

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
COUNTY: Gibson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 28 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Browning House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same as Above

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
E of Milan 2nd Line "B" Milan Army Ammunition Plant

CITY OR TOWN:
Milan

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
8th

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

COUNTY:
Gibson

CODE:
053

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. AGENCY

U.S. Government Milan Army Ammunition Plant

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN:
Milan

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Milan Army Ammunition Plant - Central Real Estate Office

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN:
Milan

STATE:
Tennessee

CODE:
47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Inventory of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

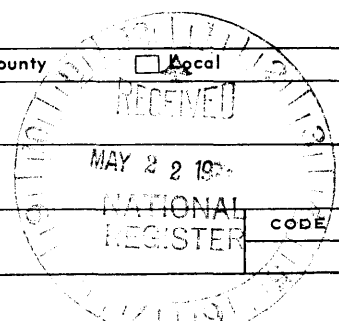
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Department of the Army

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____

STATE: _____

CODE: _____



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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JUN 28 1974

Sheet 2

7. DESCRIPTION

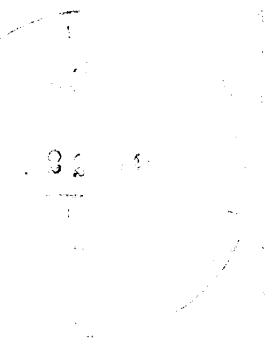
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Browning House was constructed in 1873 and is a product of Early American architectural development utilizing a semi-cruciform ground plan. This plan allowed all rooms to be light and airy and permitted structural enlargement whenever new social and economic conditions made it desirable. It is typical of the type of country houses of that era which were designed from the inside to the outside to correspond to particular individual demands but above all to the peculiarities, customs and needs of the builder in that each house was designed for a specific purpose and not to a specific style. The Browning House features plain flat brick walls and economy of detail with clean cut openings for the recessed doors and windows and light colored interior ceilings and walls. This is a basic element of Early American architecture and was unknown in Europe in the 1870's. Exterior and interior walls range from fourteen (14) to eighteen (18) inches in thickness doors and windows are recessed approximately seven (7) inches and ceiling heights are eleven feet six inches (11'6"). Floors were of yellow poplar and most of the floors are in a fair condition at the present time. It has four (4) rooms upstairs and four (4) rooms downstairs with an enclosed fireplace in each room. This is an irregular shaped two (2) story building, 38'x52' with an offset 18'x19' that is one (1) story high. The building is of brick construction with concrete and brick foundation, wood floors and a shingle roof. The building contains approximately 3,477 square feet. The building was restored by Procter and Gamble (operating contractor of Milan Army Ammunition Plant) in 1953 and utilized for additional office space. Restoration consisted of repairing doors, floors, walls, windows and other repairs minor in nature as required. The restoration also included installation of a fire escape for the second floor located on the south side of the building. Appearance of the original building proper has not been changed.

At present the building is classified as an administration building, general purpose, Building Number Z-183A and is currently in a standby status.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Building constructed in 1873**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Browning House" is the childhood home of former Tennessee Governor, Gordon Browning. He was Governor of the State of Tennessee during the periods of 1937-1938 and 1949-1952. The house was occupied by Governor Browning during the period of 1904-1908. Governor Browning is Tennessee's only living ex-governor. Governor Browning was a veteran of both World War I and World War II and served in Congress as a Representative of Tennessee for twelve (12) years.

The "Browning House" is representative of the style homes constructed during the reconstruction years of the South in the late 1800's and is a good example of a mid 19th century Tennessee rural building. Very few two-story brick homes were constructed in West Tennessee and this is one of the few that were built in Gibson County. It has been a part of Milan Army Ammunition Plant since 1941. The building was used as a home during pre-Army ownership. It was not used during the period of 1941-1953. In 1953 the building was restored and utilized as an Administration Building until 1956 and at that time there being no further need for its use, it was placed in and currently is in Standby Status.

Honorable Gordon Browning.

