Survey # F-4-126 Approximate date September 14, 1862
Dahlgren Road (Old Hagerstown Road)
Street Address: From Frostown Road to US Alternate 40
Town, State: Middletown vicinity, MD
private ___, public X

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. Dahlgren Road is a 1 1/2 lane gravel road which runs north from its intersection with U.S. Alt 40 just east of the crest of South Mountain at Turner's Gap. The road joins Frostown Road at the base of the mountain on the east side, approximately 1 mile north of U.S. Alt. 40. From intersection to intersection Dahlgren Road runs approximately 2 miles in length. Beginning at the intersection with Alternate 40, Dahlgren Rd. travels northeasterly along the eastern side of the mountain and passes the knoll upon which Confederate batteries were placed. The road then curves to the north and then sharply east again as it begins descending the mountain. As the road descends along an easterly projecting ridge, a ravine opens up on the left. Here Hooker's I Corps struggled up the steep sides of the ravine to overtake Confederate defenses along Dahlgren Road. The road is significant for the direct and primary role it played in the Civil War Battle of South Mountain. It was strategic to both the Confederate defense of Turners Gap and to the Union attempt to dislodge them. Beyond the gap to the west, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was divided and vulnerable to Union attack.

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-4-126

Magi No.

DOE ___ yes ___ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Hagerstown Road, Frostown Road

and/or common Dahlgren Road

2. Location

street & number From US Alternate 40 to Frostown ___ not for publication

city, town Middletown X vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district)	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
X structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	X transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Frederick County Roads Department

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21701

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 National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17, A,B,C

date February, 1986 X federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-126

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

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

Dahlgren Road is a 1 1/2 lane gravel road which runs north from its intersection with U.S. Alt 40 just east of the crest of South Mountain at Turner's Gap. The road joins Frostown Road at the base of the mountain on the east side, approximately 1 mile north of U.S. Alt. 40. From intersection to intersection Dahlgren Road runs approximately 2 miles in length.

Beginning at the intersection with Alternate 40, Dahlgren Rd. travels northeasterly along the eastern side of the mountain and passes the knoll upon which Confederate batteries were placed. The road then curves to the north and then sharply east again as it begins descending the mountain. As the road descends along an easterly projecting ridge, a ravine opens up on the left. Here Hooker's I Corps struggled up the steep sides of the ravine to overtake Confederate defenses along Dahlgren Road.

Mistakenly referred to as Old Hagerstown Road by various commanders in the Official Records of the Civil War, Dahlgren Rd. was originally a part of Frostown Road. Dahlgren Road was renamed when the county took on the maintenance of the road in the 1950s. Prior to that time the road was a dirt track/trail depending on which part of the road one was on. Dahlgren Road is now graded with fine gravel and is considered passable in all weather.

The road passes through woodland although, historically as it descended along the ravine, the landscape was open and farmed with fields demarcated with stone fences. Occasionally stone fences line the edge of the road as well. Historic properties such as the Rent, O'Neil and Haupt places were accessed from this road. Today, a few modern houses and summer places are reached from this road as well.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-126

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	___ architecture	___ education	X military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other(specify)
		___ invention		

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

check: Applicable Criteria: X A ___ B ___ 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 Old Hagerstown Road is significant for the role it played in the Civil War Battle of South Mountain. The road was strategic to both the Confederate defense of Turners Gap and to the Union attempt to dislodge them. Beyond the gap to the west, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was divided and vulnerable to Union attack.

The Old Hagerstown Road (Dahlgren Road) was quickly recognized by the Confederate commanders to be essential to the defense of Turner's Gap. The road served as a source of cover, an artery for the movement of troops and artillery, and, in the end, as a line of retreat. For the Union commanders, the Old Hagerstown Road, from the east looking west, and the farm road (now Frostown Road) which looped north and west, were access to the left flank of the Confederate defense.

On September 13, 1862, under orders from General D.H. Hill, Colonel A.H. Colquitt arrived at Turner's Gap with his brigade and Captain Lane's battery. Seeing the movements of Pleasanton's Cavalry below and the infantry in the distance, Colquitt's artillery "were thrown rapidly into position at the most available points, and the infantry disposed upon the right and left of the road [somewhat downhill and east of the crest]. The enemy made no further efforts to advance, and at dark withdrew from my immediate front."[1] The following day the battle was imminent, this time Colquitt's "Twenty-third of Georgia and Twenty-eighth Georgia, were put in position on the left of the turnpike, under cover of a stone fence..."[2] (Colquitt's Stone Wall, F-4-130) They would face the fury of Gibbon's brigade approaching from the National Pike below later that day. Their position behind the stone fence would prove impossible to break, keeping the Old National Road open for the Confederate retreat during the night.[3]

Late in the afternoon of September 14, at the northeastern end of the Old Hagerstown Road, where Dahlgren Road now intersects Frostown Road, Union General Joseph Hooker's I Corps was arriving to prepare an attack on the left flank of Hill's line of defense. The rugged terrain ahead of them would be

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[1]Jay Luvaas and Harold W. Nelson, eds., **The US Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862**, p. 48, and from O.R., Vol XIX, Part I, p.1052.

[2]Ibid. p. 1052.

[3]Stephen, W. Sears, **Landscape Turned Red**, New York: Ticknor and Fields, 1983, p. 142-3.

their greatest disadvantage. While Hooker divided his men, General John P. Hatch on the left following the fields along the Old Hagerstown Road and General George G. Meade to the right, Hill's reinforcements were being funnelled down the Old Hagerstown Road from the Gap, to face the Union threat. The Alabama Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Rodes was sent to protect the hills divided by the ravine to the extreme left. Spread out along the fields in front of the Old Hagerstown Rd. paralleling the ridge were the brigades of Kemper, Garnett, Jenkins, and Evans.[4] (see map "Battles and Leaders,II, p.568) Brigadier General Richard B. Garnett stated, "I was sent, by a narrow lane bearing to the left, to a higher position...and forming my line of battle, which I did by filing my command to the right through an open field. My right rested in thick woods, which descended quite abruptly in front, and my left in a field of standing corn."[5]

The battle in the fields in front of the Old Hagerstown Road raged into darkness. While Hatch's forces pushed the Confederates back through the cornfields, the road remained protected from the woods behind, it was too late for the Federals to push on and take the Gap.[6] During the night of September 14, the Confederate defenders retreated back to the main road and on to Sharpsburg.

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[4]James V. Murfin, **The Gleam of Bayonettes**, New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1965, p. 178.

[5]War College Guide, p.55, from O.R.,Vol XIX, Part I, pp.894-95.

[6]Sears, "Fire on the Mountain." p. 139.

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):

Military

Resource Type:

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Transportation/Public Road

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-126

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.

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 Offical 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

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.

F-4-126

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 10

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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

Dahlgren Rd. begins at the intesection with U.S. Alternate 40, approximately 200 feet east of the crest at Turner's Gap. The road follows a northeasterly direction along the east side of the mountain until it reaches the top of a knoll approximately 1/4 mile from its beginning. The road then curves to the north and begins descending the north face of the knoll, still on the east side of the mountain. A sharp curve to the east circumscribes the D. Rent House and continues down the east face of the mountain along a projecting ridge. At the base of the mountain Dahlgren Road intersects with Frostown Road, approximately 2 miles in all. Frederick Co. Tax Map #45.

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

state	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

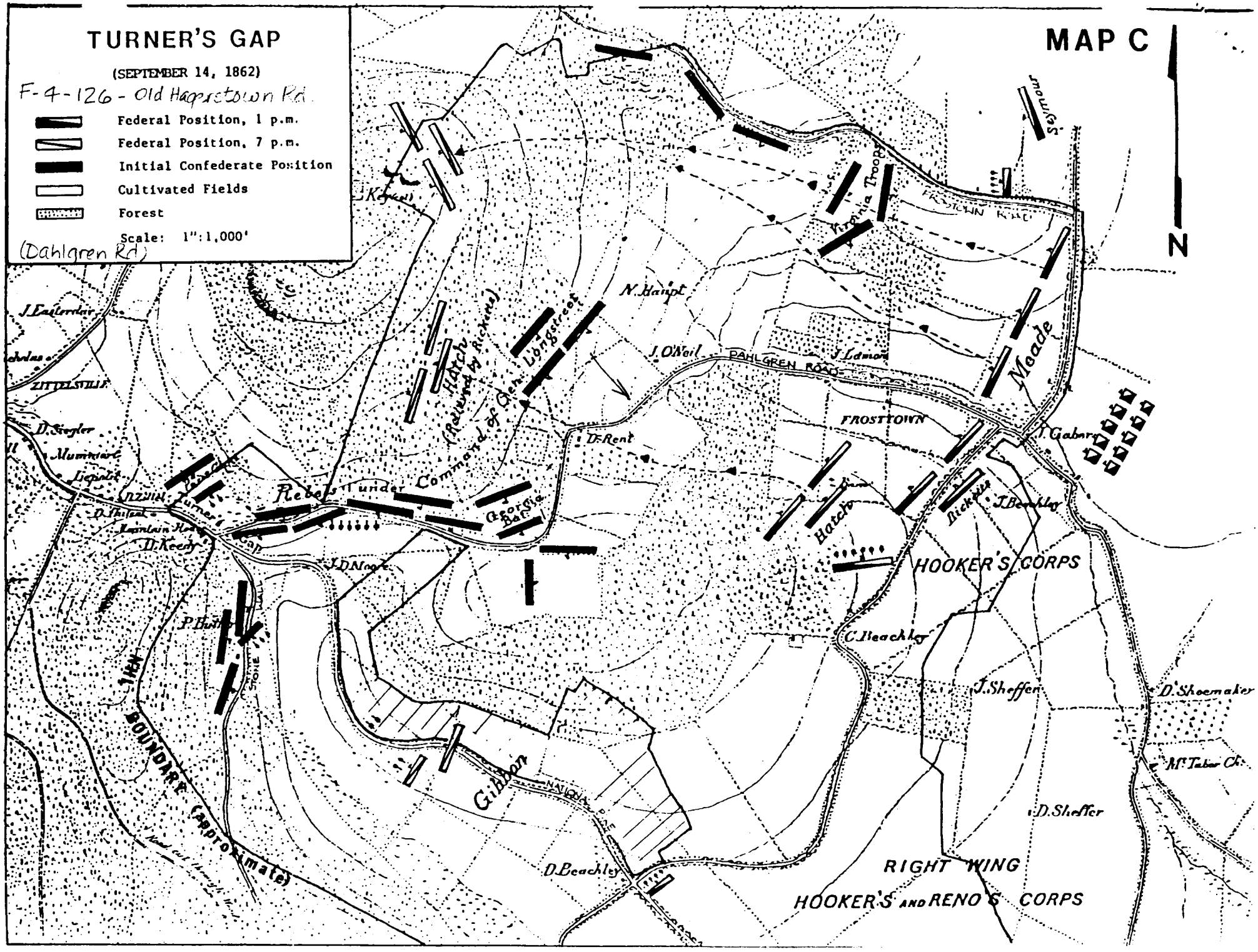
street & number 200 Orchard Ridge Drive telephone 301-739-2070

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.

