59TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } SENATE. { DOCUMENT No. 49.

TRUSTEES OF ST. JOHN'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HARPERS FERRY, W. VA.

LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS TRANSMITTING A COPY OF THE FINDINGS OF THE COURT IN THE CASE OF THE TRUSTEES OF ST. JOHN'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, OF HARPERS FERRY, W. VA., AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 6, 1905.—Referred to the Committee on Claims and ordered to be printed.

COURT OF CLAIMS, CLERK'S OFFICE,
Washington, December 5, 1905.

SIR: Pursuant to the order of the court, I transmit herewith a certified copy of the findings of fact filed by the court in the aforesaid cause, which case was referred to this court by the resolution of the United States Senate, under the act of March 3, 1887, known as the Tucker Act.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

JOHN RANDOLPH,
Assistant Clerk Court of Claims.

Hon. CHARLES W. FAIRBANKS,
President of the Senate.

[Court of Claims. Congressional case No. 11644. Trustees of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, of Harper's Ferry, W. Va., *v.* The United States.]

STATEMENT OF CASE.

The following bill was referred to the court April 27, 1904, by resolution of the United States Senate, under an act of Congress approved March 3, 1887, known as the Tucker Act:

[S. 1672, Fifty-eighth Congress, first session.]

"A BILL for the relief of the trustees of Saint John's Protestant Episcopal Church, of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

"*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the trustees of Saint John's Protestant Episcopal Church, of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, the sum of three thousand dollars, for use of and damage to church building by the military forces of the United States during the late war of the rebellion."

The trustees of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, of Harpers Ferry, W. Va., appeared and filed their petition in this court October 29, 1904, in which they make the following allegations:

That during the late war for the suppression of the rebellion the military forces of the United States, by proper authority, took possession of the church building of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, at Harpers Ferry, W. Va., and used and occupied the same for military purposes. That by reason of such occupancy repairs were necessary, and the reasonable rental value of said building during the period it was so occupied, including the repairs necessary to restore the building to the condition in which it was when the said military authorities first took possession of the same, was the sum of $3,000, for which no payment has been made.

The case was brought to a hearing on loyalty and merits on the 5th day of April, 1905. G. W. Z. Black, esq., appeared for the claimants, and the Attorney-General, by W. W. Scott, esq., his assistant and under his direction, appeared for the defense and protection of the interests of the United States.

The court, upon the evidence and after considering the briefs and arguments of counsel on both sides, makes the following

FINDINGS OF FACT.

I. It appears from the evidence that the St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, of Harpers Ferry, W. Va., was, as a church, loyal to the Government of the United States throughout the war for the suppression of the rebellion.

II. During the war for the suppression of the rebellion the church building of the St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, of Harpers Ferry, W. Va., was taken possession of by the military forces of the United States, under proper authority, during the year 1862, who used and damaged the same. The reasonable rental value and cost of repairs incident to such use and occupation were reasonably worth the sum of one thousand seven hundred dollars ($1,700).

No payment appears to have been made therefor.

BY THE COURT.

Filed April 10, 1905.
A true copy.
Test this 20th day of June, 1905.
[SEAL.]

JOHN RANDOLPH,
Assistant Clerk Court of Claims.

O

HFD-352

HFR-285A

001309
PARK

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT,

PART I

FOR

Property of
Harpers Ferry NHP

BLDG. NO. 48A, ST. JOHN'S

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

Philip R. Smith, Jr.
Historian
Dated October 23, 1958
Revised March 6, 1959
Revised May 6, 1959
30 Pages
HF-22A

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SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Building:

Bldg. No. 48-A, St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church

B. Proposed Use of Structure and Grounds:

We are heartily in accord with Historian Philip R. Smith Jr's. recommendation that the ruin of the Protestant Episcopal be stabilized only since it is one of the most attractive features of the area to many visitors.

C. Provisions for Operating the Church:

No funds have been programmed for the stabilization of this picturesque ruin.

D. Preliminary Estimate of Cost of Stabilizing the Structure:

$1,000 The preliminary estimate of the cost of stabilizing this structure is $1,000.

Property of
Harpers Ferry NHP

CHAPTER I

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1796-1868

The lot on which St. John's Episcopal Church was built was part of the property purchased on June 15, 1796, by the United States from John Wager, Sr., for the purpose of establishing a Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry.[1] It had originally been the site of the so-called Free Church, built in 1825, and used until it burned down in January, 1845.[2] This had been the first grant of land for church purposes made by the Armory.[3]

The Episcopal Church had first requested in February, 1849, use of a lot on the main road leading from the lower part of the town and midway between the lower town and Camp Hill so as to be convenient for members of the congregation living in the upper and lower town.[4] The proposed site is shown on the map on the following page. The congregation finally decided in January, 1851, on the lot formerly occupied by the Free Church.[5] Up to that time, the congregation had been meeting in the Superintendent's Old Office, which was located on Lot 1, Block A, Shenandoah Street.[6]

By terms of the lease on January 16, 1851, between the Secretary of War

1. Deed, June 15, 1796, Wager to U.S., National Archives, Reel 21, V.7, p.704-708.

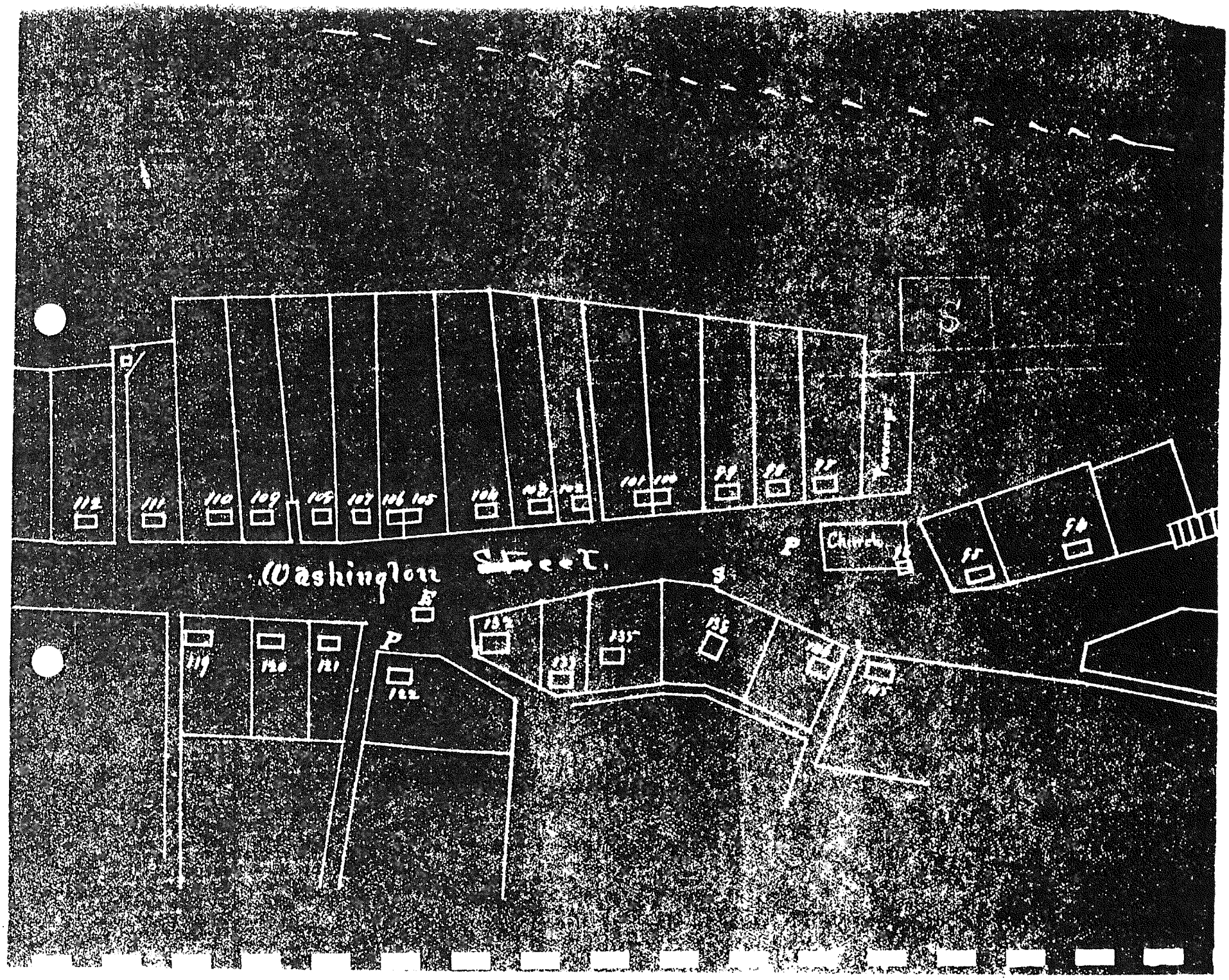
2. Virginia Free Press, January 16, 1845, p.2, c.6.

3. Major Symington, Superintendent of the Armory, to Col. Talcott, Ordnance Office, February 15, 1849, Reel 26, V.2, p.199.

4. Application of Protestant Episcopal Congregation to Secretary of War William Marcy, February 5, 1849, Reel 23, V.12, p.114-115; Major Symington to Col. Talcott, February 7, 1849, Reel 23, V.12, p.1112-1113.

5. Major Symington to Col. Talcott, January 10, 1851, Reel 26, V.3, p.202.

6. Application of Protestant Episcopal Congregation to Secretary of War William L. Marcy, February 5, 1849, Reel 23, V.12, p.114-115.


S
Washington Street.
P
Church
E
P
S

Property of
Harpers Ferry NHP

and the church trustees, the lots for the church and a parsonage were to be used, "At the will and sufferance of the United States, who specially reserved the right to reenter and have the same again, as if no such grant.. had been made."[7] The terms were in keeping with the understanding reached at the time of the agreement with the Free Church in 1825 which was to be used as a model for similar agreements made with churches in following years.[8] According to a letter from Superintendent Lee to the Ordnance Office dated March 38, 1827, the individuals who assisted in the erection of that church did not "expect or claim any vested rights, control, or proprietorship in the building, they consider it as belonging to the government wholly with the understanding that it is to be and will continue to be appropriated for the use of public worship and of Schools for the citizens of this place..."[9]

At the time of the surplus land sale in 1852, the lot used by the Episcopal Church was set aside for that use in accordance with the policy outlined in the following statement by the Secretary of War:

"From this sale will be expected such lots or portions of ground as are recommended in said report of 24 September, to be reserved. Also such other lots or portions of grounds as are designated on the plat above described as the sites of Churches, parsonages, or public institutions of any kind, leaving to the persons or Corporations interested in said reservations to apply to Congress for a title to the Same, which I have no power to grant."[10]

