

Survey # F-4-119

Approximate date September 14, 1962

Joseph Gaber (Gaver) Farm

Street Address: Frostown and Dahlgren Roads

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 Joseph Gaber building complex is centered on the 2 1/2 story dwelling of log and stone construction. The house, with its large exterior stone chimney is in remarkably intact condition. Probably built early in the 19th century, most of the original exterior features have been retained and maintained. In addition to the house there is a frame forebay bank barn, a frame summer kitchen and numerous outbuildings, including a chicken house, hog barn and sheds on a farm containing 65 acres. The Gaber Farm was used as the staging area for the Union advance on the left wing of the Confederate defense of Turner's Gap. It was the assembly and starting point of General Joseph Hooker's US Army I Corps' attack. Through Turner's Gap, the National Pike led to the west and the Union objective was to gain access to the pass over the mountain at this point. On this property the I Corps was gathered with two divisions selected to advance along Dahlgren and Frostown Roads while others remained in reserve on the Gaber Farm. The farmstead is also secondarily significant as an example of a small vernacular farm at the base of the mountain, with a full compliment of surviving buildings reflecting Germanic traditions. The property is shown under the name of J. Gaber on Isaac Bond's 1858 Map of Frederick County, and on US Army Engineers' maps from the Civil War.

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

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.

contributing resource count: 8

The J. Gaber building complex is centered on the 2 1/2 story dwelling of log and stone construction. The house, with its large exterior stone chimney is in remarkably intact condition. Probably built early in the 19th century, most of the original exterior features have been retained and maintained. In addition to the house there is a frame forebay bank barn, a frame summer kitchen and numerous outbuildings, including a chicken house, hog barn and sheds on a farm containing 65 acres. The Gaber Farm was used as the staging area for the Union advance on the left wing of the Confederate defense of Turner's Gap.

The house faces south and sits on a stone foundation covered with stucco. Built into a slope, the house has a raised foundation at the front elevation. The log construction of the 1 1/2 stories above is covered with German siding. The south elevation at the lower level has 2 bays, with one board and batten door and one fixed 9 light window. The upper (main) story is 3 bays wide, with a board and batten door and two 6 over 6 sash windows with aluminum storms windows attached. The south elevation has a two story porch with a hipped roof, supported with square posts and horizontal board rails. A large stone exterior chimney is located at the east elevation. The north elevation has 2 bays at the main level and the foundation is partially below ground level. The roofs are corrugated metal.

The adjacent 1 1/2 story frame summer kitchen is also covered with German siding. It is set on a stone foundation and has a large exterior stone and brick chimney on the west elevation. The door and 6 over 6 sash window in the 2 bay south elevation are both replacements. A single 6 over 6 sash window is set in the upper 1/2 story of the east elevation. A wood lean-to shed is attached to the north elevation.

Five outbuildings are located between the house and barn. All are frame constructions with metal roofs. Used variously as sheds and animal facilities, they appear to date from the late 19th or early 20th century.

The large cantilevered forebay hay/animal barn is of timber frame construction with a limestone foundation. The east elevation has a machine shed attached.

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 J. Gaber (Joseph Gaver) Farm which probably dates from the early to mid 19th century was the scene of the assembly and starting point of General Joseph Hooker's US Army I Corps' attack on the Confederate defense of Turner's Gap. Through this gap, the National Pike led to the west and the Union objective was to gain access to the pass over the mountain at this point. On this property the I Corps was gathered with two divisions selected to advance along Dahlgren and Frostown Roads while others remained in reserve on the Gaber Farm. The farmstead is also secondarily significant as an example of a small vernacular farm at the base of the mountain, with a full compliment of surviving buildings reflecting Germanic traditions. The property is shown under the name of J. Gaber on Isaac Bond's 1858 Map of Frederick County, and on US Army Engineers' maps from the Civil War.

The J. Gaber property derives its significance for its role in 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 Hooker was responsible for the action on the north side of the turnpike, and the men in his command made their way upward along Dahlgren Road and the ravine to its north, and along Frostown further to the north.

"For his advance, Hooker deployed the Divisions of John P. Hatch on the left and George G. Meade on the right, with James Ricketts' Division in reserve. The Yankees found the rocky, heavily timbered slopes hard going, and Robert Rodes' brigade of Alabamans, which did the lion's share of the fighting on this flank, added greatly to their difficulties. Rodes used a heavy skirmish line made up of crack shots from the 12th Alabama to delay Hatch's advance. When the Federals finally cleared away these skirmishers they came up against the main Rebel line posted solidly on high ground in front of them. The fighting was as bitter here as it had been earlier at Fox's Gap, and casualties were heavy on both sides. There was a particularly vicious series of charges and countercharges in a cornfield in which General Hatch was wounded and the opposing lines came as close as thirty feet before they broke apart."¹

While Hatch's Division was toiling up Dahlgren Road and the south side

¹Stephen W. Sears, "Fire on the Mountain: The Battle of South Mountain, September 14, 1862," *Blue and Gray*, December-January, 1986-87, p. 18.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

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Magi No.

