

(To accompany picture of store)

included copy in

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 ^{Mr} Lincoln, in which event he no doubt sold it and applied the proceeds to the payment of ^{the} 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 sight of. It is remembered by Mr. Bishop that ^{in this door} 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