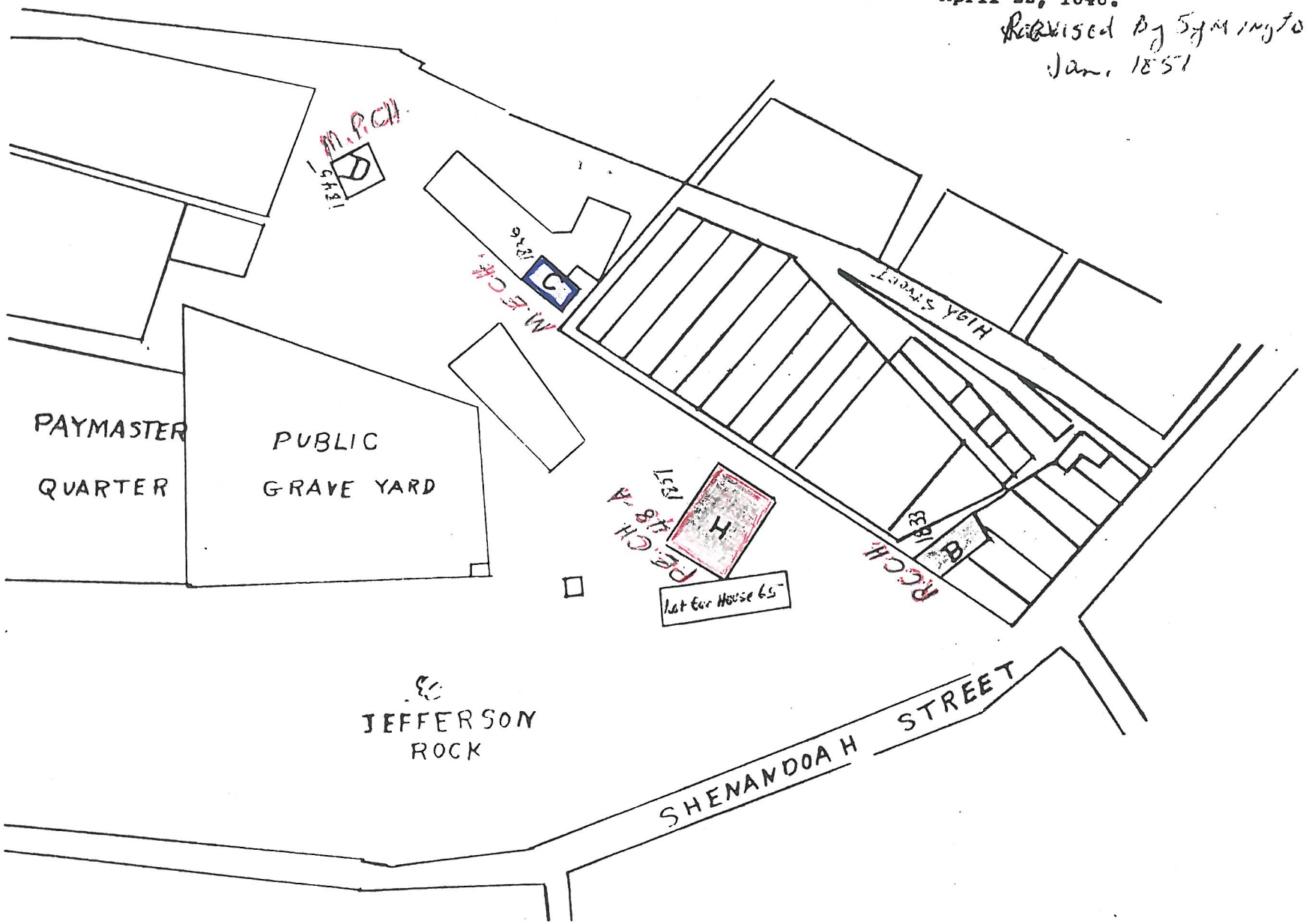
The final location of the lot for the church may be seen on the 1848 and 1852 maps on pages 4 and 5 of this report. On December 15, 1868, title to this lot was granted to the church by an Act of Congress.[11] The final size of the lot granted to the church by Congress to the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1868 will be found on the 1869 map on page 6.

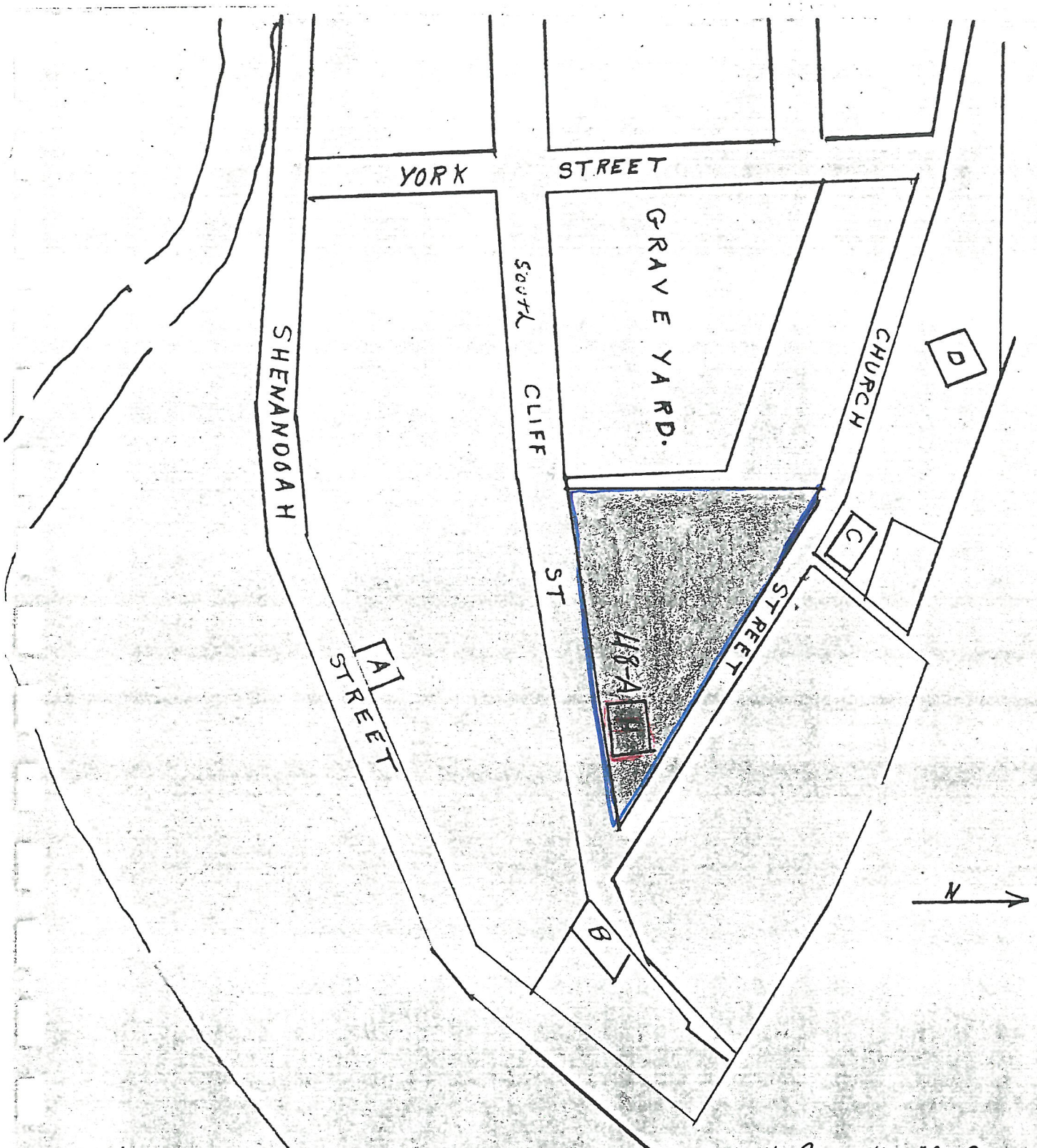
7. Lease for the Protestant Episcopal Church, January 16, 1851, Reel 26, V.2, p.192.

8. See Smith, Philip R., Jr., "History of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1818-1868 and the Free Church, 1818-1845," dated October 23, 1958, revised March 16, 1959.

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

Revised by Symington
Jan. 1851





Red Area Represents Lot Granted to P.E. Church in 1852

S. Howell Brown's Map

MAP OF HARPERS FERRY, 1852

~~PREPARED IN COMPLIANCE WITH LETTER TO MAJOR SYMINGTON, APRIL 22, 1848~~

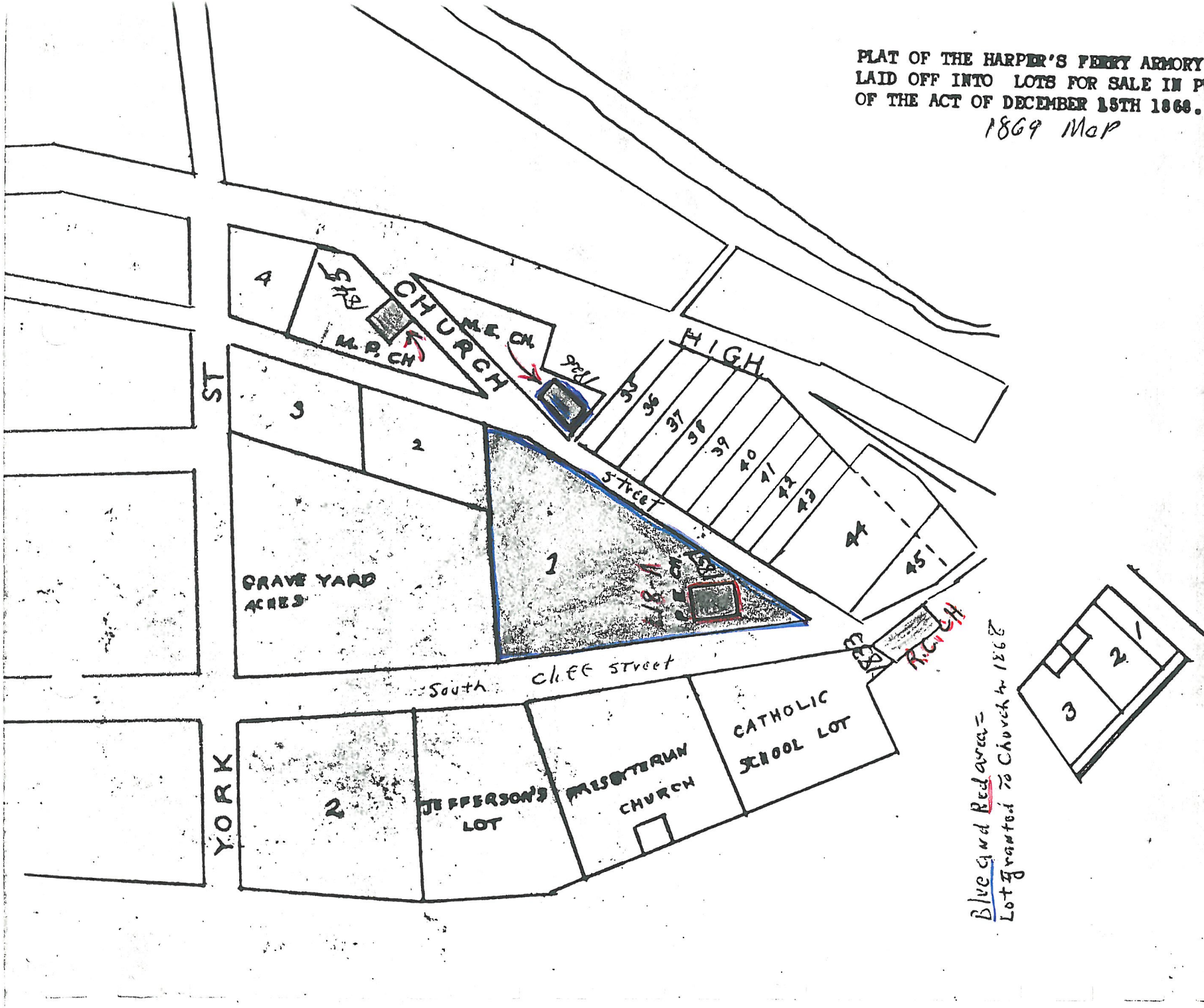
~~S.~~ HOWELL BROWN

~~REVISED BY MAJOR SYMINGTON, JANUARY, 1851~~

No of Building	Where situated per map.
A	Presbyterian Church
B	Catholic Church
C	Methodist Episcopal Church
D	Methodist Protestant Church
H	Protestant Episcopal Church-48A

PLAT OF THE HARPER'S FERRY ARMORY PROPERTY
LAID OFF INTO LOTS FOR SALE IN PURSUANCE
OF THE ACT OF DECEMBER 15TH 1868.

1869 Map



Blue and Red area =
Lot granted to Church in 1868

21. CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1851-1852

The ladies of the Protestant Episcopal Congregation held a church fair in the week of December 20, 1849, to raise funds for the construction of the church.[12] A careful check of the National Archives material and the Virginia Free Press, 1850-1855, fails to reveal any data on the construction of the building. The church, however, was probably constructed in 1851 or 1852, after the grant of the lease by the government for this purpose in January, 1851. In December, 1851, the ladies held another festival for the benefit of the church.[13]

The church was approximately 37; by 60 feet in size, and was 17 feet high to the eaves, with wood shingle roof.[14] It was a one story building with basement, constructed of field stone with concrete facing. Prior to 1865 there was a small annex at the rear of the church that probably contained the altar; this was later removed, but there is still physical evidence on the rear of the building today that indicated that the annex was once there. A belfry was added to the structure after the Civil War.

There was a window set high in the front wall that probably lighted the rafters of the building. There were four large windows in either sidewall of the building, with four smaller ones in the basement. A flight of steps led up to the front door through a one story porch from Church Street; evidences of the entrance remain today.[15]

9. Major Symington to Col. Talcott, February 15, 1849, Reel 26, V.2, p.199.

10. Report of Board of Officer, September 24, 1851, Approved by Secretary of War, June 10, 1852, Reel 24, V.8, p.802-806. See also 1852 map.

11. 1869 Map, Catalogue of the Harpers Ferry Armory Property to be sold by the United States on the 30th November, 1869, at the Town of Harpers Ferry, Va.

12. Virginia Free Press, December 20, 1849, p.3, c.3.

In 1907 heat was provided by stoves and there were oil lamps to provide light.[16]

This may be seen by glancing at the 1894 and 1907 maps which appear on the next two pages of this report.

The building was damaged during the Civil War, but was repaired and put in good condition between 1875 and 1880 (see Photograph HF-379). Its present state of ruin thus stems from a neglect of the structure that occurred after 1907, rather than from any destruction during the Civil War.

3. USE OF THE BUILDING, No. 48A

Bldg. No. 48A was used as a church from the time of its construction until it was given up by its congregation at some date after 1907. According to Joseph Barry in the Strange Story of Harpers Ferry, this church along with the five other churches in the town was damaged and desecrated during the Civil War.[17] It was probably used as a hospital or barracks in the 1861-1865 period. The church was therefore not used by its congregation during the Civil War, but was repaired after the war and continued in use as a church from about 1875 or 1880, as is evidenced by photographs and maps, until at least 1907.

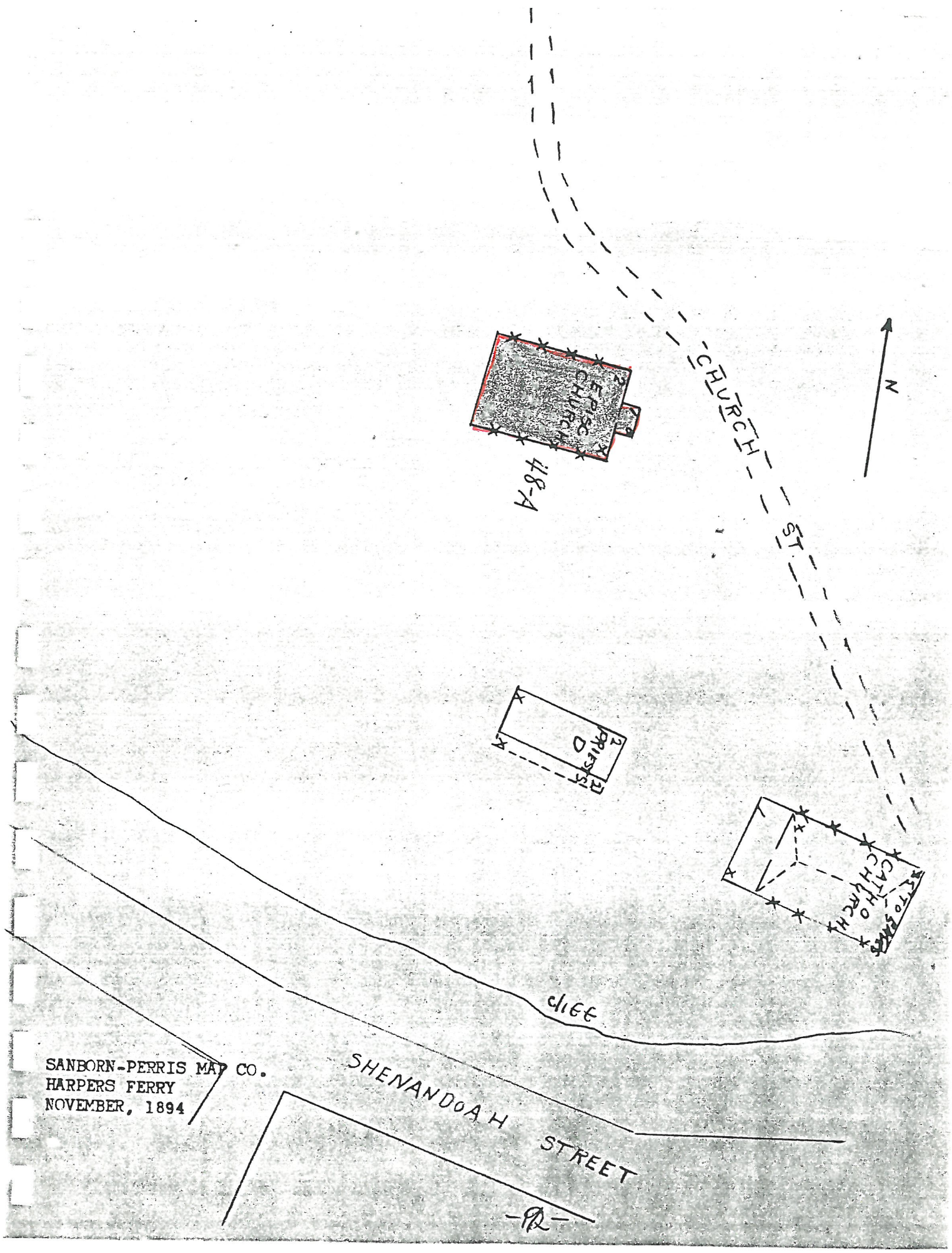
13. Virginia Free Press, December 25, 1851, p.2, c.1.

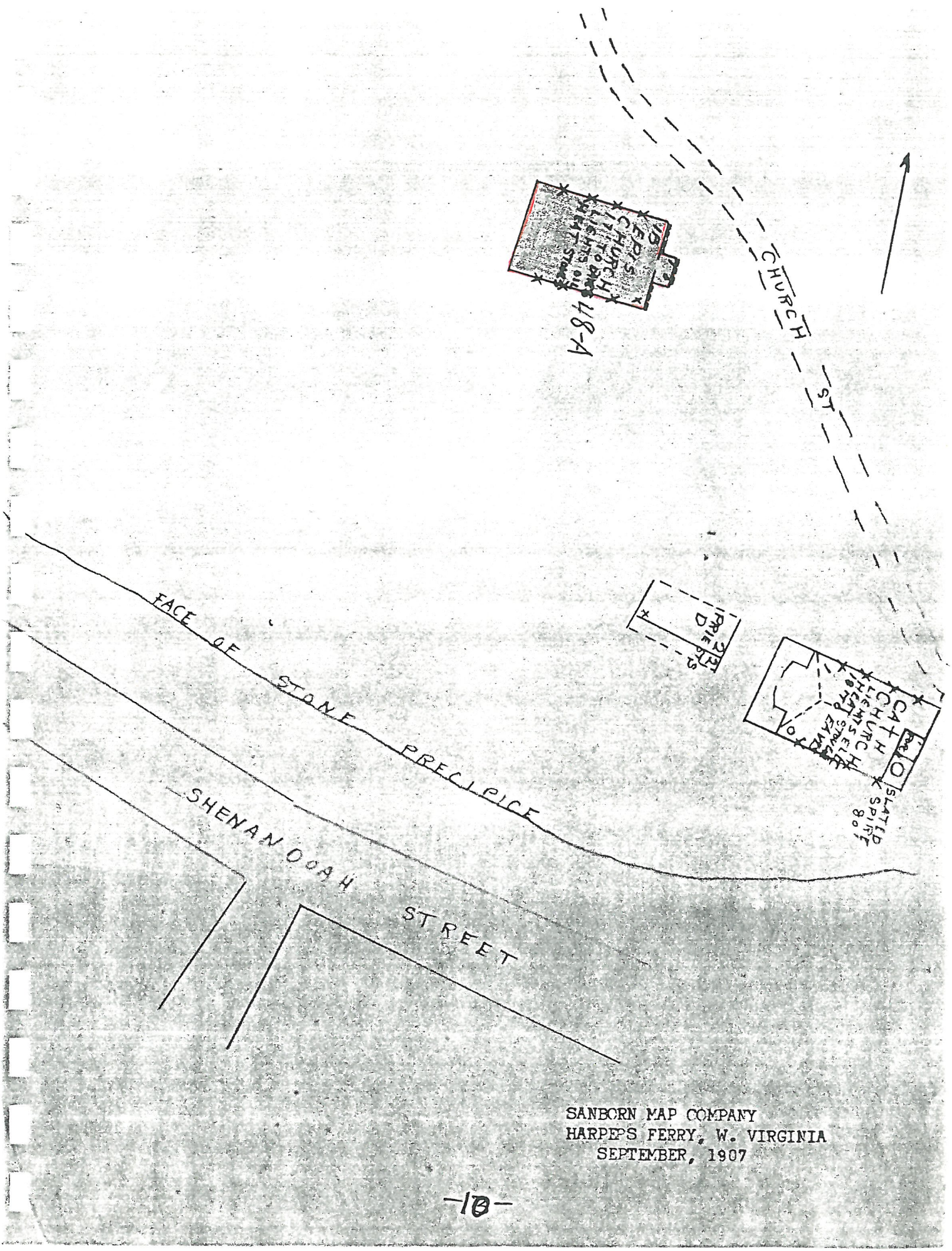
14. Perris-Danborn Map Company, Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia, November, 1894; see next page.

15. Photographs: HF-64; HF-46, HF-240; HF-6, HF-11, HF-449, HF-55, HF-25, HF-43, HF-379, HF-99, HF-95, HF-486, HF-384, HF-983, in Appendix I of this report.

16. Sanborn Map Company, Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia, September, 1907d See page 10.

17. The Strange Story of Harpers Ferry, Joseph Barry, Thompson Bros., Martinsburg, W. Va., 1903, p.172.


CHURCH ST.
N
48-A
CHURCH
BRICK
CATHOLIC CHURCH
STONE
CLIFF
SHENANDOAH STREET
SANBORN-PERRIS MAP CO.
HARPERS FERRY
NOVEMBER, 1894


CHURCH ST
A-84
FACE OF STONE PRECIPICE
SHENANDOAH STREET
SANBORN MAP COMPANY
HARPER'S FERRY, W. VIRGINIA
SEPTEMBER, 1907

4. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

All historical prints and photographs, 14 in number, and one modern photograph of Bldg. No. 48A, will be found in Appendix I of this report.

5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF BLDG. No. 48A

No historical plans of Bldg. No. 48A have been found and it is unlikely that any will ever be found. Modern measured drawings of this structure have not yet been prepared.

6. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the land

The Protestant Episcopal Church Lot was owned by the United States Government from 1796 to 1868. From 1819 until 1845 the lot was leased by the United States to the congregation of the Free Church. From January 16, 1851,

to December 15, 1868, the lot was next leased by the United States to the congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Title to the lot as laid out on the 1869 map, was granted to the Protestant Episcopal Church by an act of Congress on December 15, 1868.

B. Constructing the Bldg.

The Protestant Episcopal Church was probably constructed in 1851 or 1852 just after a lease was granted for the lot.

The church was a one story building with basement and was constructed of field stone with concrete facing. Its dimensions were approximately 37½ by 60 feet, and was seventeen feet high to the eaves.

Prior to 1865 there was a small annex at the rear of the church that probably contained the altar; this was later removed, but there is evidence on the rear of the church today to indicate that it was once there. There was no belfry on the structure before the Civil War.

There was a window set high in the front wall that probably lighted the rafters of the building. There were four large windows in either side wall of the building with four smaller ones in the basement. A flight of steps led up to the front door through a one story porch from Church Street.

C. Use of the Building

The building was used from 1850 or 1851 when the church was built until 1907 or thereafter for a church for the Protestant Episcopal Congregation of Harpers Ferry. It was damaged during the Civil War and was probably used by troops as a hospital and barracks.

