American Political & Military Affairs, 1828-60.

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		Check One) Deteriorated 🗌 Ruins 🗌 Unexposed
CONDITION	(Check One)	(Check One)
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SCRIBE THE PR	RESENT AND ORIGINAL (<i>if known</i>) PHYSICAL APP	
The Ken	nedy Farm-John Brown Headquarte	rs is a simple rectangular
2-1/2 s	tory country farmhousea compo	site of brick, log and stone
constru	ctionwith a double-tiered por	ch under an overhanging roof.
It is 4	-bays in length with a 2-bay de	pth, although the stucoed
sides n	ave only a one bay-center align	ment of windows. Window trim
is plai	8	sash 6 over 6 lights. The
with sh	roof , through which there is a eet metal. An outside stairway	m interior chimney, is covered
east ci	de from the lower to the upper	, runs much against the south-
	as from the rower to the upper	erer or the porten.
The bui	lding appears substantially as :	it did at the time of Brown's
raid on	Harper's Ferry.	To dra de che crine or brown's

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	📄 16th Century	📄 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	📋 17th Century	XX 19th Century	
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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.

(continued)

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES											
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	tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion						Register	-	•		
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evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended											
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	STATE	Maryland
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY	Washing
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Significance: (1)John Brown's Headquarters; Kennedy Farm 8.

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.

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