

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
Part I

001067

MUMMA FARMSTEAD

ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE

by

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Park Historian
January 26, 1962

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FIELD REPORT

~~HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT~~

~~PART I~~

MUMMA FARMSTEAD

ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE

MARYLAND

Jan. 26 1962

APPROVAL SHEET

~~Historic Structures Report - Part I~~

Mumma Farmstead

Antietam National Battlefield Site

Maryland

Recommended Benjamin H. Davis Superintendent, Jan. 26, 1962

Recommended _____ Chief, EODC,

Recommended _____ Regional Director,

Approved _____ Director

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T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

5. Administrative Data - - - - - Pages 4 - 5

6. Historical Data - - - - - Pages 6 -19

5. Administrative Data

- a. This Report treats all buildings in the farmstead group as one unit because no one structure is considered of such historical significance to merit individual study.

The structures have not been numbered but are referred to by type in the Report--there will be a Building Folder, Form 10-768, prepared for each structure in the near future.

These structures consist of a residence, barn, spring house, storage shed, smokehouse and two smaller sheds.

- b. The structures will be used by the "resident Farmer" permittee in the same manner as before, that is, in connection with his farming operations. This statement of intended use is in line with our policy to lease lands and structures to farmers who will keep the fields under cultivation to preserve the pastoral scene that prevailed at the time of the battle and at the same time help to maintain the Park.

- c. These structures will be maintained to serve the

above purposes and will not be treated as historic structures for exhibit purposes.

- d. No restoration, reconstruction or major rehabilitation is contemplated on any of these structures. Funds for maintenance not included in the Special Use Permit will be included in our regular B&U budget estimates.

6. Historial Data

(1) Ownership of the Land

The Mumma Farm was purchased from Hugh G. Spielman and wife by the United States of America on December 20, 1961. It has since been a part of the Antietam National Battlefield Site. The following are the land transactions as recorded in the Washington County Court House, Hagerstown, Maryland.

On April 1, 1876 Barbara A. Mumma purchased the property from Samuel Mumma who had owned the land at the time of the Civil War. (Deed 74-253)

On March 26, 1885 Rezin D. Fisher purchased the property from Barbara A. Mumma and her husband, Henry C. Mumma. (Deed 93-144)

