001268

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT

PART II.

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION.

for

Part II - Historical Data
1959

BLDGS. NO. 9 AND 8

2 of 14

THE GERARD B. WAGER BUILDINGS

HF-58

Harpers Ferry National Monument

DIVISION OF HISTORY
N.P.S.
FILE COPY

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
March 18, 1959
22 Pages
Project No. HF-58 ✓
7 Photos
3 Maps

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

March 20, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-58, Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. 9 and 8

We submit one copy of the "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 9 and 8, The Gerard B. Wager Buildings," dated March 18, 1959, 22 pages, by Historian Charles W. Snell, for technical review by Regional Historian Frank Barnes.

(SGD) FRANK H. ANDERSON

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page No.
1.	Ownership Of The Land, 1782-1873	1
2.	Construction of Buildings No. 9 And 8	1
3.	Use Of The Buildings, 1838-1961	6
4.	Historical Plans Of The Buildings	11
5.	Historical Prints And Photographs	11
6.	Summary Of The Historical Data	12
7.	Recommendations	14
	Appendix I - Seven Photographs	15

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1782-1873

Wager Lot No. 14, the present site of Bldgs. No. 9 and 8, was owned by the Wager family from 1782 to 1835. On October 10, 1835, the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for Jefferson County, Virginia, divided the Wager family holdings in Harpers Ferry among the three Wager heirs and Lot No. 14 was allotted to Gerard B. Wager. Gerard B. Wager held title to Lot No. 14 from 1835 to his death in 1848 and his estate and heirs retained possession of the property until 1873.[1] The location of Wager Lot No. 14 may be seen by glancing at the 1835 plat of Wager property on the following page of this report.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF BLDGS. NO. 9 AND 8

On February 21, 1836, Gerard B. Wager leased to Michael Foley a "tenement" (probably the old stone foundations now under Bldg. No. 8) on Wager Lot No. 14, "then in the possession of and occupancy of N. Fitzsimmons, being a part of lot no. 14 and adjoining the lot (Wager Lot No. 15) recently rented by John G. Wilson." Under the lease, Foley was to have the lot and the tenement for eight years, starting from April 1, 1836, paying Mr. Wager an annual ground rent of $120. It was further agreed that Michael Foley "should erect upon Lot 14 a good and substantial house of brick or stone three stories high above the basement and not less than forty feet deep and covering the whole front

1. For a detailed and documented study of the ownership of the land, see Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 9 and 8, the Gerard B. Wager Buildings," dated October 10, 1957, revised January 30, 1958, pp.1-2, 3-4, 11-13.


PUBLIC
LAND
IRON BOLT
CATH. CHURCH
PUBLIC WALK
INCLUDING OLD HOUSE
INCLUDING NEW HOUSE
PUBLIC WALK
OLD HOUSE
NEW HOUSE
PUBLIC WALK
ARSENAL YARD
STREET [Shawnee]
[High]
C
STREET
150FT. G'N TO LINE
SUB'N
SUB'N
SUB'N

of the lot (27½ feet)..."[2]

Between April 1, 1836, and September, 1838,[3] Michael Foley therefore proceeded to erect Bldg. No. 9. The new house fronted 29 feet 2 5/8 inches[4] on Shenandoah Street and was forty feet deep.[5] The structure contained a cellar and probably had a slate roof. The brick building was three and a half stories in height, and thus generally met the specifications contained in the 1836 lease. The first floor was designed to be utilized as a large store and the upper two and a half floors were intended for use as a residence.

It is important to remember that Bldg. No. 9 did not become a corner building until April, 1856, but was hemmed in tightly on the east from 1838 until 1856 by a 27½ by 40 feet, three and a half story brick building located on Wager Lot 13. This may well account for why there was only one door and five windows in the east wall of Bldg. No. 9. In 1856 the house on Lot No. 13 was purchased by the United States and demolished. Lot 13 was then made a part of what is now Potomac Street.[6] It is therefore possible that the windows and door shown in the east wall of Bldg. No. 9 (See Photograph HF-18) were not actually installed until the 1856-61 period.

2. Assignment of Lease, Michael Foley to John O'Hara, January 18, 1840, Deed Book 24, pp.157-158. Jefferson County Court House, Charles Town, W. Va.

3. Virginia Free Press, September 27, 1838, p.3, c.3. The new building was first rented in September, 1838.

4. Dimensions from Historic American Building Survey Drawing for the Gerard B. Wager Building, Sheet 1.

5. Depth of original building from June 6, 1846 plat of exchange of land between Gerard B. Wager and Philip Coons, in Deed Book 28, p.146.

6. Snell, Charles W., "Historical Study of Wager Lot No. 13, 1837-1856," dated September 25, 1958, pp.4-6, 18-20.

Foley sold his leasehold to this building and lot to John O'Hara on January 18, 1840, for $500.[7] On the following page will be found an 1846 plat for an exchange of land between Gerard B. Wager and Philip Coons that indicates the depth of Bldg. 9 at that date.

