

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-III-038  
District 8  
Map 84  
Parcel (None Listed)  
MAGI # 2210443607

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Gathland State Park

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South Mountain at at Crampton's Gap

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

6

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

\_\_\_BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Maryland

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Liber #:

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hagerstown

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Gathland State Park is located on top of South Mountain at Crampton's Gap. The park consists of forest and open land with several stone buildings and structures. The buildings are for the most part of stone construction and were built after 1884 by George Alfred Townsend, journalist and novelist who used the pen name "Gath". He built a large stone house, a library, a guest house, servants quarters and stables. Several of these buildings remain standing today. Most prominent of the structures is a tall monumental stone arch which was erected by Townsend in memory of newspaper war correspondents. The structure was dedicated in 1896. Townsend abandoned the property in 1906 after his wife died. It was acquired by the State in the early 20th century. The arch is federally owned.

The main house, a two story, four bay, hipped roofed structure with a central cross gable was rebuilt in the 1950's by DNR. In its front wall at the second story level is a date stone inscribed, Gath, 1885. A turn of the century period photograph of the building shows a long two story L-shaped extension to the rear of the present building featuring wall dormers, brick window trim and projecting gables with stepped parapet roof lines. Wrapping around the front and sides of the main part of the house was a broad Victorian porch with bracketed trim.

Below the main house is a gambrel roofed stone building formerly a guest house, now used as a visitor's center. It is built of native sandstone with reddish mortar and features brick trimwork. A stone in its south wall is inscribed, Bess, 1885. (Bess was George Alfred Townsend's wife.)

Also present is a tomb erected by Gath but never used and a bronzed figure of a dog which rested on top of the tomb was stolen sometime after Townsend abandoned the property.

**3 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 Built after 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George Alfred Townsend

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

George Alfred Townsend was a prominent journalist and novelist. The War Correspondent's Arch that he erected is the only such memorial in existence.

Crampton's Gap, the area where the park is located was an early mountain crossing place for settlers moving into the Cumberland Valley during the second and third quarters of the 18th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Fuller, Max, Valleys of History. "A War Reporter's Tribute to the Press." 3:1 winter 1967.

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, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

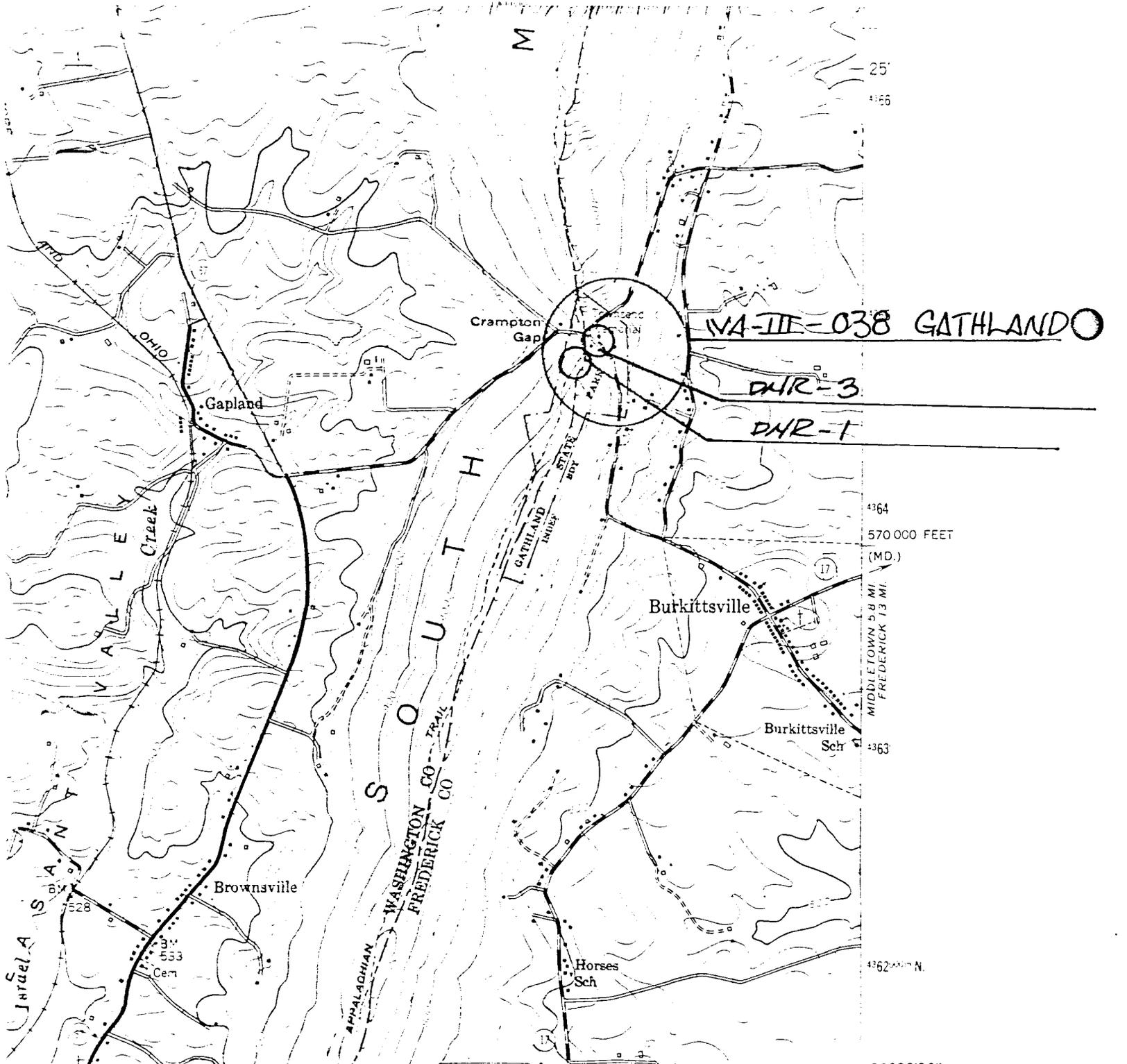
STATE

Maryland 21782

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



VA-III-038 GATHLAND

DNR-3

DNR-1

S O U T H

WASHINGTON CO  
FREDERICK CO

APPALACHIAN

CATHLAMET

Horses Sch

Burkittsville

Burkittsville Sch

Brownsville

Gapland

Crampton Gap

JARUEL A S A N T

OHIO

V A L L E Y C R E E K

BY 528

40'

40'

WEVERTON 10.000 U.S. 340 3.6 MI.  
CHARLES TOWN 14 MI.

620,000 FEET (MD.)  
BRUNSWICK 5.3 MI.  
POINT OF ROCKS 13 MI.

73°00' E

77°37'30"

39°22'30"

4364  
570 000 FEET  
(MD.)

MIDDLETOWN 5.8 MI.  
FREDERICK 13 MI.

4363

4362

(POINT OF ROCKS)  
5442 1 SE

1 MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
1963

Heavy duty ——— Light duty - - - - -  
Medium duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt .....  
U.S. Route (rectangle symbol) State Route (circle symbol)



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

KEEDYSVILLE, MD. - W. VA.

N3922.5 - W7737.5/7.5

1953  
PHOTO REVISED 1971  
AMS 5462 I NW - SERIES V833



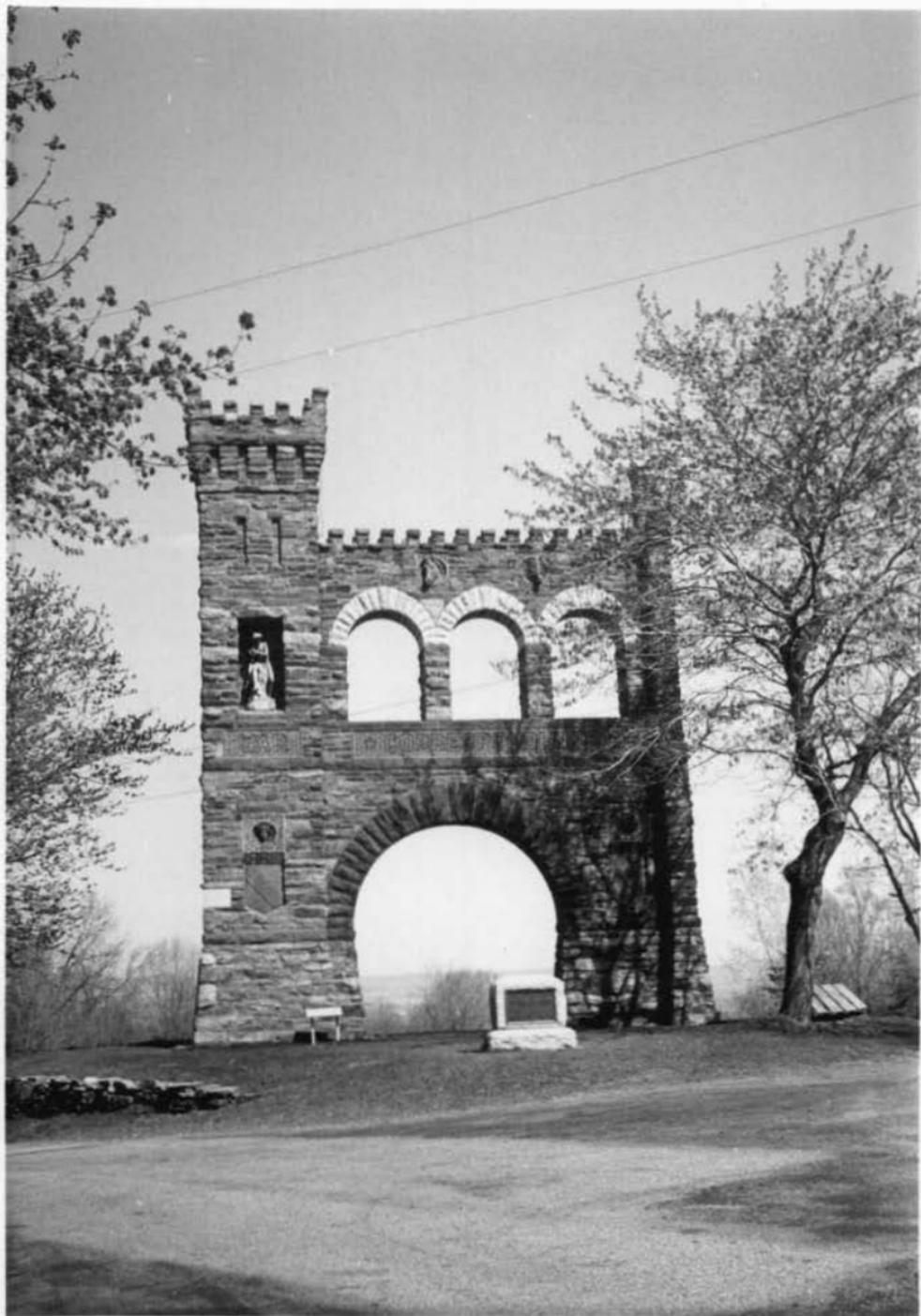
WA-III-038

Gathland State Park  
South Mountain at Crampton's  
Gap.

N.W.

April, 1977

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



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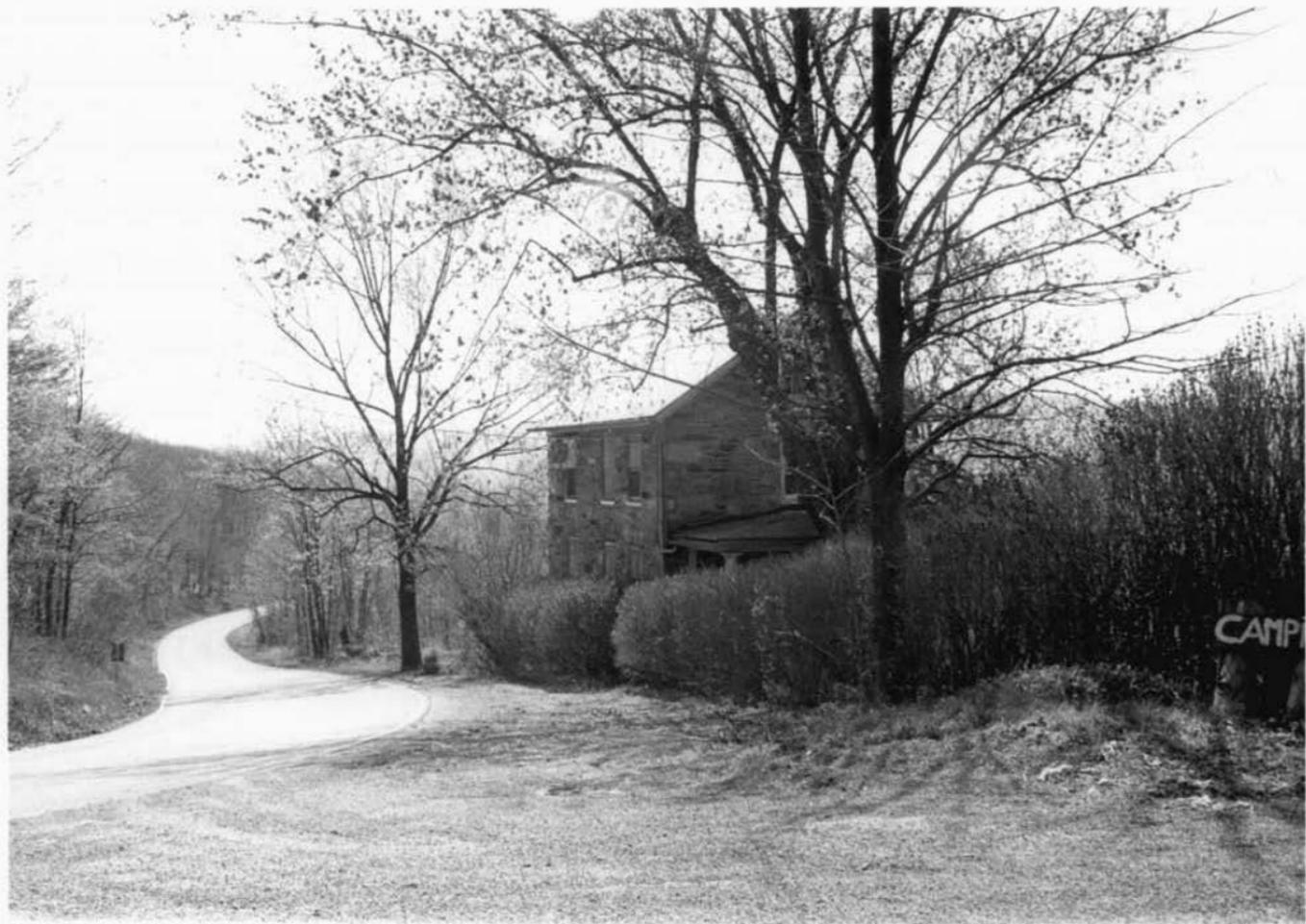
War Correspondents' Arch —

April, 1917

Gathland State Park

South Mountain at Crampton's  
Gap.

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Gapland Rd. S.W. view

April, 1971

Gathland State Park

South Mountain at Crampton's  
Gap.

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Gapland Road S.W. view

April, 1977

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WA-III-038

Gapland Rd. N.W. view.

April, 1977

Gathland State Park

South Mountain at Crampton's  
Gap.

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Gapland Rd. n.w. view

April, 1977

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S.W.

April, 1977

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Gatland St. Pl.

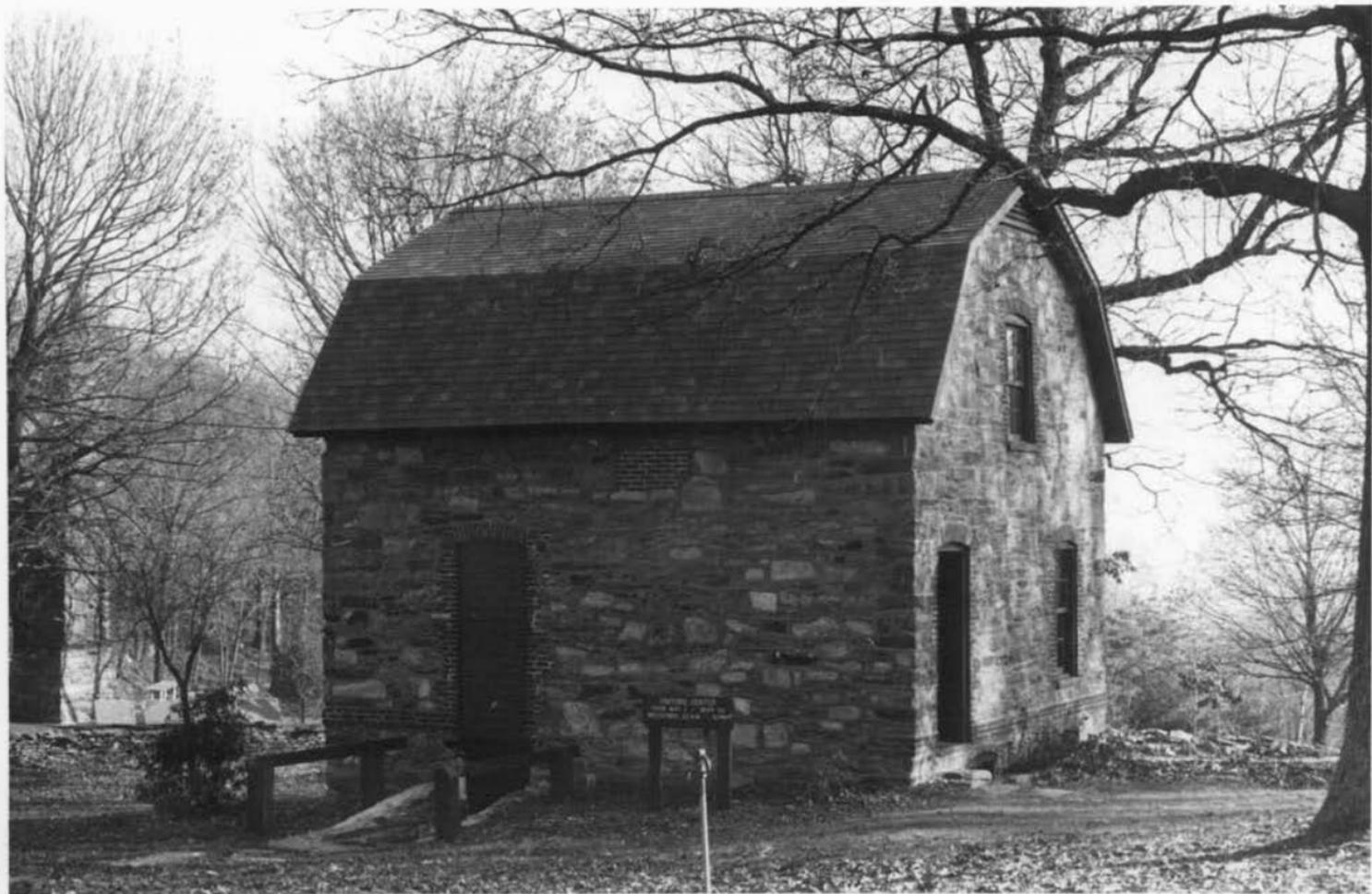
old (ca 1900?) photo of barn, memorial arch  
and other buildings.

Paula Stoner  
Reservation Association



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Gothland State Park  
Main house (ca. 1900 photo)  
S.E. view



Gatthead State Park

Guest House, N.E. view

Nov. 1978

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Preservation Associates



Gothland State Park  
House, S.W. view  
Nov. 1918

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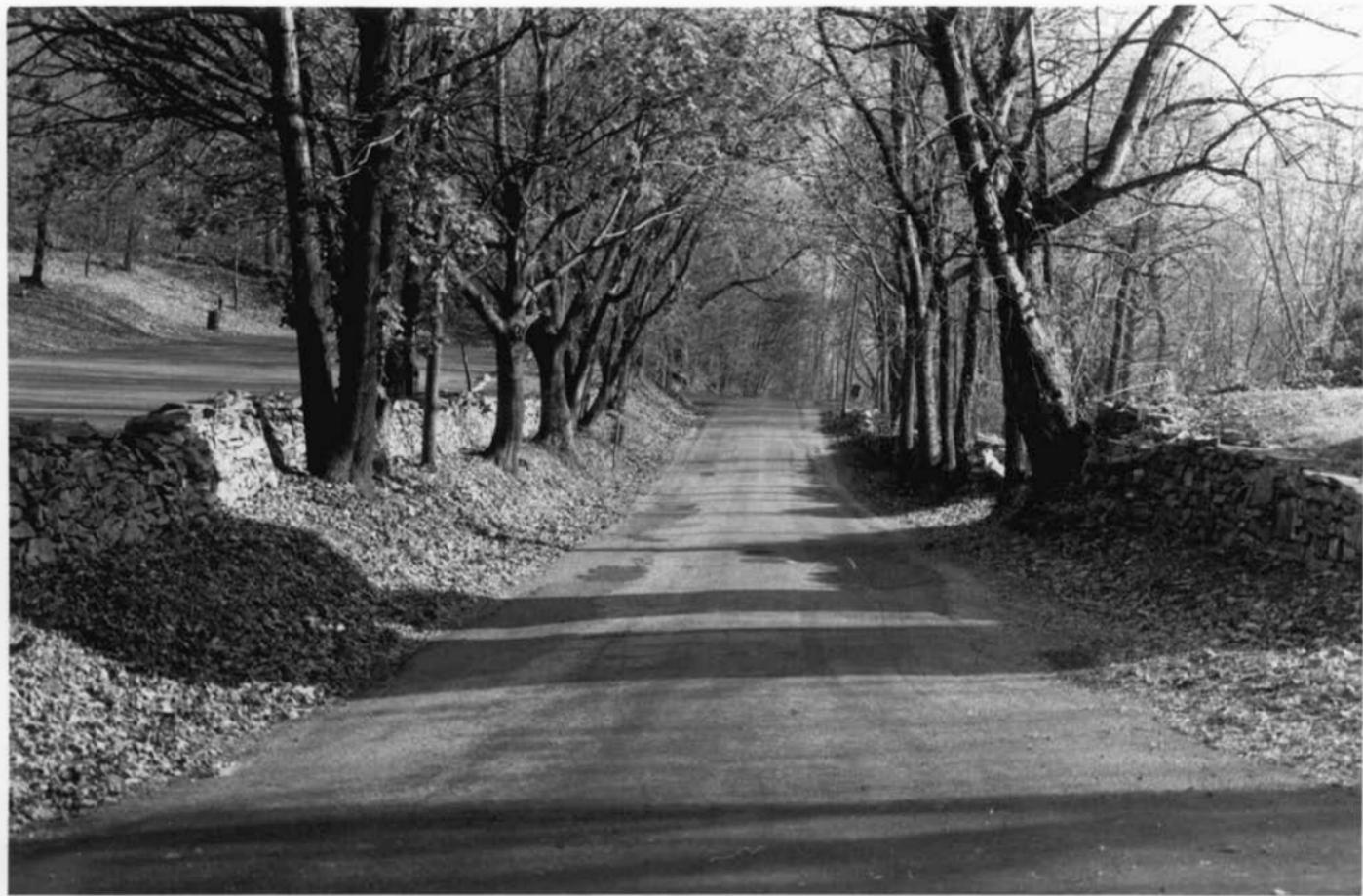
Gothland State Pk.

Barn Ruins, N.W. View

Nov. 1978

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Gatfield State Park

Stone fences

N.E. view

Nov. 1978

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Preservation Association



Gateway State Park  
ruins of library. S.W. view  
Nov. 1978

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Pasta Stone  
Preservation Assoc.



Garland State Park

WA-III-038

burial plot S.W. view

Nov. 1913

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Jathland State Park.

Tomb - S.E. View

Nov. 1978

WA III - 038

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Gothland State Park  
Tomb. detail  
Nov. 1978

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Paula Stoner  
Preservation Associates



## CONFEDERATE TRENCHES

HARRING THE TRENCHES JUST BEFORE THE  
LIE'S TROOPS, ON SEPT. 14, 1862, FOUGHT TO HOLD  
CHARTWELL'S GAP AGAINST MACLELLAN'S UNION ARMY,  
ADVANCING UP SOUTH MOUNTAIN FROM THE MIDDLETOWN  
VALLEY BELOW.

BY SUNSET, THE CONFEDERATES WERE OVERWHELMED,  
BUT THE DELAYING ACTION MADE POSSIBLE THE CAPTURE  
OF HARRING'S FERRY BY OTHER SOUTHERN FORCES,  
THUS PAVING THE WAY TO THE BLOODY BATTLE OF  
ANTIETAM, THREE DAYS LATER.

WA III -038

Gothland State Park

Supposed Confederate trenches, S.E. View

Nov. 1978

Paula Stover  
Preservation Associates