
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2008



Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
Antietam National Battlefield

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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead is situated approximately 2 miles north of the Town of Sharpsburg in Washington County, Maryland. The current property consists of nearly all of the land associated with the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead as it existed at the time of the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), September 17, 1862. The current property, consisting of 120 acres, was acquired by the National Park Service in fee-simple from a private landowner on June 8, 2000 and is located within the boundaries of the Antietam National Battlefield which encompass a total of 3288 acres.

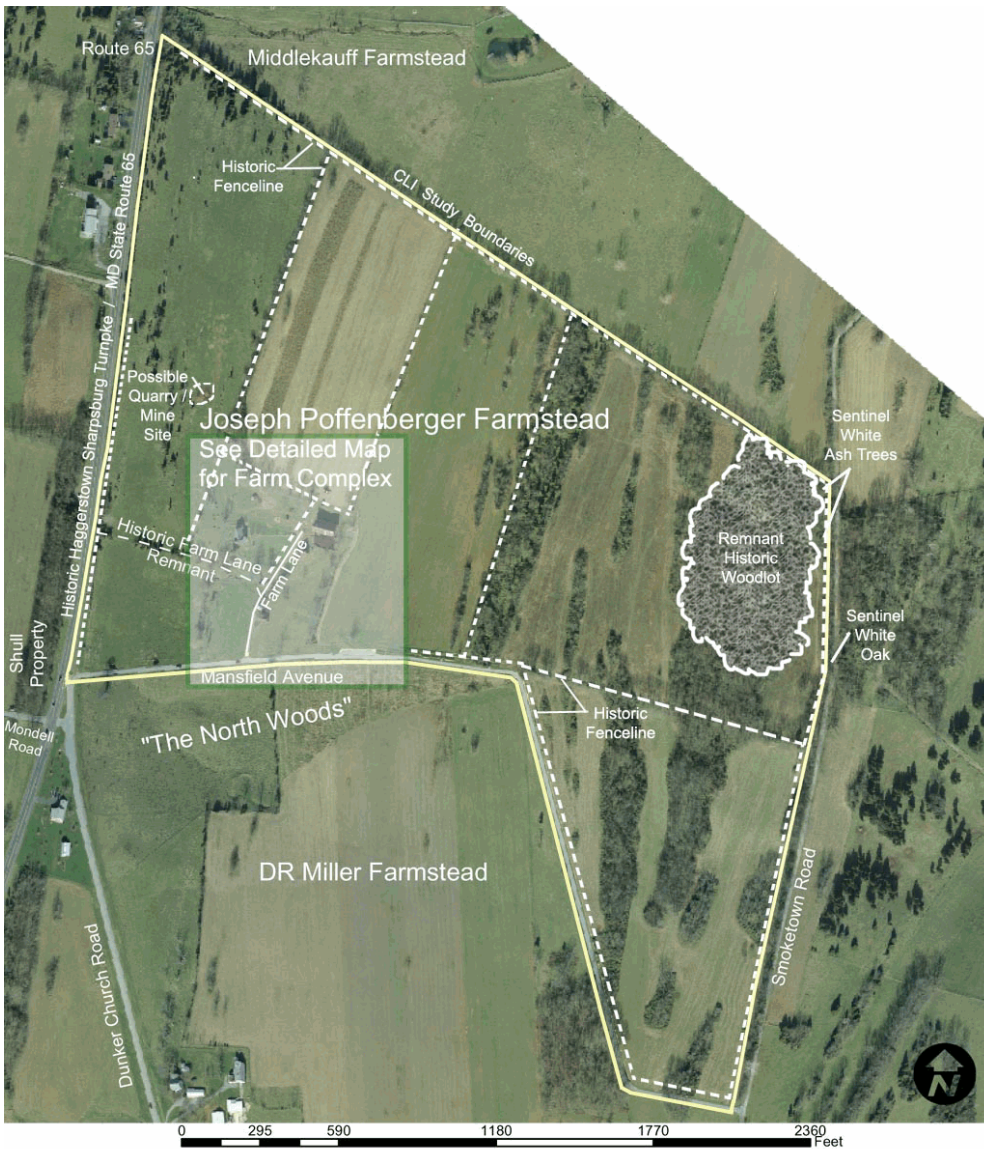
The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead landscape is significant in two distinct areas of history. Its foremost significance in military history (1861-1865) results from its role in the Battle of Antietam during the American Civil War. The property is also significant in the area of conservation for its involvement in early Civil War battlefield preservation efforts (1890-1910). The Antietam National Battlefield National Register nomination mentions the farmstead but it inadequately describes the physical landscape for the Joseph Poffenberger property. Most of the commemorative elements are mentioned, but again their placement within the landscape is not addressed.

The agricultural landscape of the Sharpsburg area served as the stage for the bloodiest day in the Civil War. Union troops spent the night on the Joseph Poffenberger farm before the ensuing battle. The next day during the morning phase of the battle on September 17, 1862, the Union Army positioned artillery on a ridge line behind Joseph Poffenberger's cluster of farm buildings. All through the day and successive weeks after the battle, the Poffenberger farmstead was occupied by the Union troops. During their occupation, they utilized most of Poffenberger's store goods, wood products, and animals to keep the troops and horses fed and sheltered.

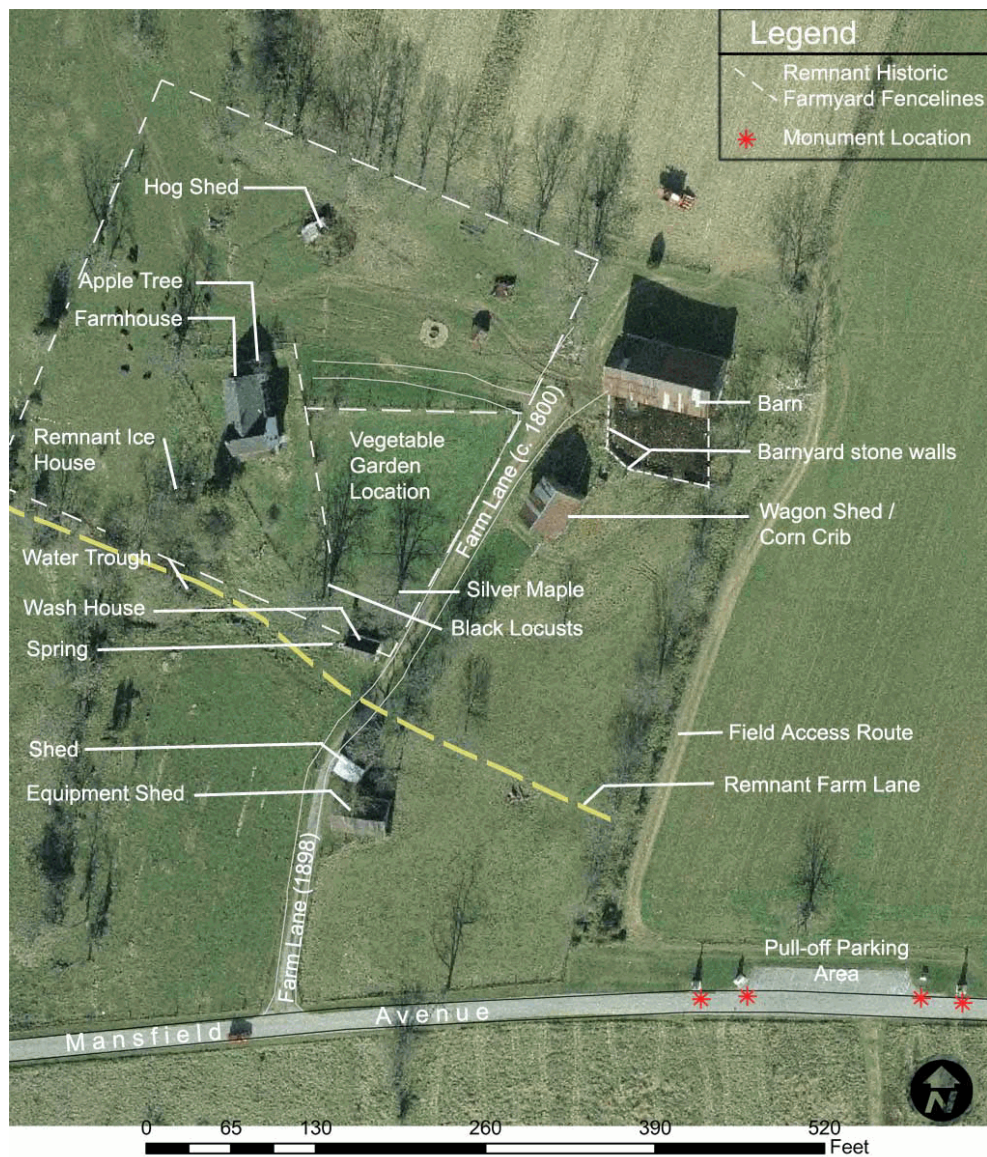
The Union's occupation had lasting effects on the community and on Joseph Poffenberger's limited resources. Over the next hundred-forty years, the Poffenberger property was maintained in much the same way as it was during the 1860s. The only major changes occurred in the 1880s when the Poffenbergers constructed an ell addition for the farmhouse and in the 1890s when the War Department laid out a Battlefield tour road along the southern boundary. This brought the installation of several monuments by veteran groups in the early 1900s and construction of a new Poffenberger farm lane to the main cluster of buildings.

Today the property exhibits a high degree of integrity to the Civil War and battlefield preservation eras. Most of the field patterns remain the same and are currently maintained through an agricultural leasing program. The farm buildings still reflect their arrangement and use even though some buildings are in need of emergency stabilization to prevent their loss. Since the National Park Service purchased the property, the park staff has directed their attention to assessing and stabilizing the pre-1862 buildings. To evoke a sense of the historic landscape, the park staff has also installed several miles of period fencing in key areas. The tour road and monuments continue to be maintained and are key historic elements to the interpretation and commemoration of the Battle.

Site Plan



Overall aerial photograph of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead. (ANTI NRM/GIS with additions by CLP 2007).



Detailed aerial photograph of the Joseph Poffenberger Farm Complex. (ANTI NRM/GIS with additions by CLP 2007).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975301
Parent Landscape:	600029

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Antietam National Battlefield -ANTI
Park Organization Code:	3120
Park Administrative Unit:	Antietam National Battlefield

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI represents a continuation of the documentation of component landscapes at Antietam National Battlefield. Both primary and secondary sources were consulted, and resources from both within and outside the National Park Service were utilized. Archival research was conducted at the National Archives, Library of Congress, and Antietam National Battlefield. For the Physical History section of the report, the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form for the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead was quoted from extensively. In-depth site investigations were conducted by the National Capital Region Cultural Landscape Program (CLP) for the Analysis and Evaluation section.

The report was started in the summer of 2006 by Timothy Barrett, National Council for Preservation Education Intern. Updates to the document were completed in 2007 by Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, CLP, National Capital Region (NCR). The following park staff provided valuable insight during the inventory process: Jane Custer, Chief, Cultural Resources; Keven Walker, Cultural Resource Specialist; Debbie Cohen, GIS Specialist; Stephanie Gray, Chief, Resource Education and Visitor Services; Ted Alexander, Park Historian; and Ed Wenschhof, Chief Ranger. Also the following regional staff assisted: Chris Stevens, CLI Coordinator, CLP, NCR; Susan Long, Regional Historical Architect, NCR; and Tara Cubie, Architectural Historian, NCR. Two outside consultants assisted in evaluating the buildings, Joy Beasley, Cultural Resource Manager, Monocacy National Battlefield and Paula Reed, from Paula Reed and Associates, INC.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	05/09/2008
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	08/14/2008

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for Maryland concurred with the findings of the Joseph Poffenberger Cultural Landscape Inventory on August 14, 2008, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the "National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date" refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of listing on the National Register.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



United States Department of the Interior

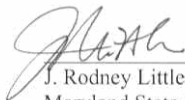
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

June 12, 2008

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From: State Historic Preservation Officer, Maryland
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Joseph Poffenberger Cultural Landscapes Inventory

I, J. Rodney Little, Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of Joseph Poffenberger Cultural Landscapes Inventory as submitted on June 12, 2008.



J. Rodney Little
Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer

8-14-08
Date

Concurrence memo for FY2008 signed by the MD SHPO on 8/14/2008.

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
Antietam National Battlefield



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

April 15, 2008

Memorandum:

To: Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region
From: Superintendent, Antietam National Battlefield
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, John Howard, Superintendent of Antietam National Battlefield, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead is hereby approved and accepted.


Superintendent, Antietam National Battlefield

May 9, 2008
Date

Concurrence memo for FY2008 signed by the ANTI superintendent on 5/9/2008.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead currently consists of 120 acres. It is framed on three sides by a network of roads with Maryland Route 65 at its western boundary, Smoketown Road at its eastern boundary, and Mansfield Avenue at its southern boundary. The northern boundary extends beyond the top of a ridge, a half mile from the house.

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead

Antietam National Battlefield

The farmstead has experienced minor boundary adjustments over the years, but its core has remained intact with a high level of integrity. At the time of the Battle of Antietam, the farmstead was 155 acres. Parcels that lie to the west of Maryland Route 65 and on the northern part of the historic East Woods were subdivided and sold to both the Park Service and private landowners at various times. These outlying portions of the historic property lack both historical significance and integrity. Although these 35 acres are arguably insignificant, they will be addressed in the report in limited detail because of their historical connection. The primary study area boundary encompasses only the current 120 acres.

State and County:

State: MD

County: Washington County

Size (Acres): 120.00

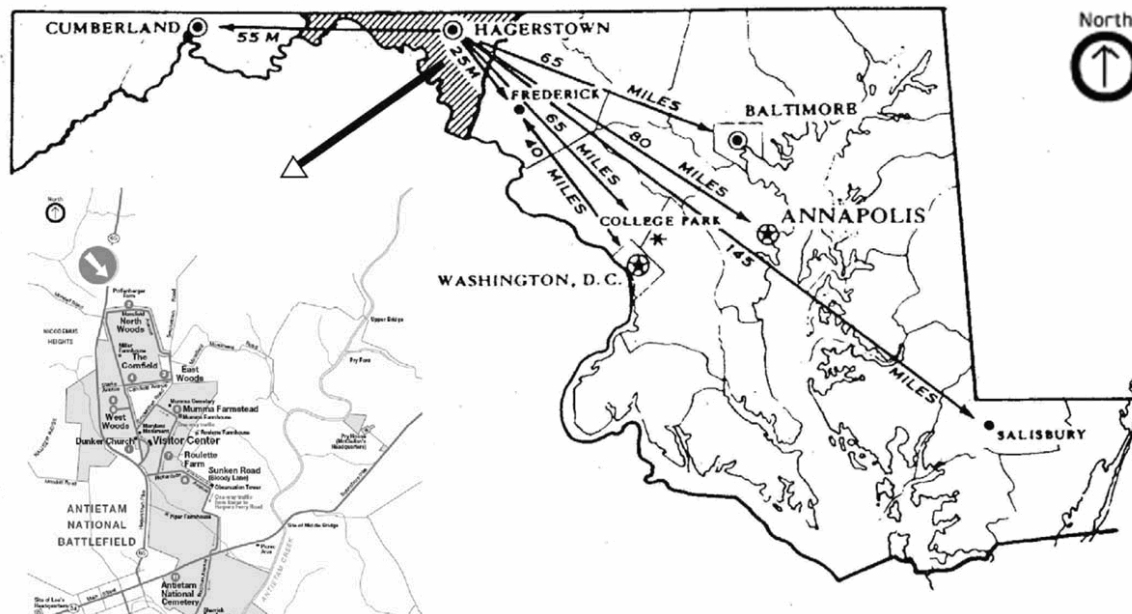
Boundary UTMS:

Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10
UTM Easting:	585,870
UTM Northing:	5,179,569
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10
UTM Easting:	585,470
UTM Northing:	5,182,790
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10
UTM Easting:	583,575
UTM Northing:	5,183,906
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10
UTM Easting:	584,628
UTM Northing:	5,183,243
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10
UTM Easting:	583,680
UTM Northing:	5,184,475
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10
UTM Easting:	582,985
UTM Northing:	5,186,054
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10
UTM Easting:	583,533
UTM Northing:	5,187,338
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10
UTM Easting:	582,501
UTM Northing:	5,188,707
Source:	GPS-Differentially Corrected
Type of Point:	Line
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	10

UTM Easting: 586,312
UTM Northing: 5,188,539

Location Map:



Location of Washington County, Maryland, and Antietam National Battlefield. Large map reprinted from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey of Washington County. Small map reprinted from NPS brochure

Management Unit: ANTI
Tract Numbers: 06-113b, 06-113c, 06-114, 06-115, 06-125

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 05/09/2008

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead is included in the National Register Nomination for Antietam National Battlefield as the location of the initial morning phase of the Battle. The date of the management category is the date the CLI was approved by the ANTI Superintendent.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: 9/30/2012

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Special Use Permit, which started 10/1/2007 and ends 9/30/2012 allows an Agricultural Cooperator to use the main barn, grow crops on 72 acres and graze cattle on another 26 acres of pasture as part of the park's program to maintain the historic scene.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

The National Park Service acquired in fee simple 120 acres from Fred and Renee Kramer, for \$384,000 on June 8, 2000. (WCCC Liber 1578, Folio 604).

Public Access:

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

Explanatory Narrative:

Visitors are not restricted from the property, but they are discouraged from walking through "cropped" fields. They are allowed to walk through fields that are fallow and around the farm complex. The house and outbuildings are not open to the public.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead is surrounded by a mixture of federally and privately owned land. Fortunately, these lands are protected from inappropriate development with combination of fee simple purchases or conservation (scenic) easement purchases by the Federal government, and conservation easements purchased by the Maryland Environment Trust, an agency within the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. As with the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead, the majority of adjacent properties retain a high degree of visual integrity and remain in agricultural production, which enables visitors to picture the landscape as it looked at the time of the Battle.

National Register Information

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register:	Antietam National Battlefield
NRIS Number:	66000038
Primary Certification Date:	02/10/1982
Name in National Register:	Antietam National Battlefield
NRIS Number:	66000038
Other Names:	Additional Information, draft
Primary Certification Date:	07/02/2007

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1861 - 1865
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	The Civil War
Facet:	Battles In The North And South
Time Period:	AD 1890 - 1910
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Subtheme:	Historic Preservation
Facet:	The Federal Government Enters The Movement
Other Facet:	Battlefield Preservation

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Statement of Significance:

Statement of Significance

Antietam National Battlefield was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district on October 15, 1966, with a formal nomination approved in 1982 and additional documentation completed in 1999, still pending approval from the Keeper. In the Nomination, the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead, along with several other farmsteads, were listed as contributing resources. The existing nomination has inadequate documentation for many of the resources within the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead, including the landscape. The nomination only describes a portion of the built environment and fails to address landscape features. It also fails to offer any narrative context development. The reasons for this inadequate documentation are threefold: 1) the farmstead was evaluated and documented for the National Register before cultural landscapes were recognized as significant resources 2) the Park Service did not own the property at the time of evaluation and documentation (the properties that were a part of the National Battlefield were more thoroughly inventoried) 3) narrative context development was not a part of the National Register nomination process in 1980-81. Even though the farmstead is inadequately listed in the 1982 Nomination, it is not mentioned at all in the 1999 additional documentation effort. All the significant resources on the property should be considered in future updates to the Antietam National Battlefield Nomination. An amendment to the nomination should be prepared that addresses the various structures and landscape features that are not listed, along with the historic context pertaining to the farmstead as a historic cultural landscape.

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead is individually eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A in the area of military history for its involvement in the Battle of Antietam, which occurred on September 17, 1862. The Farmstead became a staging area on the eve of the battle. Major General Joseph Hooker used Joseph Poffenberger's barn as his headquarters and the First Corps of the Union Army of the Potomac spent the night on the farmstead's fields. During the fighting, a ridge, located to the north of the main house, was strategically important and influenced the course of the battle. Although limited fighting occurred near the farm complex, the front lines were very close in the early morning of September 17th. In the wake of the Battle, the farm buildings were likely used to house the wounded. The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead foremost period of significance (1861-1865) encompasses the role of the Battle of Antietam during the American Civil War.

The Farmstead is also significant in the area of conservation under Criterion A due to the battlefield preservation efforts of the veterans and the War Department to memorialize and commemorate the battle. Their efforts added monuments (the last dedicated in 1910) and a formal battlefield tour road along the southern boundary of the Joseph Poffenberger property to commemorate the events of the battle. The Poffenberger property remains as a preserved agricultural landscape that has been continuously farmed since the early 1800s and has remained relatively unchanged.

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead's foremost period of significance (1861-1865) encompasses the Battle of Antietam during the American Civil War, while its secondary period of significance in the area of conservation (1890-1910) involves its role in battlefield preservation and commemoration.

State Register Information

Identification Number: WA-II-279
Name: Poffenberger, Joseph R. Farm
Explanatory Narrative:

The Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form was produced by students from Shepherd College in conjunction with Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc., 12/4/2002.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function:	Agricultural Field
Primary Current Use:	Agricultural Field
Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Barn	Both Current And Historic
Farm (Plantation)	Both Current And Historic
Battle Site	Historic
Single Family House	Historic
Scenic Landscape	Both Current And Historic
Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1829	Land Transfer	Brother-in-law David Neikirk conveyed his share of the estate, 97-acres to brother-in-law Daniel Finfruck.
AD 1755	Settled	Joseph Chapline, Sr. acquired patent for a 717-acre tract entitled "Resurvey on Hopewell."
AD 1760 - 1800	Built	1 ½ story log house (c. 1770) and a 2nd story (c. 1790) were built.
AD 1765	Platted	Joseph Chapline, Sr. resurveyed property and obtained a patent for a 1,168 ½- acre tract entitled "Loss and Gain."
AD 1768	Land Transfer	Joseph Chapline, Sr. conveyed the property "Loss and Gain" to his son, James Chapline.
AD 1773	Platted	Joseph Chapline, Jr. patented "Addition to Loss and Gain," comprising 1,484 acres.
AD 1773 - 1813	Land Transfer	James Chapline conveyed property to Robert Smith (acquired property at an unknown date).
AD 1800 - 1820	Built	Wash house, wagon shed / corn crib, and shed were built.
AD 1813	Land Transfer	Robert Smith conveyed 272-acre property to Christian Middlekauff.
AD 1828	Land Transfer	Christian Middlekauff dies and his estate is subdivided among his children
AD 1830 - 1840	Built	Bank barn (c. 1830), equipment shed, ice house and smokehouse were built to complete the farm complex.
AD 1833	Maintained	Daniel Finfruck recorded a mortgage on the property with Jacob Coffman.

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
Antietam National Battlefield

	Maintained	Daniel Finfruck and his wife Rosanna both died within a two month span, leaving their seven children to run the farm.
AD 1843	Land Transfer	Coffman took possession of farm after the Finfruck estate defaulted on a \$3,000 loan.
AD 1852	Land Transfer	Jacob Coffman conveyed 144 acres to son-in-law Joseph Poffenberger and daughter Mary Ann Coffman.
AD 1852 - 1862	Built	Tenant house might have been built during this time by Joseph Poffenberger.
AD 1859	Land Transfer	Henry Poffenberger conveyed 11 acres to Joseph Poffenberger. Joseph owned 155 acres.
AD 1860 - 1862	Inhabited	During this time Samuel Kretzer lived in a tenant house on the Poffenberger Farm
AD 1862	Military Operation	Battle of Antietam, September 16-17: The Joseph Poffenberger farm was used as General Hooker's headquarters and for artillery placement.
	Damaged	Occupation by the Union Army September 17 – October 20: The barn, icehouse, tenant house, and dwelling house were damaged. Fences, field crops, stored products and personal items were consumed or stolen from the Joseph Poffenberger family.
AD 1870	Farmed/Harvested	Alfred Poffenberger, nephew of Joseph, farmed his uncle's property and other adjoining lands, encompassing 199 acres.
AD 1880	Farmed/Harvested	Otho Poffenberger, nephew of Joseph, leased and farmed his uncle's property.
AD 1888	Land Transfer	Lawson Poffenberger, executor for the Joseph Poffenberger estate, conveyed the property to Otho Poffenberger.
AD 1888 - 1890	Built	Otho Poffenberger constructed a rear addition to the main house.
AD 1890 - 1910	Memorialized	The War Department initiated the preservation and commemoration of the Battle of Antietam.

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
Antietam National Battlefield

AD 1895	Purchased/Sold	Otho Poffenberger conveyed 2 acres to the U.S. Government for the placement of a tour road along the southern boundary of his property.
AD 1896	Built	Mansfield Avenue tour road built by the War Department and tablets and location markers placed along the road corridor.
	Built	A new farm road route is constructed from Mansfield Avenue to the Joseph Poffenberger farm complex. At some point the original farm lane from Hagerstown Turnpike is abandoned.
AD 1904	Memorialized	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania erected the 12th Pennsylvania Calvary monument along Mansfield Avenue near Smoketown Road.
AD 1906	Memorialized	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania erected five additional monuments along Mansfield Avenue, southeast of the farm complex.
AD 1907	Purchased/Sold	Otho Poffenberger conveyed a 10-foot extension to the U.S. Government near the five Pennsylvania monuments to create a “park” setting.
AD 1910	Memorialized	State of Indiana erected the 7th Indiana Infantry marker along Hagerstown Turnpike near old farm road entry to Joseph Poffenberger’s farm.
AD 1932	Land Transfer	Allen J. Poffenberger, executor for the Otho Poffenberger estate, conveyed 152 acres to Joseph W. Poffenberger, son of Otho.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	National Park Service assumed management of Antietam National Battlefield from the War Department. Under Executive Order #6166, all National Battlefields and Cemeteries were transferred to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, Dept. of the Interior.
AD 1940	Established	Congress gave the National Park Service authorization to purchase additional lands beyond the tour road right-of-way.
AD 1944	Land Transfer	Joseph W. Poffenberger conveyed property to Elmer L. Poffenberger.

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
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AD 1962	Memorialized	Clara Barton Monument dedicated and installed along Mansfield Avenue.
AD 1966	Land Transfer	Elmer L. Poffenberger conveyed 120 acres to Fred and Renee Kramer.
AD 2000	Land Transfer	Fred and Rene Kramer conveyed property to the U.S. Government.
AD 2006	Restored	Worm fencing is restored along Hagerstown Turnpike and Mansfield Avenue.

