

Joseph Poffenberger Barn

Historic Structure Report

Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg, Maryland



prepared by
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for
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National Park Service
National Capital Region
Washington, D.C.

NPS PMIS Reference No. XXXXX

Table of Contents

	page
Administrative Data	6
Executive Summary	9
Statement of Significance	11
Introduction and General Report Methodology	12
Historical Narrative and Timeline.....	13
List of Abbreviations	15
Part 1. Physical History of the Building and Site with its Developmental History	
A. Site History and Context Summary	19
Methodology	
Early Ownership	
Historical Context: Germand Settlement and Ownership	
Historical Context: The Poffenberger Family	
The Poffenberger Farm During the Civil War	
B. History of Barns in Western Maryland	32
C. Chronology of Develoment and Use	38
D. Physical Description.....	42
E. Inventory of Character Defining Features with Age, Significance and Condition	72
Part 2. Treatment and Use	
A. Ultimate Treatment and Use	72.
B. Recommendations for Further Study	82
Annotated Bibliography	84
Appendices	
A. HABS Drawings	
B. Historic Finishes and Mortar Analysis	
C. Keven Walker Report	
C. Photographic Index	

Administrative Data

Property Name: The Joseph Poffenberger Barn

Property Location: Antietam National Battlefield
17834 Mansfield Avenue, Sharpsburg, MD

Property Owner: National Park Service acquired barn in 2000

National Register Information: Antietam National Battlefield 1982 National Register
Nomination

Historic American Building Survey: HABS No. MD-966-A

Historical and descriptive data, drawings and photographs,
2005.

Period of Significance: C.1880-1890. This period encompasses the main periods of construction for the barn. This period may need to be extended to c.1830-1890 if the foundation of the barn proves to have been constructed c.1830.

Maryland Historic District: Antietam National Battlefield.

General Management Plan: Yes

Current Use: Unoccupied. Barn was part of an agricultural lease until Summer 2008.

Project Statement and Purpose:

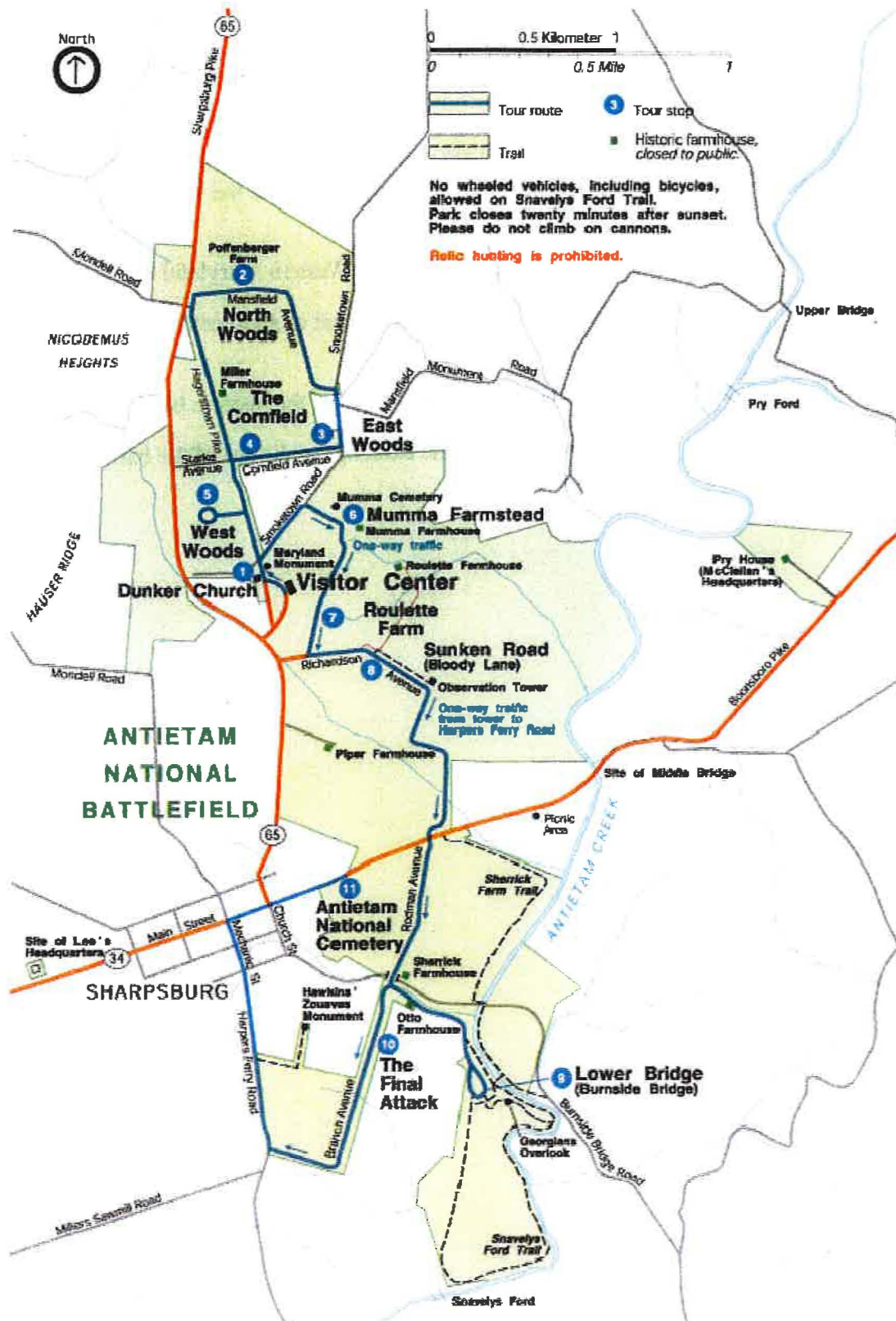
On the local level, the barn is significant under National Register criterion C, as a representation of a 19th century German settlement in the area. The barn is a good example of the standard Pennsylvania bank barn, a style that was used throughout the region. Its limestone foundation was likely built by German Immigrants to Western Maryland c. 1830. The limestone foundation is constructed using barn technology from the early nineteenth century. The West section of the barn was constructed in 1880. The East section of the barn was re-built in 1890. While the barn was constructed in the second half of the 19th century, the craftsmanship remains consistent with the Pennsylvania German settlers who built the barn c. 1830.

The Joseph Poffenberger Barn is site of national significance may also be significant due to its association with the Battle of Antietam. The foundation of the barn was possibly part of the barn used as General Hooker's headquarters the evening before the battle. This would fall under National Register criterion A.

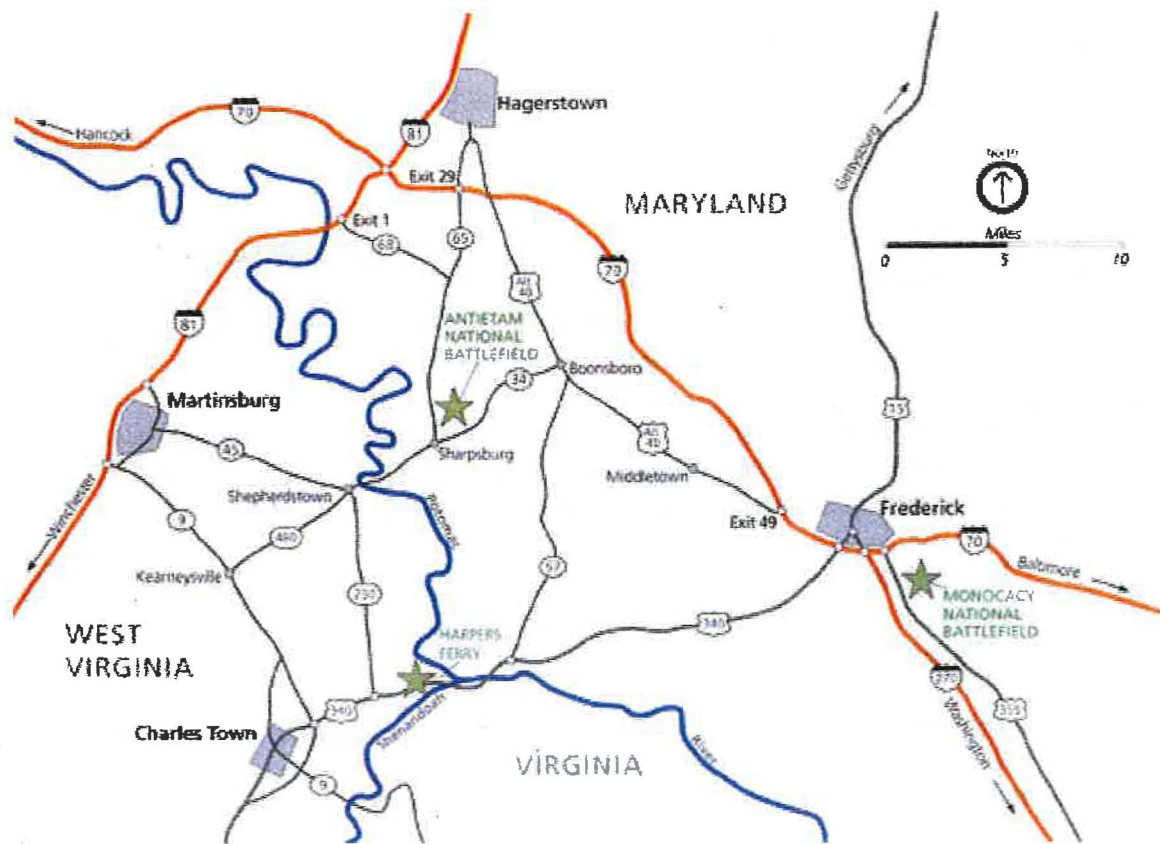
The Poffenberger farmstead provides insight into the agricultural lifestyle and practices of 19th century Western Marylanders.

This Historic Structure Report (HSR) will act as a guide for the treatment and use of the historic structure and will aid in the interpretation of the barn. It includes the following:

- History of the property.
- History and development of Western Maryland Barns.
- Recommendations for treatment of architectural and structural systems.
- Recommendations for the use of the historic barn.
- Documentation of the existing conditions of the barn with photographs.



Map of Antietam National Battlefield. Poffenberger Farm is labeled #2.



Location Map. Courtesy NPS-ANTI

Executive Summary

The Poffenberger Barn, is a German Bank Barn, that sits on a tract of land within the boundaries of the Antietam National Battlefield. This parcel of land demonstrates larger themes in Colonial American history, the German settlement of Western Maryland, patterns of agriculture in America, as well as the Civil War and post-war period of memorialization and commemoration of the Antietam Battlefield. We propose the period of significance for the Joseph Poffenberger barn to be from c.1880 to 1890 (with possible extension to c.1830-1890). These dates span the primary period of construction of the barn by the Poffenberger family.

The barn, like many vernacular structures, has had very little written about it since its likely construction in the early 19th century. It is only referred to in the context of the Battle of Antietam as the location of Hooker's headquarters the night before the battle. It is likely that newspaper articles from 1876, that refer to the burning of the Poffenberger barn, are referring to this barn. However, physical evidence provides further proof that the original barn may have in fact burned on this date. The existing barn was likely built in three different periods: the west section in the 1880s and the east section c.1890. It remains possible, that the limestone foundation was part of the original bank barn built c.1830.

While it is likely that the lower level of the barn was constructed c.1880, the physical evidence points to an earlier style of Pennsylvania Bank Barn which was more common in 1830. This cannot, however, be seen as absolute proof that the foundation of the barn was built c.1830. It is common, especially with vernacular outbuildings and in rural areas, for construction practices to remain in use in a particular region.

The barn represents the techniques used by German immigrants in the 19th century for the construction of bank barns in Western Maryland. This barn is notable because it represents a transition standard Bank barn, which was only built for a period of a few years. This development is more fully developed later in the report.

The limestone foundation of the barn was likely standing during the Civil War and served as the headquarters for General Hooker the evening before the momentous battle. The farm was also occupied by Union troops during a long period following the battle.

The Poffenberger barn served agricultural purposes, including the traditional use as a grain barn and in its later years as a dairy farm from its construction until 2007. The barn was substantially rehabilitated by NPS in 2008.

Antietam National Battlefield plans to preserve and stabilize the barn. The future use of the structure is presently undetermined. However, proposed, and appropriate uses, include opening the barn up to visitors and/or the display of agricultural methods and equipment.

This HSR reviews all current findings accessible for the report. It also includes a dendrochronology report completed in 2011 which answers many of the questions regarding the upper level of the barn. The c.1830 construction date of the limestone foundation will be included as a possible alternative to the c.1880/1890 construction date. For this reason, the history of the site will include the Battle of Antietam, as relative to the Poffenberger barn built c.1830.

Research for this report includes:

- The investigation of general and archival records related to the development of the Poffenberger farm and the surrounding area.
- The examination and analysis of the physical evidence of the structure including structural analysis, mortar and white wash study, nail study, and saw mark data.
- The photographic documentation of the existing conditions of the barn.
- The history of similar barns in the Mid-Atlantic and Western Maryland.

Statement of Significance

The Joseph Poffenberger Barn is located on one of the farms where the Battle of Antietam was fought on September 17, 1862. Further, the foundation of the barn was possibly part of the original Joseph Poffenberger barn used as headquarters by General Hooker and occupied by Union troops. The structure is, consequently, a significant part of the Battlefield's historic landscape.

The tract of land which encompasses that Poffenberger Farm---named for its owner Joseph Poffenberger who owned the land during the Civil War---is representative of the settlement and development of Western Maryland's frontier. The history of the Poffenberger farm, together with the other German farms at Antietam, depicts the settlement of the Antietam Valley by German immigrants.

The Poffenberger Barn is an intact example of an 19th century barn. Although not unique, the barn is exemplary of the Standard German Bank Barn and its construction techniques. The physical fabric of the structure encompasses two major construction periods: the c.1880 and c.1890 construction of the east and west wings. A third period, c.1830, must be added if it is definitely established that the limestone foundation was built c.1830.

The barn is one of a historic grouping of farm structures built by German immigrants on the property in the early 19th century. German immigrants settled in the Antietam Valley beginning in the 1740s. Many of these families followed the Monocacy Indian trail down from Philadelphia.

Today, the Poffenberger Farm, including the Poffenberger Barn, is part of the Antietam National Battlefield. The battlefield was established as a historic site on August 30, 1890. The site became part of the National Park Service on August 10, 1933. The Poffenberger farm was purchased by NPS in 2000.

We propose a period of significance for the Joseph Poffenberger Barn of c.1880 to 1890. This 10 year span includes the main periods of construction and development of the barn by German immigrants, and the major late 19th century construction periods. The 1880 and 1890 construction campaigns coincide with construction dates for additions on the main house.

If the period of significance is extended to c.1830, the significance of the barn increases greatly. This sixty year significance period covers the Civil War Battle of Antietam and the subsequent occupation of the farm by troops. The farm, and particularly the barn, likely served as Gen Hooker's headquarters the evening before the battle.

Not included in the period of significance is the time from 1890 to 1933 which encompasses the continued development of agriculture on the battlefield and the switch from grain production to dairy farming. It also includes the period of memorialization and commemoration, with Congress recognizing the significance of the site in 1890 when it established the "national battlefield at the battlefield of Antietam". Most of the memorials and

plaques were constructed from 1896 to 1898. The park was included in the National Park Service in 1933.

The structure provides many insights into the agricultural life of German settlers in the Antietam Valley from the early 19th century through the early 20th century, depicting many important agricultural practices and unique cultural construction techniques.

Introduction and General Report Methodology

The purpose of the Poffenberger Barn Historic Structures Report is to provide the necessary information to appropriately preserve and stabilize the historic structure. To understand the history and development of the structure to make recommendations for its preservation we have relied on the written and archival records relating to the development of the property; we have analyzed the physical evidence present in the structure; documented the building using photographs; compared it to similar building types; and compared the construction techniques used in conjunction with environmental context.

Written and Archival Investigation

The purpose of the history section of the report is to provide context for the structure and to establish as the history of the barn. The barn is a vernacular agricultural building. For this reason, there are very few written records which refer directly to the Poffenberger Barn. However, enough archival and historical material is available to substantiate the physical evidence of the barn and to provide context for its development.

The report is based on detailed research from archival and primary documents including patents, surveys, maps and land ownership of the Poffenberger parcel from the eighteenth century through the twentieth. It also included primary reports from the Battle of Antietam. The contextual history includes an examination of the settlement and development of the area, analysis of agricultural and farming development, the history of the Poffenberger family, and an examination of the role of the barn in the Civil War.

Investigation of Physical Fabric

This vernacular agricultural structure dates to the early nineteenth century, and it is very unlikely that any drawings existed for its construction or for its subsequent alterations. For this reason, the evaluation of the historic fabric is one of the primary tools we have available for its evaluation. To comprehend the physical evidence of the barn, we examined:

- The construction techniques used in the stone wall foundation and the upper level framing. This includes joists, roof framing, and a close evaluation of saw marks.
- Mortar and white wash analysis.
- Nails and hardware.

By evaluating the above physical characteristics, we wished to learn more about the evolution of the structure and how the different components related to each other.

Historical Narrative of the Poffenberger Barn and its Context

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1755	Settled	Joseph Chapline, Sr. acquires patent for a 717-acre tract Entitled "Resurvey of Hopewell."
AD 1760-1800	Built	1 ½ story log house (c. 1770) and a 2 nd story (c. 1790) were built.
AD 1765	Platted	Joseph Chapline Sr. resurveys property and obtains a patent For a 1,168 ½-acre tract entitled "Loss and Gain"
AD 1768	Land Transfer	Joseph Chapline, Sr. coveys the property "Loss and Gain" to his son, James Chapline
AD 1773	Land Transfer	James Chapline conveys property to Robert Smith (acquired property at an unknown date)
AD 1800-1820	Built	Wash house, wagon shed/corn crib, and shed were built
AD 1813	Land Transfer	Robert Smith conveyed 272-acre property to Christian Middlekauff.
AD 1813-1829	Land Transfer	Christian Middlekauff subdivided his land and conveyed 97 acres to David Neikirk
AD 1829	Land Transfer	David Neikirk conveyed 97-acre property to Daniel Finfruck
AD 1820-1840	Built	Bank Barn (c. 1830) and equipment shed (c. 1830) were built most likely by Daniel Finfruck.
AD 1833-1843	Land Transfer	Daniel Finfruck records a mortgage on the property with Jacob Kaufman (later Coffman). Kaufman takes possession of farm in 1843 after Finfruck defaults on loan.
AD 1833-1852	Built	Main house and farm complex is built sometime during this period
AD 1852	Land Transfer	Jacob Kaufman conveys 144 acres to Joseph and Mary Ann Poffenberger
AD 1859	Land Transfer	Henry Poffenberger conveys 11 acres to Joseph Poffenberger. Joseph now owns 155 acres.

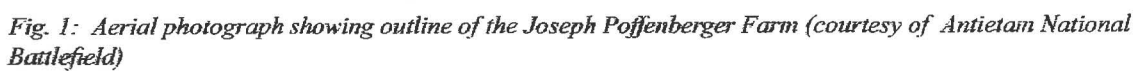
AD 1862	Military Operation	Battle of Antietam September 16-17: The Joseph Poffenberger farm was used as General Hooker's headquarters (barn), artillery placement (Poffenberger Hill) and staging area to care for the wounded
AD 1862	Damaged	Occupation by the Union Army September 17-October 20: The barn, icehouse, tenant house, and dwelling house damaged. Fences, field crops, stored products and personal items were consumed or stolen from Joseph Poffenberger
AD 1878	Farmed/Harvested	Original bank barn burns.
AD 1880	Farmed/Harvested	Otho Poffenberger west section of barn. He also constructs a rear addition off the main house.
AD 1888	Land Transfer	Lawson Poffenberger, executor for the Joseph Poffenberger estate, conveys the property to Otho Poffenberger
AD 1890	Built	Otho Poffenberger constructs east section of barn.
AD 1890-1910	Memorialized	The War Department initiates the preservation and commemoration of the Battle of Antietam
AD 1895	Purchased/Sold	Otho Poffenberger conveys 2 acres to the U.S. Government for the placement of a tour road along the southern boundary of his property.
AD 1896	Built	Mansfield Avenue tour road built by the War Department and tablets and location markers placed along the road corridor.
AD 1904	Memorialized	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania erects the 12 th Pennsylvania Calvary monument along Mansfield Avenue near Smoketown Road.
AD 1906	Memorialized	State of Indiana erects 7 th Indiana Infantry marker along Hagerstown Turnpike near old farm road entry to Joseph Poffenberger's farm.
AD 1907	Purchased/Sold	Otho Poffenberger conveys 10-foot extension to the U.S. Government near the five Pennsylvania monuments to create a "park" setting
AD 1910	Memorialized	State of Indiana erects 7 th Indiana Infantry marker along Hagerstown Turnpike near old farm road entry to Joseph Poffenberger's farm.

AD 1932	Land Transfer	Allen J. Poffenberger executor for the Otho Poffenberger estate conveys 152 acres to Joseph W. Poffenberger, son of Otho.
AD 1933-2007	Established	National Park Service assumes management of Antietam National Battlefield and is given the authorization to purchase additional lands beyond the tour road rights-of-way.
AD 1944	Land Transfer	Joseph W. Poffenberger conveys property to Elmer L. Poffenberger
AD 1962	Memorialized	Clara Barton Monument dedicated and installed along Mansfield Avenue.
AD 1966	Land Transfer	Elmer L. Poffenberger conveys 120 acres to Fred and Renee Kramer.
AD 2000	Land Transfer	Fred and Renee Kramer conveys property to the U.S. Government
AD 2006	Restored	Worm fencing restored along Hagerstown Turnpike and Mansfield Avenue.
AD 2006-2007	Stabilized	Barn, blacksmith shop, carriage house, corn crib/wagon shed outbuildings stabilized.

List of Abbreviations

ANTI	Antietam
HPTC	Historic Preservation Training Center
LOC	Library of Congress
MDArch	Maryland Archives
NARA	U.S. National Archives & Records Administration
NCR	National Capital Region, NPS
NPS	National Park Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

Part 1. Physical History of the Building and Site with its Evolution



1.A. Site History and Context Summary

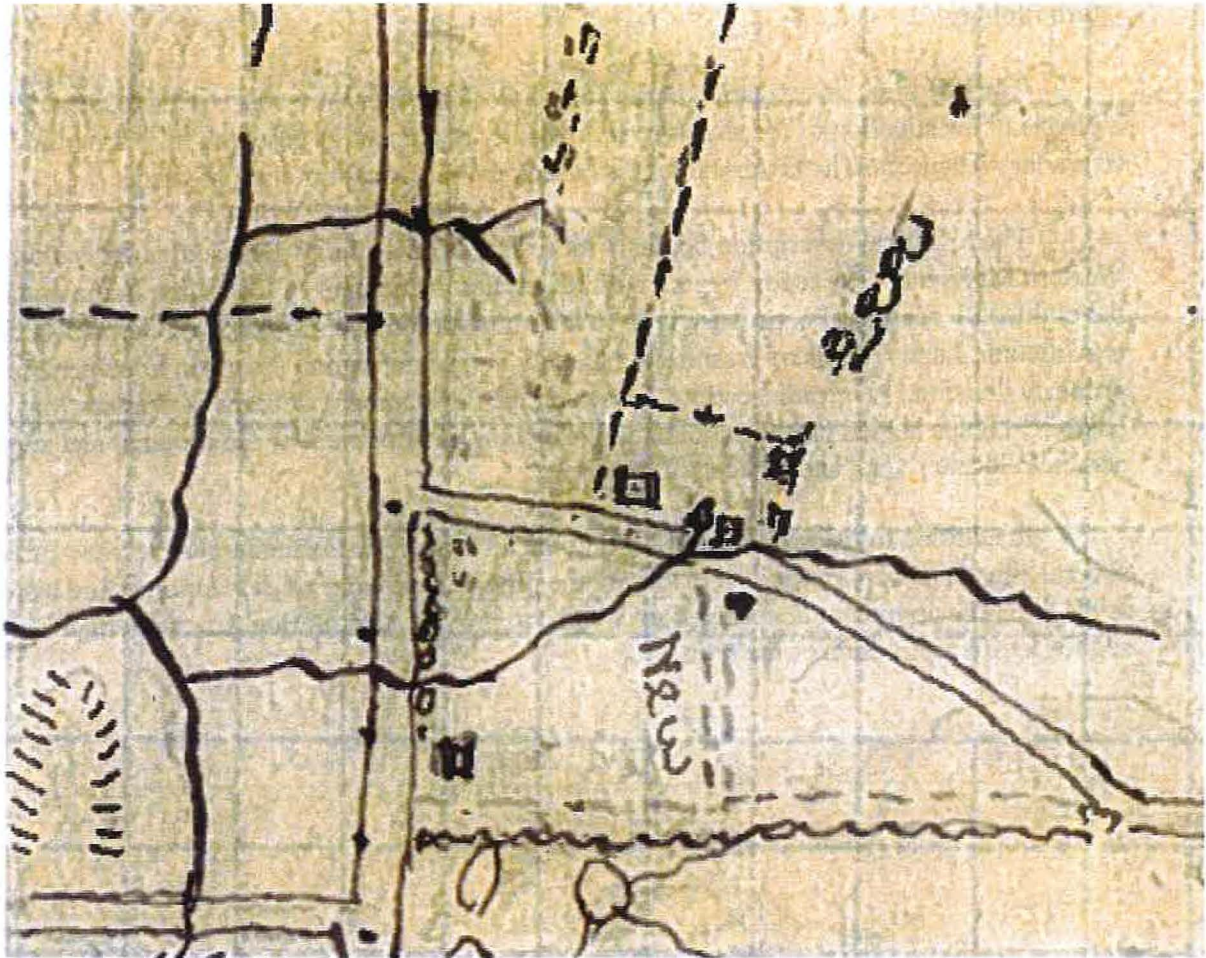
Methodology

The historical investigation at the Joseph Poffenberger barn was conducted based on a physical investigation of the structure followed by documentary research of primary and secondary resources. The historical text is based on a historical timeline of events.

The historical description begins with a discussion of the earliest settlement patterns in Western Maryland. The report begins with the earliest settlement of the region in the middle of the eighteenth century. Focus was given to the immigration and migration of German settlers to Antietam. Land records of Washington County helped determine the chain of ownership and property division. A specific section focuses on the development of barns in Western Maryland. Historical maps helped provide context and show the development of the property and area. They also help locate rivers, and adjacent properties.

In addition to researching and writing the history of the Poffenberger Barn and property, several site visits were conducted to survey the physical evidence of development and history at the site. The architectural descriptions helped to provide information that supports the date sequence of construction of the barn.

Fig. 2: C, 1890s sketch by Jed Hotchkiss showing the proposed "New" farm lane for the Poffenberger property and the proposed Mansfield Avenue. (Courtesy of National Archives)



Ownership of Site Currently Poffenberger Farm:

1755	Joseph Chapline, Sr. acquires patent for land.
1768	James Chapline owned property
1773	Robert Smith purchases property
1813-28	Christian Middlekauff owns land.
1829-43	Finfruck family (Middlekauff's son-in-law) own farm.
1843	Jacob Kauffman takes possession of farm.
1852	Joseph Poffenberger purchases farm from father-in-law.
1852-1966	Farm owned by Poffenberger family
1966	Farm owned by Fred and Renee Kramer
2000	National Park service purchases farm.

The Joseph Poffenberger barn is located in Washington County, Maryland, within the portion of the county that is referred to as the Appalachian Valley, more commonly known as the Great Valley.

The Poffenberger farm is representative of many of the other properties found in the Sharpsburg District of Washington County, Maryland, due to its association with early European settlers and a long-term association with people of German ethnicity.

The early history of the region can be traced to the 1732 proclamation of Charles Calvert, Fifth Lord Baltimore, encouraging the settlement of the Western Maryland frontier. Pioneers were lured to the region by large land grants and the promise of rich, fertile farmland.¹ This proclamation promised 200 acres of land in fee, subject to a four shilling per year quitrent per each 100 acres to any family who would settle and work the land in the area between the Potomac and Susquehanna rivers.²

The western section of Maryland was developed relatively later than the rest of the state. According to Frank Porter in a Maryland Historical Magazine article: "during the early decades of the eighteenth century economic and political conditions in Maryland mitigated against any westward movement." Some of the factors he discusses are: threat of Indians, the holding of large tracts of land by speculators and misconceptions regarding the agricultural potential of the area.

Early Ownership

Like nearby farmsteads, the Poffenberger farm was patented to a prominent land speculator of Anglican lineage, Joseph Chapline, Jr., whose family migrated to Western Maryland from the Tidewater section of the colony. Chapline settled large plots of land in the area. In 1763 he established Sharpsburg, on the land grant called "Joe's Lott" and named it after Horatio Sharpe, a royal governor.³

"Joe's Lott" was one of nineteen grants held by Joseph Chapline totaling 13,400 acres. The Poffenberger farm is located on the "Resurvey of Hopewell" patent acquired by Chapline in 1755 and totaling 717 acres.

In 1765 Joseph Chapline Sr. resurveyed the property and obtained a new patent for the 1,168 ½ acre tract entitled "Loss and Gain". Three years later Joseph Chapline conveyed the land to his son, James. The land transferred hands again in 1773 from James Chapline to Robert Smith.

1 Paula Reed, DR Miller Farm Historic Structures Report, pg 1.

2 Maryland Archives, 28:25

3 John W. Schildt, Drums Along the Antietam (Parsons, W. Va., McClain Print. Co., 1972), p. 19).



Fig. 3: 1757 Thomas Kitchen Map of Western Maryland.

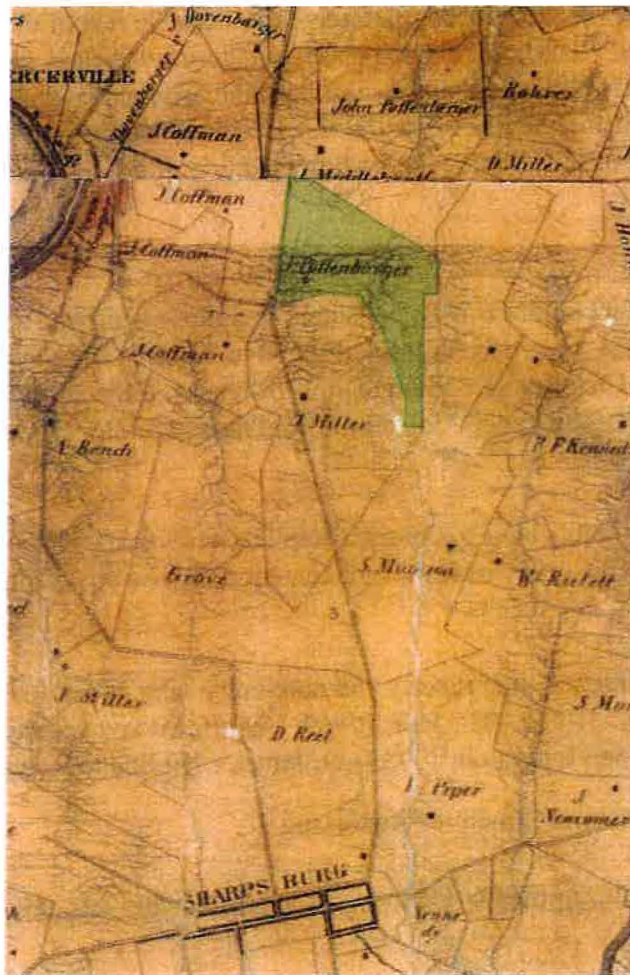


Fig. 4: 1860s Platt map showing Joseph Poffenberger Farm.

It was during the period of ownership by Smith that a 1 ½ story log house was most likely constructed. It was also most likely Smith who added a second story to the house c. 1790. It can be assumed that Smith constructed several outbuildings, including a barn, during his 40 years of residency. There is no evidence of any of these structures. In 1813 Smith conveyed the land to the first German owner: Christian Middlekauff.

German Settlement in the Antietam Valley

Beginning c. 1740 "Pennsylvania Germans" began to settle in Western Maryland. Many of these families followed the Monocacy Indian trail down from Pennsylvania.⁴ These settlers tended, at first, to be tenants rather than land owners. They were, however, a strong influence in the founding of Western Maryland, and on the landscape around Sharpsburg. The settlement prior to 1740 "did not grow very rapidly and it was not until the coming of the German settlers, who by their thrift and industry showed the possibilities of the fertile fields that the colony began to make rapid strides forward."⁵

German Ownership

Christian Middlekauff, a neighboring farmer, took possession of the farm in 1813. At some point between 1813 and 1829, he sold 29 acres of the property to David Neikirk. In 1820, Middlekauff's daughter Rosanna married Daniel Finfruck, and shortly after moved onto the property. The couple had their first child within the year, and had six more while living on the property. The German settlers were a small community often related to each other by marriage. Christian Middlekauff's son, Jacob, married Elizabeth Poffenberger.

Christian Middlekauff passed away in 1828 leaving the land to his son. The following year, Finfruck purchased the farm from his brother-in-law in the sum of \$2000.00.

In 1833, Daniel took a \$3000.00 ten year loan from his neighbor, Jacob Coffman. He used the farm, which was valued at \$7000.00, as collateral. It is likely that this loan was used to construct several of the farm's outbuildings, including the large Pennsylvania Bank Barn. Terrible events would prevent Finfruck from repaying his loan. Rosanna passed away in August followed on October 18, 1833 by Daniel. The couple left behind seven children, including one infant.

It is likely that the Finfruck children remained on the property for the ten years following their

4 (Schildt, 22)

5 Stephen Sears, Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam (New Haven : Ticknor & Fields, c1983), p. 11.

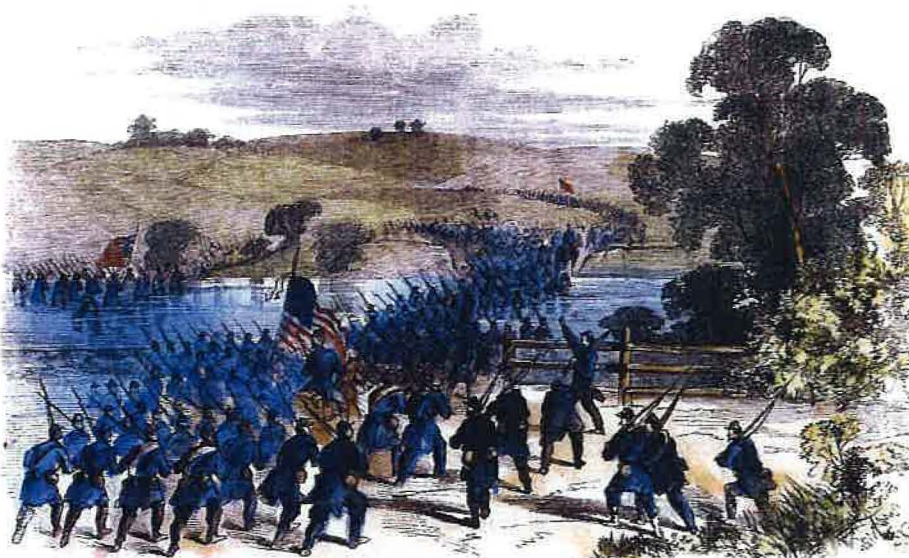


Fig. 5: Sketch by artist Frank Schell depicting Union soldiers fording Antietam Creek. First appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper October 11, 1862. The soldiers are claimed to be part of General Hooker's First Corp on their way to "attack the Rebel army under General Lee."



Fig. 6: General Joseph Hooker. (Courtesy National Archives).

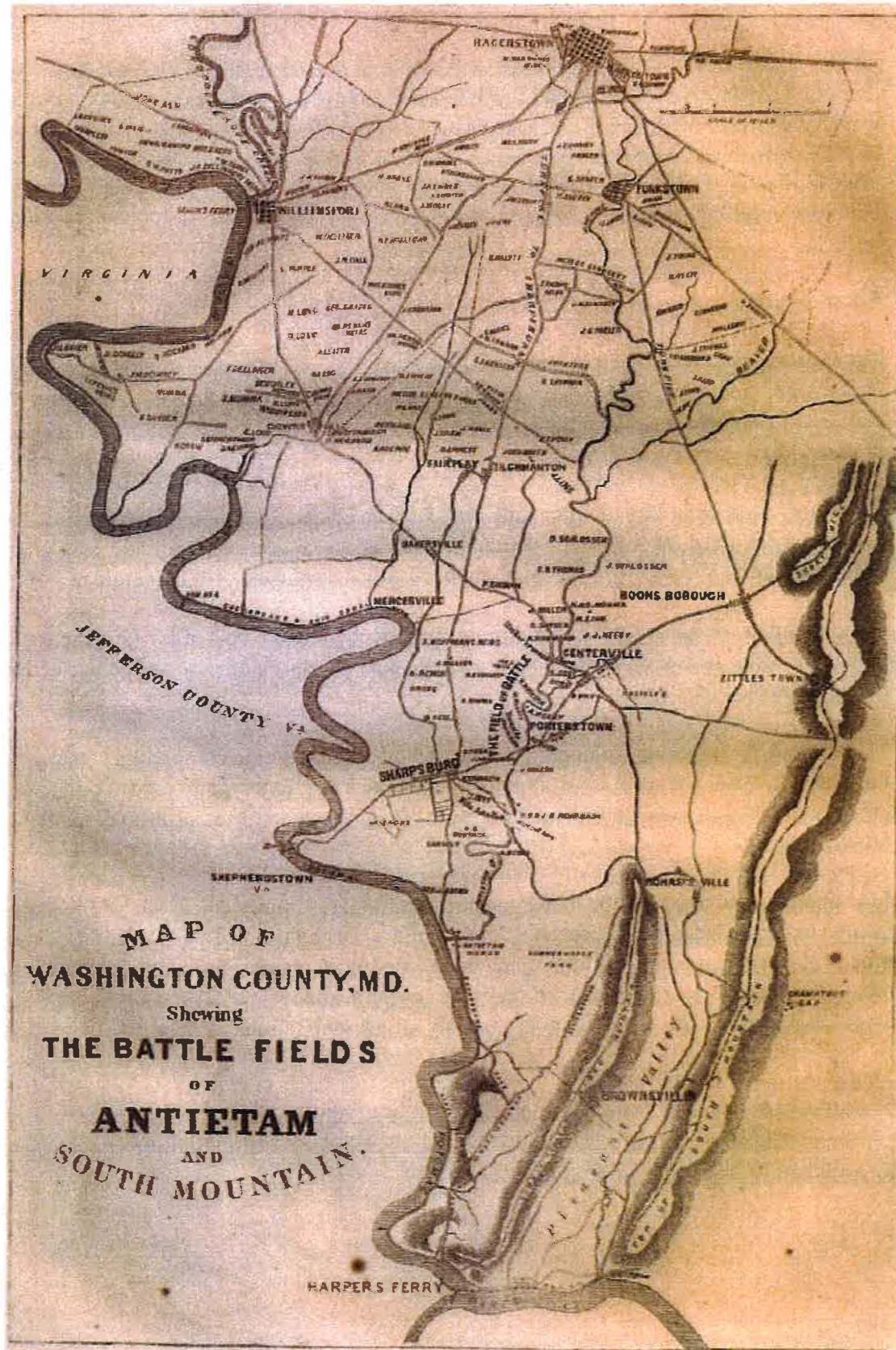


Fig. 7: Map of Antietam Battlefield. *Harper's Weekly*, 1862.

parents' death. In 1843 Jacob Coffman, with his loan unpaid, assumed ownership of the farm. The 1850 census shows that Joseph Poffenberger and his wife, Mary Ann, were living on the property. Joseph Poffenberger and Mary Ann Coffman, Jacob's daughter, were married in 1838. In 1852, Joseph purchased the farm from his father-in-law. This purchase was followed by a land transfer of 11 acres from Henry Poffenberger in 1859, for an estate totaling 155 acres. The Poffenberger family would be the farm's longest occupants, owning the property for over a hundred years.

The Poffenbergers

The Poffenbergers were the descendants of German immigrants who had arrived in Philadelphia in 1733 aboard the *Pink Mary*.⁶ By the time the Poffenbergers arrived in the New World a well-established German Community had already been formed in the Germantown area north of Philadelphia.

The family worked in Philadelphia until they had saved enough money to start a farm. The Poffenbergers followed other German settlers to Lancaster County, eventually moving to a German settlement called Tulpehocken, located about 75 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Some members of the second generation of Poffenbergers were part of the German migration to the Hagerstown area of Maryland. Their early history in Maryland is recorded in *The History of Washington Co., Maryland*:

"The first of the large and influential family of Poffenbergers who came to this county was John Poffenberger, who arrived here from Pennsylvania in 1760, and bought a farm on the road leading from the Hagerstown and Sharpsburg Turnpike to Keedysville, near a small hamlet called Smoketown."⁷

John and his wife Mary established a farm in Washington County consisting of 150 acres. This farm land was divided among Joseph's eight children. The Poffenberger farms that existed at the time of the battle, namely the John, Sam, and Alfred Poffenberger farms, consisted of land from the original estate and other acquisitions. The Joseph Poffenberger farm, as described above, was a new acquisition, with the exception, possibly, of the land purchased from Henry Poffenberger.

⁶ Thomas Poffenberger *From Germany to Antietam* (Xlibris, 2003), p.56.

⁷ Thomas Williams, *History of Washington County Maryland, 1906* (Baltimore, Clearfield and Co. and Family Line Publications, 1992), p. 27)

By 1852 Joseph and Mary Ann Poffenberger were living on the farm. The Poffenbergers never had any of their own children. However, there are records of several children living with them. One child, Isaac Mallott, stated that he was living on the farm in 1862, and was "raised by Poffenberger since he was a boy."

The Battle of Antietam

It was late in the afternoon on September 16, 1862, when Union Major General Joseph Hooker and the 1st Corps crossed the Antietam Creek. The crossing had been reported to Brigadier General John Bell Hood, by a confederate scout. Hood's two brigades were occupying an empty lot in what would later be known as the East Woods. Hood was met by the Third Division, George Mean and his Pennsylvania Reserves, in a fierce skirmish. The New York Tribune's George Smalley described the event, stating: "The fight flashed, and glimmered, and faded, and finally went out in the dark."⁸ This skirmish provided Hooker with the opportunity to bivouac the 1st Corps behind a ridge on the Poffenberger Farm, just north of the house and farm buildings. Hooker chose the barn as the location of his headquarters for the night. As he was settling in for the night, reporter Smalley heard him mutter that, "If they had let us start earlier, we might have finished tonight."⁹ The following morning, the 1st Corps launched their attack.

The first shots of the battle were fired early in the morning by Confederate soldiers from Nichodemus ridge to the west of the Poffenberger farm. Union Captain J. Albert Monroe, part of Doubleday's division Hooker described the events of the morning:

"We had not half finished our meal, but it had grown considerably lighter, and we could see the first rays of the sun lighting up the distant hilltops, when there was a sudden flash, and the air around us appeared to be alive with shot and shell from the enemy's artillery. The opposite hill seemed suddenly to have become an active volcano, belching forth flame, smoke and scoriae.

The first shot apparently passed directly through our little breakfast party, not more than a foot or two above the blanket, and it struck the ground only a few feet from us. Every one dropped

8 (Sears, 176)

9 (Sears, 176)

whatever he had in his hands, and looked around the group to see whose head was missing. So suddenly did the firing commence and so rapidly did shot follow shot, I felt lost for an instant.”¹⁰

Around 6 a.m. Hooker's 1st Corps advanced southward through the area later known as the North Woods. Hooker's main objective was to capture Dunker Church. As soon as Hooker's men cleared the cover of the woods they were spotted by Colonel Lee's gunners and fired upon. During the early stages Hooker's men were able to drive back the confederate troops. Some of the fiercest fighting took place in D.R. Miller's cornfield. General Hooker described the aftermath of the battle: "In the time that I am writing every stalk of corn in the northern and greater part of the field was cut was closely as could have been done with a knife, and the slain lay in rows precisely as they had stood in their ranks a few moments before. It was never my fortune to witness a more bloody, dismal battlefield." During the battle Hooker was slightly injured and was succeeded by General Meade.

By 9:00 a.m. Hooker's men were suffering from Hood's counter-attack and retreated to the ridge on the Poffenberger Farm. From this ridge, Hooker was able to hold back the attack from the Confederates and allowed the 1st Corps to dissuade General Robert E. Lee's plan to flank the right end of the Union Line, which was located on the Poffenberger land. Lee's plan would have caused a substantial retreat of the Union Army in the northern section of the battlefield. The Union artillery, located on Poffenberger's ridge, was "commanding the open space nearly a mile wide extending to the Potomac, consisting of all 10 batteries of the 1st Corps, together with several of those of the XII Corps."¹¹ The strength of the Union artillery kept Lee from accomplishing his plan, "[T]he group north of Poffenberger's was the factor which, despite the energy and ingenuity of Pelham and others of Lee's resourceful artillerists, forbade any attempt to turn the extreme Federal right on the seventeenth."¹² The troop presence at the Poffenberger farm greatly impacted the outcome of the battle at Antietam. While the battle was over in a matter of hours, the occupation of the Poffenberger farm had just begun. The Union troops would remain encamped on the farm until October 20, 1864.

Damage to the Farm

It is unclear where Joseph and Mary Ann Poffenberger were for the duration of the battle. Many of the local residents took refuge at Killiansburg Cave on the Potomac River.

The Poffenberger farm was under constant artillery fire from the Confederate batteries on Nico-
10 Henry Woodhead, Antietam: Voices of the Civil War (Alexandria, VA, Time-Life Books, 1996), p. 8.

11 Robert Johnson, North to Antietam : battles and leaders of the Civil War (New York : Castle, c1956), p.54)

12 (Johnson, 57)

demus Heights and from those at Dunker Church. In addition to the battle damage, the farm was completely emptied of its crops, livestock and anything else deemed useful by the army. The soldiers emptied the house of everything they could carry, including: China dishes, silverware, and a gold and diamond bracelet. The farm was described after the battle by a war claims appraiser who stated that the "claimants farm was a perfect wreck after the battle, crops destroyed, house riddled and everything taken out."¹³

When Joseph returned to the farm the evening after the battle, he described the scene, stating: "...my house it was completely empty. I had nothing left."¹⁴ Poffenberger witnessed the destruction of his farm, seeing union soldiers remove over 450 bushels of wheat from his barn, leaving the farmer with only 40 bushels. When he approached General Meade, he was told to "make out [his] account for the Government would pay [him]"

While the house, ice house, tenant house and barn all sustained damage during the battle the worst losses occurred after the battle, during the occupation by the Union troops. The damage is recorded extensively in the Court of Claims records regarding the loss of household items, food, forage, and firewood. The house, like many of its neighbors, was used as a hospital during the battle of 1862, Isaac Malatt, a boy who had been raised by the Poffenbergers, stated that he, "saw them take everything he had on his farm except his horses, and they would probably have been taken if they had not been away at the time."¹⁵ Isaac continued:

"The sheeps, hogs and cattle were taken by the troops in a body...They [Union officers] said their wagon supply train had not come up, that they were out of rations, and they must have food for themselves and their horses...I was on the premises when these supplies were taken. He was so distressed that he could not eat."

