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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Aquone

other names/site number Williams, Judge Samuel Cole, Estate

2. Location

street & number 110 Barberry Road N/A not for publication

city or town Johnson City N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Washington code 179 zip code 37604

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Haysen 10/4/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action

Meloree Bejes 11/4/93

Aquone

Name of Property

Washington Co., TN

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 1, 2, 0.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE, walls BRICK, roof Asbestos, other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

LAW

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1925-1942

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Williams, Samuel Cole

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cardwell, Leland

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Aquone  
Name of Property

Washington Co., TN  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.26 acres

198 SE, Johnson City, TN

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6
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3	7	7	2	6	0
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4	0	2	0	8	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Faith W. Stahl, Chair

organization Lost State of Franklin Historical Commission date June 1993

street & number 2007-D Sherwood Drive telephone (615) 928-7936

city or town Johnson City state TN zip code 37601

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name J. D. Swartz

street & number 110 Barberry Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Johnson City state TN zip code 37604

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 1

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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## Narrative Description

Aquone, the Judge Samuel Cole Williams Estate, is a two and one-half story brick Colonial Revival house that sits on 3.6 acres in Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee. The house is located in a semi-secluded area between Roan Street and U.S. Highway 11E. The house is screened from the roads with trees and its terraced lawn.

The south facade of the two story house is six bays wide flanked on either end by one and one-half story wings that are set back from the main portion of the house. The wings are each composed of two bays. A modern three car garage has been added on the east end of the house, but is set back from the house and is located below grade. The house has a one story center pedimented portico supported by six Doric columns. Four of the columns are spaced along the front portion of the portico and two columns act as pilasters at the rear of the portico. A decorative flower and cupid garland are located in the tympanum of the portico. The two bays flanking the portico are composed of nine-over-nine double hung windows surmounted by a jack arch with key stone on the first story and six-over-nine double hung windows on the second story, all windows have shutters. The main entrance of the house is a single leaf cross and bible door with leaded glass windows located in the panel portion of the cross. The door is flanked by leaded glass sidelights over a blind panel and surmounted by a leaded glass transom. Located in the center bay above the portico is a three part window composed of a six-over-nine double hung window flanked by single pane two-over-three sidelights with shutters.

The cornice of the house is molded with dentils and a large pedimented gable dormer with an oculus window. The roof is currently an asphalt shingle roof, the original roof was gray slate. The flanking wings each have a simple boxed cornice and a pair of windows with a corbeled blind panels over them. The window openings on the west wing are French doors that extend to the ground level. The doors are composed of four panes over a blind panel and are flanked by shutters that extend the full length of the doors. The windows on the east wing are six-over-nine over panels and flanked by shutters that extend to the ground providing a symmetrical appearance to the wings.

The west elevation of the house is composed of the recessed wing centered on west wall of the main portion of the house. The wing has one six-over-six double hung window topped by a jack arch with keystone. A small three light window is located below and to the north of the centered window. Located in the gable peak are five square holes forming a cross-like vent. The west wall of the main

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 2

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

---

portion of the house extends into a flush gable chimney. Located at the gable peak at the center of the chimney is a six-over-six window at the attic level. Flanking the wing of the house on both the north and south ends of the west wall is a nine-over-nine window on the south end of the first story and French doors on the north end. On the second story are six-over-nine windows. These windows, like the majority of windows in the house, have jack arches with keystone and shutters.

The north, or rear, elevation of the house has a variety of set-backs and additions. The main block of the house is composed of five bays. As with the front, or south facade, second story windows are six-over-nine double hung windows with shutters abutting the dentiled cornice. The center bay of the second floor is a tripartite window composed of a six pane round arched segment over an eight-over-nine double hung window. The window has a simple round arched surround with keystone. The first floor is composed of windows that are nine-over-nine double hung windows with jack arch, keystone, and shutters on the east end of the house. The original center entrance and the two bays on the west end are now enclosed with a sunroom that extends to the north of the house. The sunroom is composed of large glass panels topped by a simple gable roof and supported bay a brick foundation. There are three gable roof dormers eight-over-nine round arched windows equally spaced along the roof line.

