

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

27

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

HISTORIC TROUT HALL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

414 Walnut Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Allentown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

15th

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE
42COUNTY
LehighCODE
077**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Allentown

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 435 Hamilton Street

CITY, TOWN

Allentown

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lehigh County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Hamilton Street

CITY, TOWN

Allentown

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1973

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Trout Hall has changed and developed over its 207 years as its occupants and functions changed. During the first period of development, Trout Hall served as the summer home of James Allen and his family. Even in 1770 it was a highly unique building. This massive stone masonry structure, large even by Philadelphia standards, stood a short distance from the isolated village of Northampton Town. Originally a 2½ story structure, Trout Hall has some interesting features. In the basement level there is a large kitchen area with a large walk-in fireplace. The first story is divided into a long hall or general living room. The main entrance broke into this room on the south elevation. A second doorway entered on the west elevation into a short hallway. To the right was a bedroom with a parlor to the rear. There are fireplaces in all three rooms. The second story and attic were unfinished at this time. It is unclear whether the house had dormer windows at this time.

The first changes to Trout Hall appear to have been made about 1825 and the extent of these changes suggest that it was used as more than just a summer home by this date. The north doorway with its elaborate architrave and paneled jambs is perhaps the most conspicuous example of the Federal period alterations. Also at this time narrow muntined sash were installed in place of the wide.

In 1825 porches were added on all elevations but the west. Another conspicuous change on the exterior was the stuccoing of the entire structure at this time. All the first and second floor windows were fitted at this time. Later the first story shutters were replaced, circa 1890. The last major exterior change was the construction of a one story addition on the east side. This addition was removed circa 1860. Interior room division and finishing also took place.

After the Allentown Seminary began operation in 1848 the building took on an entirely different function. The following 100 years saw additional changes to Trout Hall but since 1916 the house has been gradually restored to its circa 1800 state. Much structural research was done at the time of restoration so that original woodwork, paint, and decoration are known.

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"/> 400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1768-1770

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1761, William Allen had a town surveyed and laid out on the confluence of the Jordon and the Little Lehigh, a half mile from the Lehigh River. The plan which he adopted was a regular geometric grid resembling that used by William Parsons in paying out Easton in 1752 and 1682. Northampton Town was divided into 42 regular blocks.

William Allen married Margaret Hamilton, daughter of Andrew Hamilton speaker of the Assembly, in 1734. They has six children: John, Andrew, James, William, Anne and Margaret.

James Allen, the third son of William Allen, was born in Philadelphia about 1742. He was graduated from the College of Philadelphia in 1759 and went abroad with his brother Andrew in 1761 to study at the Temple in London. He returned to America and, in 1765, was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

In 1767, William Allen conveyed various holdings, including his new town called Northampton Town, to his son James. James married Elizabeth Lawrence in 1768 and moved into a house on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. During the same year, James Allen made plans to build a summer home in Northampton Town. It was to be called Trout Hall after his father's hunting lodge. The three and one-half story stone home he erected on this site between 1768 and 1770 remains as an excellent example of Georgian domestic architecture.

Upon James Allen's death in 1778, Trout Hall passed to his son, James. James however, died at age 10 and the home and 812 acre tract reverted to his sisters, Anne Penn; Margaret and Mary.

In 1825, Mary Allen Livingston and her husband moved into Trout Hall after they made renovations to the house so that it could serve as a more suitable home for year-round living.

Following sale of Trout Hall in 1847, it was leased to Reveredn Christian Rudolph Kessler who opened Allentown Seminary in the home in 1848. Sixteen years, and several additions to the building later, the Seminary was chartered as the Allentown Collegiate and Military Academy. In 1867 the institution was closed.

Title passed, in 1868, to the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and the institution became Muhlenberg College. This group also erected additions to the facility but outgrew the complex and moved to

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TROUT HALL - Lehigh County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

1

Significance (continued):

23rd and Chew Streets in 1904. Muhlenberg authorities then rented the Trout Hall property to the Allentown Preparatory School while they looked for a buyer.

The City of Allentown purchased the property from Muhlenberg College in 1908.

In 1915 the Allentown Preparatory School vacated the buildings and the Lehigh County Historical Society, in cooperation with the Daughters of the American Revolution, convinced the city to restore the structure. Between 1916 and 1918 the later additions were razed. Generally, every effort was made to return the building to its original state.

Additional renovation and restoration projects were undertaken in 1927, 1937, 1946, 1957, 1961 and 1975.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Trout Hall, the summer home of James Allen, is a highly unique building. This massive stone structure is large even by Philadelphia standards and stood a short distance from the isolated village of Northampton Town. It is the best preserved and largest, mansion-type houses in the now town of Allentown. Trout Hall is an excellent example of Georgian architecture. As such it is a relative rarity in the Lehigh Valley since most of the older homes were built by German rather than English settlers and are farm houses rather than city dwellings. Thus architecturally it is of great significance to the Lehigh Valley.

