

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

October 21, 1958

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Memorandum

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To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry NM

From: Regional Chief of Interpretation

Subject: Revision of Report on Wager Lot No. 2 (Project HF-46A)

We have reviewed the revised Research Report on Wager Lot No. 2 submitted with your memorandum of October 7. In the face of an evidently difficult research problem, we are quite prepared to accept Mr. Snell's carefully considered findings on this plot of land. We assume (from a reading of the text) that the material commencing at the top of page 13 is pertinent to the building erected on the plot shown as blue on the map on page 20. Our only questions are with regard to (1) the carry-over sentence beginning at the bottom of page 13 (the map reference does not seem correct) and (2) the interpolations on page 12 (Barbershop reference) and page 17 (New Jewelry Establishment). The expression "opposite the Wager House" would seem to mean Lot No. 2, rather than Lot No. 4. Is this not true?

Siener

Murray H. Nelligan
Regional Chief of Interpretation

In duplicate

Copy to: Director, w/copy of
incoming memo and report *N*

SCANNED

7/24/00

Reg.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

October 7, 1958

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Revision of Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lot No. 2. Research Project No. HF-46-A

Enclosed please find four copies of the "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lot No. 2, Wagner's Jewelry Store and J. E. Brady's Barber Shop," dated September 12, 1958 and revised October 6, 1958, 20 pages. This report has been revised by Historian Charles W. Snell as directed by Regional Chief of Interpretation Murray H. Nelligan in his memorandum of September 26.

In an effort to clarify the original report, Mr. Snell has broken the original report into two sections, one for each of the two lots under consideration. Research Project No. HF-46-B, for the Lot South of the Winchester & Potomac Railroad tracks will be submitted in the near future.

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

HISTORIC BUILDING SITE SURVEY

REPORT

for

WAGER LOT NO. 2.

Wagner's Jewelry Store and J. E.

Brady's Barber Shop.

Ferry Lot Studies

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
Dated September 12, 1958
Revised October 6, 1958
20 Pages
HP-46A

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SECTION II - HISTORICAL DATA

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1835 to 1865

A. Lot No. 2

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.]¹, deceased." The property thus being divided at Harpers Ferry was commonly known as the "Wager Six Acre Reservation and Ferry Lot," 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 Gerard B. Wager we allot and assign the following lots as designated G.B.W. and numbered in the annexed Plat, to wit: Lots No. 2-3-4-6-12-14-16-21-22-29-30-34-36-38-43-49-50-52 and 56."³ Thus on October 10, 1835, Wager Lot No. 2 (see blue area on the 1835 plat, page 2 of this report) was awarded to Gerard B. Wager. Mr. Wager retained the ownership of Lot No. 2 until his death in 1848 and his estate then held title to the lot until after the Civil War.

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

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

3. Deed Book 29, p.141.



2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDINGS ON LOT NO. 2

Remarks concerning Construction and Use of Buildings on Lot No. 2

It may be well to establish the following facts at this point: First, Both Wager Lot No. 2 and No. 4 were owned by Gerard B. Wager from 1835 until his death in 1848 and by his estate from 1848 until after the Civil War. Hence evidence in deeds of sale and trust regarding the nature of buildings and people using the property, which in the case of other lots that were sold or changed hands ^{is} often quite abundant, is nonexistent in the cases of Lot No. 2 and 4.

Second, certain deeds state that Gerard B. Wager's will, in 1848, was probated and recorded in Berkeley County. His estate was also administered by an executor from 1848 until after the Civil War and these records, which would also contain a detailed listing of Gerard B. Wager's buildings, property, and renting of the same, should be on file in Berkeley County with the Will. A careful search of the Berkeley County Court House Records at Martinsburg, West Va., however, has failed to locate either of the above mentioned documents. It, therefore, appears that the Will and Accounts of the estate were either lost or destroyed during the Civil War. This, of course, eliminates another logical source of valuable information on Lot No. 2, as well as on Lot No. 4.

Third, with little evidence available from land records and wills, the only other source left for information on the buildings and use of these structures is the early newspapers. Now it is evident that there are certain types of business which do not advertise, even today, hence a firm could be located in a certain building for many years and we would not even know that it existed when we have only newspapers to rely on to trace them down.

All of the above remarks are included to explain why our remarks on Lot No. 2, and also No. 4, are of a more tentative nature than is the case with other reports to date. The reason being, of course, the lack of evidence on which to make more definite statements.

On the other hand, all of the information presented in this report does pertain to the area of Lot No. 2 and Lot No. 4. The problem that cannot be definitely solved, however, is how much of it pertains directly to Lot No. 2 or to Lot No. 4. The reason being again, of course, the lack of sufficient evidence. In this report for Lot No. 2, and also in the report for Lot No. 4, I have listed the businesses which, in my opinion, probably occupied Lot No. 2. Until further evidence is located this will have to suffice. That the businesses listed as occupying Lot 2 and 4 (taken as a unit) did occupy one or other of the two lots, however, is not open to question. Studies of Wager Lots 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 have established reasonably strong chains of use for those lots; the firms listed as occupying Lots 2 and 4 are all known to have been located in the Ferry Lot, and thus by the process of elimination, not being located on the other mentioned lots, they must have been located on either Wager Lot No. 2 or 4. With these remarks made, we now proceed to a consideration of the construction of the buildings on Lot No. 2.

