

HFR-119

2/30
#2215

Barnes
9/28

Willeger
9/28

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 28, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument
From: Regional Director
Subject: Research Project No. 67, Historic Building Report, Part II
Historical Data Section, Bldg. No. 37

We accept Supervisory Historian Snell's judgment as given in your memorandum of June 2. However, at the time the first Part II Historic Structure Survey Report on this building is prepared, we think it would be best to include a brief historical section incorporating the substance of your memorandum, the Sanborn Map extract (copies returned herewith), a print of the additional photograph found pertinent, and any additional documentary material or findings that may at that time be pertinent. There is always the likelihood (as evidenced in your recent acquisition of Marmion manuscripts) of additional family papers turning up, for instance.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin
Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

FBarnes/mm

General
Daily
Area



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

June 2, 1959

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 - H30
H2215

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUN 4 - 1959		
REG. DIRECTOR		
ASST. REG DIR.		
OPERATIONS		
INTERPRETATION		
ADM.		
REC RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nat. Hist.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Archaeo.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Publ.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Museum
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sec'y.

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. 67, Historic Building Report, Part II - Historical Data Section, Bldg. No. 37

Historian Charles W. Snell has carefully reviewed the "Historic Building Report, Part I-Historical Data Section, for Bldg. No. 37-The John T. Rieley Building," dated June 30, 1958, 27 pages, and recommends that this report be accepted as the Part II-Historical Section for this structure. The Part I report is correct as it stands and requires no further revision. No additional information relating to Bldg. No. 37 has been uncovered.

Attached to this memorandum are four copies of the "Sanborn-Perris Map of Harpers Ferry, Jefferson Co., W. Va.," dated November, 1894, which Mr. Snell suggests may be inserted into the Part I Report as Appendix II, pages 28 and 29.

This map substantiates the theory advanced by Mr. Snell as to the original size of Bldg. No. 37 (see pages 6 and 7 of the Part I Report) and indicates that the structure measured 18 or 19 feet by about 29 feet at that date.

An additional photograph, HF-99, made about 1895, which shows the original roof line of Bldg. No. 37 and of the frame structure located in its rear, will be found on page 25 of Charles W. Snell's "Historic Building Site Survey for the Noah H. Swayne Lot (Wager Lot No. 51)," dated July 24, 1958, 31 pages.

Frank H. Anderson

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In quadruple

Attachments

Nelligan
8/25

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

August 25, 1958

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

From: Regional Director

Subject: Historic Building Report, Part 1, Building No. 37,
Harpers Ferry National Monument

In its memorandum of July 16, the Washington Office approved the subject report with no reservations. Since the time limit for commenting on it has long since expired, you may already have approved it in accordance with the procedures set forth in FO 11-36.

Nevertheless, we should like to pass on our concurrence with the proposal to restore the exterior of the subject structure, and our recommendation that final determination of the interior use be deferred until approval of the MISSION 66 Prospectus and the over-all planning studies which will be based on it.

(Sgd.) Daniel J. Tobin

Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Copy to: Director
Chief, EODC
Operations (Atten. Mr. Nelson)

MHNelligan/mm

General
Daily
Area



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

July 16, 1958

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-D

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUL 18 1958		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REG. DIRECTOR	<i>AS</i>	7/31
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASST. REG.	<i>AS</i>	7/31
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONS	<i>AS</i>	7/30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INTERPRETATION	<i>AS</i>	7/28
ADM		
REC. RES. PLAN		
RANGER ACT'S		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Acting Chief of Design and Construction

Subject: Historic Building Report, Part 1, Building No. 37,
Harpers Ferry National Monument

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	History	<i>AS</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nat. Hist.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Archeo.	7/28/58
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Publ.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Museum	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sec'y.	<i>AS</i>

The Historic Building Report, Part 1, Building No. 37, Harpers Ferry, prepared by Superintendent Anderson and Historian Snell has been reviewed in the Washington Office, and is recommended for the Superintendent's approval.

Dick Sutton
Dick Sutton, Acting Chief
of Design and Construction

In duplicate

Copy to: Chief, EODC
Supt., Harpers Ferry

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
	Architect		
	Land Archt Programs		
			<i>AS 7/31</i>

Harpers Ferry - Historic Building Report

Bldg. No. 37 (The John T. Rieley Bldg.)

~~Cotter~~ *J.P.C.*

~~Barnes~~ *O.K.* Snell is not always careful about documents, his statements - these have his deductions on orig size + design of bldg - even tho I can see where he got them - agree with explain restoration - not enough info on original structure. *W.H.*

~~Operations~~
Asst. Reg. Director
would approve for exterior restoration
S.H.

Regional Director
I go along with exterior restoration. Determination of interior work should await completion of studies of all structures
D.

Dr. Nelligan (LAST)

ATTACH COMMENTS

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

Rose 7/10
city.

July 10, 1958

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

**Subject: Historic Building Report, Part 1, Building No. 37,
Harpers Ferry National Monument**

In accordance with the procedure outlined in FO-11-56 dated February 16, 1956, attached for your consideration is the Historic Building Report, Part 1, for Building No. 37 (The John T. Rieley Building), Harpers Ferry National Monument, prepared by Superintendent Frank Anderson and Historian Charles Snell. By copy of this memorandum, we are forwarding a copy of the report to EODC for review and comment.

The report should be reviewed by no later than July 21.
Our comments will follow.

(S) Daniel J. Tobin
Regional Director

In duplicate

Attachment

**Copy to: Chief, EODC, w/c report
Supt., Harpers Ferry**

CP

General ✓
Daily
Area
Operations Div. (att. Mr. Nelson)



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

REGION FIVE		INITIAL AND DATE
JUL 8 - 1958		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REG. DIRECTOR	<i>[Signature]</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ASST. REG. DIR.	<i>[Signature]</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OPERATIONS	<i>[Signature]</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INTERPRETATION	<i>[Signature]</i>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	REC. RES. PLAN.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGER ACT'S	

July 7, 1958

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Historic Building Report, Part I, for Building No. 37, Research Project No. HF-18.

Enclosed please find four copies of the Historic Building Report, Part I, for Building No. 37, 27 pages, and dated June 30, 1958. Historian (Park Supervisory) Charles W. Snell has written the Historical and Architectural Data Sections, and the Administrative Data Section has been prepared by me.

Frank H. Anderson

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

Attachment

Info	OPERATIONS	Act	Initial and Date
	Lands		
	Engineer		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Historian		<i>USE 9/9</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>			<i>[Signature]</i>

APPROVAL SHEET

Recommended: _____
Director

Recommended: _____
Regional Director

Recommended: _____
Chief, E.O.D.C.

Approved: Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

Harpers Ferry National Monument

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT

PART I

for

BUILDING NO. 37

The JOHN T. RIELEY

BUILDING.

Harpers Ferry National Monument

HF -18 and 67

Prepared by:

Charles W. Snell,
Historian (Park Supervisory)
Dated: June 30, 1958
27 pages.

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SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

A. Name and Number of Buildings

Building No. 37, the "John T. Rieley Building".

B. Proposed Use of Structure:

The exterior of the building is to be restored to the 1850-65 period. Involved will be the removal of the entire front wall of the building and the removal of approximately seven feet from each of the two sidealls in order to set the front of the structure back to its original position. A front wall would then be reconstructed with door and window openings as in the original building. A gable roof similar to that which covered the structure in the 1850-65 period, except that concrete (wood simulated) shingles will be used instead of wood for fire preventive reasons, will be substituted for the existing roof.

It is recommended that the reconstructed first floor windows be used as an exhibit of a typical shoemakers shop of the period. No further restoration is planned for the first or second floors.

C. Provisions for Operating the House: (None)

No funds have been programed for the restoration of the exterior of this building.

D. Preliminary Estimate of Cost of Rehabilitating the Structure and Grounds.

The preliminary estimate of the cost of rehabilitating the structure is \$20,000.

SECTION II * HISTORICAL DATA

1. OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1835 to 1865

On April 2, 1835 the Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery for Jefferson County, Virginia, appointed Commissioners "to lay off and divide into three equal lots and parcels, the real estate at Harper's Ferry which descended to James B. Wager, Gerard B. Wager, and Salley Ann Wager, now Salley Ann Swayne, the wife of Noah H. Swayne, from their father, John Wager (¹Jr.), deceased." The property thus being divided at Harpers Ferry was commonly known as the "Wager Six Acre Reservation and Ferry Lot", an island of land in private ownership, surrounded on all sides by land owned by the United States Government.²

On October 10, 1835 the three Commissioners reported to the Court: "To Gerard B. Wager we allot and assign the following lots as designated G.B.W. & numbered in the annexed plat, to wit: Lots No. 2-3-4-6-12-14-18-21-22-29-30-32-34-36-38-43-49-50-52 & 56."³

Thus in 1835 Gerard B. Wager became the owner of Wager Lot No. 52 (see the red and blue area on the plat on page 2 of this report) and it is upon Lot No. 52 that Bldg. No. 37 stands today.

On February 8, 1839, ^rGerard B. Wager and his wife, Ellen A. Wager, exchanged land with Noah H. and Sarah A. Swayne; this transaction resulted in the enlargement of Wager Lot No. 50 and the reduction in

1. Gibson, etc. Vs. Wager, etc, Decree, Deed Book 29, pp. 140-141. Jefferson County Cou., Charles Town, West Virginia.

2. 1835 plat: "The Wager Six Acre Reservation, Drawn by James M. Brown, S.G.C., in Deed Book 29, 1847-48, p.140. See page 2 of this report.

3. Deed Book 29, pp. 140-141.

PUBLIC

LAND



ARSENAL YARD

J STREET

C STREET

J STREET

ALLEY

SCALE 1" = 60 FT.

Tracing of Portion of 1835
Plat of Wager Lots. Traced
from the Original in the
Jefferson County Court
House, Deed Book 29, by
A. W. Franzen.

Wager Lot No. 52 remained the property of Gerard B. Wager until his death ^{in 1848,} and it was still a part of his estate until after the Civil War.

2. CONSTRUCTION OF BLDG. NO. 37:

Bldg. No. 37, after Bldg. No. 1-A - the Harper House, is probably the oldest structure still standing within the boundaries of the Park. Bldg. No. 37 was probably erected by John Wager, Jr. at some date after 1803 and before October 1813. No direct documentary evidence concerning the construction of Bldg. No. 37 has been found. A great deal of documentary evidence, however, has been located that tends to substantiate the theory that Bldg. No. 37 must have been erected at a early date; this evidence follows:

A. The 1803 map: "Plan of the proposed junction of the CANAL, at the lower Falls of the Shenandoah, with the Public Canal at HARPERS FERRY, and the necessary Locks for descending into the Potomack River, Surveyed & Level'd by N. King and L. Harbaugh, Feb. 1803," ⁵ a detailed map of Harpers Ferry, definitely shows that Bldg. No. 37 was not standing at that date. (A tracing of a portion of this map will be found on page 5 of this report.)

