

WA-III-30
Kennedy Farm (John Brown's Headquarters)
Chestnut Grove Road
Sharpsburg
Private

1859

The Kennedy Farm, or John Brown's Headquarters, is a simple rectangular 2 1/2 story country farmhouse--a composite of brick, log, and stone construction--with a double-tiered porch under an overhanging roof. On the principal facade, the first story is of uncoursed rubble stone and the second of common bond brick. Most windows are 6/6 sash with plain trim. The house is 4 bays wide on the southeast facade and 2 bays deep, although the gable ends have only a single window on each floor including the attic. The northeast gable end has no second-floor window, and that on the third floor holds only four lights in the lower sash, and the top three lights of the upper sash are covered over. The principal entrance is in the second bay from the southwest end of the southeast facade. The gable roof, through which there is a small interior chimney about 1/3 the way from the southwest gable end, is covered with sheet metal. An outside stairway runs flush against the southeast side from the lower to the upper tier of the porch. This porch now has square columns and straight rails, although a 19th century photograph shows a balustrade. A former rear porch appears to have been removed. A 19th century photograph shows the rear facade of the building in a combination of construction materials, with 2/3 of this facade being constructed of logs. The building appears substantially as it did at the time of Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry.

The Kennedy Farmhouse was the headquarters where John Brown and his band planned and began their daring and inflammatory raid on Harpers Ferry in October 1859. The Kennedy Farmhouse is the structure most closely associated with the raid, beside the enginehouse at Harpers Ferry where Brown staged his final defense. The raid, called by Samuel Eliot Morrison one of the two "startling portents of the 'irrepressible conflict,'" 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.

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WA-III-030

NHL 2205472404

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

1. NAME

COMMON: Kennedy Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC: John Brown's Headquarters; Kennedy Farm

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Chestnut Grove Road

CITY OR TOWN: Samples Manor

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Washington

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. John Phillips, et al

STREET AND NUMBER: 4946 Butterworth Place

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown

STATE: Maryland

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER: Library of Congress (Annex)

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE
COUNTY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kennedy Farm-John Brown Headquarters is a simple rectangular 2-1/2 story country farmhouse--a composite of brick, log and stone construction--with a double-tiered porch under an overhanging roof. It is 4-bays in length with a 2-bay depth, although the stuccoed sides have only a one bay-center alignment of windows. Window trim is plain. Windows are of double-hung sash 6 over 6 lights. The gabled roof, through which there is an interior chimney, is covered with sheet metal. An outside stairway, runs flush against the south-east side from the lower to the upper tier of the porch.

The building appears substantially as it did at the time of Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry.

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6. 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)

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 Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.

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INSTRUCTIONS

(continued)

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REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NOMINATION FORM

COUNTY	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE		Maryland
COUNTY		Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

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

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 Ossawatimie 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.

(87)

WA-111-30

FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Morison and Commager, The Growth of the American Republic, Oxford University Press, 2 vols., New York, 1952.

Oates, Stephen B., To Purge This Land With Blood: A Biography of John Brown, Harper and Row, New York.

Sanborn, F. B., The Life and Letters of John Brown, Negro Universities Press, New York.

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	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	39°	22'	47"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	77°	42'	56"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.77 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Benjamin Levy, Senior Historian

ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and and Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE 6/16/73

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

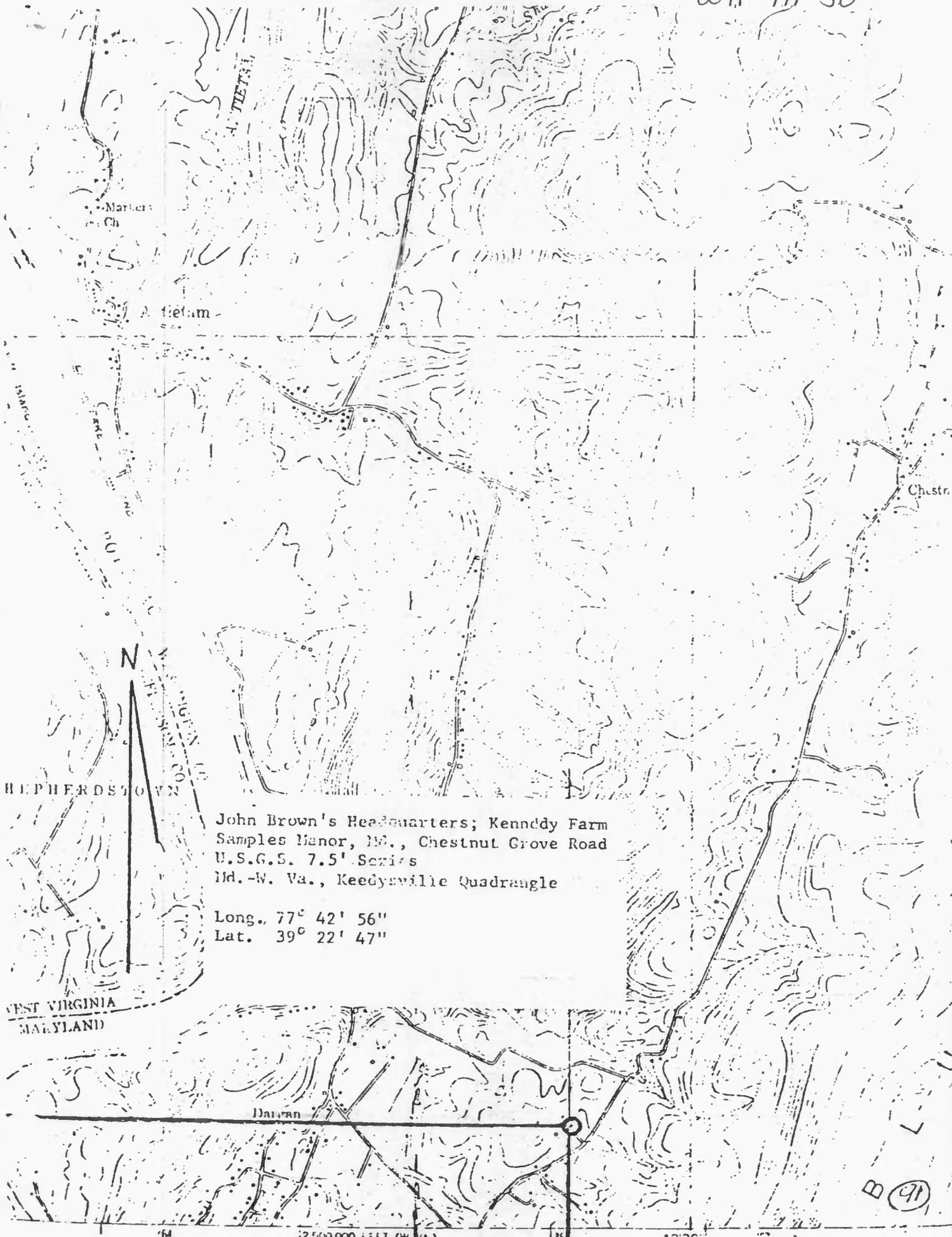
Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



N

HEPHERDSTOWN

John Brown's Headquarters; Kenneddy Farm
 Samples Manor, Md., Chestnut Grove Road
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series
 Md.-W. Va., Keedysville Quadrangle

Long. 77° 42' 56"

Lat. 39° 22' 47"

WEST VIRGINIA
MARYLAND

Dawson

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WA-III -030

The Kennedy Farm-"The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

View from SSE

HABS No. MD-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date Dec., 1958



Jan 1900 - 20

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Kennedy Farm-"The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

View from east of northeast elevation

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date Dec., 19 58



WA-III-030

The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

Northeast elevation

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date Dec., 1958



WA-III-030

Samples Manor Vic., Washington County
The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Northeast end of attic

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

Jack E. Boucher _____, Photographer

Date Dec. _____, 19 58



WA-III-030

The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., Md.

Southwest end of attic

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

~~Jack E. Boucher~~, Photographer
Date Dec., 19 58



Tennedy farm house from view
Mrs. Annie Brown Adams in her letter
of June 2, 1896, said "the left end of the
near view picture of the house looks out"

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Photocopy of original photo in
Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass.

Kennedy Farm- "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor, Washington Co., MD

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

_____, Photographer
Date _____, 19____



Kennedy farmhouse, about 5 miles from Harper's Ferry
where John Brown & his party lived from the summer of
1859 till Oct. 17, 1859. (front view)

WA-III-030

Photocopy of original photo in
Memorial Hall, Deerfield, Mass.

Kennedy Farm-"The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

_____, Photographer
Date _____, 19____



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The Kennedy Farm - "The John Brown Farm"
Samples Manor Vic., Washington Co., MD

Second Floor room--view of stairs to attic

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
(Library of Congress Negative)

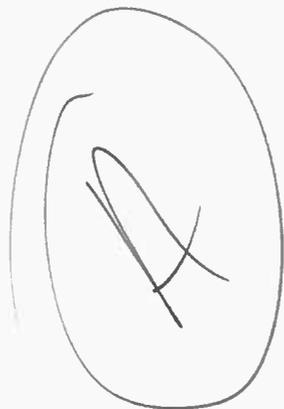
Jack E. Boucher, Photographer

Date Dec., 1958



Kennedy Farm
(John Brown Farm)
Washington Co.





39%

50/31

VIEW FROM NE
JOHN BROWN'S FARM
WASHINGTON Co, MD

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
2525 RIVA ROAD
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

ANTHONY O. JAMES
7/73



John Brown

WA-~~1888~~

III-030

3 cal + M 1/2"

100%

City Page

John Bro

C