

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT

PART II

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

BLDG. NO. 14

THE ALFRED BURTON JEWELRY SHOP

Harpers Ferry National Monument

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9 Pages

Project No. HF-57

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HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1782-1952

Wager Lot No. 15, subdivision 1, the present site of Bldg. No. 14, was owned by the Wager family from 1782 until 1837. On October 28, 1837, the lot was sold to Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson, who retained title to the property until 1857. On October 12, 1857, Mrs. Stephenson sold a small portion of Lot No. 15, subdivision 1, to Alfred Burton for \$100. Burton's property was located at the northwest corner of Stephenson's lot, and was 12 feet wide on High Street, 13 feet wide at the rear, and 21 feet deep.¹ The location of Burton's lot may be seen by glancing at the 1848 plat which appears on the following page of this report. Mr. Burton and his heirs retained title to this property until it was purchased by the State of West Virginia for inclusion in Harpers Ferry National Monument.

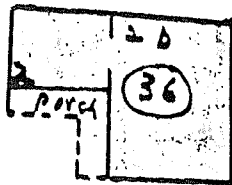
2. CONSTRUCTION OF BLDG. NO. 14

Alfred Burton constructed Bldg. No. 14 in 1858 and the shop was opened for business in November, 1858, as a jewelry store.² Burton's new building was a one story frame structure that fronted 11 feet 10 inches on High Street and was 20 feet five inches in depth. The building was mounted on a low brick foundation to bring the structure up to street level.³ Bldg. No. 14 may also be seen on the 1894 Perris Sanborn Map of Harpers Ferry which appears on page 3 of this report.

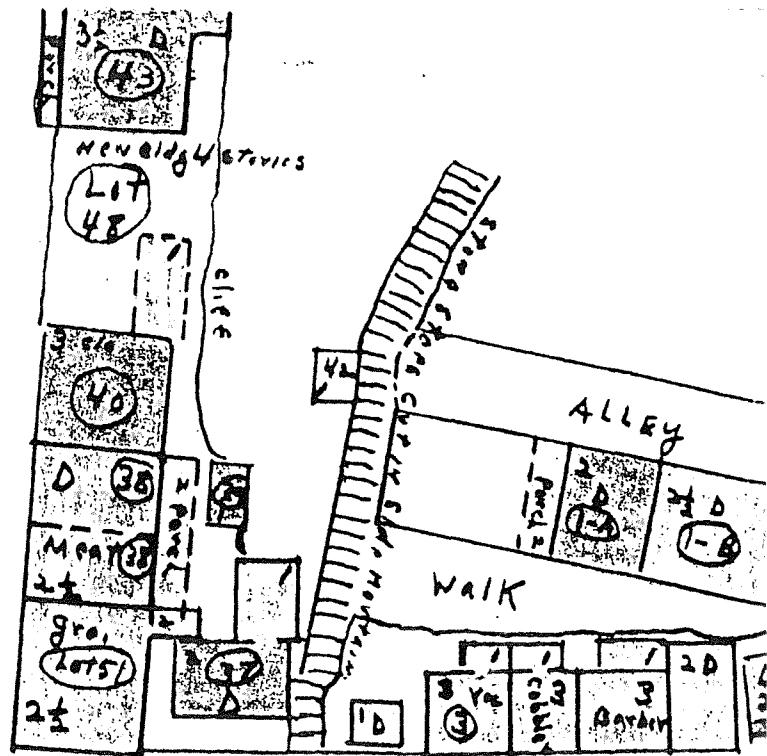
1. For a detailed and documented study of the ownership of Burton's Lot, see Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 14, The Burton Building," dated October 9, 1957, revised February 3, 1958, pp.1-3.

2. Virginia Free Press, November 11, 1858, p.3, c.3.

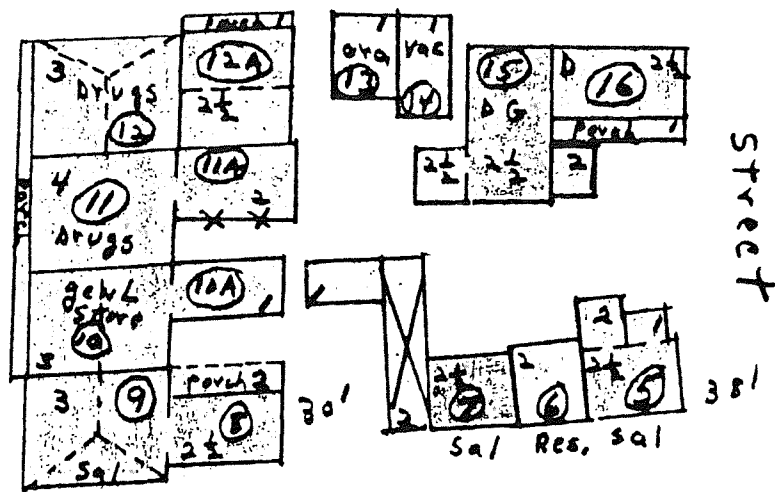
3. Drawing No. MM-HF-3060, "Bldg. No. 14-The Old Jewelry Store." Two sheets, dated August 27, 1956; Also Photographs HF-370 and HF-371.



