

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Stone Walls, Mountain Road, Ridge Road Inventory Number: F-4-134
 Address: South of Reno Monument Road, Fox's Gap City: Middletown Zip Code: 21769
 County: Frederick USGS Topographic Map: Middletown
 Owner: _____ Is the property being evaluated a district? ___ yes
 Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
 Project: DBM-0475-Lamb's Knoll DOE Agency: Maryland Dept. of Budget and Mgmt.
 Site visit by MHT staff: X no ___ yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property is located within a historic district? X yes ___ no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: F-4-17-B
 NR-listed district ___ yes Eligible district X yes Name of District: South Mountain Battlefields: Fox's Gap
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes ___ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ___ yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ___ yes X no

Criteria: X A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
Project File

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The stone walls located along the Old Ridge Road were documented in 1998 as part of the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. In 1998, the stone walls were deemed significant under Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places for its role in the Battle of South Mountain. These stone walls were built by the Confederate forces to fortify their positions against the Union forces of General McClellan that were advancing up the Old Sharpsburg Road from the east. The Battle of South Mountain was the prelude to the Battle of Antietam three days later, on September 17, 1862. Clashes also occurred at Crampton's and Turner's Gaps.

Between 1998 and the present, there seems to have been little or no change to the site. Thus, it is still significant as contributing resources to the South Mountain Battlefields District, under Criterion A, association with historical events. The association of Civil War personalities with the stone walls located along the Old Ridge Road is not sufficient to justify them as significant under Criterion B, association with the lives of persons in our past. The walls have no significance beyond their association with the Battle of South Mountain, and are not distinguished architecturally, thus disqualifying them for eligibility under Criterion C. In addition, they are overgrown and in a state of disrepair, thus compromising their integrity. Criterion D, information potential, was not evaluated for this study.

| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW | |
|---|--|
| Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Eligibility not recommended ___ |
| Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A ___ B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C ___ D | Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None |
| MHT Comments: <i>meets criterion C as example of a type and method of construction</i> | |
| <i>[Signature]</i> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services | <i>12/8/03</i> Date |
| <i>[Signature]</i> Reviewer, NR Program | <i>12/12/03</i> Date |

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Stone Walls, Mountain Road, Ridge Road

Inventory Number: F-4-134

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Prepared by: Gerald M. Maready/EHT Tracerics

