



South Mountain Battlefield[s] – September 14, 1862  
 Name of Multiple Property Listing

Maryland  
 State

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## E. Statement of Historic Context:

The Battle of South Mountain took place on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1862, the opening salvo of four days of conflict and pursuit that culminated in the Battle of Antietam at Sharpsburg just eight miles west of the mountain. But the Civil War battles that took place during Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Maryland Campaign of 1862 did not take place in a vacuum. The campaign traversed the mountain and valley landscape of Frederick and Washington Counties in west-central Maryland that had developed over more than a century of settlement with significant agricultural and transportation improvements. Although not a planned battle, the battleground for the Battle of South Mountain was carefully chosen by Lee's generals for its rugged terrain, stonewall entrenchments, and a network of farm lanes and logging roads over which troops could be moved. More importantly, the primary Union approach routes were limited to the three narrow mountain gaps around which the battle ensued. Thus the far fewer Confederate defenders held the high ground over a severely constrained larger Union force. Lee's strategy on the mountain did slow the Union advance, giving him time to regroup at Sharpsburg. But the battle on the mountain came at a relatively high cost – over 2,000 casualties from each of the opposing forces, many buried where they lay on the mountainside until after the Civil War ended.

### *Settlement and Agricultural Development in Frederick and Washington Counties*

Frederick and Washington Counties are located in west-central Maryland, separated by South Mountain, a northern extension of the Blue Ridge. South Mountain ranges in height from 1,000-1,500 feet, with a series of knolls separated by dips and gaps. Frederick County is part of the piedmont section of Maryland, while Washington County constitutes the lower section of the Cumberland Valley, a thirty-mile-wide limestone basin known for its productive agricultural soils. These two counties were settled during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century although there were habitations in the region as early as the 1720s. Although the land was initially held by English entrepreneurs from eastern Maryland, the majority of settlers who actually lived in Frederick and Washington Counties were Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania. The area developed into a prime agricultural region with emphasis on the production of small grains. With grain farming dominating, related industries and transportation networks soon developed. Grist and flour milling were prevalent, as was distilling. Central Maryland along with south central Pennsylvania grew in importance as an agricultural region. In Maryland, Frederick and Washington Counties led the state in wheat and corn production throughout most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the Civil War, the allure of the agricultural prosperity of region influenced Robert E. Lee's plan to invade Maryland in the late summer of 1862. The larger Mid-

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Atlantic region was the nation’s bread basket until large-scale grain production in the Midwest overtook local production later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition to agricultural prosperity, Frederick and Washington Counties were also leaders in the production of iron in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. South Mountain was rich in iron ore deposits and several large scale iron manufactories were located on both sides of the mountain. Along with iron ore, the mountain supplied wood which was burned into charcoal to fire the iron furnaces. As a consequence, South Mountain and the other ridges in the counties were laced with a network of old roads used for logging, access to iron ore pits, and to charcoal burning stations.

By the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the region was known for its grain production. Grain was sold in bulk, or processed into flour and meal, or distilled into whiskey. These commodities were shipped to markets in Baltimore or Philadelphia. Shipping from central and western Maryland and the grain growing regions of Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley was a problem, and hindered the growth and prosperity associated with grain production. There was no inland water route to the farming areas, although navigation of the Potomac was marginally successful beginning in the 1780s and continued to the 1820s when it was replaced by the C&O Canal. Rail service did not develop until the 1830s, so highway transportation had to serve the freight hauling needs of the region. Maryland, therefore promoted turnpike development, although most of these toll routes were privately funded. The output and growth in population in the western areas of Maryland encouraged construction and improvement of roads which were generally described as “miserable and worst in the union” in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (Brugger 1985:153). Baltimore officials in 1787 laid out 20-foot wide roads to Frederick, Reisterstown and York, Pennsylvania. However, it was private turnpike companies and in some cases mill owners who actually constructed the roads.

In 1806 the Federal government began the construction of a highway that would lead to the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase lands comprising much of the central portion of the United States. The “National Road” began in Cumberland, Maryland following the old Braddock Road, a rough wagon track established by explorers and traders and improved by General Braddock on his 1753 march to Fort Duquesne. By 1818 the National Road reached Wheeling in Virginia (West Virginia) and later as far as Terre Haute, Indiana. The main wagon road connecting Baltimore to the National Road at Cumberland was a collection of privately owned and operated turnpike segments, eventually upgraded and consolidated to become part of the National Road system. The National Road, or National Pike, became one of the most heavily traveled east-west routes in America with traffic passing all hours of the day and night. Stagecoaches, freight wagons, herds of swine, geese and cattle headed to market along the road, as individual traffic passed along the pike. Taverns, inns and hotels were an important part of

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the travel-generated economy. Also important were blacksmith shops, wagon shops, and leather and harness shops.

