

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-III-038
District 8
Map 84
Parcel (None Listed)
MAGI # 2210443607

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Gathland State Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Mountain at at Crampton's Gap

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

6

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___BUILDING(S)

___PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

PARK

___STRUCTURE

BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Maryland

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hagerstown

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Gathland State Park is located on top of South Mountain at Crampton's Gap. The park consists of forest and open land with several stone buildings and structures. The buildings are for the most part of stone construction and were built after 1884 by George Alfred Townsend, journalist and novelist who used the pen name "Gath". He built a large stone house, a library, a guest house, servants quarters and stables. Several of these buildings remain standing today. Most prominent of the structures is a tall monumental stone arch which was erected by Townsend in memory of newspaper war correspondents. The structure was dedicated in 1896. Townsend abandoned the property in 1906 after his wife died. It was acquired by the State in the early 20th century. The arch is federally owned.

The main house, a two story, four bay, hipped roofed structure with a central cross gable was rebuilt in the 1950's by DNR. In its front wall at the second story level is a date stone inscribed, Gath, 1885. A turn of the century period photograph of the building shows a long two story L-shaped extension to the rear of the present building featuring wall dormers, brick window trim and projecting gables with stepped parapet roof lines. Wrapping around the front and sides of the main part of the house was a broad Victorian porch with bracketed trim.

Below the main house is a gambrel roofed stone building formerly a guest house, now used as a visitor's center. It is built of native sandstone with reddish mortar and features brick trimwork. A stone in its south wall is inscribed, Bess, 1885. (Bess was George Alfred Townsend's wife.)

Also present is a tomb erected by Gath but never used and a bronzed figure of a dog which rested on top of the tomb was stolen sometime after Townsend abandoned the property.

3 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES Built after 1884 BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Alfred Townsend

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

George Alfred Townsend was a prominent journalist and novelist. The War Correspondent's Arch that he erected is the only such memorial in existence. Crampton's Gap, the area where the park is located was an early mountain crossing place for settlers moving into the Cumberland Valley during the second and third quarters of the 18th century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fuller, Max, Valleys of History. "A War Reporter's Tribute to the Press." 3:1 winter 1967.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

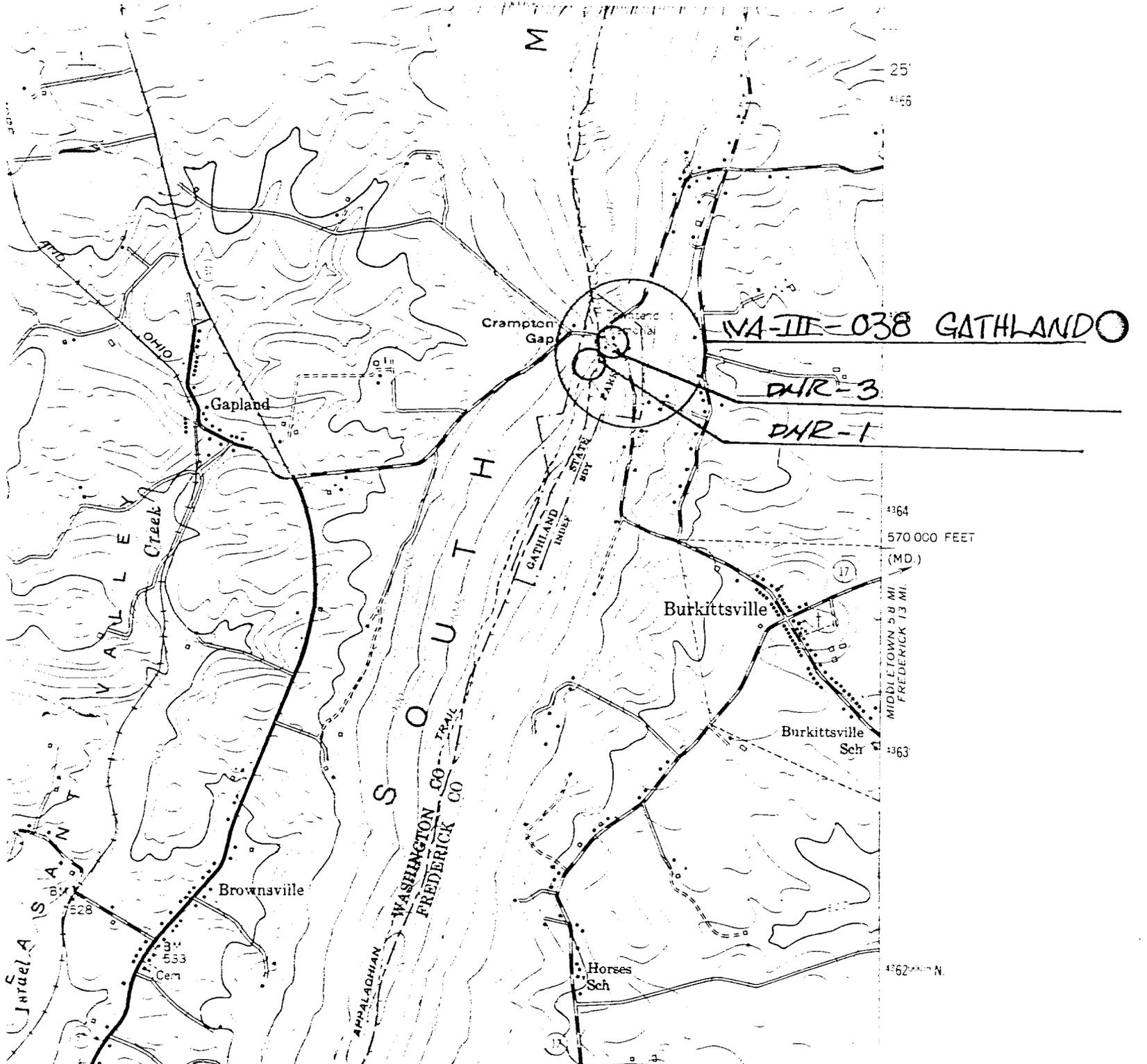
STATE

Maryland 21782

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



VA-III-038 GATHLAND

DNR-3

DNR-1

364
570 000 FEET
(MD.)
MIDDLE TOWN 5 8 MI.
FREDERICK 13 MI.

363
362 000 N.

39°22'30"

77°37'30"

(POINT OF ROCKS)
5442 1 SE

NEVERTON 10.0 MI. U.S. 340 3.6 MI.
CHARLES TOWN 14 MI.
BRUNSWICK 5.3 MI.
POINT OF ROCKS 13 MI.
620 000 FEET (MD.)
773 000 E

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy duty ————— Light duty - - - - -
- Medium duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt
- U.S. Route (circle with number) State Route (circle with number)



KEEDYSVILLE, MD. - W. VA.

N3922.5 - W7737.5 / 7.5

1953
PHOTOREPRODUCED
AMS 5452 1 NW - SERIES V833



WA-III-038

Gathland State Park
South Mountain at Crampton's
Gap.

N.W.
April, 1977

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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War Correspondent's Arch. —

April, 1917

Gathland State Park

South Mountain at Crampton's
Gap.

PAULA STONER DICKER
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON, D.C.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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Gathland Rd. S.W. view

April, 1977

Gathland State Park

South Mountain at Crampton's
Gap.

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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Gapland Road S.W. view

April, 1977

Gathland State Park

South Mountain at Crampton's
Gap.

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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Gapland Rd. N.W. View.

April, 1977

Gathland State Park

South Mountain at Crampton's
Gap.

PAULA STONER DICKEY
SULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-III-038

Gapland Rd. n.w. view

April, 1977

Gathland State Park.

South Mountain at Crampton's
Gap.

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Gap.

S.W.

April, 1977

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-III-038

Gatland St. Pt.

