

9404 Congress Street

Currently the offices of James P. Weissenborn, Attorney at Law, the building stands on the southern half of Lot 30 in the original plat of the town of New Market, laid out by Colonel Jacob Rinker, for the founder of New Market, Peter Palsil.



Abraham Savage had purchased the town lots from Peter Palsil in 1786 and he sold the ½ acre Lot 30 to Jacob Cunkle in 1792. Cunkle sold this lot in 1794 to David Kyle who, in 1804, sold the lot to Benjamin Salvage for \$2166.67.

Benjamin Salvage sold the southern half of lot 30 to Christian Adams in 1818 for \$700. This parcel was then sold in 1822 to Gideon Salvage for \$800. Five years later, after renting for a while, John Coffman purchased the southern half of the lot from Salvage for \$600.

Christian Adams was a potter and had married Nancy Coffman, the sister of John Coffman. John had learned his trade from Christian Adams. Evidence has shown that Adams had built a pottery at the rear of the property (the east side) and it was in operation until John Coffman died in 1889. It is likely that Adams had lived in a building on the site and indications are that it is part of what is now the southern section of the current building.

John Coffman produced both earthenware and, after 1845, stoneware and it is thought that he continued to produce pottery for most of his adult life.

John's son, Michael, does not appear to have followed his father's trade as in the 1880 census he is listed as a horse dealer and in the 1900 census, a merchant.

The Coffman family owned and occupied the premises for 107 years. Michael, who died in 1931, was survived by his sister, the last member of the John Coffman family and she, Mary E. Coffman, died in 1934 aged 83 years. Neither Michael nor Mary was married.

The 1875 Lake Atlas indicates an "L" shaped building on the southern section of the lot, not close to the building on

GREENBACKS SAVED AT LAST.

NEW

CHEAP CASH STORE!

M. D. Coffman,

NEW MARKET, VA.

Let everybody know that M. D. Coffman has fitted up a New Store Room, opposite the "Valley" office, and has just returned from the Cities with a new stock of

Dry Goods,

Such as Ladies' and Gent's wear, Domestic of all kinds,

Notions.

Confectionery,

Hats, Boots and Shoes,

Tobacco and Cigars;

which he is determined to sell cheaper than than they can be bought anywhere in the Valley. Remember, my stock is new, and I have no old Goods to run off at high prices, and, having bought for cash, can afford to sell Cheaper for cash and Produce, than they can be bought anywhere else.

I like to show my goods! Come and see them, and if they don't suit you, don't buy. — My terms are Cheap for cash or Country Produce.

Oct. 12, 1871. **M. D. COFFMAN.**

the northern section, owned by C.C. Henkel. In 1880, the northern half was valued at \$2000 whereas the Coffman building was valued at only \$350. However, by the 1930 census it had increased in value to \$1600 indicating major changes had occurred to the building.

In her will, Mary E. Coffman devised the southern half of Lot 30 to Carroll M. Hillyard, who in turn devised it to his wife Grace and James P. Hillyard. In 1984, James D. and his wife Connie, sold the property to the present owners James P. Weissenborn and his wife Barbara.

References:

“The Pottery of the Shenandoah Valley Region” by Dr. H. E. Comstock.
Shenandoah County Deed Records.