SHENANDOAH STREET



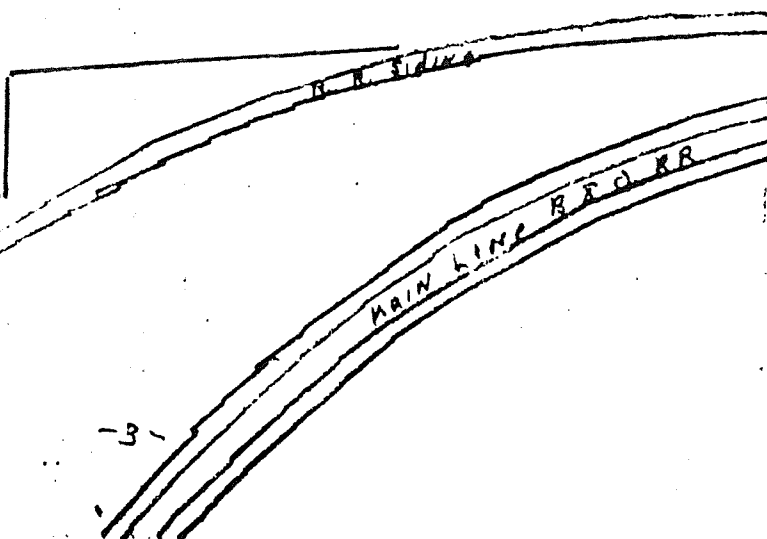
High street



POTOMAC STREET

Sanborn-Perris Map
of Harpers Ferry
November 1894.
Scale: 50 feet = one inch.

- Brick
- Stone
- Frame



3. USE OF BLDG. NO. 14, 1858-1861

Bldg. No. 14 was completed in 1858 and in November of that year William Burton announced that he had opened "a full assortment of Watches & Jewelry." ⁴ Repairing was also done. ⁵ Bldg. No. 14 was thus used from 1858 to 1861 and long after the Civil War as a jewelry store. In 1860 Alfred Burton was 33 years old; he had been born in Rhode Island, and his trade was that of a ⁶ watchmaker.

4. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BUILDING

No historical plans of Bldg. No. 14 have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located. For modern measured drawings see Drawing No. NM-HF-3060, "Bldg. No. 14-The Old Jewelry Store," two sheets, dated August 27, 1958.

5. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Early photographs showing Bldg. No. 14 will be found in the following reports:

1. 1895 photograph, HF-99, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for Bldg. No. 3, Wager Lot No. 53," dated July 29, 1958, page 17. View of roof and High Street front of Bldg. No. 14.
2. 1896 photograph, HF-96, in Sullivan, Arthur L., "History of Wager Lots No. 17 to 34, 1782-1869," dated February 18, 1959, page 90. View of rear and roof of Bldg. No. 14.

4. Virginia Free Press, November 11, 1858, p.3, c.3. Notice dated November 4, 1858.

5. Deed of Trust, March 23, 1860, Alfred Burton to Clagett & Yantis, Deed Book 39, pp.166-167, puts in trust Bldg. No. 14 and lot.

6. Burton is missing from the 1860 Census so the above information has been drawn from the Census of 1870, Reel 10, V.3, p.248.

3. 1955 view of front of Bldg. No. 14, see Snell, C. W., "Historic Bldg. Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 14," page 8.
4. 1955 view of front of Bldg. No. 14, showing relationship of Bldgs. No. 12, 12A, 13, and 14, 15 and 16, see Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 15, The Downey Building," dated October 7, 1957, revised January 30, 1958, page 12.

Three other early photographs will be found in Appendix I of this report.

6. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land, 1782-1952

Alfred Burton purchased the lot for Bldg. No. 14 from Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson for \$100 in October, 1857. The lot fronted 12 feet on High Street, was 21 feet deep and 13 feet wide at the rear. Burton and his heirs retained title to this property until the 1950's.

