Survey # F-4-132 Approximate date September 14, 1862
Hoffman Farm
Street Address: 8612 Reno Monument Road
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. The J. Hoffman (listed as Coffman in the Deed records) property is a mid 19th century two story log house with limestone foundation in the German vernacular tradition with four bays and two side by side central front doors. It is situated on the south side of Reno Monument Road, facing north near the road's edge, a short distance below or east of the crest. One of the few houses that was located on the Old Sharpsburg Road during the battle for Fox's Gap, it was in the direct line of attack by Willcox's Division of General Reno's IX Corps of the Union army. The house has been altered by the application of asbestos siding and the attachment of several room additions.

The Hoffman House is primarily significant for its role in the Battle of South Mountain. The house was witness to the approach by Union forces to attack Fox's Gap in an effort to dislodge the thin line of Confederate defense. Their objective was to force the Confederates back toward Turner's Gap about one mile to the north, and to take possession of both of those mountain passes. The Confederate objective was to hold the gaps to rotect the divided and vulnerable main body of the Army of Northern Virginia which was in the valley to the west of South Mountain. By maintaining possession of the gaps throughout the day, General Lee was able to reassemble the Confederate army near Sharpsburg and prepare for a battle which occurred there a few days later on September 17th. The Hoffman House is secondarily significant as an example of regional vernacular architecture from the mid 19th century, reflecting Germanic building traditions.

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-4-132

Magi No.

DOE ___ yes ___ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hoffman Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8612 Reno Monument Road ___ not for publication

city, town Middletown X vicinity of congressional district 6

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

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

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

name Patrick Garrett Nickolas

street & number 8612 Reno Monument Road telephone no.: 301-371-4571

city, town Middletown state and zip code MD 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse Liber 1265

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street Folio 668

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-4-132

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.

The J. Hoffman (listed as Coffman in the Deed records) property is a mid 19th century two story log house with limestone foundation in the German vernacular tradition with four bays and two side by side central front doors. It is situated on the south side of Reno Monument Road, facing north near the road's edge, a short distance below or east of the crest. One of the few houses that was located on the Old Sharpsburg Road during the battle for Fox's Gap, it was in the direct line of attack by Willcox's Division of General Reno's IX Corps of the Union army. The house has been altered by the application of asbestos siding and the attachment of several room additions.

The north elevation of this dwelling is four bays wide with two side by side, panelled front doors. A shed roof porch extending across the front is supported with square posts. German siding is exposed in the porch area, two pointed lintel window treatments have also been preserved in this area. Windows are 6 over 6 replacements all around. A two bay rear addition is obscured by modern construction in progress on the west elevation. A modern brick exterior chimney is the only apparent chimney. The roof is metal.

A small wooden shed is located in the southwest corner of the yard.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-132

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 Hoffman (Coffman) House is primarily significant for its role in the Battle of South Mountain which occurred on September 14, 1862. The house was witness to the approach by Union forces to attack Fox's Gap in an effort to dislodge the thin line of Confederate defense. Their objective was to force the Confederates back toward Turner's Gap about one mile to the north, and to take possession of both of those mountain passes. The Confederate objective was to hold the gaps to protect the divided and vulnerable main body of the Army of Northern Virginia which was in the valley to the west of South Mountain. By maintaining possession of the gaps throughout the day, General Lee was able to reassemble the Confederate army near Sharpsburg and prepare for a battle which occurred there a few days later on September 17th. The Hoffman House is secondarily significant as an example of regional vernacular architecture from the mid 19th century, reflecting Germanic building traditions.

The fields surrounding the Peter Beachley (located just south of the Hoffman House) and J. Hoffman (Coffman) Houses saw first the advance of the 30th Ohio under the command of Colonel Hugh Ewing, General Jacob Cox's Kanawha Division and later the advance of Welsh's brigade, General Orlando Willcox's Division. They faced the Rebel 13th North Carolina and Bondurant's artillery with no protection other than the steep angle of the mountain which begins just west of the Beachley House.

Shortly after Scammon's Brigade advanced its line along the Loop Farm Lane, a farm lane which led from the old Sharpsburg Road south, then west to the mountain crest where it joined the Ridge Road, and following the first encounter of the 23rd Ohio Regiment, the 30th Ohio under Col. Ewing began its assault. Colonel Scammon wrote: "On arriving at the foot of the slope in front of the enemy, I sent the thirtieth Regiment, commanded by Col. Hugh Ewing, to attack the left of that position of the enemy which was immediately opposed to us, with orders, if practicable, to seize a battery in that part of the enemy's lines...They were assailed by a shower of grape from the battery, whose real position and strength were not previously known, but they seized and held the crest of the mountain until they nobly bore their part in the charge by our whole line."[1] This charge, emanating from the fields around the Beachley and Hoffman (Coffman) Houses, effectively divided Confederate General

[1]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.19, from O.R., Vol.XIX, Part I, p.461.

Samuel Garland's thin line of defense by the 13th and 20th North Carolina.[2]

The second wave of advance across the Beachley and Hoffman farms came during the afternoon battle following the reinforcement of both armies. Brigadier General Orlando Willcox, sent to reinforce Cox's Division, quickly moved along the old Sharpsburg Road and established his line across the open fields of the two farms connecting Cox's men on the left to Cook's Battery and the 17th Michigan on the right of the old Sharpsburg Road. Cook's guns were set to silence the artillery firing from the knoll to the right of the National Pike. The infantry hoped to push the remaining Confederates north and west beyond Turner's Gap. The placement of Bondurant's Battery in Wise's north field and the tenaciousness of Hooker's Division on the north Ridge Rd. held the Federals in check until darkness brought an end to the battle.[3]

The Hoffman House is secondarily important as a mid 19th century Germanic log house constructed in the window, door, door, window facade arrangement. This house type is common in the region which includes central Maryland, south central Pennsylvania and the Cumberland Valley. With most examples dating from the mid 19th century or later, they are derived from the German continental house form where the front door opens directly into the kitchen. In the two front door type, of which this house is an example, one door typically opened into the service (kitchen side of the house and the other provided access to the formal part of the house (parlor). The Hoffman House is of log construction, the preferred wooden structural system in the region, with exterior finishes dating from the late 19th century and later. The German siding and pointed window architraves, remnants of which are visible at the front porch, suggest application in the 1880s, approximately.

In Frederick County deed records, this property is recorded under the name Coffman, rather than Hoffman, although the name Hoffman is used in the historic Civil War Maps. The house does not appear on the 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County. According to Frederick County deed records, James W. Coffman acquired this property from William Slifer on April 2, 1849 (Liber WBT 10, Folio 361). Forty years later, on April 3, 1889, he sold it to Jonas Gross (WIP 9, 148). It remained in the Gross family until December of 1925 when it was acquired by William W. and Annie M. Beachley.

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[2]Scott D. Hartwig, "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap," **Civil War Regiments**, Campbell CA: Savas Publishing Co., 1997, map, p. 50.

[3]War College Guide, p.38, from O.R., XIX, Part I, p.428

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
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-132

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.

Stotlemyer, 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 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.

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.

10. Geographical Data

F-4-132

Acreage of nominated property 6.5 acres

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

The property of 6.5 acres fronts on the north boundary on Reno Monument Rd. The house is situated directly on the road frontage. On Tax Map 54, Parcel 121.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

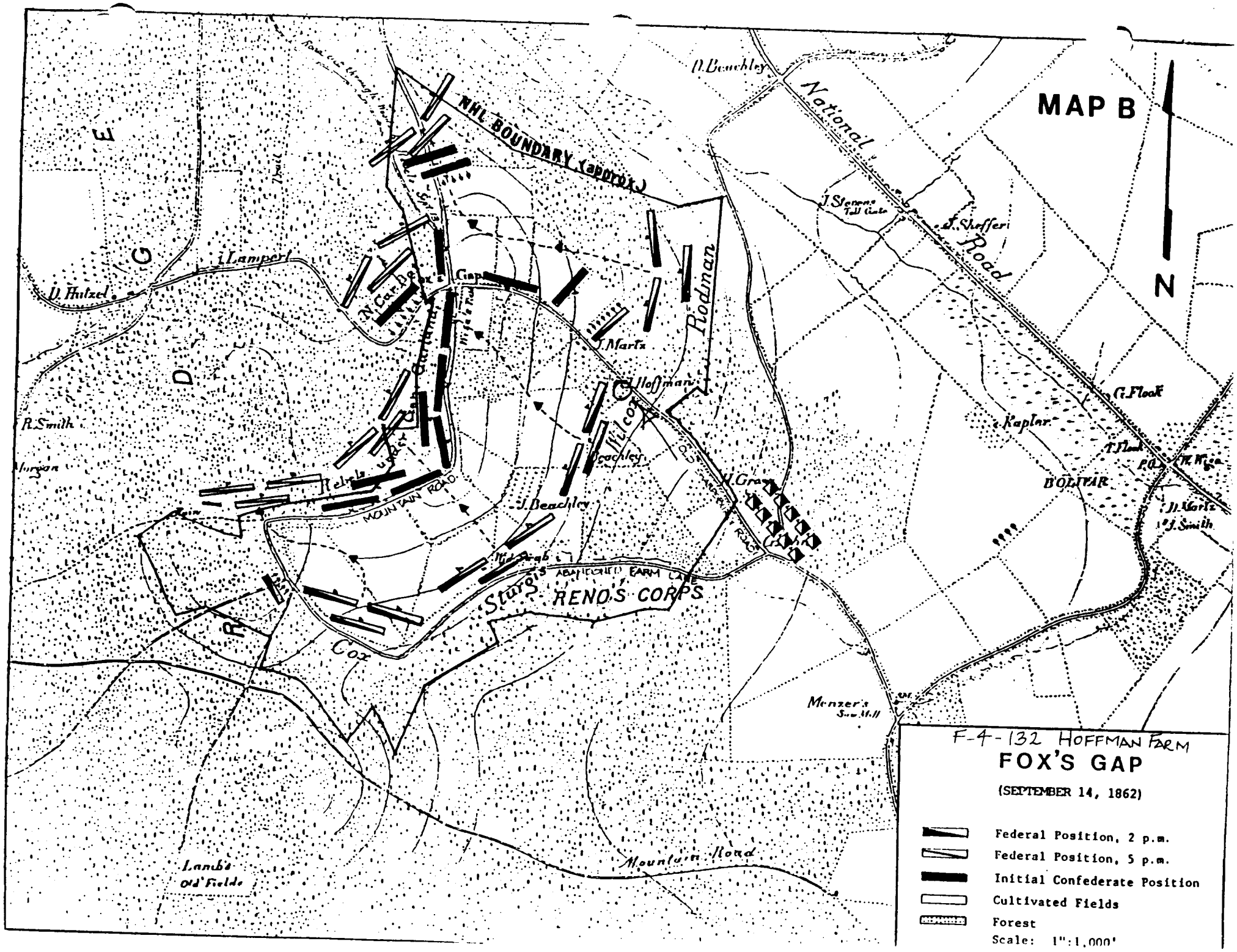
11. Form Prepared By

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.

