

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM: CONTINUATION SHEET

Completed by: Rebekah (Allen) Jones, religious historian and great-granddaughter of A. A. Allen, with assistance from A. A. Allen's son and historian Paul Allen, as well as Steve Hyde a scholar of religious history and Tim Enloe a consultant to scholarly journals, tv shows, books and seminars on Christian revival history.

Property: Land & Buildings of 9229 East Miracle Valley Loop, Hereford, AZ 85615 (37.54 acres)

The County submitted the historic name as "Miracle Valley Bible College - Dome and Sanctuary". The historically accurate name of the property was "Miracle Revival Training Center". The historic name of the church building was "Tabernacle" and the later front addition was the "Foyer" with upstairs "Prayer Tower" known now as the dome. This should all be evaluated as one building. It is historically significant individually and also collectively with its associated buildings on the property.

Structural Condition: Tabernacle

No structural engineers have reviewed the building for the County during State ownership. The County representative Dan Coxworth speculated the property is a life threat. However, he is not a construction expert who is qualified to determine the integrity of the building. Our structural engineer is satisfied the sturdy steel and block building is structurally sound and should not be considered a threat. Although the wood on the roof is failing and windows are missing, the building is able to visually convey its importance with ease and is able to be preserved.

Uses / Function: Property

In 1958 Urbane Leidecker granted 1,250 acres and his brother Samuel Leidecker sold 1,150 acres to A. A. Allen Revivals, Inc. On part of the land from Samuel, A. A. Allen established the Miracle Revival Training Center, an internationally renowned post-secondary religious institution of higher learning for the training of clergy. This included the 3,000 seat iconic domed tabernacle, prayer rooms, dormitories, apartments, trailer park, cafeteria, classrooms, library and study hall. To support the training center, national and global outreach, there were also substantial administrative offices, phone and mail response services, a vast publishing house, nationally recognized vinyl record label and printing press. To establish the town of Miracle Valley, A. A. Allen with his nonprofit organization also oversaw on the property, extensive agricultural farming, pig, horse and cattle ranching, dairy and more (some of which was studied by the University of Arizona). He built Units 1-2 of the "Miracle Valley Estate" across Highway 92 to provide housing for purchase and lease to over 175 employees and their families, and those who came to be part of the community which sprung up.

After A. A. Allen died in 1970, the property continued as a religious institution for twenty years, after which a handful of various nonprofits have attempted to maintain it for similar use. Over time portions of the dairy, ranch and farm were sold. The administration buildings burned due to arson in 1982. The current property has 37.54 acres which includes all the remaining historical buildings which were used for the Miracle Revival Training Center and which were central to the historical significance of the property in association with A. A. Allen.

Historic Context:

This property is associated with A. A. Allen, a significant person in local, national and even global history. He played a nationally recognized role in the civil rights movement with religious civil rights activism, and led a global movement during the nationwide religious revival of the 1950's and 1960's. Allen founded the town of Miracle Valley, Arizona where he established his globally renowned organization with its racially integrated training center.

Potential Comparative Properties:

- California NHL Angelus Temple
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/123857916>
- Kentucky MPS Asbury College Administration Building
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/123847469>
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home
<https://www.nps.gov/malu/planyourvisit/birth-home.htm>

Significance: Historic Event / Trends & Person

The founding of the town of Miracle Valley in early 1958 by A. A. Allen is locally significant with the buildings on this property being the best example to remember this by. Understanding the uses and functions laid out above, of the Miracle Revival Training Center and the full 2,400 acres of A. A. Allen Revivals, Inc. property indicates this. The town of Miracle Valley thrived to such an extent that a post office was brought to the area, national road maps highlighted it in their printings and most every major newspaper talked about it across the country regularly (available on request).