With many of the early transportation issues solved during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Frederick and Washington Counties prospered. Farming and agricultural processing industries dominated, along with the iron industry. Wheat and corn (referred to in agricultural census records as “Indian Corn”) were the largest crops, with swine and sheep being the dominant livestock produced. This information comes from the 1850 agricultural census, which probably recorded conditions similar to those in 1840 and earlier. Other crops included rye, oats, potatoes, orchard fruit, and hay. Wool and butter were also frequently listed in the 1850 agricultural census. The agricultural census for 1860 is similar. The largest quantities of product were wheat and corn, with much smaller amounts of oats and rye. New listings appear for orchards and hay, although fruit trees and hay crops were grown in mid-Maryland since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1860 large amounts of butter were still being recorded.

Both Frederick and Washington Counties grew in population in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and not surprisingly many farms have building complexes that date from this 50-year period. More substantially built houses of brick or stone and large bank barns reflect the agricultural prosperity of the region. **F-4-122 Jonas Sheffer Farm; F-4-124 Kepler Farm; F-2-097 G. Wipp Farm; F-4-141 Routzahn-Miller Farmstead (NR)** Due to the fertile soils, most settlement in Frederick and Washington Counties occurred on the prime valley agricultural land or was clustered in towns and villages. **F-2-096 Arnold Farm; F-2-10 Burkittsville Historic District (NR)** Smaller farms and a few subsistence farms were located on the slopes of South Mountain. There the more humble log dwellings and smaller barns reflected the less productive soils of mountain farms. **WA-II-1126 Wise Farmstead; F-4-045 Martin Warrenfeltz Log House; F-4-121 J. O’Neil Farm** Along the busy National Pike segment from Frederick through Middletown and Boonsboro to Hagerstown, the route was lined with habitations and businesses to serve the traveling public. Taverns and road houses were located almost every mile or so, with one, the South Mountain House located at the summit of South Mountain. **WA-II-001 Old South Mountain Inn; F-4-029 Beachley House (White House Inn)**

By the time of the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the area was well established and intensively farmed. Farms were characterized by fields and boundaries marked with wood or stone fences, orchards and small herds of cattle, hogs and sheep, and flocks of chickens and geese. Carefully maintained woodlots supplied firewood, building materials and fencing. Demand for wood was great in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the need for construction material and fuel. Most households consumed about 10 cords of wood per year for heating. Historic photographs affirm the massive consumption of wood, revealing a landscape at the time of the Civil War with fewer trees than today.

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It was this highly developed agricultural landscape of Frederick and Washington Counties, coupled with the system of roads and the topographical dividing line between the counties known as South Mountain, which set the stage for the Battle of South Mountain in the late summer of 1862.

### *The Maryland Campaign of the Civil War, September 1862*

Noted Civil War historian, Ted Alexander, described “The Battle of South Mountain” as “the name given to three separate actions fought on a seven mile front along the South Mountain range of western Maryland...the first major action of the Maryland Campaign of 1862 and ranks as the second largest Civil War battle fought in Maryland.” (Alexander 1992)

On September 4, 1862 General Robert E. Lee’s Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, some 50,000 strong, waded across the Potomac River at White’s Ferry and into Maryland for the first Confederate invasion of the North.

On that Thursday, Lee led a collection of dirty, ill clothed, hungry and battle worn young men...General Lee himself acknowledged the truth of the matter: “The army is not properly equipped for an invasion of an enemy’s territory.” Having fought a major battle at Manassas less than a week before, the Southerners moved directly into their next campaign. Their numbers were small, particularly in view of the ambitious operations they were about to undertake north of the Potomac. (Jamieson 1995:13-14)

Yet, the soldiers’ spirits were high. They had scored a series of victories and had great hopes for their invasion of the North.