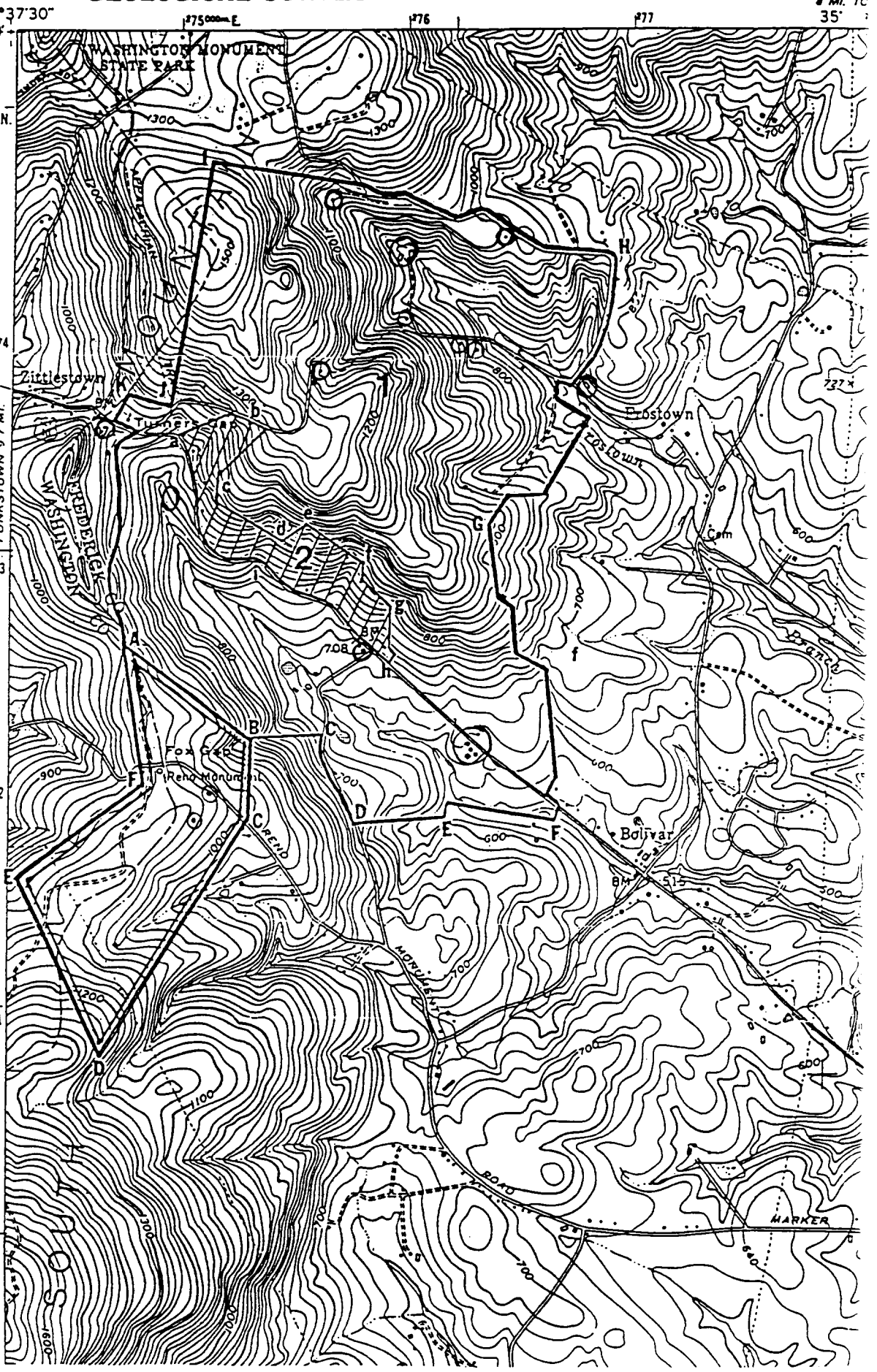
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
People's Resource Center
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7000


MAP B
N
NHL BOUNDARY (approx.)
National Road
Rodman
Wilcox
Sturgis
RENO'S CORPS
Cox
MOUNTAIN ROAD
ABANDONED FARM LANE
Mountain Road
D. Beachley
J. Sheffer
J. Martz
J. Hoffman
J. Beachley
J. Lampert
D. Hutzel
R. Smith
G. Flook
Kapler
BOLIVAR
Menzer's Saw Mill
Lamb's Old Fields
F-4-132 HOFFMAN FARM
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'

