



Register of Historic Kansas Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Abner Allen House & Outbuilding

Other names/site number KHRI #161-2896 (house) & 161-2776 (outbuilding); Mertz House

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

street & number 7280 Zeandale Road not for publication

city or town Zeandale vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Riley code 161 zip code 66502

3-4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Applicable State Register Criteria: A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO

_____ Date

Kansas State Historical Society
State agency

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
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	-	buildings
-	-	district
-	-	site
-	-	structure
-	-	object
2	-	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the State Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE /agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

House: Italianate

Outbuilding: No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

House: STONE = LIMESTONE

foundation: Outbuilding: STONE = LIMESTONE

walls: House: STONE = LIMESTONE

Outbuilding: STONE = LIMESTONE

roof: House: ASPHALT

Outbuilding: WOOD = SHINGLES

other:

Narrative Description**Summary Paragraph** *(Briefly describe the overall characteristics of the property and its location, setting, and size.)*

The Abner Allen House & Outbuilding is located near Zeandale in rural Riley County, Kansas (Figure 1) in the NE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 22, Township 10 South, Range 9 East. The nominated property on the north side of Zeandale Road borders the western edge of Wabaunsee County, is approximately 0.6 miles south of the Kansas River, and is comprised of a circa 1865 stone house and a late 1800's stone outbuilding within the farmstead's curvilinear driveway (Boundary Map). Modern farm outbuildings are located to the west and north of the nominated area. The property is surrounded by agricultural land, as well as other historic farmsteads.

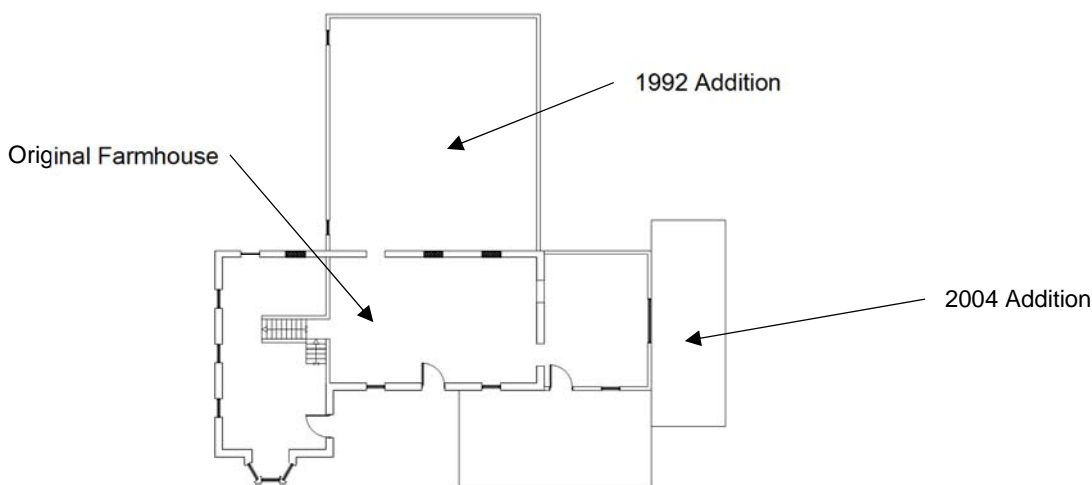
Built in circa 1865, the stone house exhibits two modern additions. The historic portion has an L-shaped plan and is constructed of limestone. There are two primary gables to the house, one running north-south and one running east-west. The east-west gable is recessed from the north-south when standing at Zeandale Road. There is a modern addition that extends the easternmost part of the "L". To the south of the east-west "wing" is a modern screened-in porch covered by a shed roof extending from the south eave of the wing.

To the north of the house approximately 50 feet lies the Allen outbuilding. It has a rectangular plan that runs north to south and its four walls are limestone. It is covered by a simple gabled, wood-shingled roof.

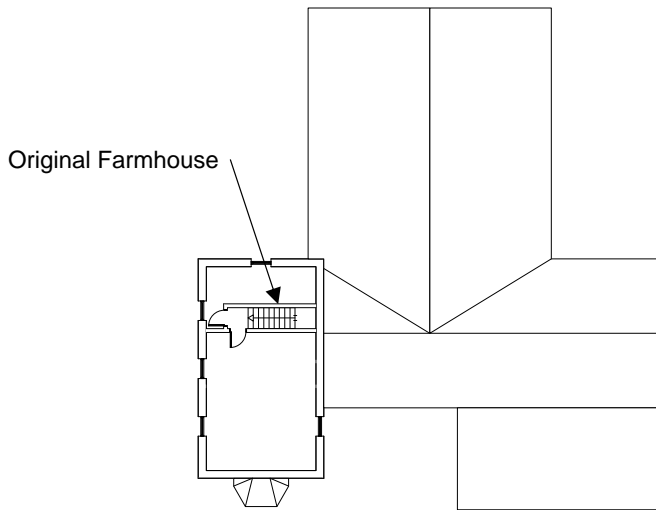
Elaboration *(Provide a detailed description of the building's exterior, interior, and any associated buildings on the property. Note any historic features, materials, and changes to the building/property.)*

Setting

The farmhouse sits approximately 150 feet to the north of Zeandale Road with its primary façade facing the road. Zeandale Road creates the southern boundary of the property. On either side of the property to the east and west, the property is bounded by agricultural land. There is a gravel driveway that runs from Zeandale Road to the east of the house and back to the outbuilding and modern ancillary farm structures. The historic limestone building sits 50 feet to the north of the farmhouse. The six ancillary farm structures sit in a cluster to the northeast of the farmhouse and limestone outbuilding. A few tall trees make an implied boundary between the west side of the farmhouse and a road that provides access to the north part of the property. A half-mile north of the farmhouse is the Kansas River, aligned with tall trees that separate the water from the land. Between the farmhouse and the River is more agricultural land. The town of Zeandale is approximately two miles to the west of the property.



First Floor Sketch -
Farmhouse



Second Floor Sketch

Limestone Farmhouse (ca. 1865)

The historic portion of the house has an L-shaped plan with a cross gable. At the western end of the house is the north-south wing of the “L”. This wing is two stories tall with a shingled gable roof with a short overhang of approximately one foot. Each corner of the exterior is adorned with limestone quoins that extend from the ground to the roof eave and terminate at a wood trim board running from eave to gable. This wing also sits slightly proud of the east-west wing from Zeandale Road. Its exterior walls have 6” tall coursed limestone pieces of varying lengths. The east-west wing of the “L” is one story tall and has a floor height elevated above the north-south wing. It also has a shingled gable roof with a short overhang of approximately one foot. This wing exhibits limestone pieces of a taller length than the other wing and does not have quoins at its exterior corners. Based on the difference in stone dimensions and character between the two wings, it is possible that one of the wings was added at a later date than the first was constructed.

The south façade is the primary façade of the home, which faces south towards Zeandale Road. The north-south wing sits at the western end of this façade. This façade has a three-sided bay window on the first floor with three tall, non-historic casement windows with a limestone sill and lintel, one in each facet of the bay window. The second floor has two single-hung 2/2 wood windows, each with a limestone lintel and sill. These windows reflect the historic windows in their 2/2 form and the muntin pattern, though it is unknown whether they are historic or not, as the wood profiles seem to be period-inappropriate. From this façade, the screened-in porch addition is most prominent and runs the length of the original east-west wing. The screened-in porch is supported by five limestone columns, creating four bays. Three of the bays are screened in, while the western bay provides an entry into the original front door of the home and frames the historic length of the east-west wing. This historic length contains the front door with a limestone lintel and a single-hung 1/1 wood window with a limestone sill and lintel on either side of the front door. The addition to the east of this point is an EIFS-clad structure with large windows overlooking the property to the east.

At the east façade, much of what is visible is non-historic additions to the home. Tall windows with a pentagonal transom adorn the east façade of the 2004 addition. The 1992 addition is also visible from the east façade, extending to the north. There is one window on the east façade of the 1992 addition and a garage door. In front of the east façade is a contemporary deck addition with an above ground pool. The gravel drive transitions to a concrete driveway just before the farmhouse, and the concrete driveway wraps around the east façade and leads to the garage at the north end of the 1992 addition. Both facades are clad in EIFS.

Both the 1992 and 2004 additions are visible from the north façade, as well as the north-south wing of the original home. One window is visible in the 2004 addition, clad in EIFS, a panel of louvers to the attic of the 1992 addition, also EIFS, is visible, and three openings are visible in the historic portion from this façade. A door is infilled on the first floor, but the stone lintel is still visible, and one 2/2 single-hung window with a stone lintel and sill. The second story opening is another 2/2 single-hung window with a stone lintel and sill.

The west façade exhibits a view of the original farmhouse as well as the 1992 addition. The 1992 addition has three openings--three single-hung windows, one at the north end of the addition and one at the south and one in the center. This façade is clad in EIFS. The farmhouse has a limestone façade and exhibits three 2/2 single-hung wood windows with limestone sills and lintels on the first floor. These windows have metal storm windows over them. On the second floor, there are also three 2/2 single-hung windows that align vertically with the first floor windows, which also have metal storm windows over them. These also have the same limestone sills and lintels as the rest of the windows in the historic limestone structure. The windows of the west façade appear to be historic.

The front door of the south façade of the historic farmhouse is about three feet above ground. Entering the front door is a large, open room, which today serves as the kitchen. This could have also been the kitchen in the original layout of the home. To the east of the kitchen is the 2004 addition, which overlooks the east side of the property through large windows. The east façade of the original structure is visible from this 2004 addition, which shows that there were two openings in the east façade, two windows that likely exhibited the same 2/2 proportions and limestone sills and lintels. A screened-in porch with a shed roof can be accessed through a door in the south wall of the 2004 addition.

To the west of the open kitchen is a cased opening to a stair landing. To the left at the stair landing is a short run of stairs down to ground level in the original farmhouse. This room is where the interior of the south bay window is accessed in a large open room with a wood-burning stove. The plaster inside is original and all openings are historic within this part of the home. The room extends from end to end of the north-south wing. If one goes back up to the landing at the level of the kitchen and continues up the stairs, there is about a six-foot rise to the second floor. The second floor is divided from north to south by two rooms. Today, one room is a bedroom at the south of the wing and the north piece of the wing is a large bathroom. The ceilings on the second floor are original wood plank ceilings.

Beginning at the front door of the farmhouse once again, there is a doorway to the north 1992 addition. This addition has a bedroom, bathroom and garage. On the exterior side of the kitchen wall, the original limestone north façade is still extant, along with the outline of three historic openings, one of which is the doorway to the addition. The other two openings appear to have been windows in the same proportions of the 2/2 single-hung windows on the south façade of the kitchen room. The limestone sills and lintels are still extant from the interior of the 1992 addition.

Limestone Outbuilding (c. 1870's)

The limestone outbuilding lies around 50 feet to the north of the farmhouse. It is a rectangular structure of 27'-6" by 16' with a gabled roof running north to south. Each façade is clad in limestone and the roof is covered today in wood shingles.

The south façade has no openings, it is only clad in limestone and shows the peak of the roof at this end of the building. However, there is an indication that a small crawlspace access was infilled with stone, as there is a limestone lintel approximately one foot above grade. The east façade has two openings, a wood door with a stone lintel spanning the top that sits in the center of the facade. To the north of the door is a high 2/2 fixed window, whose top height is even with the bearing height of the roof. (Figure 9) The bottom of the door in the east façade sits at ground level. The north façade of the outbuilding is identical to the south, a simple limestone-clad wall with no openings. However, there are two circular shapes in the north façade that appear

to have been possible former flue locations. They are infilled today. The west façade has three openings, one being a door in the center of the façade with its threshold approximately one foot above ground level with a limestone sill. The door is flanked on either side with a 2/2 fixed window with the similar proportions to the window on the east façade. Their head is also in line with the bearing height of the roof.

On the interior of the limestone outbuilding, there are exposed roof and ceiling rafters, some which are new and have replaced original structural members. In addition, the original roof sheathing has been replaced by plywood. The limestone is exposed on each interior wall. There is evidence of a floor framed at the level of the west door (Figure 10). The reason for an elevated floor is unknown and the current floor is dirt.

Integrity

The original portions of the property that are extant today exhibit a high degree of historic integrity. The stable condition of the limestone at 150 years of age is a testament to the workmanship and craft of the stonemason who cut the stones and laid the courses. Although the interior of the house contains modern utilities, electricity and appliances, the overall layout of the original home remains. Existing openings still reflect what was historically in the house, although the dates of these openings are unknown. The design contributes to the character of its surrounding area and other stone homes in the Zeandale area. With the stone outbuilding still near the house and the open agricultural land still surrounding the property, the feeling of the property as it was in Figure 8 still remains.

Because of the two modern additions to the house, the property is being nominated to the State Register only, as these additions hide much of two facades and are also visible from all four facades, therefore detracting from the physical historic integrity of the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for State 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)

Property is:

- 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

(Enter categories from instructions)

SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

circa 1865-1887

Significant Dates

circa 1865

1887

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder - Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The Abner Allen Farmstead is potentially eligible for its association with the early history of Zeandale Township, founded in 1855 by J.H. Pillsbury and the contributions of Abner Allen to the area during his residence on Section 22 until the Allens left the property and moved to California in 1887.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance**Summary Paragraph** *(Provide a summary paragraph that notes under what criteria the property is nominated.)*

The Abner Allen House & Outbuilding are nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places under Criterion A for their association with the settlement of the Zeandale Township. The period of significance, circa 1865 to 1887, begins with the construction of the house¹ and ends with Abner and Lavina Allen moving to California. One early inhabitant, Abner Allen, who settled in Zeandale Township in 1856, was a well-known horticulturist in the area during his life and was one of the first settlers of Zeandale. He and his wife held many events in their home for the local Horticulturist Society, while Abner was heavily involved in Kansas politics until moving out of the state. Of interest is the movement of county lines around the township as a result of political tumult in the region during the latter half of the 1800's.

