



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

June 4, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

142215

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 5 - 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN.		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-52, Bldg. No. 7

Historian Snell offers the following remarks in regard to the questions raised in Regional Historian Frank Barnes' memorandum of May 29 concerning the Part II-Historical Data Section for Bldg. No. 7.

1. The name "White Hall." We believe that Mr. Barnes is correct in assuming that the name "White Hall" was probably based on the fact that the exterior of Bldg. No. 7 was colored white. As we have no proof in documentary sources or pre-Civil War photographs, however, that the building was white prior to 1861, we therefore did not make a statement on this point. Architectural investigation of Bldg. No. 7, however, may well reveal the evidence required to convert this theory into an established fact.

2. The name "Potomac Street" may be added to the 1840 plat, pages 2 and 3, after the word "alley," as suggested by Mr. Barnes. The "alley" was widened into a street in 1850-51 and renamed "Potomac or North Cliff Street" in 1852.

3. The word "first" can be inserted in front of the word "four" in the first line of section 2, page 1, as suggested by Mr. Barnes.

4. In Mr. Snell's opinion, this study represents a brilliant research job as it brings together a great deal of evidence from widely scattered sources and the study succeeds in throwing a great deal of light on the architectural history of this obscure and minor structure. The discussion of Photograph HF-57, desired by Mr. Barnes, will be found on page 10 of the report. It remains for the results of the architectural investigation to determine if Photograph HF-57, which was made in the 1870's or early 1880's, shows Bldg. No. 7 as it actually appeared before the Civil War.

Frank H. Anderson
Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In quadruplet

Done
6-19-59
etc

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

May 29, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument
From: Regional Historian
Subject: Research Project No. HF-52 - Building No. 7

This report is adequate for inclusion in the complete Part II Historic Structure Report on this building. There might have been further building detail (better narrative use might have been made of Photo HF-57, for example), but the architectural section of the final structure report will presumably go into detail on this. Could the name "White Hall" have come from the exterior color of the building as apparent in Photo HF-57? In the final Historic Structure Report, the map on page 2 should be emended to indicate that the alley on the east is the later Potomac Street; additionally, the word "first" should probably precede the word "four" in the first line of section 2.

Signed

Frank Barnes
Regional Historian

In duplicate

Copy to: Director, w/copy of report

FBarnes/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area



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

May 25, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
MAY 26 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-52, Part II, Historical Data
Section, Bldg. No. 7

Enclosed please find three copies of the "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, Bldg. No. 7, White Hall," as requested in your note of the memorandum of May 21, 1959.

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

Enclosures



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 72215

April 3, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five
From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument
Subject: Research Project No. HF-52. Bldg. No. 7

Enclosed please find one copy of the "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, Bldg. No. 7, White Hall," dated March 30, 1959, 21 pages, as prepared by Historian Charles W. Snell, for technical review by Regional Historian Frank Barnes.

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT.

PART II.

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION.

B.L.D.G. NO. 7.

WHITE HALL

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
March 30, 1959
21 Pages
Project No. HF-52

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1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1782-1874

The portion of Wager Lot No. 15, subdivision 4, now occupied by Bldg. No. 7 was owned by the Wager family from 1782 to 1837. On October 28, 1837, subdivisions 4 and 2 of Lot No. 15 were sold to William Anderson. Mr. Anderson paid \$1,012.50 for No. 4 and \$1,610.00 for No. 2. The location of these lots may be seen on the 1846 and 1848 plats that appear on the next two pages of this report. On November 2, 1847, Anderson sold a portion of subdivision 4 that fronted 24 feet on Potomac or North Cliff Street by about 45 feet in depth to Frederick Augustus Roeder for \$1,000. On February 13, 1856, Roeder sold a piece of this property that fronted 24 feet on the street by 25 feet deep to the United States for \$1,700. The Government acquired this portion of the lot in order to widen Potomac Street to a forty foot width, thus creating both a wider street and a fire lane between the Musket Factory shops situated on Armory property and the private buildings located on the Wager Six Acre Reservation. (See "a" on 1855 plat in Appendix I of this report.)

Mr. Roeder and his heirs retained title to the remaining piece of the¹ lot from 1856 to 1874.

2. EARLY USE OF THE LOT, 1803-March 31, 1838

The four subdivisions of Lot No. 15 were the site of the "Harpers Ferry Hotel" from 1803 until March 31, 1838. Subdivision 4 probably contained kitchens and other outbuildings for the service of the main structure. This spacious

1. For a detailed and documented study of the ownership of this lot, see Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 7," dated October 1, 1957, revised January 29, 1958, pp.1-4. For the story of the widening of Potomac Street, see Sullivan, Arthur L., "History of Wager Lots No. 17 to 34, 1782-1869," dated February 18, 1959, pp.21-27. Also Snell, C. W., "Historical Study of Wager Lot No. 13, 1837-1856," dated September 25, 1958, p.4, 18-20.



