Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY:	
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ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Shields' Station is located on the eastern edge of the small community of Blaine, and is only a few yards from 11W, one of the most heavily trafficked roads in Tennessee.

The modified salt-box style of the two-story frame structure is highly unusual for the area. Supposedly, the house first consisted of two rooms built of frame circa 1792, with additions made during the 1830's resulting in fifteen rooms. It would take an extensive and skilled study of the architectural details to document the stages in which the house was actually built, because a quick survey of the floor plan and of obvious indications of additional interior openings suggests numerous changes.

The exterior of the building shows two primary sections, the front or main section, and the wing, which, it is thought, contains the earliest structure. There are two off-centered entrances on the front side, one perhaps used by store and tavern customers. First floor windows except two are nine over six, while all those on the second floor are six over six. Windows on the sides of the main section are not balanced; rather, they coincide with interior floor levels. On the east side of the house are two brick chimneys. On the west side is a single, now interior brick chimney, and another outside brick chimney is on the end of the wing. In some places, the brick foundation has been replaced with cement blocks.

The interior of the main or front section consists of four rooms, all with a fireplace except the northwest room. Located in the latter room is a simple stairway leading to the second floor, where there are also four rooms. Most of the interior architectural components are original including the wall sheathing and the simple mantels. The front parlor mantel (downstairs northeast room), however, is from a house in Rutledge, the county seat of Grainger County. The wing contains three rooms on both upper and lower floors.

Unfortunately the house is beginning to show signs of neglect. Although operated as a "pioneer museum," there are few visitors, meaning the house is seldom opened and not lived in. Several years ago, the absentee owner, rather than improving the physical condition of the historic structure, built a small modern dwelling for a caretaker on the property. Preservation of Shields' Station itself should be encouraged because it is one of the most interesting and unusual buildings in East Tennessee.

JAN 8 1973

NATIONAL

REGISTER

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to its architectural interest, Shields' Station was an important stop for travelers in East Tennessee from the 1830's until the 1860's.

The area of Blain's Crossroads, now Blaine, was settled by Robert Blain before 1790. It was located on a stage road west of Bean Station, one of the first settlements in Tennessee, and as such, was a place known to travelers from all parts of Tennessee as well as from many other states. Around 1790, James McDaniel purchased about 100 acres of land at Blain's Crossroads, on which he is said to have built a two-room frame structure.

In 1830, Dr. Samuel Shields and Mr. Wood leased a building from Robert Blain. By the time the two year lease had expired, Shields had decided to remain in Blain's Crossroads where he though a business venture would be highly profitable. In 1833, Shields and his brother, Milton, leased the McDaniel property from an heir, and began operating a store. Shortly thereafter, they purchased the property for \$116.25. It is believed that it was at this time that extensive additions were made, including accommodations for overnight guests as well as a store. (The present owner believes that there was also a larger store building nearby.) it became known as Shields' Station because stage operators and wagon train drivers used it as a "fueling point" when Baltimore wholesalers supplied Knoxville and other sections with merchandise. Three presidents, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson, all hailing from Tennessee, are said to have spent the night there. Ledgers and other documents which remained in the house list the various kinds of articles sold in the store. Shields' Station also served as post office for the area and as a base for Dr. Shields' medical practice.

During the winter of 1863, Shields' Station was headquarters for Federal troops. The business never recovered from the Civil War, just as the importance of Blain's Crossroads as a stage stop declined with the coming of the railroads.

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	Files of Thomas Roach, present owner.											
	Floyd, Don. "Blain's Crossroads (Blaine) Becomes Early Commercial Center," <u>Citizen Tribune</u> , Morristown, Tennessee, June 18, 1968.											
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