

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

May 27, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument
From: Regional Historian
Subject: Research Project No. HF-45. Bldg. No. 13

This report is adequate for present purposes. The inclusion of one photograph would have been useful.

Signed

Frank Barnes
Regional Historian

In duplicate

Copy to: Director w/report

FBarnes:em
General
Daily
Area

H2215

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

April 6, 1959

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
	REG. DIRECTOR	
	ASST. REG. DIR.	
	OPERATIONS	
✓	INTERDELEGATION	
	ADM.	
	REC. RES. PLAN	
	HANGER CODE	

✓	Policy	
	Reg. Plan	
	Admin.	
	Info	
	Spec. in	
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Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-45. Bldg. No. 13.

Enclosed please find four copies of the "Research Report for Bldg. No. 13, Mrs. Stephenson's Shop," dated April 3, 1959, 6 pages, as prepared by Historian Charles W. Snell.

Frank H. Henderson

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

sent only
4/16/60 W.A.S.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
(Area)

FILE CODE: H2215

RESEARCH REPORT FOR

BLDG. NO. 13

MRS. STEPHENSON'S SHOP

Prepared by:
Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)

IMPORTANT

FROM:

TO:

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

RESEARCH REPORT FOR

BLDG. NO. 13.

MRS. STEPHENSON'S SHOP

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell,
Historian (Park Supervisory)
April 3, 1959
6 Pages
Project No. HF-45

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1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1782-1870

Wager Lot No. 15, subdivision 1, the former site of Bldg. No. 13, was owned by the Wager family from 1782 to 1837. On October 28, 1837, the lot was sold to Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson for about \$1,600 or \$1,700. In October, 1857, Mrs. Stephenson sold a small portion of her property that fronted on High Street 12 feet, by 21 feet deep and 13 feet wide at the rear of the strip, to Alfred Burton for \$100. Burton erected Bldg. No. 14 on this acquisition in 1858. Mrs. Stephenson and her heirs retained title to the remaining portion of subdivision 1 of Lot No. 15 until 1870.¹ The location of Mrs. Stephenson's property and the relationship of her buildings; namely, Bldgs. No. 12, 12A and 13, may be seen by glancing at the 1848 plat which appears on the following page of this report.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF BLDG. NO. 13

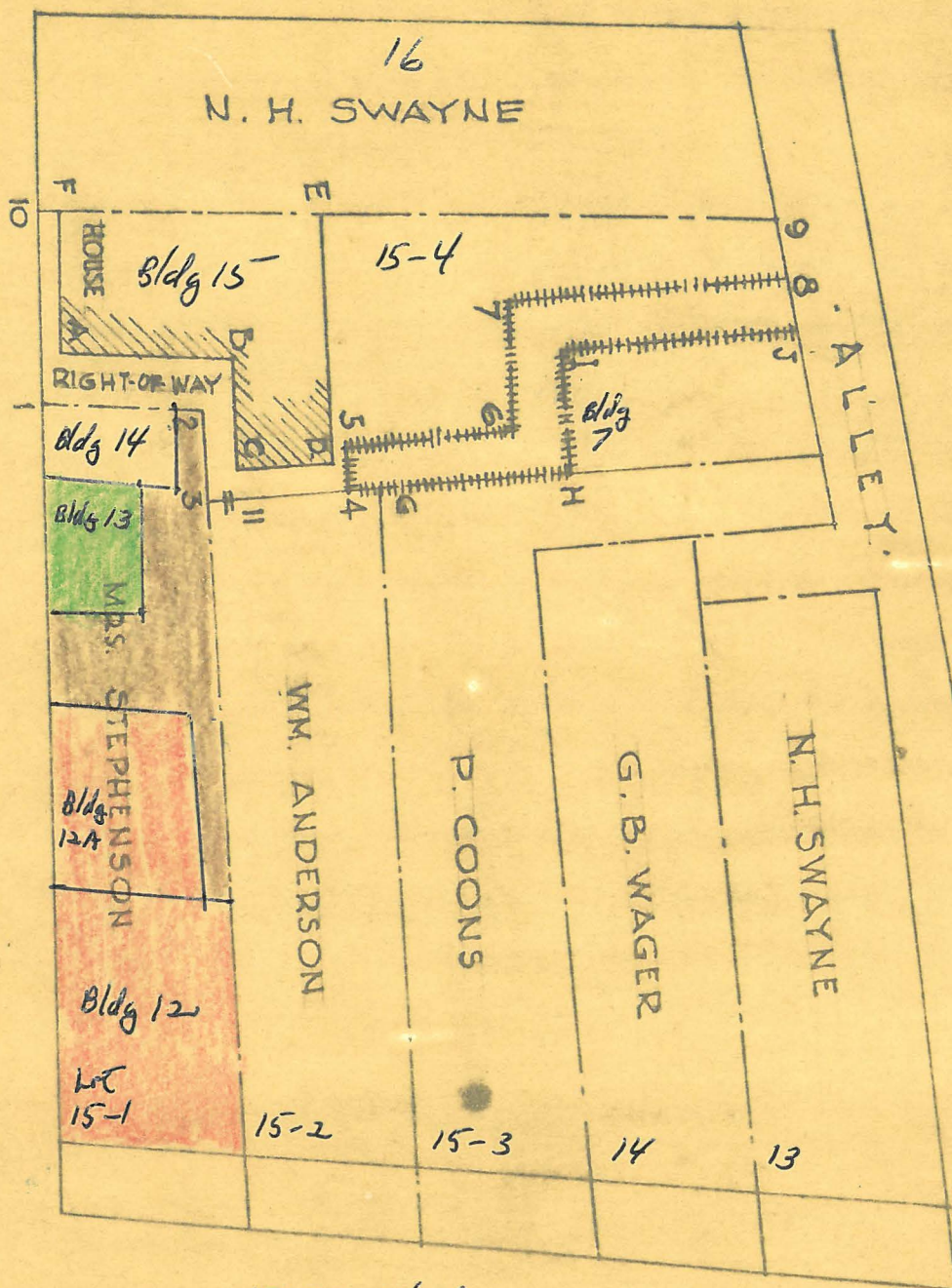
Little direct evidence relating to the construction of Bldg. No. 13 has been found and we must therefore work from the basis of probability. The existence of Bldg. No. 13 in 1857, however, is clearly established by the deed of sale for the site of Bldg. No. 14 to Alfred Burton. This deed states in part that Burton's lot was to begin at "the north west corner of subdivision 1 of Lot 15...thence along the front line of said lot, on High Street twelve (12) feet to a point and stake in said line, the corner of the wooden building now occupied as a shop by George W. Portney."² This description

1. Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 14, The Burton Building," dated October 9, 1957, revised February 3, 1958, pp.1-3. Also 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.

2. Deed of B. & S., Stephenson to Burton, October 12, 1857, Deed Book 37, pp.308-309, in Jefferson County Court House, Charles Town, W. Va.

SCALE 1" = 30'

HIGH STREET.



1848 Plat.

ANDERSON TO DOWNNEY PLAT
DEED BOOK 30, PP. 306-307
JEFFERSON CO., W. VIRGINIA.

places a wooden shop on the exact site of Bldg. No. 13 as early as 1857. It has also been established that Fortney opened his shoemaking business at Harpers Ferry in Bldg. No. 15 in 1849 and remained at that location until April, 1850.³ It is therefore probable that Bldg. No. 13 was constructed in 1850 and occupied at that date by Fortney as his shop.

Judging by the 1894 Ferris-Sanborn Map of Harpers Ferry, Bldg. No. 13 was a one story frame structure that fronted 21 feet on High Street and was 15 feet deep.⁴ The structure probably contained one room designed for use as a small shop.

3. USE OF BLDG. NO. 13

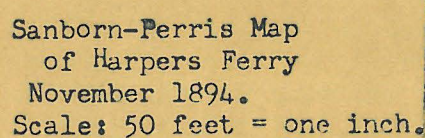
Little evidence has been found on the use of Bldg. No. 13 prior to the Civil War, probably because it was occupied by types of businesses that did not bother to advertise. As already noted, it was occupied in 1857 as a boot and shoemaker's shop by George W. Fortney. By 1859-60 Fortney was residing in Bldg. No. 15 and probably also had his shop located at his home.⁵ It is not known who occupied Bldg. No. 13 at the time of the John Brown Raid. One possibility, however, might be a grocery store kept by Patrick Carrell. Carrell was residing in a house located on Wager Lot No. 54B on High Street in 1860.⁶

3. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section, Bldg. No. 15, The Susan Downey House," dated March 27, 1959, page 10.

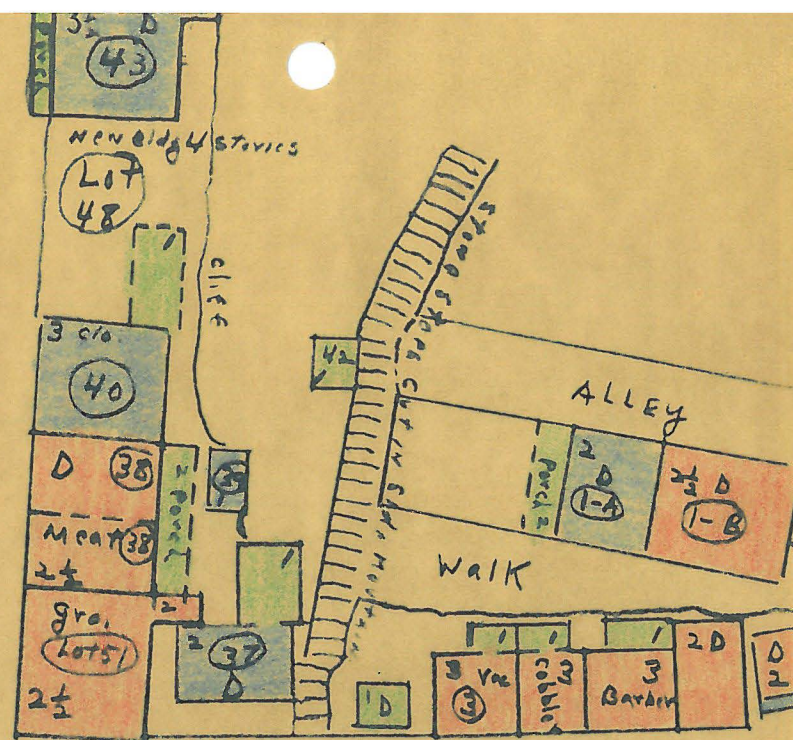
4. 1894 map on next page of this report. Also see Drawing No. NM-HF-3055, Architectural Base Map of Harpers Ferry, The Lower Town.

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

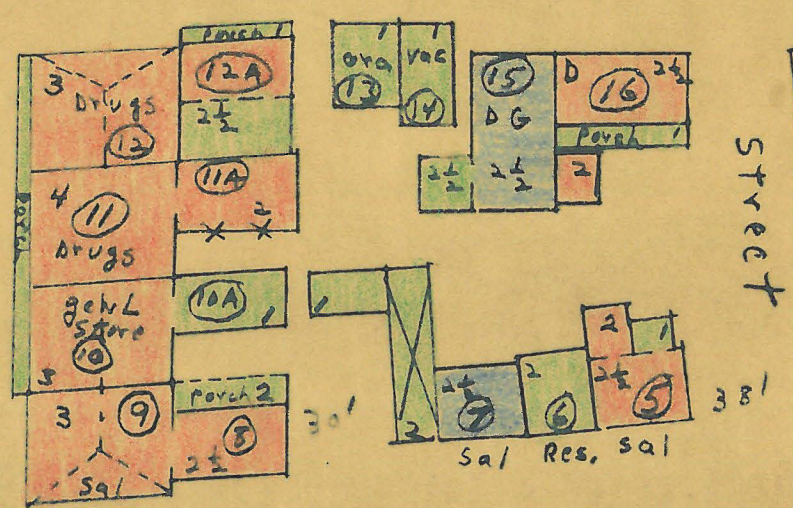
6. Ibid., Reel 10, V.2, p.174.