Construction of Bldg. No. 8

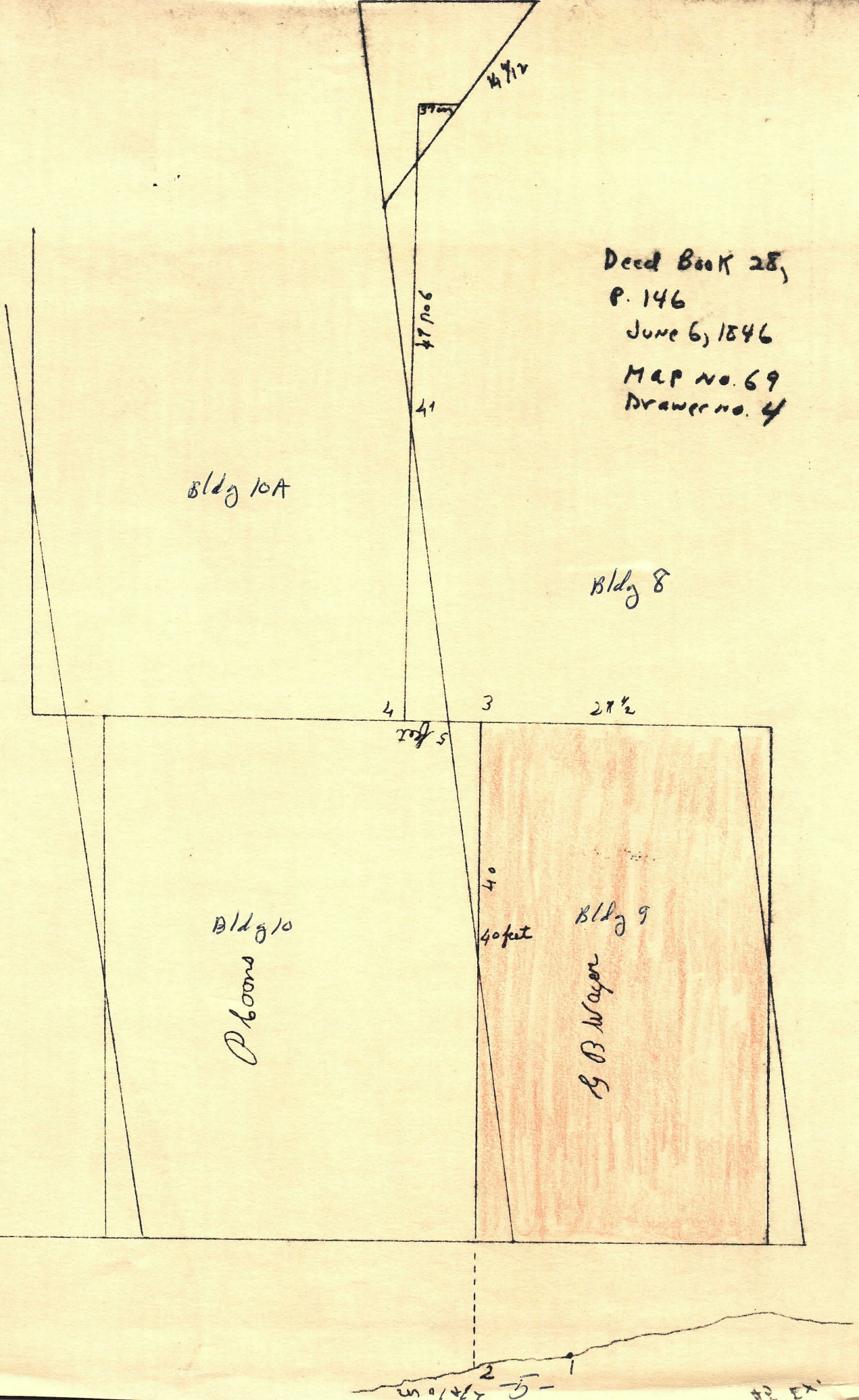
No direct documentary evidence has been found relating to the construction of Bldg. No. 8. The stone foundations and woodwork under Bldg. 8, however, appears to be much older than those found in Bldg. No. 9. The 1836 lease mentioned a "tenement" then occupied by N. Fitzsimmons as being located on the lot. The old foundations therefore probably date from the earlier house and must therefore have been erected by the Wager family, or more likely by John Fitzsimmons in 1829, under a five year lease from the Wagers.[8] There is also a slight possibility that these foundations may have been a part of Robert Harpers' first house, which is reputed, according to local tradition, to have been located on this lot.

In any event, the upper portions of the older house were demolished, probably by John O'Hara between 1840 and 1846, and a new two and one-half story brick annex erected over the old stone foundations.[9] The new wing was 16 feet 10½ inches wide and 28 feet one inch in length.[10] Two large chimneys were located on the ~~west~~ East wall.[11]

7. Assignment of Lease, Foley to O'Hara, January 18, 1840, Deed Book 24, pp.157-158. Also Deed of Trust, John G. Wilson to Edward Lucas, January 10, 1841, Deed Book 25, pp.458-460, in which Wilson states that Michael Foley built what is now Bldg. No. 9.

8. For lease see Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report, for Wager Lot No. 2," dated September 12, 1958, revised October 6, 1958, p.10. John Fitzsimmons was to erect on Shenandoah Street a frame building 20 by 15 feet, one and a half stories high.

9. Bldg. No. 8 was standing by 1846; see Deed of Exchange, G. B. Wager and Philip Coons, May 30, 1846, Deed Book 28, pp.144-145 in Snell, C. W., "Historic Bldg. Report, Part I, for Bldg. 9, p.4. Deed mentions "Main Building" thus inferring that others were standing. Bldg. 8 was probably built 1841-42.


Deed Book 28,
P. 146
June 6, 1846
Map No. 69
Drawer no. 4
Bldg 10A
Bldg 8
Bldg 10
Bldg 9
40 feet
1
2
3
4
5

This wing may have contained a kitchen for use in conjunction with Bldg. No. 9, as well as extra bed rooms or rooms for slaves. The roof sloped sharply to the west and contained two dormer windows.[12] Also probably located on the west side of the annex, because of the view to the east had been shut off up to 1856 by a similar wing on the rear of the large brick building located on Lot No. 13, was a two story frame porch and the doors to Bldg. No. 8. The 1894 Perris-Sanborn map of Harpers Ferry, which shows Bldgs. No. 9 and 8 before they were remodeled, will be found on the following page of this report.

3. USE OF THE BLDGS., 1838-1861

Lot No. 14 was leased by Gerard B. Wager to Michael Foley for eight years from April 1, 1836. Mr. Foley erected Bldg. No. 9 in 1837-38. The house was completed by September, 1838, and was rented that month by James H. Hayman. Mr. Hayman advertised that he had "taken the new House recently erected, opposite the United States Arsenal,...and fitted up the lower story of the same as a RESTORATIVE AND EATING HOUSE." His "National Restorative" included a bar, with wine, liquors, Porter and Ale. Fresh oysters were also served.[13] Hayman remained in business in Bldg. No. 9 until September, 1839,[14] when he

10. Historic American Building Survey Drawing for Bldg. No. 9 and 8, giving width of 8 and overall length of 9 and 8, from which I have subtracted 40 feet from total, thus leaving original length of 8.

11. Photograph HF-72.

12. Photographs HF-66 and HF-450.

13. Virginia Free Press, September 27, 1838, p.3, c.3.

14. Harpers Ferry Constutionalist, September 11, 1839, p.3, "about to remove to his new establishment..."


Shenandoah street
High street
Potomac street
ALLEY
Walk
N
Sanborn-Perris Map
of Harpers Ferry
November 1894.
Scale: 50 feet = one inch.
Brick
Stone
Frame
M.R. Siding
MAIN LINE B & O RR

removed his tavern to Bldg. No. 15.[15]

On January 18, 1840, Michael Foley sold his lease to the lot to John O'Hara for $500.[16] A trust sale of O'Hara's property was threatened in 1841 and 1842, and on both occasions the improvements on the lot were described as "being a large three-story brick building and other necessary buildings."[17]

Probably in October, 1839, Bldg. No. 9 was next rented by Henry Yost and William Coates, who opened a large Grocery Store in the "STORE OPPOSITE THE ARSENAL YARD."[18] This partnership was dissolved on May 26, 1840, and Henry Yost continued the business "at the same stand."[19] Bldg. No. 9 was occupied as a grocery store by Henry Yost from 1840 to June 30, 1842, when he moved to the building located on the southwest end of Wager Lot No. 12.[20]

From April, 1843, to December, 1845, Bldg. No. 9 was next occupied by John G. Wilson as a dry goods and grocery store.[21]

In November, 1844, John O'Hara sold one undivided half interest in the leasehold to Lot No. 14 and Bldgs. No. 9 and 8 to William Lester.[22] In

15. Deed of Trust, Hayman to Lucas, Jr., March 6, 1840, securing rent for Bldg. No. 15, in Deed Book 24, p.405.

16. Assignment of Lease, January 18, 1840, Deed Book 24, pp.157-158. Also Deed of Trust, O'Hara to Isaac Fouke, January 18, 1840, Deed Book 24, pp.63-64.

17. Virginia Free Press, June 24, 1841, p.3, c.4; August 18, 1842, p.3, c.3; Release of Trust, Isaac Fouke to O'Hara, December 5, 1842, Deed Book 26, pp. 170-171.

18. Virginia Free Press, March 12, 1840, p.3, c.3.

19. Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, July 23, 1840, p.4; notice dated May 26, 1840.

20. Snell, Charles W., "An Historical Study of Wager Lot No. 12, 1830-1848," dated September 24, 1958, pp.18-19.

21. Virginia Free Press, April 27, 1843, p.3, c.2; October 12, 1843, p.3, c.1; May 2, 1844, p.3, c.2.

22. Deed of Trust, Lester to Isaac Fouke and other, November 19, 1844, Deed Book 27, p.136.

August, 1845, Mr. Lester sold his half-interest to Gerard B. Wager for $875.[23] and in March, 1846, Mr. Wager acquired O'Hara's remaining half interest in the leasehold for $1,000.[24] The total value of Bldgs. No. 8 and 9 in 1845-46 thus amounted to $1,875.

In January or April, 1845, Bldg. No. 9 was next occupied as a drug store by Dr. Joseph G. Hays.[25] In January, 1847, Dr. Hays gave notice that he had "made arrangements to accommodate a few general BOARDERS."[26] Hays remained in Business in Bldg. No. 9 until April, 1848.[27]

In May, 1848, Adam Young, Jr., informed the public that he had removed his drug store "to the Store Room recently occupied by Joseph G. Hays, adjoining the Store of Philip Coons (which was located in Bldg. No. 10), and opposite the Arsenal, Main Street..."[28]

Mr. Adam Young, Jr., remained in business at Bldg. No. 9 from 1848 until October, 1855, when he took his family West.[29] Young had been the

23. Deed of B. & S., Lester to Wager, August 14, 1846, Deed Book 27, pp.378-379.

24. Deed of B. & S., O'Hara to Wager, March 31, 1846, Deed Book 28, pp.96-97.

25. Virginia Free Press, March 19, 1846, p.3, c.1.

26. Ibid., January, 1847, p.4, c.7.

27. Ibid., January 21, 1847, p.3, c.7; May 11, 1848, p.3, c.1.

28. Ibid., May 11, 1848, p.3, c.1; For location of Young's drug store prior to May, 1848, see Snell, C. W., "Historical Study of Wager Lot No. 12," pp. 15-17. For location of Philip Coons store, see Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A, the John C. Unsold Buildings," dated May 28, 1958, p.19.

29. Ibid., January 11, 1849, p.3, c.1; January 31, 1850, p.3, c.3; March 14, 1850, p.3, c.4; October 25, 1855, p.2, c.1; Census of 1850, Reel 10, V.2, p.111.

Harpers Ferry agent for the Baltimore drug firm of Joseph Crosby and Son.

