

Survey # F-2-98

Approximate date September 14, 1862

Widow Tritt House

Street Address: 6220 Mountain Church Road

Town, State: Burkittsville, MD (vicinity)

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 on the west side of Mountain Church Road, the Widow Tritt House is a one and a half story log building on limestone foundations. The original section of the house has been added onto on several occasions, effectively tripling its size. Facing east and fronting directly on the west side of Mountain Church Rd., the house is sited on a one acre lot as it has since before the September 1862 battle for Crampton's Gap. The Widow Tritt House was centrally located in the Confederate line of defense formed along the stone walls of Mountain Church Road during the battle at Crampton's Gap. Regiments from Brigadier General William Mahone's Brigade under the command of Colonel Thomas T. Munford occupied this central section. Situated as it is directly on the road the house undoubtedly had soldiers positioned on either side.

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-2-98

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Widow Tritt House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6220 Mountain Church Road

 not for publication

city, town Burkittsville

 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 Harold R. and Wanda M. King

street & number 6220 Mountain Church Road

telephone no.:

city, town Burkittsville

state and zip code MD 21718

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse

Liber 2104

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street

Folio 10

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

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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.

Located on the west side of Mountain Church Road, the Widow Tritt House is a one and a half story log building on limestone foundations. The original section of the house has been added onto on several occasions, effectively tripling its size. Facing east and fronting directly on the west side of Mountain Church Rd., the house is sited on a one acre lot as it has since before the September 1862 battle for Crampton's Gap.

The east elevation of the old section of the house has three bays, with a central entrance and a central chimney. The stone foundation is partially above ground causing the first story to be above ground and accessed by a raised, hipped roof porch. Windows are two over two, with single pane or six light sash on the upper half story. The house is covered with insul brick siding, which probably conceals an earlier wooden siding. The roof is sheet metal. The central chimney is constructed of brick and may indicate 18th or early 19th century German building traditions. Several modern additions have been built in succession on the south elevation. A 20th century garage is located to the back of the property.

While exterior finished and features date from the 20th century, the actual structure could be much older.

8. Significance

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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 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 Widow Tritt House was centrally located in the Confederate line of defense formed along the stone walls of Mountain Church Road during the battle at Crampton's Gap on September 14, 1862 (see 1862 Engineer's Map, Crampton's Gap). Regiments from Brigadier General William Mahone's Brigade under the command of Colonel Thomas T. Munford occupied this central section.¹ Situated as it is directly on the road the house undoubtedly had soldiers positioned on either side.

The stone wall which lined the east and west sides of Mountain Church Road was significant to the defense of Crampton's Gap. Colonel Thomas T. Munford reported, "...[I] instructed the officers commanding the two fragments of regiments (infantry) of Mahone's brigade to hold the post at all hazards. I posted the infantry behind a stone wall, at the base of the mountain, and running parallel with it..."² This placement so impressed the Union commanders, they delayed three hours preparing for large assault, fearing greater numbers of Confederate forces. Colonel Joseph J. Bartlett, General Henry Slocum's Division wrote: "I was ordered by General Slocum to halt until he could mass his troops and arrange the plan of the assault, as the appearance of the mountain pass convinced all that artillery was of no avail against it, and that nothing but a combined and vigorous charge of infantry would carry the mountain...My line of skirmishers found the enemy at the base of the mountain, safely lodged behind a strong stone wall. Their entire line, being now developed, exhibited a large force."³

While the placement of the Widow Tritt House on Mountain Church Rd. is incidental to the battle, no building still standing today within the Crampton's Gap battlefield saw as much direct action as this humble home.

The discovery on September 13, 1862 of General Robert E. Lee's Special Order #191, the Lost Order, in a field near Frederick where the Confederates had camped precipitated the march of the Army of the Potomac toward South Mountain along the Old National Pike. The turnpike crossed the mountain running west toward the center of Lee's divided army. Had Union commander,

¹James V. Murfin, *The Glean of Bayonets*, New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1965, p.182.

²O.R., Vol XIX, Part I, p. 826.

³War College Guide, p.79, from O.R., Vol.XIX, Part I, pp.388-89

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DOE yes no

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would to President Lincoln, the Battle of South Mountain might have ended differently.⁴

The Special Order #191 detailed General Lee's deployment of the Army of Northern Virginia in September 1862. In addition to the siege of Harper's Ferry by three divisions under Stonewall Jackson from the west and two divisions under Lafayette McLaws from the northeast, the orders described the location of Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet with two divisions at Hagerstown and D.H.Hill's division, alone at Boonsboro, just below Turner's Gap. With the knowledge of the divided nature of Lee's army on the west side of South Mountain, and the small defensive line at the pass, McClellan felt confident in his army's ability to catch Lee's forces in this vulnerable position. However, McClellan's infamous cautiousness and over-estimation of the size of his opponent, delayed the movement of the Army of the Potomac for half a day. The result of his slow approach to the pass at South Mountain was to give the Confederate defenders time to reinforce their tenuous position and begin pulling their divided army together again at Sharpsburg.

The Widow Tritt House is secondarily significant as an example of regional vernacular architecture. The 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County shows "Mrs. Tritt" at a dwelling at this location and Civil War maps identify the place as occupied by Widow Tritt. Log was the construction material of choice in the 18th and 19th centuries in central and western Maryland, especially for modest houses like this one. The massive central chimney could suggest that the house is older than it appears from the outside with its 20th century coverings and additions. According to Frederick County deed records, Susan Tritt acquired a one acre property called "Willard's Lot" from Samuel and Lydia Wetnight on July 7, 1857 (Liber ES 9, Folio 515). It was willed by Susan Tritt to Lydia A. Grams who acquired the property June 12, 1871. It remained in the Grams family until 1973, maintaining the same one acre size for the entire time.

⁴Stephen W. Sears, "Fire on the Mountain," *Blue and Gray*, December-January, 1986-86, p. 11

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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):

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

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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 Glean 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.

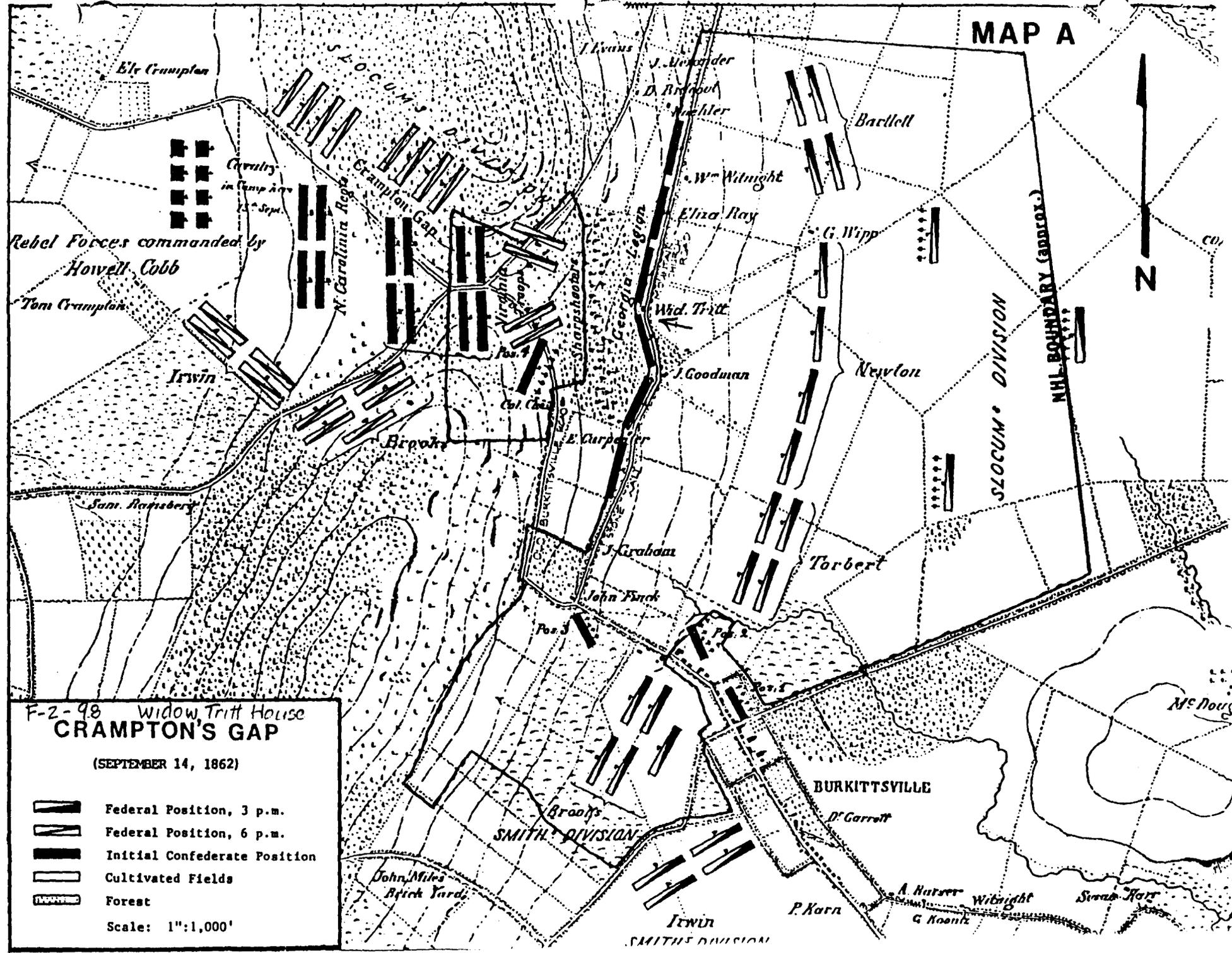
Manuscripts

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

Maps

- 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.

