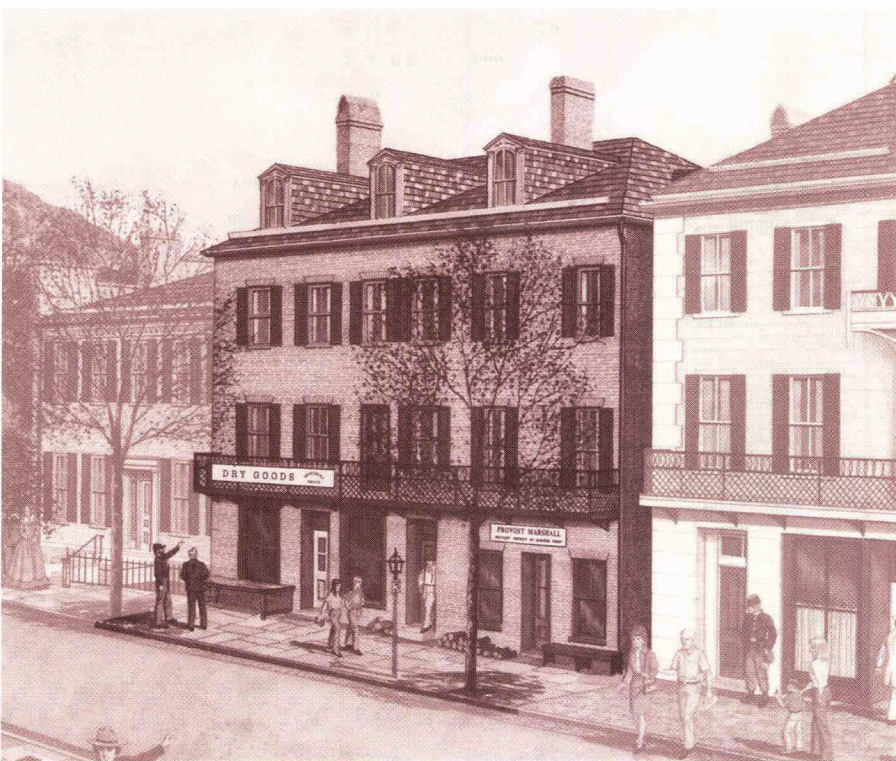


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
HARPERS FERRY CENTER  
P.O. BOX 50  
HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425

# Historic Furnishings Report Synopsis

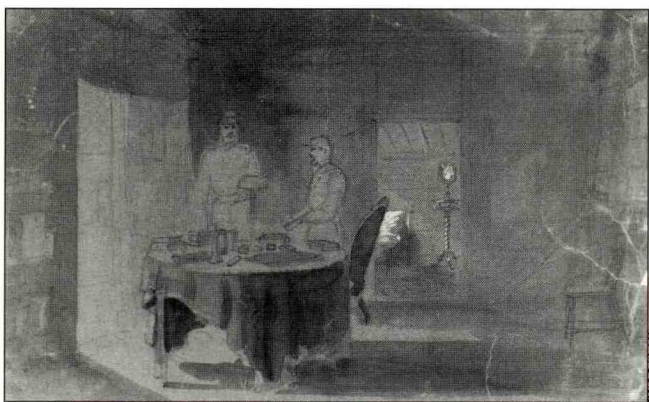
Building 34/35:

The General Store  
The Provost Marshal's Office  
The Officers' Quarters  
The James Taylor Room



Harpers Ferry  
National Historical Park

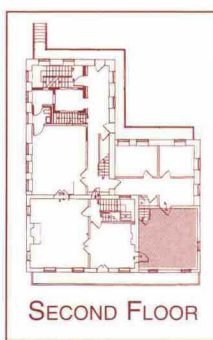
*Harpers Ferry*  
*West Virginia*



## Officer's Quarters

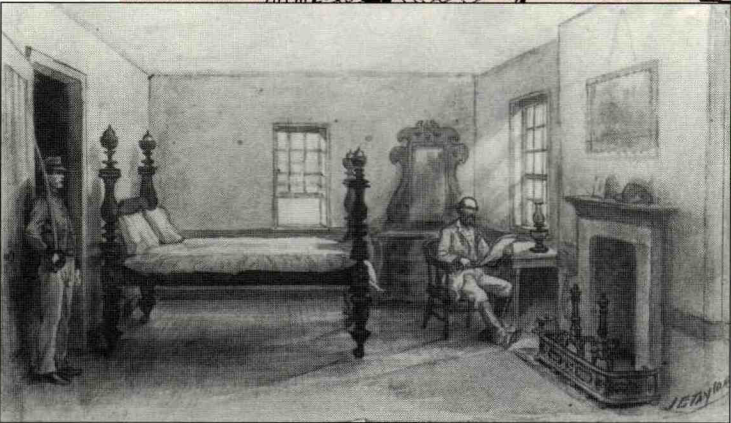
Brig. Gen. Edward D. Ramsay reported in his inspection of Harpers Ferry in 1865 that building 34/35, a "two story, brick [building], located on Shenandoah Street

[was] in fair condition and occupied as quarters for Officers." Building 34/35 was a desirable location for lodgings since next door in building 36 was the command center for military operations in Harpers Ferry.

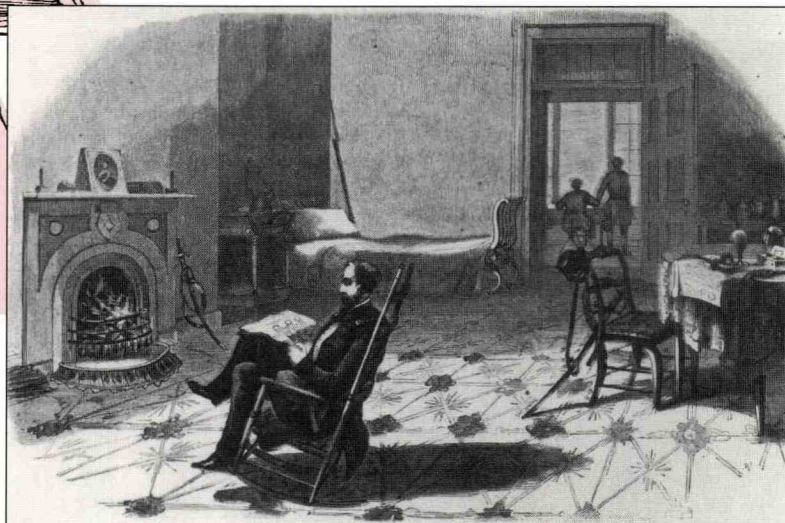


Although the Civil War military presence in Harpers Ferry is interpreted in three other locations (the Provost Marshal's office, the Soldier's Life exhibit, and Baxter's headquarters), the historically furnished officer's quarters shows a side of military life infrequently seen by visitors—the lodgings of a military officer in private accommodations in a town.

The furnishings plan for the officer's quarters is based on Civil War era correspondent James Taylor's sketch of his own accommodations in the same building, Taylor sketches of other interiors in the area, an inventory of a local hotel, and illustrations of officers' quarters located outside of Harpers Ferry.

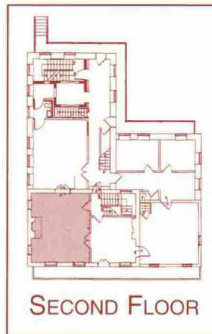


1. Lt. Col. W.C. Ward's Quarters, 1861, drawn by Alfred Waud, Library of Congress. 2. Furnishings plan, officer's quarters. 3. Officer's Quarters at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, 1861, from Harpers Weekly. 4. The General's Room in Larrick's Hotel, 1864, from Taylor Sketchbook.



## James Taylor Room

Between August and December 1864, James E. Taylor, visual correspondent for *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, occasionally occupied a room



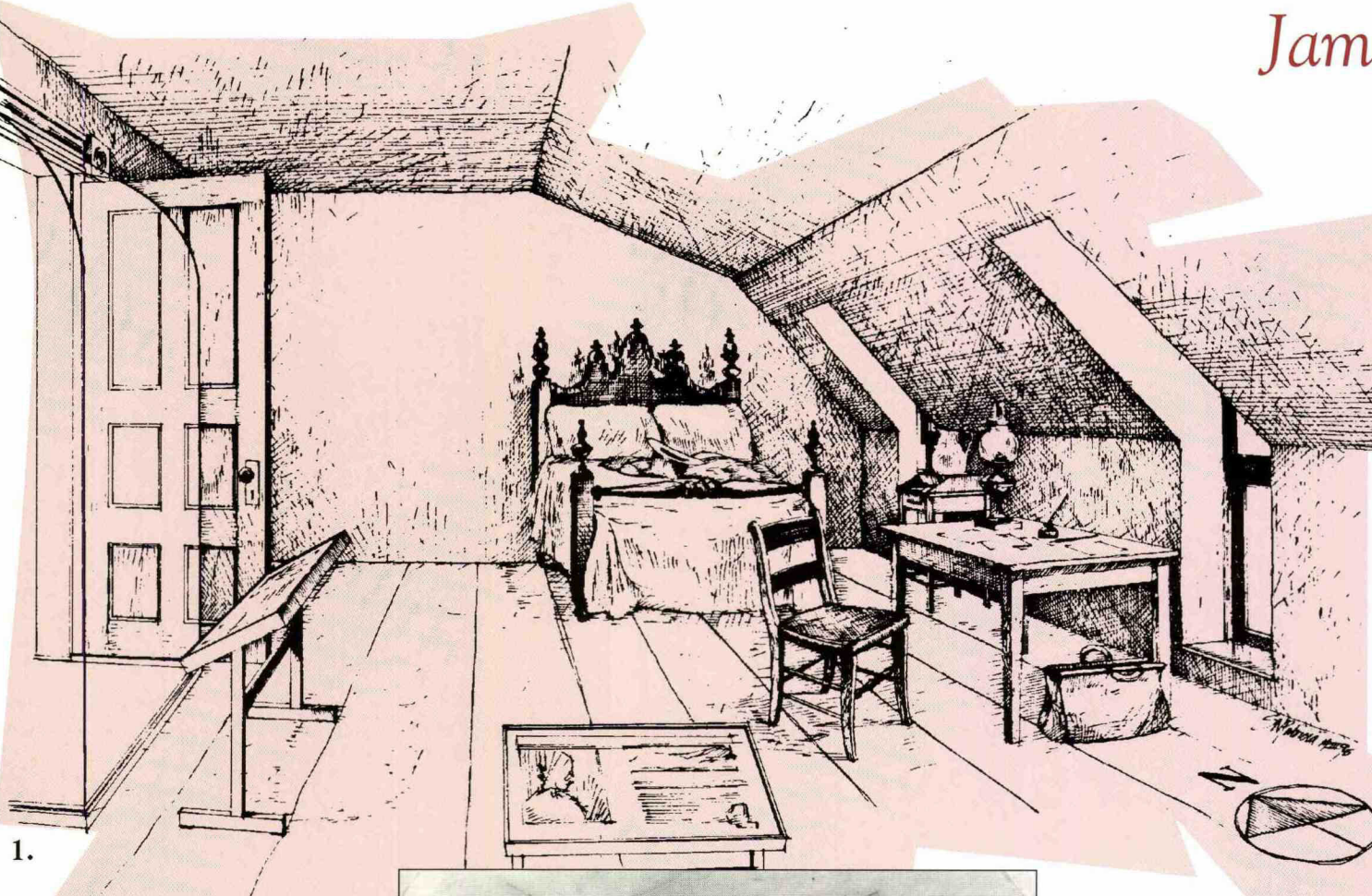
on the top floor of building 35, known at that time as Stipes' Hotel. The furnishings plan for this exhibit is based on an original sketch by Taylor. The exhibit is located on the second floor, with a backdrop recreating the low, slanted ceiling depicted in the sketch.

This exhibit interprets the life of a war correspondent in Harpers Ferry. Just as they do today, war correspondents risked their lives to bring back written or visual

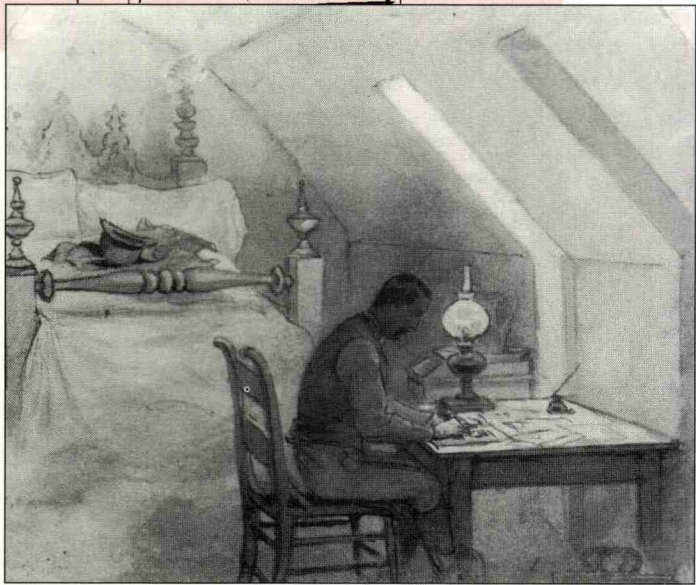
information from the front lines and, like today, this information helped to sway the minds and hearts of the nation.

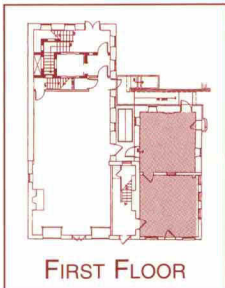
### OPERATING PLAN

The officer's quarters and the James Taylor room, both located on the second floor, are usually unstaffed. Each doorway is fitted with full-height plexiglas barriers; free-standing panels provide interpretation.



1. Furnishings plan, James Taylor room. 2. Interior of James E. Taylor's room, drawn by James Taylor, 1864, from Taylor Sketchbook.

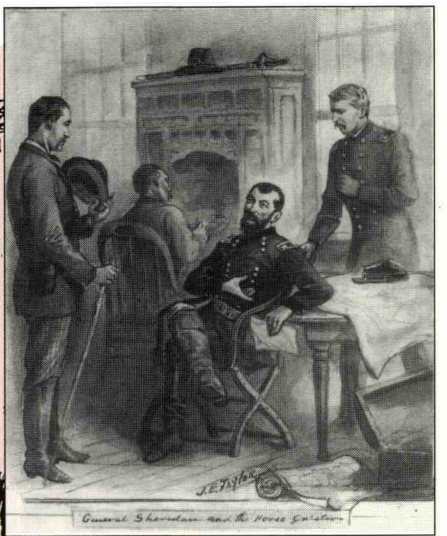
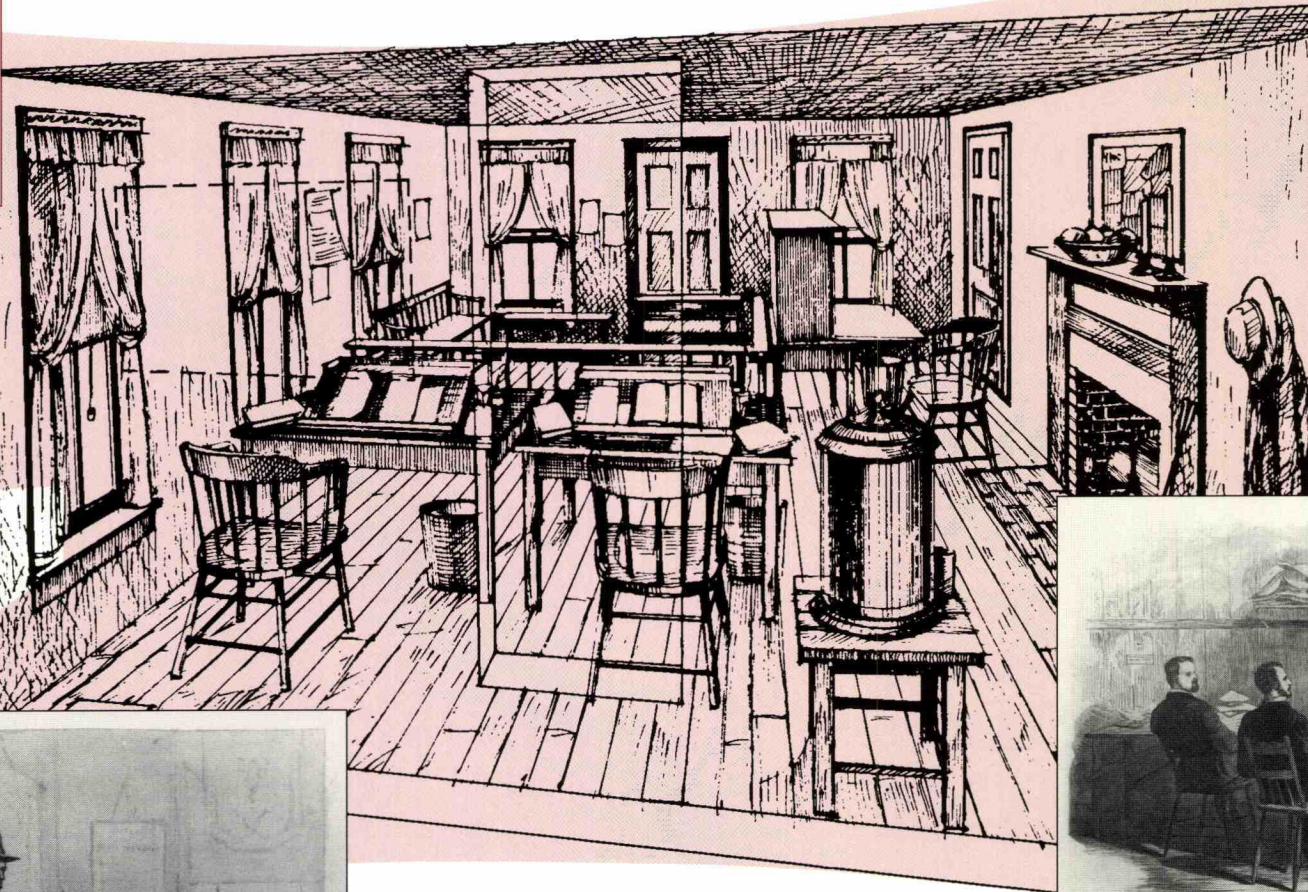