Elaboration *(Provide a brief history of the property and justify why this property is locally significant.)***Zeandale Township**

Originally located in Wabaunsee County, Zeandale Township was named in 1855 by J.H. Pillsbury, one of the early settlers of Township 10 South, Range 9 East. The township's population grew over the few years from 1854, when Kansas Territory was open for settlement, and 1857, as approximately 14 families laid claims to the territorial land.² Pillsbury hosted the first post office from his home, and D.M. Adams was appointed Postmaster. By 1880, there were 569 residents in the township, according to census records.

Of significance is the movement of county lines in the area for nearly 20 years after Zeandale Township's founding, due to the Civil War and the issue of slavery. An 1855-1856 survey of the former Richardson County, encompassed by Riley and Wabaunsee counties today, covers Zeandale Township (Figure 2). Richardson County was founded by William P. Richardson, a pro-slavery member of the territorial council in 1855 and 1857. The territorial legislature established Richardson County as one of the original 33 counties of the Kansas Territory. In 1859, its area became part of Wabaunsee County, and in 1871, Zeandale Township was incorporated into Riley County to compensate for territory lost to Davis County (present-day Geary County) as a result of the legislature of 1871 (Figure 3).³ It is worth noting that Wabaunsee County records show that in 1859, Wabaunsee Township was to include all that part of Township 10, Range 9 (Zeandale), and Township 10, Range 10 lying south of the Kansas River, east of Township 11, Range 9 and Township 11, Range 10, and east of the Davis County line. It is important to understand this, as multiple newspaper sources state Abner Allen as hailing from Wabaunsee.⁴

The construction of the Kansas Pacific Railway through the area during the 1860s likely boosted the appeal of settlement in the area (Figure 4).⁵ The company provided land grants within a 20-mile limit north and south of the railway across the length of Kansas (Figure 5). Zeandale Township was comfortably located within the 20-mile range of the land grant south of the railway.

¹ The Riley County Appraiser places the construction date of the house at 1865. Construction date has not been confirmed by other sources.

² William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas: Riley County, Part 2* (Chicago, IL: A.T. Andreas, 1883), [digitized online] available at <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/riley/riley-co-p2.html>.

³ Kansas Historical Society, *Kansas Counties*, Web-based Database (2018), [digitized online]; <https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-counties/11304>

⁴ Matt Thomson, *Early History of Wabaunsee County, Kansas with Stories of Pioneer Days and Glimpses of our Western Border* (Alma, KS: Self-published, 1901), 201.

⁵ The precursor to the Kansas Pacific, the Leavenworth, Pawnee & Western, was established in 1855 and was reorganized in 1863 as the Union Pacific Eastern Division. The railroad reached Lawrence in 1864, but not until after the Civil War did building of the railroad west really progress. It reached Junction City in 1866, and the name was changed to the Kansas Pacific in 1869. For clarity, the name Kansas Pacific is used in the text to refer to the railroad.

Abner Allen

Abner Allen came to the Zeandale Township in 1856. He first came to Lawrence, Kansas from Columbiana County, Ohio in 1855. He then moved to the township in the spring of 1856,⁶ eventually preempting land in the northeast quarter of Section 22.⁷ As the first sacking of Lawrence by pro-slavery activists also happened in the spring of 1856, perhaps the tension encouraged Allen to move west to Zeandale. A biography written about him states that Abner “has never aspired to political honors, being content to live in his rural home undisturbed by political tumults.”⁸ His wife was Lavina Taylor, also of Ohio,⁹ and they were married in 1859.¹⁰

To the south of the Allens, Hiram Keyes settled the southeast quarter of Section 22 with his wife, Lucinda, and son, Charles, and receiving the land patent in June 1860.¹¹ The nominated property is located in the northeast quarter of this quarter section owned by Keyes, indicating that perhaps at least a portion of the stone house was built for/by Keyes. Both Keyes and Allen are listed in the United States Agriculture census from 1860. Keyes’ farm was valued at \$1000 with only 19 of his 160 acres improved. Allen’s farm was valued as \$800 with 22 acres of his 165 acres improved. Both Keyes and Allen produced wheat, corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, butter, and molasses and had a variety of livestock ranging from milk cows to horses to swine.¹²

A small building on Keyes’ farm was noted to have served as the first district school, taught by Mattie Keyes, in 1859, until the first log schoolhouse was built in 1862.¹³ The extant limestone outbuilding to the north of the Allen farmhouse may have been the building that was home to the first district school, placing its construction at ca. 1859.

An 1866 survey of Wabaunsee County shows Allen and Keyes still owning their respective quarter sections (Figure 6); although, census records indicate that by 1870, Keyes had relocated to Wabaunsee Township. The 1870 U.S. Agriculture Census shows that Allen owned 240 acres valued at \$3500, indicating Allen may have acquired a portion of Keyes’ property around 1870, further supporting that the house may have been built in part by the Keyes. The next plat map available for Zeandale Township is the 1881 Riley County plat book, which shows the extent of Allen’s holdings for that year, including the portion of Keyes’ property that contains the nominated house (Figure 7). Interestingly, the 1870 Federal census indicates a Swedish stonemason by the name of Charles Binkland residing at the farm. Binkland’s involvement on any of the extant stonework on the Allen property is undocumented but likely.¹⁴

Allen’s devotion to horticulture and agriculture is apparent in the many newspaper accounts regarding his harvests and involvement with local horticultural societies. In 1877, he is reported as having introduced a new raspberry to the area, the Ganargua, which was a hardy and productive variety.¹⁵ At the Riley County Fair in 1878, Allen won multiple awards for his fruit exhibits.¹⁶ Prizes were awarded to him that year for his collection

⁶ Kansas Trails: Dedicated to Free Genealogy, *Douglas County: Abner Allen*, Web-based Database; <http://genealogytrails.com/kan/douglas/bios1.html#abnerallen>

⁷ According to the General Land Office records, Allen officially received the patent for his land, 165.5 acres in the NE quarter of Section 22, on June 1, 1860.

⁸ *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas* (Chicago, IL: The Bird & Mickle Map Co., 1881), 33.

⁹ 1880 United States Federal Census.

¹⁰ *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas*, 33.

¹¹ 1860 United States Federal Census; General Land Office records.

¹² 1860 Zeandale, Wabaunsee County, Kansas, Agricultural Census.

¹³ *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas*, 27. Curiously, census records list a Mattie Keyes as the daughter of Hiram and Lucinda; Mattie was born in 1870.

¹⁴ The 1870 Agriculture Census indicates that Allen paid a value of \$200 in total wages for the previous year, including boarding.

¹⁵ *The Weekly Commonwealth*. (August 23, 1877): 2.