Date Prepared: 10/24/2003

Loop Farm Lane

F-4-127
Old Ridge Road

F-4-17-B
South Mountain
Battlefields: Fox's Gap

F-4-132
Hoffman Farm
8612 Reno Monument
Road
Middletown

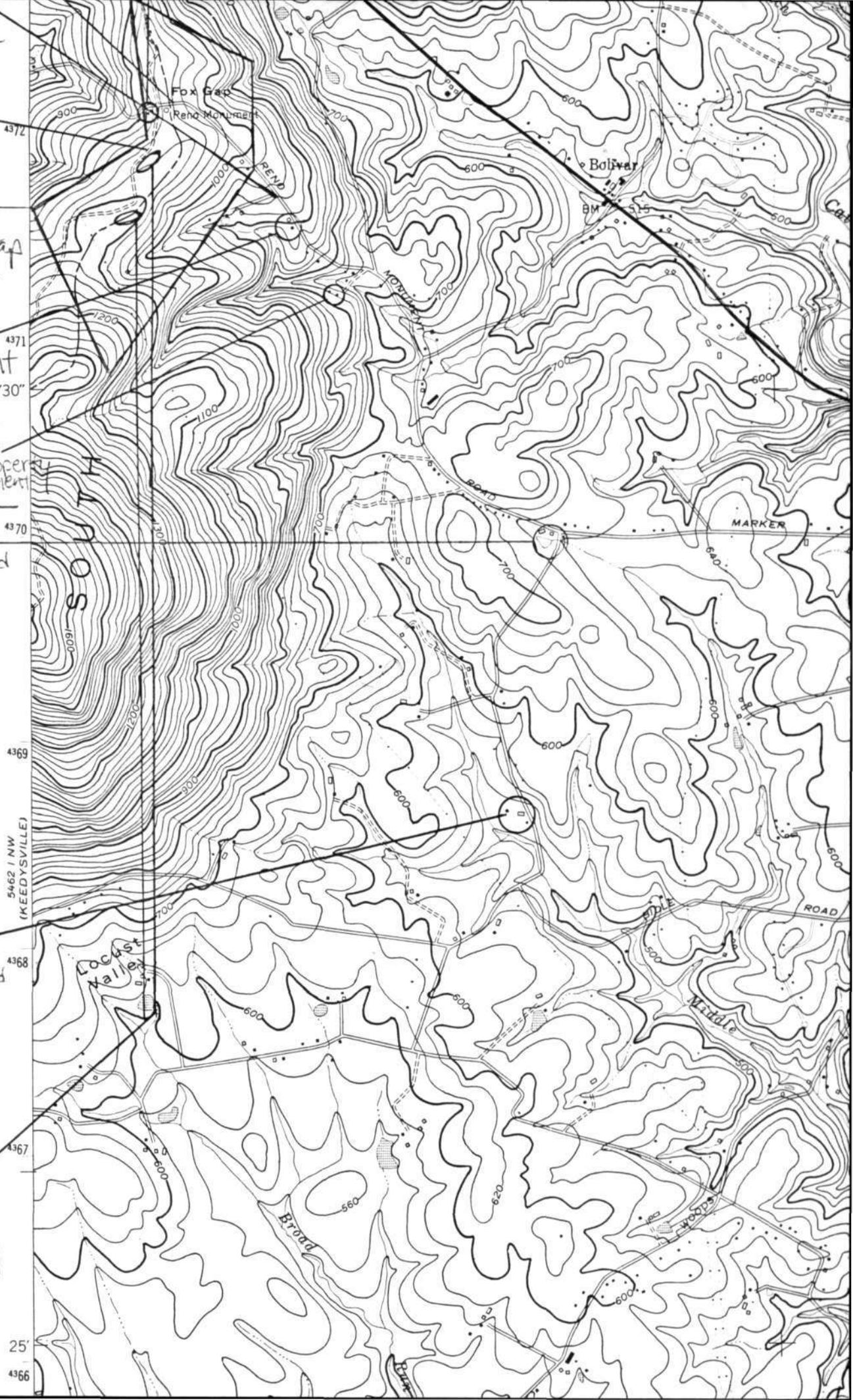
F-4-133
Edward Halpern property
8536 Reno Monument
Road

F-4-28
Fox's Tavern
2203 Marker Road
Middletown

Middletown
Quad

F-4-29
Smith-Rensburg
Farmstead
7423 Marker Road
Middletown

F-4-134
Stone Walls
Middletown





F-4 P&E

Stone walls (F-4-134), South Mountain Battlefields
Fox's Gap

Frederick County, MD

EHT Traceries

10/2003

MD SHPO

looking east

1 of 2



F-4-134

Stone walls (F-4-134), South Mountain Battlefields
Fox's Gap

Frederick County, MD

EHT Traceries

10/2003

MD SHPO

looking southeast

2 of 2

Survey # F-4-134

Approximate date September 14, 1862

Stone Walls, Mountain Road, Ridge Road

Street Address: South of Reno Monument Road, Fox's Gap

Town, State: Middletown vicinity, MD

private X, public X

This property is included in the survey of resources associated with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain, which occurred on September 14, 1862. Some of the surviving sections of this stone wall appear to be in excellent condition. Constructed of local stone gathered from the fields they enclosed, the walls are situated along the crest of South Mountain just south of Reno Monument Road (old Sharpsburg Road) along the east side Mountain Road (Ridge Road) and north of Reno Monument Road along east side of the Ridge Road trail. This section of fieldstone wall is significant for its role in the direct action of the Battle of South Mountain. Union forces took cover behind the wall as they attacked the thin line of Confederate defence at Fox's Gap. The Confederates also used the walls for cover as they tried to hold back growing numbers of Federals. The Union objective was to gain control of the Turner's Gap about a mile to the north, through which the national Road passed. Attempting to attack the Confederate right, with the goal of driving them back and taking Turner's Gap. For the Confederates, it was crucial to hold the gaps to protect the divided Army of Northern Virginia which was in the valley west of South Mountain. The battle set the stage for the Battle of Antietam three days later. By holding the gaps for the day, the Confederate defenders enabled Robert E. Lee's divided army to reassemble and prepare for battle.

