

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

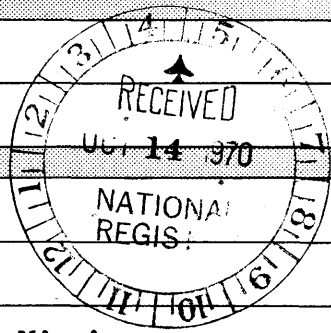
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: **Kansas**

COUNTY: **Miami**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **713.20.0020** DATE: **3/24/71**



1. NAME

COMMON: **(John) Brown Cabin**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **Samuel Adair Cabin**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **John Brown Memorial Park**

CITY OR TOWN: **Osawatomie**

STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66064** COUNTY: **Miami** CODE: **121**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<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 (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **State of Kansas**

STREET AND NUMBER: **State Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66612** **20**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Register of Deeds**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Miami County Courthouse**

CITY OR TOWN: **Paola** STATE: **Kansas** CODE: **66071** **20**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER: **10 First St., S. E.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **00**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Kansas**
COUNTY: **Miami**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **713.20.0020** DATE: **3/24/71**

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

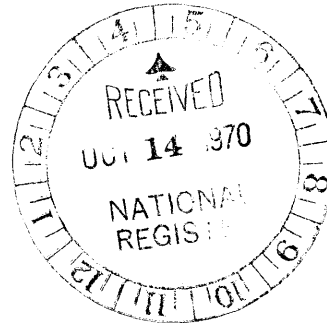
Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "John Brown Cabin" was built in 1854 by Samuel Glenn, who sold it for \$200 to Rev. Samuel Adair, the brother-in-law of John Brown.

The log cabin originally stood about a mile west of Osawatomie. In 1912 it was dismantled, moved to the park location, and reassembled. In 1928 the state legislature appropriated funds to construct a pergola to shelter the cabin.

The cabin consists of a large living room, a kitchen, and a loft. The interior of the cabin remains today much as it was when John Brown was a frequent visitor. Many pieces of original furniture are in the living room.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

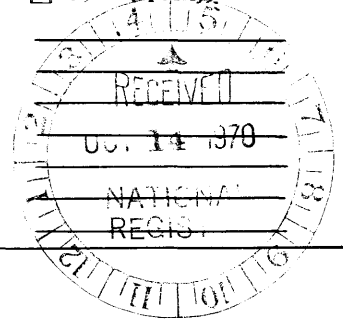
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1854-1858

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John [✓]Brown came to Osawatomie in October, 1855, after five of his sons, who had come in the spring, had appealed to him for help against harassment by Proslavery elements. While in Kansas, he was involved in a number of incidents that kept feelings stirred up in the eastern Kansas counties in the so-called "Bleeding Kansas" era. The "battle" of Osawatomie on August 30, 1856, was one such skirmish.

Although he lived in Kansas for only about 20 months during his entire life, John Brown's activities have been closely associated with the state.

The Samuel Adair Cabin, usually called the "John Brown Cabin," was frequently visited by Brown and occasionally served as his headquarters.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blackmar, Frank W., Kansas, A Cyclopedia of State History (Chicago, Standard Publishing Co., 1912).

Johnson, Allen, editor, Dictionary of American Biography, v. 3 (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929), pp. 131-134.

Kansas State Historical Society, "John Brown Museum" (Topeka, State Printer, n. d.).

Wilson, Hill P., A Biographical History of Eminent Men of the State of Kansas (Topeka, The Hall Lithographing Co., 1901), pp. 545-547.

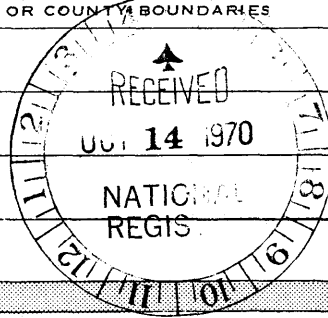
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
							38	29	56	94	57	34

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Richard D. Pankratz, Planner**

ORGANIZATION: **Kansas State Historical Society** DATE: **Aug. 21, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West 10th St.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka** STATE: **Kansas 66612** CODE: **20**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Name Nyle H. Miller
Nyle H. Miller

Title **Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society**

Date **October 12, 1970**

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

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAR 24 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William G. Smutz
Keeper of The National Register

Date **FEB 22 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kansas	
COUNTY Miami	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
913.20.0020	3/24/71

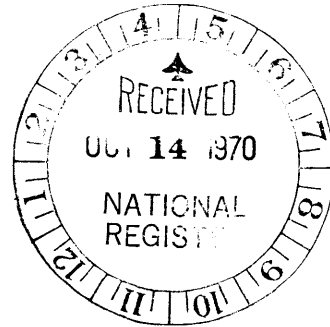
(Number all entries)

6. Survey of Historic Sites and Structures in Kansas (state)
 1957
 Kansas State Historical Society
 120 West 10th St.
 Topeka, Kansas 66612

Code: **20**

Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (federal)
1939

Records destroyed. A guidebook, Kansas, was published in 1939.



128

129

57°30"

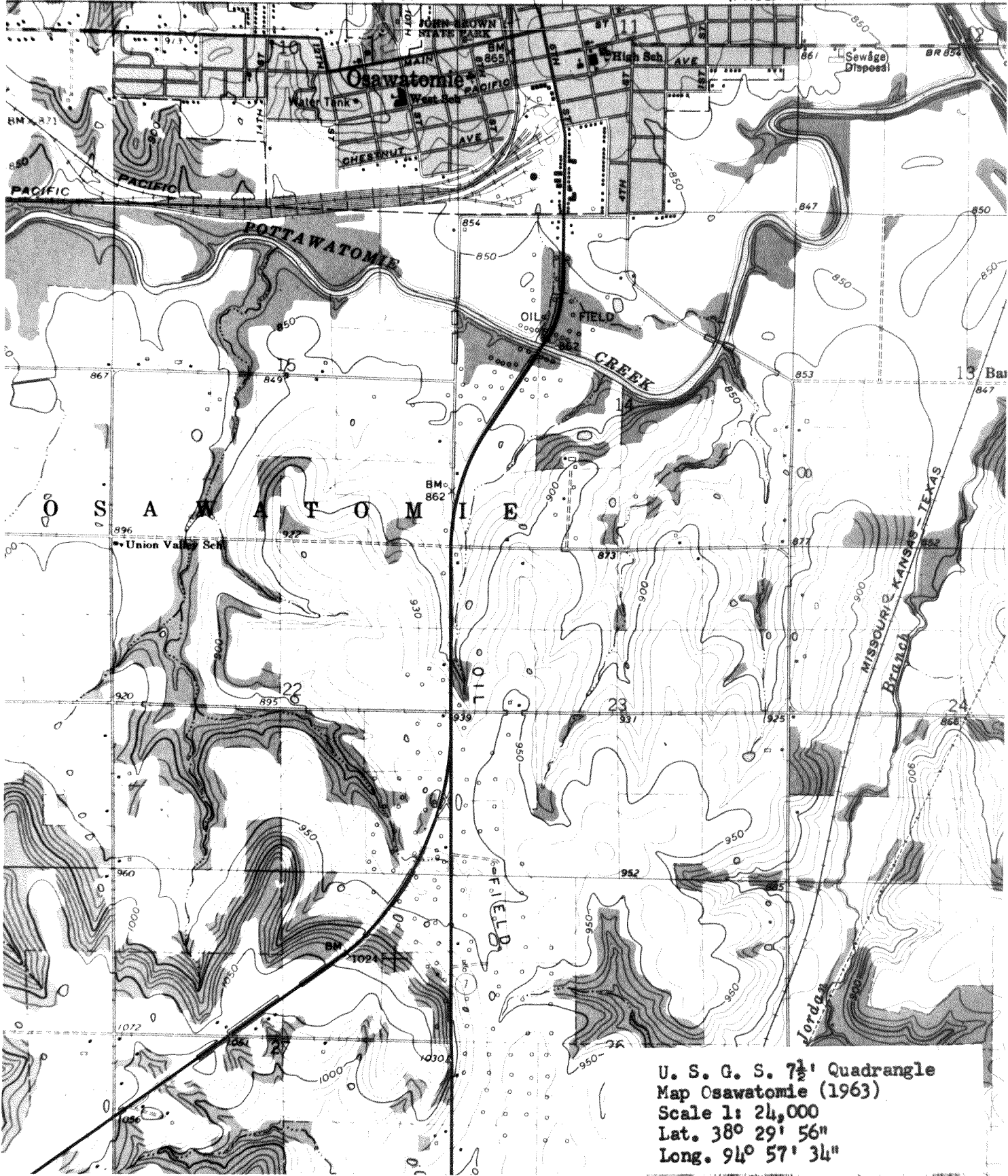
169

7

KANSAS CITY 51 MI.
PAOLA 8 MI.

7081 III SW
(PAOLA WEST)

132



U. S. G. S. 7½' Quadrangle
 Map Osawatimie (1963)
 Scale 1: 24,000
 Lat. 38° 29' 56"
 Long. 94° 57' 34"

71000319

NPS Form 10-900-a
OMB Approval 1024-0018
(8-86)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The National Register nomination for John Brown Cabin (c. 1854, c. 1912, c. 1928, c. 1995) in the John Brown Memorial Park in Osawatomie, Kansas is being amended to clarify the boundaries of the nominated property. Additional descriptive and contextual information is also being provided.

The cabin, the stone pavilion that houses the cabin, and a small perimeter of land around the structure are listed on the National Register. The boundaries encompass one acre and stand on the SE ¼ SW ¼ SE ¼ NE ¼ S. 10- T. 18S- R. 22E. The UTM coordinates are 15/ 329200/ 4262840.

The property stands on a rise and is part of a 22-acre parcel owned by the State of Kansas. With the exception of the cabin and the acre it stands on, the State leases the land to the City of Osawatomie under a 99-year lease that expires in 2064. The land is utilized as a public park.

Built about a mile west of Osawatomie, the log cabin was dismantled and reassembled in its present location, John Brown Memorial Park, in 1912. A stone pavilion was constructed around the cabin in 1928. The property is operated as a historic site by the State of Kansas.

In 1995 a fire damaged the cabin and the stone pavilion. Restoration work took several years. The site reopened on August 30, 1998, the anniversary date of the Battle of Osawatomie.

The rustic 18 by 20 feet log cabin was described by Samuel Adair this way:

A chimney built with sticks and mud- jambs and backwall and hearth of stone, two doors- half a floor that made of puncheons-that is, timber split and hewd. The house is chinked in the cracks, partly dabbled with mud on the outside. It has no windows, but in lieu of them the cracks between the logs in the gable end towards the east are left open for the light to shine through. (McFarland, p. 145)

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Built in 1854, the cabin contains a living room, kitchen, and loft. These rooms were whitewashed during the Samuel Adair residency, although probably not until after the Civil War. (McFarland, p. 197) A dry-laid, stone chimney rises from the cabin's eastern wall. The cabin was occupied as a private residence until 1904.

The *Historic Souvenir of Osawatomie and Environs* Souvenir Program, published in 1910, contains a picture of the cabin with a lean-to addition to the rear, covered by a raised, standing seam metal roof. A one-and-a-half story, frame house stands in front of or attached to the cabin. A limited number of double hung sash light the cabin. These windows were added after the Bleeding Kansas era.

The side-gable roofed structure is encased inside a stone pavilion. The pavilion is rectangular, surmounted by a gently sloped hipped roof. Rusticated stone blocks of various sizes are laid in a semi-random pattern to comprise the pavilion walls. Two large, tripartite, arched windows fenestrate each elevation. Multi-paned, fixed and casement windows are utilized in each opening. These windows flank larger tripartite center doors on all elevations but the rear, where a window is used instead. The fenestration treatment for the doors and larger window is also multi-paned. Double, multi-paned doors provide access into the pavilion. The arched openings are accentuated by rusticated stone voussoirs and keystones.

Both the pavilion and the cabin maintain a southern façade orientation. A walkway of approximately ten feet runs between the cabin and pavilion wall.

The present interior wall treatments reveal bare logs and chinking. The two-room log cabin is airy and well-lit due to the indirect light from the pavilion windows. A low, rustic beamed ceiling defines the main room, which contains the fireplace and hearth. The loft is very dark and cramped, perhaps providing a more authentic feel of the Bleeding Kansas era.

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The John Brown Cabin (c. 1854, c. 1912, c. 1928, c. 1995) recognizes the history of Bleeding Kansas. The cabin was the territorial home of Rev. Samuel L. Adair (1811-1898) and his wife Florella Brown Adair (1816-1865). Through its association with the Battle of Osawatomie (August 30, 1856) and abolitionist John Brown (1800- 1859), the cabin gained notoriety in the events of the Bleeding Kansas era.

The John Brown Cabin National Register nomination is being amended to clarify the boundaries of the nominated property. Additional descriptive and contextual information is also being provided.

Congregationalist minister Samuel L. Adair lived in the cabin from 1855 until his death in 1898. In 1912 the cabin was dismantled and moved to the site of the Battle of Osawatomie, about a mile east of its original location. The battle site had been acquired by the State of Kansas in 1910 and commemorated as the John Brown Memorial Park. The state maintains ownership of the cabin and park to this day, operating the cabin as a historic site and leasing the remainder of the land to the City of Osawatomie for use as a park.

With financial backing from the New York based American Missionary Association (AMA), Osawatomie was settled by a small party of free-state families in October 1854. Ohioan Adair and his family traveled with this group, founding the Osawatomie Congregational Church. Oberlin College-educated Adair was commissioned by the AMA as a Congregationalist pastor in 1851. His dream to serve as a missionary was realized when the AMA approved his application in August 1854 to settle in Kansas Territory. (McFarland, p. 140)

The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in May 1854 opened the Kansas territory for settlement. Determined to reserve the territory as a free-state, Northern abolitionists financed the emigration of anti-slavery settlers from New England and other free-states. Sponsored by the New England Emigrant Aid Company, the first such free-state settlement occurred in Lawrence in August 1854. The New England Emigrant Aid

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Company based its financial sponsorship on the investments of wealthy abolitionists who sought to earn dividends on the organized emigration of free labor into Kansas, in addition to securing free-state status for the territory. Well-heeled groups like the New England Emigrant Aid Company provided financial backing to religious groups like the AMA, whose missionary cause involved the abolition of slavery and adoption of racial justice.

In March 1855, Adair and his family moved into a crude log house about a mile west of Osawatomie. Built the year before by squatter Samuel Glenn, it had no windows and a chimney made of sticks and mud. The small cabin with two rooms and a loft, sheltered Adair, his wife Florella and their children as well as many relatives, friends, and fugitive slaves in the years before the Civil War. Its association with John Brown may not have been as distinctly recognized and later commemorated if it had not been for Brown's relationship with Florella Adair, who was Brown's half-sister.

Correspondence in 1854 and 1855 between the Adairs and their family in Ohio talks of the beautiful land and opportunity the Kansas Territory offered. (SenGupta, pp. 65- 66). Attracted by the free-state cause and very likely the opportunity to begin again, John Brown followed his sons to Kansas in October 1855. Connecticut-born Brown had worked as a farmer, wool merchant, land surveyor and tanner, living in Hudson, Ohio and Richmond, Pennsylvania before moving to a freedmen's settlement in North Elba, New York. Brown settled his family on donated land in the black community in 1849.

Raised in a deeply religious household that opposed slavery, Brown's family moved to Ohio when he was five. Brown originally intended to become a Congregationalist minister and through the years developed a strong belief in the merits of the anti-slavery cause. Following the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, Brown helped to found and actively recruited members in the League of Gileadites, an organization that worked to bring fugitive slaves to freedom.

By early 1856 Kansas had two territorial governments, the free-state faction and the proslavery faction. Each government's claim to legitimacy sparked the bitter conflict that

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is called Bleeding Kansas. The first territorial election was held in October 1855. Three thousand registered voters, mostly northern, free-state emigrants, cast their ballots in favor of a state based on abolitionist principles. However, an equal number of proslavery ballots were cast illegally by Missourians crossing the border. Subsequently, the proslavery legislature passed a series of laws designed to drive free-staters out of the territory. While Brown did not vote in the first territorial election, he did attend the April 1856 meeting in Osawatimie where free-staters condemned the actions of the proslavery faction, and is viewed as igniting the violence between the two factions that erupted in May 1856. (Etcheson, p. 108, 111)

On May 21, 1856 a band of proslavery guerillas sacked the free-state stronghold of Lawrence, killing no one but destroying much property. Brown was "incensed" by the attack on Lawrence and "furious at failure of free-state resistance." (SenGupta, 1996, p. 112; McFarland, p. 149) Leading a party of six, including three of his sons, Brown attacked a proslavery settlement along Pottawatomie Creek on May 24- 25, 1856 hacking five men to death. The free-state settlers of Osawatimie were not happy about Brown's role in the Pottawatomie Massacre. Writing to the AMA, Samuel Adair condemned the attack as a "base, barbarous, and horrible murder." (McFarland, p. 150)

In early June 1856 proslavery sympathizers burned Brownsville, where Brown and his sons lived, and looted and drove off livestock in Osawatimie. These events were followed by the Battle of Blackjack on June 2, 1856 where Brown led a company against the proslavery forces of Henry Pate, and won the engagement.

Open warfare escalated at the Battle of Osawatimie on August 30, 1856. Under the command of John W. Reid, four hundred proslavery troops engaged a small, unprepared group of free-state supporters, leaving several dead, including Brown's son Frederick. The forces burned the town of Osawatimie with its thirty some buildings. Samuel and Florella Adair's cabin was spared, although it was approached by troops looking for Brown.

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After the battle, federal troops were sent into the territory in an effort to control the explosive violence. While the conflicts gradually subsided, the tension over the slavery question intensified.

In the two-and-a-half years following the Battle of Osawatomie, Brown led numerous raids into Missouri to free slaves, leading them into Kansas for their first days of freedom. One famous account tells of Brown arriving at the Adair's cabin on Christmas night, 1858, with eleven fugitive slaves that he had rescued from Missouri. (SenGupta, 1993, p. 200; 1996, p. 66) The slaves were hidden for the night in the small cabin, and the next morning moved north towards Lawrence.