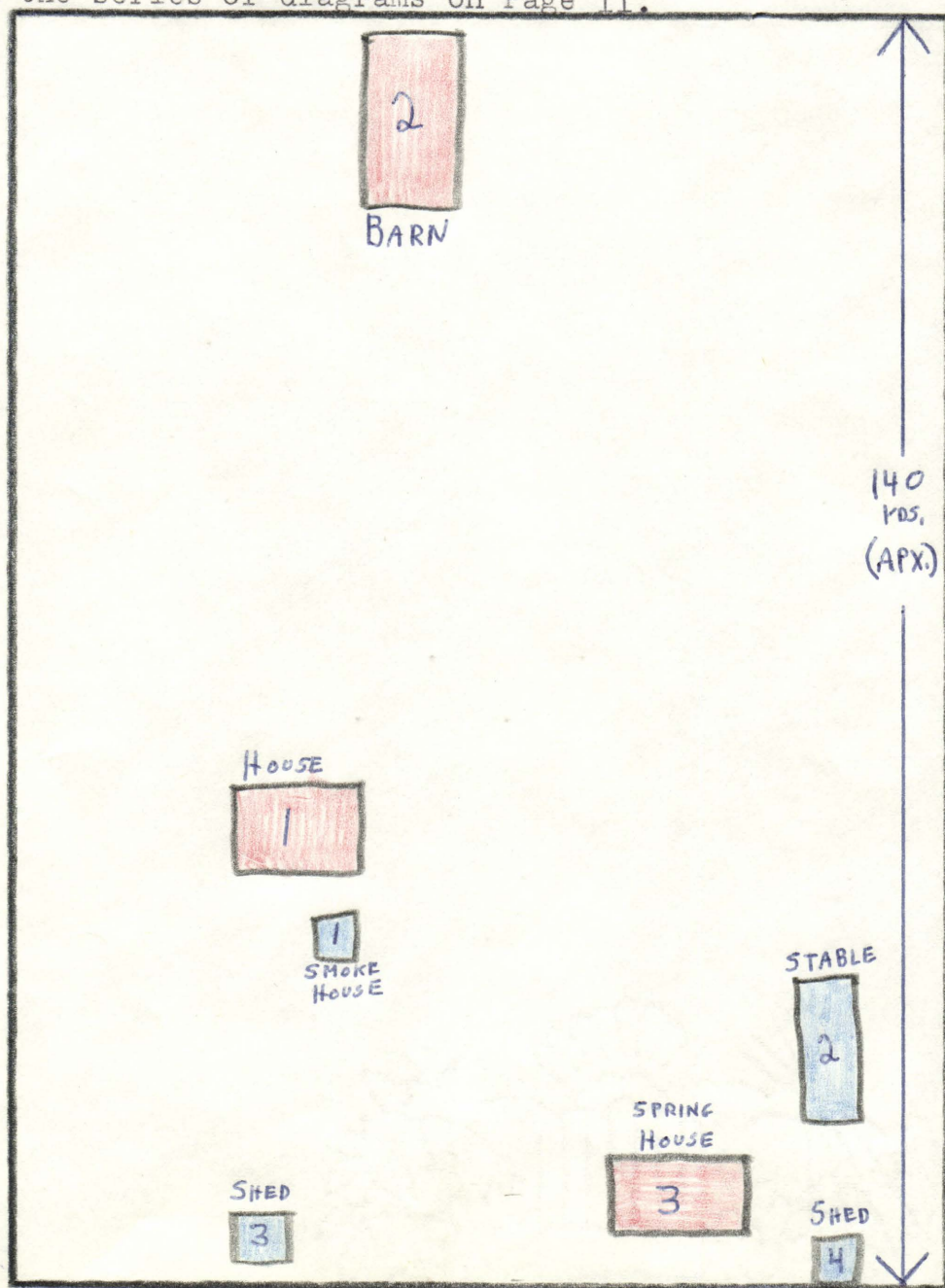
On June 14, 1923 Walter H. Snyder, mortgagee, acquired the property from Rezin D. Fisher. (Deed 165-610)

On October 15, 1924 Hugh G. Spielman and wife purchased the property from Walter H. Snyder, mortgagee. (Deed 169-670)
(Deed recorded on November 8, 1924)

On December 20, 1961 the United States of America purchased the property from Hugh G. Spielman and wife. (Deed 375-392)

(2) Construction of the Buildings

The diagram below shows the buildings which stood on the Mumma Farmstead on the morning of September 17, 1862 prior to the opening of the battle. The relationship of the farmstead to other landmarks on the field will be found in the series of diagrams on Page 11.



The major buildings (marked in red) were:

1. House¹ A two-story brick structure of Colonial architecture.
2. Barn A large wooden structure on a stone foundation
3. Spring House² A store building with a chimney, at one time also used as a slave quarters.

The ancillary buildings (marked in blue) were:

1. Smoke House A small log building with batten board finish.
2. Stable A rectangular batten board structure on a stone foundation.
3. Shed Probably a small batten board structure. (SEE NOTE BELOW)
4. Shed A small batten board structure on a stone foundation. (SEE NOTE BELOW)

NOTE: All the buildings listed except ~~Shed~~ #4 appear on the Antietam Battlefield Board ("Cope") Maps. However, the building is clearly visible in the Gardner Photograph (Section 5) which is known to have been taken during or prior to the Spring of 1863. Visual examination tends to bear out the probability that the building existed at the time of the battle and that it was omitted from the Cope Maps by error.

Of the three major buildings only the Spring House is in existence today. The house was rebuilt in 1863 with only the west wall, portions of north and south walls, and both chimneys remaining from the original structure.³ A new barn

has been built on the original foundation. All of the ancillary buildings except Shed #3 are still standing. Sections 3 and 5 of this report will furnish proof that the house and barn now standing on the Mumma Farmstead are not historic structures in that they did not exist at the time of the battle.