Physical History:

1765-1861:

European Settlement-Changes in the Land

Most of the text in this section has been excerpted from the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form (MIHP) of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead prepared by students from Shepherd University in 2002, and updated by Edie Wallace of Paula Reed and Associates, Inc. in 2003.

“Carved out of Frederick County in 1776, Washington County included the westernmost reaches of Maryland. The land had been offered at very low prices beginning in 1732 to induce immigrants from the northern colonies, particularly Pennsylvania, and from Europe, to settle in Maryland rather than continue their trek through the valley to Virginia. A number of those with more disposable wealth began to acquire larger tracts of land, either to establish themselves as ‘lords of the manor,’ or to sell smaller tracts at a profit. Grants or patents of land were obtained from the Maryland land office while the grantee paid to have the property surveyed. Many of the smaller tracts were sold to migrant farming families looking for 100-300 acres, a size suited to the labor of a single family.”

“The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead was originally part of the large estate owned by Joseph Chapline through much of Western Maryland’s settlement period. Chapline had acquired large tracts of land through out-right grants and purchases.”

“Lying to the east of Joseph Chapline, Sr.’s plantation known as Mount Pleasant, which overlooked the northeast bank of the Potomac River, was his 1765 patent of 1,168 ½ acres called ‘Loss and Gain,’ a resurvey on his 717-acre tract called ‘Resurvey on Hopewell’ patented in 1755 (Maryland State Archives, Frederick County Patent Record BC & GS No. 27, Liber 280; Scharf, 1968: 985). Chapline was among the largest of the landowners in the western lands (Lord Baltimore, Proprietor of Maryland, held the 10,000-acre reserve known as Conococheague Manor along the Potomac River to the northwest), which he sold in various parcels, increasing his wealth with each year. When he wrote his Last Will and Testament in 1768, Joseph Chapline devised ‘Loss and Gain’ to his son James. In 1774, ‘Addition to Loss and Gain’ was surveyed and patented with 1,484 acres (Patent Record BC & GS No. 46, Liber 222; Scharf, 1968: 985).” (The D.R. Miller CLI states the patent date is 1773. See Everett 2005.)

“It was James Chapline who began leasing and selling the family farm-sized tracts of 100 to 300 acres through the late 18th and early 19th century. Robert Smith purchased a number of 100-acre tracts in the neighborhood of ‘Addition to Loss and Gain.’ In 1813, Smith sold 272 acres of this land to Christian Middlekauff (Washington County Land Records, Liber Y, Folio 564).” (MIHP 2003)

Based on preliminary fabric investigations in 2007 of the present day Poffenberger structures, when Christian Middlekauff purchased the land from Smith, it consisted of a 2-story log house (1 ½ stories c. 1770 with a 2nd story added c. 1790), and possibly a wash house, wagon shed /

corn crib, and shed. In 1820 Middlekauff's daughter Rosanna married Daniel Finfruck. Based on the 1920s census, it is assumed son-in-law Daniel and Rosanna might have lived in the 2-story log house that was purchased in 1813. In 1828, Christian Middlekauff died and the next year, Daniel purchased the 97-acre farm that he and his wife had been living on, from his brother-in-law David Neikirk (David married Rosanna's sister). "This presumably was to settle the late Middlekauff's estate and give Daniel and Rosanna clear title to the property that they had called home for almost a decade." (Walker 2008) "The deed described the parcel adjoining Middlekauff's farm, sharing a 'corner of John Myers,' (later known as the D.R. Miller Farmstead), and adjoining 125 acres 'leased by James Chapline to John Wade' (WCLR, Liber LL, Folio 89). In 1833, Finfruck recorded a mortgage on his property with Jacob Kaufman (later Coffman) for \$7,000 (WCLR, Liber OO, Folio 532). The agreement stated that Finfruck was to pay \$3,000 within a 10-year term." (MIHP 2003) Recent architectural investigations of the farm suggest that several buildings originated around this time (1830-1840), suggesting that the bank barn and equipment shed may have been built by Finfruck utilizing his loan to make these and other improvements. An ice house and smokehouse were also constructed at some point to complete the farm complex.

This same year, Rosanna died in August soon followed two months later by her husband Daniel. For the next ten years, it is not known whether the seven Finfruck children lived on the property. In 1843, Jacob Coffman assumed ownership of the property, when the Finfruck estate defaulted on the loan from ten years previous. The Finfruck may have continued to live on the property after 1843, but by the 1850 agricultural census, Joseph Poffenberger and Mary Ann Coffman are noted to be farming on a 124-acre area.

On February 8, 1838, Joseph Poffenberger married Mary Ann Coffman. Mary Ann's father, Jacob Coffman, eventually sold the couple a 144-acre farm in 1852 (Randall and Poffenberger: 60-61; Poffenberger Family Bible; WCLR, Liber IN 6, Folio 524). Jacob Coffman owned a large amount of land along the Hagerstown turnpike and could easily have parceled an additional 20 acres to Joseph and Mary Ann's farm to increase the acreage from 124 to 144 for the final sale.

"Although Joseph and Mary Ann Poffenberger never had children, U.S. Population Census records from 1840 show two children living with them, one male between 10 and 15 and one female between 5 and 10. The Poffenberger family in Washington County and the Sharpsburg District was quite large however, and it is not unlikely that the couple would have taken in relatives in need. In fact, the 1860 census record showed a Poffenberger nephew by the name of Josiah, age 20, who was occupied as a farm hand on the farm, and a 19 year-old woman named Sarah, who may have been Josiah's wife. In 1859, Joseph's farm had grown to 155 acres through a purchase of adjoining land to the east owned by Henry Poffenberger (WCLR, Liber IN 14, Folio 161; The North Woods report cites a different Folio number, Stach: Folio 61). Since the 1860 Agricultural Census shows Joseph farming 166 acres, it appears that he may have also been leasing additional acreage." (MIHP 2003)

Although not noted in the Population Census, sometime before 1862, Joseph Poffenberger raised and provided housing for Isaac Malatt, who lived on the property in 1862 and worked for

him. Also a tenant, Samuel Kretzer, who was a stone mason, most likely lived in a building located in the southwest corner of the property along the Hagerstown and Sharpsburg Turnpike. Sometime before this point the tenant house was built. (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891a: 15)

1861-1865:

The Civil War

Battle Lines Drawn

After crossing the Antietam on the afternoon of September 16, 1862, Union Major General Joseph Hooker intended to reach a dominant ridge, located about two miles west toward the largest inward bend of the Potomac, on the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead. After about a mile, Hooker met some resistance from Confederate Brigadier General John Bell Hood's two brigades that occupied an open woodlot later known as the East Woods. Hooker now turned his attention to these Confederate positions. In the advance, Meade's division of the Pennsylvania Reserves engaged Hood's men in a fierce skirmish enabling Hooker's other divisions (Rickett and Doubleday) to take their positions upon the sought after ridge.

Here, on the evening of September 16, 1862, they bivouacked over the entire farm, especially upon the northern slopes of the ridge just north of Joseph Poffenberger's house and farm buildings. With the skirmishers of Seymour's brigade covering the southern end of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead, Hooker made his own quarters in the farmstead's barn. On the following morning, the farmstead would serve as a springboard for the right flank of Hooker's line.

Hooker's unfinished report says he slept the night on September 16, 1862 in the barn of D. R. Miller, but he places it on the east of the road, and the spot is fully identified as Poffenberger's by General Gibbon, who commanded the right brigade, and by Major Rufus R. Dawes (afterward Brevet Brigadier-General), both of whom subsequently visited the field and determined the positions.

The Confederates fired the first shots of the Battle early on the morning of September 17, 1862 from Nicodemus Heights, a dominant ridge to the southwest of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead. Artillery shells came raining down through the morning fog upon unsuspecting Union officers eating breakfast. Union Captain J. Albert Monroe recalls:

"We had not half finished our meal, but it had grown considerably lighter, and we could see the first rays of the sun lighting up the distant hilltops, when there was a sudden flash, and the air around us appeared to be alive with shot and shell from the enemy's artillery. The opposite hill seemed suddenly to have become an active volcano, belching forth flame, smoke and scoriae. The first shot apparently passed directly through our little breakfast party, not more than a foot or two above the blanket, and it struck the ground only a few feet from us. Every one dropped whatever he had in his hands, and looked around the group to see whose head was missing. So suddenly did the firing commence and so rapidly did shot follow shot, I felt lost for an instant." (Woodhead, ed 1996: 58)

The Union army sprang into action. Hooker's I Corps advanced southward, passing Joseph Poffenberger's farm lane, cornfield, and the woodlot of D.R. Miller, later known as the North Woods. The woodlot led to an open field where they came under heavy fire from the Confederate batteries positioned at Nicodemus Hill to the west and Dunker Church to the south. Confederate General Robert E. Lee's most formidable artillery group (S.D. Lee's battalion) was just east of the Dunker Church. Here, the sight lines extended all the way to the D.R. Miller Cornfield. Confederate Maj. John Pelham's group of guns on Nicodemus Heights bombarded the Union First Corps on Miller farm and defended the left of Lee's line. The intense fire from this Confederate artillery forced Hooker to employ his artillery positioned on the dominant ridge of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead, to suppress the onslaught, diverting them from the support of his own attack. This counter cannonade forced the Confederates on Nicodemus Hill to redeploy their batteries near Hauser's Ridge. However, this Union artillery position was most vital for its role in halting the later Confederate attempts to flank the Federal line.

In the mid-afternoon, General Robert E. Lee formulated a plan to flank the right end of the Union line, which was anchored near the Hagerstown Pike on the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead. If successful, this plan could cause a mass retreat of the Union army on the northern part of the battlefield. A task force composed of elements of Stuarts cavalry, plus three regiments of Longstreet's infantry and nine pieces of Jackson's artillery, headed northwest in an attempt to strike the Union right flank. From here, Stuart sent some of his artillery east under the command of Captain John Pelham. Still positioned on Poffenberger's dominant ridge, the Union artillery was "...commanding the open space nearly a mile wide extending to the Potomac, consisting of all 10 batteries of the I Corps, together with several of those of the XII Corps (Johnson 1995: 54)." They noticed this movement and opened fire forcing the Confederates to take cover. "Pelham's men could not pinpoint their location because the Yankees had planted their guns behind a row of trees on Joseph Poffenberger's farm (Priest 1989: 132)." Contrarily, the accounts of artillery Captain William Poague assert that the Confederate guns were turned "...loose within 500 yards upon an immense battery of some thirty pieces in plain view and easily counted" (Poague 1957: 47). However, it is possible that some Union guns were placed behind an orchard that is believed to have been on the farmstead. The historical base maps of Carman Cope collaborate this by showing some cannons positioned behind Joseph Poffenberger's orchard. Whether they were noticeable or concealed behind trees, either way, the artillery assembled atop the hill sent the Confederates seeking shelter, away from their omnipotent sights.

"[T]he group north of Poffenberger's was the factor which, despite the energy and ingenuity of Pelham and others of Lee's resourceful artillerists, forbade any attempt to turn the extreme Federal right on the seventeenth" (Johnson 1995: 55). "The rapidity of his guns were taken out of action caused Stuart to delay the movement and then cancel it altogether." Because of the prominence of the hill and the ferocity of the Union guns, the Confederate high command was led to believe that the Federals controlled the terrain all the way to the Potomac River. Lee's plan for turning the enemies' right was foiled. (MIHP 2003)

Damages and Losses to the Farm

It is uncertain where Joseph and Mary Ann were during the battle of Antietam. Many hid in their cellars or sought refuge in the nearby Killiansburg Cave on the Potomac River. On Joseph's farm, the Union's First Corps set up their battle line directly in front of the house, while the First Corps artillery took position directly on the ridge behind the house. The area was under constant artillery fire throughout the day from Confederate batteries on Nicodemus Heights and those across the pike from the Dunker Church. For obvious reasons, the Joseph Poffenberger Farm suffered physical damage during the battle. (MIHP 2003: 8-2 – 8-3) A war claims appraiser stated the "claimants farm was a perfect wreck after the battle, crops destroyed, house riddled and every thing taken out" (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891a: 14).

When Joseph returned in the evening following the fighting he stated "... my house it was completely empty. I had nothing left" (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891a: 12). That evening Joseph saw the soldiers take over 450 bushels of wheat from his barn, leaving him only 40. He "was told by a 'General' that it was needed for the horses." Joseph spoke to General Meade afterwards and Joseph stated "he [Meade] knew of my losses [and] told me to make out my account for the Gov't would pay me." (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891a: 11)

Isaac Malatt recalls the same events and offers some insight into the plundering of the Poffenberger farmstead that ensued in the battle's aftermath:

"I saw them take everything he had on his farm except his horses, and they would probably have been taken if they had not been away at the time" (Court of Claims Deposition of Isaac Malatt 1891b: 5). "The sheep, hogs and cattle were taken by the troops in a body. ...They [Union officers] said their wagon supply trains had not come up, that they were out of rations, and they must have food for themselves and their horses. ...I was on the premises when these supplies were taken. I was with Mr. Poffenberger at the time they were taken. He was so distressed that he could not eat." (Court of Claims Deposition of Isaac Malatt 1891b: 10)

The subsequent days after the battle Joseph Poffenberger recounted, "I lived on army crackers that I found on the battlefield for five days" (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891a:12).

Joseph would recover, but the looted farmstead bore the scars of a foraging and malnourished army who rendered it barren and economically devastated. According to Joseph Poffenberger's neighbor, George Line, Joseph was "...cleaned out of about everything on his farm, as well as in his house, and he was probably one of the heaviest losers around" (Court of Claims Deposition of George Line 1891b: 15).

"Joseph reported property damage to his barn, ice house, tenant house, and dwelling house totaling \$34.00, a surprisingly low sum. Apparently, the most significant damage came in the form of looted household items, and the food, forage, and firewood referred to as "quartermaster stores" by the army." (MIHP 2003: 8-3)

After the battle, the Union encamped on the farm until October 20, 1862, using most of the resources that Joseph Poffenberger had stored for the coming winter months, including 500 bushels of wheat, 60 bushels of rye, 150 bushels of oats, 80 bushels of potatoes, 20 tons of hay, 240 pounds of bacon, 28 acres plus 200 bushels of old corn, 18 loads of fodder, 14 tons of straw, 20 acres of pasture, 7 beef cattle, and 20 swine, and 13 sheep. The army also burned for fuel over 5,350 fence rails (described as a worm fence, nine rails to the panel), 5 cords of hickory wood and 7 cords of oak wood. The Poffenberger's orchard goods were not spared either; 50 bushels of apples; 4 bushels of peaches; grapes on the vine; dried cherries and plums; apple, plum and peach butter; and cider were consumed by the troops. (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891a & b)

Joseph Poffenberger's original claim of \$2,277.55 was "disallowed" in May of 1874 because the proof of the stores and supplies was insufficient. The Quartermaster General and Commissary-General of Subsistence were "...not convinced that the stores and supplies were actually taken for the use of and used by the United States Army." However, the claim was referred on February 7, 1887 to the Court of Claims by the Committee on War Claims of the House of Representatives under the provisions of the Bowman Act (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891b: 4). The Bowman Act of 1883 provided improved administrative and judicial remedies for individuals seeking relief. Many of the claims that had been previously disallowed could now be reevaluated. Neighbors, including D.R. Miller, testified on Joseph Poffenberger's behalf, attesting to both his loyalty to the United States and the validity of his claim. Joseph Poffenberger would go to the grave without receiving a penny of reimbursement from the government. In May of 1893, (nearly five years after Joseph's death), the Court awarded Lawson W. Poffenberger, the executor of Joseph's estate, \$1918 from a resubmitted claim of \$2,721.50. (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891b)

Perhaps the greatest loss by the Poffenberger family was the family bible, reportedly "found" on the battlefield by a Confederate soldier. In the 1960s, the bible returned to the area and was donated to the Washington County Historical Society over a century later. (MIHP 2003: 8-3)

Clara Barton on the Battlefield

Clara Barton, later founder of the American Red Cross, was present at the Battle of Antietam to care for the wounded soldiers. Barton and other others transported food, bandages and lanterns to various locations on the battlefield.

Following the war Barton described some details of a farm she visited within the Sharpsburg vicinity. Although Poffenberger family tradition places Barton at the Joseph Poffenberger Farm, this has not been substantiated by documentation.

Barton described "turning into a cornfield, near a house and Barn and stopping in the rear of the last gun which completed the terrible line of the artillery in the rear of Hooker's Corps that day. A garden wall only separated us." She also indicated "Arriving at a little wicket gate, I found the dooryard of a small house and myself face to face with one of the kindest and noblest surgeons I had ever met... upon the poarch [sic] stood 4 tables with an etherized patient upon

each a surgeon standing over him with his instruments, and a bunch of green corn leaves beside him for dressings.” (Clara Barton. War Lecture ca. 1866: 67-69).



Joseph Poffenberger farm layout at eve of battle, depicted in a Jed Hotchkiss map from 1895. (From the American Memory Map Collection, courtesy of the Library of Congress).

1866-1890:
Post-War Years

Most of the following text has been excerpted from the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form (MIHP) of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead prepared by students from Shepherd University in 2002, and updated by Edie Wallace of Paula Reed and Associates, Inc. in 2003.

“The stress from the battle and its aftermath must have been a terrible ordeal. During the war the federal government levied a tax on anyone who made over \$600.00. Josephs’ taxable income for the year ending June 1st 1862 was based on his income itself at \$634.00, a buggy worth \$95.00, and a watch with a value of \$130.00 for which he paid a tax of \$34.48. The evidence of his hardship following the 1862 battle is revealed in his income in the remaining years of the war tax, which never surpassed \$600.00 again.”

“These difficulties were compounded less than two years later on August 13, 1864 when Mary Ann passed away at the age of 46. Like many of her Sharpsburg neighbors, it is possible that Mary Ann’s illness was a result of the rampant disease that took soldier and civilian alike

following the Antietam battle. However, no evidence of how Mary Ann Poffenberger died has been found.”

“Joseph never remarried. Again he enlisted the help of a nephew in running the farm; the 1870 census records show he was living with his nephew Alfred Poffenberger. Alfred had been leasing the Mary Grove Locher farm to the southeast, on the western edge of the now-famous West Woods, at the time of the battle in 1862. Listed in the Agricultural Census record under Alfred Poffenberger’s name in 1870, Joseph’s farm had grown to 194 acres, including 40 acres of [woodland]. (The MIHP incorrectly called the forest area as the “North Woods.” Most if not all of the North Woods is located on the D.R. Miller farm to the south of Joseph’s property. See the D.R. Miller Farmstead CLI 2005.) The farm had substantially increased production of wheat, from 800 bushels in 1860 to 1,450 bushels in 1870, and included 10 horses, 6 cows, 16 sheep, and 18 hogs.” (MIHP 2003: 8-3 - 8-4)

In September of 1876, the Hagerstown “Weekly News” stated that the Joseph Poffenberger barn, wagon shed, corn crib and hog shed had burned. (Email from Susan Trail to Jane Custer 2004) Fabric investigations in 2007 show little evidence of fire damage to any of the structures, suggesting the newspaper article may refer to another Poffenberger farm in the area.

“By 1880, Alfred Poffenberger had moved to Iowa and Joseph lived on his farm by then under lease to his nephew Otho J. Poffenberger (as indicated on Alfred Poffenberger’s second damage claim for his own losses during the Antietam Battle). In 1888, at age 76, Joseph Poffenberger was in poor health and died on June 13th. His obituary appeared in the Hagerstown newspaper, ‘The Mail’ on Friday June 15, 1888:

‘Death of a Valuable Citizen’

‘On Wednesday night one of the most intelligent and prominent of the farmers of our county, Mr. Joseph Poffenberger, died at his residence on the Hagerstown turnpike near Sharpsburg, from blood poisoning. About a year before he had a trouble with the bone in one of his feet rendering surgical attention necessary at different times since, and leading to gangrene which resulted in blood poisoning. Mr. Poffenberger was 76 years of age and besides his connection with agriculture was prominent in all enterprises looking to the general prosperity of his county and active and weighty in the political affairs of his party. From his early years he was a zealous Democrat and took a leading part and was looked up to as a judicious adviser in all things. He was one of the original subscribers to The Mail, and a member of one of the largest and most influential families in the lower part and center of our county.’

“Joseph and Mary Ann Poffenberger now rest together at the Mountain View Cemetery in Sharpsburg. Joseph Poffenberger’s Will, probated July 3rd, 1888, divided his belongings amongst his nieces and nephews and made Lawson W. Poffenberger executor of the estate (Washington County Will Book H, page 73). An advertisement to his creditors was placed in the August 3rd and 10th editions of ‘The Mail’ and another on November 23rd of the same year listing the public sale of the land. Despite this listing the property was sold to his nephew Otho J., who had lived with him in his last years. Lawson Poffenberger served as the executor

of the estate and sold the property to Otho J. Poffenberger for \$7761.80 on April 15, 1889 (Washington County Land Records, Liber 93, Folio 346).

Writing in 1906, T.J.C. Williams described Otho's tenure on the Joseph Poffenberger Farm: '...this farm he [Otho] rented for a few years from his uncle Joseph Poffenberger, and then bought it....At the time that Mr. [Otho] Poffenberger purchased it from his uncle the farm was much run down, but he has brought it up to a high state of cultivation. He remodeled the old part of the dwelling house, which was built of logs a hundred and fifty years ago, and afterwards weatherboarded. He has built a new addition to the old dwelling. He helped to build the barn on the place, a part of which was built in 1880, and the other part in 1890.'(Williams 1906 reprint 1992: 1131-1132)." (MIHP 2003: 8-3 – 8-4)

Although the 1906 publication above indicates that Otho built a barn on the property, subsequent investigations suggest that the existing bank barn was built c. 1830. Some modifications to the barn may have occurred during this time instead of total reconstruction as inferred by the citation above. (On site meeting August 30, 2007)

Otho J. Poffenberger and wife Elizabeth raised their six children on the farm and eventually updated the main house with a substantial addition. Two maple trees shaded the house and flanked the stone steps leading to the front porch. A well worn path on the eastern side of the house continued down the slope toward the farm lane, possibly serving as the main entry path to the farmhouse. A fence surrounded a large yard around the main house; a few outbuildings (possibly an ice house, smokehouse, wash house, and privy); and an orchard, similar to its layout documented on battle related maps from 1860s. Another fenced area surrounded the work yard around the barn, corn crib/ wagon shed, shed, and equipment shed. A farm lane separated the two fenced areas. On the northeast portion of the farm, a woodlot remained, while Otho kept the rest of the property clear for pasture and field crops.



*Image of the Otho Poffenberger family in front of Joseph Poffenberger's house, c. 1880.
(Courtesy of the Washington County Historical Society).*

1890-1910:

Battlefield Preservation by the War Department

When Congress initiated the preservation of the lines of battle of the Army of the Potomac in 1890, the agrarian landscape of the Joseph Poffenberger farm would undergo a significant change. The State of Maryland also gave its consent in 1892:

“ . . . for the purposes of erecting monuments or tablets . . . for opening and constructing roads and avenues in connection with the positions occupied by Federal and Confederate forces . . . for the preservation of the grounds covered by said battlefields for historical or other purposes . . . ” (State of Maryland act approved 4/7/1892, cited in Joseph 1994: 15).

To help fulfill this mission, the War Department created the Antietam Board to acquire land and mark the lines of battle. “A key turning point in the development of the commemorative landscape at Antietam, was Davis’s [President of the Antietam Board] recommendation to the Secretary of War not to pursue major land acquisition at the battlefield, in contrast to the other battlefield parks” (Trail 2005: 179).

Instead of purchasing all the property associated with the battle, the Federal Government only acquired narrow rights-of-way through privately owned farms to construct lanes or avenues

where the most severe fighting occurred and erect tablets and markers to relate the history of the battle. The majority of the battlefield was thus maintained in private hands. One of the first lines of battle occurred on the Joseph Poffenberger farm to the south of the main house along the northernmost portion of the North Woods. To mark this battle line, the Federal Government purchased 2 acres from Otho Poffenberger and created Mansfield Avenue along his southern property line. (MIHP 2003: 8-5) This battlefield tour road commenced from the Hagerstown and Sharpsburg Turnpike and followed the Poffenberger and D.R. Miller property line east and then continued along Poffenberger's internal farm road in a southeasterly direction to Smoketown Road. By 1896 Mansfield Avenue was completed (Named after General Joseph Mansfield who was mortally wounded during the battle). Soon after, tablets and locational markers were placed along the route to describe and mark the events that occurred within the vicinity on September 16-17, 1862.

With the establishment of a new road to the south of the Poffenberger farm complex, Otho Poffenberger created a new entry road to the farm off of Mansfield Avenue. The new farm lane ran due north toward the main house and then veered to the northeast between the wash house and a shed. The former farm road was abandoned at this time.

In 1904, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania erected the 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry monument on the north side of Mansfield Avenue, positioned near the intersection with Smoketown Road. Pennsylvania erected five more monuments to the Second Brigade in 1906 on the north side of Mansfield Avenue "in front of General Meade's Headquarters" (Nicholas 1908: 90 as cited in Trail 2005: 273). An additional ten-foot strip of ground was purchased from Poffenberger to "create a small 'park'" (Nicholas 1908, cited in Trail 2005: 274). The last monument to be added in 1910 on the Poffenberger property was the 7th Indiana Infantry marker, placed on the east side of the turnpike, near the old farm road entry to Joseph Poffenberger's farm.



Newly constructed War Department tour road, Mansfield Avenue, looking east from Hagerstown Turnpike. (Kerns Photographic Collection, courtesy of Montgomery County Historical Society, Dayton, Ohio).