¹⁶ “Premiums Awarded” *Manhattan Nationalist*. (October 4, 1878): 5.

peaches, plate winter apples, plate peaches and collection fruit: all kinds. Allen also meddled in beekeeping and was said to have had 30 hives, which each produced 50 pounds of honey a year.¹⁷ In 1883, the *Manhattan Republic* reported that Allen was seen at the Manhattan Fair and had brought 100 varieties of apples to the State Fair but had no exhibit in Manhattan that year. He was reported to have had 1,500 bushels of apples in his orchard that year.¹⁸

A short biography of Allen in the 1881 *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas* speaks to his success as a farmer and the quality of the farm improvements relative to the surrounding farms in Kansas.¹⁹ This plat book also states that his agricultural pursuits were more heavily focused on fruit growing and horticulture, though newspaper articles can also be found mentioning his sweet potato harvests.²⁰

An 1881 illustration of the Abner Allen Farm shows abundant orchards and crops and the limestone farmhouse at the forefront of the property (Figure 7). The house appears as an upright-and-ell structure as is seen today, indicating that the historic portion of the house was in place by 1881. Abner pre-empted the claim to his land in 1856, but the exact year of the construction of this house is unknown. It would have been constructed between 1856 and 1881, when the illustration of his farm in the *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas* was made. The original portion of the house that is extant today has not been altered from its appearance in the 1881 illustration. It is a solid home constructed from limestone with a split-level configuration between its two main wings. The primary façade on the south boasts a bay-window that protrudes from the limestone wall. The property was adorned with many fruit trees, crops and a row of trees at the north boundary that followed the Kansas River. It provided a place for Allen to grow and observe apples, peaches, strawberries, raspberries, sweet potatoes and likely other crops. Having horticultural society events at the home would have provided an opportunity for guests to observe these fruits themselves.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen hosted numerous events in their “handsome home” in conjunction with local horticultural societies in Riley and Wabaunsee counties.²¹ The newspaper that reported one such event noted that the Allens were genial hosts and that their efforts were greatly appreciated by their guests.²² It was also noted that the number of ladies who took an interest in the subject in the Allens’ home was surprising. In addition, the Manhattan Horticultural Society featured Abner as a speaker at a joint session held in February of 1884, where he presented a paper on Fruit Nomenclature.²² Abner is also quoted by the *Kansas Farmer* stating that the Bidwell strawberry was doing well in Wabaunsee County that year (1884).²³

Abner Allen was not only a horticulturalist and a farmer, but a Kansas politician as well. Known as a strong Republican, he had voted for Salmon P. Chase while he lived in Ohio, who was the first anti-slavery governor in the United States.²⁴ Upon moving to Kansas, he became involved with politics by joining the Riley County Republican Convention, where he served as officer and County Commissioner for the 1st District.²⁵ He is mentioned again in a *Manhattan Nationalist* article as a Zeandale delegate to the Riley County Republican Convention in 1882.²⁶ Allen also served as township treasurer between 1873 and 1876.²⁷

¹⁷ “Kansas Honey” *The Abilene Weekly Chronicle*. (January 3, 1879): 4.

¹⁸ “The Manhattan Fair” *The Manhattan Republic*. (September 28, 1883): 3.

¹⁹ *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas*, 33.

²⁰ “From Friday’s Daily” *Weekly Atchison Champion*. (October 23, 1875): 4.

²¹ *Manhattan Mercury*. (October 15, 1884): 1.

²² “Special Notices” *Manhattan Nationalist*. (February 4, 1884): 8.

²³ *Kansas Farmer*. (June 11, 1884): 4.

²⁴ *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas*, 33.

²⁵ “Rep Convention” *Manhattan Nationalist*. (October 1, 1875): 3.

²⁶ “The Republican Convention” *Manhattan Nationalist*. (August 3, 1882): 3.

²⁷ *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas*, 27.

In 1886, the *Manhattan Nationalist* reported that Abner had been very ill for four weeks. He did recover, as he and Lavina moved to San Jose, California in 1887, where he lived until his death in 1899.²⁸ Upon Abner's death, his body was brought back to Kansas to be buried at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery just outside Zeandale. Lavina moved back to Kansas after Abner died and lived with her nephew Cal Taylor, until she passed away in 1910 at the age of 84.²⁹ Lavina is also buried at Pleasant Valley Cemetery with her husband, Abner.

In the few years before the Allens moved to California and while they lived there, it appears that the farm was cultivated and improved upon by those other than Abner. In 1885, J.F. Brown installed a windmill on the property and stated that he was ready to thresh, assumed to be happening at the Allen Farm.³⁰ In 1890, Nelson Taylor was living on the land.³¹ In 1895, brothers Dan and Arthur Foltz began cultivating the farm.³² It was not until 1908 that Lavina Allen sold the farm to H.J. Taylor and his wife, two years before Mrs. Allen's death.³³ Even after the Allens' deaths, their legacy lived on, as an article in the *St. George News* still referred to the property as the "Abner Allen farm" in a local announcement.³⁴

The Abner Allen House & Outbuilding is significant for its association with the early settlement and history of the Zeandale area, as well as early Riley and Wabaunsee Counties. Its setting and existence is a reminder of the culture of the area during its earliest days as well as social tensions that were a product of the issue of slavery, considering especially the multiple re-locations of county boundaries around the property. Its election to the State Register will preserve the roles of the Allens in their community's history.

²⁸ Kansas Trails: Dedicated to Free Genealogy, *Douglas County: Abner Allen*, [digitized online];

<http://genealogytrails.com/kan/douglas/bios1.html#abnerallen>.

²⁹ "Out of Town Notes" *The Alma Enterprise*. (April 26, 1912): 1.

³⁰ "Zeandale Items" *The Manhattan Republic*. (December 24, 1885): 3.

³¹ *Manhattan Mercury*. (May 31, 1890): 4.

³² "Tabor Valley" *Manhattan Nationalist*. (March 22, 1895): 2.

³³ "Wabaunsee" *The Alma Enterprise*. (July 3, 1908): 1.

³⁴ "Zeandale" *St. George News*. (January 7, 1916): 1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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"Kansas Honey" *The Abilene Weekly Chronicle*. (January 3, 1879): 4.

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"The Manhattan Fair" *The Manhattan Republic*. (September 28, 1883): 3.

Manhattan Mercury. (October 15, 1884): 1 & (May 31, 1890): 4.

"Out of Town Notes" *The Alma Enterprise*. (April 26, 1912): 1.

"Premiums Awarded" *Manhattan Nationalist*. (October 4, 1878): 5.

"Rep Convention" *Manhattan Nationalist*. (October 1, 1875): 3.

"The Republican Convention" *Manhattan Nationalist*. (August 3, 1882): 3.

"Special Notices" *Manhattan Nationalist*. (February 4, 1884): 8.

"Tabor Valley" *Manhattan Nationalist*. (March 22, 1895): 2.

Thomson, Matt. *Early History of Wabaunsee County, Kansas with Stories of Pioneer Days and Glimpses of our Western Border*. Alma, KS: Self-published, 1901 [digitized online]; available from Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/earlyhistoryofwa00thom> (accessed May 30, 2018).

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"Wabaunsee" *The Alma Enterprise*. (July 3, 1908): 1.

The Weekly Commonwealth. (August 23, 1877): 2.

"Zeandale Items" *The Manhattan Republic*. (December 24, 1885): 3.

