eliza & Harriet. Austin died at the "Water-cure Sanitarium" in Cleveland, Ohio, on August 25, 1849.¹⁶ The Wing-Allore House has significance as one of certainly very few surviving homes of public officials of the Michigan Territory.

The Talcott E. Wing Era from 1844 until 1892

The house also possesses historical significance under criterion B at the local level for its association with Talcott E. Wing. Wing was a well regarded judicial, legal, and banking figure in Monroe, but what seems his key significance today is his role as a historian in compiling the first history of Monroe County, a part of Michigan with one of the longest histories of Euro-American settlement. Wing's history contains much early history that would likely not have otherwise survived.

On December 24, 1844,¹⁷ Talcott E. Wing received a warranty deed from his parents, Austin E. Wing and Mary Wing for the property associated with the house. Talcott E. Wing was born in Detroit in 1819, and moved with his parents and family about 1829 to Monroe. He entered Knox College in Ohio in 1836 and a year later enrolled in Williams College in Massachusetts, from which he graduated in 1840. Returning to Monroe, he entered the law office of his uncle Warren Wing, afterwards Judge of the Michigan Supreme Court and law partner of Robert McClelland, subsequently a member of the US Congress and Secretary of the Interior. Talcott was admitted to practice law in 1844. From 1849 til about 1857 he and Ira R. Grosvenor ran a law practice in Monroe. Talcott was elected county Probate Judge in 1864 and again in 1868. He also held the office of United States Circuit Court Commissioner from 1844 until at least the late 1880s. In banking he partnered in founding the Wing & Johnson Bank and in 1864 merged it with the First National Bank of Monroe (now part of PNC Bank), serving in the offices of president, cashier, director, and vice-president at various times.

¹⁶Talcott E. Wing, *History of Monroe County, Michigan-1890*, Munsell and Company, Publishers, New York

¹⁷Recorded in Liber KK Page 132 on April 13, 1845 at the Monroe County Register of Deeds Office

Wing-Allore House
Name of Property

Monroe, Michigan
County and State

Talcott E. Wing had a longstanding interest in history. He was elected an officer of the Michigan Historical Society in 1882, than elected president in 1887 and again in 1888, serving from June 1887 to June 1889. Michigan Governor Luce appointed him president of the commission to attend the centennial of the first settlement in the Northwest Territory under the Ordinance of 1787 held at Marietta, Ohio, in April 1888. His major achievement in the field of history was his compilation of the first history of Monroe County, completed just before his death in 1890. Regarding the history, one of his obituaries states: "His collection of historical papers, fostered by his connection with the State Society, was especially full and rich in data appertaining to the early history of Monroe county; and as he had been a prominent factor in that history, his memory was a veritable store house of facts connected with its inception and growth. When, four years ago, Munsell & Co., of New York, proposed to issue a History of Monroe Co., Judge Wing was prevailed upon to undertake its compilation. It has been to him a labor of love, and he looked upon it as a fitting monument to his name." He completed the project at the house only a few days before his death. His home served for his visitation wake and funeral and he is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Monroe.¹⁸

Wing's home was the place where his writing was done, as well as the center of his family life. His county history contains a biographical sketch of George Armstrong Custer, who had Monroe connections in that he lived here with a sister for several years in the mid-1850s and that Elizabeth Bacon, to whom he was married in 1864, was from Monroe. Concerning Custer, Wing reminisced:

When he [i.e. Custer] returned to his father's home in Monroe on furlough, it was the writer's frequent privilege to hear him relate the stirring incidents of his adventurous life on the frontier. General Custer passed many evenings at our fireside, with my boys clustered about him in breathless interest. Well do I remember the night he recounted the capture of Black Kettle, we crept with him over the snow in the dark and silent hours of night; we saw the morning star shoot into sight like a rocket in the clear western atmosphere; we heard the baby's cry in the distant wigwam, and trembled at the bark of the Indian dog for fear it would betray his little band of soldiers. Even when the clock on the mantel struck the hour of two in the morning, the children would beg him to continue. He had a never-failing fund of anecdote and adventure. His enthusiasm and goo-fellowship made him a most interesting companion.

As noted above, one of Talcott E. Wing's obituaries, written by "A writer who knew him intimately, as well as his distinguished uncle," stated, "He died in his residence of more than a half of a century,"¹⁹ supporting his living there since 1840 or before. An 1859 map of Monroe by Geil, Harley & Siverd shows the property owned by T. E. Wing, with no other houses from Water Street (East Elm Avenue) to Noble Avenue.²⁰

¹⁸Talcott E. Wing, History of Monroe County, Michigan- 1890, Munsell and Company-Publishers-New York

¹⁹Talcott E. Wing Obituary published in the 'Detroit Times' on January 29, 1890, Detroit, Michigan

²⁰ "Map of Monroe-1859-Geil, Harley & Siverd"- Monroe County Historic Museum-Map Room

Wing-Allore House

Monroe, Michigan

Name of Property

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Talcott E. Wing almost certainly modernized the house with its Italianate features. At 311 E. Elm Ave. in 1852 a new large Italianate house was built that became known as the "DeGraff-Toll House."²¹ Also, next door to the "Wing-Allore House" another Italianate house, the "Loranger House," was built. This new construction likely helped set the theme for the remodeling of the "Wing-Allore House" with the bracketed roofline, columned porch, and floor-to-ceiling front windows sometime after 1857 and before 1866. The "Wing-Allore House," the "Loranger House," and the "DeGraff-Toll House" locally became known as the three mansions on the north bank of the River Raisin in Monroe.²² The footprints of the "Wing-Allore House" and these other two homes are visible in two birdseye views done in 1866 and 1892.²³

Following Talcott Wing's death in 1890, his estate sold the house in 1892.

The Hall Era from 1892 until 1899

The Wing-Allore House²⁴ was sold by the Talcott E. Wing family to settle his estate on June 6, 1892, to Ellen J. Hall. The site had been reduced to less than two acres by then. The size of the property was further reduced by Ms. Hall with parcels sold to Joseph LaTour in 1896 and in 1897 to Adelia Amendt and Antonia Amendt.

The Theodore E. Ilgenfritz Era from 1899 until 1938

Nurseryman Theodore E. Ilgenfritz purchased the Wing-Allore House in 1899. He was the son of Israel Ilgenfritz,²⁵ pioneer and, eventually, nationally known Monroe nurseryman. Born of German parents in 1824 and a nurseryman from Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, Israel Ilgenfritz came to Monroe in 1847 with a small stock of trees and started what became an important nursery operation. He and his wife had eleven children. In 1884 his four sons joined the firm, which was renamed I. E. Ilgenfritz & Sons Nurseries. Israel Ilgenfritz's home still stands at 62 E. Elm Avenue, on the river just 200 feet west of the Wing-Allore House, and four other Ilgenfritz families also lived on East Elm Avenue, all within two blocks of each other, when Theodore and Kate Ilgenfritz bought the Wing-Allore House.

Theodore and Kate Ilgenfritz purchased the Wing-Allore House from Ellen J. Hall on August 3, 1899.²⁶ Theodore E. Ilgenfritz²⁷ was one of Monroe's most influential businessmen. Born in Monroe on May 3, 1856, the second son of I. E. Ilgenfritz, he attended Albion College and then returned to Monroe to work in the family enterprise. I. E. Ilgenfritz & Sons were a pioneer industry in Monroe County and a leader in the nursery business. Theodore married Kate La

²¹Picture of the DeGraff-Toll House - 1900

²² Talcott E. Wing-*History of Monroe County, Michigan-1890*, Munsell and Company-Publishers, New York

²³ *1866 and 1894-Birdseye View paintings* done by German Artist are displayed in the Monroe County Historic Museum - Map Room

²⁴ Deed is recorded in Liber 130 Page 389 at the Monroe County Register of Deeds Office

²⁵ Israel Epley Ilgenfritz Obituary- *The Monroe Democrat*, April 11, 1895- Monroe, Michigan

²⁶Deed is recorded in Liber 145 Page 546 at the Monroe County Register of Deeds Office

²⁷Theodore E. Ilgenfritz Obituary- *Monroe Evening News*- June 26, 1919, Monroe, Michigan

Wing-Allore House

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Fontaine on February 6, 1878, and they had two children. After learning the business with his three brothers, Theodore became the general manager for many years until his death on June 25, 1919. He died at home and his funeral visitation and service were held at the Wing-Allore House. Katherine Ilgenfritz²⁸ died in 1935. Theodore Ilgenfritz's brothers and their children continued the nursery business until it was dissolved and closed in 1965. Its last president, a fourth-generation nurseryman James I. E. Ilgenfritz,²⁹ lived at 62 East Elm, where his father, grandfather and great grandfather (Theodore's dad) had lived. James died in February 1, 2009.