SCALE 30'

SCALE 30'

DEED BOOK 28 P. 17
JEFFERSON CO., W. VA.

JEFFERSON CO., W. VIRGINIA.

old frame structure was erected by the Wager family in 1803 and was leased² by them over the years to various tavern keepers.

3. CONSTRUCTION OF BLDG. NO. 7

On October 28, 1837, the old "Harpers Ferry Hotel" and lot was divided among three different owners. Lot No. 15, subdivisions 2 and 4, were purchased by William Anderson, subdivision No. 1 by Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson, and subdivision 3 by Philip Coons. The old hotel building itself had been leased by the Jefferson County Court to Mrs. Isabella Fitzsimmons from April 1, 1837, to March 31, 1838.³ Thus the three new owners were unable to touch the old structure until the lease expired. This fact, however, did not hinder them from making plans for constructing new buildings on their recently acquired property.

Thus in November, 1837, William Anderson and his brother, Samuel B. Anderson, and Dr. George B. Stephenson, the oldest son of Mrs. Ann C. Stephenson, jointly advertised:

"HOUSE BUILDERS LOOK OUT

W. & S. B. Anderson and George B. Stephenson will receive proposals until the 16th of Dec. 1837, for the building of two brick houses, each 30 by 40 feet, three stories high, with cellars of stone (These would be Bldgs. No. 11 and 12). Also two stone houses, each 24 by 40 feet, with cellars, one of them to be one (Bldg. No. 7), and the other two stories high (Bldg. No. 15) - all to be covered with slate. To be commenced on the 1st of April next (1838), and finished by the 1st of December following. A plan of each building may be seen at the store of W. & S. B. Anderson (which was then located on Wager Lot

2. For detailed history of Harpers Ferry Hotel, 1803-1838, see Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, the John C. Unseld Buildings," dated May 28, 1958, pp.7-11.

3. Ibid., p.10.

No. 51, at the corner of High and Shenandoah Streets]. The proposition for each building to be made separately, and may be made for Mason work and the Joiner's work separately or together, for each building. Cash will be furnished at any time for the purchase of material if desired." 4

Bldg. No. 7, like Bldgs. No. 11, 12 and 15, was undoubtedly completed⁵ in 1839. The new house was a one story stone building with a cellar and slate roof that fronted 24 feet on Potomac Street and was 40 feet deep. Bldg. No. 7 was designed for use as a warehouse. The ground plan of the building may be seen on the 1846 and 1848 plats on pages 2 and 3 of this report.

ALTERATIONS TO THE BUILDINGS, 1847-1856

In November, 1847, Frederick A. Roeder purchased "certain ware house property, including the ground the said warehouse stands upon, the said ground or lot being twenty-four feet wide and forty feet long,...including any portion or strip of ground which may lie between the end of said warehouse and the alley [Potomac Street]..." from William Anderson for \$1,000.⁶ As will be proven by the evidence that follows, the original front of Bldg. No. 7 must have been located approximately five feet from the edge of the old alley or Potomac Street, making the actual original total depth of the lot in 1847 about 45 feet. It also appears that between 1847 and 1852 Mr. Roeder

4. Virginia Free Press, November 16, 1837, p.3, c.4. For location of the Anderson store in 1837, see Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report for the Noah H. Swayne Lot, Wager Lot No. 51," dated July 24, 1958, pp.4-8.

5. No direct evidence has been found on when Bldg. No. 7 was completed, probably because as it was a warehouse, there would be no reason to rent it. It has been established that Bldgs. No. 11, 12 and 15 were all completed in 1839; there is, therefore, no reason to doubt that Bldg. No. 7 was not completed according to schedule.

6. Deed of B. & S., Anderson to Roeder, November 2, 1847, Deed Book 29, p.240.

added a second stone story to Bldg. No. 7. This information is revealed in a letter of Superintendent Benjamin Huger to Henry K. Craig, of the Ordnance Office, written in 1852. Col. Huger stated:

