

APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended:

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Director

Recommended:

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Regional Director

Recommended:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, E.O.D.C.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

Harpers Ferry National Monument

HISTORIC BUILDING SITE SURVEY

REPORT

for

PART OF WAGER LOT NO. 8

Ferry Lot Studies

"The John Strauss Clothing Store"

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

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Historian (Park Supervisory)  
August 29, 1958  
17 pages

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## SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

### A. Name and Number of Building:

The John Strauss Clothing Store on part of Wager Lot No. 8, a portion of the Ferry Lot Studies.

### B. Proposed Use of Structure and Grounds:

We concur with Research Historian Snell that the entire Ferry Lot area be interpreted by means of trailside exhibits using some of the old prints and photographs contained in the Historic Building Report on Wager Lot No. 5. We believe that an excellent place for one of these exhibits would be on a suitable site (to be determined later) on Maryland Heights from where an outstanding view of the Ferry Lots may be obtained.

### C. Provisions for Operating the Lot:

No operation required.

### D. Preliminary Estimate of Cost of Rehabilitating the Grounds:

In view of the Regional Director's comments under this heading on the report for the Wager Lot No. 51, we are raising our estimate from \$400.00 to \$1,000. This figure is, of course, considered as covering the interpretation of all the Ferry Lots.

## SECTION II - HISTORICAL DATA

### I. 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." <sup>1</sup> The property thus being divided at Harper's 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 <sup>2</sup> Government.

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 and 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 and 55." <sup>3</sup>

Thus on October 10, 1835, Lot No. 8 was awarded to Sarah Ann Swayne (see the blue, red and orange area on the 1835 plat, page 2 of this report - the history of the red portion of Lot No. 8 has already been covered in the "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lots No. 6, 7 and Part of 8, the Wager House or United States Hotel,"

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 Acre Reservation, Drawn by James M. Brown, S.G.C.," in Deed Book 29, 1847-48, p.140. See page 3.

3. Deed Book 29, p.141.



39 pages, dated August 7, 1958.)

On September 7, 1837, Noah H. Swayne leased Wager Lot No. 8 to Susan Downey for 15 years, the lease to take effect on April 1, 1838. Mrs. Downey was to pay a ground rent of \$120.00 a year and also agreed that:

"IV. Said party of the second part (Mrs. Downey) shall within two years from said first day of April next (1838) erect on the said lot a brick or Stone building covering the whole of the front thereof, at least two stories, at least forty feet in depth & with the wall of sufficient thickness to sustain another story." 4

On September 1, 1839, Susan Downey assigned her leasehold for Lot No. 8 to James Foley, who owned Wager Lot No. 7, for \$1.00. Mr. Foley agreed "to assume and execute and perform all of said covenants" 5 in the Swayne-Downey Lease.

On October 24, 1840, James Foley and Noah H. and Sarah Ann Swayne entered into a further agreement in regard to Wager Lot No. 7 and 8:

"whereas the said Foley is the owner and occupant of Lot Number seven (7) in the town of Harpers Ferry and hath erected thereon a brick building [The United States Hotel], which said building extends over the line of said lot about two feet on lot number eight, now the property of Sarah Ann Swayne and in the occupancy of said Foley as assignee of a lease from Swayne to Susan Downey. Swaynes agree to the location of said wall and part of said building as foresaid on lot number eight, on condition that they shall have the right to build against the gable end of said building on said lot eight, without liability or charge whatever and that in case Foley or any other person shall build on Lot No. eight in conformity with the provisions of this lease, and said lot shall come again into the possession of the Swaynes, nothing shall be required to be paid for the use of said wall...And that should a building be erected on lot No. eight in conformity with the provisions of said lease and said lot return to the Swaynes, that no claim or demand shall be made for compensation for said gable wall, and that in estimating the value of the improvements

4. Deed Book 22, pp.221-222, Lease, September 7, 1837.

5. Assignment of Lease, September 1, 1839, Deed Book 23, p.514.

placed on said lot under the said lease, the said wall shall not be taken into the account..." 6 (See red area on 1835 plat, page 2)

By this agreement the space on Lot 8, occupied by the United States Hotel, was added to Wager Lot No. 7, about 2 feet wide, fronting on Potomac Street.

On January 26, 1841, James Foley, in turn, sublet part of Wager Lot 8 (see blue and orange area on the plat page 2 of this report) to James Bergin. Bergin's lease was for five years and was to take effect on April 1, 1841, and was to end on March 1, 1846. Bergin was to pay an annual ground rent of \$200 and also all taxes. As to land granted, the lease specified:

"a lot of land in Harpers Ferry, being Lot No. [D] of the land formerly owned by the Wager family...and partitioned to Noah H. Swayne, which said lot was leased to Catharine [sic, Downey], by deed and by said Downey afterwards leased to the aforesaid Foley by deed, lying west of the lot [Lot No. D] now owned by the said Foley on which his tavern [The United States Hotel] now stands, together with the appurtenances to the said piece of land belonging or appertaining, except the alley or space of 7 feet between the said described west side of the Tavern House, running north and south therewith from front to rear - and all the ground of said lot which would be cut off on the north by a line running with the north side or wall of said Tavern House 7 feet, the said Foley, hereby expressly reserves excepts from this lease... [the blue area on the 1835 plat was leased to Bergin, while Foley retained the orange area] Bergin agreed, during term of said lease, to build a substantial and plain building on said lot, for a sum not to exceed \$300." 7

west and  
across said  
lot, which  
said area  
this I know  
off, and  
also of

By this lease, Bergin thus obtained the portion of Lot No. 8 that fronted 20 feet on Potomac Street and was about 25 feet in depth.

On April 16, 1842, Bergin's leasehold was apparently sold at a trustee's sale. Bergin's interest was probably purchased by

6. Agreement, October 24, 1840, Deed Book 24, pp.409-410.

7. Lease, January 26, 1841, Deed Book 24, pp.448-450. Also Deed of Trust, March 26, 1841, Deed Book 24, pp.500-507.

8. Virginia Free Press, March 31, 1842, p.3, c.6 - Notice of Sale.

9

James Foley, who died on May 7, 1842.

In November, 1842, Gerard B. Wager purchased Wager Lot No. 6 from Foley's estate. In March, 1843, he also acquired Wager Lot No. 7, and with it, probably the leasehold to all of Lot No. 8 from the Foley estate.<sup>10</sup>

On September 11, 1846, Gerard B. Wager purchased Wager Lot No. 8 from the Swaynes for \$3,000. This deed reads in part:

"...as number (8) eight bounded on one side by Potomac Street, and on the other by the Potomac River and lying between the lots of G. B. Wager (Lots 7 and 6, now occupied by J. F. Abell as a Hotel (the United States Hotel) and the lot of Margaret Gibson's heirs (Wager Lot No. 9) so much of said lot number (8) eight is hereby conveyed as is not embraced in a certain Article of Agreement made and entered into on the 24th day of October, 1840, between the said Noah H. Swayne and wife and James Foley...and the said G. B. Wager takes the premises subject to the effect of said agreement..." 11

Thus by 1846, Gerard B. Wager became the owner of all of Wager Lot No. 8. He died in 1848, but his estate retained possession of Lot No. 8 until after the Civil War.

## 2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING ON PART OF LOT NO. 8.

As has been noted, James Bergin leased a portion of Lot No. 8 in 1841 and agreed as a part of his lease "to build a substantial and plain building on said lot, for a sum not to exceed \$300." Bergin apparently erected the building in 1841, for in 1842 we find the following notice appearing in the newspaper:

### TRUSTEE'S SALE

"By virtue of a Deed of Trust from James Bergin, to the under-

9. Virginia Free Press, May 12, 1842, p.3, c.2.

10. "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lots 6, 7 and Part of 8...", p.7.

11. Deed of B. & S., September 11, 1846, Deed Book 28, p.403, also Deed of Trust, September 11, 1846, Deed Book 28, p.404.

signed [James Foley], as Trustee, to secure a debt due Patrick Cunningham, which deed is dated the 26th day of March, 1841, [see footnote No. 2]...I will sell, for cash, on the premises, at Harpers-Perry, on Saturday the 16th of April next, the following property named in said deed:-

ONE FRAME BUILDING.

Twenty feet square, & two stories high..." 12

The building apparently contained one store room on the first floor and living quarters on the second floor.

This structure is to be clearly seen in Photographs HF-56 and HF-450, pages 33 and 34 of the "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Wager Lots No. 6, 7, and Part of 8, The Wager House or United States Hotel". In these photographs, the Building is standing next to, or to the left of the "Wager House". The house was standing at the time of the John Brown raid in 1859 and was burned by Union troops on February 7, 1862.

3. USE OF THE BUILDING ON LOT NO. 8, 1841-1862.

Bergin's use of the building from 1841 to 1842 is unknown. Probably from 1842 and certainly from 1844 to 1845 the structure was occupied by Robert Russell. His advertisement stated that he has<sup>13</sup> lumber, grain and hay racks for sale.

In October of 1845 a new business occupied the building on Lot No. 8:

"GENTLEMEN, LOOK HERE!  
New and Fashionable  
Merchant Tailoring Establishment!!!!

T. J. Sullivan & J. R. White,

Having just returned from the east with a large and fine selection of

12. Virginia Free Press, March 31, 1842, p.3, c.6.

13. Virginia Free Press, June 13, 1844, p.3, c.3. June 5, 1845, p.3, c.3.

# FALL & WINTER GOODS,

Would beg leave most respectfully, to inform the citizens of Harpers-Ferry and the public in general, that they have taken the store room situated between Mr. Abell's Hotel (or the United States Hotel, located on Wager Lot No. 2) and Mr. Samuel Gibson's store (located on Wager Lot No. 3), directly opposite Mr. Walling's Hotel (the Virginia House located on Lot No. 4), and lately occupied by Robert Russell, Esq., where they are prepared to dress their sex at the shortest notice, in the neatest style, and upon the most accommodating terms.

"Their stock consists in part of the following:

## CLOTHS:

|                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Extra super French Black          | Super London brown                   |
| Extra super blk English wool-dyed | do do green                          |
| 2nd quality do do                 | do invisible green                   |
| Super Beaver do do                | 2nd quality do do                    |
| Pilot cloths                      | Super olive, various qualities       |
| Super indigo blue                 | Canada cloth, &c. Mackinaw blankets. |

## CASSIMERES.

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Super wool-dyed blk | Super fancy French      |
| Do do do blue-blk   | do do English           |
| Do French-ribbed do | suitable to all tastes. |

Together with well assorted specimens of the beauty and durability of the styles in market.

## VESTINGS.

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Extra super cut velvets | Super buff Cashmere     |
| Do do plain do          | Extra super plaid       |
| Do embroidered satin    | Fine plaid valenciennes |
| Do striped do           | 2nd quality do do       |
| Do plain do             | super shalleys, &c.     |

A complete variety of SATINETTES, of all colors, stripes and qualities, in connection with plain and striped Kentucky jeans, winter tweeds: Also for pants and sack coats.

We have also a stock of

## FALL & WINTER READY MADE CLOTHING.

Consisting of Sacks, Overcoats, Cloaks, Pantalcoons, Vests, &c. Together with a handsome assortment of Gentlemen's Gloves, Cravats, Suspenders, Stocks, Hdkfs, Merino Shirts, and Drawers.

As the most fair, simple, and advantageous method to test the matter would be to call, we solicit it -- as we have the Latest Fashions, capacity suitable for a business of the kind, and a well assorted stock, we flatter ourselves that that call alone will be necessary with those who wish any thing in our way.

Gentlemen purchasing goods elsewhere are assured that they can have them made up by us at the shortest notice, best manner, and upon terms corresponding with the uniform standard.

We will also sell by the yard, piece or pattern (very low) so that those may be suited who wish to have them made elsewhere.

N.B. Though we are disposed to accommodate in every particular, we must say that we are not prepared to give a lengthy credit, to the most punctual." 14.

In April, 1846, T. J. W. Sullivan assumed J. R. White's share  
15  
of the business. Mr. Sullivan remained in business at the Store on Wager Lot No. 8 until about April, 1847, at which date, J. R. White announced that he was the "Successor to T. J. W. Sullivan" and located "Opposite Abell's Hotel" or the United States Hotel, probably  
16  
on Wager Lot No. 4. Mr. Sullivan next reopened his tailoring business in March of 1848 in the old Paymaster's Office in the  
17  
Arsenal Yard.

In February, 1848, the second floor of the house on Lot No. 8 was occupied as a lawyer's office, as the following notice indicates:

WM. T. DAUGHERTY  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

"Has removed to Harpers-Ferry, Virginia. He renews the offer of his professional services to the public generally.