House on Lot No. 2

The following maps all indicate that Lot No. 2 had buildings situated on it in the early 1830's:

1. A map of Harpers Ferry, probably drawn about 1834 or 1835.⁴
4. Map received from EODC, but we have no other information about it.

2. "Map A - Plot of Harpers Ferry, exhibiting the limits of the ground requisite for the passage of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad through the Town,"⁵ an undated map but obviously a working map for Map No. 2-1835, hence made in 1833 or 1834, probably in 1833. The two blue buildings, 20 x 22 ft. and 10 x 10 ft., on this map were located on Lot No. 2 and the orange structure demolished to make way for the construction of the Winchester & Potomac Railroad.

3. "Harpers Ferry Shewing 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."⁶ The two blue buildings, 20 x 22 ft. and 10 x 10 ft., again, were located on Lot No. 2 and the orange structures demolished to make way for the construction of the railroad.

4. "Sketch No. 2, Shewing two practicable locations for the Balto. & Ohio R. Rd. through the village of Harpers Ferry,"⁷ probably drawn 1837-38, shows one building about 20 x 22 feet, still standing on Lot No. 2 after the construction of the Winchester & Potomac Railroad had been completed.

Based on these maps, it appears that one of the houses on Lot No. 2, fronting about 22 feet on Potomac Street and approximately 20 feet in depth,

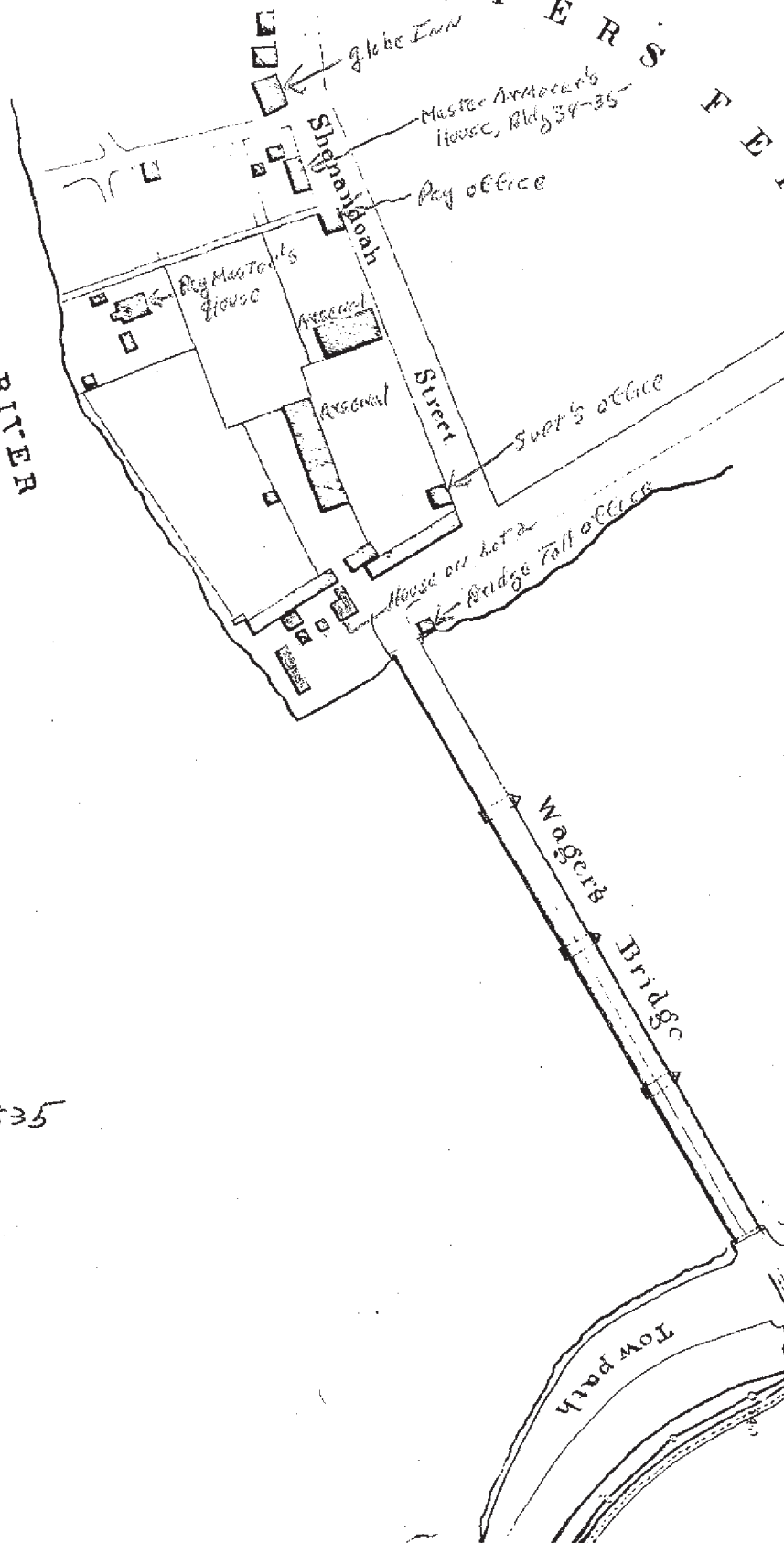
5. National Archives Record Group No. 77. Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers. Fortifications Map File, Map: Dr. 150, Sheet 78-1.