(3) Historial Significance

When the battle opened on the morning of the 17th the Mumma Farmstead lay within the Confederate lines. (See Diagram #1, Page 11.) The buildings were about 100 yards to the front of the brigade commanded by Brigadier General Roswell S. Ripley. While in this position, General Ripley decided that the larger buildings constituted a potential source of danger to his command and gave the order that they be fired. The following extract is from his report:

Early on the morning of the 17th . . . the enemy from his batteries on the eastern bank of the Antietam opened a severe enfilading fire on the troops of my command The fire inflicted serious loss before the troops were called into positive action During this while, a set of farm buildings in our front were set on fire to prevent them being made use of by the enemy. At about 8 o'clock I received orders to close in to my left and advance. The troops . . . moved through the burning buildings in our front, reformed on the other side, and opened a rapid fire upon the enemy.⁴

The following statement of a former member of the 3rd North Carolina Infantry of Ripley's Brigade give a further

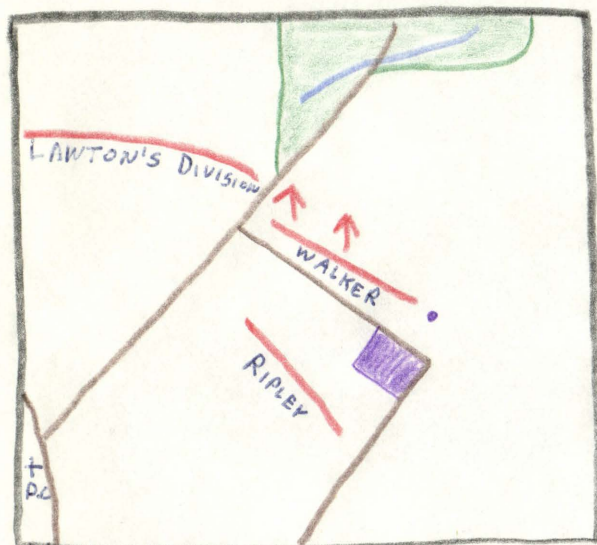
description of the burning:

This house stood immediately in our front as the battle was being commenced General Ripley, to prevent its occupation by sharpshooters, and to protect his officers from being picked off, ordered it to be burned. A volunteer call was made as to who would go and do it. Five or six privates from Company A volunteered and I took charge of them, being at that time Sergeant Major of the Regiment. After firing the house we all got back to our lines ⁵

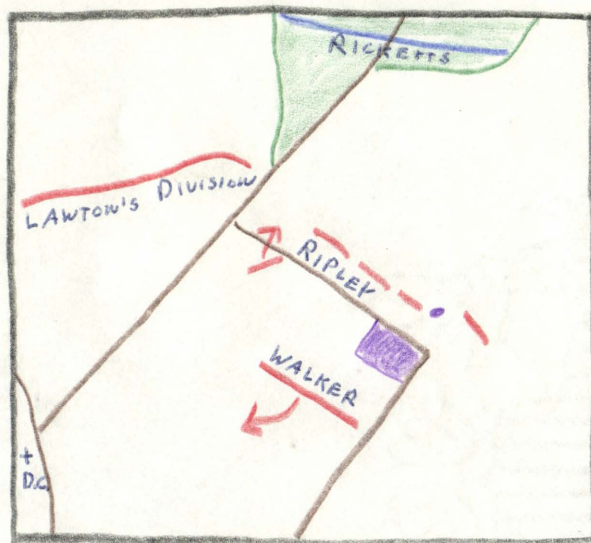
It is generally accepted by authorities of the battle that Ripley's Brigade became seriously engaged before 7 o'clock, that is, at least an hour before the time mentioned in the General's report. Therefore, the fire was set some time between 6 and 6:45 a.m. By 8 o'clock (See Diagrams 3 and 4, Page 11) the fire was already raging as evidenced by the report of a Captain in Garland's Brigade which was in the vicinity of the farmstead at that hour:

