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BLDGS. NO. 11 AND 11A

THE WILLIAM ANDERSON BUILDINGS

Part II

Historical Data

Harpers Ferry National Monument

HF-53

Lot 15-2

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FROM: Prepared by:

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3/13/59

HF-53

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT

PART II.

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION.

BLDGS. NO. 11 AND 11A

THE WILLIAM ANDERSON BUILDINGS

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
March 13, 1959
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Project No. HF-53

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HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

I. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1782-1865

Wager Lot No. 15, subdivision 2, the present site of Bldg. No. 11 and 11A, was owned by the Wager family from 1782 to October 28, 1837. On this latter date, the lot, and also subdivision 4 of Lot No. 15, were sold to William Anderson at public auction. Mr. Anderson paid \$1,610 for No. 2 and \$1,012.50 for No. 4. William Anderson remained the owner of Lot No. 15, subdivision 2, from October 28, 1837, to June 24, 1865, when he sold the property to Daniel Ames for \$4,000.¹

II. 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 until March 31, 1838. This spacious old frame building had been erected by the Wager family and was leased by them over the years to various tavern keepers.²

1. For detailed story of ownership of this lot, see Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A, the Anderson Buildings," dated October 3, 1957, revised January 31, 1958, pp.1-3, and maps, pages 7-9.

2. For detailed history of Harpers Ferry Hotel, 1803-1838, 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.7-11. This account is correct except for the statement on page 9, that Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson and Fontaine Beckham were located in that structure from 1834-1837. Subsequent research has shown that they were situated in Bldg. No. 45 from 1830 to 1837.

III. CONSTRUCTION OF BLDGS. NO. 11 and 11A

On October 28, 1837, the old "Harpers Ferry Hotel" and lot was divided between three different owners. Lot No. 15-subdivisions 2 and 4 were acquired by William Anderson, subdivision 1 by Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson and subdivision 3 by Philip Coons.¹ The old hotel building itself, had been leased by the Jefferson County Court to Mrs. Fitzsimmons from April 1, 1837, to March 31, 1838.² Thus the three new owners were not able to touch the old structure until the lease expired. This, however, did not prevent them from making plans for erecting new buildings on the lots in the spring of 1838. Thus in November, 1837, William Anderson and his brother, Samuel B. Anderson, and Dr. George W. Stephenson, the oldest son of Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson, jointly advertised:

"HOUSE BUILDERS LOOK OUT

W. & S. B. Anderson and George A. Stephenson will receive proposals until the 16th of Dec. 1837, for the building of two brick houses, each 30 by 40 feet, three stories high, with cellars of stone (This would be Bldgs. No. 11 and 12.) Also two stone houses (Bldg. No. 7 and 15), each 24 by 40 feet, with cellars, one of them to be one, and the other two stories high - all to be covered with slate. To be commenced on the 1st of April next (1838), and finished by the 1st of December following. A plan of each building may be seen at the store of W. & S. B. Anderson (which was then located on Wager Lot No. 51, at the corner of High and Shenandoah Streets.) The proposition for each building to be made separately, and may be made for Mason work and the Joiners' work separately or together, for each building. Cash will be furnished at any time for the purchase of material if desired." 3

1. Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 12 and 12A, the Ann C. Stephenson Buildings," dated October 8, 1957, revised February 3, 1958, pp.2-3. Also Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 10 and 10A," p.3.
2. Snell, C. W., "Historic Bldg. Report, Part I, Bldg. No. 10," p.10.
3. Virginia Free Press, November 16, 1837, p.3, c.4. For location of Anderson/store, see Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for the Noah H. Swayne Lot, Wager Lot No. 51," dated July 24, 1958, pp.408.

