

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-122

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Jonas Sheffer Farm

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 1936 Old National Pike  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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Moser Farms, Inc.

street &amp; number 2222 Old National Pike telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code MD 21769

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street &amp; number 100 West Patrick Street Folio

city, town Frederick state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

Survey # F-4-122

Approximate date September 14, 1862

Jonas Sheffer Farm

Street Address: 1936 Old National Pike

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. Located along the both sides of the Old National Pike, are the buildings of the Jonas Sheffer farmstead, near the eastern base of South Mountain. The farmstead is divided by the road with the domestic complex on the north side and the agricultural buildings on the south side. The buildings include a brick farmhouse with Greek Revival influence, a frame summer kitchen, stone and frame spring house, chicken house and sheds on the north side and a timber frame forebay bank barn, concrete block milkhouse and frame wagon shed/corn crib on the south side. The main buildings appear to date from the 1840-1860 period. Located between the crossroads community of Boliver on the Old National Pike, and Fox's Gap Road, this farmstead was witness to part of the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862. Specifically, the farm was located near to the point where the split of the Union Army occurred, with Hooker's Corps cutting to the right to attack Turner's Gap from the north while Reno's Corps turned to the left to attack the gap from the south. The Shiffer Farm lay between these two Corps on the direct route through Turners Gap, which was eventually followed by General John Gibbon's brigade for the frontal assault on the Gap accompanied by fierce fighting in the late afternoon.

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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 along the both sides of the Old National Pike, are the buildings of the Jonas Sheffer farmstead, near the eastern base of South Mountain. The farmstead is divided by the road with the domestic complex on the north side and the agricultural buildings on the south side. The buildings include a brick farmhouse with Greek Revival influence, a frame summer kitchen, stone and frame spring house, chicken house and sheds on the north side and a timber frame forebay bank barn, concrete block milkhouse and frame wagon shed/corn crib on the south side. The main buildings appear to date from the 1840-1860 period. Located between the crossroads community of Boliver on the Old National Pike, and Fox's Gap Road, this farmstead was witness to part of the Battle of South Mountain on September 14, 1862. Specifically, the farm was located near to the point where the split of the Union Army occurred, with Hooker's Corps cutting to the right to attack Turner's Gap from the north while Reno's Corps turned to the left to attack the gap from the south. The Sheffer Farm lay between these two Corps on the direct route through Turners Gap, which was eventually followed by General John Gibbon's brigade for the frontal assault on the Gap accompanied by fierce fighting in the late afternoon.

The house which faces south, directly onto the road, is a two story, three bay brick building with a side hall and parlor plan. A two story kitchen and service wing extends to the rear. At some time in the mid 20th century the exterior walls were covered with an imitation brick veneer of concrete. Most windows have six over six pane sash beneath wide wooden lintels, typical of the Greek Revival influenced mid-19th century. The first story front windows have been elongated and their six light sash replaced with single panes. This change was probably made in the early 20th century, possibly at the same time that an across-the-front hipped roof porch was added. The front entrance like the windows reflects the Greek Revival style. It is treabated with a transom and sidelights. On either side of the six panel door are rounded pilasters separating the door enframent from the sidelights. The porch which has a concrete deck, is supported by square columns at the front and a pair of round pilasters against the house wall at the back of the front porch. The roof is covered with sheet metal and brick chimneys are located inside the gable ends. The wing to the rear has a two story work and sleeping porch, recessed under the main roof span of the wing along its east elevation. Old concrete paved walkways lead from the roadside to the front entrance and to the kitchen entrance on the east side of the rear wing.

East and north of the house, convenient to the kitchen are a typical array of domestic outbuildinfgs. These include a frame summer kitchen (a one story, three bay building with an attached smokehouse), a shed-roofed chicken house, a stone and frame shed roofed spring house, and a small gable roofed building which may have been a hog barn. The domestic yard area is defined by fence lines and old shade trees.

On the south side of the Old National Pike are the agricultural buildings. Principal among these is a timber frame forebay bank barn which is oriented with its forebay facing southeast. At the rear of the barn on either side of the ramp to the threshing floor are concrete silos with metal staves. These, along with a concrete block milk house located immediately east of the barn probably date from the 1930s or 1940s. East of the barn is a frame gable fronted wagon shed and corn crib which opens directly onto the edge of the highway. It is covered with a combination of vertical boards and German siding in the gables. Sheet metal roofing is used for these outbuildings.