For most of the past year, Virginia had absorbed the expense of the War, accommodating both the Union and Confederate armies. Agricultural stores and livestock were depleted and property ruined by combat and encampments. Lee hoped to relieve Virginia by moving the scene of the action to Maryland and eventually to Pennsylvania. He also expected to receive support from Confederate sympathizers in Maryland. Unfortunately for Lee, while there were many supporters of the Confederacy in Maryland, they tended to be concentrated in the southern and eastern parts of the state. General Lee also wanted to capitalize on the disarray of the Union Army and the lack of sound military leadership that had frustrated the Lincoln administration and the people of the North. By invading the north, he hoped to force a negotiated peace through public pressure on Congress. Additionally, if Lee could score a strong victory in the North, the Confederacy would likely gain support from Great Britain and France. So, while the stakes were

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high, the Confederate Army was confident of its military ability and the time was right to press into Northern territory.

Lee did not want to tarry long in Maryland, so as not to alienate its population which he hoped would support the Confederacy. His goal was to move on into Pennsylvania. First, however, it was necessary to gain control of the 11,000-man Union garrison and arsenal at Harpers Ferry on the Potomac River in Virginia. Therefore, while his Army camped along the Monocacy River, southeast of Frederick, Lee issued his orders. In a bold and risky plan, Lee divided his army into three. First Lee sent General James Longstreet's command north to Hagerstown, in preparation for the invasion into Pennsylvania. Lee then instructed part of General D.H. Hill's division (less than 5,000 men) to wait at Boonsboro at the western foot of South Mountain to guard the rear of the army and two of the three passes over the mountain at Turner's and Fox's Gaps. Some of General Lafayette McLaws Division moved with parts of J.E.B. Stuart's Cavalry to guard the third pass at Crampton's Gap. Finally, the key to Lee's strategy, "Stonewall" Jackson led the remainder of the invasion force to capture the garrison at Harpers Ferry.

Although Lee's plan to divide his already undersized army while in enemy territory was a great risk, he knew that the Union army was not organized. Leadership had just been placed back into the hands of General McClellan and Lee knew him to be an excellent organizer, but slow to move and overly cautious. Therefore, Lee felt that his gamble would pay off and that he would accomplish the capture of the garrison and have his army reunited and in or near Pennsylvania before the Union Army could react.

Unfortunately for Lee, a copy of his operational plan, which set down the division of his army, was left behind when the Confederates vacated their campsite near Frederick. The plan, Special Orders No. 191, was in an envelope which also enclosed three cigars. Within a short time Federals occupied the same camp and found the cigars wrapped with Lee's orders. The information was quickly passed to General McClellan who saw the opportunity to take advantage of Lee's vulnerability and capture the divided Southern army. McClellan immediately put his forces – some 85,000 men – in motion to destroy the Confederates. However, McClellan thought that Lee's army outnumbered his and, as was his nature, moved slowly and cautiously. On Sunday morning September 14, 1862 the Union Army of the Potomac moved forward along the National Pike through Middletown toward South Mountain, not knowing exactly what they would find at its crest or on the other side.

As the mass of Union forces gathered below him in the Middletown Valley, Confederate General D.H. Hill stood outside his headquarters at the South Mountain House (South Mountain Inn today) surveying the Army of the Potomac: "It was a grand and glorious spectacle, and it was impossible to look at it without admiration. I had never seen so tremendous an army before

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and I did not see one like it afterward.” Recalling the battle many years later Hill wrote: “I do not remember ever to have experienced a greater feeling of loneliness.” (Battles and Leaders)

Before long, Confederate artillery fire came from Turner’s Gap, through which the National Pike passed. In the distance, other artillery fire could be heard as the Confederates fired on Harpers Ferry. The Union Army began action to take and hold the three passes over South Mountain. Major General Jesse Reno led the IX Corps at Fox’s Gap; General Joseph Hooker led the I Corps into Turner’s Gap and General William B. Franklin’s VI Corps was to take Crampton’s Gap. The mountain terrain defined the battle, “a sharply contested series of engagements,” notes Civil War historian Perry Jamieson:

The Confederates who defended South Mountain were not entrenched, but they held strong positions. Their attackers had to climb steep hillsides and make their way through ravines and the southerners also enjoyed the cover of woods, fences and stone walls. The federal advantage in numbers mounted during the day, but the Rebels waged a determined defense in the face of lengthening odds. (Jamieson 1995:36)