From the above-quoted document and architectural evidence to be found in the two buildings themselves, it is apparent that Bldgs. No. 11 and 12 were erected at the same time and on the same general plan, with only a brick fire wall separating the two structures in the middle. As originally laid out on the 1835 Wager plat, Lot No. 15, subdivisions 1, 2 and 3 each fronted 30 feet on Shenandoah Street. As actually constructed, however, Bldg. No. 12 fronted only 28 feet on Shenandoah Street while Bldg. No. 11 had a 32 feet frontage on the same street. It is thus clear that Anderson must have purchased a strip of land two feet wide by at least 41 feet deep from Mrs. Stephenson in 1837-38 in order to give Bldg. No. 11 its present width. This is the acquisition that William Anderson attempted to describe in his Deed of Bill and Sale for Bldg. No. 11 to Daniel Ames in June, 1865.⁴

Similiar exchanges of land and rights were made by Anderson and Philip Coons, the owner of Lot No. 15, subdivision 3, probably in 1837-38, to provide for the construction of Bldg. No. 10, and 10A, as is also mentioned in Anderson's deed of June, 1865, to Ames.⁵

Bldg. No. 11 and 12 were thus jointly constructed in 1838-39, fronting together a total of 60 feet on Shenandoah Street by 40 feet 10 inches in depth. Both were $3\frac{1}{2}$ story brick buildings with slate roofs and stone cellars. Bldg. No. 11, by itself, fronted 32 feet on Shenandoah Street. Both 11 and 12, as originally constructed, probably had a two story frame, covered porch on the Shenandoah Street^{front}; in any event this was certainly the case by 1859 as

4. Snell, C. W., "Historic Bldg. Report, Part I, for Bldg. 11," p.3; also Drawing No. NM-HF 3065 for dimensions of Bldgs. No. 12 and 12A.

5. See also Historic American Buildings Survey for John C. Unseld Buildings, Bldg. No. 10 and 10A, Sheet 2.

will be shown by evidence to be presented later in this report.

Bldg. No. 11 was completed and occupied by William Anderson in June,
6
1839. The new building contained one large store on the first floor and the upper 2½ floors were designed for use as a residence.

Bldg. No. 11A, a two story brick addition in the rear of Bldg. No. 11, measuring 19 feet five inches in width by 32 feet 11 inches in overlength was probably erected by William Anderson in the early 1840's and certainly
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by February, 1846. At this latter date, Mr. Anderson advertised:

"FOR RENT

His BRICK BUILDING on Shenandoah Street (Bldg. No. 11), opposite the U. S. Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Said Dwelling (the upper 2½ floors) has nine comfortable Rooms - six of them with fire-places- and has a good pantry. A good Kitchen and extra pantry is attached (This is probably Bldg. No. 11A.) Possession given April 1. The House is well calculated for Boarders, and to a good tenant, three boarders would be certain from the Store (on the first floor of Bldg. No. 11)..."
8

The fact that Bldgs. No. 11 and 12 both had large two story frame porches on their Shenandoah Street fronts is confirmed by photographic evidence to be found in Photographs HF-376, and HF-11, made 1862-1865. The porch on Bldg. No. 11 is also mentioned in particular, in connection with the John Brown Raid in a letter of Mrs. George Mauzy to her daughter, Mrs. James H. Burton, dated December 18, 1859. Mrs. Mauzy wrote:

"Julia Johnson (the wife of the merchant Charles Johnson, who operated a dry goods store in Bldg. No. 11 and resided in that house) was standing on her porch and one of the white men (these were John Brown raiders guarding the two Arsenals across the street from Bldg. No. 11) looked up and said to two negroes 'look boys there is one D__d Pretty Woman-' Julia said she made

6. Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, September 11, 1839, p.1; Also Snell, C. W., "History of Wager Lot No. 51," p.11.

7. For dimensions see Drawing No. NM-HF 3036, Sheet 1.

8. Virginia Free Press, February 12, 1846, p.3, c.2.

her exit in double quick time in the house..." 9

Notes: 1. As Bldgs. No. 11 and 12 were built at the same time, on the same plans and probably by the same workmen, it would appear logical that architectural details existing in Bldg. No. 12 can be legitimately used in the restoration of Bldg. 11.

2. Further architectural information that may be of use in restoring Bldg. No. 11 and 12 will probably also be found by examining Bldg. No. 7 and 15. Both Bldg. No. 7 and 15 were constructed by or for William Anderson.

3. Further documentary and photographic evidence that may be of use in restoring certain details in Bldg. No. 11 and 12, will also be found in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for the Noah H. Swayne Lot, Wager Lot No. 51," dated July 24, 1958, 31 pages. Lot No. 51 contained a large 2½ story brick building that was erected by William Anderson in 1832.