Between 1855 and 1859, over three hundred escaped slaves traveled the underground railroad route through Lawrence, into Iowa and eventually into Canada. (SenGupta, 1996, pp. 65- 66) While the AMA directed its ministers to avoid political activity, documentation suggests that Christian abolitionists like Samuel Adair sheltered and aided the safe transport of fugitive slaves. (SenGupta, 1993, p. 209)

Samuel Adair became the military chaplain at Ft. Leavenworth during the Civil War. Florella stayed at the cabin until her ill-health caused her to join Samuel in Leavenworth, where she died in 1865. Adair returned to Osawatomie and helped establish the first insane asylum in the state (later known as Osawatomie State Hospital). He died in 1898, leaving the cabin to his son Charles Adair.

John Brown worked toward the anti-slavery cause until his execution at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia on December 2, 1859. Brown traveled the country, fund-raising, recruiting, freeing slaves, and making occasional visits to his family in North Elba. Historians have written that Brown was mentally instable, and his condition contributed to his extremely strong commitment to the abolitionist cause, which he pursued with a sense of religious fervor. (SenGupta, 1996, pp. 111- 112)

On August 30, 1910, former President Theodore Roosevelt gave the keynote address at the celebration marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Osawatomie and the formal dedication of the battlefield as a permanent park. Two years later the Adair cabin

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was dismantled and removed to the John Brown Memorial Park, where it is known as the John Brown Cabin.

The *Kansas City Star* noted that each piece “is [was] numbered as it is [was] removed so that no alteration will be [was] made when the cabin is reconstructed in the park. The puncheons in the floors, the stout oaken logs and the roof are still in an excellent state of preservation.” (*Kansas City Star*, September 8, 1912). However, in 1928 the State of Kansas appropriated \$6,000 for the erection of “a stone pergola over the John Brown Cabin which was rapidly rotting away.” (January, Miami County Clippings, p. 201).

The property stands on a rise and is part of a 22-acre parcel owned by the State of Kansas. The State leases the land to the City of Osawatomie under a 99-year lease that expires in 2064. The land is utilized as a public park. In 1995 a fire damaged the cabin and the stone pavilion. Restoration work took several years, and the site reopened on August 30, 1998, the anniversary date of the Battle of Osawatomie.

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Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography:

Drury, John. Historic Midwest Houses. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1947).

Etcheson, Nicole. Bleeding Kansas: Contested Liberty in the Civil War Era. (Lawrence: University of Kansas, 2004).

Harris, Harry Jasper. "My Story." Kansas Historical Collections, 1919-1922 15 (1922): n. 557.

January, Anna Linton. *Historic Souvenir of Osawatomie and Environs*. Souvenir Program, August 30, 1910.

January, Anna L. "John Brown's Cabin." Miami County Clippings. Vol. 2. 1874- 1940. Kansas State Historical Society. (pp. 200- 202).

Kansas City Star. September 8, 1912.

McGlone, Robert. Biographical sketch of "Brown, John." In American National Biography. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

McFarland, Gerald W. A Scattered People: An American Family Moves West. (New York: Pantheon Books, 1985).

Oates, Stephen B. To Purge This Land with Blood: A biography of John Brown. (Amherst: University of Massachusetts, 1970).

SenGupta, Gunja. For God and Mammon: Evangelicals and Entrepreneurs, Masters and Slaves in Territorial Kansas, 1854- 1860. (University of Georgia Press: Athens & London, 1996).

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National Park Service

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Section number 9, 10 **Page** 2, 1

SenGupta, Gunja. "Servants for Freedom: Christian Abolitionists in Territorial Kansas, 1854- 1858." *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. Vol. 16, No. 3 Autumn 1993. (200- 213).

Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance. *John Brown & Bleeding Kansas: Prelude to the Civil War*. A Territorial Kansas Heritage Alliance Guide. 2000.

Verbal Boundary Description

The cabin, the stone pavilion that houses the cabin and a small perimeter of land around the structure are listed on the National Register. The boundaries encompass one-acre and stand on the SE ¼ WS ¼ SE ¼ NE ¼ S. 10- T. 18S- R. 22E. The property stands on a rise and is part of a 22-acre parcel owned by the State of Kansas.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property stands in a memorial park that contains many resources. The structure was moved to this location in 1912 and enclosed in a stone pavilion in 1928.

UTM Coordinates

15/ 329200/ 4262840.

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National Park Service

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Section number 10 Page 2

