

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 10/9/2012  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Washington County (Job #11WT01) Subject (Atlas ) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N  
Location: Brenham, 4625 Old Independence Road

### **ALLCORN-KOKEMOOR HOMESTEAD**

ELIJAH ALLCORN IMMIGRATED TO TEXAS IN LATE 1821 WITH HIS WIFE, NANCY (HODGE), AND THEIR SIX CHILDREN AS "OLD 300" SETTLERS IN STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S COLONY. ON JAN. 1, 1822, A GROUP INCLUDING ALLCORN CAMPED ALONG A BRAZOS RIVER TRIBUTARY WHICH THEY NAMED NEW YEAR CREEK. ALLCORN WAS GRANTED LAND IN CURRENT WASHINGTON, WALLER AND FORT BEND COUNTIES, INCLUDING A PARCEL ALONG NEW YEAR CREEK. HE WAS A FARMER, STOCKRAISER AND FREIGHT HAULER, BRINGING GOODS TO SETTLERS FROM THE FERRY ESTABLISHED AT WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS IN 1835. HE ALSO SIGNED THE PETITION REQUESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WASHINGTON MUNICIPALITY. ELIJAH AND NANCY DIED NINE DAYS APART IN 1844. THEIR SON THOMAS JEFFERSON ALLCORN, HIS WIFE AMEY (CAPLE) AND THEIR CHILDREN LIVED HERE FROM THE 1840s to 1870s.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF ARTIFACTS AND TIMBERS DATES THE OLDEST SECTION OF THE MAIN HOUSE, A TWO-STORY I-PLAN OF BRACE-FRAME CONSTRUCTION, TO c. 1845. A TWO-STORY WING WAS ADDED IN 1877, BY THE WILKINS OR SAMUEL FAMILIES. IN SEP. 1887, OSCAR SAMUEL SOLD THE HOUSE TO HENRY KOKEMOOR FOR \$6,100. HENRY MARRIED FRIEDA HOLLE IN 1887 AND BOUGHT THE PROPERTY WITH FINANCIAL HELP FROM HIS FATHER-IN-LAW. THE KOKEMOORS MADE SEVERAL ADDITIONS, INCLUDING A KITCHEN WING AND A MOTHER-IN-LAW ROOM IN THE 1890s. A FINAL ADDITION WAS MADE IN THE 1950s. THE PROPERTY REMAINED IN THE KOKEMOOR FAMILY FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY. EXTERIOR HOUSE FEATURES INCLUDE PROJECTING WINGS, AN L-SHAPED PORCH, METAL-CLAD GABLED ROOFS, WOOD SIDING, AND A VARIETY OF DOORS AND WINDOWS. SIMPLE FINISHES, SUCH AS PAINTED TONGUE AND GROOVE CEDAR AND LONGLEAF PINE WALL AND CEILING BOARDS, DISTINGUISH THE INTERIORS. HISTORIC OUTBUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, BUILT BETWEEN 1890 AND 1930, INCLUDE A ROCK AND BRICK CISTERN, A BARN, GARAGE, TWO WELLS AND TWO SHEDS. THE HOMESTEAD REPRESENTS EVOLUTION FROM A FORMAL FLOOR PLAN TYPICAL OF THE MID-19TH CENTURY TO A COMPOUND PLAN AND CONTINUING AGRICULTURAL USE INTO THE 20TH CENTURY.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2011

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:  
2011 Official Texas Historical Marker  
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid September 1, 2010 to November 15, 2010 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

**Proposed marker topic** (official title will be determined by the THC): Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead

**County:** Washington

**Town** (nearest county town on current state highway map): Brenham

**Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above:** 4625 Old Independence Road

**Marker Coordinates:**

**If you know the location coordinates of the proposed marker site, enter them in one of the formats below:**

UTM Zone    Easting    Northing

Lat:    Long:    (deg, min, sec or decimal degrees)

**Otherwise, give a precise verbal description here** (e.g. northwest corner of 3rd and Elm, or FM 1411, 2.6 miles east of McWhorter Creek):

**NOTE:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.

**Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

**Criteria:**

1. **Age:** Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can

come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.

3. **Architectural significance:** Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

**Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications:** If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B and Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madnrcrit.html> for National Register criteria.

Check this box if the property is individually listed in the NRHP.

#### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC (for RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; legal description of the property; site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure—please resize photographs to 1-2 MB, or approximately 1024 x 768 pixels).

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than November 15, 2010.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

#### **APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy,

consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

**As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:**

**X** Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

**CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any:**

**Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair):** Wilfred Dietrich (APPROVAL BY PHONE, CONVERSATION WITH BOB BRINKMAN 10.26.2010)

**Mailing address:** 701 Milroy Drive City, Zip: Brenham TX 77833

**Daytime phone (with area code):** 979.836.3120 **Email address (required):**

wilfred.bobbie@sbcglobal.net

**PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT**

**Property owner:** John and Jane Barnhill

**Address:**4800 Old Chappell Hill Road **City, state, zip:**Brenham, TX 77833

**Phone:**979/836-6717 **Email address:** [janeb@texasbb.com](mailto:janeb@texasbb.com)

**Legal Description of the property** (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): Tract 16, Elijah Allcorn Abstract

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

**NOTE:** The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary. Given the large volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

**SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

**Marker sponsor** (may be individual or organization): Jane and John Barnhill

**Contact person** (if applicable): Jane Barnhill

**Mailing address:**4800 Old Chappell Hill Road **City, zip:** Brenham, TX 77833

**Email address** (required):janeb@texasbb.com **Phone: 979/836-6717**

### **SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, residence addresses, post office box numbers and rural route numbers are not permitted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

**Name:** Jane Barnhill

**Street address:**4800 Old Chappell Hill Road **City, zip:** Brenham, TX 77833

**Daytime phone** (required): 979/836-6717 **Email** (required): [janeb@texasbb.com](mailto:janeb@texasbb.com)

### **TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS**

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- XX** 27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)
- 27" X 42" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1500)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker without post\* (\$1000)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post\* (\$750)

\*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- masonry
- metal
- other (specify)

### **SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)**

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: [markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us).

