

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE



11.5147.0016 5/6/71

1. NAME

COMMON: Valentine Sevier Station

AND/OR HISTORIC: Sevier Blockhouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Westside of Walker Street, 216 feet south of B Street

CITY OR TOWN: Clarksville

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047 COUNTY: Montgomery CODE: 125

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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Montgomery County

STREET AND NUMBER: Montgomery County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Clarksville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER: Court House

CITY OR TOWN: Clarksville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: _____

DATE OF SURVEY: _____ Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

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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

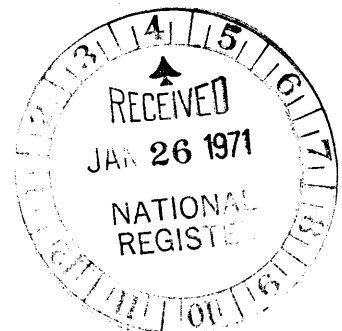
The Valentine Sevier Station, or Sevier Blockhouse, sits atop a rocky hill overlooking the Cumberland and Red Rivers. Built of native limestone, it is the only remaining evidence of Sevier Station. The property on which the station is located was purchased on July 11, 1792, by Valentine Sevier, a veteran of the Indian Wars and the Revolutionary War, and a brother of Tennessee's first governor, John Sevier. He immediately began to build a station as protection from the hostile Indians. A palisaded fence enclosed the few log cabins and the final refuge, a stone block structure of two rooms, adequate to house nearby residents and neighbors.

The stone structure measures 32 feet by 18 feet overall and is divided into two rooms with interior measurements of 15 feet by 15 feet and 12 feet by 15 feet. A large stone fireplace was built in the larger rooms but the chimney has been removed and roofed over. A huge log lintel over the fireplace still is in good condition. It is believed that the smaller room was used for animals and storage during the time of Indian attacks, while the larger room served as a place of safety for Sevier and his family and neighbors. An exterior door enters each room, but there is no door between the two. It contains two windows, one in each side. The floors are of dirt. Some of the original timbers in the roof still exist, and a crude door with strap hinges is also thought to be original.

In the 1820's a two-story frame house was built onto the front of the blockhouse, with a dog trot between. A stone chimney, evidently built partly from the stones of the chimney in the blockhouse that had been removed, was built between the two. The house has since had shingles applied to the exterior weatherboarding.

Sevier sold the property in 1795, and it has passed through a succession of owners. The blockhouse was threatened by destruction in April, 1965, and two concerned citizens obtained an option to purchase the property, thus preventing its destruction. The property was later deeded to Montgomery County and plans are now underway for the restoration of the blockhouse and the development of the site. Archaeological work is currently underway inside the blockhouse.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

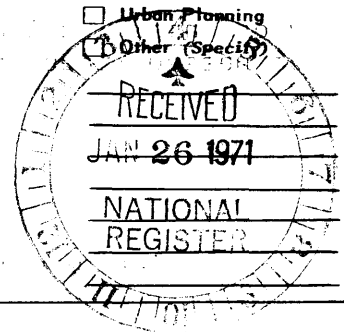
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1792-94

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the early settlement of Tennessee, forts or stations were established throughout the frontier as protection from the Indians, who became hostile as the white settlers moved in on their hunting grounds. Of these many stations, the Valentine Sevier Station is one of only two remaining forts in Tennessee on its original site and without extensive alterations. For this reason it is most significant as an example of the means used by the settlers to protect themselves from the Indians. Fortunately, due to the concern of interested citizens, it will be preserved for future generations.

Having been built in 1792, this fort witnessed on November 11, 1794, one of the bloodiest massacres on the Tennessee frontier. Prior to this time, Valentine Sevier, builder of the fort, had lost three sons and a son-in-law to the Indians. On this day, a young hunter had borrowed Sevier's rifle and left the station to go hunting for food. Gathering corn in the river bottoms were Sevier's 17-year old son, James, and a negro servant. Nearby, John King, husband of widowed Ann Sevier Grantham, Sevier's daughter, was shucking corn. Charles Snider, husband of Betsy Sevier, another daughter of Valentine and Naomi Sevier, attended the fires in the blacksmith shop, assisted by Benjamin Lindsay, a 15-year old apprentice, and Sevier's 6-year old son, Joseph.

Other members of the family were at the station at the noon hour. A sudden attack by 40 or more Indians gave little time to seek refuge from the assault. Ann King and her infant son, James, were killed as were Betsy Snider and her son, John. Another of Sevier's daughters, 12 year old Rebecca, attempted to rescue a child from the flames where he had been tossed. She was caught and scalped, but she survived. In the shop, Snider was shot through the body and mangled by a tomahawk as he sought unsuccessfully to shield little Joseph, now hiding under a bench. Naomi Sevier had barely time to gather the younger children, including her granddaughter, Susannah Snider, and with her husband reached the safety of the stone house. Sevier fired his blunderbuss, a signal of danger, but when help came, the Indians had fled. Six members of Sevier's family had been slain and others wounded. Sevier shortly sold the hillside of sorrow and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HS
12/4/71/13
466460

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albright, Edward, Early History of Middle Tennessee (Nashville, 1909).

Beach, Ursula S., "Tragedy at Sevier's Station" in Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, April 24, 1965.

Sevier Papers in Draper MSS. (microfilm in Manuscript Section, Tennessee State Library and Archives).

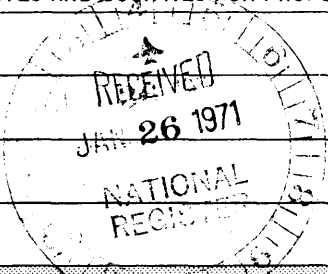
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 32 ' 36 "	87 ° 22 ' 28 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION: Tennessee Historical Commission DATE: 1/14/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 047

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Stephen S. Lawrence</u> Title: <u>Executive Director</u> <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u> Date: <u>1/19/71</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connelly</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>MAY 6 1971</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William J. [Signature]</u> Keeper of the National Register</p> <p>APR 8 1971</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (cont.)

moved his family to Nashville. In 1796 he returned to Clarksville where he died on February 23, 1800. He was buried across the river and in view of the station where had had lost so many members of his family. Only the stone house remains as a witness to the tragedy.

