

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT.

PART II.

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION.

BLDG. NO. 36 AND 36A.

THE JOHN E. DAINGERFIELD HOUSE.

Lot No. 2, Block B.

Shenandoah Street.

Harpers Ferry National Monument

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CHAPTER I

OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND, 1796 - 1884

Lot No. 2, Block B, Shenandoah Street, the site of Bldg. No. 36, was a portion of the property purchased from John Wager, Sr., on June 15, 1796 by the United States Government for the purpose of establishing a Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry.¹ The lot remained the property of the United States and formed a part of the Harpers Ferry Armory from 1796 to 1869. Lot No. 2 and Bldgs. No. 36 and 36A were offered for sale in 1869 and described at that time as follows:

"BLOCK B, ON SHENANDOAH.....

Lot No. 2, 70 feet front on Shenandoah street, running back with (Lot) No. 1, 143 feet; with railroad embankment 78 feet to (Lot) No. 3, and with it 134 feet to Shenandoah Street. Fine brick house; residence of Dr. O'Donnel, and office of ordnance storekeeper..."²

(See 1869 map on next page for the location of Lot No. 2)

The house and lot, however, were withdrawn from the 1869 sale by the United States and remained the property of the Government until 1884. On October 22, 1884, Lot No. 2 was offered for sale and sold at that date.⁴ Lot No. 2, Block B, Shenandoah Street was thus owned by the United States from 1796 to 1884.

1. Deed, June 15, 1796, Wager to United States, National Archives, Reel 21, V.7, pp.704-708.

2. Catalogue of the Harpers' Ferry Armory Property to be sold by the United States on 30th November, 1869, at the Town of Harper's Ferry, Va., p.2.

3. Noffsinger, James P., "Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, Contributions Towards a Physical History," November, 1958, p.136.

4. Ibid., p.244.



Early Use of the Land, 1822-1858

From 1822 to about 1858, the land on which Bldg. No. 36 was eventually to be erected was occupied in part by a one story brick house, 24 by 18 feet in size, with a slate roof that was known as the "Pay Office." This structure, erected in 1822 at a cost of \$500, was used from 1822 to 1847 as the Office for the Paymaster of the Armory. From 1848 to 1849 it was then rented by the Government to T. W. J. Sullivan, who used it as his clothing store and tailor shop. From 1850 to 1851 the Old Pay Office was next rented by Mr. Isaac Fouke as a law office. From 1851 to 1858 the building was next leased by the town government of Harpers Ferry as an office building for the town officials and as a jail. The Old Pay Office was removed in 1858 by the Armory in order to clear the site for the construction of Bldg. No. 36. An 1848 map showing the location of the Old Pay Office will be found on the next page.

5. Smith, Philip R., Jr., "History of the Arsenal Tract, 1796-1869."
dated December 19, 1958, p.171.



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

CHAPTER II

PLANS FOR A NEW RESIDENCE FOR THE MASTER ARMORER, 1851 - 1856

From 1818 to 1858 the Master Armorers of the Armory at Harpers Ferry resided in Bldg. No. 34-35, which was located on Lot No. 3, Block B, Shenandoah Street, on the 1869 map.¹ As early as 1851, however, it was recommended that new quarters be erected for the use of the Master Armorer. In September, 1851, a board of officers met at Harpers Ferry to consider and present plans to the Secretary of War for a proposed sale of surplus Government lots and houses of the Armory. In relation to Bldg. No. 34-35 and new quarters for the Master Armorer, the board recommended:

"The Master Armorer and Clerks now occupy houses on ground which should be sold; these houses should be reserved from the sale until suitable ones are erected for their use. All other dwelling should be removed from the land reserved..."

This recommendation was approved by the Secretary of War on June 10, 1852.² As a result of this decision, the Arsenal Tract was therefore laid out into two blocks and subdivided into lots; the land, however, was not offered for sale in 1852. The future site of Bldg. No. 36 was described in 1852 as follows (see 1852 map on next page of this report):

"BLOCK B, ON SHENANDOAH

Lot No. 1 On South side of Washington Street (or High Street), continued; 30 feet front on Shenandoah St., 147 feet deep to Alley near Winchester & Potomac Railroad, 30 feet on said Alley, and 143 feet back to Shenandoah St.,

1. Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldg. No. 34-35, The Samuel Annin House," dated March 4, 1959, pp.29-30.

2. Report of a Board of Officers, dated September 24, 1851, approved by Secretary of War Conrad, June 10, 1852, Reel 24, V.8, pp.802-806.



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

Vacant (This lot is the same as Lot No. 1 on 1869 map)

Lot No. 2- Parallel to No. 1-30 feet front on Shenandoah Street, 143 and 141 feet deep to Alley. Old Paymaster's Office. (This lot was included in Lot No. 2 on the 1869 map and was a part of the land on which Bldg. No. 36 was to be situated)

Lot No. 3- Parallel to No. 2-30 feet front on Shenandoah St., 141 and 140 feet deep to Alley-vacant. (It was on this land that Bldg. No. 36 was to be constructed and it is included as a part of Lot No. 2 on the 1869 map)

Lot No. 4- 97 feet front on Shenandoah St., 140 feet deep to Alley-124 feet on the Alley, and from Alley 122 feet on Market Street to Shenandoah Street. Dwelling No. 2-Master Armorer. (Site of Bldgs. No. 34-35. This lot is listed as Lot No. 3 on the 1869 map and an area on the east side of the lot fronting 9 feet on Shenandoah was taken from the Bldg. 34-35 1852 lot and added on to the 1869 lot 2 for Bldg. No. 36)...." 6

Following the sale of Government sale of land on August 31 and September 1 and 2, 1852, Superintendent Benjamin Huger wrote to Col. Henry K. Craig, Chief of Ordnance on October 15, 1852:

"I now recommend that the amount received from the sale of part of the public property here, may be taken up under the appropriation of repairs and applied to improving the part retained by the U.S.

I would propose to apply these funds 1st to building quarters on the blocks reserved for the purpose, for the Officers of the Armory, (Master Armorer & Clerks).

The buildings now occupied by there are on lots to be sold. As they are entitled to quarters, these cannot be sold until others are built.

New quarters should be erected & the sale of the lots and houses now occupied by these Officers would replace the amount so used..." 7

This suggestion to use fund from the 1852 sale in this manner was disapproved by the Secretary of War on the grounds that Congress had not appropriated funds to be spent for these purposes. Thus the project for new quarters was shelved for four years because of the lack of funds to construct

6. Legend Exhibiting the Corresponding Numbers of the Houses, as per the Inventory of the 30th June, 1852, with the Lots of Land as per Brown's Map of the same, Where Correspondence Exists, and in other Cases, an Approximation. Photostatic Collection, Map Case, Drawer No. 3, Map No. 82.

7. Huger to Craig, October 15, 1852, Reel 24, V.8, pp.777-778.

8. Craig to Huger, November 13, 1852, Reel 19, V.6, pp.545-546.

the buildings.

On April 23, 1856, a joint resolution was passed by Congress authorizing the Secretary of War to apply the proceeds of the 1852 sale of lots at Harpers Ferry to the improvement of the public property at that place.⁹ On June 28, 1856, Col. Craig therefore informed Superintendent Henry W. Clowe that a total of \$36,606.70 had been made available from the proceeds of the 1852 sale to be spent on permanent improvements at the Harpers Ferry Armory. From this total, \$18,000 was allotted for the "erection of three quarters."¹⁰ Thus in June, 1856, money was finally available for the construction of a new house for the Master Armorer.

9. Secretary of War to Secretary of Treasury, May 7, 1856, Reel 26, V.5, p.466. Secretary of Treasury to Secretary of War, May 10, 1856, Reel 26, V.5, p.464, Secretary of Treasury.

10. Craig to Clowe, June 28, 1856, Reel 19, V.9, p.871. For the full story of the 1852 sales, etc., see Snell, Charles W., "A Comprehensive History of the Construction, Maintenance and Numbers of Armory Dwelling Houses, 1796-1869," revised January 13, 1959, Chapter VIII.

CHAPTER III

CONSTRUCTION OF BLDG. NO. 36, 1858 - 1859

As originally drawn up by the Board of Officers on September 24, 1851, and approved by the Secretary of War on June 10, 1852, the specifications for the new quarters called for the following construction:

"First...Building Quarters for Armory Officers on Fillmore St:

1...For One Master Armorer & Five Clerks-6 Buildings \$5000ea	\$30,000.00
Enclosure Sewers & Cisterns for ditto & outhouses \$750ea	4,500.00
Total:	\$34,500.00

Reasons

This item is recommended...this being in consequence of the dilapidated & unhealthy condition of the buildings now occupied by these Armory Officers; and also in consequence of the lots of these houses next the Musket Factory (those located on Wager Lots No. 18 to 22, 26 and 27) having been cut off and the length of the lots thereby diminished with a view to the protection of the Musket Factory Buildings. These shortened lots by the decision of the Board are to be sold, when the above quarters are provided..." 1

As already noted, this original plan was modified in June, 1856, by the allotment of \$18,000 for the construction of only three new quarters, thus increasing the amount available for each building to \$6,000 per house.

Superintendent Henry W. Clowe in July and August of 1856 drafted a set of plans for the three new houses that were to be erected for the Master Armorer, the Superintendent's Clerk and Paymaster's Clerk. These plans he personally carried to Washington in August, 1856, for review by the Chief of Ordnance and then for approval by the Secretary of War.

On September 5, 1856, Col. Henry K. Craig, the Chief of Ordnance, notified

1. "Estimate of work required to be done at Harpers Ferry Armory for its General improvement, according to the Report of a Board of Officers herewith approved by Secretary of War, June 10, 1852." With remarks by Major William H. Bell, 1854, Reel 25, V.1, p.82.

Mr. Clowe:

"The plan of Quarters for Master Armorer and Clerks, left by you at this office, is returned herewith. On examining it, there appears to be a defect in the making the width of the steps at the front entrance too small, and bringing the two middle columns too close together. In putting up the buildings, two of which for clerks may be commenced on the hill, it will be well to correct these defects. The third building of those authorized by my letter to you of the 28th June last, for the Master Armorer, had better be located on or near the site of his present quarters (that is, near present Bldg. No. 34-35). If such location should require any modification of the plan, or should increase the cost of the building please inform me." 2

On September 12 and 13, 1856, Col. Craig, personally inspected the Armory at Harpers Ferry and settled matters with Superintendent Clowe relating to the three new quarters. On September 14, Col. Craig reported to Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, in regards to the houses:

"Two of the dwelling houses for Clerks that were authorized to be erected and paid for out of the proceeds of sale of lots, will be soon commenced on the Hill (on Fillmore Street on Camp Hill) near the Armory. The House for the Master Armorer will be erected nearer the Armory, as it is thought advisable that one of the officers should at all times be near the shops and stores (both the Superintendent and Paymaster resided in houses located on Fillmore Street on Camp Hill)..." 3

It was thus decided that the Master Armorer's new house was to be erected on Shenandoah Street, rather than on Fillmore Street as had been originally proposed. Construction of the two houses for the Clerks was started in 1857 and completed in 1858; no actual construction, however, had been commenced on the Master Armorer's house as of April 3, 1858. On that date Superintendent Clowe informed Col. Craig:

"I learn from Mr. Byington (the Master Armorer) that you had suggested that the Quarters of the M. Armorer, to be built on the south end of the Arsenal Square, should be built somewhat larger, or on a different place, hence,

2. Craig to Clowe, September 5, 1856, Reel 19, V.9, p.887.

3. Craig to Davis, September 14, 1856, Photostatic Collection, V.3, pp.60, 62.

I have prepared a ground plan of a house, varying from that already adopted.

A House built on the place now proposed can be built for about seven thousand dollars.

Be pleased to instruct me, whether I may vary, in the erection of this House, from the plan already adopted for those on Camp Hill. Those on Camp Hill have exceeded the amount appropriated for them about \$820 dollars each, owing to the location, and consequent expense of the transportation of materials, &c.

The original plan can be constructed at the site on the Arsenal Square for about six thousand dollars or less." 4

By April 22, 1858, Clowe had still received no reply to this letter, but had begun work on clearing a site for the location of the house. Thus on April 22, Mr. Clowe requested a decision on which plan should be used for construction of the Master Armorer's new house, writing:

"I beg to call yr. attention to the plan of the Quarters for the Master Armorer, enclosed in my letter to you, of the 3rd April inst; varying in its mode of construction from those built on Camp Hill for the Clerks.

I have now cleared the site, of the obstructions at the place, close to the present quarters of the M. Armorer (Bldg. No. 34-35), and the workmen will be kept waiting, unless I am informed without delay, if any change in the plan is to be authorized.

Excavating for the foundation walls, depends upon this knowledge." 5

Still no answer from Col. Craig, and on May 4, 1858, Mr. Clowe again pointed out: "I was unable to continue the necessary excavations for the foundation walls. I have as yet received no reply to these letters (April 3 and 22), and I will be glad to have the determination of the Department made known, at the earliest period, on account of the workmen engaged to do the work, being
6
for want of it, kept back from their labor."

The long delay was apparently due to the fact that the new plan for the house was being given final review by the Secretary of War, for on May 19,

4. Clowe to Craig, April 3, 1858, Photostatic Collection, V.3, p.83.

5. Clowe to Craig, April 22, 1858, Reel 27, V.1, p.48.

6. Clowe to Craig, May 4, 1858, Reel 26, V.7, p.687.

1858, Col. Craig notified Superintendent Clowe: "I have to inform you that the Secretary of War has now approved the plan for Master Armorer's Quarters transmitted with your letter 3d April last; and that the building may be commenced without further delay."⁷

On June 3, 1858, Clowe wrote to Craig: "Herewith, enclosed, please find the Draft of Master Armorer's Quarters, which I brought to the Armory, from your Office, a few days ago."⁸

A careful search of thousands of pages of documents in the National Archives, Washington, D. C., turned up only two plans relating to the buildings at Harpers Ferry Armory. It is therefore evident that some clerk, probably in the War Department, carefully went through all correspondence from 1801 to 1865, at some time after 1869 when the Harpers Ferry Armory had been sold, and extracted all such plans and tossed them in the waste paper basket to save space. In this process they missed only the two plans above mentioned. The Archivists employed in the National Archives, also, have never been able to locate any building plans relating to the Harpers Ferry Armory.

On September 27, 1858, Mr. Clowe informed Col. Craig: "The work on the Paymasters Quarters (Bldg. No. 32-Storer College, on 1869 map) is rapidly progressing to completion, so also that on the M. Armorer's..."⁹

On October 4, 1858, Mr. Clowe reported that of the estimated \$7,000 cost for the new building, only \$2,634.50 was still required to be spent to complete

7. Craig to Clowe, May 19, 1858, Reel 19, V.10, p.973.

8. Clowe to Craig, June 3, 1858, Reel 26, V.8, p.703.

9. Clowe to Craig, September 27, 1858.

the structure.

In November, 1858, the newspaper commented on the new house:

"Amongst the many improvements being made at Harpers-Ferry, we observe a large and handsome dwelling intended for the Master Armorer, on Shenandoah Street. It will no doubt be very comfortable and convenient. What the cost will be, must be left to conjecture. Under the Military system, proposals for all public works were issued and competition elicited, but as 'Kissing goes by favor,' no published proposals are made, and we take it, that the contractor, whoever he may be, is not losing by the job..." 11

Actually, Bldg. No. 36 appears to have been built by Armory carpenters and masons.

On April 8, 1859, the newly appointed Superintendent, Mr. Alfred M. Barbour, reported, "The newly erected Quarters for the M. Armorer of this Armory, will be ready for use in a few weeks..." 12 On July 5, 1859, Mr. Barbour next informed Col. Craig, "The work is done at the Master Armorer's new Quarters, on Shenandoah Street..." 13

The Master Armorer's new house, Bldg. No. 36, was thus constructed between May, 1858, and July 5, 1859, at a cost of approximately \$7,000.

10. Clowe to Craig, October 4, 1858. National Archives R.G.156, OCO Document File 179701894. Box 161. No. 418.

11. Virginia Free Press, November 18, 1858, p.2, c.2.

12. Barbour to Craig, April 8, 1859. Photostatic Collection, V.3, p.90.

13. Barbour to Craig, July 5, 1859. Reel 27, V.3, p.289.

CHAPTER IV

USE OF BLDG. NO. 36, 1859 - 1865

1. 1859. JOHN BROWN RAID

From 1818 to 1858 the Master Armorers of the Armory at Harpers Ferry had resided in present Bldgs. No. 34-35, which was located on Lot No. 3, Block B, Shenandoah Street on the 1869 map.¹ On October 29, 1858, Master Armorer Samuel Byington, who had been residing in Bldg. No. 34-35, resigned, and Mr. Benjamin Mills was appointed as the new Master Armorer on the same day.²

On November 26, 1858, Superintendent Henry W. Clowe informed Col. Henry K. Craig, Chief of Ordnance:

"On my return from Washington, I informed Mr. Mills, the Master Armorer, that you opposed his residing on Camp Hill [in one of the new quarters that had just been completed and had been intended for use as the quarters for the Paymaster's Clerk, - House No. 30, Storer College, on 1869 map]; I am requested in a written communication from Mr. Mills to invite your recollection of the promise made to him, in your hearing, by the Hon. Secty. of War, that it should be left to the Superintendent to determine the question, and that you did then acquiesce, although reluctantly. And further he desires to remind the Hon. Secty. that the understanding that he should reside on the Hill, was clear between the Secretary and himself.

