

9401322

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Daniel Kepler Property Survey Number: ~~7~~- F-4-124

Project: Scenic Easement Acquisition Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, the Daniel Kepler Property, located in the vicinity of Bolivar, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its association with the development of agriculture in Frederick County and for its association with the events of the assault on Turner's Gap in the Civil War. A portion of the property is included in the Fox's Gap section of the South Mountain Battlefield, included in the National Register of Historic Places. The farmstead consists of a log and frame farmhouse, a meathouse, springhouse, bankbarn, haybarn, and numerous other agricultural outbuildings.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File

Prepared by: Engineering-Science

Elizabeth Hannold June 30, 1994
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: yes no not applicable
[Signature] 7-1-94
Reviewer, NR program Date

[Handwritten mark]

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

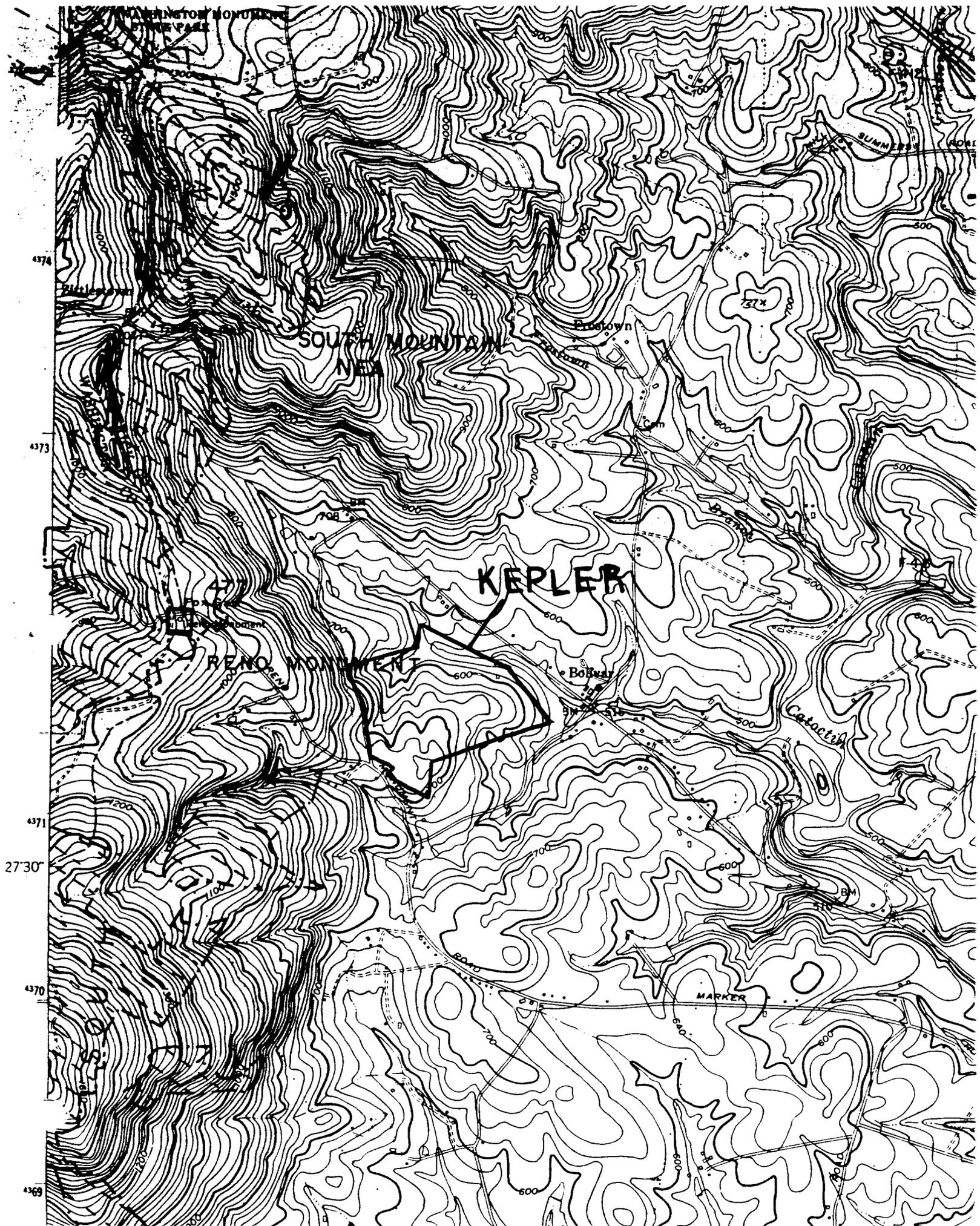
V. Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

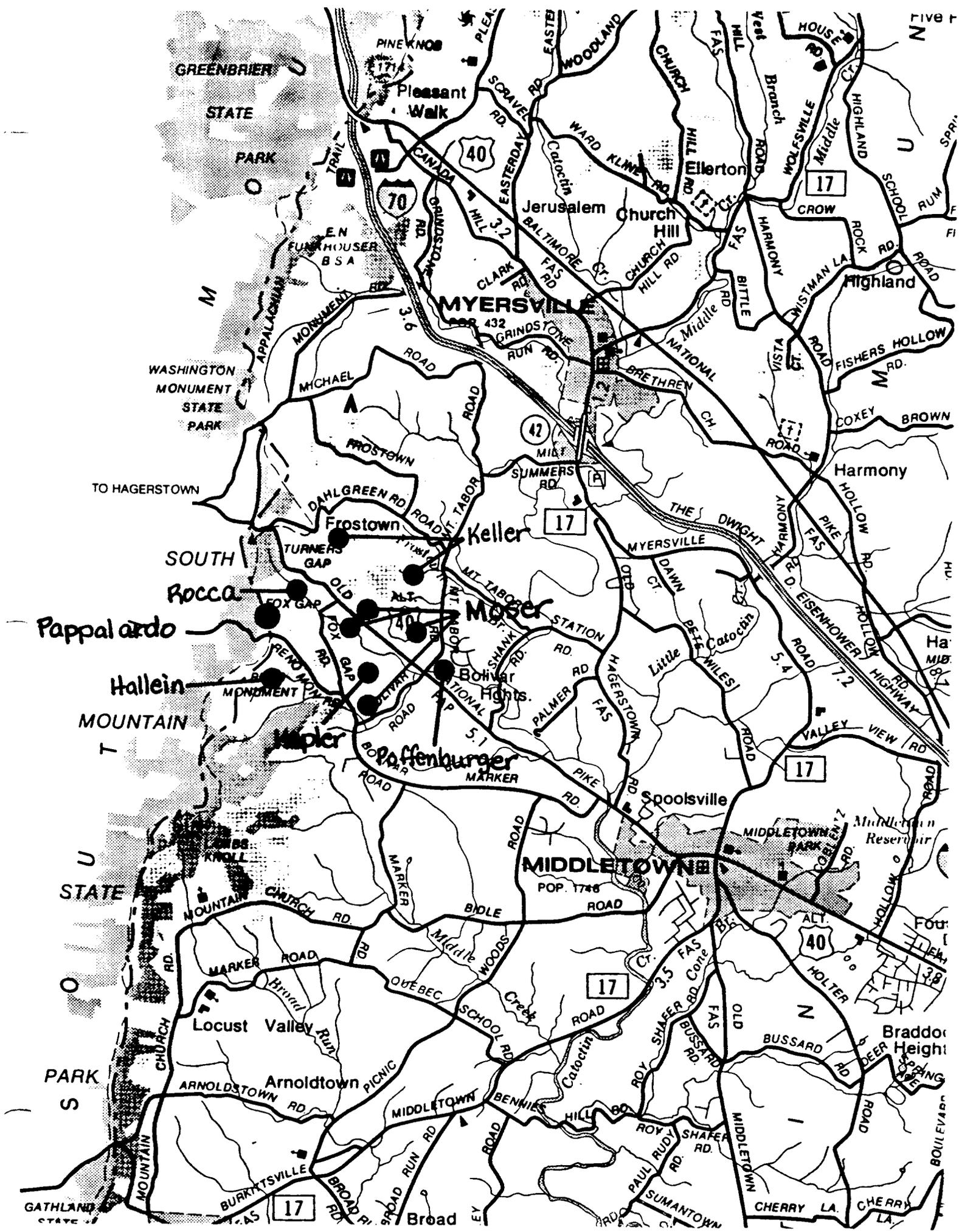
Historic Environment: rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Family, Agricultural

