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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dr. Samuel Bowling Brown, a prominent Robertson County whiskey distiller, built Sudley Place in 1856. Sudley Place consists of a main house and five outbuildings. All structures are of red brick with ornamental white wood trim. The main house is Italianate in style and has three porches with ornate white trim. The trim of each porch has its own distinct design. The five brick outbuildings have matching ornamental white trim around the rooflines. The outbuildings all had distinct functions. They included a kitchen, a large smokehouse, servant's quarters, and a carriage house. The fifth structure might have served as an ice house, storage house or wash house.

The original cost of construction of Sudley Place was reportedly \$50,000. This high cost was a result of the expensive trim on the outbuildings as well as the main house, and the lavish interior of the main house. In the center reception hall a double circular stairway leads to the second floor. In the parlor is a carved mantel of English marble which was shipped from England to New Orleans to Nashville. The ceiling of the parlor is hand painted and the door knobs throughout the main house are silver.

The condition of Sudley Place has deteriorated considerably, but it is not beyond repair.



SEE INSTRUCTION

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	STATE				
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Tennessee				
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY				
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## 7. DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

Sudley Place, a two-story brick Italianate house. has ten rooms. There is a two-story ell at the rear with a one-story porch. The front has a two story portico, supported by four simple columns with decorative wooden arches between. A double-bracketed cornice is continuous around the house. The windows on the front elevation are fan-shaped with brick arches above. Decorative trim on the rear porch includes dentil work on the fascia board and steamboat-type trim between the six simple columns and pilasters. The ornateness of the exterior woodwork is unusual in rural Tennessee. The outbuildings, all of brick, have the decorative trim around the eaves, which is a distinguishing characteristic of Sudley Place and its dependencies.

Sudley Place was given its name in the 1930's by the Fugua family which had purchased the farm. It was named for Mrs. Fuqua's ancestral home in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.



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Sudley Place has political significance as the boyhood home of Jesse Holman Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation during the Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt administrations and Federal Loan Administrator from 1939 until 1945. Sudley Place is described by Jesse Holman Jones in the Bascom M. Timmons biography, Jesse Holman Jones, The Man and the Statesman.

Sudley Place is also significant for its Italianate architecture. This style, while not unusual in Tennessee in the more urban areas, is unusual in rural Robertson County. The house has good proportion in its exterior and the interior is also lavish.



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Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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## 8. <u>SIGNIFICANCE</u> (Cont.)

Other than its association with Jesse Holman Jones, there are no historical events connected with Sudley Place. It was for about twelve years the boyhood home of Jones, a very important figure in 4 the New Deal era of American politics. Leaving Tennessee, he arrived in Houston in 1898 and found the town having difficulty staying in third place among Texas urban centers. Determined to make Houston the biggest city in Texas, he took the lead in bringing the ocean fifty miles inland to make Houston a seaport. He built the city's first skyscraper and continued until he had built thirty-five of them, the largest number ever owned by one man. Houston became the biggest city in the South largely because of his faith and inspiration. During the Depression, President Hoover appointed him to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. President Roosevelt later made him chairman of this organization as well as Federal Loan Administrator. Congress passed an unprecedented law to allow him to be both Federal Loan Administrator and Secretary of Commerce at the same time and to head 39 bureaus and agencies, including seven gigantic wartime corporations. Vice-President Henry A. Wallace said, "Jesse Jones wielded greater power for a longer period than any human being in the history of the United States." He led in rebuilding the nation's business and industry in the Depression and marshaling its might in war. He often stated that his training in handling financial affairs began on this farm in Tennessee when his father gave him the responsibility of raising his first tobacco crop.

Although Jones' activities occurred less than 50 years ago, their importance to the country together with the fact the he lived in this house almost a century ago, would seem to warrant the waiving of the 50 year rule.

Not only is Sudley Place significant as the boyhood home of Jones, it possesses significance because of its architecture, unusual for a rural Tennessee county. It is one of the most important buildings in the area.