There is no documentary evidence on who rented the building from October, 1855, to April, 1861. The only possible lead as to who may have occupied Bldg. No. 9 in the 1859-61 period lies in the Census of 1860. The census indicates that the first person the census taker visited after stopping at the house of Mr. William J. Stephens, who resided at a building situated on Wager Lot No. 5, was John G. Ridenour, a merchant.[30] As Bldg. No. 9 was located just across the street from Wager Lot 5, it is therefore possible that Ridenour was located in Bldg. No. 9. This theory is further strengthened by the fact that the house next to Stephens, located on Wager Lot No. 4, in the other direction, is known to have been occupied by other persons than Ridenour in the 1859-61 period.[31]

It is therefore likely that John G. Ridenour was located in Bldg. No. 9 in the 1858-61 period. If this is the case, then Mr. Ridenour must be withdrawn as a possible occupant of Store No. 2 in Bldg. No. 38 at that period.[32] Assuming that Ridenour was actually located in Bldg. No. 9 in 1860, we then know he first opened his new dry goods store in November, 1858.[33]

The Census of 1860 provides us with the following information on Mr. Ridenour and his family:

"John G. Ridenour, 36 years old, male. Merchant. Value of real estate: $600. Value of personal estate: $2,000. Born in Va.
Sarah Ridenour, 34, female. Born in Va.

30. Census of 1860, Reel 10, V.2, p.167; For location of Stephen's house, see Snell, C. W., "Report for the William J. Stephens Building, Wager Lot No. 5, dated August 5, 1958, revised October 3, 1958, 45 pages.

31. Snell, C. W., "Report for Wager Lot No. 4, S. V. Yantis' Tobacco Shop," dated September 11, 1958, p.4.

32. See Snell, C. W., "Historic Bldg. Report for Bldg. No. 38 and 39, The Tearney Bldgs.," dated June 24, 1958, p.15.

33. Virginia Free Press, November 11, 1858, p.2, c.7.

John H. Ridenour, 12, male. Born in Va.
Willard A. " 7, years old, male. Born in Va.
Emma J. " 6, female, Born in Va.
Maggie " 4, female, " " "
Mary E. " 7, female, " " " 34

4. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BUILDINGS

No historical plans of Bldgs. No. 9 and 8 have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located.

5. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Historical prints and photographs showing Bldgs. No. 9 and 8 will be found in the following research reports that have already been submitted:

1. 1859 photograph, HF-66, in Snell, Charles W., "Report for Wager Lots No. 6, 7 and Part of 8, the Wager House or United States Hotel," dated August 7, 1958, page 33. Important, shows rear roof of Bldg. 9 and also of 8.

2. 1859 photograph, HF-450, in above report, page 35. A blow-up of Photograph HF-66, revealing more detail.

3. 1862 photograph, HF-11, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10A," page 35, Shows front and east side of Bldg. 9, also part of east side of Bldg. 8.

4. 1863-1865 photograph, HF-40, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report for the Noah H. Swayne Lot, Wager Lot No. 51," dated July 24, 1958, page 22. Shows roof of Bldg. No. 9.

5. 1865 print, HF-141, by A. R. Waud, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 10 and 10A," page 38. Closeup of east wall and front of Bldg. No. 9.

34. Census of 1860, Reel 10, V.2, p.167.

6. 1865 print, HF-224, original drawing by A. R. Waud, in above report, page 37.

7. 1862-1865 photograph, HF-18, in Snell, C. W., Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 9 and 8," page 10. Excellent view of five windows and one door in east wall of Bldg. No. 9.

8. 1859 photograph, HF-90, in Smith, Philip R., Jr., "A History of the Arsenal Tract, 1796-1869," dated December 19, 1958, page 137. Excellent view of east wall of Bldg. No. 9.

9. 1889 photograph, HF-100, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Bldg. Report, Part I, for Building No. 5," dated October 18, 1957, revised January 29, 1958, p.11. Shows relationship of Bldg. No. 9 to John Brown fort-also flood of 1889.

10. 1890 photograph, HF-97, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 7," dated October 1, 1957, revised January 29, 1958, page 11. Shows relationship of Bldgs. No. 9 and 8 to John Brown Fort.

11. 1896 photograph, HF-96, in Sullivan, Arthur L., "Research Report, History of Wager Lots No. 17-35, 1782-1869," dated February 18, 1959. Page 90, excellent view of front and east wall, roof of Bldg. 9, also east wall and roof of Bldg. No. 8.

12. 1936 photograph, HF-261, in Snell, C. W., "History of Wager Lot No. 31," page 30. Shows Bldg. No. 9 in 1936 flood.

13. 1955 view of the rear of Bldg. No. 8 and 9, in Snell, C. W., "Historic Bldg. Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 10 and 10A," page 40.

In APPENDIX I of this report will be found seven other photographs showing Bldgs. No. 9 and 8.

6. SUMMARY OF THE HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land, 1782-1873

Lot No. 14 was owned by the Wager family from 1782 to 1835. On October 10, 1835, the lot was allotted to Gerard B. Wager. He remained the owner of Lot No. 14 from 1835 to his death in 1848 and his estate and heirs retained title to the property until 1873.

B. Construction of Bldgs. No. 9 and 8

Bldg. No. 9 was erected by Michael Foley in 1837-38. The new house was a 3½ story brick building with a cellar and probably had a slate roof. The structure fronted 29 feet 2 5/8 inches on Shenandoah Street and was forty feet deep. The first floor was designed for use as one store and the upper 2½ floors contained living quarters. By 1859 the building had a slate roof, five windows and one door in the east wall and also one or more windows in the north or rear wall.

