

ABSTRACT

WA-II-163

19th Century

Log House, Antietam Battlefield

Sharpsburg Vicinity

public

This 19th century log house stands on one of the most historically significant areas of the Antietam Battlefield. Some controversy has arisen recently as to whether this building might have been present during the Civil War Battle which occurred on September 17, 1862. Architecturally the house displays a rather unusual form of log construction consisting of vertical posts at each corner into which the wall logs are mortised. The tenon of each log is secured with a large cut nail. The vertical posts are reinforced with diagonal corner braces. The age of the house is not known but material used in its construction as well as interior woodwork suggest the possibility of a building date during the latter part of the third quarter of the 19th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

NR

AND/OR COMMON

Log House, Antietam Battlefield

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bloody Lane

CITY, TOWN

Antietam National Battlefield X VICINITY OF **Sharpsburg**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: **Not in use.**

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

U.S.A. National Park Service

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Dept. of the Interior

CITY, TOWN

Washington

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

D. C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: **573**

Folio #: **433**

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland

21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

WA-II-163

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 < 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This log house is located along "Bloody Lane" near the observation tower on the Antietam National Battlefield in the vicinity of Sharpsburg, Maryland. It stands on an area of level ground and faces south.

The dwelling is a two story, three bay log house resting on stone and poured concrete foundations. The building has been sheathed with German siding, which has been partially removed so that substantial portions of the log construction are exposed. The wall logs at all elevations are mortised into corner posts reinforced with diagonal braces at the first and second story levels. The logs are hewn on their side surfaces and are chinked for the most part with sawn pieces of wood and daubed with mud and lime mortar with a lime coat surface. A small frame lean to addition is attached to the back of the house.

Windows and doors are trimmed with early 20th century period flat topped architraves. Most windows have two over two pane sashes. Entrances are located in the first and second bays of the front elevation. The more westerly door has been boarded shut with plywood. Extending across the entire front elevation is a porch supported with turned square posts.

The roof is sheathed with corrugated sheet metal and extends beyond the end walls. Brick chimneys are located inside the gables. The interior of the house displays plain late 19th and early 20th century woodwork. One mantelpiece has beveled panels characteristic of the third quarter of the 19th century.

There are no outbuildings associated with the house. It is in deteriorated condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This 19th century log house stands on one of the most historically significant areas of the Antietam Battlefield. Some controversy has arisen recently as to whether this building might have been present during the Civil War Battle which occurred on September 17, 1862. Architecturally the house displays a rather unusual form of log construction consisting of vertical posts at each corner into which the wall logs are mortised. The tenon of each log is secured with a large cut nail. The vertical posts are reinforced with diagonal corner braces. The age of the house is not known but material used in its construction as well as interior woodwork suggest the possibility of a building date during the latter part of the third quarter of the 19th century.

Some of the most intense fighting during the Battle of Antietam occurred along the sunken road which later came to be called Bloody Lane. Historians contend that if a house had been standing here during the Battle, it probably would have been destroyed by the fighting. However, descendants of the Ward family who owned and occupied the house during the latter part of the 19th century believe, based upon family traditions, that there was a house on this location during the Battle. According to Washington County Land Records, James H. Ward acquired a property containing 4 acres and 13 perches from Samuel Mumma on March 23, 1873 for \$400. (WMcKK6/3). James H. Ward's army discharge papers indicate that he was a stone mason and that he was 5' 8½" tall with dark hair and complexion and grey eyes.

It is believed by descendants of James H. Ward that he and his wife lived along Bloody Lane at the time of the Battle and that Mrs. Ward took refuge in Sharpsburg during the fighting returning to her house to find it heavily damaged.

The present structure shows no evidence of battle damage although it is possible that its foundations and some parts of its structure may have been salvaged from an earlier structure on the site.

A mortgage dated July 31, 1878 states that this property was at that time improved with a two story log house and other buildings. (77/122).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ward Family Data and Recollections.

Washington County Land Records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

March 1978

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

SUBJECT:

"House", located at 85 Bloody Lane, Sharpsburg, Maryland. 21782.
 Writer is Arthur S. Ward

This is a documentation of certain facts supported by records and by events told to me, together with other materials (letters, photographs and sworn statements) that have been gathered by me for the following purpose:

The question concerning this house is: Was it or any part of it standing at the present site before, during and immediately after the Civil War (1861-1865) and more especially, was it or any part thereof, there during the Battle of Antietam (Sept. 1862?) It is my contention that the question and all of its parts, can be answered in the affirmative. The following being told to me by my Grandfather as well as my Father, Aunt and Uncles and, not once, but on many occasions including: family gatherings, story telling time and also arguments when a certain point was not fully detailed.

James Henry Ward and his wife Susan (Strippy or Stripple) Ward lived at the above address at the time (my Grandfather & Grandmother) in question and resided there many years after the war. The record shows (Exhibit #1) ^{That James H. Ward was born} in Washington County, Md. ^(Exhibit #2) on May 25, 1835 and married Susan Strippy on the 12 of April 1860. It is my contention that they moved to the above address in a house, and proceeded to have a family. The Union Army discharge papers (Exhibit #2) of James H. Ward show that he was a Sergeant of Capt. Robert C. Bradford, Vol's Potomac Home Brigade, enrolled 9-10-1861, served 3 years, discharged 10-25-1864

Harpers Ferry, Va, (born in Washington Co. Md.) at 26 years of age and occupation of Stone Mason. James Henry was called Henry by all who knew him. Some of his relatives referred to him as Hen and Uncle Hen.