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
  - This application form
  - The narrative history (including documentation)
  - Legal description of the property
  - Detailed floor plan for each floor of the structure
  - Detailed site plan of the property
  - At least one historic photograph
  - Current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure

**RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC:** The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html>)

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276  
Phone 512/463-5853  
[history@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:history@thc.state.tx.us)



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

## Allcorn-Kokemoor Homestead

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Sited on a 25 acre portion of its original site, the Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead is located on Independence Road approximately 3.5 miles north of Brenham in Washington County, Texas.

The site slopes gently to the southwest, framing a view of the surrounding countryside.

Contributing outbuildings and structures associated with the property include a rock and brick cistern, a barn, garage, two wells and two sheds which date from the period of significance.

Three Noncontributing sheds also occur within the grounds of the farmstead. The oldest section of the Allcorn-Kokemoor House dates from the mid-1840s and exhibits a 2-story I-house plan and brace-frame construction. One story wings flank each side of the vernacular I-house and porches originally graced each section of the house. These historic turn-of-the-century 1-story additions are conventionally framed and contribute to the irregular house plan. Distinguishing exterior features of the house include projecting wings, an L-shaped porch, metal-clad gabled roofs, wood siding, and a variety of doors and windows. Simple finishes, such as painted tongue and groove cedar and longleaf pine wall and ceiling boards, distinguish the interiors. Despite its current state of disrepair, the Allcorn-Kokemoor House retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association..

The Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead is located in central Washington County on the Old Independence Highway approximately 3.5 miles north of Brenham and 1.75 miles south of Prairie Hill. Situated on a rolling terrain, the 25 acre site is within the fertile Gulf Coastal Plain region with soil types ranging from Heiden and Ferris clay on the northern end to sandy loam to the south, near the location of the house. The property slopes from the northeast to the southwest toward a branch of New Year Creek. The site consists primarily of grassland sparsely dotted with

hackberries, pecans and live oaks. Twentieth century outbuildings dot the landscape on the north, west and south and a rock and brick cistern, dating from the mid-1840s, lies just south of the dwelling. A new barbed-wire fence, constructed within the last five years, cuts across the 25 acres and divides the property into two, unequal fields.

The plan of the house represents the evolution from a formal, hall-parlor plan typical of the mid-19th century to a compound plan in the 20th century (see Plan-22). The dwelling consists of the original four room, 2-story house (mid-1840s) plus four additions dating from the mid-1870s, c.1890-1910, and c. 1950. The original mid-1840s dwelling and an addition from the 1870s comprise the main section of the 2-story, rectangular block house crowned with a gable roof. A 1-story gable-roofed bedroom wing dating from about 1900 extends eastward from the north end of the 2-story block, creating an ell with a south-facing shed-roofed porch (Photo 1). A small, 1-story shed-roofed bathroom addition from c. 1950 is located on the north side of this addition (Photo 2) and a 1-story gable-roofed kitchen wing dating from between 1890 and 1900 extends westward from the main block (Photo 3). All of the additions, excluding the c.1950 bathroom addition, are historic and retain their integrity.

The exterior of the Allcorn-Kokemoor House embodies the simple but elegant proportions typical of vernacular farmsteads constructed during the early settlement period of Texas. Lacking the Greek Revival embellishments of its urban counterparts, the house still reflects the wealth of its resident in its volumetric two-story massing and refined proportions. Moreover, the addition of 1-story wings on the east and west sides of the main structure reflect the changing needs of its residents as ownership of the house and economic conditions of the area evolved over a period of 100 years.



The focus of the east elevation is the shed-roof porch extending along the facade and wrapping the ell of the east wing (Photo 1). Probably constructed in the 1930s following a fire, physical evidence indicates that this porch replaced an original porch in the same location. Square columns and balusters and a metal shed roof grace the porch. Although wooden shingles originally covered the gabled roofs of both the original house section and the later additions, corrugated V-groove and flat-seam metal roofing replaced the original shingles during the 1930s.

The exterior features a mixture of windows and door types from the mid 19th to the early 20th century. Original single hung, 6/6 windows survive at the second floor level, but most of the larger, single hung 4/4 windows on the first floor date from the first quarter of the 20th century. The majority of the doors are four-panel, stile and rail doors dating between 1900 and 1925. One six-panel, stile and rail door dates from the mid-1840s. The principal opening on the east facade dates from the mid 19th century and retains its 18-light transom. Originally open on the east and west sides, a four-panel door, a 6/6 window, and infill siding added in the late 1940s or early 1950s now enclose this entrance.

### **Mid-1840s Dwelling**

The hall-parlor plan of this 2-story I-house, although uncommon in Texas, is typical of residential construction in the mid-1840s. This section of the house is a 2-story, rectangular block containing four rooms crowned by a gable roof. Although originally clad in wooden roof shingles, the house received a metal roof in the 1930s. Although a chimney on the south side of the house no longer exists, its "ghost" still reveals its position.

A foundation of brick and local sandstone piers supports the 1840s house but preliminary archeological investigations indicate that the brick piers were added at a later date (Jurney). First floor framing of this original section consists of hand-hewn beams with some circular-sawn perimeter beams (added later) and partially dressed log floor joists. Hand-hewn, braced frame construction makes up the wall structure of the house and hand-planed beaded joists support the second floor. The second floor ceiling structure also consists of hand-hewn joists with roof rafters of small, partially dressed logs. Horizontal wood siding of varying dimensions sheathes exposed exterior walls while weatherboard covers repaired areas. All original wood in the dwelling is native Texas cedar with yellow pine utilized in the later additions.