In the Monroe community the Theodore Ilgenfritz family was known for their generous hospitality and their beautiful brick Victorian home at 203 East Elm Street. Sometime before the River Raisin flood of 1910, they removed the three foot picket fence along the ROW lines and sidewalks on Elm Avenue and Macomb Street. They also gave the entire site a new landscaping look. They also added a 9' x 12' modern kitchen, city water and city sewer and a bathroom sometime before 1916, all in the East Parlor area.

The Victorian Funeral Traditions Era started in 1860

In the nineteenth century there were no funeral homes to provide the package of funerary services considered customary today. Local furniture stores frequently included a separate undertaking business that offered wooden caskets and undertaking services. The undertaker would bring his embalming tools, the casket and other equipment to a person's home, where the body was embalmed, dressed and placed in a casket for the wake. Often the funeral service was held in the home or the person was taken to their church or graveside for the funeral service.

During the late nineteenth century it became more common for furniture stores offering undertaking services to establish a place within their building for body preparations and visitation rooms or chapels in which funeral observances could be held. The next advancement in funeral home development, starting around 1910, was to convert a residential structure into a mortuary or funeral home, housing body preparations, casket selection area, body visitation rooms and the funeral service chapels, instead of using the private home. Buildings specially designed and constructed for funeral home use began to appear in the 1920s. But very many of today's funeral homes continue to exemplify the early twentieth-century model of a remodeled older home serving as a funeral home. The Wing-Allore House was an ideal building for this application.

The path to the Wing-Allore House becoming a Mortuary, then a Funeral home, these four pioneers would help guide the change in Victorian era funeral practices in Monroe's History. The Wing-Allore House opened in September 1938 and became the sixth converted residence to a funeral home in the City of Monroe. Since 2004 it is the only remaining funeral home in the City.

²⁸Katherine Ilgenfritz Obituary-*Monroe Evening News*-May 28, 1935, Monroe, Michigan

²⁹James IE Ilgenfritz Obituary-*Monroe Evening News*-February 5, 2009, Monroe, Michigan

Wing-Allore House

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Name of Property

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Napoleon Nadeau³⁰ was born April 6, 1827, in Monroe, being a son of a pioneer family, became an honorable business man, first as a grocer, than in the pork-packing business, then engaged in the furniture business and undertaking in 1860. One of his five children, Fred C. Nadeau, would join him in the furniture and undertaking business. Napoleon retired in 1887 and died August 1, 1896, and was buried from St. Mary's Church.

Fred C. Nadeau,³¹ born on February 8, 1857, in Monroe, joined his father in 1882 at the Nadeau furniture and undertaking business in a store on East Front Street. Fred C. Nadeau lived with his family at 211 N. Macomb Street, one block north of the Wing-Allore House. His future partner in 1893, Frank Weber, would be the first mortician to use the Wing-Allore House as a mortuary. Fred C. Nadeau of Nadeau and Weber Mortuary of 88 West Front Street was a professional mortician for fifty-three years until his death on November 22, 1935, and his funeral was at St. John the Baptist Church.

Frank D. Weber,³² master furniture crafter and undertaker, Fifth owner of the "Wing-Allore House," born Sept, 4, 1862, in Detroit, formed a partnership with Fred C. Nadeau in 1893. Frank Weber was a wood carver with the Deinzer Furniture Company of Detroit. Still today, some of his wood-carving work can be found at Trinity Lutheran Church in Monroe. The new firm became known as Nadeau and Weber Undertakers.

In January 1938 Weber, with Earle A. Little, leased the Wing-Allore House to serve as a mortuary. The business soon failed. Frank Weber then convinced Eli Allore and Gus Beam to buy the Wing-Allore House and form a new firm to operate an Allore, Beam and Weber Mortuary. Weber continued working as a professional undertaker for fifty-two years. He retired in 1945 and died in 1951. His visitation was at the Wing-Allore House and his funeral mass held at St. Mary's Church.

Weber's partner, Earle A. Little,³³ was born in 1905 in Bay City, Michigan, graduated from Bay City High School and the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in 1928, and moved to Monroe then from Detroit and went to work at the Huber Funeral Home located at 126 East First Street at the corner of South Macomb Street. This funeral home was within two blocks south over the River Raisin from the Wing-Allore House. He and his wife Elise rented 203 E. Elm from the Ilgenfritz estate in 1936. In January 1938 he and Frank Weber opened the Weber and Little Mortuary³⁴ in the Wing-Allore House. In June 1938, Earle bought the house on the corner across from the Wing-Allore House at 115 East Elm Avenue and opened the Earle Little Mortuary.

Earle was an active Republican Party member and was elected coroner in 1938, 1942, 1946 and 1950. He was a member and on the Board of Trustees for 22 years at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Monroe, an active Mason, worthy patron of the Monroe Order of Eastern Star, a member of the Monroe Lodge of the Order of the Moose, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows,

³⁰Napoleon Nadeau Obituary - *The Monroe Democrat* - August 6, 1896 - Monroe, Michigan

³¹Fred C. Nadeau Obituary-*Monroe Evening News*-November 22, 1935- Monroe, Michigan

³² Frank D. Weber Obituary-*Monroe Evening News*- January 17, 1951-Monroe, Michigan

³³ Earle A. Little Obituary - *Monroe Evening News*- February 23, 1961- Monroe, Michigan

³⁴"Weber and Little Mortuary" Monroe City Directory 1938

Wing-Allore House

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the Monroe Exchange Club and the Michigan Funeral Directors. On February 23, 1961, Earle died in Detroit, his wake from the Earle Little Funeral Home and his funeral from St. Paul's Methodist Church with burial in Roselawn Memorial Park.

The Eli Allore Era from 1938 until 1994

The Wing-Allore House's long history as a mortuary began when Earle Little, a local mortician, and Frank Weber, the remaining partner of Nadeau and Weber Undertakers, leased the house from the Ilgenfritz Estate in January 1938 and opened a funeral home there. This newly formed Weber and Little Mortuary relationship lasted about five months. In June 1938 Frank Weber met with Eli Allore and Gus Beam. The three purchased the Wing-Allore House owned by the Ilgenfritz family on August 2, 1938.³⁵ They formed a new firm known as the Allore, Beam and Weber Mortuary that opened in September 1938 in the house.

Eli Allore³⁶ was born February 22, 1907, in Newport and a resident of Berlin Township living on Allore Street in the Old Port community (these locations all near Monroe). His family were second-generation pioneers and farmers. Eli was baptized and confirmed at St. Charles Catholic Church in Old Port. He went to grade school there and graduated from St. Charles High School in June 1925.

He joined Nadeau and Weber Undertaking in 1925 in Monroe, returning as a staff mortician after graduating from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1927. He lived with the Nadeaus at 211 North Macomb Street, one block north of the Wing-Allore House, until he married.

After being elected Monroe County Coroner in 1932, Eli Allore left what then became Nadeau and Weber on January 1, 1933, to open the new Allore and Beam Mortuary at 212 S. Monroe Street with his partner Gus Beam. Gus was a classmate at Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science with Eli. Their rented funeral home and site was sold in 1938 for the parking lot for the new A & P Food Store at 222 S. Monroe Street, now Durocher's TV and Appliance Store.

Eli Allore was a devoted Catholic and a very active member of Monroe's St. Mary's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus – Monroe Council #1266, and Kiwanis Club of Monroe and its president in 1942, the Monroe Club, and the Monroe Elks Lodge, Monroe Lodge 884 Loyal Order of Moose, Secretary of the Monroe Port Commission and the Verona Fathers.

Eli's partner Gus Beam left the firm and Monroe in 1943 and moved to Sardinia, Ohio, where he opened the Gus Beam Funeral Home that is still operated by his family today after his death in 1968. Eli's other partner Frank Weber retired in Monroe in 1945 after working fifty-two years as an undertaker.

³⁵Deed recorded in Liber 283 Page 681 at the Monroe County Register of Deeds Office.

³⁶ Eli Allore's Obituary- *Monroe Evening News-August 29, 1998*, Monroe, Michigan

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Eli Allore bought out Gus Beam's undivided half-interest in the funeral home real estate.³⁷ Allore had other partners, but the land and the building always remained in his name until he transferred his interest to his son Robert.

Earl Holcomb, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, was Allore's partner from 1948 to 1955, the business then known as the Allore and Holcomb Funeral Home. Earl moved on in 1955 to purchase a funeral home in Lucky, Ohio, and died in 2005. The business thereafter became known as the Allore Funeral Home.

