

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NR 10-14-76

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

CO 0382

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC W. H. Allen House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Spotville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Columbia

CODE
027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Dee Talley

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Magnolia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Columbia County

CITY, TOWN

Magnolia

STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in south Arkansas, the Allen House is a local historic landmark. Originally constructed in 1873 as a four-room dog-trot structure, the Allen House is characteristic of transitional architecture.

The original composition of the house was four rooms, which were built in 1873. The open "dog-trot" measured twenty-eight feet by ten feet. The two rooms on the front of the house measured sixteen feet square each; the two rear rooms measured twelve feet by sixteen feet. The total size of the original house was twenty-eight feet by forty-two feet. Chimneys were constructed at the end of each of the sixteen-foot-square rooms. Most of the lumber for the house was acquired in Camden and brought to the site by oxen-drawn wagon. The original window sills (which are still present) were made from timber cut on the Allen property.

The original roof was composed of hand-made shingles also taken from timber of the Allen property. The original four rooms are marked by sixteen-foot ceilings and still retain flushboard walls and ceilings.

In 1907, Walter Howard Allen enlarged and adapted the house to the needs of his family of fourteen. In that year, five rooms were added, the dog-trot enclosed and the porch on the facade added. Two rooms were added to the front of the structure and three to the rear. Lumber for these additions was taken from timber grown on the Allen property. Trees were cut and hauled to the Cheatham Mill, located a mile down the road. The Cheatham Mill was operated by power generated by the use of a water mill. The Cheatham's constructed the additions for Allen.

The house appears today much the same as it did after the 1907 renovations. The facade is marked by a wide, ell-shaped veranda which sweeps the entire width of the house. The roof of the veranda is slightly hipped and is supported by slender turned posts with scroll brackets. The cornice on the porch is marked by decorative spindle-work. The two rooms on the facade are topped by a hipped roof, which features gable ends on either side. The gables face the front of the structure. They are covered with diamond-pattern emblicated wood separated by paired bands of wood in small rectangular shapes. The top point of the gable ends features a delicate wood design. In the center of each gable end is a small rectangular-shaped window surrounded by simple molding.

The entry is marked by wood-paneled double doors with nine window lites in the upper halves. The doors are flanked by wood panels with narrow panes of glass in the upper one-third section. Over the doors and sidelights is a narrow horizontal band of glass marked off in three sections by vertical pieces of wood.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The Allen House is covered in shiplap. With the exception of the veranda on the facade, it utilizes simplicity in its design. Windows in the house are double-hung and feature two-over-two lites. They are surrounded by simple molding, as are the doors throughout the house. A simple cornice, comparable to that on the original structure surrounds the entire house.

The interior of the Allen House still maintains the character of the period in which it was originally constructed. The original four rooms retain their flush-board walls and ceiling, wide-plank pine floors and original mantels.

On the grounds is a small structure which originally served as the kitchen. It has since been used as a tenant house. The small structure is covered in vertical board-and-batten and features double-hung, two-over-two lite windows with simple molding. The building is topped by a gable roof. Rectangular in shape, it has a shed roof addition to the rear.

In 1950 when the Allen House was acquired by the present occupants, a complete renovation was undertaken. This included new plumbing, new electrical wiring, a new roof and other structural improvements. Although this program was thorough, the original composition of the house and the additions made in 1907 were not altered.

Despite its 1907 additions, the present structure has a unified appearance. The Allen House has been well preserved and remains in excellent condition.

SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. H. Allen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located near the southwestern Arkansas community of Spotville, the Allen House was originally constructed in 1873. The structure is representative of the transitional architecture many dog-trot structures have undergone. The house is also significant in its representation of the early settlement of the area. William H. Allen settled in the area around 1860 and was one of the first successful farmers and landowners in that particular part of Columbia County. His success at farming and business can be attributed to his expert business ability and to the location of his property. The Allen property is located on the old Magnolia-El Dorado Road which was one of the earliest roads in the southern part of Arkansas.

William Henry Allen was born in 1833 in Georgia. He moved with his parents to Coosa County, Alabama in the late 1840's. Eliza Gilispie Allen was born in 1835, also in Georgia. Her parents moved to Coosa County, Alabama in the late 1840's. W. H. Allen and Eliza Gilispie were married on January 8, 1852, and shortly thereafter left and traveled by muleback to Columbia County, Arkansas. The 1860 census shows that William H. and Eliza Gilispie Allen of Columbia County, Arkansas had two children, Albert Hezekiah, age four, born in Alabama, and Samuel, age one, born in Arkansas. This indicates that the Allens arrived in Columbia County between 1856 and 1859.

Upon arrival in Columbia County, the Allen family settled in the Ebenezer community. They then moved northwest to Clark County, Arkansas. In 1859 Allen bought a large tract of land in Columbia County from the government. By 1863 he owned three-hundred-twelve acres in Columbia County.

W. H. Allen raised corn, bred livestock and loaned money to neighbors to establish them in farming. Allen's success was due to his remarkable business ability.

Allen was inducted into the Confederate Army on July 6, 1861, at Camp Price in northeast Arkansas. He served as a Commissary Sergeant in Company E, Eighth Infantry. Allen fought in the battles of Farmington and Corinth.

On November 12, 1869, William H. Allen obtained title to four-hundred acres of land at a cost of \$800. This land was bought from William Wood

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

who was a successful land speculator from New York. In the late 1830's William Wood owned over 30,000 acres of land in Arkansas, approximately seven thousand acres of which were located in Columbia County.

The Allen family had, before the Civil War, maintained a general store in their house. Upon Allen's rising success as a farmer, he was able to construct another building close to his residence to house the general store. The store carried groceries, hardware and home needs. Allen also used the general store as an outlet for caskets he constructed. Allen's business interests also included a mule-operated cotton gin on his property that is said to have produced one bale of cotton a day. Also a blacksmith shop was operated on the property.

In 1873, Allen constructed a four-room dog-trot house, with an open hallway 28 feet by 10 feet. The total size of the house was 28 feet by 42 feet. A chimney was constructed at the end of each of the two rooms to the back of the house. Lumber for the house was acquired in Camden and is believed to have been shipped to that city on the Ouachita River.

William H. Allen died c. 1900. The youngest of his five children, Walter Howard, lived in the house his entire lifetime, for when he married Miss Minnie Odella Smith in 1882, they lived with his parents. Walter Howard Allen and his wife enlarged and renovated the house in 1907. The Allen House still retains the appearance created by the 1907 renovations.

The Allen House is a home whose history is intertwined with a single family. Since its construction in 1873, the Allen House has continually been owned and occupied by a member of the Allen family. The present owner is a granddaughter of William H. Allen, the original owner of the house. The historic Allen House stands as a local landmark in Columbia County and as representative of the settlement of the area and of transitional architecture. It is a significant historic property.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from Arkansas, Eighth Infantry, A." Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission. The Daily Banner - News, May 25, 1973.
El Dorado Daily News, June 3, 1973.
 Killgore, Nettie Hicks, History of Columbia County. Magnolia, Arkansas, Magnolia Printing Company, 1947.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 9 7 7 9 10	3 6 7 2 3 8 10	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

June 8, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

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 1956 (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 Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE - June 8, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Polk, Bernard. Personal interview at the Allen House, Spotville, Arkansas,
November 24, 1975.

Talley, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Dee. Personal interview at the Allen House,
Spotville, Arkansas, November 24, 1975.