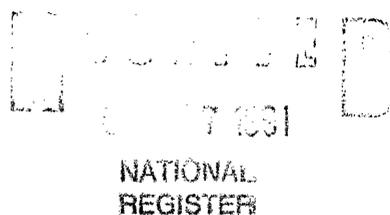


1662

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Allen County Poor Farm
other names/site number AL-276

2. Location

street & number 3540 Holland Road
city, town Scottsville
state Kentucky code KY county Allen code 003 zip code 42164

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
Signature of certifying official: David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council
Date: October 4, 1991

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. (checked)
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]
Date of Action: 11/7/91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Almshouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Poured Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt Shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1936

Significant Dates

1936

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council
Frankfort, Kentucky

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6.65 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
---	---

5	7	6	5	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	6	4	5	9	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
---	---

5	7	6	7	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	6	4	8	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

1	6
---	---

5	7	6	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	6	4	8	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

D

1	6
---	---

5	7	6	6	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	6	4	5	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Petroleum Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The six acres that make up the nominated area are a rectangle approximately 330 feet wide and 863.8 feet deep that begins at State Route 100 and extends just beyond the house. The two-tracks driveway is approximately the centerline of the area. See also Donnie Fitzpatrick's property map (enclosed).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The acreage of the Allen County Poor Farm varied over the years from around 300 acres in the 1920s to less than 30 when the land was sold in the 1950s. The nominated area allows for the Poor House to be kept in its historical, agricultural setting. Thus, someone viewing the house from State Route 100 would have the feeling of seeing a public building in an agricultural setting as it was constructed in the 1930s.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph E. Brent
 organization _____ date July 31, 1991
 street & number 285 Bryanwood Drive telephone 606/873-1052
 city or town Versailles state KY zip code 40383

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

The Allen County Poor Farm is approximately 6.65 acres, the Poor House is near the northern most edge of the property, some 240 meters north of State Route 100 in the Pleasant Hill Community in Allen County, Kentucky, roughly three and one-quarter miles east of Scottsville, Kentucky. The only structure on the farm, the Poor House is at the end of a two track road that now serves as the driveway for the house's current owners. The building is situated on a cleared sloping terrace at approximately 900 feet above sea level. The narrow terrace is less than 100 meters wide and is one of a number of down sloping terraces that gradually fall into an unnamed tributary of Bays Fork. East of the house is a broad flat plateau that is cleared and currently lying fallow. North and west of the poor farm is an unpainted stock barn. The barn was part of the farm complex but it is uncertain if the barn was built as part of the Work Progress Administration project that built the house, and therefore it does not contribute, and in fact is not in the nominated area. The 1954 (photo revised 1982) quad map shows the two track/driveway going past the house all the way back to the barn. This is no longer the case.

The property surrounding the Poor House is cleared for agricultural use, save a few old-growth trees near the house and a tree line beyond the barn adjacent to the stream bed west of the property. The property is currently fallow, but the appearance of an agricultural operation remains.

The 6.65 acres that make up the nominated area are a rectangle approximately 330 feet wide and 863.8 feet deep that begins at State Route 100 and extends just beyond the house. The two track/driveway is approximately the center line of the area.

The acreage of the Allen County Poor Farm varied over the years from 300 to less than 30, the nominated area allows for the Poor House to be kept in its historical agricultural setting. Thus someone viewing the house from SR 100 would have the feeling of seeing a public building in an agricultural setting as it was constructed to be in the 1930s.

The Poor House was constructed in a very stylized "institutional" Colonial Revival style. The building's style is plain and rather utilitarian but it does have some applied ornamentation. In fact it closely resembles school buildings constructed as part of public works projects during the same period and may indeed be an adaptation of an educational building floor plan. While most of the structure's ornamentation is on the facade, there is also some on the west face landing.

The facade of the structure consists of a five bay face which is covered by an extended roof that covers a porch that runs the entire length of the five bays. The roof is supported by four poured concrete and wire cut brick columns and two pilasters of the same construction that are abutted to the east and west wings of the building. The columns and the pilasters rest on a poured concrete and brick

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

railing that is approximately three feet high, the brick is laid in a lattice work pattern. Over the main entryway is a half circle of wire cut bricks, suggesting a fanlight, that is flush with the matrix which is also wire cut brick. Access to the main entryway is by a large poured concrete stairway. The stairs, along with the railing and the balustrades are all made with poured concrete.

