

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shipley School (preferred)

other names Old Harpers Ferry High School

2. Location

street & number 847 Washington Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Harpers Ferry

☐ vicinity

state WV

Code WV

county Jefferson

code 037

zip code 25425

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ Private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☒ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- ☒ Building(s)  
☐ District  
☐ Site  
☐ Structure  
☐ Object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic Properties of Harpers Ferry National Historical  
Park

**number of contributing resource previously  
listed in the National Register**

1

## 6. Function of Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/school

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/storage

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Metal

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 7 Page 2

### Physical Description:

The old Shipley School building is located on three contiguous town lots in the Camp Hill area of Harpers Ferry. Three lots to the rear of the building were also part of the original school property, and are now paved and used for parking. Most of the remaining grounds are planted with grass, and there are several small decorative trees. The building faces approximately north onto Washington Street and has a wide concrete walk leading to the main entrance. The Shipley School building, constructed in 1912 in the Classical Revival architectural style, is a brick and cast stone, raised two story institutional building.

The three front bays of the school encompass a central entrance and two banks of four, 25 light windows on either side of the entrance. The central entrance doors, recessed within a vestibule, are surrounded with side lights and 9 over 9 sash windows, and an eight light transom. The entrance vestibule is part of the central projecting section of the facade with a pair of yellow brick pilasters rising two stories on either side of the entrance. There is a bank of four, 18 light windows above the entrance. The pilaster pairs are capped with a cast stone entablature. Above this is a red brick section, with a three part decorative window with diagonal muntins, and a stylized parapet. The east and west wings of the facade have two pairs of yellow brick pilasters which enclose the first and second story window banks, and are capped with the continuous entablature. Above the entablature are several courses of red brick to the flat roofline. A partially exposed basement story on the front elevation is encased in cast stone struck with evenly spaced horizontal lines running the length of the facade. The east and west wings of the basement story have corresponding banks of four windows; the center section has concrete steps leading to the first story entrance and 6 over 6 windows on either side (one is boarded over). The east and west sides of the building continue with the window bank and pilaster pattern corresponding with interior classrooms. The building extends to the east and west one bay at each end to include side entrances. The rear (south) elevation of the building continues the window bank, pilaster and entablature pattern of the building. A large red brick exterior chimney is located on the south elevation. The roof appears to be metal (edges observed at the rear of the building). A second story rear entrance has been cut into one of the windows to provide handicap access from a c.1970 wooden ramp.

The interior of the building retains much of the school-era woodwork and linoleum. The front entrance hall opens into a wide east to west main hall, facing the half panel and textured glass, double-door entrance to the auditorium located on the south side of the first story, with classrooms on either side. Classrooms are also located on the east and west side of the entrance hall on the north side of the building. Boys and Girls bathrooms are located at the east end of the main hall. A wood panel open stairway is located at the west end of the main hall, leading east up to the second story and west down to the basement story. The basement story includes a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

Section 7 Page 3

series of small rooms, possibly partitioned between 1972 and 1993 when the Harpers Ferry Center Conservation Laboratory occupied the space.

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a Significant contribution to the broad pattern of our History.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons Significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

### Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Community Planning and Development

### Period of Significance

1912-1950

### Significant Dates

1912

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Holmboe and Lafferty, Architects

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

### Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 8 Page 2

### Statement of Significance:

The Shipley School building is significant under National Register Criterion A for its role in the post-Civil War development of the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar area through the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The building is also significant under National Register Criterion C for Architecture as an example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Classical Revival institutional design by Clarksburg, West Virginia architects Holmboe & Lafferty. The building represents the growing population of the Camp Hill/Bolivar area, the result of economic development through tourism and industry. The large, modern building, in the Classical Revival style, would have represented for the citizenry of Harpers Ferry, a new era of prosperity. The building was part of a new trend in education toward the consolidation of students into larger, better equipped buildings, providing a higher standard of education to the students of the district. In West Virginia, the State Superintendent of Schools institutionalized the trend in 1910 through the issuance of a manual of recommendations for the construction of modern centralized schools. The school consolidation trend was part of a nation-wide process in early 20<sup>th</sup> century education. While the school remained in use until 1971, the predominant significance was more than 50 years ago.

### Resource History

Following the Civil War, which was devastating to the Harpers Ferry economy, a combination of developments contributed significantly to the recovery of the area. First the B&O Railroad constructed the Bollman truss bridge. The new bridge not only allowed rail traffic and commerce to continue, it also carried wagon and foot traffic to the C&O Canal and turnpike, connected to the expanding markets of Frederick, Baltimore and Georgetown. The second important change that occurred in lower Harpers Ferry was the sale of the Herr's Mill complex, on Virginus Island, to the Harpers Ferry Mill Company, converting the former cotton factory to a four-story flour mill, and beginning a new era of water-powered production in Harpers Ferry.

Further industrial growth spurred by the establishment of The Shenandoah Pulp Company on Virginus Island in 1888, and the Harpers Ferry Paper Company on the foundations of the old armory rolling mill along the Potomac River in 1890, also promised better days for the struggling community. The Harpers Ferry Power and Light Co., which began sharing the Harpers Ferry Paper Co. building around the turn of the century, encouraged development in the Harpers Ferry area with the infusion of cheap

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 8 Page 3

power. Another industry, which began to develop in Harpers Ferry in the 1890s, was the brewing and bottling industry.

