

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 07 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 3 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**** HISTORIC**
** "Traveler's Rest" (Governor Isaac Shelby Plantation) and Cemetery
AND/OR COMMON
Isaac Shelby House Site

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *3 of Shelby City 1/1 10300*
Highway 300 near Intersection of Highway 127 NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN *Shelby City* VICINITY OF *05* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE *Kentucky* CODE *021* COUNTY *Lincoln* CODE *137*

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *Mrs. A. B. Oldham*
STREET & NUMBER *Main Street*
CITY, TOWN *Stanford* VICINITY OF *Kentucky* STATE *Kentucky*

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Lincoln County Courthouse*
STREET & NUMBER *Main Street*
CITY, TOWN *Stanford* STATE *Kentucky*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE *Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky*
DATE *1971* FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS *Kentucky Heritage Commission*
CITY, TOWN *Frankfort* STATE *Kentucky*

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The home of Isaac Shelby, the first Governor of Kentucky, built of limestone on the Old Wilderness Trail, was a gathering place for pioneers and statesmen of that day and the genuine hospitality of Governor Shelby gave to his home the name "Traveler's Rest."

It is located on the Knob Lick Pike (Kentucky Highway 300) about one-half mile from the road and a mile from the intersection of Highway 127 between Shelby City and Moreland. The cemetery and site of the house is situated between Danville and Stanford, two important early towns on the Old Wilderness Road, the major land route used by early settlers.

Shelby himself designed "Traveler's Rest." The main part was stone, two stories high, with a sloped gable roof. On the right, a single-story wing housed the master bedroom; on the left, a similar structure housed the kitchen (see photo 1). The limestone walls, plastered together with mud, were three feet thick. Stone partitions rose all the way from the cellar, which contained port holes for use in case of Indian attack. This house stood through four generations of Shelby, until it was accidentally burned in 1905.

A new brick structure was erected on the site in 1906. This building has two stories. It was designed in a Georgian or Federal Revival manner with a high peaked central gable on the hipped roof and a veranda across the front of the house. The windows all have slightly arched openings, except for the elliptical fanlight in the gable (see photo 2). The house faces the south. A wide door with side lights and transom opens into a spacious hall with parlor on the left and dining room on the right side. A comfortable family room is behind the parlor, with kitchen and pantry behind the dining room. There are four bedrooms on the second floor.

In the front yard are three mill stones brought to this country from France and used to grind grain for the provision of the pioneers. In the east yard stands the two-room brick slave quarters, just as when Isaac Shelby built them. The rooms are on slightly different levels but unified by a common roof. It is well-preserved and furnished much as it was in the early days, with a fireplace in each room (see photo 3).

Between the house and the highway is the family cemetery where Isaac and his family are buried. Surrounded by a limestone fence or wall, it is entered only over a stone stile. A handsome marble cenotaph was erected by the Legislature in 1826, in gratitude for Shelby's services. Other members of the family are commemorated by above-ground stone sarcophagi, as well as headstones of various ages (see photo 4).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Original house - 1786 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Isaac Shelby
(destroyed 1905); Present house - 1906 Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Traveler's Rest is the site most clearly associated with Governor Isaac Shelby. It was here that he settled permanently in 1787. Isaac Shelby (1750-1826), a soldier, pioneer, and statesman, achieved prominence on both a national and local level. He was recognized as an able military leader in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Shelby also held several public offices at the county level. He served as the first Governor of Kentucky 1792-1796 and once again in 1812-1816.

Shelby, son of Evan Shelby, a large Virginia landholder, and Letitia Cox Shelby, was born in Frederick County, Maryland in December 1750. He worked on his father's farm on the Holston River in Virginia until he was twenty-one years of age. He first came to Kentucky for a year, in 1775, as an explorer and surveyor. At this time he located 10,000 acres of land in Lincoln County. The land was the first preemption granted in Kentucky, proved in 1782, when he returned to Kentucky. On this land he built his home, Traveler's Rest, completed in 1787. Although the original stone mansion burned in 1905, the adjacent early brick slave quarters are a rare survival. On land adjoining his immediate plantation, Shelby constructed two houses, Knightland and Arcadia (which remain standing today), for two of his sons.

In 1783 Shelby married Susannah Hart, daughter of Captain Nathaniel Hart. (Hart was influential in organizing the Transylvania Company and arranging the preliminaries of the Treaty at Sycamore Shoals in 1775. He and his family were among those first to settle in Kentucky.) After their marriage, the Shelbys lived and raised their eleven children at Traveler's Rest.

Shelby was named a justice of the peace and a commissioner of the Lincoln County Court, and a trustee of the town of Stanford, which is located six miles southeast of Traveler's Rest, in 1783. He was made a trustee for Transylvania School in Danville, Kentucky. When the school moved to Lexington, he became a trustee of the new Centre College (1819) in Danville.

When the first constitution of Kentucky was framed in 1792, Shelby was an active member of the convention. In May he was elected the first Governor of Kentucky, serving until 1796. During his first term Shelby did much to support Wayne's campaigns against the Indians in the Northwest. Shelby served again as Governor from 1812 to 1816. At this time the Legislature requested him to assemble and lead in person 4,000 Kentucky volunteers to join General Harrison in the invasion of Canada, an expedition which resulted in the decisive defeat of the British, October 1813, at the Battle of the Thames.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography. Ed. Dumas Malone. New York: Charles Scribners and Sons, 1935.

Dunn, Shirley. Historic Homes and Old Out Buildings of Lincoln County, Kentucky.

Thomas, Elizabeth Patterson. Old Kentucky Homes and Gardens. Louisville: Standard Printing Company, 1939.

Wrobel, Sylvia and Grider, George. Isaac Shelby. Cumberland Press, 1974. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

Latitude: 37° 33' 54"

Longitude: 84° 47' 03"

A	15	15	1572
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. M. H. Dunn

WEL:MC

ORGANIZATION

Lincoln County Historical Society

DATE

February 17, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

103 Pettus Court

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Stanford

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Melton 12/15/75

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

[Signature]

DATE

5/3/76

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

5-376

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Isaac Shelby was also part of the larger American drama. He fought in Lord Dunsmore's War, which many historians have called the first battle of the American Revolution. His name was synonymous with the Battle of King's Mountain, in North Carolina in 1780, which was the turning point of the American Revolution. Shelby planned and led the attack on King's Mountain. Both the Legislature of North Carolina and the Continental Congress adopted resolutions of thanks to Shelby and his compatriots for their services at King's Mountain. Counties and cities were named for him in nine states.

In 1826, at his death, the same month as the July 4th deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the nation mourned in headlines: "Adams, Jefferson, and Shelby are no more."

Traveler's Rest was left to his youngest son, Alfred, born in 1804. In 1827 he married his first cousin Virginia Hart. Alfred Shelby died a few years later in a hunting accident, leaving a twenty-two year old widow and three children. Virginia Shelby managed the estate for fifteen years, very adeptly making profits. In 1847 she married another cousin, the Reverend Robert J. Breckinridge of yet another noted Kentucky family.

"Traveler's Rest" remained in the Shelby family for over one hundred and forty years. In 1951 the family cemetery was designated a State shrine by the Kentucky Department of Parks. One senses, in the small enclosed plot surrounded by aged trees, located in the midst of a large field on the property within the sight of the house, that Shelby himself may have intended to recognize in more than one sense the meaning of "Traveler's Rest."

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Coleman, Winston J. Kentucky A Pictorial History. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1971.