

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 26, 1959

HFK-284

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30-DCA

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 29 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG. DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief Architect

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I - The Presbyterian Church, 1843-1868 - Harpers Ferry National Monument

The Historic Structures Report, Part I, The Presbyterian Church, 1843-1868, Harpers Ferry National Monument, has been reviewed by the interested Divisions in the Washington Office and is recommended for approval.

Charles W. Lessig
Charles W. Lessig
Acting Chief Architect

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

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
✓	Architect		
	Land Archt		
✓	Programs		

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

July 7, 1959

Nelligan
7/7

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument
From: Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I - The Presbyterian Church, 1843-1868

The subject report has been reviewed by this office, and we are pleased to recommend its approval. We believe that the measures proposed will be a distinct asset to the downtown area.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC
Operations Division

MHNelligan/cp

General ✓
Daily
Area

6/23/59

Historic Structures Rpt., Part I - Presbyterian

ch - Harpers Ferry

INTERPRETATION

	History
	Nat. His.
	Archeo.
	Publ.
	Museum
	Sec'y.
3.	<i>DR. NELSON</i>

1. OPERATIONS
6/24/59

OPERATIONS	Initial and Date
<i>Think Dr. Nelson's recommendations should be followed. A well done trail site exhibit would be a distinct asset to the downtown area.</i>	
programs	

2. ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR

OK SCD 7/2

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

PLEASE SUBMIT COMMENTS BY JULY 6

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 23, 1959

Handwritten: Hissell
6/23
Nelly
6/23

Memorandum

To: Director
From: Acting Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part I - The Presbyterian Church, 1843-1868 - Harpers Ferry NM

Attached for your consideration and review is the subject report consisting of Administrative Data and Historical Data Sections. Comments to the Superintendent should be submitted by July 6.

By this memorandum we are inviting EODC to prepare an Architectural Data Section if that office thinks one is needed.

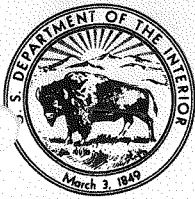
(Sgd.) George A. Palmer
George A. Palmer
Acting Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachments

Copy to: Chief, EODC, w/copy of report
Supt., Harpers Ferry

CPassarelli
General
Daily
Area
Operations Division



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

June 17, 1959

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 18 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

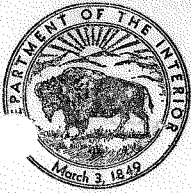
Subject: Research Project No. HF-27F, Historic Structure Report,
Presbyterian Church

Enclosed please find four copies of the "Historic Structure Report for The Presbyterian Church, 1843-1868," dated June 9, 1959, 15 pages, as prepared by Historian Charles W. Snell.

Mr. Snell has written this report in response to Regional Chief of Interpretation Murry H. Nelligan's memorandum of April 24, 1959, that reviewed the study: "History of Catholic School Lot, Presbyterian Church Lot, and Jefferson's Lot, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1868," dated February 11, 1959, 44 pages.

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate



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

June 17, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-27F, Historic Structure Report,
Presbyterian Church

Enclosed please find four copies of the "Historic Structure Report for The Presbyterian Church, 1843-1868," dated June 9, 1959, 15 pages, as prepared by Historian Charles W. Snell.

Mr. Snell has written this report in response to Regional Chief of Interpretation Murry H. Nelligan's memorandum of April 24, 1959, that reviewed the study: "History of Catholic School Lot, Presbyterian Church Lot, and Jefferson's Lot, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1868," dated February 11, 1959, 44 pages.

(SGD) FRANK H. ANDERSON

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

Region Five
421 Saint Street
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

April 24, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Eugene Perry

From: Regional Chief of Interpretation

Subject: Historic Building Site Survey Report, Catholic School
Lot, Presbyterian Church Lot, and Jefferson's lot,
Chambers Street. Research Project No. SP-174.

We think this report should be considered a research report, and suggest that a separate Historic Structures Report be submitted in due course covering the one structure involved - the Presbyterian Church ruin. This report can have as its "historical data" section, the material on the Presbyterian Church lot in the present report. For ease of reference, at least one historical photograph should be included. The Administrative Data Section with the present report will serve well for the Historic Structures Report. Our comments and suggestions on the research report are as follows:

Narrative clarification should be made of the relationship of houses 25, 26, 27, 28 and the church. More references can somewhat be made in this regard: the 1848 map, for example, shows houses 25 and 26 on the Jefferson lot. Some analysis (footnote or otherwise) should be offered for Mr. Small's opinion that these houses were "probably" on the Presbyterian lot. (Similarly, in a separate supplemental memorandum, with regard to the houses on the Jefferson lot - and how about some explanation and some history, even though it may be obvious, regarding the name of this lot and the rock thrown). The house numbering system should be clarified; also (briefly) the meaning of the house classification system.

General
Daily
Area
Pharmaceuticals

Harvey H. Holligan
Regional Chief of Interpretation

In duplicate

Copy to: Director w/copy of report

Region 5 Copy

APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended:

Director

Recommended:

Regional Director

Recommended:

Chief, EODC

Approved:

Superintendent

Harpers Ferry National Monument

HF 284

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

FOR

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

1843-1868

Harpers Ferry National Monument

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
June 9, 1959
15 Pages
Project No. HF-277

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PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. NAME OF LOTS

Catholic School Lot, Presbyterian Church Lot, and Jefferson's Lot.

B. PROPOSED USE OF AREA

We agree with Research Historian Charles Snell's recommendations for the stabilization of the ruins of the Presbyterian Church following the removal of vines which now cover this interesting stone masonry. Some repair will be necessary to restore about thirty feet of the stone wall connecting this site with the proximity of Building No. 45. Also approved is Mr. Snell's suggestion for the interpretation of the ruins by means of a wayside exhibit using one or more photographs of the building and site.

His program for the eventual restoration of the entire three lot area to the approximate historic scene is also excellent. However, for the immediate future, practical considerations will probably confine this project to the area between Building No. 45 and the Presbyterian Church ruins. The clearing of vines and weeds and the re-establishment of lawn here should be feasible this year. Eventually, the extension of lawn to Building No. 48 should serve to tie in this interesting architectural introduction for the visitor to the rest of the lower town.

C. PROVISIONS FOR OPERATION OF AREA

No special provisions are provided but the suggested improvements should be possible of accomplishment thru our regular maintenance division.

D. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF COST FOR REHABILITATING THE GROUNDS

The cost of a wayside exhibit would be approximately \$500. The cost of re-establishing lawn can probably be borne by our Maintenance and Rehabilitation Appropriation.

PART II - HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1796-1868

The lot on which the Presbyterian Church was to be built was a part of the property purchased on June 15, 1796, by the United States Government from John Wager, Senior, for the purpose of establishing a Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry.¹ On October 17, 1841, Major Henry K. Craig, then Superintendent of the Harpers Ferry Armory, notified Col. George Bomford, Chief of Ordnance:

"A number of highly respectable persons in this village and vicinity, many of them connected with the Armory, are about forming themselves into a religious congregation of the Presbyterian order, and have through their intended Minister [Rev. T. D. Hoover] applied to me for the use of a lot of ground on which to erect a building for public worship. I think their request might be granted without the slightest injury to the Government or Armory interest, and that the formation of a religious society under the circumstances such as appear to attach to the one in question, with a suitable place of worship, would tend greatly to the promotion of morals at this place, and consequently to the public interest. I would therefore recommend that permission be granted for the erection of the building, which I understand is to be of brick and about 40 by 60 feet. The site I propose is between Shenandoah Street and the Hill, and near the upper end of the village.

The farther aid of the Government is solicited by the Society in the form of a donation of \$500 to aid in the erection of the building; this part of the petition I would not undertake to recommend, but should it be granted I have no doubt will be honestly applied to the object for which it is asked."²

Secretary of War J. C. Spencer approved this application for a lot of Government land on October 20, 1843. Superintendent Craig was informed that "he has approved the measure, provided it be selected so as not to interfere with the present operations of the Armory or with its future

1. Deed, June 15, 1796, Wager to U. S., National Archives, Microfilm Reel 21, V.7, pp.704-508.

2. Craig to Bomford, October 17, 1841, Reel 23, V.1, pp.97-98; for the name of first minister, see Virginia Free Press, August 3, 1843, p.3, c.1.

improvement. There is no fund, however, out of which the donation in money can be accorded.³ The lot for a site for the Presbyterian Church was thus leased by the United States to the congregation in 1841. The site of the lot and church may be seen on S. Howell Brown's 1852 map of Harpers Ferry, which appears on the following page of this report. The church may also be seen on S. H. Brown's 1848 Map of Harpers Ferry which will be found in Appendix I of this report.

The church held the lot under a rent-free lease from the United States from 1841 to 1868. On December 15, 1868, under an Act of Congress of that date, the congregation was granted title to the original church lot with a considerable additional amount of surrounding land by the United States.⁴ The size of the 1868 grant may be seen on S. Howell Brown's 1869 Map of Harpers Ferry in Appendix II of this report.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH AND ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL

The congregation raised the money to construct the church, in part, by holding church fairs.⁵ The building was completed in 1843, as is revealed by the following notice:

"DEDICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AT HARPERS-FERRY

The Presbyterian Church at Harpers-Ferry, on Shenandoah Street, will be opened for Divine worship on the third Sabbath of this month, 20th instant, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

3. Secretary of War to the Ordnance Department, October 20, 1841, Reel 19, V.14, p.1365; Capt. A. Mordeau to Supt. Craig, October 20, 1841, Reel 19, V.1, p.76.

4. A History of the Presbytery of Winchester Synod of Virginia, The Rise and Growth, Ecclesiastical Relations, Motherhouses and Opacities, Churches and Ministers, 1719-1943, Based on Official Records by Robert Bell Woodsworth, Printed by the McClure Printing Company, Staunton, Virginia, 1947, pp.243-245.

5. See for example, Virginia Free Press, June 8, 1843, p.3, c.2.

MAP OF HARPERS FERRY
 By
 S. HOWELL BROWN, D.S.
 1852
 Harpers Ferry Armory
 April 1852
 Benj. Huger
 Brvt. Col. U.S.A., Commdg.



The Rev. Wm. M. Atkinson is expected (D.V.) to preach the Dedication Sermon. After the sermon, a collection will be taken up to meet in part the debt still remaining upon the Church. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on the evening of that day. N.B. The seats are entirely free, and the community are invited to attend." 6

The Presbyterian Church building was still standing in 1913 and may be seen on the 1913 map in Appendix III of this report. According to this map, the structure was described as a "two story brick Office and Shop" and the dimensions of the building were 36 by 48 feet. An excellent photograph, HP-357, of the Church, taken about 1865, will be found on the following page of this report. This view reveals the structure to have been a 1½ story brick building standing on a one story stone foundation; a wooden ~~opola~~^{cupola} was situated on top of the slate roof.

By February, 1860, the church was heated by a furnace. In April, 1860, Mrs. George Mauzy informed her daughter: "the church had been nicely cleaned and painted and new inside blinds of oilcloth and crimson curtain ⁸ [installed] at the chair at the front... Mrs. Kreps is the organist..."

3. THE PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION, HARPERS FERRY

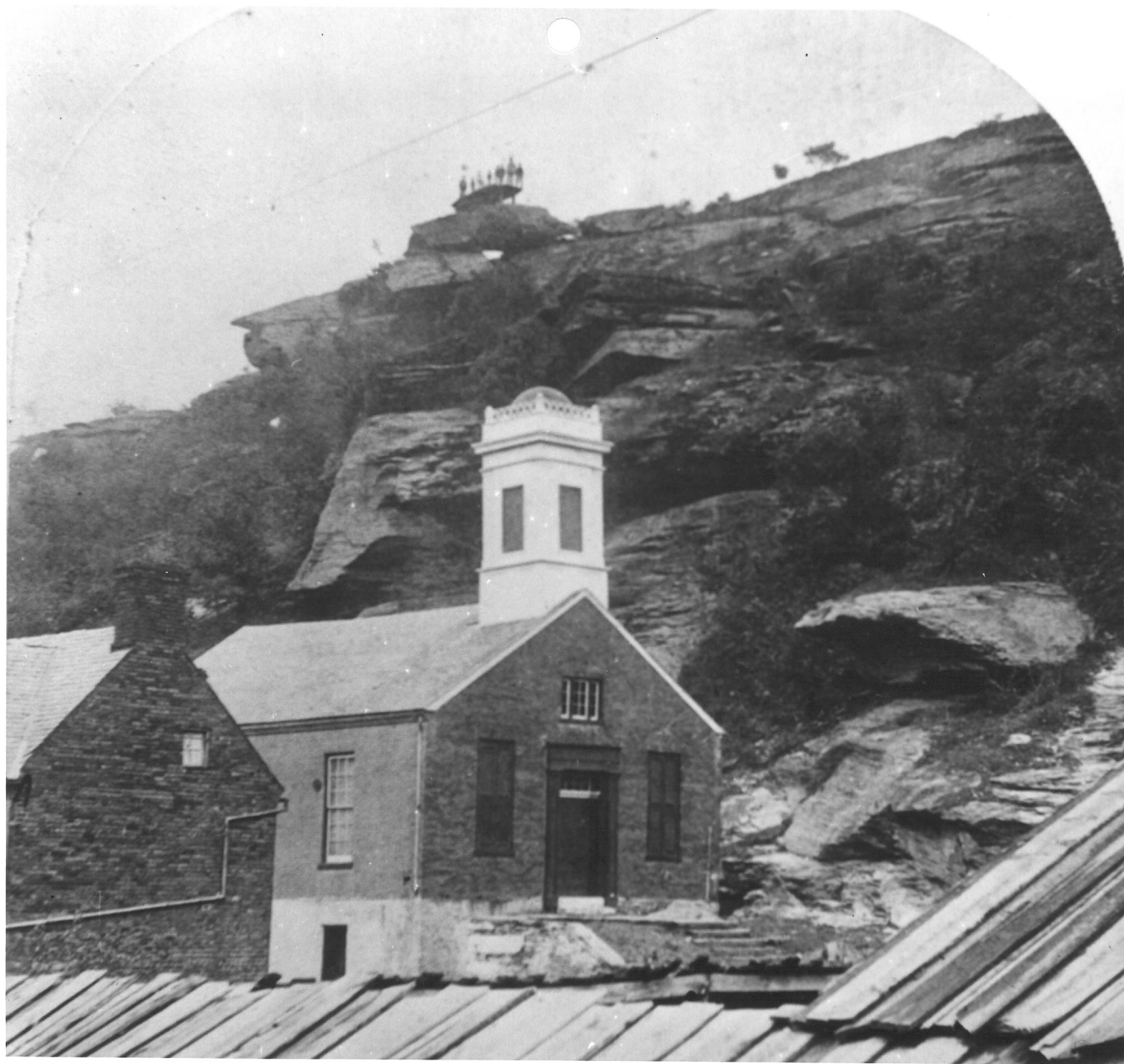
According to a history of the Presbyterian Church, the ministers of this congregation from 1841 to 1865 were as follows:

1. Rev. Thomas D. Haaber (spelled Hoover in the newspapers of the time), October, 1841, to December, 1843, in connection with Lovettsville.
2. William H. Love, with Martinsburg, October, 1845, to June, 1849.
6. Virginia Free Press, August 10, 1843, p.3, c.1.
7. Mary E. Mauzy to Mrs. James Burton, February 16, 1860, MS Letter copied by C. W. Snell from original in the possession of Mrs. Kenneth Groomsberg, 1834 Rolling Road, St. Dennis 27, Maryland.
8. Mary Mauzy to Mrs. J. Burton, April 29, 1860.

HARPERS FERRY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
1865

From a Stereoptian View, Photographed
and Published by Bell & Bros, 430
Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D. C.,
Made in 1865 or 1866
Harpers Ferry Negative No. HP-357

Across the street (Shenandoah), on the north side, is to be seen the Harpers Ferry Presbyterian Church. The structure was a 1½ story brick building over a one story stone foundation. Note the wooden cupola on top of the slate roof of the church. In the distance may be seen Jefferson Rock with a number of people standing on it. The building to the left of the photograph is Government House No. 16, which was located on Lot No. 4, Block D, Shenandoah Street. The wooden shake roof to be seen in the foreground was probably the roof of a frame wagon shed built on Lot No. 3, Block D, Shenandoah Street, the Presbyterian Church Parsonage Lot, for the use of people attending the church.



3. Austin C. Heat/on, with Shepherdstown, 1850 to October, 1854.
4. Charles White, with Berryville, 1855, to 1861.
5. Warren B. Dutton, 1867 to 1871.

The congregation numbered in 1843: 27
 1853: 71
 1860: 39
 1870: 20

A Sunday School was begun in Harpers Ferry in 1856 with 30 children.

The church suffered extreme damage at the hands of Federal troops during the Civil War and was repaired and reconditioned in 1868 at the cost of at least \$2,211.06. Of this sum, \$1,711.06 came from the United States Government as war damages. A deed to the Presbyterian church lot, as shown on the 1869 map (Appendix II) was granted by the United States to the trustees of the church, without consideration or any reservation, on December 15, 1868, pursuant to an Act of Congress for the disposal of Government lands at Harpers Ferry. Due to the decline in membership, the lot and church building were sold in 1910 or 1911.

In addition to the church lot, the Church also held a lease from the United States from 1852 to 1868 for Lot No. 3, Block D, Shenandoah Street, for use as a parsonage lot. The Presbyterian Church, however, never actually constructed a parsonage on this lot prior to 1865.

4. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BUILDING

No historical plans of the Presbyterian Church have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located.

9. Woodworth, Robert Bell, A History of the Presbytery..., pp.243-245.
10. Snell, Charles W., "History of Lots No. 1 to 7, Block D, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1865," dated January 30, 1959, pp.18-22.

5. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

An 1857 print, Photograph HP-249, made from Jefferson Rock and showing the cupola of the Presbyterian Church will be found on page 110 of C. W. Snell's "History of Lots No. 1 to 11, Block C, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1865," dated January 23, 1959. Also in the same report, on page 113, will be found a Civil War view of the church, Photograph HP-88, drawn from Loudoun Heights; and on page 117 an aerial view, Photograph HP-289, shows that the former church building was still standing in 1932.

A very fine photograph of the church, HP-357, made about 1865, will be found on page 6 of this report.

6. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land

The Presbyterian Church Lot was owned by the United States Government from 1796 to 1868. A portion of this lot, located on the level land along the north side of Shenandoah Street, was leased free of rent to the Presbyterian Church from October 20, 1841, to 1868 for use as a church lot. Title to the level land and the cliffs above, as laid out on the 1869 map, was granted to the Presbyterian Church by an Act of Congress on December 15, 1868.

B. Construction and Use of the Church

The church was erected in 1843 and dedicated on August 20, 1843. The structure measured 36 by 48 feet in size. Its first floor, a one story stone basement, was located at the level of Shenandoah Street and had a door opening out on the street. Above this basement was a 1½ story brick structure with a slate roof and a wooden cupola on top of the roof. The

main entrance to the church was at the east end, at the second floor level, the ground at this point having been filled or built up. In 1860, the building was heated by a furnace, had oilcloth blinds at the windows and also had an organ. The church was badly damaged during the Civil War by Federal Troops and was repaired in 1868. The church was sold in 1910 or 1911 and was henceforth used for commercial purposes. It was apparently destroyed by the 1936 or 1942 floods.

C. The Presbyterian Church Lot Today

The stone foundations of the Presbyterian Church, one story high, are still standing in 1959 and are largely intact. The remainder of the lot is covered with young trees and tall grass. The ruins themselves are heavily overgrown with vines. It is recommended that the vines be removed so that the visitors can see the ruins and that the stone foundations be stabilized. It is suggested that some of the young trees be left standing and that the remainder of the lot be mowed and maintained as a grassy area as it undoubtedly was in 1859.

It is also recommended that the ruins of the Presbyterian Church be interpreted by utilizing Photograph HF-357 in a trailside exhibit to be located in that general area.

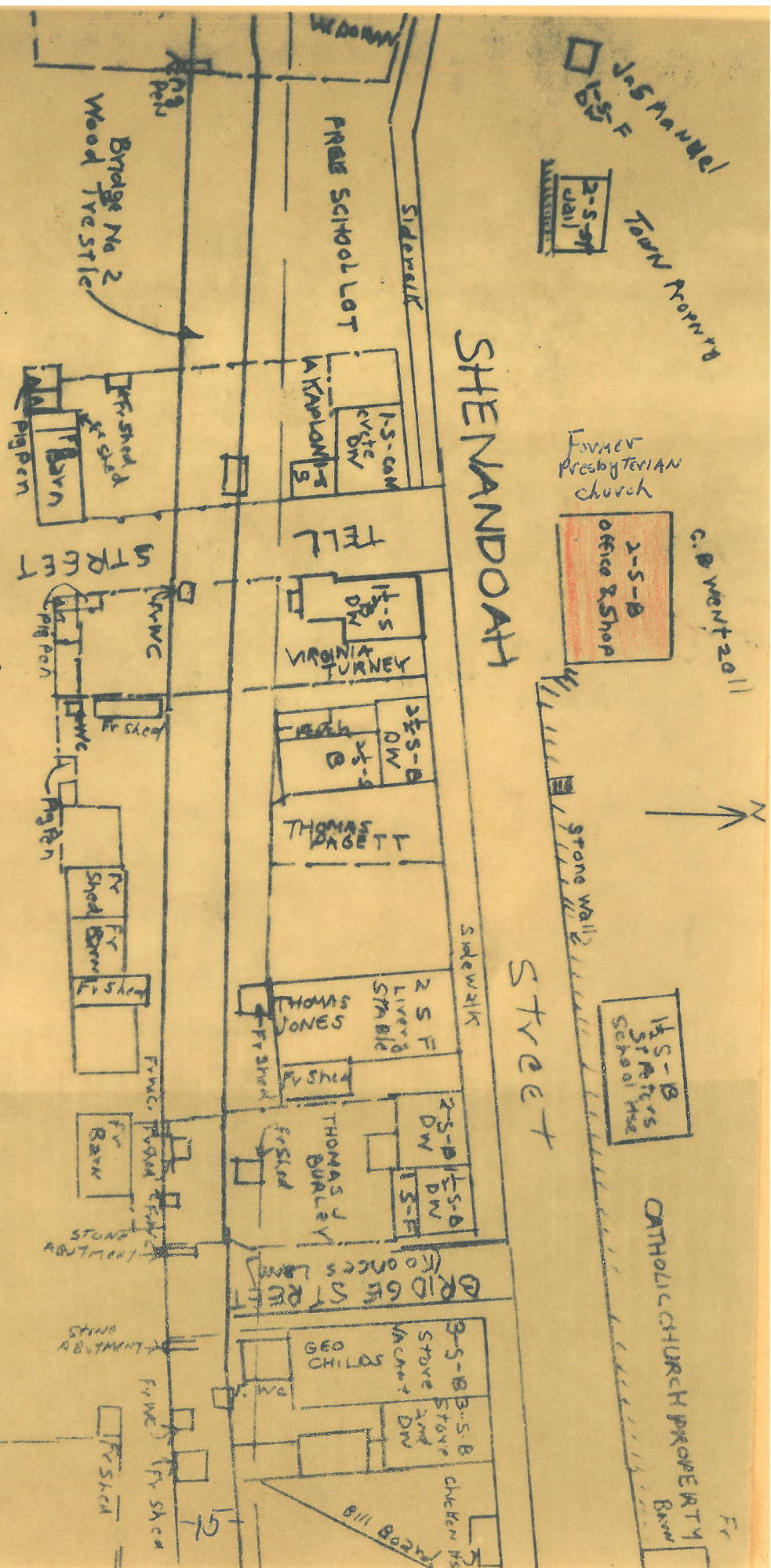
(Sgd) CHARLES W. SNELL

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
June 9, 1959

APPENDIX I

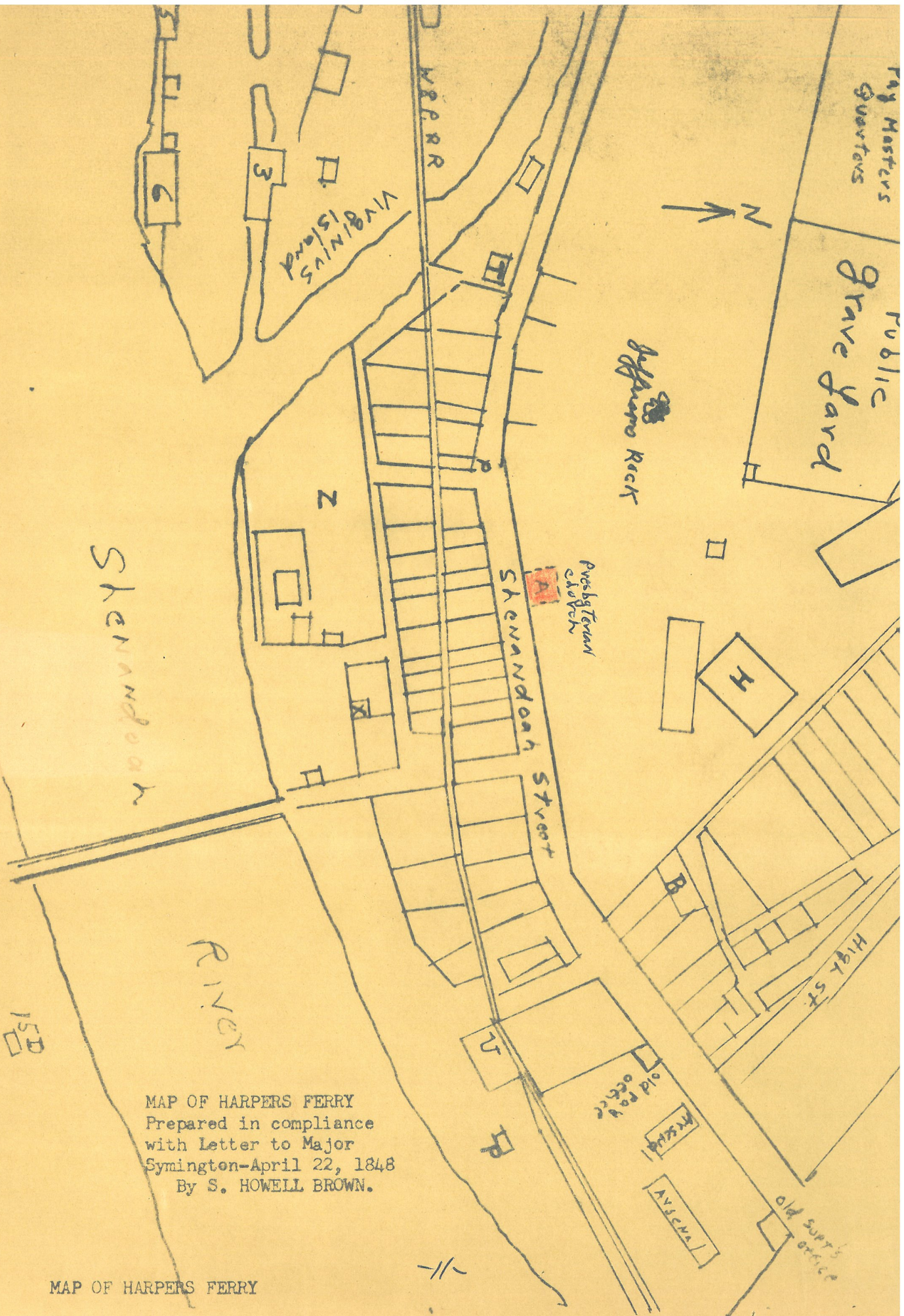
"Map of Harpers Ferry prepared in compliance with
letter to Major Symington, April 22, 1848," by S.
Howell Brown

☐ Brick
☐ Stone
☐ Frame



APPENDIX II

S. Howell Brown's 1869 Map of Harpers Ferry



MAP OF HARPERS FERRY
Prepared in compliance
with Letter to Major
Symington-April 22, 1848
By S. HOWELL BROWN.

APPENDIX III

"B. & O. R.R. MAIN LINE DISTRICT, Shenandoah Division,
Main Line, PLAN SHOWING THE RIGHT OF WAY, BUILDINGS
AND TRACKS, HARPERS FERRY, W. VA? Office of the Dist.
Engr. M. Of W. Baltimore Md. Scale 1" = 50'
February 19, 1913



MAP OF HARPERS FERRY
 BY
 S. HOWELL BROWN,
 APRIL 26th 1869.