The original Bldg. No. 8 was probably constructed by John O'Hara in 1841-42 on the site of an earlier house, the stone foundations of the latter being incorporated into Bldg. No. 8. The new building was built of brick and was 2½ stories high, with a steep pitched roof that sloped to the west. This roof contained two dormer windows on the west side. A two story frame porch as well as the doors and windows to Bldg. No. 8 were probably located on the west side of the house. On the east wall or side there were two large chimneys and four windows located one above the other. These windows were situated between the two chimneys. The north wall or end of the building contained at least one window at the top floor and probably had a total of four windows, one in each floor, including one in the basement. Bldg. No. 8 was 16 feet wide and 29 feet one inch in length. It probably contained a kitchen and pantry as well as extra bedrooms for the service of Bldg. No. 9. The first

floor may also have been used as a warehouse for the store in 9.

C. Use of Bldgs. No. 9 and 8, 1838-1861

1. September, 1838-September, 1839; Tavern of James H. Hayman.

2. 1839-May, 1840; Grocery store of Henry Yost and William Coates.

3. May, 1840-June, 1842; Grocery store of Henry Yost.

4. 1843-1845; Dry Goods Store of John G. Wilson.

5. 1845-1848; Drug store of Dr. Joseph G. Hays.

6. 1848-October, 1855; Drug store of Adam Young, Jr., agent for Joseph Crosby and Son of Baltimore.

7. 1855-1861; No sure record of use.

8. November, 1858-April, 1861; Probably the dry goods store of John G. Ridenour.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Photograph HF-55, in the Appendix of this report, well illustrates the original relationship of Bldgs. No. 9 and 8 to the John Brown engine house and the Armory Gate. It is readily apparent that Bldg. No. 9 and 8 formed an important part of the 1859 historical scene at the time of the John Brown Raid. It is therefore recommended that both Bldgs. No. 9 and 8 be restored to their 1859 exterior appearance. In the case of Bldg. 8, the structure must largely be reconstructed above the first floor.

It is also recommended that no attempt be made to restore the interiors of these two structures, but rather if they are to be utilized as a branch museum, that the interiors be adapted for this special use.

(Sgd) CHARLES W. SNELL

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
March 18, 1959

APPENDIX I

(Seven Photographs)

HARPER'S FERRY, VA., 1862

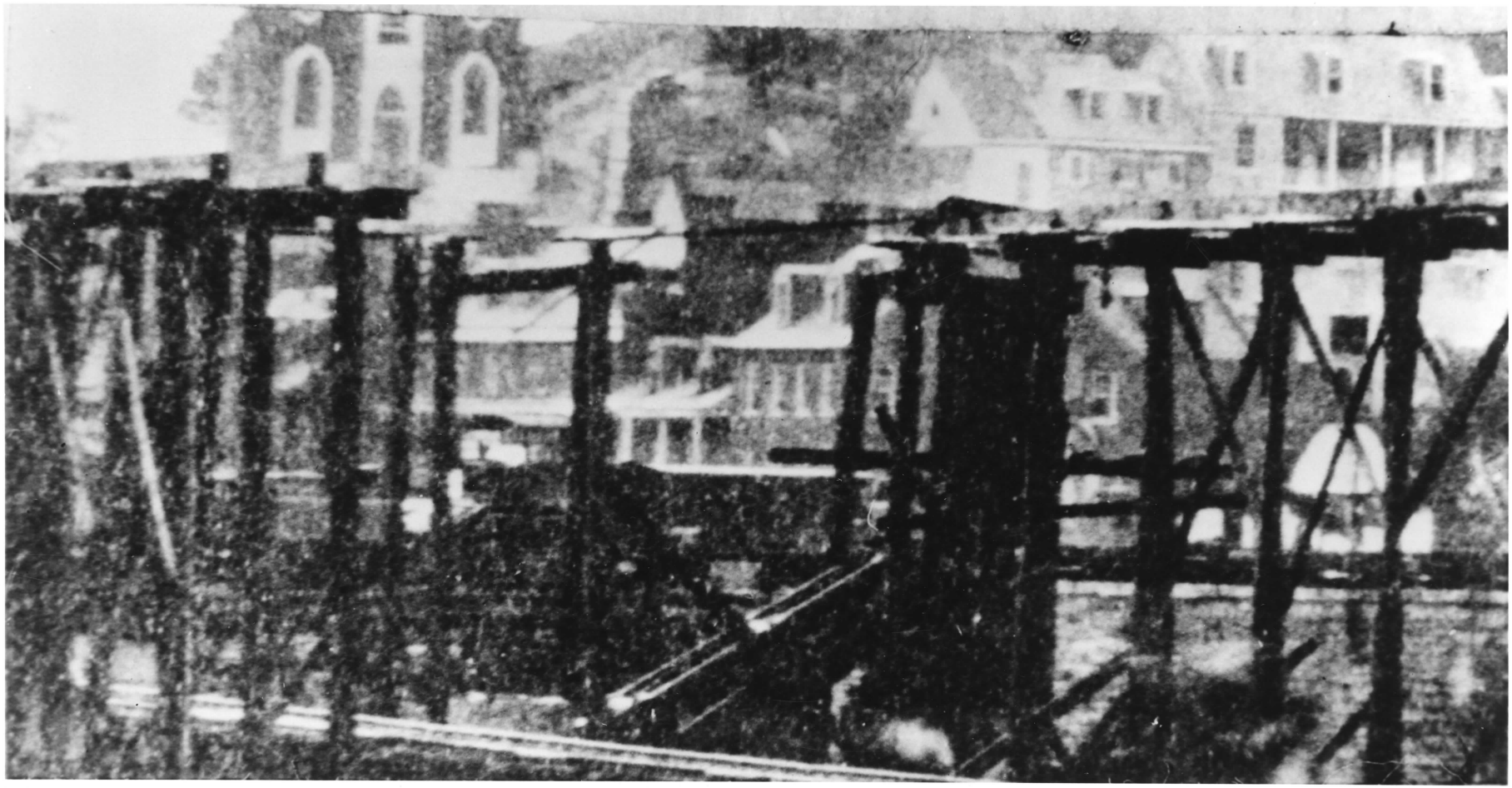
Original photograph in National Archives Still Picture Section, Washington, D. C., CN-5079. This photograph, Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-375 is a blowup made from HF-11.