Known Design Source: na



F-4-124



F-4-124



Panorama of Kepler property looking
west from US 40 ALT F-4-124

Left to Right: Wagon Shed, Spring house,
Bank barn, Dwellings, Chicken House (behind
dwellings)



Dwelling, Southeast
(Principal) Elevation
F-4-124



Mouthouse, S. W. corner
F-4-124



F-4-124
Combination Wagon Shed/
Corn Crib, Chicken House
in foreground



Bank barn, SE corner
F-4-124



Hog Pen, N. E elevation
F-4-124



F-4-124
Combination Wagon shed/
Corn crib, + Auto garage,
N.E. Corners



Spring house, N.W. corner
F-4-124

Survey # F-4-124
The Kepler Farm
Street Address: 2111 Old National Pike
Town, State: Middletown vicinity, MD
private X, public

Approximate date September 14, 1862

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. The Kepler farmstead is located in a ravine with limestone outcrops, just south of Old National Road, and just west of the crossroads community of Boliver west of Middletown in Frederick County. Buildings include a gable-fronted two story house, probably of log construction, a timber frame bank barn with enclosed forebay, a wagon shed and various domestic and agricultural outbuildings. The house is situated on the low ground with the barn at higher elevation to its southeast. The wagon shed is located south of the house, also on the lower ground.

The Kepler Farm was in the path of the Union approach to Turner's Gap, and Civil War maps from the Official Records of the War show that General Reno's IX Corps deployed from the southwestern edge of the Kepler farm as they moved into Fox's Gap in an attempt to outflank the Confederates holding Turner's Gap. Historic maps also show a battery of artillery placed in a field just south of the Kepler's farm buildings. The Kepler Farm is also secondarily significant for its architecture. The juxtaposition of the buildings is unusual with the barn at a higher elevation than the house. The house itself is unusual or the region with its gable-front presentation and combined Greek Revival and Italianate decorative features.

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

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-124

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Kepler Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2111 Old National Road

not for publication

city, town Middletown

vicinity of

congressional district 6

state Maryland

county Frederick

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

in process
 being considered
 not applicable

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military

museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

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

name Daniel A. and Helen L. Kepler

street & number 2111 Old National Pike

telephone no.:

city, town Middletown

state and zip code MD 21768

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse

Liber 845

street & number 100 West Patrick Street

Folio 540

city, town Frederick

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-124

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	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The Kepler farmstead is located in a ravine with limestone outcrops, just south of Old National Road, and just west of the crossroads community of Boliver west of Middletown in Frederick County. Buildings include a gable-fronted two story house, probably of log construction, a timber frame bank barn with enclosed forebay, a wagon shed and various domestic and agricultural outbuildings. The house is situated on the low ground with the barn at higher elevation to its southeast. The wagon shed is located south of the house, also on the lower ground.

The house faces east, and is a long rectangle with the main facade being the east gable end. It rests on stone foundations which are fairly high and is of wood construction, probably log with siding which appears to be aluminum. The front elevation is two bays wide with the main entrance in the more southerly bay. It is sheltered by a Greek Revival style pedimented porch supported by four columns. Windows have single pane replacement sash. The front elevation is distinguished by a broad frieze along the gable trimmed with brackets. Chimneys are located inside the gable ends and near the center of the house. The roofing material is sheet metal. The house appears to date from the mid 19th century, probably the 1850s or '60s.

The barn is large with vertical siding and high stone foundations which extend out to support the forebay. The wagon shed with its open gable end faces north toward the Old National Road.

