

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Chevy Chase House and First Presbyterian Church Complex

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Madison

DATE RECEIVED: 02/09/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 03/22/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000834

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3-11-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Accept AD
Simply Additional context
No Database changes
Add to Section 8 AS background info

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept + AD
REVIEWER [Signature]
TELEPHONE _____

DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

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The additional documentation included does not change the area of significance or period of significance for the National Register-listed Chevy Chase House and First Presbyterian Church Complex. Additional documentation on Clarence Pigford is a copy of an unpublished manuscript provided by the First Presbyterian Church: "American Biography. Submit to: Mrs. C. E. Pigford, Jackson Tenn. Sk. Of Clarence E. Pigford Deceased. HAH FM ORIG 1.3.46".

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CLARENCE E. FIGFORD

Lawyer, Publisher

Widely recognized over a long period of years as one of the leading lawyers and professional men of Jackson, Tennessee, Clarence E. Pigford was also president of the Sun Publishing Company, publishers of the Jackson "Sun." A true Tennessee pioneer as regards business and civic undertakings, he earned the high esteem, respect and admiration of his contemporaries in all walks of life.

Mr. Pigford was born November 11, 1873, in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, son of James Farrar and Martha Jane (Delk) Pigford. His paternal grandparents were among Mississippi's pioneer settlers. James Farrar Pigford, the father, was born in that state. The family were of Scotch-Irish origin. At the outbreak of the Civil War, James Farrar Pigford ran away from home and enlisted in the Confederate army. At the close of hostilities he returned to the home plantation, which he managed for a time before he took up railroading as his major work. He married Martha Jane Delk, whose parents were prominent

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FIGFORD

Mississippi planters. They became the parents of seven children.

Clarence E. Pigford, the second in order of birth, attended schools in Lauderdale County, his Mississippi birthplace. When he was fifteen he came to Jackson. Later he enrolled as a student at Southwestern Baptist University, which subsequently became Union University, where he was graduated in 1893 as a Bachelor of Arts. He took first honors in his class and captured the Strickland medal for oratory. His earliest ambition was to become a lawyer, but the size of the family and the financial condition of the Pigfords were such that he declined all assistance from his father toward preparing himself for the law.

Accepting employment in the office of a lumber company, he saved enough money by September, 1895, to enable him to enter Cumberland University. There he was graduated in 1896 as a Bachelor of Laws. Immediately he began his practice as a member of the firm of White and Pigford, in which the senior partner was S. J. White. In 1903 the firm of Mallory and Pigford came into being, lasting until 1907. Thenceforth he practiced independently in Jackson. Specializing in corporation law and handling much conveyance and land title litigation, Mr. Pigford came to hold an outstanding position in his profession. As the Jackson "Sun" of January 8, 1945, com-

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FIGFORD 3

mented editorially, --

Mr. Pigford has been eminently successful in his chosen profession of law, having a large and varied practice. He had an intimate knowledge of the law, took a personal interest in every case which his firm handled and was a strong advocate at the bar. He had the remarkable faculty of remembering basic decisions in the courts and was ever ready with citations involving cases which came to his firm.

Not only was he successful in law practice, but he was one of the best business men in the state. He was the central figure in a number of business enterprises and these prospered under his leadership and direction. He had keen foresight and vision as well as sound business judgment. It has been said by his intimate friends that he had the finest analytical mind in this section. Other lawyers relied much upon his judgment as did other business men who sought his counsel.

For a considerable period Mr. Pigford acted as judge of the Court of Appeals. During that same period he handed down important decisions in the case of George R. James vs. Railroad, holding that equipment of a non-resident railroad passing through the state in interstate commerce was not subject to attachment. Other public service of Mr. Pigford included the city attorneyship of Jackson, which he held between 1899 and 1901. He successfully attacked, during his years of practice, the constitutionality

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FIGFORD 4

of a Tennessee statute before the United States Supreme Court, claiming that the statute was discriminatory, obtaining the twelfth reversal of the state court's decision by the federal judicial body. Along with his other professional activities, Mr. Figford was a member of the Tennessee State Bar Association and the American Bar Association, as well as a member and at one time president of the Jackson Bar Association.

From an early period Mr. Figford's activities in the law led to his participation in business affairs. From the status of counsel he ascended to that of director and officer in different companies. He was outstandingly interested in publishing as president of the Sun Publishing Company and publisher of the Jackson "Sun," an afternoon newspaper issued every day except Saturday, with a Sunday morning number. The paper's headquarters were at Baltimore and Market streets, Jackson. The "Sun" represents an old newspaper property, founded in 1848. He was also president of the Jackson Transportation Corporation, vice president of the Budde and Weis Manufacturing Company and the Model Mill Company and attorney and a director of the First National Bank of Jackson. At an earlier period he was president of the Central Oil Mills Company, dealers in oil meal products, and was an organizer and a director of the Bank of Mercer and the Pinson Savings Bank.

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PIGFORD 5

At all times Mr. Pigford had a deep interest in Jackson's civic affairs and in Tennessee history. He was a member of the Tennessee Historical Commission and the Tennessee State Planning Commission and a trustee of Peabody College (Nashville) and Southwestern University (Memphis). He was also a director of Southwestern College of the Mississippi Valley, in Memphis. His interest in community history led him to help organize the Madison County Historical Society. Not only did he become the guiding spirit behind this organization from its inception, but the society itself adopted as its first purpose publication of a county history in book form. This book was scheduled for the summer of 1946, at which time Tennessee was to celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary.

Another of Mr. Pigford's favorite projects was the erection of a memorial appropriate to commemorate the sacrifices of the men who gave their lives in World Wars I and II. Consequently he originated a project for memorial Chimes. Through his efforts the fund for this purpose reached a total of \$20,257. Further contributions were to be obtained by other members of the Memorial Chimes board, of which he was chairman, until the figure reached \$25,000. Mr. Pigford was also deeply interested in the Young Men's Christian Association, in Jackson, and initiated the movement to obtain funds for liquidation

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FIGFORD 6

of the bonded debt of the "Y." He was a member of the building committee which had charge of putting up the present "Y." He aided, too, in building up the Community Chest fund in Jackson, and for some years devoted much time to the project. During his year as chairman the Chest raised the largest amount it ever raised. Mr. Figford did much to advance the interests of the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, serving at one time as chairman of the board of deacons and originating the plan for raising a building fund. The fund, which reached \$20,000 at the time of his passing, was to be used for altering the interior of the church and adding more Sunday school space. Among his other affiliations, Mr. Figford was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Jackson Golf and Country Club. Honored in many ways for his manifold achievements, Mr. Figford was made the recipient of an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, which he received from Union University in 1944.

Clarence E. Figford married, November 27, 1907, Sally Bransford Person, a native of Jackson, daughter of ~~H. and Sarah Person~~ *Kushman and Sarah Ford Person*

The death of Clarence E. Figford, January 3, 1945, in Jackson, Tennessee, was an occasion of profound sorrow and regret wherever he was known. His accomplishments were many-sided and helpful, and he

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FIGFORD 7

earned the respect, admiration and confidence of
his contemporaries in all walks of life. He will
be affectionately remembered by a host of friends
and acquaintances, and his memory will be warmly
cherished.

Claudette Stager

1/8/2014

Claudette Stager, DSHPO

Date