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Harpers Ferry National Monument

HISTORIC BUILDING SITE SURVEY

REPORT

for

WAGER LOTS NO. 6, 7, AND PART OF 8.

"THE WAGER HOUSE OR UNITED STATES HOTEL"

Ferry Lot Studies.

Harpers Ferry National Monument

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Dated: August 7, 1958  
39 pages

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## SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

### A. Name and Number of Building:

The Wager House or United States Hotel, Wager Lots Nos. 6, 7, and part of 8. 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 this report.

We believe, however, that the trailside exhibits should be installed on a good lookout point on Maryland Heights where an excellent view of the old lower town area may be obtained. These exhibits could probably be combined with a general interpretation of the lower town from such a vantage point.

### C. Provisions for Operating the House:

No operations contemplated.

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

The estimated cost of these exhibit installations is \$300.00 to \$400.00.

## 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."<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

On October 10, 1835, the three Commissioners reported to the Court: "To James B. Wager we allot and assign the following lots as designated J. B. W. and numbered in the annexed Plat, viz: Lots No. 1-7-9-15-...19-23-25-27-37-39-41-44,...46-47-53 and 54.

"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. 2-3-4-6-12-14-18-21-22-29-30-32-34-36-38-43-49-50-52 and 56.

"To Sarah Ann Swayne, the wife of Noah H. Swayne, we allot and

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 3.

assign the lots following as numbered in the annexed plat and marked N.H.S: to wit: Lots No. 5-8-10-11-13-15-17-20-24-26-<sup>3</sup> 28-31-33-35-40-42-45...48-51 and 55."

Thus on October 10, 1835, Lot No. 6 was given to James B. Wager (see red area on 1835 plat), Lot No. 7 to Gerard B. Wager (see blue area) and Lot No. 8 to Noah H. Swayne (see green and orange area) in the Wager Ferry Lot.

The Court further appointed a special receiver for the Court to take into possession the share assigned to James B. Wager for the purpose of collecting rents on his property to be paid into the Court, "From and after the time the said [James B.] Wager took benefit of the insolvent laws..."<sup>4</sup>

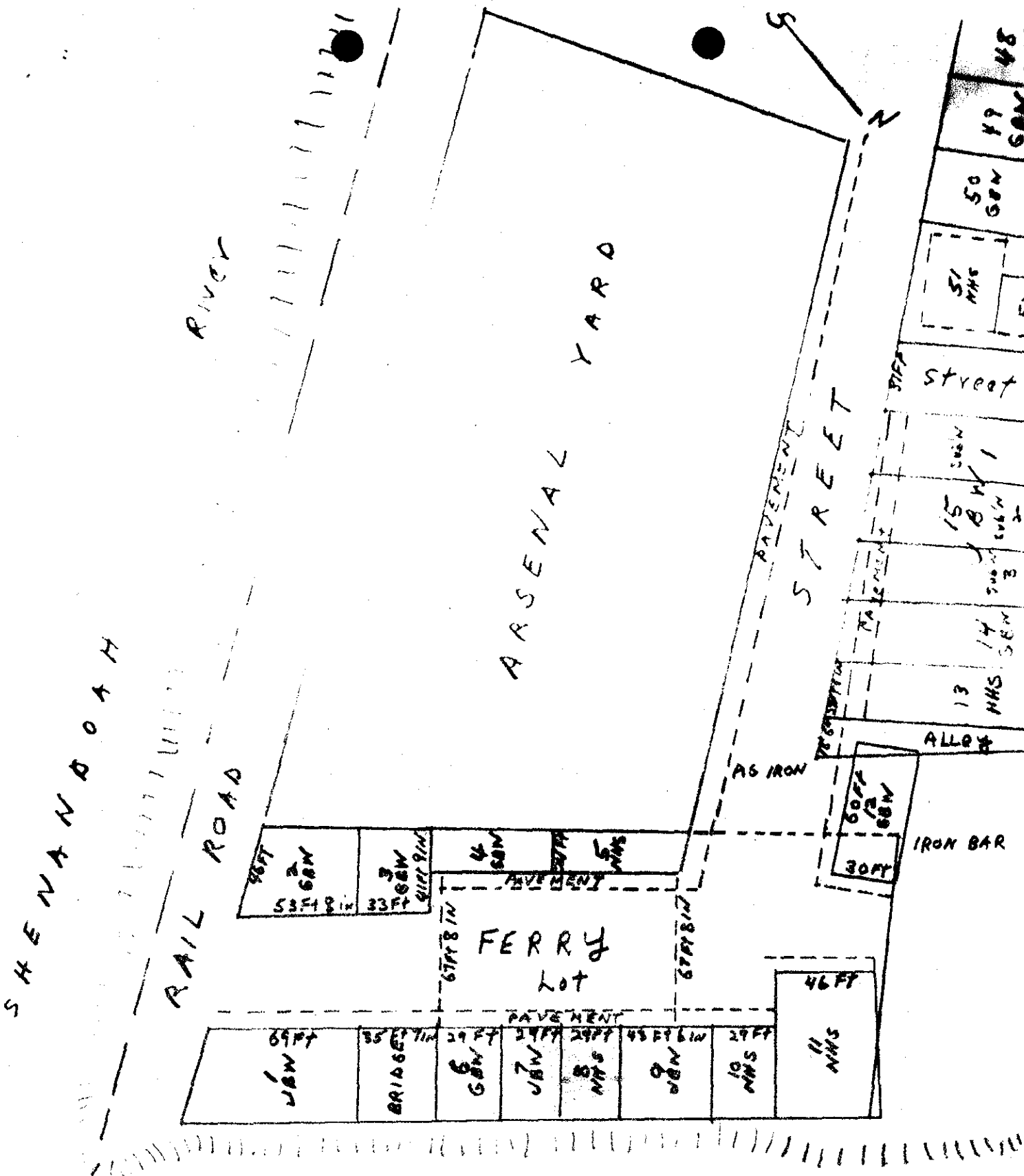
On January 14, 1836, the Court appointed two Commissioners and directed them to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, the real estate of James B. Wager in Harpers Ferry for the purpose of settling Wager's debts. This the Commissioners did and sold Wager Lot No. 7 to James Foley on June 18, 1836, for \$1,850.00.<sup>5</sup>

On November 5, 1839, James Foley and Samuel Gibson, the latter the owner of Wager Lot No. 9, entered into the following agreement with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad:

3. Deed Book 29, p.141.

4. Deed Book 28, pp.140-141.

5. Deed of Trust, April 16, 1842, Deed Book 25, pp.470-471.  
Deed of B. & S., September 30, 1843, Deed Book 26, pp.478-479.



1835 Nager  
Plat

A O T O M A C  
River

Scale 1" = 60 Ft.

Gibson and Foley granted the Railroad a right of way along the river fronts of their lots of ground:

"in said Harpers Ferry, belonging to Gibson and Foley, in the event of said Company adopting the route for said road which ascends the Virginia shore of the Potomac River from the present Railroad viaduct at Harpers Ferry for 4 dollars and certain advances expected to accrue to Foley and Gibson.

"It is understood that the company is to locate and construct its road along the water front of said lots as to leave a clear space of twenty feet between said road and the houses now occupying said lots, for the use of the owners thereof, and further that the owners shall have the liberty to use the unoccupied space under said railroad for any purpose not incompatible with the security against fire or other casualty of the viaduct or other works of said Company opposite said lots and that the said company after constructing their abutment for the support of said road along said lots shall fill with earth or stone or other suitable material that the space between said road and the houses on said lot, provided they shall not be required to carry said filling higher than the present top of one new wall built by the United States on the river margin, a little higher up (along the Armory or Musket Factory Tract)...." 6

On September 1, 1839, for \$1.00, Susan Downey, who held a leasehold from the Swaynes on Lot No. 8, assigned all her right, title, and interest to James Foley. Foley agreed to assume and execute and perform all of "said covenants" named in Downey's lease. 7 The terms of the original lease provided that:

"Said party of the second part (Downey) shall within two years from said first day of April next (1839) erect on said Lot a brick or stone building, covering the whole of the front

6. Agreement, November 5, 1839, Deed Book 24, pp.19-20.

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

Thereof, at least two stories, at least forty feet in depth and with the wall of sufficient thickness to sustain another story..."

The lease was for 15 years and called for a ground rent<sup>8</sup> of \$120.00 a year.

On October 24, 1840, Foley and the Swaynes entered into a direct agreement with regard to Lots 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, which said building extends over the line of said lot about two feet on Lot Number Eight, now this property of Sarah Ann Swayne and in the occupancy of said Foley as an assignee of a lease from Swayne to Susan Downey, Swaynes agree to the location of said wall and part of said building as aforesaid 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 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..."<sup>9</sup>

On January 26, 1841, James Foley assigned to James Bergen:

"a lot of land in Harpers Ferry, being Lot No. 8 of the land formerly owned by the Wager family...and partitioned to Noah H. Swayne, which said lot was leased to Catharine (Susan) Downey, by deed and by said Downey afterwards leased to the aforesaid Foley by deed, lying west of the lot now owned (Lot No. 7) by the said Foley on which his tavern now stands, together with the appurtenances to the said pieces of land belonging or appertaining, except the alley or space of seven feet between the said described west gable of the tavern house, running north and south therewith from front to rear - and all the ground of said lot which would cut off on the north by a line running with the north side or wall of said tavern house west and across said

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

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

lot, which said area thus thrown off, and alley of seven feet, the said Foley, hereby expressly reserves excepts from this lease...

James Bergin was to have this property from April 1, 1841, to March 1, 1846, and was to pay an annual rent of \$200. In addition, he agreed to build "a substantial and plain building on said lot (part of Lot 8), for a sum not to exceed \$300..."<sup>10</sup>

By this lease Bergin apparently obtained an area on Lot No. 8 approximately 20 feet square, fronting on Potomac Street and binding on the line with Wager Lot No. 9,<sup>11</sup> (see orange area) and the remainder of Lot No. 8 was held under lease by James Foley. (See green area on plat, page 3)

In the meantime, on July 9, 1840, James Foley had also purchased Wager Lot No. 6, "adjoining the bridge or abutment lot",<sup>12</sup> from Gerard B. Wager for \$7,200. Thus by 1840, James Foley became the owner of both Wager Lots No. 6 and 7 and by September 1, 1839, had acquired a leasehold to Wager Lot No. 8.

The newspaper announced in 1842:

"Died on May 7, 1842, of consumption, Mr. James Foley, of Harpers-Ferry, in the 40th year of his age. He was a native of Martinsburg but for the last 16 or 18 years, a highly respectable, enterprising, and useful citizen of Harpers Ferry."<sup>13</sup>

10. Lease, January 26, 1841, Deed Book 24, pp.448-450.

11. Virginia Free Press, March 31, 1842, p.3, c.6, describes Bergin's house as a two story frame building 20 feet square.

12. Deed of B. & S., Deed Book 24, pp.295.

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

On November 19, 1842, Gerard B. Wager purchased Wager Lot No. 6 at public auction from the Trustees of James Foley for \$5,000.<sup>14</sup>

On March 18, 1843, a second public auction was held<sup>15</sup> and Gerard B. Wager acquired also Lot No. 7 for \$3,500. He apparently also acquired Foley's leasehold to Wager Lot No. 8, for on September 11, 1846, when Foley's lease would have expired, Gerard B. Wager purchased for \$3,000 from the Swaynes

"the lot known as number eight (8) 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 6 and 7), now occupied by Jos. P. Abell as a hotel and the lot of Margaret Gibson's heirs (Wager Lot 9) so much of said lot number eight (8) 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 take the premises subject to the effect of said agreement..."<sup>16</sup>

Thus in 1846, Gerard Wager became the owner of all of Wager Lot No. 8 (in 1840, Foley had acquired the right to part of Lot 8 occupied by his building on Lot 7, this house having extended about 2 feet over onto Lot 8), and also owned Wager<sup>ma</sup> Lots 6 and 7. The small building occupying the portion of Lot 8 fronting on Potomac Street will be the subject of a separate report.

14. Deed of B. & S., November 19, 1842, Deed Book 26, pp.153-154. Trustees were Isaac Fouke and John C. Unseld. For Deed of Trust, July 9, 1840, see Deed Book 24, pp.292-293.

15. Deed of B. & S., April 6, 1843, Deed Book 26, pp.319-320.

16. Deed of B. & S., Deed Book 28, p.403, September 11, 1846.

Gerard B. Wager died in 1848, but his estate remained the possession of Wager Lots No. 6, 7, and 8 until after the Civil War.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE U. S. HOTEL OR WAGER HOUSE.

An 1836 newspaper advertisement announcing the forthcoming sale of James B. Wager's real estate at Harpers Ferry, described Wager Lot No. 7 as follows: "A lot with an old frame warehouse on it, near to and fronting on the same street as No. 1, 29 feet with a present depth of about 60 feet...These three lots [Wager Lots No. 1, 7, and 9] are susceptible of further extension indefinitely in depth by walling into the Potomac River..."<sup>17</sup>

Lot No. 7 was the lot purchased by James Foley on June 18, 1836, for \$1,850.

In August, 1837, Mr. Foley advertised:

TO JOURNEYMEN CARPENTERS

"I wish to employ about 20 Journeymen Carpenters, to whom the highest wages and the best accommodations will be given..."<sup>18</sup>

Construction had apparently been started on his new building and the structure was completed by April, 1839, at which date Mr. Foley announced:

FOR SALE OR RENT

"I will sell or rent the new three-story brick house I have recently erected at Harpers Ferry. The property is

17. Virginia Free Press, April 7, 1836, p.4, c.1.

18. Ibid., August 10, 1837, p.3, c.2.

situated within a few yards of the Depot of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road (The Depot was located on Wager Lot No. 1 and the company also owned the "Bridge Lot"), where it connected with the Winchester and Potomac Rail Road, and immediately on the proposed route of the former to the West. It is very happily situated for a hotel, and finished accordingly, having 14 rooms, well finished and comfortably arranged..." 19

In November of 1839, Foley entered into an agreement with the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, giving the Company a right of way across Lot No. 7 and in return the Company agreed to wall out into the Potomac River, thus adding land to Foley's property.

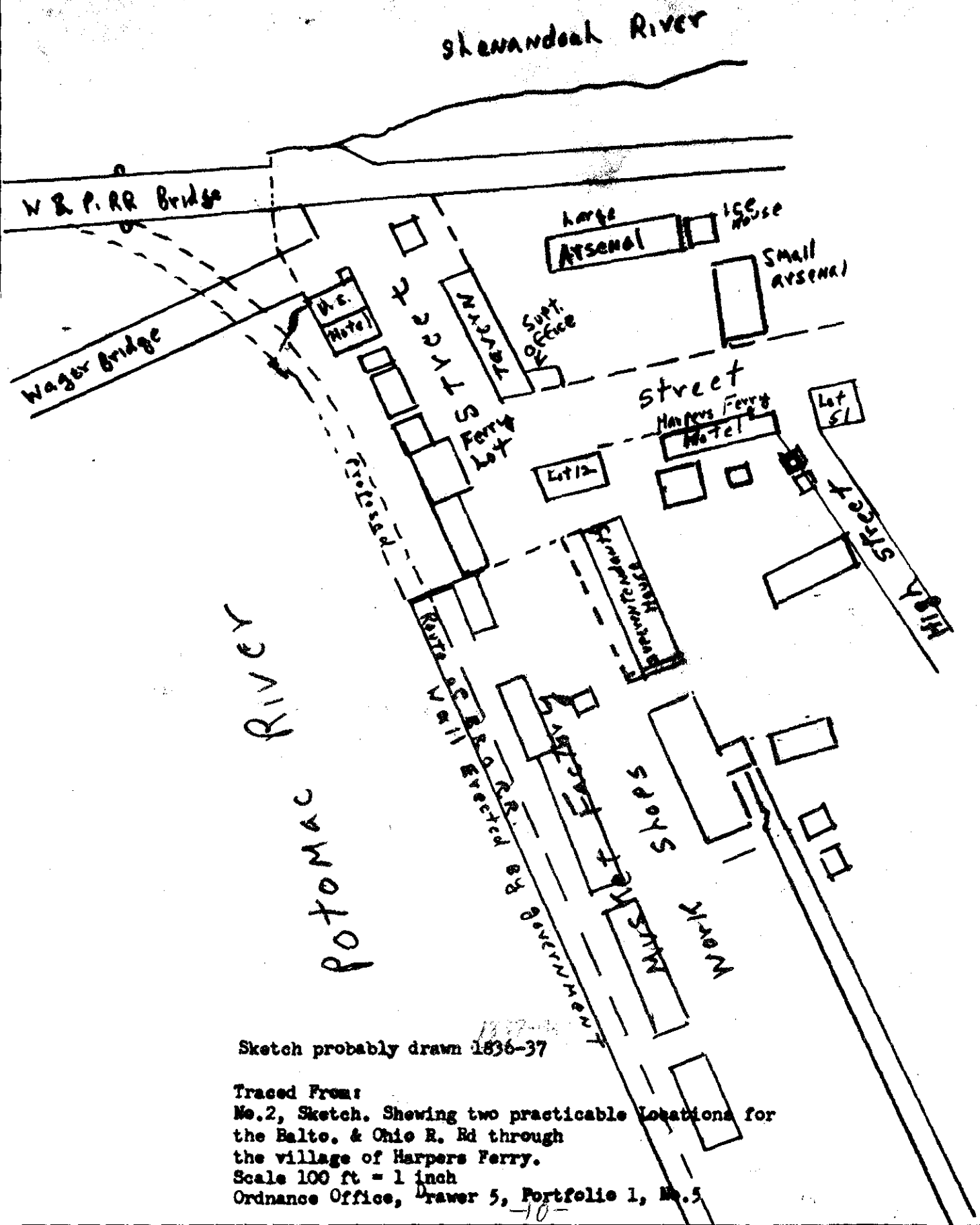
On September 1, 1839, Foley also secured the leasehold on Wager Lot No. 8. His agreement with the Swaynes in 1840, regarding Lot No. 8, indicates that through error, Foley had built over the line about two feet onto Lot No. 8. As the original frontage of Lot No. 7 was 29 feet, this would make the frontage of Foley's new building about 31 feet. Judging by the "Map of Harpers Ferry, Prepared in Compliance with Letter to Major Symington, April 22, 1848,"<sup>20</sup> Foley's new house was about 45 feet deep.

On July 9, 1840, for \$7,200, Foley acquired Wager Lot No. 6 from Gerard B. Wager. The price paid clearly indicates that Lot No. 6 must also have contained a new three story brick building, erected by Gerard B. Wager between 1835 and 1840.<sup>20A</sup>

19. Virginia Free Press, April 18, 1839, p.3, c.1.

20. See Drawing No. NM-HF 3000, in Harpers Ferry Master Plan.

20A. See Map drawn 1837-1838, page 10.



Sketch probably drawn 1836-37

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  
 Ordnance Office, Drawer 5, Portfolio 1, No. 5

The house on Lot No. 6 fronted 29 feet on Potomac Street and judging by the 1848 map, was also about 45 feet deep. Thus the two houses were combined into one three and a half story hotel, fronting about 60 feet on Potomac Street and about 32 feet deep.

After September 1, 1839, and before his death in May, 1842, James Foley apparently made a second addition to the house on Lot No. 7. This consisted of a three story structure running from the boundary line of Lots 6 and 7, across the width of Wager Lot 8, on the rear portion of Lots 7 and 8; thus complying with the terms of the Swayne lease for Lot 8. The new structure was thus located on the river side of the lots or in the rear of the brick 3<sup>21</sup>/<sub>2</sub> story house on Lot No. 7. This new house fronted about 56 feet on the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company tracks and was about 32 feet deep, being attached to the rear of the house on Wager Lot No. 7. As thus constructed, this hotel actually was adjacent to the hotel that was erected on the rear portion of Wager Lot No. 9. (See photographs HF-66, HF-46, and HF-333, Appendix I of this Report). A deed of trust, made in 1850, for the furniture in the hotel, indicates that the building on Lots 6, 7, and 8 contained at that date a public

21. Virginia Free Press, June 12, 1842, p.3, c.3. which will be cited later, indicates that the addition had been completed by 1842.

parlor, a private parlor, a dining room, 28 bedrooms, and a  
garret.<sup>22</sup>

This structure was standing at the time of the John Brown Raid in 1859. The building was burned by Union Troops on February 7, 1862.

3. USE OF THE BUILDINGS ON WAGER LOTS 6, 7, AND PART OF 8.

On September 26, 1839, James Foley announced:

UNITED STATES HOTEL  
AT HARPER-FERRY, VIRGINIA

"The undersigned has opened for the reception of his friends and the travelling public, his NEW HOTEL NEAR THE RAIL-ROAD DEPOT, affording a fine view of the adjacent Mountains and Rivers, and convenient to the Public Works (the Armory). The house is entirely new, and has been erected expressly for a Hotel of the best order. The rooms are neat and comfortable; and the Bar and Table will always be supplied with every thing of the best quality. The servants, attentive and obliging. The friends of the proprietor, and the travelling public, may rely upon finding every exertion made to render their sojourn at this Hotel agreeable and pleasant." 23

Mr. Foley operated this hotel until late in 1841, at which date he leased the structure to the firm of Turner A. Milton, John J. Abell, and James M. Manning.

On November 25, 1841, the firm of T. A. Milton & Company advertised:

UNITED STATES HOTEL  
AT HARPER-FERRY

22. James B. Wager to Isaac Fouke, Trustee, March 6, 1840, Deed of Trust, Deed Book 31, pp.67-70.

23. Virginia Free Press, September 26, 1839, p.3, c.4. Also January 2, 1840, p.3, c.2.

"The undersigned having leased for a term of years the very large and commodious THREE STORY BRICK HOTEL, the property of Mr. James Foley, at Harpers-Ferry, Va., take pleasure in announcing to their numerous friends and the public generally, that they are now prepared to receive and accomodate Boarders, Travellers, and others, who may be pleased to favor them with a call, in a style which they have reason to believe will be entirely satisfactory.

"One of the firm having been for several years the keeper of the Shannondale House, and known to a large portion of the travelling public, he feels some degree of confidence in presenting himself as a HOST in his new location; and the proprietors pledge themselves to use every reasonable exertion to make their house as agreeable to visitors as any Hotel in the country; they, therefore, hope to receive a reasonable share of the patronage of a generous public.

"The house is situated very nearly in the junction of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Harpers-Ferry, and fronts on the latter on the Potomac River, rendering it altogether a desirable stopping place for travellers on either road. Baggage attended to without charge.

"The Dining Room is large and comfortable, and the TABLE shall at all times be furnished with the best fare the country can afford, as well as with the rich and delicious luxuries of the seaboard-served up in a superior style.

"In the BAR will always be found choice Wines and other Liquors.

"The STABLING - which is convenient to the house - shall be well provided with good Hays, Oats, and Corn, and attended by careful and competent Ostlers." 24

25

This firm operated the U. S. Hotel until June of 1842.

On June 3, 1842, Eli H. Carrell put in trust:

24. Virginia Free Press, November 25, 1841, p.3, c.1.

25. The firm of T. A. Milton and Company was officially dissolved in March, 1843, Virginia Free Press, March 23, 1843, p.3, c.1.

"The stable of said Carrell built on the U. S. land at Harpers Ferry and on the Shenandoah River, and all the appurtenance thereunto belonging, being the same stable erected and built by John Littlejohn from whom the said Carrell purchased, The household and kitchen furniture of said Carrell at the White House of Mrs. Margaret Gibson at Harpers Ferry (a hotel on Wager Lot No. 9) and also all the property of every description purchased...by the said Eli H. Carrell of T. A. Milton and Co. said property consisting of all the household, bar and kitchen furniture of the said T. A. Milton Co.'s United States Hotel (on Wager Lots 6, 7, and part of 8) at Harpers Ferry and a stable built by the said T. A. Milton and Co. at Harpers Ferry on part of (Wager) Lot No. 16..." 26

On June 16, 1842, Mr. Eli H. Carrell announced:

VIRGINIA HOUSE  
AND  
UNITED STATES HOTEL

"Travellers and others are respectfully informed that the undersigned have resumed business at his old stand, the VIRGINIA HOUSE (located on Wager Lot 6), at Harpers-Ferry, and has rented in addition the United States Hotel (on Wager Lots 7 and part of 8), adjoining. By this combination, he has secured one of the most commodious and comfortable Hotels in the Valley, with parlors and chambers neat and airy, and very pleasantly situated.

"The arrangement of the travel on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad makes this point an important one to travellers. From the West, a train leaves Hancock in the morning at 6 o'clock, and in the evening at 7. So that passengers can breakfast and sup here on their way down; and those who come in the evening at half past 8, and wish to avoid night travel, can remain here all night, have time the next morning to view the magnificent works of Nature and Art to be found here, and reach the Baltimore at half past 2 P.M.

"From the East, the first train arrives at half past 12, noon, and the second at 8½ P.M., remaining long enough to give passengers time to sup.

"With this arrangement, the undersigned may safely call attention to the accommodations of THE LARGE BRICK HOUSE, immediately on the line of the Road, as in no respects to be

26. Deed of Trust, June 3, 1842, Deed Book 26, pp.9-11.

surpassed; and he can pledge himself to make very proper effect to minister to the comfort of his guests.

N. B. There are two large stables connected with this Hotel, well supplied and attended by careful Ostlers." 27

In 1842 and 1843, Gerard B. Wager purchased Wager Lots 6 and 7 from the estate of James Foley for \$8,500. In 1846, Gerard Wager also acquired Wager Lot 3 from the Swaynes for \$3,000.

In the fall of 1843, a "Kambler" visited the U. S. Hotel at Harpers' Ferry, and wrote the following account of his visit:

"Messrs. Editors:

Travelling the other day to Harpers-Ferry, whilst the waters were yet in the cellars and premises of many of the citizens, I dropped in, amid amusing bustle among the passengers, the landlords, and the bar-keepers, to see what could be had to "comfort the inward man" at Carrell's Hotel. I found the house had undergone some judicious and pleasant alterations, making access to it from the Rail-Road very convenient. The porticoes are enlarged, so as to afford a fine view of the scenery to the North and East, and of the Cars meeting on the magnificent Bridge. The dining room will accommodate near a hundred guests at once; and I was agreeably disappointed to find that, amidst all the inconveniences, and the necessity of cooking (during the high water) in neighboring houses, every thing was abundant and well prepared, and the attendants prompt and exceedingly obliging. In addition to the efforts of the host himself, the "head electioner" is a "whole Team;" and, although the system of obtaining business is sometimes annoying to the traveller, yet the grace and good humor with which the CLARKE bows you in, and bows you out when well fed, at once reconciles you to the custom, and you leave with pleasant remembrances..." 28

In March of 1845, Mr. Carrell sold off his furniture in

27. Virginia Free Press, June 16, 1842, p.3, c.3. Also June 30, 1842, p.3, c.5. September 22, 1842, p.3, c.5.

28. Virginia Free Press, September 28, 1843, p.2, c.6.

the United States Hotel, his lease having apparently expired  
for Wager Lots 6, 7, and part of 8, and for the next few years  
confirmed his operations to the Hotel on Wager Lot No. 9. 29

In 1845, Mr. Joseph F. Abell announced:

UNITED STATES HOTEL  
HARPERS-FERRY, VA.

"The undersigned most respectfully informs the public that he has leased the Hotel at Harpers-Ferry, known as the UNITED STATES HOTEL. he has been flattered by the kind testimonials he has received of the satisfaction and approval of his conduct as a landlord in Charlestown, and bringing to his residence the experience of some years, he believes he will be able to maintain his character among his friends, and to acquire new tributes of approbation from the travelling public. He is determined to keep a good house, and one which will recommend itself.

"He asks the travellers by the Rail Road as well as all other to give him one call, and if there by any reasonable cause of complaint of the fare or manner of its service, a second visit will not be expected. He will endeavor to be polite and courteous, and all in his employ, connected with the Hotel, will be required to practice the same deportment. Preparations have been made for the accommodation of visitors singly or in families, and the best the markets afford will be at the service of his patrons. His bar will be furnished with good WINES and LIQUORS, and his Stable will be attended by one of the best ostlers the State can produce." 30

A few months later, the editor of the Virginia Free Press, visited the U. S. Hotel and reported:

A FIRST RATE HOTEL.

"The praise of ABELL'S HOTEL at Harpers-Ferry is in the mouth of every traveller and well may this be so, for he puts

29. Virginia Free Press, March 13, 1845, p.3, c.7.

30. Virginia Free Press, April 10, 1845, p.2, c.7.

many delicious morsels into their mouths. We took occasion the other day to lay down our knife and fork long enough to take a glance at the abundance and variety before us, and an epicure may judge from the list below, whether there were not enough of the "creature comforts" on the board, to make him feel complacent and happy the balance of the day. Here are the items:

MEATS.

Ham, Roast Beef, Mutton, boiled and roasted, Roast Duck, Fried Chicken, Roast Veal and Veal Cutlets.

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes, new and old, Beets, Cabbages, Asparagus, Peas, Beans, and Cimblins.

DESSERT.

Apple Pie, Raspberry Pie, Lemon Pie, Cherry Pie, Raspberries, and Cream.

Liquors, old and mellow, and every thing cooked in the best style, and table furniture pure and bright, what is to hinder Capt. Abell from making his way to the hearts of the travelling multitude? Well, indeed, does he deserve the overflowing patronage bestowed upon him." 31

In March of 1848, Mr. Abell sold off the furniture in his

32

U. S. Hotel, his lease having apparently also expired.

In April, 1848, the new leasee, James Bate Wager, announced:

UNITED STATES HOTEL

HARPERS-FERRY, VA.

"The undersigned would respectfully inform the public that he has leased the Hotel at Harpers-Ferry (late in the occupancy) of Capt. Joseph P. Abell) known as the UNITED STATES HOTEL, and is now prepared to accommodate passengers by the Rail Road, or travellers, in the most comfortable manner. Those travelling in the Cars will find this a most agreeable Dining Place, where every fruit of the season, and luxury that can be had will be served up in the most choice style...

"To the people of this and the neighboring Counties he would say, that his House shall always be open for their reception and accommodation, as he is determined to make their calls agreeable. His Bar shall contain the choicest Liquors - his Table the best the market affords - his Chambers well furnished - and his Stabling which is commodious, shall contain the best provender and attended by attentive hostlers.

31. Virginia Free Press, June 26, 1845, p.2, c.1.

32. Virginia Free Press, March 4, 1848, p.3, c.3.

"Give the House a call, and judge of its merits for yourselves."

In March, 1850, James B. Wager's lease to the United States Hotel apparently expired and the furnishings of the hotel were sold in turn to Eli H. Carrell for \$2,941.38.<sup>34</sup>

Thus in 1850, Mr. Carrell, who had been operating the "Western Exchange Hotel" that was located on Wager Lot No. 9, also secured the lease to the United States Hotel and operated both hotels jointly. In May of that year he announced his grand combination:

CARRELL'S DINING HOUSE,  
HARPERS-FERRY, VA.

The Regular Dining Place, where Passengers Have  
ample time to Dine, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

"Occupying a large Hotel, capable of Dining 300 Passengers, I will have daily for Dinner, Roast Beef, Mutton, Veal and Fowl; Boiled Ham, Corned Beef and Chickens; Soup and Fish in season, with a plentiful supply of Vegetables and Pastry, Fruit, &c. In fact, every thing that the markets will afford, will always be found at his table.

ICE CREAM served up during the season at short notice.

"Ladies and Gentlemen wishing to remain at Harpers-Ferry, will find this House newly fitted and furnished, the Parlor and Chambers well arranged, to make their stay at this romantic spot agreeable.

"I return my thanks to the many thousands who have patronized me, and will always endeavor to merit their support.

33. Virginia Free Press, April 8, 1848, p.3, c.1. also May 10, 1849, p.4, c.4. February 14, 1850, p.4, c.7.

34. Deed of Trust, March 6, 1850, Deed Book 31, pp.67-70, and Sale of Property, March 16, 1850, Deed Book 31, pp.136-141.

"To my country friends, and strangers visiting this place in carriages or on horseback, I will say that my Stabling is large and well supplied with the best of Provender, attended by a careful Ostler. And my Bar with choice liquors, ale, &c. My charges to suit the times." 35

In June, 1850, it was announced that "The Great New York and Boston Dry Goods & Bonnet Company have located a branch of their extensive establishment at Carrell's United States Hotel at Harpers Ferry." 36

In August, 1850, the newspaper reported, under the heading "CHOLERA AT HARPERS FERRY; Died on Thursday morning, of cholera, Mr. Eli H. Carrell, Proprietor of the Exchange and U. S. Hotel." "Mr. Carrell's illness," the editor continued, "was of short duration. He was taken about 3 o'clock in the morning - and in an hour after, he was a corpse. We dined at his house on Wednesday, and found him enjoying his usual health..." 37

His wife, Mrs. Margaret Carrell, however, continued the business, announcing:

#### CARRELL'S HOTEL

"Mrs. Carrell respectfully announcing to the public that the Hotel is still open for accommodation of persons passing or visiting Harpers Ferry. The premises have undergone thorough painting and cleansing - and she is prepared to accommodate in a style not surpassed on the route - she invites the patronage of the travelling public." 38

35. Virginia Free Press, May 17, 1850, p.3, c.3.

36. Virginia Free Press, June 28, 1850, p.3, c.1.

37. Virginia Free Press, August 9, 1850, p.3, c.3.

38. Virginia Free Press, September 20, 1850, p.3, c.3; December 20, 1850, p.3, c.3; March 7, 1851, p.2, c.7; October 23, 1851, p.4, c.5; March 25, 1852, p.3, c.7.

Mrs. Carrell's lease was apparently due to expire in April, 1852, for Noah H. Swayne, the Executor of G. B. Wager's estate, advertised in March:

THE U. S. HOTEL AT HARPERS FERRY  
FOR RENT

"On Saturday, March 27, that large and commodious Hotel belonging to the estate of the Gerard B. Wager, deceased, will be offered at public renting, for the year commencing April 1st, 1852, and ending April 1, 1853, or for a longer term, if desired, unless sooner rented privately." 39

Mrs. Carrell, however, again secured the lease to the U. S. Hotel, and this she operated jointly with the Exchange Hotel on Wager Lot No. 9, from 1852 to March, 1856. In 1853, she advertised:

U. S. HOTEL  
HARPERS FERRY, VIRGINIA  
MRS. ELI H. CARRELL

"Respectfully announces to her friends and the travelling public generally, that DINNER is daily in readiness at 2½ o'clock, expressly for the Passengers on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in the down train going East, and for the special accommodation of Passengers on the Winchester trains.

BREAKFAST AT 8 O'CLOCK, A.M.

which is in time to afford an hour to remain before the departure of the Baltimore 9 o'clock train.

SUPPER AT 9 O'CLOCK, P.M.

which gives time sufficient to stop two hours before the Winchester train leaves on its return.

OYSTERS at all hours for those who prefer them.

Mrs. E. H. Carrell avails herself of this occasion to offer her grateful acknowledgements to those who have so liberally patronized the U. S. Hotel, and assures them and all others that she is determined to make the house, in all respects, the stranger's

39. Virginia Free Press, March 18, 1852, p.3, c.2.

40  
home."

In June, 1853, the editor of the Virginia Free Press again commented on Mrs. Carrell and her hotel:

U. S. HOTEL, HARPERS FERRY

"This necessary resort for the travelling public, immediately at the junction of the Winchester with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and at which all the passengers by the former and the Western train of the latter, have opportunity of Dining, is still under the management of Mrs. CARRELL, assisted by Mr. Young, of long experience and most thorough acquaintance with everything that is necessary to a first-rate hotel. Mrs. Carrell is a lady of the most indomitable energy and perseverance, and eminently deserving for her many generous traits, the liberal patronage of the travelling public. And as the season of the year is not just at hand, when the Cities send forth their countless multitudes in pursuit of health or pleasure, we know of no point at which a day or two could be more profitably and agreeably spent, than in taking a bird's eye view of the numerous attractions in and around Harper's Ferry, and particularly of the hospitality and kind attentions which the U. S. Hotel will afford. It has just been thoroughly overhauled, the parlors decorated with new and handsome furniture, every portion of the house papered or whitewashed, new carpeting put down, and through the taste and good will of Mr. Tacy, almost the whole interior handsomely and most tastefully painted..." 41

From April 1, 1856, until March 31, 1857, the United States  
42  
Hotel was apparently leased by William J. Maxwell.

40. Virginia Free Press, February 3, 1853, p.3,c.1, also p.2,c.1. Evidence that Mrs. Carrell also held the lease to the Hotel on Wager Lot No. 9 will be found in Virginia Free Press, March 10, 1853, p.3,c.1. March 2, 1854, p.3,c.3; April 24, 1856, p.3,c.2. July 10, 1856, p.3,c.3. October 9, 1856, p.3,c.4.

41. Virginia Free Press, June 30, 1853, p.2,c.1. For advertisements of Hotel, see issues for November 16, 1854, p.4,c.2; September 6, 1855, p.3,c.2; January 3, 1856, p.4, c.1.

42. Virginia Free Press, March 19, 1857, p.3,c.1 - notice of sale of his furniture located in U. S. Hotel. Also Sale List, dated October 23, 1857, Deed Book 37, pp.333-350.

43. Virginia Free Press, June 2, 1857, p.2,c.7.

In June, 1857, the U. S. Hotel on Wager Lots No. 6, 7, and part of 8 was leased by a new proprietor and received a new name:

WAGER HOUSE  
J. P. A. Entler Prop.  
Harpers-Ferry, Va.

"This Hotel is situated on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and having undergone thorough repair recently, may now be considered one of the most pleasant houses in the country. The proprietor is determined to spare neither expense nor labor in endeavoring to do away with the prejudice that may prevail in the minds of the public in reference to accommodation at this place. His table will be furnished with the best the neighboring and Baltimore Markets will afford. His chambers will be clean and comfortable. In short, every thing will be done to make it a pleasant sojourn for persons wishing to view the magnificent scenery and visit the work shops of the National Armory located at this place." 43

The editor of the newspaper also commented on this change in management:

WAGER HOUSE

"Mr. J. P. A. Entler has become the proprietor of the old U. S. Hotel, Harpers Ferry, situated on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and having renovated the whole concern, it may well be classed as one of the best eating houses on the road, as evidenced by the universal expression of the passengers on the cars. Much prejudice had heretofore existed against the Hotel, but from the improvements made in the whole interior of the house, together with the indefatigable exertions of the host and his assistants, the "Wager House" will gain a reputation equal to any of the best Railroad Eating Houses. Mr. Entler gives his entire attention to the wants and comforts of his guests." 44

43. Virginia Free Press, June 2, 1857, p.2, c.7.

44. Virginia Free Press, July 2, 1857, p.2, c.3. Other advertisements, July 1, 1858, p.4, c.7. July 15, 1858, p.4, c.7.

Mr. Entler operated the Wager House from June, 1857, until March 1859. In April of the latter year, it was announced:

THE WAGER HOUSE  
In the romantic Village of Harpers-Ferry

"Sole proprietor of this large and commodious Hotel, I announce to the public that it is being newly fitted up and prepared for their accommodation. The public is deeply interested in the maintenance of a GOOD HOTEL at this point. Having taken an assignment, from the leasee, of the unexpired term, and purchased the furniture thereof, besides making large additions of handsome and valuable furniture thereto, it shall be my aim to sustain the reputation of the House, so well established under the late proprietor, MR. J. P. A. ENTLER. The patrons of the House whether visiting our village on business or seeking pleasure, may rest assured no effort will be spared to render satisfaction and promote their comfort.

ISAAC FOUKE PROPRIETOR, APRIL 21, 1859." 45

In May, 1859, the editor again commented on this development:

WAGER HOUSE HOTEL

"We have heretofore omitted to mention that the Wager House, Harpers Ferry, has gone into the hands of ISAAC FOUKE, ESQ. Mr. Fouke will keep a good hotel, and will accommodate comfortably those stopping at his house. He is abundantly able to do so, not withstanding the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company have withdrawn from there as an eating house (because the Bar had apparently become the main attraction at the Wager House, the Railroad Company moved their business to the Hotel on Wager Lot 9, which they also apparently owned, see below).

