

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME** HARPERS FERRY HISTORIC DISTRICT

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

HARPERS FERRY

2 LOCATION At the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Harpers Ferry

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE West Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE
54COUNTY
JeffersonCODE
037**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

NE corner of North George Street and Washington St.

CITY, TOWN

Charles Town

STATE

West Virginia 25414

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey, West Virginia

DATE 1956-61

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington D.C.

STATE
Washington, DC

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harpers Ferry Historic District comprises some 100 architecturally or historically significant buildings, historic cemeteries and sites of historic buildings and Civil War fortifications. Truly a 19th century town, the majority of extant buildings date from 1800 through the Civil War period. Built of wood, stone or brick, the remaining pre-Civil War structures are almost all two and three story houses, many retaining their original exterior appear. Victorian cornices and porches have been added to a number of these houses, most of which were built by the U.S. Government as housing for workers who were employed at the U.S. Armory and Arsenal in Harpers Ferry. Another architectural theme in the district is the collection of many gracious, high style Victorian homes built by town merchants following the Civil War. Only eight per cent of the structures in Harpers Ferry Historic District are less than fifty years old.

Primarily residential in character, the district contains several churches, two cemeteries, a town square, town park, hotel, railroad station and a commercial area serving the needs of the tourists. The district cojoins Harpers Ferry National Historic Park and St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, also on the National Register of Historic Sites.

BUILDINGS AND SITES P I V I T A L TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT:
All locations (lot numbers) and building numbers are taken from "Harpers Ferry, Historical Base Map, 1859, Part of the Master Plan for Harpers Ferry National Monument, prepared by the Eastern Office of the Division of Design and Construction, National Park Service, Drawing No. NM-HF 3021, three sheets, dated October 6, 1959, approved by Historian Charles W. Snell, October 21, 1959 for the Lower Town and Camp Hill areas of town.

All buildings and sites listed in this nomination form are within the Corporation of Harpers Ferry, privately owned and outside the boundaries of the National Historic Park at Harpers Ferry.

THE UNITED STATES ARMORY AT HARPERS FERRY (site)

The major industry of the town was the Armory. This institution was comprised of three major units: the Musket Factory, located along the Potomac River and consisting of twenty buildings,¹ the Arsenal located at the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers and comprised of three buildings, and the Rifle Factory, located on the Shenandoah River and consisting of nine structures.

THE MUSKET FACTORY (site)

The Musket Factory was located near the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, and was situated on the flood plain of the Potomac River. The Armory Yard was 232 feet wide at the east end fronted on the Wager Ferry Lot Reservation. In length, the yard extended 1,656 feet westward along the Potomac.

¹For the most part, sites of these buildings are buried under B&O property.

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The Smith and Forging Shop: Building No. 13

This shop had overall dimensions of 280 feet by 35 1/2 feet. Building No. 13A, the Forging Shop, and 13B, the center offices, were erected in 1845. Section 13C, the Smith Shop, was constructed in 1847-48. The wings were each one story and the center two stories. The shop was built of brick on stone foundations with brick and flagstone floors, cast iron door and window frames and sheet iron roof.

The stone foundation of this long building is still visible for three fourths of its original length.² The remainder lies under the B. and O. Railroad Station. This building was burned by Confederate troops on June 14, 1861. The brick walls were re-roofed and used as a warehouse by the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments of the Union Army during 1864-65. The walls were levelled in the period 1889-96.

Building No. 18, Rolling Mill:

About three fourths of the original length of the structure still stands and is now functioning as an electric power generating station.

The one story brick building, 16 1/2 feet high, stone foundations, 146 by 45 feet, flagstone floor, water wheels, cast iron door and window frames and slate roof was designed by John Symington and erected by Col. Benjamin Huger and Major Wm. H. Bell in 1852-55. The structure had two stacks, 45 and 40 feet high.

Potomac River Wall

This great outer wall, which still stands, was erected by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in 1840-43. The wall extends 1380 feet from the abutment of the site of the Armory boat landing to the waste way above the Rolling Mill. The mortar masonry wall is approximately 15 feet high above the low water level, 4 1/2 feet thick and contains eight culverts for the tail races from old workshops.

U.S. Armory Potomac Canal:

This canal, from the old Armory dam east to the Musket Factory Building No. 18, the Rolling Mill, a distance of about one mile, is still intact and is still serving the original function by conveying water to generate electrical power in the station. The original canal from the Rolling Mill east to Musket Factory Building No. 3 was filled in with earth and a railroad siding extended along much its former course in 1892. The original walls are probably intact under this fill.

²obscured by underbrush

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Harpers Ferry Train Station

At the end of the railroad bridge which spans the Potomac River, in use today, stands the wooden frame Victorian train station built in 1889. The station is extant and heavily used. Beneath it lie part of the foundations of the original Armory buildings.

Streets and Sidewalks

The three oldest streets in Harpers Ferry are Shenandoah Street, Potomac Street and High or Washington Street. All other streets in the town were laid out by the U.S. in 1852 in accordance with a plan conceived and developed by Major John Symington, Superintendent of the Armory. All streets, with the exception of Shenandoah, Potomac and High Streets, were named in 1852 by the Corporate Officials of the Town, in cooperation with the U.S. Government. The streets retain the original names and locations.

Armory Dwelling No. 15, Wager No. 19

This extant house fronts on High Street. It was built by Charles Button in 1841 of brick, 2 1/2 stories over a full basement and had a porch front and rear, was covered with a shingle roof. Dimensions are 30 by 22 feet. 

Armory Dwelling No. 16, Wager Lot 20:

This extant dwelling fronts on High Street. The house was built by Israel Russell in 1839-41. The 3 1/2 story stone house measures 34 by 23 1/2 feet, has a slate roof and cellar.

Armory Dwelling No. 17, Wager Lot 21

This extant house fronts on High Street. The dwelling was built by Gerard B. Wager about 1835-36 and was used as his residence. It is a 3 1/2 story stone house, 30 by 26 feet, with a cellar.

Armory Dwelling No 18, Wager Lot No. 22

This extant structure fronts on High Street. The dwelling is a 3 1/2 story stone house with basement and measures 30 by 26 feet. The house was erected in 1841 by William McGraw. No. 23, Victorian frame 1-story, before 1893.