Poffenberger reported that the devastation was so extreme that he was forced to "live on army crackers that I found on the battlefield for five days."¹⁶ The losses from the farm even included the family bible which was "found" on the field by a Confederate Soldier. It did not return to the area until the 1960s, and is now located at the Washington County Historical Society.¹⁷

While the claim records are extensive regarding the loss of property, they do not provide the details of any property damage. "Joseph reported property damage to his barn, ice house, tenant house, and dwelling house totaling \$34.00, a surprisingly low sum. Apparently, the significant damage came in the form of looted household items, and the food, forage, and firewood referred

13 Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891B:14

14 Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891B:11

15 Court of Claims Deposition of Isaac Malatt 1891A:5

16 Court of Claims Joseph Poffenberger 1891B: 12

17(MIHP 2003:8-3)

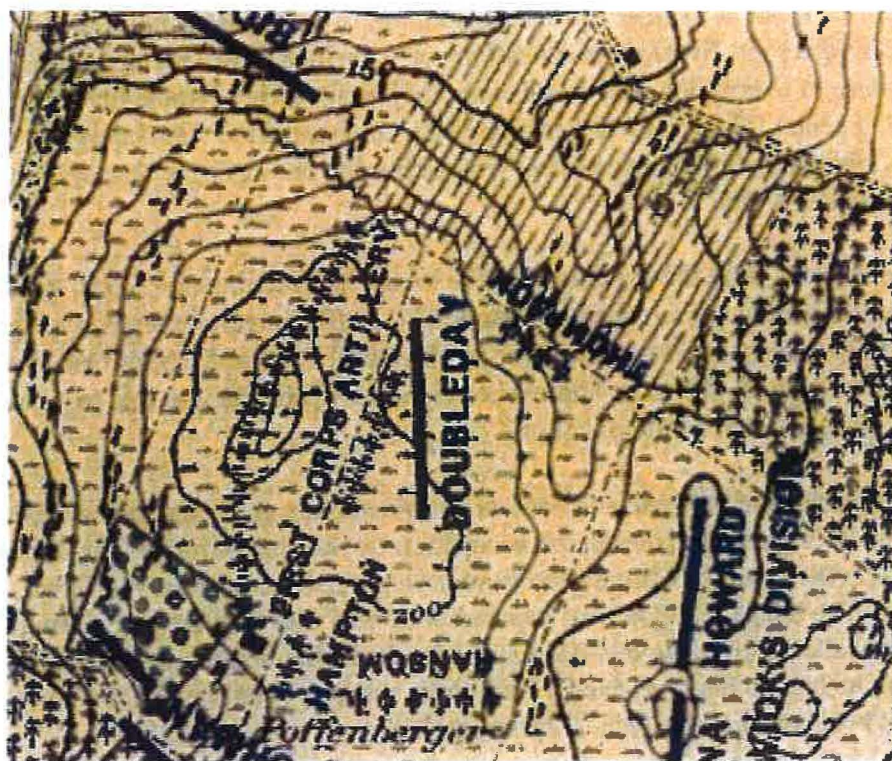


Fig. 8: War Department Carmen-Cope Map which outlines the location of Hooker's First Corps Artillery during the battle. (Courtesy of National Archives)

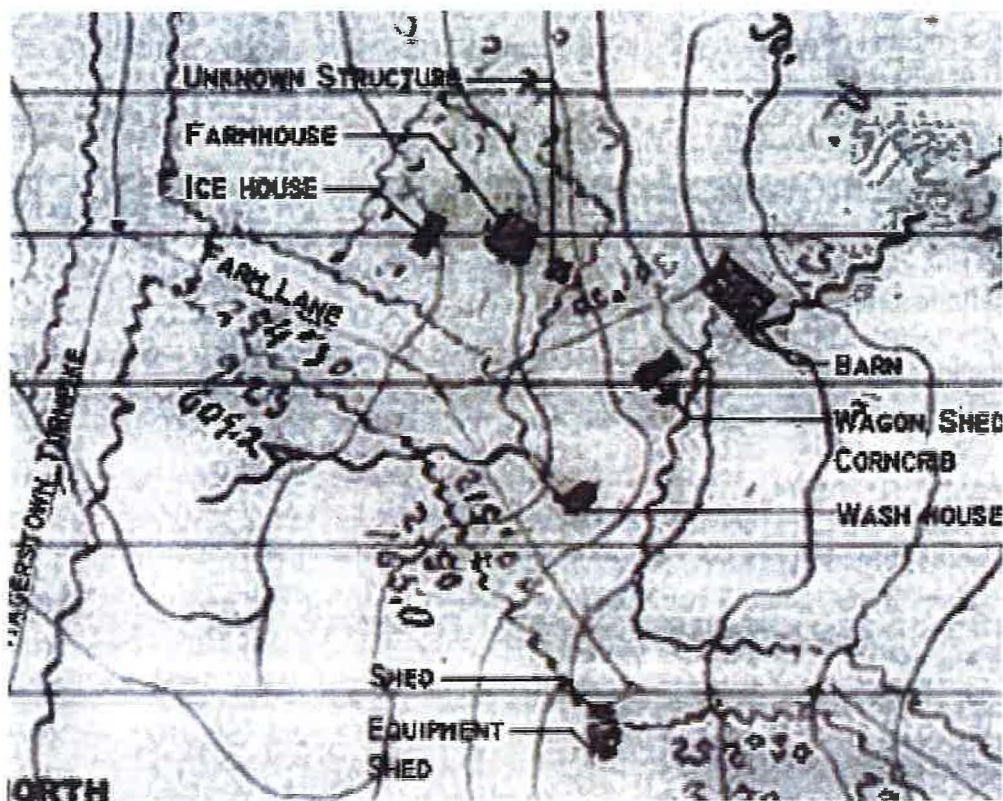


Fig. 9: 1862 General Michler sketch map showing the Joseph Poffenberger farm buildings, including the barn. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress)

to as “quartermaster stores” by the army.¹⁸ The Poffenberger family would not receive compensation until nearly five years after Joseph Poffenberger’s death.

Ownership after the War

Mary Ann Poffenberger died shortly after the war in 1864 at the age of 46. Joseph continued to work on the farm, eventually turning control over to his nephew Otho Poffenberger. At the time Otho purchased the farm: “it was much run down, but he has brought it up to a high state of cultivation. He remodeled the old part of the dwelling. He has built a new addition to the old dwelling. He helped to build the barn on the place, a part of which was built in 1880, and other parts in 1890.” This quote accurately describes the 1880s ell addition and folk Victorian details to the main house. It also supports the dendrochronology dates found for the east and west sections of the barn. It may also hint that the construction of the limestone foundations of the barn were in fact built c.1880. It remains possible, however, that the new sections of the barn were built on an old foundation.

The Joseph Poffenberger farm remained in the Poffenberger family until 1966 when it was purchased by Fred and Renee Kramer. The farm was finally purchased and became part of Antietam National Battlefield in 2000.

¹⁸(MIHP 2003:8-3)

HISTORY OF BARNs IN WESTERN MARYLAND

The historic roots of the German Bank barns that characterize the Western Maryland farmland can be traced back to antecedents in Pennsylvania and even further back to Germany and England. Like most American vernacular architecture, these barns were not a copy of the European structures. They developed in conjunction with the availability of certain materials and to suit the new farming needs of the American pioneer. Additionally, the vernacular structure in the new world would often combine the knowledge of several different construction heritages. It was not uncommon, for instance, for a German farmer to hire an English builder to construct his barn. This would result, in many cases, in a barn that had the typical construction pattern of a German barn using, however, English construction techniques. This melting pot of knowledge resulted in a bank barn that, while Germanic in origin, is truly American in its development and final form.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Forebay German bank barns had become the dominant type in southeastern Pennsylvania by the end of the 18th century. When German settlers reached Western Maryland in the mid-18th the barns that they found were small log structures, English in origin. The Germans quickly replaced these structures with the more durable, and larger, Pennsylvania German Barn.

The diagnostic feature of the German Bank barn is the presence of a forebay. The forebay is the eave side overhang of the second level by 4 to 20 feet. A secondary characteristic feature is the presence of banked access to the second level of the structure. This bank is often created by constructing the barn into a hill; or, as was common in the Antietam Valley, by constructing a gentle earthen ramp. There are a number of barns that are banked but are not characterized as German bank barns because they lack the indicative forebay. These barns, found throughout New England and the Midwest are called basement barns.

The German Bank barn was designed for grain farming. These barns usually had an earthen ramp at the back of the structure to provide access to the upper level and an overhanging forebay at the front. The upper level centered around the threshing and grain processing. The threshing floor was typically located in the center flanked on each side by a mow. In early barns the granary was often located over the forebay. The lower level of the barn was reserved for animal stalls.

CLASSIFICATIONS

The German Bank barn can be classified into three major categories: The Sweitzer Pennsylvania Barn, The Standard Pennsylvania Barn, and The Extended Pennsylvania Barn. All three typologies can be found in Western Maryland.

SWEITZER

The Sweitzer Pennsylvania barn is the earliest manifestation of the Pennsylvania barn and was constructed primarily between 1730 and 1850. This barn is easily identified by the asymmetrical roof line that is created because the roof slope continues unbroken over the forebay of the barn. The oldest Sweitzer barns typically have the steepest roof slopes and were constructed of logs. Most of the Sweitzer barns found in Western Maryland are characterized as either a Classic Sweitzer Barn (built 1750-1850) or a Transition Sweitzer Barn.

The Classic Sweitzer differed from the Log Sweitzer in that it replaced log cribs with masonry walls and hewn timber. These barns were often constructed of masonry on three sides. Heavy bents were usually constructed using hewn oak to support the masonry walls. These barns were typically larger than its log forebays, often by more than 100 feet. The forebay of the classic Sweitzer was often six to nine feet deep. During the first half of the nineteenth century there was a shift in construction from stone to timber framing and, occasionally, brick. Another conversion of the Sweitzer barn was the Transition Sweitzer Barn, built between 1790 and 1840. In this case, the forebay is supported by an extended lower level wall.

THE STANDARD PENNSYLVANIA BARN

The standard Pennsylvania Barn evolved from the Sweitzer Pennsylvania Barn around 1790. This barn differs from the Sweitzer in that the forebay is located within the main barn frame resulting in a symmetrical roof line. This also permits the height of the forebay to equal that of the rear bank wall. Early Standard Pennsylvania Barns are characterized by a closed forebay. While this typology continued to be constructed through the 1890s, many Standard Pennsylvania Barns transitioned to an open forebay. During this transition period, some barns had a partially open forebay, where one of the forebay supporting walls was removed. They are similar in both construction and chronology to the Transition Sweitzer, which was constructed between 1790 and 1840. The Joseph Poffenberger Barn is a Transition Standard Barn. Around 1810 some Standard Barns evolved to a completely open-forebay. These forebays are typically 6-9 feet in width. These barns are typically characterized by all frame construction, whereas previous typologies were constructed of either frame or masonry. Open-forebay barns were constructed until around 1890. A late phase in the development of the Standard Barn was the Posted-Forebay Barn constructed between 1840-1910. The forebays in these structures were supported by support posts, which allowed the stable wall to be pushed back and created an overhang of up to 15 feet.

MULTIPLE OVERHANG STANDARD BARN

The third type, constructed between 1830 and 1880 is the Multiple-Overhang Standard Barn. This barn results from an extension of the barn's upper level beyond the lower level wall on

sides other than the forebay. These “extra-overhang” walls could include double overhang, four-sided overhang or the extension of one gable-end. This type of barn is not common in Western Maryland, and so will not be discussed in depth. A more thorough examination can be found in Robert Ensminger’s book *The Pennsylvania Barn*.

DATING THE WESTERN MARYLAND BARN

By the time settlers arrived in Western Maryland the basic form and construction of the Pennsylvania Bank barn had already been established. There are very few barns that pre-date 1820. This is due partially to the settlement pattern of Germans in the area and to the availability of material. Sweitzer barns tend to predate the Standard Pennsylvania Barn. Open-forebay structures tend to post-date closed-forebay and transition forebay buildings. Very few log barns have survived. The barns tended to evolve from log barns (most of which are not German Bank Barns) to stone barns, then from timber frame to brick. Stone barns in the region were typically constructed between 1790 and 1850. Brick barns were constructed between the 1830s and the 1870s. Frame barns were constructed from 1790 through the early 20th century. Of course, there was a lot of overlap in construction techniques and style. Other factors must be considered in dating the barn.

Certain construction techniques and patterns can aid in dating a barn. Around 1830 the queen post truss evolved from being constructed vertically to being canted. This helped spread the load of the purlin more evenly on the tie beam. Another indication of the construction period can be the presence of a dropped tie beam. Around 1840 the tie beam dropped around 3 feet to allow for timber to be mass-produced. Of course the easiest way to date a barn is the presence of a date stone. Even this, however, does not guarantee the date of construction. Foundations, and therefore date stones, were often reused in the construction of newer barns and other buildings.

In addition to the construction techniques described above, a timber framed barn can be dated through the species of wood used, the marks left on the timber (hewn or sawn), and through nails and hardware.

The earliest barns are constructed using hewn lumber. Saw mills were present in Western Maryland and near Antietam by the early 19th century. While long members of timber continued to be hewn, many of the shorter members would have been straight sawn by the time the Poffenberger Barn was constructed. The presence of circular saw marks indicate a mid-nineteenth century or later construction date, wood replacement, or addition.

The presence of early hand wrought nails can also indicate an early construction date. Nails, like wood, evolved from hand-made hand-wrought nails to hand-head cut nails, cut nails, and wire nails. The use of different nails varied from region to region. The occurrence of a certain type of nail does not date a structure with certainty. The predominance of a type of nail or its use in

original fabric can help substantiate the construction date of a barn. Hardware, like nails, can aid in dating a barn. Unfortunately, hardware was often reused on other doors from other buildings, and is therefore one of the least reliable methods of dating a structure. The existence of early hardware can, like nails, help substantiate a date.

Finally, early barns without exception were constructed using local timber. In Western Maryland these barns were constructed mostly of pine and oak. The foundations of all barns were built using local stone, until the 20th century when concrete block was introduced.

BARNs AND USE

The physical shape of a barn developed in close proximity to the agricultural needs of the farmer. The Pennsylvania Bank Barn developed primarily in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia where they were directly linked to grain production. In 1860, Washington County, Maryland was one of the largest wheat producing counties in the nation. While Western Maryland was one of the later areas of the east coast to be settled, it quickly became one of the most important agricultural areas.

An April 11, 1860 Herald and Torch excerpt described the booming agriculture of the land and the need for rail service from Baltimore to Hagerstown:

Washington County raises annually over a million bushels of wheat, besides large crops of rye, oats, corn, potatoes, fruit, vegetables, including also a great number of cattle, horses, hogs and sheep. Its agricultural resources are, therefore, of decided magnitude. Excepting perhaps Lancaster County Pennsylvania and Genesee County, New York, according to territory, it is the largest wheatgrowing county in the United States and richest in resources of this kind. Franklin County, adjoining, in Pennsylvania, and naturally within range, like it, of our Baltimore market, is also exceedingly rich and productive. Hagerstown is the legitimate entrepot of the trade of this entire Western Maryland region, embracing a large portion also of the Cumberland (Pa.) valley, which with the Franklin Railroad now open and regularly working, and the Western Maryland road, were it completed through, would secure, as an inevitable consequence, the whole trade and business of this vast scope of country to Baltimore, bow, and likely hereafter, for want of an opening, to be diverted from your metropolis and taken to Philadelphia, New York and other northern markets, to the extent of millions of dollars annually.

The first railroad through Sharpsburg did not open until 1880.

When these bank barns were originally constructed, grain was still being produced through the labor intensive, hand processed method known as threshing. This was done in the center of the

barn on the threshing floor using a flail. Eric Sloane describes the process in *An Age of Barns*: "The flail was grasped in both hands, the club end or swingle came down and broke the grain, and this manner the seeds were separated from the husks." The hay and empty straw were stored in the mows that flanked the threshing floor. The granary was often constructed over the forebay.

Changes in technology greatly effected the use of the Pennsylvania Bank Barn. By the mid-19th century, mechanized threshing machines had largely replaced the labor intensive hand threshing method. These new larger machines were usually positioned towards the bank of the barn to be close to a power source. This power was first

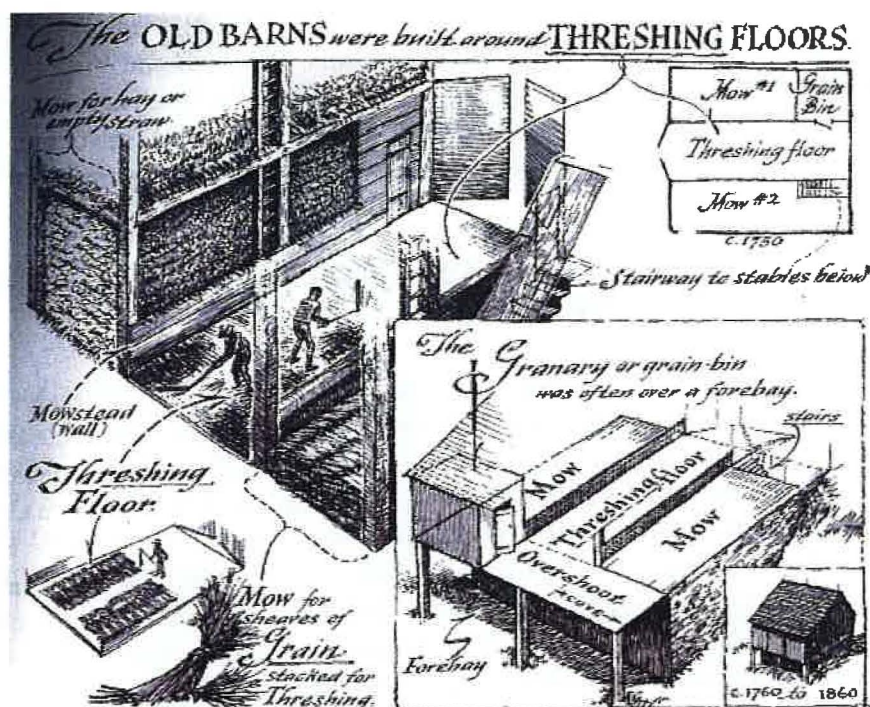


Fig. 10: Image depicting the process of threshing and the layout of the upper level barn. (Sloan, p. 49)

produced by horse, followed by steam engines and gas engines by 1900. These power sources greatly increased the risk of fire within a barn and so were commonly kept outside the barn. As a result of this new technology the granary was often moved to the rear of the barn, closer to the threshing machine.

Another significant shift occurred in the early 20th century when dairy farming began to replace grain farming as the primary income for western Maryland farmers. The barns were modified to accommodate larger dairy herds and milking equipment, which often included enclosing a forebay, the concreting of typically earthen basement floors and the construction of manure troughs. In the 1930s and 40s, the government increased sanitary regulations regarding the whitewashing of barns, light and ventilation. Herds in Washington County remained small, averaging between

15-20 cows.

The last 100 years has probably had the greatest effect on the fate of the Pennsylvania Bank Barn. By the end of the 1920s the number of farms in Western Maryland began to decrease. This shift from agriculture to urban culture has resulted in a number of unused barns.

1.B. Chronology of Development and Use

The following description and drawings attempt to explain the sequence of development and construction of the Poffenberger Farm. Like most vernacular buildings very little written documentation exists to substantiate these claims.

This document focuses primarily on the Pennsylvania German Bank barn located on the property. Therefore dates of construction for the house and other outbuildings are based on secondary sources and have been verified by field visits to the site.

Early Construction

The Joseph Poffenberger house was most likely constructed in three phases. The oldest section of the house, a one-story log structure was most likely constructed by Robert Smith sometime between 1773 and 1790. It was also Smith who added a second story to the building around 1790. The house remained virtually unchanged for over 100 years.

It is quite likely that Smith constructed other structures during his forty-year ownership. One of these structures would certainly have included a barn. There is, however, no physical or written evidence that describes any of these buildings.

The barn would most likely have been a simple log crib structure, which was quite common in the frontier where pioneers had access to plenty of wood. This hypothesis is further substantiated by the method of construction used in the main house. This barn would have been modeled on English rather than German models. This barn was likely small in size, 10 x 10 being a common dimension for the hewed sill plate.

German Construction

Based on documentary evidence Daniel Finfruck constructed the original bank barn and the other outbuildings around 1830. The other structures included: a spring house, shed and corn crib. These structures were dated based on construction techniques used, hardware and nail chronology. The date is further substantiated by the \$3000 loan that Finfruck received in 1833, which was most likely used to improve his primary landholding.

Chronology of Development for the Joseph Poffenberger Barn

Like many buildings of its type, the history of the Poffenberger barn has some inconsistencies and unsolved mysteries. Where this report is unable to make conclusive arguments, it shall provide the most likely chronology of development given the current historical research and physical characteristics of the building.

The Evolution of the Poffenberger Barn

The Masonry Foundation

There are two possible construction dates for the limestone foundation of the Poffenberger barn. The first is that the foundation was built c.1830, and was re-used by Otho Poffenberger c.1880 when he constructed the west section of the barn. It is more likely, that western half of the lower level of the barn was built in 1880 and the eastern half was constructed in 1890 by Otho Poffenberger. This report will examine both possibilities.

There has been considerable discussion, based primarily on written evidence, that the Joseph Poffenberger barn that served General Hooker during the Battle of Antietam, burned on September 7, 1876. The evidence of this barn's destruction is based primarily on a newspaper article in The Herald and Torch which described the fire. This article, which describes the fire in detail, states that: "The walls of the barn are falling down and will be useless for any purpose, the stone being burnt almost to lime."

It is likely, given the construction dates of the west and east sections of the upper level, that the original barn did burn down in the fire. Assuming that this article accurately described the 1876 fire, one would assume that the current foundation was built by Otho Poffenberger c.1880.

The physical evidence of the foundation, however, points to another possible alternative. The construction techniques used in the lower level foundation were common in Pennsylvania Bank barns constructed c. 1830. These techniques were less common in the second half of the 19th century. There is possible physical evidence that the limestone foundation survived the fire in the pinkish hue of limestone rocks located on the interior face of the foundation walls.

The calcification of limestone occurs when the stone is exposed to extreme heat, like the heat found in a fire. During a fire limestone is chemically and structurally altered as the stone is turned into lime. The calcification process occurs in three stages. During the first phase the stone turns a light grey, but retains its strength. This occurs between 100-200 degrees. During the second stage, between 200-400 degrees, the rock turns a light pink and begins to lose strength. During the third stage, 400-600 degrees, the rock turns a dull grey and suffers a considerable loss of strength. The limestone breaks down completely around 650 degrees. The temperature of the barn during the fire would have easily reached 600 degrees.

The physical evidence present is inconclusive. There is a layer of pinkish clay found over many sections of the interior foundation wall. It has not been directly proven that this clay is the result of a fire. There are also some places where the mortar possibly appears to have been fired and is brittle and hard. Other sections of what appears to be original mortar remain pliable. It is possible that the layers of whitewash helped to preserve the integrity of the stone. However, given that the ceiling temperature of a barn during a fire can rapidly reach 1800 degrees, the lower level of the barn during the fire almost certainly surpassed the 600-650 degree stage, where the stone would have lost its strength to function as a foundation.

Given this evidence, it is likely that the limestone foundation of the barn was built c.1880. However, the construction techniques and the possible evidence of fire in the limestone foundation, leave open the possibility that the foundation was part of the earlier c.1830 barn.

Late 19th Century Construction

The upper level of the barn was constructed in two different phases by Otho Poffenberger. The western section of the barn was constructed in 1880. Otho completed the reconstruction in 1890 by finishing the eastern section. In Thomas Williams' 1906 History of Washington County he describes Poffenberger's improvements to the farm:

"...this farm he rented for a few years from his uncle Joseph Poffenberger, and then bought it...At the time that Mr. Poffenberger purchased it from his uncle the farm was much run down, but he brought it up to a high state of cultivation. He remodeled the old part of the dwelling house, which was built of logs a hundred and fifty years ago and afterwards weatherboarded. He has built a new addition to the old dwelling. He helped to build the barn on the place, a part of which was built in 1880, and the other part in 1890."

The article also refers to the Victorian style wing and details Otho Poffenberger added to the Poffenberger house c.1880.

The development of the Poffenberger barn, like most vernacular buildings, is filled with inconsistencies and inconclusive findings. The chronology provided in the section above is based on the most current historical and physical evidence. Other evidence or research methods may provide more conclusive evidence.

PARK	NAME	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	TYPE	IMAGE
Antietam National Battlefield	Henry Piper Farm Barn	Original: 1820 Addition: 1914	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	
Antietam National Battlefield	Phillip Pry Farm Barn	Original: 1844	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	
Antietam National Battlefield	Joseph Sherrick Farm Barn	Original: 1838 Burned: 1985	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	

Antietam National Battlefield	Samuel Mumma Farm Barn	Foundations: 1790 Rebuilt: 1863	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	
Antietam National Battlefield	Roulette Farm Barn	Original: 1810	Pennsylvania Bank Barn: Sweitzer	
Antietam National Battlefield	D.R. Miller Farm Barn	Original: 1800	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	

Antietam National Battlefield	Alfred Poffenberger/ Mary Locher Farm Barn	Foundations: 1800 Rebuilt: 1950	Gambrel Roof: 1950 Pennsylvania German foundation	
Antietam National Battlefield	Cunningham Farm Barn	Original: 1800	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	
Monocacy National Battlefield	Best Farm Barn	Original: 1790	French Stone Barn	

National Park Service

Joseph Poffenberger Barn - Antietam National Battlefield
Chronology of Development and Use

Monocacy National Battlefield	Baker Farm Barn	Original: 1840	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	
Monocacy National Battlefield	Baker Farm Dairy Barn	Original: 1910	20 th Century Dairy Barn-Gambrel Roof	
Monocacy National Battlefield	Lewis Farm Barn	Original: 1870 Altered: 1940	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	

Monocacy National Battlefield	Thomas Farm Barn	Original: 1800 Altered: 1900	Pennsylvania Bank Barn	
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1.C. Physical Description

This section includes a photographic physical description of the Joseph Poffenberger Barn documenting the building's existing conditions with relevant features and materials noted for each space and elevation.

Summary Description of the Major Materials and Building Techniques in the Building

General: Type, Plan, and Size

The Joseph Poffenberger Barn is a Pennsylvania Bank Barn constructed by German Immigrants to Western Maryland c. 1880/1890. The west wing was constructed c.1880. The east wing was constructed c.1890. While the upper story appears to have been mostly reconstructed c.1880, the timber framing, layout and construction techniques would have appeared remarkably similar to the original Poffenberger barn that was constructed in 1830.

The Poffenberger barn is transition standard Pennsylvania Bank barn. This type of barn is described in the evolution of the Pennsylvania Bank Barn section.

The footprint of the Poffenberger barn is thirty-five plus feet by eighty plus feet, over a 2800 square foot footprint. With its full upper and lower level, the building ultimately totals more than 7,000 gross square feet.

Exterior

The barn is a typical example of a Pennsylvania bank barn, and is similar to many other structures in the region. Its symmetrical gable identifies it as a "standard" type. This type developed after 1790. The foundation and lower level exterior walls are constructed of limestone masonry. The lower level features a half-open forebay on the south elevation. An earthen ramp leads to the upper level of the barn on the north elevation. The upper level is built of heavy mortise and tenon construction. The building is sheathed in yellow pine boards of random width, which were added in the late 19th century.

Saw Marks

Marks of hand hewing are visible on many of the wood members in the lower level of the barn, including the summer beams, floor joists and a storage cubby. Some of the beams, especially in the upper level of the barn, may have been hewn due to their size. Most of the elements in the lower level of the barn, including the partition walls, are sash sawn. The timber

in the upper level of the barn is both circular and sash sawn. This includes at least one timber that has both circular and sash sawn markings. This would indicate that the timbers may have come from a mill that was still using both types of saws.

Interior Framing

The structure sits upon a 7 ½ by 7 ¾ wooden sill. The upper level of the barn makes use of heavy timber construction with mortise-and tenon and pegged joints. Five bents divide the upper level into four bays. These five symmetrical bents include the forebay within the main barn frame, and the roof ridge is centered over the main barn. The bents divide the upper level of the barn into different uses. The floors are framed with lightly hand hewn joists, about 5-1/2" by 7-1/2" (double check measurement), varying somewhat in size.

The roof rafters, 1 ¾" to 4 7/8" in diameter, and sit upon queen post 7 ½" square purlins. The rafters in the eastern section of the barn are heavier and are sistered, whereas, the rafters in the western section are lighter and have no sistering. This is consistent with the two periods of major construction in the upper level of the barn.

Interior

Upper Level

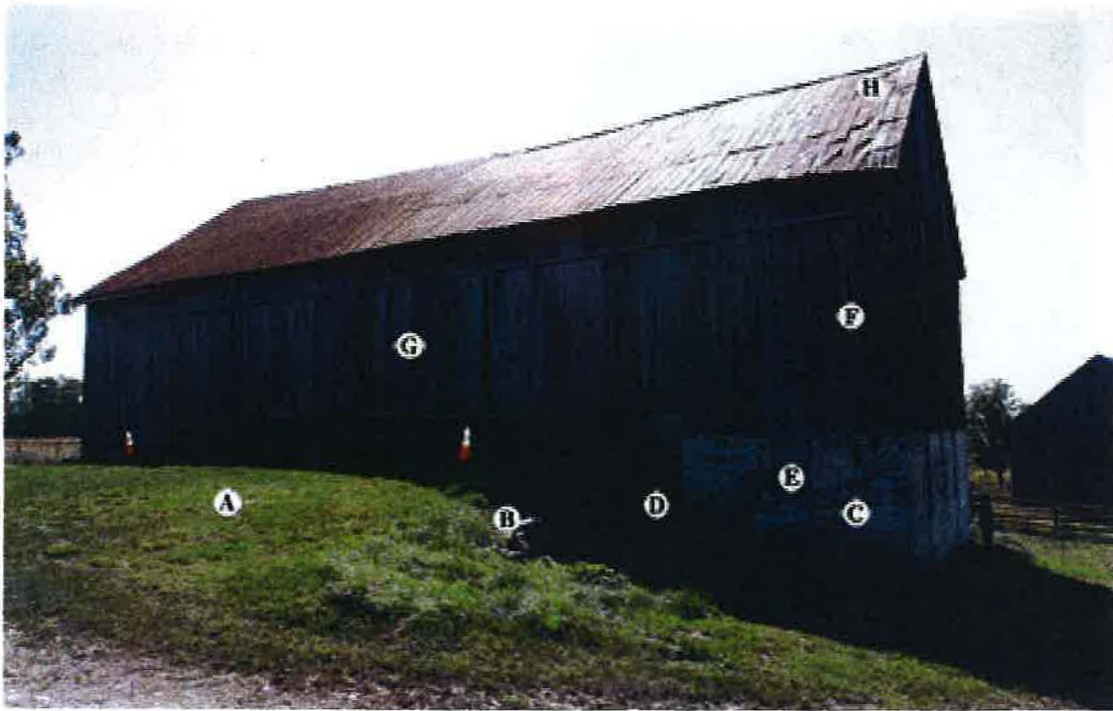
The upper level of the barn is divided by five bents into four main sections. The two center bays were used as the threshing floor, the western bay was used for hay/straw mow, and the eastern bay was used for hay/straw mow with the southern section reserved for use as a granary. The granary was c.1890. The threshing floor is comprised of wooden plank of varying width nailed to rough hewn beams. The hay mows do not have permanent flooring, and consists on of roughly hewn timber laid across the floor beams. The beams are consistent in size and are hewn throughout all four bays. The only flooring evident in the mows are wood timber of varying width loosely lain over the beams. It is likely that the hay mows never had permanent flooring.

Lower Level

There is physical evidence that the foundation may have been constructed in two parts. The western 3 bays have thicker foundation walls and different mortar than the eastern three bays. This is consistent with the c.1880 and c.1890 dendrochronology dates. The windows on the eastern and western elevations also date to two different periods. The earliest interior finishes in the lower level of the barn is whitewash. There are multiple layers on all interior and exterior elevations of the lower level.

The lower level has been separated in six bays to support the feeding and milking of livestock. The lower level consists of multiple feeding rooms and areas to support the every day operations of the farm.

The upper level is supported by two summer beams which run from the first bent on the west side of the structure to the fourth bent. The northern summer beam has been sistered to span the entire width of the building. The second summer beam has not been continued, and is instead supported by two small beams. The lower level is supported on three sides by limestone coursed stones.

**EXTERIOR - NORTH ELEVATION -**

- A. The north side of the barn is the elevated, or “banked” side, of the barn. This is characterized by the earthen ramp which provides access to the upper story of the barn. This ramp measures approximately 18 feet in width.



Collapsed ramp wall.

- B. The remains of the ramp’s supporting wing walls, constructed of local fieldstone, are visible on each side. These walls could easily be reconstructed, using the remaining fieldstone

- C. The foundation walls are constructed of coursed limestone that extends 8 feet to the east of the ramp, and 11 feet to the west of the ramp. On the eastern section approximately seven courses of

the foundation are visible. On the western section, five to eleven courses remain visible. The stones vary in width and height, with some as large as 2 feet in width and 1 foot in height. While the foundation courses are comprised primarily of rusticated limestone in a random pattern,



Northeastern corner of foundation.

the quoins, while still rusticated, are alternated with a narrow stone stacked over a much wider stone. Another decorative touch can be found in the diamond shaped stone, similar to a larger one on the western elevation of the structure.

D. In the northeastern corner of the foundation wall a wooden door has been partially blocked in due to the collapse of the eastern wall of the earthen ramp. This door has a strap hinge and most likely dates to the original construction of the foundation. The door provided northern access to the feeding areas and stables located in the lower level of the barn.