Because of his community reputation as a professional funeral director, Allore's services were retained by Cardinal Edward Mooney for the re-interment of four deceased priests in new graves in a newly blessed Priests Section of historic St. Joseph Cemetery in Monroe. Eli assisted his friend Father Paquette, Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic, with this task.³⁸

Eli was a caring and chartable person, often supporting donations for religious education opportunities for kids and young adults. Also in providing free funeral services to the very poor. "Keep Smiling" was not only Eli political slogan, but his view on life and encouraged people to be positive and caring.

He was privileged to have the Allore Funeral Home provide funeral services for three pastors of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Monroe: Fr. Edmund Perrin³⁹ who served from 1942-1954, Fr. Francis Paquette⁴⁰ who served from 1954-1968 and Fr Carl G. Gentner⁴¹ who served from 1968-1987.

Mr. Allore was known as the "Funeral Director's Funeral Director." He was privileged to provide professional funeral services for three of his fellow Monroe competitors from the Wing-Allore House: they were Harold Maurice,⁴² owner of the Maurice Funeral Home; Earnest Durell,⁴³ former partner and brother-in-law of Edward Rupp of the Rupp-Durell Funeral Home; and Harvey Koch,⁴⁴ a staff funeral director at the Earle Little Funeral Home. Eli also assisted the owners of the Farhman Funeral Home of Temperance and the Liedel Funeral Home of Maybee during transitions of leadership caused by death of those funeral director/owners.

Eli retired in 1973 after a stroke and sold the business to his son Robert Allore. Until 1997, he often showed up at the door for visitations and funerals, meeting old friends and customers at the funeral home.

³⁷Deed recorded in Liber 306 Page 586 at the Monroe County Register of Deeds

³⁸ Ghislaine Bartolo and Lynn Waybright Reaume – *The Cross Leads Generations On – St. Antoine/ St. Mary Parish* – Custombooks Inc, Tappan, NY. - 1988

³⁹ Fr. Edmund Perrin Obituary-*Monroe Evening News-October 20, 1954*, Monroe, Michigan

⁴⁰Fr. Francis Paquette Obituary-*Monroe Evening News-May 11, 1968*, Monroe, Michigan

⁴¹ Fr Carl G. Gentner Obituary-*Monroe Evening News-March 25, 1990*, Monroe, Michigan

⁴²Harold Maurice Obituary-*Monroe Evening News-June 14, 1971*, Monroe, Michigan

⁴³Ernest Durrell Obituary-*Monroe Evening News-October 11, 1971*, Monroe, Michigan

⁴⁴Harvey Koch Obituary-*Monroe Evening News-October 28, 1986*, Monroe, Michigan

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Eli Allore died August 28, 1998; his visitation took place at the Wing-Allore House and his funeral mass was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Monroe. The author was one of his pallbearers.

Robert Allore, who took over the business in 1973, attended the Hall of the Devine Child of Monroe, a local military school for boys operated by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and was a graduate of Monroe Catholic Central High School and of the University of Minnesota (in Architectural Design) and the Wisconsin Institute of Mortuary Science. He first started working at the funeral home in 1951 and upon returning from a tour in the US Army as an E-6 surgical nurse and a surgical physician's assistant. He then joined his father as a licensed Michigan funeral director in the operation of the Allore Funeral Home. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus – Monroe Council #1266, Monroe Jaycee's, and the Monroe Lions Club.

Robert was elected county coroner in 1960 as a Democrat succeeding his father Eli Allore. At the end of his term in 1964, the County of Monroe created the Office of Medical Examiner under a new state law ending the lead role of funeral directors in determining cause of death. Robert served as an assistant medical examiner under the first two medical examiners (Medical Doctor's) to hold that office. Because of Robert's sincere interest in history he donated the funeral records of the Nadeau-Weber Mortuary to the Monroe County Museum for their genealogy program. His personal talent of woodworking skills lead him to the restoring all the original Victorian woodwork in the Wing-Allore House, which took him over four years to complete. He oversaw the design and historic details of the significant building improvements in 1964, 1968, and 1988.

Robert Allore and his wife lived in the apartment above the funeral home until he retired in 1994, when he sold both the business and the Wing-Allore House property.

The Martenson Family Funeral Homes Era begins in 1994

On February 28, 1994, the Martenson Family Funeral Homes of Trenton, Michigan, and John Martenson Junior, a third-generation funeral director, purchased an interest in the Allore Funeral Home,⁴⁵ allowing Robert Allore to retire, since his son chose not to enter the funeral profession. The Wing-Allore House remains in use today as the Allore Funeral Home/Monroe Chapel of the Martenson Family of Funeral Homes, Inc. Historic speaking, the Wing-Allore House as a funeral home has served over 11,566 persons and their families. And since 2004, it has been the only funeral home remaining in the City of Monroe.

⁴⁵Recorded in Liber 1371 Page 0885 at the Monroe County Register of Deeds Office

Wing-Allore House
Name of Property

Monroe, Michigan
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Ghislaine Bartolo and Lynn Waybright Reaume – *The Cross Leads Generations On – St. Antoine/ St. Mary Parish* – Custombooks Inc, Tappan, NY. - 1988

D. B. Reynolds – *Early Land Claims in Michigan – 1940* , Michigan Department of Conservation, Copyright 1940, Lansing, Michigan

John McClelland Buckley, *History of Monroe County Volume 1 and Volume 2 – 1913* -Lewis Publishing, Chicago, New York

Talcott E. Wing, *History of Monroe County, Michigan -1890* -Munsell and Company-Publishers, New York

City of Monroe – *Assessor Records, Building Permits, Engineering Records* – Monroe, Michigan

City of Monroe – *Historical Study* – June 1979

County Resister of Deeds Office, *Recorded Deeds* – Monroe, Michigan

Monroe County Historic Museum – *Map Room* – Monroe, Michigan

Monroe County Historic Museum- *City of Monroe Map -1871 by Willeys, Water and Bird, P.E*

Monroe County Historic Museum - *Obituary Records* - Monroe Michigan

Monroe County Historic Museum – *Photos Records by Street* – Monroe, Michigan

Monroe County Historic Museum – *Sanborn Insurance Maps* – Monroe, Michigan

Records of the Allore Funeral Home – *Various items 1933 to 1994* – Monroe, Michigan

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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

Wing-Allore House
Name of Property

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___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.917631 | Longitude: -83.392931 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

Wing-Allore House

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Name of Property

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property is best described today as a rectangle area as follows: Lot commencing at the intersection of the north line of East Elm Avenue and the east line of North Macomb Street; thence east on Elm Avenue 140 feet, where the front porch of the 1829 core building is setback 61 feet and parallel to Elm Avenue; thence to a point on the east side of the funeral home's 24' driveway and the property line going north between the driveway and the "Del Rio Apartments"; thence north along this line 182 feet to point between the driveway and the adjacent funeral home parking lots; then west from that point 140' which is a line about 3 feet north of the garage wall to a point on the east line of North Macomb Street; thence south 182 feet on this line where the 1988 building addition is setback 7 feet from this line to the point of beginning, being not in a recorded plat, but part of Private Claim 53 in the City of Monroe, Michigan. The area of this site is less than one acre.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Includes the part of the funeral home property on which the house/funeral home stands, with lawn areas out to the adjacent streets, while omitting as much as possible the parking lots to the east and north that are not historic features of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: James D. Peltier
Organization: Martenson Funeral Home – Allore Chapel
Street & name 203 East Elm Avenue
City or town: Monroe state: Michigan zip code: 48162
E-mail crisismaster1@hotmail.com
Telephone: 734-770-8606
Date: July 2014

Wing-Allore House
Name of Property

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
 1. Exterior Photo Locations 1 to 10
 2. Interior Photo Locations 11 to 29
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

First Floor Plans

Number	Year	Name of Drawing
1 of 9	1829 to 1839	Austin E. Wing House
2 of 9	1857 to 1866	Talcott E. Wing House
3 of 9	1867 to 1890	Talcott E. Wing House
4 of 9	1916	Theodore Ilgenfritz House
5 of 9	1940	Allore, Beam and Weber Mortuary
6 of 9	1953/54	Allore & Holcomb Funeral Home
7 of 9	1968	Allore Funeral Home
8 of 9	1988	Allore Funeral Home
9 of 9	1994	Allore Funeral Home

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Wing-Allore House

Name of Property

Monroe, Michigan

County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Wing-Allore House

City or Vicinity: Monroe

County: Monroe

State: Michigan

Photographer: **Exterior-** James D. Peltier **Interior-**Teresa Teague

Date Photographed: **Exterior** – April 2012 **Interior** – March 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Exterior Views – 1 to 10

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0001 facing north from East Elm Ave the entire front views of Allore Chapel (Wing House)

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0002 looking northwest from East Elm Ave., focused on the roof line features of original house

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0003 facing north from East Elm Ave showing the original Wing 1828 and the 1857 addition

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0004 looking west from the driveway (east side) at the 1964 bay window added to the Wing 1857 East Parlor, replacing the fireplace wall.

