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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
Part I

ENVIRONS OF THE DUNKARD CHURCH

ANTIETAM NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE

by

Robert L. Lagemann
Park Historian

March 12, 1962

10-23
(Rev. Sept. 1960)

01060

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Antietam National Battlefield Site
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Historic Structures Report - Part 1

Section 9. Environs

The Dunkard Church

Recommended _____ Superintendent, March 16, 1962

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Recommended _____ Regional Director

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The Environs of the Dunkard Church

Antietam National Battlefield Site

Prepared by:

Robert L. Lagemann
Park Historian
March 12, 1962
37 Pages

Environs of the Dunkard Church

This report on the environs of the Dunkard Church is based largely on one source of data, the "Cope" series of maps of the Antietam Battlefield.[1] A limited number of pertinent contemporary photographs have also been analyzed. One of them is reproduced as an illustration in this report. In addition, the writer bases some of his statements on four years of close association with the subject area which has involved a continuous absorbtion of information and impressions. Although undocumented, much of the latter have some validity because they have resulted from thoughtful consideration of the miscellany reported from several sources and comparison thereof with the actual site.
However, for probably ninety per cent of the data offered here the writer considerately relies on the remarkable accuracy and authenticity revealed by careful scrutiny of the "Cope" maps. The writer confidently believes this set of

[1] Map of the Battlefield of Antietam, Prepared under the direction of the Antietam Battlefield Board, Lt. Col. Geo. W. Davis, U.S.A., President, General E. A. Carman, U.S.V. Surveyed by Lt. Col. E. B. Cope, Engineer. Drawn by Charles H. Ourand. Published by authority of the Secretary of War, under direction of the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1904. (Andrew B. Graham, Photo-Litho, Washington, D.C.) Fourteen sheets comprise the series. Sheet No. 1 was used as the base for the copied excerpts appearing as page 4 this report.

fourteen maps to be the most thoroughly detailed and reliable source to be in existence on the physical features and the culture of the Antietam Battlefield area as it was in 1862.

Therefore, as a basic part of this report a drawing made from this source is offered as a key reference to orient the reader with the points developed in this report. All the cartographic data appearing on this drawing (except the grid system) have been copied, in scale, directly from the original "Cope" map. This is not to say said drawing is a true copy; certain other data not directly pertinent to the subject and such as would tend to clutter and confuse the drawing have not been reproduced from the original. Such omissions include: troop positions, symbolization for vegetative cover, and a complete contour system.

The grid lines, drawn at scaled intervals of 300 yards, have been superposed upon the copied original map data to provide convenient reference points to assist the reader in locating on the drawing the features discussed in this report. The military system of reading "right and up" is followed in using this grid. For example, the Dunkard Church site is located in block C-3 in the drawing.

This is determined by reading right to line "C" and up to line "3"; the block whose lower left hand corner is formed by the intersection of these two lines is designated "C-3". References in the text to locations on the drawing are keyed to this procedure.

The physical features discussed and described in this text are considered separately according to their classification by type of feature, instead of being handled together in each respective grid square. With this in mind, the physical features have been classified under eight general definitions, four each man-made and four natural. They will be discussed in this report in this order:

1. Roads
2. Lanes
3. Fences (three sub-types)
4. Buildings
5. Rocks
6. Woods
7. Vegetation
8. Elevation, as prescribed by arbitrarily established contour lines.

ENVIRONS of the DUNKARD CHURCH

Antietam National Battlefield Site

Roads

Farm Lanes

Hay Stacks

Rock Outcrops

Rail Fence

Post-and-Rail Fence

Stone Fence

Boundaries of West Woods



N.

Scale in Yards

0 1 2 3 4 5

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The primary road in the area depicted on the drawing is the Hagerstown Pike. It ran in a straight line from B-6 in a south-southeast direction to a point near the center of block C-2. From there it proceeded almost due south in a straight line to the edge of the map area in C-1, having formed an angle of about eleven degrees in C-2. Maryland State Route 65 now follows and covers the line of the "Pike". For much of the church environs area the center of the old unpaved Pike is near the center of the modern macadamized highway.