4. William Anderson also constructed a large stone house in 1828-29, House No. 55 on the 1869 map, that is still standing on the south side of High Street, just above the limits of the Wager Six Acre Reservation.

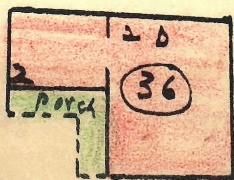
10

Bldg. No. 11 was burned out during the Civil War, and rebuilt as a four story building following the war. The 1894 Perris-Sanborn Map of Harpers Ferry, showing Bldg. No. 11 and 11A at that date, will be found on the next page of this report.

9. Mrs. George Mauzy to Mrs. James H. Burton, December 18, 1859. MS letters in possession of Mrs. Kenneth Gonsberg, copied by C. W. Snell, 1834 Rolling

Road, 51 Denms 27, Md.

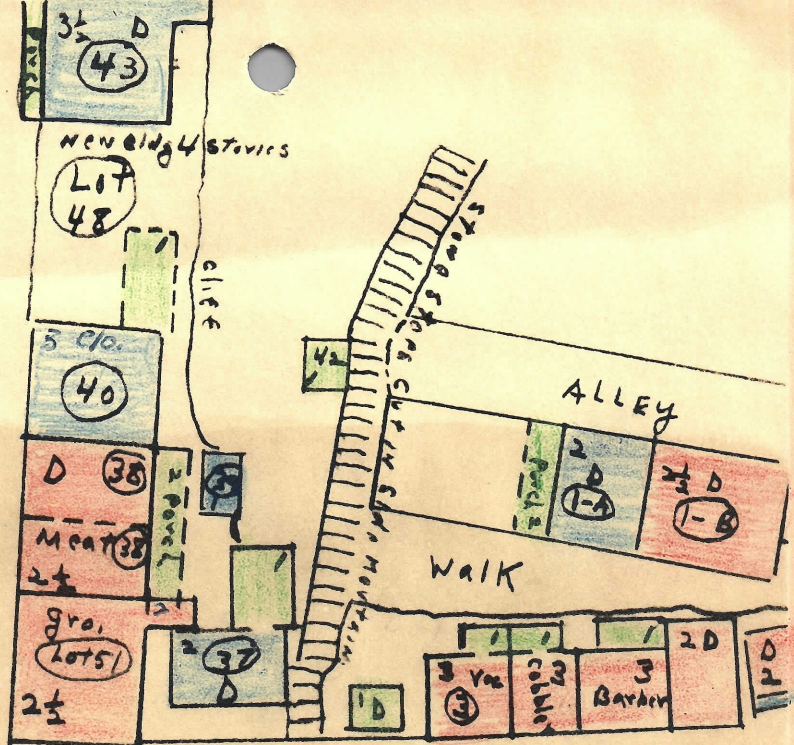
10. See Photograph HF-40.



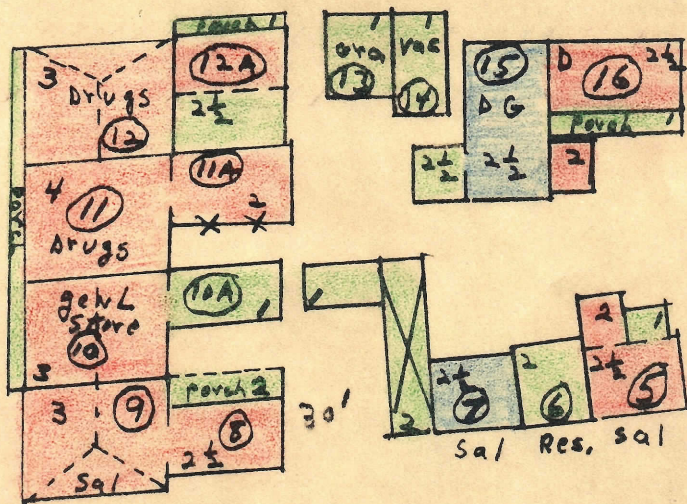
Shenandoah Street

Sanborn-Perris Map
of Harpers Ferry
November 1894.
Scale: 50 feet = one inch.