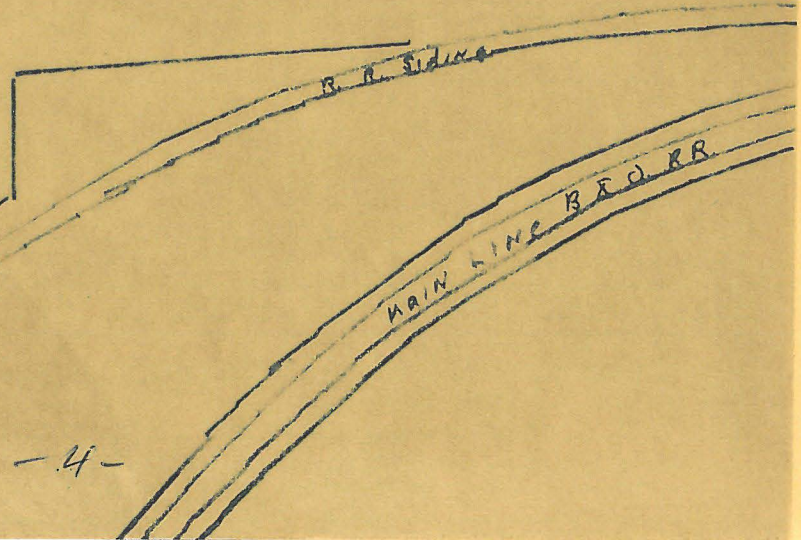
- | | |
|---|---------|
|  | By 12 H |
|  | Stone |
|  | Framp |



High street



Potomac Street



4. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BUILDING

No historical plans of Bldg. No. 13 have been found and it is highly unlikely any will ever be found. There are no modern measured drawings of the structure and the building was demolished in 1955 or 1956.

5. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Early photographs of Bldg. No. 13 will be found in the following reports:

1. 1895 photograph, HF-99, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Bldg. No. 3, Wager Lot No. 53," dated July 29, 1958, page 17, view of roof and High Street front of Bldg. No. 13.
2. 1900 photograph, HF-142, in above report, page 18. Closeup of front of Bldg. 13.
3. 1896 photograph, HF-96, in Sullivan, Arthur L., "History of Wager Lots No. 17 to 34, 1782-1869," dated February 18, 1959, page 90. View of roof and rear of Bldg. No. 13.
4. 1886 photograph HF-371, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, Bldg. No. 14, The Alfred Burton Jewelry Shop," dated April 3, 1959, page 7. Shows a corner of Bldg. No. 13 and all of 14.
5. 1890 photograph, HF-370, in above report, page 9, showing portion of the front of Bldg. No. 13 and all of 14.
6. 1955 photograph, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 14, page 8.
7. 1955 photograph, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 15, the Downey Bldg.," dated October 7, 1957, revised January 30, 1958, page 12.

6. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land

The site of Bldg. No. 13 owned by Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson from 1837 until 1870.

B. Construction of Bldg. No. 13

This small one story frame shop was probably erected in 1850 and was definitely standing 1857. The building fronted 21 feet on High Street and was about 15 feet deep.

C. Use of the Building

The structure was used in the 1850's and until 1857, as the boot and shoe making shop of George W. Portney. The use has not been established in the 1859-61 period, but it was probably rented as either a small shoemaker's shop or a grocery store. Bldg. No. 13 was demolished by the National Park Service in 1955 or 1956 and only the stone foundation of the structure now remains.

(Sgd) CHARLES W. SNELL

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
April 3, 1958

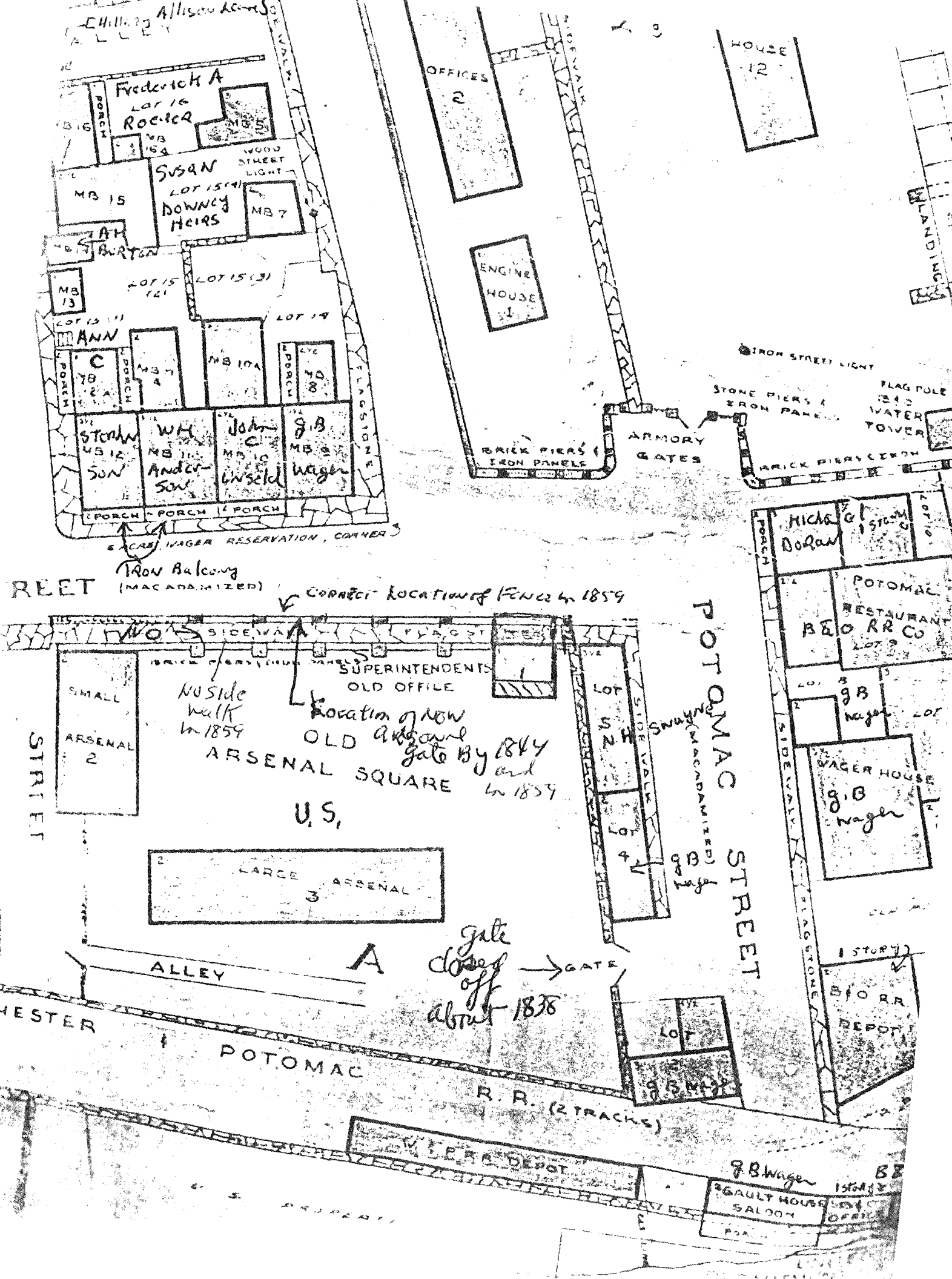
Bldg. 13

Change in location of Arsneal fence along Shenandoah Street from inside edge to outside edge of side walk and the eliminating of the side walk, as shown on the 1959 edition of the map, base on archeological studies done since 1959.

New Change on 1859 map: This based on Major John Symington's Map of Harper's Ferry, prepared in November 1844, and just recently discovered in the National Archives.

Arsenal gate location, as shown on the 1959 edition of the historical base map is correct for the period 1799 to about 1837. Symington's map, however, reveals that at some undetermined date after 1837 and prior to 1844, the arsenal gate as shown was closed up by a stone wall and the new gate opened out on Shenandoah Street, being centered between the Small Arsenal and the Superintendent's Old Office.

Charles W. Snell, April 19, 1980.



Heights of buildings on Wager Lots 53 to 56, High Street, revised.
General raised one-story in height, from that given on map as prepared
in 1959. This change based on more detailed studies and additional
historical photos acquired since 1959.

Charles W. Snell, April 15, 1980.

