

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 15 1979  
DATE ENTERED JUL 10 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Colonel R. T. P. Allen House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

*S of Frankfort on*

STREET & NUMBER

Johnson Road

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Kentucky

VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

073

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY,
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

George G. Aldridge, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Route 7, Big Eddy Road

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1976

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Colonel R. T. P. Allen House is located approximately 2 1/2 miles south of Frankfort, Kentucky, along a bend in the Kentucky River. Facing southwest, the house sits on Johnson Road in an area known as Big Eddy.

The 1 1/2-story Allen House is constructed of poured concrete, and based upon its plan and knowledge of the builder's activities, it can be dated from the late 1830s (see photo 1). The outside walls have been stuccoed, and two stuccoed stone exterior chimneys are located on each gable end. The chimneys have been rebuilt in brick from the roof upward. Portions of the stucco have eroded on the southeast side exposing the stone foundation, chimneys and the concrete wall (see photos 2 and 3).

Various alterations include the early addition of the central gables on the southwest and northeast facades. Later additions are the front and rear porches. The front porch is a flat-roofed projection supported by four, stuccoed brick piers, while the more recent rear porch is glass enclosed (see photo 4). Stairs on the rear porch along the back wall of the house now provide the only access to the attic story. A shingled roof with projecting eaves on the sides covers the house.

The interior consists of a double-pile, central-passage plan. The walls of poured concrete are approximately one foot thick, and at one point in the hall where the wall has deteriorated, a portion of the wood form is visible. Ceilings are 11' 4", and woodwork is minimal, comprising plain door and window trim and simple baseboards. The original wide-plank floor boards remain in the east, rear chamber. Three of the simple, wood mantels have been retained, although the stone fireplace openings have been reworked with modern brick facings. The windows on the side walls between the chimneys are later nineteenth century additions, while those in the side gable peaks and on the first floor facade are original and contain most of the original glass. The front entrance retains the transom and sidelights (see photo 5). A partitioned area at the end of the central hall now serves as a bathroom. It is most likely that stairs giving access to the attic were located towards the rear of the hall, but evidence of their existence has been obscured by the addition of the bathroom.

The house is in fair condition due to past neglect and the effects of the December 1978 flood. The owner plans to complete the needed work to stabilize the building for use as his residence.

The nominated acreage consists of a rectangular lot approximately 100'x125' which is bounded by Johnson Road on the east, fencelines on the south and west, and a brushline on the north. This lot comprises the domestic yard area surrounding the house.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION	
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE	
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE	
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION	
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		—INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

late 1830s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Col. R.T.P. Allen

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dating from the late 1830s, the Colonel R. T. P. Allen House is the earliest known poured concrete house in Kentucky. Although alterations have occurred, none can diminish the building's importance as a major contributing factor in the development and use of new materials and building technology in the nineteenth century.

Concrete, a mixture of cement, water, sand, and gravel or crushed stone, was not widely used in America until late in the nineteenth century largely because its basic ingredient, portland cement, was not manufactured in the United States until 1870. While the versatile qualities of this plastic building material were quickly realized by nineteenth century European designers, Americans did not come to fully appreciate its qualities until the turn of the century. Joseph Monier, a French gardener, is attributed with the invention in 1867 of reinforced concrete. By adding steel rods to concrete and giving it tensile strength in addition to its compressive strength, the way was opened for advancements in engineering and structural design. Besides its strength and durability, concrete also had the advantages of being fireproof and relatively inexpensive to maintain.

According to L. F. Johnson's History of Franklin County, Colonel Allen constructed the concrete house while still a young man. Allen, who graduated from West Point in the early 1830s, was commissioned a captain and assigned to an engineering position on Lake Michigan. He served in the Seminole War in Florida in 1835 and was later promoted to colonel. Allen taught mathematics for three years at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, giving up that position in 1845 when he purchased the Franklin Springs on the Lawrenceburg Road outside Frankfort and founded the Kentucky Military Institute. Colonel Allen converted the Franklin Springs from a noted health resort to a flourishing military school patronized almost exclusively by Southerners before the Civil War. The school continued in operation until 1893 when Dr. J. Q. A. Stewart purchased the property and established a school for the training of mentally retarded children. Stewart Home School is still functioning (listed on the National Register on June 3, 1976). Colonel Allen appears to have had a keen interest in several aspects of the developing technology of the nineteenth century. In addition to the construction of his poured concrete house, Allen developed a typewriting machine and devised a type distributing machine which he claimed could accurately distribute twenty thousand type in one hour. Colonel Allen also invented a steam-powered wagon which on one occasion he drove round trip from Frankfort to Louisville.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dalzell, J. Ralph. Simplified Concrete Masonry Planning and Building. 2nd Edition, Merritt, Frederick S., ed., New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1972.