However this property with its domed tabernacle is not only a local landmark. The Miracle Valley property was an epicenter for religious civil rights activism in America from 1958 to 1970. During this protracted period of history, A. A. Allen was not only a major religious figure in America and around the world, but also a white man who unwaveringly fought for the equality and inclusion of African Americans, Native Americans, women and other minorities at great personal persecution from 1952 onward. His religious civil rights activism before and during his time in Miracle Valley had national and international scope which came to be known as the “Allen Movement”, which has been studied by universities, major scholarly publications, secular magazines and news outlets across the nation.

Experts consider the Miracle Valley Bible College led by A. A. Allen at the training center to be, if not the first, one of the first racially integrated religious institutions of higher learning (John Carver, Faith Outreach Archives). Allen regularly pitched the world’s largest tent in cities across America seating 20,000 multiple times per day for months at a time each year, regularly facing the threat of imprisonment for taking a stand against segregation in the name of justice for all. His staff was diverse, including African Americans, Native Americans, women, and people of various socioeconomic backgrounds. The property was instrumental in supporting Allen’s efforts year-round in helping to pave the way for the national civil rights movement through religious civil rights activism. His unique efforts gained scholarly attention.

“His response to national and world problems is a thoroughly religious one”, stated Howard Elinson in his scholarly study of the Allen Movement, “The Implications of Pentecostal Religion for Intellectualism, Politics, and Race Relations” (American Journal of Sociology, Jan. 1965 pg. 413).

Miracle Revival Fellowship, an international Pentecostal fellowship led by A. A. Allen was established shortly before Miracle Valley and grew exponentially because of the support of its facilities. It was a fellowship which legally functioned as a denomination, overseeing at least 15,000 ministers across America and around the world, providing ministerial licensing and documentation for ministers, missionaries and Native American reservations. At least 1,200 new ministers would join the fellowship each year and benefit from the separate office and phone lines on the Miracle Valley property which helped support their ministerial efforts across America and around the world.

“He was no doubt the first evangelist on a national and international scale to preach integration to mixed multitudes in both the North and the South and be successful in integrating the races in worship under his huge gospel tent. It has been declared by leaders that the Allen Campaigns and his preaching have done more to make all “one” than any other single effort in the nation or world.” (John Carver, Faith Outreach Archives)

Ample documentation may be provided upon request for any and all contributions on these continuation sheets. Additional scholarly study and documentation may be provided on request from the historical library of private documentation, A. A. Allen’s own monthly periodical Miracle Magazine circa 1954-1970, along with a substantial body of secular and religious publications and studies including “Time Magazine”, “Look Magazine”, “Border Radio”, “White Sects & Black Men”, “American Journal of Sociology”, “The Preachers”, “In The Shadow Of Greatness - Growing Up Allen”, “Born To Lose Bound To Win”, “A. A. Allen & Miracle Valley”, “God’s Generals”, “Brill’s Encyclopedia of Global Pentecostalism”, “All Things Are Possible”, “The Journaling of American Folklore (JSTOR)”, “Prime Time Religion Encyclopedia”, “International Dictionary of Pentecostal Charismatic Movements” and many more. There is sufficient evidence that the property existed at the time of the events when A. A. Allen was historically significant on the property with the associated events. Furthermore, the significance of events and A. A. Allen’s impact on our history was not simply associated, but clearly important in the associated context.

Time Magazine (Mar 7, 1969) stated, *“Allen is probably the best-known faith healer in the nation.”* The Atlanta Constitution Newspaper (May 5, 1969) called him, *“the hottest faith healer in America”*. The popular Look Magazine (Oct 7, 1969) said about him, *“A. A. Allen. 58, is the nation’s topmost tent-toting, old-fashioned evangelical roarer... In the God business of today, A. A. Allen is a mogul.”*

“A religious movement may have implications for a non-religious aspect of social life... The Allen movement has implications in all three senses for intellectualism, politics, and race relations... The Allen Revival Movement is a flourishing evangelical organization with home base at Miracle Valley, in Arizona... The movement is conventionally Pentecostal in doctrine with unusually heavy emphasis on faith healing. Since Allen is doctrinally a fairly orthodox Pentecostal leader, it is hoped that the study of his movement will be of considerable relevance to an understanding of the approximately two million adherents to various Pentecostal and Holiness groups in the United States.” (Howard Elinson, “The Implications of Pentecostal Religion for Intellectualism, Politics, and Race Relations,” *American Journal of Sociology*, LXX January 1965, 403-415.)