The regiment . . . moved . . . across the open field north of the town in the direction of the firing. The brigade was halted upon the left of the "burning house", and formed in line of battle.⁶

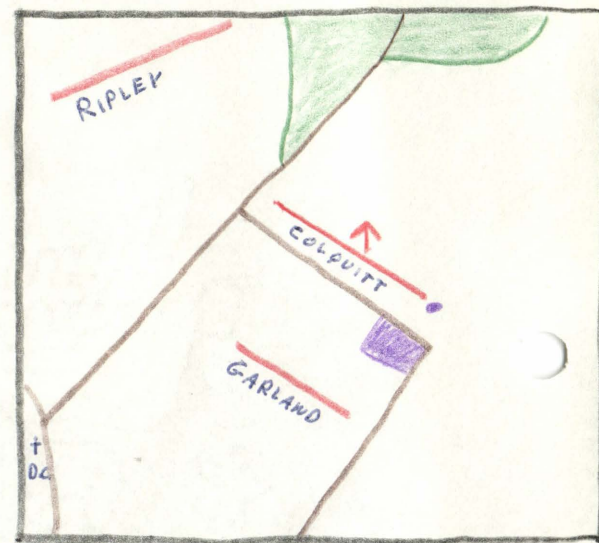
Shortly before 9 o'clock Greene's Federal Division ruptured the Confederate line in the East Woods and advanced through the farmstead to a position in and near what is now the New York Plot.⁷ (See Diagram #5, Page 11.) Reports of General Greene and those of the commanders of units which passed nearest the buildings indicate clearly that the fire was still in progress. The Colonel of the 162nd New York



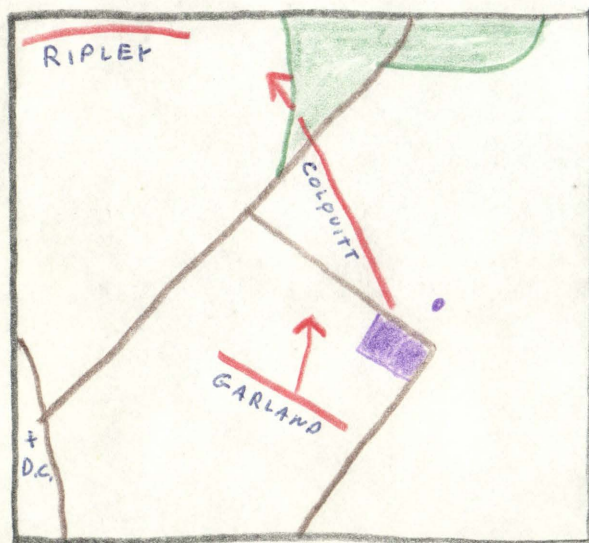
#1 - 6:20 A.M.



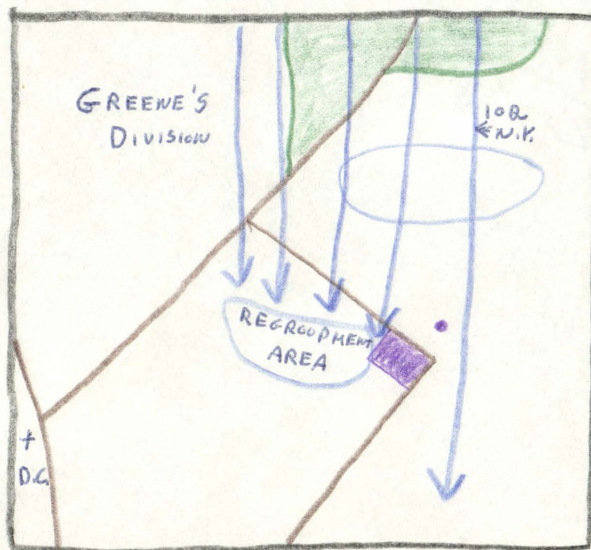
#2 - 6:45-7:00 A.M.



#3 - 7:30 A.M.