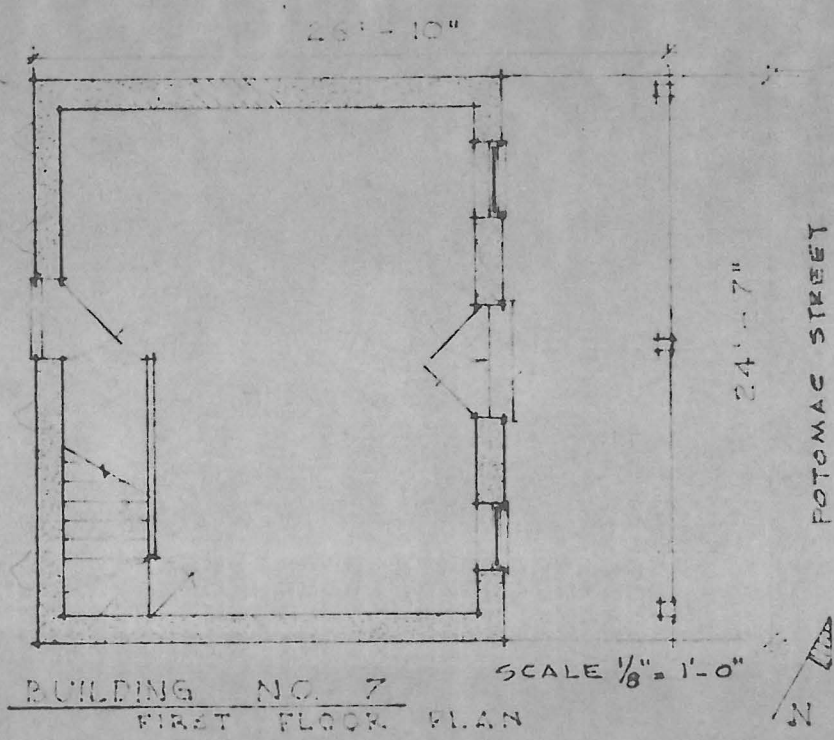
"Mr. A. F. Roeder (sic) who owns part of Lot No. 15 (on Map)--which extends to within 15 feet of Armory wall offers to cut off 21 feet of the building (Bldg. No. 7) & remove it, & give the U. States a fee simple of that portion of the lot so that the road can be widened to 40 feet for \$1700. The size of this part of the lot (That is, the part needed by the U. S.) is only 24 x 25 feet,-- & it cuts off 21 feet of the two story stone building now on it. As this is the main part of the building he considers it worth at least \$1,000 to replace it..." 7

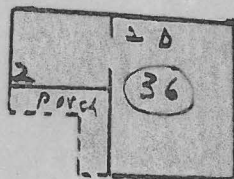
The final alterations to Bldg. No. 7 occurred in 1856, when Roeder sold the United States "the entire front of said lot on said Alley of Twenty four feet, together with so much of the building thereon as occupied the said area... and convey twenty-five feet in depth of the whole front...now owned and occupied by the said Roeder as a warehouse..." for \$1,700.⁸ The front two story portion of Bldg. No. 7, measuring 24 by 20 feet in size was thus removed, and the rear stone portion, two stories high, measuring 24 feet by 20 feet, with a slate roof and a cellar,⁹ was left standing. The first floor plan of Bldg. No. 7, furnished through the courtesy of Architect Archie Franzen, may be seen on the following page and bears out the description given above of alterations made to the structure in 1856. The Perris-Sanborn Map of Harpers Ferry, dated November, 1894, also indicates that the frame porch shown on the modern floor plan was added to Bldg. No. 7 after 1894.

7. Huger to Craig, July 17, 1852, Reel 26, V.4, p.331. The present depth of Bldg. No. 7 is 20 feet.

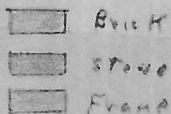
8. Deed of B. & S., Roeder to U. S., February 13, 1856, Deed Book 35, pp.299-300.