To the east and west of this five bay facade are gable-roofed one-bay wings that extend out beyond the main facade, approximately the same distance as the stairway. Above the bay on each wing are stylized brick stars. Again these are flush with the brick matrix they have a round concrete center.

The main roof of the house is hipped and is covered with asphalt shingles. The house was constructed into a terrace and is thus on ground level on the east side and is nearly a full story from the ground on the west side. The design included a full basement that was used to house the building's original steam heating system, that included a furnace and one or two coal rooms. On the west side of the house most of the basement wall is exposed. It is on the west side that the remainder of the structure's ornamentation is located. In order to access the doorway on the west side of the house a narrow steep poured concrete stairway was constructed (in the same design as the main stairway only longer and narrower) these stairs are attached to the main building by way of a covered landing. This land has the same brick and poured concrete lattice work as the porch on the main facade, including two columns.

In order to qualify for National Register listing, resources associated with New Deal agencies must have been constructed or occupied by one of these important seven agencies: WPA, PWA, NYA, CWA, CCC, FERA, or TVA. The resource must be a recognized example of one of the five property types: government buildings, educational buildings, recreational facilities, health care facilities and Civilian Conservation Corps camps and related facilities. Unless specifically noted an eligible New Deal resource must have integrity of materials, location, setting, and association. Because there were few of these buildings constructed in any locale, all structures encountered with those integrity factors will be eligible at the local level.

For the property type government buildings the integrity of materials is paramount, because with most New Deal agencies the procurement of the materials was an integral part of the project. This sometimes included salvaging or actually making the materials. A majority of the original materials of nominated properties must remain intact and visible. Doors and windows are excluded from this requirement because they were almost always purchased from off-site. Room sized additions are acceptable if such additions are present on nearly all facilities, such as courthouses.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

Since the property type is based on function, then integrity of materials and association requires that a person be able to discern what the original function of the building was, especially if it now serves a function other than that for which it was originally constructed.

Government buildings should also have an integrity of setting and location. Kentucky is a very rural state with many small towns dominating the landscape. Consequently when government buildings, such as courthouses, were constructed they generally were built in a location that had previously housed the seat of local government. The importance of setting and location for other government buildings is directly related to their function. In this case the Allen County Poor farm was built on the site that had been the poor farm, and in fact this was the third Poor House built on the site.

Integrity of association is absolutely essential. This association exists when a nominated building was constructed or used by one of the New Deal era agencies and if integrity of materials, setting, and location also exist. The Allen County Poor Farm has all three factors, and only in the rear of the building have any changes been made. Two windows were replaced with doors and a larger landing replaced the two stoops that went into the rear entrance to the building, the placement of these changes help to insure the integrity of the structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

The Allen County Poor Farm is significant under National Register Criterion A within the context New Deal Era Construction in Western Kentucky, 1933-1943 an historic context that was developed by the Kentucky Heritage Council. In this context the Allen County Poor Farm meets the registration requirements of the property type government buildings. This property type includes those structures that house either county, city or other local government activities (e. g. road maintenance buildings), or those which provide necessary government services (e. g. public utilities). In this case the Allen County Poor House provided the necessary service of housing indigent persons who were wards of the county. Those able bodied people who were housed there were obligated to work on the surrounding poor farm.

During the New Deal era seven agencies were involved with public works construction projects: the Civil Works Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, Public Works Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, the National Youth Administration, and the Works Progress Administration, which became the Work Projects Administration in 1939. The Allen County Poor House was constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) between 1935 and 1937.