A small stream runs through the ravine just to the northeast of the house. The topography of the farm is hilly with limestone outcrops and wooded fencelines and woodlots. The property extends to the south to Fox's Gap Road near its intersection with Reno Monument Road. It contains 130.50 acres.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-124

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/
<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 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exceptions: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

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

The Kepler Farm is important primarily for its role in the Civil War Battle of South Mountain which occurred on September 14, 1862. Located along the south side of the National Road, the farm was in the path of the Union approach to Turner's Gap, and Civil War maps from the Official Records of the War show that General Reno's IX Corps deployed from the southwestern edge of the Kepler farm as they moved into Fox's Gap in an attempt to outflank the Confederates holding Turner's Gap. Historic maps also show a battery of artillery placed in a field just south of the Kepler's farm buildings. The Kepler Farm is also secondarily significant for its architecture. The juxtaposition of the buildings is unusual with the barn at a higher elevation than the house. The house itself is unusual for the region with its gable-front presentation and combined Greek Revival and Italianate decorative features.

During the Battle of South Mountain, 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. General Joseph Hooker's I Corps was selected to skirt to the north while General Jesse Reno's IX Corps was assigned the task of advancing from the South by way of Fox's Gap. The two corps split at Boliver crossroads, a short distance east of the Kepler Farm. In an effort to distract the enemy, General Ambrose Burnside selected Gibbon's "Black Hat Brigade" to approach Turner's Gap directly up the Old National Pike, and initiate a frontal attack.

The Kepler farm sits in the shadow of the hill from which McClellan watched his grand army do battle. From the Kepler 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 (today's Mt. Tabor Road). The march of Gibbon's Brigade would have passed directly in front of the Kepler House, the column marching through the fields on the left and the right of the road.¹ From the Kepler farm, there was also a good view of the battle as it unfolded. Unfortunately for the Federals, their three-pronged attack was slow and uncoordinated, allowing the Confederates to reinforce their positions. The Confederates also had the advantage of terrain by holding the high ground. As one Union private put it, "the rebels had stone walls to get behind and the

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

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

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Magi No.

DOE yes no

Section Number 8 Page 2

woods to fall back in."² When General Reno went to the front to investigate the slow progress of his Corps at Fox's Gap, he was killed by a Rebel sharpshooter. The 7th Wisconsin, part of Gibbon's brigade was pinned down by flanking fire on the side of the mountain, along the National Road, a short distance west of the Kepler farm. By nightfall, the Rebels still held Turner's Gap, but they withdrew early the next morning realizing that their position could not be maintained.

The Kepler farm is secondarily important as a vernacular farmstead grouping from the mid 19th century. The placement of the buildings on the landscape is unusual as is the exterior plan of the house. The exterior details suggest a construction date from the 1850s or '60s with mixed Greek Revival and Italianate influence. The structure of the house is probably log, as was typical of the region. Most farmsteads in central Maryland do not have the barn at such a distance and so much higher in elevation from the house. The gable-front presentation is also unusual among central Maryland farmhouses.

The Kepler farm is also unusual in that it has been in the Kepler family since 1861. The farm was acquired by William J. Kepler on May 7, 1861 from Ezra Warrenfeltz (Deed Liber BGF 6/ folio 680). It remains in the Kepler family today.

²Sears, "Fire on the Mountain," *Blue and Gray*, December-January, 1986-87, p. 21.

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Survey No. F-4-124

Magi No.

DOE yes no

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HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870

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):

Single Residence
Animal facility

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-124

Books

- artwig, 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

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

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.

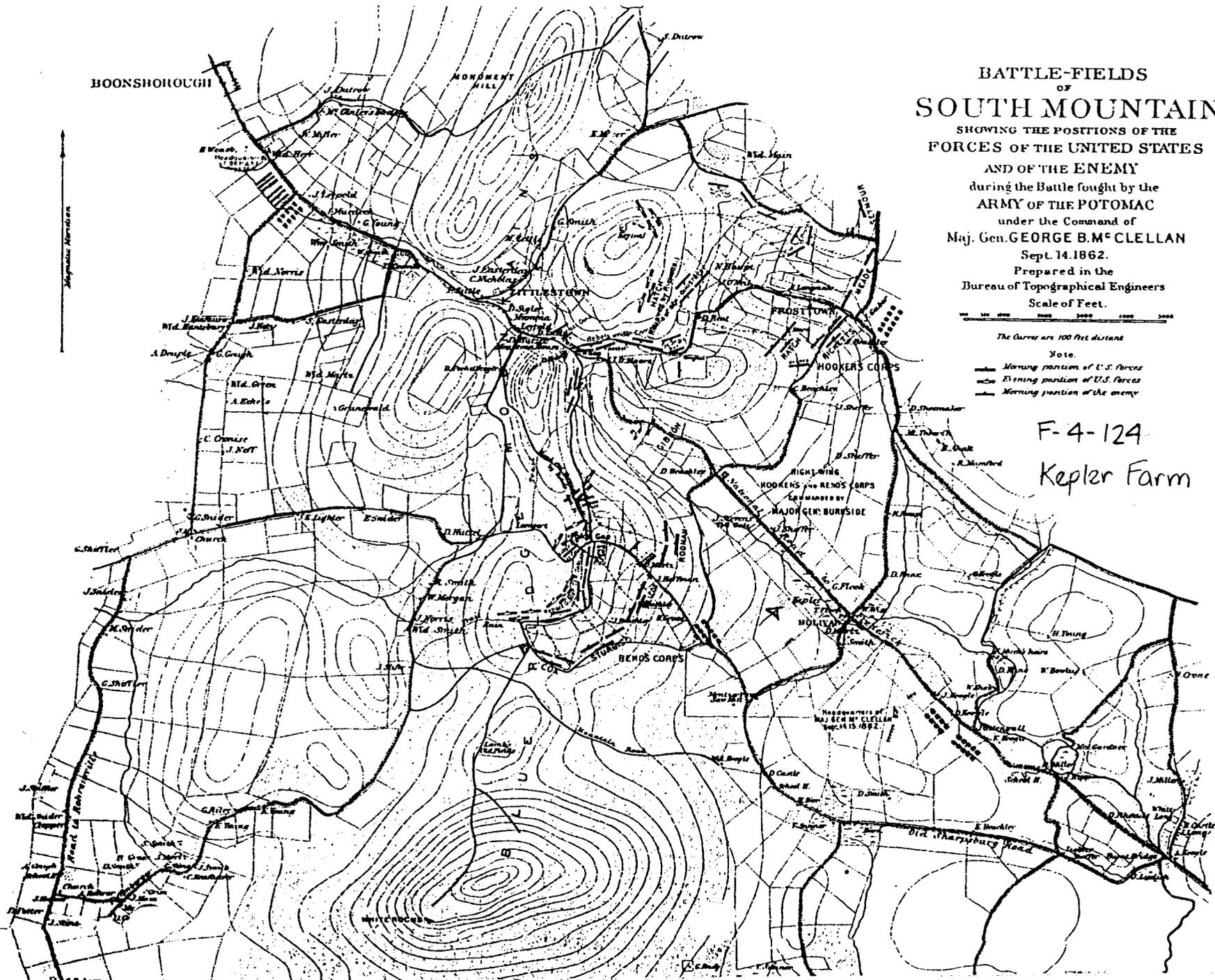


The Curves are 100 feet distant

Note.

