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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
(Area)

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HARPER'S GRAVEYARD

AND THE

PINE GROVE CEMETERY, CAMP HILL, 1803-1865

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Prepared by:
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TO:

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RESEARCH REPORT

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PINE GROVE CEMETERY, CAMP HILL, 1803-1865

Harpers Ferry National Monument

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HARPER'S GRAVEYARD, 1803-1865

The lot on which the Harper Cemetery was located was part of the property purchased on June 15, 1786, by the United States from John Wager, Seneca, for the purpose of establishing a TABLE OF CONTENTS at Harpers Ferry.

In October, 1783, Robert Harper in his last will and testament Page No.

"the HARPER'S GRAVEYARD, 1803-1865..... 1
 sold off by my executors and be entirely appropriated to the use of a Grave
 Yard..." PINE GROVE CEMETERY, 1852-1865..... 3

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For the grave yard was surveyed in 1838 as is indicated in the following plan
 and by Edward Lucas, executor of Harper's will:

"Course, distances and boundaries of a lot of land devised by Robert
 Harper for a burying ground bounded as following. Beginning at a stone in
 the line of John Wager, thence leaving said line S 85 1/2 W 45 6/10 poles to
 another stone thence S 7 1/2 W 13 8/10 poles to a stone, thence S. 25 1/2 W 20
 poles thence S. 25 1/2 W 30 poles to the beginning containing four acres.
 To McPherson, 1863." 3

The Wagers, by failing to fulfill the provisions of the will in regard
 to the laying out of a graveyard, thus were in danger of ^{losing} their
 title to the Wager Six Acre Reservation and the Wager Ferry ^{lot} as well as
 the title of all the land sold to the United States in 1786. To correct this
 omission, and as the Wagers had sold all but 3 6/10 acres to the United States,
 Senator Samuel Annin laid out the four acres for the graveyard. The United

Acts, June 15, 1786, Wager to U. S., National Archives R. 31, Vol. 31,
 p. 704-708. See Map of Harpers Ferry, S. Howell Brown, 1855.

Robert Harper's Will, October, 1783, Book 15, T. 3, p. 150.

See Book 3, p. 150.

HARPER'S GRAVEYARD, 1803-1865

The lot on which the Harper Cemetery was located was part of the property purchased on June 15, 1796, by the United States from John Wager, Senior, for the purpose of establishing a Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry.¹

In October, 1782, Robert Harper in his last will and testament directed:

"that four Acres of Land most convenient around my grave yard shall be laid off by my Executors and be entirely appropriated to the Use of a Grave Yard:..."²

His heir, John Wager, Senior, however, failed to comply with this request before his death in 1803. The error was noted at that time and a lot of land for the grave yard was surveyed in 1803 as is indicated in the following statement by Edward Lucas, executor of Harper's will:

"Courses, distances and boundaries of a lot of land devised by Robert Harper for a burying ground Bounded as following, Beginning at a stone in the line of John Wager, thence leaving said line N 86 1/2W 45 6/10 poles to another stone thence 37 1/2S 18 5/10 poles to a stone, thence S. 86 1/2E 24 poles thence S. 46 1/2E 29 poles to the beginning containing four acres. Wm McPherson, 1803."³

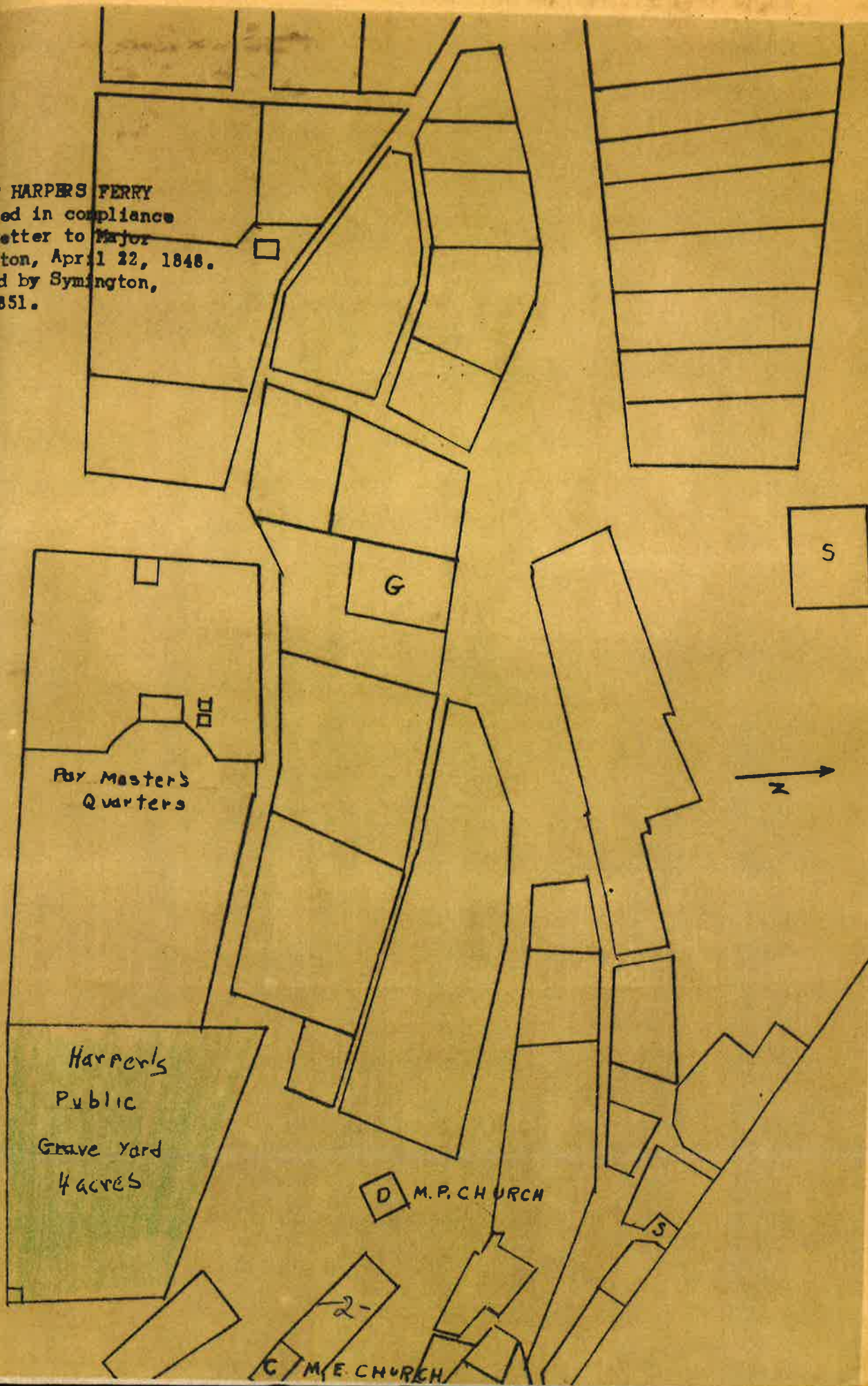
The Wagers, by failing to fulfill the provisions of the will in regard to the laying out of a graveyard, thus were in danger of ^{W-}validating their own title to the Wager Six Acre Reservation and the Wager Ferry ^{Lot} as well as the title of all the land sold to the United States in 1796. To correct this situation, and as the Wagers had sold all but 6 3/4 acres to the United States, Paymaster Samuel Annin laid out the four acres for the graveyard from United

1. Deed, June 15, 1796, Wager to U. S., National Archives R.G., Reel 21, V.7, p.704-708. See Map of Harpers Ferry, S. Howell Brown, 1852.

2. Robert Harper's Will, October, 1782, Reel 18, V.2, p.175.

3. Deed Book 3, p.108.

MAP OF HARPERS FERRY
Prepared in compliance
with letter to Major
Symington, April 22, 1848.
Revised by Symington,
Jan, 1851.



4
States land in 1803.

The graveyard was enclosed by a stone wall that was built in 1825. The Harpers Ferry Free Press advertised in December, 1824:

"Notice: Proposals will be received by the undersigned, from this time until the 4th of Dec, for furnishing the materials and building a substantial stone wall around the Grave Yard at this place, embracing four acres of ground...

Edward Wager, Daniel Henkels, William D. Moore, Jacob Ott, Committee,

Nov. 24, 1824." 5

The Harper Cemetery has been used as a town cemetery from 1803 until the present day.

PINE GROVE CEMETERY, 1852-1865

On May 23, 1850, Captain Maynadler of the Ordnance Office notified Major Symington:

"You will receive herewith an application by a Committee of the Citizens of Harpers Ferry to the Secretary of War, asking additional ground for a Grave yard.

If in your opinion additional ground for this purpose is requisite, please consult with the committee and report as to the position and size of the site which you would recommend for the purpose." 6

The Board of Officers convened on September 22, 1851, in connection with the proposed sale of surplus United States land at Harpers Ferry, recommended among other things: "Also, for its use, a cemetery (Pine Grove Cemetery on 1852 and 1869 maps), permission to locate which has already been granted, will be surveyed and marked on the plan." 7

4. Paymaster Samuel Annin to Secretary of War, January, 1804, Reel 18, V.2, p.174.

5. Harpers Ferry Free Press, December 1, 1824, p.1, c.2.

6. Maynadler to Symington, May 23, 1850, Reel 19, V.5, p.424.

7. Report of Board of Officers, September 22, 1851, Reel 24, V.8, p.802-808.

7	6	5	4	3	2
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7	6	5	4	3	2
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PUTNAM STREET

5	6	7	8		
4	3	2	1		

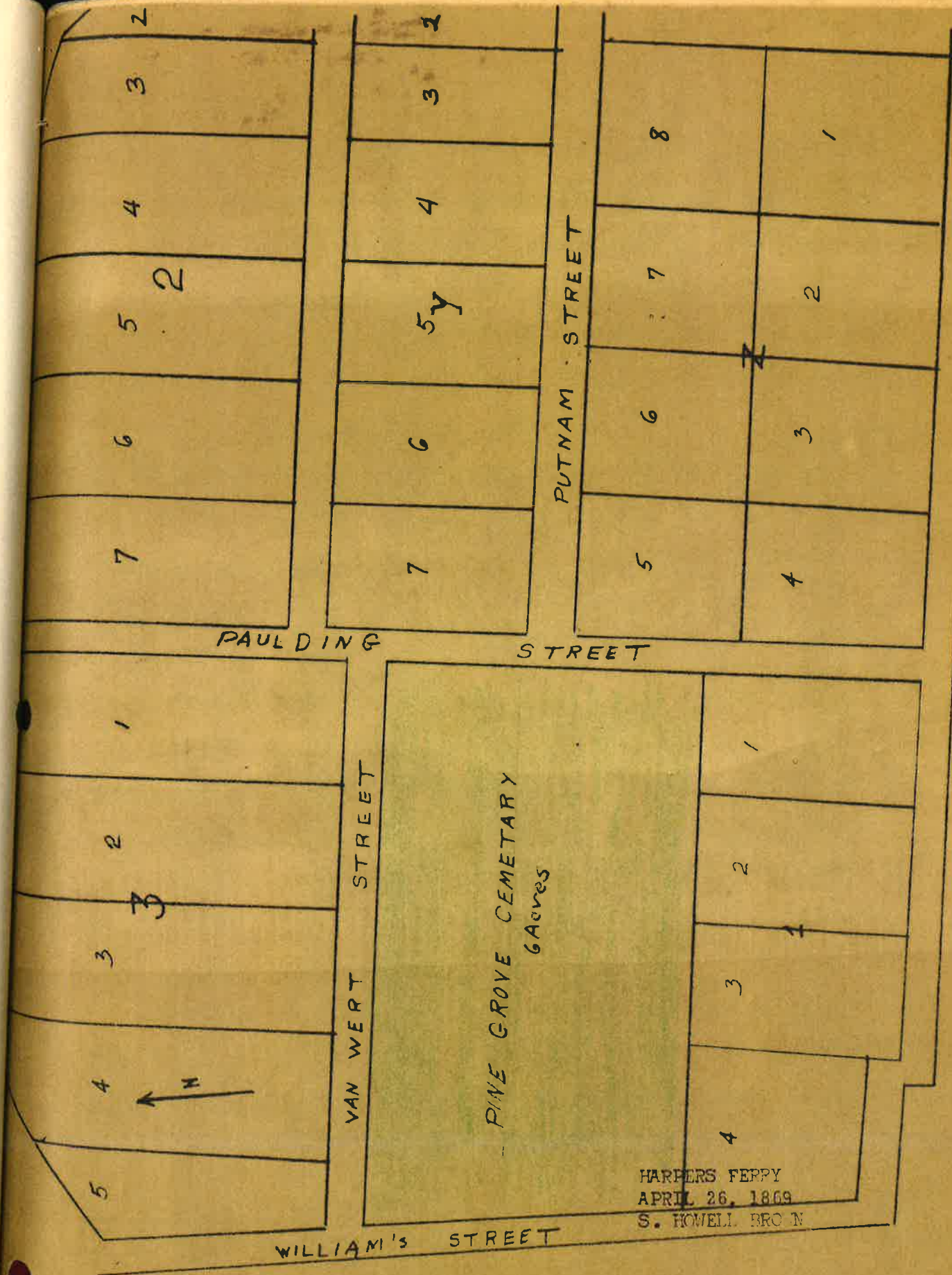
PAULDING STREET

5	4	3	2	1
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VAN WERT STREET

PINE GROVE CEMETARY				
4	3	2	1	

WILLIAM'S STREET
S. Howell Brown's Map
of Harpers Ferry 1852



HARRIS FERRY
 APRIL 26, 1869
 S. HOWELL BRO N

The report of the Board of Officers was approved by the Secretary of War on June 10, 1852. A cemetery was accordingly laid out in that year.

The cemetery was used as a burial ground during the Civil War because it was stated in 1866 that the graves of the Union soldiers buried at Camp Hill were being obliterated because of lack of proper protection. In all, there were about 324 Union soldiers buried there.

HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs showing Harper's Graveyard will be found in Smith, Philip R., Jr., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 43A, St. John's Episcopal Church," dated October 23, 1958, revised March 6, 1959, on the following pages:

1. 1859, HF-64, page 19.
2. 1862, HF-11, page 11.
3. 1865, HF-449, page 24.

SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA, HARPERS CEMETERY

A. Ownership of the Land

The land upon which the Harper Graveyard was laid out was owned by the Town of Harpers Ferry from 1803 until the present.

B. Laying out the Cemetery

Robert Harper, in his will, in 1782, directed that four acres around his grave should be laid out for a cemetery. Nothing, however, was done until 1803, when the Government allowed four acres of Armory land to be laid out in order to protect the Wager and Government's title to the land.

8. Office of the Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence File, 1794-1915, Box 377.

A stone wall was constructed around the graveyard in 1825. The graveyard has been used as a town cemetery from 1803 until the present day.

C. Pine Grove Cemetery

This cemetery was laid out in 1852 and a lease was granted to the Town of Harpers Ferry by the United States that was in effect until 1868.

SIGNED

Philip R. Smith, Jr.
Park Historian
April 2, 1959