F-4132

5463 II SW (FUNKSTOWN)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

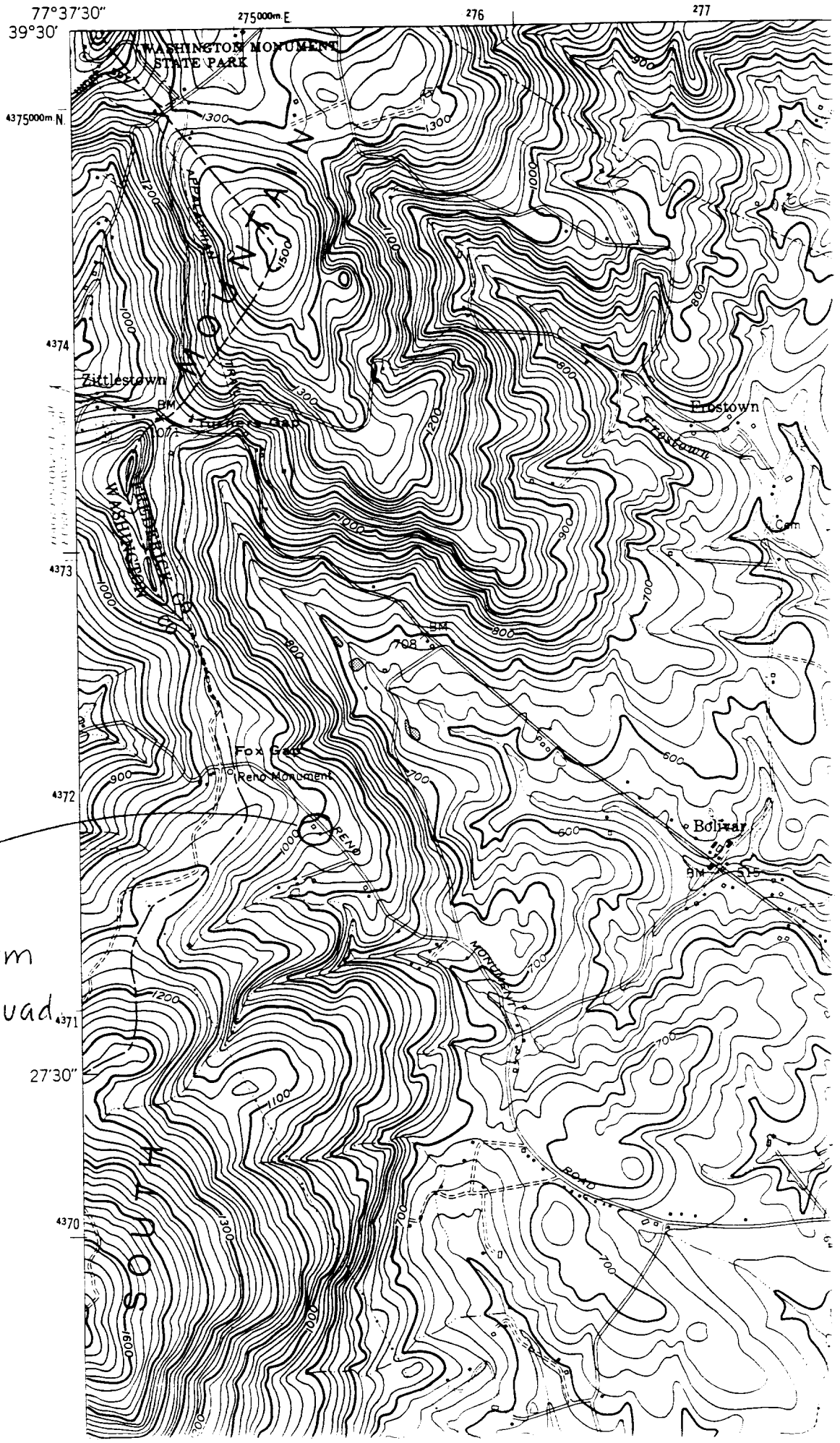


FOX'S GAP

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



F-4-132
Hoffman Farm
Middletown Quad

F-4-132
J. Hoffman House
Frederick Co. Maryland
Elizabeth B. Wallace
18 November 1997
Maryland SHPO
NW elevation of house
1/2

F-4-132
J. Hoffman House
Frederick Co. Maryland
Edith B Wallace
18 November 1991
Maryland SHPO
view SW of property overall
NE elevation of outbuildings
2/2