

Survey # F-4-130

Approximate date September 14, 1862

Colquitt's Stone Wall

Street Address: North Side, Alternate US Route 40

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. Colquitt's stone wall followed the north-south path of a water run-off gully on the east face of South Mountain below Turner's Gap. It crossed the Old National Pike and continued across the open fields below, sturdy enough hold the advance of Gibbon's Iron Brigade. The stone wall today still follows the path of the gully, heavily overgrown to the north of the road, and demolished to the south of the road. The stone wall runs south down the side of a spur of the east face of South Mountain which is paralleled by U.S. Alternate 40. It is located approximately halfway up the mountain on the north side of the highway, at the base of two converging driveways on a curve. The deteriorated wall runs along a run-off gully, the gully goes under the road bed and reappears on the south side of the highway. Here the stone wall disappears into a jumble of washed-out stones. This stone wall remnant along the north side of Alternate US 40, is named Colquitt's stone wall for the Colonel of a Georgia brigade from which two regiments of skirmishers held General John Gibbon's Union "Black Hat Brigade" at bay. These skirmishers used the wall as their cover. The wall is significant, therefore, for its role in the Battle of South Mountain, in preventing Union forces from taking Turner's Gap, defended by Confederate forces under D.H. Hill's and James Longstreet's command. Holding the gap was crucial to the protection of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia which was divided and separated on the west side of the mountain.

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-4-130

Magi No.

DOE ___ yes ___ no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Colquitt's Stone Wall

and/or common Stone Wall

2. Location

street & number N/S US Alternate Route 40

___ not for publication

city, 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: wall

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

name Richard E. & Betty E. Robertson

street & number 1709 Dahlgren Road

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 2015

street & number 100 West Patrick Street

Folio 970

city, town Frederick

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

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

date 1986

 federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville

state MD

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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.

Colquitt's stone wall followed the north-south path of a water run-off gully on the east face of South Mountain below Turner's Gap. It crossed the Old National Pike and continued across the open fields below, sturdy enough to withstand the advance of Gibbon's Iron Brigade. The stone wall today still follows the path of the gully, heavily overgrown to the north of the road, and demolished to the south of the road.

The stone wall runs south down the side of a spur of the east face of South Mountain which is paralleled by U.S. Alternate 40. It is located approximately halfway up the mountain on the north side of the highway, at the base of two converging driveways on a curve. The deteriorated wall runs along a run-off gully, the gully goes under the road bed and reappears on the south side of the highway. Here the stone wall disappears into a jumble of washed-out stones.

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 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.

This stone wall remnant along the north side of Alternate US 40, is named Colquitt's stone wall for the Colonel of a Georgia brigade from which two regiments of skirmishers held General John Gibbon's Union "Black Hat Brigade" at bay. These skirmishers used the wall as their cover. The wall is significant, therefore, for its role in the Battle of South Mountain, in preventing Union forces from taking Turner's Gap, defended by Confederate forces under D.H. Hill's and James Longstreet's command. Holding the gap was crucial to the protection of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia which was divided and separated on the west side of the mountain.

The attack of General John Gibbon's Brigade directly up the Old National Pike, was the third prong of General Ambrose Burnside's assault on the South Mountain defense at Turner's Gap. While General Jesse Reno's 9th Corps was taking General D.H. Hill's Confederate right and General Joseph Hooker's 1st Corps was taking the left, Gibbon would distract the defenders with a head-on attack. While Gibbon's "Black Hat Brigade" would not reach the crest, being held fast at Colquitt's stone wall, they would earn themselves the new name "The Iron Brigade".¹

Colonel A. H. Colquitt's Georgia Brigade was charged with the direct defense of Turner's Gap. Three regiments and a battery were located along the Ridge Road southeast of the Mountain House. "The remaining regiments of my brigade, to wit, the Twenty-third Georgia and Twenty-eighth Georgia, were put in position on the left of the turnpike, under cover of a stone fence and a channel worn by water down the mountainside."² Moving up on both sides of the National Pike to face these defenses was Gibbon's Brigade, the 7th Wisconsin and the 19th Indiana, followed by the 2nd and the 6th Wisconsin, and Battery B artillery. Much of the fighting was between skirmishers and artillery until Gibbon's men approached the stone wall and the bulk of Colquitt's defense.³ Colonel Solomon Meredith, 19th Indiana recalled, "After the firing ceased in front, we discovered the enemy, who was concealed behind a stone fence on the right of the pike, in front of the Seventh Wisconsin, annoying them by a

¹Stephen W. Sears, "Fire on the Mountain," *Blue and Gray*, January-February, 1986-87, p. 20.

²Jay Luvaas and Harold W. Nelson, eds. *The US Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, the Maryland Campaign of 1862*, p.49, from O.R., Vol.XIX, Part I, pp. 1052-53.

³Stephen W. Sears, *Landscape Turned Red*, New York: Ticknor and Fields, 1983, p. 141-2.

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DOE yes no

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deadly fire behind their breastworks."⁴ The 7th Wisconsin took the brunt of the firing from the walls and the forest on their right. Using the "leapfrog" style of advance and fire, the other three regiments saved the 7th and pushed the Confederates back from their wall. By then however it was dark and too late to push on the crest. With no reinforcements coming, Gibbon's "Iron Brigade" slept on their guns in front of Colquitt's stone wall.⁵

⁴War College Guide, p.44, from O.R., Vol.XIX, Part I, pp. 249-50

⁵Stephen W. Sears, "Fire on the Mountain," **Blue and Gray**, January-February 1896-87, p. 20.

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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):

Military

Resource Type:

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Wall

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.

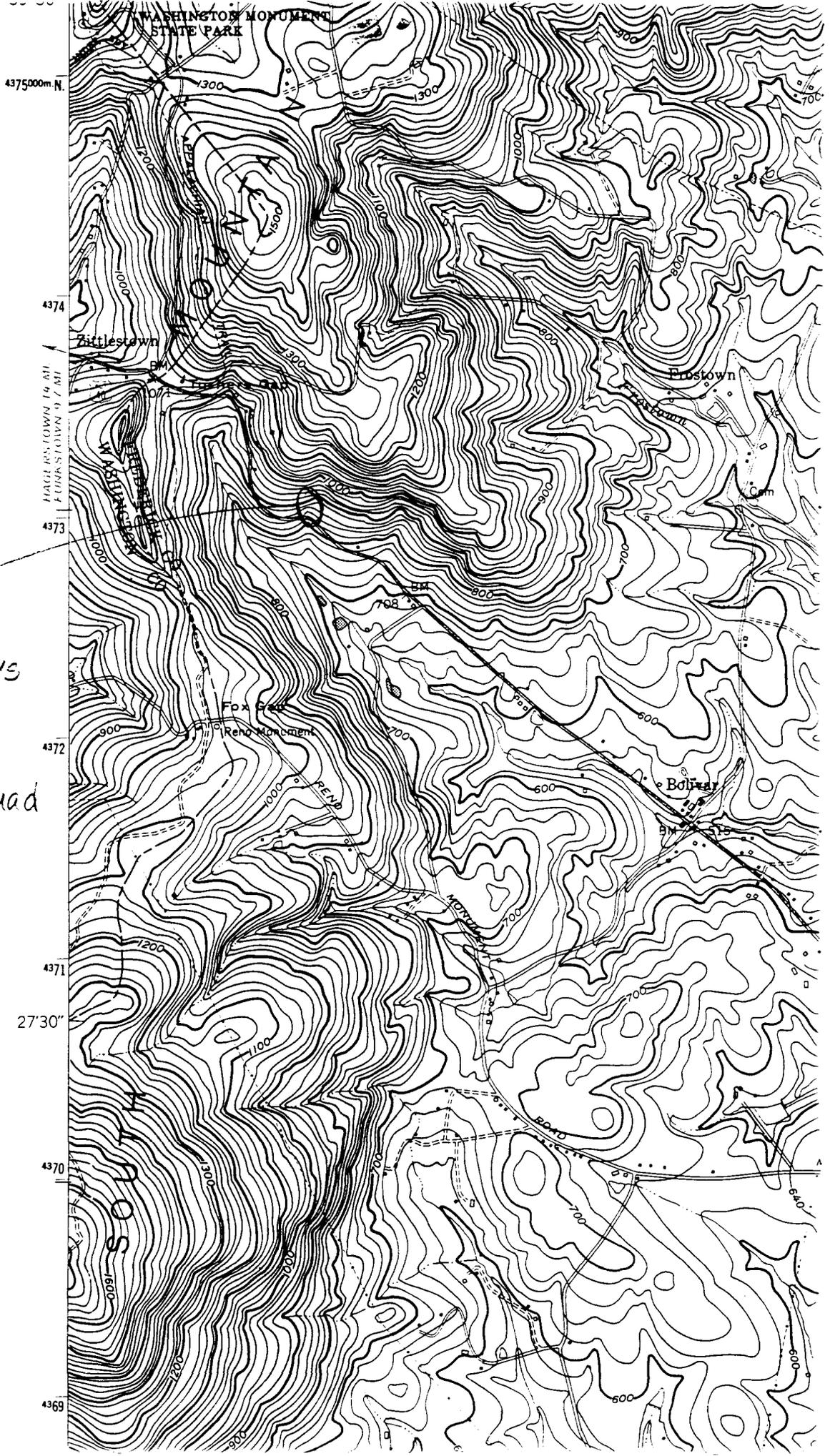
Manuscripts

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

Maps

- Battles and Leaders, Vol. II, p.568
- Bond Map, 1858, Frederick Co. Public Library, Maryland Room.
- Engineers Maps, 1862, National Register Nomination, South Mountain Battlefields F-4-17-A,B,C, 1986.
- Macombe Map, 1861.
- The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, Plate 27, Gramercy Books, New York, 1983.

F-4-130
Colonel Colquitt's
Stone Wall
Middletown Quad





F-4-130

Colquitt's Stone Wall

Frederick Co., Maryland

Edith B. Wallace

14 February 1998

Maryland SHPO

View facing N. on U.S. Alt 40

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