Through the break in the bridge, from right to left, may be seen Bldgs. No. 9, 10, 11 and 12. Note that Bldg. No. 10 is a 2½ story structure and that Bldgs. No. 11 and 12 are both three story buildings. Bldgs. No. 10, 11 and 12 also all have two story porches on their fronts on Shenandoah Street.

HARPER'S FERRY, VA., 1862

Original photograph in National Archives Still Picture Section, Washington, D. C., CN-5079. This photograph, Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-376 is a blowup made from HF-11.

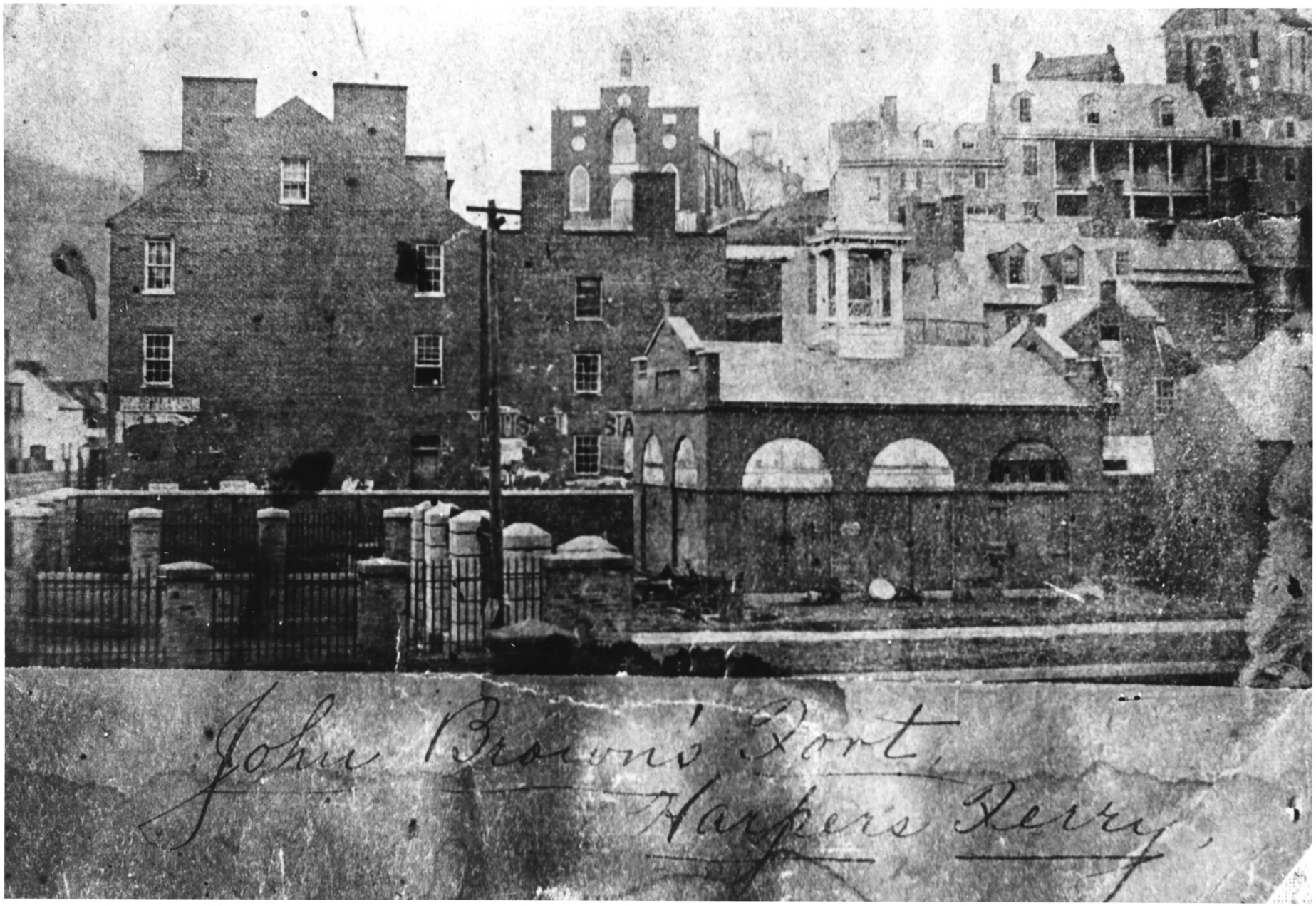
Through the break in the bridge, from right to left, may be seen Bldgs. No. 9, 10, 11 and 12. Note that Bldg. No. 10 is a 2½ story structure and that Bldgs. No. 11 and 12 are both three story buildings. Bldgs. No. 10, 11 and 12 also all have two story porches on their fronts on Shenandoah Street.



"JOHN BROWN'S FORT,"
HARPER'S FERRY.
1865.

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-55.