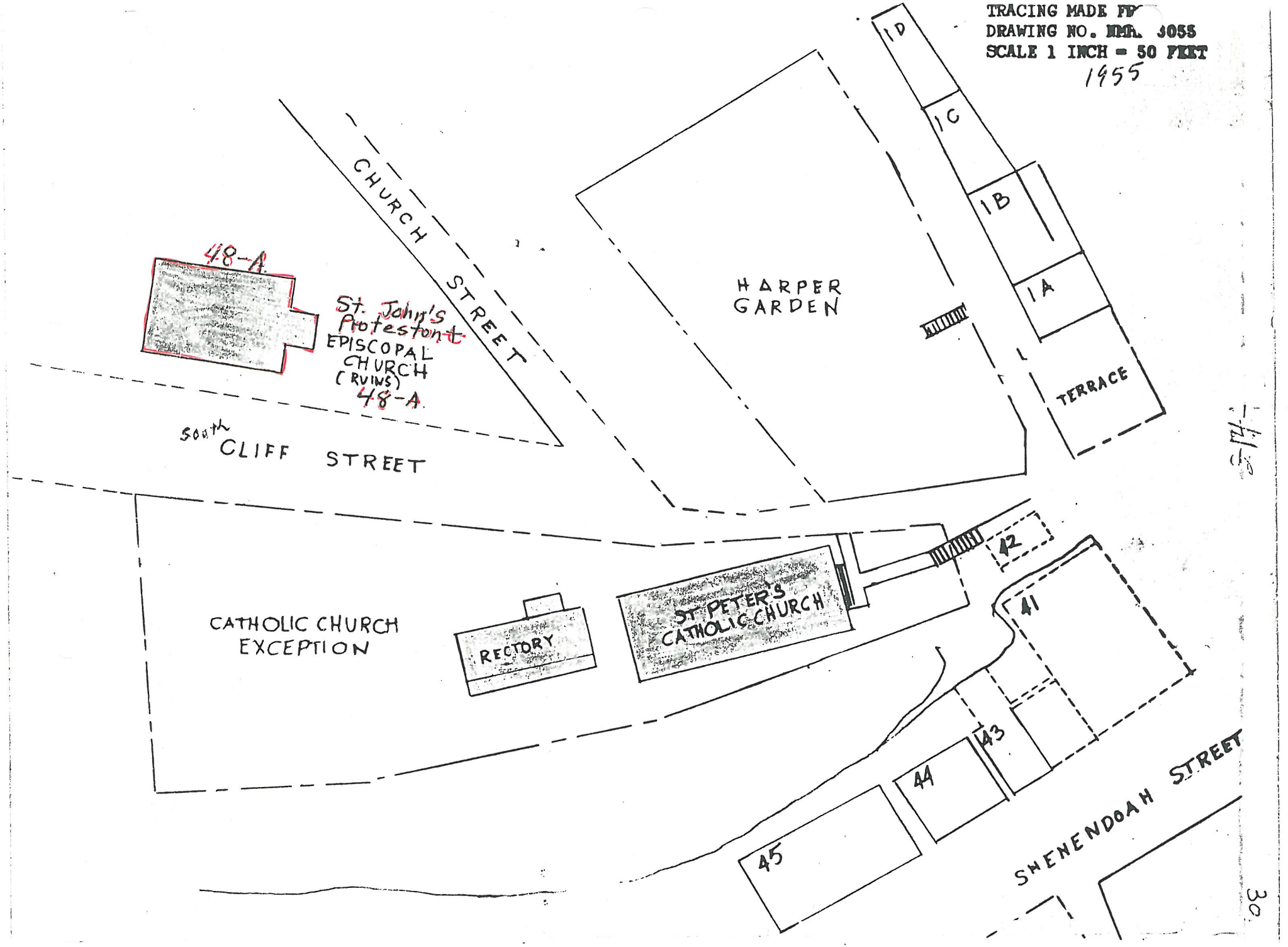
VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

The exterior of Bldg. No. 48-A could probably be restored to its 1859-65 appearance on the basis of evidence contained in the photographs in Appendix I of this report. Such restoration, however, is not recommended. The

church is today a picturesque ruin, with trees growing inside it and vines covering both the interior and exterior walls. In its hillside setting, the building holds a certain charm for the visitor which would certainly be lost if it was to be restored. An additional argument against the restoration of Bldg. No. 48-A is that if the Protestant Episcopal Church is restored, then persons interested in the complete restoration of the ruins of the Presbyterian Church, which is also located in the Monument, would certainly have a right to request a similar treatment of that structure at the expense of the government. It is estimated that the cost of stabilizing Bldg. No. 48-A will amount to about $1,000. All things considered, it is therefore recommended that Bldg. No. 48-A be stabilized. A 1955 map showing the present location of the Protestant Episcopal Church appears on the following page.

SIGNED

Philip R. Smith, Jr.
Park Historian
October ~~14~~ 23 1958
Revised March 6, 1959
Revised May 6, 1959


TRACING MADE FR
DRAWING NO. MMA. 3055
SCALE 1 INCH = 50 FEET
1955
1D
1C
1B
1A
TERRACE
HARPER GARDEN
CHURCH STREET
48-A
St. John's Protestant EPISCOPAL CHURCH (RUINS)
48-A
South CLIFF STREET
CATHOLIC CHURCH EXCEPTION
RECTORY
ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
42
41
43
44
45
SHENENDOAH STREET
30

APPENDIX I

PHOTOGRAPHS

(15)

Harpers Ferry and Wooden Covered Bridge From the Maryland Shore. Before June 14, 1861.

Original contributed by John Perry.
National Geographic File No. 140319-A.
HF-64.

This photograph was taken before the bridge was destroyed and shows three of the churches that this report is concerned with.

Just over the Harpers Ferry end of the covered bridge is St. Peter's Catholic Church; to the right of it up on the hill is Bldg. No. 65 and next to it the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A. On the same level with the latter two buildings and on the right of the photograph is the Methodist Episcopal Church.

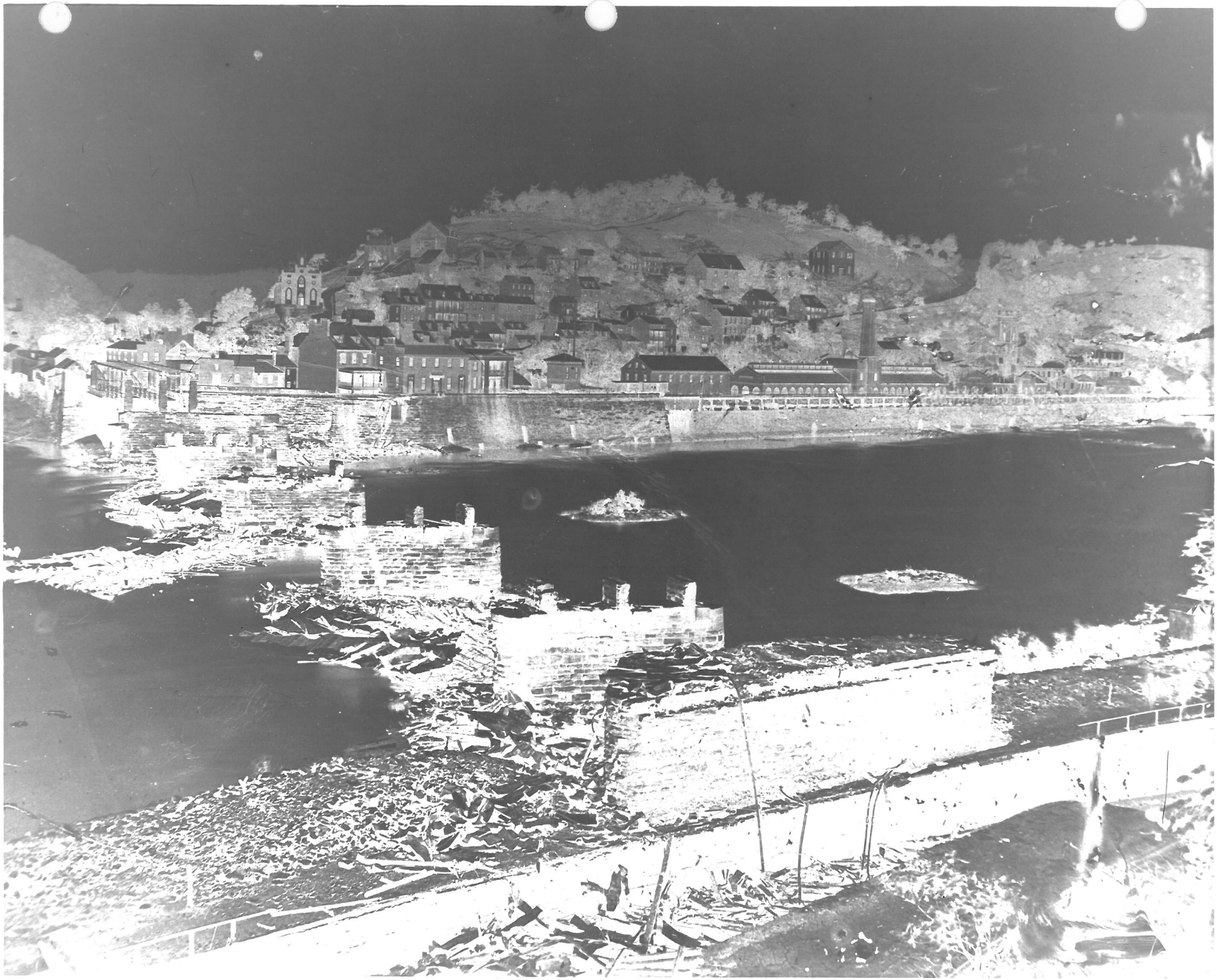


Harpers Ferry From the Base of Maryland Heights

From the Gettysburg N.M.P.
HF-46.

This photograph was made after June 14, 1861, when the Shenandoah Bridge was destroyed and before February 7, 1862, when the Ferry Lot buildings were destroyed.

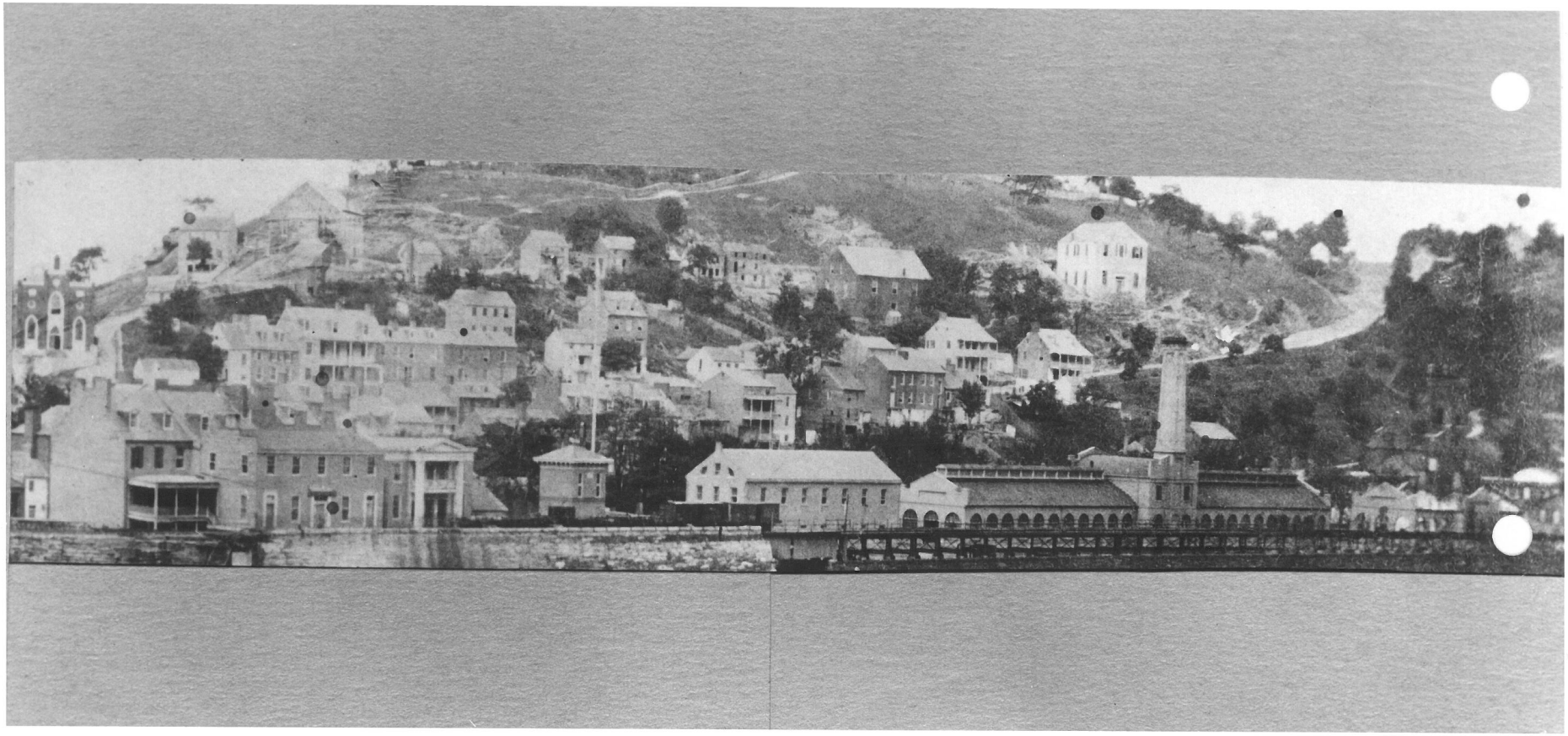
This photograph shows all the churches that this report is concerned with. The building on the hill behind the town in the left center of the picture is St. Peter's Catholic Church. To the right of it and up the hill are Building No. 65 and the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A. The two large buildings on the hill toward the right of the photograph are the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant. The Methodist Episcopal is the ~~first~~ Large building to the left of the armory smoke stack while the Methodist Protestant is ~~just behind~~ Above and to the left of the stack. The two latter churches are missing in the photographs taken after the war.



Harpers Ferry, Photographed immediately
After the Evacuation of the Rebels.
After February, 1865.