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-4-134

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Stone Wall along the Ridge Road

and/or common Stone wall along Mountain Road

2. Location

street & number Mountain Road

 not for publication

city, town Boonsboro

 vicinity of

congressional district 6

state Maryland

county Washington

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 type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 Maryland Dept. or Nat. Resources, Edward Hallein

street & number Tawes Bldg., 2330 Marker Rd.

telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis, Middletown

state and zip code MD

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

Liber 1514 (Fred. Co.)

street & number West Washington Street

Folio 965

city, town Hagerstown

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-4-134

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Some of the surviving sections of this stone wall appear to be in excellent condition. Constructed of local stone gathered from the fields they enclosed, the walls are situated along the crest of South Mountain just south of Reno Monument Road (old Sharpsburg Road) along the east side of Mountain Road (Ridge Road) and north of Reno Monument Road along the east side of the Ridge Road trail.

The condition of the stone wall varies from section to section. The southern section first encountered along Mountain Road sits approximately 50 feet to the east of the road in the woods. This section is in excellent condition, stands about 3 feet high and runs east about 100 feet. The second southern section along Mountain Road runs about 500 feet and ranges from good condition to poor. The third section begins on the south side of the power line extending south down Mountain Road. This section is in fair condition. The section along the Ridge Road trail, north of Reno Monument Road is in fair condition.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-134

| 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 section of fieldstone wall is significant for its role in the direct action of the Battle of South Mountain which occurred on September 14, 1862. Union forces took cover behind the wall as they attacked the thin line of Confederate defence at Fox's Gap. The Confederates also used the walls for cover as they tried to hold back growing numbers of Federals. The Union objective was to gain control of the Turner's Gap about a mile to the north, through which the National Road passed. Attempting to attack the Confederate right, with the goal of driving them back and taking Turner's Gap. For the Confederates, it was crucial to hold the gaps to protect the divided Army of Northern Virginia which was in the valley west of South Mountain. The battle set the stage for the Battle of Antietam three days later. By holding the gaps for the day, the Confederate defenders enabled Robert E. Lee's divided army to reassemble and prepare for battle.

In September, 1862, along the crest of South Mountain at Fox's Gap stone walls lined some of the fields that ran down the eastern slope between the Ridge Road and the Loop Farm Lane, an access road for fields and woodlots, south of the Old Sharpsburg Road. The thinly stretched lines of Confederate Brigadier General Samuel Garland's Brigade defending the gap took advantage of the protection afforded by the walls where they could.¹

The Union forces of Scammon's Brigade viewed the stone walls of Fox's Gap from the Loop Farm Lane below, here described by Brigadier General Jacob Cox in his Official Report: "...his [Scammon's] brigade being formed in line, under cover of timber, facing open pasture fields, having a stone wall along the upper side, with the forest again beyond this." And moments later, "...they were on and over the wall, the center of Garland's North Carolina brigade breaking before them..."² The following day, September 15, 1862, an entry in the Diary of Captain James Wren, 48th PA Vol. describes the scene behind the stone wall: "Just to the right of my skirmish line of yesterday war [sic] tow [sic] Cross roads in the shape of an X ex & on our frut [sic] thear [sic] was a stone fence & behind that fence & in this ex road the enemy

¹Scott D. Hartwig, "My God, Be Careful! The Morning Battle of Fox's Gap," *Civil War Regiments*, vol 5. #3, Campbell, CA: Savas Publishing Co., p. 38.

²Jay Luvaas, and Harold W. Nelson, *US Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of 1862*, Washington: Harper Collins, p. 20.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

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DOE

yes

no

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lay verey [sic] thick."³ The crossroads described by Captain Wren were the Ridge Road and the old Sharpsburg Road (Reno Monument Road). These walls figured prominently for both sides in the battle action of the day.

³manuscript, Diary of Capt. James Wren, Antietam National Battlefield Library.