The general idea behind the Works Progress Administration was to put as many people to work as possible. The agency undertook very labor-intensive enterprises, due to the availability of manpower and conscious efforts to cut materials costs. But the new work relief agency was not only supposed to provide employment but, according to the order establishing it, "All work undertaken should be useful -- not just for a day or a year, but useful in the sense that it affords permanent improvement in living conditions or that it creates future new wealth for the nation."¹

The Allen County Poor Farm was publicly owned and it provided a useful service to the county. While documentation as to the exact number of people employed on the project has not been discovered, the Allen County Poor Farm was the only major capital construction project funded by the WPA in the first six months of 1936. Records also indicate that the WPA operated a quarry and a rock crusher in the county. Chances are that this quarry and rock crusher were used to make the mortar for the poured concrete portion of the building. Also, in order to build the Poor House a portion of a ridge had to be levelled. Because the WPA rarely used heavy equipment to level land, this was most likely done by hand. Between leveling the land, making the mortar, and the actual construction of the building, several dozen men could have been employed on this project -- accomplishing one major WPA objective.

¹Joseph E. Brent, New Deal Era Construction in Western Kentucky, 1933-1943, Kentucky Heritage Council Historic Context (draft), 1991, p. 17.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetAllen County Poor Farm
Allen County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 3

All construction projects had to be publicly owned and had to contribute to the overall public good. In order to be sure that a maximum amount of the funding went toward wage labor, WPA projects gave budgetary priority to wages over materials. This provision influenced the character and construction of the buildings. Workers also made bricks or concrete blocks as part of some projects. Razing old buildings and salvaging materials from them for use in the construction of a new building was a common practice of the Works Progress Administration. The workers doing all of these tasks were for the most part, unskilled men who were trained on the job.²

The success of the WPA is witnessed by the hundreds of buildings, bridges, parks, and other extant remnants of its massive construction efforts. Once the WPA got underway in Kentucky, it was successful and generally well received.

The County Poor Farm, which was administered by the Allen County Fiscal Court was no exception. The house provided a much needed improvement to the old wooden frame structure that had been used to shelter the indigent. An inspection of all public buildings in 1939 in Allen County brought this response from County Judge Robert M. Coleman: "The County House is a structure of which every citizen can be rightfully proud. It is reasonable to believe that this building will be entirely adequate to care for the poor and unfortunate of the county for many years to come."³ The Judge did recommend that the old bedding be removed and burned and that the remaining old buildings be torn down as they were unsightly and fire hazards.

During the Depression Allen County was in debt and eventually came under a court order to spend no funds except for essential county services. It was during this period that the county obtained WPA funding to build a new "county house." The old one had gotten in such a poor state of repair that it would have cost as much to rehabilitate it as it would for the county's share of the WPA project. The first WPA contract was in October 1935, with additional funding coming in January of 1936. The total of this funding was \$15,695.00, while the county had to contribute approximate one-fourth of that amount as its share of the project.⁴

²Ibid, p. 18.

³Citizen-Times February 9, 1939.

⁴Allen County Fiscal Court Order Book Number 6, 4th Term May 1937 and Index to Reference cards for Works Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1942, microfilm, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Allen County Records, project number 65-43-4111.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

The reported cost of the project varies. An October 23, 1952 article in the Scottsville Citizen-Times reports that the building cost \$50,000.00. However, that article also reports that the farm house was built in 1934. The figure suggested earlier some \$15,000 plus another one-fourth from the county is probably more accurate.

In addition to the Allen County Poor Farm, there were three other major capital improvement projects in the county, and only one of them received more funding than the Poor House. Those projects were: the Allen County High School, the Petroleum High School, and Mt. Zion High School.

The Allen County High School constructed in 1940-41 was a much larger project than the Poor House. The price tag was twice as high, over \$30,000.00 in funding from the federal government alone. The building was designed to become the one high school for all of Allen County, and by the school year 1942-43 this was the case.

The other two school projects: Petroleum High School and Mt. Zion High School were much more modest in scale. The two schools cost less than the Poor House, around \$12,000.00. Both schools were six room brick structures with gabled roofs and a small gabled entryway. The two were identical in construction and appearance. They were very institutional/utilitarian with no ornamentation.⁵

In recent years both schools have served their respective communities as small textile factories. The exterior of the old Petroleum High School is relatively unchanged, while the old Mt. Zion High School has been altered considerably. These two buildings were constructed to fill a void in the educational system in Allen County, as well as to give work to a hard-pressed populace.