Under these circumstances, and considering the advantages which would or might result from the Superintendent and M. Armorer residing in such close proximity, midway between the Masket and Rifle Factories, I also acquiesced in the arrangement made by Mr. Mills and Mr. Daingerfield (the Paymaster's Clerk), to exchange their quarters. The arrangement was very decidedly and exceedingly agreeable to both parties, and has been accomplished by the removal of Mr. Daingerfield to the old Quarters of the Master Armorer (Bldg. No. 34-35), until the new house is finished (Bldg. No. 36), and the occupation by Mr. Mills, of those on the hill (House No. 30 on 1869 map).

Mr. Mills says that he cannot think of moving to the Perry (Bldg. No. 36), as he does not consider it a healthy place for a family to reside, and

1. Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, Bldgs. No. 34-35, 32, 33 and 34A, the Samuel Annin House," dated March 4, 1959, pp. 29-30.

2. Ibid., p. 29.

very much wishes to have a final answer and decision on the matter at once. He states that he has advertised his house in Kentucky for sale, and if he is to leave Camp Hill, he will be compelled to withdraw his property from sale, and decline the appointment of M. Armorer, and return to Kentucky.

As Mr. Mills regards this matter so seriously, in connection with the preliminary arrangements he has made for the disposition of his property in Kentucky, I hope that an early decision may be communicated, for his benefit. I take great pleasure in testifying that Mr. Mills evinces great interest in the Armory, and is in every way calculated to make a good and efficient M. Armorer, and the Government will find in him a faithful and competent officer, and I will regret to see him leave the Armory for so inconsiderable a cause as to which house he shall occupy; I therefore recommend that he be permitted to remain in that he now occupies." 3

Col. Craig replied on December 3, 1858, stating:

"...The recollection of Mr. Mills with regard to my acquiescence in his proposition to take up his residence on Camp Hill, or rather that I would not actively oppose that course, provided the Superintendent of the Armory consented to such an arrangement which I considered inimical to the interests of the service, is correct. But it is proper that Mr. Mills should remember that in thus deferring to the opinion and decision of the Superintendent, I fully expected that he would see the interests of the Armory in the same light as I did, and that I have not surrendered my conviction of the propriety of either Superintendent or Master Armorer residing near and convenient to the Shops, &c.

I make this explanation for the reason that Mr. Mills seems to attach a condition to his acceptance of office which might prove embarrassing to your successors as well as to mine.

Having granted to Mr. Mills the privilege of residence on the Hill the propriety is now suggested to you of designating some persons attached to the Armory and empowering them to assume authority and give directions in case of fires or disturbances on the Armory grounds, during the intervals from labor and until the arrival of some of the principal Armory Officers. As Mr. Daingerfield will be near the shops I would recommend him as first in order of these "Wardens," the others can be selected from your foremen or other active reliable mechanics who reside near the shops. Some of them should occasionally visit the watch houses at night." 4

Thus by December, 1858, it has been decided that Bldg. No. 36, although originally intended for use by the Master Armorer, and made larger than the two new houses for clerks, as benefited the rank of the Master Armorer as

3. Clowe to Craig, November 26, 1858, Photostatic Collection, V.3, pp.87-88.

4. Craig to Clowe, December 3, 1858, Photostatic Collection, V.3, p.89.

one of the three chief officers of the Armory, would be occupied by Mr. Daingerfield, the Paymaster's Clerk. The new Master Armorer was to live on Camp Hill, because he regarded this latter site as a more healthy place in which to reside.

On December 24, 1858, Mr. Alfred M. Barbour was appointed as the new Superintendent of the Armory, effective January 1, 1859.⁵ This change in Superintendents again raised the question of in which house should the Master Armorer reside. On April 8, 1859, Mr. Barbour thus wrote Col. Craig:

"The newly erected Quarters for the M. Armorer (Bldg. 36) of this Armory, will be ready for use in a few weeks. By permission of the late Superintendent, under your sanction, the Clerk of the Paymaster has occupied the old Quarters of the Master Armorer (Bldg. No. 34-35) and the Master Armorer has occupied the house intended for the said Clerk (House No. 30, Camp Hill). I desire to be informed whether it is your order or wish that the same arrangement shall be continued with the new Quarters. In all deference to any order or wish on your part, I consider it my duty to suggest that in my opinion the interest of the Armory would be promoted by adhering to the arrangement originally decided upon in this respect. This opinion is expressed solely from a view to the interest of the service, and without any regard or cognizance of the private___or interest of men employed in the service..." 6

Col. Craig replied on April 11, 1859, referring Superintendent Barbour to his letter of December 3, 1858, on the subject and added:

"As regards any arrangement that may be made in relation to the residence of the Master Armorer, it is a matter pertaining to the internal management of the Armory, and one of those details connected therewith, which it is the province of the Superintendent to regulate." 7

On April 16, 1859, Lt. Col. Ripley, Inspector of Armories and Arsenal, visited Harpers Ferry and stated in his report:

5. Craig to Clowe, December 24, 1858, Reel 19, V.10, p.1001.

6. Barbour to Craig, April 8, 1859, Photostatic Collection, V.3, p.90.

7. Craig to Barbour, April 11, 1859, Reel 19, V.11, p.1024.

"I found the Master Armorer residing on the hill in the house of the Paymaster's clerk...

This ought not to be permitted, and he should be required to remove at once to the quarters originally assigned to that office (Bldg. No. 36); where he can be near the scene of his duties in case of fire or of any disturbance, and where his immediate presence would be demanded..." 8

From this evidence it appears that Lt. Col. Ripley was attempting to force Master Armorer Mills to move into Bldg. No. 36. On May 2, 1859, Mr. Barbour therefore again raised the issue:

"I have the honor to transmit herewith, a letter addressed to me, by Mr. Mills, the Master Armorer, on the subject of his Quarters.

Recognized in its fullest extent the discretion, imposed upon me, in this matter by your letter of the 11th April last: yet, from the tenor of Mr. Mill's letter and its obvious determination, I deem it my duty to submit it, with the consequences of the decision thereon to the War Department, through your Office, to which he claims an appeal tho: not in terms, yet sufficiently distinctively so, as not to be misunderstood.

Be please to have this vexed question, finally determined, by the proper authority, so as not to interfere, either with the public interests, or the private convenience of the parties immediately concerned in the decision." 9

Col. Craig referred the entire matter to Secretary of War John B. Floyd on May 4, 1859, commenting as follows:

"...in reference to which matter, I would respectfully call your attention to the remarks of the Inspector of Arsenals and Armories on the 6th page of the enclosed Report (of April 14, 1859). I would say, farther, that in my first interview with Mr. Mills in Dec. 1858, the proper place of residence of the Master Armorer was discussed. I stated to him that I considered one near the shops, then nearly finished, and which had been erected for that Office, as the most proper; but finally said that it was a matter for the consideration of the Superintendent and that I would not oppose his decision in the matter. Subsequently I wrote to Mr. Clowe, the Superintendent that in arranging that subject with the Master Armorer he must not do so in a way to embarrass him, the Superintendent's successor in the control of it." 10

On May 12, 1859, Col Craig informed Superintendent Barbour that the Secretary of War had decided: "Under all the circumstances and the previous understanding in this case I decide to let the Master Armorer continue in

8. Ripley to Craig, April 14, 1859, Photostatic Collection, V.4, p.3.

9. Barbour to Craig, May 2, 1859, Reel 27, V.6, p.511.

10. Craig to Floyd, May 4, 1859, Reel 20, V.3, p.293.

11
his present residence." Thus Master Armorer Benjamin Mills had won the battle and was permitted to stay in House No. 30 on Camp Hill, the Paymaster's Clerk's Quarters.

