

House (Building 20)
Shenandoah Street
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Harpers Ferry
Jefferson County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-164

HABS
WV-164
HARPERS FERRY
26-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOUSE (BUILDING 20)

HABS No. WV-164

- Location: Block A., Lots 5 and 6, south of Shenandoah Street, south end of Arsenal Square facing the B & O Railroad, Harpers Ferry, Jefferson County, West Virginia
- Present Use: Demolished 1958
- Significance: Example of a building which was demolished because it did not fit into the National Park Service's plans for interpreting Harpers Ferry National Historical Park for the time frame of 1859-1865.

The exact date of construction of this building is not known. It was definitely built after 1879 and it appears in a circa 1887-1892 photograph. The lot was sold to John L. Walsh by the United States in 1869 for \$2,025.00. The price was abated to \$300.00 since Walsh stated that he had spent \$282.21 making improvements on Lot 6. This amount represented one-half the cost of erecting the brick side wall of a house on Lot 7, Block A, so that he could use this as a side wall for the brick house that he planned to build on Lot 6. Walsh also claimed that he had used Lot 6 as a garden from 1876 to 1878. Walsh' widow, Julia, received the deed for the lot from the federal government in November 1879. Ownership of the land from 1879 until National Park Service acquisition in the early 1950s is not known. Documentation indicates that the building was used as a residence in 1894.

Sources for this information were correspondence dated April 23, 1987 from Dennis E. Frye, Historian, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, and a photocopy of a typescript by Charles W. Snell entitled A Comprehensive Physical History of Old Arsenal Square, U.S. Armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, 1751 to 1880, dated May 1981.

This project was financed from funds of the "Mission 66" program of the National Park Service. The measurements were done July 1958 under the supervision of resident architect A. W. Franzen, National Park Service, and Professor F. Blair Reeves, University of Florida.

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 Historic American Buildings Survey
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