B. On John Wager's, Jr., death on October 22, 1813, his estate passed to his four minor children, for whom a guardianship was established that lasted until 1824. The guardians, for the benefit of the Court, were required to submit detailed statements of income and expenditures of the Wager estate. These records have been searched and show that no building

5. National Archives R. G. 79, Dr. 150-2, sheet 1 of 2.

size of Wager Lot No. 52. The Swaynes paid the Wagers \$100 and gave them some land from Lot No. 51 to be included as a part of Lot No. 50; in return, the Wagers gave the Swaynes:

"...so much of Lot number fifty two (52) in the Town of Harper's Ferry...as lies between the brick building on Lot Number fifty one (51) (this structure had been erected by William Anderson in 1832 under a lease from the Wager family)... & the stone building (Bldg. No. 37) on said Lot Number fifty two (52). The width of said space of land out to the Street on Charlestown Road (now called High Street) back to the the line of said Lot Number Fifty one (51) and all the estate right title & interest of them the said parties of the first part (that is, the Wagers) to the said portion of Lot Number fifty two (52) -- To have and to hold the said part of Lot Number fifty two (52) with its appurtanances unto the said Sarah A. Swayne her heirs & assigns forever to the only proper use & behalf of the said Sarah A. Swayne forever, but is hereby understood & agreed that if the stone building (Bldg. No. 37) on Lot number fifty two (52) shall hereafter be taken down another building shall be placed on said lot on the part thereof, and will not square by the line of the Charlestown Road or street (High Street) on that part of Lot number fifty two (52) not hereby conveyed it shall be lawful for the said parties of the first part (the Gerard B. Wagers) to use so much of the said lot number fifty two (52) hereby granted as may be necessary to square the building to be erected with said Street or road provided no part of said building to be erected on Lot Number Fifty two (52) be nearer to the brick building on Lot Number Fifty-one (51) than the South west corner of the stone building (Bldg. No. 37) now on Lot Number fifty two (52) is now to the said brick building on Lot number Fifty-one (51)..."

4
For the land thus taken off Wager Lot No. 52 to be added to Lot No. 51, see the blue area on the plat on page two of this report.

Wager Lot No. 52, before this exchange, had originally fronted 43 feet on High Street. After the 1839 exchange the frontage was reduced to the width of Bldg. No. 37, or to 29 feet 4 inches. It thus appears that a piece of land fronting approximately 14 feet on High Street by 26 feet in depth, was taken from Wager Lot No. 52 and added to Wager Lot No. 51.

4. Deed of E. & S., February 8, 1839, Deed Book 23, pp.286-287.

Tavern
1-A

Prescott Road

Stable

X

Stable

GARDEN

Artillery shed

Arsenal

X = Future site of
Bldg No. 37

Tracing of a Portion of the 1803 Map of Harpers Ferry. Scale 4 perches to an Inch.

of the type of Bldg. No. 37 was erected in the period 1813 to 1824.

C. With the end of the Wager guardianship, the family very carefully recorded all of the leases they granted for the period 1824 to 1839. A page by page search of deed records for this period has failed to turn up a lease for the construction of Bldg. No. 37, and leases to build was the method by which the Wager family erected buildings on their land in the period 1824-39.

D. As the evidence already cited on page 3 of this report indicates, there was definitely a stone structure standing on Wager Lot No. 52 on February 8, 1839. The failure to uncover any record of the construction of Bldg. No. 37 in the period 1813 to 1839, when there is an abundance of information available on Wager family business affairs, together with architectural details of the structure itself, indicates that Bldg. No. 37 was therefore erected before 1813. Furthermore, as John Wager, Sr. died on September 21, 1803, it seems most likely that Bldg. No. 37 was constructed by John Wager, Jr. between the years 1803 and 1813.

Bldg. No. 37, as erected by John Wager, Jr., was a two story stone structure. Judging by Photograph HF-359 (see Appendix I), the original roof was a gable roof composed of wooden shakes. The structure fronted 29 feet 4 inches on High Street and was about 17½ feet deep. The entire building was set back in the lot about seven feet from the edge of the present sidewalk. The first floor was designed for use as a store or shop and the second floor was utilized as living quarters, 1830-1865.

Handwritten notes:
 Are the
 we know?
 description
 photo
 evidence

6. Will Book No.2, pp.287-291; 322-324; 360-368; 436-439; Will Book No.3, pp. 137-143; 168-170; 231-237; 263-267; 424-429.

By 1844 a frame building, used at that date as a kitchen, had been added to the rear of Lot No. 52, located on the side of the hill at a level with the second floor rear of Bldg. No. 37.⁷ The maximum possible dimensions of this frame structure, based on the remaining vacant portion of the lot available for such a building, would have been a house 19 feet by 25 feet in size.

N. S. White, the Administrator of Gerard B. Wager's estate, ran the following notice describing this property in 1854:

"PUBLIC SALE

"Under the will of late G. B. Wager, will offer for sale on 4th March, before the U. S. Hotel, the following Harpers Ferry property:

"... 2nd. Two story stone House (Eldg. No. 37) and one and a half story frame house (the 1844 kitchen), or part of Lot No. 52...- the stone building fronting on High Street and north west end of same bounded by the public walk at the stone steps - the frame building fronting on said public walk - these will either be sold together or separately...." 8

These two buildings were standing at the time of the John Brown Raid in 1859 and were still owned by the Gerard B. Wager estate. They may be seen in Photograph HF-359, which is believed to have been taken in 1865 or 1866.

The remodelling of Bldg. No. 37, by which the structure was extended forward about seven feet and the gable roof was replaced by the present sloping roof, occurred at some date after 1917.

7. March 20, 1844, Deed of B. & S., Deed Book 27, p.155. Gerard B. Wager, in selling the northeast half of Wager Lot No. 50 to Patrick Kelly, described as one of the corners for Lot No. 50: "the western corner of the frame building located on Wager Lot No. 52) now occupied by Alfd. Andrews as a kitchen."

8. Virginia Free Press, February 16, 1854, p.3.

3. USE OF BLDG. NO. 37, 1813 to 1861:

From at least 1813 until 1824 Roger Humphreys, a merchant and brother-in-law of John Wager, Jr., rented either the Harper House, Bldg. No. 1-A, or a house located just below it as a residence.⁹ During this same period Humphreys also rented a store from the Wager estate at \$300.00 a year.¹⁰ While there is no evidence to place Humphreys' store definitely in Bldg. No. 37, it is highly probable that his business was located in this structure from 1813 to at least 1824; especially when it is borne in mind that Harpers Ferry's business center, as late as 1816, was composed of two stores, three grog shops, and one tavern.

From at least 1828 until April 1831, Bldg. No. 37 was rented by Dr. John R. Hayden and located in it was his Drug and Apothecary Shop.¹¹ In April of 1831, Dr. Hayden moved his business up to Bolivar, and Adam Young, moving to Harpers Ferry from Martinsburg, Virginia, announced:

"NEW DRUG STORE
ADAM YOUNG & CO. AT HARPERS-FERRY
"Drug and Apothecary Business located in the stone house formerly occupied by Doctor J. R. Hayden..."¹²

Young's location in Bldg. No. 37 is established by means of a lease to build, granted on July 6, 1832 by the Wager family to William and S. B. Anderson, on what was later known as Wager Lot No. 51. This lease reads in part:

9. Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 1-A, The Harper House," dated May 12, 1958, p.7.

10. Ibid., p. 8.

12. Virginia Free Press, December 3, 1828, p.4, c.5; December 2, 1829, p.4, c. 5; April 28, 1831, p.3, c.3.

12. Virginia Free Press, April 28, 1831, p.3, c.3; September 8, 1831, p.3, c. 4 & 5; May 10, 1832, p.4.

"...the corner lot (Wager Lot No. 51) immediately opposite to the Harpers Ferry Hotel (which was located on Wager Lot No. 15, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, and 4) fronting on Shenandoah Street about 80 feet (thus including both Wager Lots No. 51 and 50) and running back to and ranging with (on the Charles Town Road (High Street)) the tenement now occupied by A. Young & Co. (in Bldg. No. 37)..."

The Wagers further specified that the new building to be erected by the Andersons was to "range with Carter's store (now Bldg. No. 40) on Shenandoah Street, and with A. Young & Co. (in Bldg. No. 37) on the Charles Town Road (High Street)..."¹³

In January 1833 the firm announced: "The business heretofore existing under the firm of ADAM YOUNG & CO. will in the future be conducted by ADAM YOUNG, JR." Mr. Young sold Drugs, Medicines, Patent Medicines, Paints, Confectionaries, Fruits, and Fancy Articles."¹⁴ In April 1833,¹⁵ Mr. Adam Young, Jr., married Miss Emma Brus of Harpers Ferry.

In 1835 Mr. Young advertised:

"CONFECTIONARY, FRUIT AND FANCY STORE

"He has opened the above in the rooms formerly occupied by him as a dwelling, and immediately above his Drug and Apothecary Store..."¹⁶
Mr. Young continued his business in Bldg. No. 37 until December 1838,¹⁷ when he announced: "THIS WAY, YOUNG'S DRUG STORE has been removed to the old Tavern Stand, Opposite the Arsenal, Main Street (he was now located in Bldg. No. 10)..."¹⁸

13. Lease, July 6, 1832, Deed Book 18, pp.1-2.

14. Virginia Free Press, January 10, 1833, p.3; January 3, 1833, p.3. April 25, 1833, p.3, c.2.

15. Virginia Free Press, May 2, 1833, p.3, c.1; June 12, 1834, p.3, c.5.

16. Virginia Free Press, February 12, 1835, p; 3, c.4.

17. Virginia Free Press, March 3, 1836, p.3, c.4; November 30, 1837, p.3, c.5. September 6, 1838, p.3, c.3.

18. Virginia Free Press, December 6, 1838, p.3, c.7.

The same day Adam Whip gave notice that he "had removed his Saddler Shop to the house lately occupied by Adam Young as a Drug Store." Mr. Whip continued in business in Bldg. No. 37 until December 1839.

In January 1840 Alfred and H. V. Andrews moved into Bldg. No. 37; their notice read:

"REMOVAL. A. & H. V. Andrews Respectfully inform their customers and the public generally that they have removed their

"BOOT AND SHOE-MAKING ESTABLISHMENT, TO NO. 4, HIGH STREET." 21
Alfred Andrews continued his snop in this Building until about December 1845, when he moved his shop and residence to Bldg. No. 15. 22

In December 1845 James A. Fitzsimmons, then the Postmaster of Harpers Ferry, announced:

"NEW BOOK STORE AND CONFECTIONARY AT NO. 4, HIGH STREET,
HARPERS-FERRY.

"James A. Fitzsimmons has jst opened this business in the room adjoining Mr. Stephenson Apothecary Shop (Bldg. No. 37, first floor??), near the corner of High and Shenandoah Streets, and only a few steps from the store of A. Holland & Co. (who were located in Bldg. No. 12). " 23.

