

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

001074

Part I

STONE WALL
BURNSIDE BRIDGE AREA

4

ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE

November 21, 1961

DUP

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APPROVAL SHEET

Historic Structures Report - Part I

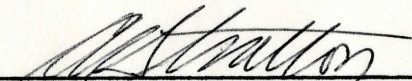
Stone Wall

Burnside Bridge Area

Recommended Benjamin H. Davis (S) Superintendent, Nov. 21, 1961

Recommended _____ Chief, EODC,

Recommended Ronald F. Lee (S) 1/4/62 Regional Director,

Approved  Assistant Director 10/26/62

5. Administrative Data

a. Name and number of structure.

Stone Wall (No Number)

b. Proposed use of structure.

Become part of the recreated historic scene.

c. Provisions for operating the structure.

The wall will require minor maintenance annually, funds for which are included in the 1964 FY Maintenance Estimates.

d. Preliminary cost of restoration.

\$8,900 (1962 FY)

6. Historical Data Section

Table of Contents

- (1) Ownership of the Land
- (2) Construction of the Stone Wall
- (3) Historical Significance
- (4) Historical Plans
- (5) Historical Prints and Photographs
- (6) Summary of Historical Data
 - A. Ownership of the Land
 - B. Present Condition of Stone Wall

6. Historical Data

(1) Ownership of the Land

The land upon which the stone wall is located (known as the Dorsey Tract) was donated to the United States of America by the Washington County Historical Society, Inc. on October 18, 1940. It has since been a part of the Antietam National Battlefield Site. The following are the land transactions as recorded in the Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, Maryland.

On March 31, 1846 Anna Newcomer inherited the property from Joseph Sherrick, Jr. (Executive and Administrative Accounts 14-367)

On December 24, 1904 Frank S. Newcomer and Virginia S. Nicodemus inherited the property from Anna Newcomer. (Executive and Administrative Accounts 41-52)

On June 13, 1905 Virginia S. Nicodemus purchased the half interest in the property from Frank S. Newcomer. (Deed 122-63)

On July 8, 1924 Norman B. Scott III inherited the property from Virginia S. Nicodemus. (Will 15-264)

On February 21, 1925 James A. Dorsey purchased the

property from Norman B. Scott III and wife.
(Deed 170-513)

On December 11, 1930 John W. Dorsey inherited the property from James A. Dorsey. (Will 16-511)

On February 17, 1934 E. Stuart Bushong purchased the property from John W. Dorsey. (Deed 195-106)

On February 17, 1934 John W. Dorsey purchased the property from E. Stuart Bushong. (Deed 195-107)

On September 27, 1939 the Washington County Historical Society, Inc. purchased the property from John W. Dorsey and wife. (Deed 210-460)

On October 18, 1940 the United States of America received the property as a donation from the Washington County Historical Society, Inc. (Deed 222-179) (The deed was recorded March 24, 1943)

(2) Construction of the Stone Wall

The stone wall on the Dorsey Tract was built prior to 1862. According to the Cope Map survey, it ran north from the Burnside Bridge along the east bank of the Antietam for a distance of 450 feet.¹ It was a dry wall constructed of limestone pieces. Excavation has shown it to have been a total height of 7 feet, 4 feet

of which were above ground and 3 feet below.²

(3) Historical Significance

The stone wall was used by Federal troops in the Battle of Antietam as a position for skirmishers covering the columns assaulting the Burnside Bridge.³