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0005 looking north from the bay window east side towards the Allore 1954 addition and the Allore 1985 ADA entrance

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0006 looking southwest from east side driveway and parking area at Allore 1988 ADA Entrance, Allore 1954 Garage, on second floor, the 3 bedroom, 2 bath, family room, study, kitchen, dining and living room and the roof lines including the original Wing-Allore 1828-29 structure.

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0007 looking south at the Allore 1954 garage from the north parking area

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0008 looking southeast from the west side of N. Macomb Street at the Allore 1954 garage and the northwest corner of Allore 1968 addition that included a new embalming room and large Memorial chapel.

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0009 looking northeast at the west side of the Allore 1968 addition from across North Macomb Street

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0010 looking northeast at the front of the Allore 1968 addition

Interior Views – 11 to 29

MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0011-Looking in the door into the Front Entrance and stairway

Wing-Allore House

Monroe, Michigan

Name of Property

County and State

- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0012-From old Reading Parlor looking south to front door
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0013-Formal Office/Sitting Parlor looking east from hallway
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0014-Formal Office/Sitting Parlor looking southeast from doorway
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0015-Looking northeast into old Reading Parlor
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0016-Looking west from old Reading Parlor 1828/29 Archway opening into the 1968 Memorial Chapel
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0017-Lookin east from old Reading Parlor to the new Bay Chapel
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0018-Looking east at a Victorian detail on the Bay Chapel's French door frame
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0019-Looking south into Bay Chapel, from its fireplace room
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0020-Looking east to the five sided Bay with a stain glass window in Bay Chapel
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0021-Looking north into the fire place room of Bay Chapel
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0022-Looking west into Memorial Chapel in archway of old Reading Parlor
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0023-Looking NE from SW corner of Memorial Chapel
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0024-Looking SE from NW corner of Memorial Chapel
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0025-Looking NW from SE corner of Memorial Chapel
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0026-Looking west down stairway to arrangement office and casket sales room
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0027-.Looking east to ADA main entrance at rear of the building
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0028-Looking NE in lower reception area of ADA entrance
- MI_ Monroe County-Wing-Allore 0029-Looking east from the upper reception area down to the rear main entrance

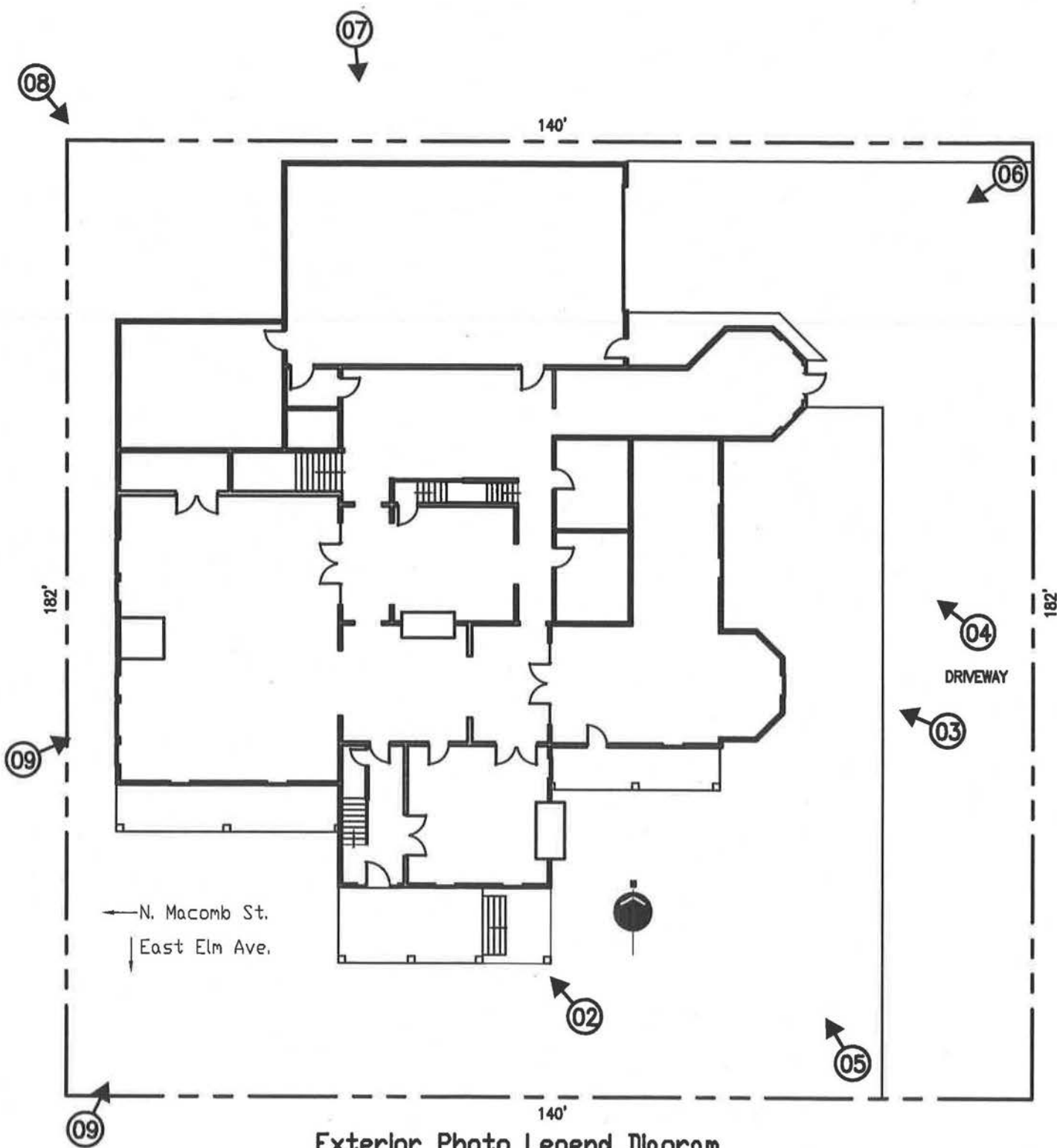
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



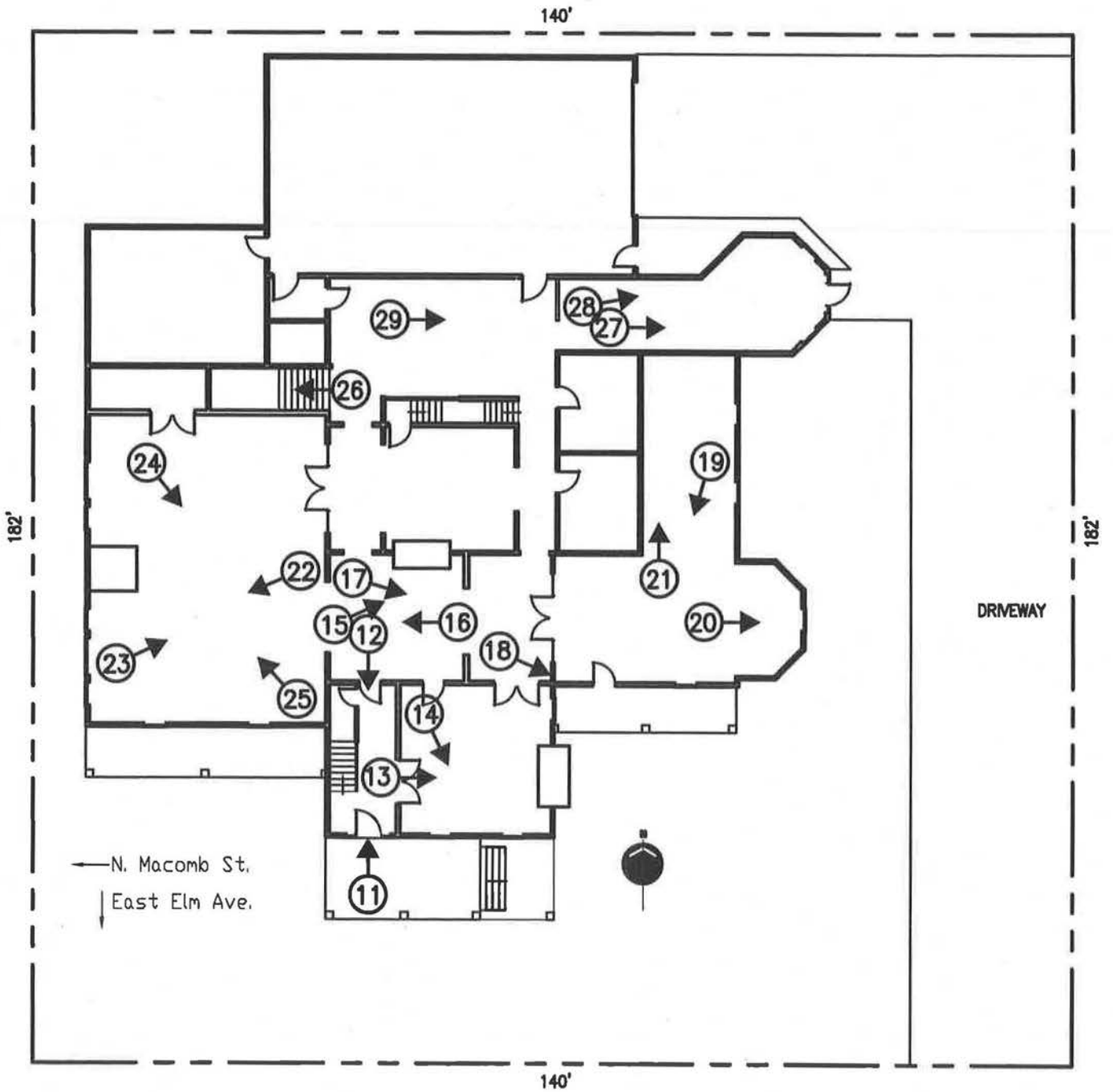
Wing-Allore House, Monroe County, Michigan