Note that the Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary Status Of Global Christianity Report of 2023 indicates the Pentecostal and Charismatic movement continued to exponentially flourish globally during A. A. Allen’s period of significance and thereafter.

“His critics... were in firm agreement on one point: A. A. Allen was the best known and most successful practicing faith healer in the country as the 1970s began. From headquarters in his own city of Miracle Valley, Arizona, evangelist Allen’s religious empire reached out to followers in all the states and many foreign countries.” (The Preacher pg. 5)

“All of this inventory emanates from Miracle Valley, Ariz., Allen’s official residence and command center, occupying 2,400 arid acres of Cochise County. Here stand the gaudy yellow-green-blue domed Miracle Valley Tabernacle and the Miracle Valley Bible College as well as the offices of A. A. Allen Revivals, Inc., where 175 employees crank out Allen’s TV and radio shows, magazines, records, films and books. They also conduct Bible correspondence courses for 45,000 potential evangelists.” (Look Magazine Oct 7, 1969, pg. 29)

Allen was also instrumental in introducing the Navajo Nation to Christendom which has a religious community which has continued to grow. Experts have credited this to Allen’s Miracle Valley work.

A. A. Allen was the first to host a regular Christian TV show in America, setting a precedent for Christian TV broadcasting nationwide. He also had daily radio across the country and the world.

“By 1965, The Allen Revival Hour was heard throughout the United States on 70 stations and in foreign countries such as the Philippines and England... By 1970, A. A. Allen Miracle Revivals, Inc., employed 175 people and sent out more than 55 million publications annually. Miracle Magazine alone boasted a circulation of 350,000... Allen is remembered today as one of the most influential healing evangelists of his era.”
(Prime-Time Religion Encyclopedia, pg 3)

Note: The Miracle Valley shootout, while tragic and notable, should not be considered as part of the inventory form which the County submitted regarding this property. The shootout happened at a different location twelve years after A. A. Allen’s historically significant period. The shootout was not associated in any way to the Miracle Valley Bible College property, or the ministry he had, nor did A. A. Allen or his ministry have any association with the people involved in the shootout (confirmed by historical documentation). This event should be severed from the application consideration. To include historical events which occurred at nearby properties during a different time period to the significance of the property with no association is inadmissible according to National Register guidelines.

Architecture Significance & Integrity

Tabernacle Design: The Tabernacle auditorium was constructed of steel and cinder blocks (made on site) in approximately 1959 with a bell tower. The design was envisioned by Asa. A. Allen with his son James Allen who was responsible for the build. In 1967, celebrated architect Harvey Richard Jernigan was contracted to “add a lobby area and toilets at first floor level and a prayer room with dome at second floor level to the existing auditorium” (contract on request). The addition was constructed with materials of similar quality and style in 1968-1969. Historic experts agree Jernigan was likely also responsible for the auditorium portion of the building. The tabernacle is a unique example of buildings constructed in the Mid Century Modern style of the time period. The dome Prayer Tower is a religious centerpiece and artistic landmark in the community.

The architect H. R. Jernigan was also the designer of a property which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, at 3761 E. Calle DeSoto (#55) in the Montevideo Residential Historic District of Tucson, AZ. He was born in Brawley, CA, in 1917 and came to Tucson in 1957 where he worked for Nick Sakellar and Place & Place. Later he set himself up in private practice with an office at 4560 E. Broadway Boulevard. He served as architect or associated architect for forty-one major school projects in California and Arizona. He was also responsible for forty-four projects using adobe. He also did four large buildings for the Pima Air and Space Museum and hundreds of other projects including work at Pinnacle Peak, Trail Dust Town and El Corral in Tucson.

