

# **McCLEAN HOUSE AND BARN**

**Gettysburg**

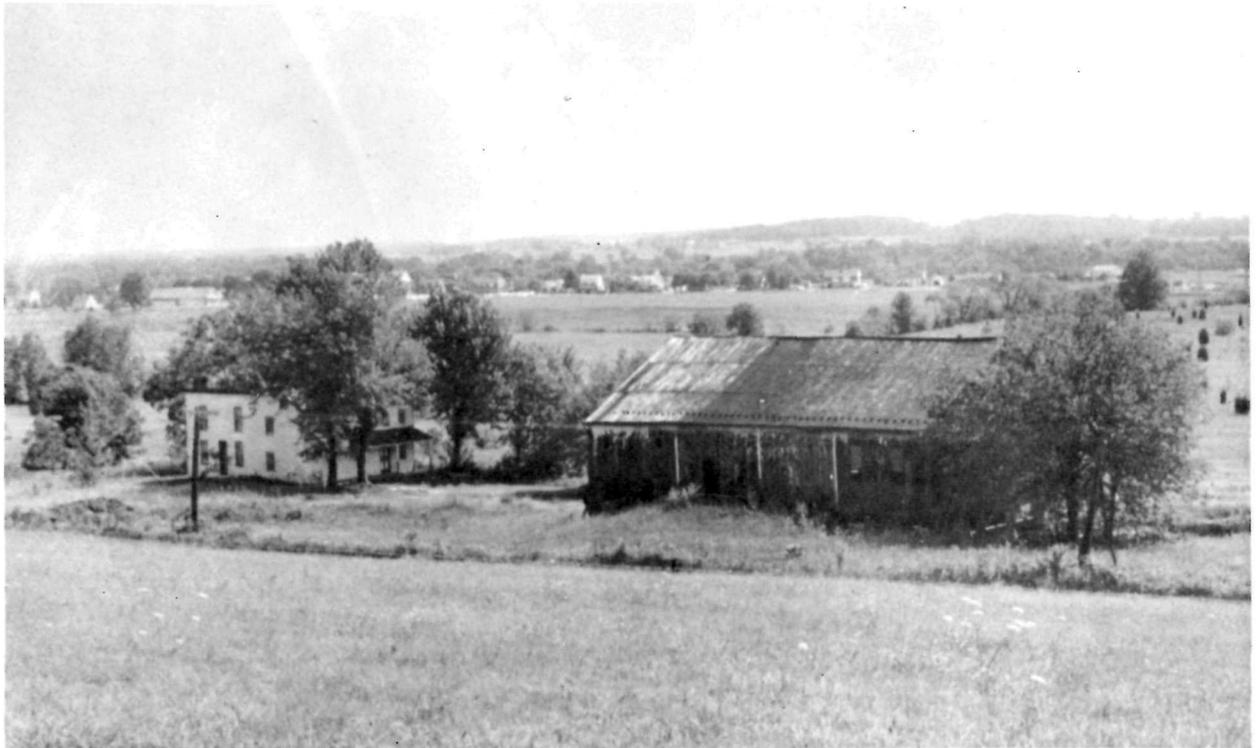


**October 1, 1968**

# **McCLEAN HOUSE AND BARN**

**Gettysburg National  
Military Park, Pa.**

By  
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DIVISION OF HISTORY

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

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## INTRODUCTION

This study was undertaken in the summer of 1968 to fulfill the requirements of RSP GNMP H-11 and H-12 for Gettysburg National Military Park. The report covers historical data on the house and barn on the farm of Moses McClean north of Gettysburg on the Mummasburg road. The report discusses at length the fighting that took place near the McClean farm on July 1, 1863, and the role that these two buildings had in battle. During the preparation of this report, Mr. Edwin Bearss was a constant help and ready source of information on various phases of the Civil War.

Lenard E. Brown

Washington, D. C.  
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THE MCCLEAN HOUSE AND BARN  
at Gettysburg

HISTORIC DATA SECTION, PART II

In the spring of 1863 Gettysburg was a typical small southern Pennsylvania town and the county seat of Adams County. One thing made it different. Eleven roads radiated outward from this town. Three of these roads from Mummasburg, Carlisle, and Harrisburg merged on the northern edge of the town into Carlisle Street. A mile north of this road junction a private road on the east side of the Mummasburg road led to the farm of Moses McClean.<sup>1</sup> The McClean farm, like the town of Gettysburg, had little to differentiate it from its neighboring farms or towns during May and June 1863, but on the 26th of June Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early commanding a division in the Confederate army swept through the town looking for supplies, particularly shoes, and four days later Brig. Gen. Johnston J. Pettigrew's Brigade advanced toward Gettysburg and then withdrew when the Union cavalry of Brig. Gen. John Buford challenged him.

The morning of July 1 dawned hot and muggy. Buford's men were located to the west of the town and the men of Maj. Gen. Henry Heth's Confederate division moved toward Gettysburg from the northwest via

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1. The name has been spelled both McLean and McClean in narratives of the battle and on maps. In this report I will use the second form since this was the spelling used by the McClean family on documents in 1869 and 1870.

the Cashtown or Chambersburg Pike. During the next three days one of the climactic battles of the Civil War was to make the crossroads town of Gettysburg famous and during the afternoon of the first day the McClean farm would be in the center of the fighting north of the town.

On the evening of June 30 Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, commanding the Army of the Potomac, issued orders for a general advance toward Gettysburg on July 1. The First Corps was to march to Gettysburg with the Eleventh following within supporting distance. The Second Corps coming from Uniontown, Maryland, was to move toward Gettysburg, Emmitsburg, or Taneytown as circumstances required. The Third Corps was to move to Emmitsburg, the Fifth to Hanover, Pennsylvania, and the Twelfth to Two Taverns, Pennsylvania. Meade held the Sixth Corps at Manchester, Maryland.<sup>2</sup>

The movement of General Meade toward Gettysburg was in reaction to the concentration of Confederate troops near Cashtown. This concentration had resulted from a change in Gen. Robert E. Lee's original plan to cut communication between the east and west by destroying the bridge over the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg and disabling the Pennsylvania Railroad. By June 28 the Confederate First Corps under Lieut. Gen. James Longstreet and the Third Corps commanded by Lieut. Gen. Ambrose P. Hill were clustered about Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, while Lieut. Gen. Richard S. Ewell's Second Corps was located near

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2. See Map I at end of this report.

Carlisle and York, Pennsylvania. General Lee now learned from a Confederate spy that the Union army was north of the Potomac near Frederick, Maryland, and moving toward Pennsylvania. Fearful that the Union forces might advance further west and cut his communications with Virginia, Lee ordered a concentration of the army around Cashtown, 13 miles west of Gettysburg. Between the 28th and 30th of June the Confederate forces moved toward this destination. The morning of July 1 found the divisions of Maj. Gen. Jubal A. Early and Maj. Gen. Robert E. Rodes of Ewell's Corps at Heidlersburg; Hill's Third Corps was at Cashtown; and Longstreet's First Corps was near Greenwood and Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, ten or twelve miles west of Cashtown.

The division of General Heth, part of Hill's Corps, started for Gettysburg at 5 in the morning. About four and one-half miles from Gettysburg they encountered the cavalry skirmish line of General Buford and drove it back toward the town. Buford ordered Col. William Gamble of the 9th New York Cavalry to establish a battle line on Herr Ridge a mile west of the Lutheran Seminary. This line held for about an hour before the Union line moved back to McPherson's ridge where they were located when the advance units of Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds's First Corps reached them. The addition of several brigades of infantry did not stem the Confederate advance as the brigades of Brig. Gens. James J. Archer and Joseph D. Davis continued to advance down the Chambersburg road toward the Union lines. Reynolds sent a message to Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard to bring his Eleventh Corps to Gettysburg as fast as possible. Shortly after this Reynolds was killed and command of the corps fell to Maj. Gen. Abner Doubleday. Between 10:30 and noon the two armies

contested northwest of Gettysburg along the Chambersburg Pike. About twelve the fighting ceased for two hours while both armies re-formed and prepared for the next clash.

During this two hour respite the three divisions comprising the Eleventh Corps arrived at Gettysburg. General Howard placed the First and Third Divisions north of the town where they took up positions in the relatively flat valley between Seminary Ridge and Rock Creek to face Confederate units that were reported on the Heidlersburg and York roads. Howard held the Second Division of the Eleventh Corps in reserve on Cemetery Hill where he had his headquarters. As senior officer, General Howard assumed command of all forces in the field. The Second and Third Divisions of the First Corps joined their comrades on McPherson's Ridge and Seminary Ridge in a battle-line stretching from the Fairfield road on the southwest to a point approximately one-half mile beyond the Chambersburg Road on the northwest.

The Confederates also reorganized and strengthened their lines during the two-hour lull in the battle. Heth moved the two brigades that had borne the brunt of the morning fighting to the right and left ends of this line stretching from the Fairfield Road to the Cashtown road. He replaced them with the brigades of Brig. Gen. J. J. Pettigrew and Col. J. M. Brockenbrough. General Hill moved Maj. Gen. William D. Pender's Division into position to aid Heth in his next assault on the Union line. General Lee, his hope of avoiding a major battle until his army had been concentrated destroyed, was heartened by the knowledge that Ewell's Corps was moving on the Union

flank and rear. General Ewell had learned of Hill's intention to advance on Gettysburg about 9 that morning. He acted on this information immediately, sending Rodes' Division toward Gettysburg on the Middletown road, one of the three that join north of the town, and dispatching Early's Division down the Heidlersburg road toward that same junction. About 2:30 the long lines of Rodes' infantry appeared from the cover of Oak Hill and at the same time Lt. Col. Thomas A. Carter's artillery began shelling the Union lines from their position on Oak Hill. The battle on the afternoon of the first day had begun.<sup>3</sup>

Rodes had planned to strike the right flank of the First Corps' line which terminated about one-fourth mile beyond the unfinished railroad running parallel to the Chambersburg road and north of it. Warned of his approach by Buford's cavalry, General Doubleday had extended his line north another half mile on Oak Ridge to the Mummasburg Road. The alignment of the Federal Troops north of the Chambersburg Pike was as follows: The left of Brig. Gen. Lysander Cutler's Iron Brigade of the First Division of the First Corps rested on the Chambersburg road. To his right were the brigades of Brig. Gen. Henry Baxter and Brig. Gen. Gabriel Paul of John C. Robinson's Second Division of the First Corps. Paul's Brigade was refused or bent back

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3. The narrative of events leading to the first day at Gettysburg was taken from several sources, but mainly from the excellent new book by Edwin B. Coddington, The Gettysburg Campaign (New York, 1968), pp. 180-96, 237, and 260-285. From this point onward the narrative shall treat only with the fighting that took place in the vicinity of the McClean farm buildings with only occasional reference to events on other portions of the battlefield. See map II for a general alignment of the two armies when the battle opened.

along the Mummasburg road for a short distance. There was then a gap of several hundred yards before the right of the First Corps connected with the left of the Eleventh Corps. The junction of the two lines formed an angle of approximately 90°. <sup>4</sup> The left flank of the Eleventh Corps' line was held by the First and Second Brigades of the Third Division commanded by Col. George von Amsberg and Col. W. Krzyzanowski. To the right of the Third Division was the First Division commanded by Brig. Gen. Francis C. Barlow and his brigade commanders Col. Leopold von Gilsa and Brig. Gen. Adelbert Ames.

Against this force General Rodes deployed three of his five brigades placing Brig. Gen. George Dole's Georgians on the left facing the Union Eleventh Corps north of the town, in the center were Col. E. A. O'Neal's Alabamans, and on the right were four regiments of North Carolina troops under Brig. Gen. Alfred Iverson. <sup>5</sup> In reserve were the brigades of Brig. Gen. Junius Daniel and Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Ramseur located on the center and right rear of his line. While the two armies were still moving into position for the opening of the afternoon battle, Col. Carter opened fire on the Union lines enfilading the entire line as far as the Fairfield Road where the left end of the Federal position was anchored.

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4. Report of O. O. Howard, August 31, 1863, War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, (73 vols., in 128, Washington, 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. 27, part 1, p. 703. Unless otherwise indicated all citations are from Series I.

5. Report of Maj. Gen. R. E. Rodes, OR's, Vol. 27, Part II, p. 552.

Rodes' plan of battle was to hold the Eleventh Corps in check until Early's Division arrived by placing Doles' brigade in the valley between the Mummasburg and Middletown roads. Seeing that his lines were being threatened by the extension of the First Corps line to the Mummasburg Road, Rodes decided to attack with his center and his right brigades O'Neal<sup>6</sup> and Iverson.<sup>7</sup> When the Union moved forward to attack, Rodes determined to engage them when they reached the foot of Oak Ridge, the position he occupied. He ordered O'Neal forward pointing out to him "precisely the point to which he was to direct the left of the four regiments then under his orders."<sup>8</sup> The plan was for O'Neal to strike the Union lines near the Mummasburg road at a right angle to its flank while Iverson's Carolinians would hit the Union at an oblique. Daniel's Brigade was to support Iverson on the right and attack as soon as possible. The lines which O'Neal and Iverson were to hit were held by General Baxter's 2nd brigade, Second Division of the First Corps.<sup>9</sup>

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6. Col. O'Neal had only three of his five regiments available for the advance: the 6th, 12th, and 26th Alabama. The 3rd Alabama aligned with Daniels brigade to the right and rear, while the 5th Alabama was held in reserve to defend the gap between O'Neal's and Doles' brigades. Rodes' Report, OR Vol. 27, part II, p. 553.

7. The 5th, 12th, 20th and 23rd North Carolina made up the brigade of Brigadier General Iverson. It is not known how the four regiments were aligned when they went into battle.

8. OR, Vol. 27, Part II, p. 553.

9. The regimental alignment of Baxter's brigade can not be completely determined. Moving from left to right it was probably the 11th Pennsylvania and 97th New York, then the 83rd New York, 88th Pennsylvania, 12th Massachusetts, and on the right of the 2nd Brigade and the First Corps line was the 90th Pennsylvania.

While the final arrangements for the Confederate advance were being made, Colonel Carter's artillery continued to pound the Union positions with shot and shell. Carter had, at the request of Rodes, sent the batteries of Captains R.C.M. Page and W.J. Reese to the left or east of Oak Ridge. Page's battery took up positions near the McClean barn and opened fire on the Union lines.<sup>10</sup> The artillery of the Eleventh Corps located in the valley north of Gettysburg<sup>11</sup> delivered a very destructive oblique fire on Page's battery which resulted in 2 killed, 28 wounded, 17 horses killed and several of the guns dismounted. The Union artillery continued to fire on the Confederates as the brigades of O'Neal and Iverson began their advance.

It soon became apparent that something had gone wrong with the Rebel attack for O'Neal's Alabamans were not striking the Federal troops with the force Rodes expected, nor at the point that he had indicated to Colonel O'Neal. The Yankees under General Robinson's direction changed front and opened a deadly fire on the advancing infantry, then charged, driving them back in confusion. The retreat of O'Neal's three regiments exposed the left flank of Iverson's brigade and heavy losses were inflicted upon his North Carolina Regiments.

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10. Souvenir of Survivors Association, 90th Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1888-89 (Philadelphia, 1889), p. 19. Col. A.J. Sellers in an oration at the monument to the 90th Pennsylvania locates Page's Virginia battery "at McLean's red barn."