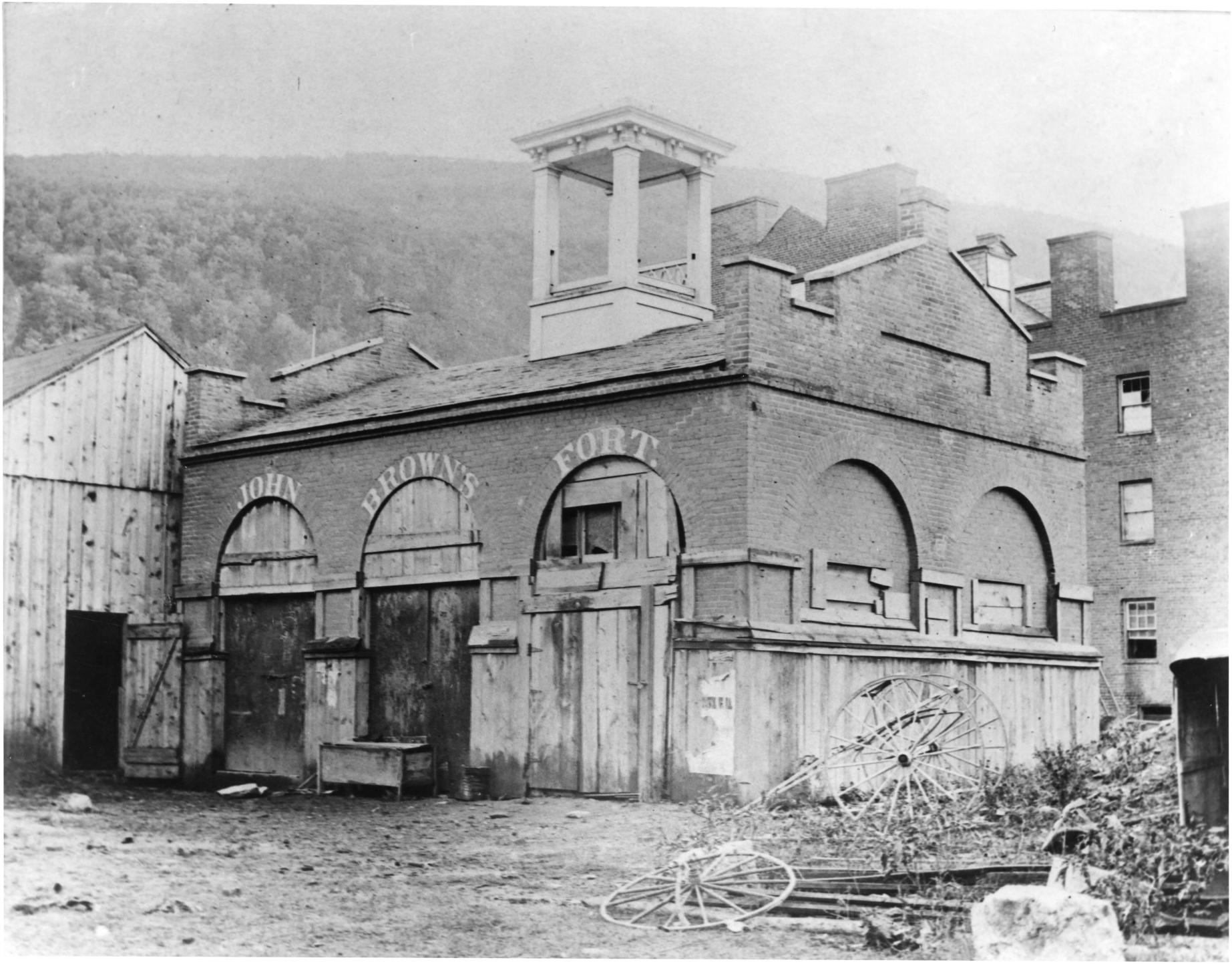
This photograph was probably made in 1865. The fort, armory walls and gates are all in their original location. Beyond these may be seen Bldg. No. 9 with five windows and one door in the east wall. Note the slate on the dormer windows. Just to the right of Bldg. 9 stands Bldg. 8 with three windows visible in the east wall. A fourth window, concealed by the Armory wall, was located in the basement of Bldg. No. 8 on this side.


John Brown's Fort,
Harper's Ferry,

JOHN BROWN FORT,
1890-1892.

Harpers Ferry Negative
Number HF-485.

Photograph made after 1889 flood and before the fort was removed from its original location in 1892. Bldg. No. 8 may be seen in the rear and just to the right of the John Brown Fort. Note the four windows in Bldg. No. 8 including one in the basement.


JOHN BROWN'S FORT.

HARPERS FERRY, ABOUT 1870

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-45.

