#48

001304

19

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
PART I AND II

ARMORER'S DWELLING HOUSE
(Building #48)
Administrative and Historical Data

HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL MONUMENT

by

Charles W. Snell
Historian

October 31, 1958

001304

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT

PART I AND II

BLDG. NO. 48,

An Armorer's Dwelling House,

Lot No. 2, Shenandoah Street

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
Dated October 31, 1958
Revised December 30, 1958
29 Pages
Project No. HF-21A

H30 HAFE

APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended: _____
Director

Recommended: _____
Regional Director

Recommended: _____
Chief, EODC

Approved: _____
Superintendent

Harpers Ferry National Monument

See memo H30 dtd 1-13-59
Rgn 5 to Dir. re HB rpt Part I
13dg 48.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

SECTION I: ADMINISTRATIVE DATA..... 1 page

SECTION II: HISTORICAL DATA

1. Ownership of the Land, 1796-1869..... 1
2. Construction of Bldg. No. 48..... 7
3. Use of Bldg. No. 48..... 17
4. Historical Photographs..... 22
5. Historical Plans..... 22
6. Summary of Historical Data..... 22
7. Conclusions and Recommendations..... 22

APPENDIX I - Photographs (Three)..... 26

SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Building:

Building No. 48, Armorer's Dwelling House

B. Proposed Use of the Structure:

It is proposed that this building be restored both interior and exterior as a typical home of an armorer of the 1859-65 period. The building has great charm and attraction for visitors to the Monument. Its location, the first building in the area to be seen by most visitors, provides a unique opportunity to induce the proper mood for the maximum enjoyment of Harpers Ferry National Monument. As the only surviving example of this type of building it is imperative that it be restored.

C. Provision for Operating the House:

No funds have been programed for refurnishing or operating the house nor have any cooperative agreements been executed or proposed for this purpose.

D. Preliminary Estimate of Cost for Rehabilitating the Structure and Grounds:

The preliminary estimate of cost for rehabilitating the structure and grounds is $10,000.00.

SECTION II - HISTORICAL DATA

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1796 to 1865:

On June 15, 1796, John Wager, Senior, for the consideration of $7,016.66, sold to the United States Government the land at Harpers Ferry that was required to establish a Federal Armory at that place.[1] Lot No. 2 on Shenandoah Street, the subject of this report, was included within the limits of the 1796 acquisition.

In 1852 there occurred the sale of Government Dwelling Houses and Lots to Armory workmen. In preparation for this proposed sale of Armory property, a board of officers met at Harpers Ferry in 1851 and submitted a report, from which we quote:

"The Board of Officers directed to convene at Harper's Ferry Armory agreeably to the instructions contained in letter from the Colonel of Ordnance, dated September 2nd 1851, met at this place on the 22 of Sept.

Present
Lt. Col. Ripley
Major Symington (Superintendent of the Armory)
B. Col. Huger

The Board after carefully examining the grounds &c. report, that, Major Symington after consultingwith the authorities of the town, had employed a surveyor who was engaged in making a plat of the place, shewing the streets, the ground to be preserved for public use, and the lots it would be proper to sell.

As this survey would be a work requiring several weeks to complete, the Board found it impossible to wait until the Plat now being made was finished, they are therefore unable to accompany this report with the plan.

They now present their views of the proper course to be pursued, and the drawing must be completed at leisure by the Commanding Officer of the Post.

The Board recommend tobe reserved for the use of the Armory:

1. National Archives, Microfilm Reel #21, Volume 7, pp. 704-708.

"1st - All the ground on which the Musket factory is situated, and all between this and the Six Acre Reservation-All the land along this reservation and the road (Washington Street) to the head of the ravine (running down towards the new barrel welding shop), till opposite the present dwelling No. 97 (which was located on Camp Hill, Block E. Lot 1 on the 1852 and 1869 maps). - thence on the other side of the ravine to the edge of the cliffs on the bank of the Potomac, following on the upper edge of these cliffs to the Extreme western boundary of the public lands.

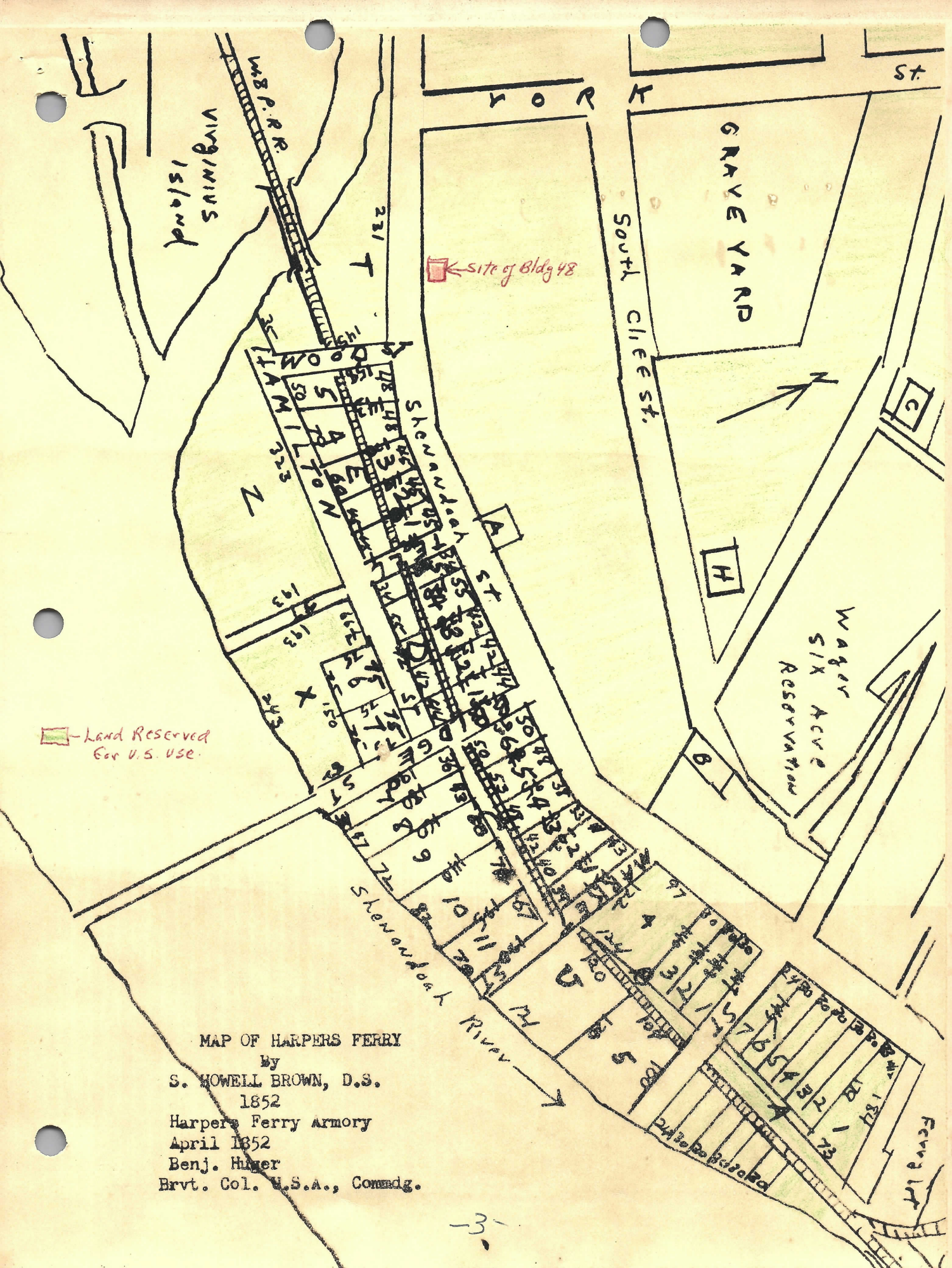
2nd - On the Shenandoah side.
The present lumber yard(Z on the 1848 map or Shenandoah Street, Block G, Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 on the 1869 map) and public stable (T on the 1848 map or Shenandoah Street, Block F, Lot 1, 2) with a lot uniting them, and allowing room enough to extend the stable yards.

3rd - The Rifle factory, and the upper part of the island on which it is situated, which is now occupied by dwelling houses (see Government Dwelling Houses No. 155 to 169 inclusive, Chapter VIII, section I of this report). - These dwellings should be removed, and this part of the island reserved for future use, and to protect the bank of the Canal by which it is bounded.

4th - The Commanding Officers quarters (Bldg. No. 25, Camp Hill, Storer College on 1869 map) and grounds attached; the Paymaster's quarters, & grounds a/s/d a sufficient quanitity of ground between them and Washington Street, to erect quarters for the Officers of the Armory, &c.
The Master Armorer and Clerks now occupy houses on ground which should be sold; these houses should be reserved from the sale until suitable ones are erected for their use (Master Armorer lived in house No. 2 on Shenandoah Street Block B, Lot No. 3, Present Bldg. No. 34-35, in 1851)
All other dwellings should be removed from the land reserved.

For the benefit of the town, besides the opening of and better location of streets, and open spaces at certain points as will be shown on the plat; It is recommended, that, the present market house (U on the 1848 map or Market House on the 1869 map) with proper space about it extending down to the Shenandoah river for a public landing, be reserved for the use of the town.

Also, for its use, a cemetery, permission to locate which has already been granted, will be surveyed and marked on the plan.



MAP OF HARPERS FERRY
By
S. HOWELL BROWN, D.S.
1852
Harpers Ferry Armory
April 1852
Benj. Huger
Brvt. Col. U.S.A., Commdg.

The Board further recommend that sales should be made from time to time of such parts of the public land not reserved, as are in demand for building lots, all possible care being taken to prevent its falling into the hands of speculators; and as recommended by the Colonel of Ordnance in his report tothe Secty. of War dated August 19, 1851, reserving the right to bid in any lots offered for sale and to dispose of them afterwards at private sale for not less than the highest price shich has been bid..."

In 1852 the Secretary of War wrote:

"The above report is hereby approved.

The Superintendent of the Armory is hereby directed to cause to be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, such of the lots as the Boardof Officers..., did by this report of 24 September last, recommend to be sold. These lots as designated and described, on a plat lately prepared by order of said Board, by S. Howell Brown Deputy Surveyor of Jefferson County, Virginia, to which I have this day affixed my signature, by Streets and Figures.

From this sale will be executed such lots or portions of ground as are recommended in said report of 24 September, to be reserved. Also such other lots or portions of ground as are designated on the plat above described as the sites of Churches, parsonages, or public institutions of any kind, leaving to the persons or Corporations interested in said reservations to apply to Congress for a title to the Same, which I have nopower to grant...

"Signed by C.M. Conrad,
Secretary of War." June 10, 1852."[2]

Thus in 1852 all Government owned land at Harpers Ferry was divided into two catagories, that which was to be reserved for use of the United States, and that which was to offer for sale to the public. S. Howell Brown's Map of 1852[3] shows that all Government Land located ~~land~~ on the north side of Shenandoah Street, beginning at the point where it abuted on the Wager Six Acres Reservation on Shenandoah Street and extending westward along the north side of Shenandoah Street to Boundary Street and then back up the cliffs to Fillmore Street on Camp Hill, was

2. Report of Board, dated September 24, 1851, R. 24, v. 8, p. 802-806. Also Col. Craig to Sec. of War. Dec. 3, 1851, R. 20, v. 1 p. 220-221.
3. The only known surviving copy of this map has been borrowed from Mr. Henry McDonald of Storer College, Harpers Ferry. This map also served as the basis for S. H. Brown's 1869 map of Harpers Ferry.

reserved for the use of the United States and not offered for sale in 1852. Shenandoah Street Lot No. 2 was located within the boundaries above described as reserved land and hence was owned by the United States Government from 1852 until after the Civil War.

The Catalogue of the Harpers Ferry Armory Property to be Sold by the United States on 30th November, 1869, At the Town of Harpers Ferry, Va. (sic-W. Va.) page 3, describes Lot No. 2 on Shenandoah Street as follows: "Lots north of Shenandoah Street, and between the same and South Cliff street...

"Lot No. 2. 237 feet front on Shenandoah Street; 213 feet front on South Cliff street, and extending from York Street, on the west, to 'Jefferson' Rock Lot' on the east. Stone House,"

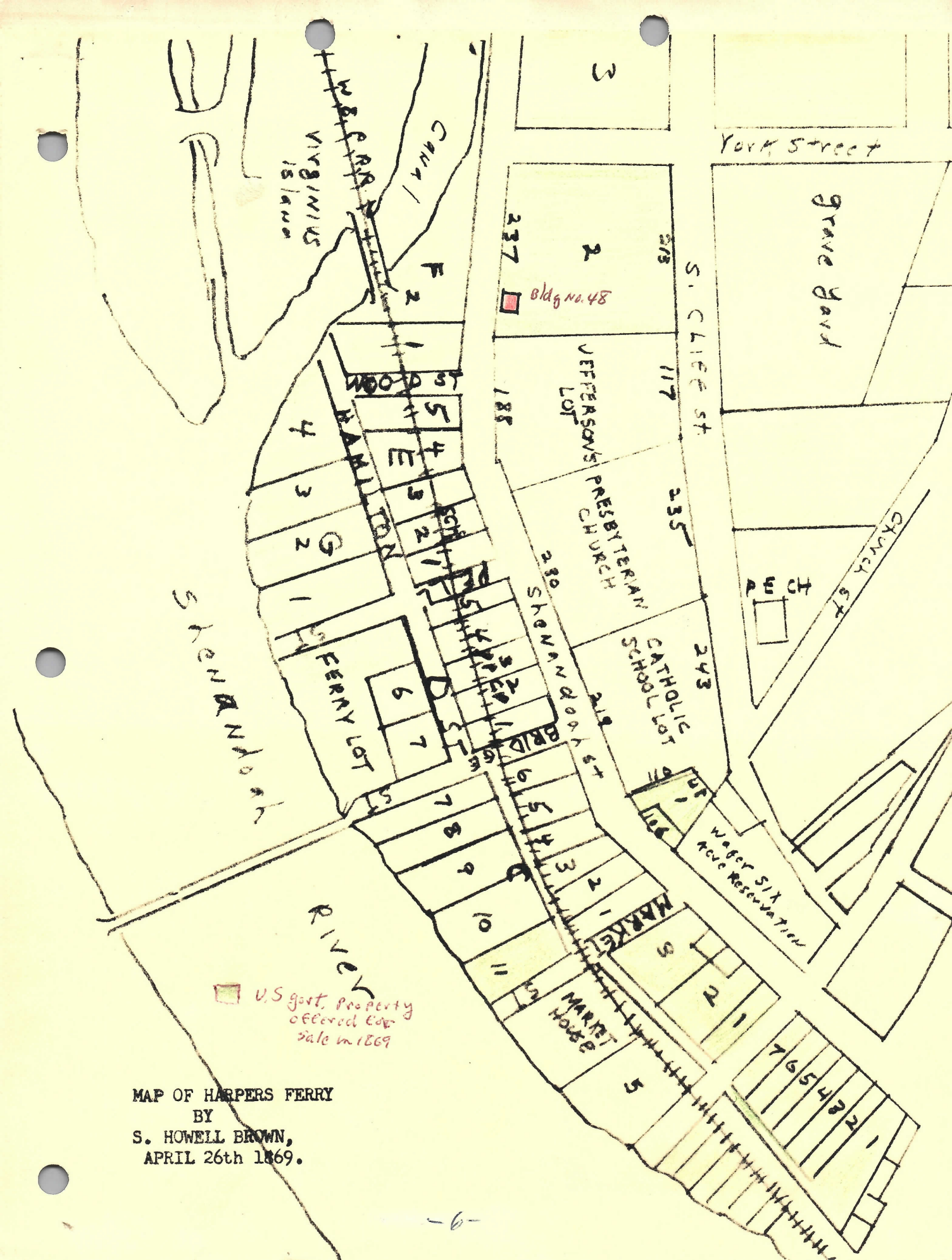
Among the cancelled bonds from the sale of December 6, 1869, which were filed January 23, 1878, was the following bond:

"Stone house-Lot No. 2, 237 feet front on Shenandoah Street; 213 feet front on South Cliff Street, and extending from York Street on the west to 'Jefferson Rock Lot' on the east , "purchased by "Isabella Leisenring."[4]

It is thus clear the Shenandoah Street Lot No. 2 was owned by the United States Government, as a part of the armory property, from 1796 to 1869.

The second historical map, which actually delineates present Bldg. No. 48 as standing on Shenandoah Street Lot No. 2, is the "Map of Harpers Ferry, West. Va., April 26th 1869. Designed, Projected & Mapped by S.

4. National Archives R. G. 121, Public Buildings Service, Harpers Ferry File No. 387, Cancelled Bonds.



MAP OF HARPERS FERRY
BY
S. HOWELL BROWN,
APRIL 26th 1869.

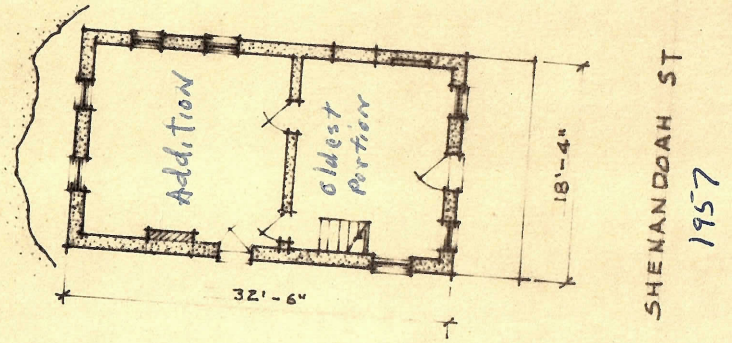
"Howell Brown, Surveyor, from the original and subsequent Surveys in his possession by order of Capt. Dan'l J. Young Mil. Storekeeper of Ordnance Harpers Ferry, W. Va. under the instructions of the Ordnance Department, Washington City D. C. Dated April 2nd 1869."

2. CONSTRUCTION OF BLDG. NO. 48

A physical examination of Bldg. No. 48 reveals considerable evidence on the construction of this structure. On the following page we, therefore, include a plan of the first floor of this building, furnished for this report through the courtesy of Architect Archie W. Franzen. The plan reveals that Bldg. No. 48 today fronts 18 feet 4 inches on Shenandoah Street and is 32 feet 6 inches deep. The house is two and one-half stories high and is constructed of stone. The dwelling now has a metal roof and contains six rooms. There is no cellar. The first floor is divided into two rooms, with a fireplace in each room. The second floor is also divided into two rooms, with a small closet area situated between the two rooms, and each room contains a fireplace. The third or half story is a finished garret and is also divided into two rooms, with the rear room containing traces of a former fireplace.

Actual examination of the structure indicates that the front room, 18 feet 4 inches by about 15 feet in size, was probably erected first. This is shown by a large crack in the exterior wall at the point of junction of the two rooms in the west wall of the building. The house, as originally constructed, was a one and a half or two story building.

The back room, measuring 18 feet 4 inches by 17½ feet, was added on to the original structure at some later date, but well before the Civil War. At the same time the rear room was added, it also appears that the entire



BUILDING NO. 48

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"

house was enlarged from 1½ or two stories to 2½ stories in height. These additions, however, may have been made in one or two separate steps. Architectural investigation by an architect will, of course, undoubtedly provide answers to these questions.

In any event, Photograph HF-119 (See Appendix I) indicates that Bldg. No. 48 was a two and one half story structure in 1865 or 1866.

Assuming therefore that the original portion of Bldg. No. 48 was a 1½ or 2 story stone house about 18 by 15 feet in size, a check of the Government inventories of Armory dwelling houses for 1810 and 1821 reveals that there was no building of this description standing at those dates.[5]

After 1821 and before October, 1831, however, a number of small stone houses of approximately the original dimensions of Bldg. No. 48 were erected by Armory workmen on the Government property at their own initial expense.[6]

One house, for example, listed in an 1831 inventory of unpaid claims for houses erected by Armory workman on Government land, is described as

5. "Public Buildings at Harpers Ferry in Virginia, 1st January 1810" National Archives R.G. 107, War Dept., Secretary of War Letters Received. A-29 (5) enc. Paymaster Samuel Annin, March 17, 1810. No stone houses are included on the 1810 list. "Statement of the number and dimensions of the buildings at the United States Armory at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, together with the materials of which they are built, and their estimated value." 1821, American States Papers, Documents Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States, from the First Session of the Sixteenth Congress, Inclusive, Commencing December 27, 1819, and Ending February 28, 1825, Washington, 1834, Volume II, pp.482-483. Harpers Ferry Microfilm Collection, Reel 17, V.3, pp.204-205. Only 3 stone houses are included on the 1821 list and all are much larger than Bldg. No. 48.

6. See "Valuation of Claims of individuals for improvements made on the Public Land at Harpers Ferry Armory, Class No. 1," submitted by Superintendent George Rust, Jr., on October 29, 1831, to Col. George Bomford, Chief of Ordnance.

being constructed by Henry Ward and as a "Stone dwelling 18 by 19 feet, 1½ stories, cost $230.00."[7] It is therefore probable that the oldest portion of Bldg. No. 48 was erected by an Armory employee after 1821 and before 1831. On January 7, 1832, Col. George Bomford, Chief of Ordnance, issued orders to George Rust, Jr., Superintendent of the United States Armory at Harpers Ferry, to "suspend the further erection of all private buildings on the public grounds of the Armory."[8] This directive brought to a halt a system of construction that had been in use from about 1812 to 1832, whereby the Superintendent of the Armory had permitted workmen employed in the Armory to build their own houses on government land and also to make their own repairs and additions to Government constructed dwelling houses.

The reason for this unusual situation was twofold. First the United States Government owned all of the land in Harpers Ferry with the exception of six and three-quarters acres. The owners of this private inholding, the Wager family, refused from 1796 to 1836 to sell any of this property, thus making it impossible to Armorers to purchase any land in Harpers Ferry on which to build their own homes. Moreover, the Wager family, who constructed houses on their land, would only rent these buildings out as quarters at an exceedingly high rate of rent, thus making these dwellings highly unpopular as homes for the Armory workmen. In view of this situation, the Superintendent of the Armory therefore granted permission to his workmen to build their

7. See "Valuation of claims of individuals for improvements made on the Public Land at Harpers Ferry Armory, Class No. 1", submitted by Superintendent George Rust, Jr., on October 29, 1831, to Col. George Bomford, Chief of Ordnance. Claim No. 66.

8. Col. Bomford to Supt. Rust, January 7, 1832, Reel 14, V.9, p.845.

own homes on the Government land.

Second, the Government also endeavored on it own part to construct and maintain Government dwelling houses as quarters for the workmen. But the rapid increase in the number of men employed in the Armory, together with the frequent failure of Congress to appropriate money to construct enough additional dwelling houses to keep pace with expanding needs, led the Superintendent to authorize not only new construction of homes by the workman, but also to make repairs and additions to existing Government dwelling houses.[9] The Government then purchased the new houses from the workmen or reimbursed them for additions and repairs when money was available.

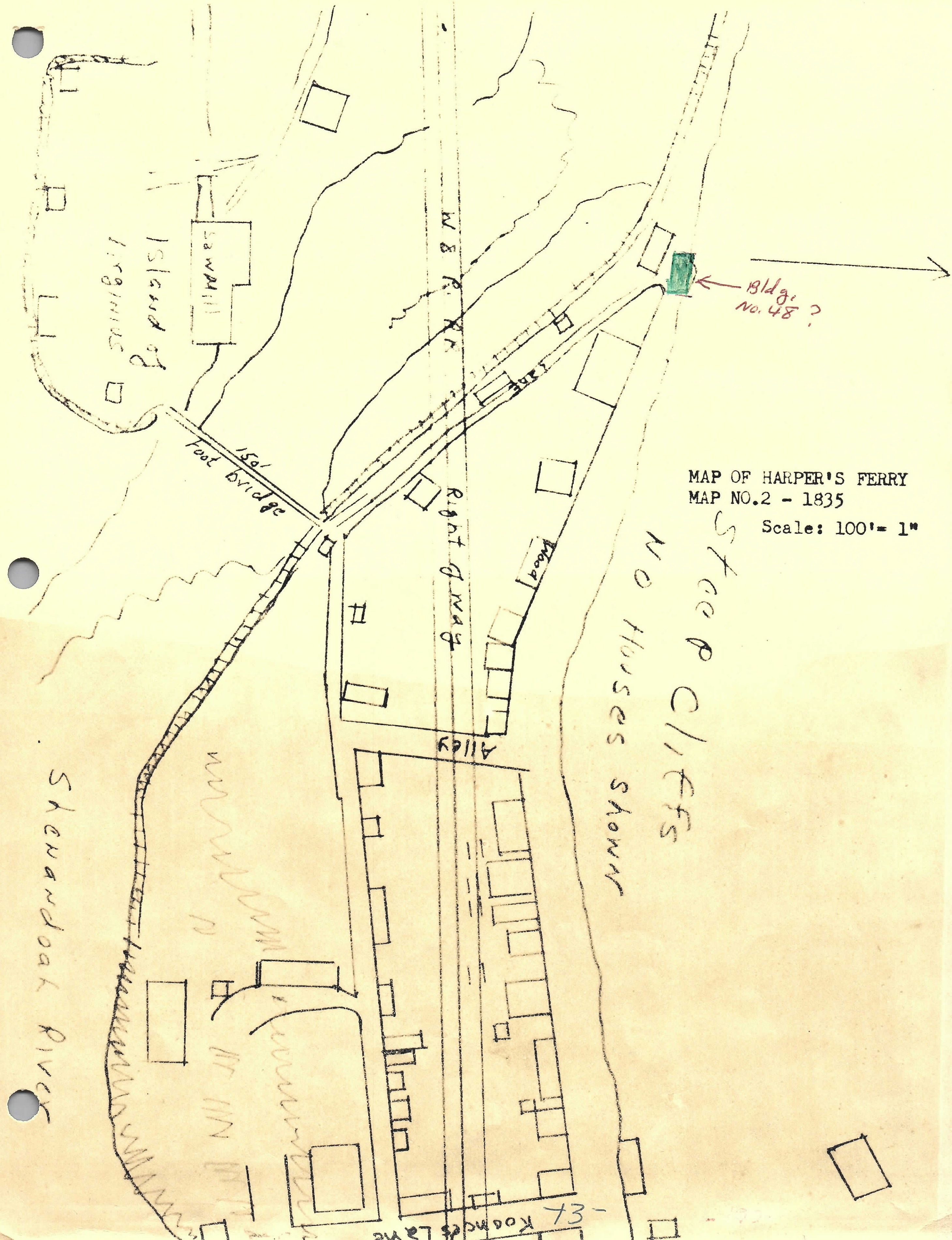
Superintendent James Stubblefield, under whose superintendency most of this type of construction occurred, remarked to the Chief of Ordnance, in 1829, in regard to this practice:

"...In regard to the authority for purchasing buildings, improvements, &c, I have to observe that it has always been considered the duty of the superintendent to provide suitable accommodations for the workmen employed in the armory. This could only be done by building new buildings, or purchasing improvements already made. The latter of these alternatives was, in many instances, the more expedient, from death, removal, change of circumstances of persons who made the improvements, or other similar causes. It frequently occurrs, when good workmen, having married, or from other causes need dwellings, or additions to those previously occupied, that the armory funds will not, at the time, admit of expenditures being made for such purposes. They are, therefore, permitted, when able to do so, to make the improvements at their own charge, with the understanding that afterwards, when convenient to the armory, they shall be paid for the same, according to fair valuation.

"The passing of such accounts from time to time, for many years past, by the accounting officers, has also been considered as approving the course

9. See Snell, Charles W., "A Comprehensive History of the Construction, Maintenance and Numbers of Armory Dwelling Houses, 1796-1861," dated October 31, 1958, Chapter 1 to 6, 74 pages. This report was originally submitted as a part of the Report on Bldg. No. 48, but is now in process of revising. It will be expanded and submitted in the near future.

MAP OF HARPER'S FERRY
MAP NO.2 - 1835
Scale: 100'= 1"



"pursued in this respect..." [10]

These practices of permitting armory workmen to erect, improve and maintain Government dwelling houses were halted for good on January 7, 1832. The last of this type of claim and all houses erected by this method were finally settled and purchased by the Government in 1838.[11]

To return to Bldg. No. 48, the oldest portion of this building was probably built by an Armory Workman between 1822 and 1831, and in any event, all rights to the structure were acquired by the U. S. Government by 1838. The additions made to the original structure, if erected before 1831, could have either been made by a workman or the government; however, if they were erected after 1831, the additions could then have only been made by the Government.

What is probably Bldg. No. 48 is to be seen on the early map of Shenandoah Street (see next page of this report) entitled. "Harpers Ferry Showing the Location of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad, Drawn by Lieut. White, Allen and R. S. Smith, U. S. Army under the direction of James Kearney, Lt. Col. and T. E., Map No. 2-1835, approved by President Andrew Jackson, January 27, 1835"[12]

In 1845 each Government Dwelling House was assigned a number that was used to designate that particular building until 1853. In 1853 a different set was then assigned to the houses that was used until 1869. From the several

10. Stubblefield, February 23, 1829, to Col. George Bomfor, Ordnance Dept., Reel 17, V.3, p.234.

11. Snell, C. W., "Comprehensive History....", Chapters 4,5, pp.33-49.

12. National Archives R.G. 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Fortification Map File, Part of Map Dr. 150-Sheet 82-2.

lists of numbered Dwelling Government Houses of the 1848-1852 period that have been located in the National Archives, we can therefore pick up a more detailed history of Bldg. No. 48. One printed list, entitled Legend Exhibiting the Corresponding Numbers of the Houses, As per the Inventory of the 30th June, 1852, with the Lots of Land as per Brown's Map of the Same, Where Correspondence Exists, and in other cases, an Approximation,[12a] was prepared to describe the lots and Government Dwelling houses that were offered for sale on August 30, and September 1 and 2, 1852. In describing the Shenandoah Street area, the list states that Government Dwelling houses No. 7, 25, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 were all located on ground reserved from the sale by the Government and hence these numbered houses were retained by the Armory for Government use.

The three following list of Government Dwelling Houses:

1. "List of Dwelling Houses at Harper's Ferry, 30th June 1848, Corrected in Red Ink by the Rent Rool of 31 Dec. 1848."[13]

2. "List of Dwelling Houses belonging to the United States at Harpers Ferry, December 31, 1850."[14]

3. "List of Dwelling Houses at Harpers Ferry, Per Inventory 30th June 1851, corrected by Rent Roll to December 31, 1852."[15]

12a. National Archives R.G. 156, War Dept. Ordnance Office, H-330-1852-August 28, 1852. Harpers Ferry Map Case, Drawer No. 3, Map No. 82.

13. Reel 18, V.12, p.1185-1186.

14. National Archives R.G. 153. Harpers Ferry Photostatic Collection, Map Case, Drawer No. 4, pp.1-2.

15. Reel 18, V.12, pp.1177-1178.

indicate that all the houses located on reserved ground along Shenandoah Street in 1852 were either brick, frame or one story stone houses, with the exception of Dwelling Houses No. 30 and 32.

The three lists describe these two houses as follows:

"Bldg. 30, stone, 2 story, class No. 8, Value $500, located on Shenandoah Street." occupied by one family.

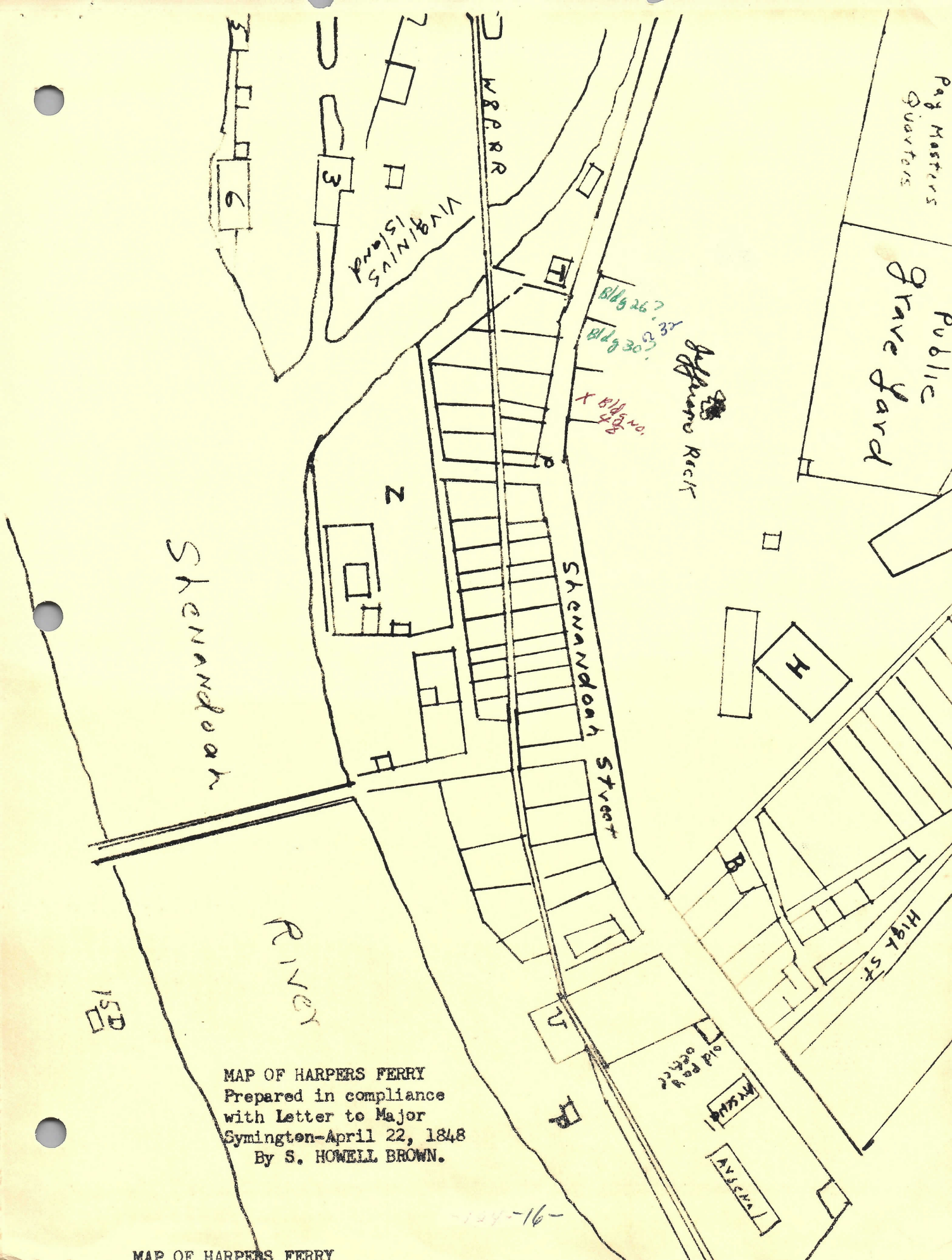
"Bldg. No. 32, stone, 2 story, class No. 7, Value $600, located on Shenandoah Street," occupied by two families.

Thus either Government Dwelling House No. 30 or No. 32, is the present Bldg. No. 48. As Bldg. No. 48 is a small structure in which to house two families, it is probable therefore that House No. 30 is Bldg. No. 48. Judging by Photograph HF-116, as well as by the type of roof found on most Government dwelling houses on the 1850 lists, the 1859 roof of Bldg. No. 48 was composed of wood shakes.

We present here a tracing of "Map of Harpers Ferry prepared in compliance with Letter to Major Symington-April 22, 1848," which delineates the Shenandoah Street area in 1848. The original of this map, which appears in the Harpers Ferry Master Plan as Drawing No. NM-HF-3000, is a partial copy of the full map prepared by S. Howell Brown in October 1848.[16]

Following the 1852 sale of land and government houses, the Government demolished many of the substandard dwelling houses located on the reserved

16. Supt. John Symington to Col. George Talcott, Chief of Ordnance, October 21, 1848, Reel 23, V.11, p.1078, submitting the map. The full map was prepared in two copies, one to be kept at Harpers Ferry Armory and the other in the Ordnance Department in Washington, D.C. Both full maps have been destroyed. Drawing NM-HF-3000 is an original tracing made in January 1851 of a portion of the full map, but does not include all of the detail shown on the full map.



MAP OF HARPERS FERRY
Prepared in compliance
with Letter to Major
Symington-April 22, 1848
By S. HOWELL BROWN.

-16-

MAP OF HARPERS FERRY

land.[17] The final number of Armory Dwelling Houses left standing during the 1859-1865 period was 33.[18] Bldg. No. 48 was described in July, 1865, by the inspector as follows:

"1 Dwelling House-two story, stone. No. 5. Located Shenandoah Street. In Fair Condition."[19]

On the two pages that follow are included tracings made from the 1913 Baltimore and Ohio Railroad map and Drawing No. NM-HF3055, prepared in 1955, which show Bldg. No. 48 and related structures then standing in that area. All of these other buildings have since disappeared or been removed by the National Park Service.

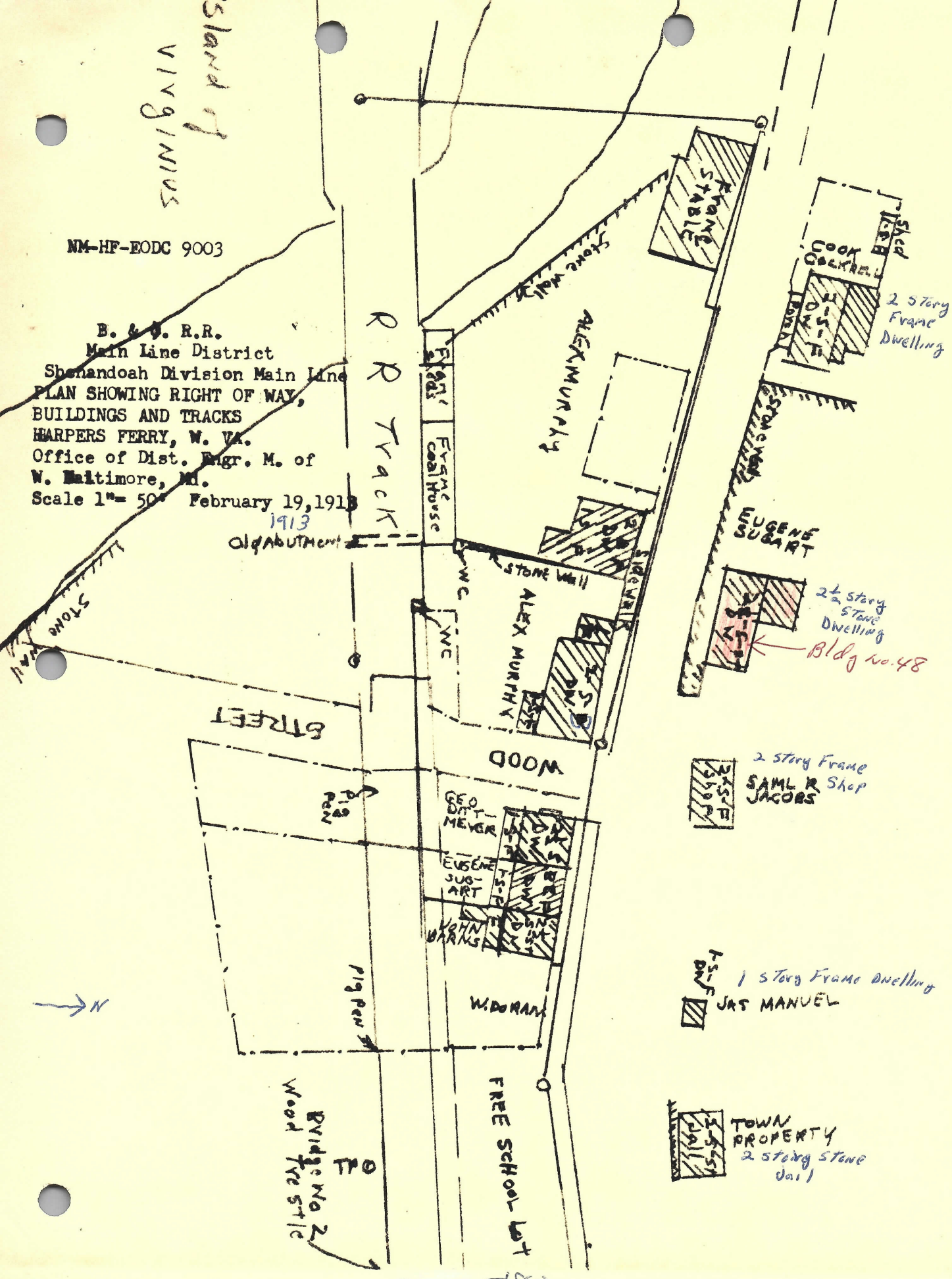
3. USE OF BUILDING NO 48 PRIOR TO 1865

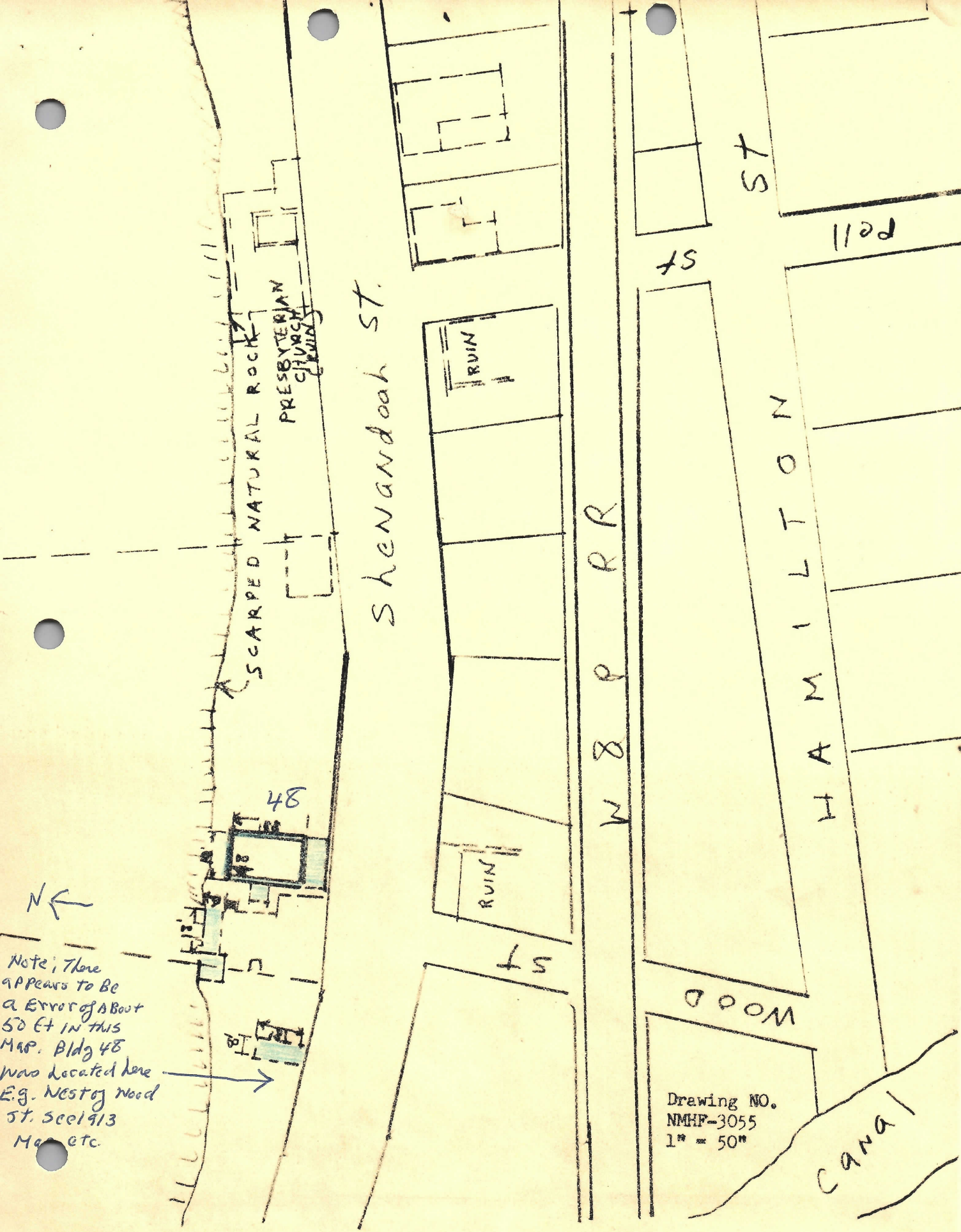
Bldg. No. 48 was erected on Government owned land at some date after 1821 and before 1835. The house was used from the time of its construction until the outbreak of the Civil War as a Government Dwelling House for workmen employed at the U. S. Armory at Harpers Ferry. A typical form of a lease used from 1830 to 1861 by the armory in granting armorers permission to rent Government owned dwelling houses will be found on Microfilm Reel 14, V.8, pages 761-762. The lease form is also included in "A Comprehensive History of the Construction, Maintenance and Numbers of Armory Dwelling Houses, 1796-1861."

17. Snell, C. W., "Comprehensive History...," Chapter VIII.

18. Brigadier General Edward D. Ramsay, inspection report, dated July 27, 1865, to Brig. Genl. A. B. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance. National Archives R.G. 156. Harpers Ferry Photostatic Collection. Map Case, Drawer No. 16.

19. Ibid.


NM-HF-EODC 9003
B. & O. R.R.
Main Line District
Shenandoah Division Main Line
PLAN SHOWING RIGHT OF WAY,
BUILDINGS AND TRACKS
HARPERS FERRY, W. VA.
Office of Dist. Engr. M. of
W. Baltimore, Md.
Scale 1"= 50' February 19,1913
1913
R R Track
Frame Coal House
Stone Wall
Alex Murphy
Stone Stable
Shed
Cook Cockrell
2 Story Frame Dwelling
Eugene Sugart
2½ Story Stone Dwelling
Bldg No. 48
Stone Wall
Stone Wall
Alex Murphy
Street
Wood
2 Story Frame
Saml R Jacobs Shop
Geo Ditt-Meyer
Eugene Sugart
John Harris
W. Doran
1 Story Frame Dwelling
Jas Manuel
Free School Lot
Town Property
2 Story Stone Jail
Bridge No 2
Wood Trestle
N


SCARPED NATURAL ROCK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RUINS
SHENANDOAH ST.
RUIN
RUIN
48
N
Note; There appears to be a Error of ABout 50 Ft IN this Map. Bldg 48 was located here E.g. West of Wood St. See 1913 Map etc.
W & P R R
HAMILTON
ST
ST
ST
ROOM
CANAL
Drawing NO.
NMHF-3055
1" = 50'

As has been stated in this report, it is not possible to place any particular Armorer in a specific structure until the 1848-1852 period. It has also been shown that in the 1848-52 lists either Bldgs. No. 30 or No. 32 could have been present Bldg. No. 48. There being doubt, we therefore include what is known of the record of use of both Bldgs. No. 30 and 32.

Year:	Bldg. No. 30	Bldg. No. 32
1848	Rented by John Nichols,[11] Rent per quarter: $7.50	Rented by John Berlin at $8.75 per quarter Part of by W. H. Wentzle at $8.75[11]
1850	Rented by John Nichols,[12] Rent per quarter: $7.50 Rent due $22.50	Rented by A. M. Ball at $8.75 per quarter & J. W. Roderick at $8.75 Both owed $8.75[12]
1851-52	Rented by Mrs. Nichols.[13]	Rented by A.M. Ball & J. W. Roderick.[13]

As Bldg. No. 48 is a small house for two families to live in it is probable that 1850 Bldg. No. 30 is the present Bldg. No. 48.

The census of 1850 reveals the following information about these gentlemen and their families:

"Armstead Ball, 35 years old, male, Armorer, Born in Virginia
Hanirah Ball, 30 years old, female, " " "
George Ball 10, male " " "
Randolph Ball 2, male " " "

John Roderick, 57 years old, male, Armorer, Born in Virginia.
Gertridge Roderick, 52 years old, female " " "
John W. Roderick, 24 years old, Armorer, " " "

John Nichols, 55 years old, male, occupation-None, Born in Virginia.
Sara W. Nichols, 40 years old, female " " "
Susan C. Nichols, 30 years old, female " " "
Ann W. Cliff, 21, female " " "
Virginia C. Nichols, 7 years old, female " " " [14]

11. Reel 18, v. 12, p. 1185.
12. List of Dwelling Houses belonging to the United States..Dec. 31, 1850, p.1
13. Reel 18, v. 12, p. 1178.
14. National Archives R. G. 29, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the Unites States-1850. Virginia, Volume 12, p. 835. In Microfilm Reel 10, v. 2, p. 127.

As we have been unable to locate an Armory rent rolls for the 1853-1861 periods together with the fact that the numbering system for Government Dewlling Houses was changed in 1853 to a new set of numbers, it is difficult to determine the family which occupied Bldg. No. 48 in the 1859-1861 period.

By checking the "Account Sales of Houses and Vacant Lots of Land at Harpers Ferry Armory, made on the 1st and 2nd days of September 1852, under an Order of the Secretary of War, by S. Howell Brown, Agent,[20] which gives the names of people purchasing government lots and houses on Shenandoah Street, against the records of the Census, where-in the census taker in general went from doorto door, and thereby eliminating a large number of names in the Shenandoah Street area, it possible to venture an opinion on who may have occupied Bldg. No. 48 in 1860.

By this process, we discover the following families ~~that~~ were residing close to Shenandoah Street, Block E. Lot 1 to 5 (and on said lots it is possible to place the individual families on the exact lot), and, therefore, might have been living in Bldg. No. 48:

1st. Two families living in the same house, which may, therefore be Government dwelling House 1850 No. 32:

"Elizabeth Roderick, 54 years old, female, Born in Maryland
Value of personal estate $50.
Lewis Roderick 31 years old, blacksmith, Born in Virginia, male.
Susan (?) Roderick, 24 years old, female, Born in Md.
Jean (?) Roderick, 20 years old, male, Telegraph operator, Born in Va.
Frances R. Roderick, 16 years old female, Born in Va.
Jacob Roderick, 18 years old, male, Wagoner, Born in Va.
Charles Roderick, 12 years old, " " "

20. Reel 24, v. 7, p. 683.

Daniel Whalen, 31 years, male, Labor, Value of personal Estate $40, Born in Ireland.
Mary Whalen, 28, female, Born in Ireland.
Ellen Whalen, 3, female, Born in Virginia.
Martin Whalen, 1, male, Born in Virginia

2nd. Living in the next house visited bythe census take, was:

"William Cox, 35 years old, male, laborer. Value of personal estate: $150. "orn in Virginia.
Sarah Cox, 25 years old, female, Born in Virginia.
Emma F. Cox, 4 years old, female, " " "
Margaret Cox, 9 years old, female " " "
Hannah F. Cox, 8 years old, female," " "
Charles F. Cox, 2 years old, male " " "
Lininda (?) Baldmic, 50, female, Born in Virginia
William T. Baldmic, 20, male, Tailor, Born in Va." 2/

The Cox family, we believe, was probably living in Bldg. No. 48 in 1860.

4. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF BLDG, NO. 48.

One historical photograph, the only one to be discovered, and two modern photographs of Bldg. No. 48 will be found in Appendix I of this report.

5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF BLDG, NO. 48:

No historical plans of Bldg. No. 48 have been found and after a careful searchof the National Archives Records, we are quite sure that none will ever be located. Modern measured drawings of Bldg. No. 48 have not yet been prepared.

6. SUMMARY OF THE HISTORICAL DATA ON BLDG. NO. 48:

2/ ~~16th.~~ Records of the Bureau of the Census, Population Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States - 1860, Virginia, Vol. 13, p. 197. National Archives R. G. 29. Microfilm Reel 10, v. 2, p. 176.

A. Ownership of Land, 1796 to 1869

Shenandoah Street Lot No. 2, on which Bldg. No. 48 stands, was owned by the United States Government, as a part of the Armory property, from 1796 to 1869.

B. Construction of Bldg. No. 48:

Bldg. No. 48 was constructed at some date after 1821 and Before October 1834, probably between 1822 and 1830. The oldest portion of the house, the front section, measuring 18 by about 15 feet, was probably erected by an Armory workman as a one and a half or two story stone building with a small kitchen attached in the rear. The Government undoubtedly purchased the worker's claim to the structure in the general settlement of these type of claims that was made by the Superintendents of the Armory from 1822 to 1838. The rear portion of the house, stone, measuring 18 by 17½ feet and two stories in hieght, was added on to the original structure at some later date but well before the Civil War. The addition was probably constructed by the Armory, although it is possible that a workman also did this at his own initial expense. At the time of the remodeling of the house, a half story containing two rooms was also added to the structure. The original roof of the house was composedof wooden shakes.

Bldg. No. 48 today, in my opinion, is structurally much the same in exterior and interior appearance and layout as it was before the Civil War, with the exception of the metal roof, a door that has been added in place of a window in the second floor east wall, and missing porches.

Bldg. No. 48 today, and as it was in 1859, is a two and one-half story stone house, 18 by 32½ feet in size, with no cellar. There are two rooms on the first floor, each with one fireplace; two rooms with one fireplace in each room on the second floor, and two finished garret rooms on the third or half story. The back garret room contains one fireplace and the front room none.

C. USE OF BLDG. NO. 48, 1820's to 1861

Bldg. 48 from the time of its construction until the Civil War, was utilized as Government quarters for Armorers employed in the Harpers Ferry Armory. As the only surviving example of a typical Government House, such as was afforded an average Armory employee, located within the boundaries of the Monument, Bldg. No. 48, therefore, has considerable significance as a possible interpretive device for telling one phase of the story of the Armory.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Actual architectural investigation of Bldg. No. 48 should enable us to settle definitively a number of questions relating to the construction of the house that cannot be pin pointed from the documentary sources alone. It is believed that the evidence that will be gathered from architectural investigation, together with the abundance of general documentary information relating to the construction of Government Dwelling Houses in general, as presented in Part I of this report, should make possible the accurate interior and exterior restoration of Bldg. No. 48 as a typical home of an Armorer in the 1859-65 period.

As the only surviving building of this type standing in the Monument today, I, therefore, recommend that Bldg. No. 48 be

restored completely as possible. Its rather isolated position raises problems in both protecting the house and in permitting visitors to enter the structure. The restored house, however, would certainly make a most interesting exhibit of how most people lived in the 1850's. The restored building could, perhaps, be opened for visitation on special days or at certain scheduled hours of the day.

The estimated cost of the complete interior and exterior restoration of Bldg. No. 48 is $10,000.

Charles W. Snell

Charles W. Snell,
Historian (Park Supervisory)
October 31, 1958.
Revised December 30, 1958.

APPENDIX I

PHOTOGRAPHS = THREE

Island of Virginius or Herr's Island

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-119

The large brick building in the foreground, this side of the Canal, was the Armory Stable (see Bldg. marked T on the 1848 map; it was located on Shenandoah Street, Block F, Lot No. 2 on the 1869 map, see Cat. of 1869 sale, page 2). Across Shenandoah Street from the Armory Stable just below the rocky ledge, is to be seen the east wall, wooden shake roof and two chimnies of Bldg. No. 48.

This photograph was taken in 1866 or 1867, just after the Civil War, and is the only historical photograph that has been found that shows any part of Bldg. No. 48.

Across the Canal, behind the Armory stable, are to be seen some of the buildings that were located on the Island of Virginius.



BUILDING NO. 48 - 1956

Harpers Ferry Negative No. NHF-620

Photograph by Archie W. Franzen

Taken December 17, 1956

A view of the east end and south front of Bldg. No. 48 before the removal of the front porch. The door in the second floor level in the east wall was probably added after 1865 in place of a window. Note the metal roof which was added to the house after 1869.



BUILDING NO. 48 - 1956

Harpers Ferry Negative No. NHF-623

Photograph by Archie W. Franzen

Taken December 17, 1956

A view of the front (south side) and west side of Bldg. No. 48 taken before the removal of the porches. Note the vertical crack in the stone work of the west wall showing above the side porch and just to the right of the second floor window over said porch. The portion of the house extending from this crack to the right to the front of the building is believed to be the oldest portion of the structure.