1910-2007:

Stewardship of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead

Otho continued to manage and live on the farm until his death in 1932, when his son Joseph W. Poffenberger purchased it from the estate. Joseph Poffenberger's descendents continued to live and manage the farm up until 1966, when Fred and Renee Kramer purchased 120 acres. (MIHP 2003: 8-5)

In 1933, the National Park Service assumed the management of Antietam Battlefield from the War Department and conducted a survey of structures, roads, monuments and landscapes. It is not known if the Joseph Poffenberger farm complex was surveyed as other properties were in the area at this time. The park service's survey was similar to the one the War Department conducted forty years earlier when they completed battle maps and laid out their tour roads. A few years later in 1940, unrelated to the extensive survey of historic properties done previously, Thomas Waterman, Associate Architect, Historic American Building Survey (HABS), visited the Joseph Poffenberger Farm to determine if there were any buildings worth HABS documentation. (The Historic American Building Survey was established in 1933 to document America's architectural heritage, combining drawings, history and photography to produce a comprehensive record of a building.) In Waterman's report, only the Joseph Poffenberger

barn is noted and photographed, and he does not recommend HABS documentation because the barn is similar to one HABS previously documented in Leestown, West Virginia in 1937. (As it turns out, the Leestown barn referred to in Waterman's report looks nothing like the Poffenberger barn.) Over sixty years later, in 2006-2007, a HABS team finally documented a portion of the Joseph Poffenberger farm complex, including the main house, barn, and wash house, although previous photo documentation was completed in 1989.

After the National Park Service assumed management of the battlefield, Congress authorized the expansion of their authority to purchase the farms "to be preserved and protected within Antietam National Battlefield" (Joseph 1994: 21). Over the years, the park service acquired adjoining farms south of the Poffenberger property through purchase or donations. It was not until 2000 that the National Park Service purchased the former Joseph Poffenberger property from Fred and Renee Kramer. (WCLR, Liber 1578, Folio 604). Since the purchase, the park staff has initiated a wide array of projects to stabilize the structures and restore the landscape to its post-war appearance. One of the first projects focused on the stabilization of the outbuildings, including a shed (formerly known as the blacksmith shop) and wash house. In 2007, the park secured funding for initiating the stabilization of the bank barn and installed white-washed paling fencing around a portion of the farmyard. They also cleared vegetation along the abandoned farm lane. The staff then ventured outside the main farm complex and installed post and rail fencing along Hagerstown Turnpike and worm fencing along Mansfield Avenue to try to recapture the historic setting of this significant property. The park is maintaining the agricultural landscape by including the property in its successful agricultural leasing program.



Poffenberger barn as documented by Thomas Waterman of the Historic American Building Survey in 1940. (ANTI 1940)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

INTRODUCTION

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the cultural landscape of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the two periods of significance: the Civil War landscape (1861-1865) and the Civil War conservation (commemoration) landscape (1890-1910), with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a cultural landscape to express the historic character and integrity of the landscape, which allow visitors to understand the history of a site. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance and non-contributing if they were not present during the historical period. Some non-contributing features may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property.

This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed on the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but it must also retain integrity to the period of significance.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead are spatial organization, land use, circulation, buildings and structures, topography, vegetation, views and vistas, small scale features, and natural systems and features.

The spatial organization closely resembles the layout from the mid-to late-nineteenth century. The farmyard boundaries are still evident and marked by twentieth-century fences and the farm lane to the east. Spatially, the field divisions for the rest of the property also adhere to their configuration from the period of significance.

The continuing use of this property under a NPS agricultural lease maintains the agrarian character of the battlefield landscape as it appeared at the eve of the Battle.

The property retains the majority of historic circulation patterns with the exception of the abandoned farm lane. There are only a few remnants that mark the location of this original lane. The War Department tour road, Mansfield Avenue, and the 1898 farm entry drive to the Poffenberger Farm are still used today. One worn pedestrian route formalized with flagstone pavers is evident near the farmhouse.

Several structures from the period of significance remain, including the main farmhouse, barn, wash house, wagon shed / corn crib, shed, and equipment shed which represent the core buildings of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead.

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead retains its rolling topography that was so essential to the the protection of the troops and placement of artillery on a hill north of the farmhouse yard.

The open pasture and cropland fields are still evident from the period of significance. Only a sparse stand of mature trees and successional growth in the northeast corner of the property recalls the location of the historic woodlot. The other historic woodlot once located in the northwest corner of the property is no longer evident. Also the loss of the orchard and other domestic plantings near the farmhouse lessens the integrity of vegetation.

Views from the prominent ridge north of the Joseph Poffenberger farmhouse yard appear much as they did when the Union artillery occupied the site during the Battle, except for a line trees that blocks views to the south, limiting the full range of sight the artillery most likely had.

The majority of the small-scale features that remain on the property represent the conservation efforts by the War Department and state veteran organizations to memorialize and commemorate the Battle of Antietam with the installation of interpretive cast iron tablets and signs as well as monuments to the various Civil War units. Although non-contributing elements, the reconstructed fences are compatible with the historic landscape and are used as interpretive features to recreate the setting of the Battle.

The natural limestone outcrops remain a prominent feature on the landscape and are noted in battlefield maps from the 1860s and 1890s. Also a natural spring box by the wash house is still active with no evidence of a larger structure built over it like other sites in the vicinity.

THE SEVEN ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

1. Location - The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead has experienced minor boundary adjustments over the years from the 155-acre farm originally owned by Joseph Poffenberger to its current 120-acre size. Despite this reduction in acreage, the core of the farmstead has remained intact. Thus, integrity is high in this regard. In 1895 and 1907, two small parcels on the southern boundary of the farm were sold to the US Government for memorization of the battle. A tour route, interpretive tablets and signs and monuments were built and installed on these parcels.

2. Design - All of the significant pre-Civil War farmstead structures on the property are extant. The

arrangement of the pre-Civil War structures also has not changed. This original configuration, along with the farmstead's structural authenticity, affords this site a high level of integrity.

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead has experienced some change since the Battle of Antietam. Many of the historical structures are extant and in their original locations. The property is still used for agricultural purposes. However, some landscape features have changed. One of the historic woodlots and the orchard are no longer present. None of the fences are original; instead, they are a partial reconstruction based on historic documentation. The circulation patterns of the property have changed somewhat since the Battle; with the construction of Mansfield Avenue and a new entry lane to the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead at the turn of the 20th century. The historic farm lane that had previously provided access to the farm was rendered obsolete at this time.

3. Setting - The physical environment of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead has experienced very minor changes since the Battle of Antietam. This affords a high level of integrity for the setting. The properties surrounding the farmstead are still used for agricultural purposes due to the stewardship of Antietam National Battlefield. Where negotiated purchases were impossible, appropriate conservation easements and other agreements have been achieved. Efforts have been made to restore historic woodlots and orchards that are no longer present to restore the integrity of the setting. However, the surrounding roads have changed since the Civil War. The construction and implementation of Mansfield Avenue and Route 65 has increased the amount of automobile circulation around the farmstead.

4. Materials - The integrity of the farmstead's materials is moderate. Many of the farm buildings are still composed of their original materials. Historic fencelines are no longer present, but efforts have been made to reconstruct them.

5. Workmanship - Workmanship is evident in the tooling marks that are visible on many of the structures. There are tapered battens on many of the doors and the logs were hand-hewn. Furthermore, the foundation was dry-laid. Above all, the fact that all of the significant pre-Civil War farmstead structures are still standing is a testament to the integrity of the workmanship.

6. Feeling - The farmstead evokes the feeling of a characteristic western Maryland farm on the eve of the Battle of Antietam. The structures on the property are in the process of receiving cosmetic and structural stabilization to restore the farmstead's pre-battle appearance.

7. Association - The Battle of Antietam is the event that gives the farmstead its greatest historic significance. Visitors to the Battlefield are able to see a landscape that has been preserved to embody its appearance on the eve of the Battle.

CONCLUSIONS

This CLI finds that the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead retains integrity for its periods of significance, 1861-1865 and 1890-1910. The landscape has been altered slightly with the loss of vegetative features and some structures. Even with these losses, the property still represents the historic battlefield landscape and conservation efforts to memorialize the Battle.

Aspects of Integrity:

Location
Design
Setting
Workmanship
Feeling
Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

Historic Conditions

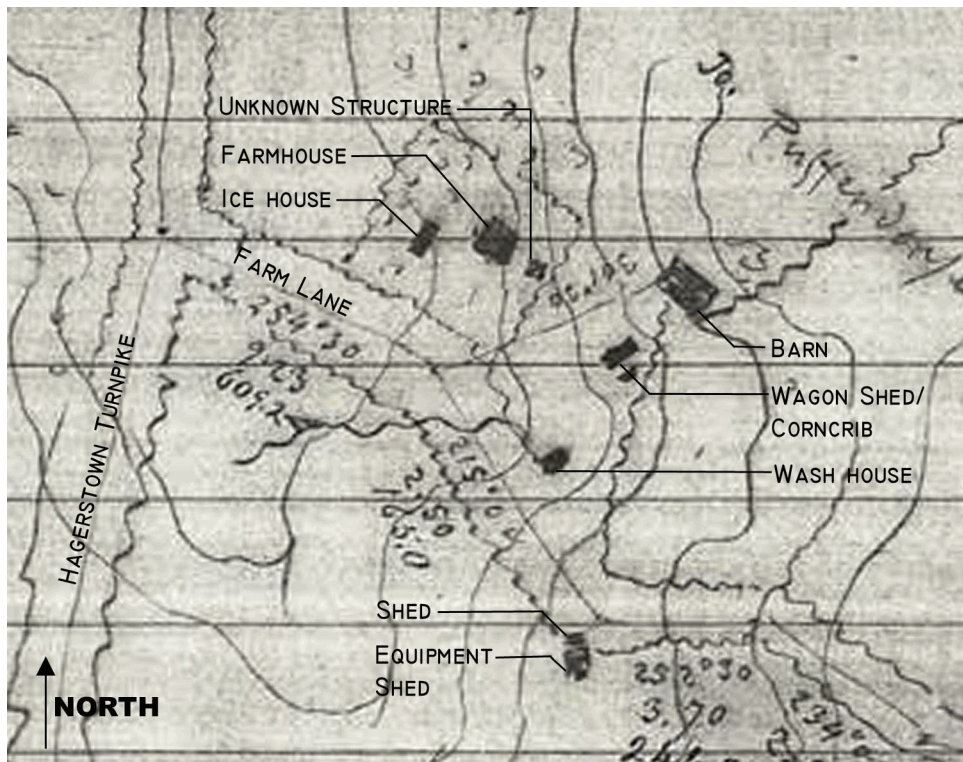
Similar to other local farms, the location of a natural spring on the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead determined the spatial organization of the farm complex, with buildings clustered around the spring. Unlike other local farms, however, there is no evidence of a large spring house built over a spring – instead a wash house was built beside it. The other support buildings (barns, sheds and a corn crib) were situated along the east side of the farm lane, while the farmhouse, an ice house, and a smokehouse were positioned to the west side. The latter building cluster formed a loose courtyard, with 3 sides enclosing the farmyard.

As noted in the cultural landscape inventory for the D.R. Miller farm, the continuous occupation of a farm by “Pennsylvania Germans and their descendants for over two hundred years, it is possible to discern some subtle influences in spatial organization that probably derive from southeastern Pennsylvania. Specifically, the siting and orientation of the house in relation to the other outbuildings is typical of Pennsylvania German farms. Like many farmhouses in southeastern Pennsylvania,” the Joseph Poffenberger house was elevated and facing southeast toward the main farm road and spring (Everett 2005, 3b: 1). The farmyard was surrounded by picket and paling fences. The rest of the property was primarily divided into large linear fields with one smaller field to the southwest of the farm complex and woodlots located on the northwestern and northeastern sections.

Existing Conditions

The Poffenberger Farmstead has experienced minor changes over the years, but the core of the Farmstead has remained intact with a high level of integrity. Comparing the 1867 notes and map prepared by General Michler, the current spatial organization of structures on the Poffenberger Farmstead is similar to its mid-nineteenth-century layout. Even with the loss of the ice house and smokehouse near the farmhouse, the farmyard boundaries are still evident and marked by restored paling fences and twentieth-century wire fences and the farm lane to the east. Spatially, the field division for the rest of the property also adhered to their mid-nineteenth-century configuration.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Annotated 1862 General Michler sketch map showing Joseph Poffenberger farm cluster of buildings, fence layout, and road system. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress?)

Land Use

Historic Conditions

Agriculture has been the predominant land use on the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead since the late 1700s. Even with the damage to the landscape and outbuildings during the Civil War, the agricultural landscape has abided in time. Having no progeny to carry on the Farmstead's legacy or help out with the often grueling labor associated with running a farm, Joseph Poffenberger relied on his nephews to run the farm. Following the untimely death of Joseph's wife, Mary Ann Poffenberger, in 1864, Joseph's nephews moved in to assist their aging uncle. Poffenbergers retained ownership of the Farmstead for over a hundred years following the Battle.

Existing Conditions

In respect to land use, the Poffenberger Farmstead has a high level of integrity. Currently, under a National Park Service agricultural lease program, farmers still grow crops and raise livestock, maintaining the historic land use and preserving the farmstead's agrarian landscape as it appeared on the eve of the Battle.

Circulation

Historic Conditions

A farm lane provided the only access to the Poffenberger Farmstead. Leading from the public road (Although the first mention of this public road is from c. 1811, to be known as Hagerstown Turnpike by 1860, there most likely was a road in this area running north-south dating from the mid to late 1700s), the lane closely wound past the farmhouse as it made its way between the washhouse and shed and then continued southeast into a field where it ran parallel with Smoketown Road to the top of the East Woods and then ran east to connect with Smoketown Road. (Smoketown Road also is an older road probably dating to the mid to late 1700s.) A short lane extended northeast to the farm complex around the washhouse. A pathway led from the main farm lane through a gate to the main house and continued along the east side of the house. No other pedestrian paths are documented during the historic period, but most likely there were worn paths between the various support buildings and the farmhouse.

In 1898, the United States Government purchased land along the southern property boundary and along the southeast portion of the Poffenberger farm lane to create what is now Mansfield Avenue. The small strip of land was acquired by the War Department for a battlefield tour road connecting Hagerstown Turnpike with Smoketown Road. With the construction and implementation of Mansfield Avenue at the turn of the twentieth-century, the historic farm lane that connected to Hagerstown Turnpike was rendered obsolete, but it is not known when it was abandoned. A new, shorter farm lane was built that connected the farm complex to Mansfield Avenue.

Existing Conditions

The Poffenberger Farmstead still exhibits a high level of integrity to circulation. There are obvious remnants of stones that marked the original farm lane entrance along Hagerstown Pike, and recent vegetation clearing along the abandoned lane, enhances the visibility of that road trace. Some cedars remain that once grew within a fence line that followed the lane. A remnant of this farm lane crosses over the 1898 lane and continues to the east around the equipment shed. A worn pathway leading from the farmhouse to the original farm lane is only evident near the house, where flagstone pavers were placed to formalize the path.

Mansfield Avenue still serves as part of the battlefield driving tour route and the 1898 Poffenberger farm lane is used to access the farm complex. Another more recent worn lane that is utilized today to access the fields, runs parallel to the 1898 farm lane, but is not a contributing feature. One other non-contributing feature is a small pull-off parking lot near the cluster of monuments east of the Poffenberger farm lane entrance, built at some point by the National Park Service.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Remnant original farm lane

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
Antietam National Battlefield

Feature Identification Number: 121598

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Remnant pathway near farmhouse

Feature Identification Number: 121600

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Mansfield Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 121602

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45062

LCS Structure Name: Mansfield Avenue

LCS Structure Number: MANA

Feature: 1898 farm lane

Feature Identification Number: 121604

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Worn lane to fields

Feature Identification Number: 121697

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Pull-off parking, Mansfield Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 127913

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Circa 1890s hand sketch by Jed Hotchkiss showing the proposed Mansfield Avenue as a dash line on the southern boundary of the property connecting to Hagerstown Pike and a new farm lane for the Poffenberger property. (Courtesy of the National Archives).



Abandoned road segments. A) Cleared farm lane; B) Farm lane entrance at turnpike; C) Intersection of the old Hagerstown Pike and Mansfield Avenue (turning to the right). (CLP 2006 & 2007)



War Department-era roads include A) Mansfield Avenue and B) new farm lane entrance to Joseph Poffenberger property. (CLP 2006, 2007).

Buildings and Structures

Farmhouse

Historic Conditions

By 1800, a log three-bay, two-story dwelling was built facing southeast toward the main farm lane. The house was built in two stages. Initially a 1 ½ story log house was built c. 1770 and then a second story was added c. 1790. This two-story farmhouse was looted of personal goods during and after the Battle of Antietam and suffered some damage during the battle. It had a full-length front porch with stone steps leading up to it from the front (south) and side (east).

By 1888, Otho Poffenberger built an ell addition on the north elevation of the house to provide additional rooms for his growing family.

Existing Conditions

The original Poffenberger farmhouse with 1888 ell addition retains a high degree of integrity. Surprisingly, the original south-facing stone steps leading to the front porch, which are shown in an 1880 photograph, are intact, although they require stabilization. To the north of the ell addition, a limestone wall was constructed, probably when the ell was built.

Barn

Historic Conditions

The Joseph Poffenberger barn was also probably built c. 1830 and was used during the Civil War by General Hooker the night before the Battle of Antietam. The farm was also occupied after the battle. Most of the grain (wheat) stored in the barn was used to feed horses from the Union troops.

In 1876, a newspaper article stated that the Poffenberger barn, wagon shed, corn crib and hog shed had burned (Email from Susan Trail to Jane Custer 2004). Fabric investigations in 2007 show little evidence of fire damage to any of the structures, suggesting the newspaper article may refer to another Poffenberger farm in the area. While much of the upper level of the barn dates to the late 19th century, the foundation construction techniques date to before the Civil War.

Although a 1906 publication indicated that Otho Poffenberger built a barn on the property, subsequent investigations suggest that the existing bank barn was built much earlier, c. 1830 (Email from Tara Cubie to Maureen Joseph 2008). Some modifications to the barn may have occurred during Otho's ownership instead of total reconstruction (On site meeting with staff from cultural resource divisions from Antietam NB, NCR and a local expert, August 30, 2007).

Existing Conditions

The existing timber-framed standard Pennsylvania bank barn is northeast of the farmhouse resting on a limestone foundation. There is a small barnyard to the south of the barn with a stonewall surrounding the southwest corner and a wooden gate leading into the barnyard from the farm lane. The probable date of construction for the barn is c. 1830, with many modifications to the upper level of the structure after the Civil War. Even with these minor changes, the barn maintains the integrity of its original construction.

Outbuildings

Historic Conditions

Southwest of the barnyard and along the spur farm lane leading from the main farm lane, there were a wash house (known as a springhouse in the National Register Nomination and List of Classified Structures), shed (known as a blacksmith shop in the MHT inventory), equipment shed (known as a carriage house in the MHT inventory), and wagon shed/corn crib. A privy, smokehouse, and an icehouse were located near the farmhouse. All these buildings supported the agricultural use of the Poffenberger farm. A tenant house was situated on the southwestern corner of the property near the Hagerstown Turnpike and was built before the 1860s. Images from c. 1880 and c. 1890 clearly show the wash house, shed, and wagon shed/corn crib and possibly the smokehouse near the farmhouse. Unfortunately, vegetation blocks views of the equipment shed located near Mansfield Avenue and the icehouse to the southwest of the farmhouse. Subsequent photographs from the 1920s and 1930s expand the views of these

buildings.

Existing Conditions

Despite some loss, most of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead outbuildings are still intact. The wash house and shed are in relatively good condition due to recent stabilization efforts. Future funds are needed to stabilize the equipment shed and wagon shed/corn crib which require extensive structural stabilization to preserve these pre-Civil War structures. There also are foundation remnants of the ice house, smokehouse, and tenant house.

Several other dilapidated outbuildings dating from the mid-twentieth century are located in an upper field northeast of the farmhouse. Another non-historic feature, a concrete water trough, was placed on a shelf of the abandoned farm lane to the south of the farmhouse. All the non-historic structures are slated to be removed in the next few years.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Farmhouse

Feature Identification Number: 121703

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 393070

LCS Structure Name: Poffenberger, Joseph, Farm; Farmhouse

LCS Structure Number: JPOFFHOUSE

Feature: Stone steps leading to front porch

Feature Identification Number: 121709

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Limestone wall north of ell addition

Feature Identification Number: 121707

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Barn

Feature Identification Number: 121719

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 395657

LCS Structure Name: Poffenberger, Joseph, Farm; Barn

LCS Structure Number: JPOFFBARN

Feature: Wagon shed/corncrib

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
Antietam National Battlefield

Feature Identification Number: 121723

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Shed (aka blacksmith shop)

Feature Identification Number: 121721

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Equipment shed (aka carriage house)

Feature Identification Number: 121725

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wash house (aka springhouse)

Feature Identification Number: 121727

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 395647

LCS Structure Name: Poffenberger, Joseph, Farm; Springhouse

LCS Structure Number: JPoff-SprHs

Feature: Smokehouse ruins

Feature Identification Number: 121729

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 393067

LCS Structure Name: Poffenberger, Joseph, Farm; Smokehouse

LCS Structure Number: JPOFFSMKEHSE

Feature: Ice house ruins

Feature Identification Number: 121731

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tenant house ruins

Feature Identification Number: 121733

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pump house

Feature Identification Number: 125569

Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead
Antietam National Battlefield

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Water trough (on abandoned lane)

Feature Identification Number: 125571

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



A) Joseph Poffenberger farmhouse with addition; B) Detail of original stone steps to front porch; C) Limestone wall behind ell addition. (CLP 2006).



Two views of the bank barn and wagon shed/corncrib buildings. A) 1989 HABS image by Jack Boucher looking to the northwest (Courtesy of the Library of Congress). B) CLI photo looking northeast (CLP 2006).



Other contributing outbuildings on the Joseph Poffenberger farm. A) Wash house; B) Shed; C) Equipment shed (CLP 2006).



A) Ice house, c. 1940. (ANTI Photo Collection). B) Ruins of front ice house wall; C) stone tenant house ruins; and D) non-contributing water trough. (CLP 2006, 2007)

Topography

Historic Conditions

The rolling topography of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead played an important role during Battle of Antietam. The prominent ridge northeast of the Joseph Poffenberger farm yard was vital to both the support of the Union infantry and the suppression of a Confederate attempt to flank the Union's right, "commanding the open space nearly a mile wide extending to the Potomac, consisting of all 10 batteries of the I Corps, together with several of those of the XII Corps" (Johnson 1995: 54).

Existing Conditions

The Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead retains its rolling topography that was so essential to the artillery placement and protection of the Union Troops during the opening hours of the Battle of Antietam. The highly erodible soil typical for the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province of the area has been subject to conservation practices to protect the rich agricultural soils.

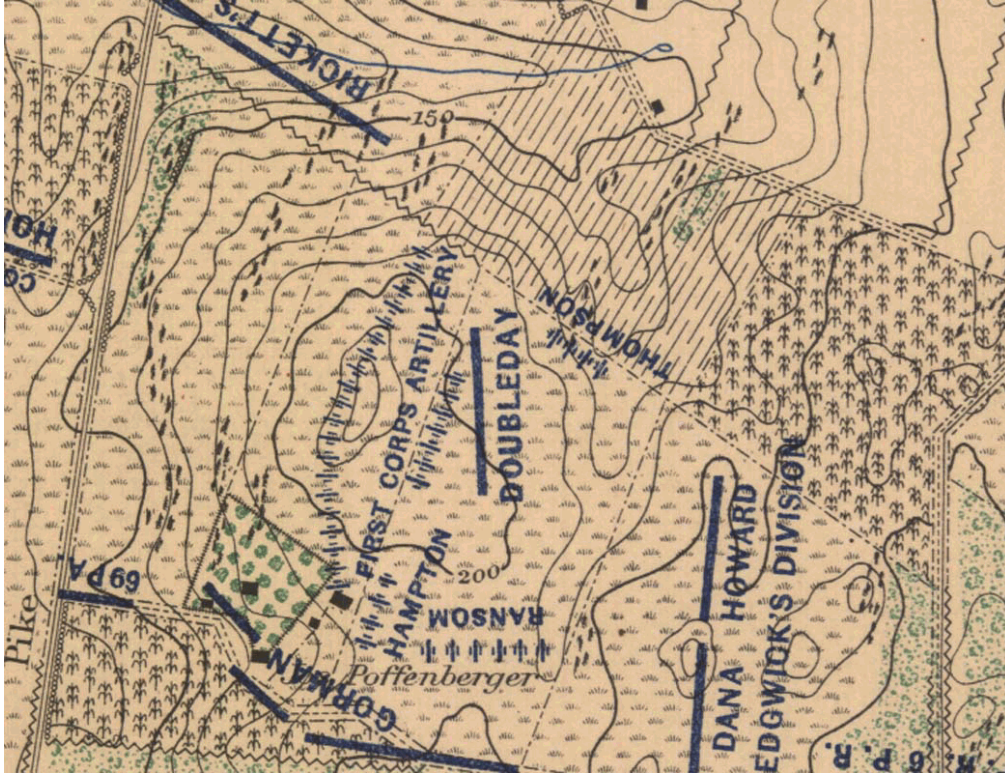
Character-defining Features:

Feature: Prominent ridge northeast of farm yard

Feature Identification Number: 121739

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



War Department Carmen-Cope Map showing the location of the Union First Corps Artillery during the Battle. Contour lines denote the prominence of the hill on which they were positioned. (Courtesy of the National Archives).

Vegetation

General Overview

The property that would become the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead was most likely a forest with hardwoods when the Hagerstown Valley was originally settled by Europeans in the mid-to-late 1700s. Before the fertile ground could be used as agricultural land, the woodland would need to be cleared. Over the years, property owners cleared the best sections of land for field crops. The least desirable land, rocky and shallow soils, was left in old-growth forest. By the 1840s, the best cultivated lands were cleared and small parcels of land were retained for woodlots. (Joseph 1994: 3)

Woodland

Historic Conditions

On the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead, the earliest account we have for the amount of woodland versus cleared land is from the 1850 agricultural census. On the 124-acre property,

Poffenberger had 110 acres of improved land and 14 acres of unimproved land (This is inferred that “improved” means the land is cleared cultivated land and “unimproved” is woodland.). Poffenberger purchased additional lands by the 1860 agricultural census, increasing the amount of cleared land to 150 acres and only 16 acres of woodland. (1850 and 1860 Agricultural Census) Deed records indicate Poffenberger only owned 155 acres at this time, so he may have leased other lands in the area.

At the time of the battle, there were two small woodlots noted on period maps. One was located on the upper northwest corner of the property along the turnpike, and the other was on the upper northeast portion along Smoketown Road. An 1851 Washington County land survey indicates that the upper northwest portion of the property was not included in Poffenberger’s initial purchase from his father-in-law in 1852, but was rather acquired some time later, possibly in 1859. Although these two woodlots were unnamed (unlike the North, East, and West woodlots south of the property) and not pivotal to the battle, they may have been utilized more heavily after the battle during the Union troop occupation and in subsequent years providing firewood, fence rails, or building products.

