

Survey # F-4-129

Approximate date September 14, 1863

Loop Farm Lane

Street Address: Off Reno Monument Road

Town, State: Middletown vicinity, MD

Private X, 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. This farm road extends from Reno Monument Road to the south, then curves to the west to meet Mountain Road near the ridge of South Mountain, just south of Fox's Gap. It was used by Union forces as they launched an attack on the thin Confederate line defending Fox's Gap. The attack was part of a Union effort to gain control of Turner's Gap, one mile to the north, by initiating flanking actions to the north and to the south of the gap. Holding the mountain passes was crucial to the Confederate need to protect the main body of the Army of Northern Virginia which was separated and vulnerable to Union attack. The Confederate objective was to control the passes or gaps until their army could reunite and prepare for battle near Sharpsburg. The Loop Farm Road is significant for its direct and primary association with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, where it served as a conduit for Union troops attempting to attack the Confederate right, with the objective of driving them back and taking Turner's Gap. The battle set the stage for the Battle of Antietam three days later. By holding the gaps for the day, the Confederate defenders enabled Robert E. Lee's divided army to reassemble and prepare for battle.

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-4-129

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Loop Road, Loop Farm Lane

2. Location

street & number South of Reno Monument Road, East of Mountain Road not for publicationcity, town Middletown vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

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

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

name Multiple Owners (see attached list)

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street Folio

city, town Frederick state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

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

date February, 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-129

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

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

This farm road extends from Reno Monument Road to the south, then curves to the west to meet Mountain Road near the ridge of South Mountain, just south of Fox's Gap. It was used by Union forces as they launched an attack on the thin Confederate line defending Fox's Gap on September 14, 1862. The attack was part of a Union effort to gain control of Turner's Gap, one mile to the north, by initiating flanking actions to the north and to the south of the gap. Holding the mountain passes was crucial to the Confederate need to protect the main body of the Army of Northern Virginia which was separated and vulnerable to Union attack. The Confederate objective was to control the passes or gaps until their army could reunite and prepare for battle near Sharpsburg.

The Loop Farm Lane historically was a farm access lane which looped around the fields of several farms located on the eastern slope of South Mountain at Fox's Gap. The road exists today as a driveway for several houses near the intersection of the lane and Reno Monument Road and as a hiking trail and access road to the power lines which cross the trail near the crest of the mountain.

The condition of the Loop Farm Lane at its extremities is good. At the eastern end where the lane meets Reno Monument Road it is maintained as a gravel driveway. Approximately 300 feet back from the main road the lane disappears into the woods. The western end of the lane intersects with Mountain Road at the crest of the mountain. The lane is maintained here as a hiking trail but is wide enough for maintenance trucks for the power line which crosses the lane several hundred feet below the crest. The lane again enters the woods east of the power line and continues as a hiking trail.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-129

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**

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 Loop Farm Road is significant for its association with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, where it served as a conduit for Union troops attempting to attack the Confederate right, with the objective of driving them back and taking Turner's Gap. The battle occurred on September 14, 1862 and set the stage for the Battle of Antietam three days later. By holding the gaps for the day, the Confederate defenders enabled Robert E. Lee's divided army to reassemble and prepare for battle.

The Loop Farm Lane, referred to as the "Loop Road" by Scott Hartwig¹, runs south from the Old Sharpsburg Road [Reno Monument Road] and around to the west up the mountain to intersect with the Ridge Road [Mountain Road] at the crest of the mountain near Lambs Knoll. It was along this road that General Jacob Cox's Kanawha Division, IX Corps, Army of the Potomac, approached the right flank of General D.H. Hill's Confederate defense of South Mountain.

Approaching Fox's Gap along the Old Sharpsburg Road, Scammon's Brigade in the advance found the road to be well defended by Bondurant's Confederate battery. To the left of the road and paralleling the crest of the mountain was a farm lane which, according to their local guide, would lead the force to the top of the mountain and to the right of the line of defense.² Led by Lieutenant Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes' 23rd Ohio Infantry, Scammon's Brigade filed down and around the "loop road". Under the cover of the woods which surrounded the Loop Farm Lane the Union force prepared for the first battle for South Mountain³. The bulk of the fighting for Fox's Gap was initiated from the Loop Farm Lane on the morning of September 14, 1862⁴.

¹Scott D. Hartwig, "My God, Be Careful: The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap," *Civil War Regiments*, vol. 5, #3, Campbell, CA: Savas Publishing Co., 1997. p. 32.