Non-industrial changes also spurred growth in the Harpers Ferry economy. Storer College, established in 1867 for the education of freed blacks, had expanded to such an extent by the year 1887, that they were spending \$90,000 annually.<sup>1</sup> The infusion of such a sum of money would surely impact the economy of a small town like Harpers Ferry. Summer tourism in Harpers Ferry began to grow as a business in the 1870s and 80s. Hotels and boarding houses flourished into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, enhanced by the convenient location of the railroad and turnpike, by the breathtaking scenery and mineral springs, and by the interest of the general public in John Brown's 1859 raid, which helped touch off the Civil War.

All of the developments in the Harpers Ferry economy, leading up to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, helped to create rapid growth of the student population in the Harpers Ferry District. The educational district of Harpers Ferry, one of five independent districts in Jefferson County, West Virginia, was made up of seven sub-districts, including the towns of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, as well as several outlying towns and their rural areas. The Harpers Ferry District Board of Education began keeping official records of their meetings in 1889, the same year the new Harpers Ferry Graded School was built on the corner of Washington and Church Streets on Camp Hill. The June 1890 Board minutes record the cost of that school as \$2,484.<sup>2</sup> A similar school was located in the nearby town of Bolivar. In less than twenty years the two schools at Harpers Ferry and Bolivar were unable to accommodate the number of students attending. A 1909 petition by local parents to the District School Board requested consideration of a combined graded school located central to both towns, to replace the two smaller schools.<sup>3</sup>

On October 7, 1910, a special meeting of the Harpers Ferry District Board of Education was called, "to take up the question of a District High School to be conveniently located for the towns of Harper's Ferry and Bolivar and to be open to all the youths of the District . . ."<sup>4</sup> At the same meeting the Board estimated the "additional sum needed will not exceed Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) . . .," presumably in

<sup>1</sup>Pioneer Press, May 1887, microfilm, Harpers Ferry NHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

<sup>2</sup>Harpers Ferry District, Board of Education Records, 1889-1912 and 1913-1933, Jefferson Co. BOE Superintendents Office, Charles Town, WV.

<sup>3</sup>Jefferson County School News, "Special Edition Harpers Ferry District 1889-1933," February 1976, provided through Jefferson Co. BOE Office of Public Relations, Charles Town, WV., p. 3.

<sup>4</sup>Harpers Ferry District, BOE Records, Oct. 7, 1910.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 8 Page 4

addition to the established building fund. The District Board, whose responsibility it was to levy property taxes for the use of the school district, decided on a supplementary, temporary ten cent tax on every \$100 of taxable property, to procure the necessary additional funds for the new building. The tax levy would be put on the November ballot for the public citizenry to vote on. Possibly to enhance the chances of winning the affirmative vote on the tax levy, the Board also decided at the October meeting to word the vote either "For the High School" or "Against the High School." The November 8 vote passed the question overwhelmingly in the affirmative, 454 votes "For" to 48 votes "Against."<sup>5</sup> Interestingly, in addition to the estimated \$7,000 tax levy and the school board building fund, a sum of \$2,121.75 had been appropriated by the U. S. House of Representatives for the Harpers Ferry School District. The sum represented compensation for the schoolhouses destroyed during the Civil War nearly 50 years before. The District Board apparently intended to apply the amount toward the building of the new Harpers Ferry and Bolivar High School.<sup>6</sup>

Between November 1911 and June 1912 the six lots chosen for the location of the new school building, Block JJ, lots 1-3 and 12-14, on Washington Street, were purchased from the various owners.<sup>7</sup> Surprisingly, these lots, located on the main thoroughfare through Bolivar and Harpers Ferry, had remained vacant into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This may be a result of the fact that the six lots were originally owned by the United States War Department, as was most of the rest of Harpers Ferry. When the U. S. Government decided to abandon the Rifle Factory and Arsenal in 1868, following the devastation of the Civil War, most of the property was sold in a series of auctions, held in 1868, 1872, 1880 and 1884. The 1869 S. Howell Brown Map of Harpers Ferry (based on his 1852 map of Harpers Ferry) was commissioned to be the official survey of government lots for reference at the property sales.<sup>8</sup> Speculators purchased many of the vacant lots and later sold them to individuals who would build on the lots.

In the case of the six Block JJ lots, the U. S. Government did not begin selling these until 1880 when Lots 1 and 14 were sold to James Conway and Edward Tearney. Also sold in 1880 were Lots 10-11 and 4-5 to Alvernon Cross. Cross retained Lots 4 and

---

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., Nov. 10, 1910.

<sup>6</sup>Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV, newspaper microfilm collection, Spirit of Jefferson, April 19, 1910 and Farmer's Advocate, April 23, 1910.

<sup>7</sup>See 1868 Map of Harpers Ferry, S. Howell Brown; Jefferson Co. Land Records; Lots 2 & 3, 107/137; Lot 13, 107/176; Lot 12, 108/11; Lots 1 & 14, 107/327; Lots 10 & 11, 118/522, Jefferson Co. Court House, Charles Town, WV.