The north elevation of the west wing has a gable roof addition composed of glass panels supported by simple square posts over a small patio area. A six-over-six window is located on the first floor level. The north elevation of the eastern end of the house is composed of the east wing with an original one story projection on a raised basement foundation. The wing is connected by a basement level entrance hall to a modern plain brick garage that extends northward. The garage is attached only at its southwest corner. Window on the north elevation of the east wing include a small three-over-three double hung window and a three-over-three window extending into a gable roof dormer. The original projection has two one-over-two windows, each with a single shutter. On the basement level of the projection is a modern, large pane three-part patio door.

The east elevation of the house is composed of the east wing centered on the main portion of the house. The east end of the main block of the house has a centered flush gable chimney and window placement much like the west elevation. Windows on the east elevation are a six-over-six center attic window and on the south end a six-over-nine on the second story and a nine-over-nine on the first story. As with the other windows of the house they have a

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 3

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

---

jack arch with keystone and shutters. The east end of the wing extends below grade on the terraced lot and is composed of a single door on the basement level, and two centered six-over-six windows on the first and second stories.

The modern garage, built in 1986, is attached to the east wing at the northeast corner. The east wall of the garage is plain brick.

The interior of the house is based on the center hall plan. The entrance/stair hall is flanked on both the east and west side by large formal rooms. The entrances to these rooms are identical with classical style trim. The simple molded door surrounds are capped with a wide entablature. The entablature simple architrave, a reeded frieze, and a dentiled cornice with a wide overhang. The trim to the main entrance is of a much simpler design than the other interior doorways. At the rear of the hall is a two flight stairway with a simple turned balustrade. A twelve pane door, once the original back door, is located on the north wall. A simple doorway is located at the rear of the hall on the east wall. The hallway has crown molding on all but the northern end of the hall

The entrance way on the west wall leads to a formal living room. The living room consist of a fireplace with a Georgian influenced mantel and overmantel on the west wall. The fireplace is flanked by full height fluted pilasters and is surmounted by a simple panel. To the south of the fireplace is a window and to the north is an entrance into the library. The south wall of the room is composed of two windows. French doors with the same formal surround as the main entrance to the room are located on the north wall. Crown molding surrounds the room.

Located to the west of the living room is the library. The library is reportedly based on Sir Walter Scott's study at Abbotsford, Scotland. The room extends the full one and one-half stories of the wing. On the first story the library is wood paneled with a Georgian influenced fireplace centered on the east wall. The entrance door is located on the north side of the fireplace. The south wall of the room is composed of two sets of French doors, only the western most set is operable and provides a visitor's entrance to the library without having to walk through the house. On the west wall of the library is a simple stair case that extends along a papered wall between applied beveled wood braces that mimic bookcase, door and window surrounds. Located under the stairs is a half-bath which has its original fixtures and has a three light window on the west wall. Also located on the west wall is a centered window at the half-story height. The north wall of the library is composed of bookshelves that are built around a window. A balcony with a wrought iron balustrade with wood rail is located

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 4

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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on the upper level on the north and east walls. Bookshelves extend the full length of the north wall and are continued on the east wall. On the southern end of the east wall are four steps leading to an entrance into the master bedroom on the second floor.

Located to the rear, or north of the living room on the north side is a large glass sunroom added in 1986. The glass walled structure incorporated an original back wall of the house. Original porch columns and rear brick wall are still visible.

On the east side of the center hall is the formal dining room. The room is a mirror copy of the living room with a centered fireplace on the east wall flanked by a window on the south and a doorway on the north. The fireplace has an almost identical Georgian influenced mantel. However, the dining room has no overmantel. The south wall of the room is composed of two windows and the north side of the room is a solid wall.

Also located on the northern end of the center hall is an entrance to the family room. On the east wall is an entrance to the kitchen and in the northeast corner of the room is an original bathroom.

The kitchen, located in the east wing of the house has been modernized, but retains its original door and window placements. Two small windows are located on the north wall and a six-over-six window is located on the east wall. In the southeast corner of the kitchen is a two panel door leading to a rear stair hall. Located on the south wall of the stair hall are two windows. The small staircase leads to the maid's room located at the half-story level. This small room has been converted into a laundry room. Two small steps lead through a narrow door to the second floor hall.