### *Fox’s Gap*

Fox’s Gap was the pass through which General Braddock’s road was laid in 1755. In 1792 the Sharpsburg Road was platted through the pass, leading from Swearingen’s Ferry on the Potomac River near Sharpsburg to “Foxes Gap” (MD Archives). On September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1862 the first action of the battle began at Fox’s Gap as the approaching Union forces attempted to swing around their main objective at Turner’s Gap, about a mile to the north. The Battle began around 9:00 AM as Cox’s Division of the IX Corps made contact with Confederate General Samuel Garland’s thinly spread brigade. Outnumbered three to one, Garland’s Brigade was eventually decimated and forced to retreat back toward Turner’s Gap. General Garland was mortally wounded and taken to the South Mountain House, where he died. Despite the retreat of Garland’s brigade, the Union assault lost momentum, and Cox did not pursue. Later in the day after the rest of the Ninth Corps arrived the attack was renewed, in concert with the I Corps attack at Turner’s Gap, but the Confederates were now reinforced and fighting continued until late in the evening. About dusk, General Jesse Reno was mortally wounded.

Much of the action occurred on both sides of the Old Sharpsburg Road (Reno Monument Road today) along Mountain or Ridge Road which ran along the crest of the mountain where the Confederates entrenched themselves behind the stone fences that lined the roads. At the mountaintop intersection of these roads was the small farm of Daniel Wise, improved with a one



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and a half story log dwelling surrounded by a paling fence. The house became a haven for the wounded and the well a tomb for many Confederate dead.

### *Turner's Gap*

This gap, through which the National Pike passed over South Mountain, was the primary Union objective. Confederate General D.H. Hill, commander of the Division assigned to the defense of Turner's and Fox's Gap, was headquartered at the South Mountain House. General Burnside was placed in charge of the Union effort to secure Turner's Gap. Expecting the pass to be strongly defended, Burnside initiated flanking movements to the north and to the south of the National Pike. General Joseph Hooker's I Corps was selected to skirt to the north while General Jesse Reno's IX Corps was assigned the task of advancing from the south by way of the old Sharpsburg Road to Fox's Gap (see discussion above). The two corps split at Boliver crossroads. Hooker's First Corps was sent to the north to attack Hill on his left. In an effort to distract the enemy Burnside selected Brigadier General John Gibbon's "Black Hat Brigade" (later called the Iron Brigade) to approach Turner's Gap directly up the National Pike. As the initial action at Fox's Gap unfolded, Hooker's forces were still gathering. It was not until late afternoon on September 14<sup>th</sup> that the Union I Corps attacked in coordination with a renewed attack at Fox's Gap and a direct frontal attack up the National Pike by Gibbon's Black Hat Brigade. Hill's forces, which by this time had been reinforced by some of Longstreet's Corps, were able to hold out until late in the evening. However, General Lee, realizing that the position was ultimately untenable, ordered Hill to withdraw back to Boonsboro before the morning of September 15.

### *Crampton's Gap*

Crampton's Gap, located about five miles south of Fox's Gap, was the pass for the old (ca.1730) road that connected a segment of the Monocacy road to the Pack Horse Ford across the Potomac River near Sharpsburg. At Crampton's Gap General Franklin's Sixth Corps of about 12,000 men were opposed by about 1,000 Confederates from McLaws' and Stewart's commands. Franklin did not realize that the odds were so greatly in his favor and waited until afternoon on September 14<sup>th</sup> to attack. The small Confederate force held positions behind stone walls along Mountain Church Road as they watched Franklin's lengthy preparations for attack. By dusk he had successfully driven the Confederates off the mountain, but he chose not to pursue them into Pleasant Valley, where he could have interrupted and perhaps ended the Confederate siege on Harpers Ferry.

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## *The Aftermath of the Battle of South Mountain*

The Confederate action at South Mountain was successful in that it bought the time necessary for Lee's army to complete the capture of Harpers Ferry and regroup hurriedly at a place between Harpers Ferry and Hagerstown. That place was Sharpsburg, near the Antietam Creek and near the Potomac River where Lee could, if necessary, retreat back into Virginia. Even with the Confederate forces fully assembled, their total of 50-55,000 was far less than the Union's 85,000 men. The disaster of the loss of Lee's Special Order 191 near Frederick, which revealed to General McClellan Lee's daring plans, was mitigated by the slow and cautious movement of the Union Army. By the end of the day on September 14<sup>th</sup>, McClellan held all of the South Mountain passes. Had he been aggressive, he could have pressed on and attacked Lee's army while it was still divided, probably ending the Civil War in Maryland in 1862. Union losses for the day were 436 killed and 1,908 wounded, while Confederate casualties were around 2,000.