Indeed statewide, as in Allen County, the WPA built more schools than any other single property type. Between 1935 and 1943 they built 357 new schools, while all other public buildings numbered only 618. This figure includes: hospitals, courthouses, fire stations, utility plants, warehouses, and any other type of public building.⁶

⁵H. H. Patton, A History of Scottsville and Allen County, (Scottsville, 1974), p. 25; Allen County Historical Society, The Beginning . . . A Pictorial History of Allen County (Scottsville, n.d.) pp. 113-115 and 123-127; and Index to Reference Card for Works projects Administration Files, 1935-1942, microfilm, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Allen County, 1935-1942.

⁶Works Projects Administration, Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-1943 (Washington DC, 1945) pp. 135-136.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

The fact that the Poor House was not a school built with WPA funds and was the second most expensive project in the county is significant in and of itself. The Allen County Poor Farm was built as an eleven (11) room structure that while institutional/utilitarian is more ornate than either of the smaller schools. The Poor House, like the two small schools (the larger school is now an elementary school), no longer serves the function for which it was constructed, however, it continues to sit on a landscape that is agricultural and the feeling of the structure is still that of an institutional structure in a farm setting.

In addition to the "New Deal Construction" context the Allen County Poor Farm could also be potentially eligible under a public welfare in Kentucky context. Kentucky inherited its poor laws from Virginia, the state from which it was carved, and carried on something of the tradition of English poor laws established in 1601. The basic gist of these laws are that first the family is responsible for itself. If the family cannot support itself then the local government is responsible, and that same government can use tax funds for the purpose. Local governments typically had an almshouse to house the paupers within its jurisdiction.

The idea of "indoor" concept of welfare, e. g., the almshouse or poorhouse, by 1936, was very much a Kentucky tradition. The concept of "outdoor" public welfare was just beginning to come of age with the economic disaster of the 1930s. "Outdoor" plans included pensions and other forms of public assistance that did not require the recipients to live within an institution. Yet 1936 was also a watershed year in the direction that public welfare would take.

In 1936 Governor Albert "Happy" Chandler created a Department of Public Welfare that was headed by a single agency head, who was responsible to the governor. The state and federal government became the lead agencies in public welfare, where this responsibility had been in the hand of local governments in Kentucky for well over 100 years. The Allen County Poor Farm was one of the last poor houses built by a local government in Kentucky.

Nationally, "prior to 1930 virtually all public welfare costs had been borne by local governmental units, in 1936 only 35 per cent of public welfare costs were expended at the local level with 51 per cent by the states and 13 per cent by the federal government. By 1955 federal expenditures had grown to 49 per cent, state expenditures had declined to 39 per cent and local expenditures had dwindled to a mere 12 per cent."⁷ The Allen County Poor Farm was reported to have no inmates in 1952 and was sold to a private individual in 1957. This demonstrates that Allen County followed the national trend of relinquishing local responsibility for social welfare programs.

⁷Constantine William Curris, "State and Public Welfare Developments in Kentucky", Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, 64:4, p. 314.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

In 1935-1937 when the Allen County Poor Farm was being constructed it was needed. The county was in debt and had destitute people that had to be housed. The WPA project that built the house provided needed jobs and helped the county house its poor. Yet, the concept of public welfare was changing even as the house was being constructed. The Allen County Poor Farm, which may well have been the last locally sponsored poor house built in Kentucky, is important as a physical remains of the New Deal in Kentucky and of a welfare concept that no longer exists in Kentucky or the United States.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

Allen County Fiscal Court Order Book Number 6

Allen County Historical Society, The Beginning . . . A Pictorial History of Allen County (Scottsville, n.d.)

George T. Blakey, Hard Times New Deal in Kentucky, (Lexington, Ky., 1986).

Joseph E. Brent, New Deal Era Construction in Western Kentucky, 1933-1943, Kentucky Heritage Council Historic Context (draft), 1991.

Citizen-Times February 9, 1939.

Constantine William Curris, "State and Public Welfare Developments in Kentucky", Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, 64:4:299-336.

Index to Reference Cards for Works Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1942, microfilm, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Allen County Records.

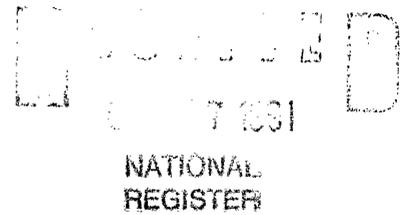
H. H. Patton, A History of Scottsville and Allen County, (Scottsville, 1974).

Works Projects Administration, Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-1943 (Washington DC, 1945).

1662

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Allen County Poor Farm
other names/site number AL-276

2. Location

street & number 3540 Holland Road na not for publication
city, town Scottsville na vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Allen code 003 zip code 42164

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
David L. Morgan October 4, 1991
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Alvina Bryan 11/7/91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

entered in the
National Register

Alvina Bryan

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Almshouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Poured Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt Shingles

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1936

Significant Dates

1936

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheets

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

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
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council
Frankfort, Kentucky

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6.65 acres

UTM References

A

1	6	5	7	6	5	3	0	4	0	6	4	5	9	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

1	6	5	7	6	7	1	0	4	0	6	4	8	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

1	6	5	7	6	6	0	0	4	0	6	4	8	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

1	6	5	7	6	6	2	0	4	0	6	4	5	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

Petroleum Quadrangle

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The six acres that make up the nominated area are a rectangle approximately 330 feet wide and 863.8 feet deep that begins at State Route 100 and extends just beyond the house. The two-tracks driveway is approximately the centerline of the area. See also Donnie Fitzpatrick's property map (enclosed).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The acreage of the Allen County Poor Farm varied over the years from around 300 acres in the 1920s to less than 30 when the land was sold in the 1950s. The nominated area allows for the Poor House to be kept in its historical, agricultural setting. Thus, someone viewing the house from State Route 100 would have the feeling of seeing a public building in an agricultural setting as it was constructed in the 1930s.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph E. Brent date July 31, 1991

organization _____ telephone 606/873-1052

street & number 285 Bryanwood Drive city or town Versailles state KY zip code 40383

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

The Allen County Poor Farm is approximately 6.65 acres, the Poor House is near the northern most edge of the property, some 240 meters north of State Route 100 in the Pleasant Hill Community in Allen County, Kentucky, roughly three and one-quarter miles east of Scottsville, Kentucky. The only structure on the farm, the Poor House is at the end of a two track road that now serves as the driveway for the house's current owners. The building is situated on a cleared sloping terrace at approximately 900 feet above sea level. The narrow terrace is less than 100 meters wide and is one of a number of down sloping terraces that gradually fall into an unnamed tributary of Bays Fork. East of the house is a broad flat plateau that is cleared and currently lying fallow. North and west of the poor farm is an unpainted stock barn. The barn was part of the farm complex but it is uncertain if the barn was built as part of the Work Progress Administration project that built the house, and therefore it does not contribute, and in fact is not in the nominated area. The 1954 (photo revised 1982) quad map shows the two track/driveway going past the house all the way back to the barn. This is no longer the case.

The property surrounding the Poor House is cleared for agricultural use, save a few old-growth trees near the house and a tree line beyond the barn adjacent to the stream bed west of the property. The property is currently fallow, but the appearance of an agricultural operation remains.

The 6.65 acres that make up the nominated area are a rectangle approximately 330 feet wide and 863.8 feet deep that begins at State Route 100 and extends just beyond the house. The two track/driveway is approximately the center line of the area.

The acreage of the Allen County Poor Farm varied over the years from 300 to less than 30, the nominated area allows for the Poor House to be kept in its historical agricultural setting. Thus someone viewing the house from SR 100 would have the feeling of seeing a public building in an agricultural setting as it was constructed to be in the 1930s.

The Poor House was constructed in a very stylized "institutional" Colonial Revival style. The building's style is plain and rather utilitarian but it does have some applied ornamentation. In fact it closely resembles school buildings constructed as part of public works projects during the same period and may indeed be an adaptation of an educational building floor plan. While most of the structure's ornamentation is on the facade, there is also some on the west face landing.

The facade of the structure consists of a five bay face which is covered by an extended roof that covers a porch that runs the entire length of the five bays. The roof is supported by four poured concrete and wire cut brick columns and two pilasters of the same construction that are abutted to the east and west wings of the building. The columns and the pilasters rest on a poured concrete and brick

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

railing that is approximately three feet high, the brick is laid in a lattice work pattern. Over the main entryway is a half circle of wire cut bricks, suggesting a fanlight, that is flush with the matrix which is also wire cut brick. Access to the main entryway is by a large poured concrete stairway. The stairs, along with the railing and the balustrades are all made with poured concrete.

To the east and west of this five bay facade are gable-roofed one-bay wings that extend out beyond the main facade, approximately the same distance as the stairway. Above the bay on each wing are stylized brick stars. Again these are flush with the brick matrix they have a round concrete center.

The main roof of the house is hipped and is covered with asphalt shingles. The house was constructed into a terrace and is thus on ground level on the east side and is nearly a full story from the ground on the west side. The design included a full basement that was used to house the building's original steam heating system, that included a furnace and one or two coal rooms. On the west side of the house most of the basement wall is exposed. It is on the west side that the remainder of the structure's ornamentation is located. In order to access the doorway on the west side of the house a narrow steep poured concrete stairway was constructed (in the same design as the main stairway only longer and narrower) these stairs are attached to the main building by way of a covered landing. This land has the same brick and poured concrete lattice work as the porch on the main facade, including two columns.

In order to qualify for National Register listing, resources associated with New Deal agencies must have been constructed or occupied by one of these important seven agencies: WPA, PWA, NYA, CWA, CCC, FERA, or TVA. The resource must be a recognized example of one of the five property types: government buildings, educational buildings, recreational facilities, health care facilities and Civilian Conservation Corps camps and related facilities. Unless specifically noted an eligible New Deal resource must have integrity of materials, location, setting, and association. Because there were few of these buildings constructed in any locale, all structures encountered with those integrity factors will be eligible at the local level.

For the property type government buildings the integrity of materials is paramount, because with most New Deal agencies the procurement of the materials was an integral part of the project. This sometimes included salvaging or actually making the materials. A majority of the original materials of nominated properties must remain intact and visible. Doors and windows are excluded from this requirement because they were almost always purchased from off-site. Room sized additions are acceptable if such additions are present on nearly all facilities, such as courthouses.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4

Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

Since the property type is based on function, then integrity of materials and association requires that a person be able to discern what the original function of the building was, especially if it now serves a function other than that for which it was originally constructed.

Government buildings should also have an integrity of setting and location. Kentucky is a very rural state with many small towns dominating the landscape. Consequently when government buildings, such as courthouses, were constructed they generally were built in a location that had previously housed the seat of local government. The importance of setting and location for other government buildings is directly related to their function. In this case the Allen County Poor farm was built on the site that had been the poor farm, and in fact this was the third Poor House built on the site.

Integrity of association is absolutely essential. This association exists when a nominated building was constructed or used by one of the New Deal era agencies and if integrity of materials, setting, and location also exist. The Allen County Poor Farm has all three factors, and only in the rear of the building have any changes been made. Two windows were replaced with doors and a larger landing replaced the two stoops that went into the rear entrance to the building, the placement of these changes help to insure the integrity of the structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

The Allen County Poor Farm is significant under National Register Criterion A within the context New Deal Era Construction in Western Kentucky, 1933-1943 an historic context that was developed by the Kentucky Heritage Council. In this context the Allen County Poor Farm meets the registration requirements of the property type government buildings. This property type includes those structures that house either county, city or other local government activities (e. g. road maintenance buildings), or those which provide necessary government services (e. g. public utilities). In this case the Allen County Poor House provided the necessary service of housing indigent persons who were wards of the county. Those able bodied people who were housed there were obligated to work on the surrounding poor farm.

During the New Deal era seven agencies were involved with public works construction projects: the Civil Works Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, Public Works Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, the National Youth Administration, and the Works Progress Administration, which became the Work Projects Administration in 1939. The Allen County Poor House was constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) between 1935 and 1937.