The interior of the 1840s section features original flooring on the second floor of one inch thick tongue and groove boards of varying widths. Tongue and groove boards replaced the original flooring of the ground floor in the first quarter of the 20th century and one inch tongue and groove boards in varying widths sheathe the interior walls. Original base boards, set flush with the wall and beaded along the top edge, survive in three of the four rooms. Constructed in the late 1940s, the existing stair to the second floor is enclosed with boards from the ceiling of the 1870s addition.

### **1870s Addition (north wing)**

An addition to the north side of the main section occurred in the late 1870s, but dendrochronology determined a c. 1865 date of construction for this room, indicating that the room was moved to the present site as an existing building (Jurney). A brick and sandstone pier foundation supports the first floor framing, which consists of both hand-hewn and circular-sawn perimeter beams and floor joists. The wall structure consists of hand-hewn, braced frame

construction of yellow pine. Originally, the room displayed an arched ceiling and its surviving structure contains hand-hewn joists with sawn and hand-worked arched braces of oak. The roof rafters are small and partially dressed cedar logs and horizontal pine weatherboarding clads the exterior walls.

One-inch tongue and groove pine boards of varying widths sheathe the interior walls and tongue and groove pine covers the floors. Renovations in the late 1940s included the construction of a single board partition between the east and west walls which divided the interior into two rooms. A flat, beaded board ceiling now covers the original arched ceiling structure and only one of the original ceiling boards remains in place. Many of the original boards now form the stair enclosure added in the 1940s. During this same remodeling the owners floors and replaced the original flooring with linoleum, installed new 1 x 12 inch baseboards and covered the walls with wallpaper.

### **Kitchen Wing (west wing)**

The addition of a semi-attached kitchen wing that maintained separation from the main house followed common 19th century building patterns. According to an oral interview with former resident Irene Kokemoor Bockhorn, this 1-story, gable-roofed wing originally served as a tenant house and was moved to its present position between 1890 and 1900. An open porch connected the two room addition with the main dwelling.

The foundation consists of pressure-treated pine and cedar piers. Sawn 6 x 6 inch perimeter beams with 2 x 6 inch joists frame the floor, while the wall, ceiling and roof construction is of conventional 2 x 4 inch framing. Single-hung windows with 4/4 and 1/1 lights and an exterior

door on the south elevation punctuate the board and batten clad exterior. While wooden shingles originally covered the roof, a metal roof added in the 1930s now protects this portion of the house.

About 1950, a portion of the connecting porch was enclosed for use as a bathroom. Part of the porch on the south side was also enclosed with conventional drop siding at an unknown date. These enclosures do not adversely affect the integrity of the dwelling as such adaptations often become necessary in order to maintain a habitable building.

### **Bedroom Wing (east wing)**

Constructed about 1900, this gable-roofed wing connected to the northern end of the main block by an open porch, much like the kitchen wing (oral interview with Irene Kokemoor Bockhorn). Later converted into a room (c. 1940-43), the porch connected to the main dwelling through the 1870s addition. Another shed-roof porch extends along the south side of this wing. Trimmed with turned columns and square balusters, the porch is covered with a flat-locked terne metal roof. All of the windows on this wing are 1/1 single-hung, except for a 6/6 window in the upper part of the east gable. The same metal roofing found on the rest of the dwelling caps the gable roof, although wood shingles were probably original. A small addition on the north wall of this wing (c. 1950) accommodates a bathroom.

The foundation of this wing consists of creosote wood piers and machine sawn 4 x 6 and 6 x 6 inch perimeter beams and 2 x 8 inch floor joists support the floor. The wall and roof structure is of conventional 2 x 4 inch framing with exterior walls clad in weatherboard.

Years of neglect have left the Allcorn-Kokemoor House in a state of deterioration, but the house remains structurally sound and maintains a high degree of historic integrity. Modest improvements accomplished by the addition of one small room and partial porch enclosures (c. 1950) updated the home with modern conveniences without adversely detracting from the overall composition of the building. The building is currently being rehabilitated for use as a bed and breakfast.

**Barn** (Contributing, Photo 4)

A board-fenced corral with a cattle chute on its southeastern side surrounds the south and east sides of this c. 1900-1920 wood, gable roof barn. A shed roof supported by cedar posts covers seven open bays on the south elevation. These bays contain stalls and provide access to an interior crib and storage areas. The majority of the walls consist of vertical wood planks, except for those on the north and west sides which are now covered with corrugated metal.

**Garage** (Contributing, Photo 5)

Constructed in the 1920s as both a shed for farm equipment as well as a workroom, this gable roof building retains virtually all of its vertical plank walls, with the exception of the corrugated metal sheathing of the north wall. The eastern elevation consists of a 2-bay garage which retains its original wooden garage doors. Both farm equipment and automobiles could fit through these two bays. An extended, 3-bay open area covered with a shed roof and supported by wood posts (south elevation) served as a workroom and as extra storage space. Corrugated metal additions appear on the rear (west) elevation.

**Shed # 1** (Contributing, Photo 6)

Constructed about the turn of the century, this small wood frame shed displays vertical plank walls on two sides. Corrugated metal covering the original wood plank walls reinforces the north and west sides of the shed. A metal roof with exposed rafter ends tops the building. Possibly used for the storage of small tools, this is the only outbuilding with corrugated metal wall covering installed vertically.

**Shed # 2** (Noncontributing)

Sited just west of the main house near the kitchen wing, this shed may date to the last quarter of the 19th century. Poured concrete forms the floor, while vertical wood planks make up the wall construction. Wooden shingles cover the northern side of the gable roof and corrugated metal covers the south side. A shed addition remains on the south side, although much of the northern half of the shed has completely collapsed. In its advanced state of deterioration, the building no longer retains sufficient integrity to be considered a Contributing resource.