E. A 1"x 2" window is located 2 ½ feet to the east of the door. It is currently sheathed in a corrugated plastic covering

F. The upper level of the north elevation is sheathed in vertical pine boards of random width. The vertical

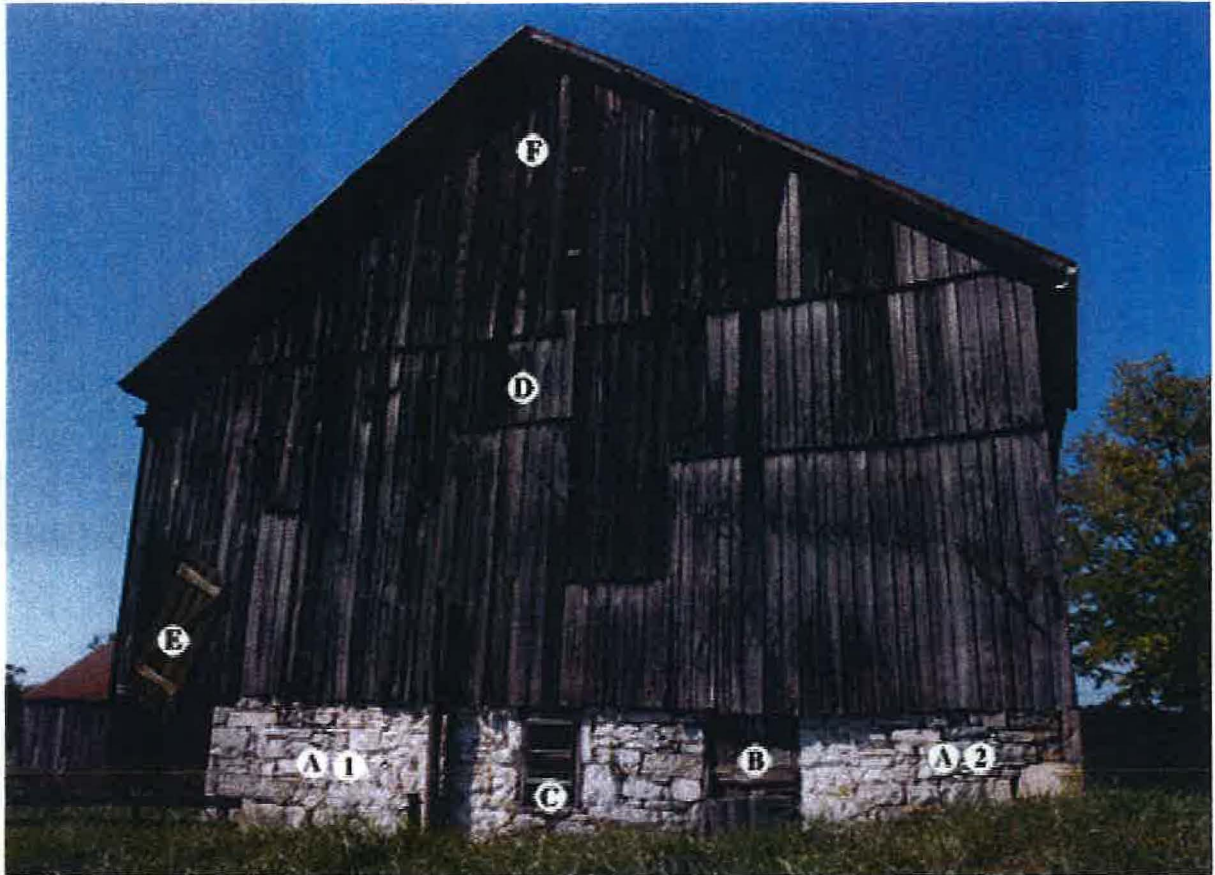
siding is 15'-6 7/8" in length. Some of these boards are showing signs of deterioration. This is particularly evident where the boards meet the stone foundation. The likely cause of this deterioration is water damage.

G. A sliding door provides access to the threshing floor on the upper level of the barn. This door is approximately 16 feet in width (This measurement needs to be checked) and is hung on along a 32 foot metal track. These doors, at the earliest, date to the late-19th century modifications made to the barn. Sliding doors did not become prevalent until c.1880.



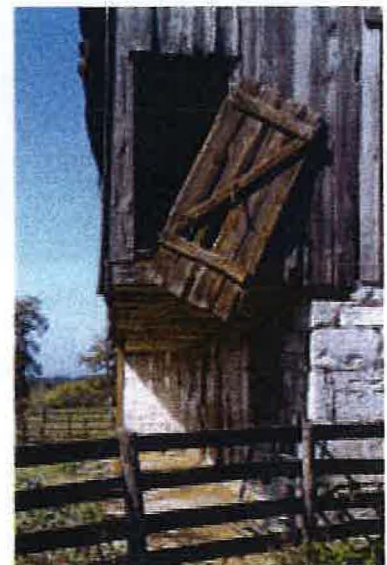
Standing seam roof.

H. The roof peak of the barn stands at 35'-3 1/2". The barn has standing seam metal roofing measuring 15'-4 5/8" in length. The eastern half of the roof appears to be deteriorating more rapidly than the western section. Metal roofs were used as early as 1880.



EXTERIOR - EAST ELEVATION

- A. The foundation on the east side of the barn is of similar style and construction to the other elevations. On this side, approximately nine courses of the limestone foundation are visible. The quoins follow a similar pattern of alternated vertical and horizontal rusticated limestone. The foundation wall is interrupted only by a wooden door and window, to be discussed in fuller detail. This side is distinguishable from the other elevations in that it does not run the full width of the structure. (A1) The foundation wall ends approximately 3 feet before the edge of the upper level. This gives the barn the appearance of being cantilevered on this side. It is not a true cantilever, however, because the barn is fully supported by a foundation wall on the western side of the building. (A2) The foundation appears to have shifted substantially in the north-east corner of the foundation. These stones need to be monitored to prevent further deterioration and should be re-pointed.



Semi-cantilevered upper level.



Dutch door.

B. A wooden door is located approximately 4 feet from the northern corner of the eastern elevation. The door is a Dutch door. The top of the door opens independently in order to provide light and ventilation to the animals housed in

the lower level of the barn, while restricting escape by the animals.



East elevation window.

- C.** 1"x 2" window is located 2 feet south of the door. The window still retains its timber frames.

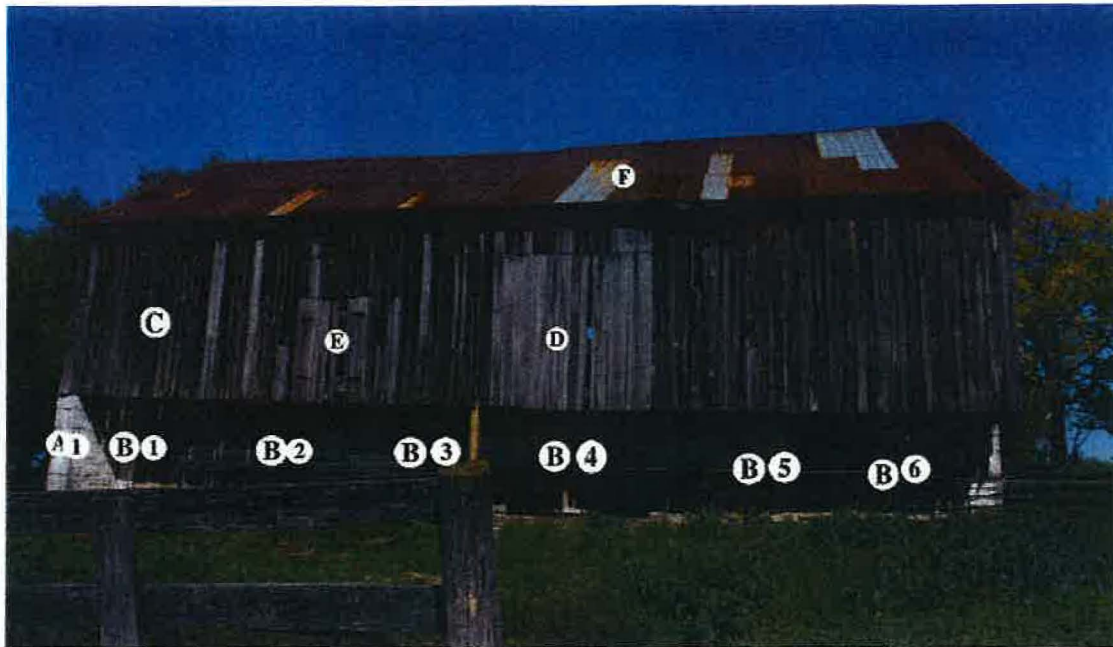


Foundation stones in north-east corner.

D. The upper level of the east elevation is sheathed in vertical pine boards of random width. The siding was attached in two stages: seven foot siding from the roof edge to the top of the foundation, and siding of varying length from the roof edge to the roof peak. Some of these boards are showing signs of deterioration or are missing. The oak siding on the east elevation has been repaired a number of times, as is evidenced by the numerous patches on the building. It is likely that this is the side of the building most consistently exposed to the elements, as the other

elevations do not show the same evidence of repairs.

- F.** The barn has a symmetrical gable roof that stands 15'-7 1/8" above the roof's edge. The roof's peak stands at 38'-5 5/8". The standing seam metal roofing is not visible from this elevation, with the exception of some flashing at the edge of the roof. The increased weathering on the eastern half of the roof on the southern elevation is in keeping with the weathering pattern evident in the oak siding on the eastern elevation.



EXTERIOR- SOUTH ELEVATION FOREBAY

- A. The south side of the barn is characterized by the “half-open” or “transition” forebay. This type of forebay is supported only one end, the “closed-end” (A1). This type of barn served as a transition to the open-forebay standard barn. This transition period was common only in the early nineteenth century. The forebay runs the entire length of the barn, approximately 35 ft across, and is 3 feet deep and 5 feet high. In some areas, particularly in the eastern section of the façade, part of the limestone foundation is visible. The foundation wall extends approximately two feet into the façade on each end and is 5 feet in height. The rest of the façade of the forebay is clad in six inch horizontal oak siding. Half of the siding is missing, revealing the lath underneath.



Door 1.



Door 2.



Door 3.



Door 4.



B.

Door 5.

The forebay provides access through six doors to the stables and feeding areas in the lower level of the barn. Doors one, two, three, and six are Dutch doors, whose top and bottom sections swing independently of one another. This provided ventilation to the animals while restricting their movement. The doors are 2-3 feet in width and 4-5 feet in height. Door one is missing its top section. Door five is similar in dimension and construction, but is not a dutch door. Door four is approximately 4 feet wide and approximately 1 foot taller than the other doors. This door is a large double door located in the center of the forebay. The left door is a Dutch door, while the right dooor is a standard hinged door. (The hardware on most of the doors appears to be original and includes mostly strap hinges, with the exception of the 20th century hinges door five. The forebay has two other openings: a 1.5x 1.5 hinged window located between door one and door two, and a 1"x 1.5" access chute. The forebay ceiling consists of rough hewn structural beams painted white, and the floor boards from the upper level barn.



Door 2 hinges.



Door 6.



Chute.



Window 1.

*Forebay ceiling.**South elevation forebay.*

most likely completed in the mid-20th century.

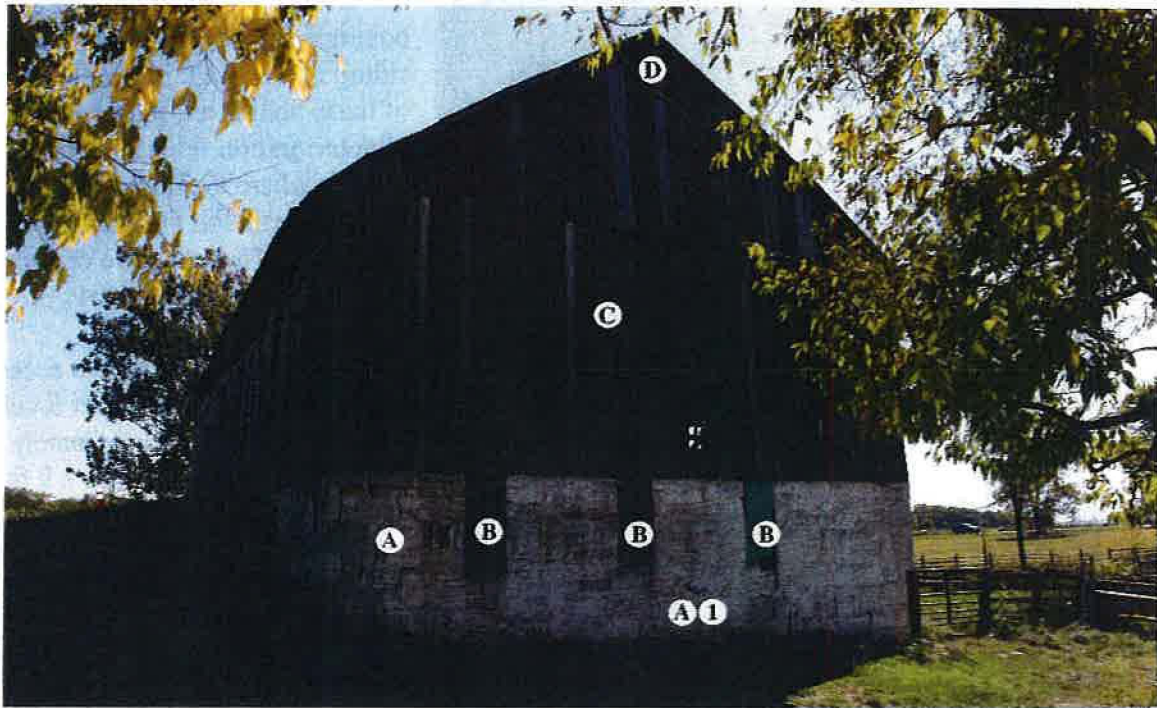
F. The roof peak of the barn stands at 43'-3 3/4". The barn has standing seam metal roofing measuring 15'-4 5/8" in length. There is evidence that several sections of the roof have been repaired and patched. While the metal roof could date as early as 1880, the barn would have originally been covered with a wood shingle roof.

*Metal seamed roof.*

C. The upper level of the south elevation is sheathed in vertical pine boards of random width. The vertical siding is 15-3 1/2" in length. Some of these boards are showing signs of deterioration. This is particularly evident where the boards meet the stone foundation and in the eastern section of the façade. There are two openings in the south elevation upper level.

D. A sliding door provides access to the threshing floor on the upper level of the barn. This door is approximately 8 feet in width and is hung on along a 9 foot metal track. These doors, at the earliest, date to the late-19th century. Sliding doors did not become prevalent until c.1880. This door was likely a later addition to the barn constructed to accommodate modern equipment or farming practices. It is unlikely that it was included in the original design of the structure.

E. The second opening is a 4 foot double door that appears to have been cut out of the original siding. This door includes 2"x2" patch above it which is supported by the same hardware as the hinged doors. This modification was

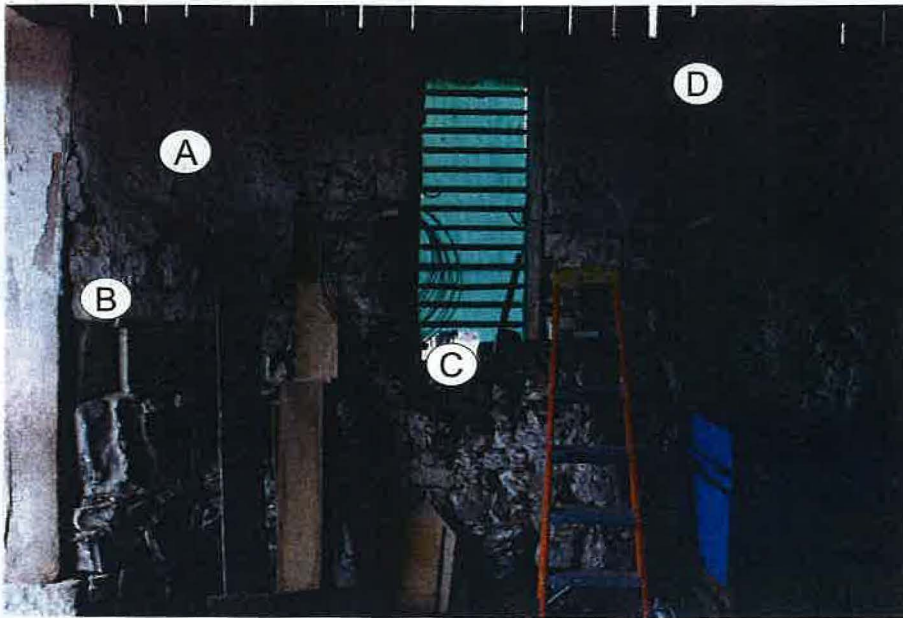


WEST ELEVATION

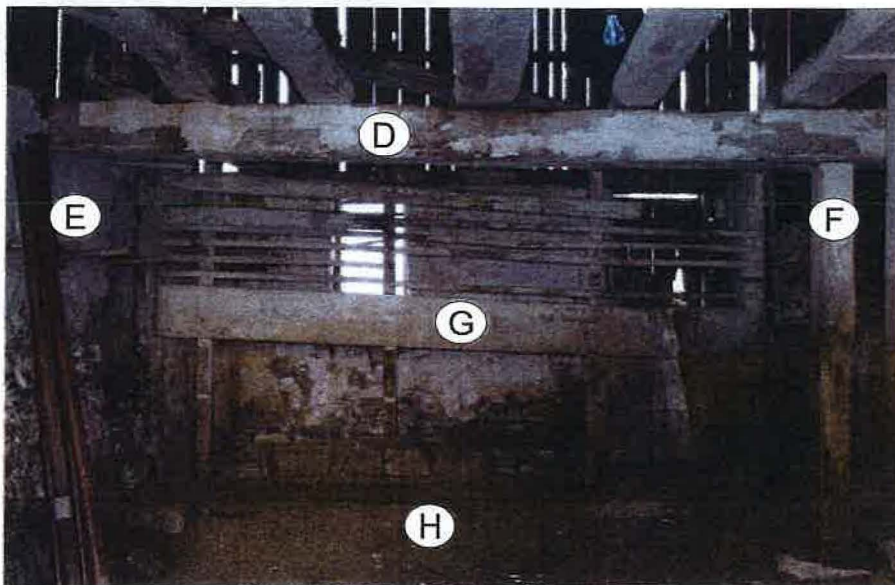
- A. The foundation on the west side of the barn is of similar style and construction to the other elevations. On this side, approximately thirteen courses of the limestone foundation are visible. The quoins follow a similar pattern of alternated vertical and horizontal rusticated limestone. The foundation wall is interrupted only by three vertical windows. The west elevation is distinguishable by a diamond shaped decorative stone located in the foundation (A1).
- B. The western foundation is interrupted by three 1"x 2 1/2" windows that are located at the top of the foundation. Window 1 is located 3 1/2 feet from the northern façade; window 2 is located 3 1/2 feet south of window 2, and window 3 is located 3 feet south of window 2. They were originally louvers, visible from the interior, provided ventilation to the animals in the lower level of the barn. They are currently covered in wood and corrugated plastic.
- C. The upper level of the west elevation is sheathed in vertical pine boards of random width. The siding was attached in two stages: seven foot siding from the roof edge to the top of the foundation, and siding of varying length from the roof edge to the roof peak. Some of these boards are showing signs of deterioration. A small section located above window 2 and window 3 is missing.
- D. The barn has a symmetrical gable roof that stands 15'-7 1/8" above the roof's edge. The roof's peak stands at 38'-5 5/8". The standing seam metal roofing is not visible from this elevation, with the exception of some flashing at the edge of the roof.