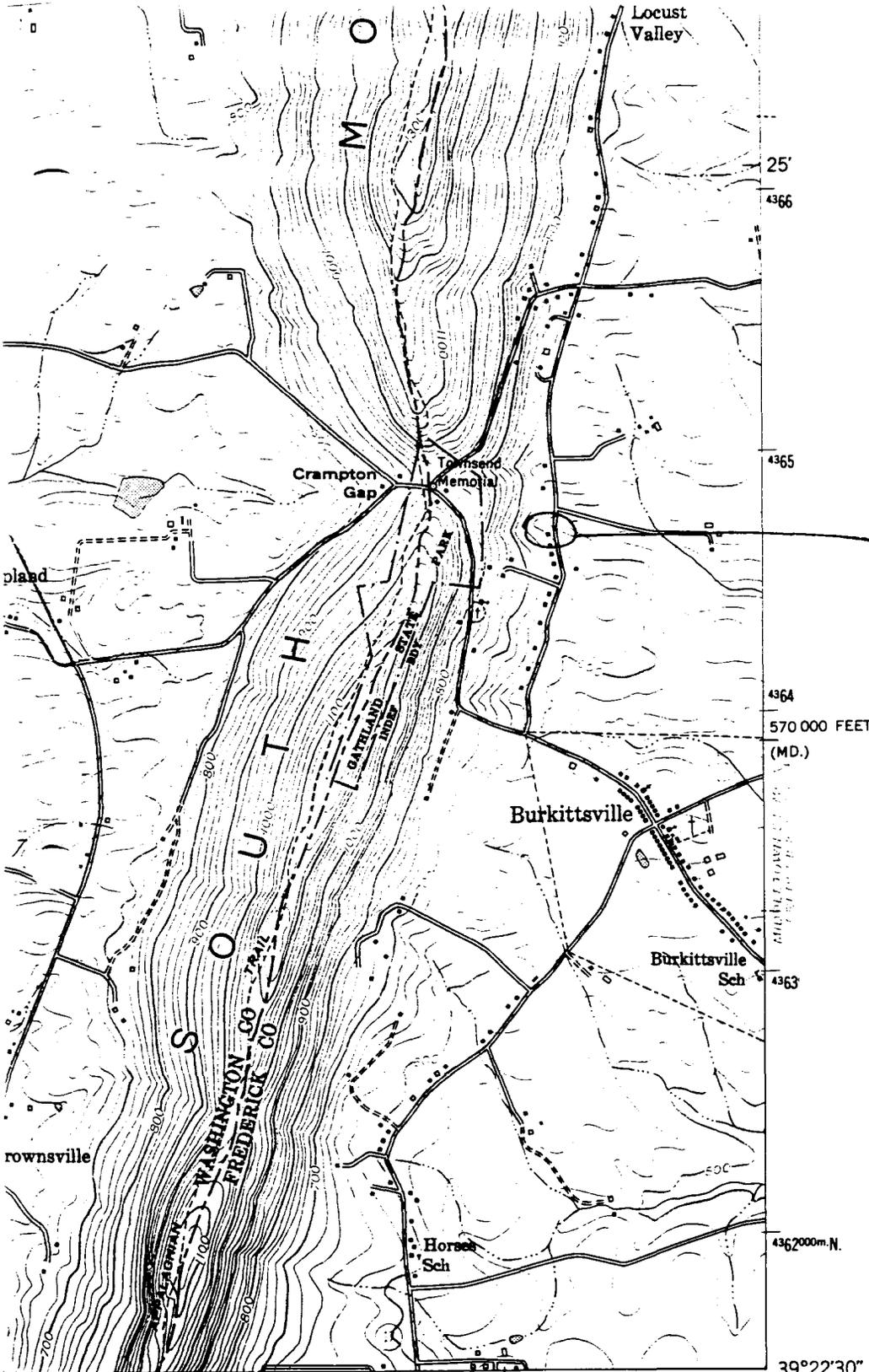
MAP A



F-2-98 Widow Tritt House
CRAMPTON'S GAP
 (SEPTEMBER 14, 1862)

-  Federal Position, 3 p.m.
-  Federal Position, 6 p.m.
-  Initial Confederate Position
-  Cultivated Fields
-  Forest

Scale: 1"=1,000'



F-2-98
WIDOW TRITT HOUSE

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1972
BRUNSWICK 5.9 M.
POINT OF ROCKS 13 M.
620 000 FEET (MD.)
273 000 m. E.
39°22'30"
77°37'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
1963

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route State Route

(POINT OF ROCKS)
5462 / SE



KEEDYSVILLE, MD.—W. VA.

N3922.5—W7737.5/7.5

1953

MD-55



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1. The first

part of the

document

is a list of

names and

addresses

of the



1st Term

For the first term

11th February

13 January 1945

1st Term

1st Term

1st