**Shed # 3** (Contributing, Photo 8)

Sited beneath a large tree southwest of the barn, this shed displays a post and beam foundation with a wood frame structure and wooden walls sheathed in horizontally attached corrugated metal. Corrugated metal now covers the gable roof with exposed rafter ends. Its original covering is unknown. This shed may have served as a chicken coop, but has served merely as storage for many years. The construction technique, the gauge of metal sheathing and the siting of this shed indicate a pre-1950 date.

**Shed # 4** (Noncontributing)

This small shed with a corrugated metal covering over wood frame on a concrete foundation post-dates 1950. Corrugated metal covers its shed roof.

**Shed # 5** (Noncontributing)

This rectangular shed sits on a concrete foundation and corrugated metal covers its wood frame structure. This tall, gable roofed shed post-dates 1950.

**Cistern** (Contributing, Photo 11)

This brick, bell-shaped cistern sited near the oldest end of the main house remains in excellent condition.

**Well # 1** (Contributing)

The construction of this c. 1890-1900 brick-lined well covered on the exterior with coarse concrete probably occurred soon after the construction of the east kitchen wing. It no doubt took the place of the cistern with its convenient location near the new kitchen. Although the concrete veneer of the exterior may have been added at a later date, this well retains its integrity.

**Well # 2** (Contributing, Photo 10)

According to oral histories, the Kokemoors maintained a large garden west of this well. This well may have been dug to provide water for this garden, as well as for work areas within the garage and livestock. A metal band around the top reinforces the brick well head and a metal pump surmounts the well.

The Allcorn house is one of the few surviving examples of vernacular dwellings constructed during the early settlement period of central Texas. The dwelling was constructed in the mid-1840s by Thomas Jefferson Allcorn on land inherited from his father, Elijah Allcorn, one of Stephen F. Austin's original 300 colonists in Texas. The proportions, I-house form, hall-parlor plan, construction technique, and simple finishes reflect typical vernacular building traditions of this mid-19th century period in Texas. Moreover, alterations made in the 1870s, 1890s and again in the early 20th century demonstrate the evolution of such farmsteads to meet the changing needs of their residents. Begun as the home of a wealthy plantation owner, the growth and change of the house reflects the post-bellum break-up of large plantations into smaller farming units, many of which were occupied by Germans during their second wave of immigration into central Texas in the 1870s. The Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead is therefore nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture and Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

Elijah Allcorn (c.1769-1844) immigrated to Texas in late 1821 with his wife Nancy and six children as one of Stephen F. Austin's original 300 colonists (New Handbook of Texas, vol. 1, p. 96). Known as the Old 300, these men, women and children were among the earliest permanent Anglo settlers in the Spanish colony. On January 1, 1822, a group of families including Elijah Allcorn, Thomas Boatright, and Jonathan Kuykendall camped along a creek that runs 20 miles through Washington County before reaching its mouth on the Brazos River near the current Waller County line (New Handbook of Texas, v. 1, p. 96). Fed by numerous tributaries, this creek runs along sloping terrain surfaced by loams and clays. The new settlers named the creek New Year Creek to commemorate the date of their arrival on its banks.



Austin's plan for colonization allowed one labor (177 acres) of land for each farming family and one *sitio* (4,428 acres) for each ranching family. Each *sitio* was to have river frontage equal to one-quarter of its length and most of the labors were arranged in three groups around San Felipe de Austin (Fehrenbach 1968; 140). Allcorn received one and a half *sitios* (or leagues) and one labor of land in what is now Washington, Waller and Fort Bend counties (Land Grant Records of the Texas General Land Office). The one-half league was located along New Year Creek in Washington County. The census of Austin's colony from March of 1826 lists Allcorn as both a farmer and stockraiser, making him eligible for both types of land grants (Mullins 1976).

Allcorn, however, also worked as a freight hauler, bringing goods to the new settlers from the ferry established at Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1835 ("The Austin Papers," 971-972). As an active participant in the organization of the early colony, Allcorn signed the petition requesting the establishment of the Washington Municipality (or Washington-on-the-Brazos) and also served as road supervisor (New Handbook of Texas, v. 1, p. 96).

The Washington County area thrived after the Texas Revolution's drive for independence from Mexico (1835-36). A strong agricultural economy made possible by the acceleration of steamboat traffic along the Brazos and the institution of slavery, which had been forbidden under Mexican rule, brought prosperity to the county following the war. The steamboats in particular opened the area to further immigration and linked the local agricultural community to broader markets in the United States. By 1837, several sawmills as well as a brickyard were established in Washington-on-the-Brazos (Hailey and Leffler, New Handbook of Texas; v. 6, p. 833).

Each of Elijah Allcorn's four sons (James Davis, John Hodge, Thomas Jefferson, and William Elliott) also received land grants under the Republic in 1838 (White 1988, v. 3). Under the

Republic, anyone living in Texas before the War of Independence was entitled to one league and one labor, or 4,605 acres (Fehrenbach 1968, 282). Thomas Jefferson Allcorn received a grant of one league and one labor in Washington County (this land became a part of Navasota County in 1841 and is now a part of Brazos County). He sold approximately one-half of this land between 1838 and 1841. According to the 1841 tax schedule, Thomas J. Allcorn held 370 acres in Washington County and 2,222 in Navasota County including five slaves and one horse (Washington County Tax Roll 1841). When his father, Elijah Allcorn, divided his half-league among his children, Thomas gained these 370 acres (although the deed was not filed until 1843, it first appears on the tax rolls in his children's names in 1841). Thomas J. Allcorn's acreage was located in the northeastern section of the half-league along New Year Creek.

Disastrous flooding on the Brazos River in 1843 and 1844 lowered cotton production in the area and resulted in epidemics among the population in 1844 and 1845 (Hailey and Leffler, *New Handbook of Texas*; v. 6, p. 833). Elijah Allcorn died in March of 1844, probably as a result of this epidemic. His wife Nancy died only nine days later (Winfield 1974).