6. National Archives, R. G. No. 77, Dr. 150, Sheet 82-2.

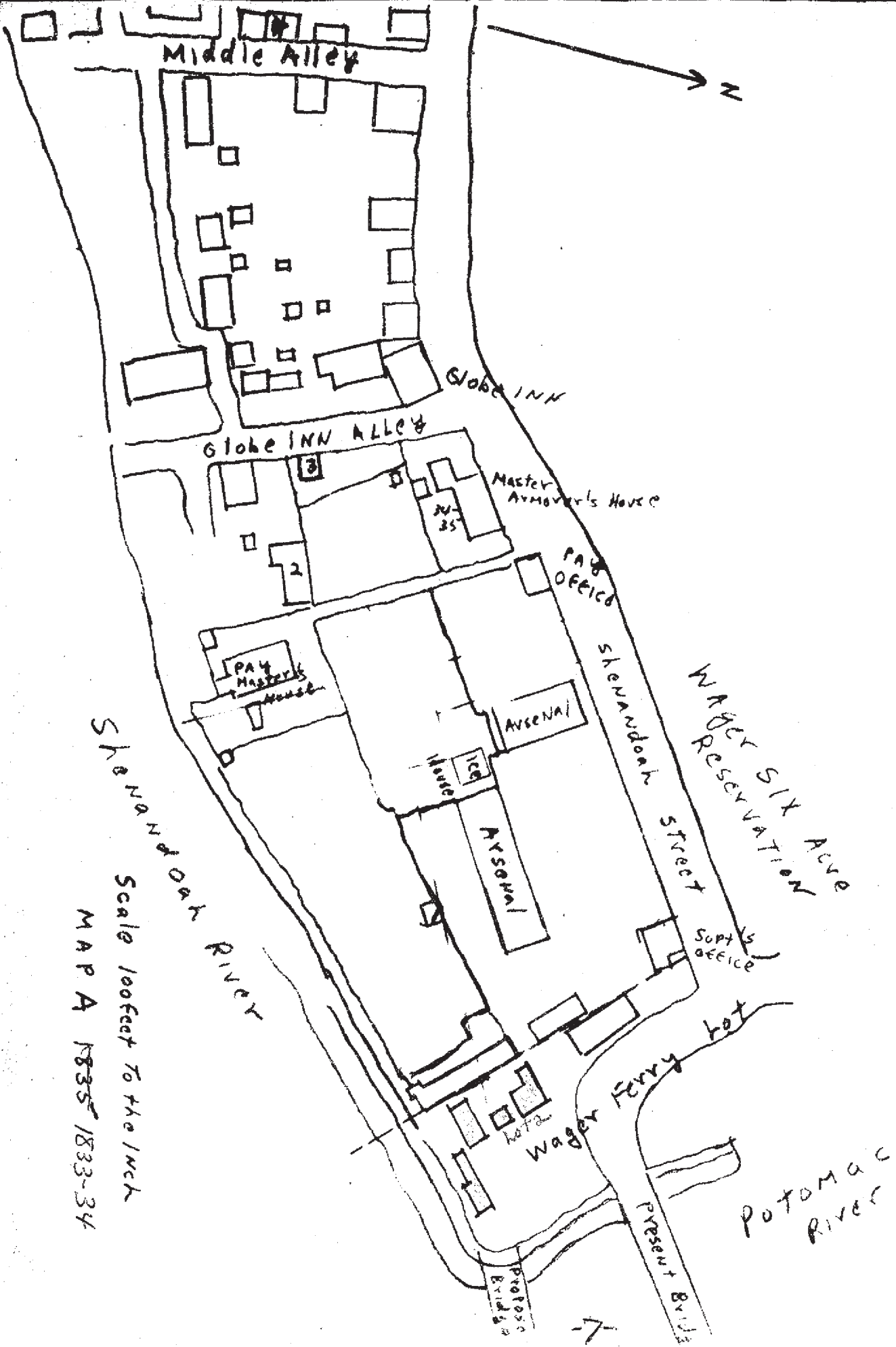
7. Ordnance Office, Drawer 5, Portfolio No. 3. Photostatic copy of map received from Vicksburg N. M. P.

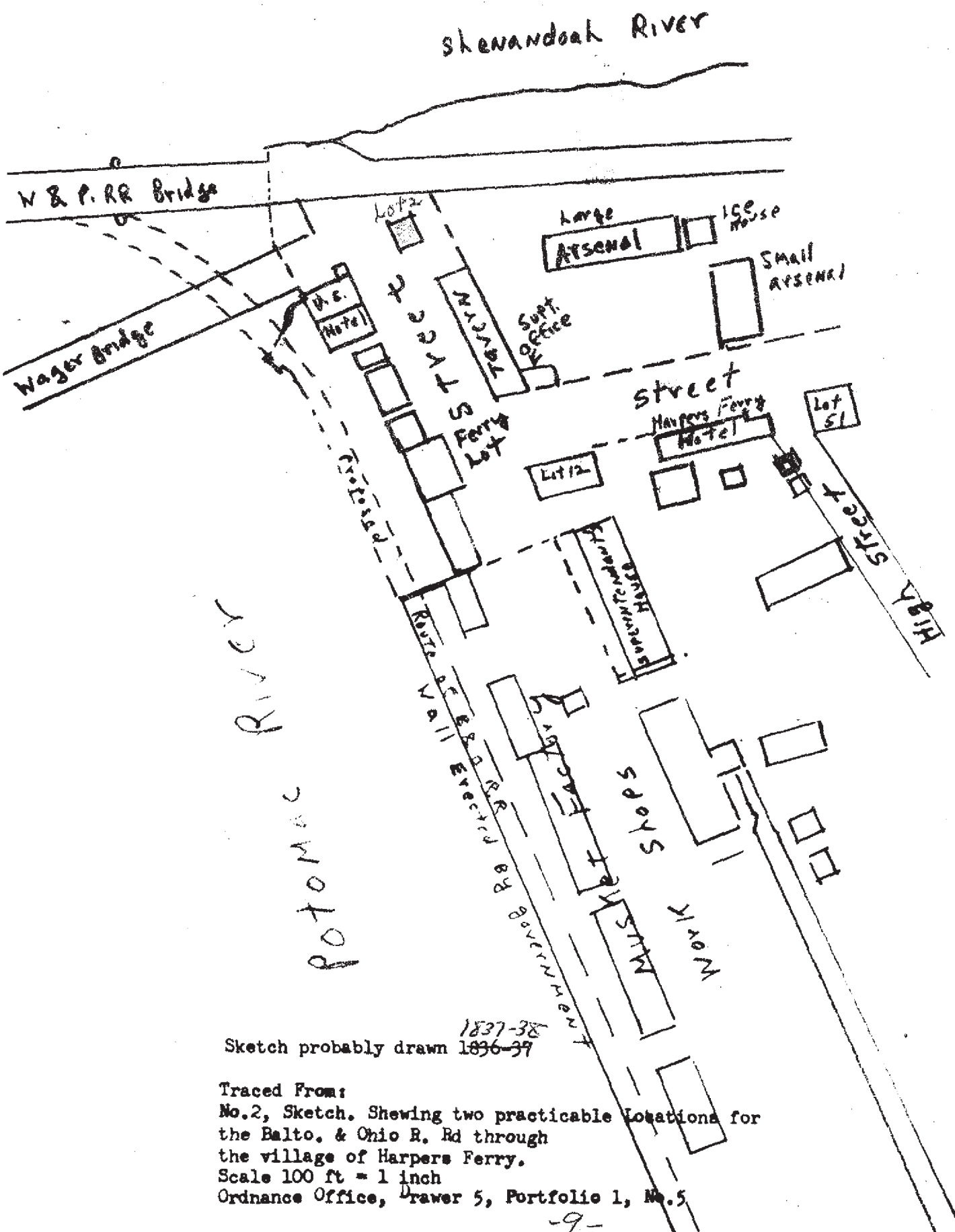
SHENANDOAH RIVER

H A R P E R S F E R R Y



1834-1835





1837-38
Sketch probably drawn 1836-39

Traced From:
No. 2, Sketch. Shewing two practicable Locations for
the Balto. & Ohio R. Rd through
the village of Harpers Ferry.
Scale 100 ft = 1 inch
Ordinance Office, Drawer 5, Portfolio 1, No. 5

and located on the orange portion of the tracing of Drawing No. NM-HP-3055 (see back of report) that was standing in 1833 was still standing in 1837-38. The other small structure, 10 x 10 feet, standing on Lot No. 2 in 1833 was removed by 1837. Based on photographic evidence to be listed below, it appears that the remaining structure was a one and one-half story building probably constructed of wood and still standing in 1859-61. This being the case, the following lease granted by James B. Wager, Sarah A. Wager and Gerard B. Wager on July 1, 1829 to John Fitzsimmons on July 1, 1829, may cover the construction of a larger house on Lot No. 2. This lease reads in part:

"...a certain unimproved lot (lying and being on Shenandoah Street (sic) at or near Harpers Ferry) fronting twenty feet on the said street and running fifteen feet back...to have for five years next, paying to the Wagers an annual rent of \$20 every year. Fitzsimmons agreed: to build or cause to be built on the aforesaid unimproved lot a house of the sort, order and description following viz: It shall be a frame building twenty feet by fifteen-one and a half stories high, the floors shall be of pine plank, the doors shall be pannelled, the house shall be painted inside and out, with at least one coat of paint, the weather boarding shall be planed neatly and shall be narrow showing below the lap not more than four inches, and the whole shall be executed in a good workmanlike and substantial manner of suitable materials..."

At the end of the lease the house was to be appraised by two disinterested persons and the Wagers agreed to pay Fitzsimmons that value set on the house. Finally, Fitzsimmons agreed that "there shall not be kept upon the premises herein demised (under penalty of forfeiting all the right and title...) any store or grog shop without the special permission of said Wagers...in writing."

The 1848 map, "Map of Harpers Ferry-Prepared in Compliance with Letter to Major Symington-April 22, 1848," and reproduced in Harpers Ferry National O. Lease, July 1, 1829, Deed Book, pp.234-235.

Monument Master Plan as Drawing No. MM-HF-3000, shows two buildings located on Wager Lot No. 2 at that date and indicates that each structure fronted on Potomac Street about 22 feet and was approximately 40 feet in depth. Photographic evidence, however, indicates that the map is incorrect as regards to the size of the one-half story frame house but is approximately right in regards to the second structure,

No evidence has been found relating to the construction of the second building (located on the blue portion of Lot 2, tracing MM-HF-3055), other than that the building must have been erected after 1837-38 and before the 1848 map was drawn. This being the period of construction, it is therefore evident that the house must have been constructed by Gerard B. Wager. Photographic evidence further indicates that this building was constructed of brick and was three stories in height. The brick building, after 1848, contained a store on the first floor.⁹

It is also possible that the brick building on Lot No. 2 may first, prior to 1848, have been utilized as a ware house by Gerard B. Wager in connection with his company which operated boats on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in the 1830's and 1840's.¹⁰

3. USES OF THE BUILDINGS

A. Frame House, Lot 2 Orange Portion

This building was probably erected by John Fitzsimmons, and used as a Dry Goods Store. On January 19, 1831, it was announced:

9. Virginia Free Press, May 25, 1848, p.1, c.3; see also Section 3.

10. See Section 3.

"COPARTNERSHIP FORMED:

The subscribers having purchased of Mr. Samuel E. White, his interest in the late concern of Joseph L. Russell & Co. have this day associated under the firm of Russell & Fitzsimmons, for the purpose of carrying on business at Harpers-Ferry, Market square.—Our store will at all times be supplied with a good assortment of staple and fancy GOODS, which will be sold at the lowest prices..."

JOSEPH L. RUSSELL

JOHN A. FITZSIMMONS."

11

In October, 1831, the firm moved to the new building they had just completed on Wager Lot No. 12.

In 1833 James A. Fitzsimmons announced the opening of a "New Book & Stationary Store...at his old Stand, No. 4, Market Square, Harpers-Ferry..."
this business may have been located in the frame house on Lot No. 2. He may have remained in business at this location until 1845, when he opened a similar shop on High Street, in Bldg. No. 37.

No record of use of this building has been established for the period 1845 to 1856. In October, 1857, the following business, however, probably opened in the frame house on Lot 2:

"BARBER SHOP

"I have opened opposite the Wager House (which was located on Wager Lots 6 and 7), a shaving and hair dressing saloon where prompt attention will be given gentlemen who wish a clean shave.

JAMES E. BRADY."

15

This business was probably located in the frame house at the time of the John Brown Raid in 1859.

B. Brick House on Lot No. 2

11. Virginia Free Press, January 19, 1831, p.3, c.5.
12. Ibid., October 27, 1831, p.4, c.1.
13. Ibid., November 14, 1833, p.3, c.5.
14. Ibid., December 18, 1845, p.3, c.2.
15. Ibid., October 22, 1857.

This building was erected at some date between 1837 and 1848 by Gerard B. Wager and it is possible that he erected it for use as a warehouse in connection with his company which operated boats on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. In November, 1833, P. O'Byrne & Co. (which, as we shall see, included Gerard B. Wager) announced:

"TRANSPORTATION
To and From Georgetown
VIA CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL

The undersigned will be prepared, as soon as the canal shall be permanently navigable, to transport

Flour and other Articles

To and from Georgetown, by way of the Canal, upon the lowest possible terms. The Flour, &c., will be received at their warehouse, at this place (Harpers Ferry), and will be transported in Boats so constructed as effectually to protect it from the weather.

We will constantly keep on hand, SALT, PLASTER, &c., which will be sold low for cash." 16

From 1833 until 1836, it seems probable that the warehouse of this firm was located on Wager Lot No. 7. The 1836 advertisement describing the property of James B. Wager that was to be offered for sale, states that Lot No. 7 contained "...an old frame warehouse..." 17

On June 18, 1836, Lot No. 7 was purchased by James Foley and this event undoubtedly forced the firm of O'Byrne & Co. to look for a new warehouse site. 18

Their new brick $1\frac{1}{2}$ story warehouse was apparently erected in 1837 at the Virginia end of the B. & O. R.R. Bridge, northeast of and adjacent to the

16. Virginia Free Press, November 14, 1833, p.3, c.1; also January 2, 1834, p.4, c.6.

17. Ibid., April 7, 1836, p.4, c.1.

18. "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lots No. 6, 7 and Part of 8..." dated August 7, 1938, p.2.

orange colored area on the 1835 plat, page 2 of this report. ¹⁹

By January, 1835, the firm was known as "Wager & O'Byrne," ²⁰ and in July, 1836, it was announced that the firm of Wager & O'Byrne was dissolved, Mr. Wager adding: "The business will be continued by G. B. Wager alone, who for the purpose of keeping it separate from his other business, will conduct ²¹ it under the name of WAGER & CO." Wager & Co. continued in the boating ²² business from 1836 to August, 1840. ²³

The firm sold plaster, Cypress Shingles, Fish, Coal, Flour, and Lumber. In relation to the last item, Gerard B. Wager advertised in 1840:

"LUMBER FOR SALE. I have a large quantity of Lumber suitable for building—such as Rafters, Joists, Studding, &c.; also Weatherboarding, Shingles, and 3/4 boards for Sheathing, all of which, if applied for immediately, I will sell very low for cash, and cash only." ²³

The company also advertised that they wished to purchase "wheat, Corn, Rye, and Oats." ²⁴

It is possible that the volume of the firm's operations may have led to

19. Deed of B. & S., October 27, 1837, Deed Book 22, pp.30-31, speaks of "the new bridge office of said Gerard B. Wager" located on this site. Also Sanderlin, Walter S., The Great National Project, A History of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, John Hopkins Press, 1948, p.194. This latter item kindly furnished by Regional Historian Frank Barnes, September 30, 1958. See also "Historic Building Survey Report for Wager Lot No. 1 and the Bridge Lot...", September 22, 1958, for a detailed study of this building.

20. Virginia Free Press, January 15, 1835, p.3, p.3; also October 15, 1835, p.3, c.4; February 18, 1836, p.3.

21. Ibid., July 21, 1836, p.3, c.2.

22. Ibid., April 27, 1837, p.3, c.3; April 26, 1838, p.3, c.3; October 17, 1839, p.3, c.5; August 20, 1840, p.3, c.2; also Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, May 1, 1839, p.4; September 11, 1839, p.3; January 8, p.4.

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

24. Ibid., September 11, 1839, p.3.

the construction of the three story brick building on Lot No. 2 for use as additional warehouse space. On the other hand, operations may have been entirely limited to the small brick warehouse located South of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad tracks and at the end of the "Winchester Span" of the B. & O. R.R. Bridge across the Potomac River.

In August, 1840, William Russell & Co. "purchased the Boats, Ware House²⁵ and stock of Messrs. Wager & Co." By the purchase of the Ware House, we hasten to add, they probably meant that they acquired a lease to the building as there is no record of any structure being sold. So much for the history of Wager & Company.

By 1846, as shown by the 1846 map, the three story brick building was certainly standing; and the following business was probably located in that structure:

**"BARGAINS! BARGAINS! BARGAINS!
THE HARPERS-FERRY CASH
STORE.**

"Here is the Store for Bargains, as I sell for CASH, and cash only. Goods can be sold much cheaper for cash, and cash dealers would do well to give me a call, as I intend to wait on customers with the greatest attention, and give full satisfaction to dealers. I also invite the attention of my old customers, the citizens of Harpers-Ferry and surrounding country, to give me a call [From 1845 to 1847, he had been located in Store No. 1 of Bldg. No. 38, on Wager Lot No. 50]. Come, come, citizens and country men, one and all! My Stock is well selected and large, and at full view. I will endeavor to enumerate a part of the articles, such as follow:

"Prints of various quality; mouelines, shalleys and gingham, which can be sold low; a large lot of brown and bleached Cottons, together with a large stock of Hosiery and silk and cotton Gloves and Mitts, all colors and cheap; a large stock of silk, worsted and cotton Shawls, and dress Handkerchiefs; gentlemen's silk and oil dressed Handkerchiefs—together with a large stock of Groceries, Sugars, Coffee, Molasses, Teas, Leaf and Lump Sugar cheap—also, a large and full stock of Confectionaries, Candies, Raisins, Figs, Prunes, Oranges, Lemons, Almonds, Filberts, English Walnuts and Coca Nuts—Cheese,

25. Virginia Free Press, August 20, 1840, p.3, c.2.

Crackers, Cakes, and French Bologna Sausages—Also, a large stock of Tin-ware, cheaper than ever. Queensware and Earthenware very cheap—together with a large lot of Jewelry—Gold, Silver and common, Gold and Silver Watches, Gold and Silver Pencils, Gold Rings, Gentlemen's and Ladies' Gold Breast Pins, a very handsome lot of common Jewelry, cheap and very handsome, fancy Work-boxes, a large lot of Perfumery, Fancy Soaps, a large lot of Ladies and Gentlemen's Combs, assorted, very good to common, and in short various qualities of Musical Instruments, Silk, Cotton, and Buck-skin Purses, Watch and Guard Chains, Clocks, Looking Glasses, Tea Walters, Buckets, Baskets, Brooms, Segars, Snuff, Soap, Candles, Shad, Mackerel, Herring, Bacon, Lard, Flour, Corn Meal, Cucumber Pickles in jars, Pepper Catsup, Tomato do., and every other article of 5 hundred, too tedious to enumerate. All is at full view—Come and see for yourselves. Also, County Produce will be taken in exchange for goods.—This store can be found down on Hotel Square, near the Potomac Bridge. No Pains shall be spared, but bargains given.

JACOB NISSWANNER.

ALSO—On Monday the 22d day of May, 1846.

At early candle-light, from day to day, I will sell at auction, about \$800 to \$1,000 worth of fine and common Goods, well assorted. Mouelines, Gingham, Lawns, Cambricks, Shawls and Dress Hdkfs., Hosiery, Silk and Cotton Hdkfs., some Shoes, striped goods, and many other articles here too tedious to enumerate. Goods that I had on hand before I got my new stock on hand, depreciated in value, but good, fine and handsome, among which are various kinds and qualities.

On sums of \$10 thirty days; of \$20 sixty days, and under 10, the cash. Notes with security. No goods to be removed until settled for.

JACOB NISSWANNER." 26

By 1853 the brick house on the blue portion of Lot No. 2 was occupied by a new business and we hereby withdraw one store out of the United States Hotel (See "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lots No. 6, 7 & Part of 8...", page 26) and relocate it in the "new store" on Lot No. 2:

"HARPERS-FERRY CLOTHING STORE

"The undersigned has just received from the Eastern Cities an entirely new stock of READY-MADE CLOTHING, of all styles and qualities, Also a complete assortment of CLOTHES, CASSIMERES, AND VESTING, which will be made to order at the shortest notice.

The above goods are opened in the new store at the junction of the Winchester and Potomac and Baltimore and Ohio Rail Roads, and are offered to the public on as low terms as can be purchased in the cities, and respectfully invite the public to call and examine for themselves. R. H. BROWN, G. W. CUTSHAW, AGENT." 27

26. Virginia Free Press, May 25, 1846, p.1, c.3.

27. Virginia Free Press, April 21, 1853, p.3, c.2.

On September 1, 1859, just before the Brown Raid, a new business occupied the brick house on Lot No. 2. W. L. Wagner, the new proprietor, announced:

**"NEW JEWELRY
ESTABLISHMENT**

"The undersigned respectfully informs the citizens of Harpers Ferry and surrounding country that he has opened an establishment opposite the "Wager House" (which was located on Lots 6 and 7, where every variety of JEWELRY and FANCY ARTICLES may be found. His supply of CLOCKS AND WATCHES, will be complete, whilst a general assortment in his lines will always be found, at prices which will command a sale.

He is also prepared to Repair Watches, Clocks, and everything in the line of Silver Smithwork.—All he asks is an examination of his stock, and a test of his skill to ensure patronage.

Having had experience in establishments in New York, and also of Canfield Fr. & Co., Baltimore, he feels himself fully competent to execute all work in his line of business, in the best manner.

Having been for 2 years in Winchester with Mr. Merrideth it will be seen that he is not a stranger to Virginia." 28

Finally in March, 1861, just before the outbreak of the Civil War, the following notice appeared in the newspaper:

"STARTLING NEWS FROM THE SOUTH!!

FORT PICKENS TO BE ATTACKED!!

FORT SUMTER TO BE EVACUATED!!!

IMPORTANT TO EVERYBODY AT THE "FERRY".

FORT GLEASON, OPPOSITE THE "WAGER HOUSE", will be re-occupied on Saturday the 23rd instant, by the popular Auctioneers Gleason & Futtterer, with a large and entirely new STOCK OF GOODS, when the sales will be resumed at the usual hours, and be continued for ONLY A FEW DAYS." 29

4. HISTORIC PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BUILDINGS

Photographic evidence regarding the two structures on Lot No. 2 is to be found in the photographs that appear in the two following reports:

1. "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lot No. 5, The William

28. Virginia Free Press, September 1, 1859, p.2, c.5; September 15, 1859, p.3, c.2; December 1, 1859, p.4, c.3.

29. Ibid., March 21, 1861, p.3, c.1; March 28, 1861, p.3, c.1.

J. Stephens Building," dated August 5, 1958, revised October 3, 1958, Photographs No. HF-66, page 40; HF-450, page 41; HF-363, page 42; HF-349, page 43; HF-229, page 44; and HF-4, page 45.

2. "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lots No. 6, 7, and Part of 8, the Wager House or United States Hotel," dated August 7, 1958, Photographs HF-46, page 38; HF-451, page 39.

5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BUILDINGS

No historical plans of these buildings have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located.

6. SUMMARY OF THE HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land, 1835 to 1865

1. October, 1785, to October 9, 1835, owned by the Wager family.
2. October 10, 1835, until after the Civil War, owned by Gerard

B. Wager from 1835 until his death in 1848, and by his estate from 1848 to 1865.

B. Construction of the Houses on Lot No. 2

a. Frame House, Orange Portion

This 1½ story frame building was probably erected in 1829 by John Fitzsimmons. The building fronted approximately 22 feet on Potomac Street and was about 20 feet deep. The building was designed for use as a shop. The structure was destroyed on February 7, 1862.

b. Brick House, Blue Portion

This brick three story building was erected by Gerard B. Wager at some date after 1837 and before 1848. The structure fronted about 22 or 23 feet on Potomac Street and was about 40 feet deep. The house may possibly have been erected originally for use, in part at least, as a warehouse,

but after 1848 the first floor was utilized as a store and the upper floors as living quarters. This building was burned to the ground by Union troops on February 7, 1862.

C. Uses of the Buildings, 1830-1862

a. Frame House, Orange Portion

1. 1829 to 1831, probably Dry Goods store of John Fitzsimmons and Joseph L. Russell.
2. 1833 to 1845, probably Book and Stationary Store of James A. Fitzsimmons.
3. 1845 to 1857, use unknown but probably a small shop of some type.
4. 1857 to Civil War, probably the Barber Shop of Joseph E. Brady.

b. Brick Building, Blue Portion

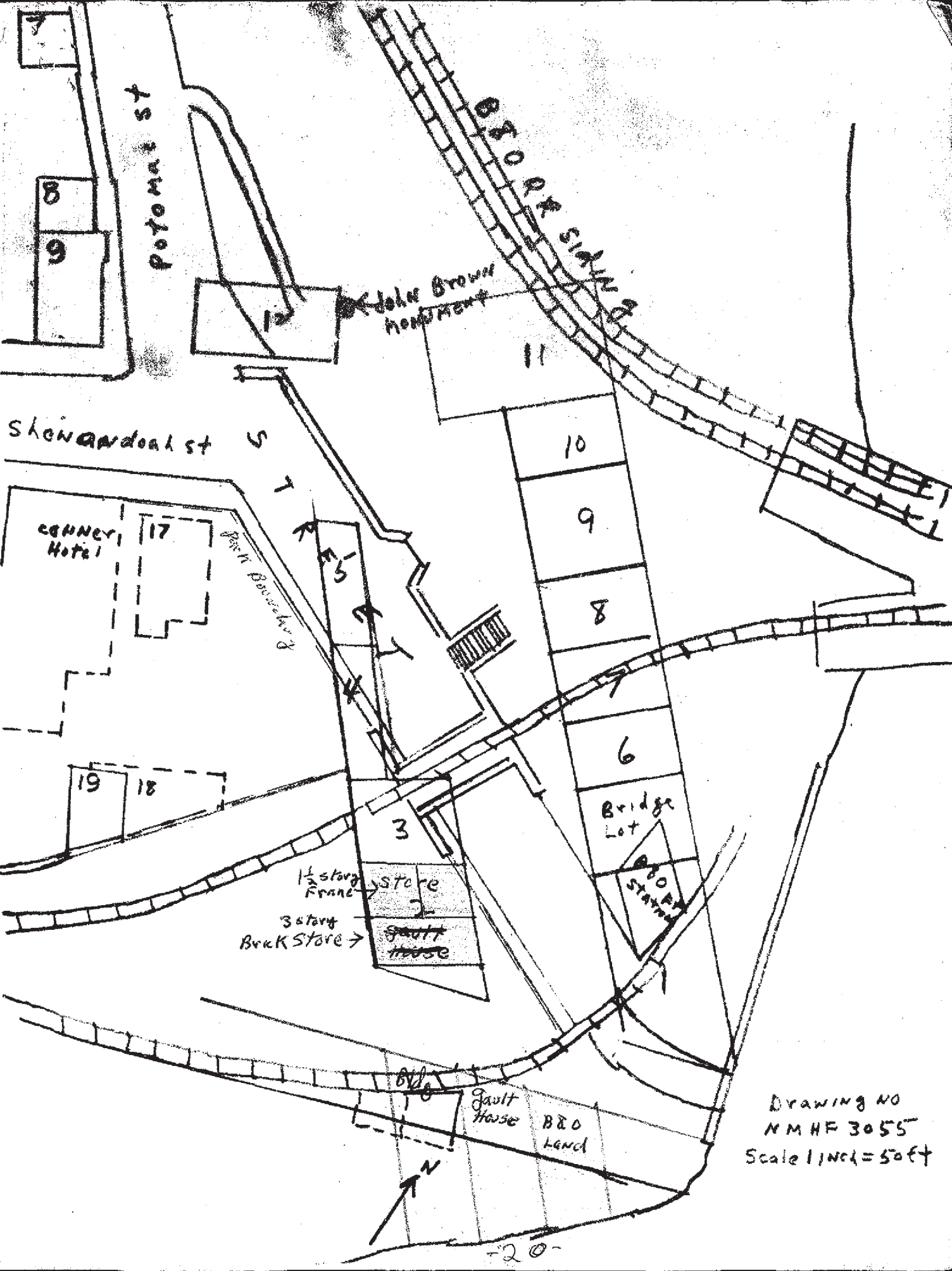
1. 1837 to 1848 (?), if standing, possibly used as a ware house by boating companies operating on the C. & O. Canal.
2. 1848 to ?, Dry Goods and Grocery Store of Jacob Hisswanner.
3. 1853 to ?, Ready-Made Clothing Store of R. H. Brown and George W. Cutshaw.
4. 1859 - 1860, Jewelry Store of W. L. Wagner.
5. 1861, Auction Store of Gleason and Futterer.

D. Remarks

For the former location of these two buildings in relation to modern features and the Monument boundaries, see the tracing made from Drawing No. NM-HP-3055, which appears on the next page of this report.

(Sgd) CHARLES W. SNELL

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
September 12, 1958
Revised October 6, 1958



Potomac St

John Brown Monument

STOP SIGN

Shenandoah St

Cannery Hotel

Bridge Lot

STOP SIGN

1 1/2 story frame
3 story brick store
Garage House

Garage House

B&O Land

DRAWING NO
NMHF 3055
Scale 1 inch = 50 ft