The general idea behind the Works Progress Administration was to put as many people to work as possible. The agency undertook very labor-intensive enterprises, due to the availability of manpower and conscious efforts to cut materials costs. But the new work relief agency was not only supposed to provide employment but, according to the order establishing it, "All work undertaken should be useful -- not just for a day or a year, but useful in the sense that it affords permanent improvement in living conditions or that it creates future new wealth for the nation."¹

The Allen County Poor Farm was publicly owned and it provided a useful service to the county. While documentation as to the exact number of people employed on the project has not been discovered, the Allen County Poor Farm was the only major capital construction project funded by the WPA in the first six months of 1936. Records also indicate that the WPA operated a quarry and a rock crusher in the county. Chances are that this quarry and rock crusher were used to make the mortar for the poured concrete portion of the building. Also, in order to build the Poor House a portion of a ridge had to be levelled. Because the WPA rarely used heavy equipment to level land, this was most likely done by hand. Between leveling the land, making the mortar, and the actual construction of the building, several dozen men could have been employed on this project -- accomplishing one major WPA objective.

¹Joseph E. Brent, New Deal Era Construction in Western Kentucky, 1933-1943, Kentucky Heritage Council Historic Context (draft), 1991, p. 17.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetAllen County Poor Farm
Allen County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 3

All construction projects had to be publicly owned and had to contribute to the overall public good. In order to be sure that a maximum amount of the funding went toward wage labor, WPA projects gave budgetary priority to wages over materials. This provision influenced the character and construction of the buildings. Workers also made bricks or concrete blocks as part of some projects. Razing old buildings and salvaging materials from them for use in the construction of a new building was a common practice of the Works Progress Administration. The workers doing all of these tasks were for the most part, unskilled men who were trained on the job.²

The success of the WPA is witnessed by the hundreds of buildings, bridges, parks, and other extant remnants of its massive construction efforts. Once the WPA got underway in Kentucky, it was successful and generally well received.

The County Poor Farm, which was administered by the Allen County Fiscal Court was no exception. The house provided a much needed improvement to the old wooden frame structure that had been used to shelter the indigent. An inspection of all public buildings in 1939 in Allen County brought this response from County Judge Robert M. Coleman: "The County House is a structure of which every citizen can be rightfully proud. It is reasonable to believe that this building will be entirely adequate to care for the poor and unfortunate of the county for many years to come."³ The Judge did recommend that the old bedding be removed and burned and that the remaining old buildings be torn down as they were unsightly and fire hazards.

During the Depression Allen County was in debt and eventually came under a court order to spend no funds except for essential county services. It was during this period that the county obtained WPA funding to build a new "county house." The old one had gotten in such a poor state of repair that it would have cost as much to rehabilitate it as it would for the county's share of the WPA project. The first WPA contract was in October 1935, with additional funding coming in January of 1936. The total of this funding was \$15,695.00, while the county had to contribute approximate one-fourth of that amount as its share of the project.⁴

²Ibid, p. 18.

³Citizen-Times February 9, 1939.

⁴Allen County Fiscal Court Order Book Number 6, 4th Term May 1937 and Index to Reference cards for Works Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1942, microfilm, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Allen County Records, project number 65-43-4111.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

The reported cost of the project varies. An October 23, 1952 article in the Scottsville Citizen-Times reports that the building cost \$50,000.00. However, that article also reports that the farm house was built in 1934. The figure suggested earlier some \$15,000 plus another one-fourth from the county is probably more accurate.

In addition to the Allen County Poor Farm, there were three other major capital improvement projects in the county, and only one of them received more funding than the Poor House. Those projects were: the Allen County High School, the Petroleum High School, and Mt. Zion High School.

The Allen County High School constructed in 1940-41 was a much larger project than the Poor House. The price tag was twice as high, over \$30,000.00 in funding from the federal government alone. The building was designed to become the one high school for all of Allen County, and by the school year 1942-43 this was the case.

The other two school projects: Petroleum High School and Mt. Zion High School were much more modest in scale. The two schools cost less than the Poor House, around \$12,000.00. Both schools were six room brick structures with gabled roofs and a small gabled entryway. The two were identical in construction and appearance. They were very institutional/utilitarian with no ornamentation.⁵

In recent years both schools have served their respective communities as small textile factories. The exterior of the old Petroleum High School is relatively unchanged, while the old Mt. Zion High School has been altered considerably. These two buildings were constructed to fill a void in the educational system in Allen County, as well as to give work to a hard-pressed populace.

Indeed statewide, as in Allen County, the WPA built more schools than any other single property type. Between 1935 and 1943 they built 357 new schools, while all other public buildings numbered only 618. This figure includes: hospitals, courthouses, fire stations, utility plants, warehouses, and any other type of public building.⁶

⁵H. H. Patton, A History of Scottsville and Allen County, (Scottsville, 1974), p. 25; Allen County Historical Society, The Beginning . . . A Pictorial History of Allen County (Scottsville, n.d.) pp. 113-115 and 123-127; and Index to Reference Card for Works projects Administration Files, 1935-1942, microfilm, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Allen County, 1935-1942.

⁶Works Projects Administration, Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-1943 (Washington DC, 1945) pp. 135-136.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

The fact that the Poor House was not a school built with WPA funds and was the second most expensive project in the county is significant in and of itself. The Allen County Poor Farm was built as an eleven (11) room structure that while institutional/utilitarian is more ornate than either of the smaller schools. The Poor House, like the two small schools (the larger school is now an elementary school), no longer serves the function for which it was constructed, however, it continues to sit on a landscape that is agricultural and the feeling of the structure is still that of an institutional structure in a farm setting.

In addition to the "New Deal Construction" context the Allen County Poor Farm could also be potentially eligible under a public welfare in Kentucky context. Kentucky inherited its poor laws from Virginia, the state from which it was carved, and carried on something of the tradition of English poor laws established in 1601. The basic gist of these laws are that first the family is responsible for itself. If the family cannot support itself then the local government is responsible, and that same government can use tax funds for the purpose. Local governments typically had an almshouse to house the paupers within its jurisdiction.

The idea of "indoor" concept of welfare, e. g., the almshouse or poorhouse, by 1936, was very much a Kentucky tradition. The concept of "outdoor" public welfare was just beginning to come of age with the economic disaster of the 1930s. "Outdoor" plans included pensions and other forms of public assistance that did not require the recipients to live within an institution. Yet 1936 was also a watershed year in the direction that public welfare would take.

In 1936 Governor Albert "Happy" Chandler created a Department of Public Welfare that was headed by a single agency head, who was responsible to the governor. The state and federal government became the lead agencies in public welfare, where this responsibility had been in the hand of local governments in Kentucky for well over 100 years. The Allen County Poor Farm was one of the last poor houses built by a local government in Kentucky.

Nationally, "prior to 1930 virtually all public welfare costs had been borne by local governmental units, in 1936 only 35 per cent of public welfare costs were expended at the local level with 51 per cent by the states and 13 per cent by the federal government. By 1955 federal expenditures had grown to 49 per cent, state expenditures had declined to 39 per cent and local expenditures had dwindled to a mere 12 per cent."⁷ The Allen County Poor Farm was reported to have no inmates in 1952 and was sold to a private individual in 1957. This demonstrates that Allen County followed the national trend of relinquishing local responsibility for social welfare programs.

⁷Constantine William Curris, "State and Public Welfare Developments in Kentucky", Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, 64:4, p. 314.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

In 1935-1937 when the Allen County Poor Farm was being constructed it was needed. The county was in debt and had destitute people that had to be housed. The WPA project that built the house provided needed jobs and helped the county house its poor. Yet, the concept of public welfare was changing even as the house was being constructed. The Allen County Poor Farm, which may well have been the last locally sponsored poor house built in Kentucky, is important as a physical remains of the New Deal in Kentucky and of a welfare concept that no longer exists in Kentucky or the United States.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Allen County Poor Farm
Allen County, Kentucky

Allen County Fiscal Court Order Book Number 6

Allen County Historical Society, The Beginning . . . A Pictorial History of Allen County (Scottsville, n.d.)

George T. Blakey, Hard Times New Deal in Kentucky, (Lexington, Ky., 1986).

Joseph E. Brent, New Deal Era Construction in Western Kentucky, 1933-1943, Kentucky Heritage Council Historic Context (draft), 1991.

Citizen-Times February 9, 1939.

Constantine William Curris, "State and Public Welfare Developments in Kentucky", Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, 64:4:299-336.

Index to Reference Cards for Works Projects Administration Project Files, 1935-1942, microfilm, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. Allen County Records.

H. H. Patton, A History of Scottsville and Allen County, (Scottsville, 1974).

Works Projects Administration, Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-1943 (Washington DC, 1945).