<sup>8</sup>See Jefferson Co. Land Record, Liber 3, Folio 25, for reference.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 8 Page 5

5, but sold Lots 10 and 11 to Lura B. Lightner in 1887. Lightner sold the two lots to the Board of Education in 1920, possibly as extra playground space for the growing student population at the school. W. O. Rau, guardian for the heirs of Conway and Tearney, sold Lots 1 and 14 to the Board in 1912. Lots 2, 3, 12, and 13 were all purchased at the 1884 public auction of government property. Lots 2 and 3, purchased by James Butts in 1884 for \$80.00, were sold by Butts to the Board in 1911 for \$600.00, making him a tidy little profit. Lot 12, purchased by Edward Colgate in 1884 for \$101.00, was sold to William Arter in 1887 for \$140.00. Arter's heirs sold the lot to the Board in 1912 for a total of \$300.00.

The history of Lot 13 was much more complicated. After being purchased by T. A. Kirwan and James Watson at the 1884 public sale, Lot 13 was sold to Alvernon Cross in 1887. In 1889 Scott W. Lightner purchased the lot, and in 1908 he sold it to Robert McDaniel. Both Lightner and McDaniel were Trustees at Storer College. Not surprisingly, Lot 13 remained associated with the college through its ownership by James H. Robinson, a graduate of the college, who purchased the lot in 1909. Robinson then sold Lot 13, along with several lots in Block GG on which he ran a livery stable, to Storer College ten months later. In 1911, Storer College sold Lot 13, and the other lots, back to James Robinson. Two months after purchasing them, Robinson sold the package to Charles Young and Grayson Staley, who apparently took over the livery business. Although Lot 13 in Block JJ was apparently never developed, Young and Staley were not inclined to sell the lot to the Board of Education. At the January 4, 1912 Board meeting, the record notes that the Board felt it would be "necessary to begin Condemnation proceedings to procure Lot 13 Blk JJ."<sup>9</sup> The threat of condemnation seems to have convinced Young and Staley. Their deed conveying Lot 13 to the Board was dated January 19, 1912.

The architectural firm of Holmboe & Lafferty, Clarksburg, West Virginia, were selected for the design of the building at the January 1912 Board meeting. Holmboe & Lafferty had been featured in a manual of recommendations on school architecture produced by the West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools in 1910.<sup>10</sup> A school designed by the firm for Elkhorn, West Virginia bares a striking resemblance to the Harpers Ferry District High School (see attached photo). The firm of Holmboe & Lafferty designed larger schools for Morgantown and Buckannon, West Virginia, also illustrated in the superintendent's manual. The larger Harpers Ferry School would include many of the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools. In addition to

<sup>9</sup>Harpers Ferry District, BOE Record, January 4, 1912.

<sup>10</sup>M. D. Shawkey, State Superintendent of Schools, School Architecture, (Charleston, WV: The News-Mail Co., 1910).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 8 Page 6

eight classrooms with banks of windows for air and light, the school was designed with a central entrance, central auditorium, indoor bathrooms, and wide stairways. On the subject of stairways, the superintendent noted:

Too much stair climbing is likely to cause permanent injury to girls of high school age, hence the building and organization should reduce the danger to the minimum. The staircase should be wide – not less than five feet; the tread should be about 13 inches wide; the risers should not be more than 6 ½ inches in graded schools and 7 inches in high schools. The treads should be very simple and thoroughly substantial, as it is constantly subject to some strain. Round oak about 3 inches in diameter makes a railing both beautiful and substantial. Long flights of stairs should be broken by roomy landings which provide for a change of direction or rest. Steep stairways are abominable. Wherever possible there should be a stairway on each side of the hall and the whole staircase should be fireproof.<sup>11</sup>

It was probably at this point that the Board members began to realize they had drastically underestimated the cost of construction. A February 29, 1912 article in the local newspaper Virginia Free Press indicated the contract for the building construction, with Frank O. Trump of Kearneysville, was for \$26,993. One week later, the paper reported the groundbreaking ceremony for the “\$33,000 high school.”<sup>12</sup> In October 1912, the Board voted for a \$35,000 Bond Issue, necessary for the construction of the new school, in addition to the \$7,000 tax levy and the \$2,100 from the Congress. Again, like the 1910 tax levy, approval for the bond issue would be put to a vote on the November ballot. This time, however, the voters would be asked to vote up or down on the bond issue, as well as ‘For’ or ‘Against’ the District High School. In addition, due to some question of the legality of the previous tax levy vote, the voters would be asked to vote again on the 1910 question. However, this time the vote would be specifically ‘For’ or ‘Against’ the tax levy. Ironically they would be voting on a tax levy which they had already been paying for the last two years. The vote was again overwhelmingly in the affirmative on all three questions.<sup>13</sup>

Despite the spiraling cost of the new school, the community was undoubtedly proud of the resulting building. The substantial red brick building, set with long banks of enormous windows, and embellished with prominent yellow brick pilasters and cast stone entablature in the popular Classical Revival style, was quite modern looking in the

<sup>11</sup>Shawkey, p. 42.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., Virginia Free Press, Feb. 29, 1912 and March 7, 1912.