²Hartwig, p. 34

³Report of Brig. Gen. Jacob Cox, Jay Luvaas and Harold W. Nelson, eds. *The US Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of 1862*, Washington: Harper Collins, 1987, p. 20.

⁴Hartwig, map p. 50.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-129
Magi No.
DOE yes no

Section Number 8 Page 2

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/Farm Road

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-129

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.
- Stotlemeyer, Stephen R., The Bivouacs of the Dead, The Story of Those Who Died at Antietam and South Mountain, Toomey Press, Baltimore, 1992.
- 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.

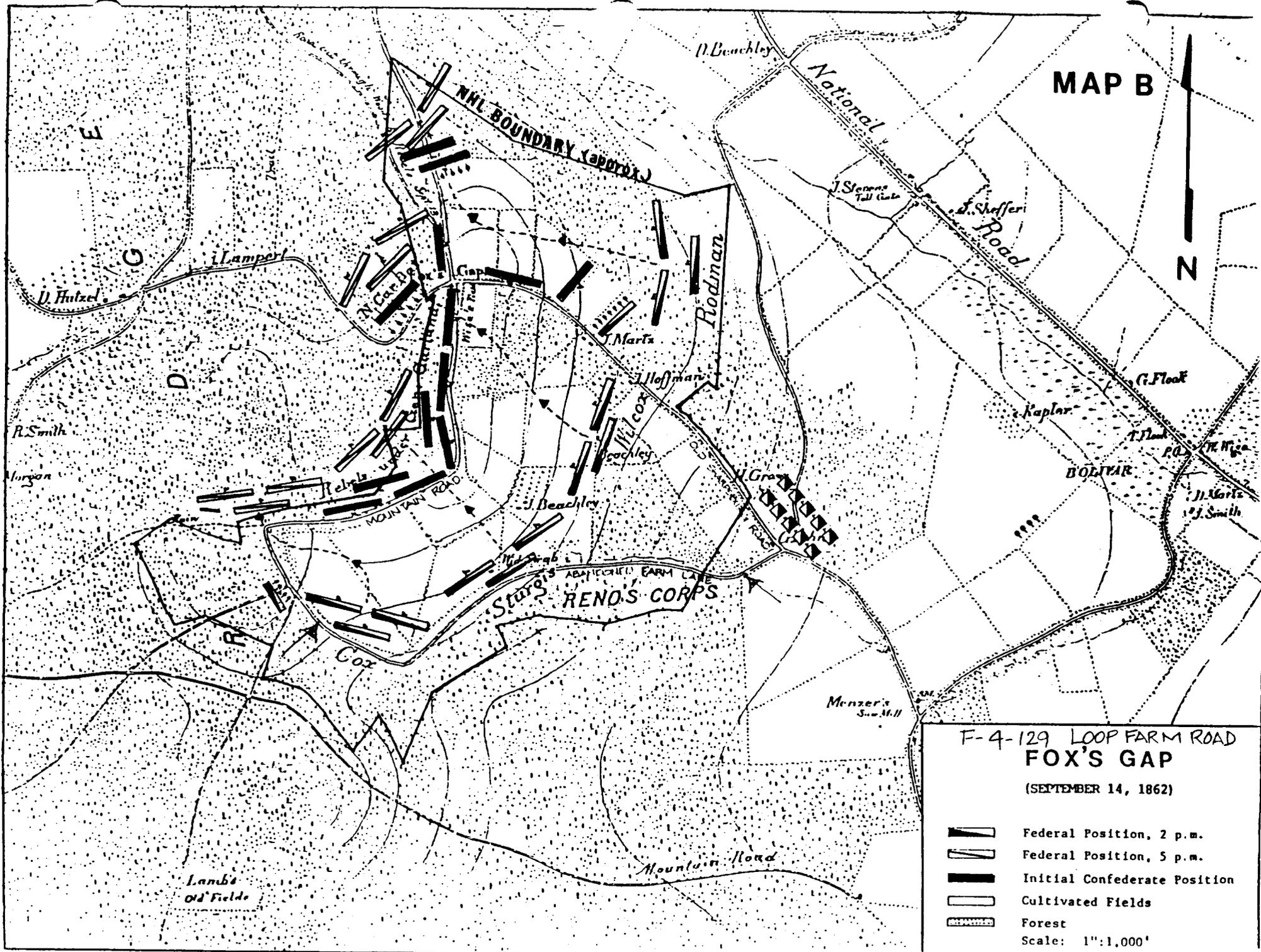
Manuscripts

- Frye, Dennis, National Register Nomination Form, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Wren, Capt. James, Diary manuscript, Antietam National Battlefield Library.

