

Start Here

Scan One Time Only

And

Copy for Multiple Numbers

F-4-17-A

F-4-17-B

F-4-17-C

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

F-4-17-A,B,C

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic SOUTH MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELDS F-4-17-A F-4-17-B F-4-17-C  
(CRAMPTON'S, FOX'S, & TURNER'S GAPS)

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number SEE CONTINUATION SHEET not for publication

city, town vicinity of

state code county Frederick (mostly) Washington code

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town state

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NONE has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

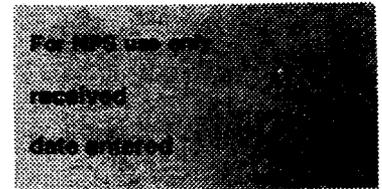
date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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Item number 2

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ITEM NO. 2 (LOCATION)

CRAMPTON'S GAP  
(F-4-17-A)

Gapland Road & Mountain Church Road  
Vicinity of Burkittsville and Gapland  
Frederick & Washington Counties, Maryland

FOX'S GAP  
(F-4-17-B)

Reno Monument Road  
Vicinity of Boonsboro  
Frederick & Washington Counties, Maryland

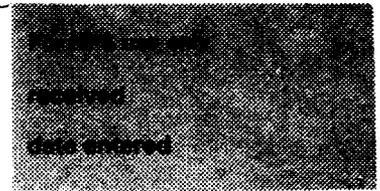
TURNER'S GAP  
(F-4-17-C)

Alternate U.S. 40, Dahlgren Road, & Frostown Road  
Vicinity of Boonsboro & Frostown  
Frederick & Washington Counties, Maryland

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ITEM 10 (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA)

CRAMPTON'S GAP

Acreage of nominated property 598.23 acres  
513.23 (section 1)  
85.00 (section 2)

Quadrangle name Keedysville Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

(Section 1)	A: 18/273777/4365499	B: 18/273884/4363762
	C: 18/273549/4363594	D: 18/273427/4363777
	E: 18/273366/4363671	F: 18/273411/4363549
	G: 18/273229/4363183	H: 18/272710/4363533
	I: 18/272619/4363305	J: 18/272512/4363381
	K: 18/272726/4364189	L: 18/273122/4365499

(Section 2)	A: 18/272878/4365103	B: 18/272802/4364372
	C: 18/272543/4364402	D: 18/272604/4365057

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed NHL boundary encompasses all areas of major combat action during the Battle of Crampton's Gap on the afternoon of September 14, 1862. Included within the boundary are the corn and wheat fields and open pastures over which the Union VI Corps attacked in an attempt to dislodge Confederates defending the eastern base of Crampton's Gap. The stonewall flanking the east side of Mountain Church Road served as the primary defensive position for the Southerners, and both this road and the historic wall remnants are included within the boundary. The Union attackers eventually compelled the Mountain Church Road defenders to retreat up the mountain into the gap itself. The Federals pursued and captured over 400 Rebels at the top of the gap, subsequently ending the battle. The area comprising the capture also is included within the boundary (Section 2).

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ITEM 10 (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA)

Crampton's Gap (Cont.)

Verbal Boundary Description (Cont.)

The expansive boundary of the Crampton's Gap Battlefield is defined by the bold, dark line superimposed on Frederick County, Maryland, Tax Map 73 and Tax Map 74.

Properties overlapping state or county boundaries

All of the NHL boundary for the Crampton's Gap Battlefield is within Frederick County, Maryland.

\*\*\*\*\*

FOX'S GAP

Acreage of Nominated Property 302.99

Quadrangle name Middletown Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A: 18/274784/4372623	B: 18/275333/4372196
C: 18/274312/4371863	D: 18/274662/4370813
E: 18/274287/4371588	F: 18/274875/4372000

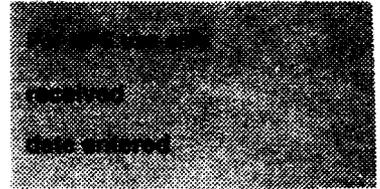
Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed NHL boundary encompasses all areas of major combat action on the crest of South Mountain during the Battle of Fox's Gap throughout September 14, 1862. Included within the boundary are the corn and wheat fields over which the Union IX Corps attacked in an attempt to dislodge Confederates defending the crest of the Fox's Gap area. The main Confederate defensive position, a mountain road paralleling the crest, follows its original alignment today and therefore is an important cultural feature within the boundary. Remnants of the stonewall which flanked the north edge of this road also fall within the boundary. This wall provided extra protection to the Confederate defenders posted atop the crest. An unimproved farm lane used by General

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ITEM 10 (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA)

FOX'S GAP (Cont.)

Verbal Boundary Description (Cont.)

Cox's division of the IX Corps to flank the Confederate right remains unaltered today, and it therefore is encompassed by the NHL boundary. Also included is the monument built by survivors of the IX Corps in memory of Gen. Jesse Reno, the commander of the IX Corps mortally wounded at Fox's Gap during the final Union charge on the evening of the 14th.

The expansive boundary of the Fox's Gap Battlefield is defined by the bold, dark line superimposed on Frederick County, Maryland, Tax Map 54.

Properties overlapping state or county boundaries

Maryland                      Frederick County  
Maryland                      Washington County

\*\*\*\*\*

TURNER'S GAP

Acreeage of nominated property              1083.97

Quadrangle name              Middletown                      Quadrangle scale              1:24000

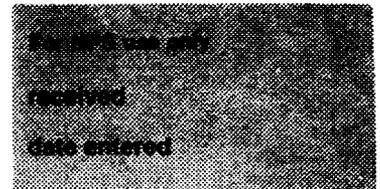
UTM References

A: 18/274784/4372623	B: 18/275333/4372196
C: 18/275638/4372212	D: 18/275775/4371831
E: 18/276171/4371861	F: 18/276659/4371831
G: 18/276385/4373141	H: 18/276918/4374329
I: 18/275135/4374771	J: 18/274967/4373659
K: 18/274769/4373720	L: 18/274723/4373506

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ITEM 10 (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA)

TURNER'S GAP (Cont.)

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed NHL boundary encompasses areas of major combat action during the Battle of Turner's Gap on the afternoon and evening of September 14, 1862. Included within the boundary are the corn and wheat fields and open pastures over which the Union I Corps attacked in its attempt to dislodge Confederates defending the eastern slope and crest of the Turner's Gap area. The I Corps used several roads to gain access to the mountain's steep slopes, including the National Turnpike, Dahlgren Road, and Frostown Road. Each of these roads follows its original alignment today, and each is included within the boundary. The Confederates also used Dahlgren Road as a line of defense and as a lateral artery for reinforcements. A stonewall located on the eastern slope of the mountain just south of Turner's Gap provided an excellent defensive position for Gen. Colquitt's Georgia Brigade, and from behind this wall, the Georgians successfully repulsed the approach of Gen. Gibbons' "Iron Brigade." This wall is remarkably preserved today, and is an important cultural resource within this boundary.

Within this boundary is an area that is excluded from NHL designation. This area has been excluded for two reasons: 1) no major fighting occurred here; and 2) residential development has compromised the original integrity of this area.

The expansive boundary of the Turner's Gap Battlefield is defined by the bold, dark line superimposed on Frederick County, Maryland, Tax Map 45 and Tax Map 54.

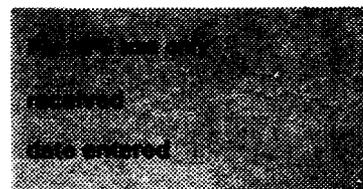
Properties overlapping state or county boundaries

Maryland Frederick County  
Maryland Washington County

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ITEM 10 (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA)

CRAMPTON'S GAP

Maryland Tax Maps showing proposed NHL Boundary and Current Property Owners

MAP KEY

-  Proposed NHL Boundary
-  Open farm fields over which the Union VI Corps advanced
- A** Original Confederate defensive line behind stonewall
- B** Location of final Union advance and capture of 400 Confederate defenders

Scale: 1":1000'

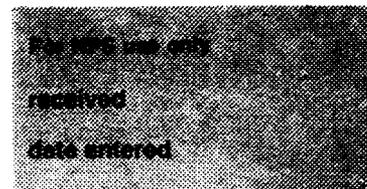
Source: Frederick County Md. Tax Map 73  
Frederick County Md. Tax Map 74



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ITEM 10 (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA)

FOX'S GAP

Maryland Tax Map showing proposed NHL Boundary and Current Property Owners

MAP KEY

-  Proposed NHL Boundary
-   
 Open farm fields over which the Union IX Corps advanced
- A** Original Confederate defensive line along mountain road
- B** Position of Confederates at end of battle and Confederate line of retreat
-  Remnants of original stonewall defended by Confederates

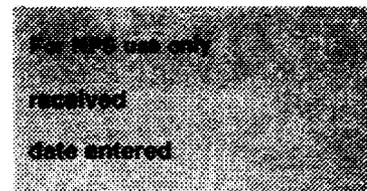
Scale: 1":1000'

Source: Frederick County, Md. Tax Map 54



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ITEM 10 (GEOGRAPHICAL DATA)

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TURNER'S GAP

Maryland Tax Maps showing proposed NHL Boundary and Current Property Owners

MAP KEY



Proposed NHL Boundary



Farm fields and timber land over which the Union I Corps advanced

**A**

Original Confederate defensive positions

**B**

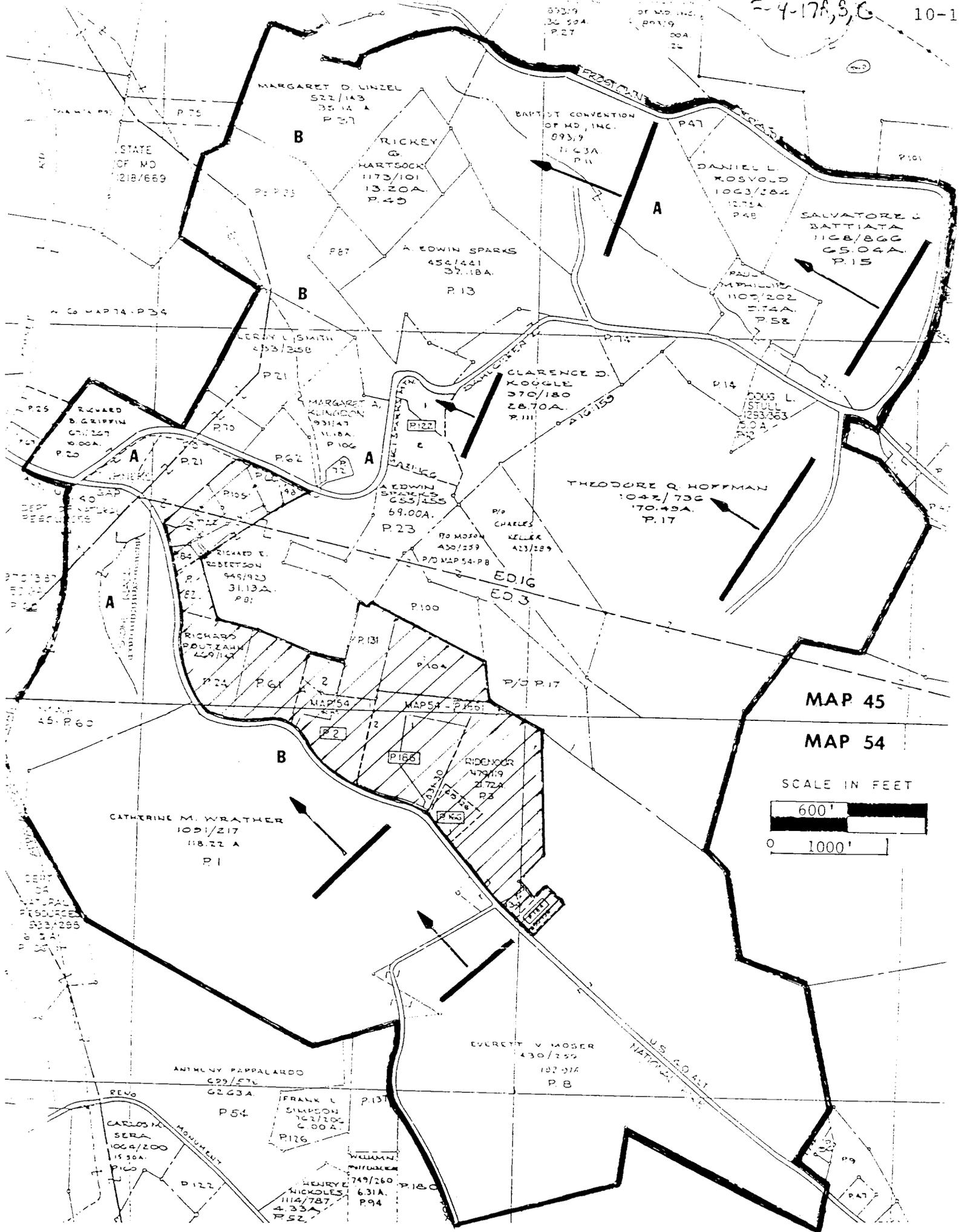
Confederate positions at north end of battlefield at dusk