Lat.: 41.917631; Long.: -83.392931

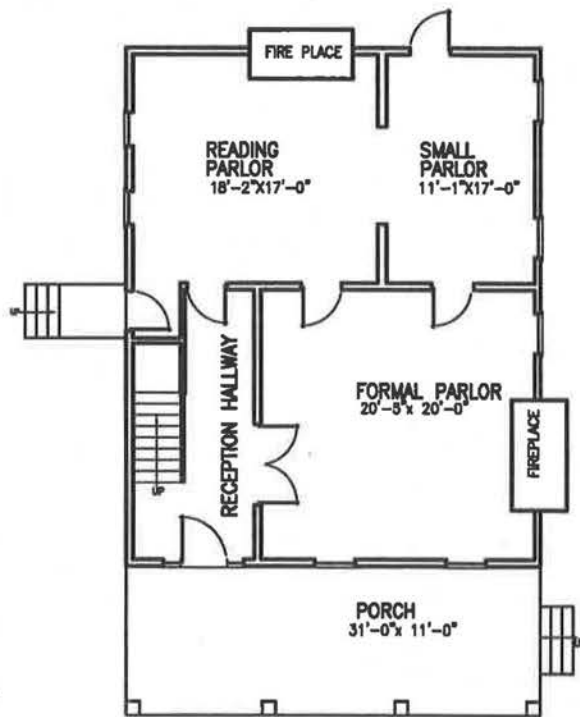


Exterior Photo Legend Diagram

01



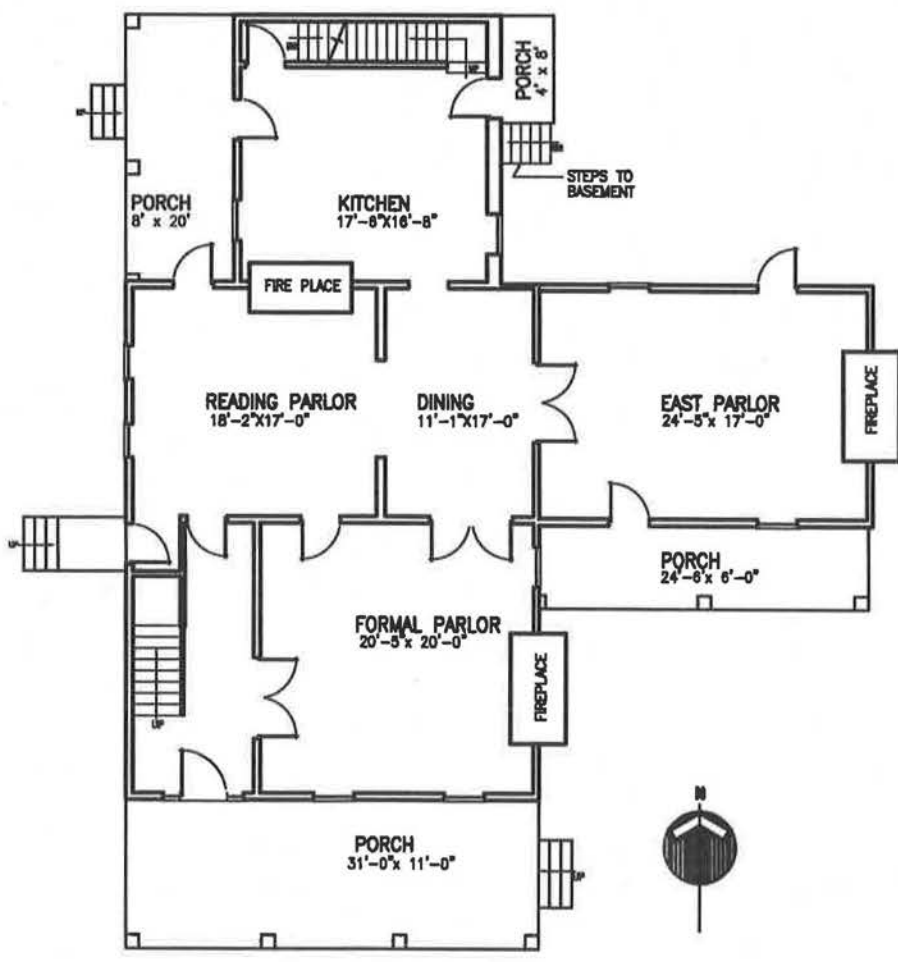
Interior Photo Legend Diagram



← N. Macomb St.
 ↓ East Elm Ave.