11. Capt. Hubert Dilger commanding Battery I of the First Ohio Light Artillery first engaged Page at 1,000 yards. He was later joined by Lt. William Wheelers' 13th Battery of New York Light Artillery. Dilger's battery had six 12-pounders and Wheeler's six 3-inch rifled guns.

The destruction of Iverson's brigade, which left its dead lying in "a line as straight as a dress parade", came about when they bore left toward a stone wall. Suddenly Union troops behind the wall opened fire and killed or wounded 500 of Iverson's men. The 83rd and 97th New York and 88th Pennsylvania now charged the survivors of the two Confederate brigades and captured nearly 1,000 prisoners and the battle flags of the 20th and 23rd North Carolina and 6th Alabama.<sup>12</sup> With Federal troops on the left between Robinson's division and the Chambersburg (Cashtown) road pouring fire into the remnants of Iverson's brigade, the first charge of the Confederates was broken with one brigade nearly destroyed and the other mauled. General Daniel meanwhile had engaged the Federal troops near the railway cut and McPherson's barn. After a savage battle the Confederates withdrew to regroup in preparation for a renewed attack.

On the Confederate left General Doles was holding the First and Third Divisions of the Eleventh Corps<sup>13</sup> in check with increasing

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12. OR, Vol. 27, Part I, pages 289, 310 and 311 containing the reports of Brig. Gen. John C. Robinson commanding the 2nd Division, First Corps; Col. Charles Wheelock of the 97th New York; and Capt. Edmund Patterson of the 88th Pennsylvania.

13. The exact alignment of the regiments within the two divisions cannot be determined. The 1st Brigade, Third Division of the Eleventh Corps was on the left of the line. Three regiments (45th New York, 157th New York and 74th Pennsylvania) claim to have been the far left regiment of the Eleventh Corps. The remaining two regiments do not make any such claims and were to the right. The 2nd Brigade of the Third Division was aligned from left to right as follows: 82nd Ohio, 75th Pennsylvania, 119th New York, 58th New York and 26th Wisconsin. The 2nd Brigade, First Division of the Eleventh Corps was to the right of the Third Division with the 25th Ohio on its right and the other three regiments to the left of the 25th Ohio. On the right flank of the Union line was the 1st Brigade, First Division of the 11th Corps. The alignment of the 11th Corps from left to right is based chiefly on the reports in the Official Records, Vol. 27, Part I, pp. 696-758.

difficulty. The Union was extending its lines to the right and placing pressure on the left of Doles' brigade.<sup>14</sup> This pressure threatened to turn the left flank of the Confederate line and compound the failure of O'Neal and Iverson on the center and right. The engagement opened with the Confederates driving back the skirmishers to the left and front of their lines between Oak Ridge and the Heidlersburg road. The Union then advanced against the 12th and 4th Georgia on the left and drove them back. When Rodes counter-attacked he found the Union firmly established with artillery and infantry.<sup>15</sup> The Union seeing the gap between O'Neal and Doles tried to push a column between the two brigades, but was repulsed when the 44th and 21st Georgia wheeled right and attacked.

A portion of the fighting between the left flank of the Eleventh Corps and the right flank of Doles' line took place near the McClean buildings. The 45th New York, part of the 1st brigade of the Third Division, was located near the left end of the line. Four companies of the 45th were ordered to proceed on the Mummasburg road to McClean's red barn and then deploy to the right of the Mummasburg road. These four companies came under fire from Page's Virginia battery near the

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14. The 12th Georgia was on the left of Doles' brigade with the 4th Georgia to its right. On the right of the 4th was the 44th Georgia and the 21st Georgia was on the right of the brigade. Henry Thomas, History of the Doles-Cook Brigade Army of Northern Virginia (Atlanta, 1903), pp. 73-74 and 475. Also OR, Vol. 27, part I, pp. 584-86.

15. In a narrative of the 4th Georgia, the Union artillery is described as making it "unpleasant" for the Confederates. Thomas, History Doles-Cook Brigade, p. 73.

barn and other batteries of Col. Carter's artillery on Oak Hill. The skirmish line advanced until it encountered a battalion of Alabama sharpshooters from the 5th Alabama under Major Eugene Blackford.<sup>16</sup> The four companies continued forward several hundred more yards before taking cover. By now the remainder of the 45th New York had come up and taken positions to the right of the four companies under fire. They were soon joined by the 61st Ohio and the 74th New York who extended the line toward the Carlisle and Heidlersburg roads. In addition Captain Dilger's Battery I, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, opened fire on the Confederate batteries, doing considerable damage.<sup>17</sup>

It was at this time that O'Neal's Brigade of Alabamans moving on the extreme left of the 45th Regiment was taken under fire by the infantry at a distance of 50 or 100 yards. Dilger's artillery also fired upon the column and soon the Alabamans began to break and run back toward McClean's barn. The 45th New York pursued them and captured a large number of prisoners as well as seizing the barn. Additional Confederates were taken captive when Iverson's North Carolinians were nearly destroyed by the men of Robinson's Division of the First Corps.

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16. These were located between the foot of Oak Hill and an apple orchard near Hagy's farm. New York State Monuments Commission, New York at Gettysburg: Final Report on the Battlefield at Gettysburg (3 vols., Albany, 1900), pp. 1, 378. Hagy's farm was about 3,500 feet northeast of the point where the three roads came together and on the east side of the Mummasburg road.

17. The description of action near the McClean farm is taken from a historical sketch by the regimental committee in New York at Gettysburg, pp. 1, 878-80 and from the report of Lt. Col. Adolphus Dobke of the 45th New York, OR, Vol. 27, part I, pp. 734-35.

At the same time that the right flank of the First Corps' line under General Robinson and the left flank of the Eleventh Corps under Brig. Gen. Alexander Schimmelfennig were engaged, Brig. Gen. Francis C. Barlow commanding the First Division of the Eleventh Corps moved his line forward breaking the connection with the Third Division on his left.<sup>18</sup> Maj. Gen. Carl Schurz ordered the Third Division to advance and join the First, but before this could be accomplished, Confederate artillery under the command of Lt. Col. H. P. Jones opened fire from a point on the east side of the Heidlersburg Road. These twelve guns caught most of the Eleventh Corps line in a heavy cross-fire. At the same time General Early came up on the Union right flank. The brigade of Brig. Gen. John B. Gordon was on the right of the Heidlersburg road, Brig. Gen. Harry T. Hays in the center, and Hoke's brigade under Col. Isaac Avery on the left as Early attacked.<sup>19</sup>

The Union right flank was protected by a brigade of the First Division located on Barlow's Knoll. This strong position could not be turned unless it was hit from the east by a movement sweeping across Rock Creek. If this happened then the right flank of the First Division would be rolled up. Gordon's Georgians launched their attack and succeeded in doing this. The 1st Brigade under General Ames was attacked by all or part of Doles' brigade and could

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18. Report of Maj. Gen. Carl Schurz, Commanding Eleventh Corps. OR, Vol. 27, Part I, p. 728.

19. Jubal A. Early, Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War Between the States, (Philadelphia, 1912), p. 267.

not aid von Gilsa's troops. General Barlow, commanding the First Division, was seriously wounded at this time and Ames assumed command. He succeeded in slowing the retreat and establishing a second line of defense but two more Confederate brigades from Early's Division then hit the Union line on the right. Now completely unhinged, the Eleventh Corps had no choice but to retreat through the town to Cemetery Hill. The presence of the Second Division of the Eleventh Corps on Cemetery Hill was the only hope of saving the remnants of the two divisions north of Gettysburg.

Simultaneously with the attack of General Early the entire Confederate force closed with the Federals. Doles, relieved of pressure on his left, slashed at the forces to his front. The remnants of O'Neal's Alabamans had reformed on Oak Ridge and struck the Union lines once again. General Daniel renewed his attack near the railroad cut and the Cashtown road and General Ramseur renewed the attack on Robinson's Division. Baxter's Brigade of Robinson's Division had been reinforced during the clash with O'Neal's Alabamans by Paul's Brigade,<sup>20</sup> but both of the brigades were exhausted and fell back before the charge of Ramseur's fresh troops. South of the Cashtown road Heth's Division of the Third Corps also attacked the Union lines and forced them to retreat. By

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20. When the final Confederate attack hit the Union lines this was the alignment of Paul's 1st Brigade of the Second Division in the Eleventh Corps. The 13th Massachusetts was on the right facing the Mummasburg road on the east slope of Seminary Ridge [Oak Ridge]; the 104th New York was to the left stretching across the ridge westerly to a stone wall; next was the 97th New York of the 2nd Brigade; and stretching along the ridge to the south were the 107th Pennsylvania, 16th Maine, and 94th New York. New York at Gettysburg, pp. 2, 756.

5 o'clock the Confederates were in possession of the town, had captured a large number of prisoners, and were clearly the victors in the first day of fighting at Gettysburg. The Union, meanwhile, was recovering and reorganizing for the next day's encounter.<sup>21</sup>

During the final climactic hours of the first day on the right end of the Federal line, action once again swirled about the McClean farm and buildings. About the same time that Early's forces were smashing the right flank of the Union line, Col. Gilbert G. Prey of the 104th New York, part of Paul's Brigade, noted that the Confederates had "massed for attack under shelter of the McLean buildings and shrubbery north of the Mummasburg road." Prey believed the Confederates intended to strike the large gap between the First and Eleventh Corps and if they broke through make the line untenable.<sup>22</sup> Prey ordered Col. John R. Strang to report this situation to any brigade or division commander of the Eleventh Corps and to state that the First Corps had no reserves left. Strang delivered this message to a staff officer and the commander of the

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21. On the 2nd General Lee struck at both the left and right of the Union line that stretched from Culp's Hill, down Cemetery Ridge, and terminated on the south at Little Round Top. Both attacks ultimately failed and on the third day of the battle Lee attacked the center of Meade's line after one of the heaviest artillery barrages of the war. The Confederate infantry charged in one of the greatest exhibitions of bravery of the war, but it was broken by the Union with massed infantry and artillery. On July 4, 1863, Lee awaited a Federal assault that did not come and on the 5th began his retreat from Pennsylvania.

22. New York at Gettysburg, Vol. 2, p. 753. In his narrative of the history of the 104th New York Infantry, Col. John R. Strang describes this event. This Confederate Force may have been O'Neal's Alabamans.

unit on the left of the Eleventh Corps. By the time he returned to 104th New York, the Eleventh Corps line was collapsing. The Rebel advance now hit the flank of the First Corps and the 104th changed front to right to protect the Corps flank. Soon the order came for a general retreat by the First Corps. Just before the general retreat a column of Confederates entered into the woods on the McClean property. General Robinson sent the 16th Maine to the angle formed by the lines of the two corps north of the town. Their orders were to hold "as long as there was a man left" for it fell to this regiment to slow down the Confederate advance and allow other units to escape.<sup>23</sup>

The 45th New York, which had earlier seized the McClean barn, was one of the units caught in the collapse of the Union lines north of town.<sup>24</sup> The 45th withdrew toward the town to support the 157th New York which had advanced against General Gordon's Georgia Brigade.<sup>25</sup> The regiment now retreated to Gettysburg College where many of the

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23. O.R., Vol. 27, part 1, p. 295. The 16th Maine lost 223 officers and men killed, wounded, and missing during the first day of battle.

24. The extent of the disaster is indicated by a letter from Capt. W. H. Harrison of the 31st Georgia, a unit in Gordon's Brigade. Dated July 7, 1863, it describes how the Confederates "met, fought, whipped, routed and captured almost double [their] numbers." During the attack this one Georgia brigade encountered two regiments (26th Wisconsin and 119th New York) of the Third Division, Eleventh Corps, one regiment (95th New York) of the First Division of the First Corps, plus two unidentified regiments from both Ohio and Pennsylvania. Helen E. Terrill and S. R. Dixon, History of Stewart County, Georgia, (Columbus, 1958), p. 272. Gordon's Brigade took nearly 2,000 prisoners during the Union retreat.

25. The 157th New York was severely mauled in this clash with the right of Early's division and soon withdrew. John S. Applegate, Reminiscences and Letters of George Arrowsmith, (Red Bank, New Jersey, 1893), pp. 212-15.

prisoners captured earlier in the day had been confined.<sup>26</sup> Coming under increasing fire from the Confederates, the regiment retreated into Gettysburg. Here they came under fire from Confederate units already holding part of the town and attempted to fight their way toward Cemetery Hill. Unfortunately they chose to follow an alley which led into a spacious yard with only a single exit, and Confederate soldiers had blocked that route of escape. After a brief battle in which 100 men managed to escape the unit surrendered; two-thirds of the regiment was captured or killed while one-third reassembled on Cemetery Hill later that evening.<sup>27</sup>

The fortunes of battle reversed so quickly that the Confederate soldiers captured earlier in the afternoon were by evening free and, in some cases, guarding their former captors. Earlier in the day Companies A and B of the 45th New York had been chiefly responsible for seizing Confederates in and near McClean's red barn. Among the captives was a man named Schwarz. He recognized his brother, a member of Company B, and they embraced for the brothers had not seen each other since they left Germany years earlier. During the Rebel advance, the Confederate was freed and seeing some of the men from the 45th New York, now prisoners, he inquired about his brother and was told that he had been killed in the battle that afternoon.<sup>28</sup>

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26. New York at Gettysburg, Vol. 1, pp. 379-80.

27. O.R., Vol. 27, part I, p. 735.

28. New York at Gettysburg, Vol. 1, pp. 380-81.

With the Union retreat to Cemetery Hill the McClean farm and its buildings fell into the hands of the Confederates for the remainder of the battle. Nothing has been found to indicate if they made use of the buildings as hospitals or headquarters. There are several references to barns and houses serving these or other purposes for both sides during the battle of Gettysburg. It would seem that these buildings that had been near some of the hardest fighting during the first day would have been used, but the lack of specific mention makes it impossible to do more than speculate.<sup>29</sup>

The damage done to the prosperous farms surrounding Gettysburg during the three days of battle was considerable and after the war, both the state and federal government provided for payment of claims for damage done. Moses McClean filed a claim of \$1,138.35 for damage to his real and personal property by both armies, and it was paid by the State of Pennsylvania in 1869.<sup>30</sup> Approximately 10 years later, the state attempted to gain reimbursement from the federal government for this claim presenting the statements of McClean as proof of the justice of this claim. The itemized accounting of destruction done to his property reflects the extent of the

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29. In his Reminiscences of the Civil War, John B. Gordon recounts how, disturbed over the failure to seize Cemetery Ridge, he rode over at two in the morning "with one or two staff officers to the red barn in which General Ewell and General Early then had their headquarters." Reminiscences (New York, 1903), p. 156. This could have been the red barn of Moses McClean.

30. Claim #3248 (Adams County), Board of Commissioners to Assess Damages in Border Counties: War Damage Claims Abstracts, RG 2, Pennsylvania State Archives.

fighting near McClean's farm.<sup>31</sup> The property had also suffered damage before the battle from the Union, whose cavalry encamped in his fields on June 30, and the Confederates, who encamped there on the 26th of June.

After General Lee and his army retreated on July 5, Gettysburg slowly returned to normal and Mr. J. Martin, the tenant who was living on McClean's farm, returned there from his service in the 165th Pennsylvania Militia.<sup>32</sup> The house and barn, apparently the only two buildings on the place,<sup>33</sup> had not been too badly damaged during the conflict and the Martins probably moved back in. The red barn that was mentioned so prominently in some narratives is located on a north-south axis about 200 feet south of the house. The wooden barn measures about 40 x 55 feet and at the present time is in dilapidated condition. It is being used as a cowshed by one of the neighboring farmers. The McClean house was a two story white brick and frame building facing south. The original house was about

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31. See Appendix I at the end of the report for a transcript of McClean's claim.