At the top of the main staircase is a small area that serves as an entrance to the bedrooms which are approached through round archways supported with pilasters. Crown molding surrounds the small area. To the west of the entrance hall is a small sitting room on the north side, the room was originally used as a bedroom. On the south side of the hall is the master bedroom. Located on the west wall of the master bedroom is the entrance onto the library balcony. A bathroom is located on the southeastern corner of the bedroom and was enlarged in 1990 to include a dressing room.

To the east of the small entrance hall are two bedrooms, each with a small private bathroom. All bathrooms on the second floor retain their original tile. The bedroom on the south side of the hall has a fireplace with decorative detail including a small fluted half column. East of the two bedrooms is the service wing located in



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 5

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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the east wing of the house.

The basement of the house, entered off the kitchen stair hall was remodeled in 1990. The finished basement has a quarry tile floor, and acoustical tile ceiling. On the east end of the basement hallway is an original entrance to the driveway area. An entrance is also located on the east end of the north wall allowing access to the backyard. The south side of the basement consists of two rooms, an exercise room and a wine cellar. On the north side of the basement a room has been finished off to serve as a guest bedroom. The north wall of the bedroom is composed of patio doors. A small bath is located on the northwest corner of the bedroom.

Also located on the north wall of the basement is the furnace room and a storage room. Crawl spaces are located to the west and north of the basement.

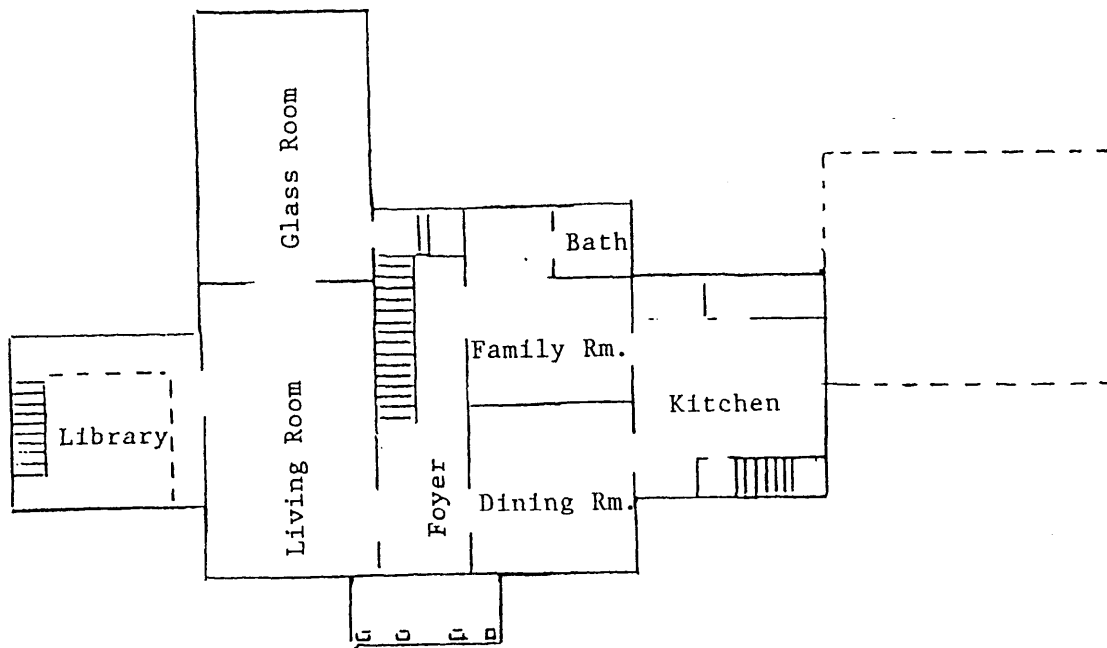
The back yard of Aquone is still terraced as mentioned in the 1938 description of the house in History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee and is a contributing site. An iron fence, built in 1990, with white brick posts along Barberry Road is located to the south and west sides of the house and connects to a security fence on the north and east sides of the yard.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 6

Aquone  
Washington County, TN



FIRST FLOOR

Not to scale

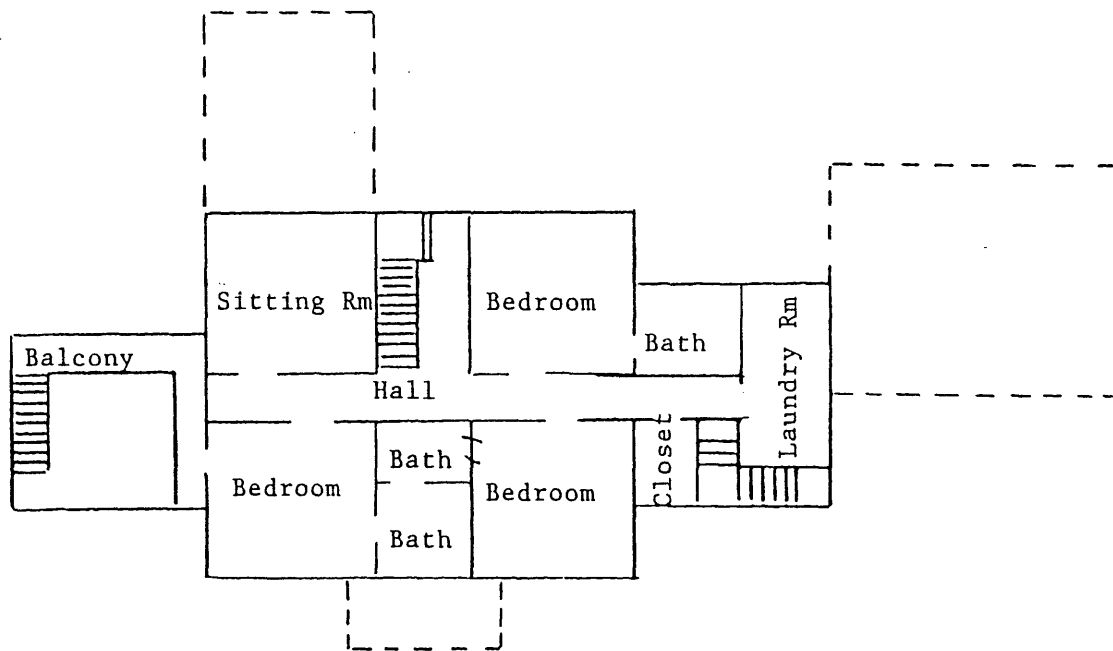


# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 7

Aquone  
Washington County, TN



SECOND FLOOR



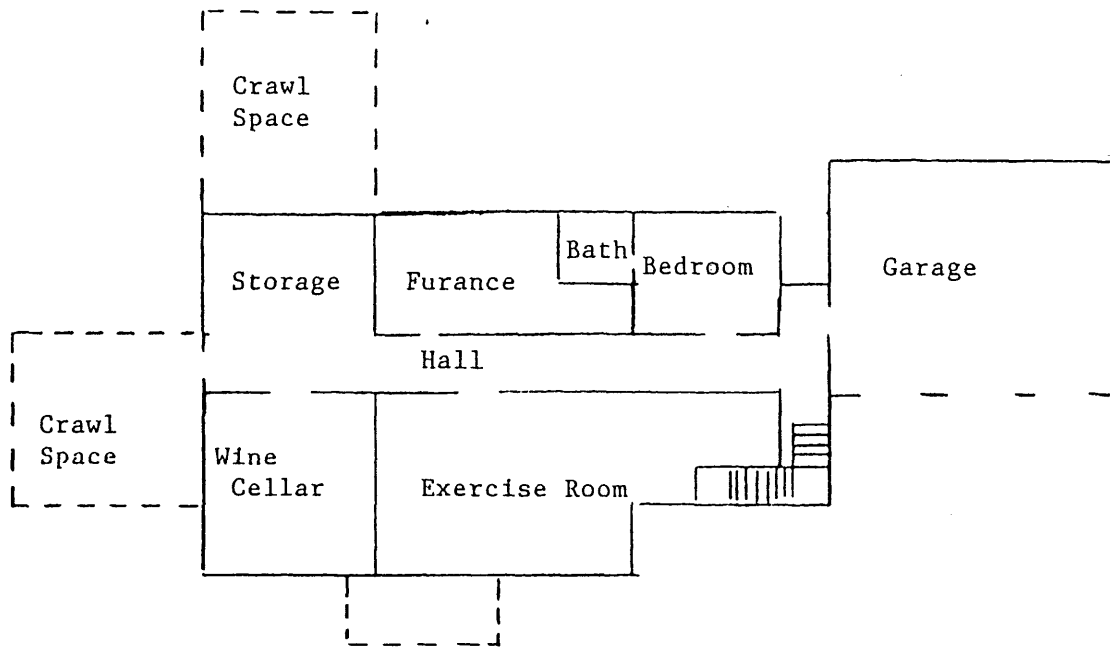
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 8