- Brick
- Stone
- Frame



High Street



Potomac Street

55'

B. & O. Siding

MAIN LINE B. & O. RR

IV. USE OF BLDGS. NO. 11 AND 11A, 1839-1865

In June, 1839, William Anderson and his brother, Samuel B. Anderson, vacated their store on Wager Lot No. 51, which they had held under a lease from Noah H. Swayne since 1832, and moved into the newly completed Bldg. No. 11.¹ The brothers continued their partnership and dry goods business in Bldg. No. 11 until January 8, 1841.² At that date the partnership was dissolved and William Anderson operated the dry goods store alone in Bldg. No. 11.³

Mr. Anderson remained in business at Bldg. No. 11 until about December, 1842, when he removed his family and business to Elks Branch early in 1843.⁴ This move was probably made for reasons of his wife's health. In spite of this change, however, Mrs. Susanna Anderson died in March, 1844.⁵ Anderson remained in business at Elks Branch from 1843 until January, 1846.⁶

The store and dwelling in Bldg. No. 11 were rented to Isreal and Joseph L. Russell in March, 1843; this firm moved into Bldg. No. 11 from their former store in Bldg. No. 40.⁷ The new concern sold "DRYGOODS, GROCERIES,

1. Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, September 11, 1839, p.1- advertisement dated June 19, 1839, that building on Lot 51 is now for rent. Also Virginia Free Press, October 10, 1839, p.3, c.2. Advertisement of Wm. & S. B. Anderson of stock of new goods.

2. Virginia Free Press, October 29, 1840, p.3, c.4; March 25, 1841, p.3, c.3.

3. Ibid., April 1, 1841, p.2, c.7.

4. Virginia Free Press, April 22, 1841, p.3, c.3; May 27, 1841, p.3, c.3; October 28, 1841, p.3, c.4; April 21, 1842, p.3, c.2; July 7, 1842, p.3, c.6.

5. Ibid., March 14, 1844, p.3, c.1.

6. Ibid., August 8, 1844, p.3, c.3; May 15, 1845, p.3, c.5; February 12, 1846, p.3, c.2.

7. Ibid., March 23, 1843, p.3, c.3; also see Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 40, the William Richards Bldg.," dated June 9, 1958, p.9.

8

HARDWARE, QUEENSWARE, BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, FANCY GOOD, &c. &c." The Russells
rem
remained in business in Bldg. No. 11 from 1843 until January, 1846. In
September, 1845, they apparently experienced some financial difficulties and
put into trust "all that stock of goods, wares and merchandise that are in
the store room at present occupied by him (Isreal Russell), in the town of
Harpers Ferry, or in any wise belonging to said store, viz: such as may be
in the cellar, ware house (This would be Bldg. No. 7), counting room or gar-
rett, and all his books...And out of the said sales..they shall first pay the
rent of the premises under the lease from Anderson to Russell to the first
day of April 1846..."⁹ A trust sale of Isreal Russell's goods and wares was
held in January, 1846, and completed on the 17th of that month.¹⁰

By February 12, 1846, William Anderson had returned to Harpers Ferry
from Elks Branch and re-opened his dry goods store in Bldg. No. 11. Being
now a widower, he advertised the dwelling portion of Bldg. No. 11 for rent
and stated that it was suitable for use as a boarding house, and "three board-
ers would be certain from the Store."¹¹

Mr. Anderson also announced at this time that he had taken Mr. John K.
Woods as his partner.¹² The new firm operated under the name of "WOODS & CO."
and sold dry goods, groceries, shoes, and hardware.¹³ The partnership of

8. Virginia Free Press, December 7, 1843, p.3, c.5; Also-August 22, 1844,
p.3, c.3; April 10, 1845, p.3, c.2.

9. Deed of Trust, September 29, 1845, Russell to William B. Thompson and
Isaac Fouke, Deed Book 27, pp.402-404.

10. Trust sale accounting, in Deed Book 28, pp.1-47, January 19, 1846.

11. Virginia Free Press, February 12, 1846, p.3, c.2.

12. Ibid., April 9, 1846, p.3, c.1.

13. Ibid., October 8, 1846, p.3, c.2.

William Anderson and John K. Woods was dissolved on January 6, 1847. Mr. Anderson announced that he had taken over the whole concern and that the business would henceforth be conducted under the name of "Wm. Anderson & Co."¹⁴ The new partner was Charles Johnson. This partnership lasted from January 7,¹⁵ 1847, until March 12, 1851.

In March, 1851, it was announced: "The partnership heretofore existing between Anderson and Johnson under the name of William Anderson & Co. was dissolved on March 12, 1851. Charles Johnson has purchased the entire interest of W. Anderson in the late firm of William Anderson & Co. and will continue the business at the old stand (Bldg. No. 11)."¹⁶

Charles Johnson's stock was comprised of "Ladies Dress Goods, Fancy Goods, Hosiery, Men's and Boy's Wear, Boots, Shoes, Hats and Caps, and Groceries."¹⁷ Mr. Johnson operated the Dry Goods Store in the first floor and resided on the upper two and a half floors of Bldg. No. 11 from 1851 until at least April, 1861, the beginning of the Civil War.¹⁸ Bldg. No. 11A served as a kitchen and pantry for the quarters in Bldg. No. 11 during this period. William Anderson had retired from the mercantile business in Harpers Ferry in 1851 and was probably residing in Baltimore at the time of the John Brown Raid. The census of 1860 provides us with the following data on the people

14. Virginia Free Press, January 14, 1847, p.3, c.5.

15. Ibid., February 18, 1847, p.3, c.6; February 12, 1848, p.4, c.6; March 1, 1849, p.3, c.2; February 21, 1850, p.3, c.2; March 21, 1851, p.3, c.1.

16. Ibid., March 21, 1851, p.3, c.1.

17. Ibid., October 30, 1851, p.3, c.1.

18. Ibid., October 23, 1856, p.3, c.1; May 7, 1857, p.4, c.6; May 14, 1856, p.4, c.6; July 1, 1858, p.3, c.6; July 22, 1858, p.4, c.4 and c.6.

living or working in Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A in 1860:

"Charles Johnson, 33 year old, male. Merchant. Value of Real Estate: \$550.

Value of Personal Estate \$18,000. Born in Virginia.

Julia A. Johnson, 25, female. Born in Va.

Lawrence W. " 3, male. Born in Va.

Charles " 1, male. Born in Pa.

Julia Littlejohn, 50, female, Born in Va.

James F. Pine, 22, male, Clerk, Born in Md.

Arnold A. S. Courtney, 19, male, Clerk. Born in Md." 19

At some date after February 7, 1862, but before the end of the Civil

20

War in 1865, Bldg. No. 11 was burned out. Bldg. No. 11 and 11A were sold

by William Anderson and his wife, Sarah, in June, 1865, to Daniel Ames for

21

\$4,000. Bldg. No. 11 was rebuilt as a four story building at some date

after 1865.

19. Census of 1860, Reel 10, V.2, p.169.

20. Photographs HF-46; HF-11 and HF-40, made 1861, 1862-1865.

21. Deed of B. & S., June 24, 1865, Deed Book 1, pp.9-10.

V. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

1. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BLDGS.

No historical plans of Bldg. No. 11 and 11A have been located and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be found. No modern measured drawings of Bldg. No. 11 have yet been prepared. Measured drawings of Bldg. No. 11A will be found in Drawing No. 3062, three sheets. Also of great use in the study of Bldg. No. 11 are the measured drawings for Bldgs. No. 12 and 12A, Drawing No. NM-HF 3065, 17 sheets; for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, see Historic American Buildings Survey for the John C. Unseld Building, 5 sheets.

2. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Historical photographs showing Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A will be found in the following reports that have already been submitted:

1. 1859 photograph, HF-66, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lots No. 6, 7, and Part of 8, the Wager House or United States Hotel," dated August 7, 1958, p.33. Roof line and rear of Bldg. No. 11 and 12.
2. 1859 photograph, HF-450, in same report, page 34. A blow-up of Photograph HF-66, revealing more detail.
3. 1862 photograph, HF-11, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, The John C. Unseld Buildings," dated May 28, 1958, page 35. Important photograph showing two story porches on front of Bldgs. No. 11 and 12 and original roof line of Bldg. No. 11.
4. 1863-1865, HF-40, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for the Noah H. Swayne Lot, Wager Lot No. 51," dated July 24, 1958, page 22. Shows Bldg. No. 11 as a burned out structure.