DOE yes no

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of the ravine, Meade was working along a parallel route further to the north, along the north side of the same ravine and the mountain trail known today as Frostown Road. "General Meade pressed relentlessly ahead on the right, continually extending his heavier line and stretching the thinner enemy line until he finally overlapped it and the Rebels had to fall back toward Turner's Gap."²

The deployment described in the above quotations took place from the Gaber Farm, where the I Corps formed for the assault.

The Gaber Farm is also important as an example of an early to mid 19th century modest farmstead of the type located at the fringes of the richer valley land where the less desirable mountain land began. Germanic traditions are shown in the log construction, the placement of the house into a slope so that the front foundation is raised above ground level, and the barn with its cantilevered forebay. According to deed records, the farm was purchased by Joseph Gaver from Matthew Ahalt on September 6, 1865 (JWLC 3/178). Matthew Ahalt had bought the place in 1860 from Joshua Routzahn (BGF 5/374). Probably Gaver was occupying the farm prior to his purchase since his name appears on all of the historic maps in association with this farm.

²Ibid.

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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):
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
agriculture/subsistence/animal facility

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 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

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

Maps

- Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.
- 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.

TURNER'S GAP

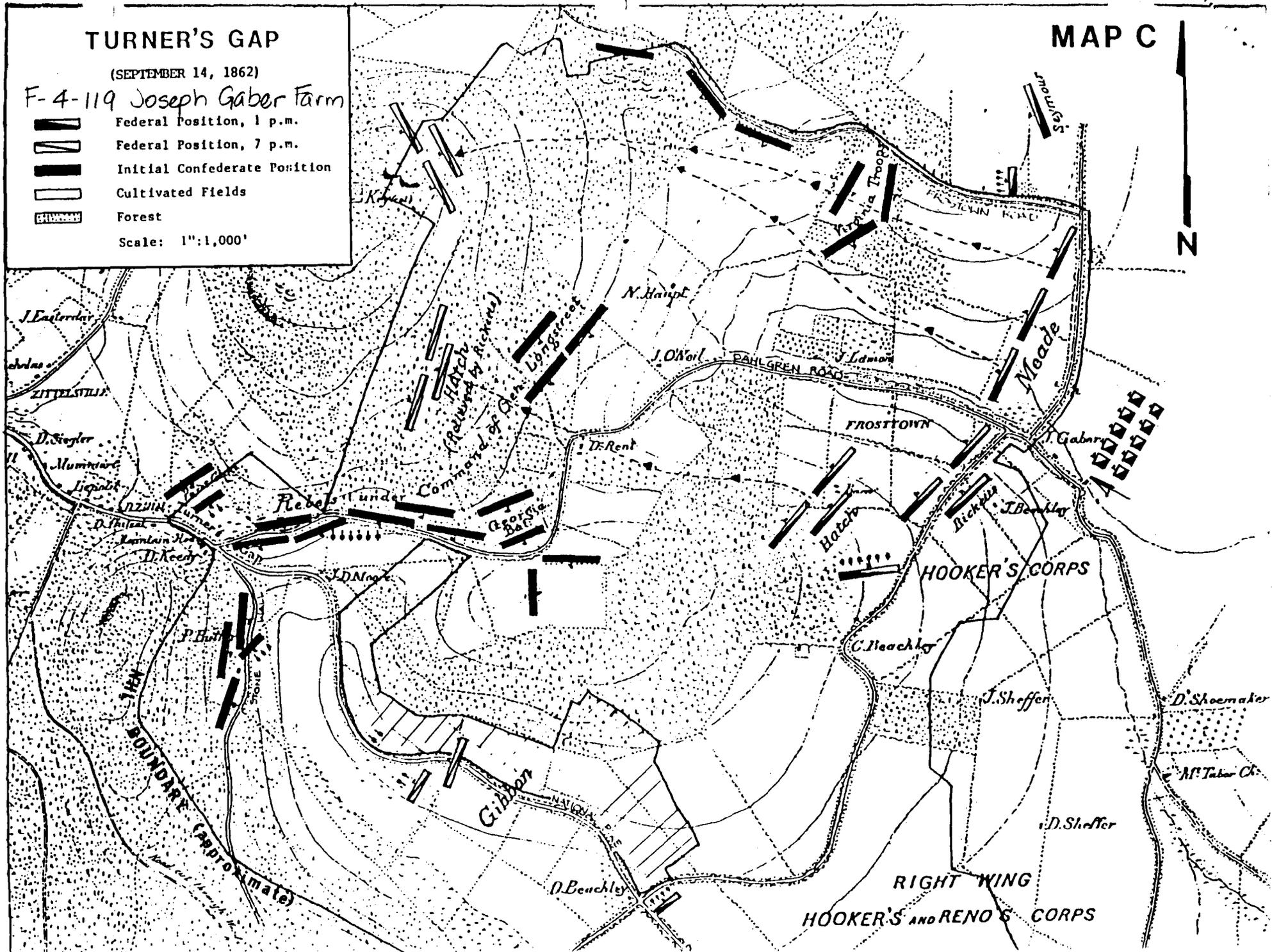
(SEPTEMBER 14, 1862)

