

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 Storer College
other names _____

2. Location

street & number Fillmore Street ☐ not for publication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).

Susan M. Pierce - DSHPO - 2/26/01

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

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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	
9	8	buildings
		sites
1	1	structures
		objects
10	9	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**

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/college
Defense/arms storage/armory (residential buildings)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate
Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Brick
Stone
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

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Physical Description:

Summary Description:

The Storer College Historic District is located on the high ground of Harpers Ferry known as Camp Hill. The campus, which sits between Fillmore Street and the cliffs above the Shenandoah River, is nestled in a park-like setting among the mature trees and dwellings of this mostly residential area. The 1881 Anthony Memorial Hall (also known as Conrad Wirth Hall, Mather Training Center) dominates the main campus area, which is located on the highest point of Camp Hill. The Hall serves as the center of the main campus arrangement. To the southwest of Anthony Memorial Hall are the Lewis W. Anthony Building and the Bird-Brady House, to the southeast is Permelia Eastman Cook Hall, and to the north, across Fillmore Street at the intersection with Jackson Street is the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church. All of these buildings are historically associated with Storer College and are currently used as an educational facility by the National Park Service.

Several prominent buildings which are missing from the main campus arrangement are Myrtle (Mosher) Hall, which was located immediately north of Anthony Memorial Hall, and New Lincoln (Brackett) Hall, which was located immediately south of Anthony Memorial Hall. The Harpers Ferry Center, the National Park Service Interpretive Design Center, now stands at the former location of New Lincoln Hall. Also missing from the main campus scene are the DeWolf Building, formerly located immediately behind Anthony Memorial Hall, and four frame boarding houses constructed by the college, two west of the Lewis W. Anthony Building and two facing Fillmore Street northwest of Anthony Memorial Hall. On McDowell St., a tennis court constructed in the 1970s marks the site of the Robinson Barn which had been converted by the college into a basketball court in 1921. The National Park Service owns four brick ranch style houses lining an access road west of Anthony Memorial Hall, which were constructed during the Mission 66 era and therefore post-date the period of significance for Storer College. The 1920 Soldiers Gate and Alumni Fence distinguish the main campus along Fillmore Street.

General Description:

The campus area west of Anthony Memorial Hall was historically used for horticultural education and later for the location of the college football field. The Science Building, which was located southwest of the Lewis W. Anthony Building (also the former location of the college barn complex) is now the site of several privately owned homes. The graded area of the former football field is now occupied by a Park Service maintenance facility. Much of the remaining area that was once cleared for cultivation is now wooded.

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The main campus east of Anthony Memorial Hall is a sweeping grassy area looking down toward the point of the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. This was traditionally open space with the exception of the northeast corner lot which was formerly occupied by the Robinson House, home of an early graduate of Storer College and later used for boarding. Across McDowell Street, in the southwest corner lot of the residential block known as GG (a designation from the 1869 S. Howell Brown map), Robinson's barn was converted by the college to a basketball court. The building was razed in the 1970s and a tennis court was constructed on the site. Park Service employees now use the court as a parking lot.

The three other buildings associated with Storer College from its earliest years to its closure in 1955, Lockwood House, Brackett House, and Morrell House, are separated from the main campus by two residential blocks, blocks GG and FF, east of Anthony Memorial Hall. McDowell Street borders these two residential blocks on the west and Columbia Street on the east, with Gilmore Street dividing them. The Morrell House occupies the west side of the next block between Columbia and Lancaster Streets. A wide grassy side yard with several mature trees leads to two dwellings not associated with Storer College on the east end of the block along Lancaster Street. The Brackett House is located on the west end of the next block at the corner of Fillmore Street and Lancaster Street. To the east of the Brackett House, again through a grassy yard, is the Lockwood House. The large and elegant Lockwood House sits on a small rise at the eastern-most point of Camp Hill overlooking the two rivers. Immediately east of the Lockwood House is an historic cemetery, not associated with Storer College, which leads east down the hill toward the lower town of Harpers Ferry.

Property Inventory:

Lockwood House, first story 1847, second story 1857, restored by National Park Service 1960s.
1 contributing building.

The Lockwood House is located at the eastern-most end of the Storer College campus, on a grassy hill overlooking the point of the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. This brick 2½ story Greek Revival/Italianate styled dwelling sits on a raised cut limestone foundation with a single course of ashlar between the brick and limestone. The ground around the foundation story is excavated leaving an approximately three-foot sunken walkway around the north, east, and south elevations. Full-size six over six sash windows with ashlar stone lintels are exposed by the trench, as is a rubble stone watertable. The east elevation is three bays wide with a central entrance. The four-panel door has sidelights with a lower panel and is embellished with pilasters and a wide entablature with a dentiled cornice. A raised entrance porch rests on a brick and rubble stone foundation. The porch has six square columns with recessed panels and widely spaced balusters on a wooden deck. It is topped with a flat roof with a bracketed cornice.

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Six steps with wooden railings and square posts lead to the porch. Windows on the first story have large six over six sash with ashlar stone lintels. A single course of projecting stretchers (probably associated with the original one story roofline) is located immediately above the stone lintels. A change in brick color, just above the horizontal brick band, delineates the later second story addition to the house. Windows on the second story are smaller six over six sash with standing brick flat arches. The low profile slate, hipped roof has a slight overhang with no decorative embellishment. Two brick interior chimneys are present.

At the three-bay west elevation a two-story full-length porch sits on an original limestone foundation (integral with the main house foundation, not added). The lower story of the porch is supported by eight square columns with recessed panels with widely spaced vertical balusters, identical to the front entrance porch, and a two-part cornice band embellished with widely spaced large dentils. The central entrance has a paneled door with sidelights with lower panels and transom, and a pointed architrave with pilasters. Temporary steps currently lead to the raised porch. A board and batten sided one bay enclosure with a fixed six light window is located at the north end of the first story porch. The second story of the porch is flat roofed with a plain cornice, supported by plain square columns with tightly spaced vertical balusters. The central door on the second story is identical to the first story except for a flat architrave, which touches the ceiling of the porch.