Mr. Fitzsimmons, aged about 34 years, died on December 16, 1846, thus bringing to an end this business venture. 24

29. Virginia Free Press, December 6, 1838, p.3, c.7.

20. Virginia Free Press, November 21, 1839, p.3, c.4. In March 1841 Whip moved to Charles Town, March 18, 1841, p.3, c.4.

21. Harpers Ferry Constitutionalist, January 8, 1840, p.3.

22. Virginia Free Press, June 8, 1843, p.3, c.4; see also Deed Book 27, p.155, Deed of March 20, 1844, cited on page 7, footnote 7 of this report. Historic Bldg. Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 15, p.2 places Alfred Andrews in Bldg. No. 15 as of July 20, 1846. In August 1842 H. V. Andrews moved his variety store from Bldg. No. 37 to Bldg. 15-Virginia Free Press, August 11, 1842, p.3, c.2.

23. Virginia Free Press, December 18, 1845, p.3, c.2.

24. Virginia Free Press, December 24, 1846, p.3, c.1.

Use of Bldg. No. 37 from 1846 to April 1848 has not been established; it is probable, however, that the first floor of Bldg. No. 37 was occupied as early as August 1842- the date that H. V. Andrews removed his variety store from Bldg. No. 37 to Bldg. No. 15, until April 1848 by the Drug Store of Dr. Philip P. W. Stephenson. Before 1840 Dr. Stephenson Apothecary Shop had been located on Wager Lot No. 48.

In May of 1848 Dr. Joseph G. Hays, who had been located in Bldg. No. 9, apparently moved his Drug Store into Bldg. No. 37.²⁵ Here he remained in business until 1850; he died of cholera in August of that year.²⁶ His son, Dr. George Thomas Hays, returned to Harpers Ferry in October 1850 to practice and also to close out his father's estate.²⁷ In November 1850, as administrator of the estate, he advertised:

"ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE

"Will sell on Dec. 10 at the residence of late Dr. Hays at Harpers Ferry the DRUG STORE as it stands, also household goods..."²⁸

In January of 1851 Dr. George T. Hays again announced that he would offer at private sale the Drug Store of the late Dr. J. G. Hays, meaning by this no doubt, the stock of goods and lease to the building.²⁹

The census of 1850 provides us with the following information about the Hays family:

25. Virginia Free Press, May 11, 1848, p.3, c.1; November 9, 1848, p.3, c.2.
26. Virginia Free Press, August 9, 1850, p.3, c.3.
27. Virginia Free Press, October 18, 1850, p.3, c.2.
28. Virginia Free Press, November 22, 1850, p.3, c.3.
29. Virginia Free Press, January 31, 1851, p.3, c.2.

"Joseph G. Hays, fifty years old, male, Physician. Value of real estate:
 owned: \$9,000. Born in Maryland.
 Harriett Hays, 45 years old, female, born in Maryland.
 Ellen Sophia Hays, 19 years, female, " " "
 Mary Hays, 27 years old, female, " " "
 Susan Hays, 25 years old, female, " " "
 Elizabeth Hays, 19 years, female, " " "
 Marie Hays, 30 years old, female, " " "
 Susannah Thompson, 17, female, born in Virginia.
 Jacob Bauer, 35 years old, male, " " " " 30

Use of Bldg. No. 37 from February 1851 to December 1852 has not yet been established.

In January 1853 John T. Rieley and A. G. McDaniel located themselves in Bldg. No. 37 and announced:

"NEW BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTORY,

"The subscribers would respectfully inform the citizens of Harpers-Ferry and Bolivar, that they have commenced the above business in Harpers-Ferry, on High Street a few doors above Shenandoah, where they will manufacture in the very best manner, and out of the best material, all kinds of BOOTS AND SHOES. All work will be warranted to be of the best quality and workmanship. REPAIRING will also be neatly and substantially done, and on the shortest notice.

"All work guaranteed to equal in style, beauty, finish and material, any that is manufactured in the County." 31

In February of 1854 they advertised:

"DISSOLUTION OF CO-PARTNERSHIP

"The Copartnership heretofore existing between JOHN T. RIELEY and A. G. McDANIEL was dissolved on the 6th instant by mutual consent. The business of the firm will be settled by John T. Rieley.

JOHN T. RIELEY
 A. G. McDANIEL

30. Records of the Bureau of the Census, National Archives R. G. 29. Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States 1850. Virginia, Volume 12, Jefferson County (Part), p.416.

31. Virginia Free Press, January 20, 1853, p.3, c.1; also May 12, 1853, p.3, c. 3.

"THE BOOT AND SHOE BUSINESS, in all its various branches, will be continued at the OLD STAND by the undersigned, where he will be glad to see all their old customers with as many new ones as may be pleased to call.

JOHN T. RIELEY." 32

In 1857 Mr. Rieley again announced:

"JOHN T. RIELEY
FASHIONABLE BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER
3rd Door From Shenandoah Street, on High St.,

"Keeps constantly on hand, or manufactured to order at the shortest notice, every description of Ladies, Gentlemen and Children's
BOOTS, GAITERS AND SHOES,
Also a large assortment of Leather and Shoe Findings for Sale." 33

Mr. Rieley was still located in Bldg. No. 37 in 1860. The census for that year provides us with his location and the following data on his family:

"John T. Rieley, 31 years old, male, Shoemaker. Value of Personal Estate:
\$1,250. Born in Virginia.
Sarah T. Rieley, 24 years old, female, born in Virginia.
Robert W. Rieley, 5 years old, male, " " "
Mary B. Rieley, 2 years old, female, " " " ." 34

The Rieley family probably resided in the quarters on the second floor of Bldg. No. 37, with their shop being located on the first floor.

4. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS:

All historical prints and photographs, four in number, and one modern photograph, will be found in Appendix I of this report.

32. Virginia Free Press, February 9, 1854, p.2, c.7.

33. Virginia Free Press, May 14, 1857, p.3, c.1.

34. National Archives R. G. 29, Records of the Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States 1860. Virginia, Volume 13, Jefferson County (Part), p.192.

5. HISTORICAL PLANS OF BLDG. NO. 37:

No historical plans of Bldg. No. 37 have been found and it is unlikely that any will ever be located. Modern measured drawings of this structure have not yet been prepared. A preliminary plan of the first floor of Bldg. No. 37 has been furnished for this report by Architect Archie W. Franzen. The writer has prepared a rough plan of the second floor. Both floor plans will be found in the Architectural Data Section.

6. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA:

A. Ownership of the Land, 1835 to 1865.

1. October 1782 to October 9, 1835, owned by the Wager family.
2. October 10, 1835 to 1848, owned by Gerard B. Wager. On February 8, 1839, a portion of this lot, fronting approximately 14 feet on High Street, by 26 feet in depth, was given to Swayne to be added to Wager Lot No. 51.
3. 1848 until after the Civil War, owned by the estate of Gerard B. Wager.

B. Construction of Bldg. No. 37, 1803-1813.

Bldg. No. 37 was probably constructed by John Wager, Jr., at some date after 1803 and before 1813. The stone structure was two stories in height and had a gable roof composed of wooden shakes. The building, as originally constructed, fronted approximately 29 feet and four inches on High Street, being set back on the lot about seven feet from the edge of the present sidewalk, and was about 17½ feet deep. The first floor was designed for use as a store and the second floor utilized as living quarters.

By 1844 a small frame one and one-half story house, then used as a kitchen, had been added to the rear of Bldg. No. 37, on the side of the hill and at a level with the second floor. The maximum possible dimensions of this frame structure, based on the size of the lot available for such use, would have been a building 19 feet wide by 25 feet in length. (see Photographs HF-359 and HF-94, Appendix I, for view of these houses.)

C. Use of Bldg. No. 37, 1813- 1861.

1. 1813 to 1824, probably a general store operated by Roger Humphreys.
2. 1828 to April 1831, Dr. Joseph R. Hayden's Drug and Apothecary Shop.
3. May 1831 to December 1838, Adam Young & Co., then Adam Young, Jr.'s Drug Store; Young also sold Fruit, Confectionaries and Fancy Goods.
4. December 1838 to December 1839, Adam Whip's Saddler Shop.
5. January 1840 to December 1845, Shoemaker's Shop operated from 1840-42 by Alfred and H. V. Andrews, and from 1842 to 1845 by Alfred Andrews.
6. December 1845 to December 1846, James A. Fitzsimmons' Book Store and Confectionery.
7. Possibly August 1842 to 1845 and from 1845 to April 1848, probably Dr. Philip P. W. Stephenson's Drug Store.
8. May 1848 to January 1851, probably Dr. Joseph G. Hay's Drug Store.
9. February 1851 to December 1852, use not yet established.
10. January 1853 to February 1854, Boot and Shoe Manufactory operated by John T. Rieley and A. G. McDaniel.
11. February 1854 to 1861, Boot and Shoe Manufactory owned by John T. Rieley.

7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is believed that enough evidence from documentary and photographic sources has been presented in this report to permit the generally accurate restoration of the exterior of Bldg. No. 37 to the 1859-65 period and it is recommended that such restoration and reconstruction be carried out.

Involved in such a project would be the removal of the entire front wall of Bldg. No. 37, which is 29 feet four inches in length, and the removal of approximately seven feet from each of the two side walls in order to set back the front of the structure from the present sidewalk to its proper position in the 1859-65 period. The front wall would then have to be reconstructed, placing door and window openings as shown in Photograph HF-359. The present roof must also be removed and a gable roof composed of wooden shakes be reconstructed and placed on the building.

Much of the structural evidence which would have revealed the original layout of rooms was probably destroyed in the general remodelling of the building that occurred at some date after 1917.³⁵ The number and size of rooms were probably greatly altered as a result of extending the building forward seven feet to the edge of the side walk. Architectural investigation of the structure, however, can of course best answer this question.

It is recommended that the reconstructed first floor windows be fitted out as an exhibit of a typical shoemaker's shop of the 1859-65 period, but that no attempt be made to restore the remainder of the first and second floors.

35. The brick building on Wager Lot No. 51 was not torn down until after World War. Photograph HF-381 shows this structure being demolished and a portion of Bldg. No. 37 is visible, with the old gable roof and the front of the building no yet extended forward towards High Street.

Due to lack of evidence, it is also suggested that no attempt be made to reconstruct the one and a half story frame building that once stood in the rear of Bldg. No. 37. The site of this structure can be marked on the ground and interpreted by means of old photographs.

In conclusion, it is suggested that Bldg. No. 37 be called the "John T. Meley Building", after the shoemaker who had his shop located in this structure just before the Civil War.

Charles W. Snell

Charles W. Snell,
Historian (Park Supervisory)
June 30, 1958

SECTION III - ARCHITECTURAL DATA

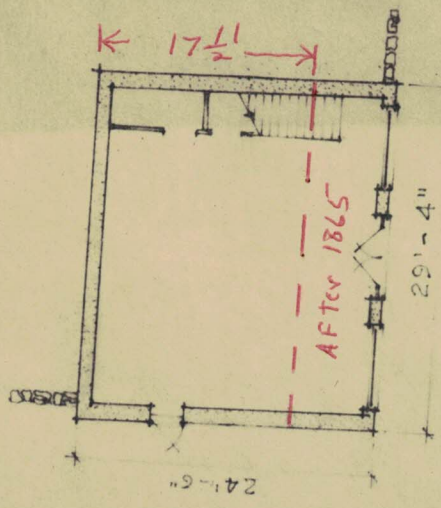
1. BLDG. NO. 37 TODAY:

Bldg. No. 37 today is a two story stone building with a sloping roof that fronts 29 feet and four inches on High Street and is 24½ feet deep. The first floor now contains one large room or shop and the second floor five rooms. The rear wall and about 17½ feet of each side wall are all that probably remain of the original (1803-1813) structure. The remaining walls and roof were all added at some date after World War I.

On the next two pages will be found floor plans. The first floor plan has been furnished by Architect Archie W. Franzen and I have indicated on the plan in red ink that portion of the structure that was added after 1917. A rough floor plan of the second floor is also included and here again I have marked in red ink the portion that was added to the front of the structure after 1917. Also indicated on the plan in red ink is the approximate location and size of one and a half story frame building that stood in the rear of Bldg. No. 37 in the 1844-65 period. This frame house no longer exists. One modern photograph of Bldg. No. 37 will be found in Appendix I of this report.

2. RESTORATION AND RECONSTRUCTION REQUIRED:

To restore the exterior of Bldg. No. 37 to its 1859-65 appearance approximately 7 feet of each side wall, starting from the edge of the sidewalk and measuring back into the lot, and the entire front wall, which is 29 feet four inches in length, must be removed. The front wall must then be reconstructed, with door and window openings placed as



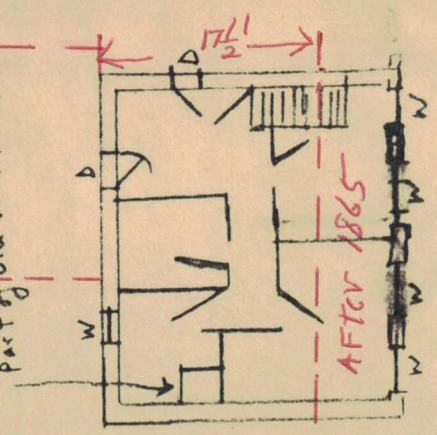
BUILDING NO. 37
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
HIGH ST.

SCALE 1/6" = 1'-0"

191

Site of
1 1/2 story
Frame
Bldg.
Part of old Fire Place?

251



Stone
Steps

Wager
Lot
NO. 51

W - Window
D - Door

HIGH ST.

BUILDING NO 37
Second Floor Plan

A

shown in Photograph HF-359. Architectural investigation may reveal the presence of former doors or windows in the original side and rear walls, but these changes would be relatively minor. The present sloping roof must also be removed and a gable roof composed of wooden shakes be reconstructed.

It is not recommended that the interior of the first and second floor be reconstructed; lack of evidence will probably make this impossible in ^{ANY} ~~only~~ case. It is also recommended that no attempt be made to reconstruct the one and a half story frame building that once stood in the rear of Bldg. No. 37. The site of this structure can be marked on the ground and photographs be used to interpret it.

3. ESTIMATE COSTS:

The estimated cost of the above work is \$20,000.

Charles W. Snell
Charles W. Snell,
Historian (Park Supervisory)
June 30, 1958

APPENDIX I

HISTORICAL AND MODERN PHOTOGRAPHS

(Five)

"The Main Street (Shenandoah Street), Harper's
Ferry, Va.- Zouaves on Mules - Contrabands Hauling
Guns - Officers Lounging, &c., October 16 (1862),-
Sketched by our Special Artist, Mr. Edwin Forbes."

From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, November 8,
1862, p.109.

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-67

From right to left: Extreme right-Bldg. No. 37; then
brick bldg. erected by William Anderson on Wager Lot
No. 51 in 1832; Bldg. No. 38, Bldg. No. 40; a small
house on Wager Lot No. 48, and at the extreme left a
part of Bldg. No. 43.

The relationship of Bldg. No. 37 to the house on
Lot No. 51, as shown in this sketch, is not accurate.
See Photograph HF-142 for correct view.



THE MAIN STREET, HARPER'S FERRY, VA.—ZOUAVES ON MULES—CONTRABANDS HAULING GUNS—OFFICERS LOUNGING, &C., OCTOBER 16.—SKETCHED BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, MR. EDWIN FORBES

ummit a wide view can be had of the Virginian scenery. On them
s situated the signal station communicating with the Federal signal
tation on Maryland Heights.

their work by the peculiar and not very musical cry of the tired
mules, who kicked and baulked, and squealed to their hearts' con-
tent, making a very pandemonium. The inhabitants look like their
town—very broken down—a terrible contrast to what they once

AURORA FLOYD.

"Catholic Church as seen from Main Street,
Harpers Ferry, West Va."

Photograph by Russell, Baltimore, believed to
have been taken in 1865 or 1866.
Donated by Mrs. Henry McDonald, Storer College,
May 18, 1958.
Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-359

This photograph shows Bldg. No. 37 and the small
frame structure in the rear as they must have
appeared in 1859. Bldg. on right is the end wall
of a structure destroyed in the fire of 1898.
Note the street light and also the type of board
fence used - details that will be useful in
restoring the historic scene.

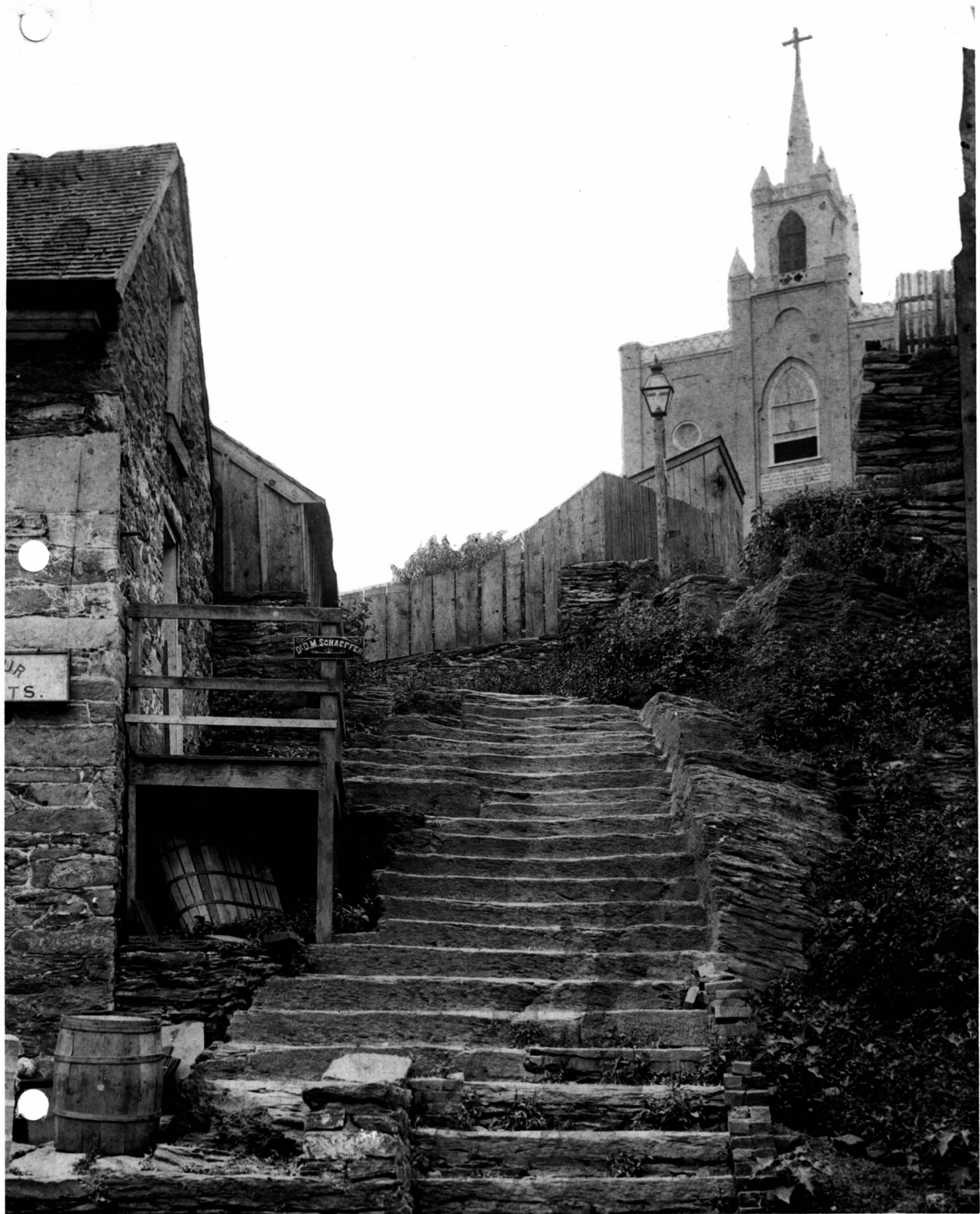


"Stone Steps"

Photograph probably taken about the same date of HF-359, in 1865 or 1866.

Donated by John Ferry, Bolivar Heights.
National Geographic File No. 140327-A.
Harpers Ferry Negative No. HF-94.

Note window over door of Bldg. No. 37, also metal hook in wall near corner of the bldg, just over wooden porch railing. This hook is still in the wall but about 7 feet from the present corner of Bldg. No. 37. Street light and details of fences clearly visible.



UR
TS.

D. M. SCHAEFFER

"High Street, Harper's Ferry, W. Va."

Taken about 1900 and before 1916.

Harper's Ferry Negative No. HF-142

Bldgs. on left side of High Street-

On corner of Shenandoah & High-brick building
on Lot No. 51 erected by Anderson in 1832, then
Bldg. No. 37- a portion just visible; then small
wooden shack and Bldg. No. 3.

Bldgs. on right side of High Street. Bldg. No. 12
on corner of High and Shenandoah Street, then 12-A;
Bldg. No. 13, 14, 15 and 16.



HIGH STREET, HARPER'S FERRY, W. VA.

Eldg. No. 37 Today (1957)

Eldg. No. 37 to right. Grassy plot in foreground is the site of the brick house that once stood on Wager Lot. No. 51. One wall of this structure and Eldg. No. 38 visible to the left.



TOUR ROUTE

A WALKING TOUR
TO POINTS OF INTEREST
BEGINS AT THE
STONE STEPS.
THE TRAIL IS
MODERATELY STEEP.
TOTAL DISTANCE 1 MI.
AVERAGE TIME 1 HR.
FREE FOLDER AND
INFORMATION AT
VISITOR CENTER