In 1951 the road and right-of-way were widened, shifting the center line less than one foot to the east, on the section of road frontage immediately adjacent to the church site. The road surface here was lowered about three-and-a-half feet. The peak of the road is now about eight feet below the ground line at the northeast corner of the foundation wall. Prior to this highway rehabilitation in 1951, the road peaked at an elevation about five feet below the foundation ground line.



The road is now twelve feet wide on each side of the center line. According to an estimate made by Mr. Joseph H. Hildebrand, Hagerstown Resident Maintenance Engineer for the Maryland State Roads Commission, the old

Hagerstown Pike was eighteen feet wide, total, before it became the property of the public roads system.[2] This width may also be judged from Photo No. 10, page 36, this report, which shows the pike as it was in 1903.

Complete, current dimensions of the road, as shown in the Hagerstown Office of the Maryland State Roads Commission are: from the center line to the edge, 12 feet; from the edge of the pavement to the edge of the shoulder, 8 feet; from the edge of the shoulder to the ditch line, 4 feet; totaling 24 feet from the center line to the ditch line. In addition there is sufficient right-of-way extending over the "front yard" of the church to provide 40 feet of state highway right-of-way land from the center line. By on the site tape measure, the front foundation wall, just south of the front door step, is 24 ½ feet from the highway center line. ROW

The present back slope, which goes up on a 1½ : 1 slope, was shaped in 1951. This back slope which on its outer edge blends in with the "front yard", was formed by rounding off slightly the existing bank. However, the upper edge of the slope was not cut back. Obviously, this

[2] To Mr. Joseph H. Hildebrand's knowledge there are no records in his office nor local "tradition" to indicate the road had undergone change in this section from 1862 until well after 1903.

process did not subtract from the horizontal surface of the "front yard". It should be pointed out that although the Highway Commission did not alter this surface immediately east of the structure, it does in fact own as right-of-way the land to a line nearly parallel with and 24½ feet from the front foundation wall. This includes a strip about nine feet wide across the front of the church yard proper which in total is about thirty-four feet deep.

In 1951 the paved surface of the highway was widened three feet on each side, thereby increasing the width of the original Pike (which had been paved but not widened subsequent to its acquisition by the Highway Commission) from eighteen to twenty-four feet. The road level area remains approximately the same width it was in 1862, but the road surface proper is now one-third wider. This area was obtained not by cutting back the bank, but by paving part of the lane adjacent to the road proper which in the horse-drawn vehicle era was used as a "parking lane".

Plans for this highway rehabilitation were made in 1950. Most of the work was accomplished in 1951. And it was completed in 1952. Records and drawings pertaining to this work are on file at the Maryland State Roads Commission office

on Rowland Avenue, Hagerstown.[3]

The second most prominent road in the environs area was the Smoketown Road. At an angle of fifty-five degrees, in block C-3, this road forms a junction with the Hagerstown Pike. (See Photo No. 8.) From the Pike, C-3, this road extends in a straight line to the northeast across blocks C-4, D-4, and D-5. This was an unpaved dirt road in 1862. It remains unpaved in the environs area; however, it is now covered by a thin layer of gravel. Although it is now a part of the Washington County road system, this portion of it has very slight use.

"Bloody Lane" extends in a straight line eastward from the Pike, C-1, at a point about 575 yards south of the church. Because of the topographic features between the church and the western part of "Bloody Lane", this road junction is largely out of sight from the church site. (See Photo No. 6.) A hundred years ago this lane was a narrow, rutted, dirt road. The western half of it is now a part of the paved Antietam National Battlefield Site tour route.

The Mumma farm lane extends north-northeastward from "Bloody Lane", D-1, at a point about 175 yards east of the Pike. Much of this lane, too, is out of sight from the church.

[3]"State of Maryland State Roads Commission, Construction Plans for Rehabilitating the Sharpsburg Pike," dated December, 1950; sheet 26 of 31, and Plat 8702.

It is mentioned in this report because the fences running parallel to it were visible from the church knoll. Particularly the fences in blocks C-2, C-3, and D-3 were so visible. (See Photo No.s 6, 7, 8.) This farm lane still exists, apparently following its original route. It is now partially covered by a thin layer of gravel.