Abner Allen House & Outbuilding
Name of Property

Manhattan, Riley County
City and County

"Zeandale" St. George News. (January 7, 1916): 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.88

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

A 39.163883 -96.391286 B 39.164130 -96.391370
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is approximately 0.88 acres and is bounded by the farmstead's curvilinear driveway. The nominated acreage is located within a larger 10.4 acre parcel described as: S22 , T10 , R09E, BEG 419.86'S NE COR SE4, TH S80 2.34', W605.42', N411.03', E20.15', N335.01', E581.07' TO POB.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary encompasses only those resources directly associated with Abner Allen.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristy Johnson
organization Ben Moore Studio, LLC date _____
street & number 513 Leavenworth Street Suite A telephone (785) 560-3111 ext. 2
city or town Manhattan state KS zip code 66502
e-mail kristy@benmoorestudio.com

Property Owner:

name Mary and Bob Mertz
street & number 7280 Zeandale Road telephone (785) 456-5839
city or town Manhattan state KS zip code 66502

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial 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.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Abner Allen House & Outbuilding

City or Vicinity: Zeandale vicinity

County: Riley State: Kansas

Photographer: Kristy Johnson

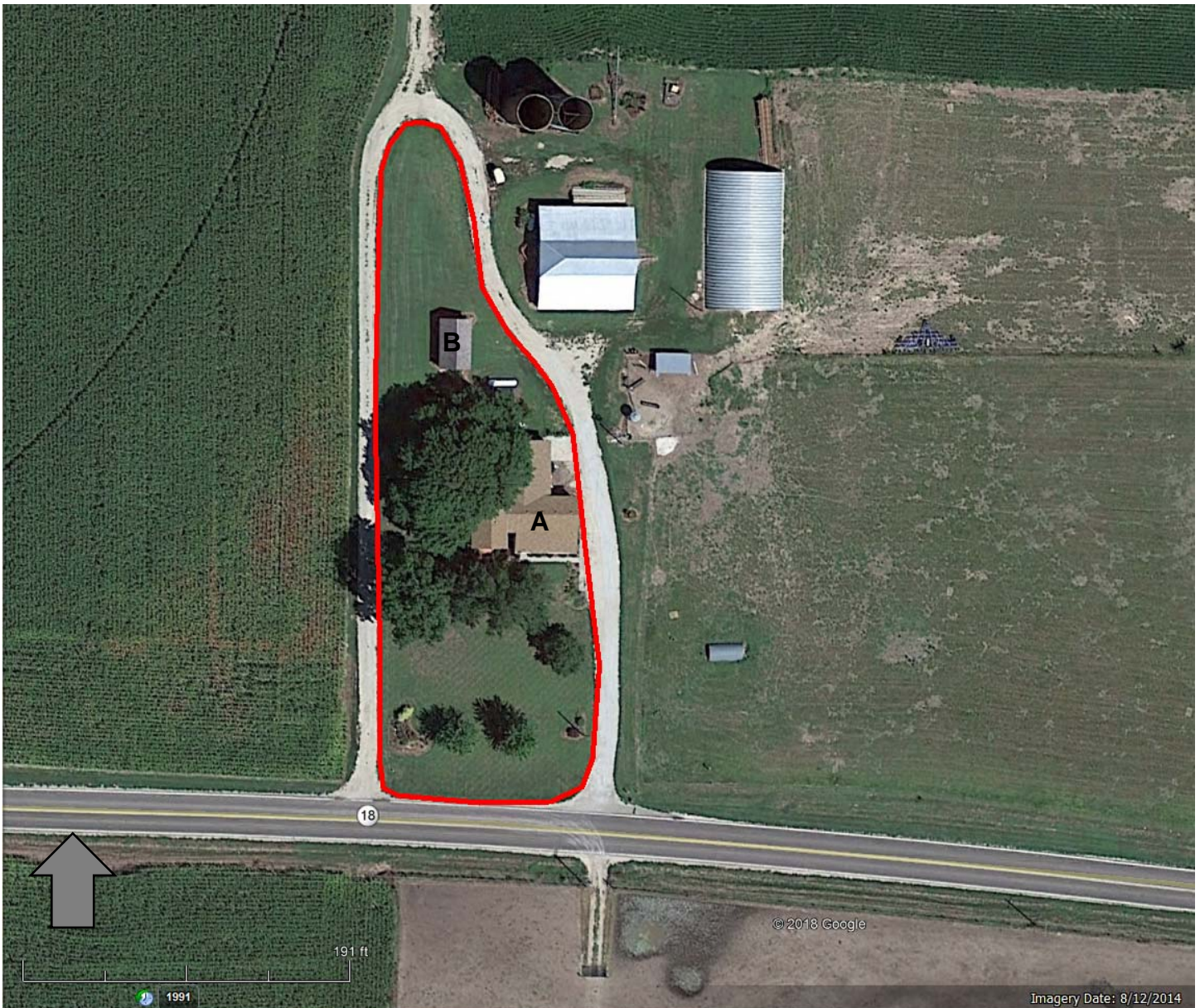
Date Photographed: May 9, 2018

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

- 1 of 20: East façade. Screened-in porch, east addition, north addition and pool deck are all visible. A small piece of the roof of the original limestone house is visible.
- 2 of 20: Looking south from north of the house. East and north additions are visible.
- 3 of 20: The north façade of the limestone house.
- 4 of 20: West façade from the road that runs along the west boundary of the property.
- 5 of 20: The primary south façade, a closer view.
- 6 of 20: Looking north in the kitchen of the home that is walked into after entering the south front door. The doorway leads to the north 1992 addition.
- 7 of 20: The old limestone threshold is visible between the kitchen and the north addition.
- 8 of 20: Two historic openings and limestone façade visible in the 2004 east addition, used as a living room.
- 9 of 20: Looking at the south façade, the transition between the historic house and the 2004 addition is apparent.
- 10 of 20: From interior of screened-in porch, looking northeast at the 2004 addition.
- 11 of 20: The original north limestone façade, visible from the 1992 addition.
- 12 of 20: Original stairs going to the second floor in the north-south wing.
- 13 of 20: The original stairs to the ground level of the north-south wing.
- 14 of 20: Ground floor of limestone farmhouse, looking south inside the north-south wing at the bay window of the south façade.
- 15 of 20: Looking at the limestone north façade of the limestone farmhouse from inside the 1992 addition. The limestone sill and lintel of a former window is visible, now infilled by a cabinet.
- 16 of 20: The second floor bedroom of the north-south wing, looking towards the southeast corner of the room. A plank ceiling is visible.
- 17 of 20: A hole in the floor of the second floor bedroom, down to the ground level. This penetration may have one provided a space for the flue of a stove on the ground level.
- 18 of 20: Looking at the southwest corner of the second floor bedroom.
- 19 of 20: The north window of the second floor bathroom in the limestone farmhouse.
- 20 of 20: The east façade of the historic limestone outbuilding.

Figures

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.



Boundary Map: 2014 Google aerial image, showing the Allen House (A) and Outbuilding (B) within the nominated boundary (solid line).



Figure 1: Contextual map of Allen property (denoted by X). [Source: Kansas Historic Resources Inventory, www.kshs.org/khri]

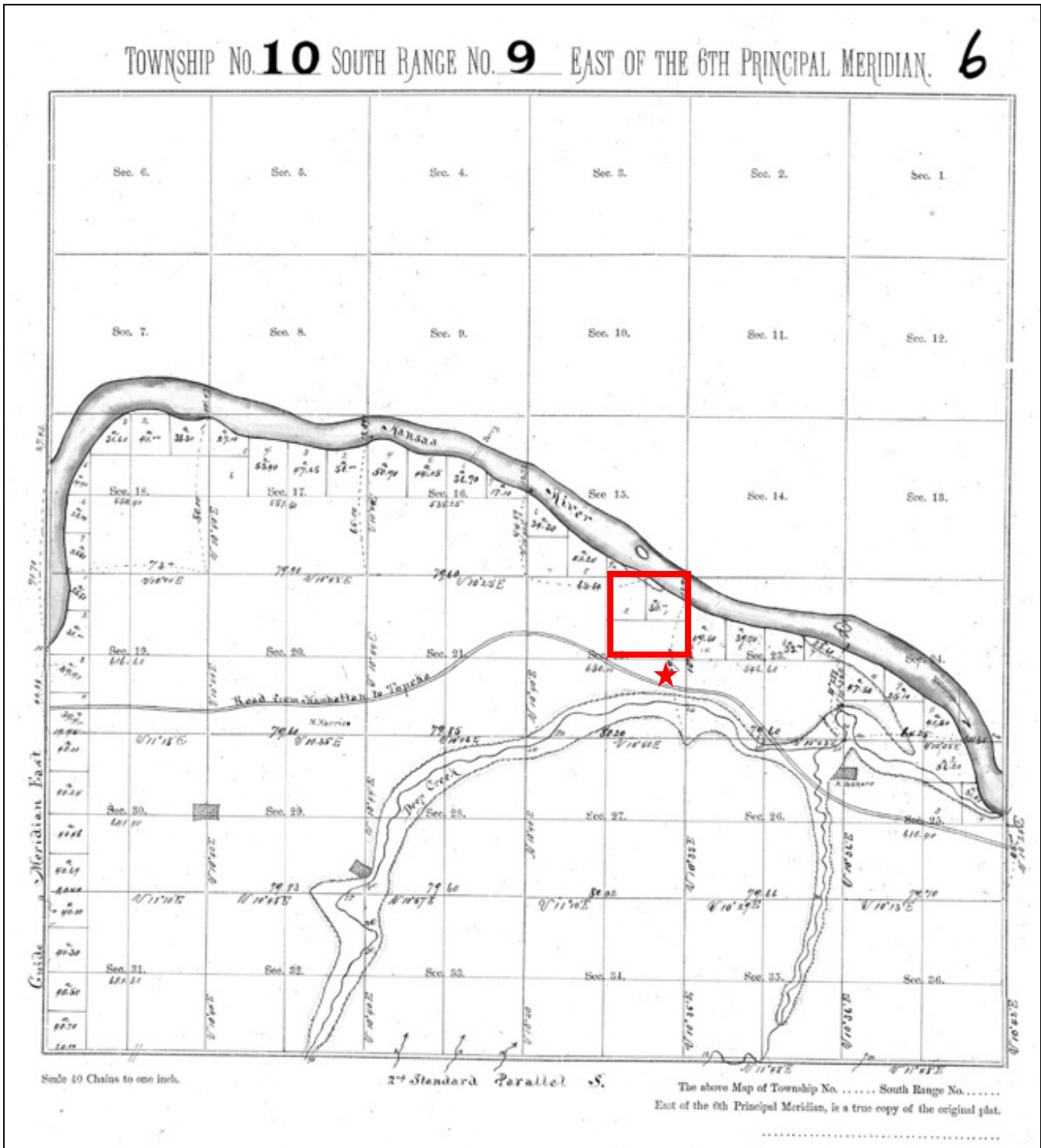


Figure 2: 1855-1856 survey of a piece of the former Richardson County, covering the Zeandale Township. Allen's property in the NE quarter of Section 22 is marked with a bolded square; the location of the nominated buildings is denoted by a star. The Road from Manhattan to Topeka, today's Zeandale Road, is marked on the map just below the star. [Source: Richardson County and Wabaunsee County, Kansas, survey, 1855-1856. Available from <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/227774>].

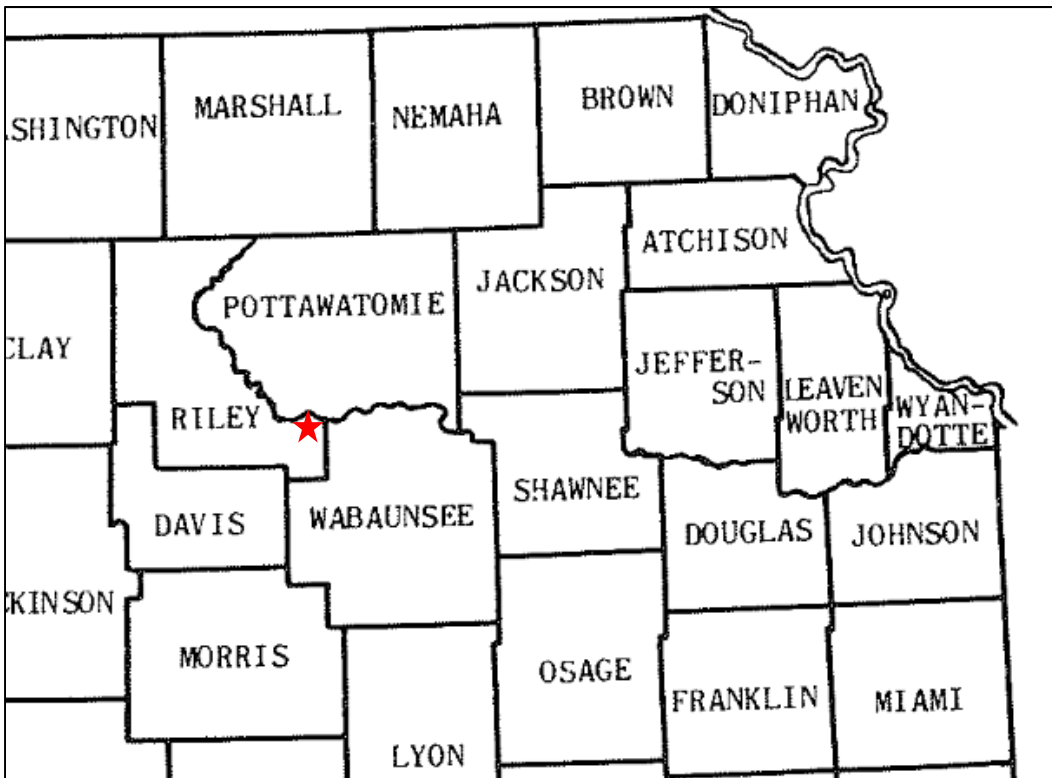


Figure 3: County boundaries as depicted in 1855 (top) and 1873 (bottom). The nominated property's approximate location is denoted by a star on each map. [Source: Robert W. Baughman, *Kansas Post Offices: May 29, 1828-August 3, 1961* (Topeka: Kansas Historical Society, 1961), 241 & 249.]

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will be mailed free to all persons sending their address to

S. J. GILMORE,
Land Commissioner,
LAWRENCE, KAN.

NEW ADDRESS,
S. J. GILMORE,
Land Commissioner,
SALINA, KAN. 1879.

Ramsey, Millett & Hudson Print, Kansas City.

Figure 4: Kansas Pacific Railway flyer drawing attention to the area around Zeandale. [Source: Kansas Memory, <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/212413>]

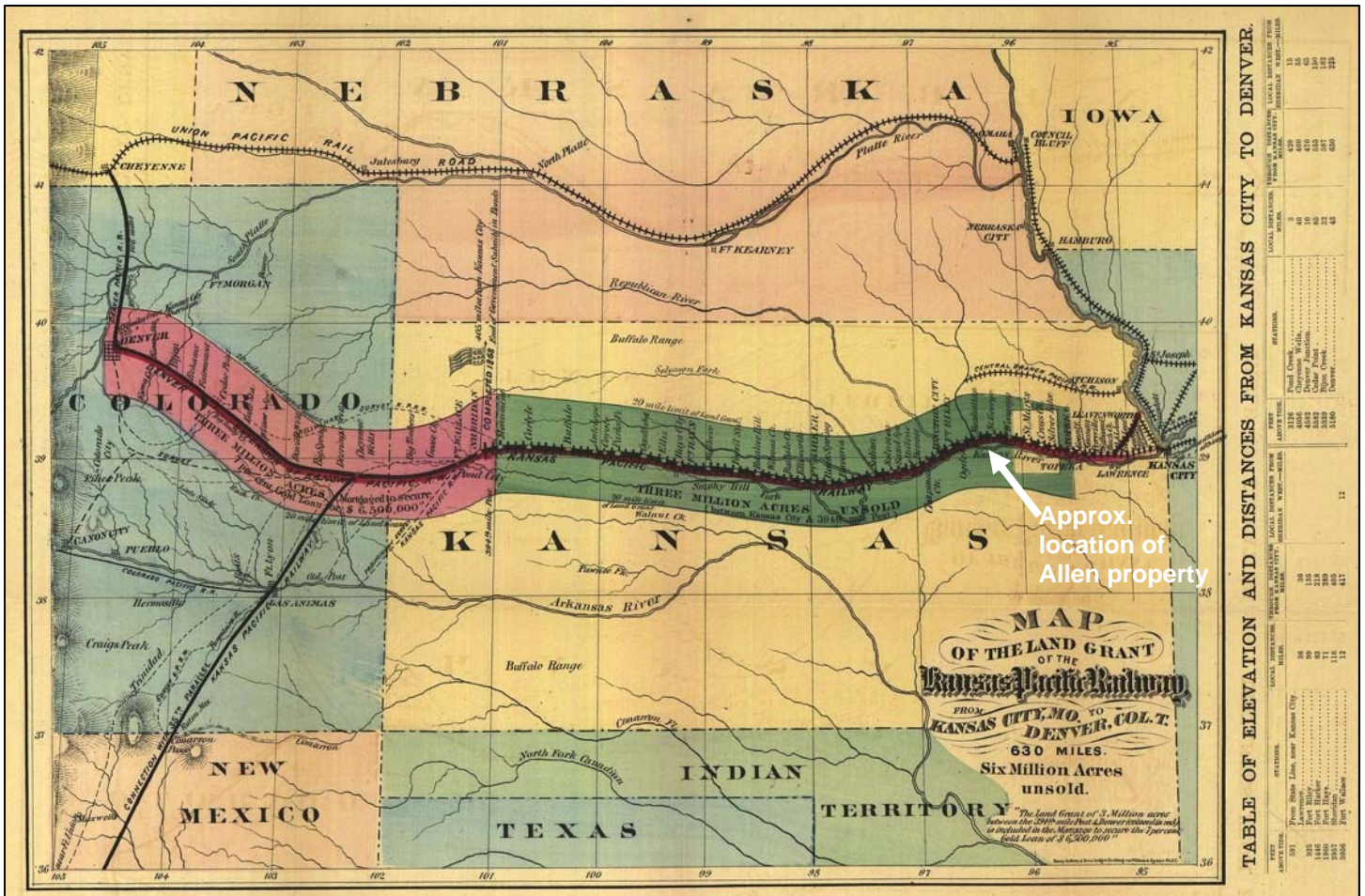


Figure 5: Map of the Kansas Pacific Railway and the granted lands in a 20-mile range around the tracks. [Source: Henry Seibert & Bros., *Map of the Land Grant of the Kansas Pacific Railway, from Kansas City, Mo. To Denver Col. T.*, 1869 (Wichita State University Libraries – Department of Special Collections: A Collection of Digitized Kansas Maps) [digitized online] <http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/collections/maps/detailsframes.asp?offset=-1&var=1869-0004> (accessed July 31, 2018).

