

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
The John Brown House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
225 East King Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chambersburg

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 37 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 37

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Franklin County Redevelopment Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:
152 Lincoln Way East

CITY OR TOWN: Chambersburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register and Recorder, Courthouse of Franklin County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Chambersburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 37

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Pennsylvania Register Historic Sites
Historical Marker Survey Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
William Penn Memorial Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania, 17108 CODE: 37

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania
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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although Rebels burned the downtown section of Chambersburg on July 30, 1864, this building was just outside of the devastated area. Hewn squared logs are visible under the clapboards but the overlapping, variable width, horizontal boards, probably covered the home in 1859.

The present roof is corrugated, galvanized sheets. The ridge of the roof runs parallel to King Street on the earliest portion of the building. However a later addition resulted in the ridge extending 90 degrees to the rear to cover the new rooms. Even later a shed type addition was made further to the rear.

Only a very small excavation in the front serves as a cellar. The house has been in continuous use as a residence. The earliest section, the 2½ story part adjacent to King Street, probably dated from circa 1820-40. The clapboarding on the front wall may be the original. The foundation is stone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

COMMENTS

Located in the general boundry of the King Street Urban Renewal Project; However this is the only building facing on King Street between Second and Third Streets which is to be demolished. Razing is scheduled during the first quarter of 1970.

DATE: 11/11/69

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Franklin	
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(Number all entries)

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Four of Brown's followers, who escaped the retaliatory raid by Federal troops on the engine house, returned to 225 E. King Street and asked to be concealed. *Ritner hid Owen Brown, Barclay Coppock, Charles P. Tidd, and Osborne P. Andrews in a nearby grove and affected their successful liberation.

This site is a direct link between Brown's escapades and planning in Kansas and his defeat at Harpers Ferry. Back in 1826 he operated a tannery and was a farmer near Meadville, Pa., but this landmark has been lost, so 225 East King Street is the only Pennsylvania association with this part of our nation's history.

*ownership of 225 East King Street during this period:

- May 13, 1849 - From Jacob, Elizabeth and Catharine Schaeffer
to David Noll and George Snyder
- May 21, 1849 - From David Noll and George Snyder
to Abram Ritner
- Aug. 25, 1865 From Mary W. Ritner (widow)
to Peter Kriechbaum

Verified in Franklin County Courthouse

Continuation of #9 Major Bibliographical References

- Donehoo, Dr. George P., "A History of the Cumberland Valley"
Susquehanna History Asso., 1930, page 287-289.
- Stewart, Hattie Wylie, "History of the Cumberland Valley"
(Not stated) (Not stated, about 1920) page 105-106.
- Cooper, James M. "Recollections of Chambersburg, 1830-1850"
- A. Nevin Pomeroy, Chambersburg Printer, 1900, page 271-272.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Abolitionist John Brown occupied this house from June until mid October 1859. While here he not only formulated plans but secured weapons for his ill-fated attack on Harpers Ferry, W. Va. on October 16, 1859.

Not until after the news of the rebellion at Harpers Ferry, did local citizens realize the John Brown resided in their midst. Because of his Kansas escapades and national notriety as an abolitionist he would have been immediately recognized by Chambersburg's residents, but he assumed the name of Dr. Isaac Smith and said that he was engaged in the development of iron mines.

Dr. Smith (Brown) purchased tools from the Lemnos Edge Tool Works and other places in this area. He stored these, as well as weapons, at the Oaks & Cauffman Warehouse, North Main Street, Chambersburg. Later he moved this equipment to the rented Kennedy Farm about five miles from Harpers Ferry.

He rented an upstairs bedroom at 225 East King Street from Mr. Abram Ritner, son of ex-governor Ritner of Pennsylvania. The house was located within half a city block from the Cumberland Valley Railroad station; therefore shipments could be quickly picked up.

Known for his deep religious convictions, Brown's acceptance into the area is attested to by his becoming a Sunday School teacher at a church, which is still on the campus of Mont Alto, Pennsylvania State University. He also preached at the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church in Chambersburg.

Visiting Brown here and discussing the plans for insurrection were: Frederick Douglass (perhaps the most noted Negro in their history), Shields Green, J. Henry Kagi, and other Negro and abolitionist leaders. Francis Jackson Meriam used his proper name, but notriety had not befallen him yet. However, John Henry Kago, Secretary of War, under Brown's constitution, used the name of John Henry. While in town, Douglass was recognized because Henry Watson, a colored barber on Market Street, and others, prevailed upon him to deliver a speech which he did. The writings of Douglass reveals circumstances regarding one of his meeting with Brown here.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Matthews, James P. "John Brown- A Temporary Sojourner in Chambersburg." Kittochtinny Historical Society, Vol. IV, 11/27/1903, page 109-147.
 Cree, James W. "John Brown at Chambersburg." Kittochtinny Historical Society Col. XIV, 1906, page 59-73
 McClure, Col. A. K. "Abraham Lincoln & Men of War-Time" Times Publishing Co. Philadelphia, 1892, page 334-353.
 Bates, Samuel P., "History of Franklin County, Pennsylvania" Warner, Beers & Co., 1887, page 321-324
 McCauley, I. H., "Historical Sketch of Franklin County" John M. Pomerory, publisher, 1878, page 156-165.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39	56	20
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77	39	34
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NONE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Murray E. Kauffman, President	Reviewed by: Keeper of Pennsylvania Register 1/13/70
ORGANIZATION Franklin County Heritage, Inc.	DATE 1/6/70
STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 78	
CITY OR TOWN: Chambersburg	STATE Pennsylvania 17201
	CODE 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

