The Kennedy Farm, or John Brown's Headquarters, is a simple rectangular 2 1/2 story country farmhouse—a composite of brick, log, and stone construction—with a double-tiered porch under an overhanging roof. On the principal facade, the first story is of uncoursed rubble stone and the second of common bond brick. Most windows are 6/6 sash with plain trim. The house is 4 bays wide on the southeast facade and 2 bays deep, although the gable ends have only a single window on each floor including the attic. The northeast gable end has no second-floor window, and that on the third floor holds only four lights in the lower sash, and the top three lights of the upper sash are covered over.

The principal entrance is in the second bay from the southwest end of the southeast facade. The gable roof, through which there is a small interior chimney about 1/3 the way from the southwest gable end, is covered with sheet metal. An outside stairway runs flush against the southeast side from the lower to the upper tier of the porch. This porch now has square columns and straight rails, although a 19th century photograph shows a balustrade. A former rear porch appears to have been removed. A 19th century photograph shows the rear facade of the building in a combination of construction materials, with 2/3 of this facade being constructed of logs. The building appears substantially as it did at the time of Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry.
The Kennedy Farmhouse was the headquarters where John Brown and his band planned and began their daring and inflammatory raid on Harpers Ferry in October 1859. The Kennedy Farmhouse is the structure most closely associated with the raid, beside the enginehouse at Harpers Ferry where Brown staged his final defense. The raid, called by Samuel Eliot Morrison one of the two "startling portents of the 'irrepressible conflict,'" 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.
# National Register of Historic Places

**Inventory - Nomination Form**

## 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category (Check One)</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Religious
- Park
- Private Residence
- Scientific
- Transportation

## 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

**Depositary for Survey Records:** Division of Prints and Photgraphs

**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-tiered 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 south-east 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:**

1.77 acres

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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 [ ]

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

**ATTEST:**

Keeper of the National Register
John Brown's Headquarters; Kennedy 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-
John Brown Farm
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
The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer
Date Dec. 1958
Kennedy Farmhouse from Mrs. Annie Brown Adams with date June 3, 1896 that the left end of rear view picture of the house looks good.
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 Kanawha on 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-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

______________________________, Photographer
Date ______________________, 19____
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.
John Brown Jones

3 tall x M'1/2''

100 cm

Page

C 1241

John Bro