#4 - 8:00 A.M.



#5 - 8:45-9:00 A.M.



#6 - AFTERNOON

KEY = RED = CSA FORCES
 BLUE = USA FORCES
 PURPLE = MUMMA FARMSTEAD
 GREEN = EAST WOODS

Infantry stated:

After line was formed we advanced in order...this regiment going...to the left of the brigade, and, after passing through the woods, taking the left of the burning buildings in the field beyond.⁸

By noon the fire seems to have subsided to the point where it no longer constituted a conspicuous landmark. Reports of units of Smith's Division, VI Corps, which were posted in the area from noon on do not make mention of the ruins. Altogether, the burning buildings are mentioned in seven reports in the Official Records:

Brig. Gen. R. S. Ripley, CSA	p. 1032
Captain T. M. Garrett, CSA	p. 1043
Brig. Gen. G. S. Greene, USA	p. 505
Lt. Col. J. C. Lane, USA	p. 512
Lt. Col. J. M. Sudsburg, USA	p. 511
Captain J. A. Tompkins, USA	p. 308
Captain C. D. Owen, USA	p. 325

Extensive damage to the three main buildings was done by the fire which blazed uncontrolled for several hours. According to the great-granddaughter of Samuel Mumma,

When the family came back after the Battle of Antietam they found just the foundation of the barn, the foundation and part of one wall of the house. The spring house was the only building left standing but the roof and floor had been burned.⁹

The Hagerstown Herald of September 1862 reported:

Among the heaviest sufferers in Washington County is Samuel Mumma Esq., whose house and barn were burned, together with all their contents...We

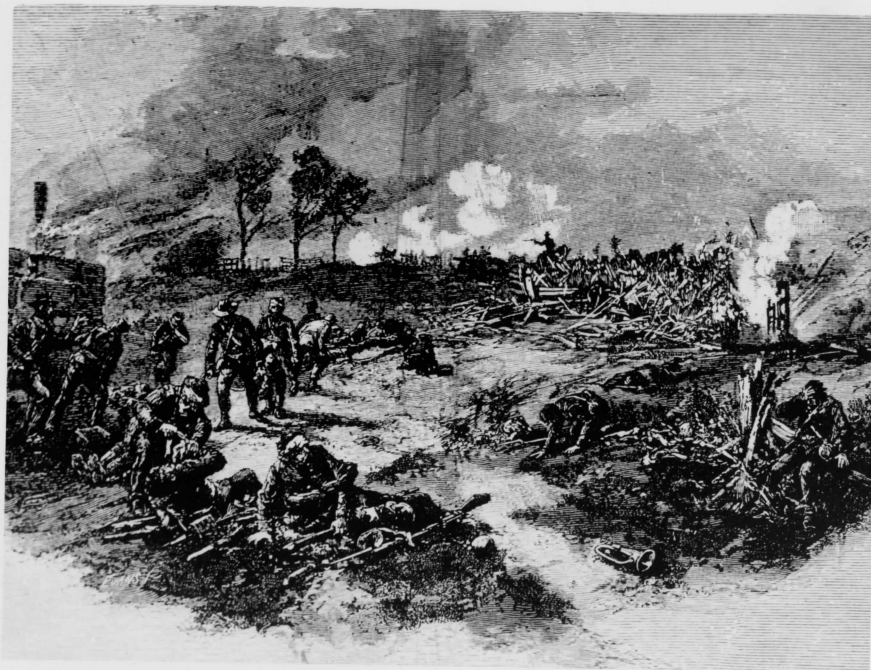
learn that Mr. Mumma lost all of his household furniture, including the wardrobe of his family, and all his grain, hay and farming implements.¹⁰

The three illustrations embodied in Section 5 of this report confirm the conclusion that the house and barn were, for practical purposes, totally destroyed. The roof of the Spring House was burned to the extent that a completely new roof was required as well as new flooring. The stone shell of the Spring House is, however, historic in that it stood during the battle. Of the four ancillary buildings three remain in existence today. That these latter are not mentioned in any of the sources is due undoubtedly to their insignificance in relation to the three major buildings.

(4) Historical Plans

No historical plans of any of the buildings have been found and it is highly unlikely that any will ever be located.

(5) Historical Prints and Photographs

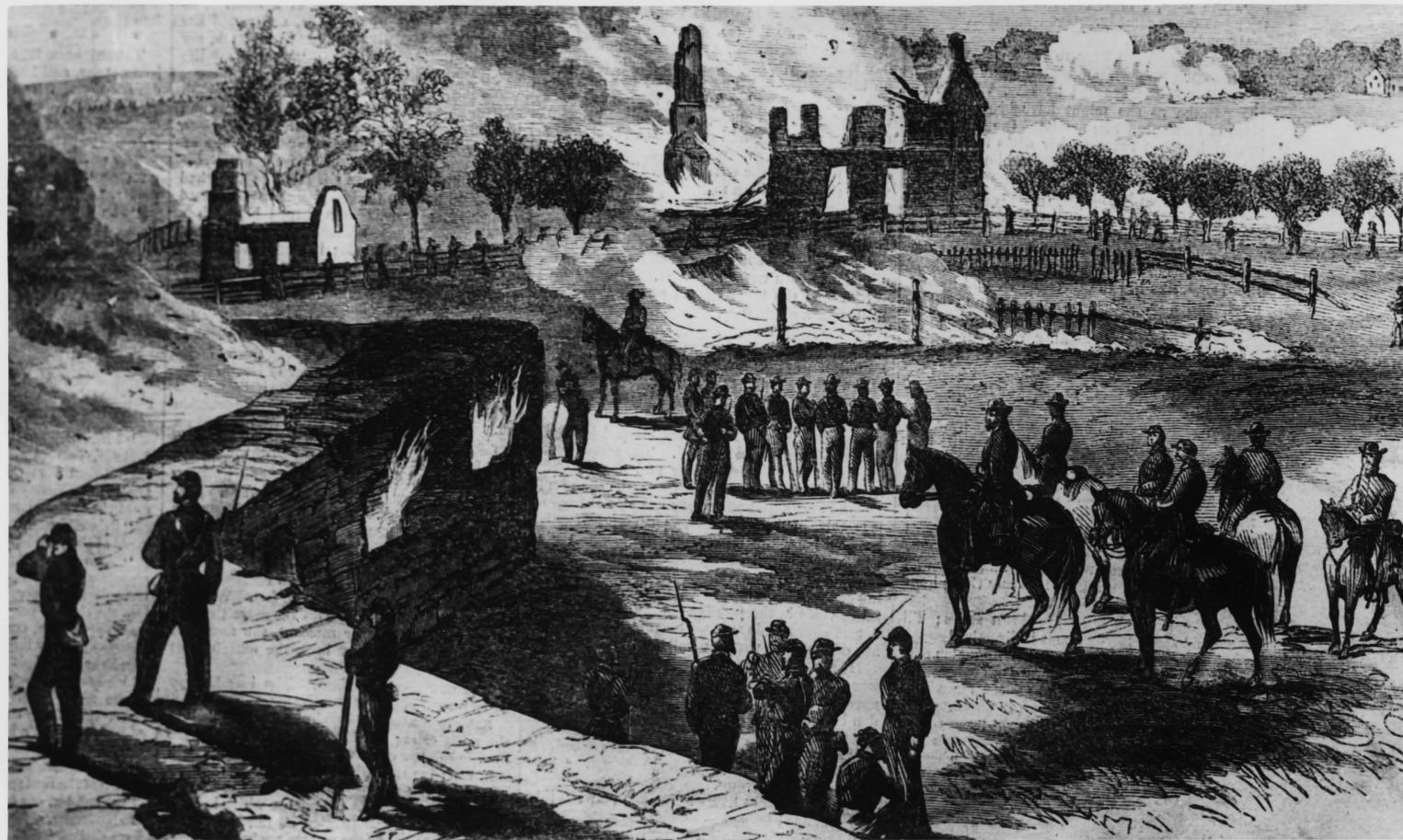


Ruins of the Mumma House and Barns
(Century Company Drawing) 11

View is looking south from the vicinity of the barn, the foundation of which may be seen on the left. A building which appears to be the Spring House is seen burning directly above the foundation. House area is not clear.