32. Claim #3248 (Adams County), RG 2, Pennsylvania State Archives. In Samuel P. Bates, History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-65 (5 vols., Harrisburg, 1869), No. 4, pp. 1086-1100, no J. Martin is listed on the rolls of the 165th Militia. There is a Franklin J. Martin, 1st Lt. in Co. H and a Franklin Martin, a Private in Co. K listed, but no other Martins from Adams County.

33. The claim of Moses McClean mentions only damage to the house and barn. Major-General Warren's map of the battlefield at Gettysburg surveyed in 1868-69 shows only two wooden structures at the McClean farm. Atlas to Accompany Official Records Union and Confederate Armies, Plate 95.

25 x 20 feet and subsequent additions were made before and after the Civil War. At present the house contains three rooms and a kitchen on the first floor, a basement of stone with an earth floor, five bedrooms on the second floor and an unfinished attic.<sup>34</sup>

In May of 1869, Moses McClean and his wife Hannah sold the 162-acre farm to a James J. Wills for \$8,000 and it passed out of their hands.<sup>35</sup> It is hard to determine how long the McCleans had owned the farm and whether they had ever farmed it themselves or had always leased it out to tenants, as was the case in July 1863. Moses McClean had bought and sold considerable amounts of real estate during the 1840's and 1850's including the purchase of two tracts of land, a total of 71 acres, on the Mummasburg Road on April 3, 1854.<sup>36</sup>

The Moses McClean who owned the farm north of Gettysburg was not a simple Pennsylvania farmer, but rather a man of some importance whose ancestors had been early settlers in Pennsylvania. In 1733 William McClean had come to southeastern Pennsylvania and settled there. His second oldest child named Moses was born on January 10, 1737 in what was later to be Adams County.<sup>37</sup> Moses McClean

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34. "Property Appraisal by Joseph McGraw, September, 1963." File L2223 in Gettysburg National Military Park Files. The house in existence in 1863 was a narrow structure with 3 rooms on each floor. The brick "L" was added later.

35. Deed Book MM, Adams County Courthouse, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

36. Deed Book U, Adams County Courthouse, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. A survey of the Deed Books from 1800 to 1937 reveals that McClean was active in real estate during this period.

37. History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, (Chicago, 1886), p. 71.

served with the 11th Regiment of the Pennsylvania line during the early years of the American Revolution and from 1780-1783 he was in the Pennsylvania Legislature. William McClean, one of two children Moses had by his second wife, was born in 1777.<sup>38</sup> On June 17, 1804, Moses, the son of William and Sarah Maginley McClean, was born on his father's farm in Adams County.

In 1826 Moses McClean was admitted to the bar in Adams County after having read under John McConaughy. Six years later he married Hannah McConaughy and their first child, William, was born the following year, 1833. McClean continued to practice law in Gettysburg until 1844 when he ran and was elected to Congress from the 15th district by a margin of 161 votes out of 12,799 votes cast.<sup>39</sup> Moses McClean served only one term in Congress and then returned to his law practice in Gettysburg.<sup>40</sup> In 1854 he was elected to the state legislature as a candidate of the Know-Nothing Party and again served one term. Once again he returned to his law practice where he continued to work until

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38. William has been described as the "eldest child of Moses", History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, p. 72; and one of two children born of the second wife of Moses. McClean Family in Geneological Files, Adams County Historical Society, Gettysburg.

39. Report of votes in York and Adams County for one member of Congress in the 15th Congressional District, October 15, 1844. McClean Family in Geneological Files, Adams County Historical Society. Interestingly McClean beat his opponent, David Harner in York County by 872 votes but lost Adams by 711 votes.

40. Among his fellow Representatives during the 29th Congress were men who had or would play major roles in American History: Alexander Stephens of Georgia, John Q. Adams of Massachusetts, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, David Wilmot of Pennsylvania, Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, and Hannibal Hamlin of Maine.

his death on September 30, 1870. His wife Hannah died in April 1873 and both are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg. The eldest son of Moses and Hannah, William McClean, was also a lawyer and served as a member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention in 1873. In 1874 he was elected District Judge and held that position for 20 years. He then resumed his practice of law and continued it until his death in 1915.

On April 14, 1965, the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association deeded the 104 acres including the McClean buildings to the United States as an addition to the National Military Park. At present the barn and house look much as they did 105 years ago when on the afternoon of July 1 the soldiers of the North and South contested for victory on the fields north of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

## Appendix I

### Claim of Moses McClean for Damages\*

Washington D.C. \_\_\_\_\_ 1883

Claim of Moses McClean a citizen of Adams County, Pa who seeks compensation for.

Damages to House and Barn	\$125.00
8 Acres Oats-1/3 loss 50 bushels	30.00
13 " Wheat 90 bushels lost	84.00
1 ton hay	12.00
Injury done to grass 27 acres amounting to 22 tons \$12.00	264.00
50 bundles long straw	5.00
Injury to stone fence	4.00
4,546 rail lost	454.60
35 posts	8.75
10 Pannel board fence	10.00
Damages by driving over farm	30.00
3 acres corn \$10. per acre	30.00
7 1/2 acres corn \$10. per acre	75.00
40 pounds ham .12 per pound	4.80
10 " beef	1.20
	<u>\$1,138.35</u>

Alleged to have been taken on or about the 30th of June 1863 by a force of New York Cavalry on his premises and that no receipt or voucher has been received therefore.

#### Loyalty

August 26, 1882 Agent W.G. Rankin swears, "Decedent and William McClean were loyal to the U.S. Government during the war.

#### Merits

Dec. 11, 1868 Claimant in his sworn application sets forth that he was the owner of about 130 acres of land in Cumberland township, Adams Co., less than one mile north of Gettysburg. The farm was occupied by a tenant in July 1863. On the night of 26 June 1863 about two regiments of Rebel Artillery encamped upon his farm destroyed a large amount of fencing, hay, and ham.

On the 30th of June a large force of New York Cavalry encamped upon one of his clover fields extended over most of the place.

On the 1st of July the place was occupied by the contending armies in severe conflict.

\*Office QM General, Claims Branch, Misc Claims, Book 214, Claim 766 RG 92 National Archives.

Claim of Moses McClean

In consequence of the absence of the tenant in the Union service, 165 Regiment Pa Militia his family were unprotected and who in view of the danger of the situation the family fled and the place was occupied by the Rebels during the remainder of the three day fight. In consequence of the loss of fencing in addition to the trampling [camping] or crops [troops] and \_\_\_\_\_\* over the land the crops were almost entirely lost and destroyed also the grass.

Claimant further says that the statements contained in the \_\_\_\_\_ petition are done to the best of his knowledge and belief that his property was taken appropriated, damaged, and destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ set forth and that said property was of the value therein stated and the damages sustained by him do amount to the sums therein mentioned according to the best of his judgement and belief.

Nov. 11, 1868 Robert C. Coleman swears that in July 1863 he lived with his father upon a farm adjoining that of claimant near Gettysburg swears that the farm was occupied by Rebel troops prior to, and by Union troops immediately before the battle of Gettysburg. There was severe fighting upon the place during the first day of the battle and during the residue of the \_\_\_\_\_ the place was in the possession of the rebels. On the 5th deponent visited the farm of claimant found the fences destroyed and growing crops greatly injured and buildings injured by the Rebels during their occupancy.

August 31, 1863 Daniel R. Snyder, Robert Speakley, and John Hamilton swear that the above is a just and fair evaluation of the damages and losses sustained by claimant in consequence of the occupation of his land by the army of the Potomac and also by the invading Army during the period of the battles of Gettysburg commencing July 1st, 1863. That we went to and upon the property and made said appraisement from our personal observation of the premises and that the damage was done to the best of our judgement and ability.