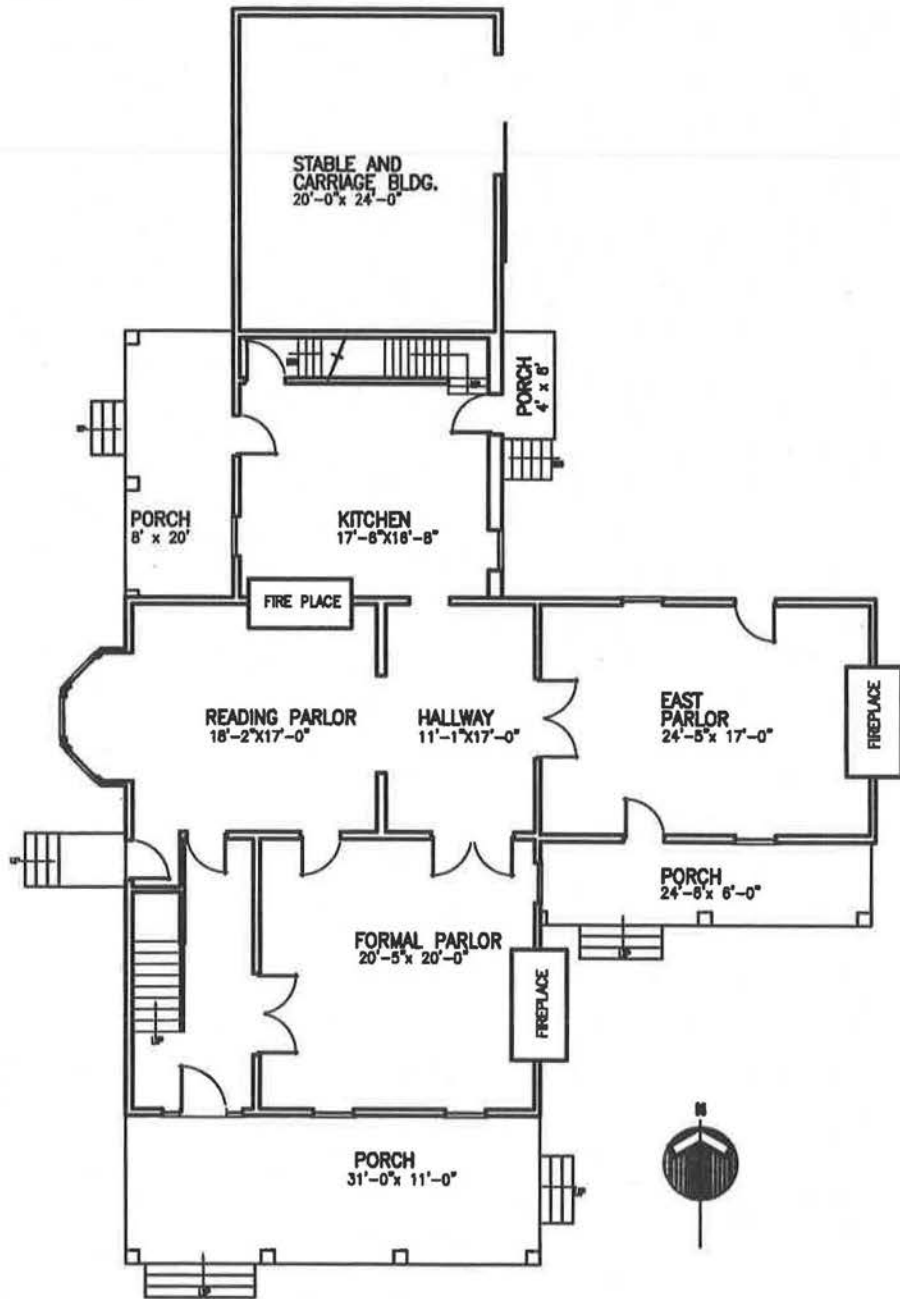


Austin E. Wing House 1829-1839

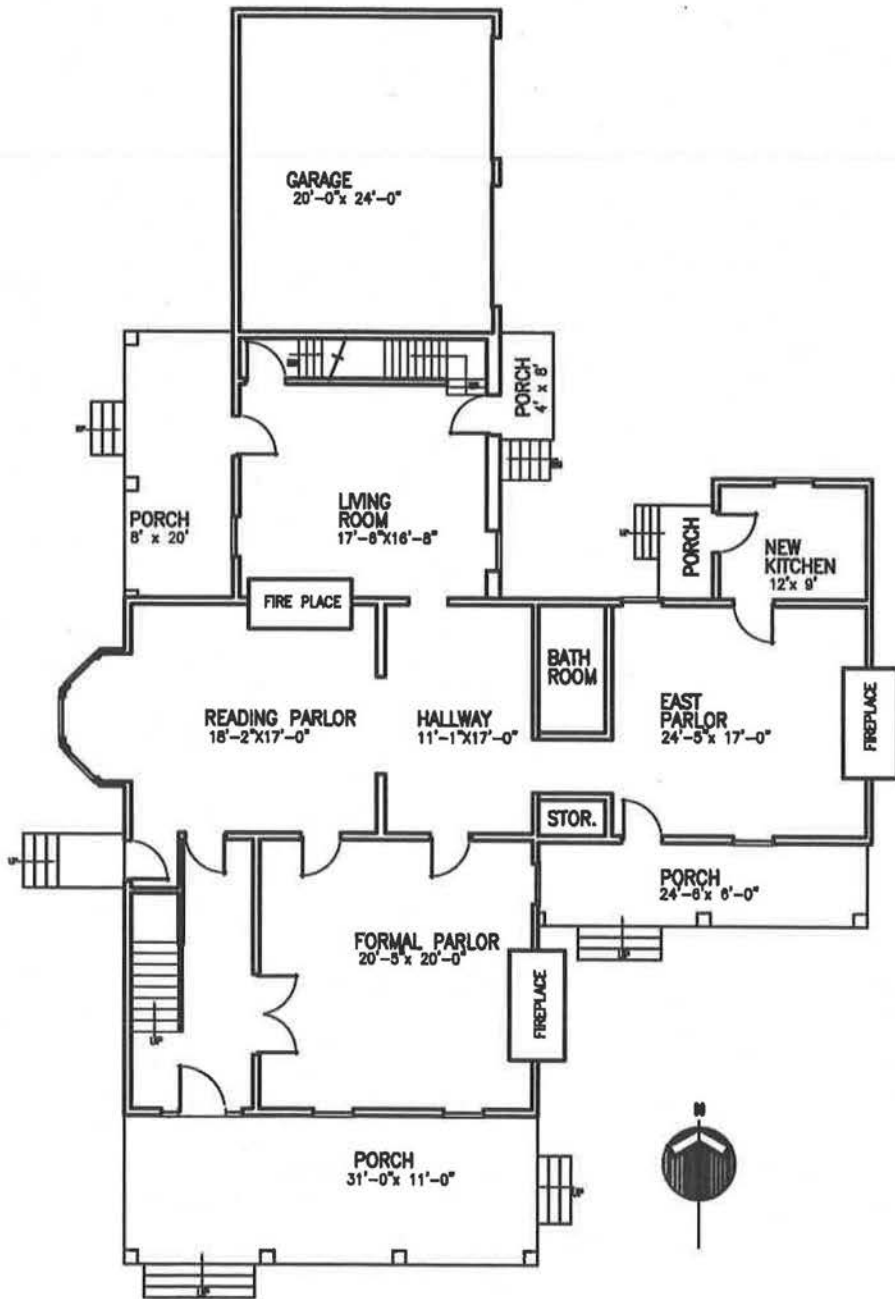


← N. Macomb St.
 ↓ East Elm Ave.