Scale: 1":1000'

Source: Frederick County Md. Tax Map 54  
Frederick County Md. Tax Map 45



Area excluded from NHL designation



MARGARET D. LINZEL  
522/143  
35.14 A  
P.27

RICKEY  
&  
HARTSOCK  
1173/101  
13.20A  
P.49

BAPTIST CONVENTION  
OF MD, INC.  
093.7  
11.63A  
P.11

DANIEL L.  
KOSVOLD  
1063/284  
12.75A  
P.48

SALVATORE L.  
BATTIATA  
1168/866  
65.04A  
P.15

A EDWIN SPARKS  
454/441  
37.18A  
P.13

M. J. MILLER  
1105/202  
5.74A  
P.58

LEROY L. SMITH  
493/358  
P.21

CLARENCE D.  
KOGGLE  
370/180  
28.70A  
P.111

DOUG L.  
STULL  
1293/363  
5.0A  
P.20

MARGARET A.  
KLINGDON  
931/147  
11.18A  
P.106

A EDWIN SPARKS  
655/455  
69.00A  
P.23

THEODORE Q. HOFFMAN  
1042/736  
170.49A  
P.17

REGARD  
B. GRIFFIN  
671/267  
6.00A  
P.20

RICHARD E.  
ROBERTSON  
949/923  
31.13A  
P.81

EDW. MASON  
450/259  
P/O MAP 54-PB

EDIG  
ED 3

RICHARD  
DOUTZAHN  
429/114  
P.24

MAP 54  
P.2

MAP 54 - P.1501  
P.12

RICHARD  
479/119  
2.72A  
P.3

CATHERINE M. WRATHER  
1091/217  
118.22 A  
P.1

EVERETT V. MOSER  
430/259  
192.01A  
P.8

ANTHONY PAPPALARDO  
629/576  
62.63A  
P.54

FRANK L.  
SIMPSON  
162/106  
6.00A  
P.126

CARLOS M.  
SERA  
1066/200  
15.50A  
P.100

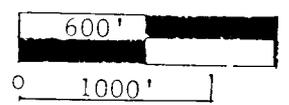
WILLIAM  
MILFORDER  
749/260  
6.31A  
P.94

HENRYE  
NICKOLES  
114/787  
4.33A  
P.52

MAP 45

MAP 54

SCALE IN FEET

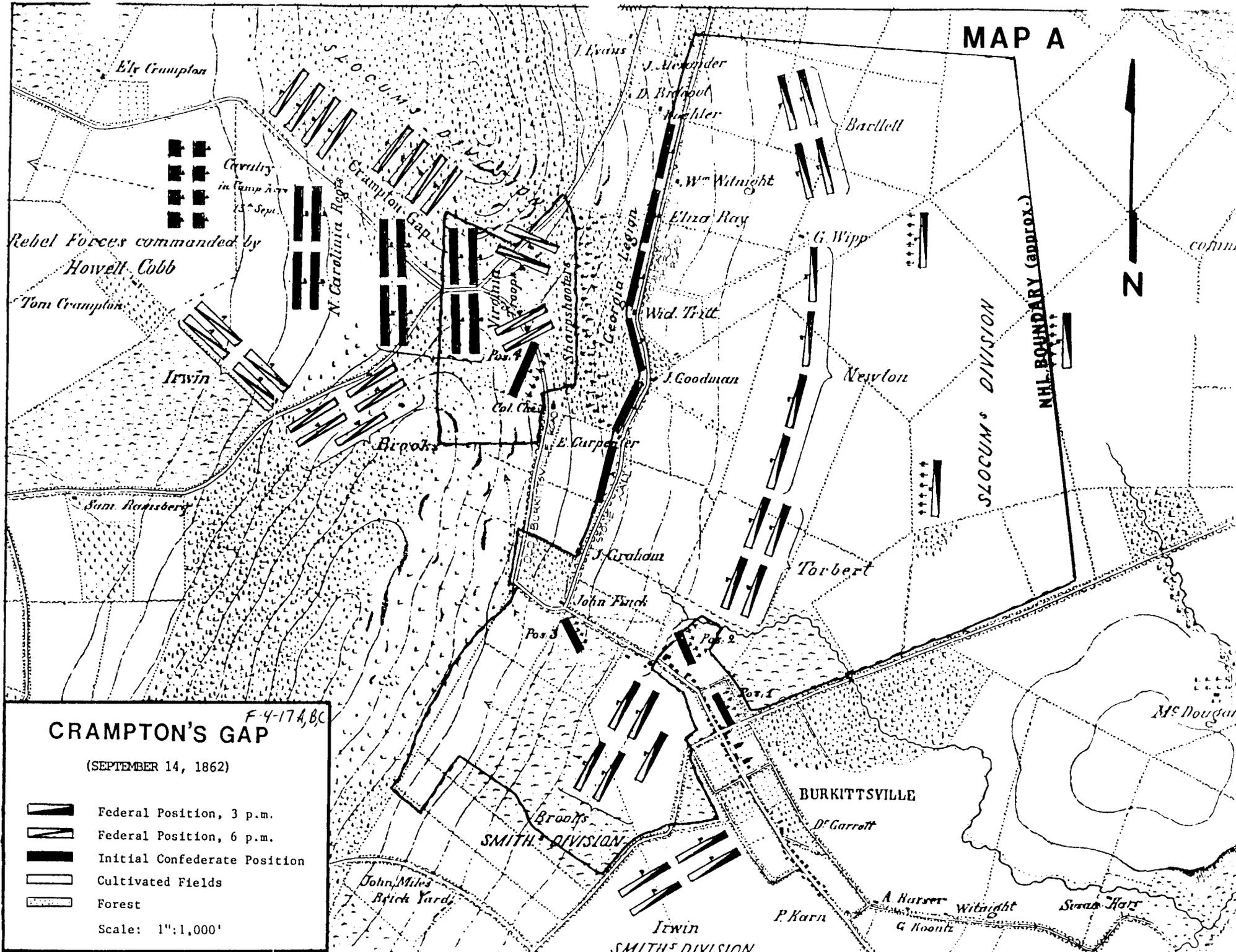


F-4-17A  
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# APPENDIX 1

## **1862 ENGINEERS' MAPS OF THE BATTLEFIELDS**

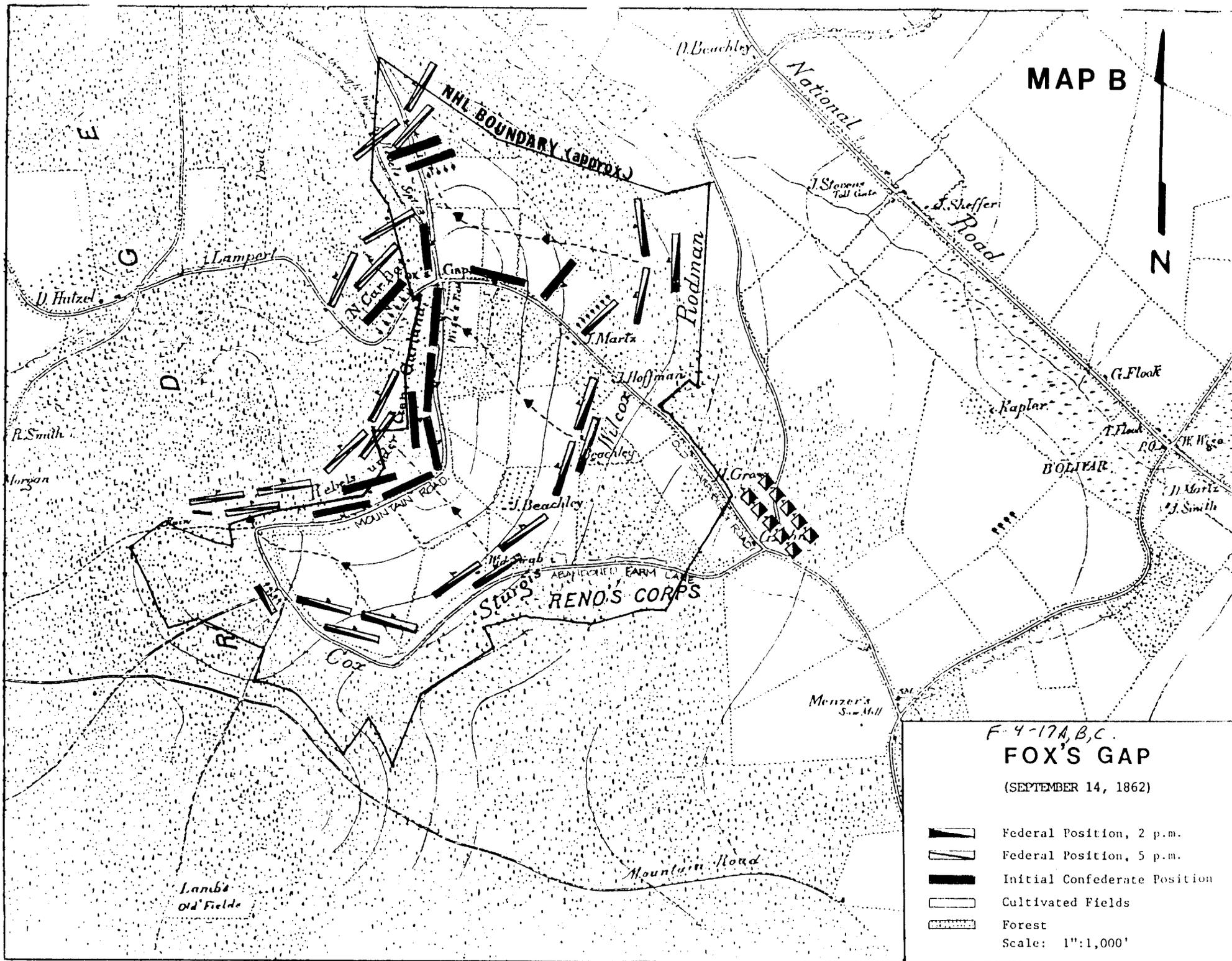
MAP A



**CRAMPTON'S GAP**

(SEPTEMBER 14, 1862)