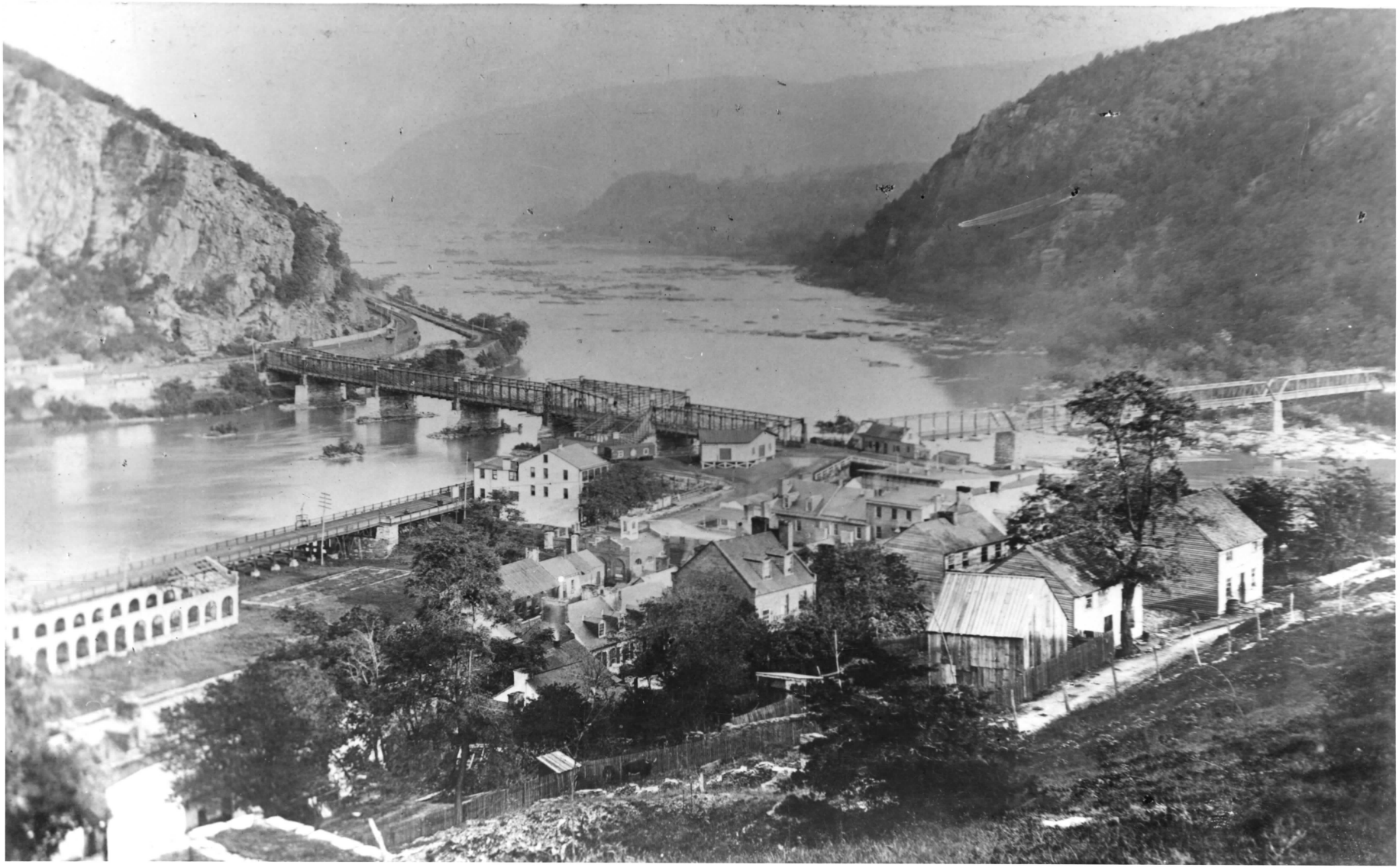
The huge armory building to the left is the Smith Shop. At the extreme right may be seen the John Brown fort in its original position. Just to the right of the fort stands Bldg. 8 and 9. Note the two dormer windows in the roof of Bldg. No. 8 and also the window in the top floor of the north wall.



HARPERS FERRY, 1884-1889

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-113.

Good view of the original windows in the rear or north wall of Bldg. No. 9.



HARPERS FERRY, 1889-1892

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-58.

Note windows in rear of Bldg. No. 9. Also visible is roof and one dormer of Bldg. No. 8.


POTOMAC HOUSE

HARPERS FERRY, 1932

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-301.

View of "Dittmeyer's Drug Store," Bldg. No. 9, in 1932. Note how Bldg. No. 9 has been remodelled and Bldg. No. 8 reduced to one story. The John Brown Fort site marker is also visible to the right of Bldg. No. 9.


DITTMEYER'S

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 9, 1959

	ACT	INFO
SUPT	6-10	✓
RGR		
HIST	6-10	CWS
ADM. AID		
MF		
H		

H. F. NAT. MON.
REC'D.
JUN 10 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

From: Regional Historian

Subject: Research Project No. HF-58, Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. 9 and 8

When this report is adapted as the Historical Data Section for the completed Part II, Historic Building Report, on these structures, the apparent discrepancies between the house frontage of 29' 2 5/8" (Page 3) and the lot frontage of 27 1/2' (Page 3) should be noted even if it cannot be explained. In Line 8, Page 10, should not "Wager Lot 9" read "Wager Lot 5"?

Frank Barnes

Frank Barnes
Regional Historian

In duplicate

Copy to: Director w/copy of Report

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

June 11, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-58, Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldgs. No. 9 and 8

Historian Charles W. Snell has provided the following answers to the two questions raised by Regional Historian Frank Barnes in his memorandum of June 9 regarding the Historical Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section for Bldgs. No. 9 and 8.

1. Apparent discrepancies between the house frontage of 29' 2 5/8" (page 3) and the lot frontage of 27½' (page 2) for Bldg. No. 9: The difference in frontage is "explained" on the 1846 plat on page 5 and at great length in the "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 9 and 8," dated January 30, 1958, pp.3 and 4. The original frontagw of the lot for Bldg. No. 9 was 27½ feet in 1835 (see 1835 plat, page 2 of Part II). In erecting Bldg. No. 9, Foley inadvertently built over on the adjoining lot, Wager Lot No. 15-subdivision 3, about one foot and eight inches. This error was apparently discovered by the two owners of the lots in 1846 and was rectified by an exchange of land on June 6, 1846 (see plat, page 5 of Part II), thus giving the owner of Bldg. No. 9 full title to the land on which the structure already stood. As these details had been explained at some length in the Part I, and had no great bearing on the architectural history of Bldg. No. 9, Mr. Snell did not repeat the story in the Part II.

2. Line 8, page 10 should read "Wager Lot No. 5" (not Lot No. 9) as Mr. Barnes has suggested.

SIGNED

James F. Devenport
Acting Superintendent

In quadruplet