Talcott E. Wing House 1857-1866



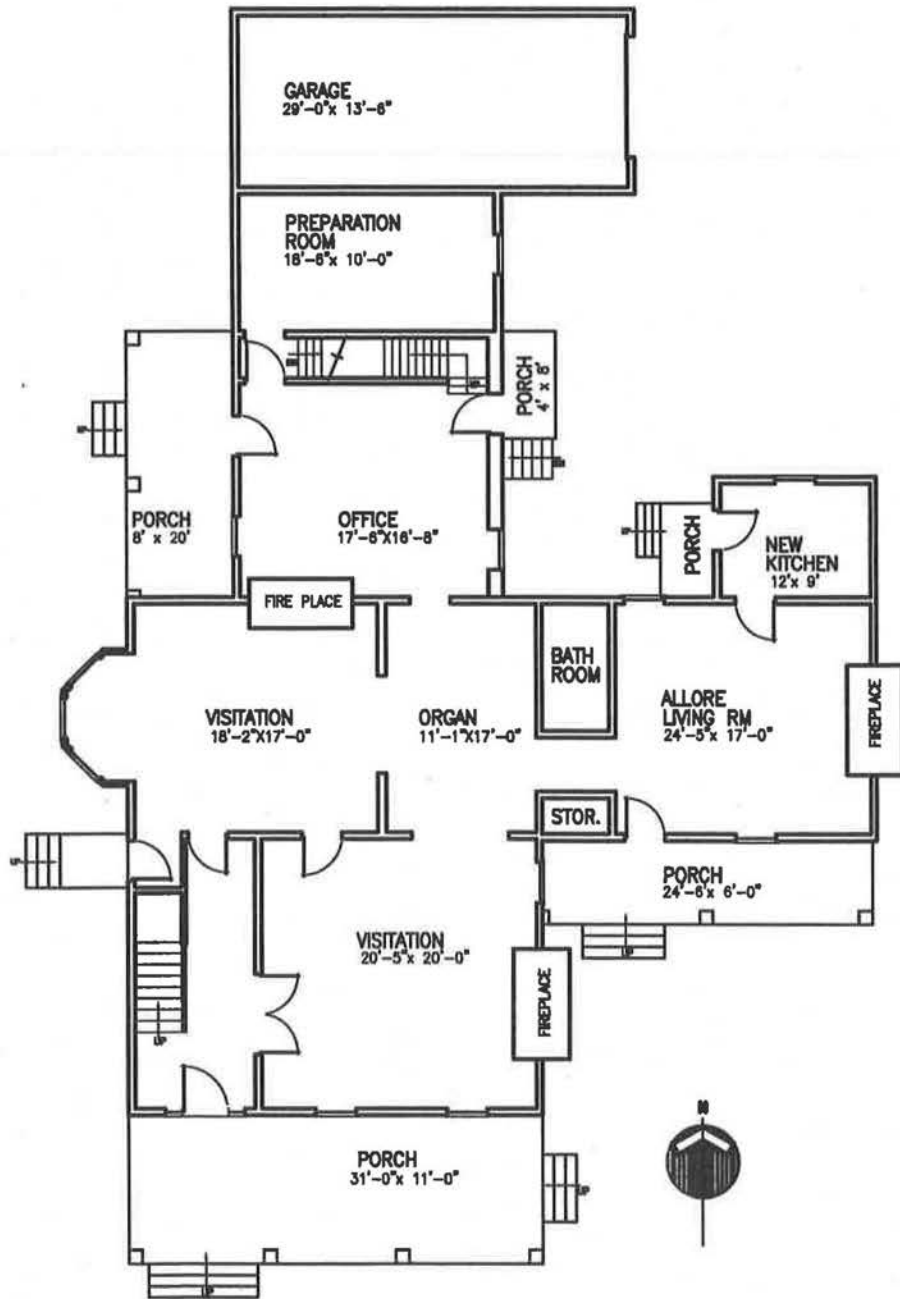
Talcott E. Wing House 1867-1890



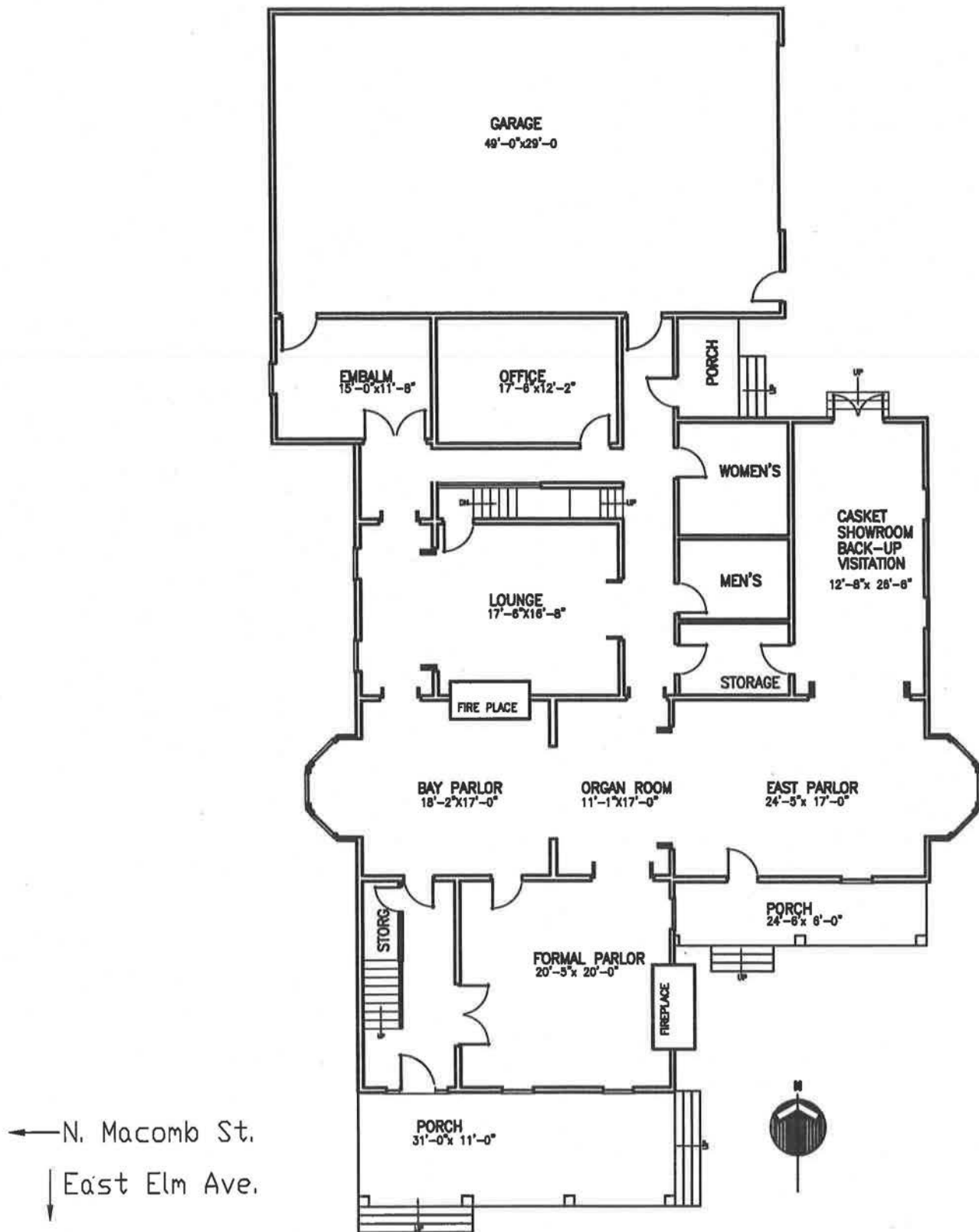
← N. Macomb St.
 ↓ East Elm Ave.