-  Federal Position, 3 p.m.
  -  Federal Position, 6 p.m.
  -  Initial Confederate Position
  -  Cultivated Fields
  -  Forest
- Scale: 1" : 1,000'



# TURNER'S GAP

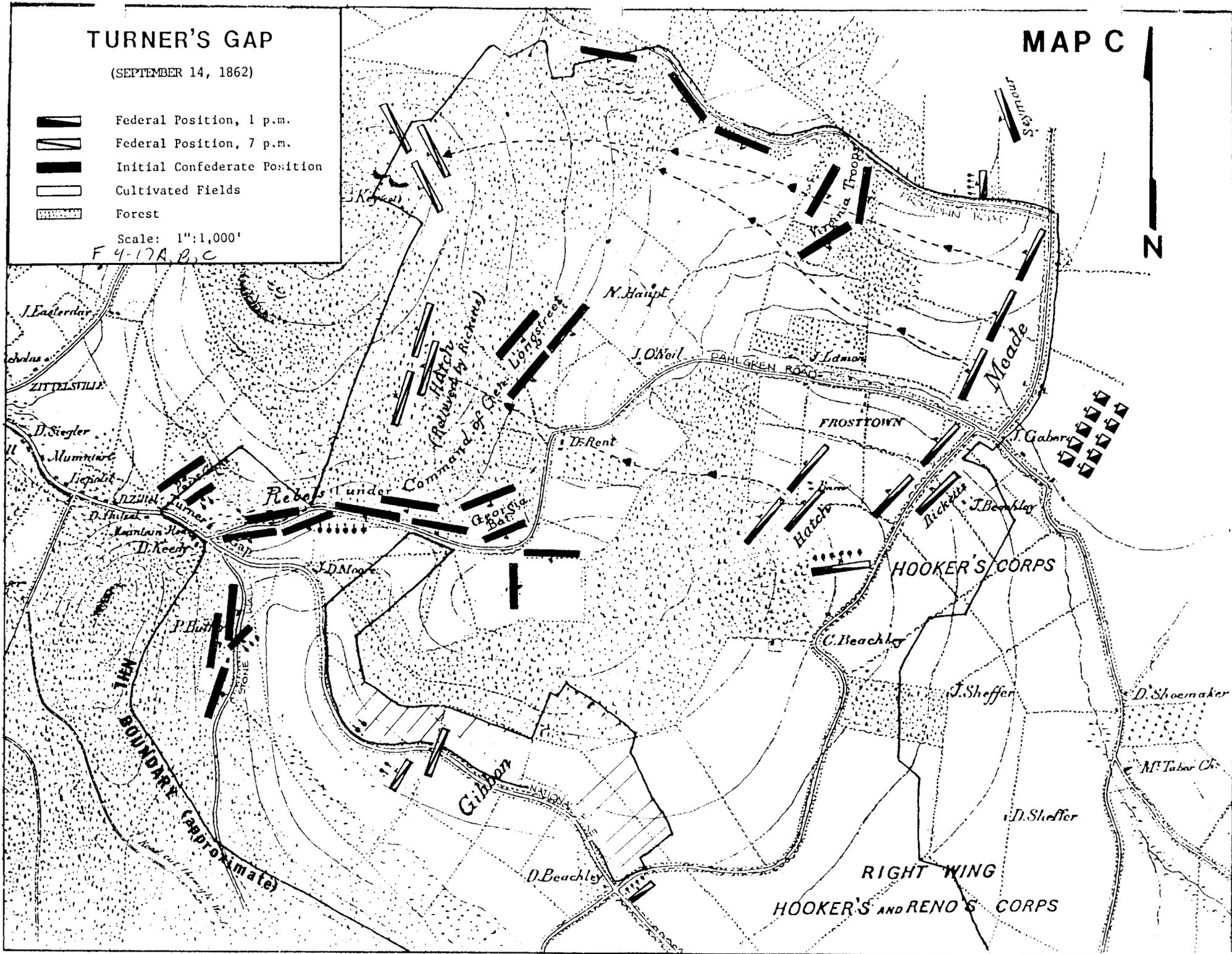
(SEPTEMBER 14, 1862)

-  Federal Position, 1 p.m.
-  Federal Position, 7 p.m.
-  Initial Confederate Position
-  Cultivated Fields
-  Forest

Scale: 1"=1,000'

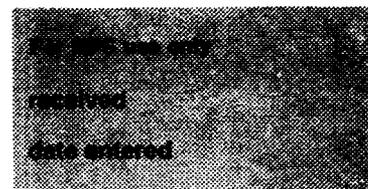
F 4-17A, B, C

# MAP C



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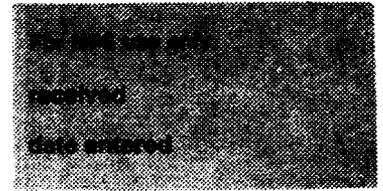
ITEM NO. 4 (PROPERTY OWNERS)

CRAMPTON'S GAP

1. David A. & Norma K. Miller  
7413 Round Hill Road  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(151.5 acres)
2. Charles J. & Mary M. Brandenburg  
6319 Mountain Church Road  
Burkittsville, MD 21718  
(140.3 acres)
3. Clark O. Routzahn  
6203 Mountain Church Road  
Burkittsville, MD 21718  
(19 acres)
4. Milton J. & Anne Milne  
5120 Wissioming Road  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
(102 acres)
5. Paul & Laurel Gilligan  
108 Gapland Road  
Burkittsville, MD 21718  
(25.03 acres)
6. Wayne Z. Guyton  
103 E. Main Street  
Burkittsville, MD 21718  
(43.2 acres)
7. Gene A. & Mary S. Drake  
5830 Burkittsville Road  
Burkittsville, MD 21718  
(32.2 acres)
8. Gathland State Park  
Department of Forests & Parks  
State of Maryland  
Tawes State Office Bldg.  
580 Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(85 acres)

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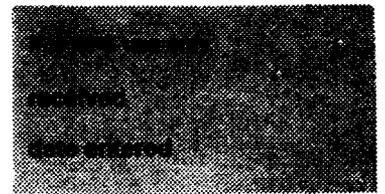
ITEM NO. 4 (PROPERTY OWNERS)

FOX'S GAP

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Anthony & Nellie Pappalardo<br>8911 Persimmon Tree Road<br>Potomac, MD 20854<br>(58.2 acres) | 7. Mamie E. Hutzell<br>220 South Main Street<br>Boonsboro, MD 21713<br>(11.25 acres)                                       |
| 2. Harry W. Sturgeon<br>343 Arundel Road<br>Baltimore, MD 21769<br>(97.5 acres)                 | 8. Frank L. Simpson<br>Rt. 2, Box B1-C2<br>Myersville, MD 21733<br>(6.00 acres)  |
| 3. Carlos & Bertha Sera<br>8644 Monument Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(15.50 acres)          | 9. Grayson D. Koogle<br>2402 Station Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(26.00 acres)   |
| 4. Albert & Anna Beachley<br>1611 N. McKinley Road<br>Arlington, VA 22205<br>(19.5 acres)       | 10. Department of Natural Resources<br>Tawes State Office Bldg.<br>580 Taylor Ave.<br>Annapolis, MD 21401<br>(16.10 acres) |
| 5. Doris C. Koogle<br>2514 Old National Pike<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(14.44 acres)           | 11. Patrick G. Nickoles<br>8612 Reno Monument Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(6.50 acres)                                 |
| 6. William & Lloyd Study<br>11603 Wilhide Road<br>Thurmont, MD 21788<br>(27.0 acres)            | 12. William & Lorena Lerch<br>8630 Reno Monument Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(5.00 acres)                              |

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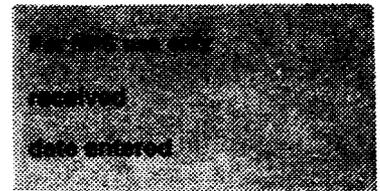
ITEM NO. 4 (PROPERTY OWNERS)

TURNER'S GAP

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Catherine Morgan Wrather<br>8730 Fox Gap Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(118.22 acres)      | 9. Clifford E. & June Haupt<br>9412 Frostown Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(2.75 acres)             |
| 2. Everett V. Moser<br>2222 Old National Pike<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(182.97 acres)         | 10. Baptist Convention of Md., Inc.<br>c/o John E. Saunders<br>Lutherville, MD 21093<br>(195.9 acres) |
| 3. Theodore & Joan Hoffman<br>2100 Dahlgren Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(170.49 acres)      | 11. Margaret D. Linzel<br>c/o Margaret L. Walker<br>Deland, Florida 32724<br>(35.14 acres)            |
| 4. Douglas L. & Dawn D. Stull<br>2023 Dahlgren Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(5.26 acres)     | 12. Ricky G. & Ester Hartsock<br>511 E. Main St.<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(13.20 acres)             |
| 5. Paul M. Phillips<br>6207 East Halbert Road<br>Bethesda, MD 20817<br>(9.74 acres)             | 13. A. Edwin & Christine Sparks<br>1900-A Dahlgren Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(74.37 acres)      |
| 6. Frank & Gustave W. Benson<br>4415A-1-S 36th St.<br>Arlington, VA 22206<br>(5.7 acres)        | 14. Leroy L. Smith<br>1604 Old National Pike<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(19.74 acres)                 |
| 7. Salvatore & Fulvia Battiata<br>9608 Weathered Oak Ct.<br>Bethesda, MD 20034<br>(65.04 acres) | 15. Margaret A. Kingdon<br>14103 Chelmsford Road<br>Rockville, MD 20853<br>(11.18 acres)              |
| 8. Daniel L. & Barb S. Rosvold<br>9736 Frostown Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(12.75 acres)   | 16. Karen Klisch<br>1704 Dahlgren Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(4.18 acres)                        |

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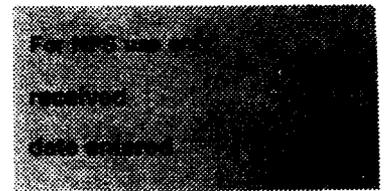
ITEM NO. 4 (PROPERTY OWNERS)

TURNER'S GAP (Cont.)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 17. George H. & Bonnie L. Smith<br>1614 Dahlgren Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(3.26 acres)   | 23. Clarence D. Koogle<br>8624 Shank Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(28.70 acres)   |
| 18. Richard B. Griffin<br>P.O. Box 842<br>Frederick, MD 21701<br>(10.00 acres)                  | 24. Charles M. Keller<br>Rt. 1, Box 184<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(13.7 acres)  |
| 19. Richard E. & Betty Robertson<br>1709 Dahlgren Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(31.13 acres) | 25. George A. & Martha J. O'Neal<br>P.O. Box 216<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(6.1 acres)  |
| 20. James T. & Helen E. Benedict<br>1741 Dahlgren Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(2.54 acres)  | 26. Martha G. Bowie<br>c/o Martha G. Taylor<br>Sherborne, MA 01770<br>(3.65 acres)   |
| 21. David F. & Paula C. Hadden<br>1729 Dahlgren Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(5.02 acres)    | 27. Department of Natural Resources<br>State of Maryland<br>Tawes State Office Bldg.<br>580 Taylor Ave.<br>Annapolis, MD 21401<br>(52.6 acres) |
| 22. Gary C. & Sharon Rudy<br>8021 A Bolivar Road<br>Middletown, MD 21769<br>(.64 acre)          |  |

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ITEM NO. 5 (Location of Legal Description)

1. County Clerk of Court's Office  
Frederick County Court House  
100 West Patrick Street  
Frederick, MD 21701
  
2. County Clerk of Court's Office  
Washington County Court House  
West Washington St. & Summit Ave.  
Hagerstown, MD 21741

## 7. Description

F-4-17A, B, C

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### OVERVIEW

The battlefields of South Mountain are three of the best preserved Civil War battlefields in the United States.

