

HISTORIC BUILDING SITE SURVEY

REPORT

For

BUILDINGS NO. 41 AND 42.

The "James McGraw Lot" or Wager Lot No. 48

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by

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Dated July 28, 1958

31 pages.

HF-36

4 maps, 8 photos

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SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Building:

Buildings No. 41 and 42 (demolished). "The James McGraw Lot - Wager Lot No. 48."

B. Proposed Use of Structure:

We agree with Historian Snell that this lot should be retained as a lawn and that shadows on adjoining walls of Buildings 40 and 43 be preserved. A small roadside exhibit including a sketch of the pre-Civil War structure would be appropriate at the site.

C. Provision for Operating the Lot:

No funds have been programmed for this purpose.

D. Preliminary Estimate of Cost for Rehabilitating the Grounds:

Three to four hundred dollars should be adequate for the roadside exhibit installation.

SECTION II - HISTORICAL DATA

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1835 TO 1865

On April 2, 1835, the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for Jefferson County, Virginia, appointed Commissioners "to lay off and divide into three equal lots and parcels, the real estate at Harper's Ferry which descended to James B. Wager, Gerard B. Wager and Sally Ann Wager, now Sally Ann Swayne, the wife of Noah H. Swayne, from their father, John Wager [Jr.], deceased."¹ The property thus being divided at Harpers Ferry was commonly known as the "Wager Six Acre Reservation", an island of land in private ownership, surrounded on all sides by land owned by the United States Government.²

On October 10, 1835 the three Commissioners reported to the Court: "To Sarah Ann Swayne, the wife of Noah H. Swayne, we allot and assign the lots following as numbered in the annexed plat marked N.H.S.: to wit; Lots no. 5-8-10-11-13-16-17-20-24-26-28-31-33-35-40-42-45-48-51 & 55."³

Thus in 1835 Wager Lot No. 48 became the property of Noah H. and Sarah Ann Swayne and it is upon Lot No. 48 that the building under consideration stood until after the Civil War. (See blue colored area on the plat, page two of this report.)

Wager Lot No. 48 remained the property of the Swaynes, who resided in Franklin County, Ohio, from 1835 to 1865. On August 1, 1865, for the sum of \$1,800.00, Noah H. Swayne sold to James McGraw, of Harpers

¹ Gibson, etc. vs. Wager, etc. Decree, Deed Book 29, pp. 140-141. Jefferson County Court House, Charles Town, West Virginia.

² 1835 Plat: "The Wager Six Ace Reservation, Drawn by James M. Brown, S.G.C.," in Deed Book 29, 1847-48, p. 140.

³ Deed Book 29, pp. 140-141.

Ferry the following lot:

"...To wit - Lot number (48) forty eight in the town of Harper's Ferry as the same is numbered and delineated on the record maps and plats made by the commissioners Report - said lot fronts on Shenandoah Street and extends up to the lot on which the Catholic Church in said town is situated..."⁴

2. THE CONSTRUCTION OF BLDG. ON LOT NO 48.

The structure standing on Wager Lot No. 48 was probably constructed by John Wager, Jr., between 1803 and 1813. The 1803 map: "Plan of the proposed junction of the CANAL, at the lower Falls of the Shenandoah, with the Public Canal at HARPERS FERRY, and the necessary Locks for descending into the Potomack River, Surveyed & Level'd by N. King and L. Harbaugh, Feb. 1803,"⁵ (see next page for tracing of map), a detailed map of Harpers Ferry, shows a building labeled as a "stable" standing on the approximate site of Lot No. 48 at that date.

In 1814, in describing that portion of the Wager Six Acre Reservation that was assigned to Catherine Wager, the widow of John Wager, Jr., the following information appears:

"We have further assigned to her the following part of the foresaid six acres of land and the several houses and buildings on the said part to wit: Beginning on a line of the said six acres lot at the west edge of the public road leading from Harpers Ferry up the Shenandoah [now Shenandoah Street] at a point halfway between the House Robert Aeris lives in [probably located on Wager Lot No. 48], and the Wagers new stone stable [probably located on Wager Lot No. 50]..."⁶

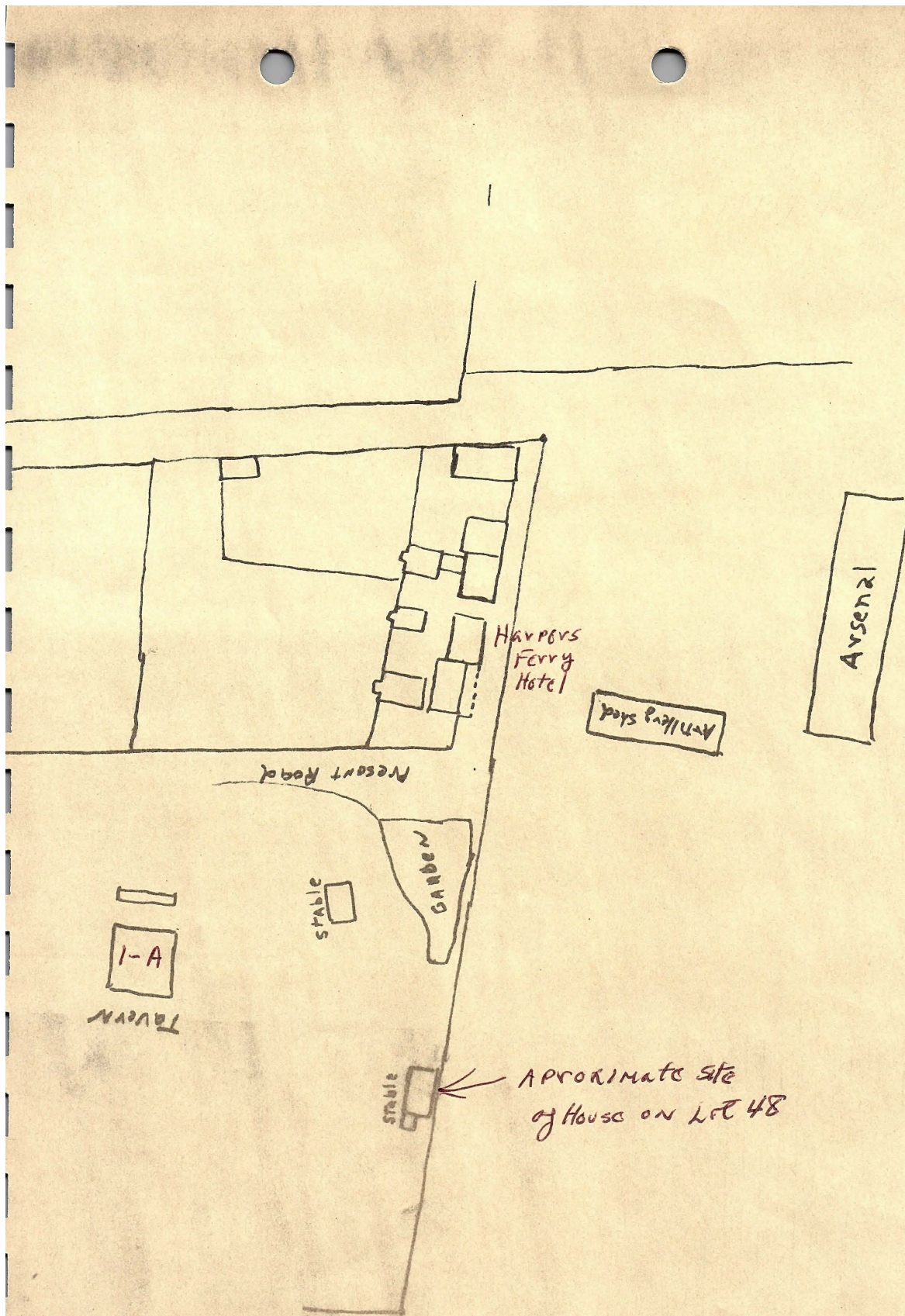
This indicates that there was a house probably standing on Lot 48 at that date.