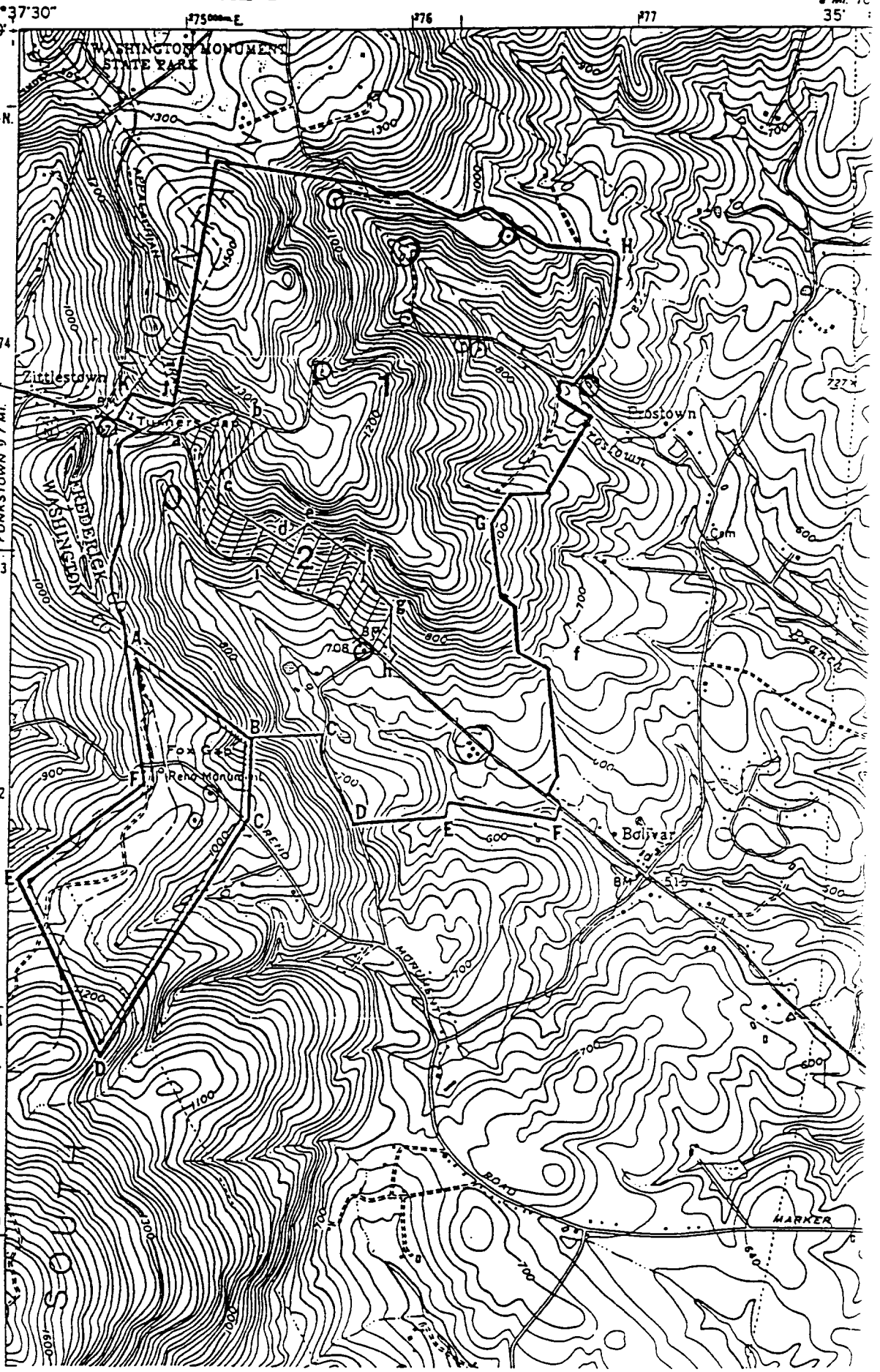
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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


TURNER'S GAP
(SEPTEMBER 14, 1862)
F-4-126 - Old Hagerstown Rd.
Federal Position, 1 p.m.
Federal Position, 7 p.m.
Initial Confederate Position
Cultivated Fields
Forest
Scale: 1":1,000'
(Dahlgren Rd)
MAP C
N
Seymour
Virginia Troops
FROSTOWN ROAD
N. Haupt
J. O'Neil
DAHLGREN ROAD
J. Lamon
Meade
FROSTTOWN
J. Gabers
Hatch
(Relieved by Ricketts)
Command of Gen. Longstreet
D. Rent
Rebels under
Turner's Gap
Georgia Bat.
Hatch
Ricketts
J. Beachley
HOOKER'S CORPS
C. Beachley
J. Sheffer
D. Shoemaker
Mt. Tabor Ch.
D. Sheffer
Gibbon
NATIONAL PIKE
D. Beachley
RIGHT WING
HOOKER'S AND RENO'S CORPS
J. Easterday
ZITTELSVILLE
D. Siegler
Mummert
Liepolt
D. Keedy
J. D. Moore
P. Butler
STONE HALL
BOUNDARY (approximate)