Stone walls once defended by outnumbered Confederates remain intact today. Fields of wheat and corn that witnessed charges and countercharges still continue to flourish. Fencerows separating forests from fields still duplicate their original lines. Rugged and precipitous wooded ravines and slopes remain formidable barriers today. Narrow mountain roads traveled by blue and gray still follow their traditional routes.

The original appearance of the South Mountain battlefields is well-documented in a map prepared by the United States Topographical Engineers in the winter of 1862. Roads, creeks, structures, ground cover, fencelines, troop movements and positions, and topography are minutely detailed.

In summary, most natural and cultural features of the South Mountain battlefields have remained unaltered since September 14, 1862—the date of the battle.

Fighting at South Mountain began when Union General George B. McClellan attacked Confederate forces defending three mountain passes: Turner's Gap on the north end of the field; Fox's Gap, one mile south of Turner's; and Crampton's Gap, six miles below Fox's. The action at each gap was separate and distinct, and each will be examined below as an individual battlefield.

### CRAMPTON'S GAP BATTLEFIELD

#### HISTORICAL APPEARANCE

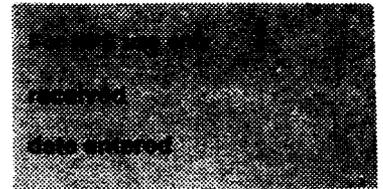
The official campaign report of General William B. Franklin, commander of the Union Sixth Corps attacking Crampton's Gap, best describes the original appearance of the main battlefield:

The enemy was strongly posted on both sides of the road [the Old Burkittsville Road] which made a steep ascent through a narrow defile, wooded on both sides and offering great advantages of cover and position. Their advance was posted near the base of the mountain, in the rear of a stonewall, stretching to the right of the road at a point where the ascent was gradual and for the most part over open fields.

Franklin's description, coupled with the army engineers' detailed terrain map of the Crampton's Gap area, expedites comparison of the historic and present appearance of the battlefield. (See Appendix 1, Map A, for the 1862 map of Crampton's Gap).

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THE BATTLEFIELD TODAY

Landscape: The Old Burkittsville Road (Gapland Road today), which bisects the southern end of the battlefield, has experienced no change with the exception of paving. The Mountain Church Road (historical name unknown), which parallels the eastern base of South Mountain and served as the Confederates' initial line of defense, intersects the Old Burkittsville Road approximately 800 yards west of Burkittsville. This road is paved today, but it still follows its original course.

Paralleling the southern section of Mountain Church Road is approximately 1,000 feet of the original stonewall defended by the Confederates. The land east of the Mountain Church Road is open, rolling fields—fields over which Slocum's division of the Federal Sixth Corps originally attacked. Separating these fields into rectangular plots are stone walls and hedgerows that represent the location of original fence lines. The wooded eastern slopes of South Mountain, through which the Confederates eventually retreated, presently are forests of oak and maple.

Structures: Farm houses and barns do stand today in positions identical to those shown on the 1862 engineers' map. Their historical appearance is unknown, however, and therefore it is not known whether these structures were on the battlefield at the time. They had no direct role in the battle.

No modern development, such as subdivisions, exists on the battlefield.

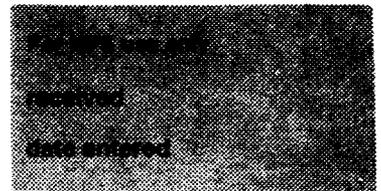
Intrusions: With the exception of telephone and electric lines along the roads, no intrusions impact the battlefield adjoining the Old Burkittsville Road and Mountain Church Road.

At the top of South Mountain in the gap itself, where over 400 Confederates surrendered, is Gathland State Park. In the mid-1870s, war correspondent and novelist George Alfred Townsend, whose pen-name was "Gath", developed Crampton's Gap into his own personal estate. Little remains of Townsend's estate today. With the exception of his War Correspondents' Memorial, erected in 1896, and now considered a part of the historic scene, the gap's appearance has changed little.

Although the Maryland Park Service maintains modern facilities at Gathland, such as a small picnic pavilion and restrooms, these structures are constructed of native wood and stone and are positioned such that they do not intrude upon the historic environment.

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FOX'S GAP BATTLEFIELD

HISTORICAL APPEARANCE

Maj. James M. Comly and his 23rd Ohio Regiment (of Cox's Division of the Ninth Corps) launched the initial attack against the Confederates defending Fox's Gap. Comly provides a good description of the battlefield in his official report:

The order was given to charge, and the regiment advanced to the charge in as good order as possible through the thick woods into a cornfield. The enemy was behind the stone fence at the crest of the hill, with forest again beyond this.

In addition to Comly's description, the 1862 army engineers' map of Fox's Gap graphically details this battlefield's original appearance. (See Appendix 1, Map B).

THE BATTLEFIELD TODAY

Landscape: The Old Sharpsburg Road (Reno Monument Road today), which runs perpendicular to South Mountain and bisects the northern quadrant of the battlefield at Fox's Gap, remains unchanged with the exception of paving. A mountain road paralleling the crest of South Mountain (historical name unknown), which served as the Confederates' main line of defense, now is a private, paved road south of the gap and an unimproved sunken dirt road to the north.

A stone wall bordering the east side of this crest road provided extra protection for the Confederates. Approximately 1,000 feet of this wall still stand at the Confederate right and center.

An unimproved farm lane 3,000 feet south of and parallel to the Old Sharpsburg Road defines the southern end of the battlefield. Federal divisions under Cox and Sturgis advanced via this lane before attacking the Confederate right.

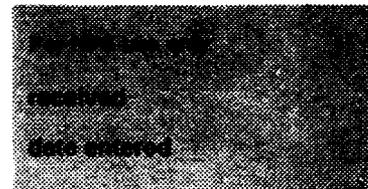
The Federals attacked through open fields of pasture and corn located just below the crest on the eastern slope of the mountain. All the fields of 1862 remain cultivated today with two exceptions: (1) "Wise's Field," at the intersection of the Old Sharpsburg Road and the mountain crest road—originally in corn—is now a pine forest; (2) fields north of the Old Sharpsburg Road (over which Rodman advanced) now are cluttered with scrub brush and brambles.

All areas wooded at the time of the battle remain in forest today.

Structures: The only building which witnessed this battle was the one-story log cabin of mountain farmer John Wise. Located at the intersection of the Old Sharpsburg Road and the mountain crest road, bullets and shell fragments perforated Wise's house on

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September 14, 1862. Nothing remains of this structure today, however. In fact, local residents do not recall its existence anytime during this century.

Opposite the location of Wise's cabin stands the only monument on the battlefield—Reno's Monument. Dedicated in 1896 by survivors of the Union Ninth Corps, this six-foot marble obelisk marks the location of Maj. Gen. Jesse L. Reno's mortal wounding. Reno commanded the Ninth Corps. A three foot stone and concrete wall surrounds the monument.

Although modern houses slowly are encroaching upon Fox's Gap, none disrupt the historic integrity of the battlefield.

Intrusions: With the exception of a 500,000 volt high transmission power line dangling over the extreme southern end of the field, no modern intrusions impact this battlefield.

TURNER'S GAP

HISTORICAL APPEARANCE

Due to a separation of distance and time of engagement, this battlefield must be analyzed as two separate actions: Hooker's advance and Gibbon's advance.

The main thrust of Union General Joseph Hooker's drive occurred one mile north of Turner's Gap. John Gibbon directed his Union brigade against Turner's Gap itself.

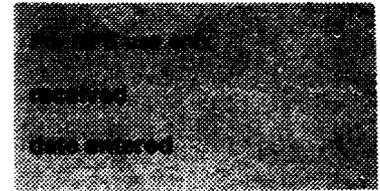
Excerpts from the official report of General Hooker, commander of the Union First Corps, provide a good description of his battlefield:

In front of us was South Mountain, the crest of the spinal ridge of which was held by the enemy in considerable force. Its slopes are precipitous, rugged, and wooded, and difficult of ascent to an infantry force, even in absence of a foe in front.

The National Turnpike crosses the summit of this range through a gentle depression [Turner's Gap] and near this point a spur projects from the body of the ridge, running nearly parallel [to South Mountain] for about one mile. To the north of the pike this spur is separated from the main ridge by a narrow valley, with cultivated fields, extending well up the gentle slope of the hill. Here the enemy had a strong infantry force posted, and a few pieces of artillery.

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Two detached, wooded mountain peaks constituted the north end of this "spur" described by Hooker. Southerners posted on these peaks were ordered to protect the Confederate left flank at all hazards. Capture of these summits consequently became the primary focus of Hooker's advance.

While Hooker was attacking the Confederate left, one mile to the south, John Gibbon's brigade crawled westward along the National Turnpike toward Turner's Gap. No single verbal passage adequately describes this area, but excerpts indicate the slopes of the gap were wooded and that the primary position of the Confederates was a stone wall south of the gap just below the crest of the mountain.

The 1862 army engineers' map of Turner's Gap provides excellent details of this battlefield's original appearance. (See Appendix 1, Map C).

THE BATTLEFIELD TODAY

A. Gibbon's Advance

Landscape: The National Turnpike (Alternate Route 40 today), is a narrow, paved road that still bends and twists its way over South Mountain via its original course. The eastern slopes of Turner's Gap remain wooded, and the stone wall defended by Alfred Colquitt's Georgia brigade is excellently preserved.

Structures: Located at the top of South Mountain in Turner's Gap itself is the original "mountain house" that Confederate General D.H. Hill used as his battlefield headquarters. Today this building is a restaurant, and due to extensive exterior alteration, it is not included in the proposed NHL boundary.

Opposite the "mountain house" is a Catholic chapel erected in the 1880's by Madeline Vinton Dahlgren, owner of Turner's Gap during the late 19th century. Although this is a most handsome structure built of native stone, it was not present at the time of the battle and therefore is not included within the proposed NHL boundary.

Although some residential development has occurred just west of Turner's Gap, none of this is visible from Gibbon's line of approach.

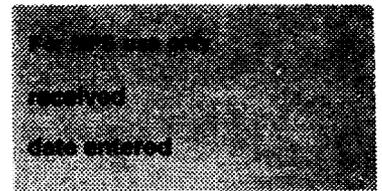
Intrusions: With the exception of telephone and electric lines along the National Pike, no modern intrusions detract from the historic integrity of the battlefield.

B. Hooker's Advance

Landscape: Approximately 200 yards below the eastern crest of Turner's Gap

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begins Dahlgren Road (historical name unknown). This narrow, dirt mountain lane—which still follows its original course north and east from the National Pike to Frostown—was used by the Confederates to channel reinforcements to their precarious left flank.

The Frostown Road, used by the Union division of George Meade to attack and gain access to the extreme Confederate left, remains today as a sunken dirt lane that deviates little from its original route.

Those slopes wooded in 1862 remain in forest today. Farmers continue cultivating most of the small, mountain fields over which Hooker's Federals advanced. The few no longer cultivated just recently have been abandoned and are cluttered now with small trees and brambles.

Structures: No structures played a significant role in this battle. Farm buildings and mountain homes do stand in positions identical to those shown on the 1862 engineers' map. Since these structures played no role in the battle, however, and since their historical appearance is unknown, existing structures within the proposed NHL boundary are non-contributing elements to the historic scene.

Several new homes have been constructed adjacent to Dahlgren Road and Frostown Road. These do not intrude, however, upon the core battlefield area, and have been excluded from the proposed NHL boundary.

Intrusions: No intrusions currently detract from the historic integrity of the battlefield.

# 8. Significance

F-4-17A,B,C

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates September 14, 1862 Builder Architect N/A

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SUMMARY STATEMENT

The inadvertent discovery of Gen. Robert E. Lee's campaign plans (Special Order 191) on September 13, 1862, presented Union commander George B. McClellan with one of the grandest opportunities to destroy an enemy in world military history.

With one sudden strike through the gaps of South Mountain, McClellan could interpose between the scattered wings of Lee's army; save the besieged garrison at Harpers Ferry; hurl the Southern invaders from Union soil; and possibly precipitate an early end to the war in the East.

"The case called for the utmost exertion and the utmost speed."<sup>5</sup> McClellan, however, hesitated. Instead of "straining every nerve," the Federal commander conducted a cautious and deliberate advance which enabled Lee's lieutenants to defend South Mountain with vigor.

Although the bluecoats eventually occupied the mountain's gaps, Lee's holding action at South Mountain earned the Confederates precious hours—hours they used to complete the investment of Harpers Ferry and to reunite their forces at Sharpsburg. McClellan's incertitude thus resulted in the largest surrender of United States forces prior to World War II (over 12,500 at Harpers Ferry) and the bloodiest single-day Civil War battle, at Antietam on September 17, 1862.

George McClellan's failure to crush Lee at South Mountain consequently represents "one of the saddest moments of the war for the Union."<sup>6</sup>

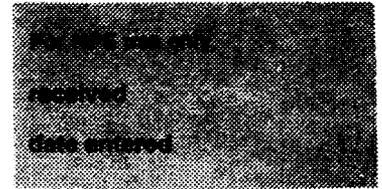
### THE CONFEDERATE INVASION

On September 4, 1862, Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia splashed north across the Potomac River. Within a few days the veteran Confederates had settled around the western Maryland town of Frederick, poised and anxious to conduct a campaign of maneuver in Yankee land. The first major invasion of the North had begun.

General Lee's campaign of maneuver, however, faced a problem. The Union forces occupying the lower Shenandoah Valley had not retreated northward with the invading Confederates. Lee realized that the 14,000 Federals steadfastly emplaced to his rear at Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg could disrupt his supply and communication lines and impede his army's freedom of movement. Something had to be done.

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SPECIAL ORDER 191

Lee decided a bold gamble was necessary. Despite being outnumbered two to one by McClellan's advancing Army of the Potomac, the unorthodox Lee divided his forces. In Special Order 191, issued on September 9, 1862, Lee directed three columns to attack and capture the Federal garrison at Harpers Ferry while the remainder of the army awaited the reunion of the detached forces at Boonsboro. (Appendix 2, Map A shows the positions of the opposing armies). Lee allowed three days for the operation's completion. Time was critical.

Three days passed. Lee received no word of Harpers Ferry's surrender. McClellan, on the other hand, was moving uncharacteristically fast, threatening to disrupt the operation.

What was happening? Had Lee gambled the Army of Northern Virginia into extinction?

SPECIAL ORDER 191 FALLS INTO ENEMY HANDS

As Lee's army scattered over the Maryland and Virginia countryside, McClellan's army moved forward to Frederick, encamping in locations occupied by the Confederates only a few days before.

In one of these campsites, two soldiers from an Indiana regiment spied three cigars enwrapped in a piece of paper. Undoubtedly attracted by the cigars, the Unionists picked up their find. Before discarding the piece of paper, one of the Yanks examined its contents. It was a copy of Special Order 191!

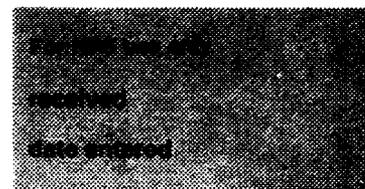
The paper immediately went to McClellan's headquarters. After it was authenticated, McClellan jumped with glee. Seldom had a military commander experienced such luck!

Ecstatic about his discovery, McClellan wired President Lincoln on the afternoon of September 13: "I think Lee has made a gross mistake. I have all the plans of the rebels and will catch them in their own trap."

The stage was set for the Battle of South Mountain.

THE FEDERAL STRATEGY

As General McClellan studied Lee's lost order, he devised a scheme to "cut the enemy in two and beat him in detail." A successful strike at Crampton's Gap, reasoned McClellan, would relieve the besieged garrison at Harpers Ferry and entrap thousands of isolated Confederates in Pleasant Valley. At Fox's and Turner's Gaps, decisive blows would slice Lee's line of retreat and doom nearly half of Lee's army at Boonsboro (see Appendix 2, Map B).

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With his plans articulated in orders to his subordinates, McClellan danced with joy and rashly proclaimed, "If I cannot whip Bobbie Lee, I will be willing to go home."<sup>10</sup>

One crucial flaw marred McClellan's dream of victory, however. Instead of executing a rapid and vigorous forward movement toward South Mountain on September 13—the date of the discovery of 191—McClellan instructed his corps commanders to "move at daybreak in the morning" of the 14th.<sup>11</sup> At least twelve precious hours consequently were lost to Federal inactivity. McClellan thus wasted the advantages he had gained from Special Order 191. As one critic remarked, "It is hoped that some capable smokers derived more good out of the three cigars than McClellan was to get out of the order in which they were wrapped."<sup>12</sup>

### THE BATTLES OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN

#### CRAMPTON'S GAP

McClellan assigned Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin and the Federal Sixth Corps the crucial task of attacking Crampton's Gap. With specific orders to "cut off, destroy, or capture" the 8,000 Confederates in Pleasant Valley and to relieve the surrounded garrison at Harpers Ferry, Franklin advanced toward South Mountain at dawn on Sunday, September 14, 1862.<sup>13</sup>

Unaware that his rear was threatened by 12,000 encroaching bluecoats, the Confederate commander in Pleasant Valley, Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws, had posted at Crampton's Gap only 500 defenders. Consequently, as the Unionists approached the gap at noon on the 14th, Confederates crouched behind a stonewall at the eastern base of the mountain saw so many Federals "that it looked as if they were creeping up out of the ground."<sup>14</sup>

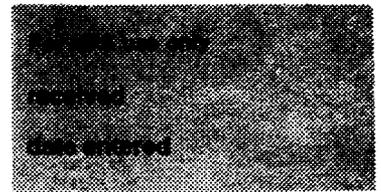
Although the odds favored the Sixth Corps twenty-four to one, Franklin—convinced the Confederates outnumbered him!—spent three hours deploying his forces. The Federals' extraordinary caution reminded one Southerner of "a lion making exceedingly careful preparations to spring on a plucky little mouse."<sup>15</sup>

Finally at 3 p.m., the Sixth Corps advanced. (Appendix 1, Map A shows the Crampton's Gap battlefield in detail). The 500 Confederates behind the stonewall held the Northerners at bay for the next three hours. Despite this spirited defense, overwhelming numbers eventually forced the Southerners to flee toward the gap (see Appendix 1, Map A). Franklin's men pursued, capturing in the gap itself 400 Rebel prisoners and 700 stand of arms. Crampton's Gap belonged to the Sixth Corps.

Although Franklin had seized the gap, he had not fulfilled his mission to destroy McLaws and relieve the garrison at Harpers Ferry. To accomplish these objectives, an advance down Pleasant Valley was necessary. Franklin refused to press onward, however, informing McClellan that the enemy outnumbered him "two to one" and that

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he could not advance "without reinforcements."<sup>16</sup>

Franklin's delusion of superior Confederate forces ended the fighting at Crampton's Gap. On the morning of September 15, Harpers Ferry surrendered, allowing McLaws to escape confrontation (see Appendix 2, Map C). General Franklin had won the Battle of Crampton's Gap, but his failure to destroy McLaws and to relieve Harpers Ferry made his victory meaningless.

#### BATTLE OF FOX'S GAP

In conjunction with Franklin's strike at Crampton's Gap, McClellan ordered the rest of the Army of the Potomac to move westward via the National Turnpike toward the western Maryland town of Boonsboro.

Here McClellan expected to encounter half of Lee's army patiently awaiting the return of forces sent to invest Harpers Ferry. McClellan reasoned that a successful blow at Boonsboro would interpose his army between Lee and Confederate reinforcements and would slice Lee's line of retreat back to Virginia (see Appendix 2, Map B). The crushing of Lee's vulnerable army seemed imminent.

Before reaching Boonsboro, however, McClellan first had to cross South Mountain. The initial Federal plan called for a drive through Turner's Gap, but when the leading columns of the army unexpectedly discovered Confederates east of Turner's Gap, the Union commanders devised a new strategy—turn the Rebel flanks. Divisions of the Union Ninth Corps subsequently marched one mile south toward Fox's Gap to pierce the Confederate right. The Federal First Corps, in turn, focused its attention on the Confederate left, one mile north of Turner's Gap.

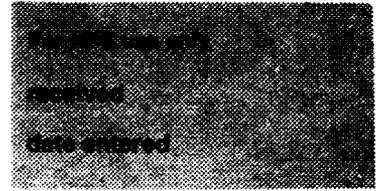
From his vantage point high atop South Mountain, Confederate Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill watched the advancing Federals move toward his weakly defended positions: "The marching columns extended back far as the eye could see," Hill wrote. "It was a grand and glorious spectacle, and it was impossible to look at it without admiration. I had never seen so tremendous an army before, and I did not see one like it afterward."<sup>17</sup>

As Hill's 5,000 Confederates spread out over two miles to defend the mountain's passes, Hill summarized his situation: "I do not remember ever to have experienced a feeling of greater loneliness."<sup>18</sup>

First contact between the two opposing forces occurred at Fox's Gap at 9 a.m. on September 14, 1862. As Jacob Cox's Kanawha division of the Ninth Corps ascended the Old Sharpsburg Road just west of the gap, well-placed Confederate artillery blasted the Federal advance. Cox veered to the left, and after careful deployment, the Kanawha division launched a successful attack against the Confederate right flank. In this charge, a musket ball crashed into the left arm of Lt. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes

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(later president of the United States) of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In this same clash, Brig. Gen. Samuel Garland, commander of the North Carolina brigade defending the Confederate right, was killed.

Cox's drive broke the Confederate line at Fox's Gap, but instead of pursuing the disorganized Rebels, the Union commander inexplicably withdrew to a secure position and awaited reinforcements. No more action occurred until early evening, at which time the entire Ninth Corps attacked the crest of the mountain and encountered a Confederate position strengthened by brigades from the divisions of Generals Longstreet and Hood. (Appendix 1, Map B provides excellent detail of the Fox's Gap battlefield).

The opponents clashed until dusk, with the Confederates retaining a firm hold on the ground north of the gap. As darkness descended upon the mountain, the commander of the Ninth Corps, Maj. Gen. Jesse L. Reno, was mortally wounded while reconnoitering the Confederate position. Sporadic gunfire continued until 10 p.m., when Lee ordered his veterans to retire toward Sharpsburg.