According to the 1870 census, Joseph’s nephew Alfred farmed his uncle’s 155-acre property as well as another 44 acres (unknown location). By 1880, another nephew, Otho, managed 191 acres, including the original Joseph Poffenberger property. Any comparisons made with the 1870s and 1880s acre totals will be flawed, given this increase in acreage.

When the War Department surveyed the battlefield in the 1890s, there is a clearer depiction of existing conditions and changes made to the woodlots since the Civil War. Most of the historic woodlots in the Sharpsburg area had been reduced or removed entirely by this time. Surprisingly, the upper northeast woodlot was still present, but the woodlot that was in the upper northwest portion of the property had been cleared.

Existing Conditions

Currently there is shrubby successional growth and a sparse stand of mature trees in the upper northeast portion of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead, but there is no evidence of a woodlot in the northwest corner of the property. In 2006 the park staff installed fences around the approximate location of the two woodlots in an effort to prevent agricultural use. This will enable the park staff to allow natural regeneration of the woodland. Two sentinel white ash (*Fraxinus Americana*) tower above the existing shrubby growth along the northeast corner of the property. The northern most ash is a county champion and is listed on the "Maryland Big Tree Program". One other large tree, a white oak (*Quercus alba*), is located along Smoketown Road where the road veers around it. Strips of woody vegetation have grown up along rock ledges throughout the property, especially on the southeastern portion. Additional woody vegetative growth has developed along some historic fence lines.

Pastureland

Historic Conditions

The majority of Joseph Poffenberger's property was cleared and a portion was used as pastureland. Joseph had a number of grazing animals (horses, milk cows, and sheep) that required pasturelands. Period maps from the 1860s indicate Joseph Poffenberger had a significant amount of pastureland at the time of the Battle. There were four fenced grass fields north of the original farm lane, comprising most of the land to the north and east of the house. Based on testimony given by Joseph Poffenberger and Isaac Malatt in Joseph's war claim, the pastureland was heavily used and ravaged by the Union troops.

Isaac described the destruction caused by the Union troops: "I saw them pasture his farm off as bare as a floor. The grass was second growth, and was not much as pasture as it was pretty late in the season. I don't know how many acres they took, but they took all there was on the farm." (Court of Claims Deposition of Isaac Malatt 1891A)

Joseph also explained how the troops utilized his clover field to feed their horses: "There was 20 acres of clover, second crop (crop was short); some 25 wagons encamped by it and all the horses of said wagons were turned into it; they staid in there at least 12 days. Such pasturage was worth about one dollar per acre. The army had not destroyed this pasturage, of coarse they impaired it some, but it was number one pasturage, and of coarse helped the horses very much; they did look very well." (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891B)

After the Civil War, the Poffenberger's cleared the northwest corner of the property. At least 84 acres are noted as grassland (Some of the acreage may be for another property; 1880 Agricultural Census).

Existing Conditions

The four fenced grass fields as noted on the 1860s and 1890s period maps are still extant and maintained by an agricultural lease.

Cropland

Historic Conditions

The fertile soils of the Hagerstown Valley provided high crop yields for farmers. Even though Joseph Poffenberger only used about a third of his acreage for field crops, he produced a substantial amount of wheat, rye, Indian corn, and oats based on the production rates in the Agricultural Census records for 1850 and 1860. The Carman-Cope maps indicate there were two cornfields at the time of the Battle. One was situated between the Poffenberger farmhouse and the North Woods. The other was at the tip of the panhandle, above the East Woods. A plowed field was above this cornfield. Joseph also grew vegetable crops that were used by the immediate family, including Irish potatoes. The destruction and use of the "garden of vegetables", "grapes on the vine", and eighty bushels of potatoes was noted in his war claim. (Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891B)

Under Alfred Poffenberger's management of the property after the Civil War, the amount of land farmed had grown to 199 acres. Alfred had substantially increased production of wheat, from 800 bushels in 1860 to 1,450 bushels in 1870. Otho Poffenberger continued with similar yields in 1880. (1870, 1880 Agricultural Censuses)

Existing Conditions

Under an agricultural lease, the yields are not as great as they were historically. Only a few fields are cultivated with field crops and the rest are maintained as hay fields or pastureland.

Orchard

Historic Conditions

Joseph Poffenberger maintained a small orchard near the farmhouse. Most likely he grew apples, peaches, and a few plums and cherry trees. The Agricultural Census of 1860 shows Poffenberger having a value of \$10.00 under orchard products. Thus, the orchard was probably established sometime between 1850 and 1859. The Carman-Cope maps corroborate the presence of an orchard at the time of the Battle. These maps show the orchard fenced in and encompassing the immediate farmhouse and domestic buildings. In Poffenberger's claims of damage incurred as a result of the Battle, the orchard products he mentions are "fifty bushels of apples," "four barrels of cider," "four bushels of peaches," "two bushels of dried cherries and plums," "grapes on vine," "three gallons of preserved fruit," and "10 gallons each of peach, plum, and apple butter." Although it is not certain which, if any, of these products were grown on the Poffenberger Farmstead, there is good proof they were. The 1870 census shows a value of \$30 under orchard products. Sometime between 1870 and 1879, the orchard greatly increased its production. The more explicit Agricultural Census of 1880 indicates the Poffenberger Farmstead reaped 600 bushels of apples on 2 acres from 100 bearing trees, totaling a value of \$250. It appears the orchard was expanded beyond the immediate farmhouse yard and extended across the farm lane from the barnyard south to present-day Mansfield Avenue. (See 1898 Antietam Board map, which depicts the expansion of the orchard)

Existing Conditions

Today, there is one apple tree (*Malus* sp.) within the yard growing to the northeast of the ell addition, serving as the only remnant of the former orchard. The tree no longer bears fruit and is in rapid decline.

Domestic Plantings

Historic Conditions

Post-war images of the property reveal that the Poffenbergers fenced the immediate area around the farmhouse and maintained a rough grass cover. A pair of silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*) flanked the front stone steps. Other deciduous canopy trees, including black locusts (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) grew up around the back (north elevation) and west side of the

house. Some small trees, possibly fruit trees, were also planted in the fenced yard protected from foraging animals. A few specimen shrubs are also noted near the front porch. Based on Joseph Poffenberger's war claim stated previously, there was also a large vegetable garden somewhere near the farmhouse.

Existing Conditions

One of the silver maples survived into the twenty-first century (well over 100 years old) and was recently removed, leaving only a slight depression where the tree grew. To the north of the wash house, the mature silver maple and two locusts may be the only plants that date from the period of significance. All remaining vegetation is from after 1910. The yard near the farmhouse lacks any large deciduous canopy trees that characterize the historic landscape from the period of significance (1861-1910), except for one lone locust in the northeastern corner, Native and invasive exotic trees established themselves along the fence lines on the east, north, and west side of the house. A few specimen shrubs - lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) and mockorange (*Philadelphus* sp.) - although not historic, typify the shrubs that may have been within the Poffenberger's yard during the period of significance. A recessed rectilinear plot of ground between the wash house and farmhouse may mark the site of the Poffenberger vegetable garden.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Woodlot remnant, northeast corner
Feature Identification Number:	121741
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Two sentinel white ash, Smoketown Rd.
Feature Identification Number:	125577
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Sentinel white oak, Smoketown Rd.
Feature Identification Number:	129302
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Agricultural Fields
Feature Identification Number:	121743
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Apple tree
Feature Identification Number:	125573
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature: Silver maple near wash house
Feature Identification Number: 121745
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Black locusts near wash house
Feature Identification Number: 125575
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

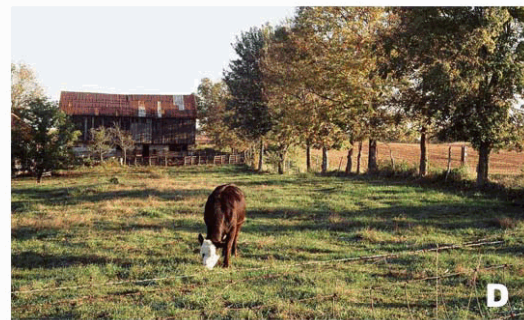
Feature: Specimen shrubs
Feature Identification Number: 125579
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Exotic vegetation growing in fencelines
Feature Identification Number: 121747
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Exotic veg growing within rock outcrops
Feature Identification Number: 129306
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Exotic veg growing within hist. woodlot
Feature Identification Number: 129318
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



A) Sentinel oak; B) Plowed agricultural field; C) Rolling open pasture land; D) Pasture area near barn. (CLP 2006 & 2007)



A series that shows the evolution of the silver maples that once flanked the front steps. A) 1880 (Courtesy of Raymond Swain); B) 1989 (HABS Library of Congress); C) 2006 (CLP).



Poffenberger yard features: A) Specimen shrubs and lawn; B) Apple tree; C) Depressed area defining possible vegetable garden site; D) Silver maple and two locusts. (CLP 2006 & 2007)

Views and Vistas

Historic Conditions

The Union took advantage of the expansive views to the south and west from a prominent ridge on the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead when they positioned their artillery there on September 17, 1862. During the Battle of Antietam, the artillery was vital for its role in halting the mid-afternoon Confederate attempts to turn the extreme right of the Union line. A line of moderate-sized deciduous trees on the south end of the ridge and possibly Poffenberger's orchard also shielded any views of the guns placement from the south.

Existing Conditions

This prominent ridge to the north of the Joseph Poffenberger farmhouse yard, appears much as it did when the Union artillery occupied the site in September 1862. Mature deciduous trees that line the south end of the ridge block views to the south, limiting the full range of sight the artillery most likely had. The views west remain open and expansive.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Views west from prominent ridge

Feature Identification Number: 121749

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views east from Nicodemus Hill

Feature Identification Number: 121751

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Blocked views south from prominent ridge

Feature Identification Number: 121753

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Clear view from prominent ridge northeast of farm yard looking west (CLP 2006).



Blocked views to the south from the prominent ridge northeast of farm yard (CLP 2006).

Small Scale Features

Numerous small scale features are present on the landscape of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead.

Field and Boundary Fencing

Historic Conditions

Several fencing styles have been employed at the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead, representing the evolving technology of fence construction. Some fences have served functional purposes for various agricultural needs, while others have been merely ornamental. In early America, it was necessary to place fencing around crops to keep roaming livestock from damaging them. The first permanent fencing was composed of wood in a zig-zag pattern known as the Virginia rail fence or worm fence. The worm fencing tended to use a considerable amount of wood and land. It eventually was replaced by the less consumptive post-and-rail fence that required less wood and took up less land. Although more labor was required to install this fencing, it was more sturdy and easier to maintain than its predecessor. Stone was another material used, a byproduct of land-clearing practices. The stone was piled up into heaps to divide the fields or serve as boundary markers. Period maps indicate post-and-rail fencing was the most prevalent type of fencing on the Poffenberger Farmstead at the time of the Battle.

The 1898 Carman-Cope maps show worm fences located at the southwestern and northwestern borders of the property, each running west to east. Additional worm fencing ran along Smoketown Road and enclosed a cornfield that was located directly north of the East Woods. A limited amount of stone fencing was depicted in three short segments on the western boundary along the turnpike. The remaining fences were post-and-rail. The War Department installed their own style of fencing, Jones' locked wire fence, along the right-of-way of the tour roads. In 1928, these fences were replaced with concrete post and wire fences. (Joseph 1994: 17, 20)

Existing Conditions

The integrity of the fencing is low as most of the original fences were removed before and after the Battle of Antietam. Isaac Malatt testified, "I saw his fences taken, but I can't say how many, as I never measured the lines or counted them. They swept the fences off his farm pretty clean. They used these rails for fires in their camps." (Court of Claims Deposition of Isaac Malatt 1992: 5)

Restoration of historic fences is a priority to represent the 1862 agrarian landscape. In recent years the park has strategically reconstructed segments of fence based on the period maps. A worm fence runs along the north side of Mansfield Avenue. However, it should be noted that during the battle a fence was located along Poffenberger's southern boundary, which would be the south side of Mansfield Avenue since the avenue was added along this property boundary after the battle. Furthermore, period maps depict this fence extending further east from its present location. The northern fence is no longer a worm fence, but rather a more modern wire fence. A post-and-rail fence was reconstructed along Route 65 (Hagerstown Turnpike)

that closely follows its historical configuration. Other internal fences lines are a modern wire type or the fences have been removed completely; a few scattered, rotten fence posts are the only contributing physical remnants. Post-and-rail fences line both sides of Mansfield Avenue on the southeastern part of the property where it follows the path of the old farm lane. (The western portion of this farm lane was abandoned) There are also a few concrete posts remaining from the War Department's efforts to mark their right-of-way along Mansfield Avenue, although the wire fences were removed.

Locations of the other historical post-and-rail fence lines are still noticeable on modern aerial photographs. Tree lines and other irregular vegetation patterns that frame many of the fields are indicative of the former presence of fencing. The shapes of the fields that can be discerned on the aerial photographs are roughly of the same form as those shown on the period maps. This critical information can help facilitate the completion of the fence line reconstruction.

One stone fence remains standing around a portion of the barnyard and is still used to corral the animals. Additional modern gates and fences augment the enclosure.