9. Photograph HF-379 made in 18⁶⁵.

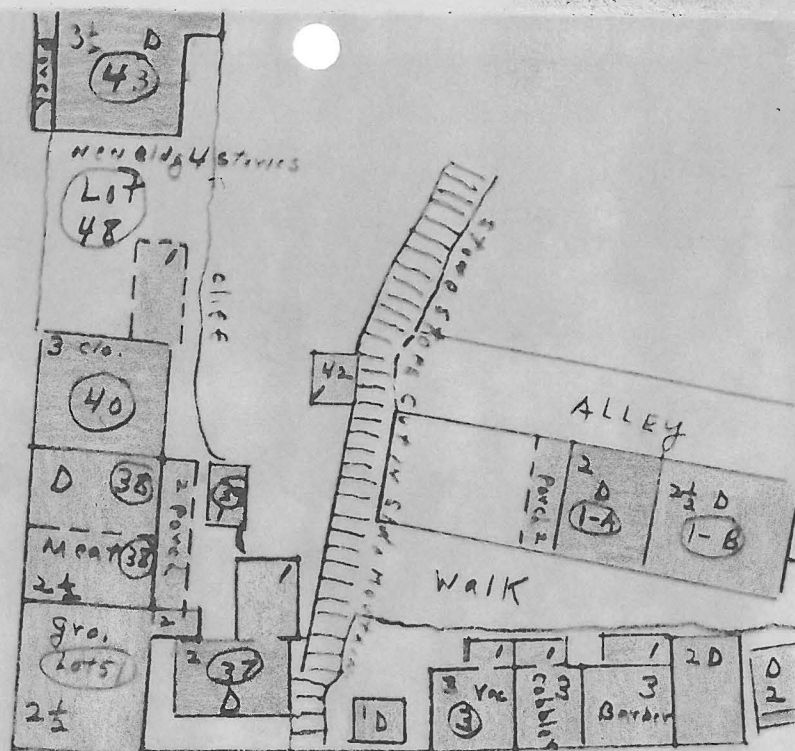




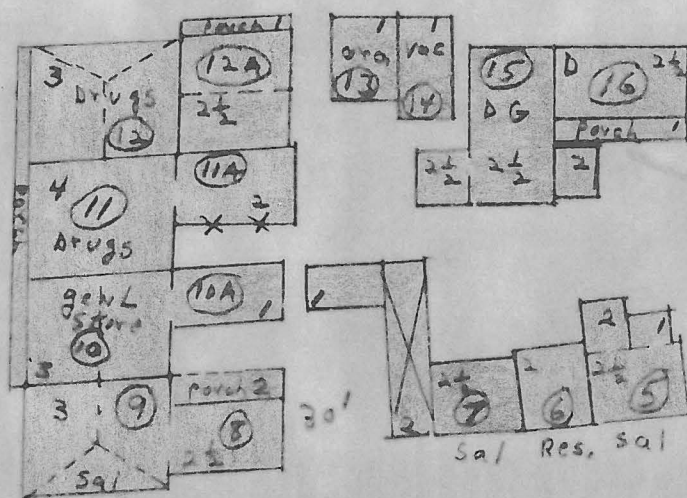
Sanborn-Perris Map
of Harpers Ferry
November 1894.
Scale: 50 feet = one inch.



SHANDAK STREET



High Street



Potomac Street

4. USE OF BLDG. NO. 7, 1839-1861

Bldg. No. 7 was erected by William Anderson in 1838-39. The structure was designed and utilized as a warehouse for the store in Bldg. No. 11 from 1839 to 1847.¹⁰ Bldg. No. 7 was purchased by Frederick A. Roeder in 1847 and enlarged into a two story stone house, 24 feet by 40 feet in size. In the period of 1847 to 1856, it was used as both a tavern and then as a dwelling and warehouse. This information is to be found in the following excerpt from a letter of Superintendent Henry W. Clowe to Col. H. K. Craig, Chief of Ordnance, in 1855:

".....The Estimate of \$1700 was to buy out Roeder alone, and the improvements on his piece of 25 feet in depth consists of a two story stone house, occupied now as a Dwelling and Warehouse, and formerly as a Drinking house, known as the "White Hall,"....." 11

No record of use for the 1856-1861 period has been found. Bldg. No. 7, however, was probably used either as a warehouse or a tavern, the latter use perhaps being more likely, as the original drinking house name, "White Hall," is mentioned in the deed for the sale of the property in 1874, thus indicating that this title had a long period of use in connection with Bldg. No. 7.¹²

Frederick A. Roeder, the owner of Bldgs. 5, 7, and 16, was 50 years old¹³ in 1860; he had been born in Saxony, Germany, and was a confectioner.

10. Deed of Trust, September 29, 1845, Isreal Russell to Isaac Fouke, Deed Book 27, pp.402-404, mentions this use. Also 1846 plat, page 2 of this report. Deed of B. & S., Anderson to Roeder, November 2, 1847, Deed Book 29, p.240.

11. Clowe to Craig, July 24, 1855, Reel 25, V.8, p.748. Also Deed of B. & S., Roeder to U. S., February 13, 1856, Deed Book 35, pp.299-300. This deed describes the building as a "warehouse."

12. Deed of B. & S., May 12, 1874, Deed Book B, pp.153-154.

13. Census of 1860, Reel 10, V.2, p.170.

Judging by the Census of 1860, it is probable that the following family was living on the second floor of Bldg. No. 7 during the 1859-61 period:

"Catherine Fitzpatrick, 52 years old, female. Born in Ireland.			
John Fitzpatrick, 27, male, Stone Cutter,	"	"	"
Ellen " 17, female,	"	"	"

14

5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BUILDING

No historical plans of Bldg. No. 7 have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located. Measured drawings of the building have not as yet been prepared.

6. HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs showing Bldg. No. 7 will be found in the following reports:

1. 1889-1892 view, HF-57, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 7," revised January 29, 1958, page 11. Excellent close up view of front of Bldg. No. 7, showing location of original doorways and windows. One window on first floor at right, door to first floor in center, and door leading to second floor at left front of structure. Slate roof, etc.
2. 1896 photograph, HF-96, in Sullivan, Arthur L., "History of Wager Lots 17 to 34, 1782-1869," page 90. Excellent view of roof and front of Bldg. No. 7, all related frame structures shown on 1894 map.

Six more photographs of Bldg. No. 7 will be found in Appendix II of this report.

7. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land, 1782-1874

This lot was owned by the Wager family from 1782 to 1837. In October,

14. Census of 1860, Reel 10, V.2, pp.168-169.

1837, subdivision 4 of Lot No. 13 was purchased by William Anderson for \$1,012.50. In November, 1847, Anderson sold a portion of this lot, measuring 24 feet by about 45 feet in size, and Bldg. No. 7, to Frederick A. Roeder for \$1,000. In February, 1856, Mr. Roeder sold a 24 by 25 foot piece of this lot to the United States for \$1,700. Roeder and his heirs retained title to the remainder of the property until 1874. Roeder also owned Bldgs. No. 5 and 16 during the 1859-65 period.

B. Construction of Bldg. No. 7

The oldest portion of Bldg. No. 7 was constructed by William Anderson in 1838-39. The house was one story high, built of stone, with a cellar, and had a slate roof. The building was 24 feet by 40 feet in size and was intended to be used as a warehouse. Between 1847 and 1852 Frederick Roeder added a second story to the original portion of the building. The first floor was used both as a tavern and a ware house during this period and the second floor was utilized as a dwelling.

In February, 1856, Roeder sold the portion of his lot and house that fronted 24 feet on Potomac Street by 25 feet in depth to the United States. The front portion of Bldg. No. 7, 24 by about 20 feet, was demolished in order to widen Potomac Street to a 40 foot width. The remainder of Bldg. No. 7 was retained. Thus during the 1856-1865 period, Bldg. No. 7 was a two story stone building with slate roof and a cellar. The dimensions of the house were 24 by 20 feet. The first floor was designed for use as a shop or warehouse and the upper floors contained living quarters. A door at the left front of the building led to the second floor and a door in the center led into the first floor.

C. Use of Bldg. No. 7, 1839-1861

1. 1839-1847: William Anderson's warehouse for service of the store located in Bldg. No. 11.
2. 1847-1856: Used as drinking house known as "White Hall" and dwelling; also as warehouse and dwelling.
3. 1856-1861: No definite record of use, but still probably utilized as tavern or warehouse, and dwelling house. Upper portions probably the residence of John Fitzpatrick, a stone cutter, in 1859-61 period.

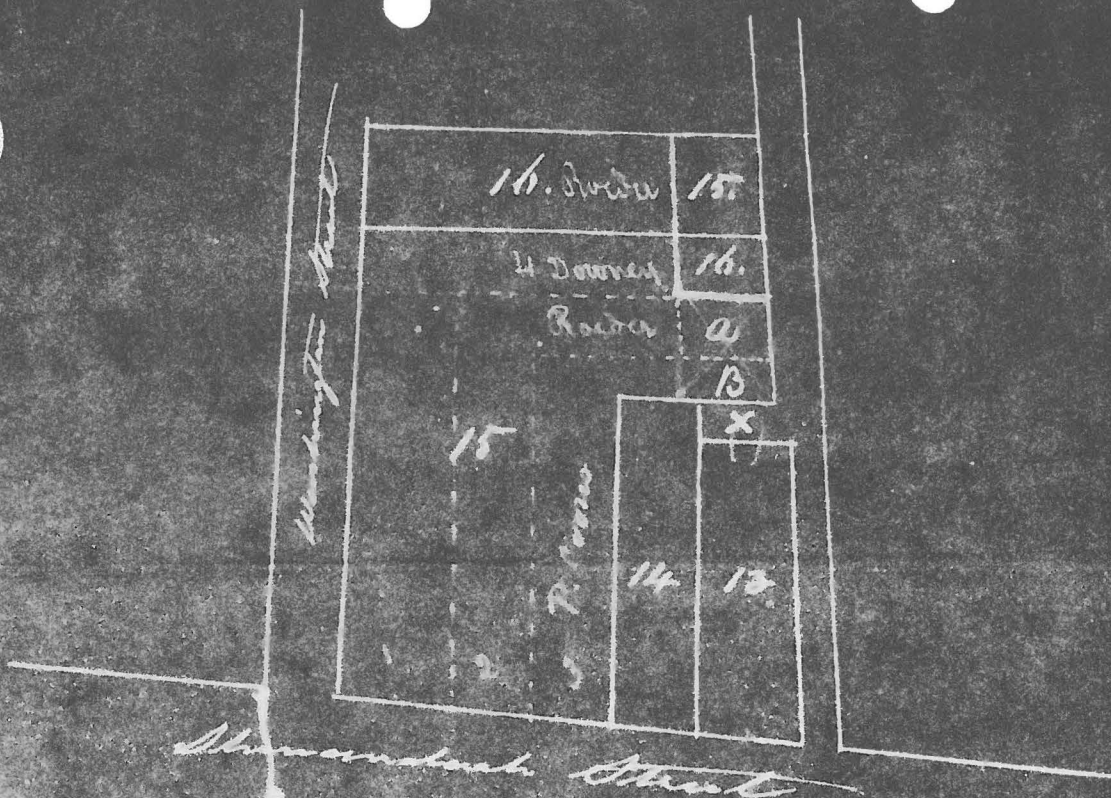
(Sgd) CHARLES W. SNELL

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
March 30, 1959

APPENDIX I

1855 sketch showing land to be acquired from Frederick A. Roeder by the United States, Superintendent Henry W. Clowe to Col. H. K. Craig, Ordnance Office, July 12, 1855, Reel 25, V.6, pp.579-580. Map No. 57, Map Case, Drawer No. 3.

"a" is site of Bldg. No. 7.



1, 2, 3, 4 are subdivisions of the Lot 16, as he also & Court of 1835

A - The Building & part of Subdivision 2 of Lot 16 now owned by Breda and purchased for in the Subdivision 1832, 5

B - The integral portion of Subdivision 3 of Lot 16, now owned by Philip Cross, and purchased for by the said Subdivision, for which he also compensation.

Part X - A public alley for the convenience originally of lots 13 & 14 - and no dispute about it, but goes with purchase of 13

In other respects the sketch is correct -

APPENDIX II

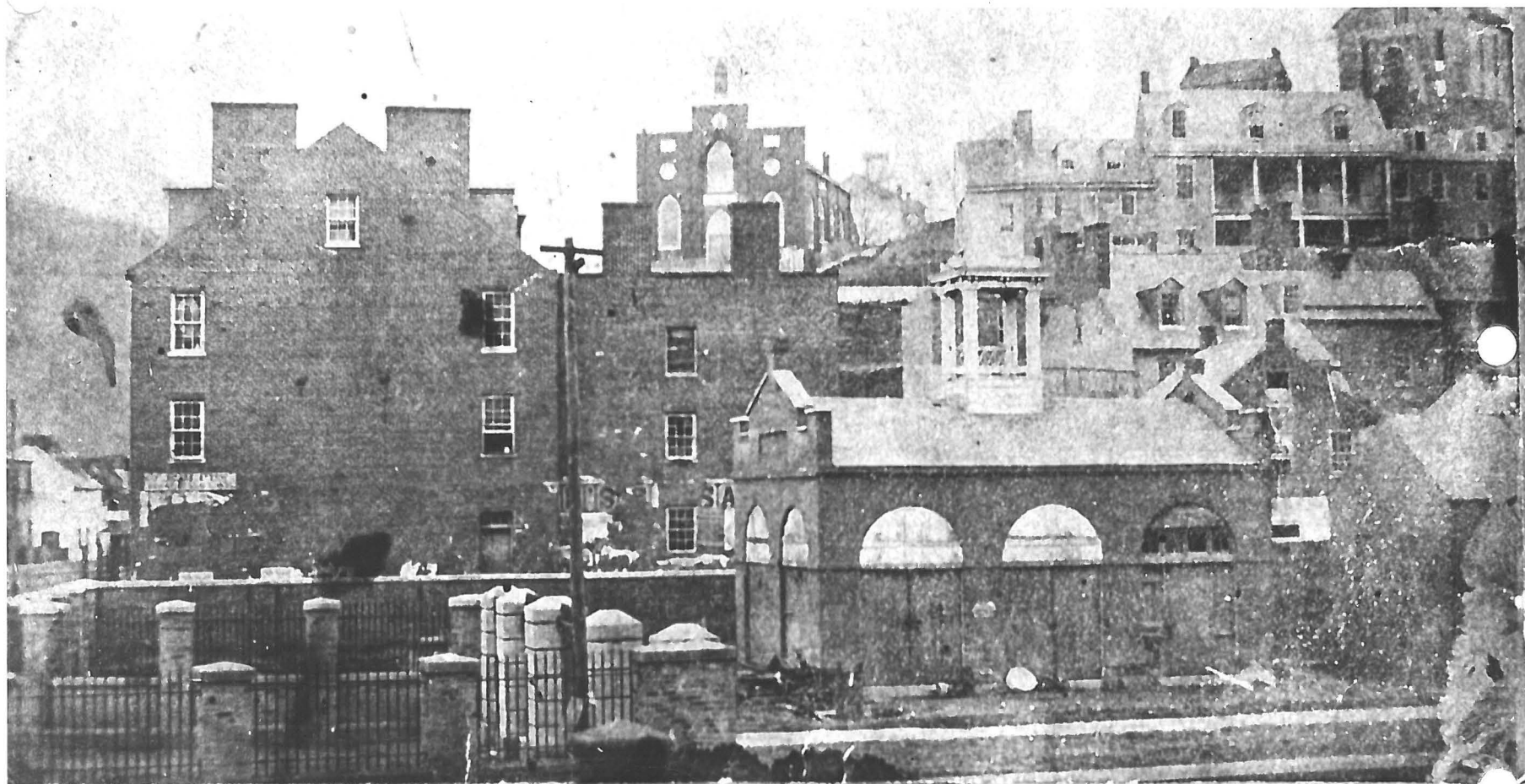
PHOTOGRAPHS

(S1x)

JOHN BROWN'S FORT, HARPER'S FERRY
1865

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-55.

In the Armory or Musket Factory Yard stands the John Brown fort or engine house. To the right of this structure may be seen a portion of the Armory Office Building. Behind these two buildings and visible between the Fort and Office Building, is to be seen Bldg. No. 7. Note the slate roof. Behind Bldg. 7 is the roof of Bldg. No. 15 and to the right is the roof of Bldg. No. 16.



John Brown's Fort,
Harpers Ferry.

HARPERS FERRY FROM THE MARYLAND SIDE IN 1870

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-43.

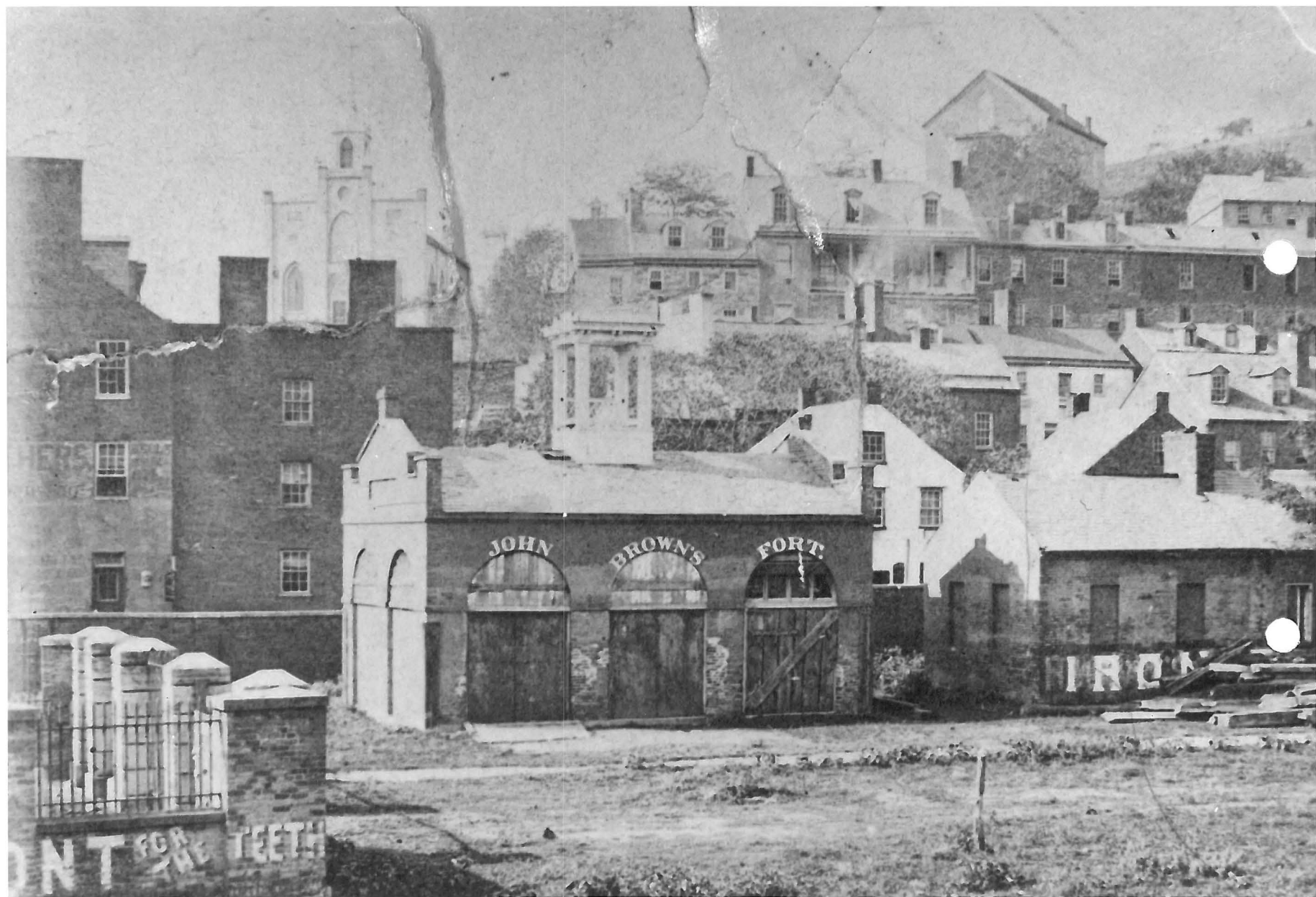
The large 3½ story brick building with the Gilbert Brothers sign painted on it, left center, is Bldg. No. 9. To the right of 9 and below it may be seen the John Brown Fort. To the right of the fort and partly concealed by a large pine tree may be seen the front of Bldg. no. 7 - one window and a chimney.



JOHN BROWN FORT, Early 1880's

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-379.