Wager Lot No. 24

This extant house was owned by Noah H. Swayne in 1859. It fronts on High Street and is a two story frame house measuring 24 by 20 feet with a full basement and a gable roof. It was constructed by either Patrick Farrell or Michael Gallaher between 1839 and 1844.

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Wager Lot No. 25

The extant house is a three story brick house, fronting 22 feet on High St. by 28 feet deep. It has a two story frame porch on the east. The building was erected by Alexander Kelly between 1844 and 1859.

Armory Dwelling No. 19, Wager Lot No. 26

This extant house fronts on High Street. It is a three story stone house with cellar and measures 24 by 20 feet. The building was erected by Robert Wallace in 1839-40.

Armory Dwelling No. 11, Wager Lot No. 27

This extant house fronts on Potomac Street. The house was built by Michael Foley between 1836 and 1844. The residence is a two story stone dwelling with a gable roof and is 30 by 22 feet in size.

Wager Lot No. 28

The brick portion of this 1844 house may still be standing. A three story double brick and frame house stood on this lot and was constructed by a Mr. Doran in 1844. The house fronted 30 feet on High Street and was 25 feet deep.

Wager Lots No. 30, 31 and 32

The large double brick on these lots is extant and has been restored. The one story brick house, in ruins in 1955, has been reconstructed. In 1841-43 on Lots 30 and 31 was constructed a double brick house 2 1/2 stories with overall dimensions of 50 by 22 feet. Samuel Breitenbaugh built the house. A second house on Lot No. 31 was built by Martin Grace after 1844 and prior to 1849.

Wager Lot No. 35

These two extant houses were erected by William McGraw between 1841 and 1845. Fronting on High Street is a two story frame house about 30 by 30 feet. Fronting on Clay or Church Street, at the upper end of the lot is a two story frame house about 21 by 18 feet. #36, 2-story Wager house, before 1835.

Wager Lot No. 38

A 2 1/2 or three story stone house, erected by Michael Doran in 1859 fronts on High Street. This structure measures about 33 feet by 20 feet.

Wager Lot No. 39

Fronting on High Street is a 2 1/2 story stone dwelling 24 feet by 24

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feet with a two story stone addition at the east. This house was erected by Edward Fitzpatrick in 1843-44. At the upper or Clay Street end of the lot is a two story frame house, 20 by 18 feet, that was also built by Fitzpatrick in 1843-44.

Wager Lot No. 41

Fronting on Public Walk and High Street is a 3 1/2 story brick house 24 by 33 feet in size. It was built by Dr. P.W. Stephenson between 1844 and 1859.

Wager Lot No. 42

Fronting on Public Walk at the lower end of the lot is a two story frame house, 23 by 18 feet, that was erected by John Savvin in 1847-48.

Wager Lot. No. 43

This building, a two story frame dwelling over a one story stone basement, measuring 29 by 28 feet was erected by Gerard Wager after 1835 but before 1848.

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS OUTSIDE THE WAGER RESERVATION:

Armory Dwelling No. 12, Block AA, Lot 2

This house fronts on the south side of Potomac Street and was located about opposite to the Musket Factory Building No. 7. The residence, a two story brick structure was erected at some time between 1810 and 1834.

Armory Dwelling No. 13, Block AA (site)

This house fronted on Potomac Street and was located west of the Musket Factory site. The dwelling house was a two story stone building and was erected at some date after 1810 and before 1834.

Armory Dwelling No. 20, Block AA, Lot 1

This house is located just northwest of the Wager Six Acre Reservation and fronts on the north side of High Street. The three story stone house was erected by Dr. Nicholas Marmion in 1829.

Armory Dwelling No. 55, Camp Hill (Methodist Episcopal Church lot)

This residence is located on the south side of Washington Street and its lot abutts on the northwest boundary of the Wager Reservation. The two story stone house measures about 32 by 18 feet and was erected by William Anderson in 1828-29.

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The Terrace - Bready House on Methodist Episcopal Church Lot
Situated on the north side of Clay Street, just west of the Wager tract stands the house built by George R. Bready in 1885 in the Queen Anne style. This house has never been architecturally or structurally altered.

The Terrace Garage -Block AA, lot 3
Directly across Washington Street from the Bready House stands the two story stone garage built in 1914 by George Bready. It was probably the first automobile garage built in town.

Harper's Graveyard, Camp Hill
Robert Harper, in his will of 1782, directed that his heirs should set aside four acres of his land for use as a graveyard by the town of Harpers Ferry. This his heirs failed to do, and the U.S. Government said out the existing cemetery of four acres in 1803 to prevent any contesting of title to the remaining 114 acres purchased from the Wager family in 1796. The government enclosed the graveyard with a stone fence in 1825. The stone wall still stands and the cemetery is in use today.

Armory Dwelling No. 24, Block II, Lot 1
This structure fronts on the south side of Washington Street. It is a two story brick house erected between 1810 and 1837.

Evangelical Lutheran Christ Church, Block J, Lot 3, Camp Hill
This church is a one story brick structure, 27 feet high from the ground to the eaves and was erected in 1850-51. The church measured 41 by 36 feet in size. It is still active and its exterior has been little altered from its 1859 appearance. The Union army used this church as a hospital during the Civil War.

Pine Grove Cemetery, Camp Hill
The cemetery comprises six acres of land and was laid out by the U.S. Government in 1852. Many Union soldiers are buried here.

Union Square, Camp Hill
This square was laid out by the U.S. Government in 1852 and was held by the Town of Harpers Ferry under a lease from the government. The square was named by early town officials. Presently the Harpers Ferry Post Office and Town Offices occupy the square.

Armory Dwelling No. 146, Block B, Lot. No. 1
This extant house, a two story frame building, was erected prior to 1837 by the government.

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Armory Dwelling No. 135, Block B, Lots No. 5

This house is a two story brick building and was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 139, Lot No. 10, Block B; Dwelling Nos. 140, Block B.