A 1960s restoration of the Lockwood House removed a late 19th century third story mansard roof. The building was restored to reflect its 1860 exterior appearance. The basement is used as a curatorial storage area, while the remainder of the interior is not restored.

Brackett House, 1857, exterior renovated by National Park Service in the 1970s.
1 contributing building.

Located on the corner of Lancaster and Fillmore Streets, the Brackett House is used for administrative offices for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. It is a two-story brick dwelling house on a cut stone foundation in a transitional Greek Revival/Italianate architectural style. The main entrance, on the east side does not face onto the street. The east elevation has three bays with a three part central entrance. The door has six recessed panels, sidelights with a lower panel, and a six-light transom. The entrance has a pointed architrave embellished with side pilasters. The hipped roof entrance porch is supported by six square columns below a wide cornice band, standing on a slightly above ground level wooden deck. Windows overall are large six over six sash with standing brick flat arches. The remaining elevations are all three bays wide. The north elevation has a second story projecting balcony with cast iron brackets and railing on the center bay. This center bay has an elongated window with lower panels to provide

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access to the balcony. The shallow hipped roof is sheathed with slate (replaced in 1998) and has projecting eaves over a brick dentil cornice treatment. Two interior brick chimneys are present. On the south elevation is a brick T extension on a stone foundation. It is 1½ stories high with small six over six sash overall with standing brick flat arches. The east elevation of the extension on the Brackett house has a shed roofed frame addition with narrow gauge wood siding and paired three over three sash windows. A single brick interior end chimney is present. The building has had paint removed from the brick exterior walls.

NPS Quarters #82, Lancaster St., c. 1900, remodeled c.1950.
1 non-contributing building.

The house is a two-story frame house with vinyl siding. The core of the frame structure is reportedly from an earlier two-story frame house, which stood at this location but was drastically altered during the 1950s remodeling. It has a one-story addition with carport.

Morrell House, 1857, exterior renovated by National Park Service in the 1970s.
1 contributing building.

Located on the corner of Columbia and Fillmore Streets, the Morrell House is used as administrative offices for the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The Morrell House is identical to the Brackett House except for the presence of full-length shed roofed porches with square posts and vertical balusters. It is three bays wide, with two 4-panel doors, on both the east and west elevations of the T extension. The building has had paint removed from the brick exterior walls. The slate roof was replaced with new slate in 1998.

Anthony Memorial Hall (Conrad Wirth Hall, Mather Training Center), south wing, 1847, center hall and north wing, 1881, burned 1927, restored, 1928, rehabilitated by National Park Service, 1960s.
1 contributing building.

Anthony Memorial Hall is situated at the center of the main campus on a high point, facing east onto a wide grassy lawn. The National Park Service currently uses the building as an educational facility. Designed in the Greek Revival style, the two-story brick building rests on a stone foundation. The center section is 2½ stories with a pedimented gable, projecting in the front and rear. This portion of the building has 5 bays with a central entrance; a full stone terrace with white iron railing is situated along the front. The three-part entrance includes 3 light and

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panel sidelights, a 16 light transom, and decorative trim around the door with pilasters and bull's eye corner blocks. The 9 over 9 sash windows have stone lintels on the first story and are capped with sunburst windows and brick arches on the second story. The facade is embellished with four brick pilasters, two on the corners and two on either side of the central bay, which rise two stories to a brick frieze with brick dentils below the pedimented gable. Within the gable pediment is a four-light circular window. The pediment is articulated with a brick corbeled frieze and brick dentils. Centered on the asphalt-shingled roof is a square cupola with paired 6 over 9 sash windows on each elevation, capped with a hipped roof.

The north and south wings are identical in design. Each is two story, three bays with a central entrance identical to the three part door of the center section. Each entrance in the wings is protected by a one bay porch with a stone base, six smooth narrow columns capped with a stylized lily, and a massive entablature, the frieze decorated with triglyphs. Windows on both wings, all with louvered functional shutters, have 9 over 9 sash with stone lintels on the first story. The 6 over 9 sash windows on the second story abut the wide brick cornice band above. The cornice is decorated with brick dentils. The asphalt-shingled roofs on both wings are hipped with brick interior chimneys.

In 1927, a catastrophic fire gutted Anthony Memorial Hall, leaving only the brick walls standing. Photos from the Storer College Catalogue, dated 1905, prior to the fire, and 1947, after the fire restoration, show a pedimented entrance porch, in the Greek Revival style, on the center section's entrance. The porches shown in the photos on the south and north wings of the building, appear to be much lighter Victorian style entrance porches with scroll cut decorative elements. In the 1905 photo the cupola was not enclosed with windows but was open with a decorative wood framework.

Permelia Eastman Cook Hall, 1940.
1 contributing building.

Located southeast of Anthony Memorial Hall, Permelia Eastman Cook Hall is a 2½ story stone structure. The projecting front gable center section has 3 window bays. The lower story windows share a continuous stone lintel with the name of the building engraved in the stone. On the second story, a stylized Palladian window is constructed from a set of three windows with a fanlight window above the center window, a stone lintel arches over the fanlight with a keystone and stretches across the two adjoining windows. The two wings on either side of the projecting center mirror each other. Both are three bays, two window bays and a door abutting the center projection. The doors are six-panel surrounded by pilasters, a wide plain frieze and a dentiled

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cornice. Windows have six over six sash with stone lintels. The rear of the building has a central stone two-story addition with a rear entrance. The lower story is built into the hillside.

National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center, 1970.
1 non-contributing building.

Located on the site of the former New Lincoln Hall (Brackett Hall), the Harpers Ferry Center is a low profile modern brick building. Its low profile set into the side of the hill above the Shenandoah River, and the surrounding mature deciduous trees make the building fairly unobtrusive to the campus setting.

Lewis W. Anthony Building, 1903.
1 contributing building.

Located southwest of the Anthony Memorial Hall, the Lewis W. Anthony Building now serves as the Library and Archives for the Harpers Ferry Center. Designed in a Folk Victorian architectural style, it is a two story stone building constructed into the hill, exposing only the upper story at the front elevation. The building has seven bays with central double doors. The doors are half panel with six lights, a twelve-light transom and a cast stone lintel. Windows are four over four sash with steel beam lintels. The asphalt-shingled roof has wide eaves on the gable ends decorated with brackets and decorative gable peak detailing. Two four light windows are present in the upper story of the gable ends, with steel beam lintels. There are two brick interior gable end chimneys with corbeling. On the rear elevation a two-story concrete block addition is six bays wide. It has a date stone of 1953.

Bird-Brady House, c. 1890.
2 contributing buildings.

Located south of the Lewis W. Anthony Building, the Bird-Brady House fronts onto an access road and is built into the hill overlooking the Shenandoah River. The front elevation is two stories, three bays wide. The frame structure is covered with stucco and rests on a one story stone foundation (visible from the side and rear), and is three bays deep. Windows are two over two sash with pointed architraves. The front entrance is covered with a recent flat roofed enclosed three-bay porch. A sealed entrance on the second story shows evidence of sidelights and a pointed architrave. The asphalt shingled roofed is hipped with two interior chimneys in the

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peak, one large brick chimney and one small stuccoed chimney. West of the house is a one story, two bay, stone garage with enclosed front and replacement door. c. 1920s.

Curtis Freewill Baptist Church (Curtis Memorial Church), 1894.
1 contributing building.

The Curtis Freewill Baptist Church occupies the end lot along the west side of Jackson Street and the corner of Fillmore Street. The church is a one-story brick structure on a half story stone foundation built into the hill with six over six windows with wooden lintels. A replacement shed roofed entrance (a similar structure appears in historic photographs) protects the door in the western-most bay of the lower level, south elevation. The foundation stones are stuccoed on the south elevation and struck to appear as cut stone. The body of the church is five bays deep and three bays wide in the gable ends. Windows along the south and north elevation are sash, multipane over two with colored glass and brick arched over the scroll cut wooden arched lintels. Windows in the east gable end include a central three part large arched arrangement with paired multipane colored sash windows with a fixed arched glass above; it is topped with courses of arched brick headers. Two arched colored sash windows with two courses of arched brick headers are on either side of the central window. The gable peak is slate shingled with a diamond shaped ventilation window. The steeply pitched roof is sheathed with slate with several rows of scalloped slates adding a decorative element.

The battlemented square bell tower, located on the southeast corner of the church body, has the main church entrance on its south elevation. The entrance consists of double four paneled doors with a fanlight window above, capped by three courses of brick header round arches. Immediately above the brick arches is the sandstone date stone engraved with the date "1894" and the name "Curtis Freewill Baptist Church." Above the date stone is a diamond shaped four-pane colored window; a matching window is located on the east elevation of the tower as well. The tower then has slight recess in the brick wall with a decorative zigzag top course, within this recess is a large slatted ventilation window with a two course brick header arch above; this arrangement is repeated on all four elevations of the tower. Finally the battlements at the top of the tower are stepped out several courses from the surface of the tower below. A very shallow hipped roof covers the tower within the battlements.

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Row of four houses along access road west of Anthony Memorial Hall, c.1960.
4 non-contributing buildings.

Used by the National Park Service as housing, these four brick ranch style houses each have an attached garage. These buildings could, however, have independent historical significance in connection with the Mission 66 program sponsored by the National Park Service.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Maintenance Facility, c.1960.
2 non-contributing buildings.

Located on a previously graded area on the side of a ravine west of the main campus, this one story concrete block building complex has a multiple bay maintenance garage nearby.

Soldiers Gate and Alumni Fence, 1920.
1 contributing structure.

The Soldiers Gate and Alumni Fence lines the perimeter of the main campus of Storer College along Fillmore Street. The gate is constructed of two cut limestone square posts with marble plaques inset facing Fillmore Street. The plaque on the eastern post is inscribed "To the students of Storer College who fought in the Civil War 1861 to 1865 the Spanish American War 1898 The World War 1917 to 1918." The massive posts are capped with concrete squares in three stepped tiers, each with a large milk glass globe on top. The wrought iron gates are arched with decorative ironwork at the top. The Alumni Fence runs east and west from the gate; the east extension of the iron fence runs to McDowell Street with intermittent smaller square stone posts capped with concrete. The west extension of the iron fence begins with a smaller iron pedestrian gate with decorative ironwork, and continues with the same intermittent stone posts to the edge of a wooded area near Taylor Street.

McDowell St. Tennis Court/Robinson Barn Site.
1 non-contributing structure.

Located on the east side of McDowell St., the tennis court occupies approximately half of Lot 5 in Block GG. The hard surface court is surrounded by high chain link fence. It is currently used as a parking facility by Park Service employees. The court, constructed in the 1970s for use by Mather Training Center attendees, is located on the site of the Robinson Barn/Storer College Basketball Court.

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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 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)

Education

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Architecture

Industry

Period of Significance

1847-1955

Significant Dates

1867

1906

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

African American

Architect/Builder

Major John Symington (Armory-related buildings)

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: _____

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Statement of Significance:

Storer College, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, operating from 1867 to 1955, was an important link in the education and enfranchisement of African Americans in the mid-Atlantic area. Within the format of the Multiple Property Documentation, under the property type 'African American Schools,' the Storer College Historic District is described in the context of Black Education in the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar Area from 1864-1955; Storer College served as the center for black education in the area. Storer was linked to the national network of black education by preparing its students for further education at larger institutions such as the nearby Washington, D.C. based Howard University.

The Storer College Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A for its role in the education of African Americans beginning immediately following the Civil War and lasting through the 1954 Supreme Court decision calling for the desegregation of public education. The buildings and structures associated with the educational and physical development of the college which remain on the campus today retain an integrity to the setting of the college, fostered by the men and women who administered the institution throughout its existence.

The Storer College Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the ante-bellum Federal Armory addressed in the historic context Industrial Development of Water Power and the context Harpers Ferry in the Civil War. Both of these contexts are discussed in the 1981 National Register Nomination "Harpers Ferry National Historical Park." Soon after the Civil War, in 1867, Storer College was deeded the four stately homes of the former administrators of the then defunct Federal Armory. The four large brick buildings formed the nucleus of the Storer College campus.

Storer College is significant also under National Register Criterion A for its association with the Niagara Movement, led by W.E.B. DuBois, which held its second annual meeting in 1906 on the Storer College campus. Storer College's location in Harpers Ferry, the scene of John Brown's raid on the Federal Arsenal in an attempt to fuel a slave revolt, served as a magnet to attract African American leaders throughout the continued struggle for freedom and equality.

The buildings of the Storer College Historic District are significant under National Register Criterion C for their architectural expression of the various time periods in which they were built. The original four government buildings, including the south wing of Anthony Memorial Hall, were all built in the 1840s-50s in the transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style of architecture. The other later buildings associated with Storer College include the center hall and north wing of the Anthony Memorial Hall, built in 1881; the Bird-Brady House, c. 1890; the

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Curtis Freewill Baptist Church, 1894; the Lewis W. Anthony Building, 1903; and the Permelia Eastman Cook Hall, 1940. These buildings are all representative examples of the cottage and institutional architecture used on the campus of Storer College throughout its expansion.

Resource History

Prior to the establishment of Storer College in 1867, the four brick buildings on the crest of Camp Hill commanding the best views of the surrounding mountains and rivers were occupied by the administrators of the Federal Armory located in the lower town. The buildings known on the Storer campus as the Lockwood House and the south wing of Anthony Memorial Hall were constructed in 1847-48, originally designed by Major John Symington. These were the homes of the Armory Paymaster and Superintendent, respectively. The two smaller brick homes, later known as the Brackett House and Morrell House, were the quarters of the Superintendent's Clerk and the Paymaster's Clerk, respectively. These buildings were both constructed in 1856-57. The Federal Armory was completely looted and burned early in the Civil War by both Confederate and Union troops, rendering the works permanently inoperable. General Sheridan and General Max Weber used the Paymaster's and Superintendent's homes as headquarters, in 1864. By 1865, the Lockwood House (Paymaster's House) was occupied by the mission school for emancipated slaves, operated by Rev. Nathan Brackett. Two years later, in 1867, the four buildings were deeded to the Storer College Board of Trustees.¹

The history of the development of Storer College as an educational institution and its close ties with the local community is developed in the historic context Black Education in the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar Area from 1864-1955. While the school was originally established to give an elementary level education for newly emancipated southern slaves, the vision of Rev. Nathan Brackett was to create a Normal School. Brackett's aim was to provide a school from which educated African Americans would emerge to continue the mission of education and empowerment. This vision must have impressed the prominent African American thinker and leader, Frederick Douglass. Douglass served on the Storer College Board of Trustees from 1889 to 1891.² In 1882 Frederick Douglass spoke at the May 30th dedication of the newly renovated

¹National Register Nomination Form, "Harpers Ferry National Historical Park," 1981, Item 7, pp. 33-35.

²Storer College Catalogue 1889-1891, Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry NHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

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and expanded Anthony Memorial Hall. His speech in praise of John Brown sent an important message to both blacks and whites struggling with the issues of the Reconstruction years.³

Young W.E.B. DuBois heeded the message delivered by Frederick Douglass at Storer College in 1882. DuBois' ideas of a more active role for African Americans in American mainstream political and economic life went against the more moderate voice of Booker T. Washington. The Niagara Movement, established in 1905 by DuBois and a small group of black intellectuals in Niagara Falls, Canada, began a slow but radical change in attitudes borne of the days of Reconstruction. The second annual meeting of the Niagara Movement, held on the campus of Storer College in 1906, served to solidify the movement and bring it into the United States. The movement's demands for suffrage, freedom of speech, and social and economic equality, moved a group of northern whites to call a conference in 1909, to which the radicals of the Niagara Movement were invited. Out of this conference was established the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, which continues today on behalf of the African American struggle for equality. W.E.B. DuBois served as the only black representative on the first executive committee of the NAACP.⁴

The development of the physical campus of Storer College, in addition to the four government buildings given in 1867, parallels the growth of the college as an educational institution. In 1868, as the college was granted its charter by the state of West Virginia, the first dormitory for men, Lincoln Hall, was constructed. The college had grown from 19 students in 1865 to 95 students in 1869. Within ten years, by 1878, with the continued growth of the student population, Myrtle Hall (later called Mosher Hall), a dormitory for women was constructed. In 1881, a center hall and a north wing were added to the Armory Superintendent's House. The new larger structure, called Anthony Memorial Hall, mirrored the late Greek Revival style of the original house, now the south wing of the larger Hall.⁵

In the 1880s tourism flourished in Harpers Ferry, as discussed in the historic context Patterns of Community Development in the post-Civil War Harpers Ferry Area, 1865-1955. Storer College attempted to cash in on the summer boarding boom by renting its school buildings

³Storer College Catalogues, 1869-1891, Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry NHP Library; and Storer College Museum, Harpers Ferry, WV.

⁴John Hope Franklin, From Slavery to Freedom A History of Negro Americans. Vintage Books Edition, (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York) 1969, pp. 445-447.

⁵Storer College Catalogues, 1869-1881, Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry NHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

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to boarding house proprietors. The Lockwood House, the Morrell House (known as the Sparrow's Inn and later the Shenandoah Inn), Lincoln and Myrtle Halls, and even the Anthony Memorial Hall were all used as summer boarding facilities. Originally begun as a resort for 'colored' people, it was quickly found that the summer boarders with money were white. The eventual arrangement agreed on by the Board of Trustees allowed white boarders on the campus, with a smaller cottage facility for black boarders.⁶

The cottage building now known as the Bird-Brady House was constructed c.1890 for the purpose of housing summer boarders. The house later became the home of Lura B. Lightner, Nathan Brackett's sister, who was cared for there by Brackett's daughter Celeste and her husband Rev. John C. Newcomer, who eventually inherited the property. Two Storer College teachers, the sisters Mrs. Bird and Miss Brady, purchased the house from the Newcomer family in the 1940s. The sisters lived there until the Park Service purchased the property in 1960.⁷ Various other dwelling cottages were built during the late 19th and early 20th century to accommodate not only summer tourists, but more importantly, for the housing of students and teachers during the school year. These houses were variously named; Sinclair Cottage and Saunders House were both located on Fillmore Street west of Myrtle Hall. Jackson Cottage and an unnamed house were located west of Lincoln Hall. In 1909, a new house was built on the southeast corner of Jackson and Fillmore Streets, for use as the college president's house, called Waterman House.⁸ Of these six campus dwellings, only the Bird-Brady House is extant.

By 1889, as Storer College moved into the last decade of the 19th century, a record 265 students were attending. The emphasis in education, in addition to the Normal School, became more focused on the industrial arts, carpentry, printing, blacksmithing, and gardening, as well as domestic science for women. Sometime during this period, possibly earlier, a barn complex was constructed on the west end of the campus, for the purpose of horticultural and animal husbandry instruction. In 1891 the DeWolf Science Building was constructed immediately behind the Anthony Memorial Hall, and in 1903, the Lewis W. Anthony Industrial Building was erected

⁶Harpers Ferry National Monument, Storer College Papers, Minutes of the Trustees, vol. I, p. 101, hanging file, Harpers Ferry NHP Library; also letter to the editor of The Speaker, James H. Robinson, Storer College Collection, Harpers Ferry NHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

⁷Information on the Bird-Brady House was provided Mrs. June H. Newcomer, daughter-in-law of Celeste and John Newcomer, in a telephone interview August 20, 1999.

⁸Newspaper obituary, Martinsburg, WV, November 29, 1961, Henry T. McDonald Papers, p. 1616, Harpers Ferry NHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV. See also Storer College Property Map, A. W. Fransen, 1958.

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southwest of the DeWolf building (a photograph in the 1913 college catalogue shows this arrangement quite well, see copy). Not forgetting their roots in the Freewill Baptist Church, in 1894 the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church was constructed on the west corner lot of Jackson and Fillmore Street.

In 1909 the old frame Lincoln Hall burned; it was replaced in 1910 by a stone structure called New Lincoln Hall and later renamed Brackett Hall. In May of 1909, the 50th anniversary of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, the Board of Trustees of Storer College voted to purchase the John Brown Fort, which had been rebuilt on a farm outside of Harpers Ferry. The Fort was reconstructed on the college campus immediately east of New Lincoln Hall and used as a museum.⁹ The DeWolf Science building and New Lincoln Hall are no longer extant. The John Brown Fort was moved in 1968 by the National Park Service to near its original location in the lower town Harpers Ferry.

Following the end of World War I, in 1920, the Soldiers Gate and Alumni Fence were added to the campus. The Soldiers Gate commemorated the black soldiers who fought in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War I. The fence still lines the perimeter of the main campus along Fillmore Street. On the east side of McDowell Street, the Robinson Barn was converted to a basketball court in the 1921. The building was razed by the National Park Service in the 1970s and a tennis court was installed.

In 1938, Storer College became a full four-year college, offering degrees in Elementary Education, Education, Science and Home Economics. To that end several new buildings were constructed on campus. In 1940 the Permelia Eastman Cook Hall for the Home Economics Department was built northeast of the New Lincoln Hall. In 1947 the New Science Building was constructed in the vicinity of the barn complex. Nearby the New Science Building, cut into the hill, a football field was located. This graded field was used by the National Park Service for the location of their maintenance facilities after 1960. The Science Building and barn complex no longer stand.¹⁰

The historic buildings associated with Storer College remaining on the former campus represent both the earliest buildings given by the government, as well as the years of construction

⁹Storer College Catalogues, 1889-1925, Storer College Collection, HFNHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

¹⁰Storer College Catalogues, 1920-1948, Storer College Collection, HFNHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV; and Storer College Property Map, A. W. Fransen, 1958.

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between 1880 and 1940. Those buildings remaining include the Lockwood House, the Brackett House, the Morrell House, Anthony Memorial Hall, Curtis Freewill Baptist Church, Lewis W. Anthony Building, the Bird-Brady House, and the Permelia Eastman Cook Hall. These buildings are significant not only for their association with the Federal Armory and Storer College, but for their architectural expression as well.

The Lockwood House, which has been restored by the National Park Service to its 1860s appearance, is an example of late Greek Revival style architecture. The south wing of Anthony Memorial Hall was part of the original 1840s Armory Superintendent's House, also designed in the late Greek Revival style. The 1881 center hall and north wing addition replicate the original Greek Revival styling used for the Superintendent's House, however on a much larger scale. The Brackett and Morrell Houses, both built in the 1850s are examples of a transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style. The porches, windows, and door treatments show elements of Greek Revival style, while the roof line and cornice follows the styling of Italianate architecture.

The Lewis W. Anthony Building is an excellent example of institutional masonry Folk Victorian, with large two over two windows and scroll-cut decorative details in the gable peaks. Finally the Permelia Eastman Cook Hall, built in 1940 is an example of institutional Colonial Revival architecture. The projecting front gabled center section with a stylized Palladian window, and the door treatments with pilasters and entablature are all elements of this style, while the building remains clearly an institution structure.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Franklin, John Hope, From Slavery to Freedom A History of Negro Americans. Vintage Books Edition, (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York) 1969.

Fransen, A. W., Storer College Property Map, 1958, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Harpers Ferry National Monument, Storer College Papers, Minutes of the Trustees, hanging file, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

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

National Register Nomination Form, "Harpers Ferry National Historical Park," 1981.

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

Telephone interview with Mrs. June H. Newcomer, daughter-in-law of Celeste and John Newcomer, August 20, 1999.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<div>Zone</div>	<div>Easting</div>	<div>Northing</div>	3	<div>Zone</div>	<div>Easting</div>	<div>Northing</div>
2	<div>Zone</div>	<div>Easting</div>	<div>Northing</div>	4	<div>Zone</div>	<div>Easting</div>	<div>Northing</div>

☐ 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 B. Wallace, Research Associate; Paula S. Reed, Ph.D.
Organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. date 9/99, Rev. 8/00, 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 National Historical Park
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.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Storer College Historic District, a discontinuous district, are described on the enclosed 1958 map of Storer College property in Harpers Ferry, WV. The district consists of two discontinuous pieces, which represent the historical configuration of the campus. The larger part of the district is the main campus, beginning at the northeast corner of lot #1, block WW, and extending west to the northwest corner of lot #4, block WW, then turning south along the west boundary of lot #4 to the northeast corner of lot #10, block WW, then turning west and extending to the northwest corner of lot #8, block TT, then turning south along the west line of lot #8, then west along the south line of lot #7 to the east line of Boundary Street's right of way; then extending south with the right of way line to a diagonal property line (NPS Boundary) extending through lot #5, block I, and following the diagonal line in a northeasterly direction to the southeast corner of lot #4, block I; then continuing in a diagonal line to the east right of way line of McDowell Street; then turning north and extending to the southwest corner of lot #5, block GG; then turning east to the southeast corner of lot #6, block GG, north and following the east boundary line of lot #6, then the north boundaries of lots #6 and #5 to the southeast corner of lot #1, block HH; then turning north along the east boundary of lot #1 to its northeast corner; then turning west along the north boundary (also Fillmore Street), and extending west to a point opposite the west side of Jackson Street; then turning north along Jackson Street to Washington Street to outline the Freewill Baptist Church lot, and returning to and across Fillmore Street to the place of beginning.

The second piece is located approximately two blocks to the east and is bounded by Fillmore Street on the north, Columbia Street on the west, South Cliff Street right of way on the south and Harper Cemetery property on the east. Excluded from this rectangle is a parcel at the southwest corner of Lancaster Street and Fillmore Street, which is privately owned.

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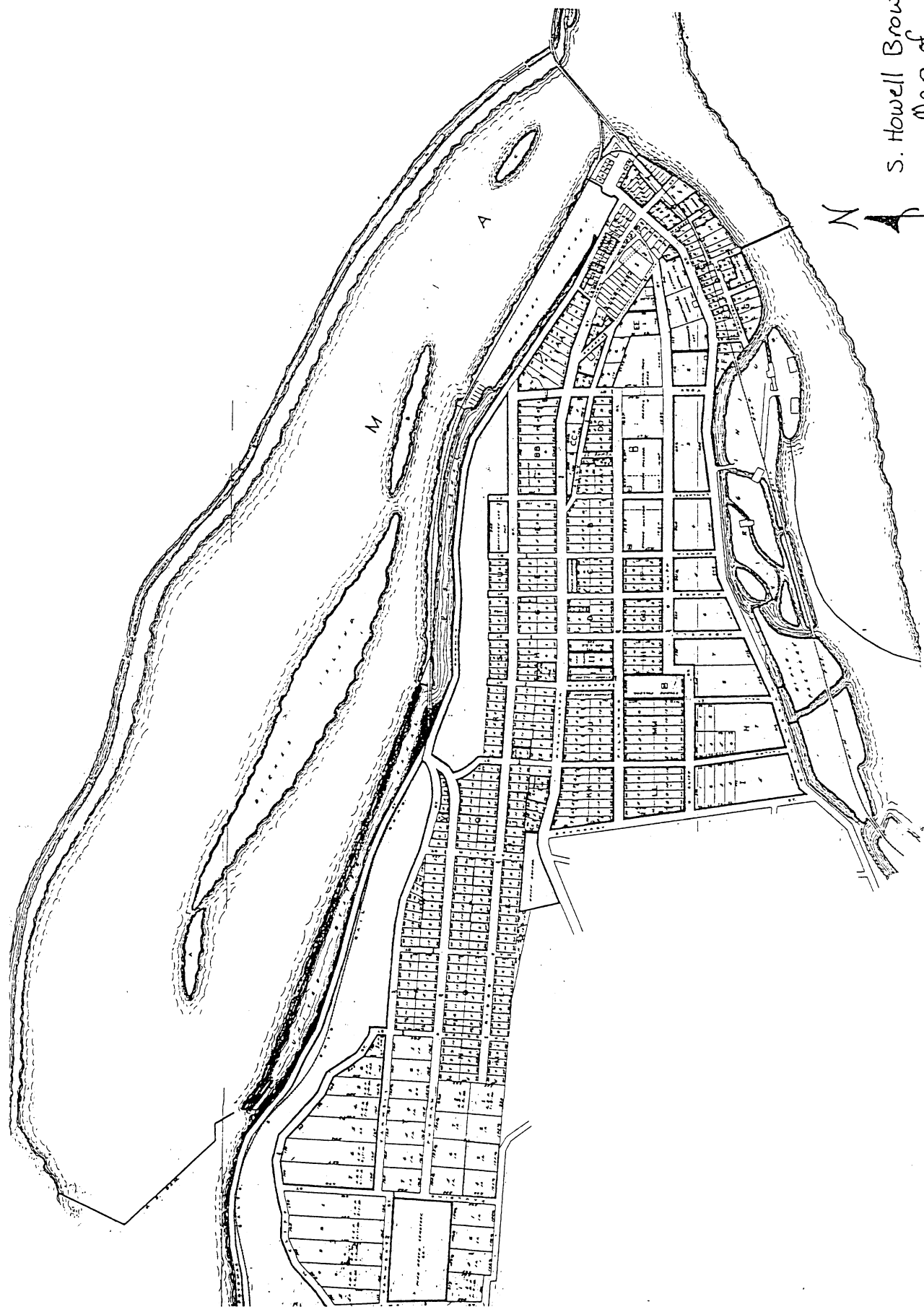
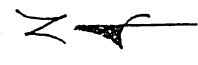
County and State

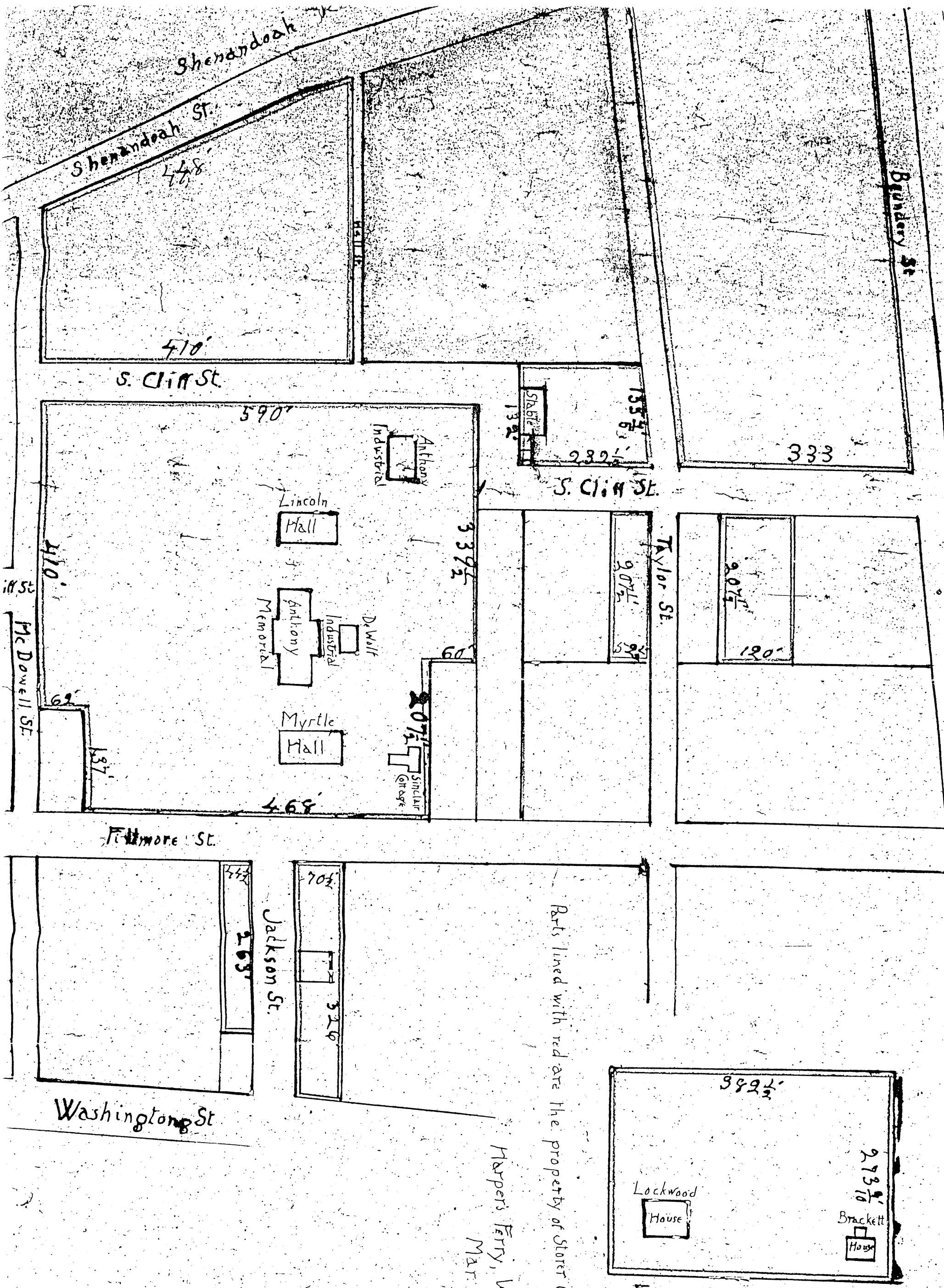
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Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Storer College Historic District are based on the historic boundaries of Storer College described on a series of maps. The original boundaries of the college are shown on the 1869 S. Howell Brown map. It is with this map that the historic nature of the discontinuous Storer College district is established. The whole of the two eastern-most blocks labeled "Storer College" on the 1869 Brown map were historically owned by the college beginning in 1869, however, for the purpose of this district, a privately owned dwelling on the corner of Fillmore Street and Lancaster Street has been excluded. While a series of purchases through the years enlarged the Storer College campus, block HH and block GG (except lots 6 and 7), were never owned by the college, are now in private ownership, and are therefore excluded from the Storer College Historic District boundary. Lots 6 and 7 of block GG were owned by the college and are now owned by the Harpers Ferry NHP and are therefore included in the district. A 1908 map of the property of Storer College indicates the lots and blocks purchased by the college to the south and west of the main campus establishes the general boundary of the main campus. The Storer College Historic District boundary for the main campus also includes several intervening lots, not indicated as owned by the college on the 1908 map, but shown on a 1958 National Park Service map as having college buildings on them. These lots are now owned by the Harpers Ferry NHP and are therefore included in the current boundary. The church lot, on the east end of block JJ was part of the 1869 campus property and is included in the district boundary. The lot located on the west of block II, opposite the church, was also originally part of the 1869 campus and at one time was the location of the President's House. The building is gone however, and the lot is now privately owned and is therefore excluded from the district boundary.

S. Howell Brown
Map of
Harpers Ferry
1869





Parts lined with red are the property of Storer College

Harper's Ferry, W. Va.
Mar. 12, 1908

NOTE

in addition to the foregoing, and
the following are the names of the
persons who have been named as
being in the possession of the
same.

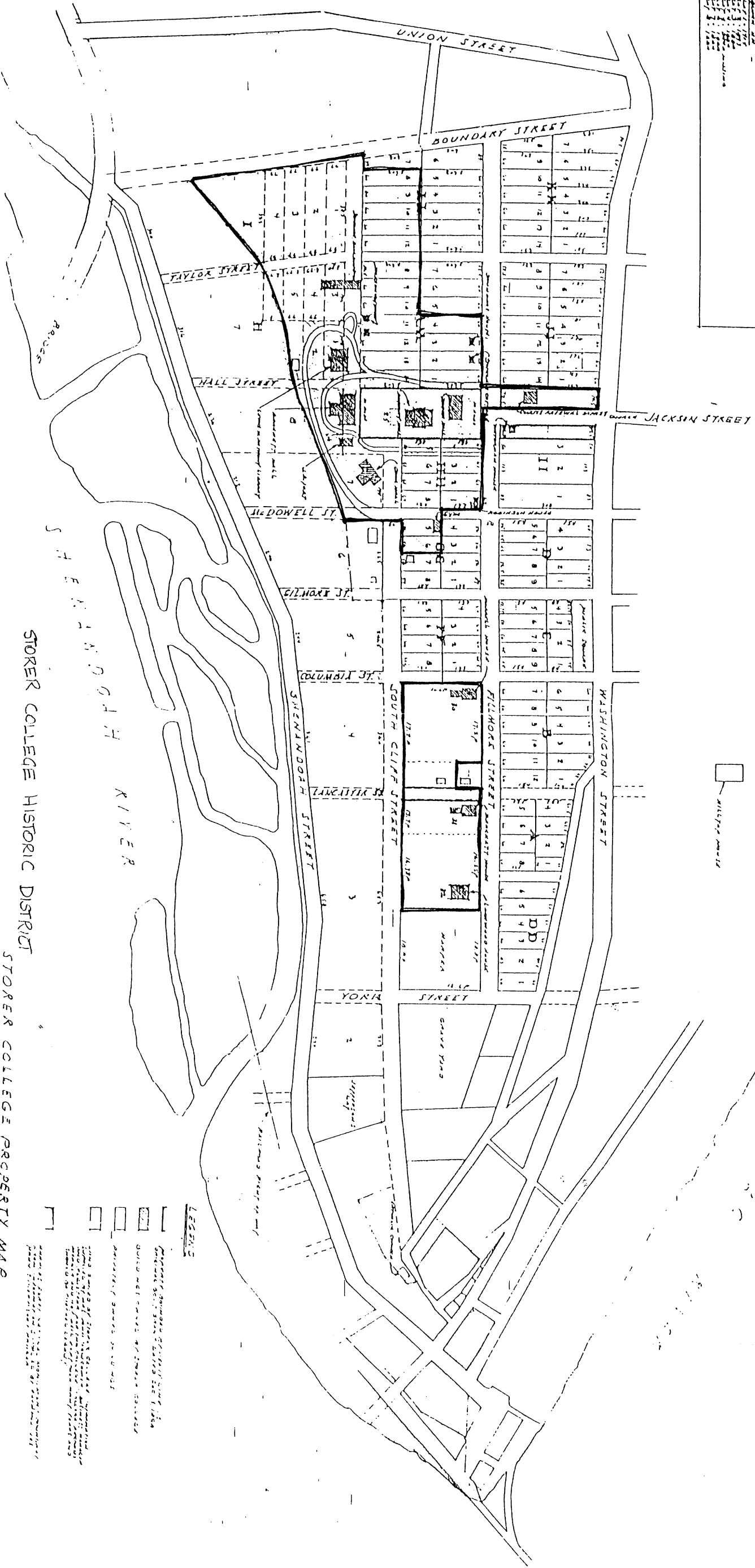
Name	Address
John A. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John B. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John C. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John D. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John E. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John F. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John G. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John H. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John I. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John J. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John K. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John L. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John M. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John N. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John O. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John P. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John Q. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John R. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John S. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John T. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John U. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John V. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John W. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John X. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John Y. Smith	100 N. 1st St.
John Z. Smith	100 N. 1st St.

BUILDING DATES

1901	Foundations
1902	Interior walls
1903	Roofing
1904	Exterior walls
1905	Plumbing
1906	Electricity
1907	Painting
1908	Landscaping
1909	Final inspection

Completed 1909

Rebuilt 1919



STORER COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

STORER COLLEGE PROPERTY MAP

HARBERS FERRY NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PARK
JEFFERSON COUNTY, WV

[illegible]

STOREY COLLEGE
HISTORIC DISTRICT

HARPERS FERRY
NATIONAL HISTORICAL
PARK

HARPERS FERRY
QUAD