According to preliminary archeological investigations which examined both artifactual and dendrochronological evidence, the first section of the Allcorn House was probably constructed about 1845 during Thomas Jefferson Allcorn's occupation of the land (Jurney 1996). While dendrochronology cannot be depended upon entirely to establish dates for such a structure, other evidence reinforces the c. 1845 date. The house could not have been built before the establishment of sawmills in the area. One of the first sawmills in the county was established in Washington-on-the-Brazos in 1837 (Hailey and Leffler, *New Handbook of Texas*, v.6, p.836). By 1840, Elijah Allcorn was 71 years old with grown and married children. Undertaking the

construction of a new house at this time in his life seems doubtful. Thomas Jefferson Allcorn, however, married Amey Caple in 1837 and needed to shelter his growing family, which included five children ranging in age from one to ten by the time of the 1850 census.

The architecture of the house itself reinforces a mid-1840s date of construction. The lack of Greek Revival detailing so common to houses built in the 1850s may indicate a pre-1850 date of construction. This lack of stylistic detailing may reflect changes which resulted in the removal of Greek Revival ornament, or it may indicate that the house was originally simple and unembellished. It was not uncommon for a house constructed in the countryside to depend on mere massing and proportion to convey its significance. Certainly, the 6/6 double sash windows which survive on the central section of the house indicate a pre-1870 date of construction as they are typically found on Greek Revival houses across Texas (Alexander 1966, 89).

Moreover, the earliest section of the Allcorn House reflects an earlier vernacular building tradition. The one-room deep, hall-parlor plan represents a building tradition found in other examples of mid-19th century houses in Texas, although a hall-parlor plan within the two-story form of an I-house remains unusual in the state. Many of the other surviving examples from this period in Washington County, such as the Asa Hoxey House (1833; NR 1976) and the Giddings-Wilkin House (1843; NR 1976), exhibit center-passage plans, representing a building tradition different from that of the Allcorn House. The characteristics of the Allcorn House - two rooms of unequal size in a hall-parlor plan, an asymmetrically disposed facade, a one-story porch, and an exterior gable chimney - are commonly found in the piedmont or tidewater areas of the southeastern United States (Noble 1984, 54). Born in York County, South Carolina, Elijah Allcorn would have been familiar with this form of architecture and may have imparted its use to

his son. By the 1850s, however, the basic I-house form with a simple porch across the front had evolved into the formal Greek Revival style with the application of classical detailing and symmetry, as in the W.W. Browning House in Chappell Hill, Texas (1854; NR 1972).

The size and care taken in the construction of the house indicates a certain measure of wealth. In 1841, Thomas Allcorn owned 2,222 acres in what is now Navasota County, in addition to the 370 acres in his father's half-league and five slaves. By 1845, his land holdings jumped to 4,820 acres. The tax records also indicate Allcorn's increasing financial prosperity based on the growing number of slaves he held (Texas County Tax Rolls: 1840, 1841, 1845, 1850). While in 1840 he owned only three slaves, by 1850 he held 18. By 1860 on the eve of the Civil War, Allcorn owned 69 slaves and 12,950 acres of land valued at \$137,000, plus an additional personal estate valued at \$67,700 (US Census Bureau: 1850, 1860). As a point of comparison, in 1860 the two largest slaveowners in Washington County held 103 and 130 slaves (Campbell 1989, 275).

By 1850, Washington County had a flourishing agricultural economy based on cotton, corn and cattle. The county ranked third in the state in cotton production (Strong 1991, E-4). By 1860, cotton production increased 500% (from 4,000 bales to more than 24,000 bales), spurred by the completion of a railway, known as the Washington County Railroad, with the terminus of the Houston and Texas Central Railway in Hempstead (Strong, 1991, E-4). The population of the county increased from 5,983 (including 2,817 slaves) in 1850 to 15,215 (including 7,941 slaves) in 1860.

The Civil War had an enormous impact on the economy of the county which depended heavily upon slave labor for its cotton production. While many planters hired laborers, many of whom

were former slaves, it became increasingly difficult to secure such workers. As a result, tenant farming and sharecropping became more common as the large plantations were slowly broken into smaller tracts. These tracts of land were sold to new settlers, rented as tenant farms, or became part of the evolving sharecropper system (Strong 1991, E-6). Allcorn and his family do not appear on the 1870 census as residing within the county. There are entries, however, for ten new families with the surname of Allcorn who are classified as either farmers or farm laborers. Allcorn's freed slaves may have taken his name and occupied land either as sharecroppers or as his own paid laborers. Some scholars have conjectured that unimproved portions were sold to Germans and other immigrants while former slaves remained on the improved land as sharecroppers (Jordan 1994, 95).

The reason for the absence of the Allcorn family in the 1870 census remains unknown. Following the Civil War, the Brenham area experienced a tense decade. As the site of a Freedman's Bureau, troops stationed there caused problems with the local population (Hailey and Lefler, *New Handbook of Texas*, v. 6, p. 836). Allcorn may have moved his family temporarily during this volatile period. Whites did not re-establish their political power in the county until 1884 and the Allcorn family appears on the census roles again in 1880. During the decade of the 1870s Allcorn began selling his land holdings. He sold the tract of land on which the farmstead now sits (contained within a total sale of 786 acres) to E.L. and W.G. Wilkins in the early 1870s, but had to foreclose on the property in 1877 (Washington County Deed Records 1877, v. 6, pp.559-560).

The year 1877 also marks the date of a mystery in the chronology of the house when a two-story wing was added to the north end. Although two stories in height, the addition consisted of one

large room with a vaulted ceiling. No physical evidence indicates it was ever divided into two floors. Dendrochronology dating fixes the structure to approximately 1865, but shingles used as shims date to 1877, perhaps indicating that the new wing utilized an existing building moved to the present site (Jurney 1996). According to the 1880 census, only Allcorn (age 71), his wife, and one son resided in the county. The addition of another room by such a small family seems unlikely. Perhaps the Wilkins family made the addition shortly before Allcorn repossessed the land. If the dendrochronology dating proves inaccurate, the addition may have been made by Oscar Samuel, the next occupant of the land. The builder of the addition, the circumstances behind its need, and the date of its construction remain questionable.