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Magi No.

DOE yes no

Section Number 8 Page 3

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/boundary

Known Design Source: None

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-134

Books

- Cartwig, 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.
- Stotlemeyer, 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 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.
- 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.

5483 11 SW
(FUNKSTOWN)

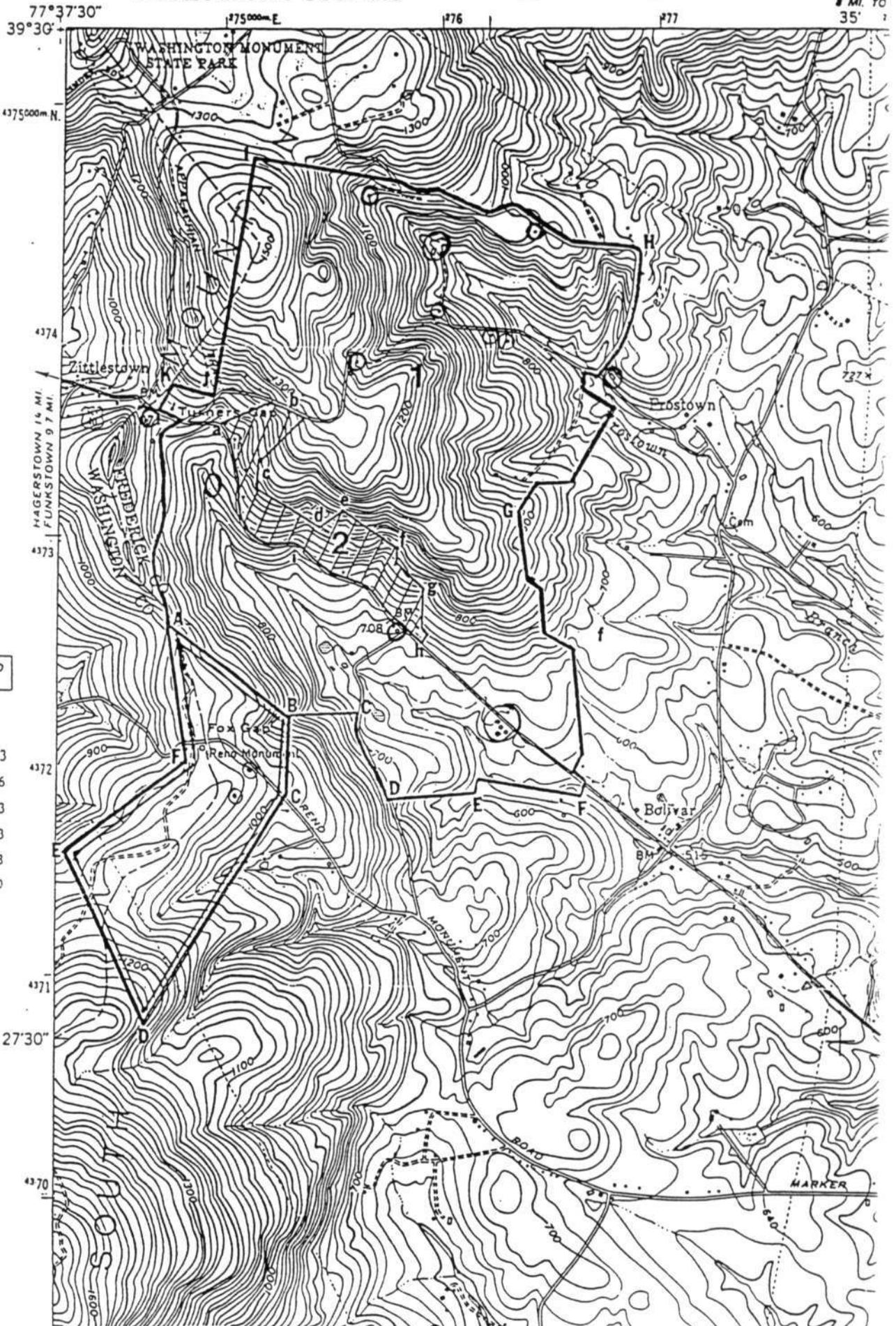
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