On John Wager, Jr.'s, death on October 22, 1813, his estate passed

⁴ Deed of B. & S., August 1, 1855, Deed Book 1, p. 182.

⁵ National Archives R. G. 79, Dr. 150-2, sheet 1 of 2.

⁶ Will Book No. 2, pp. 92-94. January 19, 1814.



Tracing of a Portion of the 1803 Map
of Harpers Ferry. Scale 4 perches to an Inch.

to his four minor children, for whom a guardianship was established that continued until 1824. The guardians, for the benefit of the Court, were required to submit detailed statements of income and expenditures of the Wager estate. These records have been searched and show that no building of the type of the structure on Lot No. 48 was erected in the period 1813 to 1824.⁷

Yet in 1824, when the Wager family granted a lease to Daniel A. Weed for the piece of ground later known as Lot No. 49, we find the following information:

"...the said Wagers...agree that the said Weed shall have a lot of ground situated between Dr. Godfrey Weise's shop [located on Wager Lot 48] and Jacob R. Thomas's stone stable [located on Wager Lot No. 50] about thirty five feet in front and forty five feet extending backwards for the purpose of a store house to be built thereon by said Weed said house to be thirty three feet in front (having two feet between said store house and Dr. Weise's for a passage, said Weed to have the use of said passage during the time of occupancy..."⁸

From the above evidence it therefore appears most probable that the building standing on Lot No. 48 in 1824 must have been constructed by John Wager, Jr., between 1803 and 1813.

A general plan of this building, as it appeared in 1835 (see map page 7), will be found on the map: "Harpers Ferry Shewing the Location of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad, Drawn By Lieuts. White, Allen, and R. S. Smith, U. S. Army, under the direction of James Kearney, Lt. Col. and T.E., 1835, Map No. 2."⁹ This map indicates that the structure fronted approximately 37 feet on Shenandoah Street (the later width of the lot was 48 feet 10 inches) and was about 17 feet

⁷ Will Book No. 2, pp. 287-291; 323-324; 360-368; 436-439; Will Book No. 3, pp. 137-143; 168-170; 231-237; 263-267; 424-429.

⁸ Articles of Agreement, February 5, 1824, Deed Book 12, p. 513.

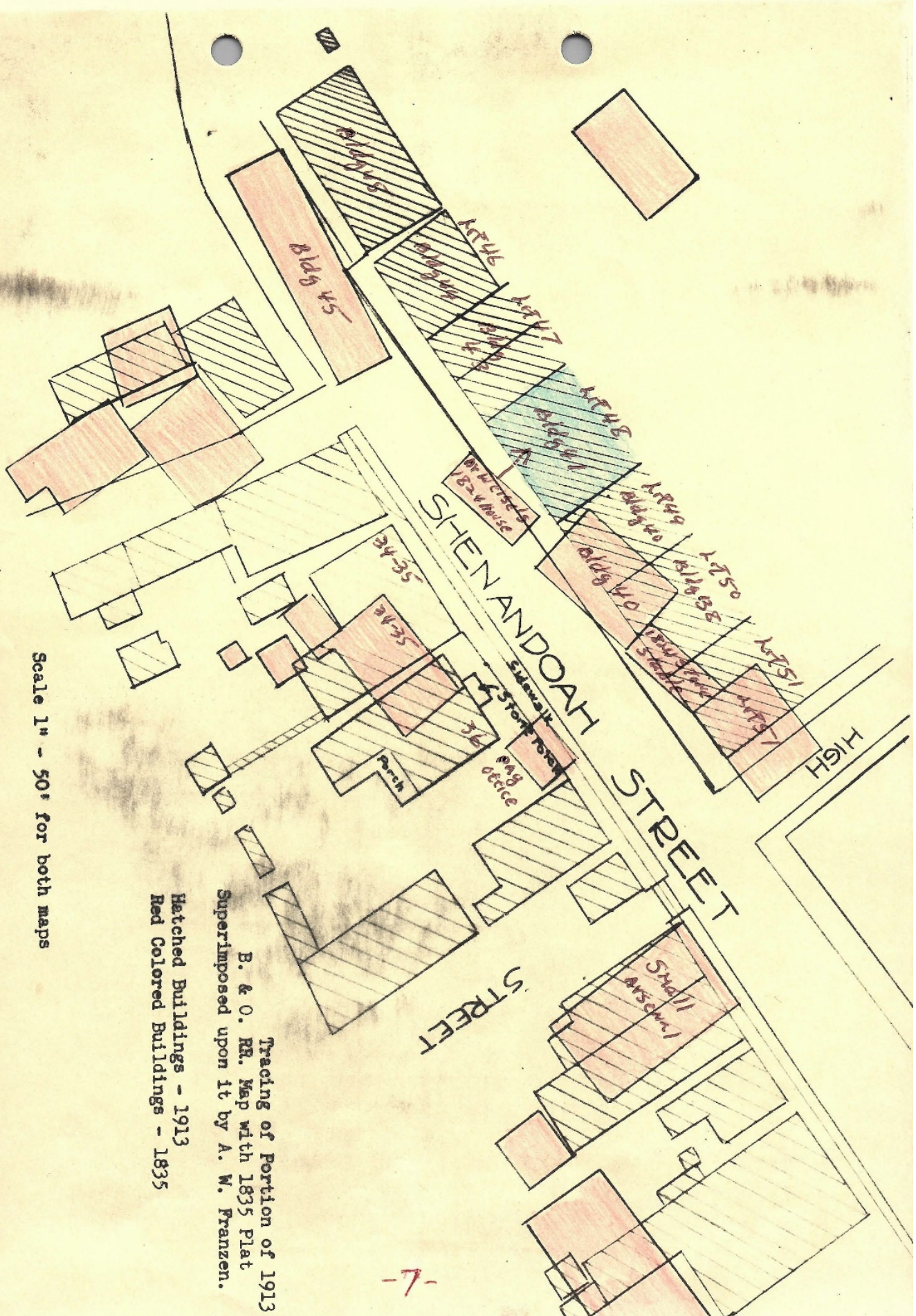
⁹ National Archives R. G. 77-Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Fortification Map File, Part of Map: Dr. 150-Sheet 82-2.