Nov. 1868 Claimant in an abstract of application before the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania under act approved April 9, 1868 sets forth that he has never received any compensation for the loss of property above recited. That he has not transferred his claim, that the claim above filed is just and \_\_\_\_\_ to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Nov. 16, 1871 In Abstract of Award E.W. \_\_\_\_\_ and I. Creely Commissioners find Claimant entitled to one thousand and eleven dollars (1011.43) and 43 cents for damages for property destroyed.

\*The insertion of a \_\_\_\_\_ indicates that the word could not be deciphered in the original manuscript.

Aug. 26, 1882 Agent W.G. Rankin in reviewing the case \_\_\_\_\_. With the exception of \_\_\_\_\_ may have been destroyed by Union troops who temporarily occupied decedents premises after the Rebels had left it and who \_\_\_\_\_ by the Rebels the claim is for property taken from Claimant by the Rebel Army.

Judge William McClean, decendent and executor who lives in Gettysburg, Pa was notified of the time and place of taking testimony on his claim but after consideration being unable to prove what if any of the property claimed was taken by U.S. Troops or state militia he declined going to any further expense or trouble in the matter and agreed to submit the case to the Quartermaster General for his decision in the present shape. I respectfully recommend that the claim be rejected.

No Signature

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ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATE I

This map from Edwin B. Coddington's, The Gettysburg Campaign shows the relative positions of the two armies on the morning of July 1, 1863. As the First and Eleventh Corps of the Union converged on Gettysburg from the south, the Confederate divisions of Heth and Pender of Hill's First Corps and Early's and Rodes' Divisions of Ewell's Second Corps were bearing down on the town from the west and north.

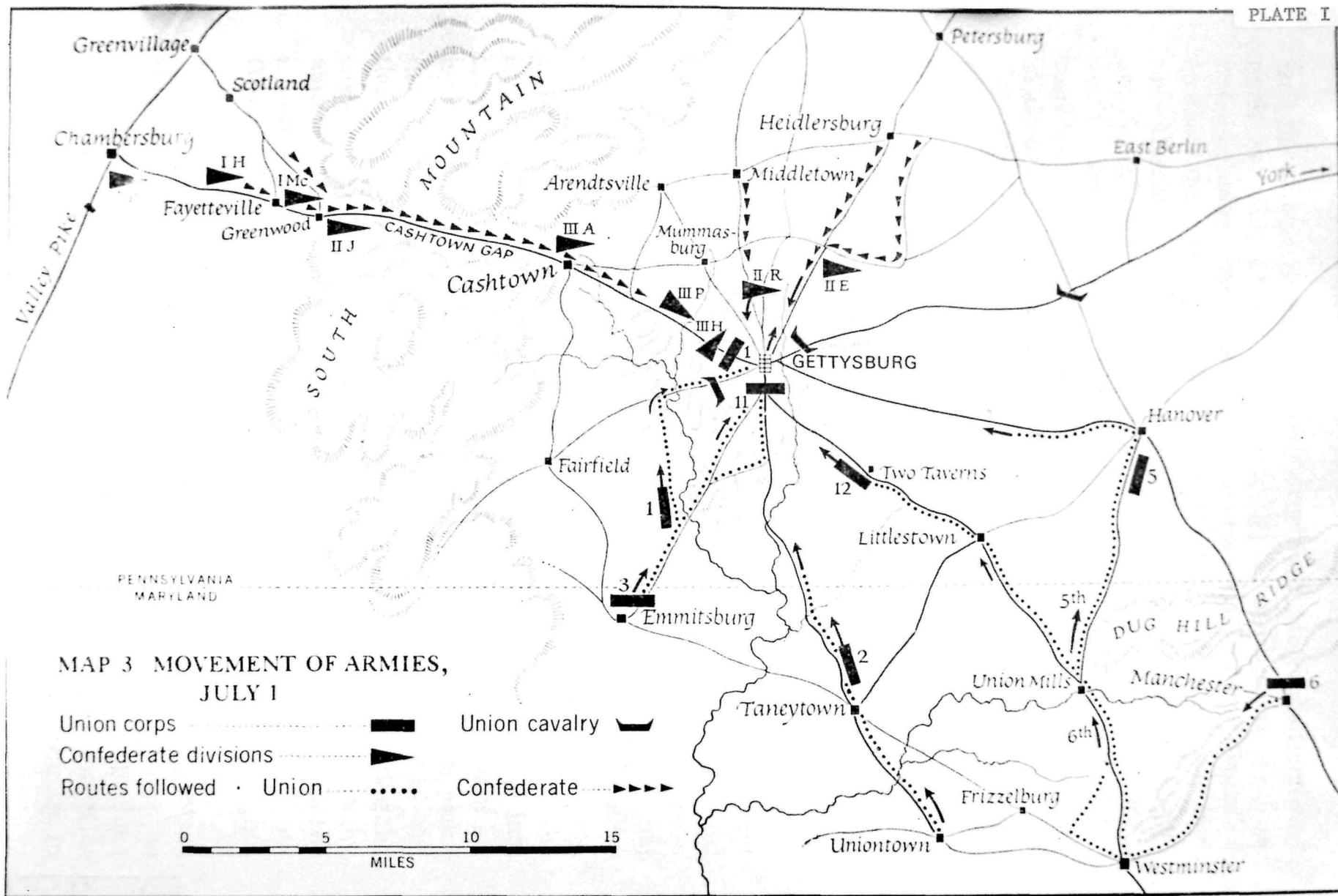


PLATE II

By 2:30 on the afternoon of July 1 the opposing forces were ready to renew the battle. North of the Cashtown Road the Union brigades of Cutler, Baxter, and Paul were opposing Daniel's, Iverson's and O'Neal's Confederates. North of Gettysburg the First and Third Divisions of the Eleventh Corps under the temporary command of Schurz were facing Dole's Brigade of Rodes' Division and later in the afternoon Gordon's Georgia Brigade of Early's Division. This map, like the previous one, is from Coddington's, The Gettysburg Campaign.

MAP 5  
AFTERNOON BATTLE,  
2:30 - 3:30 P.M., JULY 1

▼▼▼ Confederate      ▽▽▽ Troops in position but not engaged  
 ─── Union              ───  
 - - - - - Withdrawal

