Primary Maker: Charles Blair  
Title: "John Brown" pike  
Date: 1857-1859  
Medium: Steel, wood  
Dimensions: Overall: 6 ft. 9 in. × 4 1/4 in. (205.7 × 10.8 cm)  
Credit Line: New-York Historical Society  
Object Number: INV.5736  

Object Name: Pike  
Classification: MILITARY TOOLS & EQUIPMENT: MISCELLANEOUS  

Curatorial Remarks:  
This is one of the pikes commissioned by militant abolitionist John Brown (1800-1859) from the Collins Co. of Canton, Connecticut in 1857 in preparation for his raid on the U.S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry in 1859. Brown intended to incite a slave insurrection and planned to use the pikes to arm slaves on Virginia plantations. None of the weapons were ever used by slaves, but they became potent symbols of Brown's raid. Each of the 1,000 pikes made for Brown by Collins Co. were individually numbered: this example is stamped "101."

Physical Description:  
Wood and iron pike; cylindrical wood shaft with leaf blade, oval crossbar, and cylindrical socket fastened to top.

Markings: Stamped on metal haft: "101"