Aquone  
Washington County, TN



BASEMENT

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 9

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

Aquone, built in 1925, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for statewide significance under criterion B for its association with Judge Samuel Cole Williams, an important figure in the state of Tennessee in both law and Tennessee history. The two story Colonial Revival house is also being nominated for its local significance under criterion C for architecture.

Samuel Cole Williams was born in Humboldt, Gibson County, Tennessee in 1864. He graduated in 1884 from Vanderbilt with a law degree and began his practice in Jonesborough, Washington County, Tennessee. In 1892, after the death of his two senior partners, he moved his law practice to Johnson City. In addition to his law practice Williams acquired partnership in 1902-1903 with the Watauga Light and Power Company and the Johnson City Street Car Company. He also became an associate of the Unaka National Bank and served as its president.

From 1912 to 1920 he served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. In 1920 he resigned from the Supreme Court to accept a position at Emory University. In 1925 he returned to Tennessee after serving five years as the first dean of Lamar School of Law.

After his return to Tennessee Williams had a Colonial Revival retirement house built in Johnson City in 1923 for his family, wife Isabel H. and daughter, Martha. He started work on codifying Tennessee law and worked on the project in his home until its acceptance in 1929. His daughter Martha Williams Brown recalls that the furniture in the downstairs rooms of the house were covered with strips of paper cut from the old code book and she and her mother had to walk carefully so they did not disturb the papers.

After he finished work on the new Tennessee Code he concentrated his time on writing Tennessee history, particularly the early settlement period of the state. In his preface of Dawn of Tennessee Valley and Tennessee History published in 1937, he stated that he began collecting material for the book in 1893 while still in law school. In addition to his work of writing Tennessee history, he was a member of several historical associations including East Tennessee Historical Society in which he served as president. While serving as president of the East Tennessee organization he began a publication program for the Society's papers.

In 1941, with the help of Governor Prentice Cooper, he revitalized

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 10

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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the Tennessee Historical Commission, a statewide organization that originally started in 1919 to preserve military records of Tennesseans who served in World War I.<sup>1</sup> By the 1930s the Tennessee Historical Commission was dormant as a result of undefined programs and activities. Governor Cooper, along with a small group, reorganized the Commission and changed the direction and scope of the organization. Judge Samuel Cole Williams was elected as chairman of the organization. During his tenure as chairman of the commission, Williams was instrumental in the reorganization of the statewide commission and directed it in the launching of a new journal, Tennessee Historical Quarterly, in conjunction with the Tennessee Historical Society. Williams was also a board member of the Society at the same time he served as chairman of the Commission. Williams also took an active part in marking and preserving historical sites throughout the state and was instrumental in acquiring Tipton - Haynes, as an historical site in east Tennessee for the state. In November of 1942 the Tennessee Historical Commission elected to make one of Samuel Cole Williams' books their 1944 project. In turn, Williams gave the copyright to the Commission and all proceeds from the book after printing costs.

Judge Williams resigned from the Commission at the June 1, 1946 meeting. At the meeting Governor Jim McCord presented Williams with an illuminated scroll for his work with the Commission and he was made Chairman Emeritus for life.

Samuel Cole Williams died on December 14, 1947. Newspapers across the state wrote articles and editorials on Tennessee's "premier historian" and also lauded his work in Tennessee law. Williams wrote and edited several articles and books on Tennessee history and law (see appendix).

