

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 144

Introduced by Council, 11.

WHEREAS, Allen and Barbara Mayhew moved to Nebraska in 1854 with two children and built a cabin in 1855; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Mayhew's younger brother, John Kagi, was a close associate of abolitionist John Brown and helped freedom-seeking slaves escape north from Kansas using his sister's place as a stopping point; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska City was a dangerous place for abolitionists, as Nebraska Territory did not officially prohibit slavery until January 1861, and many of the leaders of Nebraska City were pro-slavery or owned slaves; and

WHEREAS, the Mayhews were never caught despite the majority opinion of their community; and

WHEREAS, John Kagi went with John Brown to Harper's Ferry, Virginia, took part in the raid on the federal arsenal, and was shot and killed at age twenty-four; and

WHEREAS, the Mayhew Cabin is dedicated to telling the story of John Kagi and the Mayhew family and educating the public about the issue of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the process of telling this story and educating the public began in the late 1930s, when Edward Bartling, owner of the site at the time, opened it to the public as a tourist attraction and memorial to the abolitionist cause; and

WHEREAS, the Mayhew Cabin's historical significance lies in its connection to the Underground Railroad during the 1850s and its important testament against slavery; and

WHEREAS, the Mayhew Cabin received notice on February 11, 2011, that it was being added to the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, as part of the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Mayhew Cabin is the only site in Nebraska that is part of the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Trail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates Mayhew Cabin on its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Mayhew Cabin as a token of the high regard the people of Nebraska have for the historical significance of this site and the important contributions it makes to educating the public and serving as a memorial to the abolitionist cause.