

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FORMS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

27

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME
 HISTORIC JOHN BROWN TANNERY SITE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 20118, 500 ft. south of intersection of Lyona Rd. and Rt. 77 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

New Richmond VICINITY OF 24th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania 42 Crawford 039
3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

John Brown Amphitheater Association

STREET & NUMBER

632 Madison Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Meadville VICINITY OF Pennsylvania
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Crawford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Diamond Park

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Meadville Pennsylvania
6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1973
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

 DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Harrisburg Pennsylvania

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The existing structure at the John Brown tannery site is a rectangular, one story ruin of the tannery that John Brown, famed abolitionist, built in 1825. These stone walls are made of cutstones that are two feet in thickness. The physical dimensions of the wall structure are 55 feet in length, 22 feet in width, and 9 feet in height. According to William R. Lingo, author of "The Pennsylvania Career of John Brown", this structure has foundations that extend 5 feet below the ground level. The John Brown Amphitheater Association, legal trustees of the tannery property, is presently engaged in an ambitious archeological exploration that will eventually allow the re-construction at least mentally, of the images of what once took place in this sub-surface room.

John Brown journeyed to the Randolph portion of Crawford County in 1825, and he built the tannery, whose foundation still stands. From the time that Brown left Crawford County in 1835, and until 1907, the tannery building changed ownerships many times, and the building served numerous purposes, including continued use as a tannery, a cheese factory, a jelly factory, a grist mill, and a residence. A fire destroyed the building in 1907, and for the past seventy years the stone foundation and the tannery property has been maintained by various historical groups in a commemoration of John Brown's pioneer efforts, his love of his fellow man, and his thirst for freedom.

Because of the continuous use and public interest through the years the tannery ruins are, without any doubt, an authentic and accurate account of early Crawford County history. With the exception of periodic repairs to the mortar joints between the stones, these walls stand undisturbed from the way they were constructed by John Brown in 1825.

The east wall of the tannery ruins contains two door openings, each doorway being 10½ feet from the northern end and the southern end of the east wall. The size of these doorways is 8 feet in height and 4 feet in width. Symetrically centered between these two doorways are two window openings; each window opening is 3 feet wide and 4½ feet high. At the northern end of this east wall another window and stone pillar has been constructed in an opening that was once for a shed door through which raw hides could be received. This stone pillar now holds a bronze plaque, 24 inches x 28 inches, that says: "This is the foundation wall of a tannery built and operated by John Brown 1825-1835". The north wall has two window openings of the same dimensions as the windows in the east wall. A window opening in the west wall is centered between the north wall and the south wall. At the northern end of this west wall is an opening 14 feet wide; some theories say that this opening would be the place where John Brown built a wooden shed that originally stored bark for drying. The south wall is set in an embankment that extends to the top of the wall. Photographs of the original tannery show a door at the south end of the second floor of the tannery. Probably this door at the south end of the tannery was used to ship the finished hides through, to the waiting wagons that had driven up this embankment to a small porch, or loading dock.

To the east of the tannery, extending the entire length of the property's eastern boundary, is a stone wall that was built by the WPA in 1935 in co-operation with the John Brown Memorial Association; also a large stone has been placed in the east yard by the Memorial Association, a group that no longer exists. This large stone bears a 2 foot x 3 foot bronze plaque on which is engraved a portrait of John Brown and the words "John Brown of Ossawatimie and Harper's Ferry 1800-1859". Nothing remains of the John Brown house or farm today.

is John Brown house site

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1825-26

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Brown, the historical figure who shocked our nation by leading a bloody assault against the pro-slavery forces at Kansas in 1856 and leading a military raid on the Harper's Ferry (Va.) ammunition arsenal in 1859, is recognized in Crawford County, Pennsylvania as more than a champion for the abolition of slavery; he is known here as one of our finest pioneer settlers.

In May of 1825, John Brown migrated from Hudson, Ohio to what is now the village of New Richmond, Richmond Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. In 1825 New Richmond was known as Clark's Mills. Clark's Mills was on the State Road . . . By an act of legislature a State Road had been authorized and had been cut from Meadville to the New York state line in 1817, but the underbrush had made vigorous growth and obstructed it's passage. John Brown and Dr. Taylor were instrumental in clearing the road and making it a serviceable highway. There are numerous other reports of John Brown's dedication and leadership as a pioneer and settler. It is undocumented legend that John Brown, while in Crawford County, was a community activist, consistantly a link in the Underground Railroad, a church leader, a layman minister, choirmaster, organizer of schools, and a breeder of pure bred livestock. More than just legend, it is a fact that John Brown did come to the wilderness of Clark's Mills in 1825, and in this desolate community he cleared land and built a home, a farm, and a tannery which he operated successfully for ten years, often employing as many as fifteen men.

Perhaps the following report, whose accuracy cannot be easily doubted, lends a certain amount of truth to some of the undocumented legends. The first portoffice in the locality was established in 1828 with John Brown as postmaster, and was known as the Randolph Postoffice. . . The records of the Postoffice Department at Washington show that he was appointed postmaster on January 7, 1828 and that his successor was appointed May 7 1835. He caused a mail route to be established between Meadville and Riceville through Richmond, a distance of twenty miles, and for a number of years carried mail over this route. There can be little doubt that as a pioneer and settler, John Brown provided outstanding leadership and a stablizing influence for this new community; the presently exisiting tannery ruins are a symbol of the early pioneer culture of Crawford County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annals of Lyons Hollow / Crawford County Pennsylvania, Mary Chapin Warner White
John Brown / A Biography Fifty Years Later, Oswald Garrison Villard
John Brown Pennsylvania Citizen, Ernest C. Miller
John Brown Pennsylvania's Unknown Entrepreneur, Ernest C. Miller
Legend of John Brown, The, Richard O. Boyer
Pennsylvania Career of John Brown, The, William R. Lingo

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

QUADRANGLE NAME Townville QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	5,8,7,2,6,0	4,5,1,3,2,7,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
 Starting at a point on the east side of L.R. 20118 then east for 150 feet then north for 150 feet the west feet to east side of L.R. 20118 the south along east side of L.R. 20118 to starting point.

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
John C. Shields

ORGANIZATION
John Brown Amphitheater Association

DATE

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN
623 Madison Avenue

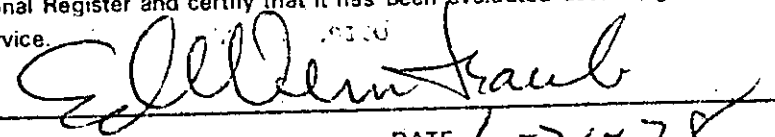
STATE
Pennsylvania

CITY OR TOWN
Meadville

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE


TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director DATE 6-21-78
Office of Historic Preservation

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

STATE GAME LANDS NO 146

John Brown Tannery Site
Crawford County
Zone 17 E587280 E4618870

R I C H M O N D

New Richmond

Clarks Corners

Gravel Pit Bentley Cem

Lyona

South Richmond

STATE GAME LANDS NO 146

BM 1568