deep.

Unfortunately no good historical print or photograph of this building has yet been found and the structure was demolished after the Civil War. We must therefore reconstruct our description of the house on the basis of circumstantial evidence.

The gable wall of Bldg. No. 43, which was erected in 1845, carries a clear imprint of shadow of a two story house with a depth of about 17 feet. This depth and width, of course, fits the depth given on the 1835 map. On the gable wall of Bldg. No. 40, which was erected in 1824, is the much less clear impression of a two story house with a depth of some 12 feet. Moreover, this same gable wall contains traces of an early window that has been since filled with stone. It is obvious from the location of the window and house shadow, that this window opening would never have been built in Bldg. No. 40 if the two houses had then touched end to end in 1824. Moreover, the agreement covering the construction of Bldg. No. 40 in 1824 specified that an alley of at least two feet was to be left between the two structures. It appears therefore that this specification was carried out, and this would also account for inclusion of the now blocked up window in the wall of Bldg. No. 40.

Judging by the Harper House, 1-A, and Bldg. No. 37, also structures erected before 1813, the building on Wager Lot No. 48 was probably a two story stone structure about 37 feet long by 17 feet in depth. The original roof was also probably composed of wooden shakes. At some date after 1824 and probably before the Civil War, an addition was built onto the end of the house, extending it up against the gable



Scale 1" = 50' for both maps

Tracing of Portion of 1913
B. & O. RR. Map with 1835 Plat
Superimposed upon it by A. W. Franzen.
Hatched Buildings - 1913
Red Colored Buildings - 1835

wall of Bldg. No. 40.

By 1824, the building contained a large store room on the first floor and living quarters on the second. The only historical print showing this structure, HF-67, (see Appendix I) is obviously inaccurate. The building on Lot No. 48 was demolished after the Civil War and, in addition, considerable amounts of the rock in the cliff were blasted out in 1898 and 1899 to enlarge the lot so that Bldg. No. 41 could be erected at that date. Bldg. No. 41, a nonhistoric building, has been removed by the National Park Service, the lot seeded over and it now stands vacant.

3. USES OF BLDG. ON LOT NO. 48, 1824 TO 1861.

The building on Lot No. 48, prior to 1824 had apparently been leased for a number of years by the Wager family to Dr. Godfrey Weise as an Apothecary Shop and residence. On November 17, 1824, Catherine Wager advertised: "FOR RENT - The house at present occupied by Dr. Weise, of which possession will be given on the 1st of January, 1825. It is calculated for either the dry goods, grocery, or other business."¹⁰

On December 1, 1824, Dr. Weise, himself, announced:

Notice

"The subscriber returns his thanks to the citizens of Harpers Ferry, and the public generally, for the liberal encouragement he has received since the establishment of his Drug Store; and informs them that he has relinquished this part of his business in favor of

MESSRS. SPRENGER AND KOSTER.....

He deems it his duty to say, that the report of his intention to leave this place, is without foundation; and that he can be found at his old stand, ready to serve the public in the medical profession."¹¹

Mr. "Sprengler", or actually Frederick W. Springer, remained in

¹⁰ Harpers Ferry Free Press, December 1, 1824, p. 1, c. 2.

¹¹ Harpers Ferry Free Press, December 1, 1824, p. 3, c. 4.

business in this building until 1826 or 1827. In June of 1826 he signed a lease with the Wager family and constructed a new drug store on Wager Lot No. 9.¹² Dr. Godfrey Weise, a native of Saxony, may have resided on the second floor of the building on Lot No. 48 until his death in November 1830.¹³

By 1831 the building was occupied by Dr. James Andrews and Co. (Dr. George B. Stephenson) as a drug store.¹⁴ In 1833, in addition to patent medicines, they sold "a general assortment of Family Medicines, Confectionary, Fruits, Garden Seeds, &c. to be had at Baltimore Prices. P. S. Physicians' prescriptions putup in the best manner, and their orders at reduced prices."¹⁵ [Note in 1834 William Goss occupied the first floor of the house as a Refectory and Porter House, see Virginia Free Press, December 11, 1834, p. 3, c. 4. In September 1835 Righter Levering announced that he had removed his dry good store to the house formerly occupied by William Goss, Virginia Free Press, September 3, 1835, p. 3, c. 4. C.W.S.]

In September, 1833, the firm was reorganized:

DISSOLUTION

"The Co-partnership heretofore existing under the firm name of DR. JAMES ANDREWS & CO. was dissolved by mutual consent on the 1st inst.

JAMES ANDREWS,
GEO. B. STEPHENSON.

CO-PARTNERSHIP

DR. GEO. B. STEPHENSON

Has associated himself with Mr. James Andrews, under the firm of Dr. G. B. Stephenson & Co. They now have on hand, and intend keeping a large and general assortment of

¹² Lease, June 2, 1826, Deed Book 15, pp. 76-78.

¹³ Virginia Free Press, November 10, 1830, p. 3.

¹⁴ Virginia Free Press, September 8, 1831, p. 3, c. 6; March 14, 1833, p. 3, c. 3.

¹⁵ Virginia Free Press, March 28, 1833, p. 3, c. 3.

DRUGS, MEDICINES, &c..."¹⁶

The company continued business at this site under the name until 1835.¹⁷ In February, 1835, they announced:

"DISSOLUTION OF CO-PARTNERSHIP

Firm of Dr. G. B. Stephenson & Co. was dissolved by mutual consent on Feb. 2.

N.B. The business will hereafter be conducted under the firm of Stephenson and Levering."¹⁸

The firm, with Righter Levering as the new partner, continued in business at the same site until apparently the fall of 1837.¹⁹

In 1836 a new business occupied the second floor:

ADAM WHIP
SADDLE & HARNESS MAKER

"Respectfully informs his friends, customers, and the public generally, that he has removed his shop on the Main Street, over Doct. Stephenson and Levering's Apothecary Shop, Harpers Ferry..."²⁰

In September, 1836, Mr. Whip called for a settlement of the debts due him as he intended to move West in the Spring.²¹ And in April, 1837, moved as far "West" as Martinsburg, Va.²²

In August of 1837 another type of business moved into the second floor of the house on Lot No. 48:

ISAAC FOUKE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

"Will in the future devote his undivided attention to the duties of his profession - and may say (though perhaps it is needless for him now to do so,) that all business entrusted to his charge will be

¹⁶ Virginia Free Press, September 19, 1833, p. 3, c. 5. Also January 23, 1834, p. 4, c. 1.

¹⁷ Virginia Free Press, January 15, 1835, p. 3, c. 3.

¹⁸ Virginia Free Press, February 12, 1835, p. 3, c. 4.

¹⁹ Virginia Free Press, July 9, 1835, p. 4, c. 6; April 17, 1836, p. 3, c. 3; August 17, 1837, p. 3, c. 2.

²⁰ Virginia Free Press, April 14, 1836, p. 3, c. 2.

²¹ Virginia Free Press, September 22, 1836, p. 3, c. 5. January 5, 1837, p. 3, c. 5.

²² Virginia Free Press, April 20, 1837, p. 3, c. 3.

faithfully executed.

He will practice in the Superior and Inferior Courts of Jefferson and Clarke Counties.

OFFICE OVER STEPHENSON & LEVERING'S DRUG STORE."²³

In the fall of 1837 the drug firm was apparently again reorganized, with Righter Levering dropping out and Dr. P. P. W. Stephenson becoming a new partner of Dr. George B. Stephenson. For in September, 1838, these gentlemen advertised: "DISSOLUTION The CO-PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing at Harpers Ferry under the firm of Dr. P. P. W. Stephenson & Co. was dissolved by mutual consent on the 1st inst. The business will hereafter be conducted by Dr. P. P. W. Stephenson."²⁴

Dr. George B. Stephenson then leased a drug store on Wager Lot 12 and opened his store at that site. In October 1838, Lawyer Isaac Fouke gave notice that "His Office, as heretofore, is over the Drug Shop of Dr. P. P. W. Stephenson and next door to Thomas Hughes Store [which was located in Bldg. No. 40.]"²⁵

Young Dr. Philip P. W. Stephenson continued his drug store on the first floor of the building on Wager Lot No. 48 until October, 1839.²⁶ By this latter date, he relocated his apothecary shop in Bldg. No. 37.

In October of 1839 the building was occupied by:

W. Illims CROCKER,
CLOCK, WATCH-MAKER, AND JEWELER,

"Having located himself on Shenandoah Street, opposite the Pay-Office, respectfully informs the citizens of Harpers Ferry and vicinity, that he repairs all kinds of CLOCKS, WATCHES, MUSICAL BOXES, JEWELRY, &c. &c..."²⁷

²³ Virginia Free Press, August 17, 1837, p. 3, c. 2.

²⁴ Virginia Free Press, September 20, 1838, p. 3, c. 3.

²⁵ Virginia Free Press, October 11, 1838, p. 3, c. 2.

²⁶ Virginia Free Press, August 15, 1839, p. 2, c. 4. Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, January 8, 1840, p. 3.

²⁷ Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, January 8, 1840, p. 4

Just how long Crocker remained in the house on Lot No. 48 has not been determined as he did not advertise after his initial announcement.

By June of 1846 however, P. O. Littlejohn, who ran a dry goods and grocery store, had apparently moved in the house on Lot 48.²⁸

In January, 1851, James A. Beckman, apparently acting as an agent for Noah H. Swayne, the owner of the property, advertised:

"STORE ROOM FOR RENT

"The store room recently occupied by P. O. Littlejohn [probably on Wager Lot No. 48], adjoining the store of F. C. Conrad [probably in Bldg. No. 43 on Wager Lot no. 47], is offered for rent."²⁹

Whatever business then rented the building remained only a year for in February, 1852, Ann C. Stephenson, apparently acting as agent for Noah H. Swayne, announced:

"STORE ROOM FOR RENT

"The store room recently occupied by P. O. Littlejohn at Harpers Ferry, adjoining the store of F. C. Conrad [probably on Wager Lot no. 47], is offered for rent. Possession given April 1."³⁰

Note: The above placement of Conrad involves changes in the theories presented in Historic Building Report on Bldg. No. 38. It is now believed that F. C. Conrad remained in business in Bldg. No. 43, STORE 2, from October, 1850, until March, 1852, (he had been located there from 1845 to 1850) and thus never moved into Bldg. No. 38, Store No. 2 for the period October, 1850, to October, 1852, as has been suggested in the report on Bldg. No. 38.

The business next to occupy the house on Lot No. 48 is also not

²⁸ Virginia Free Press, June 3, 1846, p. 3, c. 3.

²⁹ Virginia Free Press, January 31, 1851, p. 3, c. 3.

³⁰ Virginia Free Press, March 11, 1852, p. 3, c. 4.

identified for certain, but may have been the following:

H. MAMDELBAUM & CO.'S
CHEAP
CLOTHING STORE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
HARPERS-FERRY, VA.

"H. M. & Co. would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Harpers-Ferry and vicinity, that they are selling CLOTHING at Baltimore prices, CHEAP FOR CASH, they name in part:

Coats, Pants, Vests, Shirts, Bosoms, Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes. Also a superior lot of Silk, Cotton and Gingham Pocket and Neck Handkerchiefs, Cravats, Gloves, Socks, Suspenders, Umbrellas, Canes, Pen Knives, Razor Strops, &c. &c.

TRUNKS, VALICES & CARPET-BAGS.

They are manufactured of the best material and no humbug. A call is all we require to secure your custom."³¹

By December, 1852, they announced: "SELLING OFF AT COST...The store room now occupied by us will be fore rent on and after the first day of February next."³²

Use of the bldg. from 1853 to February, 1854, is also unknow, but about March, 1854, the house was leased by Isreal Russell as his fish market.³³ In 1855 he advertised:

FISH: FISH::

"200,000 SHAD AND HERRING JUST RECEIVED. The subscribers are receiving weekly and have made ample arrangement to supply all orders for Fresh and Salted

SHAD AND HERRING at short notice. They have two cannal boats which will make weekly trips to and from Georgetown and Alexandria, and will take all freight as usual on moderate terms. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited.

Orders left at the Storehouse of ISREAL RUSSELL, Harpers-Ferry, will meet with prompt attention.

Terms for Fish, in all cases, cash; or exchange for country produce.

³¹ Virginia Free Press, October 21, 1852, p. 3, c. 5.

³² Virginia Free Press, December 9, 1852, p. 3, c. 6.

³³ Virginia Free Press, March 30, 1854, p. 2, c. 6. Prior to this he had been located in Store 2 of Bldg. No. 43.

In May, 1856, under the heading "FISH MARKET", the editors of the newspaper commented:

"The streets of Harpers Ferry last week presented quite a commercial appearance. The fish trade was brisker than usual. Isreal Russell, Esq., who has been supplying the market, had a perfect rush upon him Thursday last. Although the people of this county are the most independent politicians anywhere to be found, they that day presented a decidedly fishy aspect."³⁵

By February, 1857, Mr. Isreal Russell had developed financial difficulties and placed his personal property in trust with Lawyer Isaac Fouke.³⁶ By the end of the month, Mr. Fouke announced:

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF HORSES, MULES, &c AND NOTICE TO DEBTORS OF ISREAL RUSSELL.

By virtue of a Deed of Trust, executed by Isreal Russell, to the undersigned for benefit of creditors...I will on

SATURDAY, MARCH 7th, 1857, offer at Public Sale, to the highest bidder, in front of said Isreal Russell's Store, in the town of Harper's Ferry, a variety of valuable property, viz.

- 1 Grey horse, 1 Sorrel Horse;
- 1 Mules, Dick and Lion,
- 1 Two-Horse Wagon,
- 1 One-Horse Wagon; 1 Dray,
- 1 Cart and Gears,
- 1 Sett Double-Carriage Harness;
- 1 Sett Single Harness;
- 1 Wagon Saddle, 4 Collars,
- 4 Bridles, 3 Setts of Boat Gears;
- 1 Pair of Platform Scales, &c. &c.
- 13 Shares of Capital Stock of the Hillsborough and Harper's Ferry Turnpike...

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF CANAL BOATS, &c.

"By Virture of Deed of Trust, executed by Isreal Russell, to the undersigned, for the benefit of certain creditors therein named, which deed is duly recorded in the records of Washington County, Maryland, I will on SATURDAY, THE 7TH DAY OF MARCH 1857, offer at public sale,... in front of Brown & Gibson's Warehouse, on the Cheasapeake and Ohio Canal,

³⁴ Virginia Free Press, April 26, 1855, p. 2, c. 6. Russell acquired these two canal boats in 1853 from the estate of John A. Gibson, for whom Russell had previously acted as agent.

³⁵ Virginia Free Press, May 1, 1856, p. 2, c. 2. Also ads in July 17, 1856, p. 2, c. 5.

³⁶ Trust, February 11, 1857, Deed Book 36, pp. 405-413.

about half a mile below Harper's Ferry, the following valuable property, viz:

1 Canal Boat, "James E. Essex;" with all Furniture and Apartus;
1 Canal Boat, "J. F. Wheatly;"
A lot of Fish tubs, about 120 in number;
A lot of fish barrels, about 40 in number;
A lot of Ropes and Block and Tackle, and 3 setts of Boat Gears..."³⁷

Mr. Russell's Property was sold off and he closed out his business by June of 1857.³⁸

On June 25, 1857, a new business occupied the building on Lot No.

48:

TO FARMERS & OTHERS,
WHISKEYS, BRANDIES, WINES, &C.
THE LARGEST STOCK EVER OFFERED IN THE COUNTY.

"The undersigned having removed his Grocery and Liquor Store, from high Street to the store room on Shenandoah Street, formerly occupied by Isreal Russell, now offers his friends and customers various articles in the Grocery line, and one of the largest and most carefully selected stocks in Liquors, embracing every kind and variety, which will be sold at wholesale or retail, at the very smallest profit. All liquors guaranteed to be what they are recommended.

JAMES MCGRAW."³⁹

In 1858, he advertised:

"SALT AND COAL

"1000 sacks of Fine and Coarse SALT, and any number tons of COAL, on hand, and for sale at the lowest rates by the subscriber, who has in addition, a fine assortment of Liquors and Groceries."⁴⁰

In addition to the above notice, Mr. McGraw ran the following advertisement in the newspaper in 1858 and 1859:

"BIG VEIN COAL
FROM GEORGE'S CREEK VALLEY
(Free from all objectionable matter)
AT LOWEST MINE PRICE.
All orders promptly attended to."⁴¹

³⁷ Virginia Free Press, February 26, 1857, p. 3, c. 2. For results of the sale see report, August 28, 1857, Deed Book 37, pp. 236-240.

³⁸ Virginia Free Press, May 7, 1857, p. 4, c. 7. Still selling fish and salt.

³⁹ Virginia Free Press, July 2, 1857, p. 3, c. 1.

⁴⁰ Virginia Free Press, November 11, 1858, p. 3, c. 7.

⁴¹ Virginia Free Press, July 8, 1858, p. 1, c. 1; April 7, 1859, p. 4, c. 7.

In 1860 McGraw had for sale:

"PLASTERING, LATH, &C.