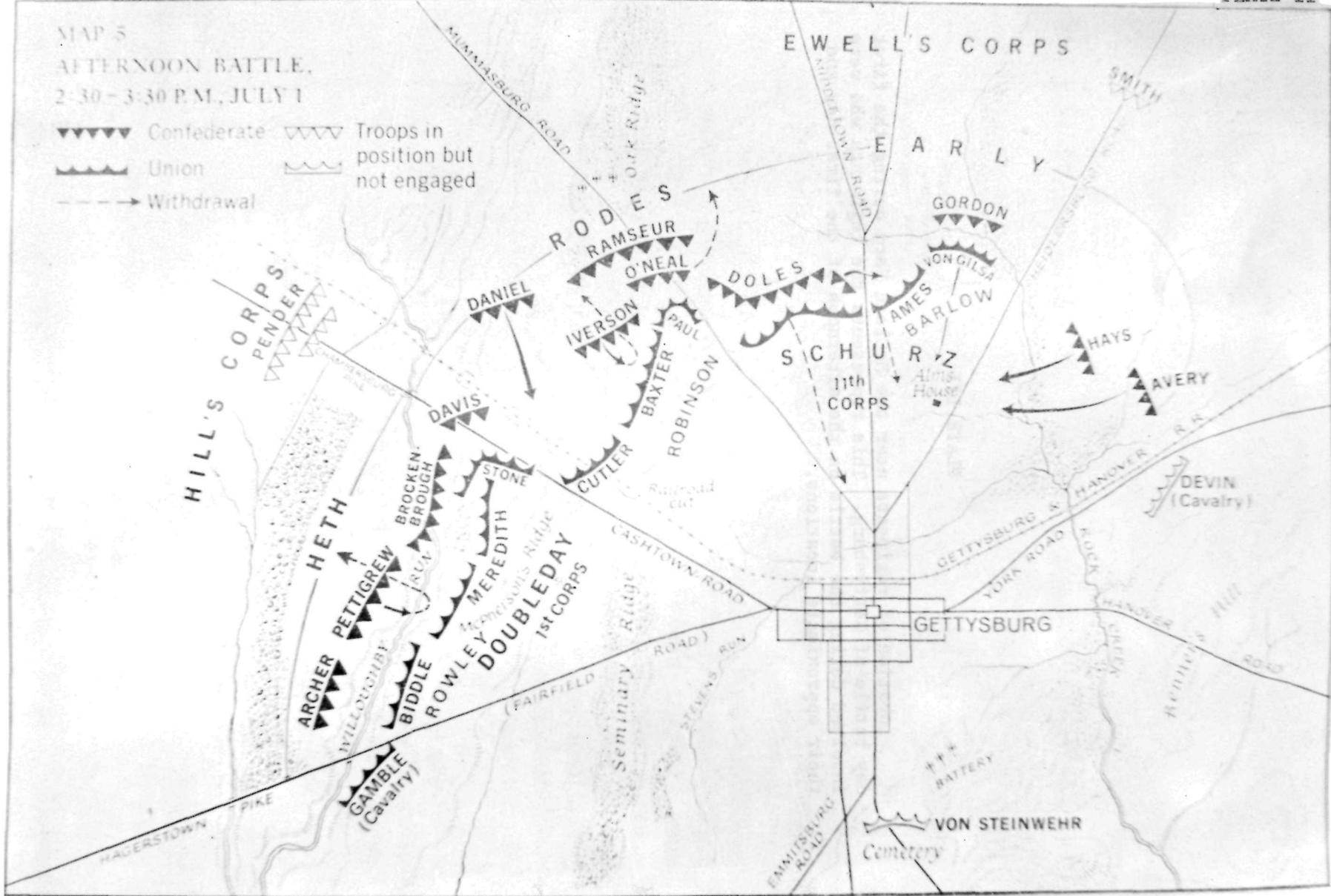
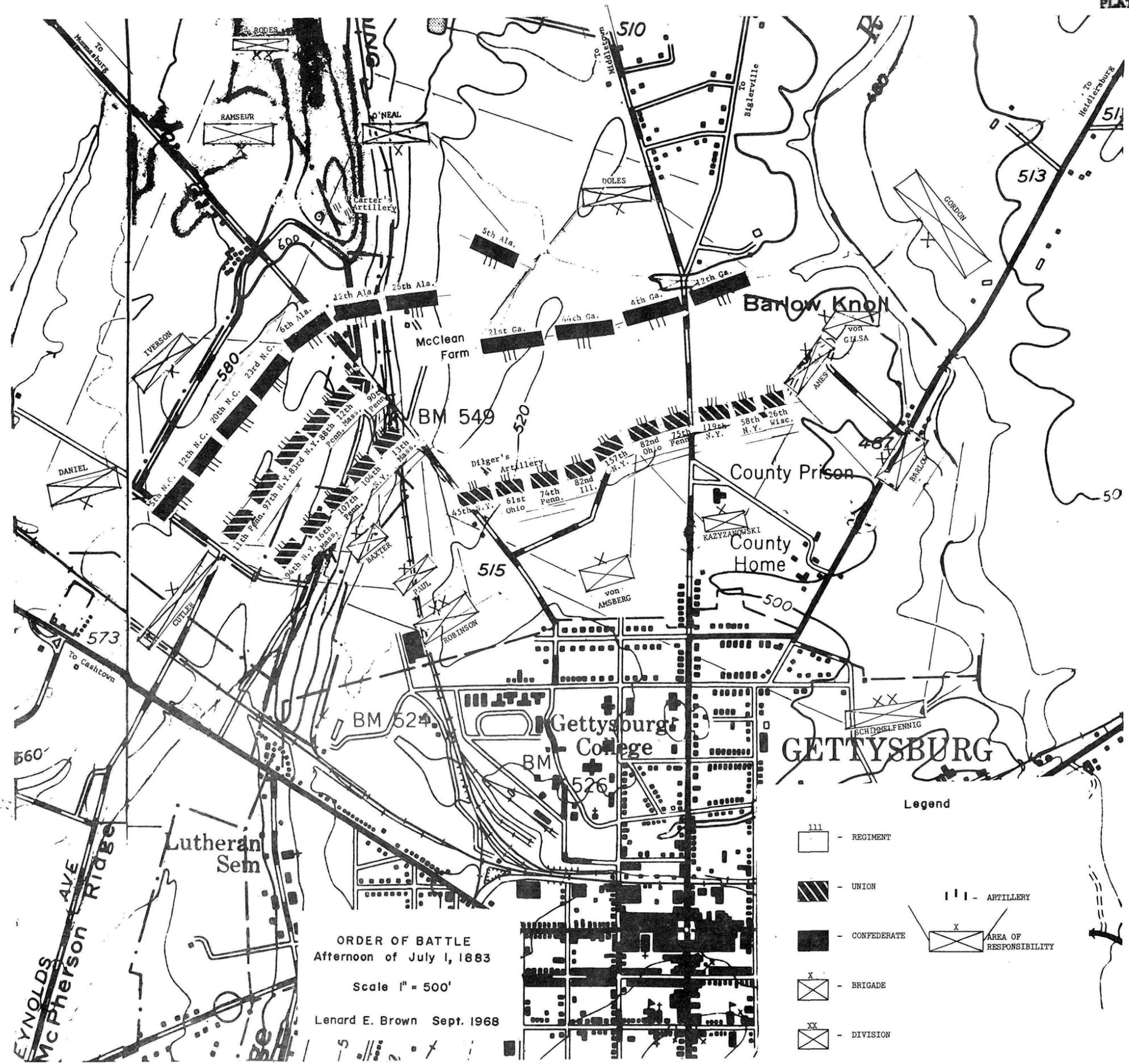


PLATE III

Location of regiments near the McClean Farm during the first day battle of Gettysburg. This represents the regiments who were involved during the battle on the afternoon of the first day and their approximate locations.



ORDER OF BATTLE  
Afternoon of July 1, 1863

Scale 1" = 500'

Lenard E. Brown Sept. 1968

- Legend
-  - REGIMENT
  -  - UNION
  -  - CONFEDERATE
  -  - ARTILLERY
  -  - BRIGADE
  -  - DIVISION
  -  - AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

PLATE IV

This photograph taken about 1899 shows Oak Ridge in the distance and the McClean barn in the near background. Taken about 1899 the photo was included in New York State Monuments Commission, New York at Gettysburg, Vol. I, p. 377. The caption below adds considerable detail.



J. B. LYON PRINT.

## OAK RIDGE (LOOKING NORTHWEST).

F. J. SEVERENCE, PHOTO.

Occupied by Rodes' (Confederate) Division as it came on the field during the first day's battle. The building on the right is the McLean barn. The field in the foreground was occupied by the Fifth and Sixth Alabama of O'Neal's Brigade, these troops encountering here the fire from Van Amsberg's Brigade, Eleventh Corps. The Forty-fifth New York at one time gained possession of the barn.