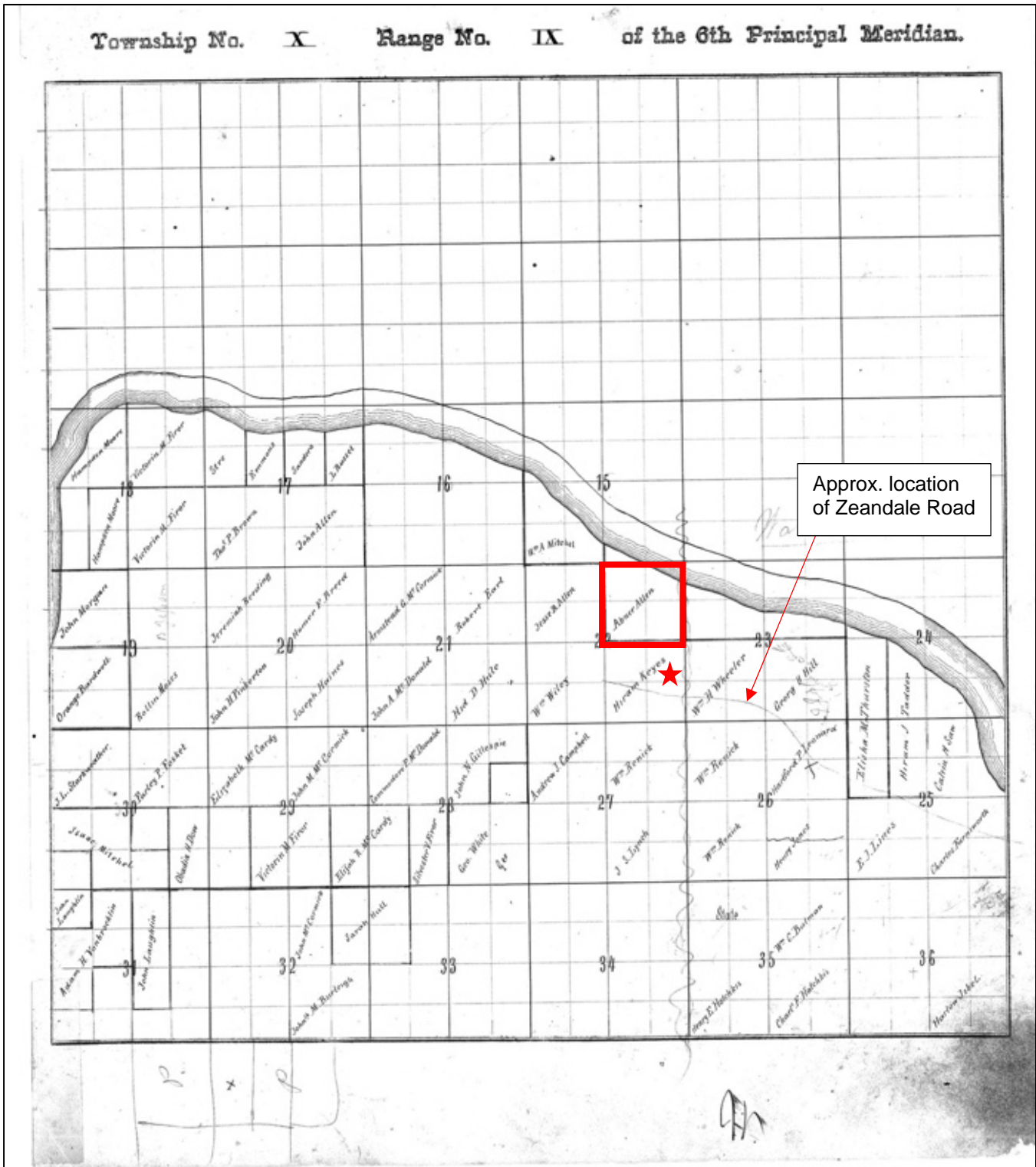


Figure 6: Allen's name can be seen on his property in the NE quarter of Section 22. The nominated buildings (denoted by star) are in the NE quarter of the SE quarter of Section 22, which was owned by Hiram Keyes at least in 1866. [Source: Richardson County and Wabaunsee County, Kansas, survey, 1866. Available from <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/227774>].

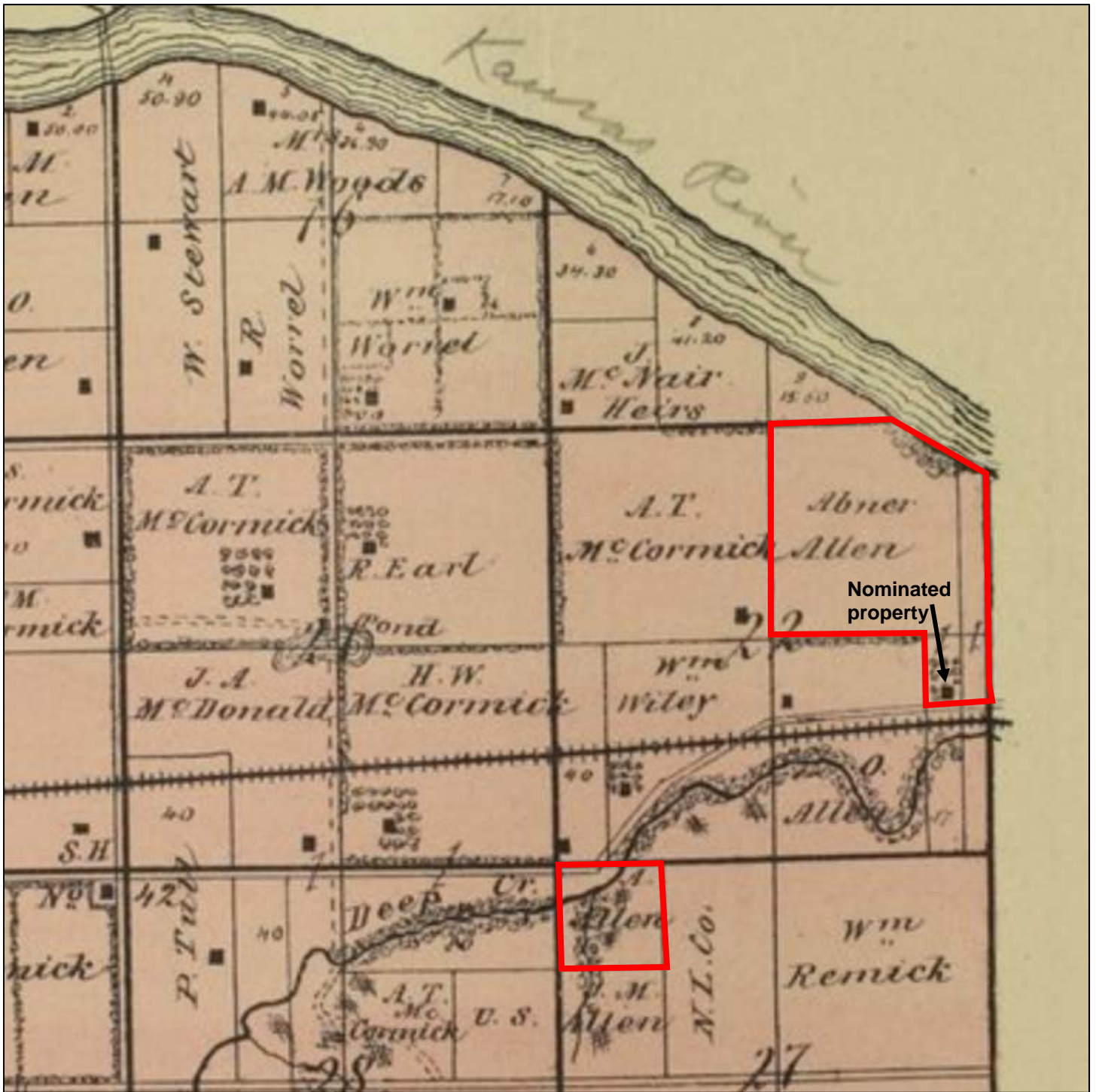


Figure 7: Plat of Township 10 South, Range 9 East, showing Abner Allen's land in 1881. [Source: *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas* (Chicago, IL: The Bird & Mickle Map Co., 1881), 73.]



Figure 8: Artistic rendering of Abner Allen's farm published in 1881. Plentiful orchards, crops and a few outbuildings can be seen, including the outbuilding that is still extant on the land today. View is looking north. The railroad tracks in the image are labeled MA&B Railroad on the plat map (page 73), standing for the Manhattan, Alma and Burlingame Railway, eventually acquired by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe. [Source: *Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas* (Chicago, IL: The Bird & Mickle Map Co., 1881), 49.]



Figure 9: Small fixed window in Limestone Outbuilding, structural repairs to trusses and new plywood roof sheathing.



Figure 10: Interior of Limestone Outbuilding showing possible former floor framing.