"The undersigned has on hand and will constantly keep, a supply of the following articles:

50,000 Plastering Laths; 3000 palings; a large quantity of fine and coarse salt; 40,000 prime Herring; 2000 Shad; 10 tons of plaster in the lump; Coal constantly on hand; a large supply of whiskey and other Liquors; together with

GROCERIES, &c.

at his store on Shenandoah Street, Harpers Ferry. Call early."⁴²

Mr. McGraw remained in business at this location until 1861⁴³ and purchased the lot in 1865. The price paid by McGraw, of \$1,800 for the lot, probably indicates that the pre-Civil War building was still standing at that date.

The census of 1860 provides us with the following data on the McGraw family:

"James McGraw, 25 years old, male, Grocery Merchant. Value of personal estate: \$3,000. Born in Ireland.
Julia McGraw, 21 years old, female, born in Ireland.
Margaret McGraw, 4 years old, female, born in Virginia.
Catherine McGraw, 2 years old, female, born in Virginia.
Patrick McGraw, 18 years old, male, Clerk, born in Ireland.
Michael Conner, 18, male, Laborer, born in Ireland."⁴⁴

4. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS:

All historical prints and photographs and all modern photographs, 8 in number, of the building that once stood on Wager Lot No. 48 will be found in Appendix I of this report.

5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF BLDG. NO.40:

No historical plans of the pre-Civil War building that once stood on

⁴² Virginia Free Press, August 9, 1860, p. 1, c. 1.

⁴³ Deed Book 39, pp. 396-397; 397-398. Deeds of Trust dated January 14, and January 17, 1861.

⁴⁴ National Archives R.G. 29. Records of the Bureau of the Census. Population schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States, 1860. Virginia, Volume 13, Jefferson County (Part), p. 197.

Lot No. 48 have ever been found and it is unlikely that any will ever be located. No modern measured drawings of this structure exists as the house was torn down by 1898. No measured drawings of Bldgs. No. 41 and 42, which were demolished by the National Park Service in 1957, exist.

6. SUMMARY OF THE HISTORICAL DATA:

A. Ownership of the Land, 1835 - 1865:

1. October 1782 to October 9, 1835, owned by Wager Family.
2. October 10, 1835 to July 31, 1865, owned by Noah H. and Sarah A. Swayne.
3. August 1, 1865, owned by James McGraw, Purchase price: \$1,800.

B. Construction of the Bldg. on Lot No. 48:

The house on this lot was probably erected by John Wager, Jr., in the period 1803-1813. It was a two story building 17 feet deep and probably fronted about 37 feet on Shenandoah Street. The structure was probably built of stone and had a wooden shake roof. By 1824, the first floor contained one store room and the second floor, living quarters. At some date after 1824, but before 1861, it appears that the house was extended approximately 11 feet 10 inches, thus covering the entire front of the lot, up against the end wall of Bldg. No. 40. The addition was also two stories in height by about 12 feet in depth. Lack of photographic evidence has made it difficult to determine if this structure was still standing in 1865, but the price paid for the property at that date suggests that it probably was.

In any event, the old structure was certainly demolished by 1898, in order to make way for the erection of Bldg. No. 41 at that time. The

topography of Lot No. 48 was also considerably changed in 1898. Until this date a great portion of the lot had been occupied by steep and large rock cliffs, thus accounting for the narrow depth of the pre-Civil War building (See Photograph HF-99). In 1898, however, great quantities of rock were blasted out, thus making room for the erection of the much larger Bldg. No. 41. Bldg. No. 41 was demolished by the National Park Service as a non-historic structure in 1957. The lot has been seeded and now stands as a vacant area located between Bldgs. No. 40 and 43. Bldg. No. 42, a wooden shed which once stood on the top of the cliff at the rear of Lot No. 48, was removed by the National Park Service in 1956. As is to be seen from Photograph HF-99, Bldg. No. 42 was erected at some date after 1892, hence was also a non-historic structure.

C. Use of the Pre-Civil War Bldg. on Lot No. 48, 1824 - 1861:

1. ? - November 1824, Apothecary Shop and residence of Dr. Godfrey Weise.

2. December 1824, to about 1826 or 1827, First floor: Apothecary Shop of Frederick W. Springer and Koster. Second floor, December, 1824, to November, 1830; Probably residence of Dr. Godfrey Weise.

3. 1827 (?) to January, 1835, Drug Store of Dr. James Andrews and Dr. George B. Stephenson, operating 1827 (?) to September, 1833, under the name of Dr. James Andrews & Co. and from September, 1833, to January, 1835, under the name of Dr. George B. Stephenson & Co.

4. February, 1836 to Fall of 1837, Drug store of Dr. George B. Stephenson and Righter Levering on first floor. April, 1836, to March, 1837 second floor, the Saddle and Harness Making Shop of Adam

Whip.

5. Fall of 1837 to September, 1836, First floor, the Drug Store of Dr. George B. Stephenson and Dr. Philip P. W. Stephenson. August, 1837-1838, Law Office of Isaac Fouke, on second floor.

6. September, 1838, to October, 1839, Drug store of Dr. Philip P. W. Stephenson.

7. October, 1839 to about 1843, Watch and Jewelry Shop of William Crocker.

8. January, 1843 to January, 1851, Probably dry goods and grocery store of P. O. Littlejohn.

9. January, 1851 to March, 1852, use not established.

10. March, 1852 to February, 1853, Possibly Cheap Clothing Store of H. Mandelbaum & Co.

11. 1853 to February, 1854, use not established.

12. About March, 1854, to June 1857, Fish market of Isreal Russell, of Russell & Co.

13. June, 1857, to beginning of Civil War, Grocery and Liquor store of James McGraw.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Wager Lot No. 48 be called the "James McGraw Lot", after the name of the individual who operated a store on the property in the 1859-65 period and who acquired the lot in 1865. It is also apparent that not enough evidence from documentary and photographic sources has been located to permit the reconstruction of the building that once stood on the McGraw Lot. It is, therefore, recommended that this lot be kept as a grassy plot and that the two

shadows of the pre-Civil War House that appears on the walls of Bldg. No. 43 and 40, be treated to preserve them as long as possible. As a means of interpreting the lot, it is suggested that the Architects may be able to prepare a general conjectural sketch of how the pre-Civil War structure probably appeared; copies of this sketch could then be exhibited at the site.

It is also suggested that some funds be scheduled to handle the drainage problem that results when the runoff of rains pour down through the McGraw lot from the heights above.

Charles W. Snell,
Historian (Park Supervisory)
July 28, 1958

APPENDIX I

HISTORICAL AND MODERN PHOTOGRAPHS

(Eight)

"The Main Street [Shenandoah St.] Harper's Ferry-Zouaves [Union soldiers] on Mules - Contrabands [blacks] Hauling Guns - Officers Lounging, &c., October 16 [1862], sketched by our Special Artist, Mr. Edwin Forbes."

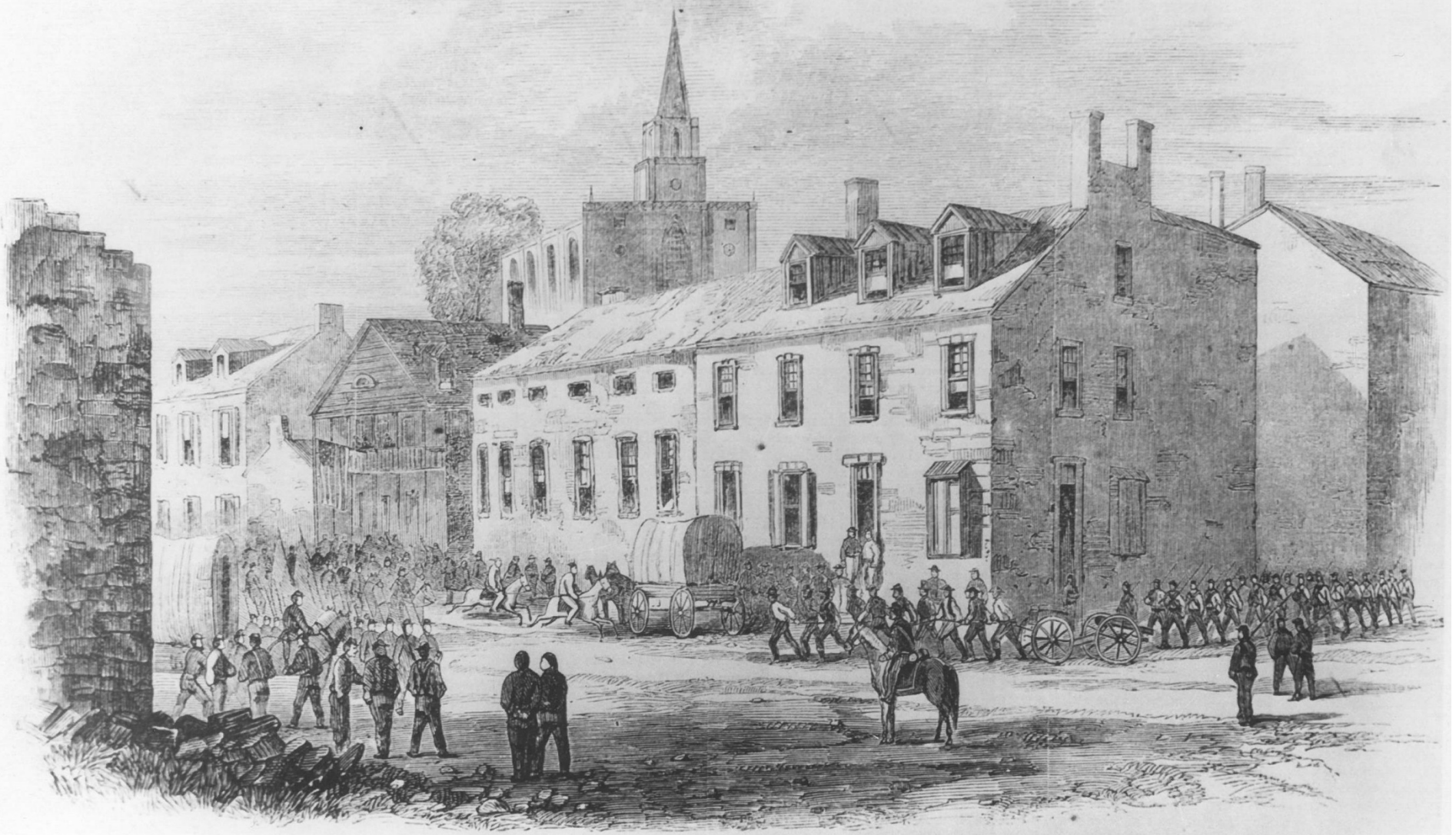
From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, November 8, 1862, p. 109.

Harpers Ferry NHP Negative No. HF-67.

Reading from Right to left: Corner Building, the House on Wager Lot No. 51, with Bldg. No. 37 located in its rear; next to the house on Lot 51 stands Bldg. No. 38, then Bldg. No. 40, a house on Lot No. 48, and to the extreme left, Bldg. No. 43.

This is the only view of the House on Lot No. 48 that has been found to date and unfortunately is inaccurate. In order to include Bldg. No. 43 in the drawing, the artist reduced the size of Lot No. 48 and turned the house on Lot No. 48 endwise. The gable wall of the building on Lot 48 should be up against the wall of Bldg. No. 40, and not facing the street as shown in this drawing.

The height of the house on Lot 48, however, is correct.



THE MAIN STREET, HARPER'S FERRY, VA.—ZOUAVES ON MULES—CONTRABANDS HAULING GUNS—OFFICERS LOUNGING, &C., OCTOBER 16.—SKETCHED BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. EDWIN FORBES

"Harpers Ferry and Potomac Bridge from Base of Maryland Heights below (East) of the Bridge." 1862-1865.

This is a blowup made from Negative HF-40, see page 25.

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-377

Bldg. No. 12 at the end of the iron bridge, the across High Street the large brick house on Wager Lot No. 51, next Bldg. No. 38, Bldg. No. 40 (white walls, porch, and burned out), House on Wager Lot No. 48 not visible, and then gable wall and roof of Bldg. No. 43.

For another view in which the house on Lot No. 48 is almost, but not quite visible, see: "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 43," dated July 9, 1958, page 27, Harpers Ferry Negative HF-466, believed to have been taken about 1864.



Shenandoah Street, Harpers Ferry, Va.

Original glass negative at Gettysburg N.M.P.

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-35.

This photograph was made after February 1862 and before the 1889 flood. It was probably made 1862-1865.

Reading from right to left: Large brick bldg. on right stood on Wager No. 51, corner of High and Shenandoah Streets; next Bldg. No. 38; then ruined walls of Bldg. No. 40 - note original door and window openings; then a small bldg. on Wager Lot No. 48; and at the extreme left, the end wall of Bldg. No. 43.



"Harpers Ferry from Loudoun Heights".

National Geographic File No. 140321-A

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-99

This view was taken between 1892, when the B. & O. R.R. Tracks were relocated (see right) and before the Catholic Church was remodeled in 1896.

The street coming down the hill at the right is HIGH Street. Large brick Bldg. on corner, left-hand side of High Street and Shenandoah Street, is the house on Wager Lot No. 51; moving to the left is Bldg. No. 38.; then Bldg. No. 40, vacant area is Lot No. 48, then Bldg. No. 43, Bldg. No. 44 and Bldg. No. 45.

As usual, the house on Wager Lot No. 48 cannot be seen. Note, however, how the rock cliff below the Catholic Church comes down into this lot.



For the Record - of Bldg. No. 41 - 1956

Harpers Ferry NHP Neg. No. NHF-462.

The large three story building in the left center is the non-historic Building No. 41 that was demolished in 1956 -57 by the National Park Service. Bldg. No. 41 was erected on Wager Lot No. 48 about 1899. To the right of Bldg. No. 41 is Bldg. No. 40, and then Bldg. No. 38.



Remains of the Pre-Civil War Building On Lot No. 48.

Photograph by Archie W. Franzen, May 15, 1957.
Harpers Ferry NHP Neg. No. NHF-541.

On the gable end wall of Bldg. No. 43, which has been just exposed by the demolition of Bldg. No. 41, appears the "shadow" of the southwest end of the pre-Civil War House that occupied Wager Lot No. 48, at least as early as 1824. Bldg. No. 43 was erected in 1845.



Shadows of the Pre-Civil War House on Lot No. 48.

Harpers Ferry Negative No. NHF-461

On the side wall of Bldg. No. 40, which has just been exposed by the demolition of Bldg. No. 41, appears the "shadow" of the northeast end of the pre-Civil War house that occupied Lot No. 48. This "shadow" is slightly smaller in width than the "shadow" on the wall of Bldg. No. 43, and hence probably represents an extension of the original building up to Bldg. No. 40. Note also the trace of the stone filled window in the wall of Bldg. No. 40 just to the left and below the brick chimney, at the base of the chimney in second floor stone wall.



Changes of Topography of Wager Lot No. 48

Photograph by Archie W. Franzen, Feb. 27, 1957.
Harpers Ferry Negative No. NHF-500.

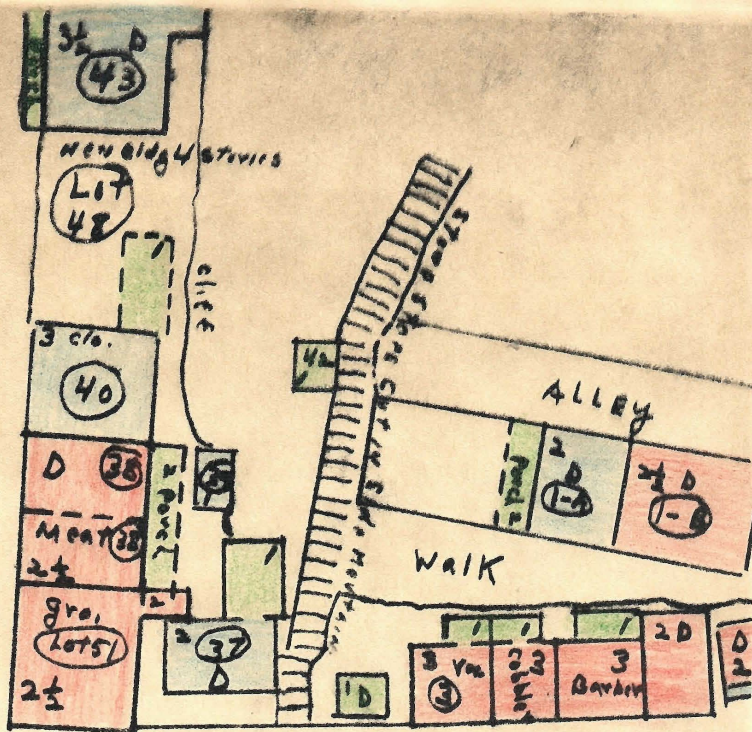
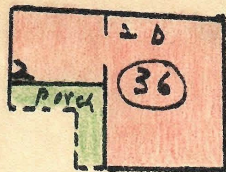
This view was made during the demolition of the non-historic structure, Bldg. No. 41, which had previously completely occupied Wager Lot No. 48. Note how the rock cliffs in the rear of the lot had been blasted out in 1899 to make room for the erection of Bldg. No. 41. On the left is Bldg. No. 43, with the "shadow" of the pre-Civil War building that occupied Lot No. 43, showing on its gable wall. The building to the right is Bldg. No. 40.



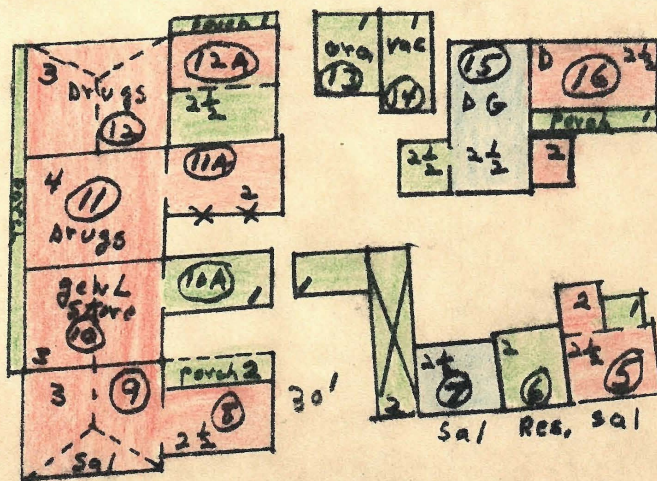
APPENDIX II

"Sanborn-Perris Map of Harpers Ferry,
Jefferson Co., West Va., Nov. 1894."

(Added to this report June 4, 1959)



High street



Potomac street

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