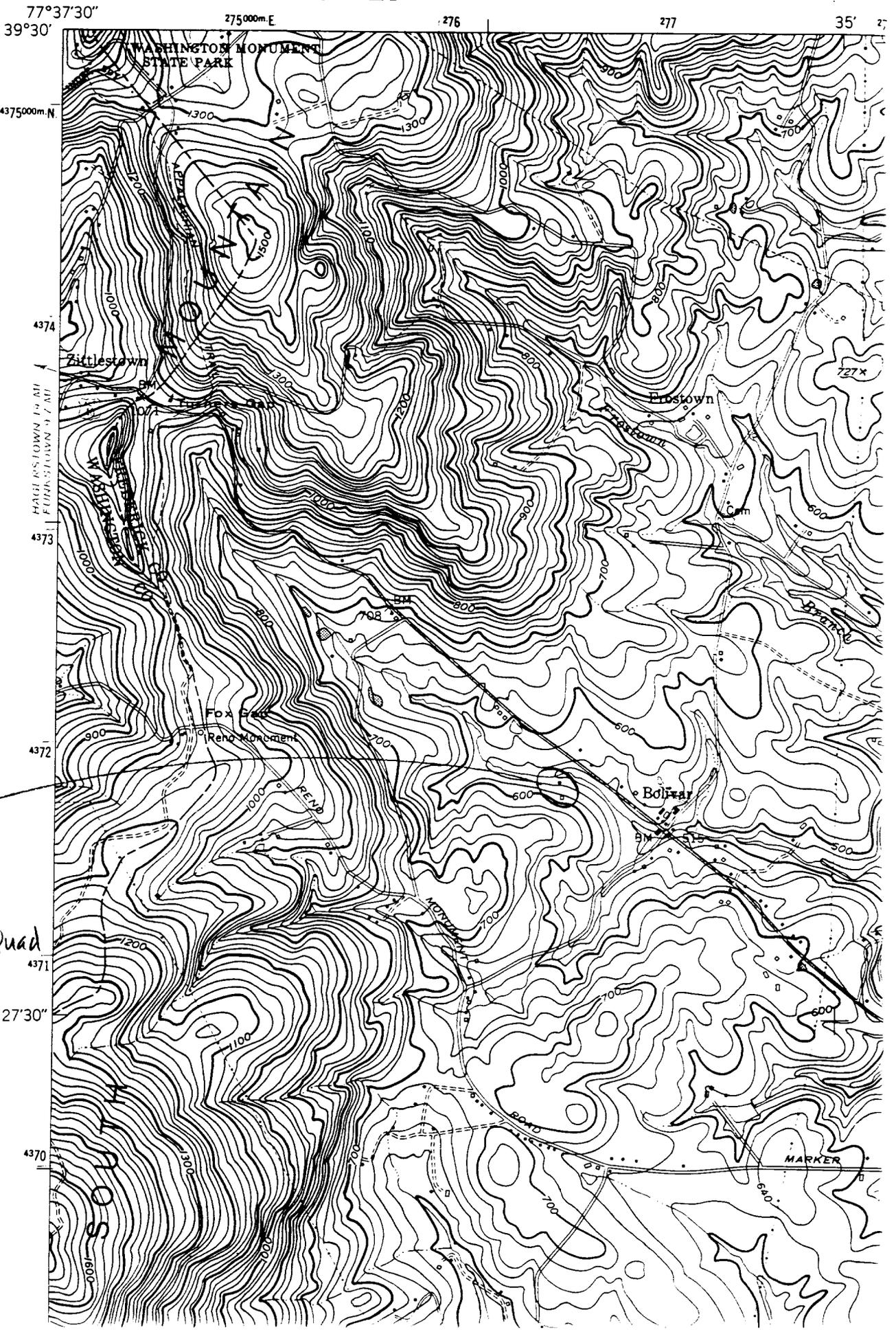
- Morning position of U.S. forces
- Evening position of U.S. forces
- Morning position of the enemy

F-4-124
Kepler Farm



63 11 SW
UNKSTOWN

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



F-4-124
Kepler Farm
Middletown Quad



F-4-124

Kapler Farm

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

4 November 1997

view southwest from US 40 Alt. (National Pike)

overall of farm, E elevation of house

1/10



F-4-124

Kapler Farm

Frederick Co. Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

4 November 1997

view south from US40 Alt (National Pike)

N elevation of house and barn

2/10



F-4-124

Kepler Farm

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

14 March 1998

Maryland S-PC

N and W elevation of house

4/10



F-4-124

Kepler Farm

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

14 March 1970

Maryland SHPD

view west, of Turner's Gap from farm

SE elevation of house

3/10



F-4-124

Kepler Farm

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

14 March 1998/Maryland SHPO

N elevations, out buildings

5/10



F-4-124

Kepler Farm

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B Wallace

14 March 1998

Maryland SHPO

S and E elevations of house

6/10



F-4-124

Kepler Farm

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B Wallace

14 March 1993

Maryland SHPO

interior door, first floor, back parlor

7/10



F-4-124

Kepler Farm

Frederick Co. Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

14 March 1998

Maryland SHPO

mantel, east wall, first floor, front parlor

8/10



F-4-124

Kepler Farm

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

14 March 1998

Maryland SHPO

mantel, interior east wall, first floor,
drawing room

9/10



F-4-124

Kepler Farm

Frederick Co. Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

14 March 1998

Maryland SHPO

N and E elevations of barn

10/10