<sup>13</sup>Harper Ferry District BOE records, October 1912.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 8 Page 7

predominantly mid 19<sup>th</sup> century town of Harpers Ferry. An August 1919 issue of the locally produced newsletter, The Mountain Echo, proudly described the new school:

“Harper’s Ferry’s chief modern attraction, and asset, is its splendid District High School, situated on west Camp Hill. The building, erected in 1912, at a cost of \$60,000 [sic], is said to be one of the finest in the State. The school offers courses in Literature, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Stenography and Type-writing, and Domestic Science.”<sup>14</sup>

The new school building included an auditorium, which the District Board rented out to community groups for entertainment and benefits. Also incorporated in the state-of-the-art building was electric lighting. The September 1913 Board minutes reported a light bill of \$2.00, due to the nearby Harpers Ferry Electric Light & Power Company. In 1926, concrete sidewalks, five to six foot wide, were installed along the east and west elevations of the school. The new sidewalks led around the south side of the building where new concrete stairs lead to the playground behind.<sup>15</sup>

The Harpers Ferry High School served a dual role, as an elementary school for local students from Harpers Ferry and Bolivar, and as the District-wide high school. High school students were brought in from the outlying sub-districts via a contracted bus service.<sup>16</sup> The concentration of district resources into one district-wide school building, beginning with the Harpers Ferry High School, would continue in the high school setting with the 1930 District High School in Bolivar, and culminated in the c.1970 Jefferson County High School on Flowing Springs Road.

While the Harpers Ferry District High School was described in 1910 by the Board of Education to be “open to all youths of the District,” in reality this meant white youths only. At the time of the construction of the new high school building, the Harpers Ferry District did not even maintain a high school facility for African American students. Elementary education through the eighth grade was available for black children at the two-room schoolhouse on Ridge Street, in the Bolivar Sub-district, and at another two-room school located in Halltown. Following eighth grade, those students who wished to continue their secondary education in the Harpers Ferry District would have to attend the

---

<sup>14</sup>The Mountain Echo, Vol. 1-No. 2, August, 1919, from the papers of Henry T. McDonald collection, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

<sup>15</sup>Harpers Ferry District, BOE Records, Sept. 1913 and June 1926.

<sup>16</sup>*Ibid.*, Sept. 1913.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 8 Page 8

“Prep” course provided at Storer College.<sup>17</sup> The college would then bill the District Board for the tuition of district students. In May 1926, the Board minutes record a bill from Storer College for \$397.50 for tuition “which the board has refused to pay until looked into further.” The Board claimed that the college was billing them for students who had “failed in their elementary diploma examinations.” The State Superintendent of Schools, who noted that the State required districts to pay tuition for students if they did not maintain a high school for those students, settled the disagreement.<sup>18</sup> Despite this ruling, the Harpers Ferry District never provided a high school facility for the black students under their care. This appalling situation continued after 1933, when the five Jefferson County districts were combined into one Jefferson County School District. It was not until 1942 that the Page-Jackson High School for African American students in the Jefferson Co. District was opened in Charles Town.

By 1928, the sixteen-year old Harper Ferry High School building was already too small for the growing population of the Harpers Ferry District, fueled by the expanding tourism boom of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. With the opening of the new Harpers Ferry District High School in 1930, in Bolivar, the old high school on Camp Hill became the Harpers Ferry Graded School (later Harpers Ferry Elementary School).<sup>19</sup> Following the creation of the Jefferson County School District in 1933, elementary schools, including the Harpers Ferry Elementary School, continued within their various sub-districts, as they do today. It appears that no major changes were made to the Harpers Ferry building for the next several decades. In 1968, the school was renamed the C. W. Shipley Elementary School in honor of Charles Waldron Shipley who had been principal of the school for a number of years.<sup>20</sup>

In 1971 the Shipley School was closed when the new C. W. Shipley Elementary School opened on Route 340, just west of Harpers Ferry and Bolivar. Following the closure of the old school the building was leased for several years by the National Park Service and used as a conservation laboratory.<sup>21</sup> Several changes were made to the interior of the building for this use, including the addition of some room partitions and a venting system for toxic fumes associated with conservation techniques. The exterior of the building remained essentially untouched with the exception of the addition of an access ramp and door on the rear elevation, first story. The rear lots fronting on Fillmore

---

<sup>17</sup>See Storer College Catalogues 1868-1945, Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., May 20, 1926.

<sup>19</sup>Harpers Ferry District, BOE Records, 1928-1933.

<sup>20</sup>Jefferson County School News, p. 4.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 8 Page 9

Street, that had been the location of the playground, were converted into a parking area. In 1993, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park purchased the building.

### Resource Evaluation:

The Shipley School building is part of the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Historic Properties of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park." It is significant within the context of the Patterns of Community Development in the Post-Civil War Harpers Ferry area, 1865-1955, as a Community Resource Property Type. The integrity of the Shipley School remains remarkably intact, particularly on the exterior of the building and in its setting. Many of the surrounding buildings appear to date to periods prior to the construction of the school in 1912. For example, the 1896 Curtis Freewill Church, and several late Victorian houses are located in the immediate neighborhood. The front of the Shipley School appears unchanged from a 1921 Washington Sunday Star newspaper photo.<sup>22</sup> The grounds to the rear of the building have been paved and are used for parking.

---

<sup>22</sup>Washington Sunday Star, June 12, 1921, from the Henry T. McDonald Papers, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

Section 9 Page 2

### Major Bibliographical References:

Brown, S. Howell, Map of Harpers Ferry, 1869, Jefferson Co. Court House, Charles Town, WV.

Bushong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Boyce, VA: Carr Publishing Co., Inc., 1972.