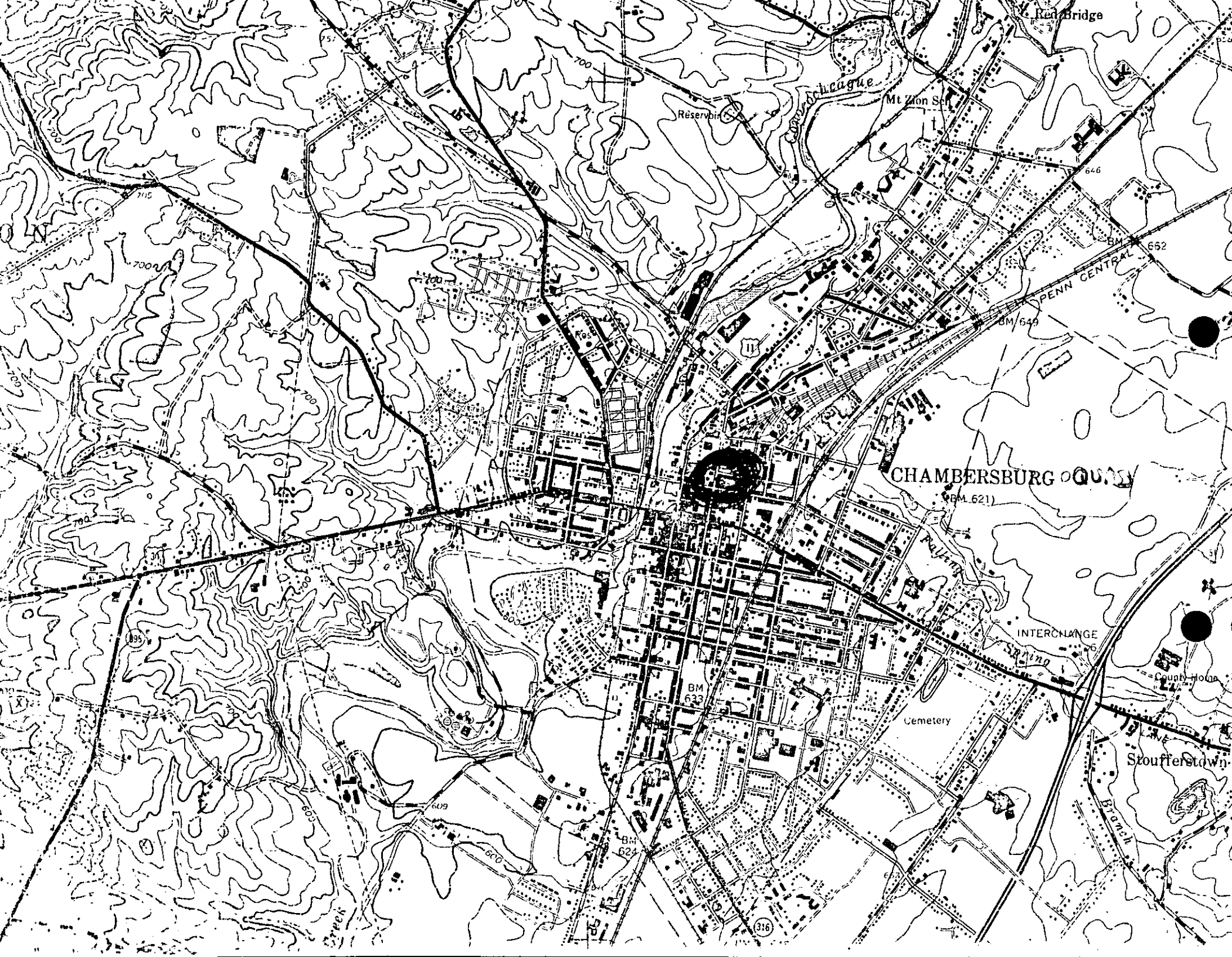
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Red Bridge

Reservoir

Chaque

Mt Zion St

PENN CENTRAL

CHAMBERSBURG QUAD

INTERCHANGE

Cemetery

Stoufferstown

700

700

646

652

BM 649

BM 621

BM 623

BM 624

316

318

609

609

600

County Road

Branch

Street