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The buildings are located amid rolling open farmland which rises gently into the slope of South Mountain.

# 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 Jonas Sheffer House is significant for its Civil War associations and for its mid 19th century intact farmstead. It is located along the Old National Pike west of the Bolivar crossroads in close proximity to the action centered at Turners Gap during the Civil War Battle of South Mountain which occurred on September 14, 1862. 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, and then a direct frontal assault which would have occurred through the Sheffer farm. In addition, the farm is situated at the eastern end of the knoll upon which the most dominant Confederate batteries were placed. The farmstead is also significant as an excellent example of a mid-19th century farmstead with a full complement of outbuildings. The spacial organization is distinctive with the domestic buildings located on the north side of the road and the agricultural buildings on the south side. Although the buildings are vacant and deteriorating, they remain with minimal alterations and retain their mid 19th century character. The farmstead and its surrounding landscape suggest the appearance of the approach to Turner's Gap as experienced by both Union and Confederate forces in September of 1862.

Also from the Sheffer House one could have witnessed the movement of the IX Corps down the Old Sharpsburg Road and the I Corps down the Old Hagerstown Road. General Burnside was placed in charge of the effort to secure Turner's Gap for the Union. Burnside's plan to divide and conquer sent Reno's IX Corps to the south to attack Confederate General D.H. Hill's defense on his right. Hooker's I Corps was sent to the north to attack Hill on his left. In an effort to distract the enemy Burnside selected Gibbon's "Black Hat Brigade" of regiments from Wisconsin and Indiana to approach Turner's Gap directly up the Old National Pike. The march of Gibbon's Brigade would have passed directly in front of, and probably behind, the Sheffer House, the column marching through the fields on the left and the right of the road.<sup>1</sup> Gibbon's attack began in the late afternoon of September 14th. Opposing him was Alfred Colquitt's brigade of Georgians. Colquitt positioned sharpshooters in a skirmish line to delay the federal advance. Being on high ground, the Confederates had an advantage. "...[A]ll the way up the mountain, the opposing skirmish lines played a deadly game of hide-and-peek among orchards

<sup>1</sup>Stephen W. Sears, *Landscape Turned Red*, New York: Ticknor and Fields, 1983, p. 141.

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and farm buildings and woodlots."<sup>2</sup> Some of these obstacles may well have been the buildings on the Sheffer farm.

The Sheffer farm is secondarily important for its collection of period farm buildings reflecting mid 19th century preferences for farmstead construction. The house with the trabeated entrance and linteled windows show the influence of the Greek Revival style, while also retaining traditional regional features like the two story work porches and barn and outbuilding placement and type. Noteworthy about this property is the spacial arrangement of the buildings with domestic functions on the north side of the road and agricultural functions on the south side. These features are generally associated with Germanic building traditions of southcentral Pennsylvania and central Maryland.

This farm was purchased by Jonas Sheffer from John Routzahn in September 23, 1850 (Deed Liber ES 5/Folio 585). He retained ownership until January 3, 1895 when he sold the farm to Daniel V. Harp (JLJ 7/662). It is shown under Sheffer ownership on the Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County, (1858) and on US Army Engineers' Civil War maps.

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<sup>2</sup>Stephen W. Sears, "Fire on the Mountain," *Blue and Gray*, December-January, 1986-87, p.20

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## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1970

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  
Agriculture/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

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

### Maps

- Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. II, p.568.
- Bond, Isaac, Map, 1858, Frederick Co. Public Library, Maryland Room
- 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, Frederick Co. Public Library, Maryland Room



# BATTLE-FIELDS OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN

SHOWING THE POSITIONS OF THE  
FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

AND OF THE ENEMY

during the Battle fought by the  
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

under the Command of

Maj. Gen. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN

Sept. 14, 1862.

Prepared in the

Bureau of Topographical Engineers

Scale of Feet.