"The Union high command was ecstatic about its accomplishment," wrote historian Dennis Frye, "For the first time, the feared Army of Northern Virginia had been forced to withdraw from the Battlefield." (Frye "South Mt. Battlefield" NR draft, 1986) To the Confederates, while they ultimately lost the ground atop South Mountain, they were victorious in that they saved the Confederate Army from almost certain disaster. This they did against overwhelming odds, given the number of Union forces they faced. The ambiguous outcome was summed up by Confederate Gen. D.H. Hill:

If the battle of South Mountain was fought to prevent the advance of McClellan, it was a failure on the part of the Confederates. If it was fought to save Lee's trains and artillery, and to reunite his scattered forces, it was a Confederate success. (as cited in Frye NR draft 1986)

In the aftermath of the battle that took place on South Mountain on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1862, the hardscrabble farms on the mountainside were littered with the bodies of dead and dying men. The number of Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the area of Daniel Wise's cabin was nearly 200. The bodies of the Union dead were buried in long trenches. Capt. James Wren wrote in his diary entry of September 15, 1862: "...in a field to the left of this house was a long line of dead soldiers laying side by side," where the burial detail were "engaged in digging a long trench seven feet wide to bury them in..." (in Stotemyer 1992:3-4). Most were identified by their mates who knew the dead as "brave comrades who stood in line with them" wrote Wren, "and now they were taking their position in their last line." (Ibid)

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The Confederate dead, left behind by their retreating army, were buried without ceremony and without identification. The infamous burial of 58 Confederate dead in Wise's well was described by Samuel Compton, 12<sup>th</sup> Ohio:

The morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> I strolled out to see them bury the Confederate dead. I saw but I never want to another sight. The squad I saw were armed with a pick and a canteen full of whiskey. The whiskey the most necessary of the two. The bodies had become so offensive that men could only endure it by being staggering drunk. To see men stagger up to corpses and strike [with a hook] four or five times before they could get a hold... Then staggering as [the] very drunk will, they dragged the corpses to a 60 foot well and tumbled them in. (in Stotelmyer 1992:5)

Most of the Rebel dead were buried where they lay across the mountainside. During an 1867 visit to South Mountain John Watts DePeyster saw the graves "from which the Spring and Winter rains have washed away the scanty earth and left the bones exposed." (in Stotelmyer 1992:34)

In 1866 work began to remove the Union dead from their battlefield gravesites to the Antietam National Cemetery in Sharpsburg. But the Confederates remained until the summer of 1874 when the last were removed and reinterred in the Washington Confederate Cemetery at Rose Hill Cemetery in Hagerstown, Maryland (Stotelmyer 1992:38). However, remains have been found on battlefields such as Antietam as recently as 1989 since the 1866-1874 reinterments, and the possibility of more undiscovered remains still exists today (Stotelmyer 1992:43-45). Archaeologically the possibility of human remains is there, however they would undoubtedly be disturbed. The infamous Wise's well, while presumably emptied of the 58 Confederate bodies in 1874, likely still remains intact below the modern surface at Fox's Gap and has the potential to yield information about those burials.

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## F. Associated Property Types:

The associated property type for the South Mountain Battlefield is district. In this case a historic district consists of a physically proximal group of cultural resources which were historically significant to the Battle of South Mountain or were part of the historic landscape on the day of the battle, September 14, 1862. Districts may include small villages, individual structures and buildings including houses (some of which were used as military headquarters or hospitals during the battle), taverns, domestic and agricultural outbuildings, cemeteries, roads, stone walls, and archeological sites. Approach and retreat routes used on September 14, 1862 are also considered contributing resources within the period of significance, limited to the day of the battle. Properties and sites associated with events on the day following the battle are not considered in the context of this Multiple Property Documentation.

To be included as part of a district, properties must have maintained their mid-19<sup>th</sup> century visual integrity and villages should have retained features such as alleys and original lot configurations, older vegetation, and domestic outbuildings. Buildings should also have maintained their locations relative to the roads. Because people have continued to settle in the area since the Civil War, some changes are expected to have taken place, but districts must retain substantial visual integrity to the Civil War Period. The landscape of the district is expected be similar enough to its mid-19<sup>th</sup> century appearance to allow one to envision the scene of the battle on South Mountain in September of 1862.