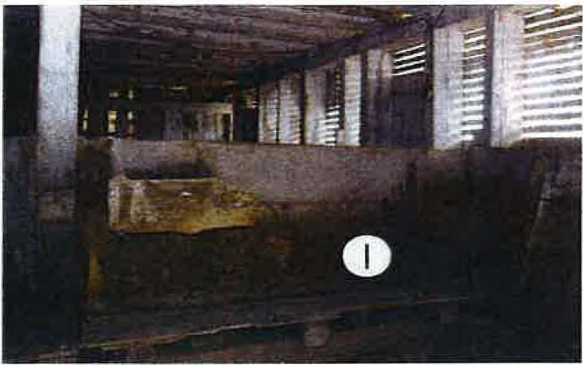
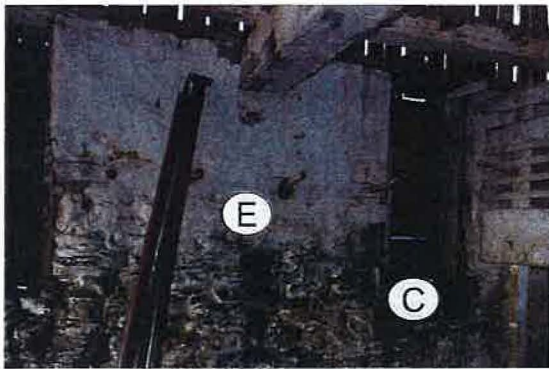
Diamond shaped decorative stone.

BAY 1

- A. Multiple layers of whitewash, date to construction of foundation
- B. 1" by 2" hewn storage cupboard.
- C. Wooden louvered window, provided ventilation to livestock. Top of window aligns with top of foundation.

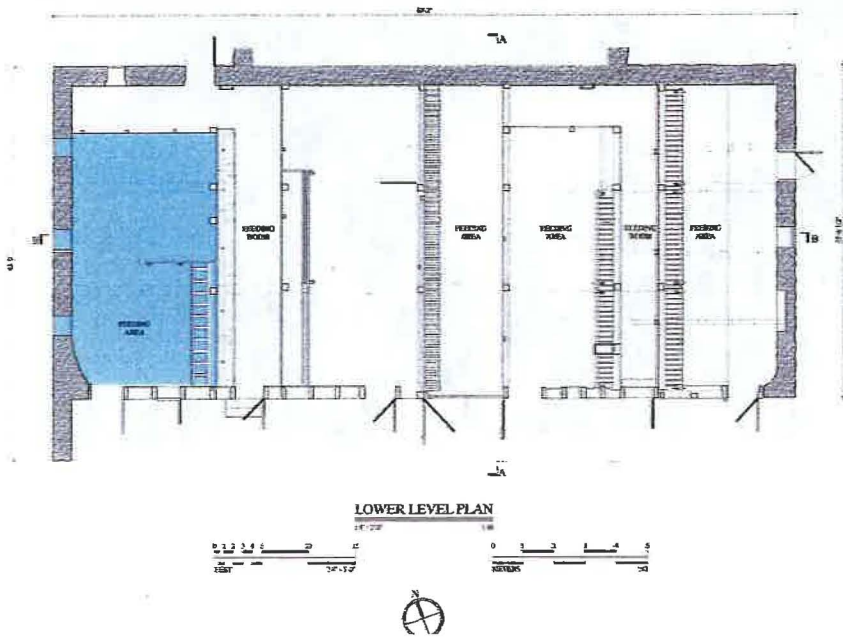
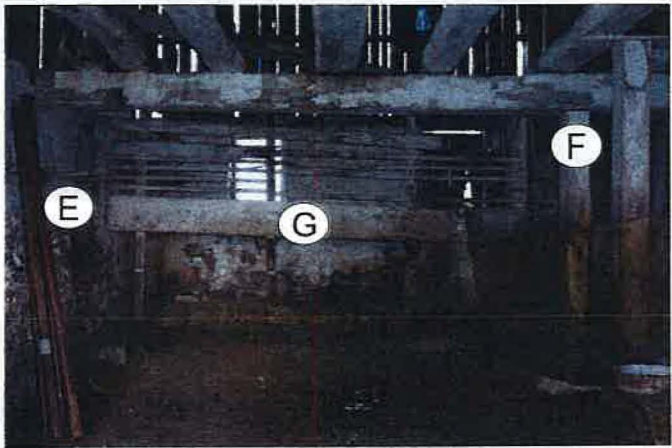


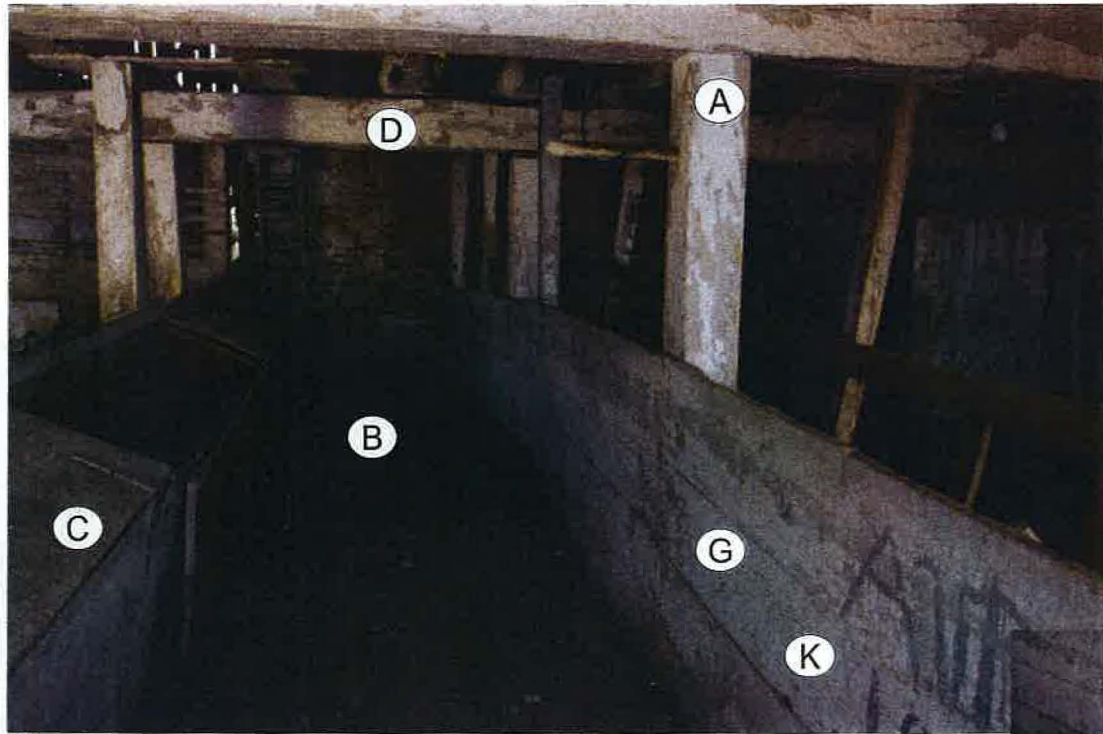
- D. Hand hewn oak summer beam.
- E. Wooden peg storage rack
- F. Post and beam construction.
- G. Rear dividing wall, separated bay 1 from rear door and bay 2. Circular sawn slats are to provide ventilation for livestock



Bay 1

- H. Earthen floor.
- I. Wooden storage box. and shelf c. 1880.



Bay 2

- A. Post and beam construction
- B. Earthen Floor.
- C. Oak grain storage bins. Nails and hardware date circa. 1880.
- D. Hand hewn summer beam.
- E. Rear access. Note dividing wall from bay 1.
- F. Hand hewn floor joists.

G. Oak dividing wall.

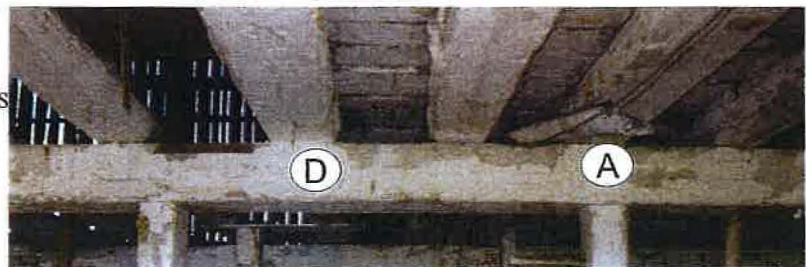
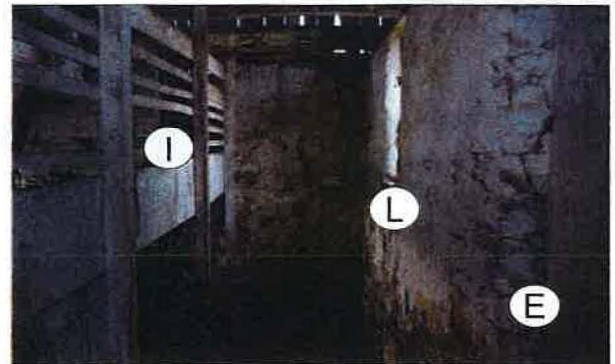
H. Oak board and batten door.

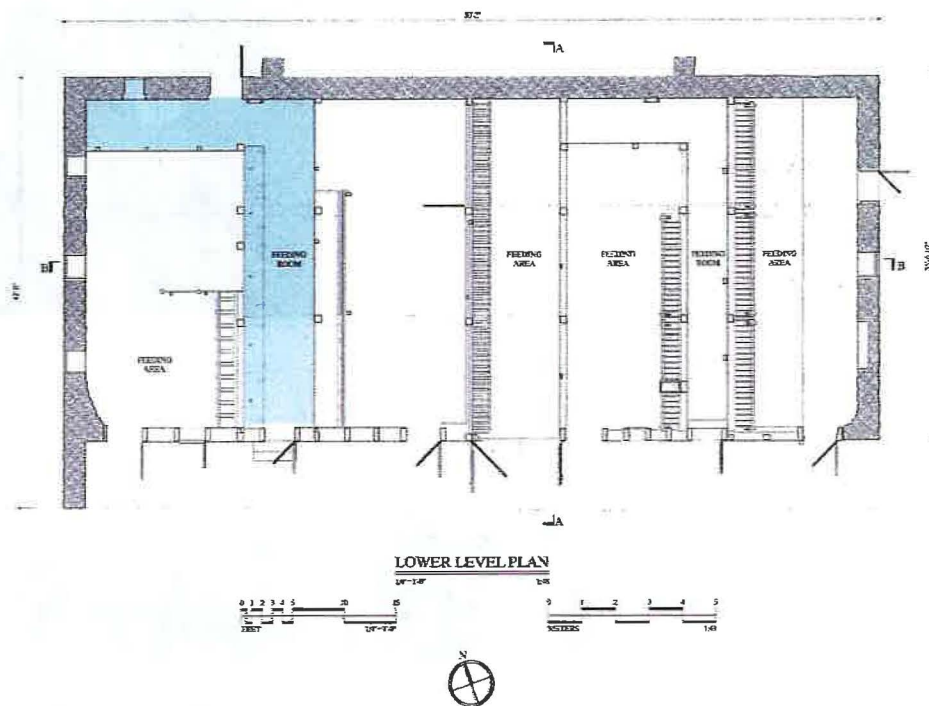
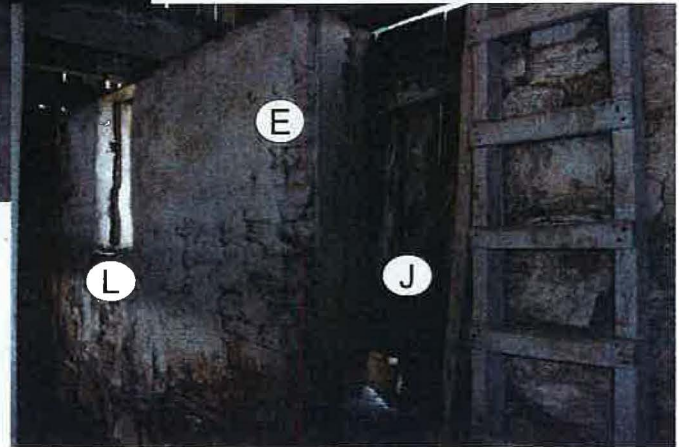
I. Ventilation slats for livestock.

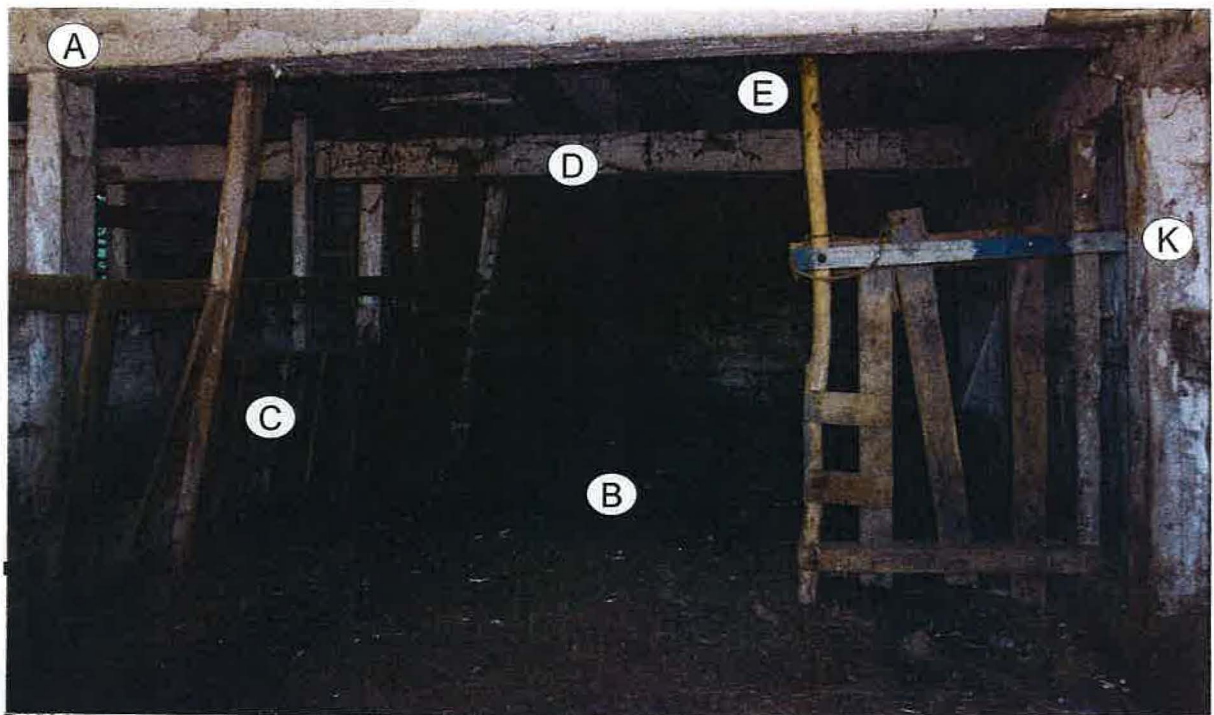
J. Rear access door. Bottom is severely deteriorated.

