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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FILE NUMBER OR SUBJECT:

HARPERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
(Park or Office)

HISTORY OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLLOT, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT, AND JEFFERSON'S LOT, SHENANDOAH STREET

Recorded
5/13/59
L.E.

1796 - 1868



Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian
February 11, 1959

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Harpers Ferry National Monument

HISTORIC BUILDING SITE SURVEY REPORT

Recorded 7/13/59

HISTORY OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOT, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT, AND JEFFERSON'S LOT, SHENANDOAH STREET

1796 - 1868

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Shenandoah Street Studies Series
No. 5

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
February 11, 1959
44 Pages
HF-27E

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SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. NAME OF LOTS

Catholic School Lot, Presbyterian Church Lot, and Jefferson's Lot.

B. PROPOSED USE OF AREA

We agree with Research Historian Charles Snell's recommendations for the stabilization of the ruins of the Presbyterian Church following the removal of vines which now cover this interesting stone masonry. Some repair will be necessary to restore about thirty feet of the stone wall connecting this site with the proximity of Building No. 45. Also approved is Mr. Snell's suggestion for the interpretation of the ruins by means of a wayside exhibit using one or more photographs of the building and site.

His program for the eventual restoration of the entire three lot area to the approximate historic scene is also excellent. However, for the immediate future, practical considerations will probably confine this project to the area between Building No. 45 and the Presbyterian Church ruins. The clearing of vines and weeds and the reestablishment of lawn here should be feasible this year. Eventually, the extension of lawn to Building No. 48 should serve to tie in this interesting architectural introduction for the visitor to the rest of the lower town.

C. PROVISIONS FOR OPERATION OF AREA

No specail provisions are provided but the suggested improvements should be possible of accomplishment thru our regular maintenance division.

D. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COST FOR REHABILITATING THE GROUNDS

The cost of a wayside exhibit would be approximately $500. The cost of re-establishing lawn can probably be borne by our Maintenance and Rehabilitation Appropriation.

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL REMARKS

The subjects of this report, the Catholic School Lot, Presbyterian Lot and Jefferson's Lot, were all located on the north side of Shenandoah Street and fronted on that street. They were bounded on the east by Lot No. 1, Shenandoah Street, on the north by South Cliff Street, on the west by Lot No. 2, Shenandoah Street, and on the south by Shenandoah Street (See 1869 map, Appendix V of this report).

The three lots were a part of the property purchased on June 15, 1796, by the United States Government from John Wager, Senior, for the purpose of establishing a Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry.[1]

In the sale of surplus Government Land that took place in 1852, these three lots were reserved from that sale[2] and used for Armory and other public purposes until 1861. The lots therefore were the property of the United States Government from 1796 until 1868. On December 15, 1868, title to these lots were granted to two churches and the Town of Harpers Ferry by an act of Congress.[3]

The 1803 map of Harpers Ferry (see Appendix I of this report) indicates that the Shenandoah Street area at that date was practically an unimproved area, containing one or two log cabins and three stables. A glance at the

1. Deed, June 15, 1796, Wager to U.S., National Archives. Microfilm Reel 21, Volume 7, pages 704-708.

2. Report of Board of Officers, September 24, 1851, Approved by Secretary of War, June 10, 1852, Reel 24, V.8, pp.802-806. See also 1852 map in Appendix IV of this report.

3. 1869 Map, Appendix V. Also Catalogue of the Harpers Ferry Armory Property to be sold by the United States on the 30th November, 1869, at the Town of Harper's Ferry, Va.

1835 map in Appendix II of this report will also reveal that the Catholic School, Presbyterian and Jefferson Lots and the remainder of Shenandoah Street had been densely built up by 1835. It is therefore apparent that these houses must have been erected between 1803 and 1835 and probably more precisely between 1811 and 1834. The buildings situated on these lots were constructed by either the Government or by private individuals as dwelling houses. In the case of houses erected by private individuals, the Government purchased all of their claims to these buildings between the years 1822 and 1838.[4]

Let us now turn to consider the individual history of these three lots.

4. See Snell, Charles W., "A Comprehensive History of the Construction, Maintenance and Numbers of Armory Dwelling Houses, 1796-1869," dated January 13, 1959, pp.1-82.

PART I

HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOT

SHENANDOAH STREET, 1796 - 1868

CATHOLIC SCHOOLHOUSE

1. HOUSES ON THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOT, 1811 TO 1854

A. HOUSES NO. 39 AND 40, ARCHITECTURAL DATA

House No. 39, judging by the 1835 map (Appendix II) fronted approximately 44 feet on Shenandoah Street and was about 16 feet deep. House No. 40 fronted on the same street about 18 feet and was approximately 24 feet deep. House No. 39 was described on the 1848-51 lists of Government Dwelling Houses as "Stone, one story." It was valued in 1848 at $600 and placed in Class 8.

House No. 40 was described in 1848-51 lists as "Brick, two story." It was valued in 1848 at $600 and placed in Class 7 and by 1850 House No. 40 was valued at $450 and placed in Class 9.[1]

B. USE OF HOUSES NO. 39 AND 40 TO 1852

No record of the people renting these houses in the very early period have been located, but the buildings were used as Government Dwelling Houses for Armory employees. In the 1840's House No. 39 was rented by James Foley; by 1848 it was occupied by Jerome B. Young at an annual rent of $58. From 1850 to 1851 House No. 39 was next rented for $58 a year by A. J. Wright. In the 1851-52 period the building was then rented by Benjamin Ott as a store.[2]

House No. 40 was first rented in the 1840's by John M. Barnes. By 1848 it was rented for $40 a year by Daniel Young, Jr., and in 1850 it was occupied

1. "List of Dwelling Houses belonging to the United States at Harpers Ferry 30th June 1848," Reel 18, V.12, p.1186. "List of Dwelling Houses Belonging to the United States at Harpers Ferry, December 31, 1850," Photostatic Collection, Map Case, Drawer No. 4, p.2. "List of Dwelling Houses at Harpers Ferry, Per Inventory 30 June 1851," Reel 18, V.12, p.1178.

2. Ibid., Census of 1850, Reel 10, V.2, p.126. Also Virginia Free Press, April 25, 1851, p.3, c.2-for Ott's store.

by George L. Augur, John Fouke and in 1852 by J. T. Adams.

C. HOUSES NO. 41 AND 42, ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Houses No. 41 and 42 were erected by John S. Gallagher in 1826. Superintendent James Stubblefield described these houses in 1829 as follows:

"Number 5.
Frame House plastered outside, built for a dwelling house and printing office.
Erected in 1826
Erected by John S. Gallagher
Erected by permission of the Superintendent
Estimated Value: $600.

NOTES:

"...Note 7. Lot No. 5...is situated on Shenandoah Street. The building erected upon it was built for the purpose and, until lately, occupied as a printing office, and, as such considered highly important; jobs of printing being frequently required for armory purposes..." 4

In 1828 Mr. Gallagher offered his house for sale and described it as:

"...the HOUSE at Harpers Ferry, formerly occupied by my Printing Office and family, and now in the occupancy of P. C. McCabe, Esq. will contain, when completed, 10 rooms, with a kitchen and smoke house, and a good cellar. It is situated on Shenandoah Street, next to the store of Messrs Maslin & Co. (who were located in present Bldg. No. 45, or House No. 7 on the 1835 map, Appendix ID)." 5

Judging by the 1835 map, House No. 41 fronted 24 feet on Shenandoah Street and was about 38 feet deep. House No. 42, which was attached to House No. 41, fronted about 18 feet on Shenandoah Street and was 22 feet deep.

3. "List of Dwelling Houses Belonging to the United States at Harpers Ferry 30th June 1848," Reel 18, V.12, p.1186. "List of Dwelling Houses Belonging to the United States At Harpers Ferry, December 31, 1850," Photostatic Collection, Map Case, Drawer/No. 4, p.2. "List of Dwelling Houses at Harpers Ferry, Per Inventory 30 June 1851," Reel 18, V.12, p.1178. Census of 1850, Reel 10, V.2, p.126. Virginia Free Press, April 25, 1851, p.3, c.2-Ott's store.

4. American State Papers, Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the United States, Washington, 1860, V.4, p.145, Reel 17, V.3, p.237.

5. Virginia Free Press, December 3, 1828, p.4, c.1.

House No. 41 was described on the 1848-51 lists of Government Dwelling Houses as "Wood, 2 story" and No. 42 as a one story "frame addition to No. 41." House No. 42 was "Broken up in 1848." House No. 41 was valued at $600 and placed in Class 6 in 1848. In 1850 the same house was valued at $500 and placed in Class 8.[6]

C. THE UNITED STATES ACQUIRES HOUSES NO. 41 AND 42

On November 24, 1830, Superintendent George Rust, Jr., informed Col. George Bomford of the Ordnance Office:

"I have made a conditional contract (to be binding if sanctioned by you) with Mr. John S. Gallaher for the purchases of the houses erected by him at this Armory- under the authority of Mr. Stubblefield. They consist of dwelling house, Kitchen & store house connected together on Shenandoah Street, for which he is to be paid the sum of $900. This property is now rented to two individuals until the 1st April next; one of whom pays for the dwelling house, a rent of $100 per annum; the other (occupying the storeroom) at the rate of $4 per month. The rents which will be due to the 1st April next amounting to about $116 are also to be transferred by Mr. Gallaher to the U. States for the consideration before mentioned.

I consider the price fixed on this property, low, and believe it would certainly be much more to the interest of the Government to make the purchase, than to erect new buildings. The dwelling house & kitchen are convenient & comfortable, and the store house, if finished, (which could be done at an expense not exceeding $150) would rent for $75 or $100 per annum. Another inducement to make this purchase is, that by doing so, one, of the many claims (which it is desirable should be extinguished) held by individuals on the houses at this place will be removed." [7]

The Government purchased Gallagher's claims to House No. 41 and 42 in 1831 for $835.00, thus acquiring full control of these houses.[8]

6. "List of Dwelling Houses, 30th June 1848," Reel 18, V.12, p.1186. "List of Dwelling-Houses, Dec. 31, 1850," p.2, "List of Dwelling Houses, 30 June 1851," Reel 18, V.12, p.1178.