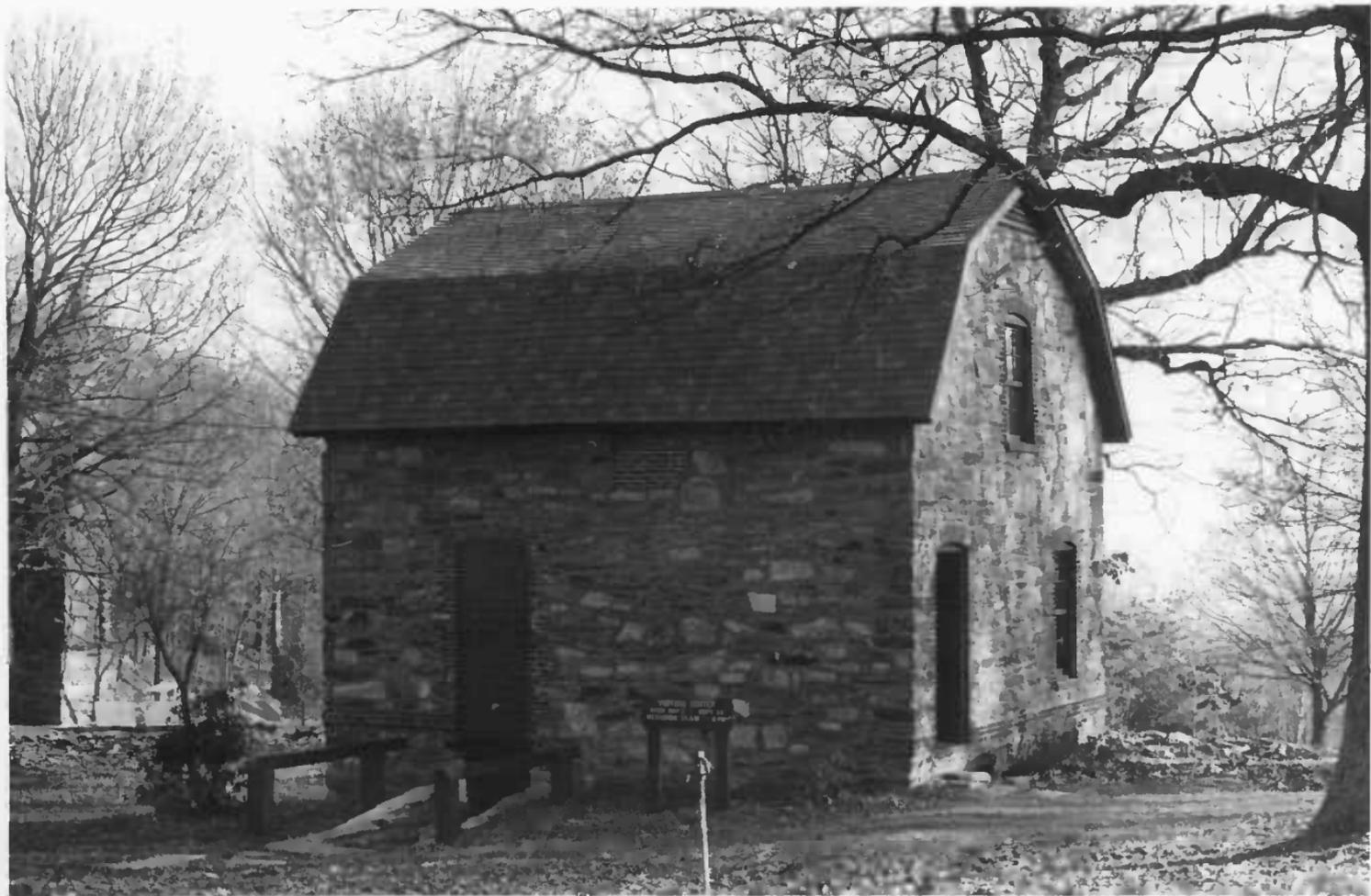
old (ca 1900?) photo of barn, memorial arch
and other buildings.

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WA-III-038

Guthrie State Park
Main house (ca. 1900 photo)
S.E. view



Gatland State Park

Guest House, N.E. view

Nov. 1978

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Guthrie State Park
House, S.W. View
Nov. 1918

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Gatland State Park

Barn Ruins, N.W. View

Nov. 1978

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Gothland State Park

Stone fences

N.E. View

Nov. 1978

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Gateway State Park
ruins of library, S.W. view
Nov. 1978

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Gardner State Park

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burial plot S.W. view

Nov. 1978

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MAY 1863
This well was dug by the soldiers of the 1st
Mississippi Cavalry during the Battle of
Chickamauga. It was used by the soldiers
to get water during the night of the battle.
The well is now a historical landmark and
is a reminder of the hardships of the Civil
War.

Jathaland State Park.

Tomb. S.E. View

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Gothland State Park

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Tombs - detail

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CONFEDERATE TRENCHES
MARKING THE TRENCHES JUST BEFORE YOU,
LEE'S TROOPS, ON SEPT. 14, 1862, FOUGHT TO HOLD
CRANTON'S GAP AGAINST MCCLELLAN'S UNION ARMY
ADVANCING UP SOUTH MOUNTAIN FROM THE MIDDLETOWN
VALLEY BELOW.

BY SUNSET THE CONFEDERATES WERE OVERWHELMED
BUT THE DELAYING ACTION MADE POSSIBLE THE CAPTURE
OF BARBER'S FERRY BY OTHER SOUTHERN FORCES,
THIS PAVING THE WAY TO THE BLOODY BATTLE OF
ANTIETAM, THREE DAYS LATER.

WA 711 -038

Gettysburg State Park

Supposed Confederate trenches, S.E. View

Nov. 1978

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