On July 16, 1859, Mr. Barbour informed Col. Craig:

"The new quarters (Bldg. No. 36), built for the Master Armorer, on the Arsenal Lot, on Shenandoah St. and now by the decision of the Hon. Sec'y of War, occupied by Mr. Dangerfield, Paymaster Clerk, rather than the present M. Armorer, who occupied the Quarters on the Hill, are finished and thus occupied..." 12

Thus in July, 1859, Bldg. No. 36 was occupied by John E. Daingerfield, the Paymaster's Clerk, and his family. Mr. Daingerfield was residing in this house at the time of the John Brown Raid in October, 1859, and was taken prisoner by Brown at that time. 13

The Census of 1860 contains the following information on this family:
(They were residing in another house in September, 1860.)

"John E. Daingerfield, 42 year old, male, Paymaster's Clerk. Value of Personal Estate \$7600. Born in Va.
Matilda W. Daingerfield, 39, female. Born in Pa.
Archibald " 12, male. Born in Va.
Mary B. " 9, female. " " "
Richard " 4, male. " " "
John C. B. " 1, male. " " " 14

2. OUTBUILDINGS FOR BLDG. NO. 36, 1859-1861

On July 16, 1859, Superintendent Barbour raised the question of the construction of outbuildings for Bldg. No. 36 and also what should be done with the old quarters of the Master Armorer, Bldg. No. 34-35, writing to Craig on

11. Craig to Barbour, May 12, 1859, Reel 19, V.11, p.1034.

12. Barbour to Craig, July 16th 1859, Photostatic Collection, V.3, p.90A.

13. Villard, Oswald Garrison, John Brown, 1800-1859, A Biography Fifty Years After. N. Y., 1943, pp.439, 443.

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

these subjects:

"The old house (Bldg. No. 34-35) is on the same lot (with Bldg. No. 36), and very near to one of its gables, and is quite in a dilapidated condition. The outhouses attached to the old house, are wanted for the use of the new one; if the old house is retained, new outhouses will have to be built for the new house, and for these, there is not sufficient space upon the lot, without materially marring the appearance and enjoyment of the grounds. Besides the materials in the old house can be very profitably employed in the construction of outhouses for the new Quarters on the Hill, where they are much wanted, and will soon be needed for that purpose.

I therefore recommend the pulling down of this house (Bldg. No. 34-35), and the saving of the materials, as above named." 15

In response to this letter, Captain William Maynadier, of the Ordnance Department, demanded of Superintendent Barbour "as far as you may know, to state the reasons for placing the new Quarters (Bldg. No. 36) so contiguous to the old, as to render the pulling down of the old advisable." He also wanted to know why, if Bldg. No. 34-35 was in such poor condition, it had been carried on the list of Government Dwelling Houses ever since 1845 as
16
a first class building.

Mr. Barbour answered these questions on July 20, 1859, stating:

"...I have only to refer you, in explanation of the interrogatories you propose for my answer, to the correspondence had by my immediate predecessor, with your office, on this subject.

In a letter from your office dated Sept. 9, 1856, it is stated that the "third building, as authorized by my letter of the 28th June last, for the Master Armorer, had better be located on or near the site of his present Quarters (Bldg. No. 34-35) if such location should require any modification of of the plan, or should increase the cost of the building, please inform me."

"The next letter in order of date was from Mr. Clowe, then Supt., dated 3rd April, 1858, enclosing a modified plan of the M. Armorer's Quarters, to be built next to the old Quarters, and a subsequent one dated 22nd of April, in which yr. office was notified that "he had cleared the site of the obstructions at the place, close to the present Quarters, &c."

On the 4th May following, yr. attention was again called to this subject, and a reference made by Mr. Clowe, to his two preceding letters, and urging

15. Barbour to Craig, July 16, 1859, Photostatic Collection, V.3, p.90A.

16. Maynadier to Barbour, July 18, 1859, Photostatic Collection, V.3, p.91.

a decision so as to enable him to prosecute the work, and on the 19th May he received a reply, stating that the 'Secretary of War has now approved the plan for the Master Armorer's Quarters, transmitted to this Office with your letter of the 3rd April last, and that the building may be commenced without further delay.' The building was so commenced, long before I had charge of the Armory, and I am hence wholly unable, as you request, to state the reasons why it was placed so contiguous to the old quarters, and utterly unconscious that the matter was an open one, for so long a time I did not for a moment deem it necessary to invite Col. Riley's (the Inspector) attention to it.

By reference to the report of the Board of Officers, dated 24th Sept., 1851, it was recommended that all building on reserved ground (government property retained for Amory use in 1852) should be pulled down; this was one of them.

I have examined this matter closely, and am satisfied that it is entirely proper to remove the old building for many reasons - although it seems to have been borne on the Inventory as a first class house, its value as a dwelling was egregiously exaggerated on the Books, as is self-evident." 17

Mr. Barbour's letter was left unanswered, for ~~he~~ returned to the attack on September 5, 1859, writing:

"Permit me to invite yr. attention to my letter of the 20th July last, on the subject of removing the brick building (Bldg. No. 34-35) formerly occupied by the Master Armorer, and contiguous to the new Quarters, on the same lot.

An early decision on the subject is very desirable." 18

Col. Craig informed Superintendent Barbour on September 7, 1859:

"...upon a full examination, it appears - there is no authority for pulling down or removing said house (Bldg. No. 34-35). It will, therefore, have to remain, as it is, until the attention of the Secretary of War shall have been called to the subject and his decision been given; which will be communicated to you without delay." 19

Bldg. No. 34-35 was therefore not demolished, but left vacant, except for brief periods extending from November, 1859, to April, 1860, and from February, 1861, to April, 1861, when it was occupied by the officers in command

17. Barbour to Craig, July 20, 1859, Photostatic Collection, V.3, pp.92-93.

18. Barbour to Craig, September 5, 1859, Reel 27, V.4, p.331.

19. Craig to Barbour, September 7, 1859, Reel 19, V.11, p.1058.

of detachments of regular Army troops stationed at Harpers Ferry to protect the Armory as a consequence of the John Brown Raid.²⁰

The outbuildings erected originally for use in connection with Bldg. No. 34-35 were consequently utilized by the occupants of Bldg. No. 36 during the 1859-61 period. These included a small one story brick smoke house situated in the rear of Bldg. No. 34, and a one and a half story frame structure about 16 by 20 feet in size that fronted on Market Street. Both of these structures were located on Lot No. 3, Block B, Shenandoah Street, and were finally swept away by the 1870 and 1877 floods. Bldg. No. 36A, a one story brick privy, 6 by 9 feet in size, was also probably originally erected for use of the inhabitants of Bldg. No. 34-35, but in the 1859-61 period it served the occupants of Bldg. No. 36. Bldg. No. 36A is to be seen in the Photograph HF-361, which was taken about 1865.²¹

Further confirmation of the fact that no new outbuildings were erected for Bldg. No. 36 before the Civil War, is to be found in the estimates for the July 1, 1861, to June 30, 1862, fiscal year. In this document the sum of \$2,000 is requested "For outhouses for Officers Quarters." The justification for this sum stated:

"The funds for the construction of these quarters derived altogether from the [1850] sale of lots at the Armory, having been exhausted in the erection of the building themselves, no outside conveniences, such as a stable, meat-house, or other necessary buildings could be erected. This item of the estimate includes the building of a stable for the Paymaster, and the removal, from the present site, of the old stable on his premises, erected thirty years ago, and for like purposes at the other quarters. The erection of these outhouses is rendered the more essential through the fact that these

20. Snell, C. W., "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, for Bldg. No. 34-35," pp.30.

21. Ibida. p.29.

quarters are far removed, except for that of the Master Armorer, from the business part of the town, and the tenants suffer great inconveniences from the want of needful supplies which cannot be secured in advance in consequence of having no suitable places in which to store them." 22

The destruction of the arsenals on April 19, 1861, and the outbreak of the Civil War, of course, prohibited the expenditure of any money to effect the purposes that were outlined in the 1861-62 estimates. The old outbuildings must thus still have been in use in the 1859-1865 period.