James Allen was the son of William Allen the founder of Allentown, Chief Justice of the Courts of Pennsylvania and Mayor of Philadelphia in 1735. James Allen, a graduate of the College of Philadelphia, was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1765.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Walbert, Benjamin I., A.I.A. "The Evolution of Trout Hall Prior to 1848. Lehigh County Historical Society Proceedings. Vol. 31, 1976, p. 89-115.
- Wickkiser, Carol B., "The Allen Family and Trout Hall." Occasional Paper of Lehigh County Historical Society, 1976, p. 8-11.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .8 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Allentown East, Pa., Quad QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>460720</u>	<u>4494510</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Allen F. Maybe/Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Lehigh County Hist. Soc./Pa. Hist. & Mus. Comm.

DATE

December, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Old Courthouse/P. O. Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Allentown/Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

3/16/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

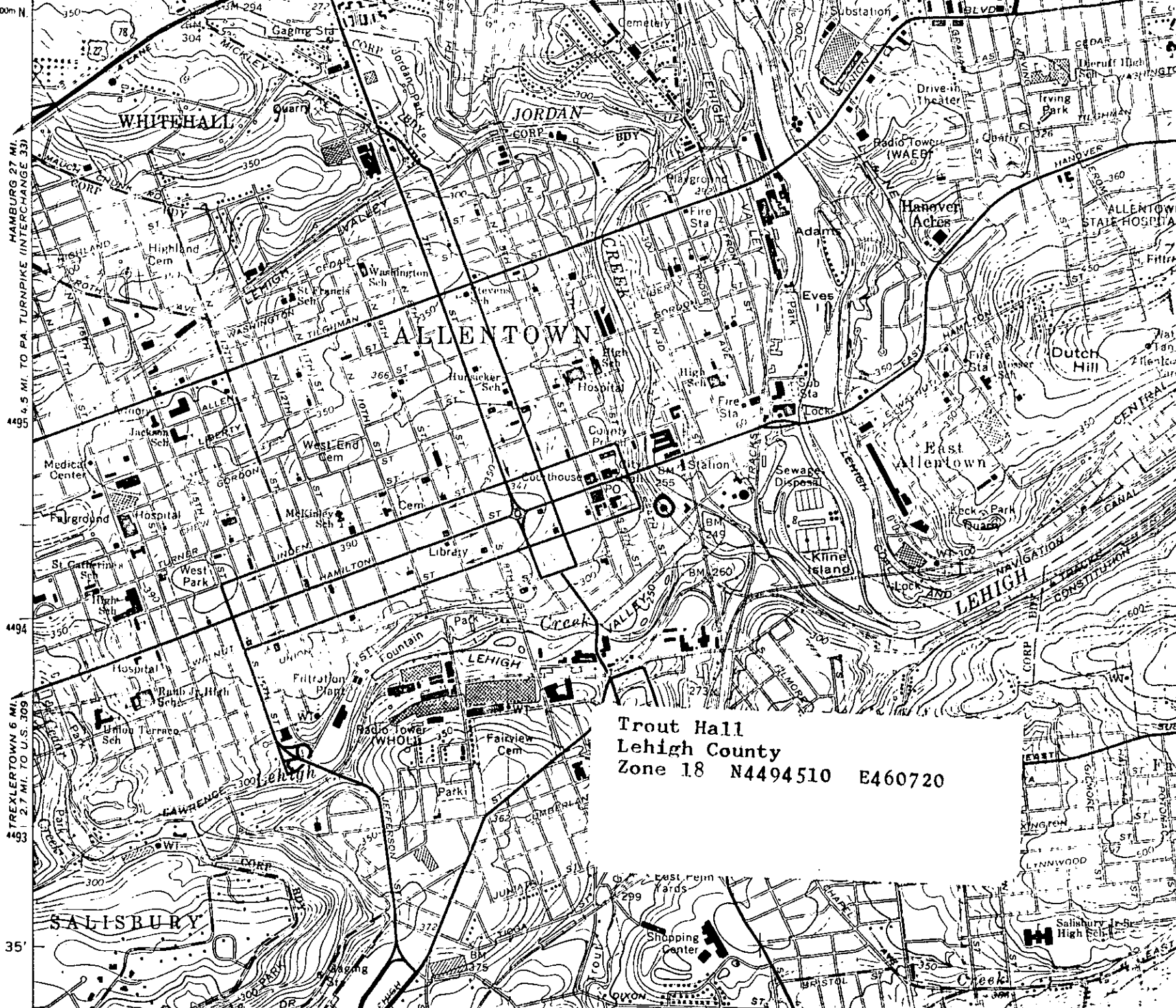
DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

75° 30' 40° 37' 30" 497000m N EASTON (U.S. 61) 16 MI. FULLERTON 0.9 MI. 0.4 MI. TO INTERSTATE 78 '61 27° 30" 1.5 MI. TO INTERSTATE 78 & U.S. 22 5965 13 NW (CATASAUQUA)



HAMBURG 27 MI.
449 4.5 MI. TO PA. TURNPIKE (INTERCHANGE 33)
449 55
449 4
449 3
TREXLEERTOWN 6 MI.
2.7 MI. TO U.S. 309
449 3
35'

Trout Hall
Lehigh County
Zone 18 N4494510 E460720