Photographed by C. C. Bostwick.
Reproduced from the Library of Congress,
(13344-36).
HF-240. Blow up From HF-90

This photograph, taken in 1865, shows the churches with which this report is concerned. St. Peter's Catholic Church is shown on the extreme left of the hill in back of the town. Up the hill and to the right of the Catholic Church is Building No. 65 and to the right of it, across the street, is Building No. 48-A, the Protestant Episcopal Church. On the same level and to the right upon the hill are the Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Protestant Churches. In HF-449, taken after 1865, all the churches remain with the exception of the Methodist Episcopelian Church that was so badly damaged it was torn down.



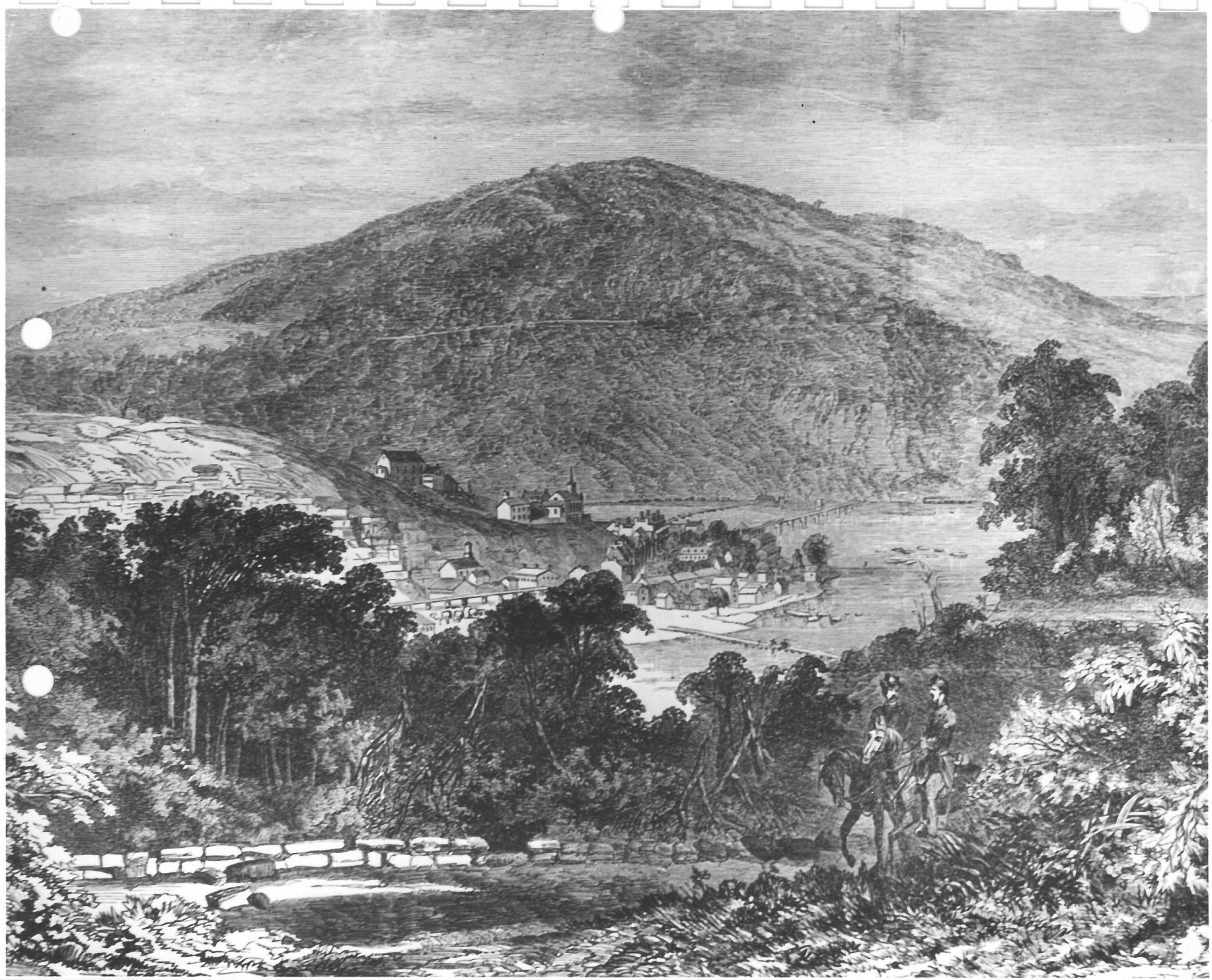
View of Harpers Ferry, the Junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers from Loudoun Heights ca. 1861-1865.

From Frank Leslie's Illustrated History of the Civil War, New York, 1895, p.373. Wood Engraving HF-6, National Archives BA-2164.

This engraving was made in the period of 1861 to 1865. This view shows two of the churches mentioned in this report. The Catholic Church is shown in the center of the photograph with the parochial school shown in the rear of the church.

To the left of the church in the engraving and further up the hill is the Protestant Episcopal Church. This is the only illustration showing the addition on the rear of the church containing the chancel.

In the foreground of the town is a church that will be dealt with in a later report, the Presbyterian.



View from the North bank of the Potomac looking across the river at Harpers Ferry, Ruined bridge in foreground. 1862.

National Archives Still Picture Section,
Order No. CN-5079.
HF-11.

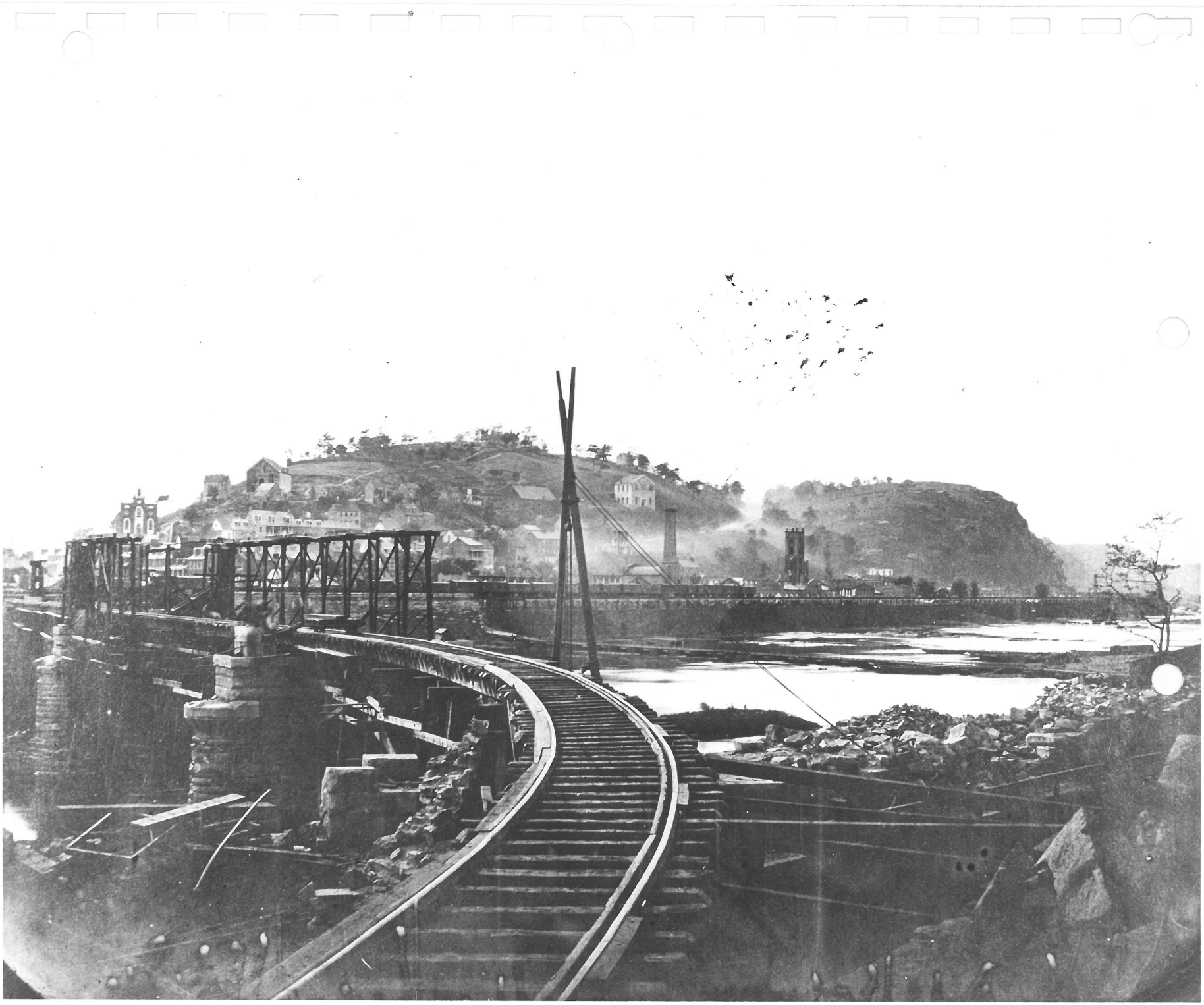
This view was taken after 1862 since the Ferry Lot buildings are missing.

This is a good view of all the churches that this report is concerned with.

To the left of the photograph, just over the wreckage of the bridge, may be seen St. Peter's Catholic Church. To the right of the church and up the hill may be seen Building No. 65. To the right of Building No. 65 is the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A. It appears that the church has suffered some damage since ~~the steps are missing and~~ the windows appear windowless.

To the left of the booms on the bridge appears the ~~Protestant~~ Methodist Episcopal Church that was later destroyed and removed. The large building to the right of the booms located on the hill is the Methodist Protestant Church.

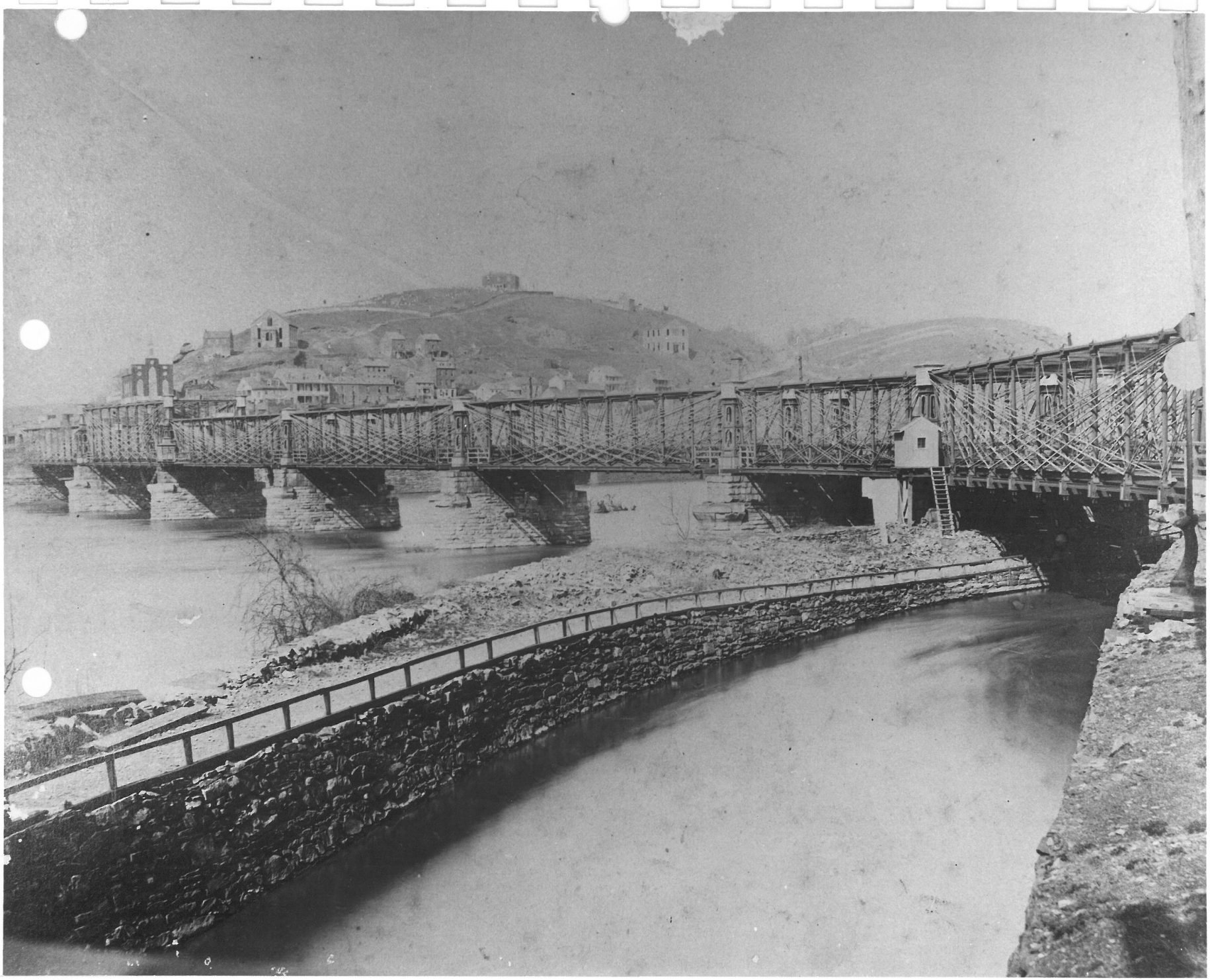
All of the church buildings with the exception of the Catholic Church appear to be windowless and not in use.