F-4-119 Joseph Gaber Farm

-  Federal Position, 1 p.m.
-  Federal Position, 7 p.m.
-  Initial Confederate Position
-  Cultivated Fields
-  Forest

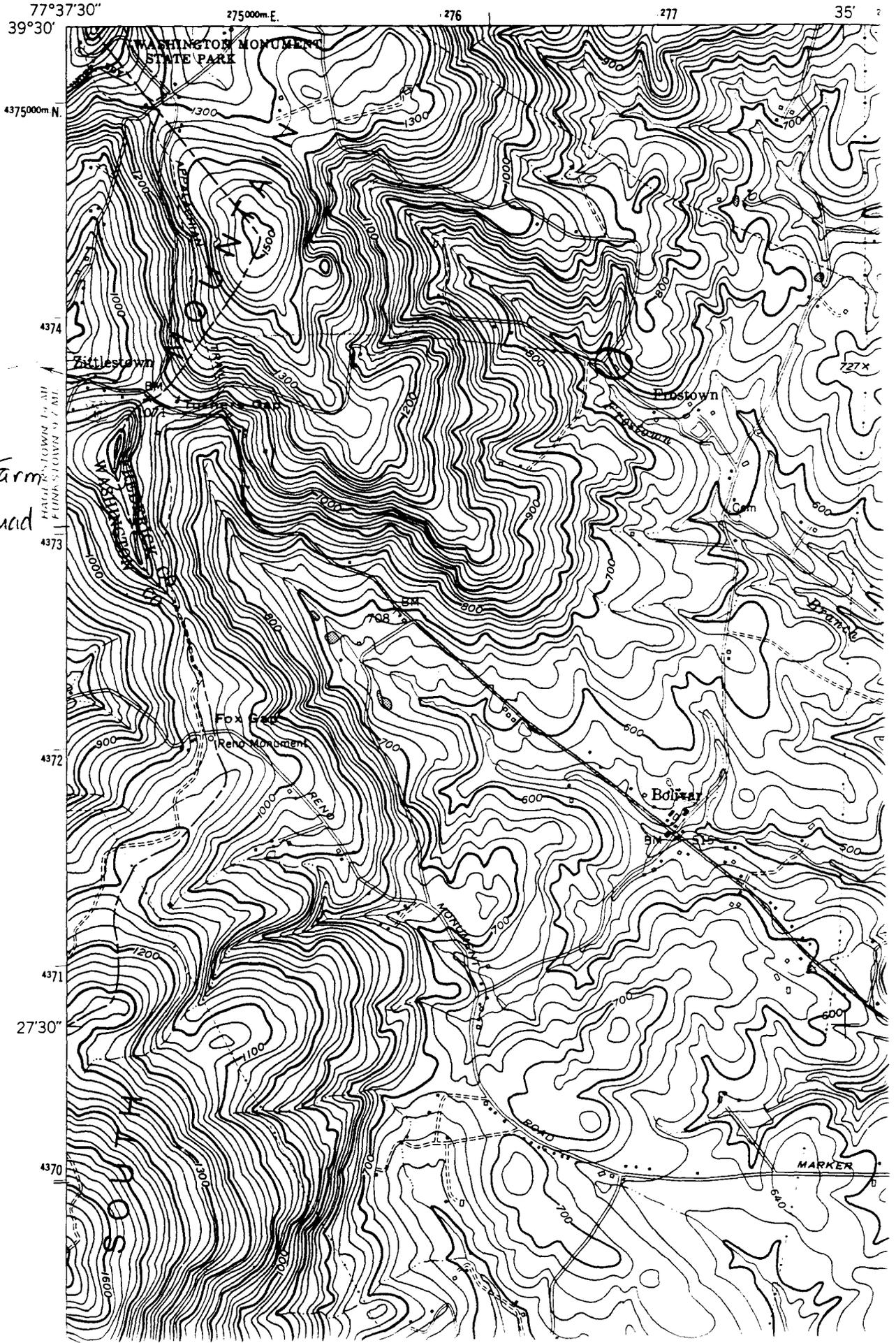
Scale: 1"=1,000'

MAP C



463 11 SW
UNKSTOWN

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



F-4-119
Joseph Gager Farm
Middletown Quad



03281-40
F-4-119

J. Gaber House

Frederick Co. Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

3 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view northeast from Dahlgren/Frostown crossroads

Sw elevation, detail and setting

1/6



2022-2023

F-4-119

J. Gaber House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B Wallace

3 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view north from Frostown Rd.

S elevation of house

2/6



F-4-119

J Gaber House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B Wallace

3 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view southeast from Frostown Rd

NW elevation of house

3/6



33x54
F-4-119

J. Gaber House

Frederick Co. Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

3 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view northeast from Frostown Rd.

SW elevation of summer kitchen

4/6



20250-42

F-4-119

J. Gaber House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

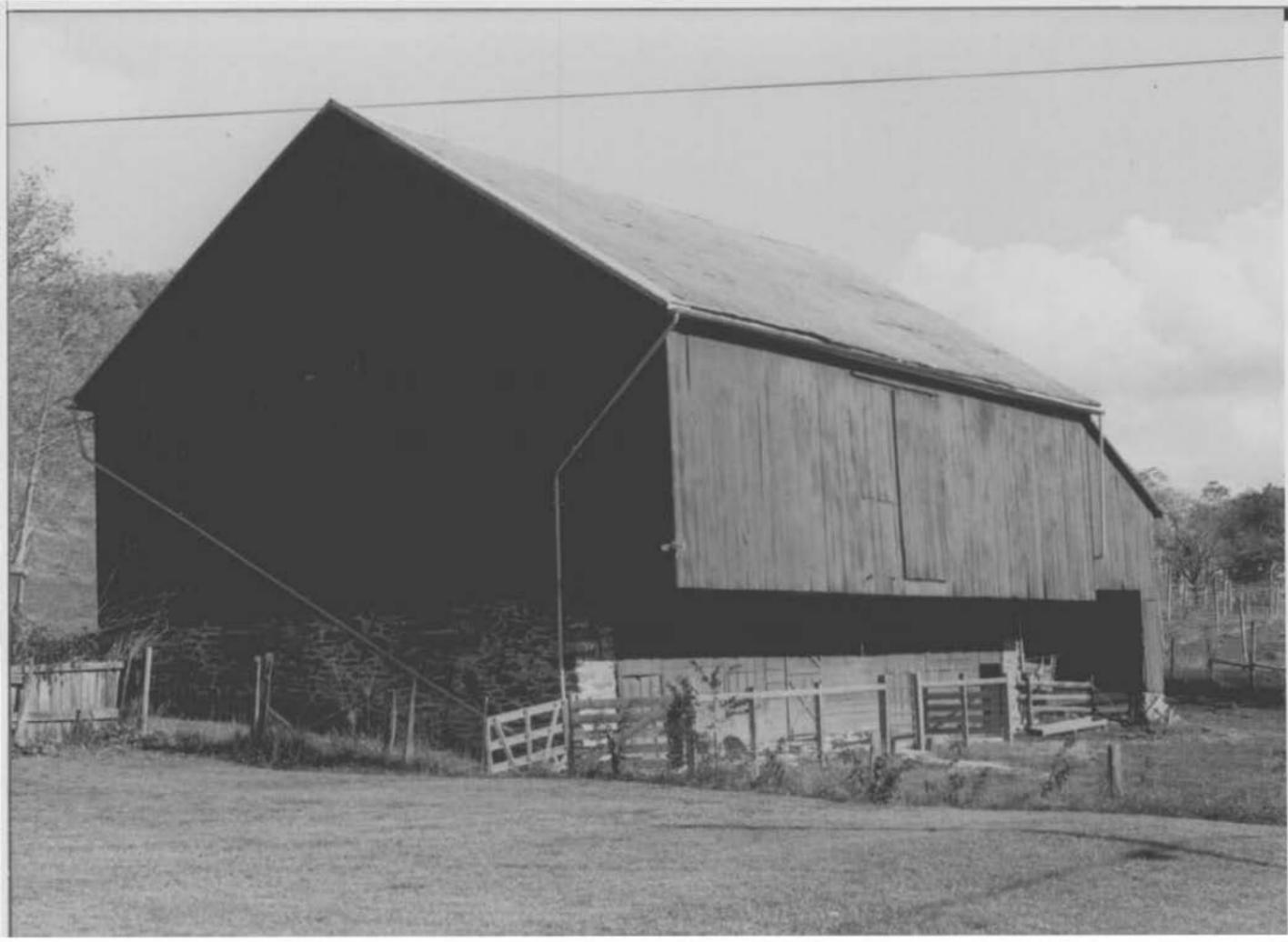
3 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view northeast from Frostown Rd

SW elevation of various outbuildings

5/6



EDZB-4-119

F-4-119

J. Graber House

Frederick Co. Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

3 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view northeast from Frostown Rd.

SW elevation of barn

6/6