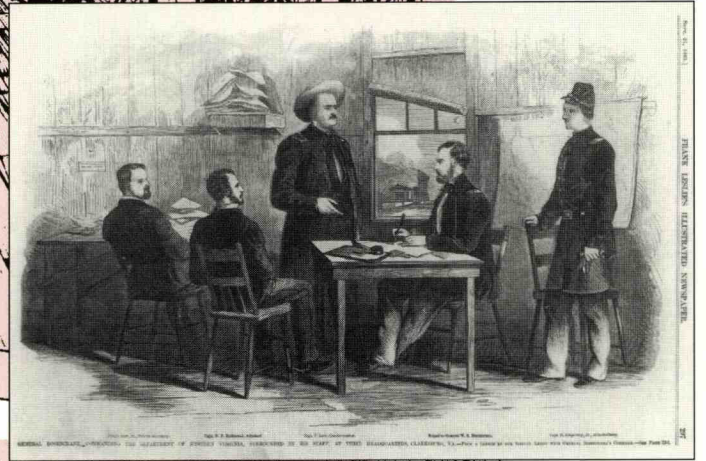
FIRST FLOOR

## Provost Marshal's Office

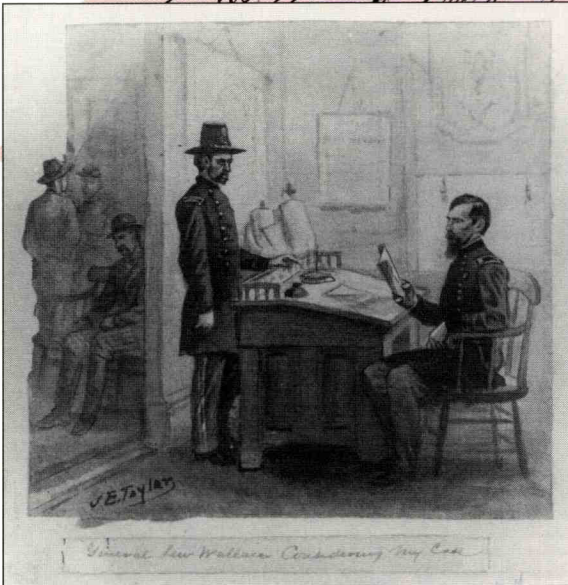
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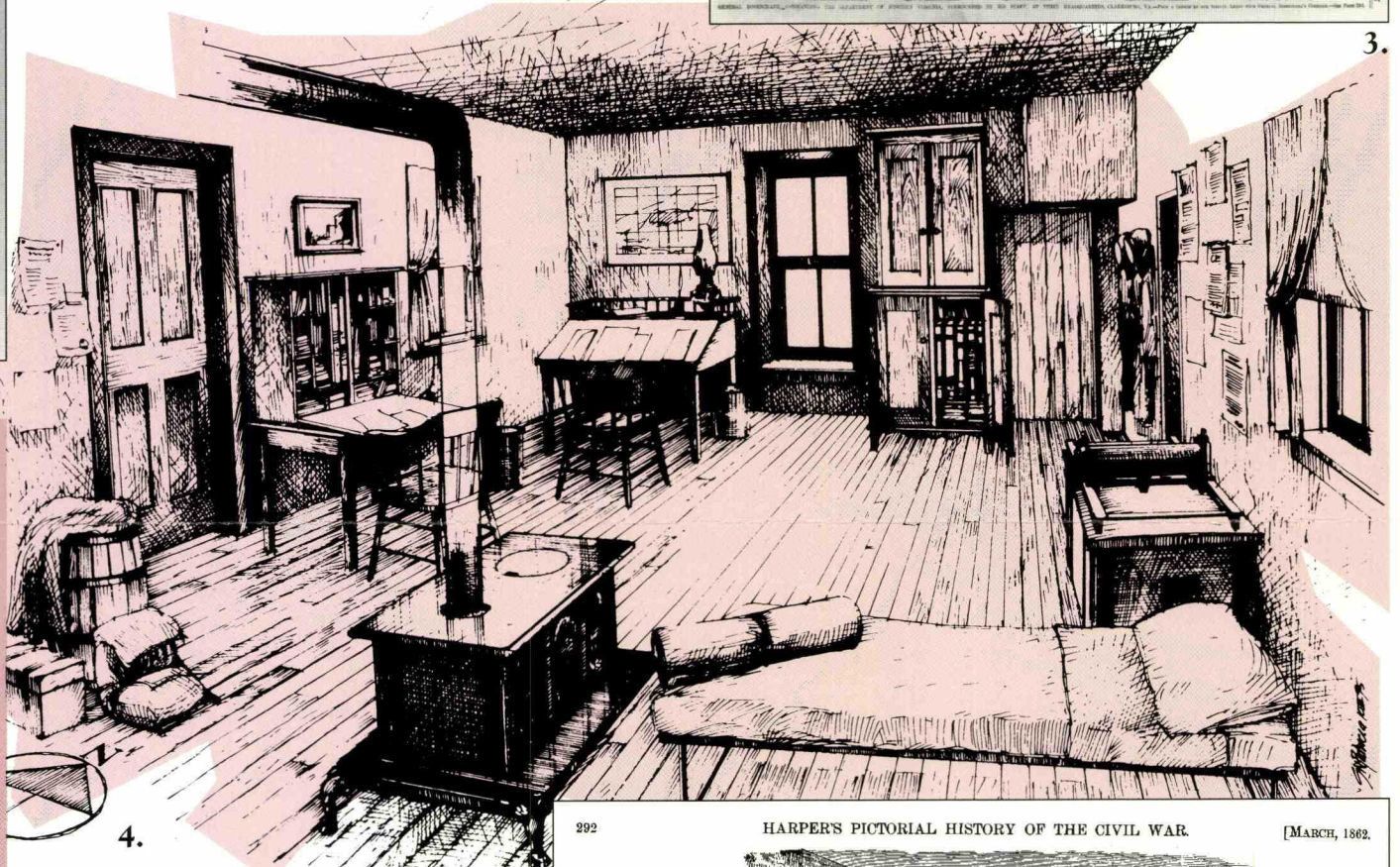


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1. Furnishings plan, front room, provost marshal's office. 2. General Sheridan and the "Horse" Question, 1864, from The James E. Taylor Sketchbook. 3. General Rosencranz, Commanding The Department of Western Virginia . . . , from Frank Leslie's Illustrated History of the Civil War. 4. Furnishings plan, rear room, provost marshal's office. 5. Issuing Passes at St. Louis, 1866, from Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War. 6. General Sheridan writing his dispatch to General Grant . . . , 1864, from Taylor Sketchbook. 7. Citizens of Charleston, S.C., Taking the Oath of Allegiance . . . , from The American Soldier in the Civil War. 8. General Lew Wallace Considering My Case, 1864, from Taylor Sketchbook.

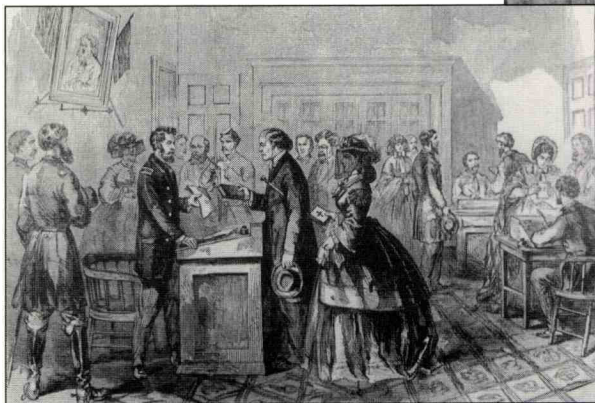


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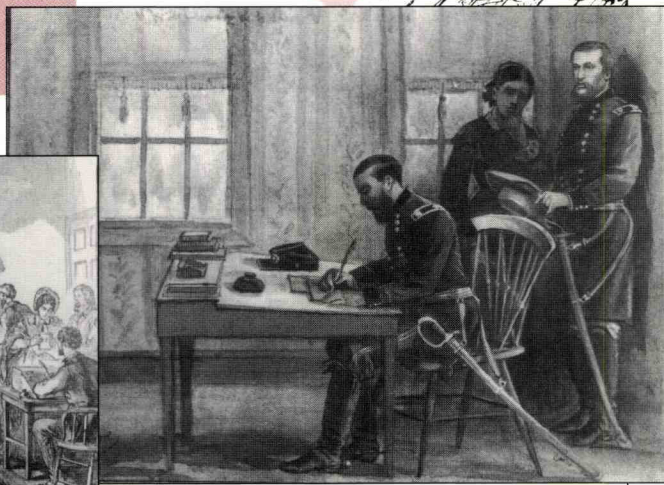
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HARPER'S PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR.

[MARCH, 1862.]



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5.

The Harpers Ferry provost marshal's office performed all the responsibilities typical of such offices in areas under martial law: administering the oath of allegiance, regulating civil affairs, issuing passes for travel in and out of Harpers Ferry, supervising the provost guard, reading mail and opening packages looking for contraband, regulating prices, and controlling illegal liquor sales to soldiers. Although located on High Street during most of the Civil War, the provost marshal's office is recreated in building 35 since its original site lies outside of park boundaries.

The original provost marshal's office consisted of a front and a back room, and the number of staff var-

ied between two and eight. All traffic went through the front room, where the clerks and assistant provost marshal worked and which was used primarily as a passport office. A railing divided the clerks' desks from the civilians and soldiers waiting for passes. The provost marshal and the chief clerk occupied the back office, which probably also contained at least one bed for clerks to sleep on while on duty. Confiscated goods, clothing, and food were also stored at the provost marshal's office.

Since printed forms and handbills were important to the operation of a provost marshal's office, an original printing press with a local provenance is displayed in the back room.

### OPERATING PLAN

The general store and the provost marshal's office are generally open and staffed during regular park hours. When staff are unavailable, a temporary barrier is installed in the general store so that public access can continue. The railing in the provost marshal's office acts as a visitor barrier for that exhibit. Both physical barriers are supplemented by electronic alarms. Free-standing panels provide interpretation.

# Chronology of Building Use

**1812-1818**

Joseph S. Annin, son of Paymaster Samuel Annin, built a two and one-half story brick structure, the original nucleus of building 35, for use as a dwelling and apothecary.

**1818-1830**

Occupied by Master Armorer Armstead Beckham.

**1827**

A one-story brick kitchen with a slate roof was constructed.

**1830-Oct. 1858**

Occupied by Master Armors Benjamin Moor, James H. Burton, and Samuel Byington.

**Nov. 1858-Jul. 1859**

Occupied by Paymaster's Clerk John E. Daingerfield

**Jul. 1859-Nov. 1859**

Probably vacant.

**Nov. 1859-1865**

Used as officers' quarters and part of the time as a boarding house run by Mrs. Valinda Stipes

**1869**

The Federal government sold the property to the minor children of James McGraw for \$5100.

**1870-1883**

Residence and store of James McGraw and family.

**1884**

McGraw family moved residence and hardware and grocery business to adjacent bldg. 33.

**1887**

Post office moved from bldg. 36 into bldg. 34/35, probably to the first floor of bldg. 35.

**1888**

M. Cohen & Company, clothiers, began business in bldg. 34/35.

**1891**

Major renovations to bldg. 34/35 resulted in a large storeroom and 30 large rooms for hotel or boarding use. The post office probably moved into bldg. 34.

**1896**

I.V. Pentz opened a general store in bldg. 34/35.

**1899**

William Doran purchased the property for \$4775. The Doran family operated a general store, with a boarding house on the upper floor and in the rear.

**1926**

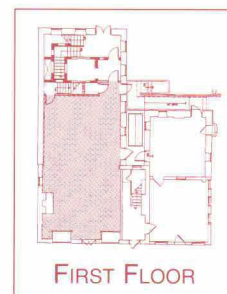
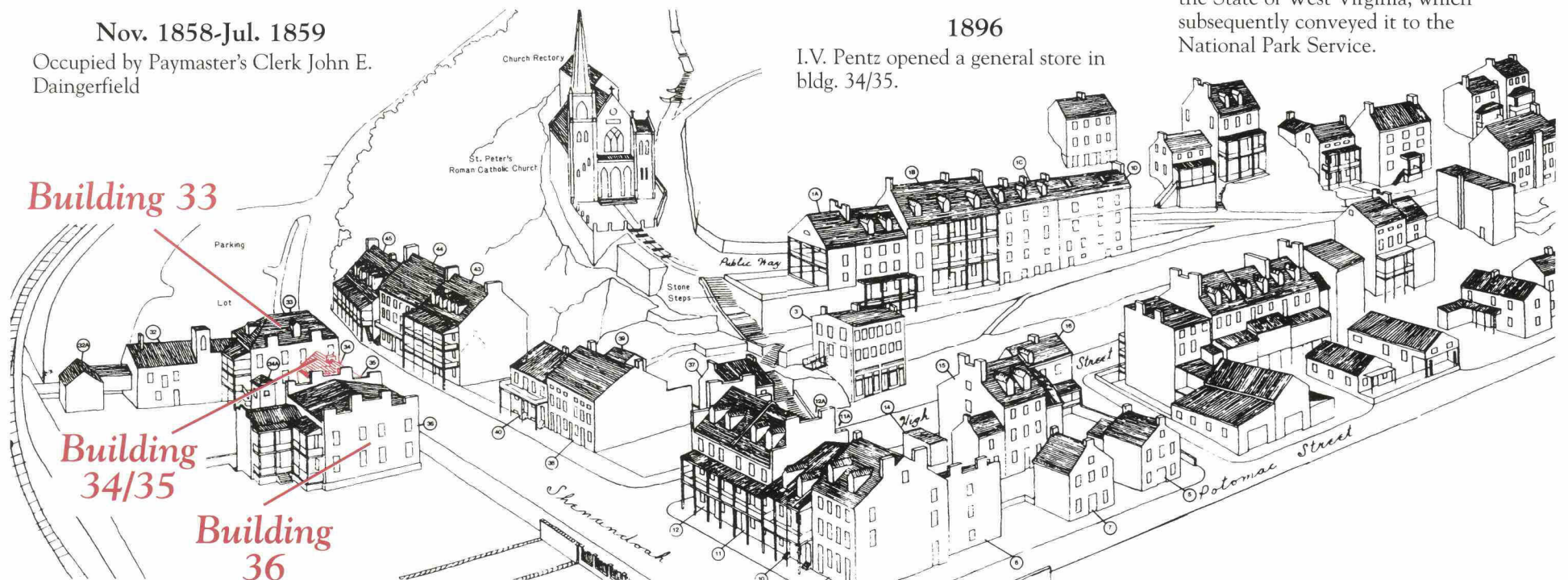
The Doran store moved to bldg. 33. The Jefferson Baking Company began operations in bldg. 34/35.

**1928-1929**

The Jefferson Baking Company was sold to Charles T. Smith in June 1928, and moved from the Doran bldg. to the old Presbyterian Church.

**1952**

The Doran heirs sold the property to the State of West Virginia, which subsequently conveyed it to the National Park Service.



## General Store

The furnishings in this mid-1850s general store reflect both ancient and modern practices. Goods like flour and molasses are displayed as they would have been in the eighteenth century. Other items, such as extracts and medicines, have very sophisticated packages. The appearance of bottled and packaged foods and ready-made clothing presage the explosion of manufactured goods that would become available virtually nationwide in the last decades of the nineteenth century.

The Civil War stands as a watershed in the history of food distribution since it necessitated the provision of millions of men with a wide variety of foods packed to withstand the rigors of long transportation and a variety of climates. The Civil War also introduced millions of people to the convenience and palatability of canned and packaged foods. After the war, manufacturers who had provisioned the army were set up to provision the home. Improved rail networks in the late 1860s and 1870s provided cost-effective and convenient transportation of packaged foods.

The 1854 inventory of the contents of Thomas S. Dorrell's store, an establishment of comparable size located in adjacent Loudoun County, Virginia, provides the documentary basis for the general store. The layout of the store is based on period illustrations.



1. Furnishings plan, general store.
2. Village Post Office, by Thomas Waterman Wood, 1873, New York State Historical Association.
3. Interior of a Country Store, drawn by Sol Eytinge, Jr., 1872, Library of Congress.