0 1000 2000 3000 4000

The Curves are 100 Feet distant

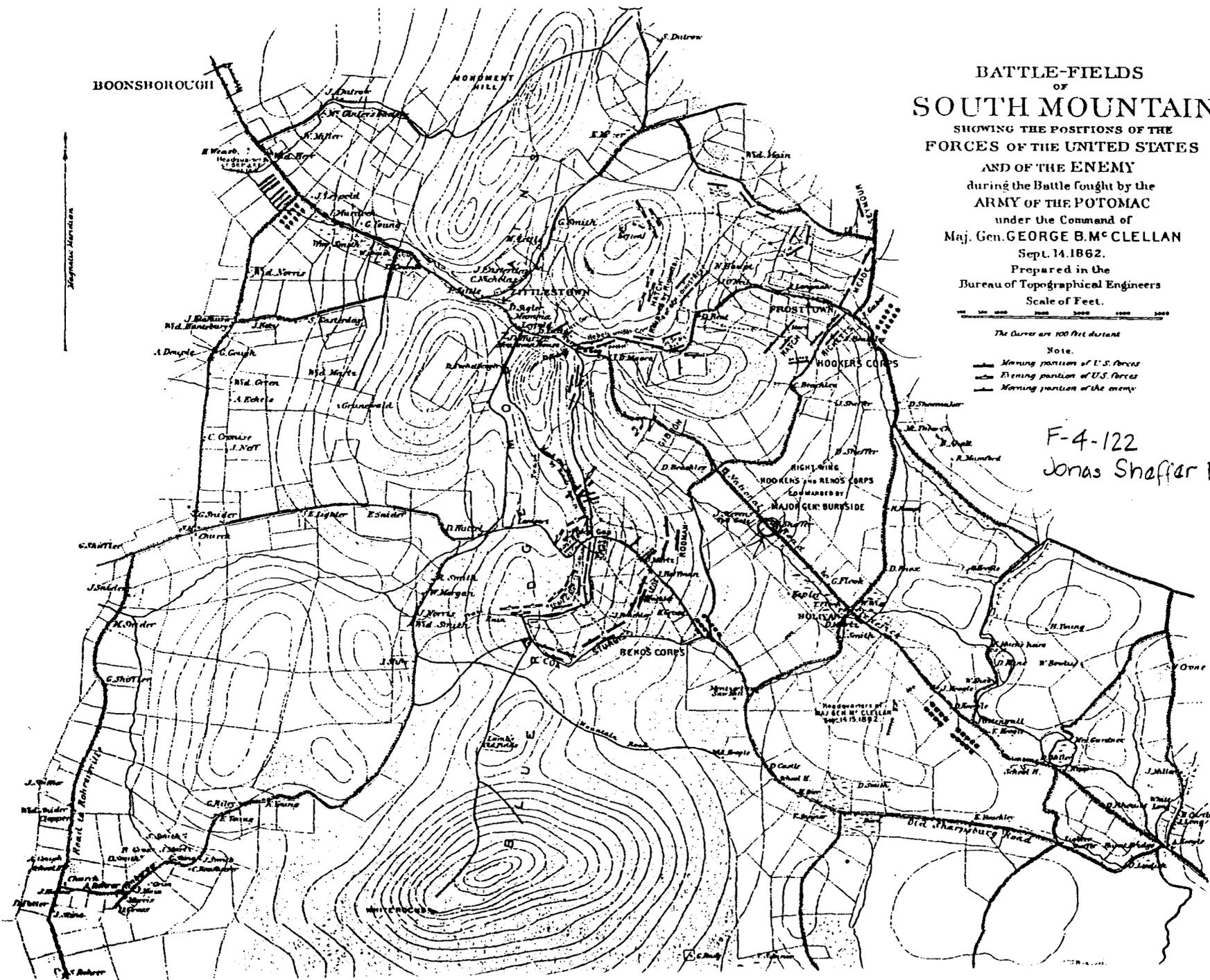
Note.