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.

MAP B



F-4-129 LOOP FARM ROAD
FOX'S GAP
 (SEPTEMBER 14, 1862)

-  Federal Position, 2 p.m.
-  Federal Position, 5 p.m.
-  Initial Confederate Position
-  Cultivated Fields
-  Forest
- Scale: 1"=1,000'

343 11 SW
(FUNKSTOWN)

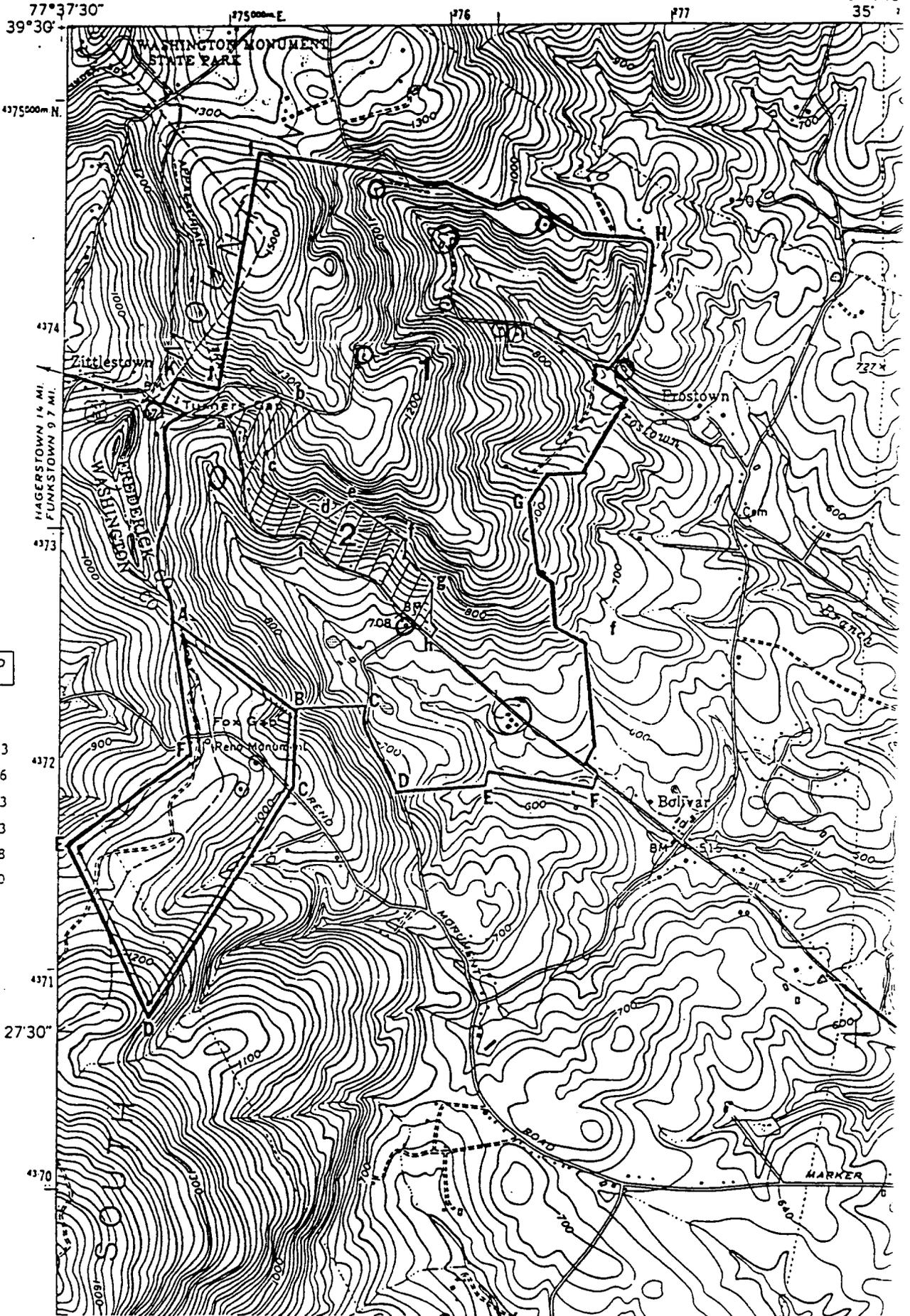
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



10-6

F-4-129

MA:
8 MI. TO
35'