7. Rust to Bomford, November 24, 1830, Reel 22, V.10, pp.951-952.

8. National Archives R.G. 156, Entry 936. Annual Report 1830-31, p.195. Reel 20, V.5, p.437.

D. USES OF HOUSES NO. 41 AND 42, TO 1852

From 1826 to 1828 House No. 41 was the residence of John S. Gallagher, editor of the Harpers Ferry Free Press, and House No. 42 was his newspaper printing shop. In 1828 Gallagher moved his business to Charles Town and he then rented House No. 41 as a dwelling to P. C. McCabe.[9] In February, 1830, House No. 42 was rented by N. Buckmaster as a "shoe and fancy store." Mr. Buckmaster informed the public that his "store will be found one door west of Moslin and McKim's (who were located in Bldg. No. 45), and adjoining the dwelling of P. C. McCabe (who was living in House No. 41)."[10]

By July, 1830, Mr. Buckmaster apparently vacanted House No. 42 for John S. Gallagher advertised "For Rent. A room at Harpers Ferry, calculated for a small store."[11]

No record of use of the two houses for the period 1831 to 1840 has been established. In June, 1840, however, James R. Hayman, editor of the Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, informed Edward Lucas, Jr., Superintendent of the Armory: "I wish to rent for a printing office the house on Shenandoah St., next door above the room (in Bldg. No. 45) now occupied as a post office. The same formerly occupied by Messrs. J. L. & H. M. Gallagher, for the same purpose (Houses No. 41 and 42)."[12]

Superintendent Lucas forwarded this request to Lt. Col. George Talcott, of the Ordnance Department, recommending its approval and also stating:

9. Virginia Free Press, December 3, 1828, p.4, c.1.

10. Ibid., February 10, 1830, p.3, c.6.

11. Ibid., July 21, 1830, p.3.

12. Hayman to Lucas, June 16, 1840, Reel 12, V.7, p.682.

"The house designated has not been occupied as a dwelling, except for a very short time, & was given up, because it is not suited for that purpose, on account of its being built on the side of the Street where there is no room or ground. Besides a Printing Office is useful and necessary in a place like this, & it is not an easy matter for the Editor to procure a suitable office at a reasonable rent on private ground."[13]

Hayman's application for Houses No. 41 and 42 was approved by Lt. Col. Talcott on July 20, 1840.[14] These buildings thus served as the newspaper printing office of the Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist from 1840 to 1842,[15] when the paper went out of existence.

House No. 42, the store or shop, was demolished in 1848. House No. 41 was rented in 1848 by Thomas Whaley, Jr., for $50 a year. By 1850 it was occupied by William Kirby, also at an annual rent of $50. In 1851 it was next rented by J. T. Adams and in 1852 was again rented by William Kirby.[16]

2. DISPOSAL OF THE EARLY HOUSES, 1852 - 1854

In the sale of Government Houses and Lots held in 1852, Dwellings No. 39, 40 and 41 were located on reserved ground and thus not offered for sale.[17]

13. Lucas to Talcott, July 17, 1840, Reel 12, V.7, p.681

14. Talcott to Lucas, July 20, 1840, Reel 19, V.1, p.3.

15. See Petition of Joseph Smith and Others to Secretary of War, October 26, 1841, Reel 26, V.1, p.45, stating that Hayman and Smith, the editors, were then occupying these houses, etc.

16. List of Dwelling Houses, 30th June 1848, Reel 18, V.12, p.1186. List, December 31, 1850, p.2; List, June 30, 1851, Reel 18, V.12, p.1178. Census of 1850, Reel 10, V.2, p.126.

17. 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. Harpers Ferry Photostatic Collection, Map Case, Drawer 3, Map No. 82.

Following the sale of houses in 1852 the Armory began a program of demolishing old substandard dwelling houses that were still located on Government property. Thus in June, 1853, House No. 41 was torn down.[18] Houses No. 39 and 40 were demolished in May, 1854.[19] Thus by 1854 this lot was completely cleared of all old Government Dwelling Houses.

3. CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOT, 1854 - 1868

On December 16, 1853, Superintendent Benjamin Huger, of the Harpers Ferry Armory, informed Col. Henry K. Craig, of the Ordnance Office:

"The Catholic Church at this place are desirious of erecting a school house near their church which by reference to the map (see "B" and 1848 and 1852 maps, Appendixes III and IV) you will see is situated on the S. W. corner of the Six Acre Reservation. The body of the church is on the reservation, but the Vestry room on the West end, projects over on the Government land. The trustees of the School wish to have the strip they now occupy, and an additional piece to the West of it granted to them as a school lot to build a house upon. The lot would be a ledge of rock along the edge of the cliffs, and is of no value to the U.S.- It would only cause their boundary line to run around three sides of this lot, instead of its fourth side. I have stated this at the request of Dr. Marmion who is acting for the Church."[20]

On December 23, Col. Craig replied to Huger, stating that Huger's letter had been handed to him by Dr. Marmion and that Craig had submitted it to the Secretary of War, recommending its approval.[21]

On December 29, 1853, Col. Craig informed Col. Huger that the Secretary of War had approved this application for a lot and Craig directed that:

18. Superintendent Benjamin Huger to Col. H. K. Craig, Ordnance Office, July 2, 1853, Reel 24, V.9, p.897. Transmitting account sale of old building materials of House No. 41.

19. Reel 18, V.12, p.1197. Valuation of building materials of old Houses at Harpers Ferry Armory, 11 May 1854.

20. Huger to Craig, December 16, 1853, Reel 26, V.2, p.134.

21. Craig to Huger, December 23, 1853, Reel 19, V.6, p.596.

"You will therefore grant a lease of the land in question, for the term of twenty years, upon a nominal rent, and send a copy of the Agreement to this Office as soon as executed. In describing the ground thus leased, it shall not be made to embrace a large area than that leased to the Councilmen of the School District, 15th March 1853 (this was for Block I, Lot No. 9, Camp Hill) [22]

Copies of neither lease for school lots have been located in the National Archives, but it is apparent that a lot on top of the cliff was granted to the Catholic Church as the site for a school lot in 1854. This grant probably did not extend down to the level land on Shenandoah Street that is marked on the 1869 map as the "Catholic School Lot." A Schoolhouse, a two story stone building, was built between 1854 and 1857 and located on the top of the cliff, just to the west of the church. (See Photograph HF-249, a print made in 1857.) This building was utilized as a Catholic School from about 1854 until 1886.[23] Thus the portion of the Catholic School Lot now located within the Monument boundaries along Shenandoah Street was a vacant lot in 1859.

The one and a half story brick Catholic Schoolhouse, shown on the 1913 map (Appendix VI) and located within the present Park boundaries, was not erected until 1886.[24] This building was used as a school until 1899, when the school was discontinued because of a shortage of children, owing to the movement of young families from Harpers Ferry to industrial centers.[25]

22. Craig to Huger, December 29, Reel 19, V.6, p.597-598.

23. History of Saint Peter's Church, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and Missions, by Reverend P. Joseph Magri and Walter E. Dittmeyer, Centenary, 1830-1930, p.20.

24. Date on Corner Stone on building, stone on exhibit at Church.

25. History of St. Peter's Church, p.20.

The stone retaining wall shown on the 1913 map, fronting on Shenandoah Street, as well as the stone retaining walls built along the cliff on the rear of the lot, because of their extensive nature, were probably constructed by the Armory in 1854 as a part of the general cleanup of this area. Title to the Catholic School Lot, as shown on the 1869 map, was granted to the Catholic Church by an Act of Congress, dated December 15, 1868.

4. HISTORICAL PLANS OF BUILDINGS

No plans of House No. 39, 40, 41, 42, the 1854-1857 Catholic School or the 1886 Catholic School have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located.

5. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

No historical prints or photographs showing the level land of this lot along Shenandoah Street in the 1852-1865 period have been found. Views of the 1854-57 Catholic School House located on top of the cliff, however, will be found in Charles W. Snell's "A History of Lot No. 1 to 11, Block C, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1865," dated January 23, 1959, page 110, HF-249, an 1857 print; page 111, HF-6, a Civil War print; page 112, HF361, an 1865 photograph; and page 113, HF-68, an 1880 view. An 1892-1896 view of the level ground and new brick schoolhouse on Shenandoah Street will be found on page 116, HF-99, of the same report, page 117, a 1932 aerial view, HF-289.

6. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land

The Catholic School Lot was owned by the United States Government from 1796 to 1868. The portion of the lot located on top of the cliff was granted by the United States Government, under a 20-year lease, to the Catholic Church

in 1854 for use as a school lot. Title to the cliff lot and the level land below, as laid out on the 1869 map, however, was not granted to the Catholic Church until December 15, 1868.

B. Early Houses on the Lot

Four houses, No. 39, 40, 41 and 42, were located on this lot. Houses No. 39 and 40 were erected at some date between 1811 and 1835 as dwelling houses. Houses No. 41 and 42 were erected in 1826 by John S. Gallagher as a dwelling house and printing office. Houses No. 39 and 40 were used as Government dwelling houses for Armory employees from the time they were constructed until 1852. Houses No. 41 and 42 were the Harpers Ferry Free Press building from 1826-1828 and the Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist printing office from 1840-1841.

All four houses were demolished by the Government by May, 1854.

C. Use of the Lot, 1854-1861

The upper portion of the lot, located on top of the cliff, was leased by the Government to the Catholic Church for use as school lot. A two story stone schoolhouse was erected on the upper portion in the 1854-57 period. The lower portion of the property, located on the level land along Shenandoah Street, was kept as a vacant lot by the Armory from 1854 until after the Civil War. The stone retaining walls still standing on this lot, fronting on Shenandoah Street, and also along the rear of the lot on the cliffs, were probably constructed by the United States Government in 1854 as a part of the general cleanup of Armory property.

7. CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOT TODAY

The stone two story 1854-1857 school is still standing on the top of the cliff and is owned by the Catholic Church. The lower portion of the Catholic School Lot is now included within the boundaries of the Monument. Ruins of the 1886 schoolhouse were cleaned up by the National Park Service in 1955 or 1956. The old stone retaining walls, however, are still standing in good condition.

PART II

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT

SHENANDOAH STREET, 1796 - 1868

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1. EARLY HOUSES ON THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT

Probably located on this lot until 1852 were Armory Dwelling Houses No. 35, 36, 37 and 38. These houses were erected by either the United States Government or Armory workmen at some date between 1811 and 1834. They were small one story frame houses which may explain why the U. S. Army engineers did not bother to dilineate them on their 1835 map of Harpers Ferry (see Appendix II of this report).

The four houses were described on the 1848-51 lists of Government Dwelling Houses as follows:

House No. 35: Wood, 1 story.

1848 Valued at $450, Class 9. Rented 1845 by Hezhiah Roderick
Rented 1848 by William Earle for $42 a year
1850 Valued at $380, Class 11. Rented by J. W. Stover for $34. a year
1851-52 Rented by John W. STover.

House No. 36: Wood, one story.

1848: Valued at $250, Class 12, Rented by Jacob Gompf, $35 a year.
1850: Valued at $250, Class 12, " " " " " " "
1851-52 " " Jacob Gompf.

House No. 37: Wood, 1 story.

1848. Valued at $500, Class 8. Rented by James Wigington for $35 a year.
1850. Valued at $300, Class 11. Rented by James Wigington for $18 a year
and J. W. Arvin for $18 a year.
1851-52 Rented by Wigington and Arvin.

House No. 38: Wood, one story.

1848. Valued at $500, Class 8. Rented by Armistead Hobbs for $35 a year.
1850. Valued at $300, Class 11. " " " " " " " "
1851-52 " " " " " " " " 1

1. List of Dwelling Houses, 30 June 1848, Reel 18, V.12, p.1186. List of Dwelling Houses, 31 Dec. 1851, p.2; List of Dwelling Houses, June 30, 1851, Reel 18, V.12, p.1178. Also Census of 1850, Reel 10, V.2, pp.126-127.

2. DISPOSAL OF EARLY HOUSES, 1852-1854

In the sale of Government Houses and Lots held in 1852, Dwellings No. 35, 36, 37, and 38 were located on reserved ground and thus not offered for sale.[2] Following the 1852 sale the Armory began a program of demolishing the old substandard dwelling houses that were still located on Government property. Thus in February, 1853, House No. 36 was demolished and the materials sold to the highest bidder.[3] Houses No. 35, 37 and 38 were torn down and the material sold by May, 1854.[4] Thus by 1854 the Presbyterian Church Lot had been cleared of all the old Government Dwelling Houses.

3. THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1841 - 1868

On October 17, 1841, Major Henry K. Craig, then Superintendent of the Harpers Ferry Armory, notified Chief of Ordnance, Col. George Bomford:

"A number of highly respectable persons in this village and vicinity, many of them connected with the Armory, are about forming themselves into a religious congregation of the Presbyterian order, and have though their intended Minister (Rev. T. D. Hoover) applied to me for the use of a Lot of ground on which to erect a building for public worship. I think their request might be granted without the slighest injury to the Government or Armory interest, and that the formation of a religious society under circumstances such as appear to attach to the one in question, with a suitable place of worship, would tend greatly to the promotion of morals at this place, and consequently to the public interest. I would therefore recommend that permission be granted for the erection of the building, which I understand is to be of brick and about 40 by 60 ft. The site I propose is between Shenandoah Street and the Hill, and near the upper end of the village.

The farther aid of the Government is solicited by the Society in the form of a donation of $500 to aid in the erection of the building; this part of the petition I would not undertake to recommend, but should it be granted I have no doubt will be honestly applied to the object for which it is asked."[5]

2. Legend Exhibiting the Corresponding Number of the Houses..30th June 1852.

3. Superintendent Benjamin Huger to Col. H. K. Craig, Ordnance Office, February 18, 1853, Reel 24, V.9, p.864.

4. Huger to Craig, May 11, 1854, Reel 18, V.12, p.1197.

5. Craig to Bomford, October 17, 1841, Reel 23, V.1, pp.97-98; for name of first minister, see, Virginia Free Press, August 3, 1843, p.3, c.1.

Secretary of War J. C. Spenser approved this application on October 20, 1843. Superintendent Craig was informed that "he has approved of the measure, provided it be selected so as not to interfere with the present operations of the Armory or with its furture improvement. There is no fund, however, out of which the donation in money can be accorded."[6]

The congregation raised the money to construct the church by holding church fairs.[7] The building, as revealed in the following notice, was completed in 1843:

"DEDICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AT HARPERS-FERRY

The Presbyterian Church at Harpers-Ferry, on Shenandoah Street, will be opened for Divine worship on the third Sabbath of this month, 20th instant, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

The Rev. Wm. M. Atkinson is expected (D.V.) to preach the Dedication Sermon. After the sermon, a collection will be taken up to meet in part the debt still remaining upon the Church. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the evening of that day.

N.B. The seats are entirely free, and the community are invited to attend." [8]

The site of the church and the size of the lot granted by the Government may be seen by glancing at "A" on the 1848 and 1852 maps in Appendixes III and IV of this report. The Presbyterian Church building is to be seen on the 1913 map (Appendix VI) where it is described as a "two story brick Office and Shop." According to this map the building was 26 feet by 48 feet in size. An excellent photograph of the Church, HF-357, taken about 1865 will also be found in C. W. Snell's "History of Lots No. 1 to 7, Block D, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1865," dated January 30, 1959, on page 28. This

6. Secretary of War to Ordnance Department, October 20, 1841, Reel 19, V.14, p.1365 and Capt. A. Mordeau to Sutp. Craig, October 20, 1841, Reel 19, V.1, p.76.

7. See for example Virginia Free Press, June 8, 1843, p.3, c.2.

8. Virginia Free Press, August 10, 1843, p.3, c.1.

reveals the Church to be a 1½ story brick building standing on a 1 story foundation.

By February, 1860, the church was heated by a furnace.[9] In April, 1860, the church had been "nicely cleaned and painted and new inside blinds of oilcloth and crimson curtains at the chair in front.. Mrs. Kreps is the organist and Mrs. Murphy head singer. I do not sing any more upstairs," Mrs. Mauzy wrote to her daughter.[10]

4. THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION, HARPERS FERRY

According to a history of the Presbyterian Church, the ministers of this congregation from 1841 to 1865 were:

1. Rev. Thomas D. Haaber (spelled Hoover in the newspapers of the time). October, 1841, to December, 1845, in connection with Lovettsville.

2. William H. Love, with Martinsburg, October, 1846, to June, 1849.

3. Austin C. Heaton, with Shepherdstown, 1850, to October, 1854.

4. Charles White, with Berryville, 1855, to 1861.

5. Warren B. Dutton, 1867 to 1871.

The congregation numbered in

1843: 27

1853: 71

1860: 39

1867: 20.

A Sunday school was begun in Harpers Ferry in 1856 with 30 children.

9. Mary E. Mauzy to Mrs. James Burton. February 16, 1860. MS letter copied by C. W. Snell from originals in possession of Mrs. Kenneth Ginsberg.

10. Mary E. Mauzy to Mrs. James Burton, April 29, 1860.

The church suffered extreme damage at the hands of Federal troops and was repaired and reconditioned in 1868 at the cost of at least $2,211.06, of which $1,711.06 came from the U. S. Government as war damages. A deed to the Presbyterian church lot, as shown on the 1869 map (Appendix V) was granted by the United States to the trustees for the church, without consideration or any reservation, on December 15, 1868, persuant to an Act of Congress for the disposal of Government lands at Harpers Ferry. Due to a decline in membership the lot and church building were sold in 1910 or 1911.[11]

In addition to the church lot, the Church also held a lease from the United States from 1852 to 1868 for Lot No. 3, Block D, Shenandoah Street, for use as a parsonage lot. The Presbyterian Church, however, never actually constructed a parsonage on this lot prior to 1865.[12]

As can be seen in Photograph HF-357 (1865), the church building was elevated on a one story stone basement, with ground level close to the main entrance on the second floor level. It therefore appears probable that stone retaining walls still fronting on Shenandoah Street and extending from the eastern end of the Catholic School Lot westward to the Presbyterian church (see 1913 map, Appendix VI) were erected in 1854 by the United States Government during its cleanup of this general area.

5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF BUILDINGS

No historical plans of Houses No. 35, 36, 37 and 38 or the Presbyterian

11. A History of the Presbytery of Winchester Seinod of Virginia, The Rise and Growth, Eccolesecstical Relations, Motheleoses and Opececies, Churches and Ministers, 1719-1945. Based on Official Records by Robert Bell Woodworth. Printed by the McClure Printing Company, Staunton, Virginia, 1947, pp.243-245.

12. Snell, C. W., "History of Block D, Shenandoah Street," pp.18-22.

Church have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be found.

6. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

An 1857 print, Photograph HF-249, made from Jefferson Rock and showing the cupola of the Presbyterian Church will be found on page 110 of C. W. Snell's "History of Block C, Shenandoah Street." Also in the same report, on page 113, will be found a Civil War view of the church, HF-68, drawn from Loudoun Heights; and on page 117 an aerial view, HF-289, showing that the church building was still standing in 1932.

A very fine photograph of the church, HF-357, made about 1865, will be found on page 28 of C. W. Snell's "History of Block D, Shenandoah Street."

7. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land

The Presbyterian Church Lot was owned by the United States Government from 1796 to 1868. A portion of this lot, located on the level land along Shenandoah Street, was leased free of rent to the Presbyterian Church from October 20, 1841, to 1868 for use as a church lot. Title to the level land and the cliffs above, as laid out on the 1869 map, was granted to the Presbyterian Church by an act of Congress on December 15, 1868.

B. Early Houses on the Lot

Four Government Houses, No. 35, 36, 37 and 38, were probably located on this lot in addition to the Church. The Dwelling Houses were erected at some date between 1811 and 1835 as residences for Armory employees. All four buildings were demolished as substandard houses by the United States between 1853 and 1854. The lot was therefore clear of all buildings, except the Church, in the period 1854 to 1865.

C. Presbyterian Church

This building was completed in 1843 and the church was dedicated on August 20, 1843. The structure measured 26 by 48 feet in size. Its first floor, a one story stone basement, was located at street level and had a door opening on the street. Above this was a 1½ story brick structure with a wooden cupola on the roof. The main entrance to the church was at the east end at the second floor level, the ground at this point having been filled or built up. The building, in 1860, was heated by a furnace, and had oilcloth blinds at the windows and an organ. This building was sold in 1910 or 1911 and henceforth used for commercial purposes. It was apparently destroyed by the 1936 or 1942 flood. The stone retaining walls, fronting on Shenandoah Street and extending from the Church eastward across the front of the Catholic School lot, were probably erected by the United States Government in 1854 as a part of the general program carried out at that time of removing old dwelling houses, cleaning up and landscaping Armory property. The cliffs at the rear of this lot served as a public quarry for stone used in constructing both public and private buildings in Harpers Ferry before the Civil War.

8. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT TODAY

The stone foundations of the Presbyterian Church, one story high, still stand in 1959 largely intact. The 1854 stone retaining walls are also intact and in good condition.

PART III

HISTORY OF JEFFERSON'S LOT

SHENANDOAH STREET, 1769 - 1868

VACANT LOT, 1859

1. EARLY HOUSES ON JEFFERSON'S LOT

Probably located on this lot until 1852 were Armory Dwelling Houses No. 31, 32, 33, and 34. These buildings were erected by either the United States Government or Armory workmen at some date between 1811 and 1834. The houses are not shown on the 1835 map (Appendix II), probably because they were located on the north side of Shenandoah Street and therefore not greatly effected by the proposed right of way of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad.

The four houses were described on the 1848-51 lists of Government Dwelling Houses as follows:

House No. 31: Wood one story

1848: Valued at $250. Class 12. Rented by Abraham Riley for $24 a year.
1850: "Sold in 1849" that is, demolished and the materials sold.

House No. 32: Stone, two story

1848: Valued at $800. Class 6. Part rented by John Berlin for $35 a year.
Part rented by W. H. Wentzle for $35 a year.
1850: Valued at $600. Class 7. Part rented by A. M. Ball for $35 a year.
Part rented by J. W. Roderick for $35 a year.
1851: Rented by A. M. Ball and J. W. Roderick.

House No. 33: Stone, one story.

1848: Valued at $300, Class 11, Rented by Joshua T. Lewis for $32 a year.
1850: Valued at $200, Class 13, Rented by Absalom Riley for $32 a year.
1851-53: Rented by Absalom Riley.
August 14, 1852, "Materials sold" - house demolished.

House No. 34: Wood, one story.

"Broken up in 1845." No record of people renting house found. 1

1. List of Dwelling Houses, 30 June 1848, Reel 18, V.12, pp.1185-1186. List of Dwelling Houses, 31 December 1850, pp.1-2. List of Dwelling Houses June 30, 1851, Reel 18, V.12, p.1178. Also Census of 1850, Reel 10, V.2, p.127.

The probable arrangement and location of Houses No. 31 to 41 in 1848 will be found on the 1848 map, Appendix III, marked in ink by the writer.

2. DISPOSAL OF HOUSES NO. 32 AND 33, 1852-1854

In the sale of Government Houses and Lots held in 1852, Dwellings No. 32 and 33 were located on reserved ground and thus not offered for sale.[2] House No. 33, as already noted, was demolished and the materials in the building sold on August 14, 1852. House No. 32 was probably demolished in April, 1853.[3] Jefferson's Lot was thus cleared of all old Government Dwelling Houses in 1853. The lot was still vacant in 1865, as is revealed by a detailed inventory of Armory Dwelling Houses submitted in July, 1865, that make no mention of any Government Dwelling House being located on this land.[4]

3. 1859 AND AFTER

Jefferson's Lot in the 1859-1865 period was therefore a vacant piece of Armory property. On December 15, 1868, the lot, as laid out on the 1869 map, (Appendix V) was conveyed by the United States to the Town of Harpers Ferry free of charge under an Act of Congress. It is therefore apparent that the buildings shown on the 1913 map (Appendix VI); namely, a two story frame shop, a one story frame dwelling and a two story stone jail, must all have been erected after 1868 and hence may be considered as non-historic structures.

2. Legend Exhibiting the Corresponding Numbers of the Houses...30th June 1852.

3. Superintendent Benjamin Huger to Col. H. K. Craig, Ordnance Office, April 1, 1853, Reel 24, V.9, p.870-transmitting account sale of "two of the old buildings...located on reserved ground." Other numbered houses in this area were being demolished at that time, so being No. 32 was probably torn down at this time.

4. Brig. Genl. Edward D. Ramsay to Brig. Genl. A. B. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance, July 27, 1865. Harpers Ferry Photostatic Collection, Map Case, Drawer No. 10.

4. HISTORICAL PLANS OF BUILDINGS

No historical maps or plans of Houses No. 31, 32, 33, and 34 have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located.

5. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

No historical prints or photographs showing the level ground of the Jefferson's Lot that fronts on Shenandoah Street during the 1852-1865 period have been found. A 1932 aerial view of this area will be found on page 117 (HF-289) of C. W. Snell's "History of Block C, Shenandoah Street."

6. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land

Jefferson's Lot was owned by the United States Government from 1796 to 1868. On December 15, 1868, under an Act of Congress of that date, the lot was deeded by the United States to the Town of Harpers Ferry.

B. Early Houses On The Lot

Four Government Houses, No. 31, 32, 33 and 34 were probably located on this lot. These dwelling houses were erected at some date between 1811 and 1835 as residence for Armory employees. All four buildings were demolished as substandard houses by the United States between 1845 and 1853.

C. The Lot In 1859

Jefferson's Lot, from 1854 to 1865, was a vacant or cleared piece of Armory property. The cliffs at the rear of this lot served as a public quarry from which stone was taken to construct both public and private buildings in Harpers Ferry prior to the Civil War.

7. JEFFERSON'S LOT TODAY

Jefferson's Lot, in 1959, is vacant and overgrown with young trees and tall grass. All traces of non-historic structures that were erected on this lot after 1868 have been removed.

PART IV

1859 HISTORICAL BASE MAP.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On the following pages are presented 1859 historical base maps of the Catholic School Lot, the Presbyterian Church Lot and Jefferson's Lot; that is, that portion of these lots that were located along the level ground on Shenandoah Street. The map has been traced from the 1913 map in Appendix VI of this report and the lots and buildings plotted in to scale on the basis of evidence presented in this report.

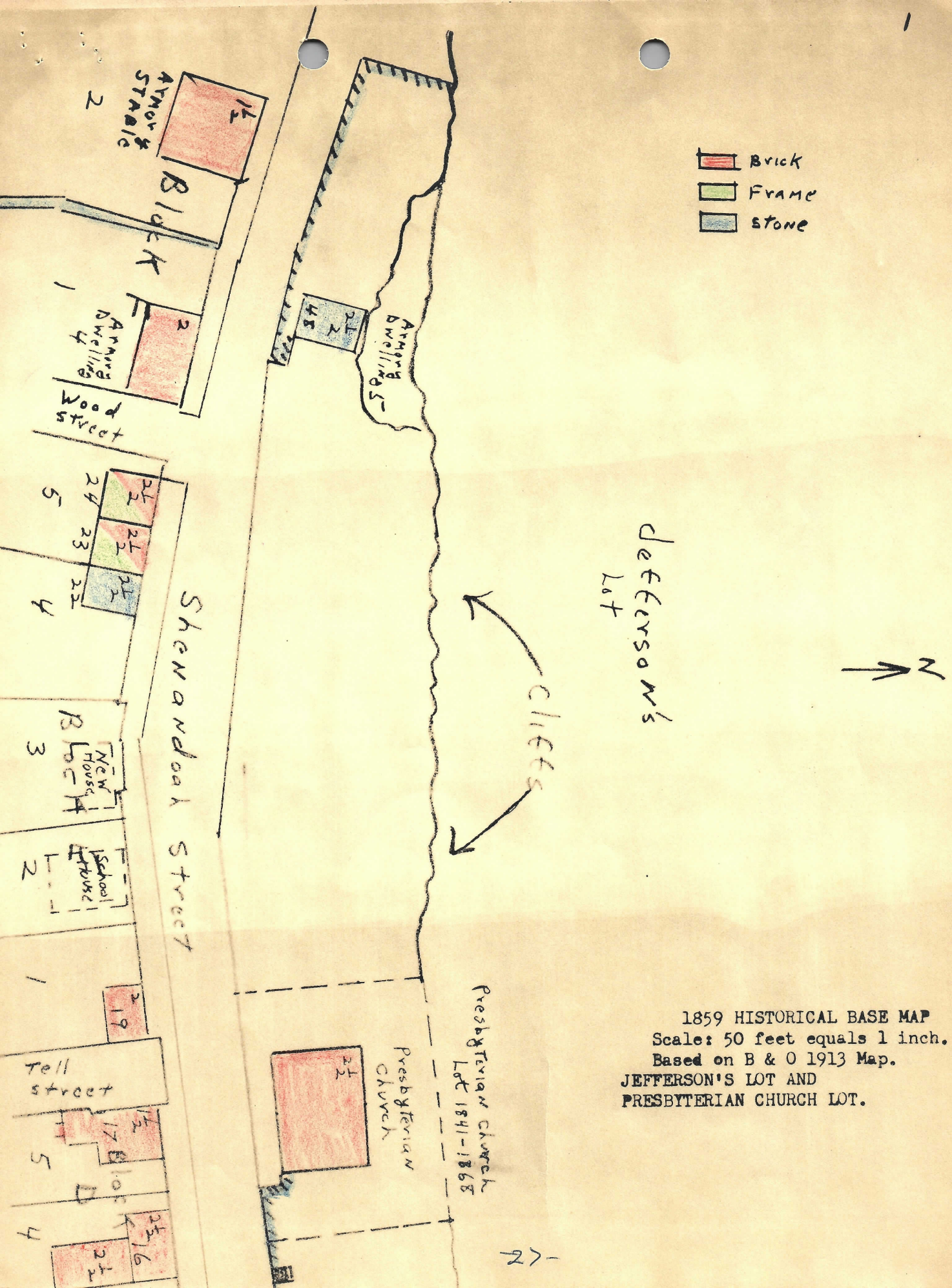
1. SUMMARY - 1859 HISTORICAL BASE MAP

CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOT The portion of this lot now located within the boundaries of the Monument, the level land on Shenandoah Street and cliff at the rear of the lot, were owned by the United States in 1859 and were vacant. A stone retaining wall, erected by the United States Government about 1854, probably ran along Shenandoah Street. Located on the cliff above, in 1859, was a two story stone Catholic Schoolhouse, erected between 1854 and 1857. The land on which the school was located had been leased by the United States to the Catholic Church as a school lot in 1854.

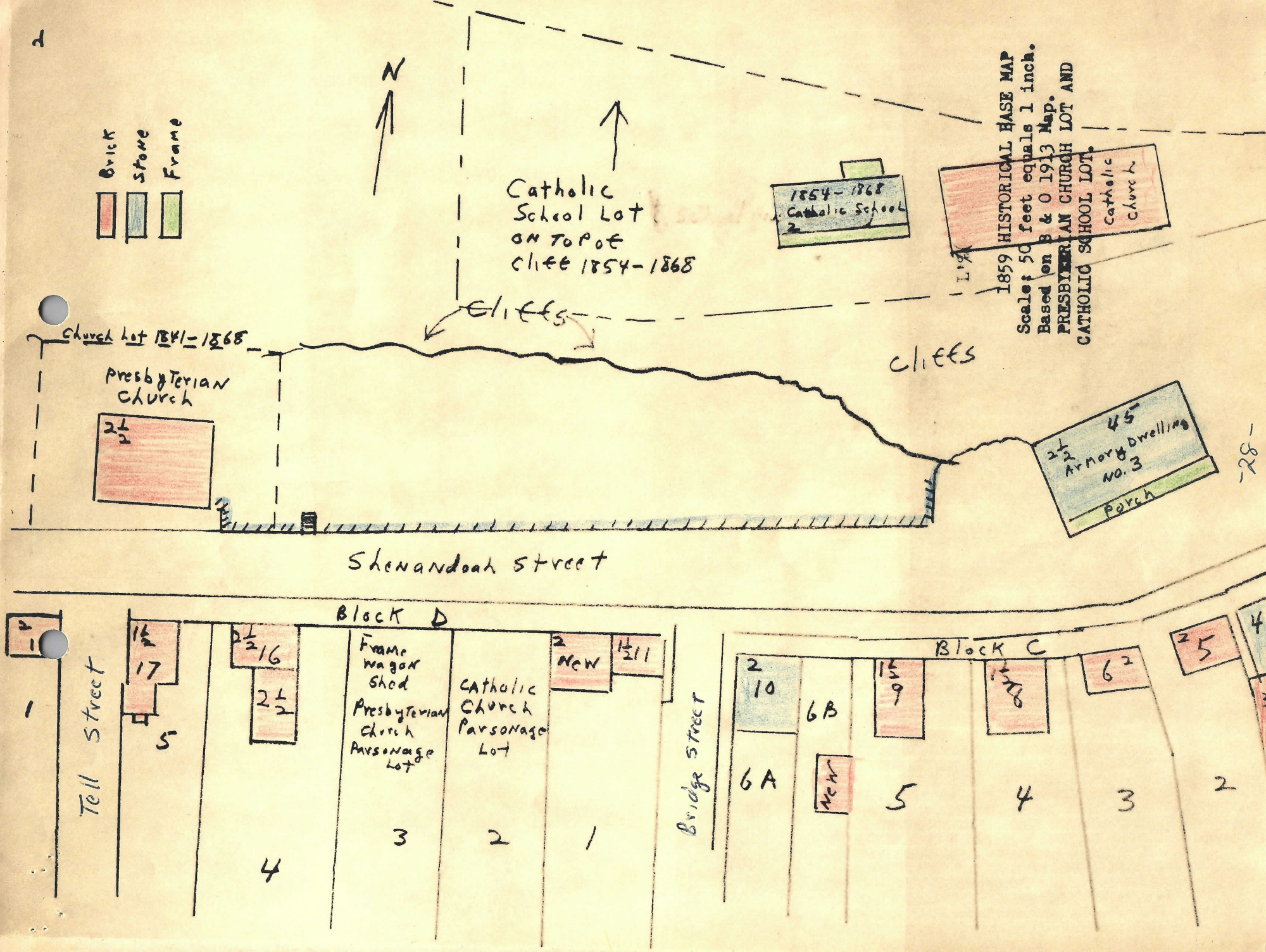
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT Owned by the United States Government, in 1859; leased to the Presbyterian Church from October 20, 1843 to 1868. Church erected 1843, a one story stone foundation with 1½ story brick building on top; wooden cupola. The building measured 26 feet by 48 feet in size. The remainder of the lot was cleared of all other buildings in 1859. A stone retaining wall, erected by the United States Government about 1854, probably ran from this church eastward to the Catholic School lot.

JEFFERSON'S LOT Owned by the United States in 1859. A vacant lot in 1859 and cleared of all buildings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS



1859 HISTORICAL BASE MAP
Scale: 50 feet equals 1 inch.
Based on B & O 1913 Map.
JEFFERSON'S LOT AND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT.


N
Brick
Stone
Frame
Catholic School Lot on top of cliff 1854-1868
1854-1868 Catholic School 2
Catholic Church
1859 HISTORICAL BASE MAP
Scale: 50 feet equals 1 inch.
Based on B & O 1943 Map.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LOT AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOT.
cliffs
cliffs
Church Lot 1841-1868
Presbyterian Church
2½
45'
2½ Armory Dwelling No. 3
Porch
Shenandoah street
Block D
Block C
Tell street
Bridge street
Frame wagon Shed
Presbyterian Church Parsonage Lot
Catholic Church Parsonage Lot
New
1
2
3
4
5
6A
6B
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
17
16
11

A. Catholic School Lot. This lot has been cleared of all non-historic ruins and is regularly mowed. It is recommended that similar maintenance be continued in the future.

B. Presbyterian Church Lot. This lot contains a substantial portion of the stone foundation ruins of the old church. The remainder of the lot is covered with young trees, and tall grass. The ruins themselves are heavily overgrown with vines. It is recommended that the vines be removed so that visitors can see the ruins, but that some of the young trees be left standing. It is also suggested that the remainder of the lot be mowed and maintained as a grassy area as it undoubtedly was in 1859.

C. Jefferson's Lot. This area contains no historic or non-historic surface ruins and was vacant in 1859. It is now overgrown with tall grass and young trees. It is suggested that some of the better young trees be left standing, the remainder of the area to be mowed as it probably was maintained in 1859. If this program is followed the area on the north side of Shenandoah Street, extending from Bldg. No. 45 up to Bldg. 48, would present a fairly neat appearance, as was the case with Armory property in general in 1859.

It is also recommended that the ruins of the Presbyterian Church be stablised and that this former building can be interpretated for the benefit of visitors by utilizing Photograph HF-357 in a trail side exhibit to be located in that general area.

(Sgd) CHARLES W. SNELL

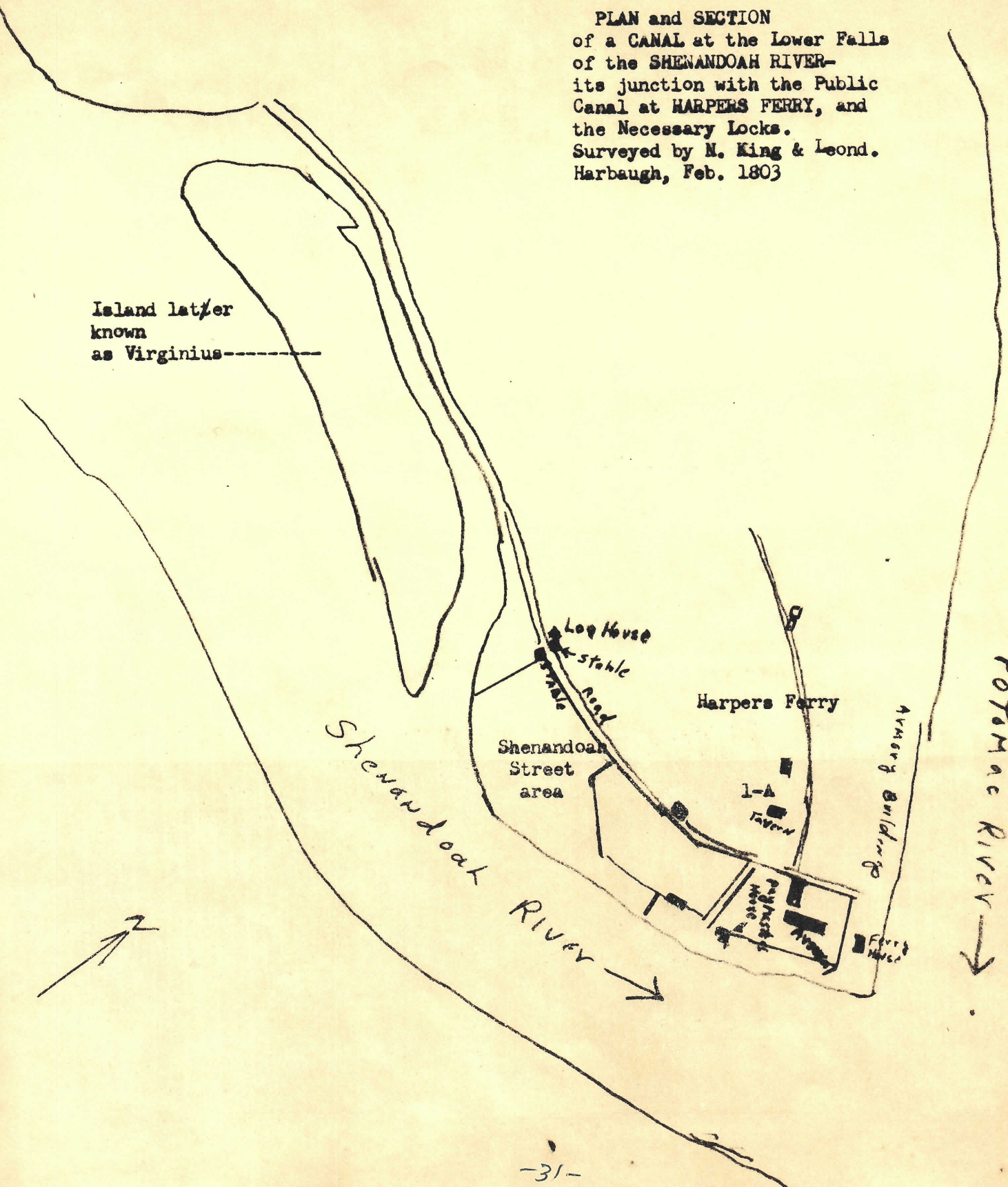
Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
February 11, 1959

APPENDIX I

"PLAN and SECTION of a CANAL at the Lower Falls of the SHENANDOAH RIVER- its junction with the Public Canal at HARPERS FERRY, and the Necessary Locks. Surveyed by N. King & Leond. Harbaugh, Feb. 1803."

National Archives R.G.77. Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers. Fortification Map File, part of map: Dr.150, Sheet 2.

PLAN and SECTION
of a CANAL at the Lower Falls
of the SHENANDOAH RIVER-
its junction with the Public
Canal at HARPERS FERRY, and
the Necessary Locks.
Surveyed by N. King & Leond.
Harbaugh, Feb. 1803

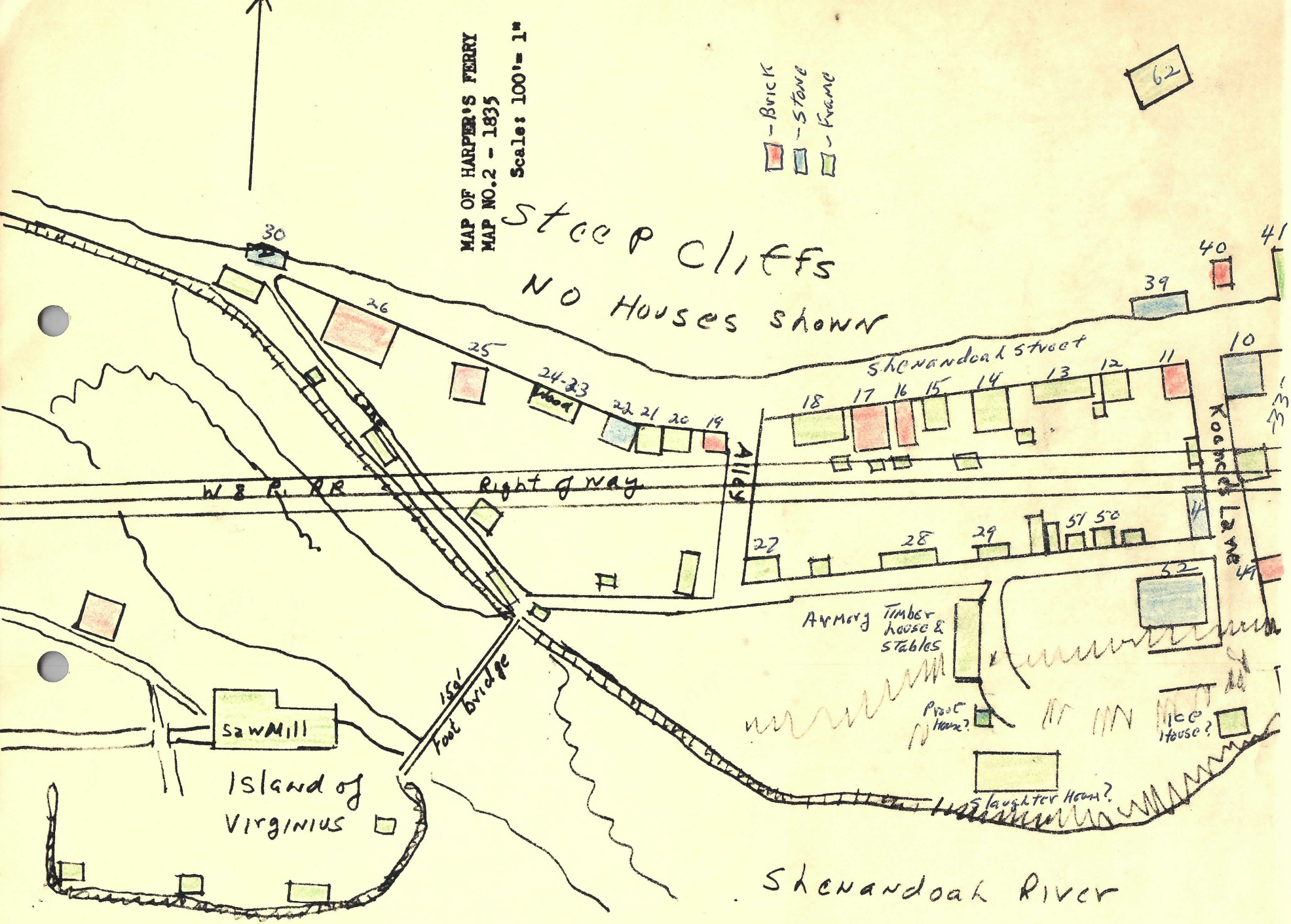


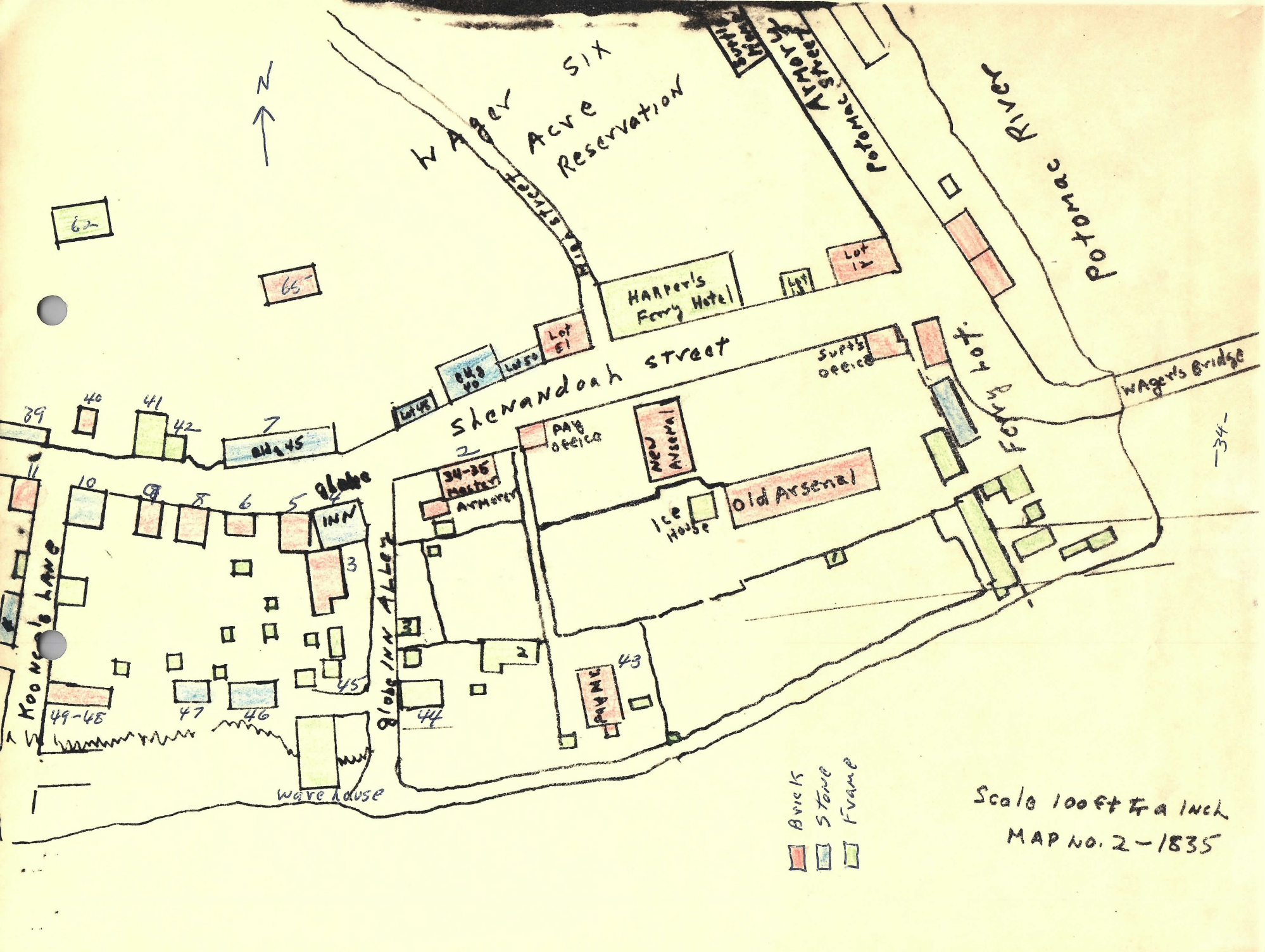
APPENDIX II

"MAP OF HARPERS FERRY, Shewing the Location of the WINCHESTER and POTOMAC RAIL ROAD, Drawn by Lieuts. White, Allen, and R. S. Smith, U.S. Army, Under the direction of James Kearney, Lt. Col. and T.E., 1835-No. 2. Approved by President Andrew Jackson, January 27, 1835."

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. Scale: 100 feet to 1 inch.

Dwelling Houses on the map have been numbered in ink according to the 1848-52 lists og Government Houses and the records pertaining to the 1852 sale of Government Houses and Lots in the Shenandoah Street area.


MAP OF HARPER'S FERRY
MAP NO.2 - 1835
Scale: 100'= 1"
B - Brick
S - Stone
F - Frame
62
Steep Cliffs
No Houses shown
Shenandoah Street
W & R. RR
Right of way
Alley
Keyes Lane
Armory Timber house & stables
Proof House?
Ice House?
Slaughter House?
Saw Mill
Foot Bridge
Island of Virginius
Shenandoah River


N
Six Acre Reservation
Wager Street
Potomac Street
Armory Yard
Potomac River
Harper's Ferry Hotel
Lot 12
Lot 61
Lot 60
Lot 59
Lot 58
Lot 57
Lot 56
Lot 55
Lot 54
Lot 53
Lot 52
Lot 51
Lot 50
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Lot 20
Lot 19
Lot 18
Lot 17
Lot 16
Lot 15
Lot 14
Lot 13
Lot 12
Lot 11
Lot 10
Lot 9
Lot 8
Lot 7
Lot 6
Lot 5
Lot 4
Lot 3
Lot 2
Lot 1
Shenandoah Street
Pay Office
New Arsenal
Old Arsenal
Ice House
Supt's Office
Armory
Engine
Globe Inn
Globe Inn Alley
Koontz's Lane
Warehouse
Wagner's Bridge
Ford
Bricks
Stone
Frame
Scale 100 ft to a inch
MAP NO. 2-1835

APPENDIX III

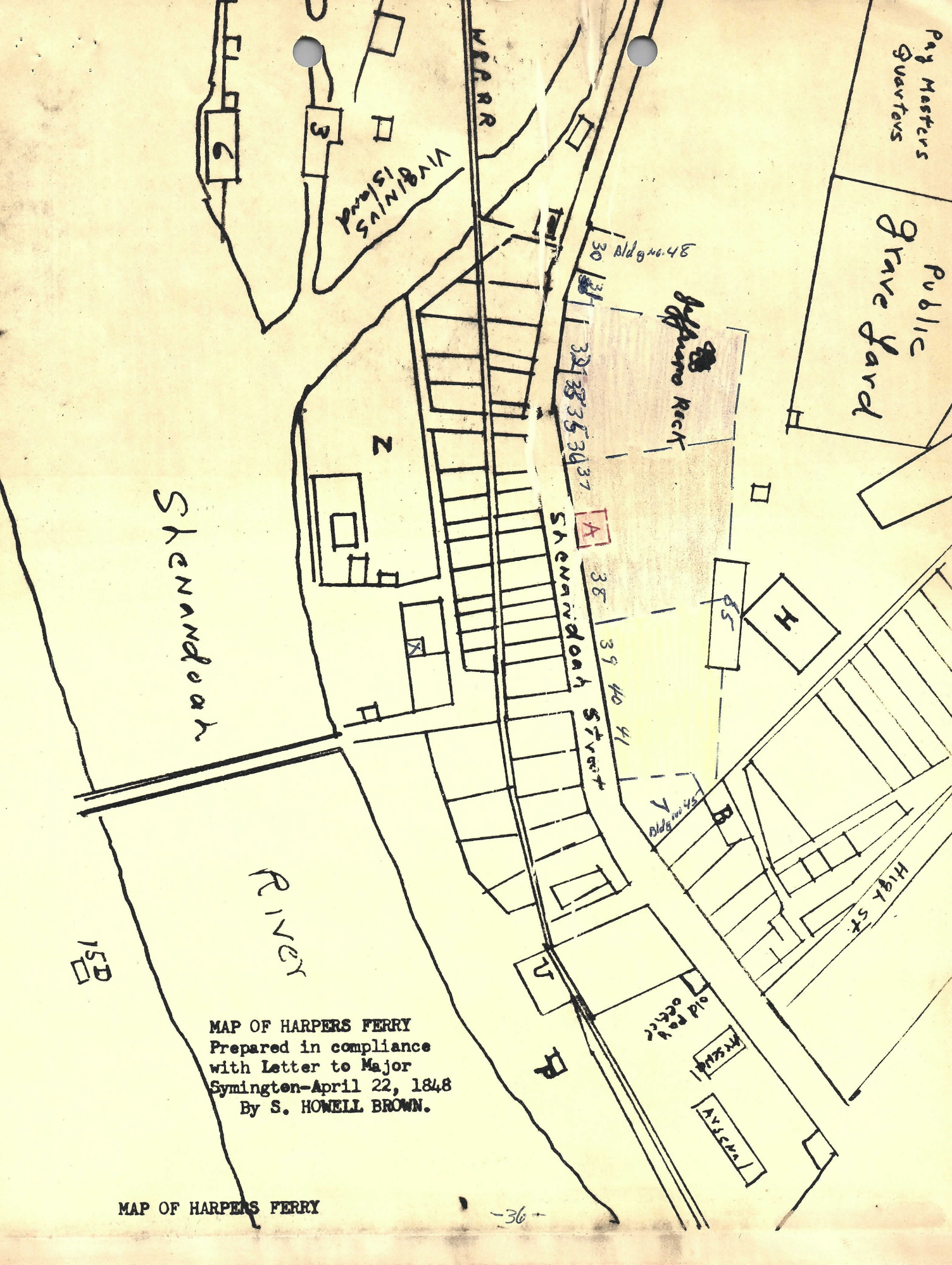
"Map of Harpers Ferry prepared in compliance with letter to Major Symington, April 22, 1848."

Original map in collection of Harpers Ferry National Monument.

This map is a partial tracing made from S. Howell Brown's detailed map of Harpers Ferry, submitted in October, 1848. This tracing was made by Major John Symington, Superintendent of the U.S. Armory at Harpers Ferry, in January, 1851.