Fox's Gap belonged to the Federals, but the day belonged to Robert E. Lee. A spirited Confederate defense, coupled with Union delays precipitated by the belief "that the whole mountain was swarming with rebels," had thwarted McClellan's plan to turn the Confederate right.<sup>19</sup> Lee's supplies were safe, his army intact, and his line of retreat still open.

Another Federal opportunity had slipped into history.

TURNER'S GAP

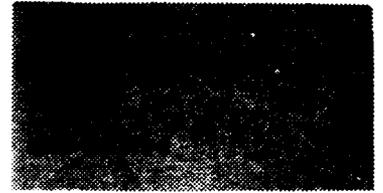
The task of turning the Confederate left fell upon Major General Joseph Hooker and the Union First Corps.

Beginning about mid-day on Sunday, September 14, 1862, Hooker began positioning his three divisions opposite two high knolls located approximately one mile north of Turner's Gap. Perched on top of these peaks was the Alabama brigade of Gen. Robert Rodes, charged with protecting the Old Hagerstown Road and the extreme left flank of the Confederate line on South Mountain (see Appendix 2, Map B). Rodes faced overwhelming odds, with Hooker outnumbering him 12,000 to 1,100.

Hooker's advance began about 4 p.m. George Meade's division tested the extreme Confederate left while the division of John P. Hatch charged up a ravine on the right of Rodes's brigade. (Appendix 1, Map C provides the details of the Turner's Gap battlefields). With his men isolated and reinforcement impossible, Rodes steadily withdrew, but not without menacing and delaying the Federal advance until nightfall. Hooker's men eventually seized the knolls on the Confederate left, but darkness and difficult terrain protected Lee's rear from the bluecoats.

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As Meade and Hatch slowly ascended the mountain's slopes, Hooker ordered Gen. John Gibbon's brigade to attack the Confederate center at Turner's Gap itself. As evening approached, Gibbon's men cautiously proceeded westward on the National Pike, playing a "deadly game of Bo-peep" with Alfred Colquitt's Georgia brigade, defiantly defending the gap behind a stone wall.<sup>20</sup> Darkness eventually halted Gibbon's advance, and the Confederate center remained solidly intact.

As 10 p.m. approached, Lee ordered his weary mountain fighters to withdraw toward Sharpsburg. The Battle of South Mountain was over.

HISTORY'S REFLECTION

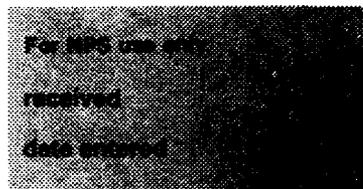
The Union high command was ecstatic about its accomplishment. For the first time, the feared Army of Northern Virginia had been forced to withdraw from a battlefield. General Hooker summarized the Federal sentiment when he wrote: "the forcing of the passage of South Mountain will be classed among the most brilliant and satisfactory achievements of this army."<sup>21</sup>

From the Confederate perspective, the Battles of South Mountain were tactical defeats indeed. Strategically, however, September 14, 1862, produced a significant victory for Robert E. Lee.

As Confederate Gen. D. H. Hill stated: "If the battle of South Mountain was fought to prevent the advance of McClellan, it was a failure on the part of the Confederates. If it was fought to save Lee's trains and artillery, and to reunite his scattered forces, it was a Confederate success."<sup>22</sup>

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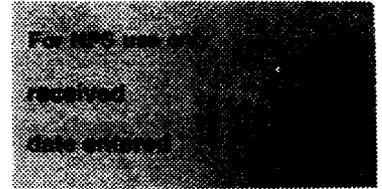
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ENDNOTES

1. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington, 1890-1901), Ser. 1, Vol. XIX, Pt. 1, p. 375; cited hereinafter as O.R.
2. O.R., Ser. I, Vol. XIX, Pt. 1, p. 467.
3. O.R., Ser. I, Vol. XIX, Pt. 1, p. 214.
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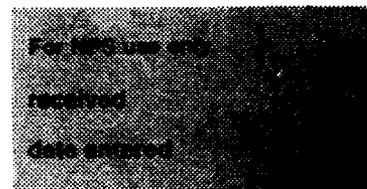
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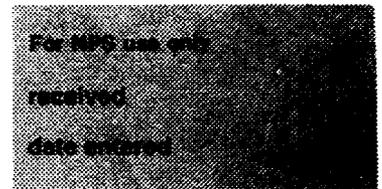
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Continuation sheet

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Page 2

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## APPENDIX 2

### CAMPAIGN MAPS

September 13  
(NOON)

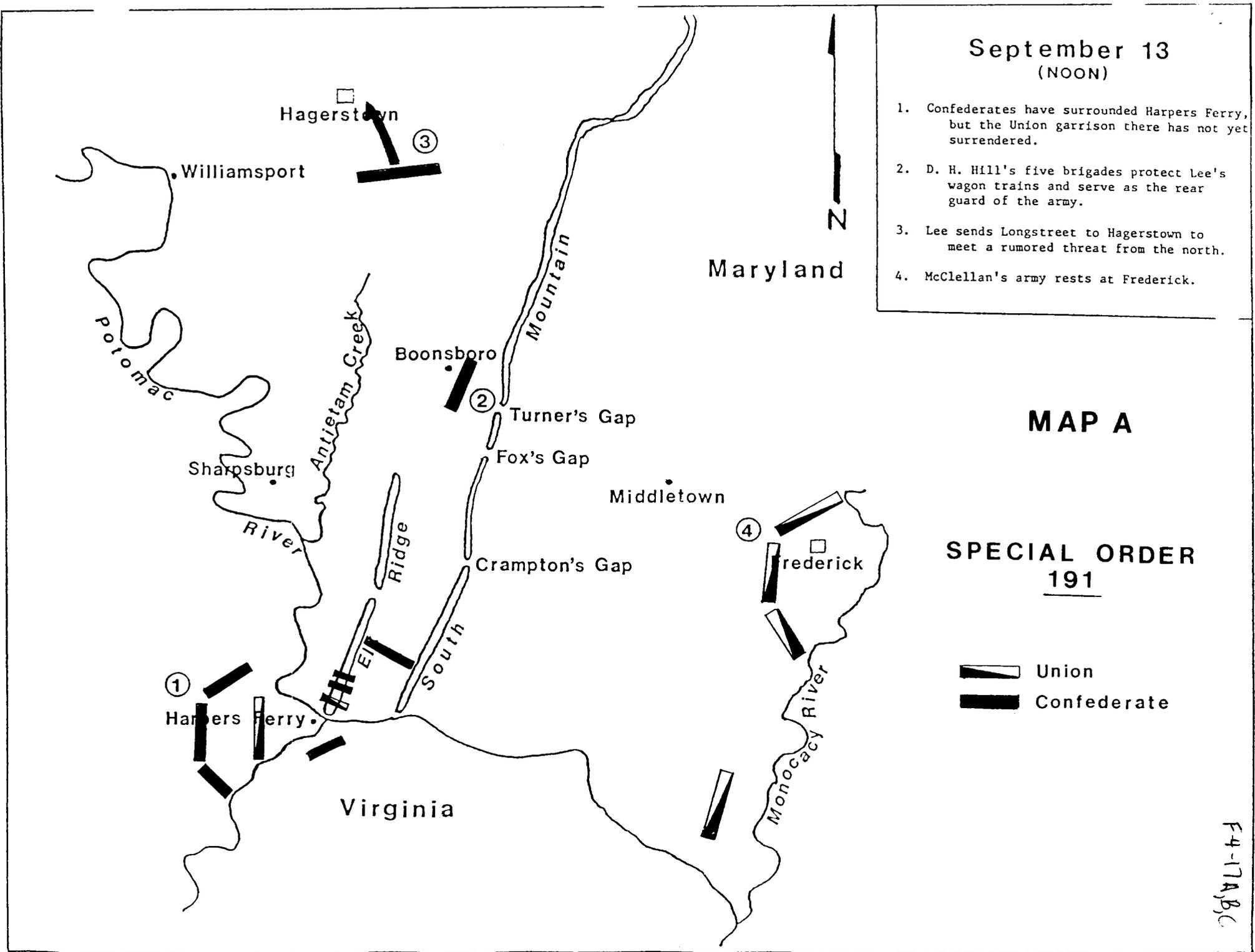
1. Confederates have surrounded Harpers Ferry, but the Union garrison there has not yet surrendered.
2. D. H. Hill's five brigades protect Lee's wagon trains and serve as the rear guard of the army.
3. Lee sends Longstreet to Hagerstown to meet a rumored threat from the north.
4. McClellan's army rests at Frederick.

Maryland

MAP A

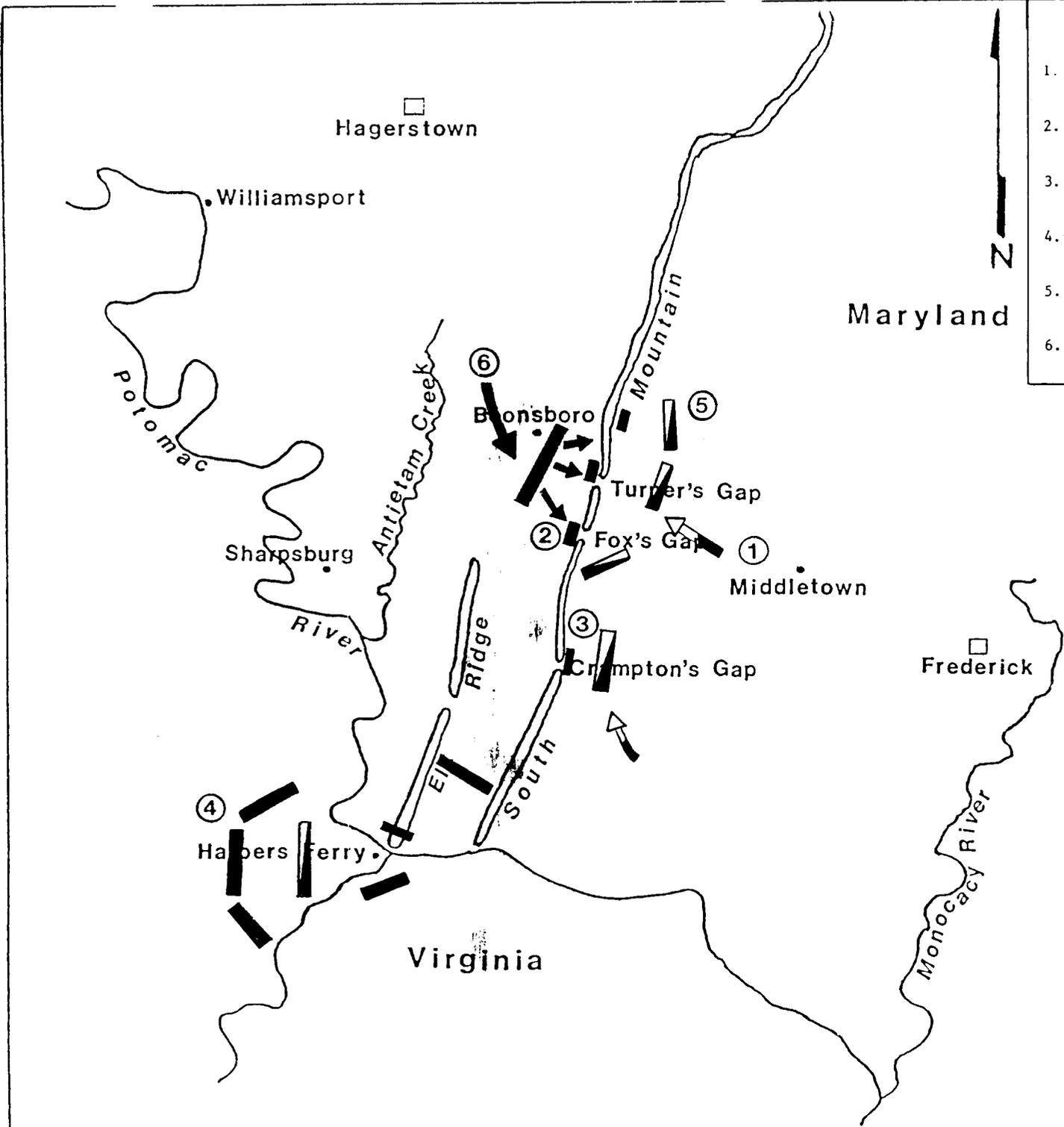
SPECIAL ORDER  
191

 Union  
 Confederate



F4-17A, B, C

- September 14 (NOON)**
1. McClellan has advanced toward South Mountain to take advantage of Lee's divided army.
  2. D. H. Hill reinforces position after morning battle with Cox's division of the 9th Corps
  3. Federals prepare to attack to relieve Confederate siege of Harpers Ferry.
  4. Confederates begin to bombard Harpers Ferry, but Union garrison holds out.
  5. Union 1st Corps prepares to attack Confederate left flank.
  6. Longstreet recalled by Lee and ordered to reinforce Fox's and Turner's Gaps



**MAP B**

**BATTLE OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN**

 Union  
 Confederate

F-4-17A,B,C  
10-20

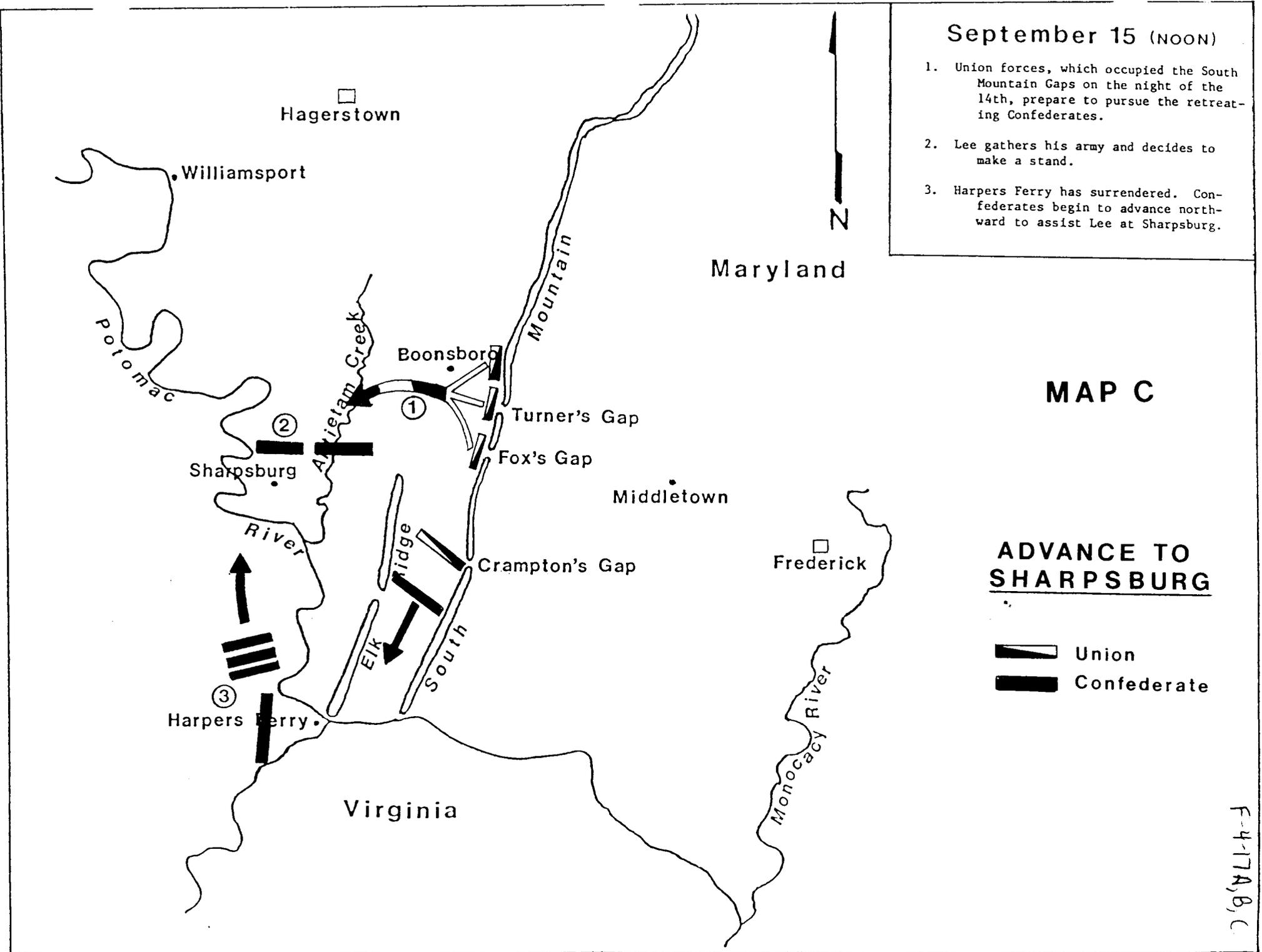
## September 15 (NOON)

1. Union forces, which occupied the South Mountain Gaps on the night of the 14th, prepare to pursue the retreating Confederates.
2. Lee gathers his army and decides to make a stand.
3. Harpers Ferry has surrendered. Confederates begin to advance northward to assist Lee at Sharpsburg.

## MAP C

### ADVANCE TO SHARPSBURG

 Union  
 Confederate



F-4-17A,B,C

September 17  
(EARLY MORNING)

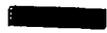
1. McClellan pounds Lee's left flank in the morning phase of the 12-hour Battle of Antietam.
2. Confederates continue to rush toward Lee's outnumbered army.