A few yards north of the church, the narrow lane to the farmstead[4] about 600 yards distant led off to the northwest from the Pike. This lane followed an indirect course through the West Woods. Very little, if any, trace remains of this lane.[5] The West Woods in this area has long since been cleared and the resultant field cultivated. Plowing for many successive crops has removed all surface evidence of this former lane. (See Photo No. 3.)
The present paved battlefield avenue, "Confederate Avenue", which terminates at the edge of Maryland Route 65, C-3, at

[4]In 1862 these farm buildings, A-4, belonged to the "A. Poffenberger" farm; today this site is the property of the "George H. Poffenberger Estate". However, newer buildings, on different sites, are used by the current occupant, Ernest E. Koogle.

[5]In the lower left center of the middle sheet of three aerial-photographs fastened together to form a map of the battlefield, distinct differences in the shading indicate the location of portions of this former lane. (Copies of this map, prepared and labeled by: "Aerial Photography and controlled Mosaic /April/ 1961, Aero Service Corporation Photogrammetric Engineers, Philadelphia 20, Pennsylvania", are on file at the Antietam NBS office, Sharpsburg, and in the National Park Service EODC, Philadelphia.)

a point very close to the junction of the old Hagerstown Pike and the obliterated farm lane above, just north of the church, was built by the U. S. War Department in the 1890's. It did not follow a Civil War era road or lane in the environs area. Therefore, its location is not shown on the 1862 environs status map.

Three types of fences existed in the environs area in 1862: stone wall, split-rail, and post-and-rail. The only example of stone fence in the subject area was located in C-1. A short section, approximately fifty yards long, extended westward from the end of the split-rail fence on the south side of "Bloody Lane" to the Hagerstown Pike. At a right angle here, the stone fence continued southward along the east side of the Pike. This fence was constructed of "field stone", a variety of native limestone. The portion along the Pike remains; however it has been moved eastward several feet to accommodate the widening of Highway 65 in 1951, as noted above.[6] The short section along "Bloody Lane" has been replaced by a cement-post-and-woven-wire fence along the U. S. Government boundary.

Such a modern fence has replaced the originals on both sides of "Bloody Lane", east of the Pike. In 1862, at

[6]"State of Maryland State Roads Commission, Construction Plans for Rehabilitating the Sharpsburg Pike", dated December, 1950; sheet 27 of 31, and Plat 8703.

the juncture with the stone fence, at a point about fifty yards east of the Pike, a split-rail fence extended eastward along the south side of "Bloody Lane", C-1 and D-1. On the north side of "Bloody Lane" a post-and-rail fence extended eastward from the Hagerstown Pike for about 150 yards, or to the junction of the Mumma farm lane with "Bloody Lane". East of the Mumma farm lane, the fence on the north side of "Bloody Lane" was in 1862 a split-rail fence. (This type of fence is also known variously as "worm","zig-zag", and "common" rail fence.)

The Mumma farm lane was bounded in 1862 on both sides by post-and-rail fences, D-1, D-2, D-3. The number of horizontal rails per section is unknown at this date.

On the east side of the Pike, running north from the junction with "Bloody Lane" to the Smoketown Road, the fence was of the post-and-rail design. This is the fence which appears "in front of" the Dunkard Church in the famous Brady photographs.



Photo No. 1. This well known "Brady" photograph, taken within a few days after the Battle of Antietam, has been reproduced to illustrate dozens of publications. The Dunkard Church and immediate environs are viewed from the southeast. (The photographer stood in what is now the west-center of the New York Monument Plot.)

As seen in the example above, this fence consisted of panels of six horizontal rails supported by vertical posts planted on the ground. The lower three rails were closer

together than the upper three. This was an almost standard design employed to contain smaller animals at the ground level. The distance between posts is not known. But according to one source,[7] a common distance was ten feet long. Six inches on each end overlapped their respective right and left adjoining panel rail ends inside the holes cut into the posts to support them.