This one story brick building was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837. Dwelling No. 140 is a 1-story brick house erected by Armory prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 132, Block C, Lot No. 2

This two-story frame house was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 122, Block C, No. 3 and 4 and 5

The structure on these lots may be the one story frame dwelling erected by the U.S. prior to 1837. #5 is a 2-story brick house built in 1833-34.

Armory dwelling No. 131, Block C, Lot No. 7

This extant house is a two story brick building erected by the U.S. in 1833-34.

Armory Dwelling No. 119, Lot No. 5, Block D

This house is a two story brick building erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Lot No. 7, Block D; Block D, Lot 2; Armory Dwelling #119, Block D, lot 4 (see cont. Turn of the century Victorian Queen Anne house is on Lot #7. sheet 7,11)

Armory Dwelling No. 97, Block E, Lot No. 1

This extant two story brick dwelling was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 98, Block E, Lot No. 2

This two story brick dwelling was erected by the United States prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 99, Block E, Lot No. 3

This two story brick house was built by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Block E. Lot No. 4

This lot was owned by John Hofer in 1859. A two and a half story stone house appearing older than 1860 stands here today.

Armory Dwelling No. 100, Block E, Lots 5 and 6

The two frame dwellings on this lot today may be the two one story frame buildings erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

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Block E, Lot No. 7

A two story brick house, built circa 1860 by Rezin Cross stands here today.

Armory Dwelling House No. 103, Block F, Lots No. 1

This two story brick dwelling was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 104, Block F, Lots. 2 and 7

This one story brick building was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Block F, Lot 3

This three story brick house was erected by Ambrose Cross in 1852.

Block F, Lot 4 - This stone house, erected prior to 1837, is Armory dwelling #105.

Armory Dwelling No. 107, Lot No. 1, Block G

This two story brick house was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 108, Block G, Lots No. 2

This one story frame dwelling was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 109, Block G, Lot No. 3

This one story frame dwelling was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 110, Block G, Lots 4

This two story brick dwelling was erected by the U.S. prior to 1837.

Armory Dwelling No. 111, Block H, Lot 1

This two story brick dwelling was erected by the U.S. in 1833-34.

Block H, Lot No. 3, Parsonage

The Methodist Episcopal Church Parsonage, a two story brick building, was erected after 1852 and before 1859. It was held by the church under a lease from the U.S. Government in 1859.

Block I, Lot No. 7

This two story frame house, erected after 1852 and before 1859, was built by George Nunnmaker.

Block II, Lot No. 2

This house was built in 1908 by a merchant, Abraham Kaplon. Exterior walls and porch solumns are pre-cast rusticated concrete building blocks.

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Block II, Lot No. 3

Two story brick house built before 1860 and currently used as the Odd Fellows Lodge stands here. It is Lodge No. 1.

Block BB, Lots 1,3,2 (Lots 1 and 3 are gardens)

This is a two story frame house built in 1893 by James L. Shewbridge. Area on which the house is situated is called Magazine Hill.

Block J, Lot No. 4

This two story brick dwelling was erected after 1852 and before 1859 by William McDaniel.

Block P, Lot No. 1

This two story frame house was built after 1852 and before 1859 by William Avis.

Block P, Lot No. 20; Lot No. 4

This two story brick house was built after 1852 and before 1859 by John Sleppy. The Zion Baptist Church (lot 4) is a brick building erected in 1894, now empty.

Blocks O,X,Y

Several scattered houses, all erected after 1852 and before 1861, have not been located on the map. Some appear to be extant.

Blocks II, GG, and FF, fronting Filmore Street

There are a number of eclectic homes dating not before 1868, when the U.S. sold land here at public auction.

Block G, Lot No. 5

This is a one story frame carriage house built by Dr. Ranson shortly after the Civil War.

Block I, Lot No. 3

This is a late Victorian house, three story with mansard roof and wrap-around porches.

Block H, Lots 5 and 6

This is a Queen Anne Victorian house, three stories, with gabled roof, tower and very ornate porches.

Seminary Lot, Magazine Hill

Hilltop House Hotel, a large stone and frame three story building, originally built in the 1880's, was a favorite vacation spot for President

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Woodrow Wilson, Mark Twain, Alexander G. Bell and others.
The hotel remains heavily used.

Blocks RSTU

Around the turn of the century, fashionable summer homes were built along Ridge Street, 300 feet above the Potomac River and on the site of Civil War breastworks. These homes are extant.

Block P, Lot No. 4

Zion Baptist Church is a one story brick building built in 1894.

The Camp Hill Inner Defense Line, Upper Town of Harpers Ferry in the Civil War

This line of earthworks, approximately 1250 feet long, was erected in May 1862 and then further strengthened and enlarged in the 1863-64 period. The Camp Hill lines ran from cliffs overlooking the Shenandoah on the south, along the western slope of Camp Hill overlooking Boundary Street and Union Street to bluffs on the north above the Potomac. This inner fortification guarded the approaches to Camp Hill and Harpers Ferry from the direction of Bolivar. Batteries were placed at either flank and two strong redoubts guarded the center sections of the line. One redoubt was located just west of the Armory Superintendent's Quarters, Armory Dwelling No. 25, and the second, an enclosed rectangular work measuring approximately 150 by 100 feet, was situated directly on Washington Street. Light field guns were used to arm the Camp Hill line in July 1864. The area once occupied by this inner system of earthwork has been built over by Storer College, the Baptist Church, the former Harpers Ferry school and various private homes. There do not appear to be any extant surface remains of these fortifications.

The Public Square, Camp Hill

This square is located on the south side of Washington Street and abutted on Block C. It was laid out by the U.S. in 1852. On the square was a frame one story fire house which served the residential area. The fire house is extant and has been moved 100 feet directly south of the square. A town pump and a wooden bandstand in the form of a gazebo, erected in 1908, are in the Public Square.

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Block D, lot 2

Methodist Protestant Church, built shortly after the Civil War with bricks from the ruined musket factory.

Block D, lot 4

Armory dwelling No. 119 is a two-story brick dwelling built prior to 1837.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	__ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__ COMMUNITY PLANNING	__ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__ RELIGION
1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__ CONSERVATION	__ LAW	__ SCIENCE
1500-1599	__ AGRICULTURE	__ ECONOMICS	__ LITERATURE	__ SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__ EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	__ ART	__ ENGINEERING	__ MUSIC	__ THEATER
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	__ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__ PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	__ COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1751; 1795; 1800-65 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harpers Ferry Historic District encompasses one of the very few intact early to mid 19th century towns to be found in West Virginia. The significance of the area can be described in terms of its exciting and varied history as well as its physical appearance.