Darnell, Ermina Jett. Filling the Chinks. Frankfort, Kentucky: Roberts Printing Co., 1966.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 100' x 125' - less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Frankfort East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 687360 4226710

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot approximately 100'x125'. Beginning at the point where the brushline meets Johnson Road, preceeding northwest along brushline for approximately 100' to the fence, southwest approx. 125' following the fenceline, southeast approx. 100'

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charlotte Schneider, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

April 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

Kentucky

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE   ✓  

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5-10-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
Charles Schneider

DATE

7-16-79

ATTEST:

Ann H. Gilmore

DATE

7/6/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 15 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 10 1979

Colonel R. T. P. Allen House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Based upon his training and various activities during the 1830s and early 1840s, it would appear that Allen constructed the concrete house in the late 1830s in the period between his service in the Seminole War and his teaching position at Transylvania College. Colonel Allen's knowledge as an engineer and mathematician would most certainly have provided him with the technical capability and awareness to construct his house employing the latest building ideology and material.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 15 1979
DATE ENTERED	11-10-1979

Colonel R. T. P. Allen House

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Fitch, James Marston. American Building II: The Environmental Forces That Shaped It. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1972.

Johnson, L. F. The History of Franklin County. Frankfort, Kentucky: Roberts Printing Co., 1912.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Colonel R.T.P. Allen House

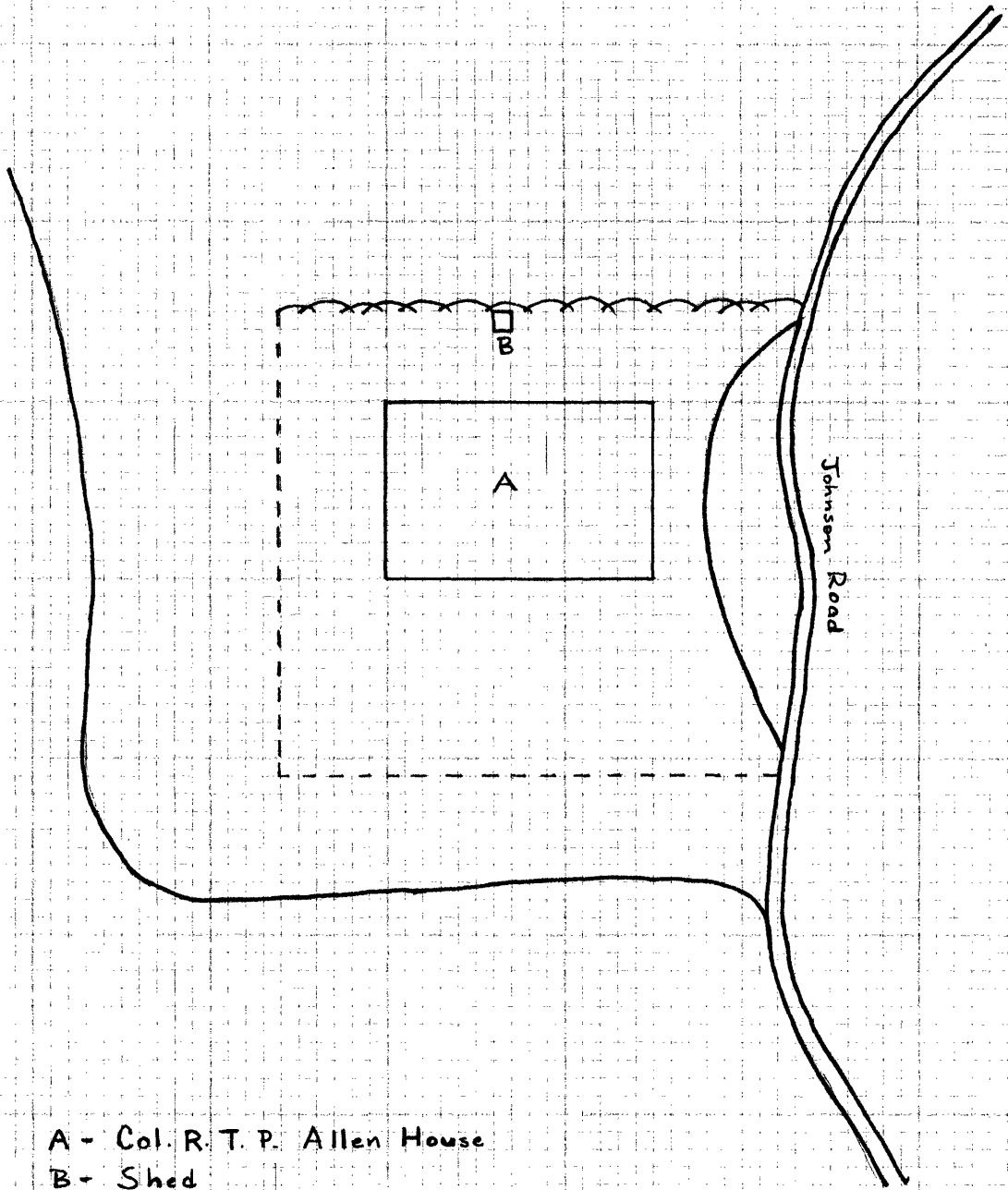
<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>
RECEIVED MAY 15 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 10 1979

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

---

along the fenceline to Johnson Road, northeast along the west side of Johnson Road approximately 125' to the point of origin.



A - Col. R. T. P. Allen House  
B - Shed  
~~~~~ - Brush  
----- - Fence





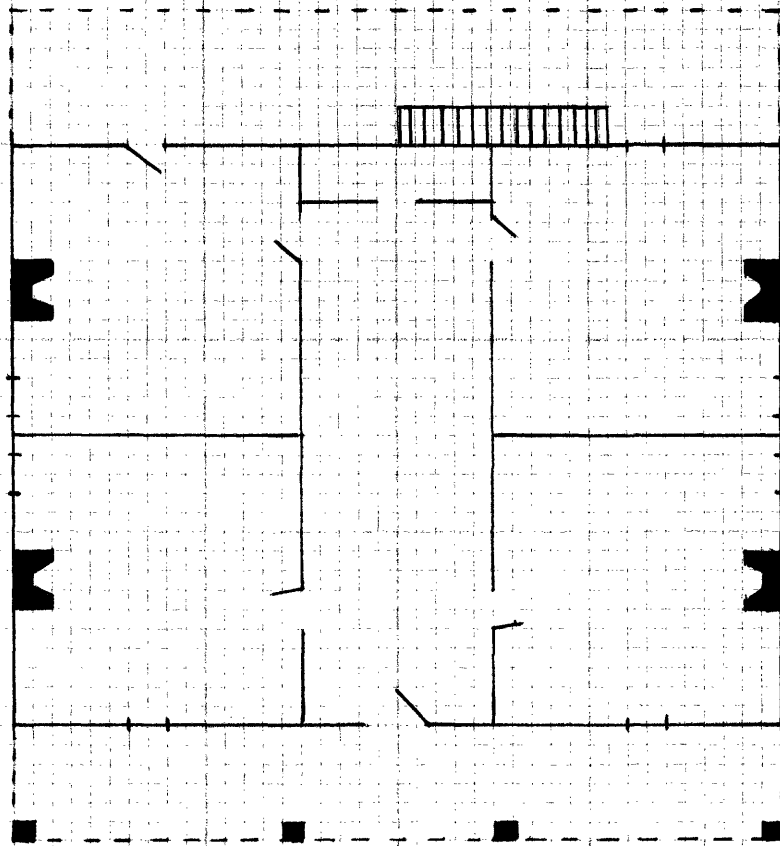
Colonel R. T. P. Allen House  
Frankfort  
Franklin County  
Kentucky

Map 2.

JUL 10 1979

Charlotte Schneider  
Site Location Map - No Scale  
April 1979

MAY 15 1979



Colonel R.T.P. Allen House  
Frankfort  
Franklin County  
Kentucky

Sketch map

No scale

MAY 15 1979



Colonel R. T. P. Allen House  
Frankfort  
Franklin County  
Kentucky

Map 3.

Charlotte Schneider  
Sketch Map - No Scale  
April 1979

JUL 10 1979