This same type of post-and-rail fence continued along the southeast side of the Smoketown Road, C-3, C-4, D-4. On its northwest side, the Smoketown Road was bounded by a split-rail fence to the road's junction with the Hagerstown Pike. Here, C-3, this fence angled about fifty-five degrees to the north-northwest to follow the Pike northward on its east side for a distance of about 300 yards. /Note: This distance is erroneously represented as 400 yards on the drawing, page 4, this report. This is the only error discovered in a careful comparison made by the writer, of the drawing with the original "Cope" map./ At this point, 300 yards north of the Smoketown Road, the split-rail fence ended; the fence continued northward, however, but in the form

[7]Mr. Wilmer Mumma, Sharpsburg, Md., specializes in providing all types of fencing materials, including "replicas" of historic post-and-rail fences, as his means of livelihood. Mr. Mumma further stated that chestnut was a desired material for this type of fence because this wood was easy to work and was very durable.

of a post-and-rail fence. The famous "D. R. Miller Cornfield" was enclosed on its southwest corner, C-5, by this post-and-rail fence on its west, or Hagerstown Pike end, and on its south side by a split-rail fence.

Extending northward on the west side of the Pike was a post-and-rail fence to a point about 200 yards south of the Dunkard Church site. At that point, this fence ended, C-2. At a right angle to it, a split-rail fence ran west about 250 yards, then bent 135 degrees to the southwest. At about 150 yards from this angle, another split-rail fence extended at a right angle from it, B-2, and ran about 240 yards in a straight line before angling forty-four degrees to the right. From this point, upper center A-2, this split-rail fence ran almost due north to the lane leading in from the Hagerstown Pike to the Alfred Poffenberger farm buildings, A-4. North of these buildings the split-rail fence continued to run north for several hundred feet.

Extending southward from the Miller cornfield area, B-5, a post-and-rail fence ran along the west side of the Pike to a point about 300 yards north of the Dunkard Church. At that point, C-4, this post-and-rail fence ended. Running almost due west from its south end, and joined at a 103 degree angle to it, was a split-rail fence. This fence ran in a straight line west to the vicinity of the Alfred Poffenberger

farmstead buildings. At a point about 250 yards west of the Pike another split-rail fence extended at a right angle, running in a straight line to the north for about 350 yards. It bent slightly to the northeast just before it was intersected by another split-rail fence extending westward about 150 yards from the Hagerstown Pike, B-5.
Two other post-and-rail fences existed in 1862 in the vicinity of the Dunkard Church. Both of them extended northwestward from the Mumma farm lane. One of them ran in a straight line about 375 yards from the lane to the Smoketown Road, ending to the northeast of the church. The other ran about 325 yards in a straight line, ending at a point on the Hagerstown Pike about ninety yards south of the church on the east side of the Pike.

A digestion of the above data on fences in the Dunkard Church environs area will reveal a significant point: There was in 1862 no fence at all between the Dunkard Church and the west side of the Hagerstown Pike. This point is frequently not appreciated. However, in addition to the "Cope" map material outlined above, a careful study of the contemporary photograph of the Dunkard Church will also show an absence of any fence immediately east of the building, and between it and the Pike. The post-and-rail fence appearing in the famous Brady photograph, page 12, this report, was actually

on the east side of the Pike; in other words, across the road from the church. In the past, hasty viewings of this and similar photographs have frequently led to the erroneous assumption that the pictured post-and-rail fence was on the church side of the road. That it was, indeed, not, is perhaps the most important point of this report. For a distance of approximately 500 yards no fence at all existed in 1862 on the church, or west, side of the Hagerstown Pike. This unfenced west shoulder of the road extended about 300 yards north of the church, and for about 200 yards south of the church.

In 1862 only three buildings (excluding small sheds and out-buildings) existed in the Dunkard Church environs area depicted in the drawing, page 4, which represents an area of about 372 acres surrounding the church site. One of these buildings was, of course, the church itself (shown in red on the drawing.) The other two were the A. Poffenberger house and barn (shown in blue). The barn was south of the house; the three haystack symbols are located just south of the barn, A-4. Today over a dozen other buildings are in this area. Most of them are along the west side of the Pike, consisting of houses and associated out-buildings. They are not shown on the environs drawing, but their exact locations and approximate dimensions may be ascertained from a recently prepared National Park Service document, available at the

Park and other offices.[8]

The "Wilson" house and barn are not shown on either drawing. These buildings are located east of the Pike near the intersection of Cornfield Avenue with State Highway 65, block B-5. These buildings interfere with an unobstructed view of the reconstructed church from important Battlefield interpretive points to the north; particularly from the two proposed interpretive tour exhibits along Mansfield Avenue and the key point on Cornfield Avenue. Neither the "Wilson" farm buildings nor any others existed on this site in 1862.

The nearly "ruined" remains of the abandoned log house of Alfred Poffenberger can currently be seen on the west side of Confederate Avenue where it parallels the former western boundary of the West Woods, A-4. Very little if anything remains of the Alfred Poffenberger barn. A newer structure has been erected on or near this old barn site by the present owners of this farm, The George Poffenberger Estate, and the current occupant, Mr. Ernest E. Koogle. The present barn replaced one destroyed by forces of nature in the winter of 1959-1960. However, it is believed by this writer that this recently destroyed barn was not the original,

[8]NPS Drawing: Antietam National Battlefield Site Entrance Road and Parking Area, Unit I, Working Drawing, NBS-ANT 3023A, Scale 1" = 50', December, 1961.

1862, Alfred Poffenberger barn. Mr. Koogle's house and other associated farm buildings stand just east of the Confederate Avenue (not shown on the drawing), A-4, just inside the former wooded area; but no buildings existed there in 1862.

Stone monuments erected in memory of state units which participated in the Battle of Antietam are also not shown on the environs drawing. Some of these monuments are prominent landmarks today in the environs area. (See photos No. 2, 3, 7, 8, this report.) So included are the Philadelphia Brigade Monument, B-4, the New York Monument, and the Maryland Monument, C-3. These "structures" do not interfere with view of the reconstructed church. In fact, they serve as convenient orientation points of reference to the Dunkard Church and other battlefield landmarks, as well as remaining desirable monuments to the historic event in their own right.

The land surface is erupted in the Dunkard Church environs area with a profusion of rock out-croppings. The most prominent ones in the subject area are represented by a location symbol on the drawing, page 4. These natural features consist of parallel rows of an exposed limestone formation running, roughly, in a north-south line. The bare, dark gray surfaces exposed immediately west and southwest of the Dunkard Church building are typical of this feature in

the subject area. View of this particular stone is not apparent in most of the contemporaneous photographs of the church because the post-and-rail fence east of the Pike hid it.

Within the Dunkard Church area in 1862 there existed one woods. This woods was one of the most important of all the natural features affecting the development of the Battle of Antietam. In fact, the most important tactical value of the church itself was its visual relationship to this woods. The woods was known then, and remnants of it are known now as the famous "West Woods". Portions of the West Woods within the area of the environs drawing are largely denuded of trees today. However, in 1862 these woods (shown in green on the drawing) comprised the most significant natural feature of the environs area. The southern extremity of the West Woods covered a point shaped area, bounded by a split-rail fence, B-2.

The southeast corner of the woods was located at a point on the east-west rail fence running west from the Hagerstown Pike, approximately 110 yards from the Pike. There the edge of the woods left the bordering rail fence and ran in a nearly straight line north-northeast toward the Dunkard Church. The woods edge curved slightly around the church, then ran northeast to the Pike at a point almost

directly across the Pike from the southwest end of the Smoketown Road. This unfenced eastern edge of the West Woods ran north along the shoulder of the Hagerstown Pike for almost 275 yards, to where the southbound post-and-rail fence terminated in a 78 degree angle juncture with the split-rail fence running straight west from the Pike, C-4. The West Woods was bounded on its north in this area, C-4 and B-4, by this split-rail fence westward for about 250 yards from the Pike. At that point the woods boundary ran almost straight north, B-4 and B-5, enclosed on its east side by the north-running split-rail fence to the intersection of this fence by the east-west split-rail fence running west from the Pike in B-5. A few yards north of this fence intersection (about 150 yards west of the Pike) the woods edge turned to the west and ran in a west-northwest direction, unbounded here (B-5 and A-5) by any fence.

Returning to the south portion of the West Woods, we find that from its southernmost point, in B-2, the boundary of the woods ran northwestward for about 240 yards and was enclosed here by a split-rail fence. The fence and the west boundary of the West Woods turned to the right in upper center A-2 and ran almost due north to the A. Poffenberger farm buildings. (The north end of the West Woods was located about 700 yards north of the Alfred Poffenberger barn; this point is well off the environs area scaled drawing.)

Except for a thin fringe of trees following the pointed line of the old split-rail fence forming the southern extremity of the West Woods, B-2, and a few trees immediately northwest of the church site, no trees remain today to show the location on the ground of the southern part of the historic woods. Scattered and sparse growths of trees do exist in the B-4 area. One, or possibly two trees and a stump a few feet northwest of the church site may be remains of the original forestation. (See Photo No. 4.) All other trees now growing in the West Woods area depicted on the drawing are believed by the writer to be second growth timber.

Absence of a feature is significant here, too, as in the case of fencing between the church and the Pike. The area now covered by pattern planted trees in the Philadelphia Brigade Park area, upper right B-4, was bare of trees in 1862. As shown in Photo No. 3, taken from the church site, the nearest row of trees spaced at regular intervals marks the southern boundary of the Brigade Park. This row runs along the same eastwest line that formerly was the north boundary of the part of the West Woods that grew directly north of the church. The area between the road (Confederate Avenue) in the foreground and this row of trees, now bare, was thickly covered by the West Woods in 1862.

It seems somewhat ironical that the former northern edge of the West Woods in the B-4 area is now the southern

edge of the Brigade Park "forested" area. To many visitors this is a confusing factor. Based on the ground cover available to them for orienting this part of the battlefield, it may be expected that many visitors will arrive at this natural but wrong conclusion. The extremely costly action involving Sedgwick's Division occurred in the area now bare of trees. Yet most visitors are seemingly led by the existing physical features (principally location of tree cover) to assume this battle action centered in the grove area around the Philadelphia Brigade Monument. A more exacting study is required than most visitors appreciate to realize that what was woods in this area in 1862 is now in grass, and what in 1862 was in grass is now in trees.

Reference to the photograph of the Dunkard Church, page 12, taken from the southeast, will show the very close proximity of the woods to the church in 1862. The east edge of the West Woods was just a very few feet behind the west wall of the building. The church, in effect, stood in a small clearing between the woods and the Hagerstown Pike. Examination of the photograph will also give the viewer an impression of the great size of the trees in proportion to the building. (The peak of the roof stood about twenty-five feet above ground level.) The type of trees may also be determined from the photograph. The writer assumes that

oak trees were well represented in this stand of woods. The large, old tree yet growing just northwest of the church is an oak. (See photo No. 4.)

Also worthy of note in regard to the changes in forest cover in the Dunkard Church environs between conditions existing in 1862 and the present, is the area immediately across the Pike from the church. As indicated in block C-3, there was no woods in the vicinity of the triangle formed in part by the Smoketown Road and the Hagerstown Pike. The Maryland Monument is located just east of the rock outcrops, near the angle formed by the juncture of the two roads. Rows of trees planted as part of the monument plot landscaping have now matured, and when viewed from some directions lose their appearance of formal layout. When so viewed the effect sometimes produced is the appearance on the scene of a "natural" growth of trees, possibly confused as an eastward extension of the West Woods. The point is that during the historic period, September-October, 1862, there was no significant representation of tree growth on the east side of the Hagerstown Pike within the Dunkard Church environs area.

According to the symbols used on the "Cope" maps to represent four distinct types of, or conditions of, vegetation on the Antietam Battlefield, almost all of the unforested land in the Dunkard Church environs area was covered

by grass. In addition to woods and rock outcrops, the land surface was represented as being: grass, stubble, corn, or plowed field. The exceptions to the general woods or grass coverage on the area represented in the drawing, page 4, this report, are as follows. Most of block A-1 was in corn in September, 1862. Most of B-A was also in corn. The upper right quarter of B-A as well as the portion of C-A west of the Pike were in stubble. The extreme lower right corner of D-1 was in corn. Otherwise, the statement stands that non-forested land in the Dunkard Church environs area was in grass. In summary of the vegetative cover, all the land surface within 300 yards of the church site that was not exposed rock outcropping, nor covered by roads and lanes, fence rows, buildings, or trees was cleared and had formed cultivated fields in which grass was growing at the time of the Battle of Antietam.

A contour system with intervals of ten feet has been partially copied from the "Cope" map which was prepared from cadastral surveys made during the 1890's. The elevations are based on the water level of the Antietam Creek at the Burnside Bridge. This water level was determined as 375 feet above sea level. (The Burnside Bridge is approximately 3,400 yards, almost two miles, in a straight line southeast of the Dunkard Church.)

As can be seen from the environs drawing, the church site is situated between two prominences. One is within the former West Woods cover just west of the church; the other is east of the Pike, partially enclosing the New York Monument plot and the proposed Visitors Center site. Not evident on the drawing because of the incompleted contour lines for the entire area, the elevation of the western eminence is between 200 and 210 feet; the maximum elevation of the slight ridge on the east is between 210 and 220 feet. Not shown on a contour interval of ten feet is the fact that the church foundation, while actually located in a shallow saddle, nevertheless is atop a slight, rounded elevation rising from the saddle between the two knolls indicated on the drawing, but not yet quite high enough to be registered on a ten foot interval. This shallow saddle, through which also runs at this point the Hagerstown Pike, is between two 190 foot contour lines, which, of course, places its lowest point somewhat above the 180 foot contour level.

As viewed from the Cornfield Avenue area, the church site is conspicuous as being nearly on the skyline, on a slight knoll that rises above the Hagerstown Pike immediately in front of it. Although the relation of the road peak in front of the church to the ground level at the

foundation line was altered during the highway improvement in 1951, summarized on page 5, this report, the land thus affected was east of and on a lower level than the front yard proper of the church. The upper level of the church yard, west of the cut-bank western edge of the old "parking lane" on the lower or road level (and now partially covered by black-top), remains nearly as it was in 1862. Possibly some inches of topsoil have been eroded off by weather, but the surface immediately in front of the church has been unmolested by the adjacent highway ditch-slope realignment. The 1862 type of grass cover has not yet regrown to cover the scars incurred when a cinder and/or gravel driveway fronted the church site when the historic foundation supported a filling station for a short period about thirty years ago. But the sloping surface, with its outcropping of bedrock limestone, appears to have the same general lines it had a century ago.

In summary, the main changes that have occurred in the Dunkard Church environs area during the intervening ninety-nine years since the historic event here include:

1. Removal of the West Woods.
2. Removal and/or replacement of nearby fences.
3. Erection of dwelling houses and associated buildings along the Pike.
4. Building and surfacing of Confederate Avenue.

5. Pattern planting of trees around the Maryland State and Philadelphia Brigade monuments.

6. Alterations of the Hagerstown Pike: hard-surfacing, slight re-alignment, and reducing the elevation of the road surface by over three feet.

7. A miscellany of minor modifications of the scene, such as the installation of telephone and power lines, erection of stone monuments, installation of cast iron battlefield tablets, removal of traces of the Alfred Poffenberger farm lane (which could not have been seen through the trees of the West Woods from the church anyway), establishment of a modern highway draining system involving a shoulder ditch line and culverts, some surface erosion of the land, and other interim changes which themselves have now disappeared from the scene.

Of the following ten photographs presenting graphic evidence of the appearance of the church site and its environs the first seven, numbers 2 - 8, were taken by Fireman McGraw, Hagerstown, during February, 1962. The remaining three photographs date back to the 1880's; their authorship is unknown.



Photo No. 2. Taken from approximately the same direction as the historic "Brady", Photo No. 1. Number 2 shows the reconstructed Dunkard Church building standing on the undisturbed slight knoll just west of Highway 65. The southeast corner of the church is nearest the viewer. The white spot just in front of this corner is snow, covering the surface of the limestone outcropping. The rounded back-slope of the drainage ditch may be clearly seen, between the patch of snow and the edge of the pavement. The obvious absence of the historic West Woods background is striking when compared with Photo No. 1, page 12. The house trailer just a few feet south of the church appeared on the scene in 1959. The white house in the right center background is that occupied by Mr. Koogle. None of these structures, except the original church, were present in this scene in 1862. This is the view of the church from the proposed Visitors Center parking lot vicinity.



Photo No. 3. View taken from in front of the northeast corner of the church, looking north. In the foreground may be seen the juncture of "Confederate Avenue" with Highway 65. On the right, 65 stretches north in a straight line, following the route of the old "Hagerstown Pike". The "Wilson" house is on the far right; it and its outbuildings were built long after the Civil War. The stone shaft, left center, is that of the Philadelphia Brigade Monument. The patterned planting of trees surround it mark the area of the Philadelphia Brigade "Park", or plot. In 1862 this area was in grass cover, bare of trees. The area in the foreground, now a cultivated field, between "Confederate Avenue" and the first row of trees in the "park", in 1862 was covered by part of the West Woods. The now obliterated farm lane to the Alfred Poffenberger buildings formerly followed the depression leading off toward the center left from its juncture with the Pike, just north of the present "Confederate Avenue" terminus.