3. USE OF BLDG. NO. 36, 1860-1861

As already noted, Mr. John E. Daingerfield, the Paymaster's Clerk moved into Bldg. No. 36 in July, 1859, and there he remained until 1860. On November 3, 1859, Superintendent Barbour informed Col. Craig:

"Instructed by the Hon. Sec'y of War, I have given to Mr. Am. M. Ball, Master Machinist, an acting appointment, as Master Armorer from the 1st Nov. inst....The Quarters of the M. Armorer (House No. 30), on Camp Hill, are now vacant." 23

Master Armorer Benjamin Mills had resigned and the Armory thus had a new Master Armorer. Mr. Ball, the new appointee, had been living in a house he owned that was located on Lot No. 1, Block D, Shenandoah Street. 24 Armstead M. Ball, however, was not interested in moving into House No. 30 on Camp Hill, but wished to live in the Master Armorer's House, Bldg. No. 36, on Shenandoah Street. Matters came to a head in April, 1860, and Superintendent Barbour informed Col. Craig, Chief of Ordnance:

22. Estimates, 1861-1862, Photostatic Collection, V.4, pp.43-45.

23. Barbour to Craig, November 3, 1859, Reel 27, V.5, p.411.

24. Snell, Charles W., Historic Building Site Survey Report: "History of Lots No. 1 to 7, Block D, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1865," dated January 30, 1959, pp.7-9.

"Enclosed herewith you will receive the application of Master Armorer Ball for Quarters as allowed by law— You will also find a letter from Mr. Daingerfield (Clerk of Paymaster & Military Storekeeper) offering some considerations why he should not be ousted from the Quarters (Bldg. No. 36) now occupied by him..."

Mr. Barbour then gave a lengthy review of all the 1858-59 correspondence relating to the question of whom should occupy Bldg. No. 36; continuing, he stated:

"...Mr. Daingerfield then was compelled to remove to the new Quarters on Shenandoah Street— He incurred considerable expense in furnishing the new house. He now considers that as the Department compelled him against the positive protest of the Superintendent of the Armory to move in and occupy these Quarters, he has some right to expect that he will not be removed— As far as the public interest is concerned, I see no reason to change the opinion express by me in my letter of 8th April last—But as the advantage to the Government in the vicinity (?) of the Master Armorer to the Armory, may be to a great extent attained by the mode suggested in your letter of the 3rd December 1858 to Mr. Glowe, the then Superintendent, I determined not to subject Mr. Daingerfield to any more extraordinary expenses and inconvenience— Yet I cannot assume the decision of this case now or finally— It is absolutely necessary that a decision should be made. The decision now will be considered final. The Department has managed it so far and I must request that it make the final solution.

The Quarters (House No. 36) on the Hill are at present occupied by Mr. T. L. Patterson, Engineer of the Dam (the U. S. was then building a new dam across the Potomac River)— He rents from the Government & is to remove at any time, he is required so to do. Master Armorer Ball lives in his own house (Lot No. 1, Block D) on Shenandoah Street. I concur fully with Mr. Daingerfield in urging a final and definitive adjustment of the matter." 25

Col. Craig rendered a decision on April 10, 1860, stating therein:

"...in reply I have to say that Mr. Ball designates the house (Bldg. No. 36) improperly, It was not "provided by Law for the Master Armorer" but with two others were erected for the use of the Master Armorer and two Clerks, and although from the beginning the house in question was looked on as the proper residence of the former by me, the Secretary of War decided otherwise, and assigned to Master Armorer Mills the dwelling house (House No. 36) on the Hill. Under that decision, that house is the proper place of residence of Mr. Ball and he should be put in possession if he desires it..." 26

25. Barbour to Craig, April 9, 1860, Reel 27, V.7, p.701.

26. Craig to Barbour, April 10, 1860, Reel 19, V.11, p.1099.

The squabble did not end here however, for the matter was referred to Secretary of War John B. Floyd, who informed Mr. Barbour on April 30, 1860:

"The directions, heretofore given, for assigning a dwelling house on the hill to Mr. Mills, when Master Armorer, were only intended for a temporary arrangement, and are now repealed. The quarters originally intended for the Master Armorer (namely, Bldg. No. 36) will be assigned to Mr. Ball and the other two houses, intended for two clerks, will be so assigned as a permanent arrangement." 27

This decision seemed clear enough, but other obstacles now arose to prevent the rapid execution of this order. On August 2, 1860, Master Armorer Ball therefore notified Superintendent Barbour:

"Having made my arrangement to build an addition to my house (on Lot No. 1, Block D, Shenandoah Street) I am forced to the necessity (as the season is already far advanced) to request that you would inform me at what time I can be put in possession of the quarters (Bldg. No. 36) designated by the Hon. Secty of War, as those designed for the Master Armorer.

I would not thus annoy you by such an application, if I did not feel, that in addition to the inconveniences I am subject to, I am day by day losing time that is precious." 28

This letter was forwarded by Barbour to Col. Craig and Mr. Barbour commented:

"...You will remember that on 30th April last written orders were given me by the Honble Secretary of War to put Master Armorer Ball in the Quarters on Shenandoah Street then and now occupied by Mr. Daingerfield, Clerk to Paymaster. Mr. Daingerfield could not give possession (of Bldg. No. 36) until he could be put in possession of the Quarters on the hill intended for him. But these Quarters on the hill were occupied by Mr. T. L. Patterson Engineer in Charge of Potomac Dam. As soon as practicable after the receipt of the letter of Honble. Secretary of 30th April I certified Mr. Patterson verbally of the _____ thereof & requested possession of the same as indicated. Subsequently I notified him in writing. He still has possession and I have no means of removing him except by regular legal process to which I presume the Government rarely resorts against a party holding office under it.--- Mr. Patterson says he will move shortly. Mr. Ball thinks that he has been unnecessarily, designedly and improperly withheld from possession.--- I deem it due

27. Floyd to Barbour, April 30, 1860, Reel 27, V.8, p.733. Also Barbour to Craig, May 7, 1860, Reel 27, V.8, p.731.

28. Ball to Barbour, August 2, 1860, Reel 27, V.10, p.583.

to all parties to make this statement and at the same to say for myself I have nothing to do or to say with regard to the motive or personal troubles of these parties. But I deem it my duty to report that case to you and request it be referred to the Honble Secretary for his further orders.

It is due however to Mr. Daingerfield to say that he has all the time expressed his readiness to give up the Quarters he occupies, whenever the other Quarters were ready for him." 29

Col. Craig passed these two letters on to the Secretary of War on August 2, 1860, only remarking: "...It is understood at this Office (verbally) that Mr. Patterson became the occupant of the House, in which he now resides (House No. 30 on Camp Hill), and which was at that time the assigned Quarters of the Master Armorer, with the concurrence of A. M. Ball." 30

On August 4, 1860, Col. Craig informed Superintendent of the final decision:

"I have now received the Acting Secretary's reply in the following words—

"No further order than that of the 30th April last from this Department seems to be necessary. The Engineer in charge of the Dam at Harper's Ferry is not entitled to be furnished quarters by the Department, and, if he is now in possession of quarters belonging to any Officer of the Armory, it must be through courtesy alone. If such quarters are needed by the Officer entitled thereto, they should be turned over to him by the proper authority under the order already existing.

War Dept. (Signed) W. R. Dunkard, Actg. Secy of War, Augt. 2nd 1860*
I communicate the foregoing to you for your guidance." 31

As there has been found no further correspondence on this subject after the above date, it appears that the question must have been resolved to the satisfaction at least of Master Armorer Ball and Paymaster's Clerk John E. Daingerfield. By September, 1860, Armstead M. Ball was apparently living in Bldg. No. 36, and Daingerfield was apparently residing in Armory Dwelling 32

29. Barbour to Craig, August 2, 1860, Reel 27, V.10, pp.981-982.

30. Craig to Secretary of War, August 2, 1860, Reel 20, V.4, p.323.

31. Craig to Barbour, August 4, 1860, Reel 19, V.12, p.1140.

32. Census of 1860, Reel 10, V.2, p.185. For information on A. M. Ball, see Snell, C. W., "History of Lots No. 1 to 7, Block D, Shenandoah Street," p.8.

House No. 14, which was located on Wager Lot No. 18. Mr. Patterson apparently still held on to House No. 30 on Camp Hill.

4. Civil War, 1861-1865

Confederate forces seized Harpers Ferry on April 19, 1861 and "All government (United States) property was seized and many families who were renting houses from the government were obliged to vacate their homes at great inconvenience and procure shelter wherever they could."³⁴

Thus at this time or soon thereafter, Bldg. 35 was henceforth utilized as headquarters for commanding officers of both sides. In 1865 it served as the headquarters of General Stevenson of the United States Army.³⁵

On July 27, 1865, Brigadier General Edward D. Ramsay made a detailed inspection and report of the buildings and stores at Harpers Ferry. He described Bldg. No. 35 as follows:

"Dwelling House No. 1-two story, Brick, located on Shenandoah Street. In fair condition, and occupied as Head Quarters by Genl. Egan."³⁶

In remarking on the general usage of the Armory Dwelling Houses by the soldiers during the war, he noted:

"Since then (1861), many of the government houses have been torn down by the troops, and the materials appropriated to building for themselves temporary huts. The costly quarters of the Superintendent of the Armory, of the Paymaster, and other conspicuous and valuable buildings belonging to the Government, have been wantonly abused, and I am sorry to say, as I am credibly informed,

33. Census of 1860, Reel 10, V.2, p.170; Also see Sullivan, Arthur L., "Historic Building Site Survey Report-History of Wager Lots No. 17 to 34, 1782-1869," dated February 18, 1959, pp.62-63.

34. Joseph Barry, The Strange Story of Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, W. Va., 1903, p.116.

35. See Photograph HF-141, 1865 drawing by A. R. Waud.

36. Ramsay to Brig. Gen. A. B. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance, July 27, 1865, Photostatic Collection, Map Case, Drawer No. 10.

mostly by our own troops. Marble mantle pieces have been taken away; and the stair cases torn down and used as fuel. To repair these buildings will involve an expense of at least one half of their original cost." 37

5. 1866-1884

From 1866 to 1869 Bldg. No. 36 was apparently rented out by the Government. The house was first included in the list of property to be sold in 1869 but was then withdrawn from the lots actually offered for sale at that time.

On July 5, 1852, the town officials applied to Secretary of War W. W. Belknap for permission to use Bldg. No. 36 for town purposes, writing:

"We, the corporate authorities of Harper's Ferry, W. Va., do most respectfully and earnestly pray you to place at the disposal of the town lot 2, Block E, together with the brick house located thereon, to be used by said town for a town-house, school-house, jail, station-house, or otherwise, as may best serve their purposes.

In support of this request we urge the following considerations, to wit: We have now not a single school-house standing within the limits of the corporation for the use of white children.

Two of our school-houses (One was located on Lot No. 2, Block E, Shenandoah Street, and the other on Lot No. 9, Block I, Camp Hill) were pulled down during the war by the United States soldiers, and the bricks after being used in the camps were sold by the United States ordnance officer here...while the third and only remaining one, after having been used almost constantly for a hospital and greatly damaged, was repaired at the expense of the town only to be entirely demolished by the great flood of October 1, 1870 (This school house was located on the Island of Virginia).

We have neither town-house nor jail, the jail also having been destroyed during the war.

No compensation whatever has ever been obtained by the town for the use, damage, or destruction of its public buildings, while, thus far, three of the churches have been aided in making repairs of their houses.

A house and lot had been assigned to the use of the town prior to the sale in 1869, but at that time it was taken and sold with other, while four of the best buildings, with ample lots, were donated to the Storer College for the benefit of colored people.

The buildings and grounds for the use of which your petitioners ask have not yet passed out of the possession of the United States, they having been bid off, but not taken, at the sale in 1869; and, under all the circumstances,

37. Ramsay to Brig. Gen. A. B. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance, July 27, 1865, Photostatic Collection, Map Case, Drawer No. 10.

are of but little if any value to the United States, the rent being absorbed by repairs and in the care of the building..." 38

Mr. Belknap noted on the above letter: "The Secretary of War has no authority to lease this property. Refer this to the Chief of Ordnance for his opinion as to this property, as the town authorities will probably appeal to Congress, July 12, 1872." 39

Major S. V. Benet of the Ordnance Department replied on July 13, 1872, writing:

"...There is no authority of law known to this Bureau for renting such property; but under the last Army Regulations, approved by Congress, (and the practice of this Department for fully a half a century, based upon the necessities of the case,) buildings at the Harper's Ferry Armory have been rented.

There are now but two buildings at that place in the possession of this Bureau, and they are both rented. The one within applied for is occupied by three parties, one of which Koonce owes for fourteen months' rent, amounting to \$56.

This bureau recommends that the portion of the building occupied by Koonce and the unoccupied rooms be loaned to the corporate authorities of Harper's Ferry on condition that they keep them in repair and turn them over to this Department at once on application." 40

This recommendation was approved by the Secretary of War on July 15, 1872. 41 Major Benet accordingly issued orders to Mr. Zadok Butt, the Ordnance Agent at Harpers Ferry, on July 16, 1872, to lease Bldg. No. 36 to the town authorities. 42

On July 17, 1872, Mr. Butts informed Major Benet:

38. Daniel Ames, Mayor and others, to Secretary of War Belknap, July 5, 1872, Hoffsinger, James P., "Harpers Ferry, West Virginia," p.153.

39. Ibid., p.153.

40. Ibid., pp.153-154.

41. Ibid., p.154.

42. Ibid., p.154.

"I am to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst. by Mr. Ames, instructing me as to the rooms in house No. 1, occupied by Mr. John Koonce, and authorizing me to loan them to the corporate authorities of Harper's Ferry, under certain conditions, as well also, the unoccupied rooms, if any.

I had given Mr. Koonce written notice to surrender possession of his part of the house on the 1st of August prox., and to pay the rent in arrear- 15 months from 1st May, 1871, to the date @ \$4 p. mo., \$60.00.

Since receiving your letter of the 16th inst. I have had an interview with him, and read to him my instructions therein. He says he will vacate the rooms as required.

There are no other unoccupied rooms in the building. I declined to rent the back corner room on the first floor, preferring to reserve it for a place of business where I could do the writing of my agency and receive any officers of the Government who might come to the place on business with me or for the Government. This room is now occupied by myself and papers, and A. M. Kitzmiller, a lawyer once connected with the Armory here (He was the former Superintendent's Clerk), whose assistance to me in ordinary matters and his daily watchful care of the property I hold equivalent to and in full satisfaction for his personal occupation of the room. I will not like to give up this room for any other public purpose.

I am not very well informed whether or not it is designed by the corporate authorities to use this or any other portion of the building, which consists of five (5) rooms and cellar, now occupied by Koonce for a corporation prison as well as for council chambers..." 43

Butts was directed on July 18, 1872, to turn his room over to the town. 44

On August 17, 1872, the United States and town authorities signed a formal lease by which the town was granted the free use of "that portion of the building occupied by John Koonce, and the unoccupied rooms, if any, in the same building," provided they agreed "to keep the property in repair and to turn it over to the Department (Ordnance) at once, on application." 45

On December 19, 1872, Mayor Ames informed the Chief of Ordnance:

43. Butt to Benet, July 17, 1872, Ibid., pp.154-155. Also Mayor Ames to Benet, July 17, 1872, Ibid., 154. Ames stated that Butt's and Kitzmiller's back room on the first floor was the only one not rented and they desired it for use as a council room.

44. Ibid., p.155. Major Benet to Butt, July 18, 1872.

45. Ibid., p.157, Lease, U. S. to Mayor Ames and others, August 17, 1872.

"...the rooms occupied by Mrs. Markwood in the Government house located on lot 2, block B, Shenandoah Street, Harper's Ferry, W. Va., embracing all of the balance of the house not occupied by the corporate authorities of said town, except one room heretofore rented by Dr. Kessler, have been vacated by Mrs. Markwood. You are therefore respectfully requested, in accordance with a previous order issued by you, to direct Mr. Z. Butt, your agent in said town, to turn over the said rooms to the corporate authorities of Harper's Ferry, W. Va." 46

Major Benet issued the requested directive to Mr. Butts on December 19, 1872. Thus by January, 1873, all of Bldg. No. 36, with the exception of one room, was being utilized by the Harpers Ferry town government.

On December 28, 1880, John Keonce submitted a letter to the Solicitor of the Treasury which contains an excellent description of the interior of Bldg. No. 36 at that date and also of its use. Mr. Keonce reported:

"In reply to yours of the 27th the Front Room south side 17½ x 15.3. (See) Used as Post Office by Alexander Fossett. Pays Quarterly. Comm. Feb. 1st, has paid up to October 31st 80. (Room No. 6 on Drawing No. M-HP 3067) Room back of Post Office south side (Room No. 7) 17.4 x 15.3, used by Mrs. Trail. Passage (Hallway) 7 feet 2 in wide stair running up to second floor.

Two Rooms North side, 18 x 15 front room (Room No. 4) 17 x 15 Back room (Room No. 5), folding Doors. Used by Board of Education for School. Pay no rent. President of the Board T. A. Kirwan. These 4 rooms are on first floor-main Building. Sealing (sic) 11 feet 9 in High, this is inside measure.

Wing or back building, Kitchen 20.3 x 17.6. Sealing 10 feet. Small room or Pantry 9 x 5 (Room No. 8). Basement Kitchen 20.3 x 17.3 (Room No. 9) is damp-used for coal.

Second floor of Wing 2 rooms, 15 x 9.4. (Room No. 15) and 14.10 x 10 (Room No. 16). Second floor south side 2 rooms 17.4 x 15.8 (Room No. 14) and 17.6 x 15.8 (Room No. 13). Hall Room 13 x 7.3 (Room No. 11). Used by Mrs. Trail. Pays by the Quarter. Paid up to October 31/80.

Front Room se(ond) floor 18 x 15 (Room No. 3) used for Council room & Mayors office by the Corporation. North side Back Room se(ond) floor--17 x 15

46. Ames to Chief of Ordnance, December 19, 1872, Ibid., p.158.

47. Benet to Butt, December 19, 1872, Ibid., p.158. Also Butt to Benet, December 23, 1872, Ibid., pp.158-159. Benet to Butt, January 3, 1873, Ibid., p.159.

(Room No. 10). Used by Rev. Campbell. Pays when convenient but rented by the month. Owes two months, \$1.00. The Building is in fair condition with the Exception of the front (sic) spouting which was broken down this last snow & back porch (sic) of the Wing wants a new floor. Hoping the description (sic) may be satisfactory - the Building is cared for by the Mayor & Council..." 48

This description indicates that the rooms in Bldg. No. 36 today are still of the same size as they were in 1880, and therefore probably as they were in 1859.

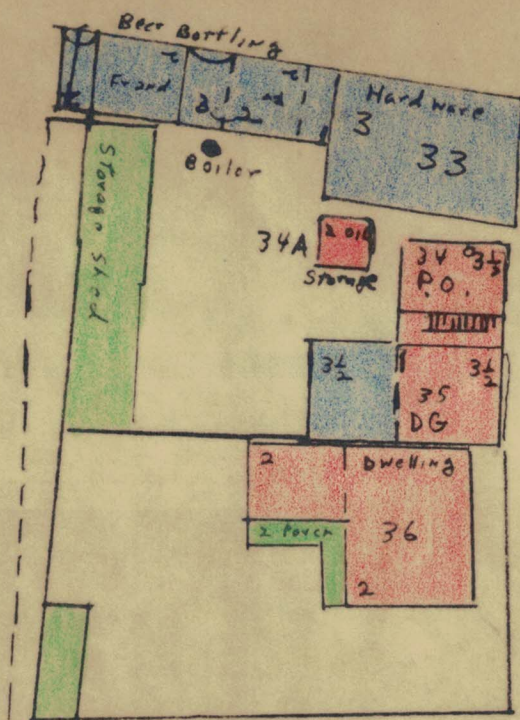
In another letter to the Solicitor of the Treasury, dated December 27, 1880, it is stated that "In addition to above a new fence and back house has been put up since last report and amt. not known. The recent heavy snow has broken the spouting in front of the building which probably cost 15 or 20 dollars which will be fixed as soon as practicable." 49

The United States reclaimed Bldg. No. 36 and Lot No. 2, Block B, Shenandoah Street, in 1884 and it was sold in that year at public auction. The property passed into private hands and was used from 1884 until acquired for inclusion in Harpers Ferry National Monument. ^{50 as a Residence.} A map showing the lot and Bldg. No. 36 in November, 1894, will be found on the next page of this report.

48. Hoffsinger, James P., "Harpers Ferry, West Virginia," p.199.

49. National Archives Record Group 121. Public Buildings Service, Harpers Ferry Case No. 155.

50. House listed as dwelling on November, 1894, Perris-Sanborn Map of Harpers Ferry; September, 1907, Sanborn of Harpers Ferry. 1913 B. & O. Map of Harpers Ferry; 1933 Sanborn Survey of Harpers Ferry, Drawing No. NM-HF-2004.



From Sanborn-Perris Map of Harper's Ferry, W. Va.,
November 1894

Scale: 1 inch equals 50 feet.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

1. HISTORICAL PLANS OF THE BLDGS.

A careful search of thousands of pages of documents in the National Archives failed to turn up any of the plans that were drawn for the construction of Bldg. No. 36. It is therefore highly unlikely that any original plans will ever be located. For modern measured drawings of Bldg. No. 36 and 36A, see Drawing No. M4-HF-3067, 16 sheets.

2. HISTORICAL PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Historical prints and photographs showing Bldgs. No. 36 and 36A will be found in the following reports that have already been submitted:

1. 1862-1865 photograph, HF-40, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 36 & 39, the Tearney Buildings," dated June 24, 1958, page 28. Excellent view of two story brick addition and wooden porch on the rear of Bldg. No. 36.
2. 1865 print, Photograph HF-141, by A. R. Waud, in Kissling, Herbert H., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 36," Revised January 22, 1958, page 20. Excellent view of front and east side of Bldg. No. 36; also two story porch and addition at rear, fences and trees. "General Stevenson's Headquarters."
3. 1865 original sketch of HF-141, Photograph HF-224, by A. R. Waud, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldgs. No. 10 and 10-A, the John C. Unseid Buildings," dated May 28, 1958, page 37.
4. 1865 photograph, HF-18, in Kissling, H. H., "Historic Building Report, Part I, for Bldg. No. 36," page 21. "Contraband Camp." Excellent view of front and east sides of Bldg. No. 36.

5. 1865 photograph, HF-361, in Snell, Charles W., "Historic Building Site Survey Report: History of Lots No. 1 to 11, Block C, Shenandoah Street, 1796-1865," dated January 23, 1959, p.112. The only early view showing the west side of Bldg. No. 36 and Bldg. No. 36A.
6. 1892-96 photograph, HF-99, in Snell, C. W., "History of Block C, Shenandoah Street," page 116. Excellent view of the roof and rear of Bldg. 36.
7. 1884-1890 photograph, HF-447. On the next page of this report will be found an excellent view of the front of Bldg. No. 36, taken after 1884 and before 1890, showing the structure in use as a residence.

3. SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL DATA

A. Ownership of the Land and Early Use

Lot No. 2, Block B, Shenandoah Street, was owned by the United States Government from 1796 to 1884. From 1822 to 1858 the lot was occupied in part by a one story brick building, 24 by 18 feet in size, with slate roof, that was known as the "Pay Office." This structure was removed in 1858 to make way for the construction of Bldg. No. 36.

B. Construction of Bldg. No. 36

Bldg. No. 36 was erected May, 1858-July, 1859, at a cost of approximately \$7,000 as new quarters for the Master Armorer of the Harpers Ferry Armory. The structure was designed by Superintendent Henry W. Clowe and constructed under his supervision by Armory workmen.

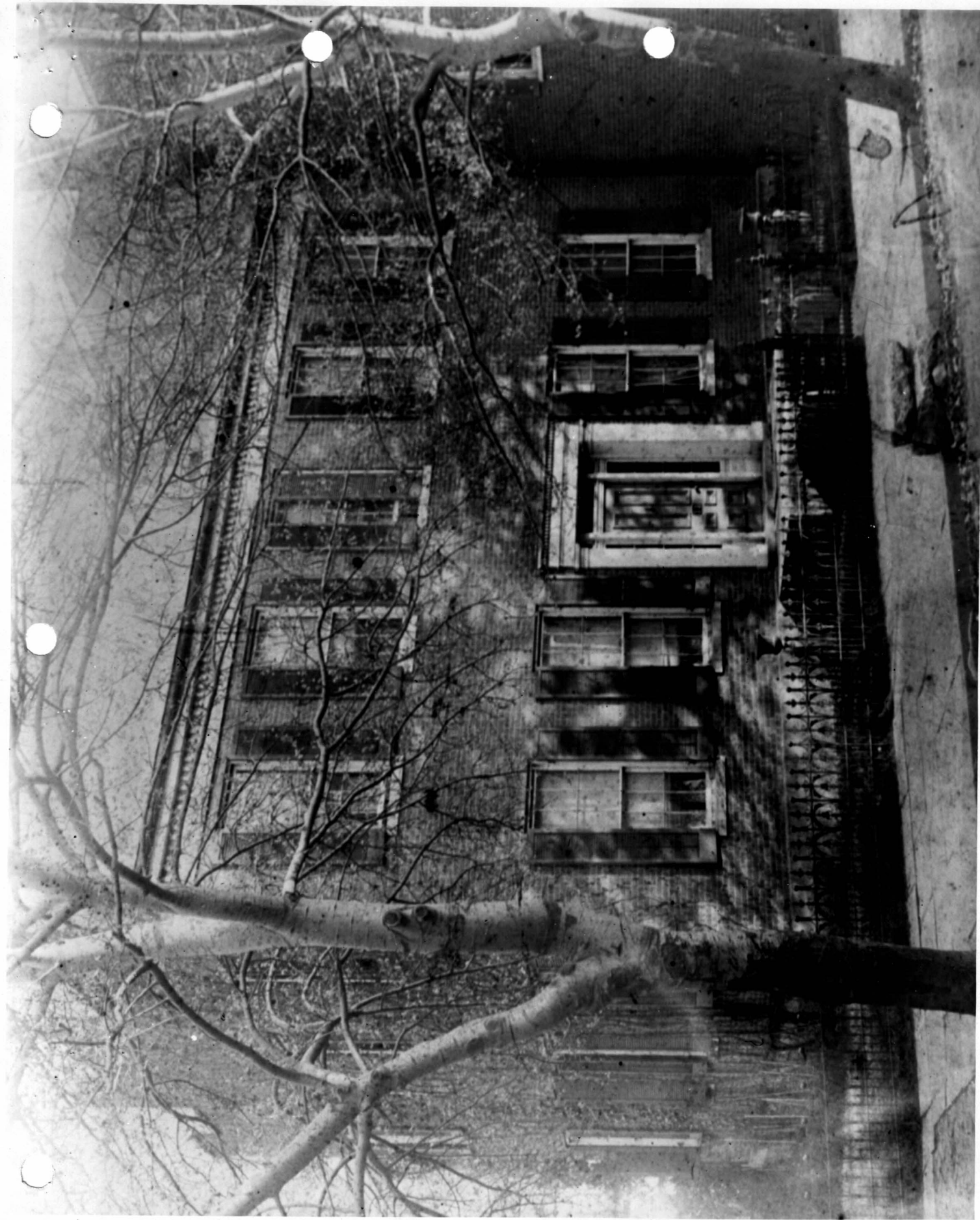
1. Employed as part of the regular force of the Armory in April, 1859, were two painters, one bricklayer, 14 carpenters, and two plasterers and masons. Inspection report of Lt. Col. James L. Riply to Col. H. K. Craig, April 14, 1859, Photostatic Collection, V.4, p.8. Master Builder Jeremiah Pass, who would have normally supervised this construction was being loaned to another arsenal during this period, 1858-1859. Craig to Clowe, August 14, 1858, Reel 19, V.10, p.987.

BLDG. NO. 36 - FRONT ELEVATION

Photograph made 1884-1900.

Harpers Ferry Negative No. HP-447.
Photograph donated by Mrs. Shewbridge,
of Harpers Ferry, July 8, 1958.

Photograph showing Bldg. No. 36 in use as a residence in the 1884-
1900 period. Note the shade trees in front.



The house, a two story brick structure with slate roof, fronted 42 feet 7½ inches on Shenandoah Street and was 38 feet six inches deep.

At the southwest rear corner of the main structure there was a two story brick wing with slate roof that measured 20 feet 6 inches by 25 feet seven inches. A two story wooden porch ran along the east side of this wing and across the rear of the main house.

A kitchen was located in the basement of the wing and a second kitchen and small pantry on the first floor of the wing. The second floor of this wing contained two small rooms. The main portion of the house contained four large rooms on each floor. These rooms were divided by a central hallway with two rooms being located on each side of the hall. The hall on the second floor also contained a small room at the north end of the passageway, thus making a total of nine rooms in the main structure on the first and second floors. This new house was occupied in July, 1859.

Because of the shortage of funds no new outbuildings were constructed for the use of the occupants of Bldg. No. 36 before the Civil War. Thus the old outbuildings that had been ^{erected} ~~connected~~ for Bldg. No. 34-35, the Master Armorer's old quarters, were utilized during the 1859-61 period by the people residing in Bldg. No. 36. These outbuildings consisted of Bldg. No. 36A, a one story brick privy, 9 by 6 feet in size; a small one story brick smoke house located in the rear of Bldg. No. 34, and a 1½ story frame stable, about 16 by 20 feet in size that fronted on Market Street. The location of these buildings, fencing and trees may be seen by glancing at the 1859 historical base map which appears on the next page of this report. Bldg. No. 36 today is apparently practically unaltered structurally from its layout in 1859.



C. Use of Bldg. No. 36

1. Residence of John E. Daingerfield, Paymaster's Clerk, July, 1859, to August, 1860.
2. Residence of Amstead M. Ball, Master Armorer, September, 1860, to April, 1861.
3. April, 1861-1865, Civil War, Used as Headquarters of various forces holding Harpers Ferry.
4. 1866 to 1872, Rented by United States Government to various individuals for multiple use as offices and residences.
5. 1872-1884, Leased by United States to Town of Harpers Ferry for use as school, town council rooms, Mayor's Office, and Post Office.
6. 1884-1890's, Sold by the United States in 1884. Bldg. No. 36 used as a residence from 1884 to 1890's.

D. Recommendation

It is recommended that Bldg. No. 36 be called the John E. Daingerfield House, after the name of the Paymaster's Clerk who was residing in the house at the time of the John Brown Raid in 1859 and who was taken prisoner by Brown.

[Sgd] CHARLES W. SNELL

Charles W. Snell
Historian (Park Supervisory)
March 10, 1959

Hold & Copy

H30 RHA Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
 Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

February 16, 1965

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Part II, Master Armorer's
 Quarters, (Building #36), Harpers Ferry.

Enclosed in six copies is Historic Structures Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, Master Armorer's Quarters, Building #36. The original Part II Historical Data Section was submitted in March, 1959. The new Part II contains no new information.

Revised Administrative Data Section was submitted on February 1, 1965. A historical study entitled "Preliminary Study on the Harpers Ferry Armory and Its Production", plus an Interpretive Prospectus for the Building was submitted on February 15, 1965.

Joseph R. Prentice
Superintendent

Enclosure

In duplicate

WSWolfe:mdb

C O P Y

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART II

HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

MASTER ARMORER'S QUARTERS

BUILDING NO. 36

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

Prepared by:

Wescoat S. Wolfe
Supervisory Historian
February 16, 1965

SECTION II. HISTORICAL DATA SECTION

A. Name and Number of Building:

Master Armorer's Quarters, Building #36.

B. Historical Information:

There is no additional historical data. The report made by Charles W. Snell, Park Historian, dated March 10, 1959, for Part II, 38 pages, Project No.51, contains all information available at present on this structure.

It is believed that the Architectural Data Section gives a more correct definition of the actual building construction than is possible to prove by documentary research.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

H30

Harpers Ferry National Monument
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

March 12, 1959

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Project No. HF-51: Historic Bldg. Report,
Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldg. No. 36
and 36A

We submit one copy of the "Historic Building Report,
Part II, Historical Data Section, Bldgs. No. 36 and 36A, the
John E. Daingerfield House," dated March 10, 1959, 38 pages,
by Historian Charles W. Snell, for technical review by Regional
Historian Frank Barnes.

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

*green cover
archival but good
compare w 35*

Region Five
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

May 25, 1959

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

From: Regional Historian

Subject: Research Project No. HF-51: Historic Bldg. Report,
Part II-Historical Data Section, for Bldg. No. 36
and 36A

This is a very useful compilation of the evidence on this important building. We still think the essential material in the quotation could be extracted (as was done with the lease near the bottom of page 29), or sometimes summarized, but the report is generally clear and understandable. In due course, it should be resubmitted as one section of the full Part 2, Historic Structure Report on Building 36 and 36A.

Signed

Frank Barnes
Regional Historian

In duplicate

Copy to: Director w/report

FBarnes:em
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 23 1959		
<input type="checkbox"/>	REG. DIRECTOR	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ASST. REG. DIR.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	OPERATIONS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INTERPRETATION	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADM.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	REC. RES. PLAN	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGER ACT'S	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Five

From: Superintendent, Harpers Ferry National Monument

Subject: Research Report, No. HF-51, Part II, Historical Data
Section, Bldgs. No. 36 and 36A

Enclosed please find three copies of the "Historic Building Report, Part II, Historical Data Section, Bldgs. No. 36 and 36A, The John E. Daingerfield House, Lot No. 2, Block B, Shenandoah Street," as requested in your note of the memorandum of May 21, 1959.

Frank H. Anderson

Frank H. Anderson
Superintendent

In duplicate

Enclosures