Office one door west of Abell's Hotel (which was located on Wager  
17a  
Lot No. 8)"

In March of 1848 the first floor was also occupied by a new business:

14. Virginia Free Press, October 9, 1845, p.3, c.4.

15. Virginia Free Press, April 2, 1846, p.3, c.2. October 1, 1846, p.3, c.1.

16. Virginia Free Press, April 15, 1847, p.3, c.4.

17. Virginia Free Press, March 18, 1848, p.3, c.1.

17a. Virginia Free Press, February 12, 1848, p.3, c.2.

"NEW CLOTHING STORE  
At Harpers-Ferry, Virginia.

DAVID SIEGEL respectfully informs the inhabitants of Harpers-Ferry and the surrounding country, that he has established a New Store, where can always be found a large and well made assortment of  
READY-MADE CLOTHING,  
which he offers as low as they can be bought in any of the Eastern cities. ents

Inducement greater than Ever.—Those who are in want of CLOTHING cannot do better than to call on the subscriber, as he is determined to offer such inducements in the sale of Men's and Boys' Clothing, as will defy competition.

Those persons in want of such articles will please call and examine for themselves. He will use every exertion to give them satisfaction.

My motto shall be to please, as showing goods shall be no inconvenience.

DAVID SIEGEL

One door west of Abell's Hotel (which  
was located on Wager Lot No. 7)" 18

Later the same year Mr. Siegel advertised:

LOOK TO YOUR INTERESTS.

"The subscriber has just received from the Eastern markets, a full and complete assortment of

READY MADE CLOTHING, VIZ:

|                                                      |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Gent's Fine Cloth Cloaks from                        | \$10.00 to 20.00 |
| " Frock and Dress Coats,                             | 8.00 to 12.00    |
| " Over Coats,                                        | 4.00 to 10.00    |
| " Cassinett and Tweed Coats,                         | 2.50 to 3.00     |
| " Cassimere Pants,                                   | 2.00 to 2.50     |
| " Cassinet "                                         | 1.25 to 3.50     |
| " Fine Satin Vests...., and other<br>Cassinett,..... | .75 to 2.00      |

...This establishment may be found between Carroll's Hotel on Wager Lot 9 and Wager's United States Hotel on Lot No. 7..." 19

David Siegel remained in business at this location from 1848 to 20

1851. In January, 1851, Mr. Siegel announced he was selling off

18. Virginia Free Press, March 16, 1848, p.3, c.2.

19. Virginia Free Press, September 28, 1848, p.3, c.4.

20. Ibid., October 4, 1848, p.3, c.3. April 18, 1850, p.3, c.1.

his stock of ready-made clothing "AT COST", as he intended to close  
21  
his business at Harpers Ferry.

From June, 1850, to February, 1851, part of the house on Lot  
No. 8 was also rented by William McDonald, who ran a Jewelry and  
Watch Store. McDonald advertised that he had "removed his establish-  
ment to the room one door WEST of the United States Hotel." 22  
In  
23  
February, 1851, he moved his business to Charles Town.

In June, 1851, the store in the buildings on Lot No. 8 was oc-  
cupied by a new firm:

NEW AND FASHIONABLE  
CLOTHING STORE.

LOOK OUT FOR BARGAINS!

"JOHN STRAUSS & CO., have the honor of informing the gentlemen  
of Harpers-Ferry and Jefferson County, Va., that they have established  
a new and cheap Clothing Store in Harpers-Ferry, near Carrell's Hotel  
(which was located on Wager Lot 7 and 9 - the two Hotels then being  
operated by one proprietor), consisting of a large stock of  
SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS,

such as dress, frock, sack and dorsey coats, made of the best French,  
English, and American Cloths; black and fancy colored pantaloons;  
shirts, drawers, gloves, handkerchiefs, &c.

Children's Clothing all of the latest styles, which will be dis-  
posed of at the lowest cash prices.

Gentlemen, please call and examine our stock before purchasing  
elsewhere, as we can and will sell cheaper goods than can be purchased  
at Harpers Ferry or in Jefferson County." 24

In 1852, he advertised:

JOHN STRAUSS

"Most respectfully informs his friends, customers and the public  
generally, that he has just received a new stock of  
READY-MADE CLOTHING,

21. Virginia Free Press, January 17, 1851, p.3, c.2.
22. Virginia Free Press, June 21, 1850, p.3, c.5.
23. Virginia Free Press, February 28, 1851, p.3, c.2.
24. Virginia Free Press, June 5, 1851, p.3, c.2.

"the most extensive and best selected ever brought to this town, which he will sell on terms to give perfect satisfaction, for quality as well as prices.

I can safely promise that all the Clothing which goes from my house, shall be equal to any in Jefferson county. My general stock comprises all styles of Coats, Pantaloon, Vest, Standing Collars, Handkerchiefs, Undershirts, drawers, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Trunks, Carpet Bags, Valises, Umbrellas, Suspenders, Gloves, and all articles usually kept in gentlemen's finishing houses, in addition to which I have a good stock of

BOYS' CLOTHING.

Purchasers are invited to call and examine my stock before buying elsewhere, as I am pretty sanguine of my ability to supply them on as good terms as those they can obtain in Harpers-Ferry or anywhere else; therefore call and satisfy yourselves. I have also received a new stock of Knives, Combs, Toys, and a good many more fancy articles too tedious to mention. All of which, I will sell at my well known low prices, not stopping for large profits, but holding to my motto, "A nimble penny is better than a slow shilling."

Purchasers will look out for my name [his sign]

JOHN STRAUSS.

Near Carrell's Hotel, Harpers-Ferry, Virginia." 25

Mr. Strauss remained in business at this location from 1851 to

26

1861. In 1854, he expanded his business announcing:

"I will also inform my customers and the public generally, that I commenced making goods up to order, and prompt attention will be given. Besides his large stock of Ready-Made Clothing, he also keeps on hand a large stock of Cloths, Cassimeres and Vestings.

50 HANDS wanted to make Coats, Pants and Vests. None but good Seamstresses need apply." 27

In 1854, he advertised:

HO! FOR PURCHASERS!  
LATE ARRIVAL OF  
SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING  
JOHN STRAUSS

"Respectfully informs his customers in general that he has just received a large stock of DRY GOODS, which he manufactures in CLOTHING at this place, and which he will sell at the lowest cash prices. Having been manufacturing Spring and Summer Clothing for the last 4 months, I can only say people in want of any goods in my line will

25. Virginia Free Press, July 15, 1852, p.3, c.1.

26. Ibid., October 21, 1852, p.3, c.2. May 5, 1853, p.3, c.3. November 24, 1853, p.3, c.3.

27. Virginia Free Press, April 27, 1854, p.3, c.2. October 3, 1854, p.3, c.3.

"do well by looking at my stock before purchasing elsewhere, as it is one of the largest and best made assortment of Clothing in Jefferson or Loudoun County. Goods will be made up to order at the shortest notice and lowest prices, from the common to best quality.—Having an experienced cutter, Goods will be made up to order in the latest style and warranted to be fit or no sale. I have also received a large assortment of Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Trunks, Carpet Bags, Socks, Silk and Gingham handkerchiefs, Silk and Gingham Umbrellas, Gloves of all kinds, &c.

100 HANDS wanted to make coats, Pants and Vests, None but good Seamstresses need apply..." 28

In the spring of 1856, Mr. Strauss announced: "SELLING OFF AT COST. 6000 GENTLEMEN wanted to purchase for six thousand dollars worth of Ready-Made Clothing at Cost. The undersigned, intending to go to Europe next Spring has determined to sell his entire Stock of Clothing and all other Articles at first Cost...". He then hastened to add: "P.S. After I am gone my Brother will carry on at the same stand. He will keep a large and good assortment of Clothing which he will manufacture at this place." The stand, Mr. Strauss stated, was located "Near the United States Hotel (Gager Lot No. D)." 29

In the spring of 1857, John Strauss informed the public that he had opened a "New Clothing Store at Charlestown...", continuing, however, he stated:

"I would also inform my friends that my Brother, A. Strauss, is still carrying on in Harper's Ferry, Va., at the old stand, next to the United States Hotel, where he always keeps on hand one of the largest and best stocks of READY-MADE CLOTHING..." 30

In 1859, his business operated under the name of "John Strauss

28. Virginia Free Press, June 21, 1855, p.3, c.7. October 18, 1855, p.3, c.1. January 10, 1856, p.4.

29. Virginia Free Press, February 7, 1856, p.2, c.6.

30. Ibid., May 7, 1857, p.3, c.3. April 1, 1858, p.2, c.7.

"& Co.," and was located in the building on Lot No. 8 at the time of  
31  
the John Brown Raid.

In 1860, the store in Harpers Ferry was operated by Henry Strauss,  
who advertised:

NEW SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING

"Inform my customers and public in general that I have just returned  
from the East with a very large and well-selected stock of

SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING,

made up in the best and latest styles. I will also inform my customers  
and all persons who wish to purchase

BOOTS, SHOES  
HATS, CAPS

Cravats  
Handkerchiefs,  
Canes,  
Pocket Books,

Combs, &c., &c.

Shirts,  
Umbrellas,  
Gloves,  
Gold Rings

to call and examine my stock. As I bought a very large assortment  
of those named articles and I am determined to undersell any other  
establishment in Jefferson or any other County in Clothing and Fur-  
nishing Goods.

All I ask from the public is to call and convince themselves, as  
my motto is cash sales and small profits. HENRY STRAUSS,

Near the Wager House [which was located on Lot No. 2] 32

The census of 1860 indicates that Henry Strauss was living at  
the Wager House Hotel at that date and provides us with the following  
information on Mr. Strauss:

"Henry Strauss, 23 years old, male, Merchant, Value of personal estate:  
\$1,500. Born in Germany." 33

The building on Wager Lot No. 8 was burned to the ground by  
Union troops on February 7, 1862.

31. Virginia Free Press, December 9, 1859, p.4, c.6.

32. Virginia Free Press, May 24, 1860, p.4, c.7.

33. Records of the Bureau of the Census (R.C. 29), Population Sched-  
ules of the Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Virginia, Volume  
13, Jefferson County (Part), p.191.

#### 4. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRINTS

Two 1859 photographs of the house on Lot No. 8 will be found on pages 33 and 34 (Photographs HF-66 and HF-450) of the "Historic Building Survey Report for Wager Lots 6, 7, and Part of 8, the Wager House or United States Hotel," dated August 7, 1958, 39 pages.

#### 5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BUILDING.

No historical plans of this building have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located. A general plan of the size of the structure appears on "Map of Harpers Ferry-Prepared in Compliance with Letter to Major Symington-April 22, 1848" and is reproduced in the Harpers Ferry National Monument Master Plan as Drawing No. NM-HF 3000.

#### 6. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA.

##### A. Ownership of the Land, 1835 to 1865.

1. October, 1782, to October 9, 1835, owned by the Wager family.
2. October 10, 1835, to September 11, 1846, owned by Noah H. and Sarah Ann Swayne.
3. Leased September 7, 1837, to September 1, 1839 by the Swaynes to Susan Downey at annual rent of \$120 per year for 15 years, lease to take effect April 1, 1838.
4. Lease assigned by Susan Downey to James Foley, September 1, 1839, Price: \$1.00.
5. January 26, 1841, to April 18, 1842, Portion of lot, 20 feet by about 25 feet leased by James Foley to James Bergin at annual rent

of \$200, a five year lease, April 1, 1841, to March 31, 1856.

6. April 18, 1842, to March 31, 1846, Bergin's lease acquired at trustee sale by either James Foley or Gerard B. Wager or by Gerard B. Wager from James Foley's estate in March, 1843.

7. September 11, 1846, to after Civil War, Lot No. 8 purchased by Gerard B. Wager from the Swaynes for \$3,000 and held by Wager's estate 1848-1865.

B. Construction of House on Part of Lot 8:

A two story frame house 30 feet by 20 feet in size was erected on this portion of Lot No. 8 by James Bergin in 1841. The lease specified that the cost of the house was not to exceed \$300. The building contained one store room on the first floor and living quarters on the second floor.

C. Uses of the House on Lot No. 8:

1. 1841 to 1842, Use by James Bergin unknown.
2. Probably 1842 to 1844, and from 1844 to 1845, Store of Robert Russell, who sold lumber, grain, and hay rakes.
3. October, 1845, to April 1847, Merchant Tailoring establishment, October, 1845, to April, 1846, of T. J. W. Sullivan and J. R. White, and April, 1846, to April, 1847, of T. J. W. Sullivan.
4. April, 1847, to February, 1848, Use unknown.
5. March, 1848, to April, 1851, First floor: Ready-Made Clothing Store of David Siegel. Second floor: February, 1848-Law Office of William T. Daugherty. June, 1850, to February, 1851, Jewelry and Watch Shop of William McDonald.

6. June, 1851, to Civil War: Ready-Made Clothing Store of John Strauss. In 1854, Strauss began manufacturing his own clothing. In 1856, his brother, A. Strauss operated the store, and in 1857, John Strauss also opened a store in Charles Town. In 1859, the firm was called John Strauss & Company and in 1860 the Harpers Ferry store was run by Henry Strauss.

7. The building was destroyed by Union Troops, February 7, 1862.

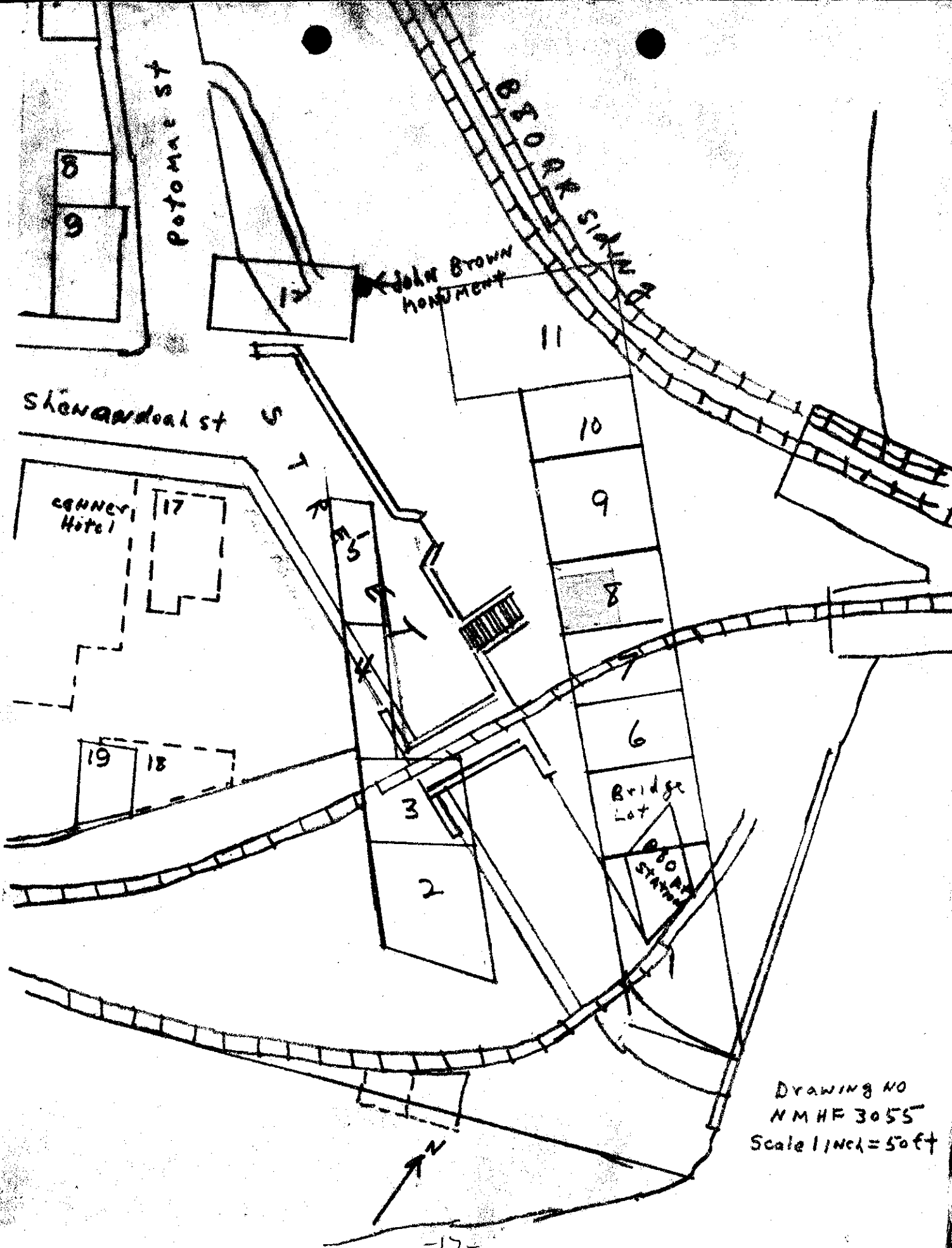
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

For the location of the Strauss Clothing Store in relation to modern features and the Monument Boundaries, see the tracing made from Drawing No. NM-HP 3855, which appears on the next page of this report.

It is suggested that the entire Ferry Lot area be interpreted by means of approximately three trail side exhibits that will use some of the old photographs presented in the Ferry Lot Study Reports, as well as a map that relates the buildings sites to modern features.

(Sgd) CHARLES W. SNELL

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



Drawing NO  
NMHF 3055  
Scale 1 inch = 50 ft