

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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**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 Carry A. Nation House

AND/OR COMMON Carry A. Nation Home and Museum

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 211 West Fowler Avenue (U.S. 160)

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Medicine Lodge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE Kansas

CODE 20

COUNTY Barber

CODE 007

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Women's Christian Temperance Union

STREET & NUMBER 211 West Fowler Avenue

CITY, TOWN Medicine Lodge

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Register of Deeds, Barber County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER East Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN Medicine Lodge

STATE

Kansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas; National Register

DATE

1957; 1970

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kansas State Historical Society; National Register

CITY, TOWN Topeka; Washington

STATE

Kansas; D.C.

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## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

About 1882 Thomas A. and Rebecca McClearey built the simple, one-story, 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 resingled 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

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# 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 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 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 checked="" 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 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."<sup>1</sup> 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."<sup>2</sup>

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 easy-going 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)

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

<sup>2</sup> Dorothy J. Caldwell, "Carry Nation, A Missouri Woman, Won Fame in Kansas," Missouri Historical Review LXIII (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," Missouri Historical Review LXIII (July 1969), 461-488.  
(continued)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 4	5 3 7 1 7 5	4 1 2 5 3 5 0	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

Cathy A. Alexander, Assistant Editor

ORGANIZATION

American Association for State and Local History

DATE

October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1400 Eighth Avenue South

TELEPHONE

(615) 242-5583

CITY OR TOWN

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee 37203

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

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.

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 HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET Carry Nation ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

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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.

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Continuation Sheet Carry Nation Number 9 Page one

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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, Vessel of Wrath: 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."<sup>3</sup>

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 mother-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. A 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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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 assaulted 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, The Smasher's Mail, 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.

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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, The Hatchet. 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 The Hatchet 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.