Ornamental Fences

Historic Conditions

The 1898 Carman-Cope maps show paling fencing surrounding the immediate domestic buildings and orchard. These fences were primarily ornamental, rather than functional. Based on post-war photographs, the yard was further divided with paling fences, most likely to define the vegetable garden, orchard and other uses.

Existing Conditions

There are no remnants of paling style fencing, although a decorative woven wire fence and gate remains to the east of the house. The yard is still partitioned into smaller areas as was reflected in the post-war photographs. To reinforce the historic setting, in 2007 the park cultural resource preservation crew installed whitewashed paling fencing around the southern border of the yard.

Monuments

Historic Conditions

Numerous monuments were installed between 1904 and 1910 to commemorate the Battle of Antietam. Six monuments dedicated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were situated along Mansfield Avenue and one other monument from the state of Indiana was installed along Hagerstown Turnpike on the Joseph Poffenberger property.

In 1962, the Clara Barton Monument was dedicated and placed with a clear view of the Joseph Poffenberger farm complex on Mansfield Avenue near a grouping of Pennsylvania monuments.

Existing Conditions

Although obviously post-dating the Civil War, these monuments possess historical significance commemorating the Battle. Several of these monuments have been in place now for over a hundred years and are a product of Civil War battlefield preservation and commemoration efforts. The Clara Barton Monument is not considered contributing, because it is more an interpretive feature, but it is a compatible feature to the historic battlefield landscape.

Interpretive Devices:

Historic Conditions

In the 1890s the War Department installed a variety of interpretive devices on the Joseph Poffenberger Farm during the initial preservation and commemoration efforts. The cast iron tablets and signs were painted black with white letter and marked key features that figured prominently during the Battle. They also provided interpretive text for the visitors following the prescribed tour route to understand the troop movements as they evolved during the Battle.

Existing Conditions

The War Department cast iron interpretive tablets remain intact today. The NPS park maintenance staff performs cyclic maintenance of these features to protect them from the elements. There are other non-historic interpretive waysides, informational (brown with white lettering), regulatory and directional signs installed by the National Park Service along Mansfield Avenue. A sign placed near the Mansfield Avenue pull-off parking area prominently marks the “Joseph Poffenberger Farm”.

Other features:

A stone retaining wall on the north side of the ell addition, possibly built when the wing was added in the 1890s, is the only contributing feature in the yard (see Buildings and Structures list of features). At some point after 1930, a non-contributing metal hand pump was installed just north of the wash house on a wooden platform.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Barn yard stone fence

Feature Identification Number: 126959

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 12th PA Calvary Monument

Feature Identification Number: 121755

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45013

LCS Structure Name: PA; 12th PA Cavalry Monument

LCS Structure Number: 006

Feature: 3rd PA Reserve & 32nd PA Vol Monument

Feature Identification Number: 121757

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45011

LCS Structure Name: PA; 3rd PA Reserve & 32nd PA Volunteer Monument

LCS Structure Number: 004

Feature: 4th PA Reserve Vol. Infantry Monument

Feature Identification Number: 121759

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45010

LCS Structure Name: PA; 4th PA Reserve Volunteer Infantry Monument

LCS Structure Number: 003

Feature: 7th PA Reserve Vol. Infantry Monument

Feature Identification Number: 121761

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45009

LCS Structure Name: PA; 7th PA Reserve Volunteer Infantry Monument

LCS Structure Number: 002

Feature: 8th PA Reserve Vol. Infantry Monument

Feature Identification Number: 121763

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45012

LCS Structure Name: PA; 8th PA Reserve Volunteer Infantry Monument

LCS Structure Number: 005

Feature: 7th IN Volunteer Infantry Monument

Feature Identification Number: 121765

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 45122

LCS Structure Name: IN; 7th IN Infantry Marker

LCS Structure Number: 115

Feature: Union Tablet No. 001

Feature Identification Number: 121767

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 47840

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 001

LCS Structure Number: TAB-001

Feature: Union Tablet No. 004

Feature Identification Number: 121769

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 47843

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 004

LCS Structure Number: TAB-004

Feature: Union Tablet No. 007

Feature Identification Number: 121771

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 47846

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 007

LCS Structure Number: TAB-007

Feature: Union Tablet No. 011

Feature Identification Number: 121773

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 47850

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 011

LCS Structure Number: TAB-011

Feature: Union Tablet No. 014

Feature Identification Number: 125581

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 47853

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 014

LCS Structure Number:	TAB-014
Feature:	Union Tablet No. 015
Feature Identification Number:	121775
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	47854
LCS Structure Name:	Union Tablet No. 015
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-015
Feature:	Union Tablet No. 016
Feature Identification Number:	121777
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	47855
LCS Structure Name:	Union Tablet No. 016
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-016
Feature:	Union Tablet No. 024
Feature Identification Number:	121779
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	47863
LCS Structure Name:	Union Tablet No. 024
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-024
Feature:	Union Tablet No. 025
Feature Identification Number:	121781
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	47864
LCS Structure Name:	Union Tablet No. 025
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-025
Feature:	Union Tablet No. 027
Feature Identification Number:	121783
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	47866

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 027

LCS Structure Number: TAB-027

Feature: Union Tablet No. 028

Feature Identification Number: 121785

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 47867

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 028

LCS Structure Number: TAB-028

Feature: Union Tablet No. 029

Feature Identification Number: 121787

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 47868

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 029

LCS Structure Number: TAB-029

Feature: Locational Tablet No. 000A

Feature Identification Number: 121789

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 48078

LCS Structure Name: Locational Tablet No. 000A

LCS Structure Number: TAB-000A

Feature: Locational Tablet No. 000B

Feature Identification Number: 121791

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 48079

LCS Structure Name: Locational Tablet No. 000B

LCS Structure Number: TAB-000B

Feature: Locational Tablet No. 000D

Feature Identification Number: 121793

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number:	48081
LCS Structure Name:	Locational Tablet No. 000D
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-000D
Feature: Locational Tablet No. 000H	
Feature Identification Number:	121795
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	48085
LCS Structure Name:	Locational Tablet No. 000H
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-000H
Feature: Locational Tablet No. 515	
Feature Identification Number:	121797
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	48110
LCS Structure Name:	Locational Tablet No. 515
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-515
Feature: Locational Tablet No. 516	
Feature Identification Number:	121799
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	48111
LCS Structure Name:	Locational Tablet No. 516
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-516
Feature: Locational Tablet No. 518	
Feature Identification Number:	121803
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	48113
LCS Structure Name:	Locational Tablet No. 518
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-518
Feature: Locational Tablet No. 519	
Feature Identification Number:	121805

Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	48114
LCS Structure Name:	Locational Tablet No. 519
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-519
Feature: Locational Tablet No. 520	
Feature Identification Number:	121807
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	48115
LCS Structure Name:	Locational Tablet No. 520
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-520
Feature: Locational Tablet No. 521	
Feature Identification Number:	121809
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	48116
LCS Structure Name:	Locational Tablet No. 521
LCS Structure Number:	TAB-521
Feature: Reconstructed fences	
Feature Identification Number:	121811
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature: 1928 War Dept. concrete posts	
Feature Identification Number:	125583
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature: 20th-century woven wire fence	
Feature Identification Number:	121813
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature: Clara Barton Memorial	
Feature Identification Number:	121815
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
IDLCS Number:	8193

LCS Structure Name: Barton, Clara; Monument

LCS Structure Number: 115A

Feature: NPS interpretive waysides

Feature Identification Number: 121819

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Signs (informational, directional, regul

Feature Identification Number: 121829

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Metal handpump

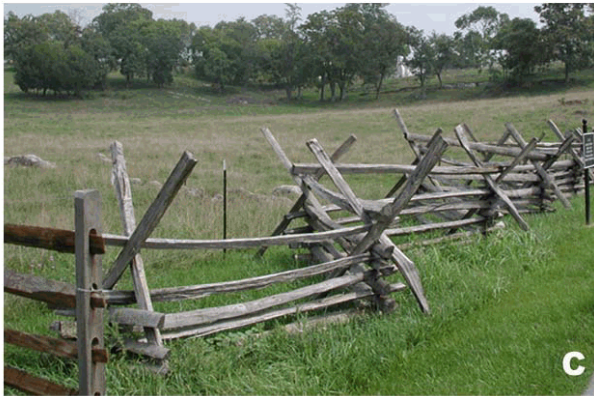
Feature Identification Number: 121859

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Monuments, interpretive tablets and locational tablets are abundant on the property along Mansfield Avenue. A) 7th PA Vol and Clara Barton monuments; B) 4th PA Vol and 3rd & 32nd PA monuments; C through E) War Department tablets. (CLP 2006 & 2007)



Variety of fence types are present on the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead. A) Stone fence; B) Post-and-rail and 1928 War Department concrete post; C) Worm fence; D) Decorative wire fence. (CLP 2006 & 2007)



These photographs compare the historic arrangement with a current view. A) c. 1890 and C) 1885 (Reprinted from Adelman and Smith 2005); B and D (CLP 2007).

Natural Systems and Features

Historic Conditions

The landscape that comprises the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead typifies the eastern portion of the ridge and valley physiographic province. The Ridge and Valley Province between South Mountain in Washington County and Dan's Mountain in western Allegany County contains strongly folded and faulted sedimentary rocks. In the eastern part of the region, a wide, open valley called the Hagerstown Valley is formed on Cambrian and Ordovician limestone and dolomite. Limestone outcroppings are indicated on many battlefield maps and are still a prevalent feature of the landscape. The formations present the farmers with both challenges and even some serendipitous benefits. The limestone-enriched soils foster agricultural productivity, making Washington County one of the most productive areas in the east. For many years limestone formations have also been used as local sources of agricultural lime and building stone. Modern uses include crushed stone for aggregate and cement.

A prominent spring located on the Farmstead provided the historical domestic and agricultural water needs. It was located next to the wash house on the Poffenberger Farmstead and flows directly into the Potomac River to the west. According to Jed Hotchkiss's circa 1890s hand sketch of the property, there were several spring-fed streams on the property. In fact, Hotchkiss depicts the property as well-watered - something that isn't conveyed on modern maps or evident on the landscape.

Existing Conditions

The natural limestone outcrops remain a prominent feature on the landscape. One particular rock outcropping just west of the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead appears to have been manipulated in some fashion, possibly quarried or mined. This matter should be looked into further to determine whether lime, building stone, or crushed stone was ever collected from this site or if the feature simply occurred naturally.

A concrete box-like structure surrounds the outlet of the still active spring to the west of the wash house. To protect the spring and prevent people from falling into the hole, the park installed some wood planking on top of the concrete box. Also today the streams identified by Jed Hotchkiss's sketch are merely ephemeral. Either Mr. Hotchkiss could have visited the property shortly after a rain storm or the water table has been significantly reduced. Currently, when it rains, overland runoff concentrates in areas identified by the hand sketch and produces these ephemeral streams.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Limestone outcrops

Feature Identification Number: 121851

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Natural spring near wash house

Feature Identification Number: 121853

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Quarried or mined limestone outcrop

Feature Identification Number: 121857

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Possible limestone quarry / mined site overgrown with vegetation. (CLP 2006).

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 05/09/2008

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The 2006-2007 stabilization efforts, vegetation management projects and installation of historic fencing on the Joseph Poffenberger Farmstead have remarkably improved the condition of the property, since this CLI was started the summer of 2006. To improve the condition of the property to “good”, the park should complete the following:

1. Continue efforts to stabilize the remaining outbuildings that are at risk of collapsing (wagon shed / corncrib granary and equipment shed)
2. Continue efforts to combat invasive vegetation to prevent expansion of the invasives into historically open pasture and cropland and within fencelines and rock outcrops.
3. Prevent successional woody growth from returning within the recently cleared abandoned farm lane.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The Joseph Poffenberger farmhouse is in fair condition according to the LCS. Most of the wooden decorative elements of the porches are deteriorating and in need of repair. The wagon shed / corn crib requires emergency foundation stabilization to prevent the building from slipping off its foundation piers.

Type of Impact: Removal/Replacement

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: For the equipment shed, major structural members have been replaced over the years with undersized salvaged materials. This makes the building more vulnerable and structurally unsound. The metal roof leaks and should be replaced to protect the building from the elements.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Native and invasive woody vegetation has taken hold within non-historic fencelines around the farmhouse. Invasive exotic vegetation has taken hold within rock outcrops, historic fencelines, and within the northeast woodlot. This vegetation should be removed to open views and reclaim the original yard configuration.

Type of Impact: Pests/Diseases

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The one remaining fruit tree is rapidly declining due to either old age or pests/diseases that inflict apple trees. Although the tree no longer bears fruit, to maintain its genetics, cuttings could be made of the tree and grafted to standard apple root stock and replanted on site.

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Cost: 140,156.00

Cost Date: 09/27/2007

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park/FMSS

Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

The park has three stabilization projects in PMIS that direct work towards improving the condition of the outbuildings and controlling invasive vegetation.

PMIS 130371 - Emergency Stabilization of Joseph Poffenberger Shed - \$30,700.

PMIS 130368 - Emergency Stabilization of Joseph Poffenberger Corncrib/Granary - \$33,456.

PMIS 133032 - Mitigation of Invasive & Exotic Species on 124 Acres on the Joseph Poffenberger Farm - \$76,000.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

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Citation Type:	Narrative
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