HF-449

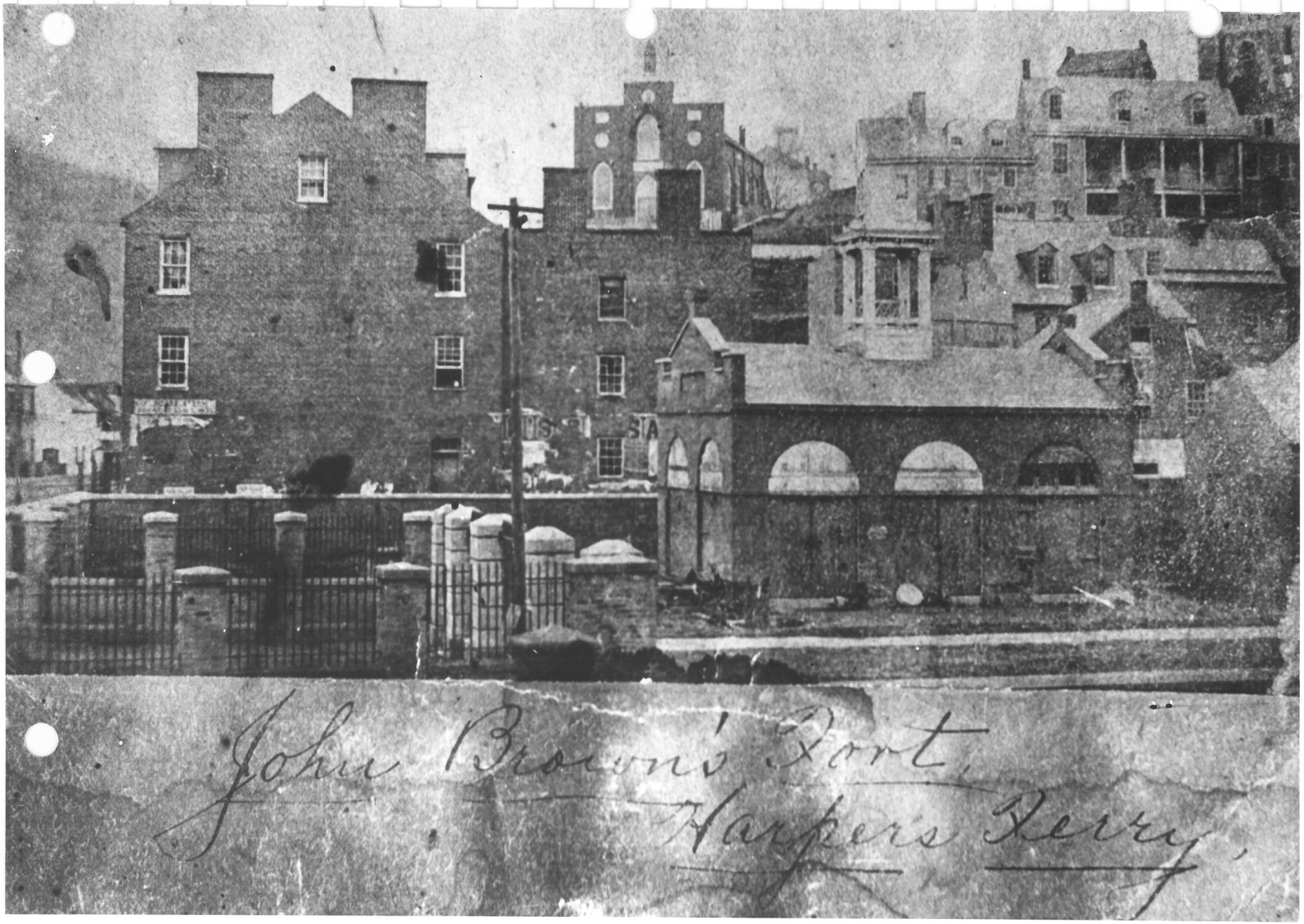
HF-449 was taken in 1865 just after the war ~~and before~~ When the new Baltimore and Ohio bridge was constructed.

This photograph shows all the churches with which this report is concerned with the exception of the Methodist Episcopal Church which was removed during the war. St. Peter's Catholic Church is at the left over the railroad bridge, and appears to be undamaged. Up the hill to the ~~left~~ Right of the church is building No. 65 and next to that is the Protestant Episcopal Church, Bldg 48A. that appears to have been damaged during the war since the windows are missing together with the stairs leading to the door in front. The Methodist Episcopal Church is missing and on the far ~~left~~ Right on the hill the Methodist Protestant appears to have been damaged from its occupation by Union troops and the battles that raged around the town.



John Brown's Fort, Harpers Ferry, HF-55

Photo Made between 1865 and ~~1880~~ 1870 because the Wager House porch is walled in up to the Second Floor ~~pictured.~~ The engine house is in the foreground of the picture. Above it and to the left of it may be seen the Catholic Church before it was remodeled. Just behind the Catholic Church may be seen the parochial school. In the upper right hand of the picture may be seen the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A. To the ~~right~~ Left of the building may be seen the roof of Building No. 65.



John Brown's Fort,
Harpers Ferry,

Potomac River (Maryland and Louden Heights) from Harpers Ferry Hill.
~~1862.~~ 1865-~~1865~~ 1870

Library of Congress No. 133, Lot 4164.
From Gettysburg N.M.P. Oct. 17, 1957.
HF-25.

This photograph shows the roof of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A in the right foreground. Building is ~~as~~ not yet ~~undamaged~~ Repaired.

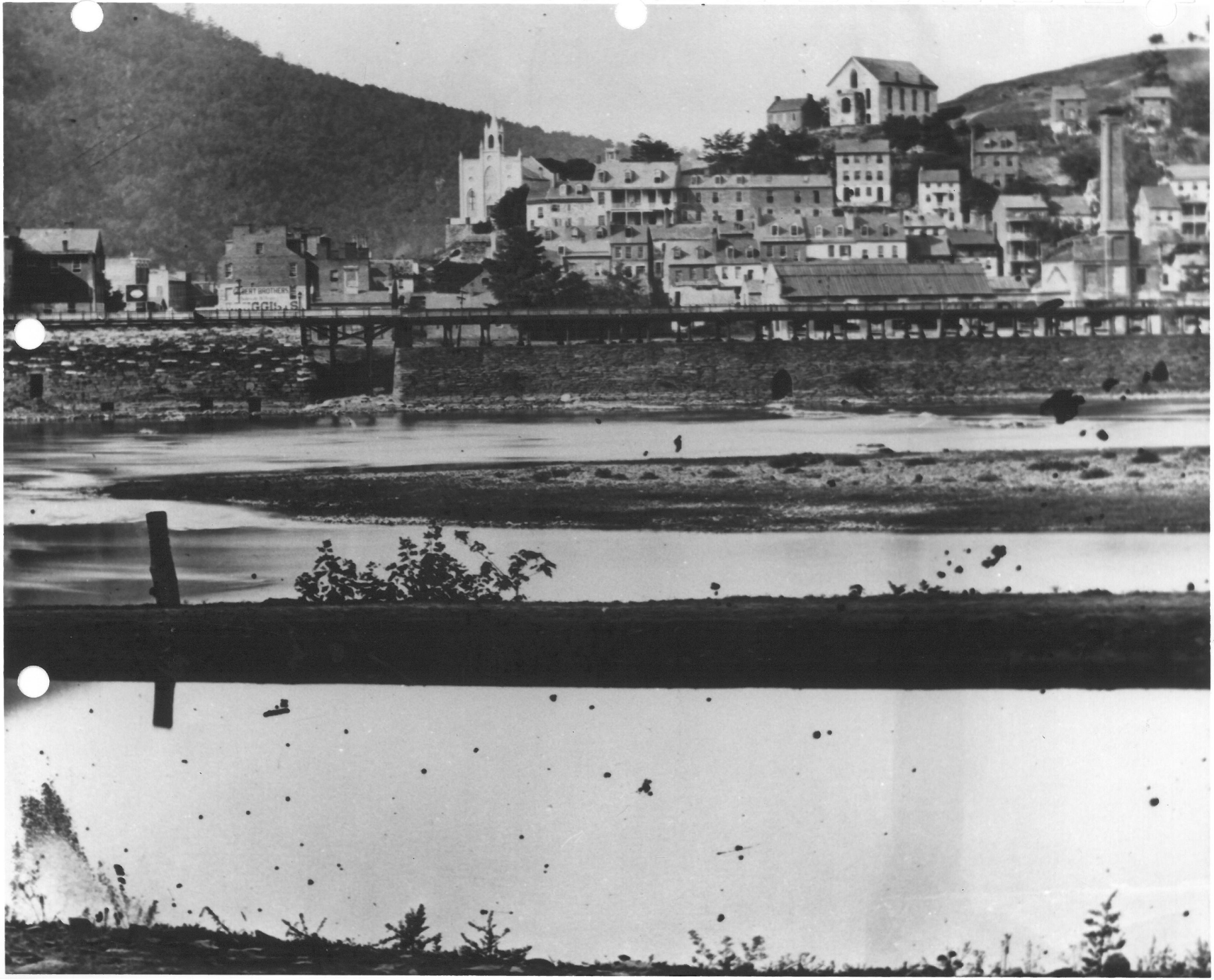


View of Harpers Ferry from the foot of Maryland Heights Looking directly at the town. Between 1870 and 1876.

From Gettysburg N.M.P.
HF-43.

The St. Peter's Catholic Church is shown in left center of the photograph before its restoration. To the left of the church and behind the Wager House may be seen the cupola of the Catholic parochial school.

Up the hill and to the ~~left~~ Right of the St. Peter's Catholic Church may be seen Building No. 65 and to the right of that the Protestant Episcopal Church Bldg 48A. The steps on the front of the Protestant Episcopal Church have not yet been erected; also the belfry on the front of the building has not yet been constructed.