The following account has been told to me, as well as to all my brothers, sister and cousins, and may vary in detail according to the teller of the story, but the substance remains pretty much the same as the one told to Mrs. Betty Otto on our first meeting 9-12-75. The same story is recorded on the back of a picture of the house and presented to her great nephew (now age 12) on Aug 28, 1972 by Mrs. Minnie Gilbert.

The Story: During the battle of Antietam, my Grandmother was taken to a cellar by some soldiers, together with a free slave woman, a small child and infant. Her babies became ill with fever and when the battle had subsided at one occasion, she, being anxious to obtain pure water, proceeded back home in order to get fresh water from her spring. Upon arriving at her lane (Bloody Lane) the dead lay so thick and deep, she had to walk along the ridge where the fence was located. When she got home a great part of the house had been destroyed by heavy gunfire. Leaving only ^{two} ~~ten~~ livable rooms and the cellar for her to take up living quarters. In her kitchen were two dead soldiers which she and the free slave (as she went with her) buried in the garden at the back of the house. Either ~~during~~ during or shortly after the battle both babies died and she buried them in the garden also. They were later removed for a more decent burial. (my cousin affirms this as being the case).

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My Grandmother spent 2 years or more with the free slave, in these quarters. Upon my Grandfathers return he built onto these remains until he completed the present structure which is much the same as stands now. There is an account (Exhibit #3) of Mrs. Henry Ward being in the Kretzer cellar and having an infant child etc- ("Battle of Antietam") (Publisher Oliver T. Reilly Copyright 1906 by R. C. Miller) which places Mrs Henry Ward in the vicinity of the above house at the time of the battle. It is reasonable to assume she lived in a house, the house being in a place of danger, she was removed to the Kretzer cellar, left there and returned to her house. It is my contention the house to which she returned is the house in question. Not all of it but that part that was left and usable for living quarters.

The following is a list of the sons and daughter born to James H. Ward and Susan Strippy Ward, and all born in Sharpsburg, Md. as records show and all born in the house in question.

(Exhibit #4) Edward Ellsworth Ward	born	9-27-1866
James Frank	" "	3-19-1868
Ulysses Sheridan	" "	7-16-1869
Molly Ward Stevenson	" "	8-5-1871
Harry Markwood	" "	9-13-1873

On too many occasions along with many visits to the "Old Ward Home" have we all been told these facts, not to believe them now. The records of the Ward family go back to Ireland and Germany and show they settled in what is now Washington Co. Md. and some records can be found in Frederick, Md. preceeding the 1845 records at the Court House to give credence to this argument.

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Sh a rpsburg Md. is shown either on the death certificate of each, except J. Frank Ward, and his birthplace is shown on his employment record as Sharpsburg, Md. (N&W R.R. Exhibit #5) The family Bible records show Sharpsburg, Md. on those that are available There are a number of photographs showing numerous visits by the Ward family, to the home(house) and letters showing many of the allegations above to be true.

On the occassion of the 75th anniversary of the battle (Sept. 18, 1937) my Father, along with my Mother, my Aunt and two Uncles were guests of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the speaker of the day, and sat on the speakers platform with him, his staff and surviving Vetrans of the Civil War. The signifigance of their being invited to this occassion, which has always been my impression, was due to the fact that they were the survivors of the Ward family whose Mother and Father were the inhabitants of the house during the Battle of Antietam. If this was not the reason for their being there then I am at a loss to even guess as to whythey were there as his guests. All of my family as well as those cousins, who were the children of Edward E. Ward, affirm this to be the reason.

While many more incidents and expriences can be written here, they would only elongate, not enlighten the question. With this documentation there accompanes letters, photographs and other material for examination.

My personal convictions are written in the above documentation, and I am confirmed in the belief, that the removal of the house is to commit historical vandalism.

Arthur A. Ward.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WA II-163

5463 11 SE
WILLIAMSPORT WA 713 45'

HAGERSTOWN 11 MI.

590 000 FEET (MD.)

265 000m E.

266

267

39°30'

WA II-308

WA II-282

WA II-357

WA II-357

WA II-251

WA II-265

4375000m N.
WA II-297

WA II-279

WA II-346

WA II-347

WA II-345

WA II-340

WA II-352

WA II-298

600 000 FEET
(MD.)

4373

WA II-353

WA II-350

WA II-349

WA II-335

WA II-163

WA II-351

WA II-351

WA II-331

WA II-324

WA II-323

WA II-335

Porterstown Bridge

Porterstown

Lycopodium quadr...

27°30'

MARTINSBURG 12 MI
SHEPHERDSTOWN 3.8 MI

Sharpsburg
(BM 413)

Hawkins Monument

ANTIETAM NATIONAL
CEMETERY

WA II-336

WA II-353

WA II-334

WA II-334

WA II-132

WA II-333

WA II-369

WA II-374

Burnside Bridge

Gaging Sta.

4370

Out Air



WA-II-163

5/21

Sept. 1915

Log House, Antietam Battlefield

Bloody Lane

Antietam National Battlefield

Sharpsburg Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WM I-163

E. W.

Sept 1961

Log House, Antietam Battlefield

Bloody Lane

Antietam National Battlefield

Sharpsburg Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA II-163

Sept 1964

Sept 1964

Log House, Antietam Battlefield

**Bloody Lane
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg Vicinity**

BY STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON, CO
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



047
N.W.
Sept. 1975

Log House, Antietam Battlefield

Bloody Lane

Antietam National Battlefield

Sharpsburg Vicinity

ANOLA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-11-163

N. D. 400

Sept. 1915

Log House, Antietam Battlefield

Bloody Lane

Antietam National Battlefield

Sharpsburg Vicinity

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY