Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-122

Magi No.

DOE ___ yes ___ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Jonas Sheffer Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1936 Old National Pike ___ not for publication

city, town Middletown ___ vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district)	___ public	___ occupied	X agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	X 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
	___ not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Moser Farms, Inc.

street & number 2222 Old National Pike telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code MD 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse Liber

street & number 100 West Patrick Street Folio

city, town Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

Survey # F-4-122 Approximate date September 14, 1862
Jonas Sheffer Farm
Street Address: 1936 Old National Pike
Town, State: Middletown vicinity, MD
private X, public ___

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. Located along the both sides of the Old National Pike, are the buildings of the Jonas Sheffer farmstead, near the eastern base of South Mountain. The farmstead is divided by the road with the domestic complex on the north side and the agricultural buildings on the south side. The buildings include a brick farmhouse with Greek Revival influence, a frame summer kitchen, stone and frame spring house, chicken house and sheds on the north side and a timber frame forebay bank barn, concrete block milkhouse and frame wagon shed/corn crib on the south side. The main buildings appear to date from the 1840-1860 period. Located between the crossroads community of Boliver on the Old National Pike, and Fox's Gap Road, this farmstead was witness to part of the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862. Specifically, the farm was located near to the point where the split of the Union Army occurred, with Hooker's Corps cutting to the right to attack Turner's Gap from the north while Reno's Corps turned to the left to attack the gap from the south. The Shiffer Farm lay between these two Corps on the direct route through Turners Gap, which was eventually followed by General John Gibbon's brigade for the frontal assault on the Gap accompanied by fierce fighting in the late afternoon.

Photo Reference: Photo #

Form Prepared By: Paula S. Reed, PhD and Edith B. Wallace
Woodward-Clyde
200 Orchard Ridge Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Date: February, 1998

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-122

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
_X_ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located along the both sides of the Old National Pike, are the buildings of the Jonas Sheffer farmstead, near the eastern base of South Mountain. The farmstead is divided by the road with the domestic complex on the north side and the agricultural buildings on the south side. The buildings include a brick farmhouse with Greek Revival influence, a frame summer kitchen, stone and frame spring house, chicken house and sheds on the north side and a timber frame forebay bank barn, concrete block milkhouse and frame wagon shed/corn crib on the south side. The main buildings appear to date from the 1840-1860 period. Located between the crossroads community of Boliver on the Old National Pike, and Fox's Gap Road, this farmstead was witness to part of the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862. Specifically, the farm was located near to the point where the split of the Union Army occurred, with Hooker's Corps cutting to the right to attack Turner's Gap from the north while Reno's Corps turned to the left to attack the gap from the south. The Sheffer Farm lay between these two Corps on the direct route through Turners Gap, which was eventually followed by General John Gibbon's brigade for the frontal assault on the Gap accompanied by fierce fighting in the late afternoon.

The house which faces south, directly onto the road, is a two story, three bay brick building with a side hall and parlor plan. A two story kitchen and service wing extends to the rear. At some time in the mid 20th century the exterior walls were covered with an imitation brick veneer of concrete. Most windows have six over six pane sash beneath wide wooden lintels, typical of the Greek Revival influenced mid-19th century. The first story front windows have been elongated and their six light sash replaced with single panes. This change was probably made in the early 20th century, possibly at the same time that an across-the-front hipped roof porch was added. The front entrance like the windows reflects the Greek Revival style. It is trabeated with a transom and sidelights. On either side of the six panel door are rounded pilasters separating the door enframement from the sidelights. The porch which has a concrete deck, is supported by square columns at the front and a pair of round pilasters agaist the house wall at the back of the front porch. The roof is covered with sheet metal and brick chimneys are located inside the gable ends. The wing to the rear has a two story work and sleeping porch, recessed under the main roof span of the wing along its east elevation. Old concrete paved walkways lead from the roadside to the front entrance and to the kitchen entrance on the east side of the rear wing.

East and north of the house, convenient to the kitchen are a typical array of domestic outbuildinfgs. These include a frame summer kitchen (a one story, three bay building with an attached smokehouse), a shed-roofed chicken house, a stone and frame shed roofed spring house, and a small gable roofed building which may have been a hog barn. The domestic yard area is defined by fence lines and old shade trees.

On the south side of the Old National Pike are the agricultural buildings. Principal among these is a timber frame forebay bank barn which is oriented with its forebay facing southeast. At the rear of the barn on either side of the ramp to the threshing floor are concrete silos with metal staves. These, along with a concrete block milk house located immediately east of the barn probably date from the 1930s or 1940s. East of the barn is a frame gable fronted wagon shed and corn crib which opens directly onto the edge of the highway. It is covered with a combination of vertical boards and German siding in the gables. Sheet metal roofing is used for these outbuildings.

The buildings are located amid rolling open farmland which rises gently into the slope of South Mountain.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-122

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

Specific dates September 14, 1862 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: X A ___ B X C ___ D

and/or

Applicable Exceptions: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Level of Significance: X national ___ state ___ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Jonas Sheffer House is significant for its Civil War associations and for its mid 19th century intact farmstead. It is located along the Old National Pike west of the Bolivar crossroads in close proximity to the action centered at Turners Gap during the Civil War Battle of South Mountain which occurred on September 14, 1862. The Union objective was to gain access to the passes across South Mountain so that Federals could attack the divided and vulnerable Confederate Army in the valley to the west. The Confederates held a thin line of defense under General D.H. Hill at Turner's Gap which was the main Union objective, since the National Road crossed the mountain through this gap. Expecting the pass to be strongly defended, the Federals initiated flanking movements to the north and to the south of the National Road, and then a direct frontal assault which would have occurred through the Sheffer farm. In addition, the farm is situated at the eastern end of the knoll upon which the most dominant Confederate batteries where placed. The farmstead is also significant as an excellent example of a mid-19th century farmstead with a full compliment of outbuildings. The spacial organization is distinctive with the domestic buildings located on the north side of the road and the agricultural buildings on the south side. Although the buildings are vacant and deteriorating, they remain with minimal alterations and retain their mid 19th century character. The farmstead and its surrounding landscape suggest the appearance of the approach to Turner's Gap as experienced by both Union and Confederate forces in September of 1862.

Also from the Sheffer House one could have witnessed the movement of the IX Corps down the Old Sharpsburg Road and the I Corps down the Old Hagerstown Road. General Burnside was placed in charge of the effort to secure Turner's Gap for the Union. Burnside's plan to divide and conquer sent Reno's IX Corps to the south to attack Confederate General D.H. Hill's defense on his right. Hooker's I Corps was sent to the north to attack Hill on his left. In an effort to distract the enemy Burnside selected Gibbon's "Black Hat Brigade" of regiments from Wisconsin and Indiana to approach Turner's Gap directly up the Old National Pike. The march of Gibbon's Brigade would have passed directly in front of, and probably behind, the Sheffer House, the column marching through the fields on the left and the right of the road.[1] Gibbon's attack began in the late afternoon of September 14th. Opposing him was Alfred Colquitt's brigade of Georgians. Colquitt positioned sharpshooters in a skirmish line to delay the federal advance. Being on high ground, the Confederates had an advantage. "...[A]ll the way up the mountain, the opposing skirmish lines played a deadly game of hide-and-seek among orchards

[1]Stephen W. Sears, **Landscape Turned Red**, New York: Ticknor and Fields, 1983, p. 141.

and farm buildings and woodlots."[2] Some of these obstacles may well have been the buildings on the Sheffer farm.

The Sheffer farm is secondarily important for its collection of period farm buildings reflecting mid 19th century preferences for farmstead construction. The house with the trabeated entrance and linteled windows show the influence of the Greek Revival style, while also retaining traditional regional features like the two story work porches and barn and outbuilding placement and type. Noteworthy about this property is the spacial arrangement of the buildings with domestic functions on the north side of the road and agricultural functions on the south side. These features are generally associated with Germanic building traditions of southcentral Pennsylvania and central Maryland.

This farm was purchased by Jonas Sheffer from John Routzahn in September 23, 1850 (Deed Liber ES 5/Folio 585). He retained ownership until January 3, 1895 when he sold the farm to Daniel V. Harp (JLJ 7/662). It is shown under Sheffer ownership on the Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County, (1858) and on US Army Engineers' Civil War maps.

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[2]Stephen W. Sears, "Fire on the Mountain," **Blue and Gray**, December-January, 1986-87, p.20

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1970

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Military

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
Domestic/Single Dwelling
Agriculture/Animal facility

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-122

Books

Hartwig, D. Scott, Civil War Regiments, A Journal of the American Civil War, Vol 5, #3, "Antietam, the Maryland Campaign of 1862". Article entitled "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap", Savas Publishing Co., Campbell, CA, 1997.

Luvaas, Jay and Harold W. Nelson eds., The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862, Harper Collins Publishers, Washington, 1987.

Murfin, James V., The Gleam of Bayonets, The Battle of Antietam and Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign, September 1862, Thomas Yoseloff, New York, 1965.

Roth, Dave, "The General's Tour of South Mountain", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.

Schildt, John W., The Ninth Corps, At Antietam Chewsville, Maryland, 1988.

Sears, Stephen W., "Fire On The Mountain, The Battle of South Mountain September 14, 1862", Blue & Gray Magazine, Dec-Jan, 1986-87.

Sears, Stephen W., Landscape Turned Red, The Battle of Antietam, Ticknor and Fields, New York, 1983.

Swinton, William, Army of the Potomac, Smithmark Publisher, New York, 1995.

U.S. War Department, The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol XIX, Parts I and II, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1880-1901.

Manuscripts

Frye, Dennis, National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.

Maps

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. II, p.568.

Bond, Isaac, Map, 1858, Frederick Co. Public Library, Maryland Room

The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, Plate 27, Gramercy Books, New York, 1983.

Engineers Maps, 1862, National Register Nomination, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.

Macombe Map, 1861, Frederick Co. Public Library, Maryland Room

10. Geographical Data

F-4-122

Acreage of nominated property 182.97 acres

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References DO NOT COMPLETE UTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The parcel of Moser Farms, Inc. within which the J. Sheffer House is located is approximately 183 acres centered across U.S. Alternate 40, bounded on the west and south by Fox Gap Road, on the east by the Kepler farm, and to the north by several other Moser Farm parcels. The Sheffer House and farm complex are located approximately in the center of the parcel, straddling U.S. Alternate 40 on the north and south. Frederick Co. Tax Map #54, parcel #8.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

ate	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

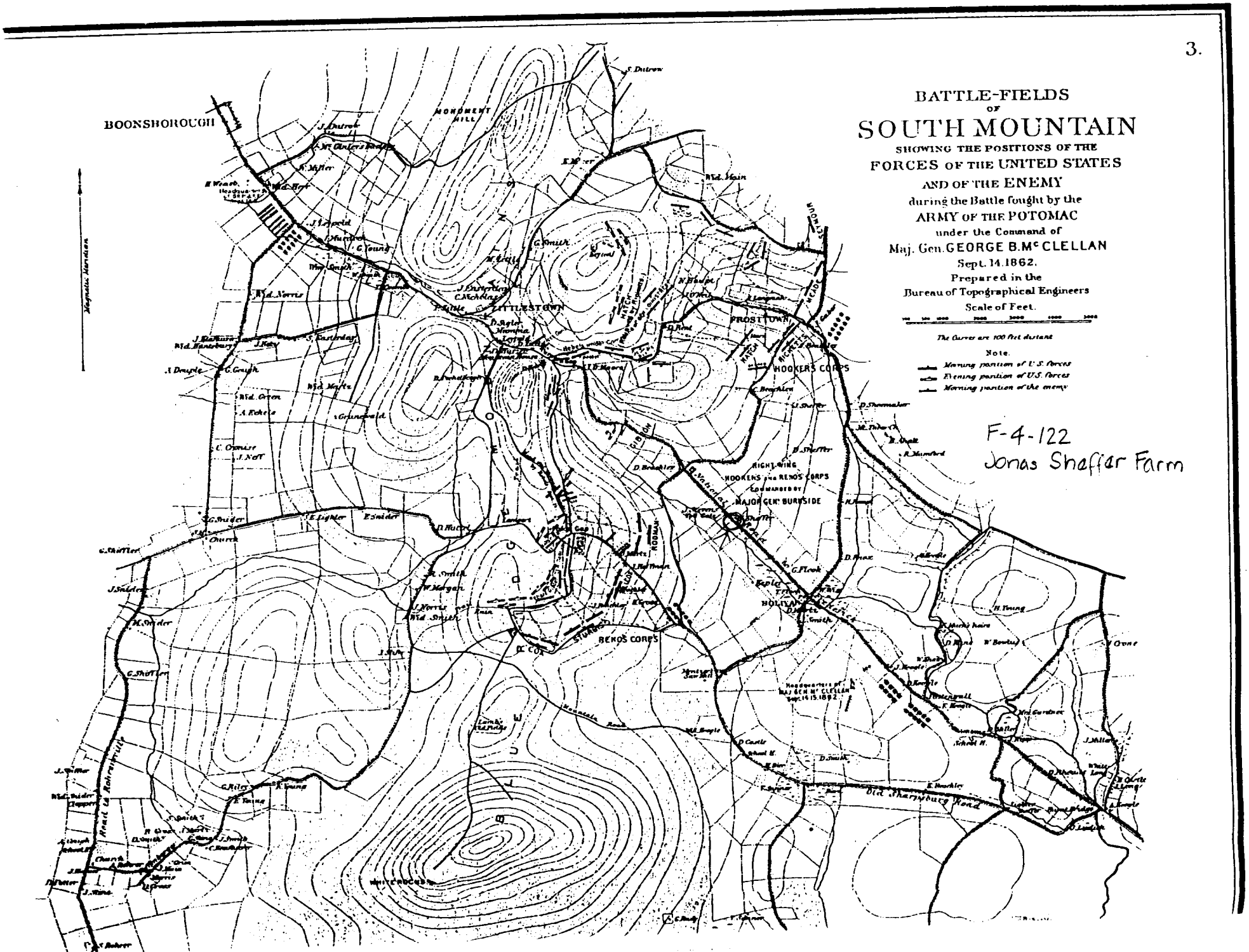
name/title	Paula S. Reed, PhD and Edith B. Wallace		
organization	Woodward-Clyde	date	2/98
street & number	200 Orchard Ridge Drive	telephone	301-739-2070
city or town	Gaithersburg	state	MD 20878

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.

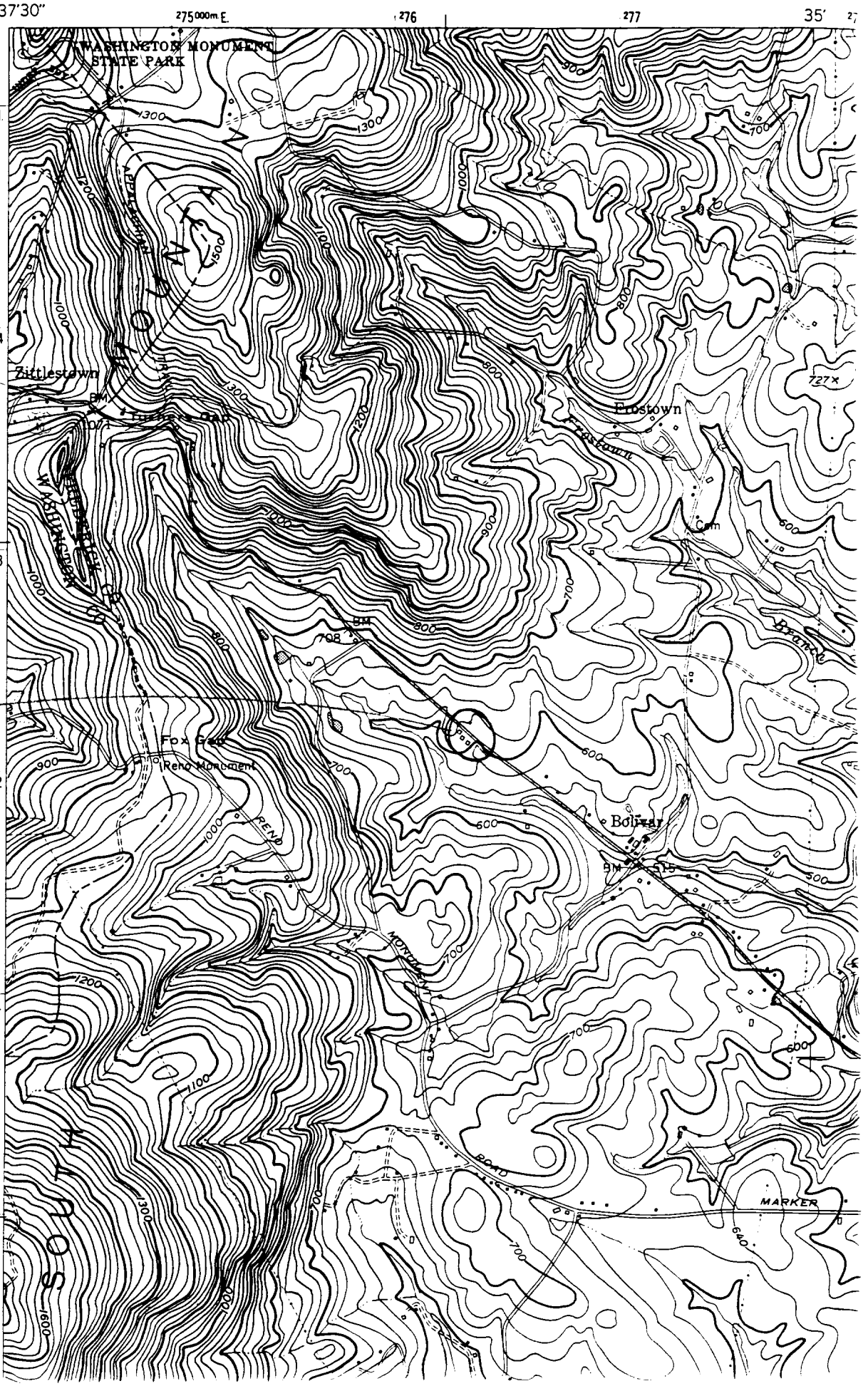
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000

PLATE XXVII.


3.
BATTLE-FIELDS
OF
SOUTH MOUNTAIN
SHOWING THE POSITIONS OF THE
FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES
AND OF THE ENEMY
during the Battle fought by the
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC
under the Command of
Maj. Gen. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN
Sept. 14. 1862.
Prepared in the
Bureau of Topographical Engineers
Scale of Feet.
The Curves are 100 feet distant
Note.
Morning position of U.S. forces
Evening position of U.S. forces
Morning position of the enemy
BOONSBOROUGH
MONUMENT HILL
ZITTLESTOWN
FROSTTOWN
HOOKERS CORPS
RIGHT WING
HOOKERS and RENO'S CORPS
COMMANDED BY
MAJOR GEN. BURNSIDE
RENO'S CORPS
BOLIVAR
Headquarters of
MAJ. GEN. McCLELLAN
Sept. 14. 15. 1862
Old Sharpsburg Road
Mountain Road
Road to Rohrsville
WHITE ROCKS
Magnetic Meridian
F-4-122
Jonas Shaffer Farm

63 II SW
UNKSTOWN)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



F-4-122
Jonas Shaffer
Middletown

F-4-12 E
J. Shaffer House
Frederick Co., Maryland
Edith B. Wallace
4 November 1997
Maryland SHPO
view north from US 40 Alt (National Pike)
S elevation of house
1/4

F-4-122
J. Shaffer House
Frederick Co., Maryland
Edith B Wallace
4 November 1997
Maryland SHPO
view north from US40 Alt (National Pike)
S elevation of outbuildings
2/4

F-4-122
J. Shefler House
Frederick Co, Maryland
Edith B Wallace
4 November 1997 / Maryland SHPO
view south from US40 Alt (National Pike)
NW elevation of barn (Moser Farm)
3/4

F-4-122
J. Shefler House
Frederick Co., Maryland
Edith B Wallace
4 November 1997
view south from US 40 Alt (National Pike)
NE elevation of equipment barn
4/4