B. Construction of Bldg. No. 14

Bldg. No. 14 was erected in 1858 by Alfred Burton as a jewelry store. The shop was a one story frame structure mounted on a low brick foundation. The building fronted 11 feet 10 inches on High Street and was 20 feet 5 inches deep and contained one room.

C. Use of Bldg. No. 14, 1858-1865

The structure was used as the jewelry store of Alfred Burton from 1858 to the Civil War and then as the same after that war.

(Sgd) CHARLES W. SNELL

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
April 3, 1959

APPENDIX I

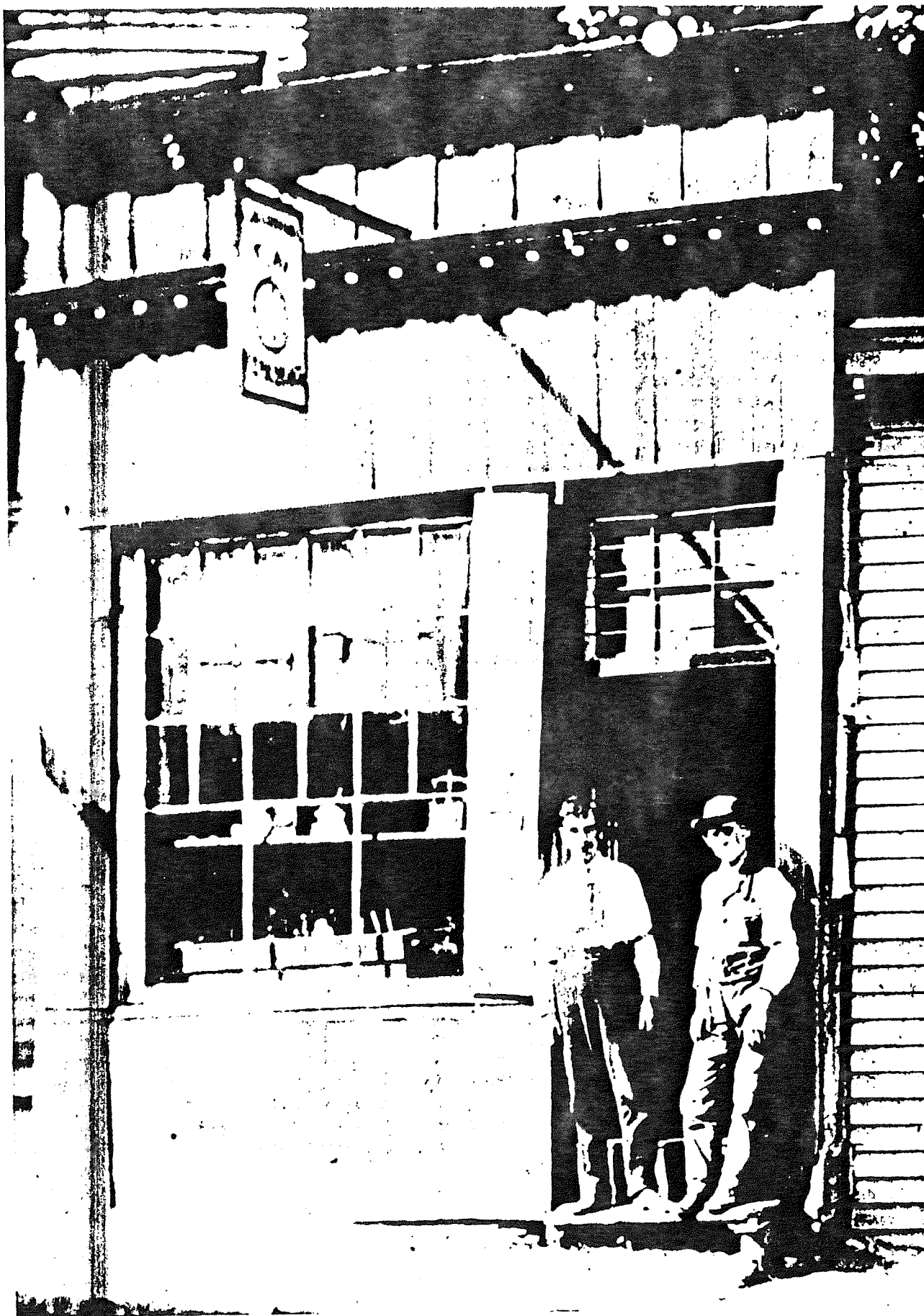
PHOTOGRAPHS

(Three)

ALFRED BURTON'S JEWELRY STORE

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-371.
Donated by Leona S. Martin and
Alfred Sponseller, Md.