Historic villages and individual properties will have experienced some post-Civil War alteration. As long as these changes express the historic appearance of the historic towns and the rural landscape, they will be considered contributing. Modern buildings and structures or any property not present during the battle will not be considered contributing. Their presence will not generally remove the district from eligibility, unless the concentration of more recent elements is so great in comparison to the surrounding property that the district no longer retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, workmanship and association. In some instances, significant alterations may have occurred to buildings however, integrity of location, setting, and association still allow Criterion A to provide eligibility.

Above-ground terrain and landscape should be reasonably visually intact, representing as closely as possible the 1862 period. Buildings should portray the period of Civil War occupation, and natural and man-made features should retain their basic 1862 configurations. Archeologically investigated sites should contain features and artifacts relating to the specialized activity of the site. Spatial patterning of features and or artifacts would be a pre-requisite. For purposes of high archeological potential, non-investigated sites should appear to have intact soils over a landscape which may approximate the 1862 land conditions.

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Farmsteads, historic landscape features, and small scale elements such as stone fence alignments should remain largely intact, and possess integrity of design, materials and setting to the 1862 period. While some loss of integrity is inevitable, natural and man-made features should retain as nearly as possible their 1862 configurations.

Collections of buildings in districts must as an entity retain integrity of design, location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association, to reflect the appearance of the property in the late summer of 1862. All contributing properties should predate the battle or be part of a cohesive whole that has association with the Battle of South Mountain. In general, buildings should retain original exterior materials and fenestration patterns. The association with military history may provide such significance that some loss of integrity to the property would not affect eligibility.

To be considered contributing elements, historic roads and roads traces are expected to retain their integrity as well. Contributing roads must still be identifiable by visual examination of the terrain. The roads may or may not be functioning in their original capacity, for example, some of Ridge Road (MIHP #F-4-127) now functions as part of the Appalachian Trail, an extensive hiking trail. Roads which have been so altered that they no longer follow their original route across the landscape will not be considered contributing. However, roads which follow much of their original route but have been resurfaced or paved will be considered contributing.

In the same manner, stone walls which retain their original linear paths across the landscape, but have experienced some shifting of individual stones over time will still be considered contributing.

## Significance:

Districts nominated within this Multiple Property Documentation Form "South Mountain Battlefield[s] – September 14, 1862" are nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of military history, for their association with the Civil War Battle of South Mountain. The September 14<sup>th</sup> 1862 Battle of South Mountain took place primarily around the three major road crossings of South Mountain at Turner's Gap (National Pike), Fox's Gap (Sharpsburg Road), and Crampton's Gap (Burkittsville Road). With the small Confederate force entrenched behind stone walls, fences, farm buildings, and the rough mountain terrain, the advancing Union Army of the Potomac under General McClellan was forced to approach the mountain gaps across exposed roads and cultivated fields. It was the mountain landscape that gave the 5,000 Confederates under General D.H. Hill the advantage, enough to hold off the Union advance and allow Jackson to take the Union garrison at Harpers Ferry. At the end of the one-day battle the Confederates retreated from South Mountain to regroup at Sharpsburg, setting the stage for the larger Battle of Antietam on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Although technically a win for the North, it was a strategic victory for General Robert E. Lee.

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## G. Geographical Data:

The geographical area covered by the Multiple Property Documentation Form “South Mountain Battlefield[s] – September 14, 1862” encompasses that part of the South Mountain Range in west-central Maryland over which the Battle of South Mountain took place on the day of September 14, 1862, including approach routes and staging areas. The boundary’s most northern extent ends at the modern South Mountain crossing of Interstate Route 70. The southern extent of the boundary ends below the Brownsville Pass to include the trail route through the pass on both the eastern and western slopes and the southern extent of the village of Brownsville. The west slope of South Mountain down to State Route 67 and including the towns of Brownsville and Boonsboro on the Washington County side defines the western boundary. The east slope of the mountain on the Frederick County side down to Mt. Tabor Road and extending east along the Old National Pike (Alt. Rt. 40) corridor as far as Middletown, and southward from Middletown along the Burkittsville Road (State Route 17) Broad Run Road/Catholic Church Road to Gapland Road, including Burkittsville to the Brownsville Pass Road forms the east boundary of the geographical area.