The Judge Samuel Cole Williams' house, or Aquone, is an important local example of a Colonial Revival house, designed by Leland Cardwell, a Johnson City architect with Ciole and Cardwell Architects from 1922 - 1933. The design of the house was reportedly based on a 1748 Maryland mansion (name and location unknown). In addition the house's library was reportedly modeled after Sir Walter Scott's study in Abbotsford, Scotland. The house was given the name Aquone which means final resting place in the Cherokee language.

The two story brick house with its symmetrical facade, porticoed entrance, gable dormer is a good example of an architect designed

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<sup>1</sup> Subsequent legislation in 1921, 1951, 1959, and 1971 broadened the purpose and membership of the commission.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Page 11

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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Colonial Revival house built for the professional class at the beginning of the twentieth century. According to Gwendolyn Wright in Building the Dream, Colonial Revival houses were "an architectural expression of the entire country's common heritage of good sense and egalitarian principals."<sup>2</sup>

Aquone also has state wide significance in Tennessee for its association with Judge Samuel Cole Williams, a significant figure in both Tennessee law and early Tennessee history. The codified law he prepared provided the state with an important document that was used for many years in the Tennessee judicial system. In addition his leadership of the Tennessee Historical Commission revitalized a stagnant organization and gave it new direction. The Tennessee Historical Commission still continues to serve the state through its support of state owned historic sites, a marker program, and a publication program.

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<sup>2</sup> Gwendolyn Wright. Building the Dream. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix Page 12

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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compiled by: Pollyanna Creekmore

#### Unpublished Works

"Early Emancipation Movement in Tennessee." 29 p. Typewritten. Copy in McClung Collection, Leucine McGhee Library, Knoxville. A copy of notes taken by Judge Williams and placed by him in the library of the East Tennessee State College, Johnson City, Sept. 1946.

"Greeneville College: Its Founders and Early Friends." 63 p. Typewritten. McClung Collection. An address, expanded, delivered at the unveiling of a marker on the site of Greeneville College, at Tusculum commencement, June 1940. 1941.

#### Published Works

##### 1. Original Works

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix Page 13

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix Page 14

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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- "A Forgotten Campaign," Tennessee Historical Magazine 8 (1924-1925), 266-176.  
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Also published as a contribution to Jonesborough's sesquicentennial, 1930. Reprinted by the Banking and Trust Company of Jonesboro.
- "French and Other Intrigues in the Southwest Territory," East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications 13 (1941), 21-35.
- "General John T. Wilder," Indiana Magazine of History 31 (1935), 169-203.
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix Page 15

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix Page 16

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix Page 17

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Appendix Page 18

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

Page 19

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 20

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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## Boundary Description

The nominated property for Aquone includes all of parcel 8 on Washington County Tax Map 46-G.

## Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes all of the land historically associated with Aquone.