EARLY YEARS

Gordon Browning was born on a farm near Atwood, Carroll County, Tennessee on November 22, 1889, the son of James Harvey and Melissa Brooks Browning. He attended a country school for seven years and walked the two and a half mile distance in order to attend the school. His next two (2) years of schooling were spent at Trezevant, Carroll County, Tennessee when the family moved there from his birthplace. The family then moved into the edge of Gibson County where his father's last homestead (The Browning House) was. At that time it was known as the old Cunningham Place. His high school days were spent at Milan High School, Milan, Gibson County, Tennessee and he graduated in 1908. As a farmer's son he did not have much time for play, walking to school, farm work and school work occupied most of his time, however he did play baseball while attending high school. After high school he attended Valparaiso University in Indiana where he graduated, and Cumberland Law School at Lebanon, Tennessee where he received a law degree. He began practicing law in Huntingdon, Tennessee in 1914.

MILITARY SERVICE Reference Attached Continuation Sheet Form 10-300a.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- (A) Former Governor Gordon Browning
- (B) NEWS-MAAP (Milan Army Ammunition Plant Newspaper) December 1972 Edition. Reference attached copy.
- (C) Carroll County Historical Society, McKenzie, Tennessee 38201
- (D) Oral History Program, History and Travel Department, Memphis Public Library and Information Center, Memphis, Tennessee 38104

HB
 14/3000-0
 3000-0

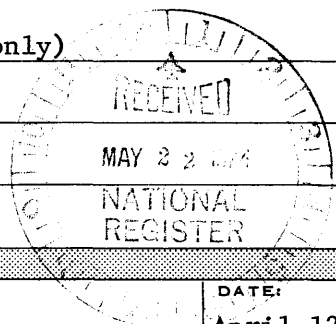
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	35 °	55'	26.8" N	
SE	° ' "	° ' "	88 °	43'	10" W	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 0.6142

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Tennessee (only)	47	Gibson (only)	053
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Bobby R. Browning	DATE: April 12, 1974
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Martin Marietta Aluminum Sales Inc.	
STREET AND NUMBER: Milan Army Ammunition Plant	PHONE: 686-1531 Extension 2277
CITY OR TOWN: Milan	STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

Harold L. Hayden
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State

Local

William L. Ben 5/15/74
 Federal Representative Signature Date

 Title

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

A. D. [Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/28/74

ATTEST:

Wm. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-28-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Gibson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 28 1974	

(Number all entries) 8.2

MILITARY SERVICE

Gordon Browning was 27 years old at the outbreak of World War I and enlisted in June 1917 after the declaration of war. He was sent to an officer's candidate school and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 114th Field Artillery, a Tennessee volunteer unit of the National Guard. He served in three major battles during the bitterest days of the war, the St. Mihiel, the Meuse-Argonne and the Weovre offensives. He had been promoted to the rank of Captain at the time of these battles.

When the United States entered into the hostilities of World War II Gordon Browning wired the War Department immediately offering his services. He entered service at his old rank of Captain and for awhile commanded the anti-aircraft units in the Los Angeles sector. He was selected to attend the military government service school and upon graduation was sent to England to help plan the invasion, where he served on General Eisenhower's Staff. He was eventually promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After the invasion of Belgium he was assigned as first deputy in charge of civil affairs in Belgium, and then promoted to the post of command for both the American and British where he directed the restoration of government throughout Belgium. He was awarded the Order of Leopold and the Ordre de la Couronne by the Belgium government. He also received the Legion of Merit (U.S.A.), the Order of the British Empire (England), the Order of Orange Nassau (Netherlands), and the Order of Adolph Nassau (Luxembourg) for his services in restoring civil government in the low countries. Lieutenant Colonel Browning was assigned as political and civil affairs advisor to General Lucius Clay at the end of the war and later assigned as Governor of Bavaria, a major state in the American zone where he reorganized the military and local governments before returning to civilian life in 1947.

POLITICAL SERVICE

In 1922 Gordon Browning was elected to serve in Congress which he did until 1934. In 1934 he made an unsuccessful campaign for the U.S. Senate, however in 1936 he ran for Governor of the State of Tennessee and won by a landslide. His outstanding achievement during that term (1937-1938) was his budget law and debt refinancing plan. He was defeated in 1938 for re-election. After returning from World War II service he waged a highly successful campaign and was once again elected as Governor of the State of Tennessee in 1948. During his second term of office the State Library, Archives, Cordell Hull Building, House Office Building, a new School for the Blind and improvements to the School for the Deaf were constructed. Hard surfaced roads in the State were increased from 10,000 miles to 20,000 miles.