Photo No. 4. View of the back of the reconstructed church, taken from the west. The large white oak in the center is believed by the writer to be the only tree in the vicinity of the church site to have survived from the original West Woods. The roadway in the foreground is "Confederate Avenue"; no road existed here in 1862.



Photo No. 5. View of the church site, looking southwest from near the Smoketown Road - Highway 65 junction. The slight rise, on which the foundation rests, ascending from the roadbed may be observed in this photograph. Again, absence of the West Woods behind the church is striking. Relative distances may be estimated on the basis of the distance from the center-line of the highway to the front door sill, 65 feet. The pavement is 24 feet wide. This photograph also shows the even back-slope of the ditch line. The "front yard" of the church, approximately 33 feet deep, remains very nearly in appearance as it was in 1862.



Photo No. 6. View from the southeast corner of the church, facing the southeast. The western entrance to "Bloody Lane" from Highway 65 is not visible. It lies below the rise in the Highway, but on this side of the Piper barn. The roof of this barn may be identified by the five ventilators. The southbound Highway 65 here follows very closely the line of the old "Hagerstown Pike". The cement-post-and-iron-pipe fence east of the road marks the southwest boundary of the New York plot. In 1862 a post-and-rail fence ran along this same line (page 15, this report.) This photograph also shows the "intrusion" of modern power lines on the historic scene.



Photo No. 7. Taken from the same spot as No. 6; direction of view is toward the northeast. Directly across Highway 65 from the front of the church is the Maryland Monument, bordered by two rows of planted trees. In 1862 this area, too, was bare of trees. Examples of rock outcroppings are shown in front of and to the left of the monument. The fence seen in the right background marks the northeast boundary of the New York plot. A post-and-rail fence ran along the same line in 1862 and was visible from the church (page 15, this report). To the left of the row of trees on the left runs the Smoketown Road.



Photo No. 8. In this photograph, the juncture of the old Smoketown Road with Highway 65 is clearly shown in the left center. As in Photo No. 7, a portion of the modern fence which has replaced the old post-and-rail fence may be seen where it terminates on the Smoketown Road. In the left background, replacements of East Woods trees may be seen across an open field of view. This same clear view, in reverse, may be had of the reconstructed church from the Roadside Interpretive Stop No. 2 to be constructed on the proposed battlefield tour route.



In Smoketown Woods

Photo No. 9. This view of a portion of the Smoketown Road was probably taken in the old East Woods area, around the turn of the Century. Although definitely not a part of the Dunkard Church environs area, as defined in this report, this scene illustrates very well the type of fence construction known as plain "rail". (See page 11.) It also shows a typical woods of this area; uncluttered with undergrowth, comprised mostly of mature trees such as filled the old West Woods scene.



Photo No. 10. Taken June 1, 1903, from within a few feet of the spot where No. 5 was taken February 20, 1962. The church yard proper appears nearly the same in both photographs, except for the number and condition of the trees. The reduction in elevation of the road peak effected in 1951 is clearly shown by a comparison of the two pictures. The 1903 condition and width of the "Pike" is also very apparent in this photograph.



Photo No. 11. An earlier picture of the same area. (This was probably taken in the 1880's; before the War Department plaque was fastened to the front wall of the Dunkard Church, and after the West Woods had been cut down.) A portion of the post-and-rail fence may be examined in the center left. In 1862 such a fence made a corner here as does the one pictured. The paling and board fencing across the road had been added after the Civil War. The junction of the Smoketown Road and the Hagerstown Pike appear here very much as they probably did in 1862. The Smoketown Road is dirt; the Pike is "hard" surfaced by a version of the early, dry macadamizing. The "road" part of the Pike is just wide enough for two wagons. The gable and roof of the house appearing to the left of the church (also visible in No. 10) indicate that one at least of the present periphery buildings had already been constructed. No structure was present there in 1862.