F-4-126

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

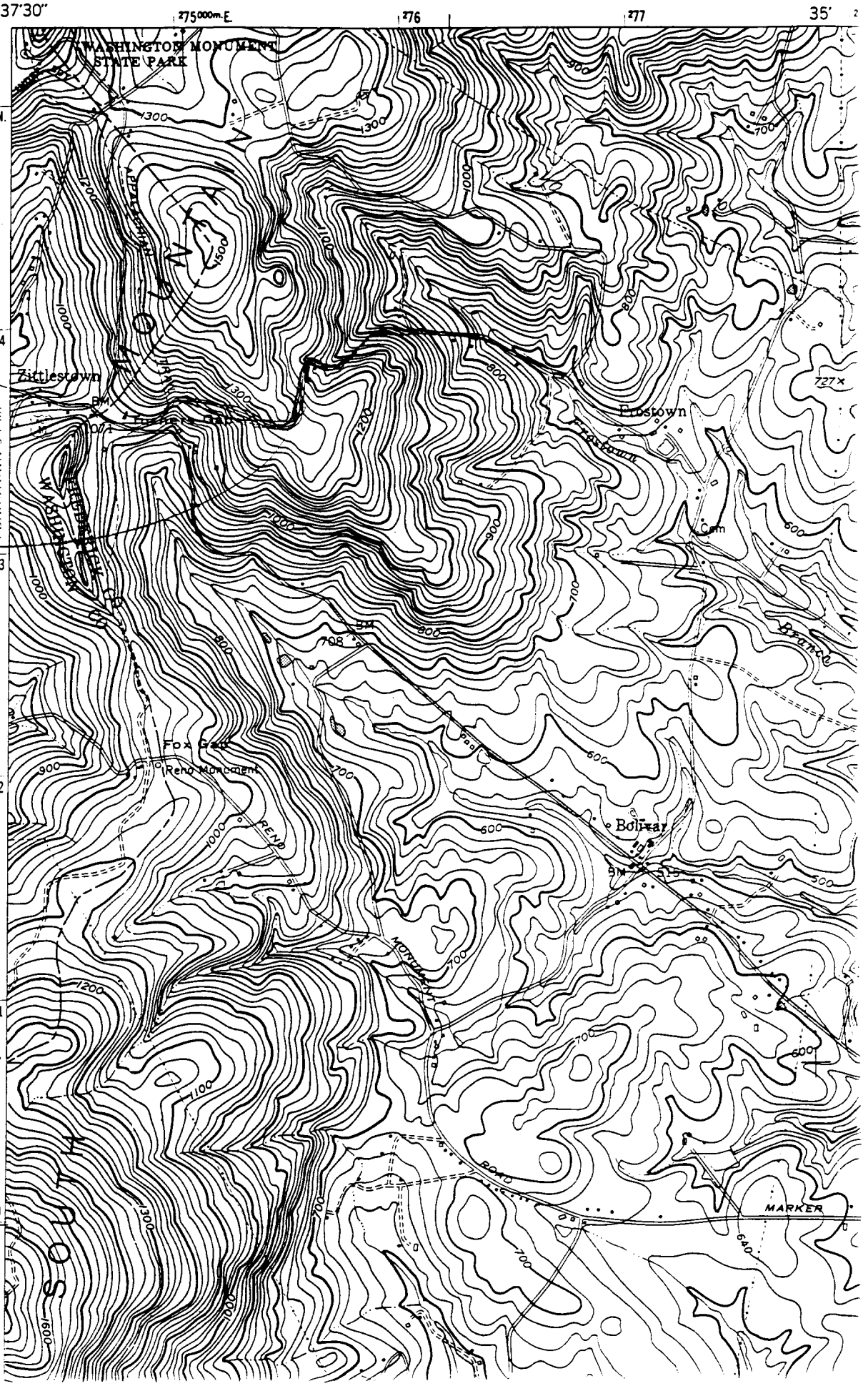


FOX'S GAP

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

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



F-4-126
Old Hagerstown Road
(Dahlgren Rd)
Middletown Quad

F-4-126
Dahlgren Rd Viewshed (location of Battlefield)
Frederick Co. Maryland
Edith B. Wallace
4 November 1997
Maryland SHPO
View south from Dahlgren Rd
across Turners Gap to Lambs Knoll at Fox's Gap
2/3

F-4-126
Frederick Co., Maryland
Edith B Wallace
4 November 1997
Maryland SHPO
view west on Dahlgren Rd toward Gap
stonewall remnants on north side
1/3

F-4-126
Dahlgren Rd, stone wall
Frederick Co, Maryland
Edith B. Wallace
4 November 1997
Maryland SHPO
view west, near D. Rant House
3/3