Henry T. McDonald Papers, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Harpers Ferry District, Board of Education meeting notes. 1889-1912 and 1913-1933, records located at Jefferson Co. Board of Education, Superintendents Office, Charles Town, WV.

Jefferson County Land Records, Jefferson Co. Court House, Charles Town, WV.

Jefferson County School News, "Special Edition Harpers Ferry District 1889-1933," Vol. 2, No. 5, February 1976, Office of Public Relations, Jefferson Co. Board of Education, Charles Town, WV.

Newspaper collection, microfilm, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1907, 1922, 1933, West Virginia University Archives, Morgantown, WV.

Shawkey, M. D., State Superintendent of Schools, School Architecture, Charleston, WV: The News-Mail Co., 1910.

Storer College Catalogues, Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Shipley School  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.82 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edith Wallace, Research Associate  
organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. date 6/99, rev. 12/00  
street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070  
city or town Hagerstown state Maryland zip code 21740

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Harpers Ferry NHP  
street & number P.O. Box 65 telephone 304-535-6298  
city or town Harpers Ferry state WV zip code 25425

**Paperwork Reduction Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 2

Shipley School

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

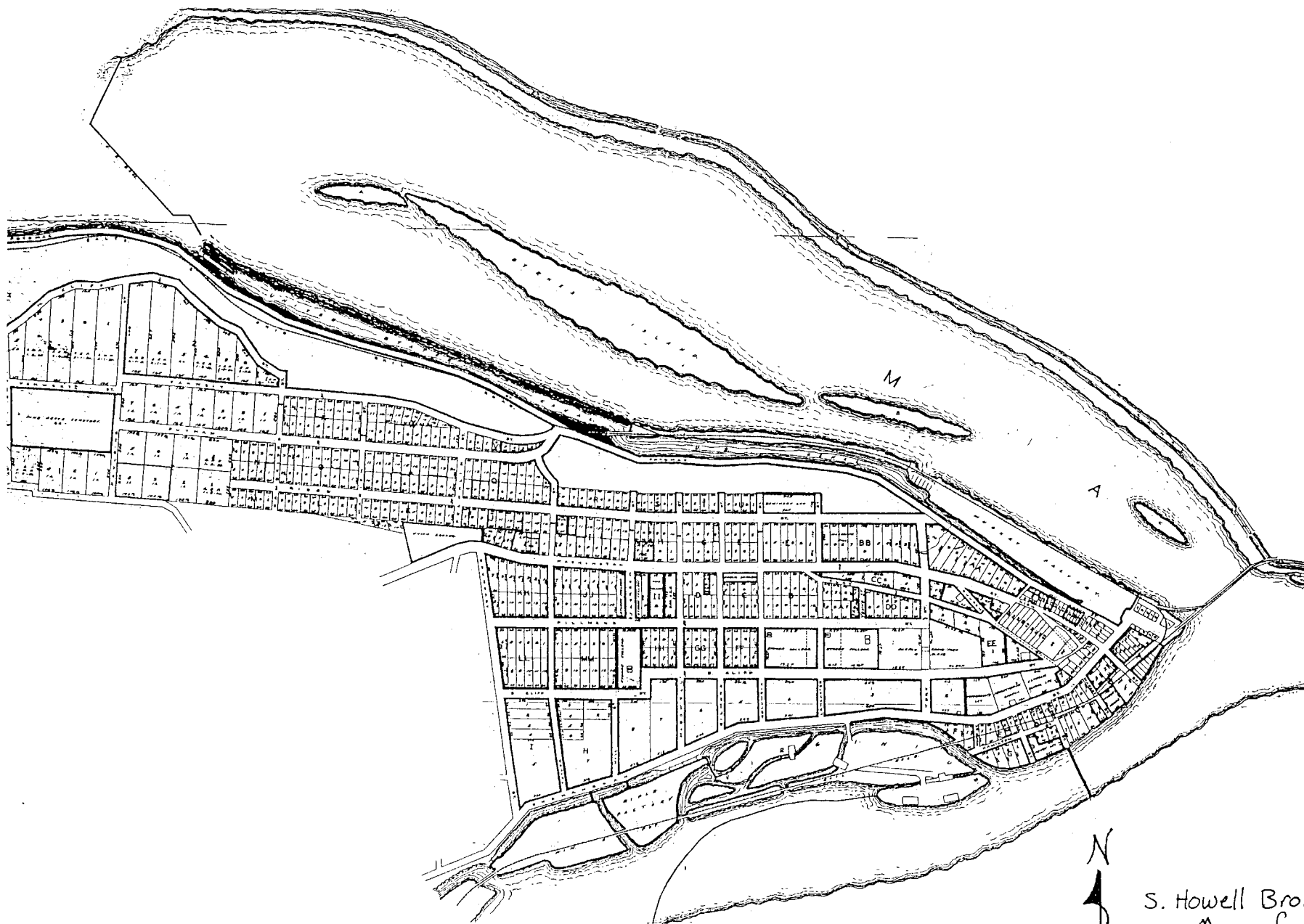
### Verbal Boundary Description:

The property associated with Shipley School is Lots #1,2,3,10,11,12,13,14 of Block JJ, Harpers Ferry Corporation.

### Boundary Justification:

The eight lots included with the school are the original six ones purchased for the school prior to its construction in 1912, and the two purchased in 1920.





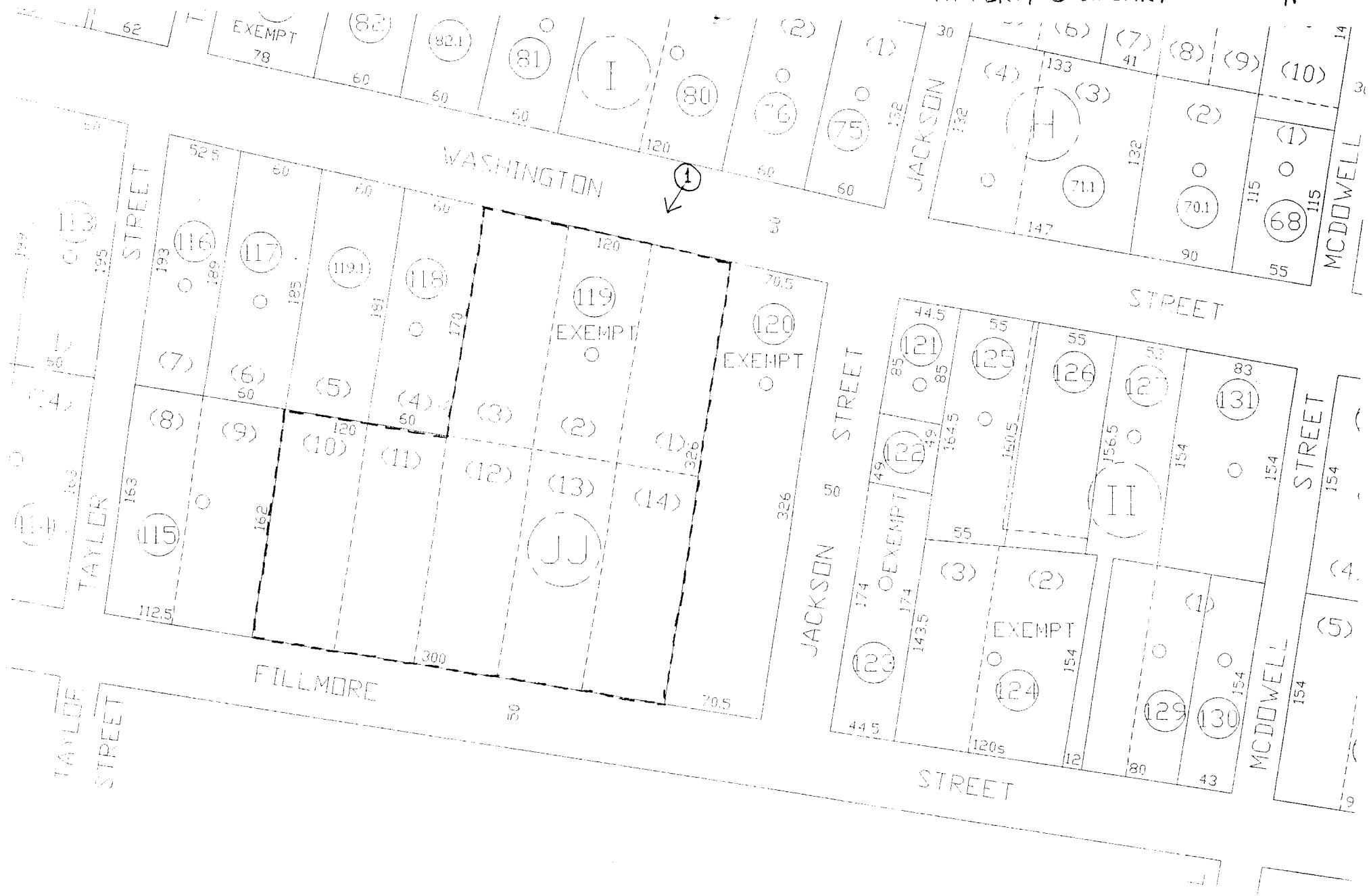
S. Howell Brown  
Map of  
Harpers Ferry  
1869

Harpers Ferry Corporation  
Tax Map #2

HARPERS FERRY NHP  
SHIPLEY SCHOOL  
HARPERS FERRY CORP. TAX MAP #2  
PHOTO KEY

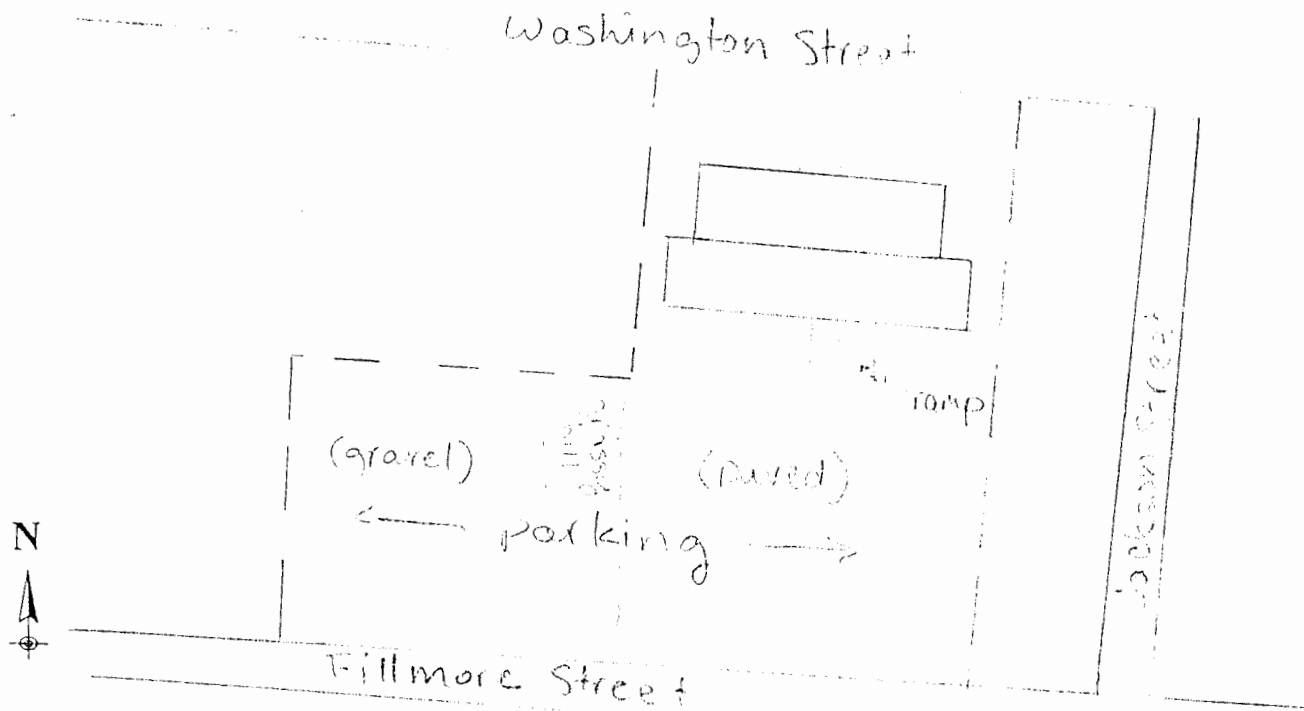
① → - PHOTO # and DIRECTION  
- - - - PROPERTY BOUNDARY

map 2



# SHIPLEY SCHOOL

Sketch Map of Property  
or Attach Copy of USGS Map

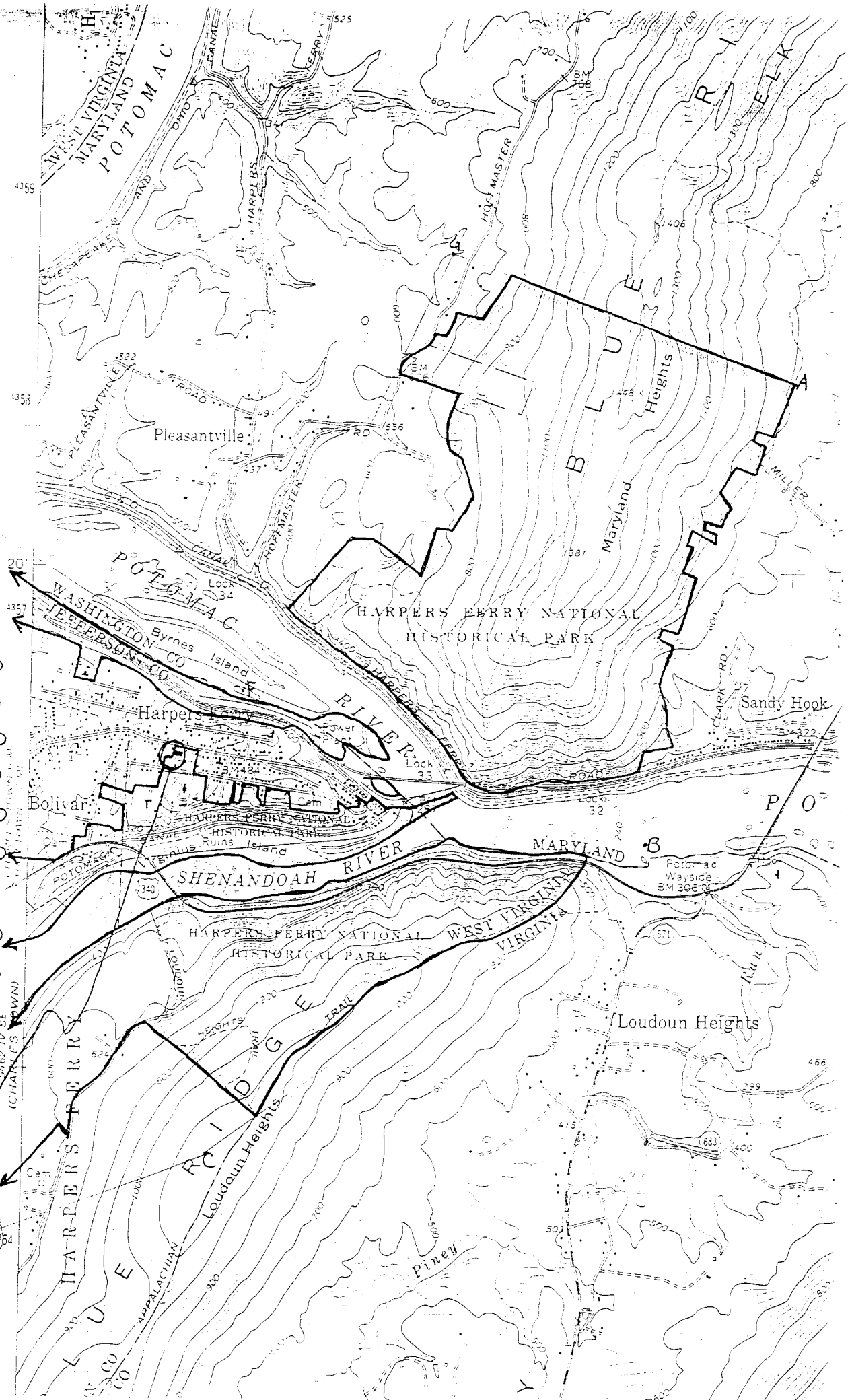


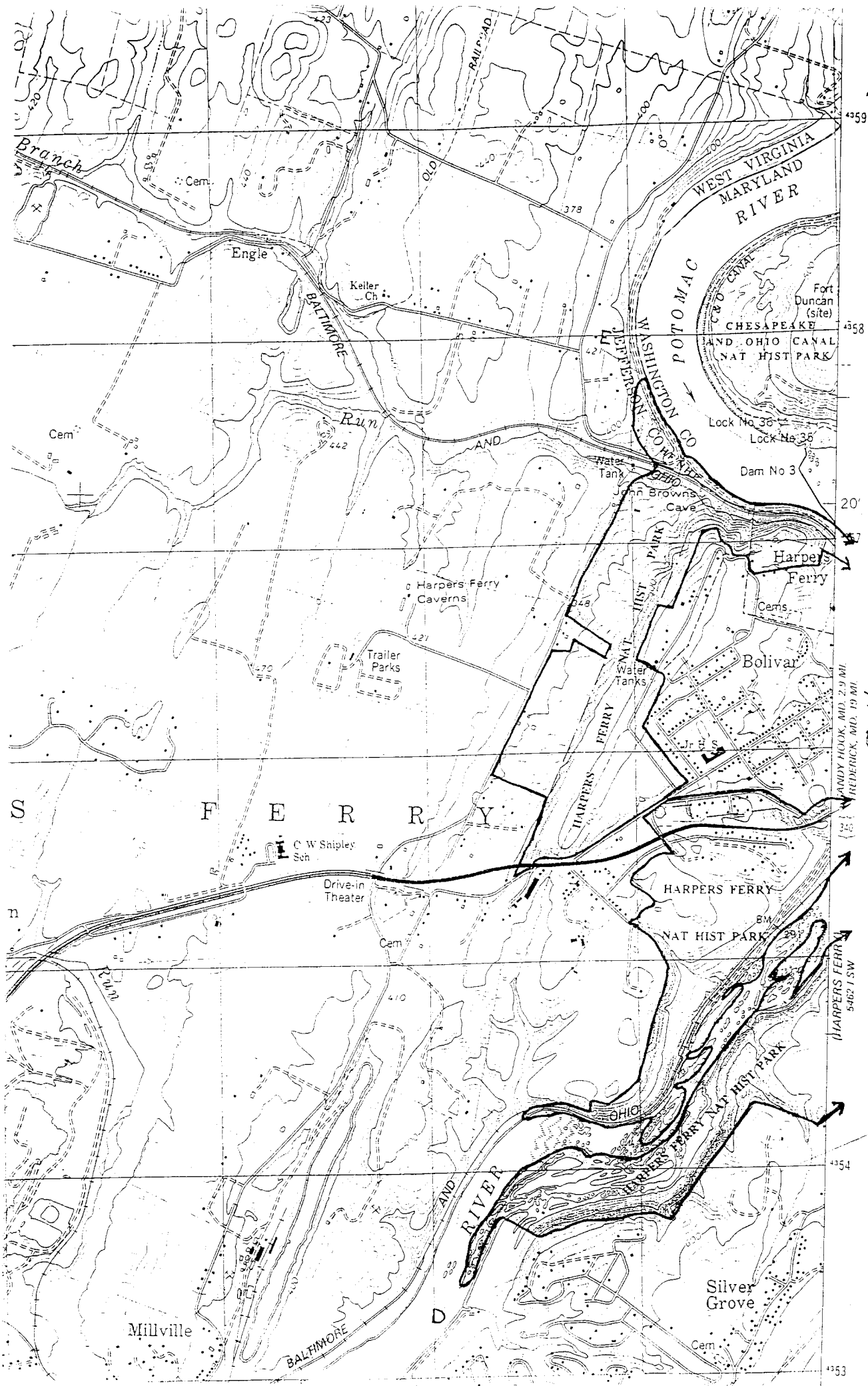
Site No.

# HARPERS FERRY NHP UTM REFERENCES:

- A 18/266590/4357980
- B 18/265840/4355790
- C 18/263800/4354380
- F 18/263960/4356560
- G 18/264980/4358600
- H 18/269780/4355600
- I 18/266890/4353110
- J 18/266670/4353600
- K 18/267610/4355360
- L 18/269180/4356100

ShIPLEY  
School  
Property





HARPERS FERRY NH  
UTM REFERENCES  
D 18/261030/4353380  
E 18/261880/4357920

ANDY HOOK, MD, 2.9 MI  
FREDERICK, MD, 19 MI  
HARPERS FERRY  
54621 SW