The wall at the back of the auditorium stage has a significant historic mural of Jesus painted by internationally recognized large-scale painter Alfred F. Gerstmayer of Germany. Painting on canvas was cost prohibitive when it was painted in 1966, so it was instead painted onto the block. It remains in relatively good condition but is exposed to the elements and requires preservation.

Tabernacle Workmanship: This entire building with auditorium, foyer and dome is a local landmark for Cochise county and is also known across America in religious circles due to its association with A. A. Allen. Its steel construction, concrete floor, integrated restrooms and two level design required advanced engineering, architectural knowledge and skill to complete. The steel, brickwork and dome have lasted for over 60 years and speaks to the quality of materials and skills originally used. The craftsmanship required to accomplish this in 1959 was exceptional.

Outbuildings: The Uses/Functions section above outlines more about the outbuildings. The cafeteria appears to be a fine example of Frank Lloyd Wright styling, though the designer is unknown. The significance of A. A. Allen and his ministry as it pertains to overseeing a movement of ministers around the world was made possible through the use of all of the buildings collectively.

Summary

This property is locally and nationally significant for its historical association with A. A. Allen, the founder of the town of Miracle Valley, Arizona. Allen, a citizen of Arizona, moved to Miracle Valley, established the town, and while living here between 1958 and 1970, he was prominent in both the religious and civil rights communities, for the celebration and empowerment of minorities.

The legacy of his work is far reaching and remains active to this day. Those he taught went on to become great contributors to society as clergy, police, teachers, mayor, printers, artists, musicians and more - each with a value for serving others with kindness. They've raised a new generation to continue that legacy. The value of preserving and listing this tabernacle building and associated buildings as a historical landmark would be vast. One reason would be to help people locally and across America to remember the importance and value of being inclusive and treating all people equally.

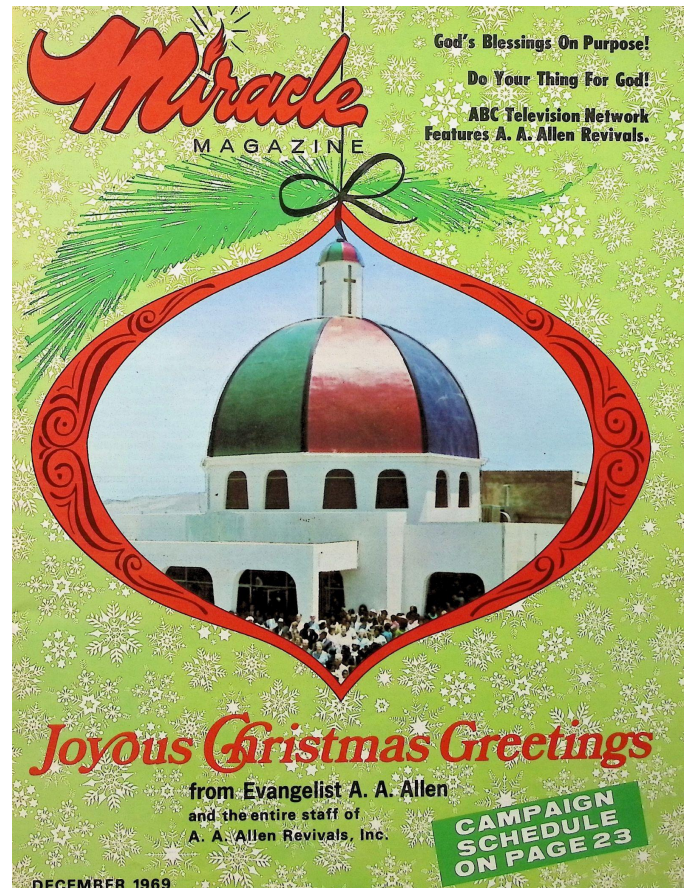
I'll close with a statement from Daniel D. Isgrigg, Associate Professor and Director of the Holy Spirit Research Center at Oral Roberts University, the author of the A. A. Allen profile in Brill Encyclopedia of Global Pentecostalism: *"As a historian of the global Pentecostal movement, I am deeply aware of the profound importance of Miracle Valley, Arizona and its importance to Mid-century American Religious Life. There are few locations that still exist that demonstrate the importance of the Healing Revival that took place in the 1950s-1960s. This site was headquarters of A. A. Allen, one of the most important figures in the mid-century Healing Revivals. Allen's tent revival ministry was significant because he was one of the first Pentecostal ministers to integrate his meetings. He boldly challenged racial boundaries by including African Americans in all aspects of the services. In a time of Jim Crow, the tabernacle at Miracle Valley was a safe space for racial integration and is a significant landmark to not only Pentecostal history, but the larger American religious landscape."*