The extended general boundary is inclusive of Middletown and Boonsboro to include the “day-of” approach routes and staging areas of both the Union and Confederate forces. Specific districts to be included within this general boundary outline will be more closely defined by visual integrity and specific battle associations. Land included within the geographical area is currently owned by the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, South Mountain State Park, the National Park Service, and numerous private properties along the crest of South Mountain and on the eastern and western slopes. The area encompasses parts of both Frederick and Washington County, Maryland. District boundaries are defined by roads, topographic contour lines, natural drainages, as well as property lines of the State Park and other private lands.

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## H. Summary Identification and Evaluation Methods:

At the request of South Mountain Battlefield State Park, Paula S. Reed and Associates (PRA, Inc.) conducted a field inventory of properties with an emphasis on historic properties located within the South Mountain Battlefield. The Civil War Battle took place on South Mountain between Middletown and Boonsboro, Maryland on September 14, 1862. The historic survey which occurred between September 2007 and January 2008 identified 397 resources, 139 of which were associated with or present during the battle. The Battlefield boundaries encompass all military activity directly related to battle action which took place on the day of the battle and also includes staging areas used on that day leading up to actual fighting. The battlefield covers both publicly owned lands as well as private property. South Mountain State Park owns and manages a large portion of the battlefield. The National Park Service also retains some of the battlefield including a swath of land covering the Appalachian Trail which runs north-south through the entire battlefield. The rest of the property is portioned into large farms, small “farmettes”, and small-acreage lots with single-family homes.

PRA, Inc. researched previous survey work conducted on the battlefield to identify all known, related cultural resources in the area. Previous work included two archeological studies of the Wise Farm (Baker 2003) and (Petyk 2004). PRA, Inc. prepared a survey report of the South Mountain battlefield for Woodward-Clyde in May of 1998 (Woodward-Clyde 1998). Janet Davis (1992), Frederick County Historic Preservation Planner, conducted a survey of the Frederick County associated sites, available in the Frederick County Office of Preservation Planning. Al Preston of South Mountain State Park also provided important information about the battle and its related resources as well as information pertaining to land ownership.

PRA, Inc. surveyor Paige Phifer drove all public roads within the battlefield boundaries counting and describing cultural resources within visual distance of the public right-of-way. Property descriptions included such information as construction materials, style, architectural details, setting, size, and an estimated date of construction. Information recorded sometimes included sketch maps as well. The surveyor also photographed several individual properties and photographed a representative sample of the landscape in various parts of the battlefield.

The Historic Context associated with the South Mountain Battlefield relies specifically upon the events leading up to and on the day of the battle, September 14, 1862. But because the battle occurred on an already existing cultural landscape, the context also develops the history of the region that resulted in the agricultural and mountain landscape on which the battle took place. Primary sources consulted included county land and estate records, as well as soldier’s accounts of the day of the battle and its aftermath. Secondary sources written on the Maryland Campaign and the South Mountain Battle provided the larger picture of the battle and troop movements.

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Dennis Frye's 1979 National Register draft documentation for the South Mountain Battlefield was also consulted.

Landscape, historic resources, and battle action determined the district property type for this Multiple Property Documentation. The Battle of South Mountain was fought in three separate but coordinated actions at Turner's Gap, Fox's Gap and Crampton's Gap. Historic resources tied to the battle are continuous from Turner's Gap at the north end of the battlefield to Fox's Gap in the middle; these resources therefore form a battlefield district. There is a break in battle-related resources from Fox's Gap to about three miles to the south. Battle-related historic resources clustered around Crampton's Gap therefore form a separate battlefield district. Future research may determine other smaller districts associated with the South Mountain Battle that would fit the property type of this MPDF.

Individual properties were determined to be contributing elements of the two districts based upon several factors including integrity. Integrity requirements were based upon knowledge of existing properties. The rural areas of Frederick and Washington Counties contain numerous small, pre-Civil War buildings however, few of them retain the integrity of setting of those contained within the South Mountain Battlefield. A few of these buildings have experienced an extreme amount of alteration to the point where their historic characteristics are no longer recognizable. Others have had less extensive modernization including new roofs and artificial siding. Those buildings with less extensive changes were considered to meet integrity requirements, especially those which still retained some or all of their associated outbuildings and surrounding farmland. The majority of contributing properties were small farms at the time of the Battle. Other contributing properties include large farms, taverns/inns, roads, fences, and sites of military action.



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