Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Building Survey Report, Part I
Building No. 7

This office has reviewed the subject report and offers the following comments:

1. We approve the proposal in the Administrative Data Section for rehabilitating the subject structure.

2. We recommend deferring consideration of its proposed use as a comfort station until further study and planning has been made for the area as a whole. (At the moment, we are inclined to the opinion that comfort stations might best be provided in connection with branch museums, such as the John Brown branch museum, or even in reconstructed authentic outhouses - with modern plumbing within them, of course.)

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

MHNelligan/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area
Operations (att. Mr. Nelson)
HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT
PART I

(Park) Harpers Ferry

(Bldg.) Bldg. No. 7

1. Interpretation

Regional Historian
Regional Archeologist
Regional Naturalist

more detailed report Bldg. 7/29 - 7/30 comment.

2. Operations 7/1/58

3. Assistant Regional Director

4. Director

5. Interpretation

TEN DAY REVIEW PERIOD - 3/3/59
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Comments
FROM : George A. Palmer, Assistant Regional Director

DATE: 3/4/58

SUBJECT: Building No. 7 Harper's Ferry

I would recommend that this report be accepted for the purpose of repairing the exterior of the building.

I do not agree with the recommendation that this building be used as a rest room. Not necessarily because the recommendation might not be made but it is too early to determine the need for temporary rest room before the location of the permanent one is determined.

George A. Palmer

GAPalmer:emg

General
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :                      DATE:  2/25/58

FROM :  John L. Cotter

SUBJECT:  REST ROOMS at Harpers Ferry

The matter of the placement of rest rooms in Buildings No. 7, a warehouse originally, and in Building 5, of rest rooms for women and men, respectively, brings up a matter of interpretive effectiveness.

Granting the need for rest rooms, may it not be inappropriate to utilize any kind of building the use of which was known, for rest room purposes exclusively? Storehouses were important buildings in the Civil War days, and as such they have a place in the total picture of Harper's Ferry in those days. It seems to me that the more effective place for rest rooms would be in or in the immediate vicinity of the branch museums, where people would gather as a matter of course, and where they could be more easily directed to the sought-for facilities.

A further thought on this point: In my other comments on Harpers Ferry buildings, I have mentioned the need for reconstructing typical outbuildings, such as wood sheds, storage sheds, barns and out houses or privies which were such a characteristic and indispensable feature of the 1860 urban picture. Why not provide the completely natural (and fascinatingly unfamiliar to most visitors) and original outhouse in its authentic guise, in back of the houses? If sanitation requirements forbid the authentic pit toilets, let them be modern, but in the original outhouses, if possible. This feature would actually be a fine contribution to the authenticity of the scene.
In reply refer to:
H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

February 19, 1958

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Part I, Historic Building Report, Harpers Ferry NM

Building No. 7

In accordance with FO-11-56, Historic Building Report, we have assembled and are distributing herewith Part I of the subject report. The report consists of the following sections: Administrative and Historical Data Sections. (An Architectural Data Section was deemed unnecessary by EODC.)

This report should be reviewed by no later than March 3, 1958. Our comments will follow.

George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

Copy to: Supt., Harpers Ferry, w/c report
Chief, EODC, w/c report

General
Daily
Area
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Historic Building Report, Part I, for Building No. 7, Research Project No. HF-2, Revised

Enclosed please find four copies of the Historic Building Report, Part I, for Building No. 7, 15 pages total, dated October 1, 1957 and revised January 29, 1958, as prepared by Historian (Park Supervisor) Charles W. Snell.

This report has been revised, according to instructions issued by Regional Chief of Interpretation Nelligan, by revising the Approval Sheet form, the inclusion of one photograph (page 11), and the addition of Section 5, Conclusions and Recommendations, pages 12 to 14.

Raymond L. Ives
Acting Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachment
Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument


This report has been prepared in accordance with Acting Regional Director Gibson's memorandum of September 17, 1957.

Appendix IV - composed of all available historical photographs of Building No. 7, will be submitted at an early date.

Raymond L. Ives
Acting Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachments
APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended: ________________________________
Director

Recommended: ________________________________
Regional Director

Recommend

Recommended: ________________________________
Chief, E.O.D.C.

Approved: ________________________________
Superintendent

With such reserve as expressed in memo of 3/18/58.
PART I

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT

Building No. 7

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Distributed for Review by Region Five
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**SECTION I: ADMINISTRATIVE DATA** (1 page)

**SECTION II: HISTORICAL DATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Ownership of the Land, 1835 - 1874</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Erection of Building No. 7, 1837 - 1846</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Historical Uses of Building, 1846 - 1856</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Measured Drawings of Building No. 7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Conclusions and Recommendations</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix I - 1835 Plat of Wager Property</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix II - 1846 Plat of Warehouse</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix III - Tracing of Portion of May 9, 1866 B. &amp; O. R.R. Map</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix IV - Photographs</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SECTION III: ARCHITECTURAL DATA** (To be Prepared)
ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Building No. 7

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by
Acting Superintendent Raymond L. Ives
October 1, 1957
SECTION I: ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Building:

Building No. 7, Historical name of 1859-65 period yet to be determined.

B. Proposed Use of Structure:

Exterior of the building to be restored to 1859-65 period. Historical use of structure in 1859-65 period yet to be determined. Under MISSION 66 Planning it has been suggested that Visitor Rest Rooms for Women be located in Building No. 7 for use during the heavy travel season.

C. Provisions for operating the House:

No funds have been prograned for refurbishing the house. The interior should be put into good condition for use as rest rooms. No cooperative agreement has been executed or proposed for furnishing and operating the house.

D. Preliminary Estimate of Cost for Rehabilitating the Structure and Grounds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.C.P.-B-2, January 7, 1955</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof and Window Repairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.C.P.-B-10 Portion, August 5, 1957</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior rehabilitation &amp; restoration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Exterior rehabilitation &amp; restoration</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is estimated that an additional $10,000 will be required to rehabilitate the interior of building No. 7 for its suggested use.

Total estimated amount required for the rehabilitation and restoration of Building No. 7 ---------------$14,000.
HISTORICAL DATA

Building No. 7

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by
Supervising Park Historian Charles W. Snell
October 1, 1957
(Rev. Jan. 29, 1958)
SECTION II: HISTORICAL DATA

Introduction: Part I of the Historic Building Report for Building No. 7 has been prepared in accordance with Acting Regional Director Gibson's memorandum of September 17, 1957. This section has been written from all presently available documentary data.

1. Ownership of the Land, 1835 to 1874.

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, deceased." The property thus being divided at Harpers Ferry was commonly known as the "Wager Six Acre Reservation," an island of land in private ownership surrounded on all sides by land owned by the United States Government.

On October 10, 1835 the three Commissioners reported to the Court: "To James B. Wager we allot & assign the following lots as designated J.B.W. & numbered in the annexed Plat, viz. Lots No. 1-1-4-15 being a part of the old tavern lot -19-22-25-22-37-39-41-44, including the new


2. 1835 Plat, "the Wager Six Acre Reservation, Drawn by James M. Brown, S. G. C., in Deed Book 29, 1837-40, p.140. See Appendix I for this Plat.

- 1 -
"buildings recently attached to the mansion - 46-47-53 & 54."
(See Appendix I for this 1835 Plat). 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 this land to be paid into the Court, "from and after the time the said James B. Wager took benefit of the insolvent laws..."

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. On November 26, 1836 the Court further authorized the Commissioners to divide Lot No. 15, the old tavern lot, into parcels. Lot No. 15 was therefore subdivided into four lots marked No. 1, 2, 3, and 4, of Lot No. 15.

On October 28, 1837, Lots No. 2 and No. 4 in the subdivision of Lot No. 15 were sold to William Anderson of Harpers Ferry; Lot No. 2 for $1,610 and Lot No. 4 for $1,012.50. Lot No. 2 had a frontage of 10 feet 6 inches on what is now Potomac Street and Lot No. 4 had a frontage of 30 feet on the same street, lying adjacent to Lot No. 2. Building No. 7, today, is situated partly on subdivisions No. 2 and No. 4; about 10 feet 6 inches of the structure lying on Lot No. 2 and the remaining portion of the building standing on Lot No. 4. (See Appendix II).

3. Deed Book No. 29, pp. 140-41.
On November 2, 1847, William Anderson and his wife Sarah, of the City of Baltimore, sold for $1,000 to Frederick Augustus Roeder, of Jefferson County, Va., the following property:

"...certain warehouse property, including the ground the said warehouse stands upon, the said ground or lot being twenty-feet wide and forty feet long, situated in village of Harpers Ferry — and standing upon the alley (now Potomac Street) which runs parallel with the armory buildings, and in the rear of the property recently sold and conveyed by the said William Anderson to Susan Downey (this would be the site of Building No. 15, sold to Downey July 20, 1846), including also in this conveyance any portion or strip of ground which may lie between the end of said warehouse and the alley aforesaid — but with this exception or addition, it is hereby declared to be the meaning and intent of this deed to convey only the ground said warehouse stands on, the said warehouse being of the dimensions aforesaid..." 5 (See Appendix II).

On February 13, 1856, Mr. Roeder and his wife, Anna Marie, for $1,700 sold the following land and portion of a warehouse to the United States Government:

"Beginning at the north Eastern corner thereof (Lot No. 15), on the Alley which passes along the land near the public workshops (the Armory) and thence westerly embracing the entire front of said Lot on said Alley of Twenty four feet from said front on said Alley, together with so much of the building thereon as occupies the said area... The meaning and intent of this conveyance being to sell and convey twenty-five feet in depth of the whole front of this lot, now owned and occupied by the said Roeder as a warehouse..." 6 (See Appendix II).

Thus Roeder's holding was reduced from a lot 24 feet wide by forty feet in depth to one 24 feet wide with a 15 foot depth.

In 1874 the heirs of Frederick A. Roeder sold Building No. 7 and the land it stands on; the deed reading in part:

"...a certain Lot & House situated on Potomac Street in said Harpers Ferry North of and adjoining the property situated in High Street, now owned & occupied by Charlotte R. Hopwood (this would be the land with Building No. 15 on it)....; the said property hereby conveyed being a part of that known as "White Hall" and bounded as follows; Beginning on Potomac Street at the Northeastern corner of the House hereby conveyed, running West with said street twenty-four feet three inches, thence south twenty feet, thence east twenty-four feet, three inches, and thence north to the beginning..." 7

Summary of Ownership of the Land, 1835 to 1874.

The land in question was acquired from the Wager family by William Anderson in 1837. Anderson remained the owner of this property from 1837 to 1847. In 1847 Anderson sold the land to Frederick A. Roeder, who remained the owner of this property until 1874. In 1856 Roeder sold off a portion of this lot to the United States Government.

In 1874 this property was known as "White Hall" but we do not yet know that this name was used in the historical period, 1859 to 1865, with which we are primarily concerned. It is therefore established the Frederick A. Roeder was the owner of Building No. 7 in the 1859 to 1865 period. Structure No. 7 could perhaps be called the "Roeder Building". We wish, however, to reserve decision on the final name until further research is completed, as Roeder may also have owned Buildings No. 5 and 16 during the 1859-1865 period.

2. Erection of Building No. 7, 1837 - 1846.

The two early maps that show buildings standing in Harpers Ferry, namely, "Plan of the proposed junction of the CANAL at the Lower Falls of the Shenandoah with the Public Canal at HARPERS FERRY and the necessary Locks for descending into the Potomak River," dated Feb. 1803 and reproduced as part of the Harpers Ferry Master Plan, Drawing NM-HF 3004, and "Map of Harpers Ferry Shewing the Location of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad, Drawn by Lieut White, Allen and R S Smith, U.S. Army under the direction of James Kearney, Lt. Col. and T.E., 1835, Map 2," reproduced in the Harpers Ferry Master Plan as Drawing No. NM-HF 3002, sheet two of three, - both fail to show any building standing on the site of Building No. 7.

It can therefore probably be assumed that Building No. 7 was erected by William Anderson sometime after his purchase of the land in 1837 and the year 1846, as there is definite documentary evidence to the existence of a warehouse on this land as of the date of May 30, 1846.

8. National Archives "Record Group 77 - Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Fortification Map File, Part of Map Dr 150 Sheet 1."


In 1847, at the time of the sale of this building and lot to Frederick Roeder, the maximum dimensions of the warehouse could not have been more than 24 feet wide and 40 feet deep, the dimensions of the lot. (See page 3 of this report). In 1856, at the time of Roeder’s sale of part of his lot 6 and warehouse to the United States Government, his holding was reduced from a lot 24 feet wide by forty feet deep to one 24 feet wide by 15 deep. His warehouse must have been corresponding reduced in size at that time if the Government removed the section standing on their new acquired lot. Structural evidence in the building itself will probably document these changes. The United States Government was purchasing land along the narrow alley between the Armory tract and the “ager tract for the purpose of widening the alley into what is now Potomac Street.

"A Sketch of the Present Position & Proposed Alteration of the line of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad at Harpers Ferry," a map with the date May 9, 1866 appearing on it, definitely indicates that a building was standing on the site of Building No. 7 at that date.

Finally, in the sale of this property in 1874, the dimensions of the lot are given as being 24 feet three inches in width and 20 feet wide. The present dimension of Building No. 7 are 24 feet by 20 feet.

12. National Archives R.G. 77, Map Dr 150-Sheet 74. (See Appendix III)
13. See page 4 of this report.
3. Historical Uses of Building No. 7, 1846 - 1856.

From 1846 to 1847 Building No. 7 was used as a warehouse by William Anderson. From 1847 to February 13, 1856 Building No. 7 was used as a warehouse by Frederick A. Roeder. Structural changes and use of the building from 1856 to 1865 awaits the result of further research in the newspapers of the period.


No historical or modern measured drawings of Building No. 7 are presently available.

Report written by Park Supervising Historian Charles W. Snell from primary data collected by Park Historian Herbert H. Kissling.

Dated: October 1, 1957

November 2, 1847, Deed of E. & S., Deed Book 29, p. 240.

APPENDIX IV - Photographs
The photo, an identical view at lower flood, in this well in front of Building No. 7 and street in this area, shows the same location after 1922 hurricane.

The photograph's date is established as follows: "Photograph by T. A. Phin, Photographer, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, Neg. No. HP-700."
5. Conclusions and Recommendations:

Since this report was first submitted on October 1, 1957, additional documentary evidence has been found which throws further light on the construction and uses of Building No. 7. It has been established that William Anderson purchased Wager Lot No. 15, subdivision 4, on October 28, 1837, and that between that date and July 1, 1839, he had erected a stone house, now called Building No. 15, on this lot (see: "Historic Building Report, Part I, for the First and Second Marmion Tenant Houses," dated January 27, 1958, pp. 15-17 for a detailed presentation of this new evidence). It is therefore highly probable that during this same period, 1837-1839, William Anderson also designed and erected Building No. 7, which stands on the same lot, as a stone warehouse. In any case, it has been established in this report that Building No. 7 was standing and being used by Anderson as a warehouse on May 30, 1846. In 1847 Frederick A. Roeder purchased the structure and used it until 1856, when he sold off part of Building No. 7 to the United States Armory, as a warehouse. Use of the structure from 1856 to 1865 has not yet been established on the basis of documentary evidence, but it was probably still utilized by Roeder as a warehouse.

In the census for 1860, Roeder listed his profession as an confectioner, which may explain the uses to which his buildings, No. 5, 7, and 16, were put. It seems most probable that Buildings No. 5 and 7 were utilized by Roeder either as warehouses for the storage of the supplies and products of his trade, or that perhaps one of them, Building No. 5, was used as a shop.
The sale and resulting loss of 25 feet of Roeder's warehouse, Building No. 7, in 1856 to the Armory, may also have resulted in the construction of Building No. 5 to replace this lost storage space.

**Further Research Required:** A careful and complete search of the newspapers from 1837 to 1861 should reveal further data on the uses, and perhaps also the construction of Building No. 7. Additional information on Building No. 7 will certainly also be found in the 1840-50 correspondence of the United States Armory that has been ordered on microfilm from the National Archives.

**Restoration and Historical Significance:**

Building No. 7 was definitely a part of the 1859-1865 historic scene, being located adjacent to the original location of the "John Brown Fort". As far as is now known, however, the building was not closely associated with the John Brown Raid in 1859, other than perhaps being struck by bullets from the Raiders' guns. It is therefore recommended that the exterior of Building No. 7 be restored to its 1859 appearance. It is also believed that from an architectural point of view, the exterior of this structure, in the main, is substantially as it was in 1859. Therefore, only restoration, and not reconstruction, will be required on the exterior of this structure.

**Monument Use of the Building:**

Building No. 7 is located close to the original location of the "John Brown Fort", to which site the National Park Service hopes to return the "Fort"; No. 7 is also situated adjacent to Building No. 9 and 8, where we plan to present exhibits that will relate the events of the Brown Raid. Once the Fort has been relocated to its original position, this area will undoubtedly become one of the prime visitor attractions in the Monument.
Building No. 7 is also located along the route followed by visitors coming from the railroad station to the Monument - a means of travel used by a considerable number of school groups visiting the area each year.

It is therefore recommended that the interior of Building No. 7 be utilized as a visitors seasonal rest room for women. To be used for this purpose only during the heavy travel season and closed during the cold season of the year. This plan would eliminate the need for the installation of any heating plant in the building and no restoration or reconstruction work would be attempted on the interior of the structure, - only rehabilitation to fit the interior up for use as rest rooms being required.

(Note: Under this plan, visitors rest rooms for men would be located in Building No. 5).

If this plan is not adopted, I would then suggest that the interior of Building No. 7 be stripped to a shell, and visitors not be permitted to enter the structure.

Charles W. Snell, Historian (Park Supervisory)

January 29, 1958