A new wave of German immigration coincided with the fragmentation of antebellum plantations into even smaller parcels of land. In 1860, for example, the county reported 1,400 farms, but by 1880 this had increased to over 3,400 farms (Strong 1991, E-7). This process was well underway in Washington County by 1866, where Germans purchased ninety pieces of land (representing over 10,000 acres) in a six month period (Jordan 1994, 95). Between 1865 and 1886, 14,200 immigrants from Germany arrived in Texas (Leiding 1992, 363). The number of German immigrants increased significantly in Washington County, especially between 1880 and 1883. (Historic and Architectural Resources of Brenham, Texas; NR 1990; E-16). The establishment in nearby Brenham of German newspapers (*Texas Volksbote*, 1873), a German Methodist Church (1873), a German Baptist Church (1884), private clubs such as the Germania-Verein in 1870, Blinn Memorial College (1882) and the mid-1870s passage of a city ordinance stipulating the teaching of German in the public schools, all indicate the extent of German influence in this area.

The Germans also had a strong influence on the commercial viability of Brenham. They introduced European wheats, extended vegetable gardens, new farming methods and a combination of cattle and sheep ranching into central Texas (Leiding 1992, 366). Accustomed to farming on a small scale, they considered one hundred acres a large farm (Jordan 1994, 101). Moreover, the post-war immigrants tended to have more money for the purchase of land than their antebellum predecessors (Jordan 1994, 116), and the resultant rate of tenant farming among Germans remained much lower than among Americans.

Allcorn purchased a small tract of land in Brenham in December of 1879 and moved there in 1882 (Washington County, Final Record; vol. R, pp. 169-177). In November of 1882, Oscar Samuel, a Lutheran pastor and school teacher, purchased 224.5 acres from Thomas Jefferson Allcorn (Washington County Deed Record, v. 14, pp. 214-216). Allcorn died in 1886, leaving an estate worth only \$15,804. According to his will, he left notes on fifteen parcels of property which he had sold over the last decade (Washington County, Final Record; v. R, pp. 169-177).

Oscar Samuel owned the house for only five years. According to the 1880 census, when he resided in Guadalupe County, Samuel was born in Prussia and lived with his wife, Sabrina (of Prussian descent, but born in Texas), and their nine year old daughter Henrietta. The Samuel family does not appear in subsequent census years. His occupation as a Lutheran minister leads to speculation concerning the c. 1877 addition to the house. The unusual vaulted space may have functioned as a chapel with an attached parsonage. Unfortunately, no documentation to support this hypothesis has emerged during the course of this research.

In September of 1887 Oscar Samuel sold one hundred acres to Henry Kokemoor for the sum of \$6,100 (Washington County Deed Record, v. 25, pp. 168-171). Kokemoor was among the wave

of German immigrants arriving in central Texas. He married Frieda Holle in 1887 and acquired the property with the financial help of his new father-in-law. Kokemoor had lost one arm in a ginning accident and operating a farm with must have been difficult for him. The Kokemoors had four children: three sons and one daughter (Bockhorn interview 1996).

The Kokemoors made numerous alterations to the house during their occupation. They removed the original chimney, probably due to its deteriorated condition and the need for the more modern and efficient heating of a wood stove. Sometime between 1890 and 1900, they added the kitchen wing to the west side of the house and connected it with an open porch. Formerly a tenant house sited elsewhere on the property, this two room house was moved to its current location to be re-used as a kitchen. One room served as a kitchen equipped with a wood stove, while the other served as a dining room. Kokemoor's mother-in-law, Henriette Holle, moved into the house after the death of her husband in 1890 and the Kokemoors added the east wing around the turn of the century to provide her with private, ground floor quarters. (Bockhorn interview 1996). All of the surviving outbuildings date from the Kokemoor occupation of the farm.

These modest additions to the house fulfilled functional requirements of occupants who were generally unconcerned with expressing cultural or social aspirations. According to Professor Gerlinde Leiding, "instead of demonstrating formality and strict adherence to an architectural tradition, the exterior treatment of the house reflected the character of its inhabitants and the manifold landscape from which they had come . . . the second generation of Germans in the US dispensed with their cultural heritage through complete assimilation of a new lifestyle and architecture based on frame construction." (Leiding 1992, 375). Not only the house, but the siting of the entire complex, characterized German immigrant farmsteads of the late 19th



century. Whereas farms in Germany utilized carefully composed enclosed yards, the greater availability of land in the United States resulted in farmsteads which typically consisted of a scattered layout of outbuildings.

In November of 1919, Kokemoor sold 85 acres to his son Louis, leaving a 15.33 acre parcel for himself which he continued to farm. Louis and his new wife Emma moved into the house and occupied the two-story section, while Heinrich Kokemoor and his wife moved into the one story wing previously occupied by Mrs. Kokemoor's mother, who died in 1917. While the two families occupied the same house, they kept their farm holdings separate. Even the animals were housed in separate barns connected by a gate (Bockhorn interview 1996).

In the mid-1930s, a fire broke out in the south room of the original wing. After this fire, the Kokemoors replaced the wooden roof shingles with a metal roof. Other alterations from later years included the partitioning of the north end of the two-story section to accommodate a sister of Frieda Kokemoor who lived with them during World War II (Bockhorn interview 1996).

Heinrich Kokemoor died in 1946, leaving his property to his wife, Frieda Kokemoor. Her son Louis and his wife Emma continued to live in the house and cared for her and the farm. In exchange for their continuing kindness, she bequeathed the remaining 15 acres to her son Louis. Continuing the tradition of extended families occupying the same dwelling and providing labor for the family's farming enterprise, Arthur Kokemoor continued to live with his family after his return from World War II and remained even after his marriage in 1948.

Upon the death of Emma Kokemoor in 1983, the estate of Louis Kokemoor left an undivided interest in the one hundred acres to each of their four children (Washington County Deed

Records, v. 452, pp.159-166). The children then divided this property into four equal tracts and Arthur Kokemoor acquired the tract containing the family homestead (Washington County Deed Records, v. 452, pp.167-173). John and Jane Barnhill, the current owners, purchased the property in 1995 and plan to rehabilitate it for use as a bed and breakfast (Washington County Deed Records, v. 799, pp.688-689).

The Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead remains an outstanding example of a large, antebellum plantation which evolved into a smaller complex following the Civil War. With the abolition of slavery and the influx of German immigrants, extended families became an important labor force for farming. As these large plantations became more fragmented, new owners of more modest economic means transformed their houses to meet their needs. Therefore, the Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead is significant as an example of mid-19th century vernacular architecture and as a representation of the evolution of Texas' agricultural system from a plantation-based economy to one of smaller, family-run farms.

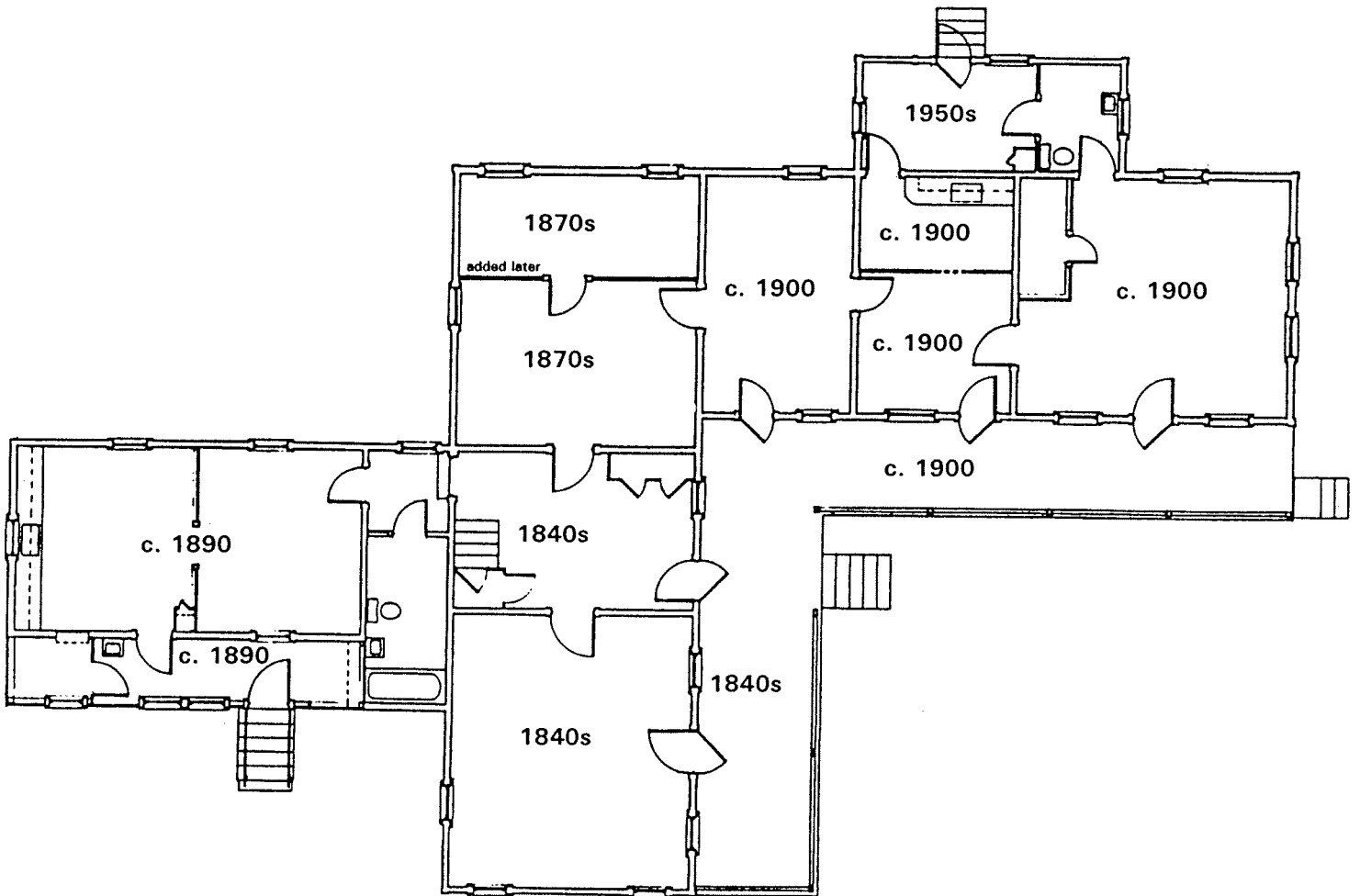
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PLAN Page 22

Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead  
Brenham vicinity, Washington County, Texas