Legend for Map:

No. of Building
- A----Presbyterian Church
- B----Catholic Church
- P----Pumps
- T----Public (Armory) Stables
- U----Market House
- Z----Old (Armory) Stables, Wood Yard, &c.
- X----Old Office.
- H----Protestant Episcopal Church

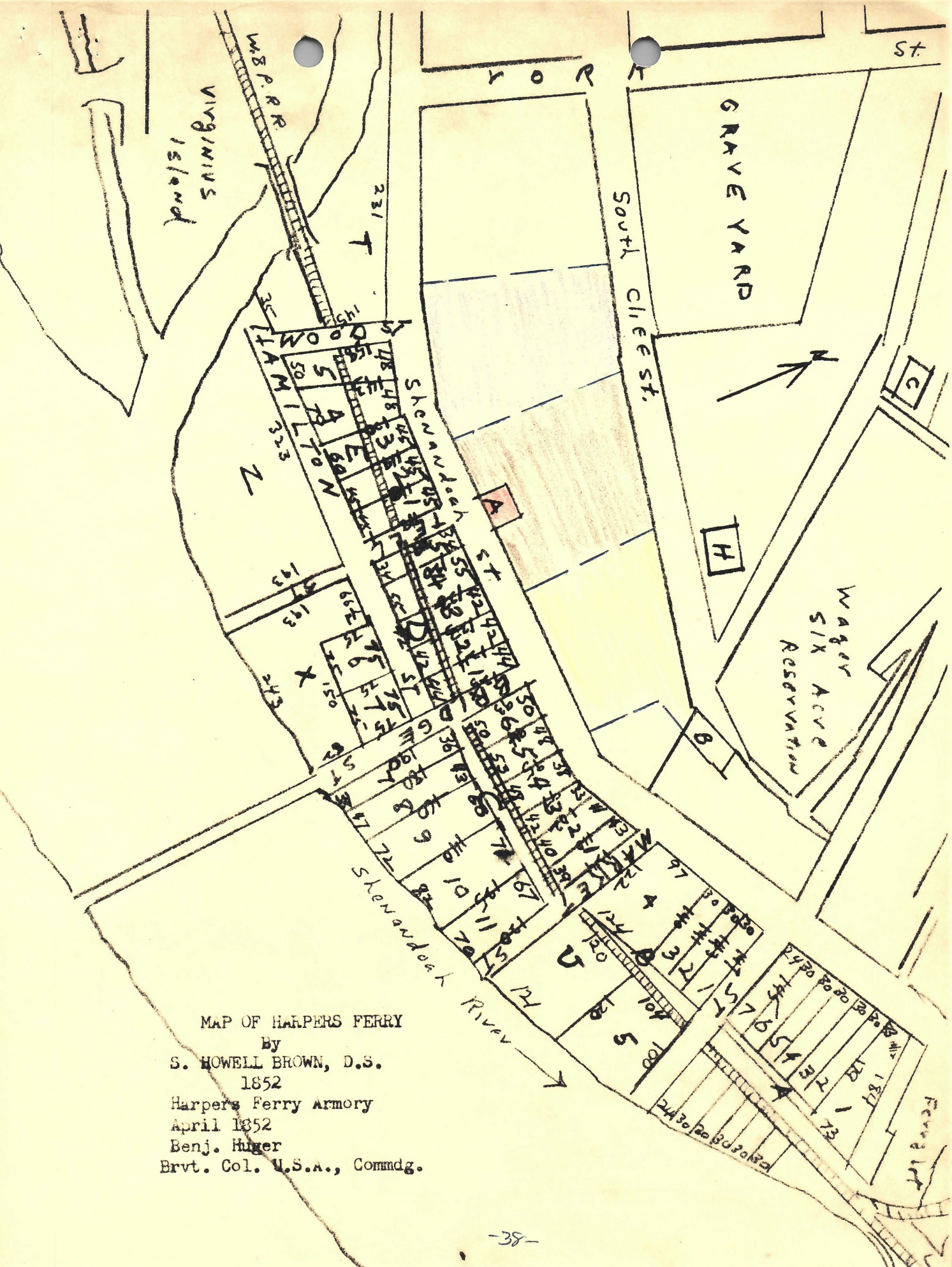


MAP OF HARPERS FERRY

APPENDIX IV

"MAP OF HARPERS FERRY BY S. HOWELL BROWN 1852. Harpers Ferry Armory, April 1852."

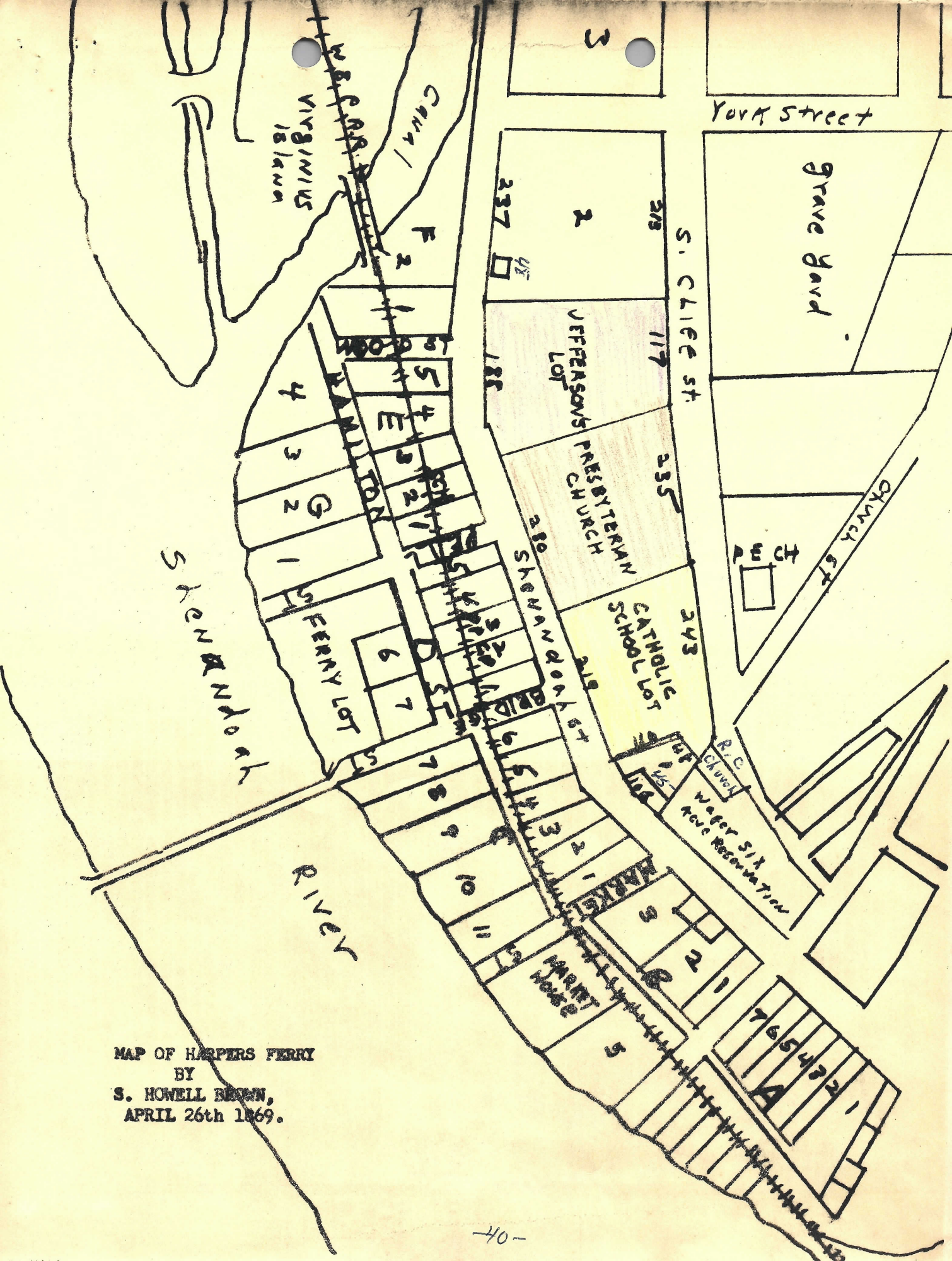
The original of this map, a working copy traced from one of the three original maps prepared by Brown in 1852, was made by A. M. Kitzmiller, Chief Clerk of the Armory in 1852. The original working copy is the only known surviving copy of the Brown 1852 map and is in the possession of Mrs. James McDonald of Storer College, Harpers Ferry, W. Va.



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

APPENDIX V

"MAP OF HARPERS FERRY. Plat of the Harpers Ferry Armory Property Laid Off into Lots for Sale in Pursuance of the Act of December 15, 1868. Approved November 16th 1869 by W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War. Harpers Ferry Wst. Va. April 26th 1869. Designed, Projected & Mapped by S. Howell Brown, Surveyor, from the Original and subsequent Surveyes 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 2, 1869.

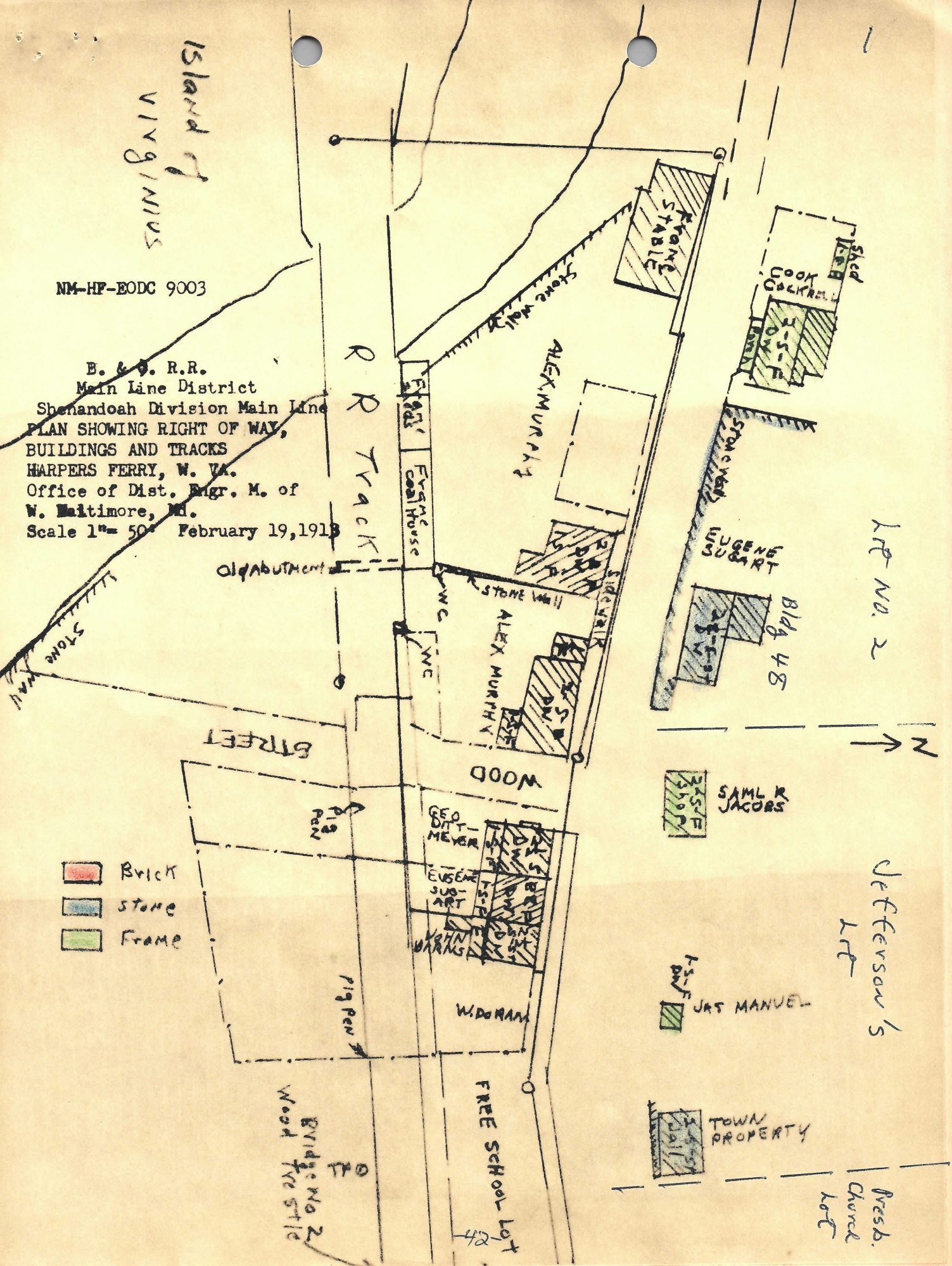


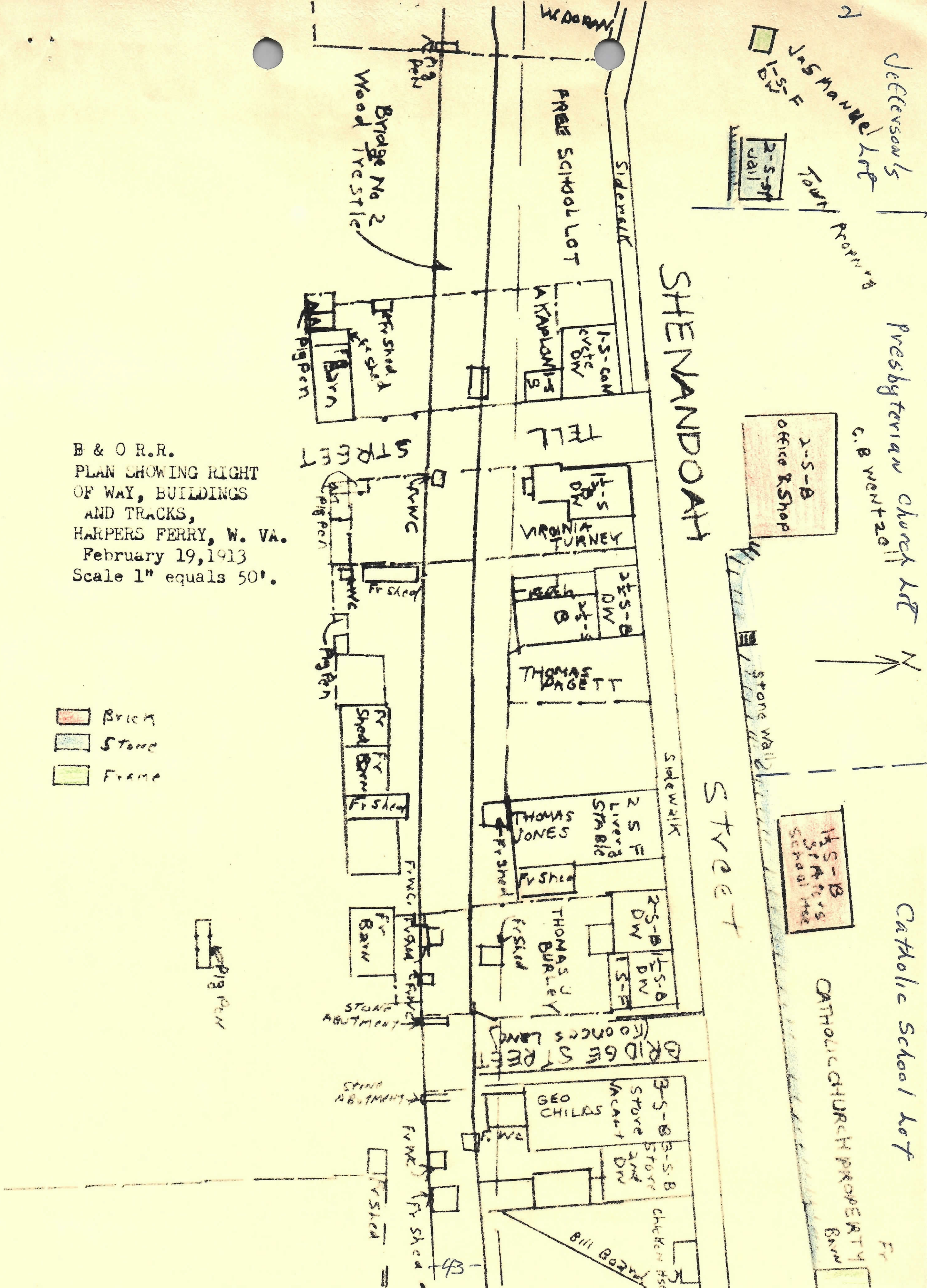
MAP OF HARPERS FERRY
BY
S. HOWELL BROWN,
APRIL 26th 1869.

APPENDIX VI

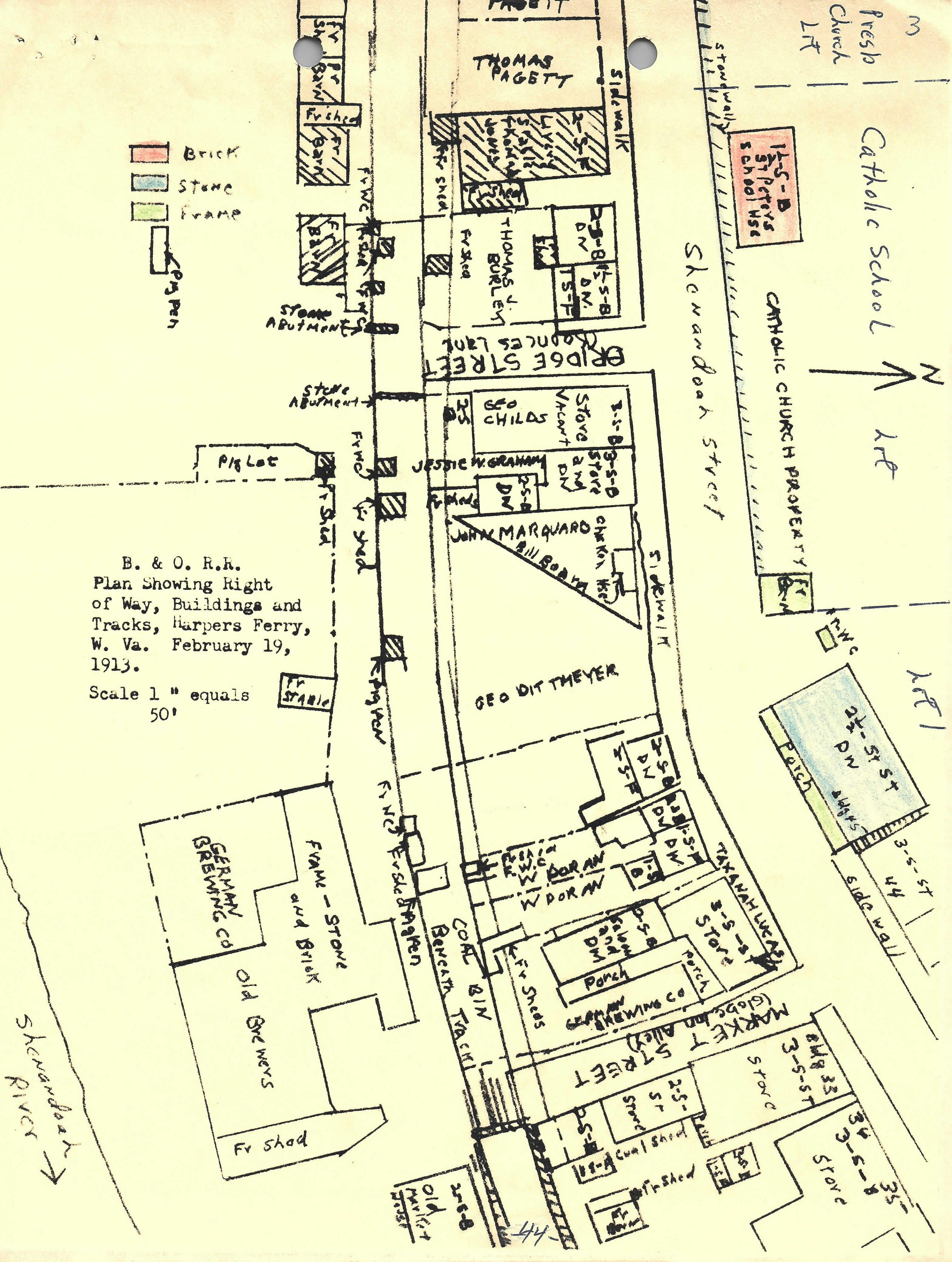
"B. & O. R.R. MAIN LINE DISTRICT, Shenandoah Division, Main Line, PLAN SHOWING THE RIGHT OF WAY, BUILDINGS AND TRACKS, HARPERS FERRY, W. VA. Office of Dist. Engr. M. of W. Baltimore, Md. Scale 1" = 50' February 19, 1913. Note Book C-31 8 35 1-7-5"

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company Archives, Baltimore, Md.


Island of Virginia
NM-HF-EODC 9003
E. & 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
R R Tracks
Old Abutment
Stone Wall
Stone Wall
Stone Wall
Alex Murphy
Alex Murphy
Engine Coal House
Stone Stable
Cook Colored
Eugene Sugart
Bldg 48
Lot No. 2
Street
Wood
Pig Pen
Pig Pen
Geo Ditt-meyer
Eugene Sugart
John Harris
W. Dorman
Saml K Jacobs
Jas Manuel
Town Property
Free School Lot
Jefferson's Lot
Presb. Church Lot
Bridge No 2 Wood Fire Stile
To
N
Brick
Stone
Frame



B & O R.R.
PLAN SHOWING RIGHT
OF WAY, BUILDINGS
AND TRACKS,
HARPERS FERRY, W. VA.
February 19,1913
Scale 1" equals 50'.


B. & O. R.R.
Plan Showing Right of Way, Buildings and Tracks, Harpers Ferry, W. Va. February 19, 1913.
Scale 1 " equals 50'
Brick
Stone
Frame
Pig Pen
Thomas Pagett
Thomas J. Burley
Bridge Street
Geo Childs
Jessie W. Graham
John Marquard
Geo Dittmeyer
W Doran
German Brewing Co
Old Brewery
Frame - Stone and Brick
Pig Lot
Fr Stable
Fr Shed
Stone Abutment
Coal Bin
Sidewalk
Shenandoah Street
Catholic Church Property
Catholic School Lot
Presb Church Lot
St Peters School Hse
Porch
Market Street
Taxanah Lucas
Shenandoah River
Store
N