10-6

F-4-134

MA.
8 MI. TO
35'

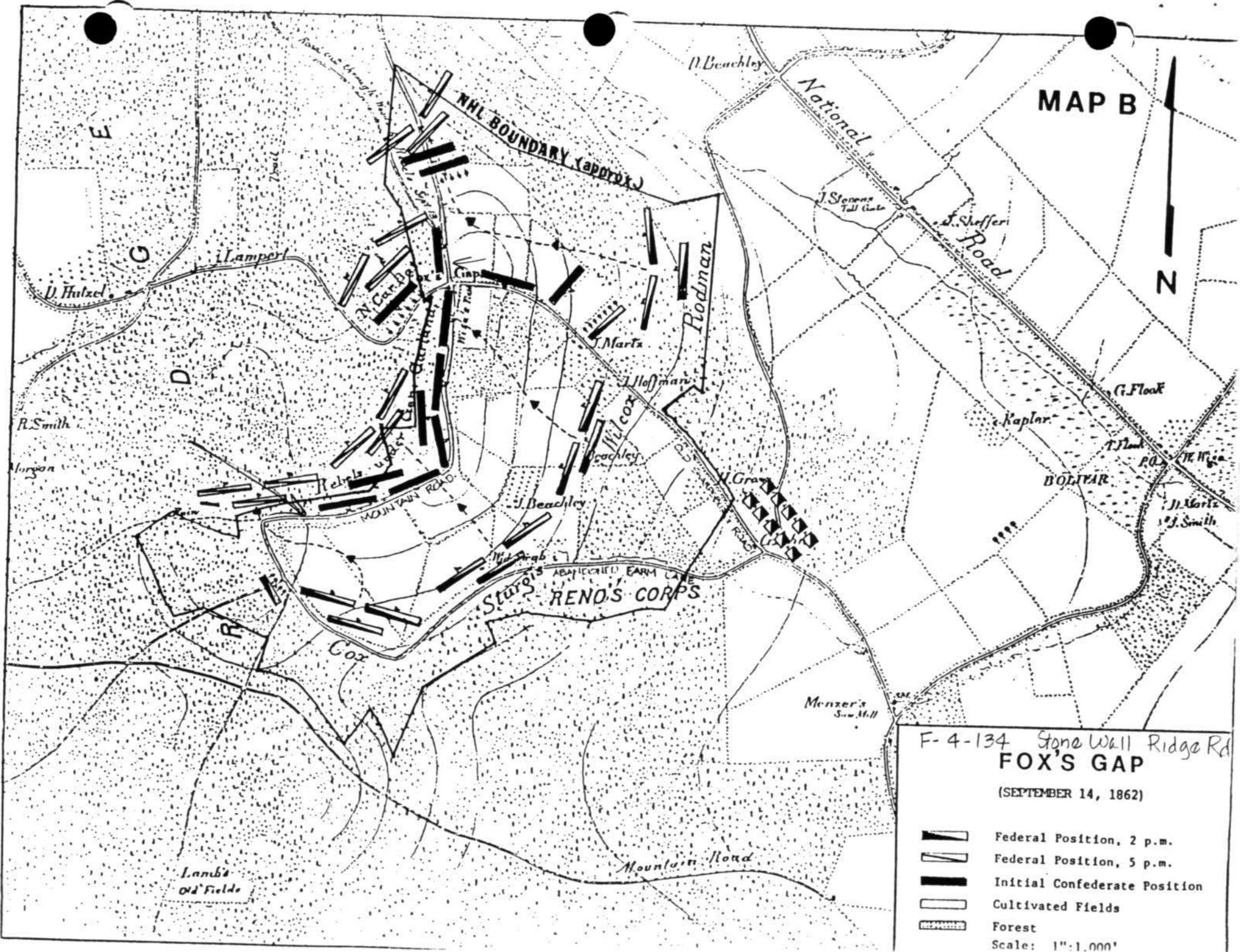


FOX'S GAP

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

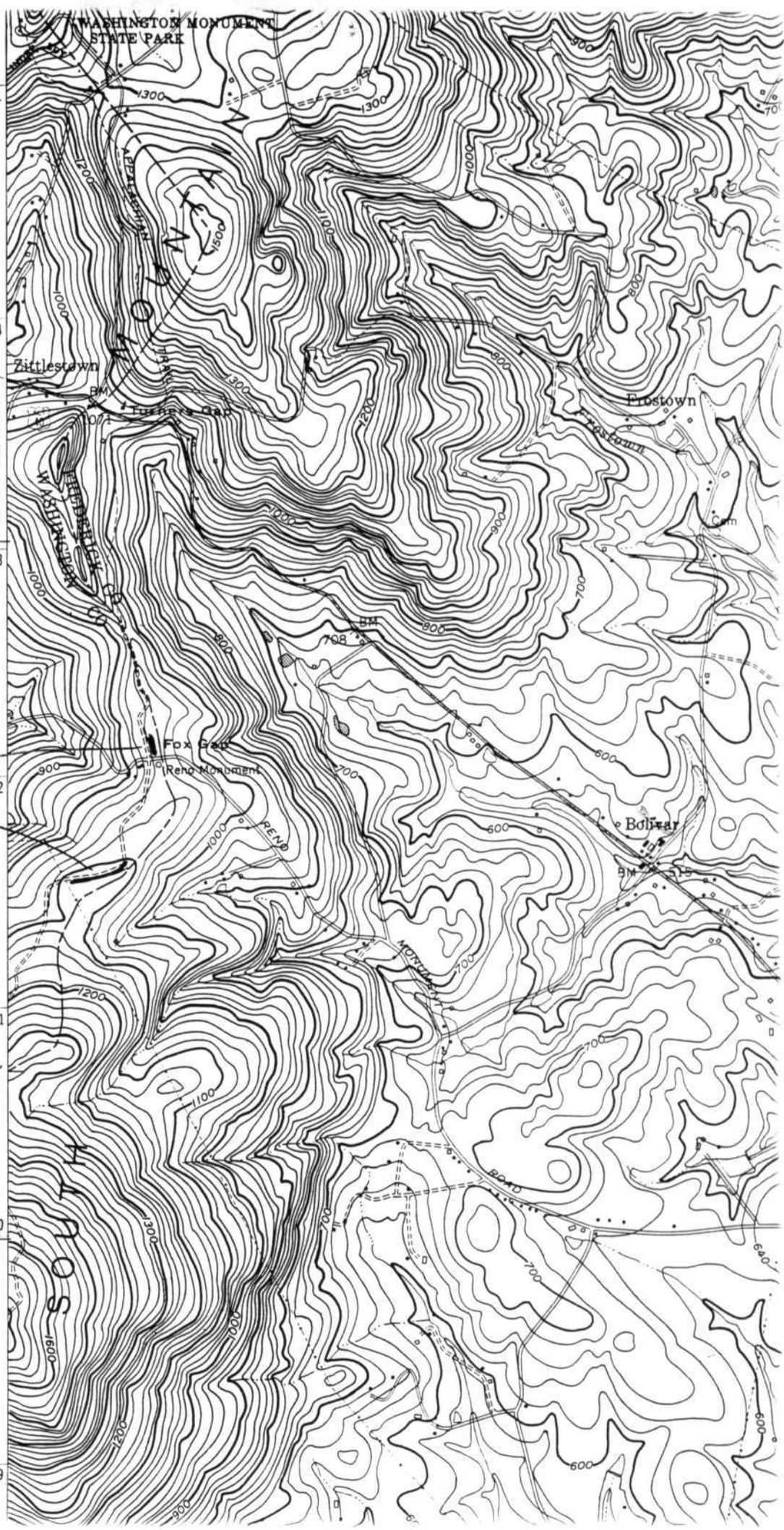
MAP B



F-4-134 Stone Wall Ridge Rd
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'



4375000m N
4374
4373
4372
4371
27°30'
4370
4369

F-4-134
Stone Wall along
old Ridge Road

Middlestown Quad



F-4-134

Stone wall, Fox's Gap
Washington Co., Maryland
Edith B Wallace

13 November 1997

Maryland SHPO

view north along Old Ridge Rd.

1/1