## FLOOR PLAN OF ALLCORN-KOKEMOOR HOUSE



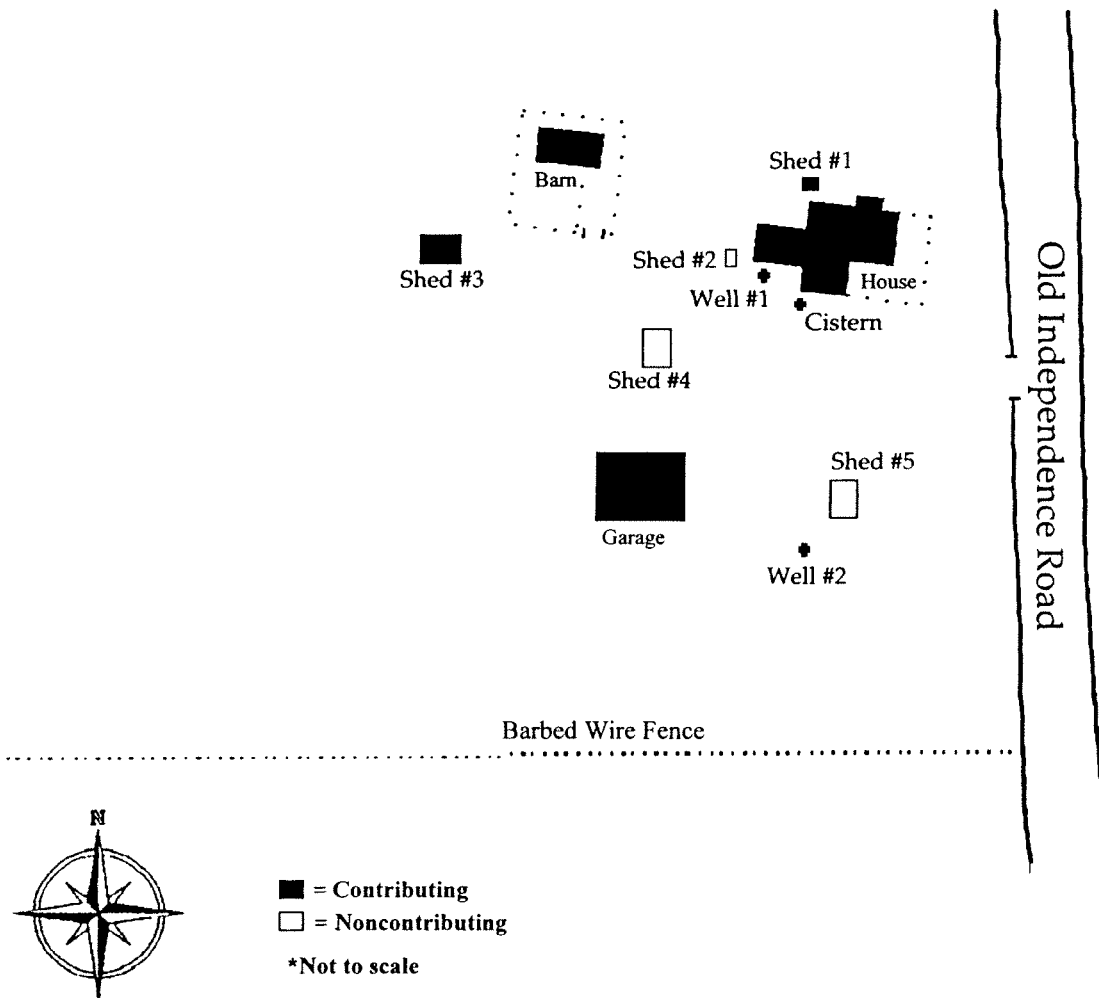
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 21

Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead  
Brenham vicinity, Washington County, Texas

## SITE PLAN OF ALLCORN-KOKEMOOR FARMSTEAD



## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Authorization for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation

Date of RTHL designation: January 28, 2011

Property Name: Allcorn-Kokemoor Farmstead  
 Physical Address: 4625 Old Independence Rd.  
 City: Brenham County: Washington Zip: 77833  
 Property reference number (Appraisal District/Tax Office property number, etc.): 0001-000-01600/R10019  
 Legal Description (Lot and block, metes and bounds, etc.): Tract 16 Elijah Allcorn Abstract

Additional description ("property encompassing the bridge and abutments," "the 1936 portion of the County Consolidated High School building," "the historic homestead, including the main house, barn, windmill, smokehouse and water well," etc.):  
Historic homestead, other contributing bldg Barn, Garage, sheds #1 + #3, cistern, wells #1 + #2. Non-contributing sheds #2, #4, #5

The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation is awarded to historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. Authorized by the Texas Legislature under Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, RTHL is the highest honor the state can bestow on historic structures in Texas. Designated properties are afforded a measure of legal protection and become part of the recorded history of the state's built environment.

**Benefits of the RTHL designation:**

- Recognition that a property is of local, regional or state significance.
- Protection for up to 90 days from exterior alterations, including demolition or relocation.
- Ad valorem tax exemptions, where granted by local taxing authorities.
- Inclusion in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas.
- Technical preservation assistance through the THC.

**Responsibility of the property owner under the RTHL provision, as noted in Texas Government Code, Chapter 442.006 (f):**

*A person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of a structure the commission has designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark without notifying the commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the damage is to begin. After receiving the notice, the commission may waive the waiting period or, if the commission determines that a longer period will enhance the chance for preservation, it may require an additional waiting period of not longer than 30 days. On the expiration of the time limits imposed by this section, the person may proceed, but must proceed not later than the 180th day after the date on which notice was given or the notice is considered to have expired.*

**Additionally:**

- The designation requires the public display of the RTHL marker. The marker is the property of the State of Texas and may not be removed or relocated without the prior permission of the Texas Historical Commission.
- RTHL status is a permanent designation which is retained with the property even upon transfer of ownership. Only the Texas Historical Commission may remove the designation.
- Structures designated as RTHLs do not have to be open to the public, but the marker must be accessible to the public.
- RTHL designation does not imply eligibility for federal tax incentives for rehabilitation.

I, the property owner or legal administrator of the property noted herein, signify below that I have read the information regarding Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks and that I voluntarily seek the designation for the property. I further promise to comply with the provision noted in the Texas Government Code.

Name (print): Jane Barnhill  
 Mailing address: 4800 Old Chappell Hill Rd.  
 City, state, zip: Brenham TX 77833  
 Signature: Jane Barnhill  
 Phone: 979-836-6717 Date: 2/24/2011



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