

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 12 1975
DATE ENTERED AUG 15 1975

**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 Todd House

AND/OR COMMON

Todd, John, House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Park Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tabor

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Iowa

__ VICINITY OF

CODE
14

COUNTY

Fremont

CODE
071

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Tabor Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tabor

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fremont County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sidney

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Todd House is a two story frame clapboard building with a low pitched gable roof whose ridge is parallel to the street. Its profile is nearly that of a saltbox although this appearance was achieved much later than the original construction by the enlargement of an L in 1900. Other additions made at this time include a bay window on the south and a porch with geometric openwork at the front. Probably around this time as well, the original roofing material was covered or replaced by asphalt shingling. All openings are symmetrically arranged with the doorway at the center, two sash windows at the front and four on each side. The chimney, small and brick, is nearly at the center of the roofline. It is doubtful that the clapboard is original as it is in fairly good condition.

Built in 1853 by Reverend John Todd, the house shows native oak and cottonwood throughout the interior. The L which was elongated in 1900 was added in 1868. A portion of the previous clay and straw wall, of which several of the area early houses were built, can still be seen in the cellar. The first furniture of the house was made of native black walnut as were the window sashes, door and several bureaus. Constructed by men who were not professional builders, the house still shows evidence of methods employed by such craftsmen--huge hand-hewn oak beams, joists with unshaved bark, the clay and straw wall (almost as firm now as stone) in the basement, hand-hewn lath and the small circular windows at the front just under the eaves.

The Todd House rests on a flat area of green space in a residential area just across from what used to be an active park-like square in the center of Tabor. It is a museum house undergoing some stabilization and restoration. Changes and additions on the interior are being researched.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Rev. John Todd

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant as the principal building directly associated with ante-bellum anti-slavery activities in Tabor, Iowa. Perhaps no other town outside of Kansas had more to do with the "Free-state struggle" than did Tabor. Its location also made it a prominent station on the "Underground Railroad." The Todd House remains the most visible reminder of these involvements.

According to Morton Rosenber, in Iowa on the Eve of the Civil War (1972), page 139, "The little town of Tabor became the headquarters of the northern Kansas forces" during the time or the Kansas troubles. Leland L. Sage, A History of Iowa (1974), page 138, echoes this view:

Under the leadership of the Congregational minister, John Todd, the little Fremont County town, a little bit of Ohio transplanted to frontier Iowa, served as an arms depot for men going to the battles in Kansas, and a hideout and medical aid station for those coming back from the wars.

Being the nearest point to Kansas where all the people were in sympathy with the free state movement, Tabor became John Brown's secret headquarters. Captain Brown was at the Todd House repeatedly during this time, but was generally entertained at the larger homes in town. After defending Lawrence against the Missourians in mid-September, 1856, Brown went east by way of Tabor. Returning with arms and ammunition from Massachusetts, John Brown concealed in the cellar of the Todd House 200 Sharps rifles along with considerable ammunition, clothing and sabres. The parson also sheltered a brass cannon in his hay mow, and another on wheels in his wagon shed. With the peaceful passing of the 1857 fall elections in Kansas, John Brown then transported these arms eastward where they were used in the Harpers Ferry insurrection of 1859.

The Todd House also stands as a reminder of Tabor's prominent role as a way station on the Underground Railroad. With the abolitionists being distinctly in the minority in those years before the Civil War, Iowa's underground railway operations

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John Todd, Early Settlement and Growth of Western Iowa, (Des Moines: Historical Department of Iowa, 1906) pages 11-12, 48-71.
 Curtis Harnack, "The Iowa Underground Railroad," The Iowan 4 (June-July, 1956): 29-23, 44, 47.
 Stephen B. Oates, To Purge This Land With Blood: A Biography of John Brown (New York: Harper & Row, 1970), pages 177, 189, 207, 210-218.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 & 1/2
 UTM REFERENCES

UTM REFERENCE: 10W 30 20

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>45</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>45</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				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 Wanda Ewalt
 ORGANIZATION Tabor Historical Society DATE _____
 STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____
 CITY OR TOWN Tabor STATE Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Adrian D. Anderson
 TITLE Director DATE 6/5/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 8/15/75
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER [Signature] DATE 8.15.75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 12 1975
DATE ENTERED	AUG 15 1975

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

centered in a few towns such as Tabor, Salem, Denmark and Springdale where abolitionists were in a clear majority. From this particular Congregationalist stronghold in Fremont County Reverend John Todd led the effort to establish local committees and a county anti-slavery society to give assistance to escaping slaves. Moving north and east across Iowa from Missouri, fugitive slaves entering western Iowa were transported out of Tabor toward the Mississippi River towns on their way to final safety in Canada.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 12 1975
DATE ENTERED AUG 15 1975

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

Major Bibliographical References

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

Benjamin F. Gue, "John Brown and His Iowa Friends," Midland Monthly 7
(February, March 1897): 103-13, 267-77

Leland L. Sage, A History of Iowa (Ames: The Iowa State University
Press, 1974, pages 138-140

Morton M. Rosenber, Iowa on the Eve of the Civil War: A Decade of
Frontier Politics (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972),
page 139.

Catharine G.B. Farquhar, "Tabor and Tabor College," Iowa Journal
of History and Politics, 41:4 (October, 1943), 351-62.

Benjamin F. Gue, History of Iowa (1903), I, pages 373, 376.