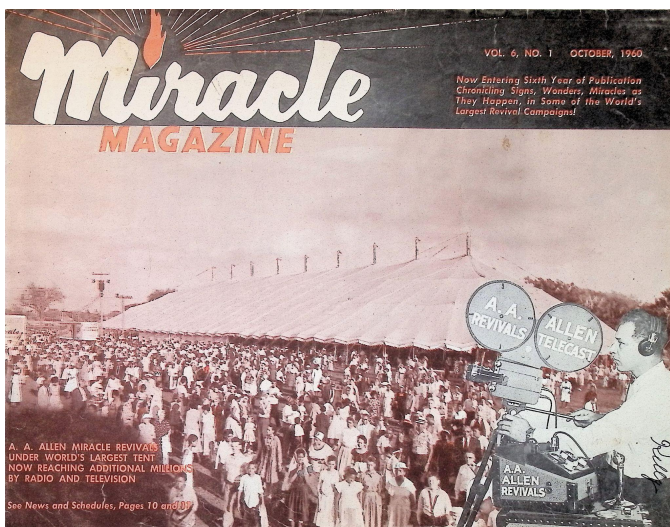
(Miracle Valley property with tabernacle and some outbuildings circa 2016.)



(Tabernacle in 1965 prior to front addition.)



(Tabernacle in 1969 after front addition.)



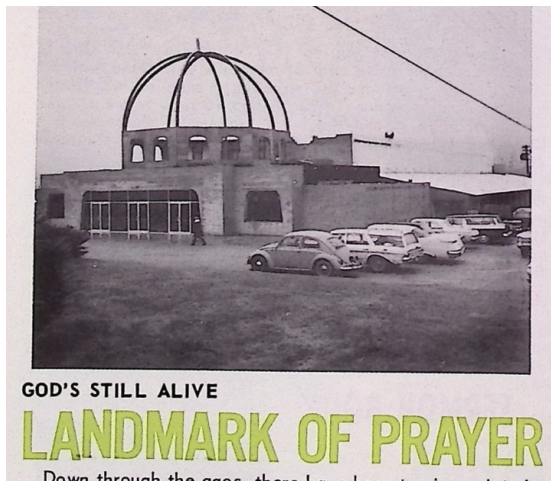
(A. A. Allen speaks under the world's largest tent, broadcasting nationwide on TV and radio, 1960.)



(World's largest tent with A. A. Allen and crowds.)



(Summer Camp at the Miracle Revival Training Center, Miracle Valley, 1967.)



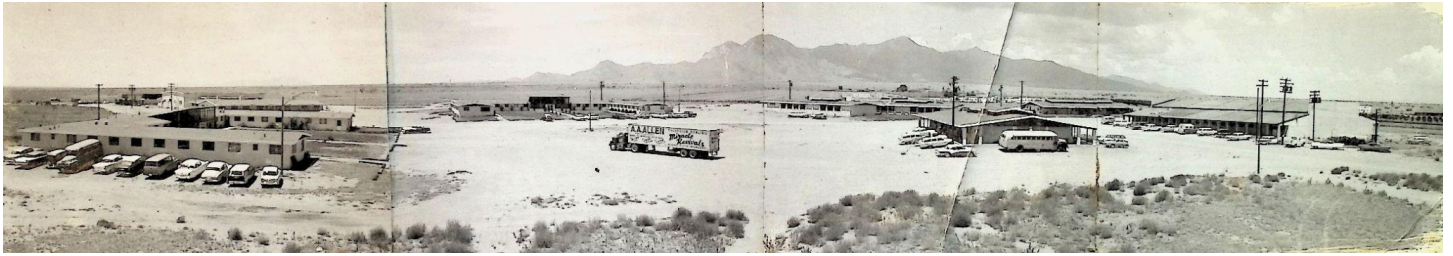
(1968 Prayer Tower addition being constructed.)



(Auditorium mural painted in 1966 by A. F. Gerstmayer, photograph circa 2023.)



(A. A. Allen's Miracle Revival Training Center circa 1969.)



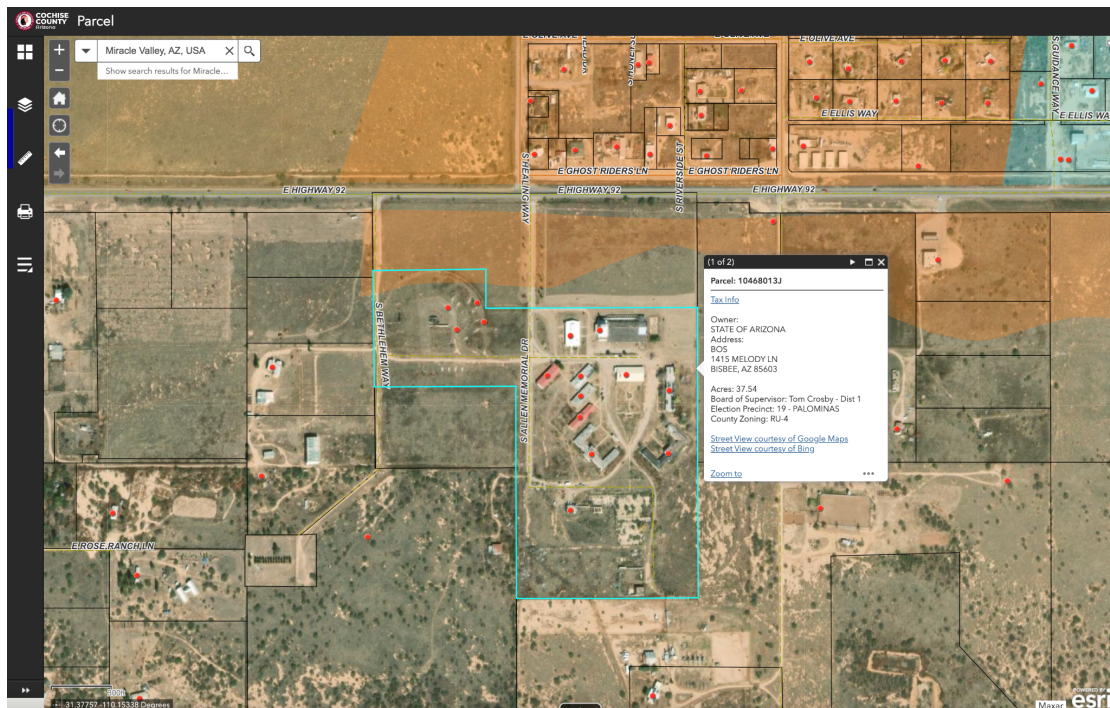
(A. A. Allen's Miracle Revival Training Center circa 1961/62. Historic photos of outbuildings available on request.)



(A. A. Allen at the Miracle Valley property helping harvest crops.)



(Estimated historical boundaries of property in 1958 according to A. A. Allen's son Paul Allen. "Leindecker to MVTC" was donated. All other land was purchased by A. A. Allen Revivals, Inc., and A. A. Allen. Original deeds and documentation is available to determine historic boundaries which require assistance from historic map experts to assess.)



(Current 37.54 acre parcel as documented by Cochise County parcel map.)