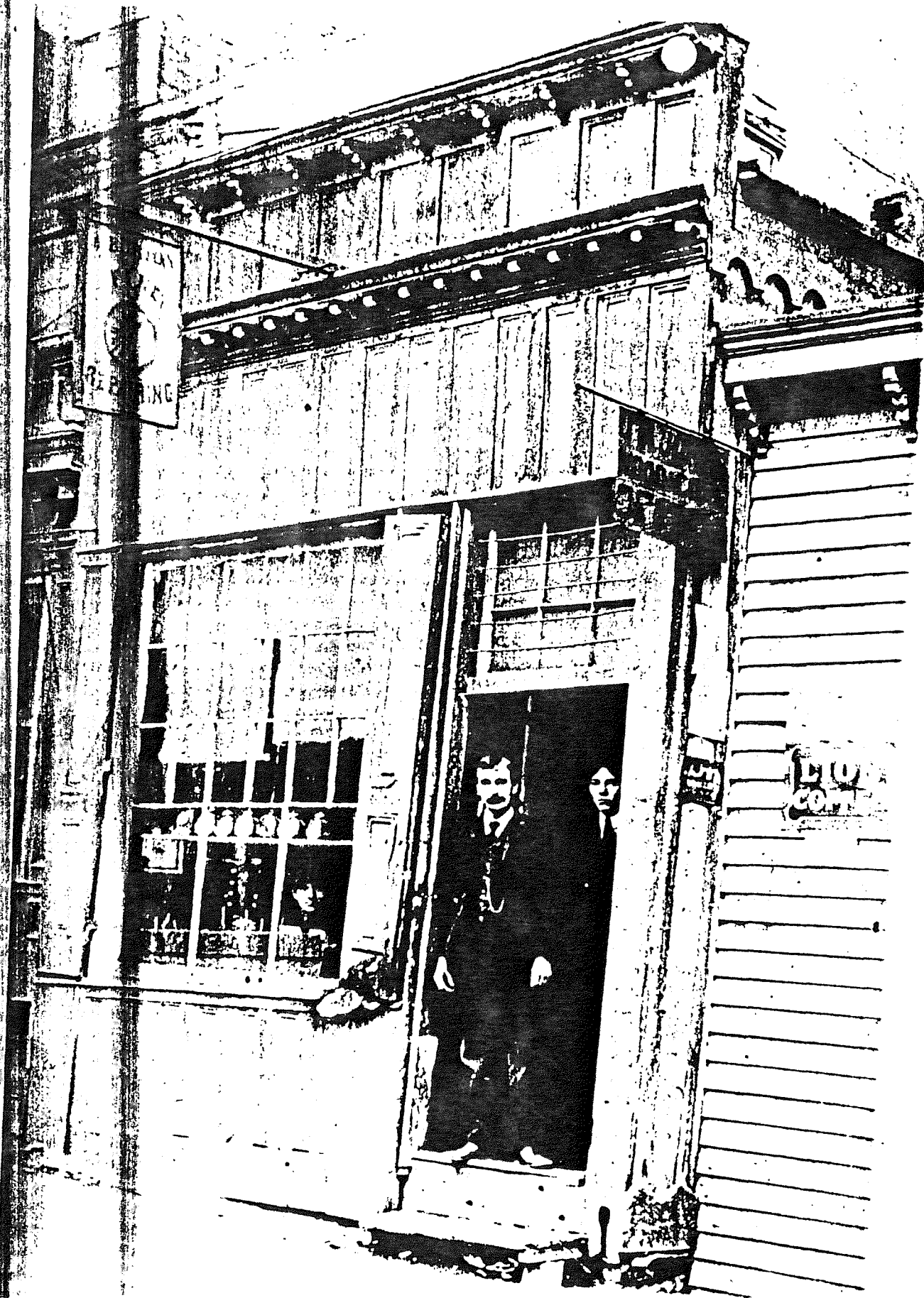
Howard Burton, son of Alfred Burton, standing
in doorway of Bldg. No. 14. Photograph probably made about 1886.



ALFRED BURTON'S JEWELRY STORE

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-370.
Donated by Leona S. Martin and
Alfred Sponseller, Md.

Howard Burton, son of Alfred Burton standing in
doorway of Bldg. No. 14. Photograph probably taken about 1890.



THE
BUILDING

110
COR.

ALFRED BURTON

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-369a.
Donated by Leona S. Martin and
Alfred Sponseller, Md.

Photograph of Alfred Burton, Jeweler
and proprietor of Bldg. No. 14.