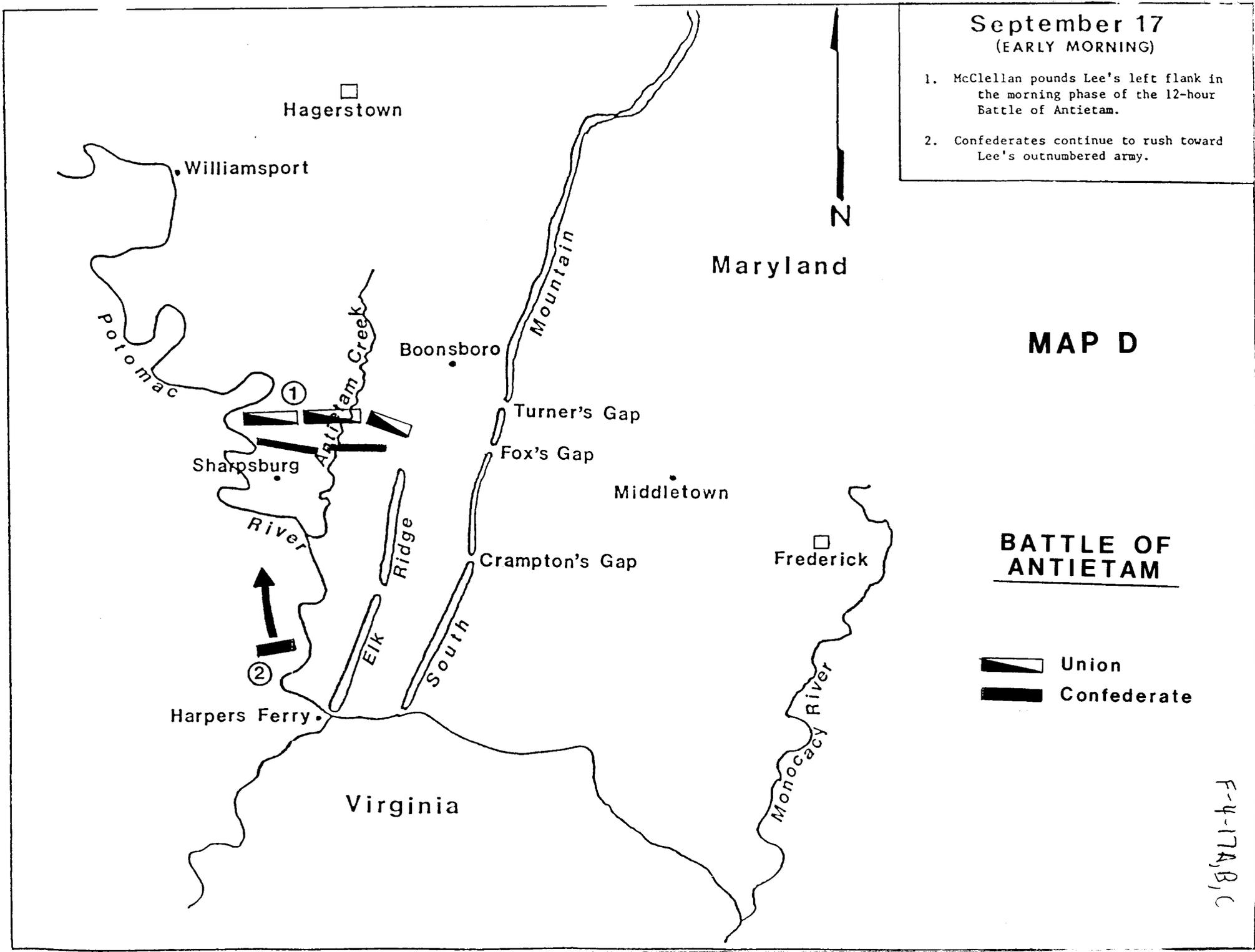


Maryland

MAP D

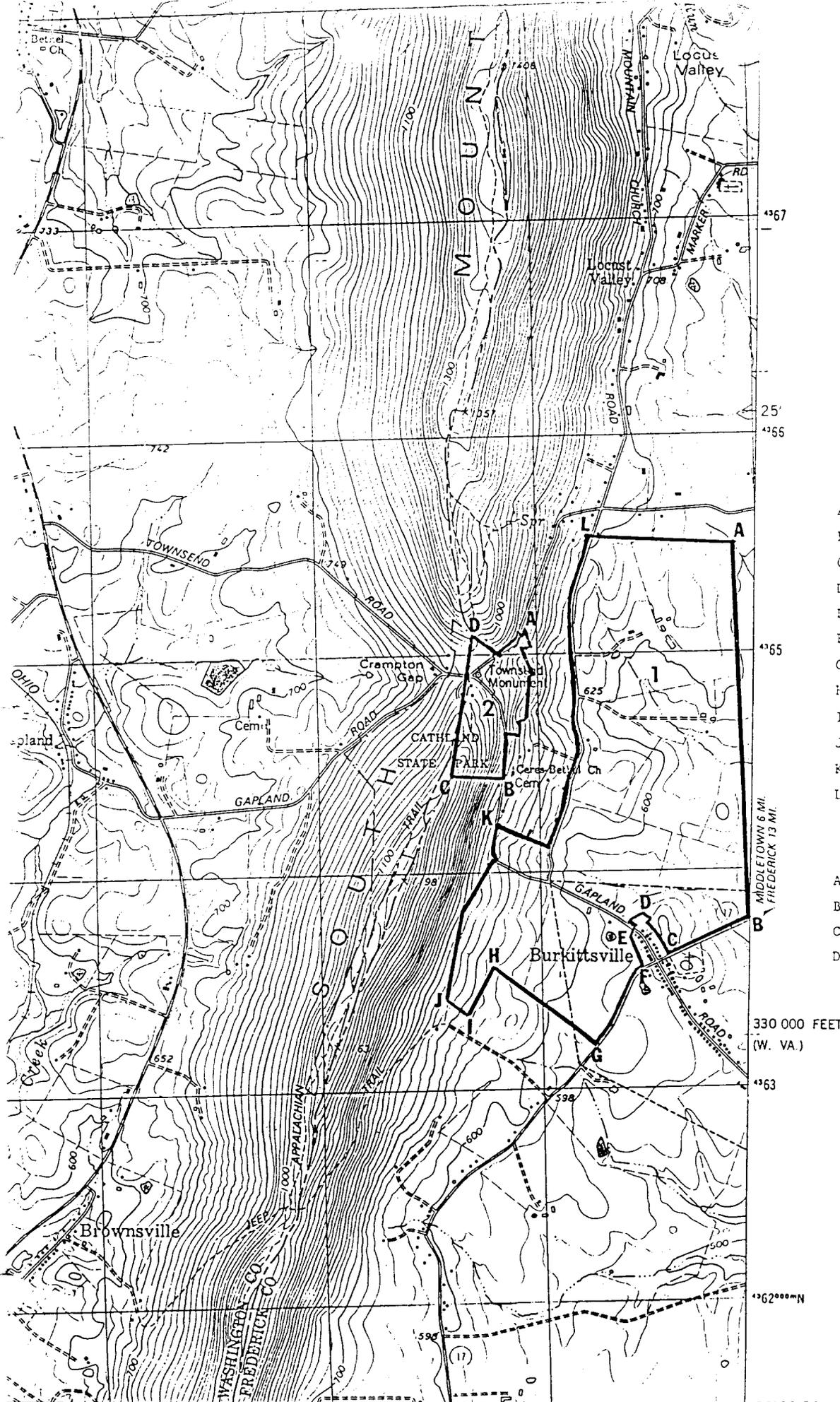
**BATTLE OF  
ANTIETAM**

 Union  
 Confederate



F-4-17A,B,C

F-4-17A,B,C



Crampton's Gap

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Section 1

- A: 18/273777/4365499
- B: 18/273884/4363762
- C: 18/273549/4363594
- D: 18/273427/4363777
- E: 18/273366/4363671
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- H: 18/272710/4363533
- I: 18/272619/4363305
- J: 18/272512/4363381
- K: 18/272726/4364189
- L: 18/273122/4365499

Section 2

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- C: 18/272543/4364402
- D: 18/272604/4365057

2 520 000 FEET  
(W. VA.)

● INTERIOR—OGEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1979 2730000E  
BRUNSWICK 5 MI. ↘

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77°37'30"

583 11 SW  
(FUNKSTOWN)

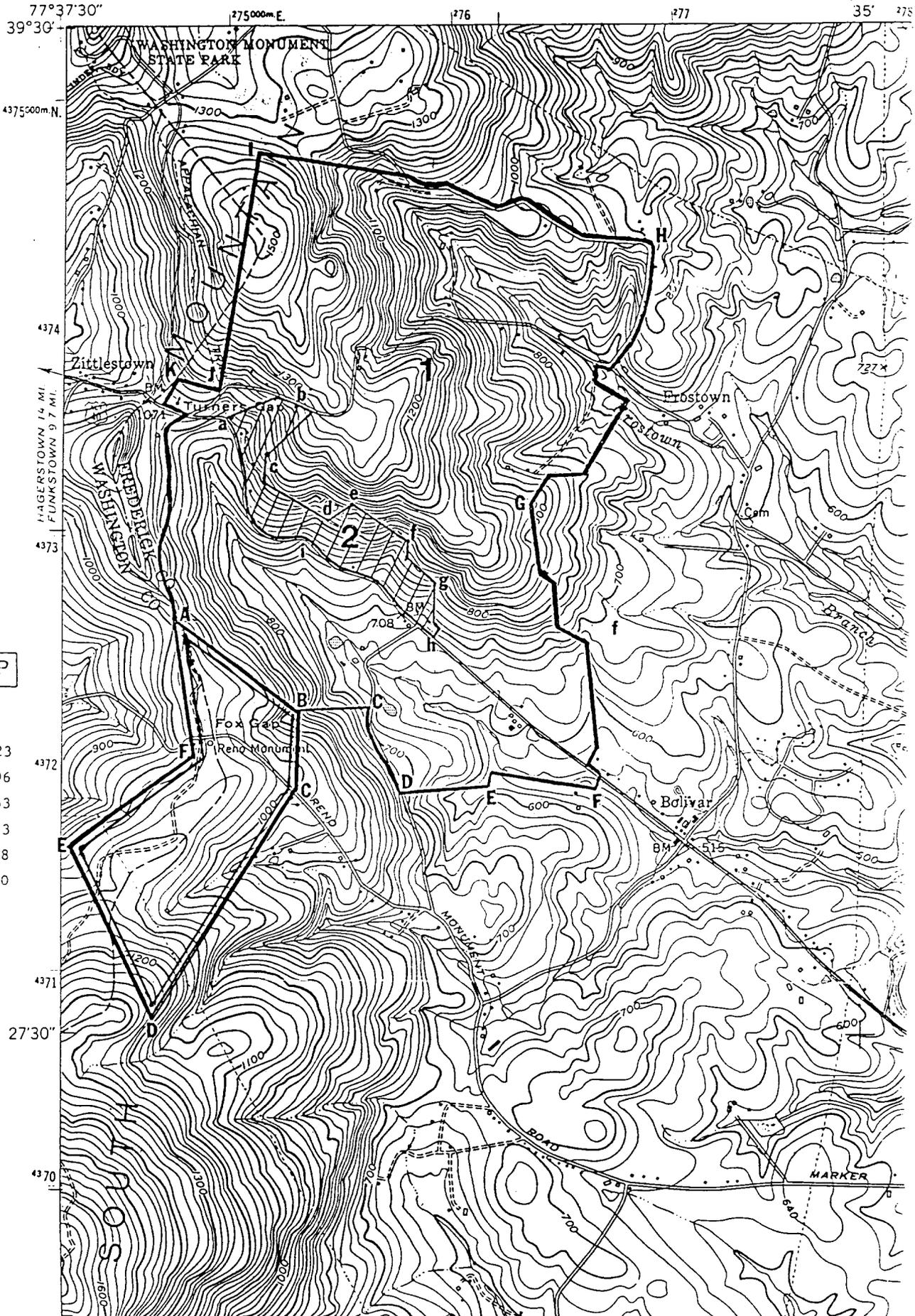
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



10-6

F-4-17A,B,C

HAG:  
8 MI. TO 1"  
35' 275



FOX'S GAP

UTM REFERENCES

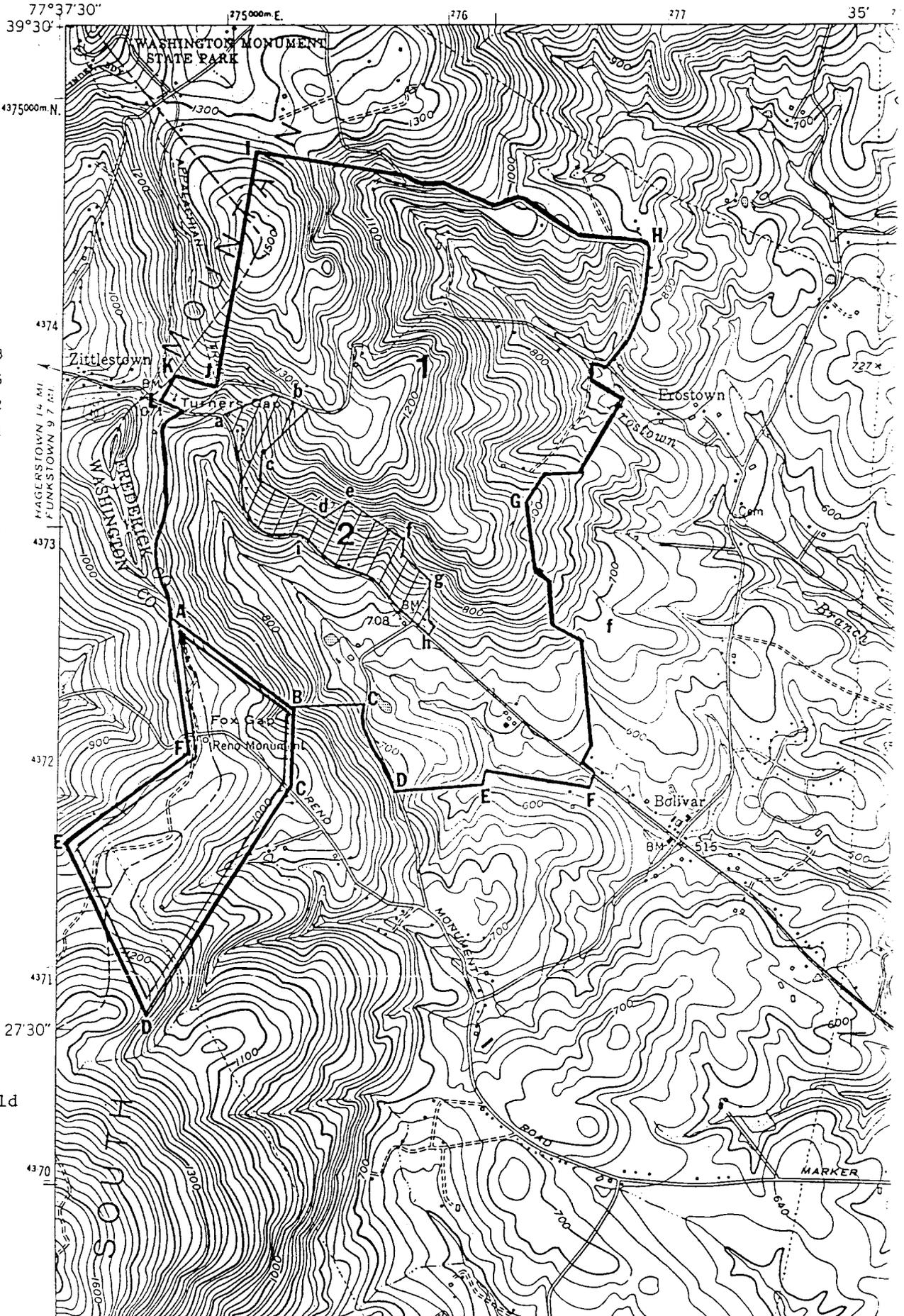
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5483 II SW  
(FUNKSTOWN)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



F-4-17A,B,C  
10-7



**TURNER'S  
GAP**

UTM REFERENCES

Section 1

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- h: 18/275927/4372531
- i: 18/275333/4372988

\*this area excluded  
from boundary.

== = Fox's Gap  
Battlefield

# End Here

Scan One Time Only

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Copy for Multiple Numbers

F-4-17-A

F-4-17-B

F-4-17-C