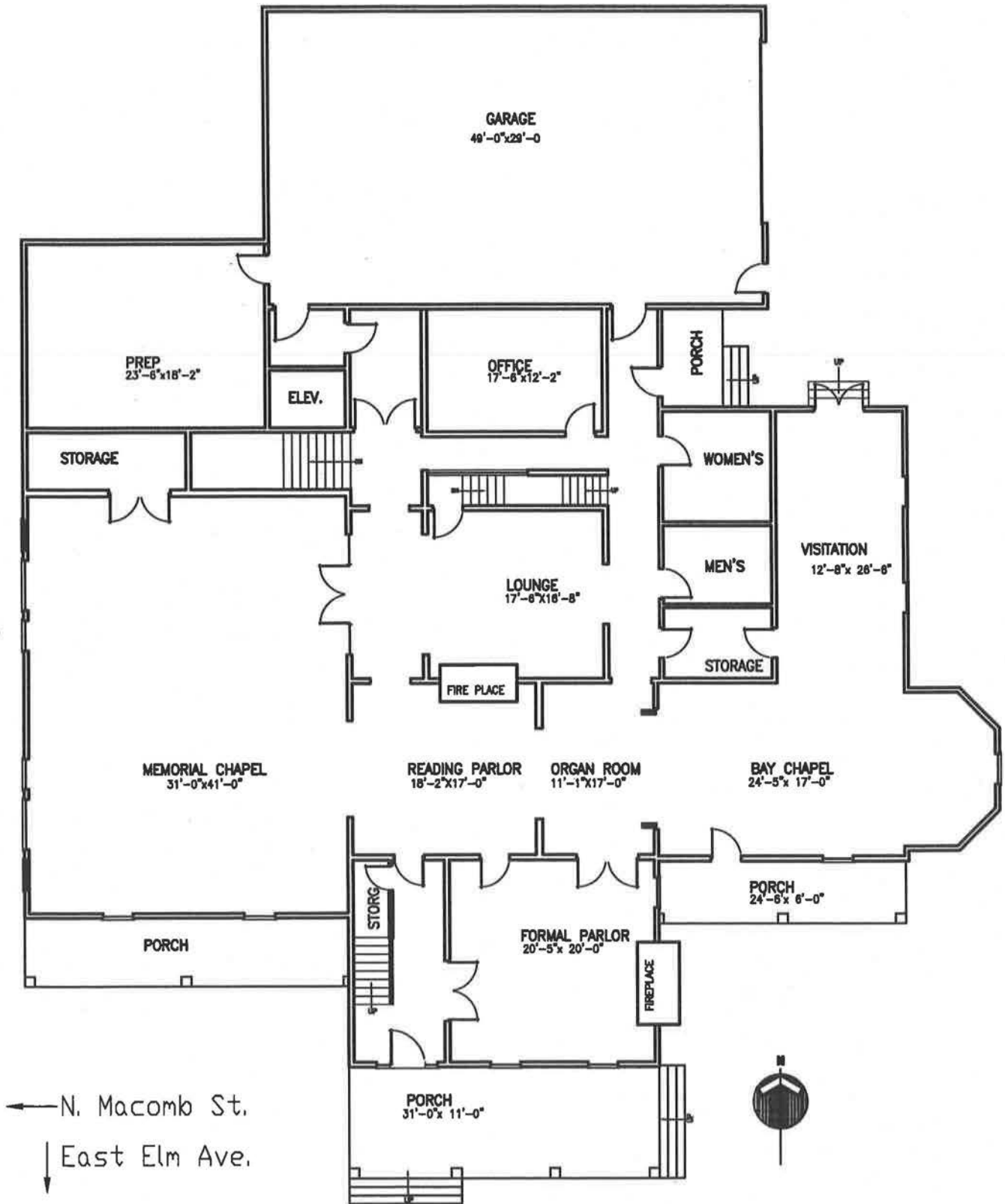
Theodore Ilgenfritz Home 1916



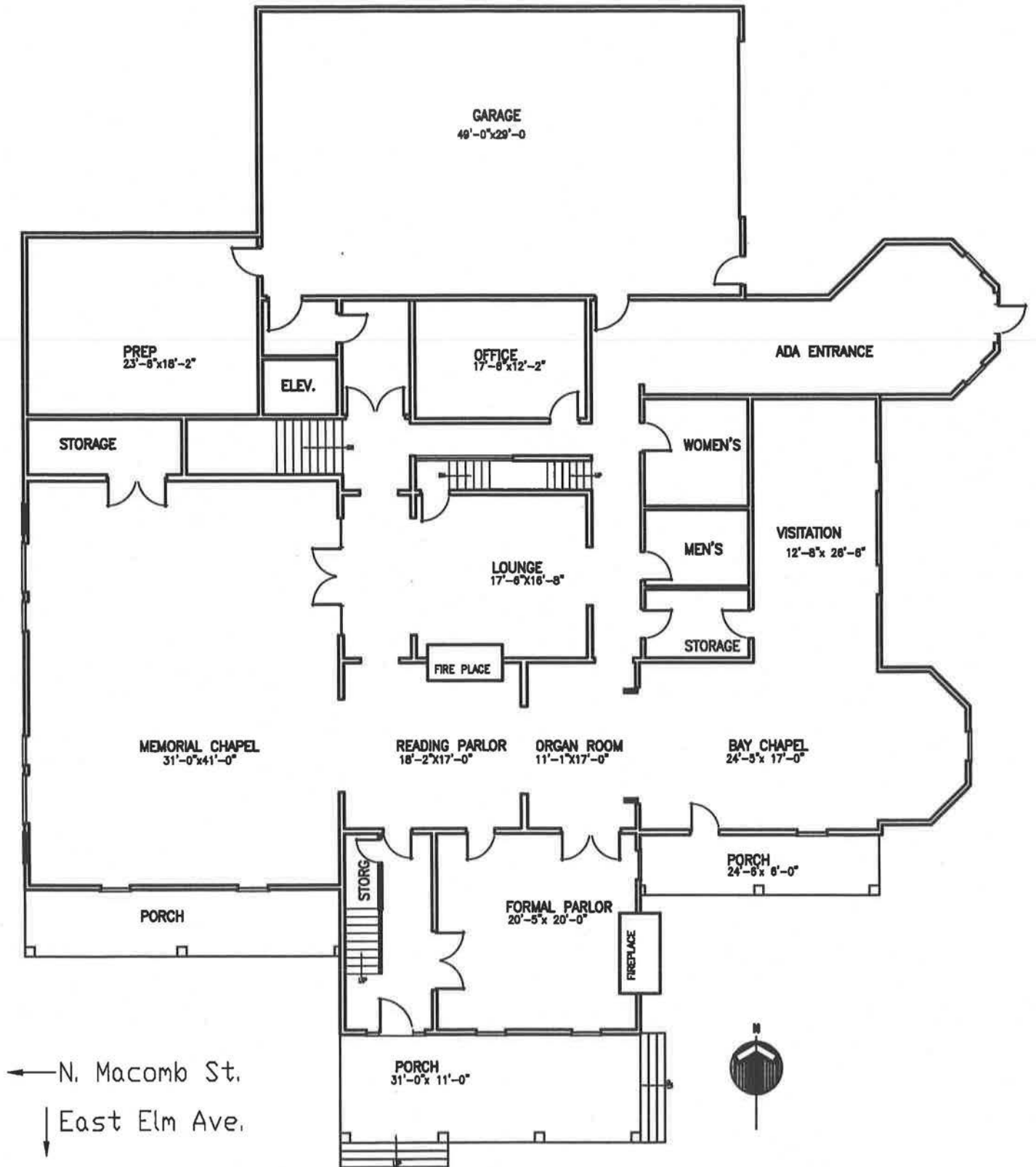
Allore, Beam and Weber Mortuary 1940



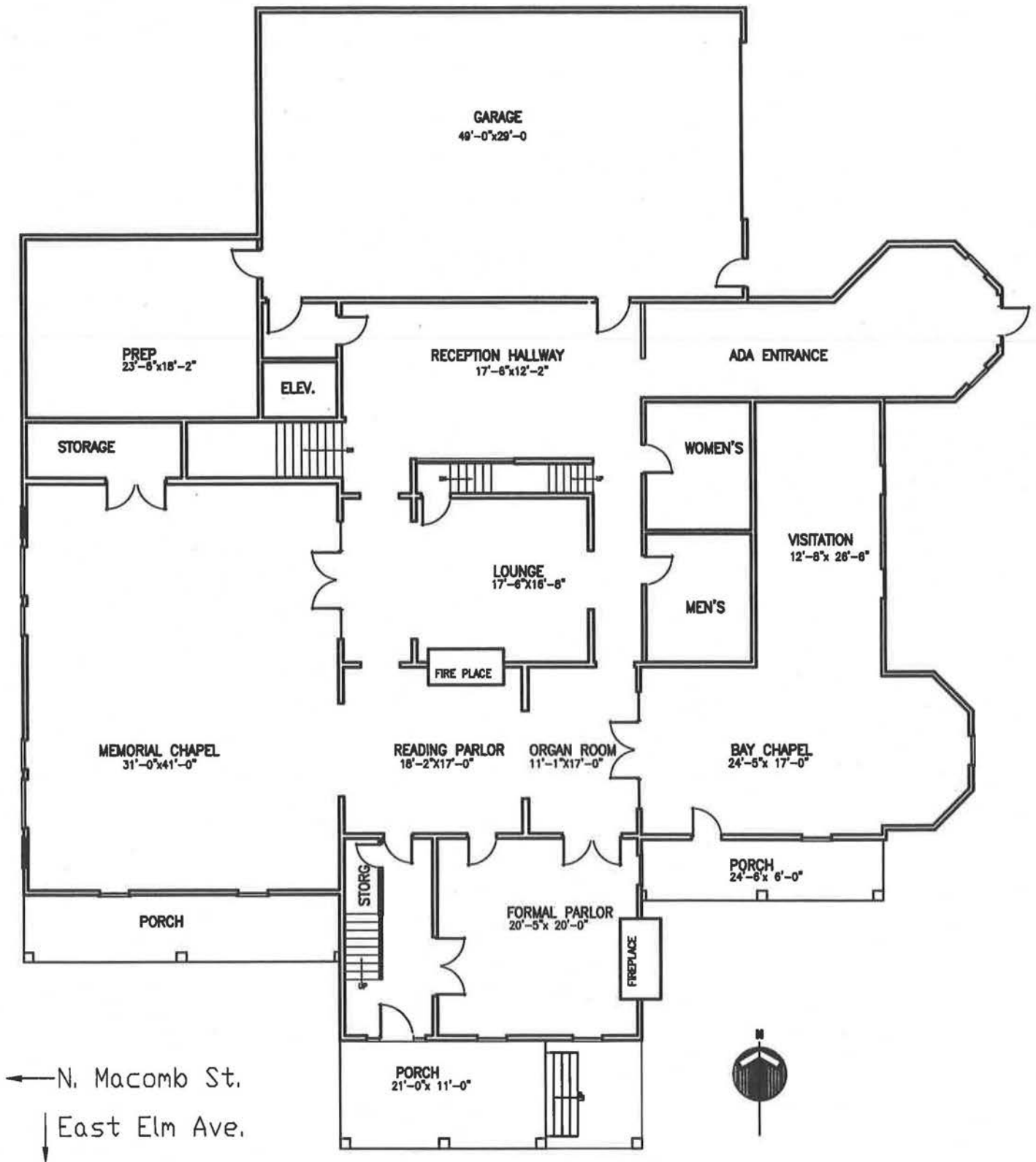
Allore & Holcomb Funeral Home 1953-54



Allore Funeral Home 1968



Allore Funeral Home 1988



Allore Funeral Home 1994



ALLORE CHAPEL
OF THE
WASHINGTON FAMILY OF FUNERAL, HOMES AND CREMATION SERVICES

























































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wing--Allore House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 10/24/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/14/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/01/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/10/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001008

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/10/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 12/10/2014

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
MLV

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

WAYNE WORKMAN
ACTING-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



October 20, 2014

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is a national register nomination form for the Wing-Allore House in Monroe County, Michigan. This property is being submitted for listing in the national register. All written comments concerning this nomination submitted to us prior to the submission of this nomination to you are enclosed.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Robert O. Christensen, national register coordinator, by phone at 517/335-2719 or email at christensenr@michigan.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Martha MacFarlane-Faes
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer