Berry & Lincoln's Store in 1895.
(From a recent photograph by C.S. McCullough, Petersburg, Ill.)

The little frame store building occupied by Berry & Lincoln at New Salem is now standing at Petersburg, Ill., in the rear of L.W. Bishop's gun-shop. Its history after 1834 is somewhat involved in obscurity, but there is no reason for doubting its identity. According to tradition it was bought by Robert Bishop, the father of the present owner, about 1835 from Mr. Lincoln himself; but it is difficult to reconcile this story with the sale of the store to the Trent brothers, unless upon the flight of the latter from the country and the closing of the store, the building, through the leniency of creditors, was permitted to revert to Lincoln, in which event he no doubt sold it and applied the proceeds to the payment of debts of the firm. The structure was removed to Petersburg, set up at the back end of Mr. Bishop's gun-shop, and has ever since stood on the spot which it now occupies. Soon after the assassination of Mr. Lincoln the front door was presented to some one in Springfield and has long since been lost in this door sight of. It is remembered by Mr. Bishop that there was an opening for the reception of letters—a circumstance of great importance as tending to establish the genuineness of the building, when it is remembered that Lincoln was postmaster while he kept the store. The structure as it stands today, is about eighteen feet long, twelve
feet in width, and ten feet in height. The back room, however, has disappeared, so that the building as it stood when occupied by Berry & Lincoln was somewhat longer. Of the original building, there only black remain the frame-work, the Walnut weather-boarding on the front end, and the ceiling of sycamore boards. The entire west side has been torn away by relic hunters. For several years this it has been used as a sort of store room. Just after a big fire in Petersburg sometime ago, the city council condemned the Lincoln store building and ordered it demolished. Under this order part of one side was partly torn down, when Mr. Bishop persuaded the city authorities to desist, upon giving a guarantee that if Lincoln's store ever caught fire he would be responsible for any loss which might ensue.