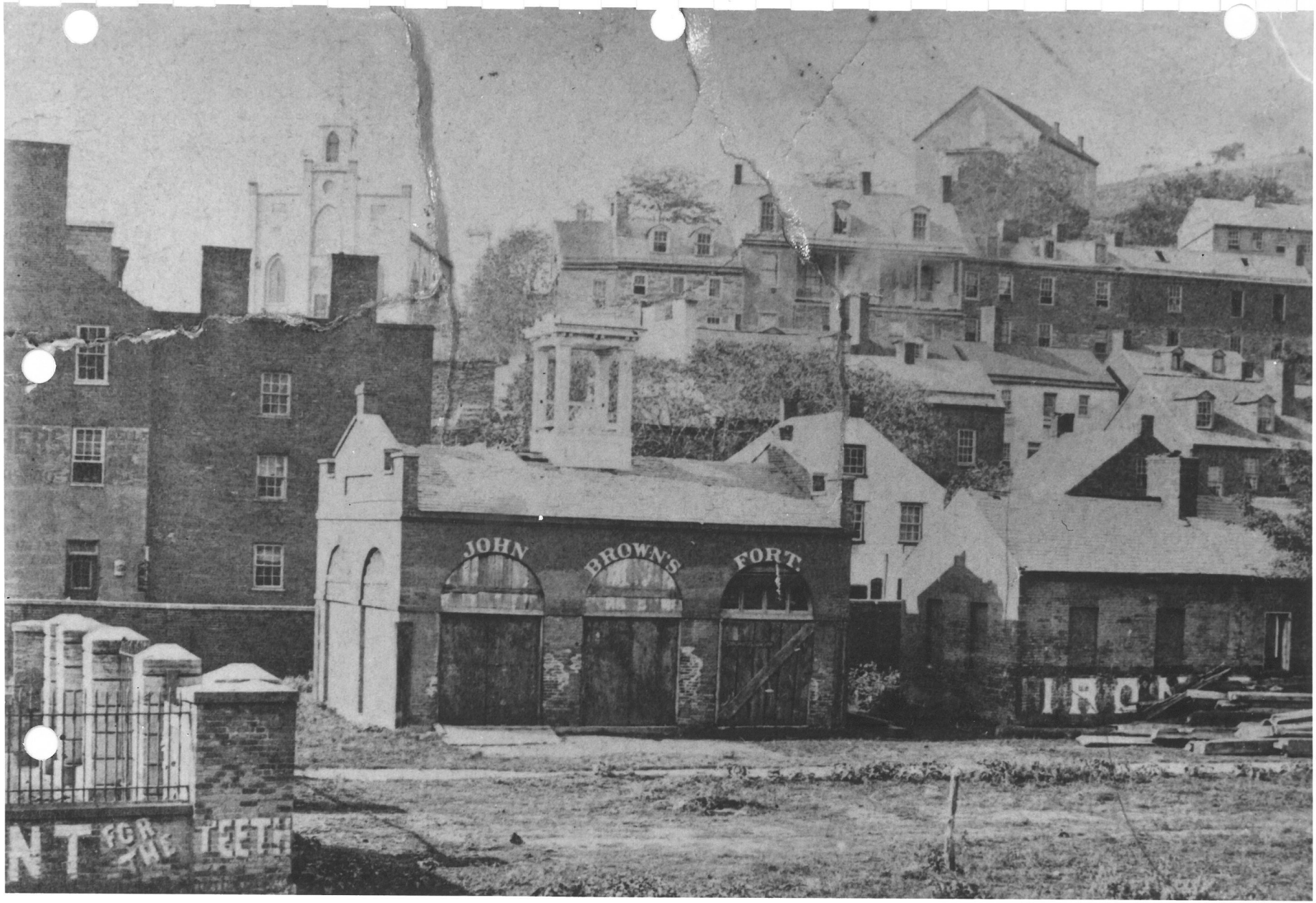


John Brown's Fort. 1880-1892

HF-379.

In 1880's before the reconstruction of the St. Peter's Catholic Church.

To the left and over the Fort is the St. Peter's Catholic Church, as yet unrestored. Just visible behind it is the cupola of the parochial school. In the upper ~~left~~ Right hand corner of the photograph is the Protestant Episcopal Church, Bldg 424; with glass in the windows again.


JOHN
BROWN'S
FORT
TEETH

Harpers Ferry from Loudon Heights--1892-1896

National Geographic, 140321-A.
HF-99.

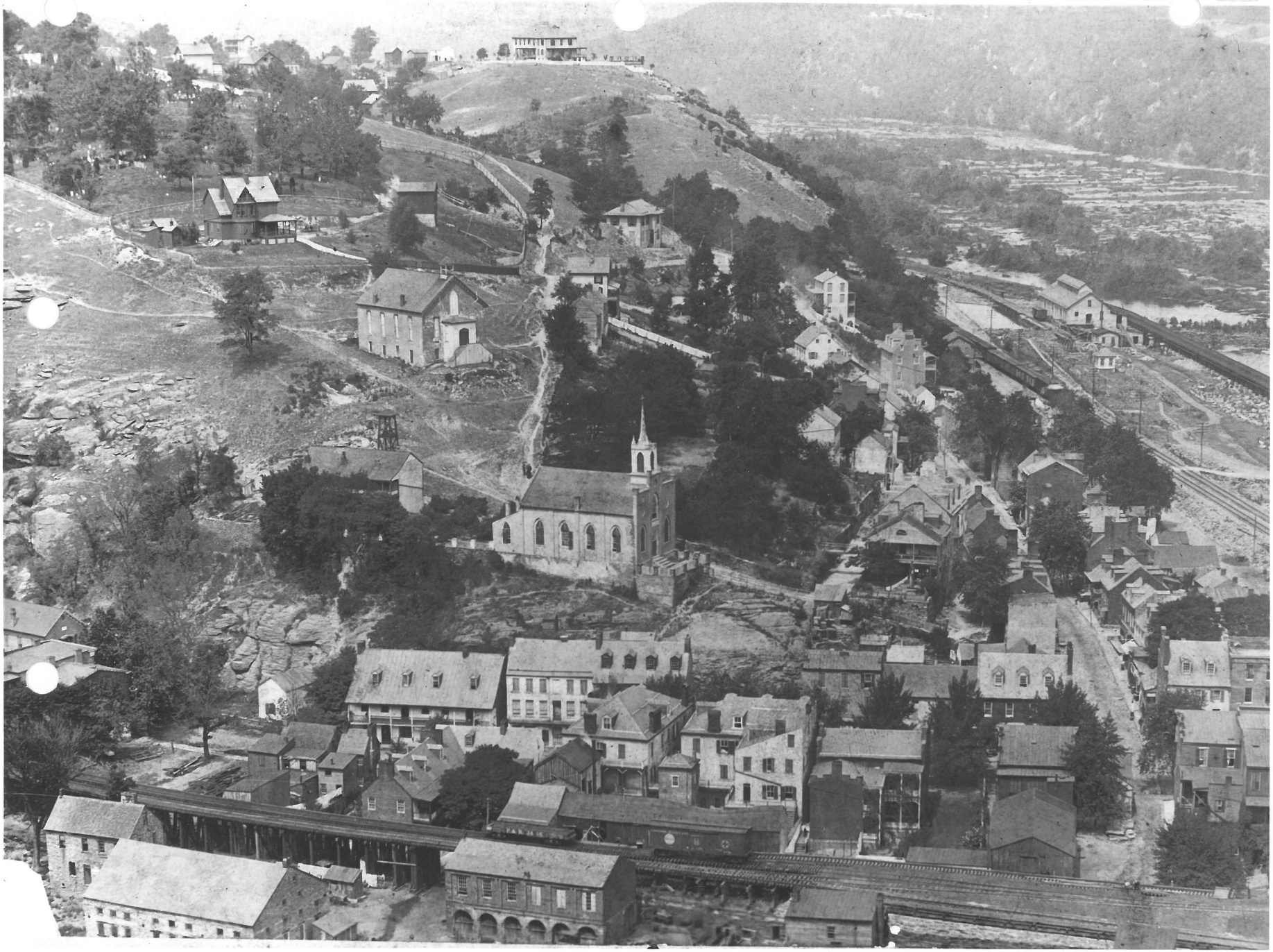
This view shows the town between 1892, when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks were moved and before 1896 because the Catholic Church has not yet been remodeled.

The Catholic Church is the ~~stone~~ Brick building in the center of the photograph with the five arched windows and the steeply. Behind it and to the left of it in the photograph is the former parochial school, by 1892 a dwelling for the Priest.

Just above the school in the photograph and up the hill is the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A. It appears to be in operation; this refutes the claims that the building was destroyed during the war. The stairs on the front of the building and the windows have been repaired. A belfry has been added to the top of the building.

The foundations of Building No. 65 may be seen just below and to the left of the Protestant Church.

It may be noted that the Methodist Protestant and Methodist Episcopal Churches have been removed. The building directly behind the steeple of the Catholic Church on the corner of High and Church Streets is erected on the site of the Methodist Protestant Church.



Harpers Ferry from Maryland Heights.

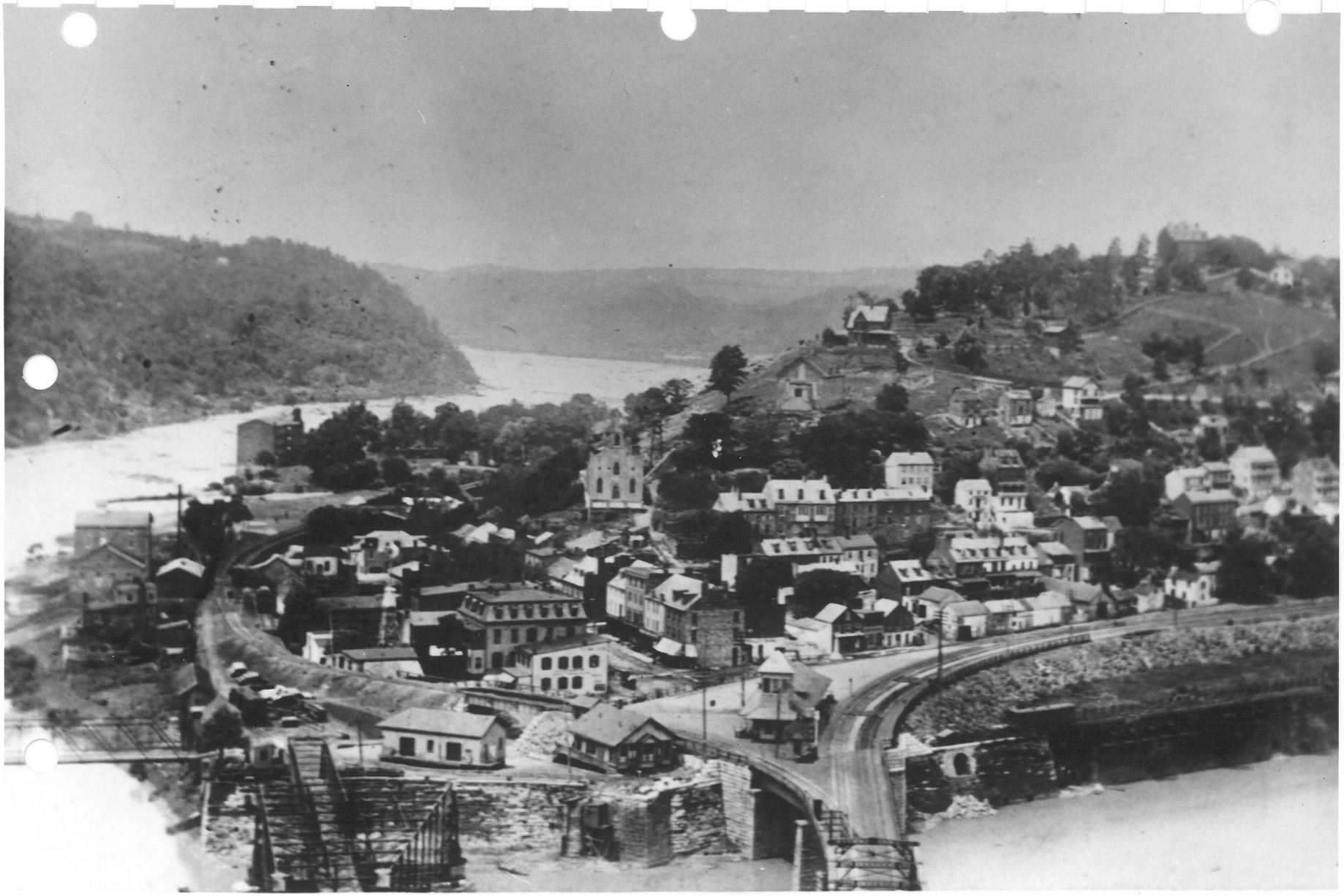
This photograph was taken prior to 1896 because the St. Peter's Catholic Church has not been remodeled and after 1892, as the Fort is gone

HF-95.

This photograph was donated through the courtesy of Mrs. J. A. Greenland.

St. Peter's Catholic Church is located a little to the left of the center in the picture. It is the building with three arched windows and belfry on the top. This was just prior to the complete ~~restoration~~ remodeling of the building.

To the right of the Catholic Church and up the hill is the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A. Note the steps in front of the building and the belfry on top. The windows appear to have been put in, and from all indications the building is in use.



