UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

S		HOW TO COMPLETE NATION IES COMPLETE APPLICAT		
NAME				
HISTORIC	Carry A. Nation	House		
AND/OR COMMO	Carry A. Nation	Home and Museum		
LOCATI	ON			
STREET & NUMB	^{FR} 211 West Fowler	Avenue (U.S. 160)		
CITY, TOWN	Medicine Lodge		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI 1	
STATE	Kansas	CODE 20	COUNTY Barber	CODE 007
CLASSIF	ICATION			
CATEGOR	Y OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	NT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	XMUSEUM
BUILDING(S)			COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUIS		ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES. UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER.
NAME W STREET & NUMB		n Temperance Union	· · · · ·	· ·
	ll West Fowler .	Avenue		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Μ	edicine Lodge	VICINITY OF	Kansas	
COURTHOUSE,	ON OF LEGAL DI			
		f Deeds, Barber Cou	unty Courthouse	
STREET & NUMB		ngton Avenue		
CITY. TOWN	an a		STATE	
	Medicine L		Kansas	
REPRES				
	ENTATION IN E	XISTING SURVEYS		
TITLE	ENTATION IN E	XISTING SURVEYS		
Survey o		xISTING SURVEYS	n Kansas; Nation	al Registe
Survey of DATE 1957;	f Historic Site	s and Structures in	n Kansas; Nation	al Registe
Survey of DATE 1957;	f Historic Site	s and Structures in	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DATE 1957;	f Historic Site	s and Structures ir XFEDERAL 2 Historical Society;	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	ter

7 DESCRIPTION

со	NDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
EXCELLENT GOOD	DETERIORATED RUINS	UNALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE	
_X FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

About 1882 Thomas A. and Rebecca McClearey built the simple, onestory, L-shaped dwelling that David and Carry Nation purchased from them in December 1889. Carry sold the house in September 1902 and used the proceeds to open a home in Kansas City, Kans., for drunkards' wives. This refuge, along with all Nation's known former residences, except a little-used house--now a small art museum--in Eureka Springs, Ark., is reportedly demolished. After Carry sold the Medicine Lodge house, various individuals owned it, and apparently they added the small wings at the rear. In the 1950's the Women's Christian Temperance Union bought the dwelling.

The red brick structure, which is now painted yellow, consisted originally of a main block and ell. The main (east) section measures three bays wide and one bay deep. The west ell is one bay wide and two bays deep. A porch crosses the front from the middle bay of the main block to the ell. Four white-painted wooden turned posts support its single-pitch roof, and turned-post balusters support the railing. The porch stands three steps above ground and has a gray-painted wood floor. The house's front doors and windows have white-painted wood frames. Each window or door is set in a low arched opening and topped by slightly radiating brick voussoirs. Windows are one-over-one sash and have stone sills.

Two white-painted wooden front doors serve the dwelling: one opens into the parlor, the other into the central hall. A transom tops each, and exterior trim, including a garland and decorated panels, ornaments the hall door. A gable roof with an east-west ridge tops the main block of the house, and one with a north-south ridge surmounts the ell. Cornices and gable overhangs are plain, white-painted wood, and the roof has been reshingled with a material similar to the original. Atop the main section stands one central red brick chimney. Apparently a reconstruction, it lacks the original's corbeled cap. A metal flue replaces the former red brick, corbeled-capped ell chimney, and a chimney tops the rear additions. The house has a brick foundation and a full basement. The basement housed Nation's kitchen and dining room, a plan typical of frontier Kansas.

Initially the house had four or five rooms: the two in the basement, a parlor, and one or two bedrooms in the ell. Today the central hall, parlor, and front bedroom serve as museum rooms. Nation's organ, cupboard, and desk are displayed, and period pieces complete the furnishings. Unfortunately, neither the rooms' carpets nor their wallpapers seem authentic, and the original fireplaces and mantels, as well as the basement stairs in the southeast corner of the front hall, have been removed. Personal items, including

(continued)





PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	_XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889-1902 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas A. McClearey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Biographer Robert Lewis Taylor has described Carry A. Nation as "the most hypnotically compelling woman of her time."¹ At the turn of the 20th century, she and her saloon-destroying hatchet captured the national press, resuscitated public and political interest in prohibition, and became the foremost symbols of the reinvigorated movement. As biographer Dorothy J. Caldwell has noted, Nation "became the spearhead of an aroused public opinion which resulted in the passage of the National Prohibition Act of 1920."²

This simple, one-story, gable-roofed brick house, where Nation resided from 1889 until 1902, witnessed the launching of her public career. In it she received the "divine call" to battle liquor. Afterwards she was nearly constantly moving, touring, lecturing, and smashing. Although a house that she owned in 1909-11 stands in Eureka Springs, Ark., the Medicine Lodge residence was home for both the longest and the most important part of her life. Even though it is only in fair condition and has undergone alteration and the addition of small rear wings, it contains a large number of items associated with Nation's career.

Biography

Born in Garrard County, Ky., on November 25, 1846, Carry Amelia Nation was the daughter of George and Mary Campbell Moore. An easygoing planter of Irish background, Moore accepted, even catered to, his wife's delusion that she was Queen Victoria. The family moved several times in Kentucky and then about 1856 settled in Cass County,

(continued)

1 Robert Lewis Taylor, Vessel of Wrath: The Life and Times of Carry Nation (New York, 1966), 308.

2 Dorothy J. Caldwell, "Carry Nation, A Missouri Woman, Won Fame in Kansas," <u>Missouri Historical Review LXIII</u> (July 1969), 487.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beals, Carleton, Cyclone Carry; The Story of Carry Nation (Philadelphia: Chilton Company, 1962).

Caldwell, Dorothy J., "Carry Nation, A Missouri Woman, Won Fame in Kansas," <u>Missouri Historical Review</u> LXIII (July 1969), 461-488.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY **less than l acre**

ZONE EASTING	5 411253350 NORTHING	B ZONE EASTING	NORTHING
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESC	CRIPTION		
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LIST ALL STATES AN	D COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIE	S OVERLAPPING STATE OR CO	UNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
FORM PREPARE	DBY	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
NAME / TITLE			
Cathy A.	Alexander, Assis	tant Editor	
OBCANIZATION			C

ORGANIZATION	DATE
American Association for Stat	e and Local History October 1975
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
1400 Eighth Avenue South	(615) 242-5583
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Nashville	Tennessee 37203

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

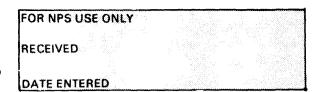
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL	
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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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS	INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND H ATTEST	ISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	(288)



CONTINUATION SHEET Carry Nation ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE One

Nation's bonnet, the valise that she took to Wichita in 1900, and a copy of The Smasher's Mail are exhibited.

Today the back part of the ell and the rear additions serve as a four-room curator's residence. The back part of the ell, possibly originally a second bedroom, is now a bath and laundry. Rear of the original parlor stands a one-room addition with a large wooden bay window and a brick foundation. To its rear and west are one-room wings on concrete bases. The additions are flat roofed. In recent years, the Women's Christian Temperance Union has converted and enlarged the basement to accomodate two modern meeting and party rooms. An east side entrance serves the basement, and the curator uses a door in the rearmost wing. Air conditioning constitutes another alteration.

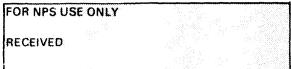
A horizontal board fence, similar to the original, encloses the Carry Nation Home on the north and west. The house suffers, though, from proximity to the Medicine Lodge Stockade Museum, a touristy replica of a fort. Residential and commercial buildings line Fowler Avenue (U.S. 160), but Oak Street on the west remains entirely residential. Open to the public, the Carry Nation Home and Museum does not charge an admission, but one may make a donation if he wishes. The Women's Christian Temperance Union operates the museum, and the city of Medicine Lodge provides exterior maintenance. At present, the house requires both paint and repairs.

Continuation Sheet Carry Nation Number 9 Page one

Nation, Carry A., The Use and the Need of the Life of Carry A. Nation (Topeka: F. M. Steves and Sons, 1909).

Sinclair, Andrew, Prohibition: The Era of Excess (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1962).

Taylor, Robert Lewis, <u>Vessel of Wrath:</u> The Life and Times of Carry Nation (New York: The New American Library, Inc., 1966).



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CONTINUATION SHEET Carry Nation ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

Mo. On the journey to Missouri, Carry became seriously ill, whereupon her father took her to a revival meeting, and she underwent a religious experience. Her illness lingered, however, and Carry remained a semi-invalid until the Moores moved to Grayson County, Tex., at the start of the Civil War.

After about a year, the Moores returned to Missouri, where Carry, whose health had interrupted her prior education, attended boarding school in Liberty. After returning to Cass County, she met Dr. Charles Gloyd, who boarded in the Moore household about 1865 while teaching school in the area. Moore warned his daughter that Gloyd drank excessively, and Mrs. Moore declared him an unsuitable match for Victoria's daughter, but Gloyd and Carry were married on November 21, 1867. Gloyd was an alcoholic. Before long, Carry's father took her home; in 1870 Gloyd died. Inevitably this tragic death created in Carry a "smoldering hatred of drink, which she considered had ruined her life."³

For the next two decades, though, Carry's life was hard but ordinary. After obtaining a teaching certificate, she supported her and Gloyd's daughter and her monther-in-law in Holden, Mo. Then, after about 4 years, the school board dismissed her and replaced her with a member's niece. Fearing for her daughter and mother-in-law's well-being, Carry asked God to send her a husband. Coincidentally, 10 days later she met David Nation, a widower nearly 20 years older than herself, and late in 1874 they were married. Α sometime lawyer and minister, Nation was then editor of the Warrensburg Journal, and so the family settled in that Missouri town. Two years later they went to Texas, where they failed at farming. Subsequently Carry managed some smalltown hotels, and at last in 1889 David accepted a pastorate in Medicine Lodge, Kans. After a few months, he took a similar position in Holton, Kans., but before the year's end, the Nations returned to Medicine Lodge, bought a house, and settled down.

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3 Caldwell, "Carry Nation," 474.



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CONTINUATION SHEET Carry Nation ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

Since 1881 in Kansas, a constitutional amendment had provided for statewide prohibition. The law was poorly enforced, however, and so in the nineties Carry and Mrs. Wesley Cain, wife of the Baptist minister, formed a local Women's Christian Temperance Union. The city authorities ignored their appeals to close the illegally operating saloons, however, until 1899, when the pair adopted dramatic tactics. They stood in front of a local "joint," singing hymns, and then, swinging an umbrella, Carry led a rush on the place. After the marshal restored order, the city officials closed the establishment and others like it.

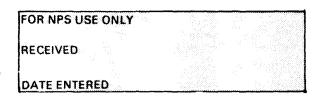
In her autobiography, Nation relates that one morning about this same time a divine voice awoke her and ordered her to "Go to Kiowa," a town near the Oklahoma border. Consequently in 1900 she embarked on her first expedition. Hurling bricks wrapped in newspapers, she wrecked three saloons, which the local authorities then shut. In December 1900 she made Wichita her target. After a night of prayer, she armed herself with rocks, a cane, and an iron rod, and assualted the city's elegant Hotel Carey bar. Before she was arrested, Nation inflicted damage estimated at \$2,000. While she was held in jail for more than 2 weeks, these events received nationwide press coverage and made her a well-known national figure.

On January 21 Nation returned to Wichita, raised recruits, and, armed for the first time with a hatchet, carried out a second raid. Later, in Topeka, she dominated the State Temperance Union Convention, organized the Home Defenders and the Hatchet Brigade, and initiated a short-lived newspaper, <u>The Smasher's Mail</u>, from jail. About this time, she began selling miniature hatchets, and because of her fame and influence, these toys both provided funds for her campaign and became the symbol of the prohibition cause.

Nation's activities inspired antisaloon violence from New York to North Carolina, and eventually she personally visited Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, San Francisco, New York City, and Coney Island, and several universities, including Harvard and Yale. Because she held the National Government ultimately responsible for the liquor trade, in December 1903 Nation went to Washington. She tried to call on President Theodore Roosevelt but was denied White House entry. Subsequently she attended a Senate session, sold miniature hatchets in the gallery, and before the guards removed her, shouted disruptively.

(continued)





CONTINUATION SHEET Carry Nation ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

Meanwhile in Kansas, David Nation had obtained a divorce on grounds of desertion. In 1902 Carry sold their Medicine Lodge house and used the proceeds to establish a refuge for drunkards' wives at Kansas City, Kans. Soon thereafter she had her name, which she interpreted as "Carry A. Nation for Prohibition," legally confirmed, and in 1904 she published her autobiography. The following year, to fight for constitutional prohibition in Oklahoma, she moved to that soon-to-be-State. There she started a new magazine, <u>The Hatchet</u>. Not long thereafter, she "felt the call" to return to Washington.

In the year or two that Nation stayed in Washington, she was arrested at least three times and jailed once. Again the President refused to see her. She continued to edit <u>The Hatchet</u> and tour the country, and in 1908, under the auspices of Scottish temperance societies, she lectured in Scotland, Ireland, and England. When Nation returned to the United States, she purchased a farm at Eureka Springs, Ark., but though over 60 years old, she did not retire. She lectured on the Chautauqua circuit, revisited New York City, and smashed Washington's Union Station barroom. When she appeared in the gallery of the House of Representatives, though, alert guards recognized Nation--the best known agitator of the increasingly militant and influential prohibition cause--and removed her before she could create a disturbance.

In January 1911, while fulfilling a speaking engagement near home, Nation suffered an apparent stroke. She did not recover, and about 5 months later she died in a Leavenworth, Kans., hospital. Thus, like many important reformers, Nation did not live to witness achievement of the goal for which she had gained widespread publicity, popular support, and momentum.