Burning of the Mumma House¹²
(Harper's Magazine of
Sept. 1862 drawing by
A. R. Waud)

This view is looking south from the barn foundation which is visible in the foreground. Spring House is at the left and house in center. Note that the troops are Federal.



Ruin of Mumma's House¹³
(Photograph probably taken in the fall of
1862 by Alexander Gardner ~~or~~ Mathew Brady)

This view is facing slightly north of west from the field east of the Mumma Lane. The Spring House is in the right foreground, the shell of the house in the center, and what is believed to be Shed #4 on the left. Immediately to the left of the tree at the left of the picture, partially obscured by a paling fence, is a small building which would be Shed #3. A cursory comparison of this picture and the brick work on the present house indicated that part of the shell shown was incorporated into the new structure when the house was rebuilt in the spring of 1863.



(6) Summary of Historical Data

A. Ownership of the Land

<u>DATES</u>	<u>OWNER</u>
Pre-Civil War to April 1, 1876	Samuel Mumma, Jr.
April 1, 1876 to March 26, 1885	Barbara A. Mumma & Henry C. Mumma
March 26, 1885 to June 14, 1923	Rezin D. Fisher
June 14, 1923 to October 15, 1924	Walter H. Snyder, mortgagee
October 15, 1924 to December 20, 1961	Hugh G. Spielman and wife
December 20, 1961 to Present	United States of America

B. Conclusions

It is the conclusion of the writer that the only building on the Mumma Farmstead worthy of being treated as an historic structure is the Spring House. While certain brick portions of the original house are still intact the rebuilding of the house so altered its original character that it can hardly be classified as historic. The barn, being a wooden structure and filled with combustibles, was demolished down to the stone foundation and it is safe to say that no part of the present structure is even built with original materials. While three of the ancillary buildings are intact their complete insignificance in relation to the entire battle story renders them unworthy of special treatment.

NOTES

1. Mumma, Samuel Jr. in letter dated March 22, 1906 now in possession of Mrs. Clyde Hildebrand of Hagerstown, Maryland. (This man was the son of the owner of the farm and lived there at the time of the battle.)
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ripley, Roswell S., operational report of Battle of Antietam in United States War Department, The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. 128 vols. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1881-1902, Volume XIX, Pt. 1, 1032. (This volume hereinafter cited as O. R., with author's name.)
5. Clark, James F. in letter dated March 19, 1906 now in possession of Mrs. Clyde Hildebrand of Hagerstown, Maryland. (This man was in charge of the detail that fired the house.)
6. O. R., 1043 (Garrett).
7. Stinson, D. E., "Analytical Study of Action of Greene's Division." National Park Service Report dated February 2, 1961.
8. O. R., 512 (Lane).
9. Letter from Mrs. Clyde Hildebrand dated November 30, 1961 and on file at Antietam National Battlefield Site.
10. Article from a September 1862 issue of the Hagerstown Herald in possession of Mrs. Clyde Hildebrand of Hagerstown, Maryland.
11. This picture is reproduced from New York at Antietam, Albany, 1923, p. 124. It is also in Volume II of Battles and Leaders of the Civil War.
12. This picture was contributed by Mrs. Clyde Hildebrand, Hagerstown, Maryland and is reputedly from a September 1862 issue of Harper's Magazine.

13. Reproduced from the Collections of the Library of Congress (File #34953/574). It appears in the Antietam section of Elson's The Civil War Through the Camera, N. Y. 1912 and in Miller's Photographic History of the Civil War.

All diagrams are from Antietam Battlefield Board, Map of the Battlefield of Antietam, 14 Sheets. Surveyed by Lieut. Col. E. B. Cope. Washington: United States War Department, 1904. (Cited in text as "Cope Maps")

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