

Form 10-330
July 1929

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

74009741

STATE:	Indiana
COUNTY:	Marion
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER:	1017186005
DATE:	12/18/73

1. NAME:

COMPANY:
Allison Marion

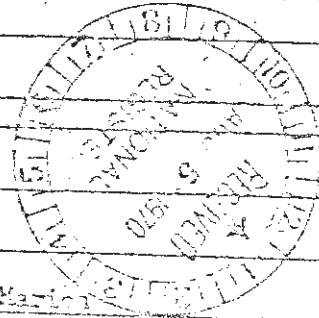
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Riverdale, Marian College Library

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3200 Cold Spring Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis,

STATE: Indiana CODE: 13 COUNTY: Marion CODE: 097



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure			<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Object			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cemetery
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Sisters of Saint Francis

STREET AND NUMBER:
3200 Cold Spring Road (Marian College)

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE: Indiana CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
City-County Building, Office of Marion County Recorder, Transfer Dept.

STREET AND NUMBER:
201 East Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE: Indiana CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY:
November 5, 1968

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Park Service Office of HABS and Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington, D.C.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.

STATE: CODE: 22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: INDIANA COUNTY: MARION

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed (Check One)
	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The physical appearance of the James A. Allison Mansion scarcely varies from that of 1914 when the building was completed, the only major alterations being enclosure of two porches and removal of a stained glass roof from one room. It is preserved and will be reinstated. The exterior, red brick veneered on poured concrete reinforced with steel, has hand carved stone trim. Iron gates inset with glass open into the expansive entrance hall.</p> <p>The two-story hall features a German silver and bronze chandelier valued at \$10,000 in 1914, a hand carved fireplace large enough to stand in, and a sweeping staircase leading to the lobby's balcony and the second floor. Velour covers the walls.</p> <p>The French sitting room immediately off the hall, is in the style of Louis the XV with light gold hand embroidered silk on the walls. White marble fireplace, hand carved chair rail and sconce light fixtures accent the decor.</p> <p>The dining room features fruit motif intricately carved on the fireplace. Walls are covered with velour. Adjoining it is the white gumwood breakfast room. Rose branch designs taper up the walls and across the ceiling.</p> <p>The sunken conservatory, at the back of the first floor, once housed a rare Aeolian organ, valued at \$15,000. Its pipes were covered by an elaborately carved wood screen. The carved white mahogany paneling carries a music motif duplicated in plaster castings on the ceiling. French doors, protected by wood screens, open to the sun porch, now enclosed.</p> <p>Allison's library is across the hall from the conservatory and features intricate mahogany carvings, rockwood pottery fireplace and walls covered with carved designs on pressed leather. The bookcase doors are wrought iron and glass.</p> <p>At the end of the hall is the sunken, white Italian marble aviary. Italian sculptors matched the marble perfectly and topped balustrade with hand carved Phoenix. Its stained glass roof will be restored.</p> <p>The ground floor contains several social rooms and the 30 X 60 foot heated swimming pool. Perhaps the gem of the mansion is here in the small den whose sloping Gothic ceiling is covered with carved, pressed leather sporting scenes. Its stained glass windows and doors are bottles of multi-sized and colored bottles set in wrought iron.</p> <p>Five large bedrooms and baths and a long summer porch, now glass enclosed and heated, comprise the second floor. Each bedroom has its own fireplace.</p> <p>Floors throughout the house are of oak parquetry and all woodwork is hand carved, solid mahogany (except sitting and breakfast rooms which are gum). The arches and doors are gothic and ceilings are high beamed.</p> <p>The attic has three storage rooms, the elevator mechanics and a gigantic reinforced concrete support for the chandelier. Four observation porches provide expansive views of the surrounding community.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 15th Century 18th Century 19th Century
 16th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known)

1891-1914 A. Cass Architect

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Unusually Significant
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Expansion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cosmology	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Allison Mansion derives its significance from the exceptional workmanship, and also from the contributions made to the Indianapolis community and, ultimately, to other parts of the country.

A pioneer in the automobile business, James A. Allison owned and operated the Prest-O-Lite Company of Speedway, Indiana, which was the world's first "health car" for early automobiles. He later sold his interest in the Carolina Corporation which was the world's first "health car" to the General Motors Corporation, the world's first industrial designed for the purpose of a specific industry, Prest-O-Lite.

He was founder of Allison Engineering Company which designed and manufactured high-powered motor launch engines later used by the U.S. Navy. Ten years after his death in 1900 the company was sold to the U.S. Navy and now excels principally in airplane engines.

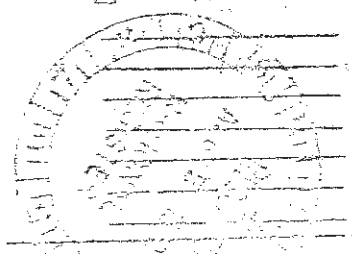
In conjunction with Carl B. Fisher and Frank Hawley, whose estates also are part of the Maroon campus, Allison founded the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. He also worked with Fisher, largely through financial backing, in the development of Miami Beach, Florida.

The mansion is estimated to have cost at least \$2 million when constructed over a three year period 1911 to 1914. A super structure was built around the construction site so workmen could continue to do their work regardless of weather conditions.

Artisans were imported from Switzerland and Italy to handle the wood and marble carvings, all of exceptionally fine workmanship.

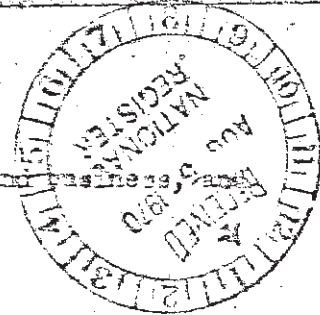
The solidness of the building itself makes it something of a veritable natural wonder as exemplified by its use as a library. The swimming pool, used year-round, is a testament to the sound construction as its humidity does not affect the books, magazines and newspapers stored in an adjacent room.

Uniquely, even the main electric service and breaker panels are mounted on a solid marble slab approximately 1 1/2" thick, 12" high and 50" wide.



Indianapolis Times 10/16/36
 Indianapolis News 10/17/36
 Indianapolis Star 8/27/37

Files of Allison Division, General Motors
 Interviews with former employees, personal and business, and
 associates and relatives



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 . .	0 . .	39	43	22
NE	0 . .	0 . .	86	12	05
SE	0 . .	0 . .			
SW	0 . .	0 . .			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jane C. Sprague, Director of Public Information
 ORGANIZATION: Marian College DATE: 8-25-70
 STREET AND NUMBER: 3200 Cold Spring Road
 CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 13

12. STATE LIASON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liason 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: J. R. Quyl

Title: Dir. of Nat. Resources

Date: 8-3-70

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Quyl
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 18 1970

Date: _____

ATTEST: *John H. ...*
 Director of the National Register

Date: DEC 27 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS