

HF-5

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(November 1954)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

(Area)

FILE CODE:

RESEARCH REPORT

FOR

BUILDINGS 10 AND 10A

THE JOHN C. UNSELD BUILDINGS

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Super)
Dated March 26, 1959
14 Pages
Project No. HF-65

FROM:

TO:

IMPORTANT

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HFR 52

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT

PART II,

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION,

FOR

BLDGS. NO. 10 AND 10A,

THE JOHN C. UNSELD BUILDINGS

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

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HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

Introduction

This report presents a new interpretation of the data relating to the construction of Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A that was originally presented in the Historic Building Report , Part I, for these structures. The revised opinion is based on research recently completed on Block D, Shenandoah Street, Bldgs. No. 8, 9, 11, 12, and 44, as well as on the Historic American Buildings Survey Drawings for the John C. Unseld Building, completed in August, 1958.

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1782-1865

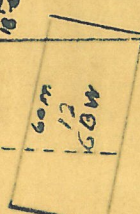
Subdivision No. 3 of Wager Lot No. 15, the present site of Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, was owned by the Wager family from 1782 to 1837. On October 28, 1837, the lot was sold to Philip Coons for \$1,450.00. The size and location of this land may be seen by glancing at the 1835 plat of the Wager lots that appears on the following page. With the exception of the period May 1, 1840, to November 6, 1841, when the lot was sold by Coons for \$1,250 and repurchased for \$1,000, subdivision 3 remained the property of Philip Coons to 1856. On October 26, 1856, he sold the lot and Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A to John C. Unseld for \$3,000. Unseld retained title to this property until after the Civil War.

2. EARLY USE OF THE LOT, 1803-March 31, 1838

Lot No. 15, subdivisions 1, 2 and 3 were the site of the "Harpers Ferry Hotel" from 1803 to March 31, 1838. This spacious old frame building had

1. For a detailed and documented study of the ownership of the land, see Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, The John C. Unseld Buildings," dated May 28, 1958, pp.1-6.

L A N D



-2-

been erected by the Wager family and was leased by them over the years to
various tavern keepers.²

3. CONSTRUCTION OF BLDGS. NO. 10 AND 10A

On October 28, 1837, the old "Harpers Ferry Hotel" and lot was divided among three different owners. Lot No. 15, subdivision 1, was purchased by Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson; subdivisions 2 and 4 were acquired by William Anderson;³ and Philip Coons bought subdivision 3. The old hotel building itself, however, had been leased by the Jefferson County Court to Mrs. Isabella Fitzsimmons from April 1, 1837, to March 31, 1838.⁴ Thus the three new owners were unable to touch the old structure until the lease expired. This fact, however, did not hinder William Anderson and Mrs. Stephenson from making plans⁵ to construct new buildings on their recently acquired property. Thus Bldgs. No. 11 and 12, situated on subdivisions 1 and 2 of Wager Lot No. 15, were constructed in 1838-39 and that portion of the old frame "Harpers Ferry Hotel"

2. For detailed and documented study, see Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A," pp.7-10. This account is accurate except that on page 9 it is stated that Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson and Fontaine Beckham were located in this hotel from 1834 to 1837. Subsequent research has shown that they were actually located in Bldg. No. 45 during this period. The old Harpers Ferry Hotel was thus leased by Nicholas and Isabella Fitzsimmons from 1834 to 1837. See Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 45 and 45A, The John G. Wilson Building," dated February 27, 1959, pp.16-22.

3. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 12 and 12A, The Ann C. Stephenson Buildings," dated March 17, 1959, p.1. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldg. No. 11 and 11A, The William Anderson Buildings," dated March 13, 1959, p.1.

4. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A," pp.9-10.

5. Virginia Free Press, November 16, 1837, p.3, c.4.

that had occupied those two lots was demolished.⁶ To the east of subdivision 3, on Wager Lot No. 14, Michael Foley had built Bldg. No. 9 in 1837-38.⁷

Thus by April, 1839, there were three brick three and a half story houses fronting on Shenandoah Street, namely Bldgs. No. 9, 11 and 12.

It is now the opinion of the writer that Philip Coons did not construct Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A until 1846-47, but until that date retained the frame portion of the old "Harpers Ferry Hotel" that was situated on his lot and only converted the old building to let it for use as a store and dwelling house. The old structure abutted on new Bldg. No. 11, and left an alley between the east end of the frame house and new Bldg. No. 9.⁸ The reasons for this revised opinion follow:

1. In 1826-27 Philip Coons construct a 2½ story stone house on Lot No. 7, Block D, Shenandoah Street. This house he sold to the United States Government for \$3,500, probably in February, 1837.⁹
2. On June 18, 1836, Philip Coons and James Duncanson purchased vacant Wager Lot No. 46 for \$600 and proceeded in 1837-38 to erect a new two story stone building, Bldg. No. 44, that must have cost at least \$1000 to build. Total¹⁰ for the lot and building: about \$1600.

6. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II, for Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A," pp.3-7. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II, for Bldgs. No. 12 and 12A," pp.3-6.

7. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 9 and 8, the Gerard B. Wager Buildings," dated March 18, 1959, pp.1-4.

8. "Shadows" of the old building have been found on the exterior east wall of Bldg. No. 11 by Architect Archie W. Franzen.

9. Snell, C. W., "History of Lots 1 to 7, Block D, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1865," dated January 30, 1959, pp.44-46.

10. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldg. No. 44, The Philip Coons Building," dated March 20, 1959, p.1.

3. On November 1, 1836, Coons and Duncanson also purchased the frame house¹¹ and Wager Lot No. 53 for \$1,010.

4. On October 28, 1837, Coons acquired subdivision 3 of Wager Lot No. 15 for \$1,450.

5. Thus between June, 1836, and October, 1838, Philip Coons expended approximately \$4,060 on purchasing real estate and in new construction. It is therefore more than likely that Mr. Coons was too heavily involved financially in these transactions to be able to afford to construct a new house on subdivision 3 of Lot No. 15.

6. In further support of the theory that the old frame building was converted and not rebuilt in 1838, we may also cite the notice of Adam Young, Jr., in 1838, that he had removed his drug store "to the old Tavern Stand opposite the Arsenal, Main Street,"¹² Moreover, all the occupants of Bldgs. No. 9,¹³ 11 and 12 in the 1838-1839 period had announced they were moving into new buildings.

7. The Historic American Buildings Survey Drawings for the John C. Unseld Building, 5 sheets, prepared in August, 1959, indicates that the two brick walls, front and rear, that comprise Bldg. No. 10 were actually erected in one step, and not in two, as was proposed in the Part I Historical Data Section for Bldg. No. 10, pages 12-14. Thus this first theory must be abandoned.

11. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Bldg. No. 3, Wager Lot No. 53, High Street," dated July 29, 1958, p.2.

12. Virginia Free Press, December 6, 1838, p.3, c.7. Italics mine.

13. Bldg. No. 12 - Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, May 1, 1839, p.1. Bldg. No. 9 - Virginia Free Press, September 27, 1838, p.3, c.3. Anderson moved his store into his own new Bldg. No. 11 in June, 1839.

8. With these considerations in mind, we therefore present the final evidence that indicates that Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A must have both been erected in 1846-1847 by Philip Coons. In the May, 1846, exchange of land between Philip Coons and Gerard B. Wager for subdivision 3 and Lot No. 14, Coons was granted the privilege:

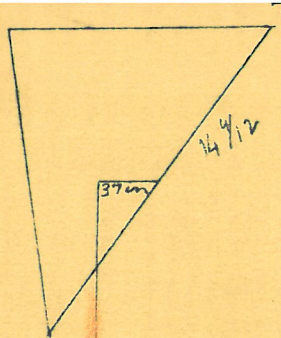
"of building against the south western side of the south western gable of said main building [Bldg. No. 9] of said Wager, and of placing upon and against the said gable wall such lumber and materials as shall be necessary and proper for that purpose, provided that the said Philip Coons shall not by any means nor in any manner weaken, impair or injuriously affect the strength of said wall, nor said building, nor penetrate said gable wall further than seven inches..." 14

The measured drawings indicate that Bldg. No. 10 was erected up against Bldg. No. 9 in this manner. The same drawings also indicate that Bldg. No. 10 was constructed up against Bldg. No. 11 in a like manner and that Bldg. No. 10A was built over about three feet on William Anderson's lot, subdivision 2 of Lot No. 15. Provisions for this construction against Bldg. No. 11 was the arrangement that William Anderson attempted to describe in his deed of sale of Bldg. No. 11 and 11A to Daniel Ames in 1865. 15 The 1846 plat showing the exchange of land between Coons and Wager and also the locations of Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A will be found on the following page of this report.

It is therefore now evident that Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A were constructed by Philip Coons in 1846-47. Bldg. No. 10 was built a two and a half story brick building with a cellar and slate roof. The house consisted of two brick walls, one in front and the other in the rear, spanning the gap between Bldgs. No. 9 and 11. In fact, the wall on Shenandoah Street side had to be curved

14. Deed of Exchange, May 30, 1846, Deed Book 28, pp.144-145.

15. Deed of B. & S., June 24, 1865, Anderson to Ames, Deed Book 1, pp.9-10.



Deed Book 28,
P. 146

June 6, 1846

Map no. 69
Drawer no. 4

Bldg 10A

47 no. 6
41

4
20 1/2 5

3

27 1/2

Bldg 11

Bldg 10

Phons

5

Bldg 9

40 feet

B B Wager

→
2
in 11/2/4

in order to line up with the two other structures. The two end walls of Bldg. No. 10 were frame and rested against and used for support the gable walls¹⁶ of Bldgs. No. 9 and 11. A large two story covered frame porch ran across the Shenandoah Street front of Bldg. No. 10. There were also two dormer windows¹⁷ in the roof on this side. The first floor of Bldg. No. 10 was designed for use by one store and the upper floor was intended to be utilized as a residence.

Bldg. No. 10A was also erected in 1846-47 and formed a part of Bldg. No. 10. Bldg. 10A was located in the rear of the main structure and ran at right angles to Bldg. 10. Bldg. No. 10A was a two story brick house with[?] slate roof, but unlike No. 10, had no cellar. The house was 25 feet wide by 36 feet 6 inches in length. The west wall contained two chimneys with two¹⁸ fireplaces in each one. Bldg. No. 10 may have contained the kitchen, pantry, and extra bedroom on the second floor for the dwelling located on the second floor of Bldg. No. 10. The first floor of Bldg. No. 10A may have been used as a counting room or warehouse for the service of the store in the main building.

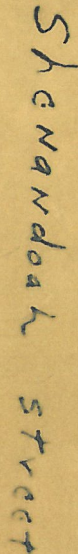
Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A were described in October, 1856, as "the valuable brick dwelling and store house lately occupied by said Coons opposite the Arsenal Yard on Shenandoah Street. Two stories covered with slate. Commodious store room on first floor."¹⁹ The 1894 Perris-Sanborn Map of Harpers Ferry, showing Bldg. No. 10 and 10A at that date, will be found on the next page.

16. Measured drawings.

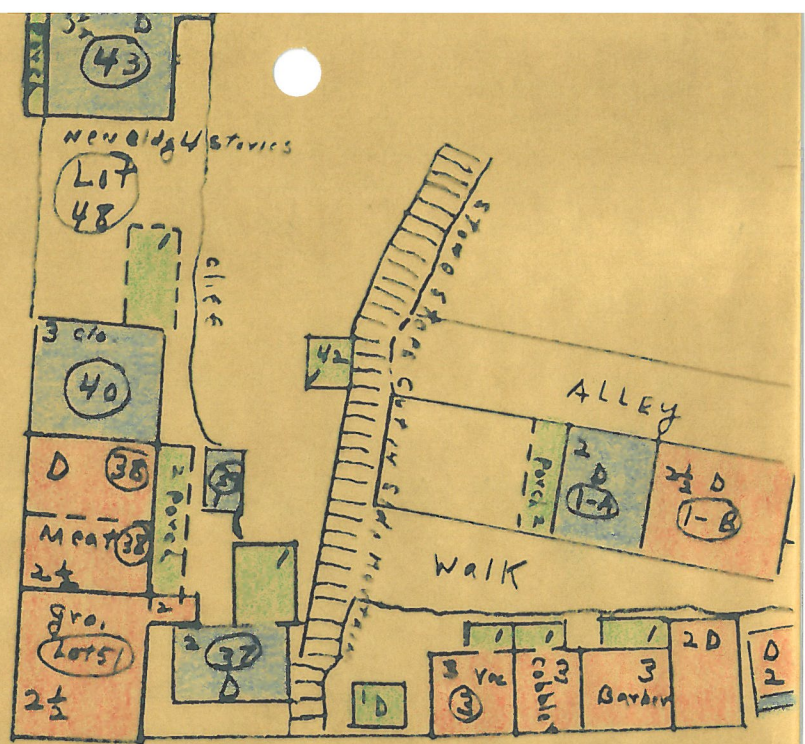
17. Photograph HF-376.

18. Measured drawings of ruins and Photographs HF-66 and HF-450.

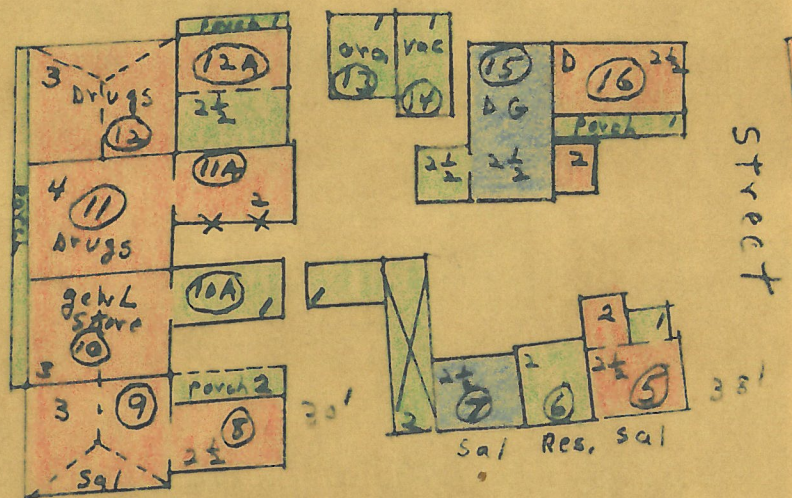
19. Virginia Free Press, October 9, 1856, p.3, c.3.



	Brick
	Stone
	Frame



High street



Potomac Street

B. R. S. 1200

MAIN LINE BEURR

-9-

4. USE OF THE BLDGS., 1838-1861

A. Old Frame Structures, 1838-1846

1. December, 1838-August, 1842: Main Bldg., Drug Store of Adam Young, Jr., Back Bldg., 1839-1842: Bakery and Dwelling of Bartholomew Sweetman.
2. August, 1842-1846: Dry Goods store of Philip Coons.

B. Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, erected 1846-47

1. 1847-October, 1855: Dry Goods Store of Philip Coons.
2. October, 1855-October, 1856: Dry Goods Store of James A. Beckham and Louis J. Coons.
3. November, 1856-March 31, 1857: Use not known.
4. April, 1858-March, 1859: Ready-made clothing store, "The Great Southern Clothing Store," of Walter, Brother and Frank.
5. March, 1859-1861: Ready-made clothing store of Nisan Frank. Sign: "The Great Southern Clothing Store." 20

The Census of 1860 indicates that Nisan Frank was 28 years old, a merchant,²¹ born in Germany, and then boarding^a at the Wager House Hotel. Judging by the same census, the upper floor of Bldg. No. 10 and probably 10A, was occupied by Fanny J. Butter, 61 years old, as a boarding house, with a total of 10²² people living in the building, six of them being members of the Butter family.

5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BUILDINGS

No historical plans of Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located. For modern measured drawings of these structures, see "Historic American Buildings Survey for the John C. Unseld Building," five sheets.

20. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A," pp.16-23.

21. Census of 1860, Reel 10, V.2, p.168.

22. Ibid., p.169.

6. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Seven photographs showing Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A will be found in the Part I Historic Building Report for these structures, pages 33-40. Additional photographs will be found in the following listed reports:

1. 1859 photograph, HF-450, in Snell, C. W., "Report for Wager Lots No. 6, 7 and Part of 8, the Wager House or United States Hotel," dated August 7, 1958, page 33. Important, shows original roof line and skylight in Bldg. 10-a two story building; also roof of Bldg. No. 10A, one chimney, and one window and north brick wall or end of 10A.
2. 1862-1865 photograph, HF-40, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for the Noah H. Swayne Lot, Wager Lot No. 51," dated July 24, 1958, page 22. Show front (south) side of 10; Building No. 11 is burned out.
3. 1896 photograph, HF-96, in Sullivan, Arthur L., "Research Report, History of Wager Lots No. 17-35, 1782-1869," dated February 18, 1959, page 90. Excellent view of front (south) side and roof of Bldg. No. 10. Bldg. No. 10 has been enlarged from a two story to a three story structure.
4. 1936 photograph, HF-281, in Snell, C. W., "History of Wager Lot No. 51," page 30. Shows Bldg. No. 10 in 1936 flood.
5. 1955 photograph, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A, The William Anderson Buildings," dated October 3, 1957, revised January 31, 1958, page 12. Modern view showing relationship of Bldgs. No. 9, 11 and 12 to Bldg. No. 10.
6. 1884-1889 photograph, HF-113, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A, The William Anderson Buildings," dated March 18, 1959, page 20. Excellent view of

rear (north side) of Bldg. No. 10, showing it enlarged to a three story building. Also shows the roof of Bldg. No. 10A.

7. 1889-1892 photograph, HF-58, in above-mentioned report, page 21. View of the rear of three story Bldg. No. 10, also visible are the two chimneys and roof of Bldg. No. 10A.

On the following page will be found Photograph HF-376, made in 1862, which shows the original two story frame porch on the front of Bldg. No. 10.

7. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land, 1782-1865

Subdivision 3 of Lot No. 15 was owned by the Wager family from 1782 until 1837. The lot and a portion of the old Harpers Ferry Hotel were sold to Philip Coons on October 28, 1837, for \$1,450. With the exception of a brief period, 1840-41, Philip Coons remained the owner of this property from 1837 to 1856. On October 26, 1856, the lot and Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A were purchased for \$3,000 by John C. Unseld, who retained title to the property until after the Civil War.

B. Construction of Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A

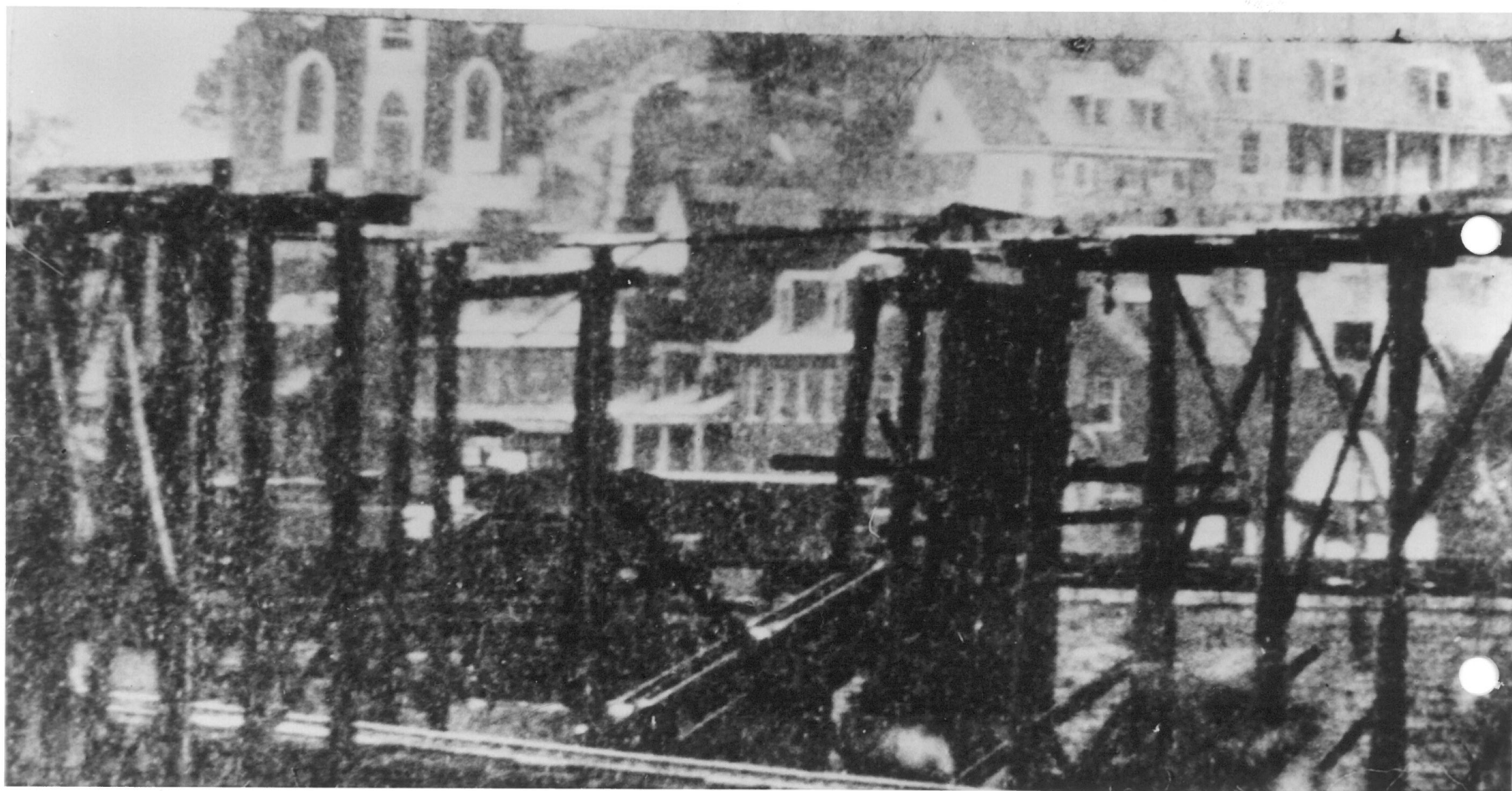
Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A were constructed by Philip Coons in 1846-47. Bldg. No. 10 was built as a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story brick building with a cellar and slate roof. The structure fronted 28 feet two inches on Shenandoah Street, was 40 feet 10 inches deep, and 27 feet $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at the rear. The front and rear walls were brick, spanning the gap between Bldgs. No. 9 and 11, and the frame end walls were supported by the brick gable walls of Bldgs. 9 and 11. The street front had a large two story covered porch on its face and in the roof on that side were two dormer windows. On the rear side of the roof was a large glass skylight. The first floor was designed for use as

HARPER'S FERRY, VA., 1862.

Original photograph in National Archives
Still Picture Section, Washington, D. C.
CN-5079.

This photograph, Harpers Ferry Negative No.
HF-376, is a blowup made from HF-11.

Through the break in the bridge, from right to left, may be seen Bldgs. No. 9, 10, 11 and 12. Note that Bldg. No. 10 is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story structure and that Bldgs. No. 11 and 12 are both three story structures. Bldgs. No. 10, 11 and 12 also all have two story porches on their fronts on Shenandoah Street.



a single shop or store. The upper floors contained living quarters.

Bldg. No. 10A was a two story brick house with a slate roof and no cellar. It has three brick walls, the fourth side resting against the brick wall of Bldg. No. 10. Bldg. No. 10A was 25 feet wide and 36 feet six inches long. The west wall contained two chimneys with two fireplaces in each one. The first floor of this house may have been used as a ware house or counting room in connection with the Store in Bldg. No. 10. The second floor probably contained a kitchen, pantry and extra bed rooms for the service of the dwelling portion of the main building.

C. Use of Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, 1847-1861

1. 1847-1855, Dry Goods store of Philip Coons.
2. 1855-1856, Dry Goods store of James A. Beckham and Louis J. Coons.
3. 1856-1857, use unknown.
4. 1858-1859, Ready-made clothing store of Walter, Brother and Frank.
5. March, 1859-1861, Ready-made clothing store of Nisan Frank. His

sign: "The Great Southern Clothing Store."

6. Dwelling portion of Bldg. 10 and 10A, 1859-60, occupied by Fanny J. Butter as a boarding house. Ten people living in the two buildings.

Charles W. Snell

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
March 26, 1959



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

March 7, 1960

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

✓	History
	Nat. His.
	Archaeo.
	Publ.
	Museum
	Sci.

Thru: Superintendent, Harpers
Ferry National Monument

H2619
H-2215

REGION FIVE	INITIAL AND DATE
MAR 9 1960	
REG. DIRECTOR	
ASST. REG. DIR.	
OPERATIONS	
INTERPRETATION	
ADM.	
REC. RES. PLAN	
RANGER APTS	

From: Historian (Research), Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Progress Report No. 65, February 22-March 6, 1960

1. Historian Charles W. Snell prepared a five page report summarizing the accomplishments of the special research team from September 1, 1957 to February 23, 1960. The report was submitted to the Regional Director on February 23.
2. Project HF-79A: Mr. Snell completed a second copy of the 1865 Historical Base Map of Loudoun Heights on February 23. Submitted to the Regional Director on February 24.
3. Project HF-79B: Mr. Snell completed a second copy of the 1865 Historical Base Map of Bolivar Heights, dated February 24. Submitted to the Regional Director on that day.
4. Project HF-79C: Mr. Snell completed a second copy of the 1865 Historical Base Map of Maryland Heights, dated February 24, 1960. Submitted to the Regional Director on that day.
5. Project HF-79D: Mr. Snell wrote and Miss Mary Williamson completed the final typing of "Documentation of the 1865 Historical Base Map of Loudoun Heights," dated February 26, 1960, 18 pages. Submitted to the Regional Director on February 29.
6. Project HF-79E: February 26 and 29, Mr. Snell wrote approximately 75% (15 pages) of the "Documentation of the 1865 Historical Base Map of Bolivar Heights." The unfinished portion will be completed by Historian Mongin.
7. Project HF-79F: February 26 and 29, Mr. Snell wrote about 5% (2 pages) of the "Documentation of the 1865 Historical Base Map of Maryland Heights." The unfinished sections of the report will be completed by Historian Mongin.

8. Project HF-76A: History of Maryland Heights 1800-1860. Historian Alfred Mongin completed the last three of the nine maps that show in detail the roads that existed before the Civil War in the Maryland Heights area. The Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, Baltimore, Maryland, has supplied photostatic copies of 80 pages of documents selected by Mr. Mongin from the original papers in the Antietam Iron Works case, including plats, newspaper advertisements, and proceedings and orders of the courts involved in the pre-Civil War distribution and possession of Maryland Heights. The report is now 75% completed. Progress was temporarily halted by the writer being snow-bound at home March 3 and 4.

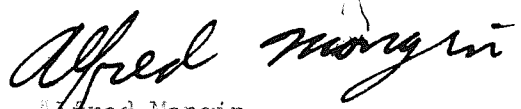
9. In the collections of its Commodity Stabilization Service, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has identified aerial photographic maps which cover the sections of land to the north, northeast and east of the 1937 aerial photographic map at 1" = 400' scale of Maryland Heights, already acquired from that source, and utilized by Mr. Snell in preparing the 1865 Historical Base Map of Maryland Heights. Added to that earlier acquired map section, these additional map sections, which have now been ordered, will provide a full picture of the remaining portions of the Fort Duncan-Stone Fort complex on Maryland Heights.

10. Miss Williamson transcribed selected material from The Personal Memoirs of General Sheridan; from The Antietam and Its Bridges; continued transcribing selected material from the Official Records for the General Chronological File; and prepared 87 Cormac copies of maps to accompany reports in progress.

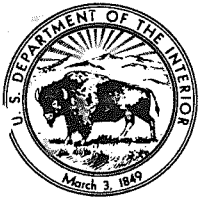
From his personal library Mr. Snell made a gift to the Monument of twenty volumes of history, biography and historical reference books.

February 29th terminated the official affiliation of Charles W. Snell with Harpers Ferry National Monument, where he had been the directing force of the special research team since September, 1957. The cold type compilation of the accomplishments of the special team under his leadership, summarized in his report to the Regional Director on February 23, 1960, obviates additional encomiums from this quarter. On March 2nd the Snell family departed by station wagon for San Francisco and the Region Four Office.

Continuing the current report series initiated by Charles W. Snell in Report No. 1, September 26, 1957, the above is the first Research Progress Report submitted by the undersigned. Having enjoyed the privilege of seven months' work as a member of the special research team under the guidance of Mr. Snell, and now falling heir to his most extraordinarily systematic and orderly compilation of raw materials and completed reports, the writer anticipates continuing to its completion the scheduled program of the special research team at Harpers Ferry National Monument.


Alfred Mongin
Historian

In duplicate



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

June 12, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 15 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-65, Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A

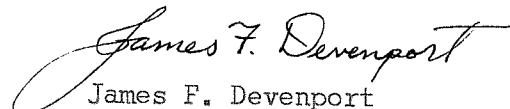
Historian Charles W. Snell offers the following comments in response to the questions raised by Regional Historian Frank Barnes in his memorandum of June 10 regarding Bldg. No. 10A, re Historical Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A.

1. Footnote 15, page 6: William Anderson's Deed of B. & S., dated June 24, 1865, selling Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A to Daniel Ames, throws no further light whatsoever on the nature of Bldg. No. 10A. The key statement of this deed reads: "...together with that portion of P. Coons lot purchased from said P. Coons by said William Anderson and now being a part of said Lot No. 4 [sic-actually Lot No. 15-subdivision 2]" This statement of Anderson merely documents that there was an unrecorded sale or exchange of land between Anderson and Philip Coons which must have been made to enable Coons to erect Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A.

2. Page 8, description of Bldg. No. 10A: Mr. Snell's description of Bldg. 10A is based on the 1859 photographs HF-66 and HF-450, which clearly indicate that Bldg. No. 10A was then a two story brick building with a slate roof. The quoted 1856 description, last paragraph of page 8, probably describes both 10 and 10A, as the owner undoubtedly considered these structures to be but one building, with 10A containing the service wing for Bldg. No. 10. The National Park Service has introduced the concept that these were two separate structures. It is possible, however, that John C. Unseld may have added on 10A after 1856 and before 1859, but there is absolutely no evidence on the subject, and in Mr. Snell's opinion, Philip Coons erected 10A.

3. Bldg. No. 10A, a brick or frame structure, pages 8 and 9: The 1859 photographs show Bldg. 10A to be a two story brick building; Photograph NHF-224, taken about 1956, on page 40 of the Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 10 and 10A, shows the ruined walls of Bldg. No. 10A to be of brick, and the west wall still to be almost two stories in height. In the light of the above evidence, the 1894 map on page 9 of the Part II, is in error when it delineates Bldg. No. 10A as a one story frame building. What probably occurred, after 1861 and before 1894, was that Bldg. No. 10A was badly damaged from some unknown cause, and a frame roof was thrown across the ruined walls of the structure, thus resulting in its being shown as a one story frame building on the 1894 map.

As Bldg. No. 10A is today a ruin and only a very small part of it still intact, and as every bit of documentary evidence has been presented in the Part II, it is difficult to see how we can elaborate further on the structure. The Part II, Architectural Data Section, when written, may perhaps be able to throw some further light on some of the questions relating to 10A.


James F. Devenport
Acting Superintendent

In triplicate

Copy to: Director

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 10, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument
From: Regional Historian
Subject: Research Project No. HF-65 - Buildings 10 and 10A

Mr. Snell presents an ingenious solution here which seems quite plausible to me. However, I feel that when the time comes for incorporating this research study in the completed Part II Historic Building Report on this structure, more evidence and/or analysis should be given with respect to Building 10A. Perhaps the key parts of the deed cited in footnote 15 would help, or some narrative explanation thereof. The description quoted in the final paragraph on page 8 would seem to me to apply only to one building, and that probably Building 10 - which, according to the last sentence in the carry-over paragraph at the top of that page was both dwelling and store (house). The Sanborn map shows Building 10A as a frame structure, which seems to contradict the finding in the first full paragraph on page 8.

Signed

Frank Barnes
Regional Historian

In duplicate

Copy to: Director, w/copy of Report

FBarnes/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

May 25, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 142215

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
MAY 23 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. MGR. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN.		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-65, Part II, Historical Data
Section, Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A

Enclosed please find three copies of the "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, the John C. Unseld Buildings," as requested in your note of the memorandum of May 21, 1959.

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

Enclosures



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

March 27, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-42215

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
MAR 30 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
☒ INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACTS		

☒ History
☒ Nat. His.
☐ Archeo.
☐ Publ.
☐ Museum
☐ Sec. y.

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-65, Historic Building Report,
Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 10
and 10A

We submit one copy of the "Historic Building Report,
Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A,
The John C. Unseld Buildings," dated March 26, 1959, 14 pages,
by Historian Charles W. Snell, for technical review by Regional
Historian Frank Barnes.

James F. Devenport
James F. Devenport
Acting Superintendent

In duplicate

*insuff
part on 10A*

Nelligan
8/22

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

August 22, 1958

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Building Report, John C. Unseld Buildings
(Buildings 10 and 10-A), Harpers Ferry National Monument

A busy travel season for personnel of this Office has prevented our commenting on the subject report. In the meantime, as you are of course aware, it has been approved by the Washington Office.

We, too, recommend its approval, subject to the proviso of its being amended, if necessary, in accordance with an approved MISSION 66 Prospectus for Harpers Ferry. We particularly like the recommendation to keep Building 10-A as ruins, which will serve to preserve the atmosphere of age and tie in the town with the other ruins of the area, such as the Hall's rifle works. By way of a suggestion, we should very much like to see an artist's sketch of the restored buildings covering the entire block or section prepared when all the survey reports for the buildings composing it have been approved.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Chief, EODC
Operations (Atten. Mr. Nelson)

MHNelligan/mm

General
Daily
Area