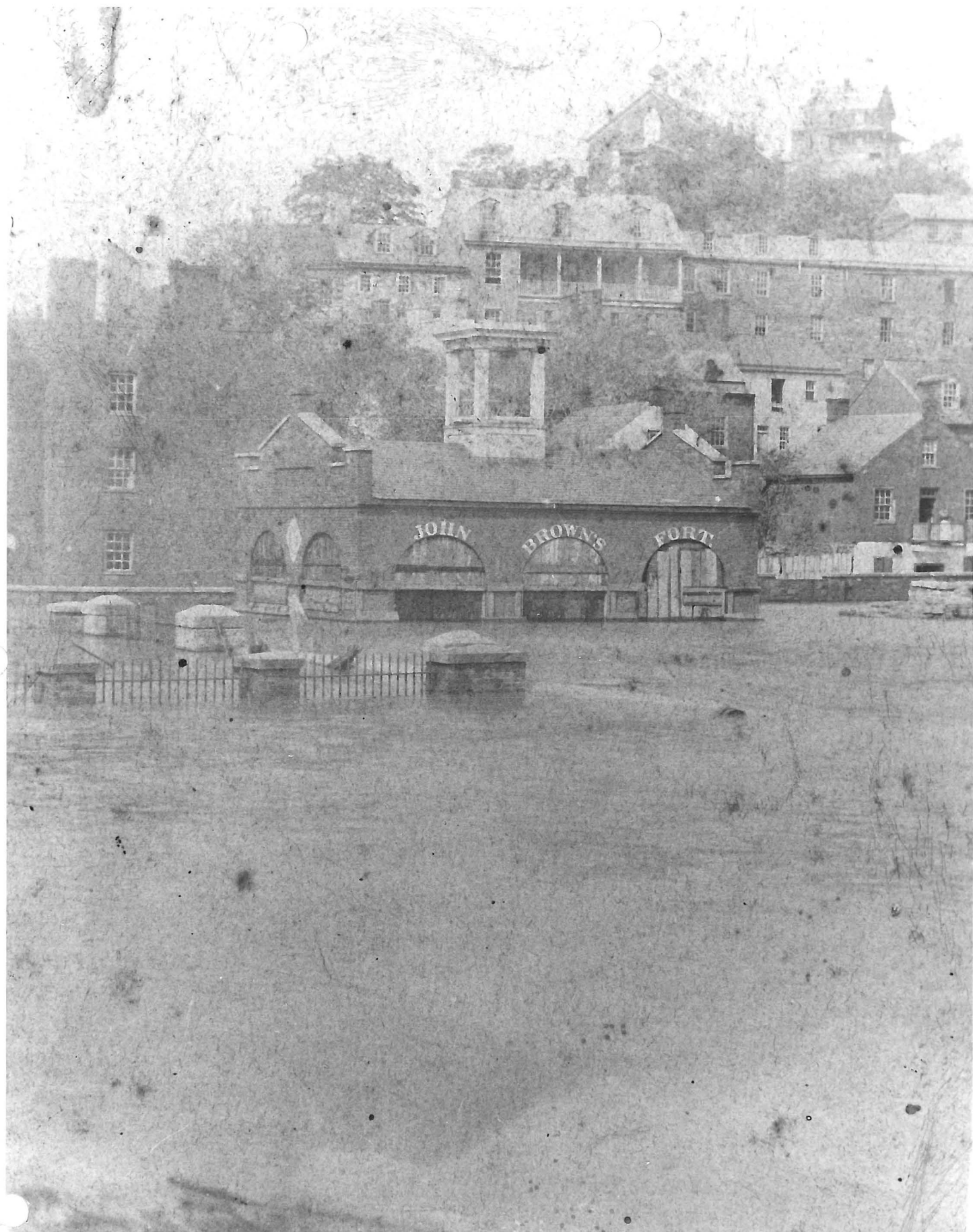
The John Brown Fort ~~is in the for~~ is in the foreground and to the right of it is the old Armory Office Building. Visible between these two buildings is Bldg. No. 7 - "White Hall." To the right of 7, and over the roof of the office building, may be seen the roof and front of Bldg. No. 5.



JOHN BROWN FORT IN 1889 FLOOD

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-100.

In the foreground stands the "Fort;" visible over the right rear corner is the white front and roof of Bldg. No. 7. To the right of the ^{Fort} ~~floor~~ is an excellent view of the upper floors of Bldg. No. 5.



BLDGS. NO. 7 AND 5

Harpers Ferry Negative No. NHR-196.

Photograph by Archie W. Fransen, 1956.

Building to left foreground is Bldg. No. 7, fronting on Potomac Street.
The structure to the right of 7 is Bldg. No. 5.



BLDGS. NO. 5, 6 and 7, IN 1955

Harpers Ferry Negative No. NHF-843.

Left to right: Bldg. No. 7, Bldg. No.
8, and Bldg. No. 5 on Potomac Street.