5. 1863-65 photograph, HF-377, on page 23 of same report. A blow-up made from HF-40, showing Bldg. No. 11 burned out in detail.
6. 1892-1896 photograph, HF-99, in Snell, C. W., "History of Wager Lot No. 51," page 25, shows Bldg. No. 11 rebuilt as a four story building.
7. 1936 photograph, HF-281, on page 30 of same report, shows Bldg. No. 11 in 1936 flood.
8. 1955 photograph, showing Bldg. No. 11, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A, the Anderson Buildings," dated October 3, 1957, revised January 31, 1958, page 12.
9. 1862 photograph, HF-376. On the following page of this report will be found HF-376, a blow-up made from HF-40, showing in detail the porches on the front of Bldgs. No. 11 and 12, and the original roof line of these structures.

3. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

PA. Ownership of the Land, 1782-1865

From 1782 until October 28, 1837, Lot No. 15, subdivision 2 was the property of the Wager family. On October 28, 1837, the lot and a portion of the old Harpers Ferry Hotel were sold to William Anderson for \$1,610. Lot No. 15, subdivision 2, remained the property of William Anderson until June 24, 1865, at which time he sold the lot and ruined buildings to Daniel Ames for \$4,000.

B. Construction of Bldgs. No. 11 and 11A

Bldg. No. 11 and 12 were jointly erected by William Anderson and Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson in 1838-39. Bldg. No. 11, a 3½ story brick building with slate roof, fronted approximately 32 feet on Shenandoah Street and was

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.

Thro the break in the bridge, from left to right, 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 buildings. Bldgs. No. 10,
11 and 12 also all have two story porches on their fronts on Shenandoah
Street.

40 feet 10 inches deep. There was a stone foundation and cellar under the building. The first floor was designed for use as one store, probably containing a large store room or shop and a smaller "counting room" in the rear of the shop. The upper $2\frac{1}{2}$ floors were designed for use as a dwelling. From 1841 to 1847 Bldg. No. 7 served as the warehouse for the store in Bldg. No. 11. Probably in 1838-39 and certainly by 1859, Bldg. No. 11 had a large two story frame porch on the Shenandoah Street front of the structure.

Bldg. No. 11A, a two story brick wing, 19 feet five inches by 32 feet 11 inches in size, with slate roof, was added to the rear of Bldg. No. 11 by William Anderson at some date between 1840 and 1845. The first floor of this addition contained a small kitchen and cold storage room. The second floor was comprised of a kitchen and pantry, designed to be used in conjunction with the dwelling portion of Bldg. No. 11. Thus in February, 1846, the upper $2\frac{1}{2}$ floors of Bldg. No. 11 contained "nine comfortable rooms- six of them with fireplaces- and a good pantry." In addition, there was also the kitchen and pantry located on the second floor of Bldg. No. 11A. Bldg. No. 11 was burned out during the Civil War and rebuilt as a four story structure. Bldg. No. 11A apparently escaped serious damage and is largely intact, in its 1859-65 appearance.

C. Use of Bldg. No. 11 and 11A, 1839-1861

The first floor of Bldg. No. 11 was used for a dry goods store from 1839 to 1861. The upper floors of Bldg. No. 11 were utilized from 1839 to 1861 as the residence of the shop keepers of the store located on the first floor. Bldg. No. 11A contained kitchens and pantrys for the service of the main building.

A summary of use, 1839- 1861 follows:

1. June, 1839-January, 1841: Dry Goods Store of William and Samuel B. Anderson.
2. January, 1841-December, 1842: Dry Goods Store of William Anderson.
3. January, 1843-January, 1846: Dry Goods Store of Irseal and Joseph L. Russell.
4. February, 1846-January, 1847; Dry Goods Store of William Anderson and John K. Woods, under the firm name of Woods & Co.
5. January, 1847-March, 1851: Dry Goods Store of William Anderson and Charles Johnson, under the firm name of William Anderson and Co.
6. March, 1851-April, 1861: Dry Goods Store and residence of Charles Johnson.

Charles W. Snell
Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
March 13, 1959

