Form 10-300  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  

TYPE all entries complete applicable sections  

1. NAME  
COMMON:  
Kennedy Farm  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
John Brown's Headquarters; Kennedy Farm  

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Chestnut Grove Road  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Samples Manor  
STATE:  
Maryland  
COUNTY:  
Washington  

3. CLASSIFICATION  
CATEGORY (check one)  
☐ District  ☑ Building  ☐ Site  ☐ Structure  ☐ Object  
OWNERSHIP  
☐ Public  ☐ Private  ☐ Both  
STATUS  
☐ Public Acquisition:  
☐ In Process  ☐ Being Considered  
☐ Occupied  ☑ Unoccupied  ☐ Preservation work in progress  
☐ Yes: ☐ Restricted  ☐ Unrestricted  ☑ No  
PRESENT USE (Check one or more as appropriate)  
☐ Agricultural  ☐ Government  ☐ Park  ☐ Transportation  ☐ Comments  
☐ Commercial  ☐ Industrial  ☐ Private Residence  ☐ Other (Specify)  
☐ Educational  ☐ Military  ☐ Religious  
☐ Entertainment  ☐ Museum  ☐ Scientific  

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. John Phillips, et al  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
4946 Butterworth Place  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington  
STATE:  
D.C.  

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Washington County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Hagerstown  
STATE:  
Maryland  

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
DATE OF SURVEY:  
1958  
☐ Federal  ☐ State  ☐ County  ☐ Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Prints and Photographs  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Library of Congress (Annex)  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington  
STATE:  
D.C.  

American Political & Military Affairs, 1828-60. (Theme)
The Kennedy Farm- John Brown Headquarters is a simple rectangular 2-1/2 story country farmhouse—a composite of brick, log and stone construction— with a double-tired porch under an overhanging roof. It is 4-bays in length with a 2-bay depth, although the stuccoed sides have only a one bay-center alignment of windows. Window trim is plain. Windows are of double-hung sash 6 over 6 lights. The gabled roof, through which there is an interior chimney, is covered with sheet metal. An outside stairway, runs flush against the southeast side from the lower to the upper tier of the porch.

The building appears substantially as it did at the time of Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry.
The Kennedy Farmhouse was the headquarters of John Brown and his band in which he planned and from which he executed his daring and inflammatory raid on Harpers Ferry in October 1859. Other than the enginehouse at Harpers Ferry where Brown staged his final defense and which has been moved, the Kennedy Farmhouse is the structure most closely associated with the raid. Called by Samuel Eliot Morison one of the two "startling portents of the 'irrepressible conflict,'" the raid intensified southern fears of slave rebellion and southern suspicion of northern intentions. The effect was a major polarization of the sections intensifying the inevitability of conflict.
8. Significance: (1) John Brown's Headquarters; Kennedy Farm

History

John Brown was a fanatic but not an insane abolitionist. As early as 1847 he nurtured a plan for the forcible liberation of the slaves. With his family's assistance he organized resistance to the Fugitive Slave Act and gave open encouragement and comfort to slave escapes. In 1855 he moved his militant operations to Kansas which had become the conspicuous form in which free-soil and slave adherents would do bloody combat in the name of "popular sovereignty." He rose to prominence at Pottawatomie in 1856 for the revenge slaying of 5 pro-slavery men and his defense at Ossawatomie against a band of pro-slavery Missouri raiders.

Brown's ultimate plan was to establish a sort of fugitive slave republic in the mountains of Virginia or Maryland. By force of arms, he hoped, this slave refuge might maintain itself against attack. He appears to have believed that what he needed was a bold stroke that would startle the nation to action, draw adherents to his cause, and leave no room for compromise. As it was to turn out, it gained him no recruits but it did further deflate the possibility of peaceful settlement. That bold stroke was to be a strike against the Federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and the capture of the town.

In the summer of 1858, Brown planted his confederate, John E. Cook, in town to familiarize himself with the city and the layout of the armory. A year later, Brown arrived from Kansas with his small band set out on Independence Day to locate a headquarters for his campaign. He rented the two-story farmhouse 7 miles away in Maryland from the heirs of Dr. Booth Kennedy. Giving his name as "Isaac Smith," he posed as a cattle buyer from New York while he spent the next 3 months pondering battle maps and vital statistics.

His ranks swelled a bit with the arrival of family and a handful of eccentric idealists. He began to store military hardware at the farm—15 boxes of Sharps rifles and Maynard revolvers and hundreds of pikes to arm liberated slaves. Brown gathered his handful of recruits upstairs and revealed his plan to them.

On October 16, his small band seized the armory and took several hostages. The following day Colonel Robert E. Lee arrived with a company of U.S. Marines and cornered Brown and his men in a fire-engine house. Surrendering, he was brought to trial at Charles Town for insurrection against the State of Virginia, found guilty and hanged on December 2, 1859.
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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LA TITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACERAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.77 acres

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

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NAME AND TITLE:
Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION:
Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: 6/16/73

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National □ State □ Local □

Name ____________________________

Title ____________________________

Da. of ____________________________

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

______________________________
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date ____________________________

ATTEST:

______________________________
Keeper of The National Register

Date ____________________________
John Brown's Headquarters; Kenneth Farm
Samples Manor, Md., Chestnut Grove Road
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series
Md.-W. Va., Keedysville Quadrangle

Long. 77° 42' 56"
Lat. 39° 22' 47"
The Kennedy Farm—"The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

View from SSE

HABS No. MD-
Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

View from east of northeast elevation

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date: Dec. 1958
Samples Manor Vic., Washington County
The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Northeast end of attic

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)
Jack E. Boucher, Photographer
Date Dec. , 1958
The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., Md.

Southwest end of attic
Kennedy Farmhouse from Mrs. Annie Brown Adams with love June 2, 1896. This is the original history of the Rouge Valley.
Photocopy of original photo in Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass.

Kennedy Farm- "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor, Washington Co., MD

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

____________________________________, Photographer

Date _________________________________, 19___
Kennedy Farmhouse, about 5 miles from Harpers Ferry, where John Brown and his party landed from the bargain of 1859 till Oct. 17, 1859. (Front view)
Photocopy of original photo in Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass.

Kennedy Farm-"The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD-
The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

Second Floor room--view of stairs to attic

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer
Date Dec.__________, 1958
Kennedy Farm

(John Brown Farm)

Washington Co.
VIEW FROM NE

John Brown's Farm

Washington Co., Md.

Anthony O. James

7/73