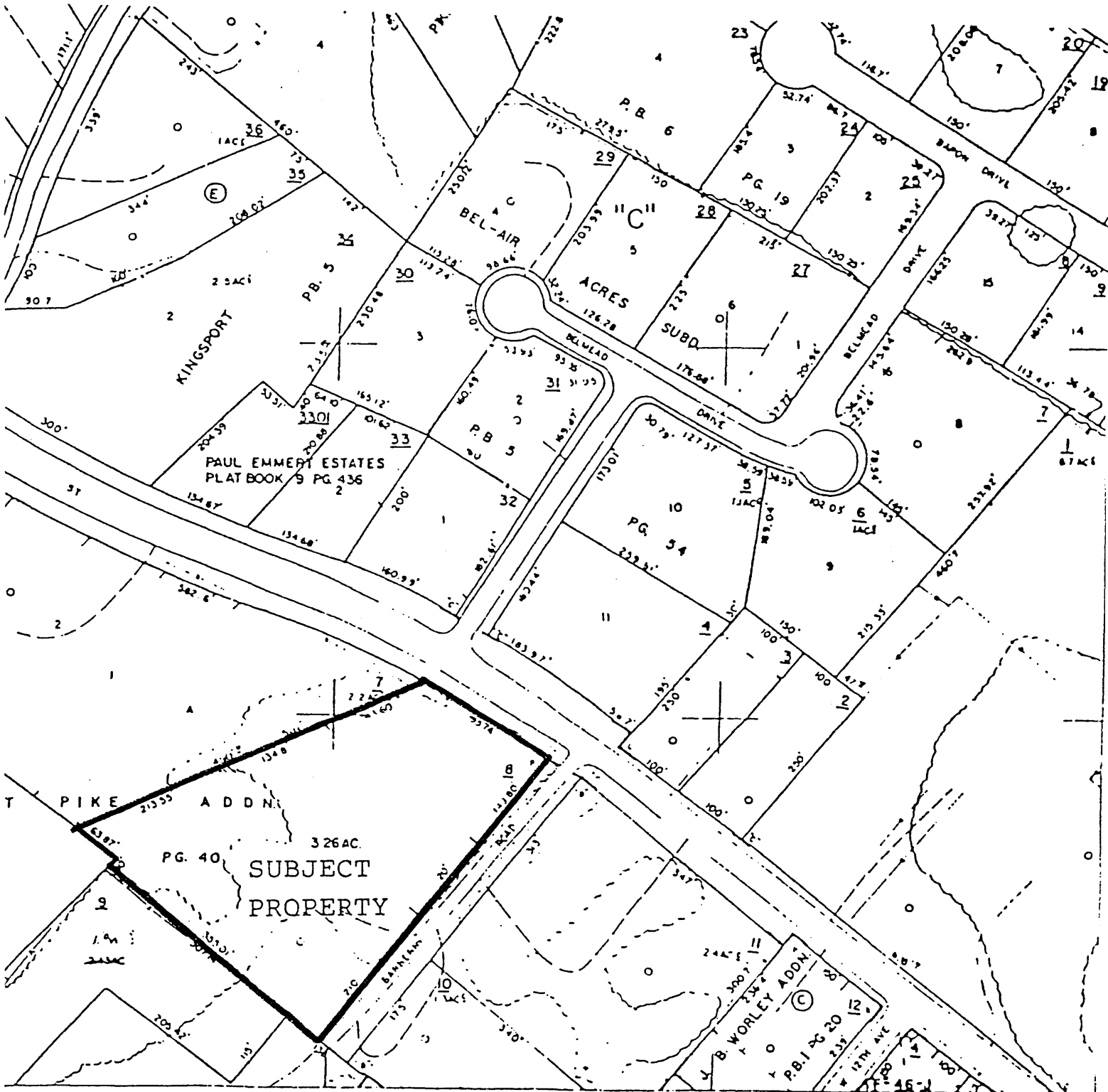


# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10

Page 21

Aquone  
Washington County, TN



Approx. Scale 1" = 200'



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number    Photos

Page 22

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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Aquone

110 Barberry Road

Johnson City, Washington County, Tennessee

Photos By: J. D. Swartz

Date: April 1993

Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission

South facade, looking northeast

1 of 29

South facade, looking northeast

2 of 29

South facade and east elevation, looking northeast

3 of 29

South facade and east elevation, looking northwest

4 of 29

East elevation of garage, looking west

5 of 29

North elevation, looking southwest

6 of 29

North elevation, looking southeast

7 of 29

North elevation, looking south

8 of 29

North elevation, looking southeast

9 of 29

West elevation, looking northeast

10 of 29

West wing, looking north

11 of 29

Center Hall, looking south

12 of 29

Stairs, looking north

13 of 29

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number    Photos

Page 23

Aquone  
Washington County, TN

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Living room, looking west  
14 of 29

Living room, looking southeast  
15 of 29

Living room, looking northwest  
16 of 29

Sunroom addition, looking north  
17 of 29

Library, looking northeast  
18 of 29

Library, looking west  
19 of 29

Library, looking northeast  
20 of 29

Library, looking east  
21 of 29

Dining room, looking southeast  
22 of 29

Kitchen and rear stairs, looking southeast  
23 of 29

Second floor hall, looking north  
24 of 29

Second floor hall, looking east  
25 of 29

Rear second floor hall, looking west  
26 of 29

South bedroom, looking west  
27 of 29

Basement stairs, looking south  
28 of 29

Basement hall, looking east  
29 of 29