(4) Historical Plans

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

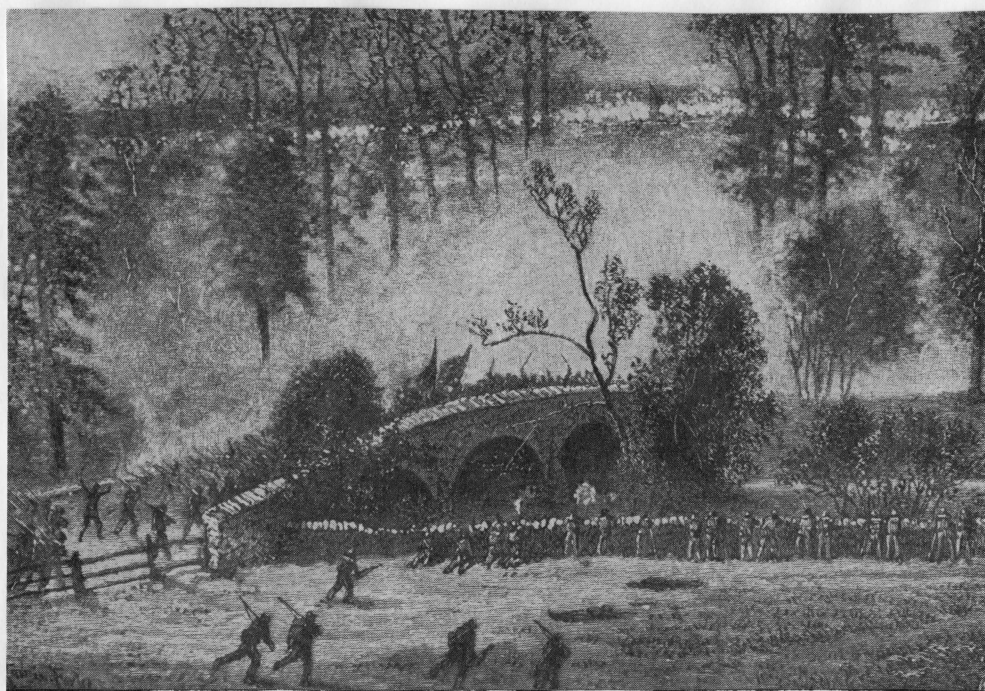
(5) Historical Prints and Photographs

"Brady and Tipton...photographs of an early period, probably taken soon after the battle, show clearly the stone wall which was used by Union troops as a defensive position while firing at Confederate troops ...west of the creek."⁴

The wall also is seen in the sketch made at the time of the battle by Edwin Forbes entitled "The Charge Across the Burnside Bridge."⁵



Brady and Tipton Photograph



The charge across the Burnside Bridge. From a sketch made at the time.

Edwin Forbes Sketch

(6) Summary of Historical Data

A. Ownership of the Land

<u>DATES</u>	<u>OWNER</u>
March 31, 1846 to December 24, 1904	Anna Newcomer
December 24, 1904 to June 13, 1905	Frank S. Newcomer & Virginia S. Nicodemus
June 13, 1905 to July 8, 1924	Virginia S. Nicodemus
July 8, 1924 to February 21, 1925	Norman B. Scott III
February 21, 1925 to December 11, 1930	James A. Dorsey
December 11, 1930 to February 17, 1934	John W. Dorsey
February 17, 1934	E. Stuart Bushong
February 17, 1934 to September 27, 1939	John W. Dorsey
September 27, 1939 to October 18, 1940	Washington County His- torical Society, Inc.
October 18, 1940 to Present	United States of America

B. Present Condition of Stone Wall

All that remains of the stone wall today are the ruins consisting of limestone pieces formerly part of the structure. These pieces lie along the entire length of the wall, which is generally overgrown with weeds.

NOTES

- 1 Antietam Battlefield Board, Map of the Battlefield of Antietam. 14 sheets. Surveyed by Lieut. Col. E. B. Cope. Washington: United States War Department, 1904. (Hereinafter cited as "Cope Map #--").
- 2 Blueprint #NBS:ANT 2010, "Layout Plan for Burnside Bridge and Spong Farm Area". (Sheffield) September 1940.
- 3 War Department Tablet #68.
Cope Map #9.
- 4 Tilberg, Frederick, "Report on an Investigation of a Work Program to be Accomplished on the Spong and Dorsey Farms, Antietam National Battlefield Site." (In "Burnside Bridge and Other Additional Areas" - Improvement Folder). 13 March 1940, Paragraph 2.
- 5 Johnson, R. U. and C. C. Buell, eds., Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. New York: The Century Company, 1884-1888, II, 652.

Dwight E. Stinson, Jr.
Park Historian
Antietam National Battlefield Site
November 21, 1961