"Although Harpers Ferry is one of the most important points on the road, there is not room for the accommodation of female passengers; and the hotel is imposed upon by many who do not spend a cent with the landlord. Such things should not be; but, perhaps, when the Company's attention is directed to it, a remedy will be made.

"Mr. Fouke makes no objection, however, and is willing that all who may see proper to await the arrival of the cars at his hotel can do so." 46

45. Virginia Free Press, December 8, 1859, p.1, c.3.

46. Ibid., May 5, p.2, c.4.

Mr. Fouke continued to operate the Wager House from April, 1859 until April, 1861. <sup>47</sup> The Wager House played an important role in the John Brown Raid of October, 1859, it was to this building that many of the wounded were carried, from its bar many of the militia did their "best fighting", from the porch of the Wager House, Governor Henry A. Wise of Virginia read letters of the Brown raiders to the mob and here he resided during his stay at the village, and here Mrs. John Brown stayed when she came to Harpers Ferry in December, 1859, for her last visit with her husband and to receive his body.

The census of 1860 provides us with the following data on Mr. Fouke and his staff:

"Isaac Fouke, 53, male, Lawyer, Value of Real Estate: \$2,000, Value of Personal Estate: \$15,000.  
 Margaret Fouke, 48, female, born in Ireland.  
 Charles F. Fouke, 8, male, born in Virginia.  
 Elizabeth Fouke, 6, female, born in Virginia.  
 Ella Fouke, 4, female, born in Virginia.  
 George C. Miller, 23, male, clerk, born in Virginia.  
 Nathaniel C. Lupton, 25, male, clerk, born in Virginia.  
 Jacob Seibert, 60, male, Black, Cook, born in Virginia.  
 Susana Seibert, 40, female, Black, Cook, born in Virginia." 48

In February, 1861, Mr. B. Cushwa, administrator of the estate of Gerard B. Wager, advertised:

47. Virginia Free Press, February 16, 1860 p.2, c.1; March 1, 1860, p.2, c.4; March 8, 1860, p.2, c.1.

48. 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, pp.190-191.

FOR RENT  
THE "WAGER HOUSE" AT HARPERS FERRY, VA.  
FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE UNITED STATES HOTEL

"Now occupied by Mr. Fouke. This large and commodious HOTEL, will be offered at public renting, to the highest bidder, on Saturday, 23rd of February next, on the premises, for the term of two or three years from the 1st of April, 1861..." 49

In April, 1861, the Civil War began and on February 7, 1862, Union troops burned the Wager House Hotel and all other buildings located on the Wager Ferry Lot to the ground.

B. Store Under the Wager House.

In 1853, a newspaper advertisement announced:

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 VESTINGS, 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. 50

R. H. BROWN, G. W. CUTSHAW, AGENT."

This store was apparently located in or under the United States Hotel and may have remained in business at this site until December, 1855. In January, 1856, a new business occupied this store:

JOS. E. CLAGETT'S WHOLESALE

49. Virginia Free Press, February 14, 1861, p.3, c.1. Also p.2, c.1.

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

& RETAIL DRUG STORE  
(under the United State Hotel, Harpers Ferry)

"The subscriber would respectfully call the attention of the public to his large and varied assortment of Fresh and Genuine

DRUGS, MEDICINES, AND CHEMICALS...

Physicians' Prescriptions, Paints, Oil Dye Stuffs, glass, putty, varnishes, paint brushes, and burning fluid. French, English, and German toilet articles, such as extracts for Hdkrs. Cognacs, soaps, Pink saucers, Lilly Whites, combs, brushes, etc., Hammonds' Castor Oil, Pomade, amber tooth Paste, and Montpeer Cough Drops, School Books, Novels, Annuals, Monthly Periodicals, Toys and Song Books, Stationary, Pictures, &c. Surgical Instruments, Finest Chewing Tobacco & Segars..." 51

Dr. Clagett's store remained at this location from 1856 until the beginning of the Civil War. In September, 1860, Dr. Nicholson announced:

DR. T. A. NICHOLSON

"Having located permanently at Harpers Ferry, tenders his professional services to the citizens generally. He may be always found at the residence of his brother-in-law, Philip Schaarman, Esq., or at Dr. Clagett's Drug Store, when not professionally engaged." 52

The census of 1860 indicates that Dr. Clagett was probably residing on the Island of Virginus and also reveals the following information on this gentleman:

"Joseph E. Clagett, 30, male, Physician and Druggist, Value of Real Estate: \$2,500; Value of Personal Estate: \$5,500, born in Maryland.

Sidney Clagett, 28, female, born in Virginia.

Rose Clagett, 5, female, born in Virginia." 53

51. Virginia Free Press, January 3, 1856, p.2,c.5. January 10, 1856, p.2,c.6.

52. Ibid., December 8, 1859, p.2,c.7; September 6, 1860, p.3,c.2.

53. 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, p.202.

4. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND PRINTS.

All historical prints and photographs of the United States Hotel or Wager House will be found in Appendix I of this report.

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.

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 July 9, 1840, Wager Lot No. 6 owned by Gerard B. Wager.

3. July 9, 1840, to November 19, 1842, Lot No. 6 owned by James Foley, purchase price: \$7,200.

4. November 19, 1842, to 1865, Lot No. 6 owned by Gerard B. Wager (by his estate 1848-1865), purchase price: \$5,000.

5. October 10, 1835, to June 18, 1836, Lot No. 7 owned by James B. Wager.

6. June 18, 1836, to March 18, 1843, Lot No. 7 owned by James Foley, purchase price: \$1,850.

7. March 18, 1843, to 1865, Lot No. 7 owned by Gerard B. Wager (by his estate 1848-1865), purchase price \$3,500.

8. October 10, 1835, to September 11, 1846, Lot No. 8 owned by Noah H. Swayne.

9. April 1, 1838, to September 1, 1839, Lot No. 8 leased by Swaynes to Susan Downey for 15 years at \$120 per year.

10. September 1, 1839, to March 13, 1843, Lot 8 leased by Susan Downey to James Foley.

11. March 13, 1843, to September 11, 1846, Foley's leasehold to Lot 8 apparently held by Gerard<sup>D</sup>. Wager.

12. September 11, 1846, to 1865, Lot No. 8 purchased by Gerard B. Wager for \$3, 000 from the Swaynes. (Held by Wager's estate, 1848-1865).

B. Construction of the U. S. Hotel or Wager House.

The building on Wager Lot No. 7 was erected by James Foley between August, 1837, and April, 1839. It is also highly probable that the building occupying Lot No. 6, and owned by Gerard B. Wager, was constructed jointly at the same time as the house on Lot 7. It is also possible that Gerard Wager advanced the money to Foley to construct both buildings. Each brick building was 3½ stories high and about 45 feet deep. The structure on Lot 6 fronted 29 feet on Potomac Street and the house on Lot 7, 31 feet on the same street. The house on Lot No. 7 contained 14 rooms in 1839 and was designed for use as a hotel.

Between September, 1839, and April, 1842, James Foley made further additions to these houses. This consisted of a three story brick building, erected in the rear of the house on Lot No. 7, running from the boundary line of 6 and 7 across the entire width of Lot No. 8. This structure was about 32 feet

wide and fronted 58 feet on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks. The new building was also designed for use as a hotel. In 1850, the three buildings contained a public parlor, a private parlor, a dining room, 28 bed rooms and a garret. In 1853, one further change was made to the hotel - a store was constructed in or under the hotel. The exact location of the store in this building is not known.

C. Uses of the Building.

1. September, 1839, to November, 1841. The United States Hotel, operated by James Foley.

2. November, 1841, to June, 1842. The United States Hotel, operated by T. A. Milton & Company (Turner A. Milton, John J. Abell, and James M. Manning).

3. June, 1842, to March, 1845. United States Hotel, operated by Mr. Eli H. Carrell.

4. April, 1845, to March, 1848. United States Hotel, operated by Joseph F. Abell.

5. April, 1848, to March, 1850. United States Hotel, operated by James Bate Wager.

6. April, 1850, to March, 1856. United States Hotel (operated jointly with the Western Exchange Hotel located on Wager Lot No. 3) by Eli H. Carrell and after his death in August, 1850, by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Carrell. Store under U. S. Hotel, 1853 to 1855: Harpers Ferry Clothing Store, operated

by George W. Cutshaw as agent for R. H. Brown. 1856: Dr. Joseph E. Clagett's Drug Store.

7. April, 1856, to March, 1857. United States Hotel, operated by William J. Maxwell. Store under Hotel: Dr. Joseph E. Clagett's Drug Store.

8. April, 1857, to March, 1859. Wager House Hotel, operated by J. P. A. Entler. Store under Hotel: Dr. Joseph E. Clagett's Drug Store.

9. April, 1859, to March, 1861. Wager House Hotel, operated by Isaac Fouke. Store under Hotel: Dr. Joseph E. Clagett's Drug Store.

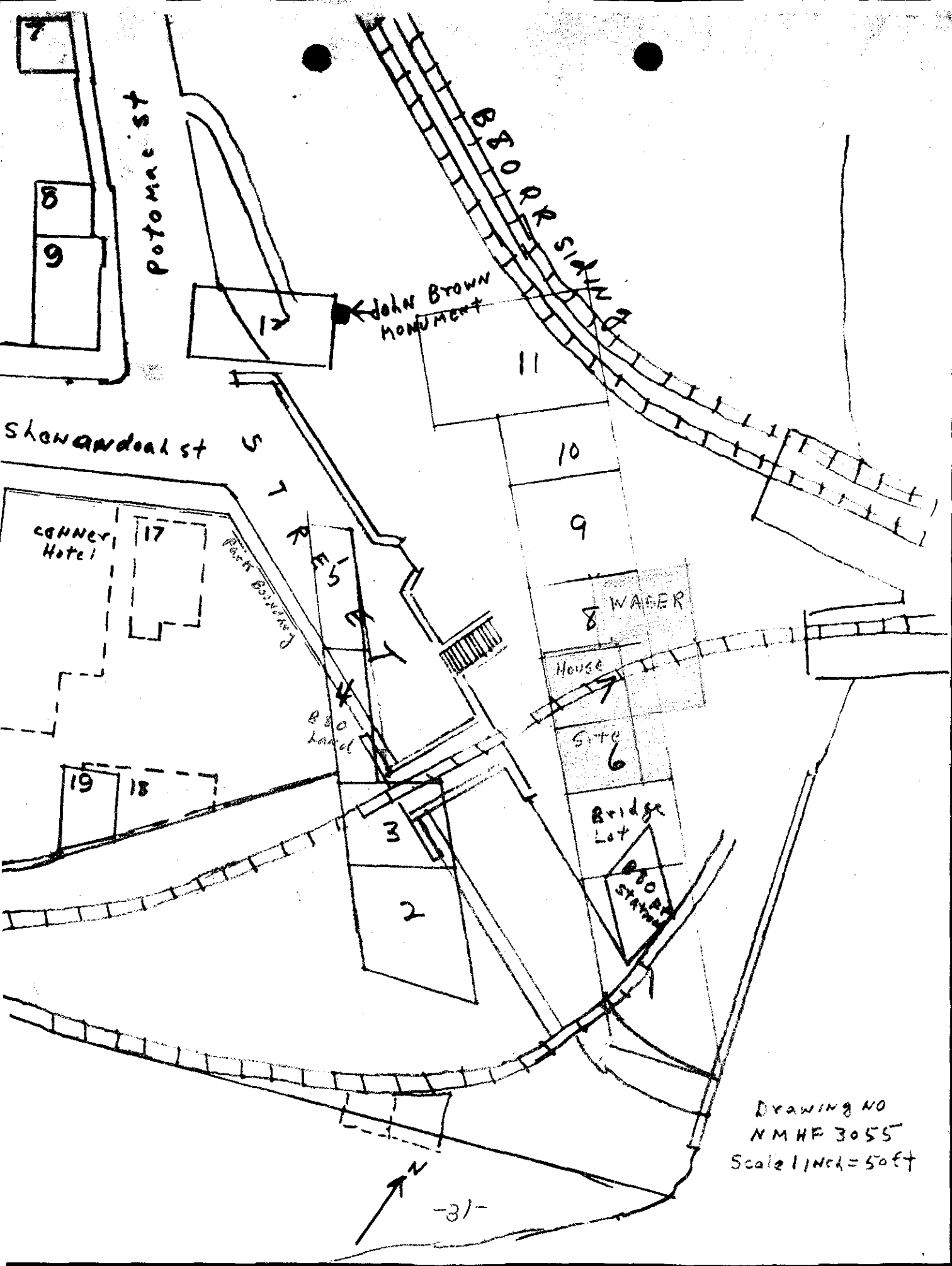
10. February 7, 1862. Building destroyed by Union troops.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

For the location of the United States Hotel or Wager House in relation to modern features and Monument boundaries see the tracing made from Drawing No. MM-MP-3055 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 prints and photographs contained in this report as well as a map relating building sites to modern features.

*Charles W. Snell*  
Charles W. Snell  
Historian (Park Supervisory)  
August 7, 1958



Drawing NO  
NMHF 3055  
Scale 1 inch = 50 ft

APPENDIX I

HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

(seven)

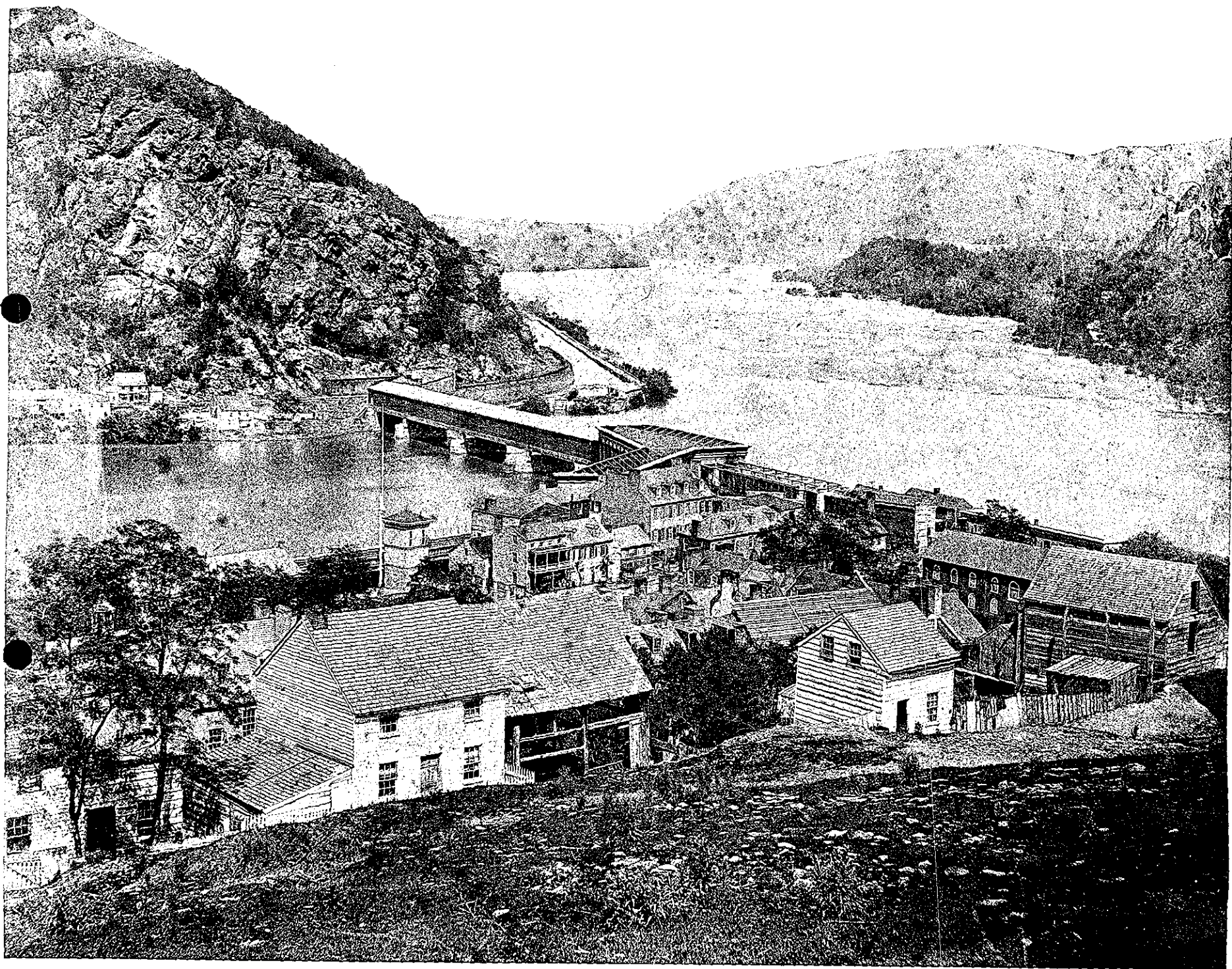
HARPERS FERRY FROM CHURCH STREET

Original Photograph contributed by John Parry of  
Bolivar Heights.

National Geographic File No. 140323-A.

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HP-66.

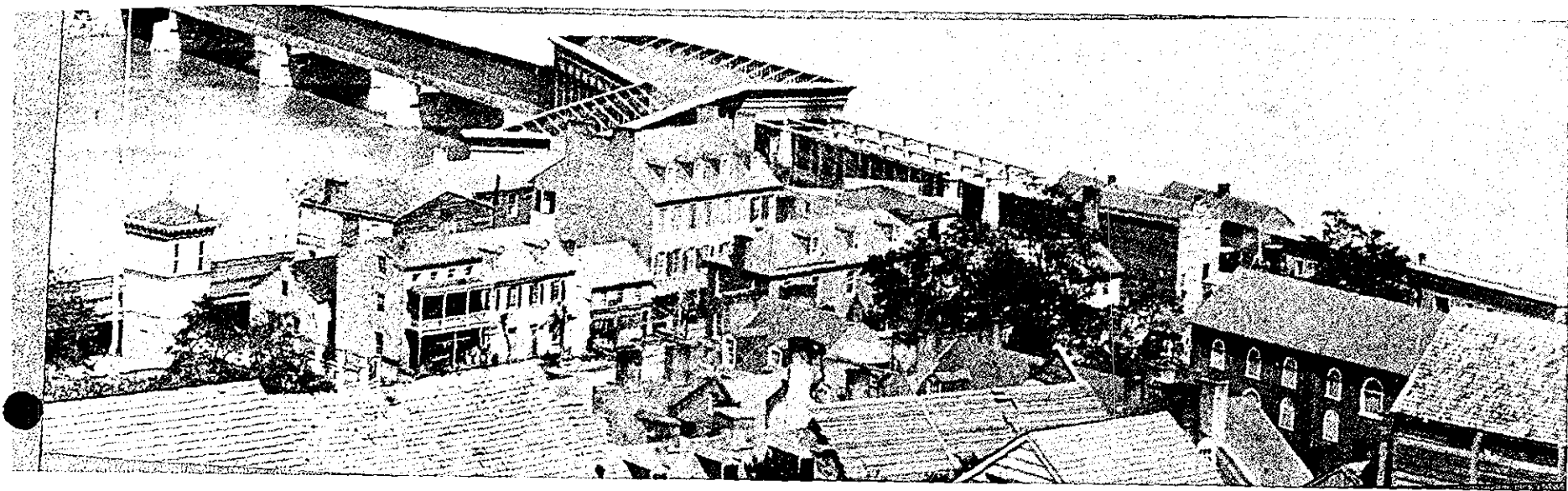
This photograph is believed to have been taken in 1859 and in any case certainly shows the town before June, 1861, as the old B. & O. R.R. across the Potomac is still intact. The WAGER HOUSE HOTEL (or United States Hotel), located on Wager Lots No. 6, 7, and Part of 8, is to be clearly seen, situated by the Y in the Railroad Bridge. This is the large  $3\frac{1}{2}$  story building at that point; just to the left of it, and on the river-side, located on part of Lot 8, is to be seen a portion of the brick three story addition of the hotel. The large three story brick building located just to the left of the Wager House, also fronting on the River and Railroad track, is the Western Exchange Hotel or Potomac Restaurant located on Wager Lot No. 9; the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  story stone building just in front of it, on Potomac Street is also located on Lot 9; the small 2 story building just to the right, is located on Part of Lot 8. The three story and two story structures located to the left of the structures on Lot 9, are situated on Lot 10.



HARPERS FERRY FROM CHURCH STREET - 1859

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-450.

This photograph is a blow up made from Negative No. HF-86. The WAGER HOUSE is the large 3½ story brick building located in the Y of the R.R. Bridge across the Potomac. Just to the right of the Hotel, the two story building to be seen in part, is the B. & O. R.R. Depot.

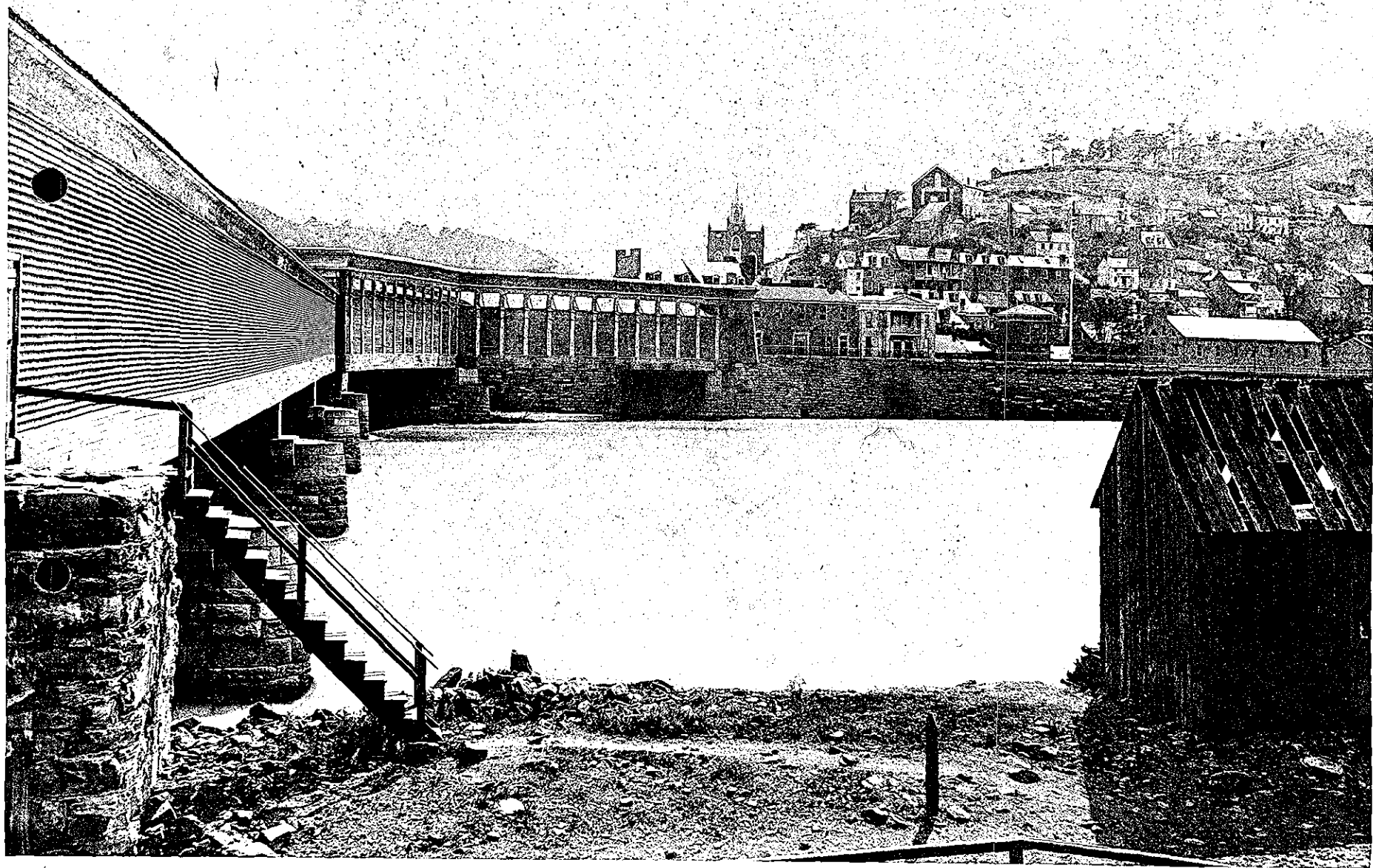


HARPERS FERRY AND WOODEN COVERED RAILROAD BRIDGE  
FROM THE MARYLAND SHORE, 1859 - April, 1861

Original contributed by John Perry of Bolivar Heights.  
National Geographic File No. 140319-A.  
Harpers Ferry Negative No. HP-64.

This photograph was taken before April 18, 1861,  
as the Armory Buildings have not been burned and the  
R.R. Bridge is still intact.

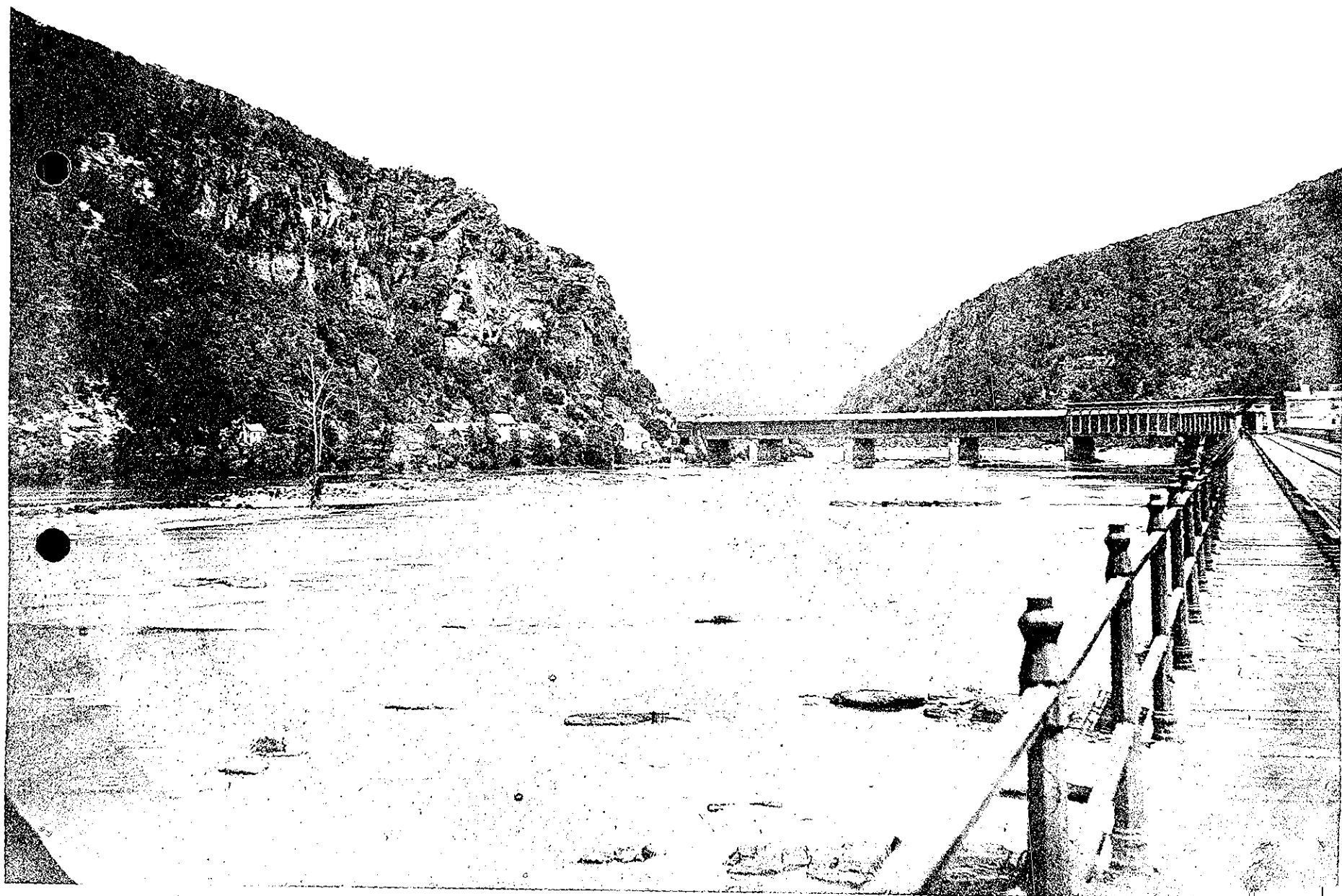
The 3 story brick building (roof visible above  
the bridge) and the 3 story brick structure just to  
the right of the end of the bridge is the WAGER HOUSE  
or old United States Hotel. The 3 story brick building,  
with the portico, adjoining this, just to the right,  
is the "Potomac Restaurant" or Carrell's old Western  
Exchange Hotel, located on Wager Lot No. 9. The  
two story building, roof showing, just to the right  
is located on Lot No. 10. The small square brick  
building about 3 stories high, moving to the right,  
is the B. & O. Water Tower. The large brick building  
located to the right of the flag pole is one of the  
Armory Shops.



THE WOODEN R. & O. RAILROAD BRIDGE AT HARPERS FERRY  
1859 - June 13, 1861

Original contributed by Mr. John Perry of Bolivar Heights.  
National Geographic File No. 140322-A.  
Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-65.

This photograph was taken before the railroad bridge was destroyed on June 14, 1859. At the right is the Harpers Ferry side. Just to the right of the end of the bridge are to be seen the Wager House and Potomac Restaurant Hotels. Note how the railroad ran along the edge of the river on a trestle located on top of the stone river wall.



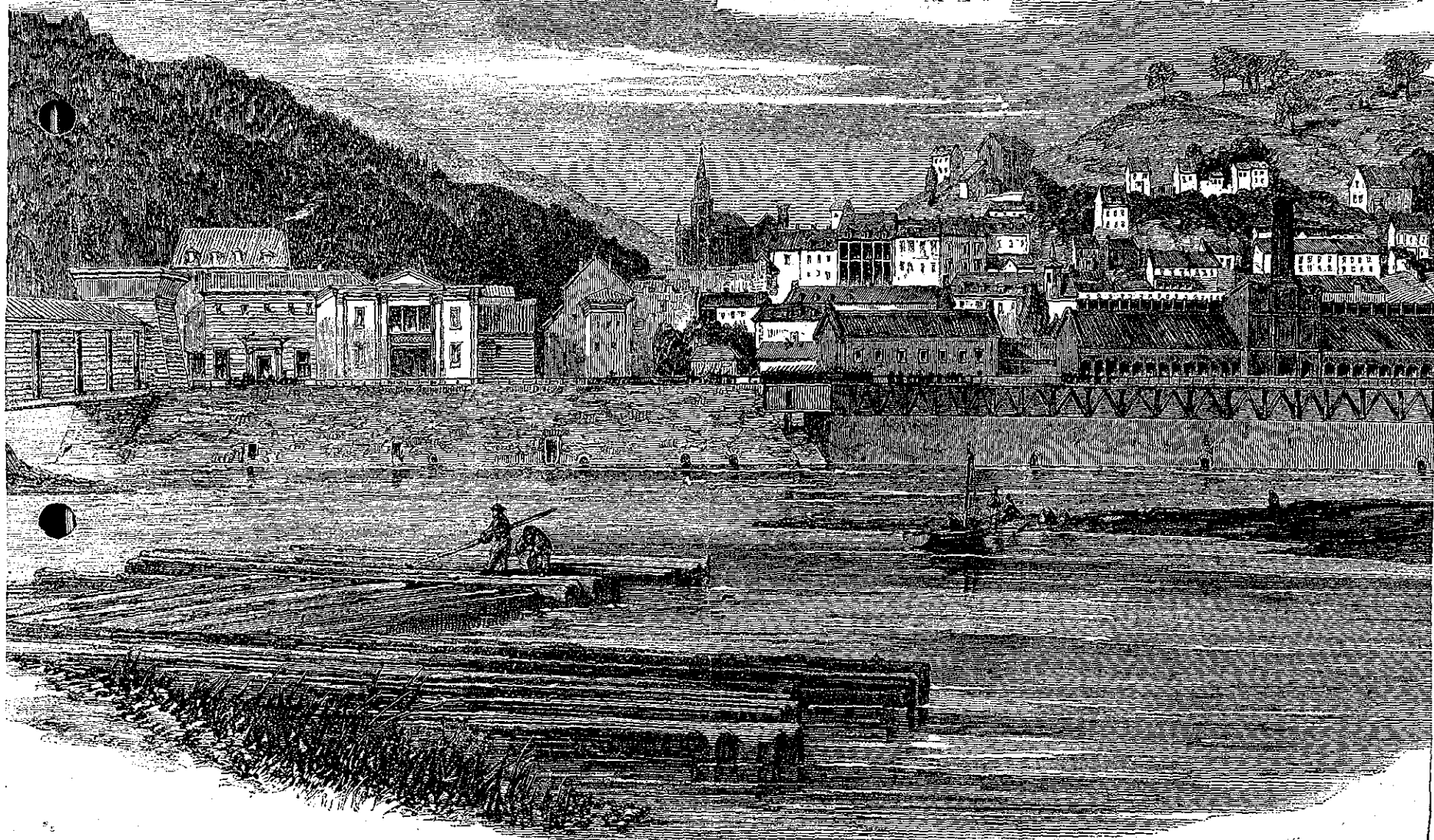
THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA - HARPERS FERRY, VA.  
JUNE 22, 1861

Published in the London Illustrated News, June 22, 1861.

1/2 page print donated by Mrs. Henry McDonald, Storer College.

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF--382.

The wooden railroad bridge at the left, then the WAGER HOUSE (3 1/2 story roof showing and three story brick addition in foreground on river front) next, with portico, the brick three story Potomac Restaurant, adjoining this on the right the two story house on Lot No. 10; Small three story brick building on river front is the B. & O. Water Tower, 3 1/2 story building behind water tower is Bldgs. No. 9 and 8, to the right of the water tower are the Armory or Musket Factory Shops.



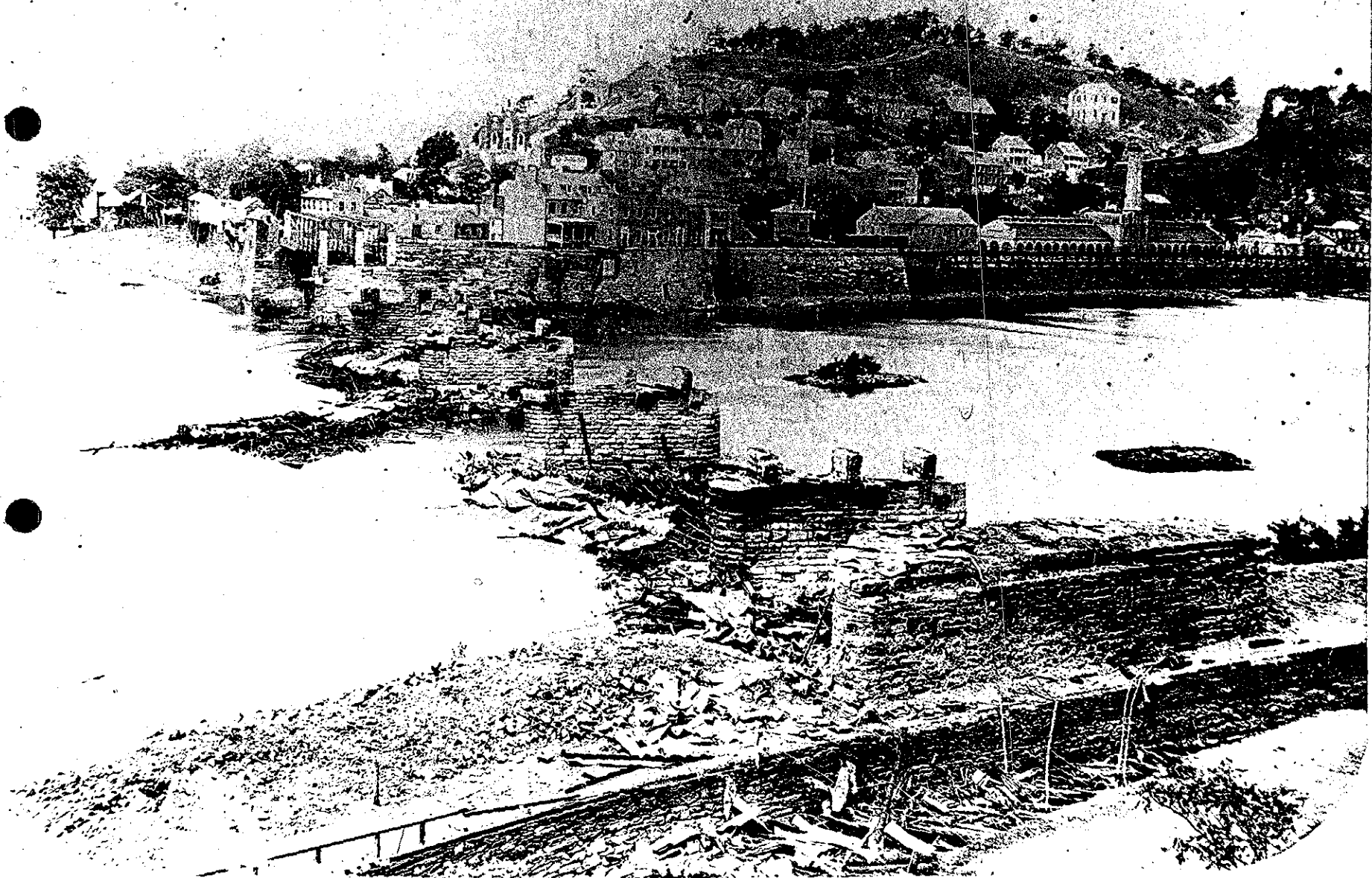
THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA : HARPER'S FERRY, VIRGINIA.

HARPERS FERRY - 1861 - FROM THE BASE OF MARYLAND  
HEIGHTS

Photograph by C. O. Eastwick,  
Original Glass Negative at Gettysburg N.M.P.  
Harper Ferry Negative No. HF-46.

This photograph was made after June 14, 1861,  
(as the wooden R.R. Bridge has been destroyed) and  
before February 7, 1862 (all the buildings located  
on the Wager Ferry Lot are still intact).

The two story brick building located just to the  
right of the single iron trestle bridge is the B. & O.  
R.R. Depot, next is the 3½ story brick Wager House,  
showing clearly the three story brick addition made  
to the Wager House and extending to the right. Next,  
with the portico on front, is the three story brick  
Potomac Restaurant on Lot No. 9, then the 2 story  
building (roof visible) on Lot 10, then the B. & O.  
Water Tower. Extending up the river front, to the  
right, are the Armory Shops, some burned and some  
reroofed for use as storage depots by the U. S. Army.



HARPERS FERRY, 1861, FROM THE BASE OF MARYLAND  
HEIGHTS

Photograph by C. G. Bostwick.  
Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-451.

This print is a blow up made from Harpers Ferry  
Negative No. HF-46.

At the end of the bridge, to right, the 3 story  
brick "Gault House" located on Wager Lot 2, just to  
right, ruins of the large arsenal building, beyond in  
distance, Bldg. No. 36. Coming to  
river front, just to right of bridge, the 2 story  
brick B. & O. R.R. Depot, white building, 2 stories  
and adjoining house, are located on the far side of  
Potomac Street on Wager Lots 4 and 5; Moving to the  
right on the river front, the Wager House - the large  
3½ and 3 story brick houses; then the Potomac Restaurant  
(with portico-brick 3 stories), then the roof of the  
2 story house on Lot No. 10 and at the right the  
B. & O. Water Tower.

To the left of the bridge, on the river wall, is  
the brick ticket office of the R. R. Company, used  
to collect toll from people crossing the bridge.