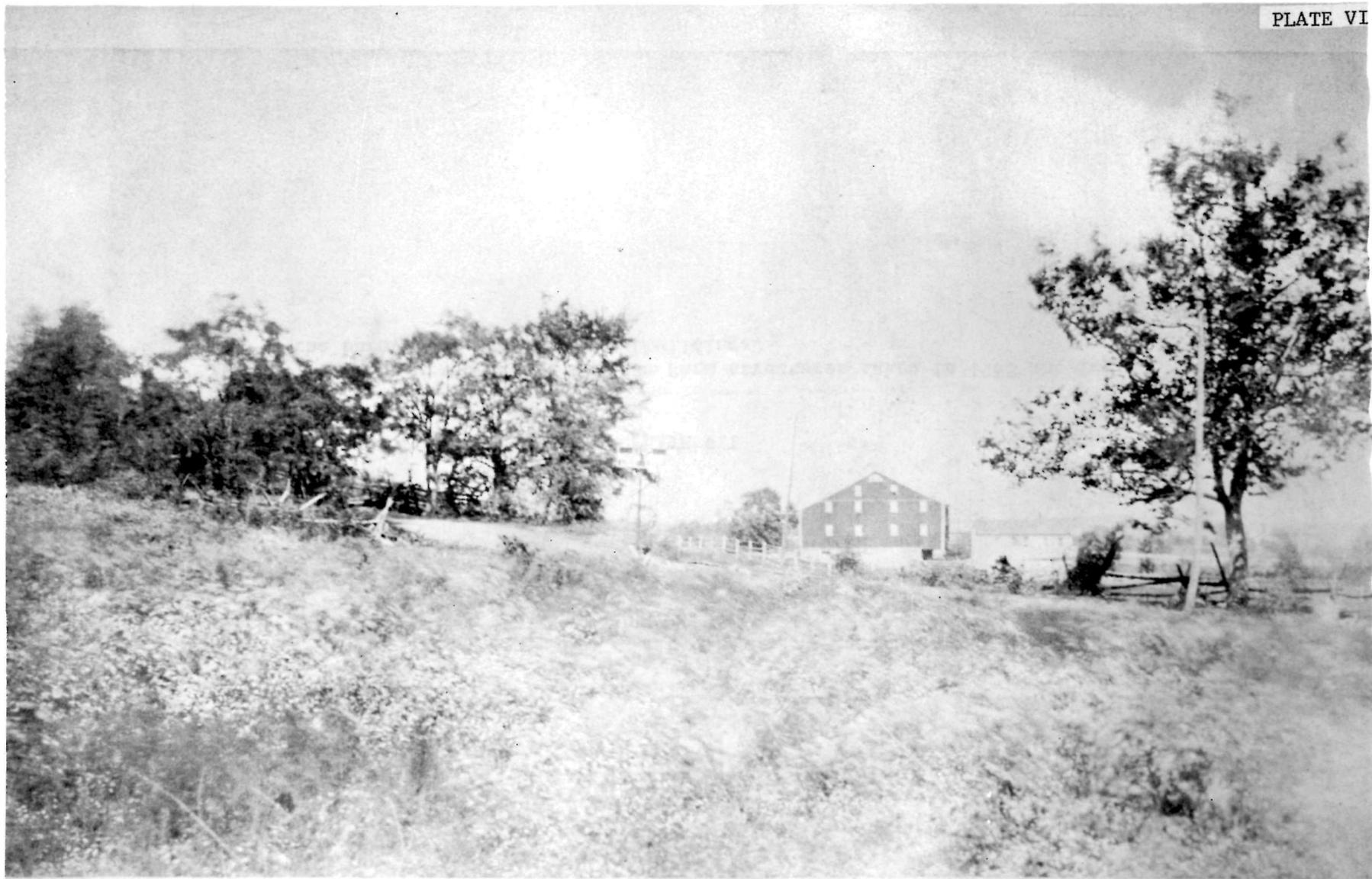
PLATE V

Detail from the previous photo showing the barn as it appeared about 1899.



PLATE VI

This undated photo shows the McClean Barn with the house in the background and is in the collections of Gettysburg National Military Park.



Red Barn, Mummasburg Road - Gettysburg

PLATE VII

Photograph of the McClean Farm structures taken in 1965 showing the barn, house and three outbuildings.

PLATE VII

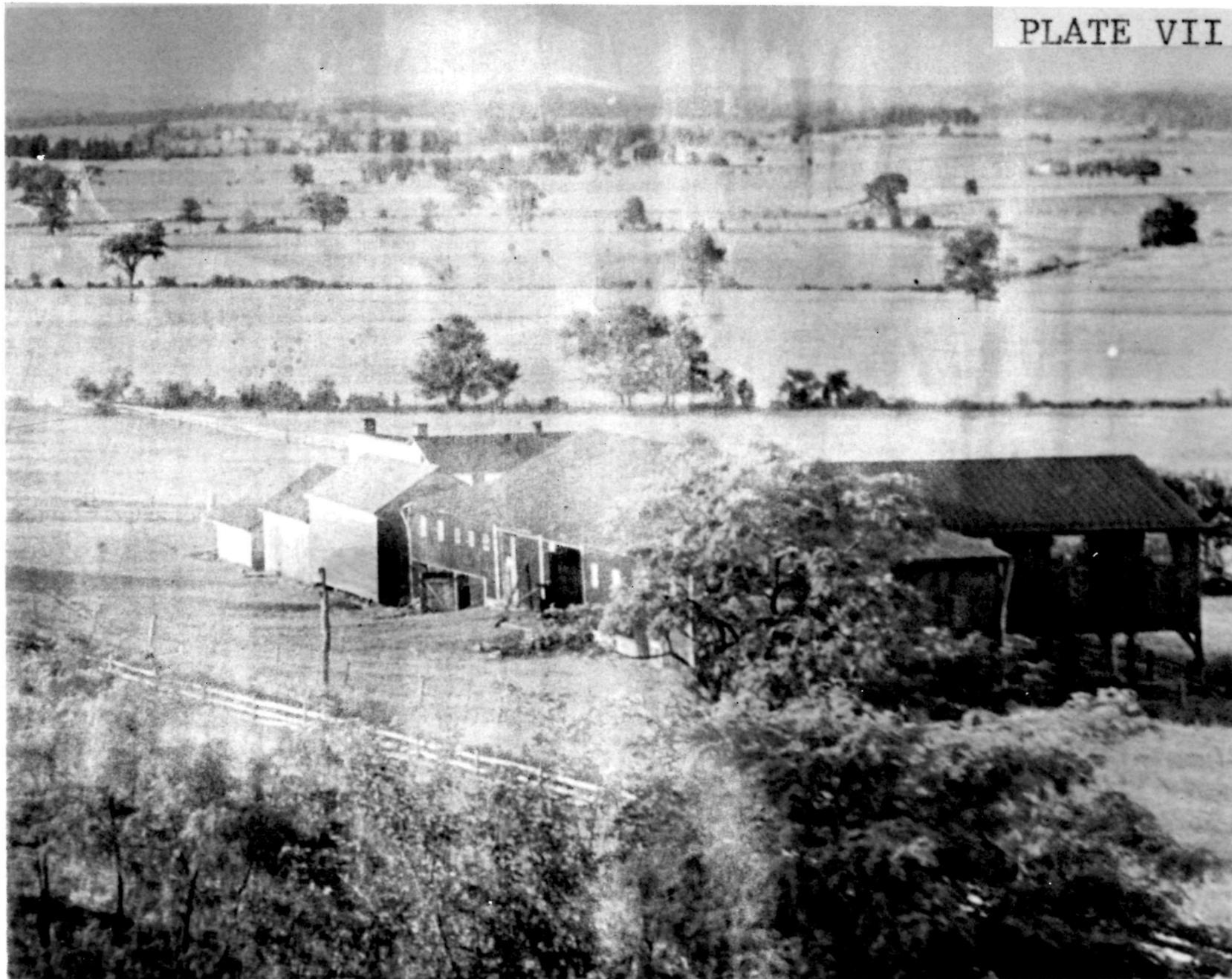


PLATE VIII

The McClean house from the west in a recent photograph.

PLATE IX

The Barn from the southeast in a recent photograph.



PLATE IX