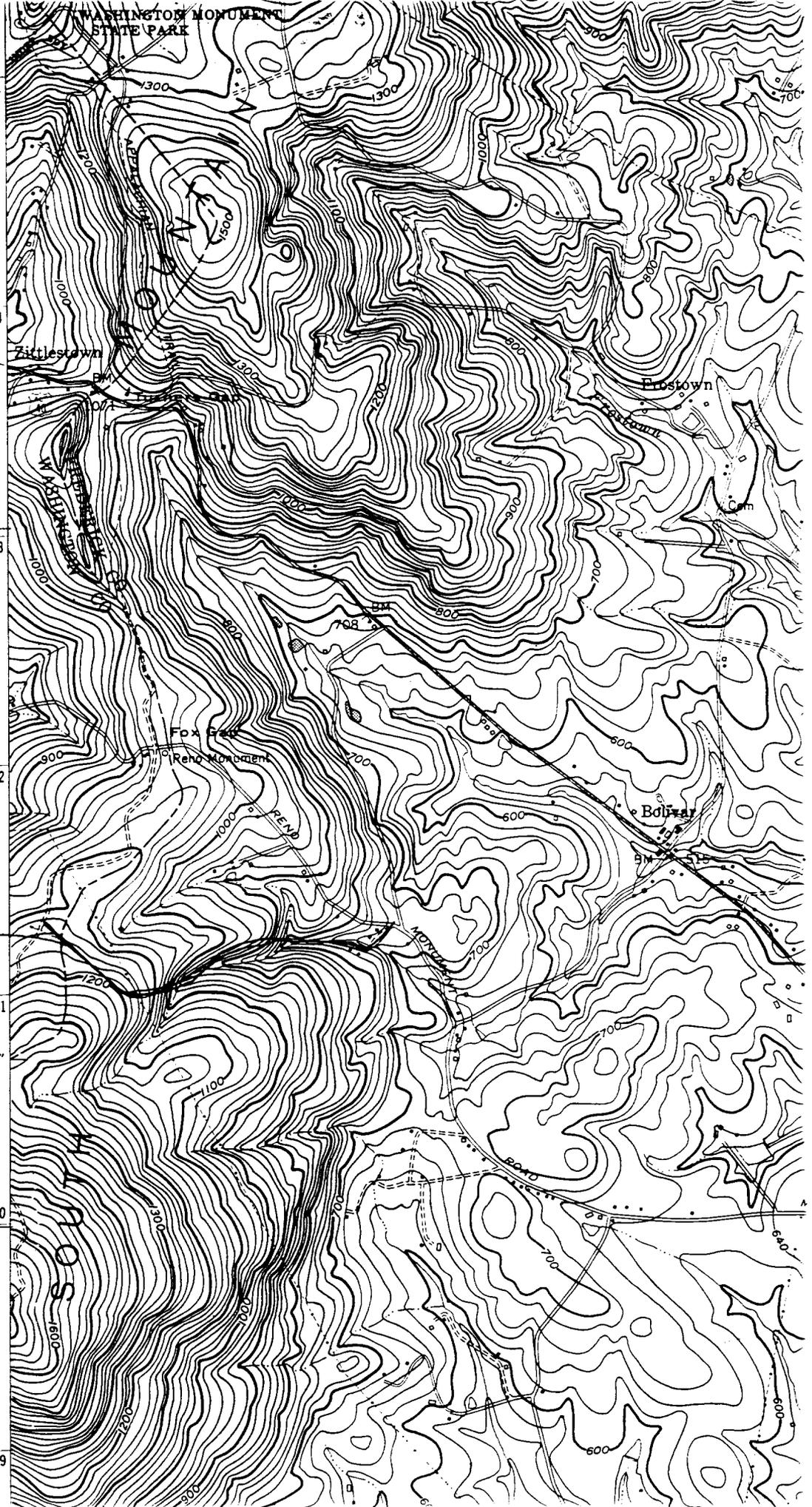
FOX'S GAP

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

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EUNING TOWNSHIP 9 7 MI



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Loop Farm Road 27°30'
Middletown Quad



F-4-129

Old Loop Farm Lane

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B Wallace

13 January 1998

Maryland SHPO

view south of road remnant

from Reno Monument Rd

1/4



F-4-129

Old Loop Farm Lane

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith S. Wallace

13 January 1940

Maryland S&P

view east, below power line

2/4



F-4-129

Old Loop Farm Lane

Washington Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

13 January 1998

Maryland State

View NW toward Old Ridge Rd.
and stone walls

3/4



F-4-129

Old Loop Farm Lane
Washington Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

13 January 1998

Maryland SHPO

new east at intersection w/
old Ring Rd.

4/4