Located at the scenic confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Harpers Ferry was an important manufacturing and commercial town from about 1800 to the outbreak of the Civil War.

Robert Harper, a millwright, purchased the 125 acres of land that was to comprise the future sites of the town and U.S. Armory at Harpers Ferry from Lord Thomas Fairfax in 1751. Harper established and operated a ferry across the Potomac River and also erected a waterpowered sawmill along the Shenandoah River.

George Washington visited the spot in 1785 and was much impressed with the water power potential of the rivers. As President, in 1795, he personally selected Harpers Ferry as the site for a new musket producing factory or armory. The armory was built and grew, thus creating a town and a market in this wilderness.

Architecturally, Harpers Ferry retains its 19th century character. The buildings in the proposed district are almost all homes and support the original use of the town land above flood plain that served as residences for the many industrial workers, shopkeepers and craftsmen and their families. These residents worked for the United States Armory and support industries along the rivers.

The majority of extant buildings date from 1800 through 1837, a period of intense building activity, which reflects the effort of the United States Government to find suitable housing for workers and their families at the bustling Armory. Most of the two and three story stone and brick dwelling houses throughout the district were built by the government between 1827 and 1837. The government authorized extensive repairs and additions to some of these homes during 1837 to 1861 and also purchased a number of homes (many on the High Street district) that were privately built at the workmen's expense.

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The earlier homes tend to be built of coursed stone, a Pennsylvania influence, reflecting the home state of many armorers. In Harpers Ferry the stone exterior is generally parged, although some are whitewashed and some show exposed stone facades. Brick homes tend to be later (most remaining in the district were built by the Government in the 1830's). These reflect a Tidewater influence brought to Harpers Ferry by the C and O Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Built to the stringent Government specifications by contractors with direct design involvement of Armory Superintendents like General George Rust and the possible help of an Armory Master Builder, these houses have survived tumultuous local history and weather with little change to their exteriors. The changes most often made are the additions of Victorian cornices and porches as subsequent owners kept pace with the fashion of their times. Many second floor porches, called galleries, were original to the houses and built on the east side to take advantage of breezes and the spectacular view of the water gap.

Harpers Ferry grew in population and importance as the armory grew. A rifle factory was added in which John Hall translated Eli Whitney's theories of interchangeable parts and mass production into reality. More skilled machinists were employed. People in the area adjoining the Federal land at Harpers Ferry, motivated by an agrarian tradition and distrustful of the northern mechanics flocking to the government works, set up a separate community in 1825 (still existant) and named it after the South American hero, Simon Bolivar.

A further distinction came in the early 1850's. In an attempt at much-needed land reform, the U.S. Government relinquished much of its land in Harpers Ferry to the State of Virginia. Harpers Ferry was incorporated as a town in March 1851 and the first elections of town officials took place later that year. The government also sold, in a private sale in 1852, fifty-two dwelling houses which were purchased for the most part by armory workmen living in them. Some of the improvements and embellishments made on the properties, such as ornate iron fences surrounding old gardens, date from the time when they went into private ownership. The town flourished.

But tragedy struck. In 1859 Harpers Ferry was the scene of the electrifying John Brown raid, an event of major importance in bringing the nation to Civil War. Strategically important, the town changed hands many times during that war. Its capture, together with over 12,000

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Harpers Ferry Historic District, Jefferson County, WV

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

Union soldiers defending the town, by "Stonewall" Jackson in 1862 was a dramatic prelude to the great battle at Antietam which ended the first Confederate invasion of the North.

At the end of the Civil War, Harpers Ferry was a ghost town with mills and armory destroyed. The government decided not to rebuild the armory at Harpers Ferry but to eventually dispose of its land and buildings through public sales.

The Freedman's Bureau established on Camp Hill, Harpers Ferry, a school attended initially by nineteen black children, suddenly out of bondage and needing the basic learning skills. Two years later the State of West Virginia granted a college charter. One of the earliest institutions of learning for black youth in the United States, Storer College was destined to serve eighty-eight years (to 1955). Many of its later professors and alumni remain in the district, giving direct linkage to this important facet of black history in Harpers Ferry.

After the Civil War Harpers Ferry underwent a short-lived industrial and residential building renaissance. Mills, factories and hotels were constructed and for a time prospered. Little remains of the businesses of this post war economic surge except the Hilltop House Hotel, a favorite spot of wealthy and distinguished visitors such as Mark Twain, Alexander Graham Bell and Woodrow Wilson. Many gracious Victorian homes were built by town merchants and other citizens and are fine extant examples of Queen Anne, Eastlake, Italianate and other Victorian architecture. These homes blend well with the greater number of early 19th century brick and stone homes built in the Federal or Greek Revival styles. The architecture tells a visitor much about the periods of activity and affluence in Harpers Ferry.

The decline of Harpers Ferry industry was directly the result of a series of devastating floods that swept through periodically in the late 19th century. Once again Harpers Ferry was impoverished and ghostly. This impoverishment extended well into this century, and is, ironically, the major reason that the town has survived with its 19th century structures and character intact.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See 9, attached

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA See 10, attached

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 300 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Charles Town, WV-Va.-Md.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES Harpers Ferry, Va.-Md.-W.V.

A 18 26 3 43 0 43 56 4 00

B 18 2 6 3 4 00 4 3 56 08 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 18 2 6 4 44 0 4 3 56 9 60

D 18 2 6 4 68 0 4 3 56 98 0

E 18 2 6 4 34 0 4 3 56 32 0

F 18 2 6 3 7 60 4 3 56 5 0 0

G 18 2 6 2 98 0 4 3 56 9 96

H 18 2 6 2 58 0 4 3 57 1 60

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Historic District boundary is coterminous with the boundary of the Corporation of Harpers Ferry, with the exception of those former lands now comprising part of the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park. Survey map Kusner 1976, Ref. NPS Div. of Land Acq. Map 3190:92022, sheet 1-6, 1975

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	NA	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Harpers Ferry Planning Commission

November 1, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Town of Harpers Ferry

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

304-535-2206

CITY OR TOWN

Corporation of Harpers Ferry

STATE

West Virginia 25425

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE X

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Clarence Illorao

TITLE Director, Historic Preservation Unit, WV
Department of Culture and History

DATE

August 16, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

HARPERS FERRY -- MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

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- Smith, Merritt Roe, Harpers Ferry Armory and the New Technology, The Challenge of Change (Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 1977)
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- Snell, Charles W. "Harpers Ferry Repels an Attack and Becomes the Major Base of Operations for Sheridan's Army, July 4, 1864 to July 27, 1865. (A Report on the Federal Fortifications at Harpers Ferry, W.Va., January 19, 1960)" (Harpers Ferry NM, January 21, 1960), 105 pages. HF-98D 1 and 2,
- Snell, Charles W. "Harpers Ferry Becomes a Fortress, Sept. 21, 1862-October 6, 1863 (A Report on the Federal Fortifications at Harpers Ferry, W.Va., June 27, 1863 to Accompany Map III, dated December 11, 1959)" (Harpers Ferry NM, Dec. 16, 1959, 83 pages, HF-98C 1 and 2
- Sullivan, Arthur L. "Harpers Ferry in the Civil War-1862," (Harpers Ferry NM, June 26, 1961), 57 pages, 23 photos, HF-94B.

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PAGE 2

U.S. Musket Factory (or Armory) Buildings Along the Potomac:

Kissling, Herbert H., "United States Musket Factory (at Harpers Ferry), 1796-1835," (Harpers Ferry NM, February 28, 1961), 117 pages, HF 25-B

Snell, Charles W. "A comprehensive History of the Construction, Maintenance, and Numbers of Armory Dwelling Houses, 1796-1869," (NPS, Harpers Ferry NM, October 31, 1958, revised, January 13, 1959, 140 pages, 3 plans HF -218

Storer College: Camp Hill:

Mongin, Alfred, "Research Report-A college in Secessia, The Early Years of Storer College," (Harpers Ferry National Monument, June 15, 1960) 11 pages, Research Project No. HF-104A.

1859 Commercial Buildings, Residences, Churches, and Schools of Lower and Upper Town of Harpers Ferry:

Located in the library of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park are Historic Structure or Site Reports, based on primary sources and research, for the history of every site and building in Harpers Ferry during the period 1751 to 1865. These studies, written in the period 1957-1961, were prepared by National Park Historians Fairbairn Kissling, Smith, Snell and Sullivan.

Architectural Data Sections were also prepared for a number of buildings by Architect Archie W. Franzen.

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HARPERS FERRY HISTORIC DISTRICT, HARPERS FERRY, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CONTINUATION SHEET

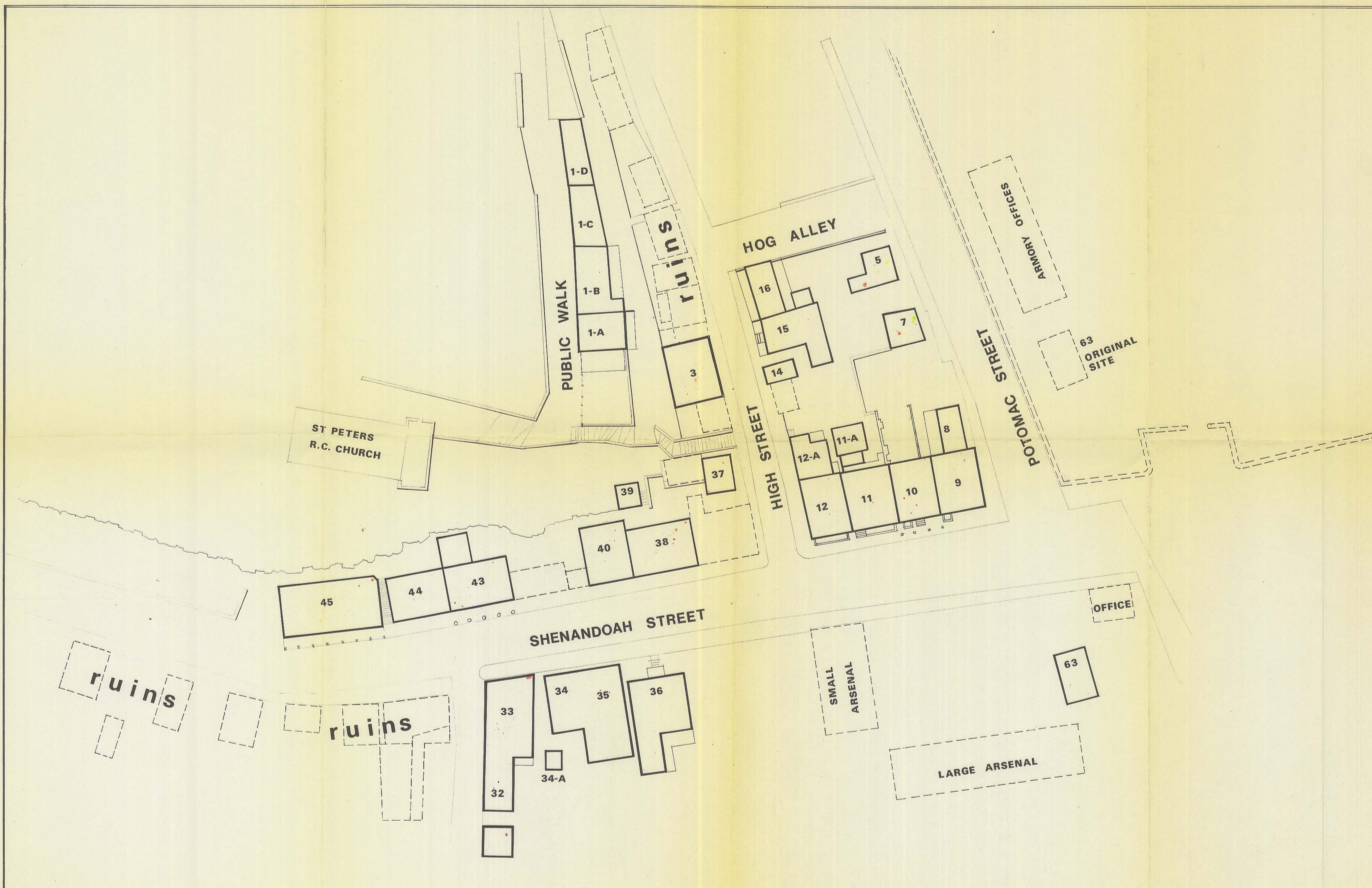
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

- I. 18 - 262 - 530 4356 - 660
- J. 18 - 263 - 260 4356 - 460
- K. 18 - 263 - ³⁰⁰~~270~~ 4356 - 380

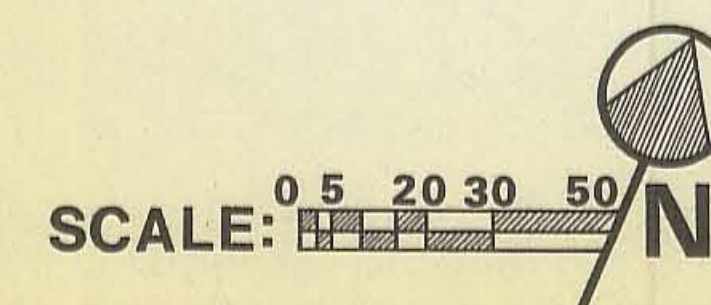
Item 10, Geographical Data

Adjustment of the UTM boundary line at the north and east sections of the Harpers Ferry Historic District has been made with point EE to conform to and include the actual municipal boundary line of Harpers Ferry and to include sites in the musket factory site (between points E and D) that are illustrated in the verbal boundary description and in the sketch map. The line thus runs in a northerly direction; D-EE, and in a westerly direction; EE-G.

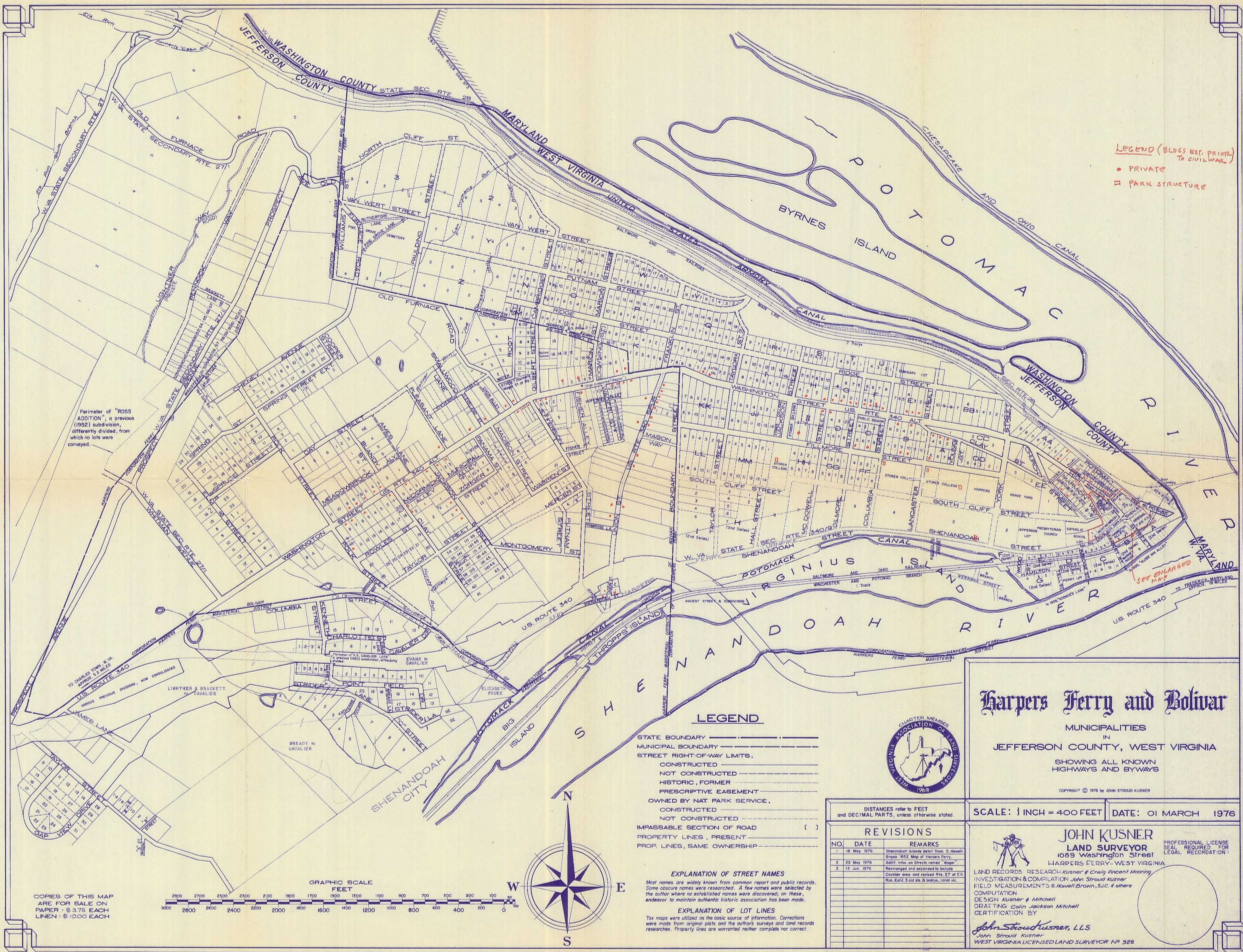
Harpers Ferry N.H.P. Lower Town Plan



FIRST FLOOR MAP



PREPARED Barlow DESIGNED Giffin DRAWN Barlow CHECKED 9-77 -DATE	DRAWING NO. 385 28,004 PCIP PKG. 133 SHEET 3 OF
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LEGEND (BLDGs EST. PRIOR TO CIVIL WAR)
• PRIVATE
□ PARK STRUCTURE

Perimeter of "ROSS ADDITION", a previous (1952) subdivision, differently divided, from which no lots were conveyed.

COPIES OF THIS MAP ARE FOR SALE ON PAPER: \$3.75 EACH LINEN: \$10.00 EACH

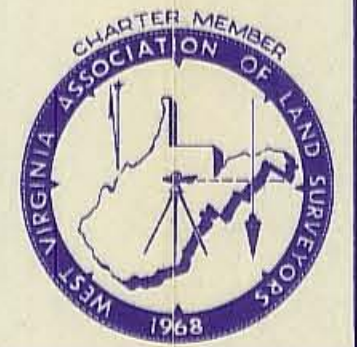
- LEGEND**
- STATE BOUNDARY
 - MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
 - STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY LIMITS, CONSTRUCTED
 - NOT CONSTRUCTED
 - HISTORIC, FORMER
 - PRESCRIPTIVE EASEMENT
 - OWNED BY NAT. PARK SERVICE, CONSTRUCTED
 - NOT CONSTRUCTED
 - IMPASSABLE SECTION OF ROAD
 - PROPERTY LINES, PRESENT
 - PROP. LINES, SAME OWNERSHIP

EXPLANATION OF STREET NAMES
Most names are widely known from common report and public records. Some obscure names were researched. A few names were selected by the author where no established names were discovered; on these, endeavor to maintain authentic historic association has been made.

EXPLANATION OF LOT LINES
Tax maps were utilized as the basic source of information. Corrections were made from original plats and the authors surveys and land records researches. Property lines are warranted neither complete nor correct.

Harpers Ferry and Bolivar

MUNICIPALITIES
IN
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
SHOWING ALL KNOWN
HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS



SCALE: 1 INCH = 400 FEET DATE: 01 MARCH 1976

DISTANCES refer to FEET and DECIMAL PARTS, unless otherwise stated.

REVISIONS		
NO.	DATE	REMARKS
1	18 May 1976	Shenandoah Island detail from S. Howell
2	22 May 1976	Added info. on Streets named "Wagon"
3	13 Jun. 1976	Rearranged and expanded to include Cavalier area and revised Rte. 27 at Elk Run. Excl. 3 old st. & landry, canal vic.

JOHN KUSNER
LAND SURVEYOR
1089 Washington Street
HARPERS FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA

LAND RECORDS RESEARCH: Kusner & Craig Vincent Mooring
INVESTIGATION & COMPILATION: John Stroud Kusner
FIELD MEASUREMENTS: S. Howell Brown, S.J.C. & others
COMPUTATION: Kusner & Mitchell
DRAWING: Colin Jackson Mitchell
CERTIFICATION BY: John Stroud Kusner, LLS
John Stroud Kusner
WEST VIRGINIA LICENSED LAND SURVEYOR NO. 328

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE SEAL - REQUIRED FOR LEGAL RECORDATION

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

77°45'
39°22'30"

590 000 FEET (MD.)

265000m E

560 000 FEET
(MD.)

436000m N

HARPERS FERRY HISTORICAL DISTRICT, HARPERS FERRY, JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

18/263 400/4356 400

19/263 400/4356 080

20/264 440/4355 960

21/264 680/4355 958

22/264 340/4356 320

23/263 160/4356 500

24/262 990/4356 995

25/262 530/4357 160

26/262 530/4356 201

27/263 260/4356 4357

28/263 270/4356 320

29/264 500/4356 400

30/264 500/4356 400

31/264 500/4356 400

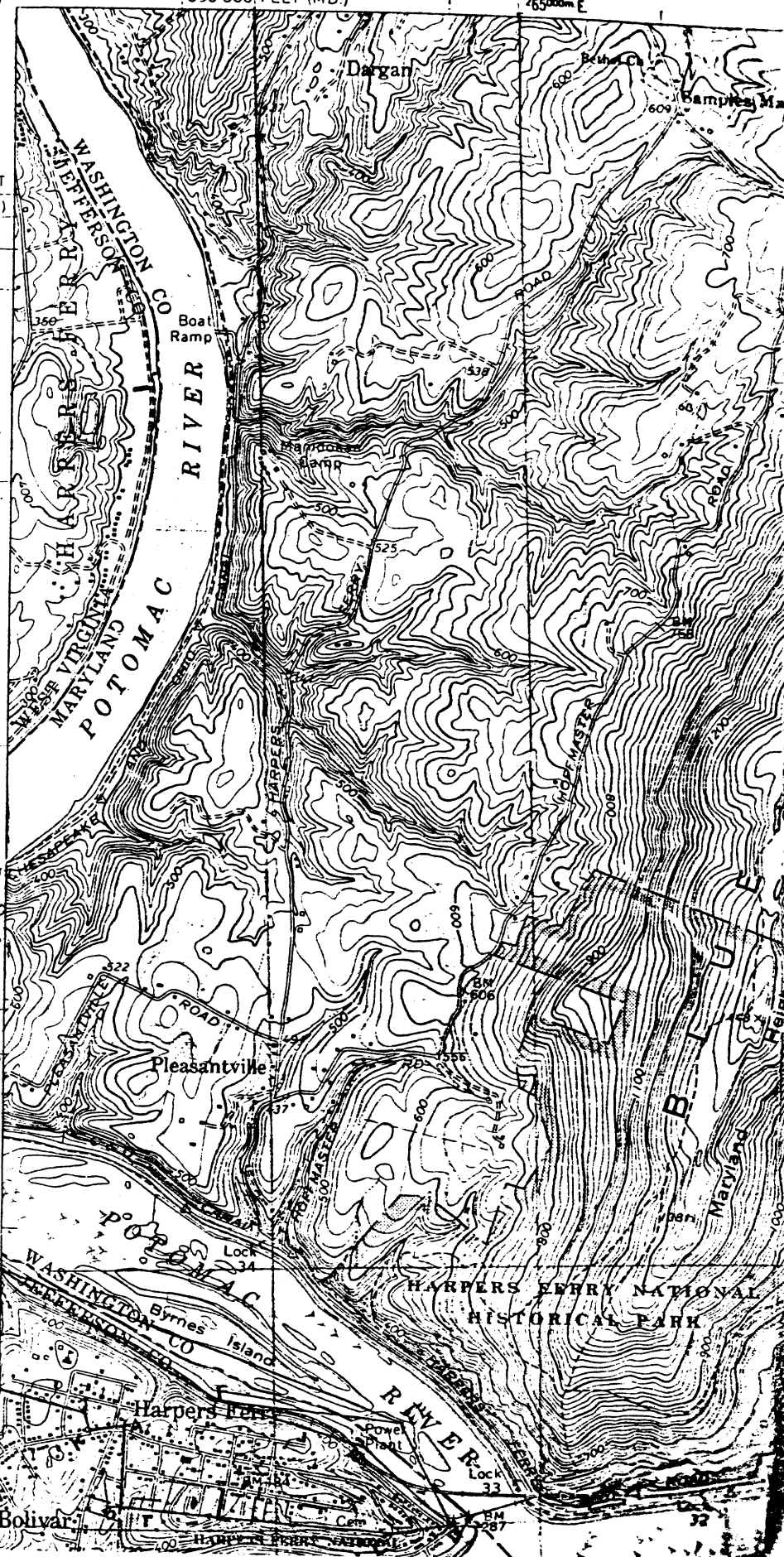
32/264 500/4356 400

33/264 500/4356 400

34/264 500/4356 400

35/264 500/4356 400

36/264 500/4356 400



TOWN 6 MI
WN 2.7 MI

P O T O

CHARLES TOWN QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA—VIRGINIA—MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE 1/4 MARTINSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5662 I NW
(KEEDYSVILLE)

260

580 000 FEET (MD.)

2 490 000 FEET (W. VA.)

263 77° 45'

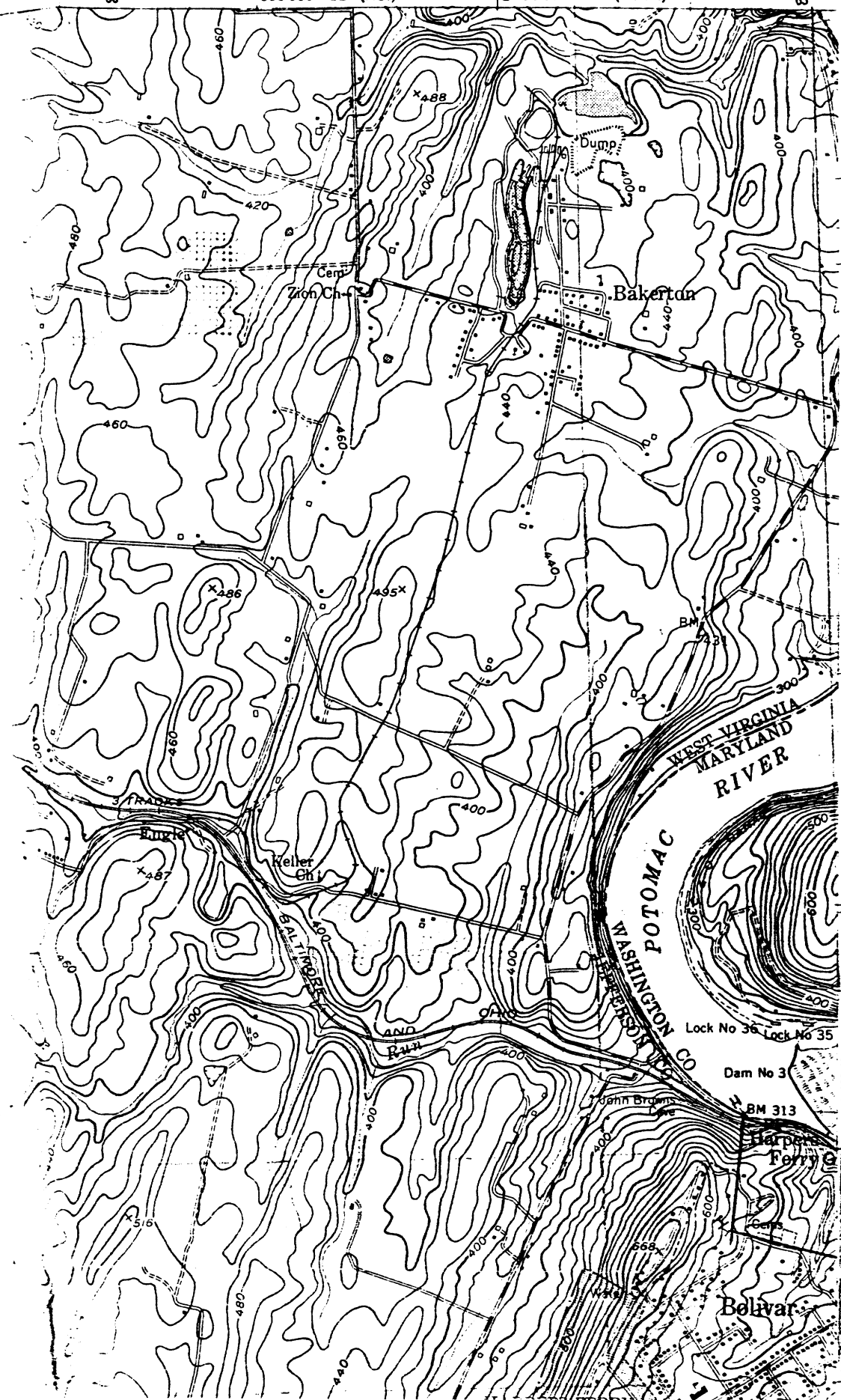
39° 22' 30"

550 000 FEET
(MD.)

320 000 FEET
(W. VA.)

HARPERS FERRY HISTORIC
DISTRICT, HARPERS FERRY,
JEFFERSON COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA

A. 18/263⁴³⁰400/4356 400
B. 18/263 400/4356 051
C. 18/264 440/4355 960
D. 18/264 680/4355 970
E. 18/264 340/4356 300
F. 18/263 760/4356 500
G. 18/262 990/4356 995
H. 18/262 580/4357 160
I. 18/262 530/4356 660
J. 18/263 260/4356 460
K. 18/263 270/4356 380
EE. 18/264 500/4356 400



TOVA 275 3 MI
ALLE. MD 3 MI