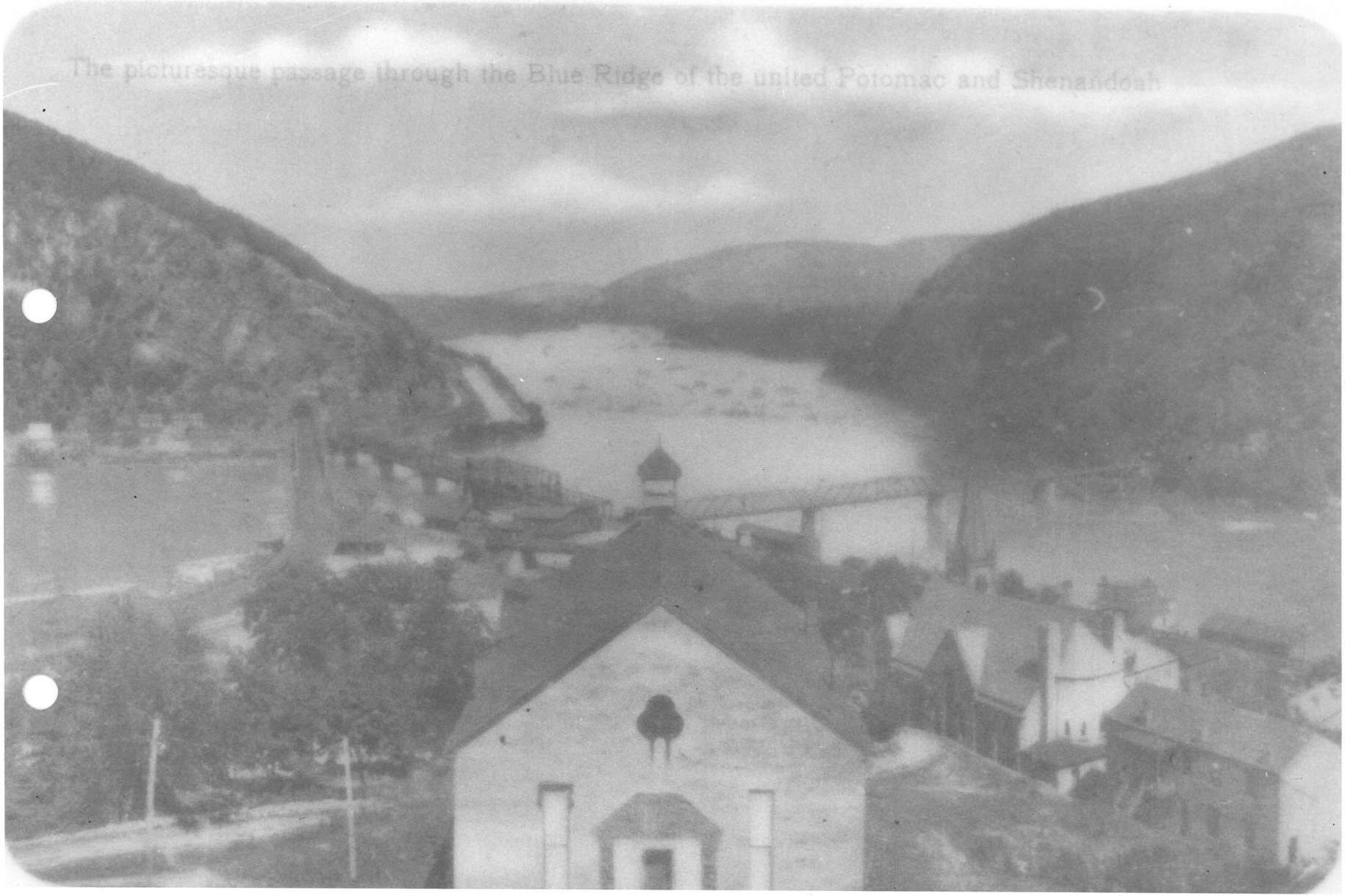
The Picturesque Passage Through The
Blue Ridge of the United Potomac
and Shenandoah.

HF-486.

Taken after 1896 when the St. Peter's Catholic Church was remodeled and possibly before 1910.

In the foreground of the photograph is the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A. In the lower portion of the building may be seen the outline on the wall of the building of the chancel shown in HF-6. There is also a belfry on the front of the building that is missing in the Dittmeyer postcard, HF-384.

To the right of the Protestant Episcopal Church is St. Peter's Catholic Church and the former parochial school behind the church. The old school is ~~a two story building~~ being used as a Parsonage. The belfry on the roof of the school, shown in earlier photographs, is also missing.

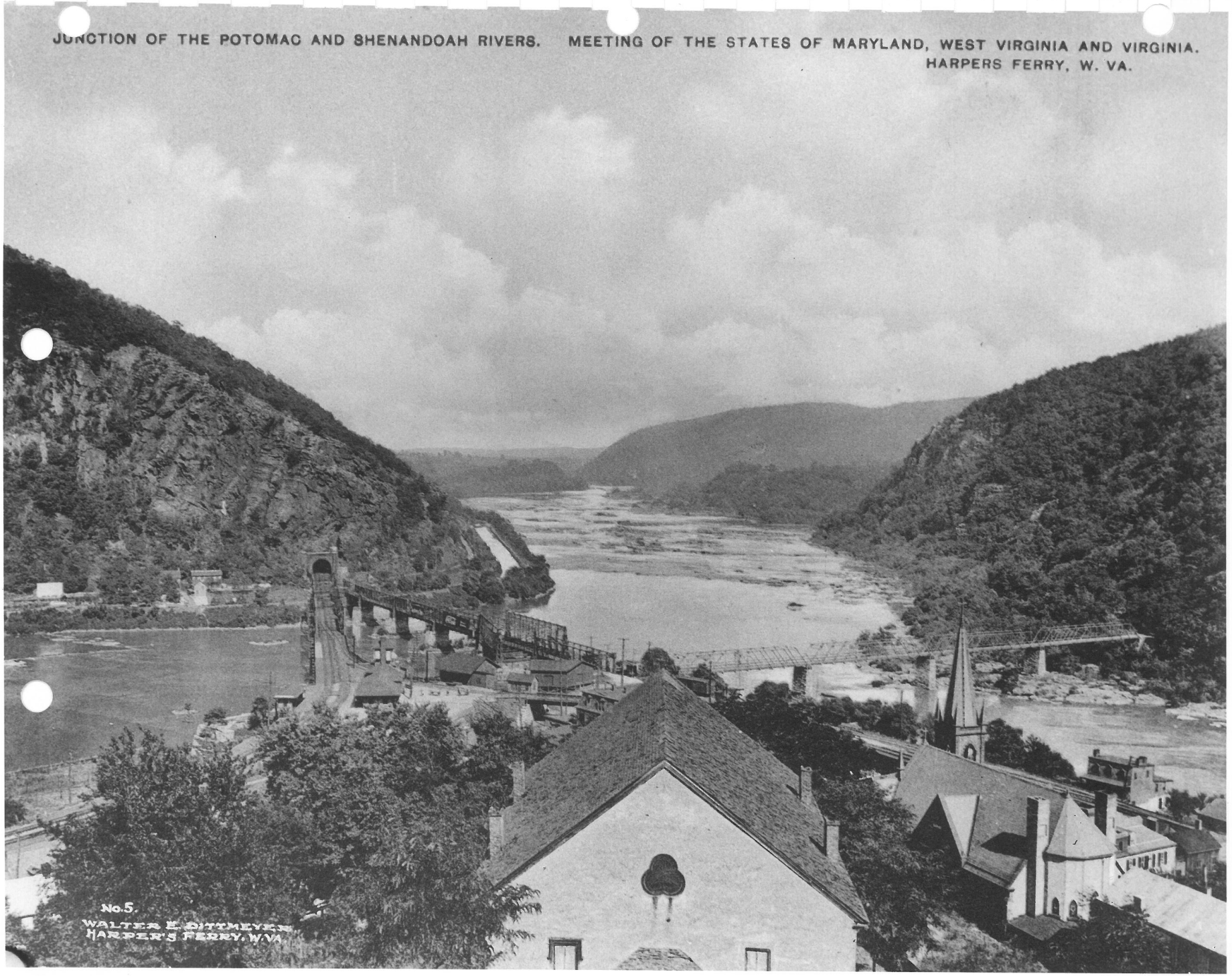

The picturesque passage through the Blue Ridge of the united Potomac and Shenandoah

Junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, 1910.

View from Jefferson Rock looking toward the Gap. Postcard #5, Walter E. Dittmeyer, HF-384.

In the foreground is the roof of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Building No. 48-A. It is to be noted that the building appears to be whole and in use. To the right of the Protestant Episcopal Church is St. Peter's Catholic Church, remodeled in 1896. The lower portion of the Protestant Episcopal Church shows where the chancel was formerly located; a similar addition is shown on the rear of St. Peter's Catholic Church.

JUNCTION OF THE POTOMAC AND SHENANDOAH RIVERS. MEETING OF THE STATES OF MARYLAND, WEST VIRGINIA AND VIRGINIA.
HARPERS FERRY, W. VA.



HF-983

HF-983 shows the south and east sides of the ruins of the Protestant Episcopal ruins, Building No. 48-A. This was taken in 1956.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

March 6, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Historic Building Report, Bldg. No. 48-A, St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church. Research Project No. HF-22A

Enclosed please find four copies of the Historic Building Report, Part I, for "Bldg. No. 48-A, Ste.John's Protestant Episcopal Church," dated October 23, 1958, revised March 6, 1959, 33 pages. Historian Philip R. Smith, Jr., has written the Historical Data Section and I have prepared the Administrative Data.

Research Reports of the other three churches included in the original report will be submitted in the near future.

(SGD) FRANK H. ANDERSON

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

	ACT	INFO
SUPT	4-27	
RGR		
HIST	4/28	CWS
ADM. AID		
MF		
112	5/26	

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

April 23, 1959

H. F. NAT. MON.
REC'D.
APR 24 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry

From: Regional Historian

Subject: Historic Building Report, Bldg., No. 48-A, St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church. Research Project No. HF-22A'

We think the opening section of this report should be simplified and "narrative-ized" somewhat along the lines of the following:

"The lot on which St. John's Episcopal Church was built was part of the property purchased on June 15, 1846 by the United States Government from John Wager, Sr., for the purpose of establishing a Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry.[1] It had originally been the site of the so-called Free Church, built in 18__, used till burned down in the winter of 1844-45. This had been the first grant of land for church purposes made by the Armory.[2]

"The Episcopal Church had first requested (in 18__) use of a lot [give location, and refer to map] for its parsonage and church building, but had switched to the Free Church site. Up to that time, the congregation had been meeting in -----.[3] By terms of the lease on January 16, 1851 between the Secretary of War and the church trustees, the lots were to be used 'at the will and sufferance of the United States, who specially reserved the right to reenter and have the same again, as if no such grant . . . had been made.'[4] The terms were in keeping with the understanding reached at the time of the agreement with the Free Church in 1825.[5] According to a letter from Superintendent Lee to --- dated March 28, 1827, the individuals who assisted in the erection of that church did not 'expect or claim any vested rights, control or proprietorship in the building, they consider it as belonging to the government wholly with the understanding that . . . .' [A footnote at this point might mention the no immediately relevant detail regarding school and Masonic Hall

use of the Free Church building - or - this might be saved for a separate report on that church.]

"At the time of the surplus land sale in 1952, the lot used by the Episcopal Church was set aside for that use in accordance with the policy outlined in the following statement by the Secretary of War: - - -"

In the construction section that follows, some documentation should be given for the findings on page 11, the first two full paragraphs.

Frank Barnes
Regional Historian

In duplicate

Attachments 4

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
May 6, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Historic Building Report, Bldg., No. 48-A, St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church. Research Project No. HF-22A

Enclosed please find four copies of the "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 48A, St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church," revised May 6, 1959, 30 pages. The has been revised by Historian Philip R. Smith, Jr., in compliance with Regional Historian Frank Barnes' memorandum of April 23.

(SGD) FRANK H. ANDERSON

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

Enclosures

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

May 12, 1959

	ACT	INFO
SUPT	5-13	✓
RGR		
HiST	5/13	CNS
ADM. A'D		✓
MF		
4-7	5/13	FEJ

H. F. NAT. MON.
REC'D.
MAY 13 1959

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I - Building No. 48A (St. John's P.E. Church) - Harpers Ferry NM

In accordance with the procedure outlined in FO-11-56, attached for your consideration is the Historic Structures Report, Part I, for Building No. 48A (St. John's P.E. Church), Harpers Ferry NM. A copy of the report is also being forwarded to the EODC for review and comment.

The report should be reviewed and comments submitted by May 25.

(Sgd.) George A. Palmer

George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachments 2

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

H. F. NAT. MON.
REC'D.
MAY 21 1959

H30-DCA

	ACT	INFO
SUPT	5-21	
RGR		
HIST	5/22	CWS
ADM. AID		
MF		
H	5/22	PTR

May 18, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief Architect

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Building No. 48A, (St. John's P.E. Church), Harpers Ferry

The Historic Structures Report, Part I, Building No. 48A, (St. John's P.E. Church), Harpers Ferry National Monument, has been reviewed by the interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended for approval.

SIGNED

Charles W. Lessig, Acting
Chief Architect

Copy to: Chief, EODC (2)
Supt., Harpers Ferry

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30

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

May 21, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I - Building No. 48A (St. John's P.E. Church)

This is a very good report, and we are pleased to recommend for approval the proposals made regarding the stabilization of the ruins of this structure.

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC

H. F. NAT. MON.
REC'D.
MAY 22 1959

	ACT	INFO
SUPT		
RGR		
HIST	5/22	
ADM. AID		
MF		
H	5/25	