— Moving portion of U.S. Forces

— Evening portion of U.S. Forces

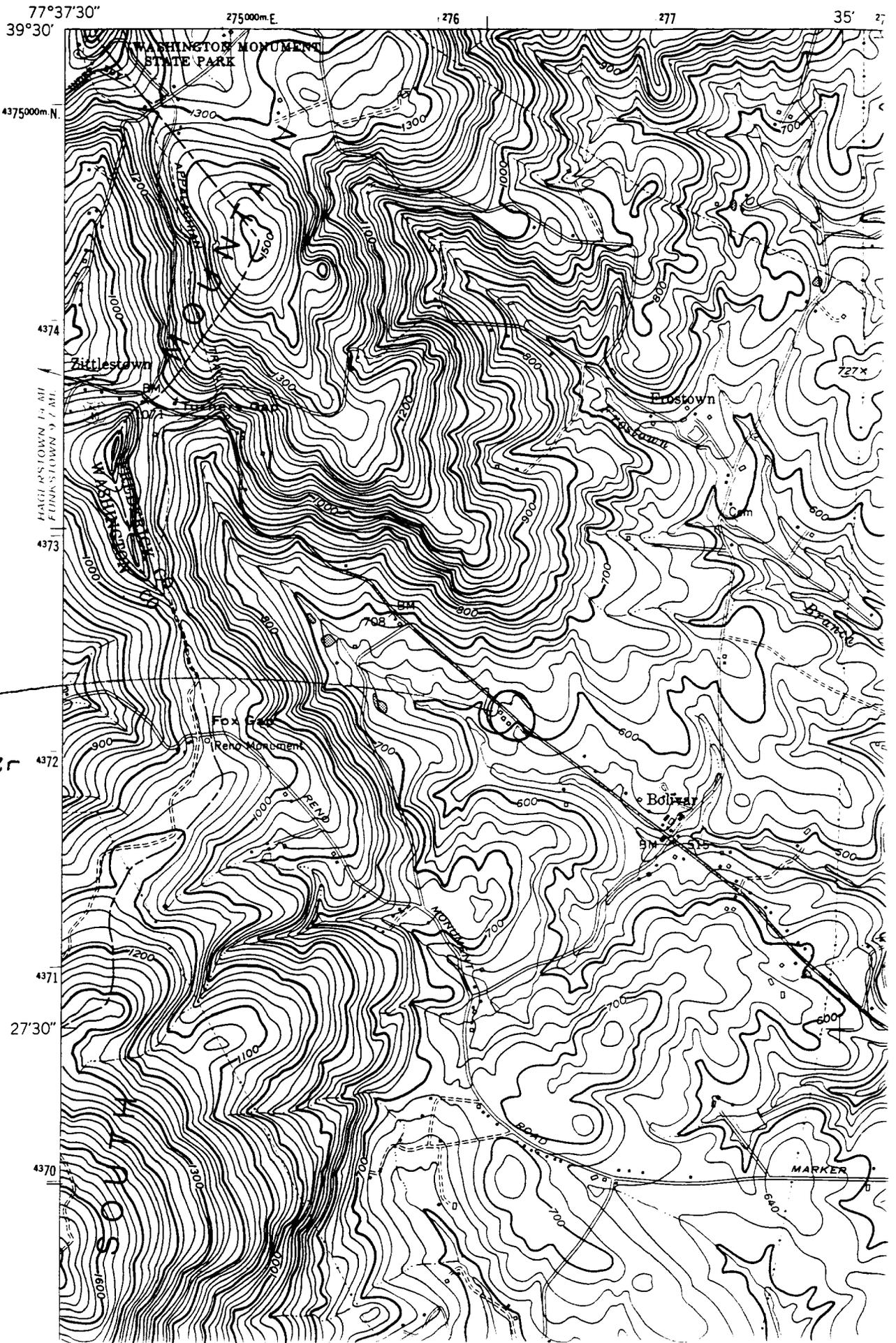
— Morning portion of the enemy

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Jonas Shaffar Farm



UNKSTOWN  
63 11 SW

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



F-4-122  
Jonas Sheffer  
Middletown



F-4-122

J. Sheffer House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

4 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view north from US40A14 (National Pike)

S elevation of house

114



0. 30231-40

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J. Sheffer House

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B Wallace

4 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view north from US40 Alt (National Pike)

S elevation of outbuildings

2/4



1923542 3 300

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J. Sheffer House

Frederick Co, Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

4 November 1997 / Maryland SHPO

view south from US40 Alt (National Pike)

NW elevation of barn (Moser Farm)

3/4



002564

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J. Sheffer House

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

4 November 1997

view south from US40 Alt (National Pike)

NE elevation of equipment barn

4/4