K. 1910 "AVP" graffito.

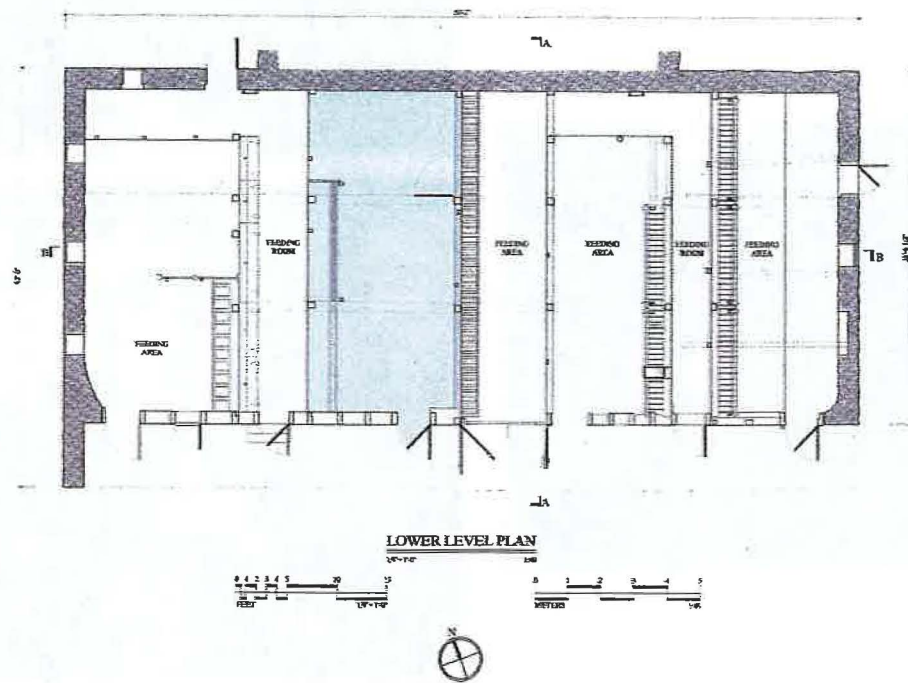
L. Rear window. All that remains is framing.





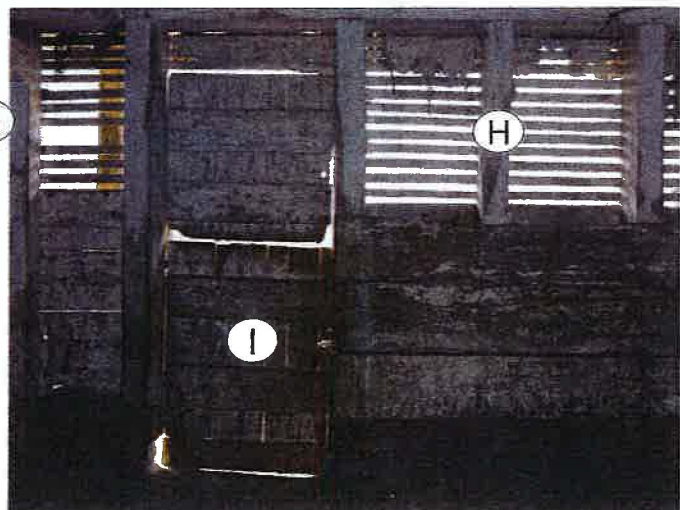
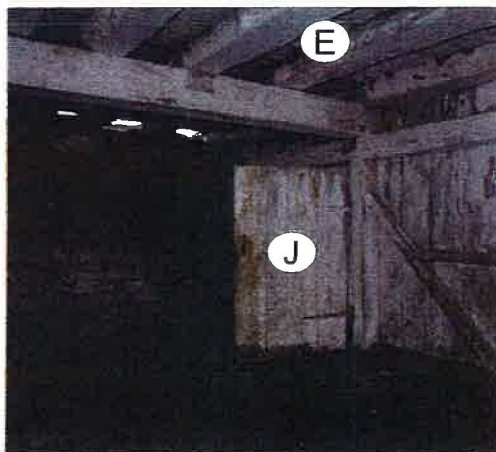
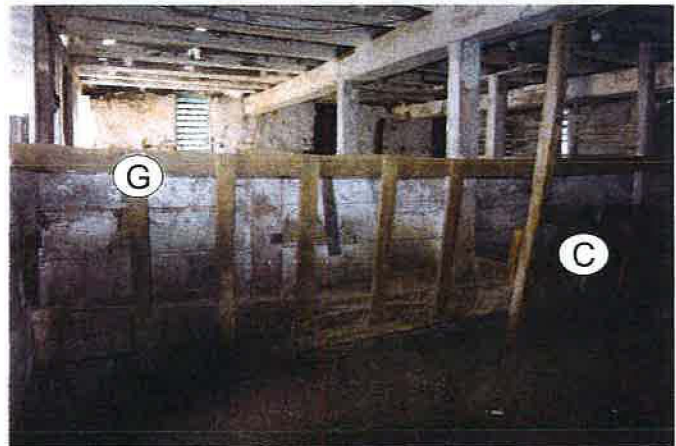
**BAY 3:**

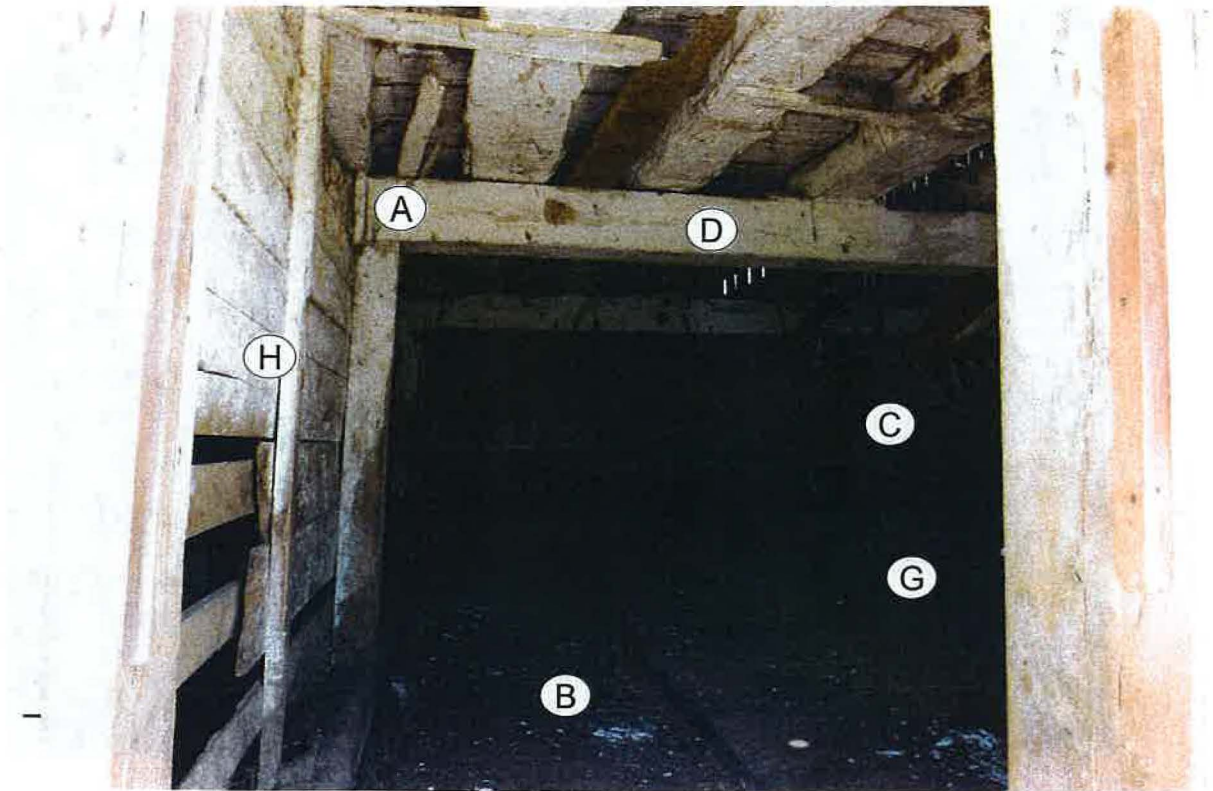
- A. Post and beam construction
- B. Earthen Floor.
- C. Wooden hay rack.





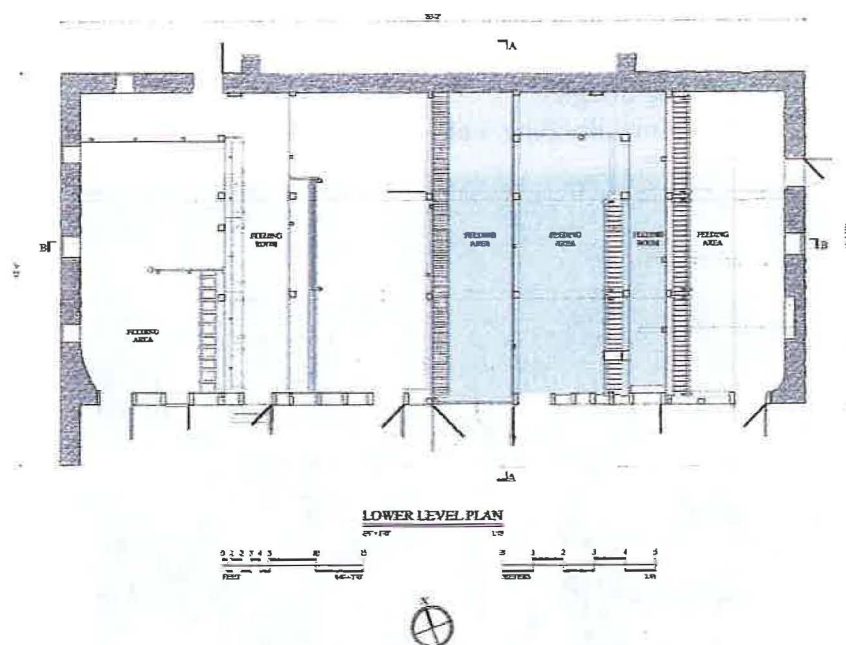
- D. Hand hewn summer beam
- E. Hand hewn floor joists.
- F. Rear foundation wall. Note red discoloration.
- G. Newer, 20th century, hay rack.
- H. Slatted ventilation wall.
- I. Oak board and batten dutch door.
- J. Access door to bay 4.
- K. Dividing wall, wood plank siding.

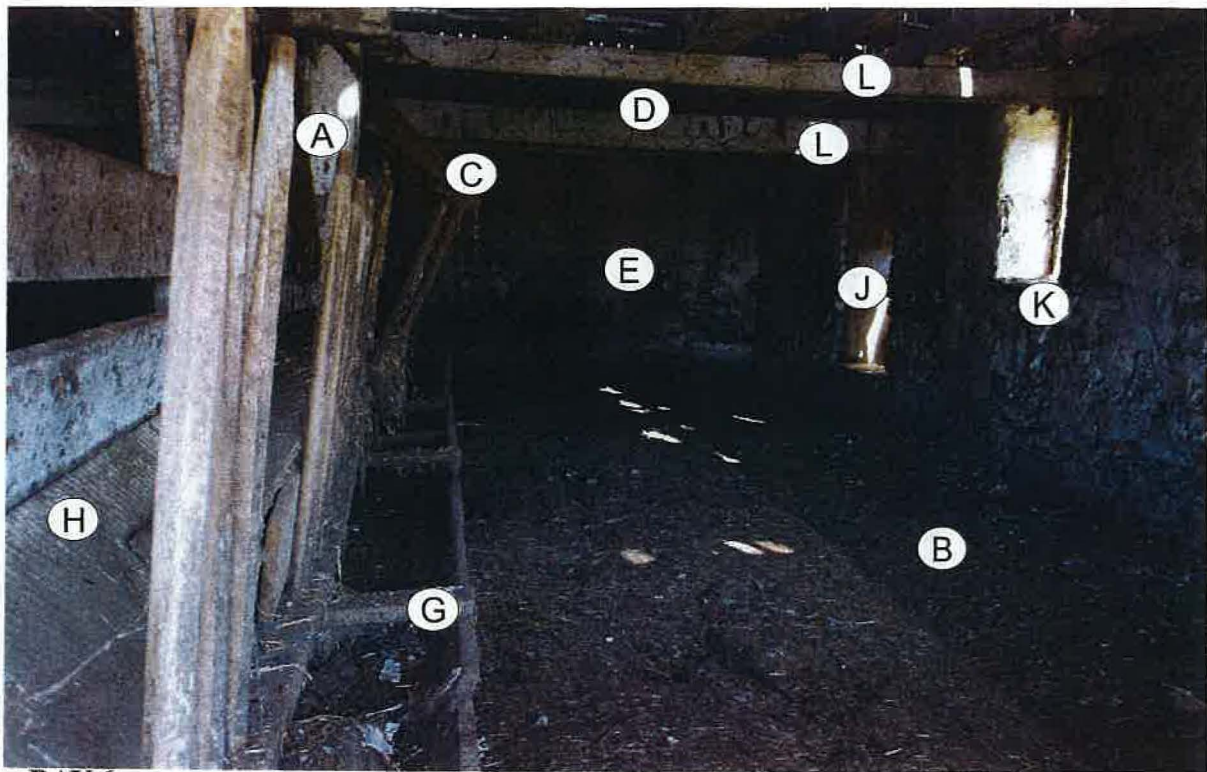


**BAY 4 and 5**

- A. Post and beam construction
- B. Earthen Floor. Image shows concrete, prior to removal.
- C. Wooden hay rack.
- D. Hand hewn floor joists.
- E. Rear foundation wall. Note red discoloration.
- F. Newer, 20th century, hay rack.
- G. Feeding troughs.
- H. Horizontal dividing wall, circular sawn, since removed.

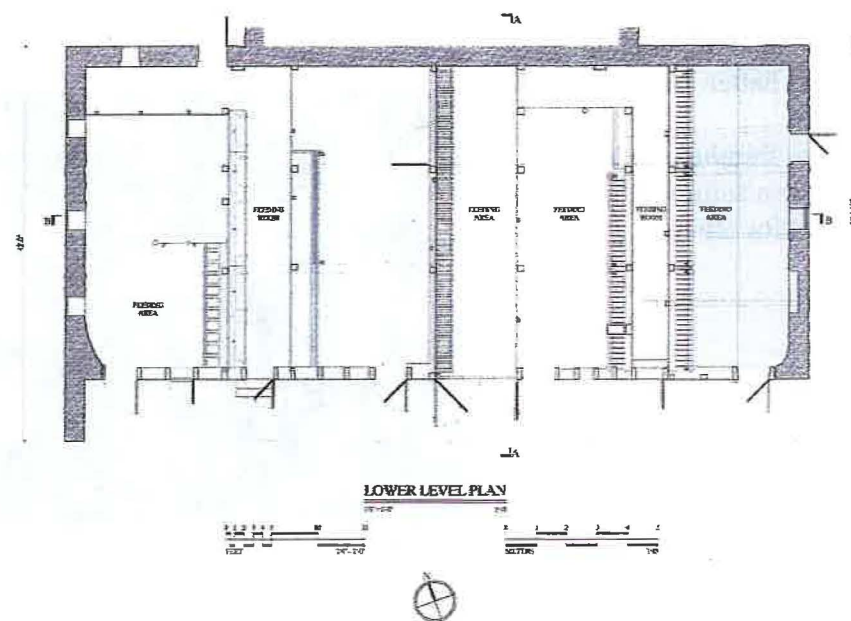
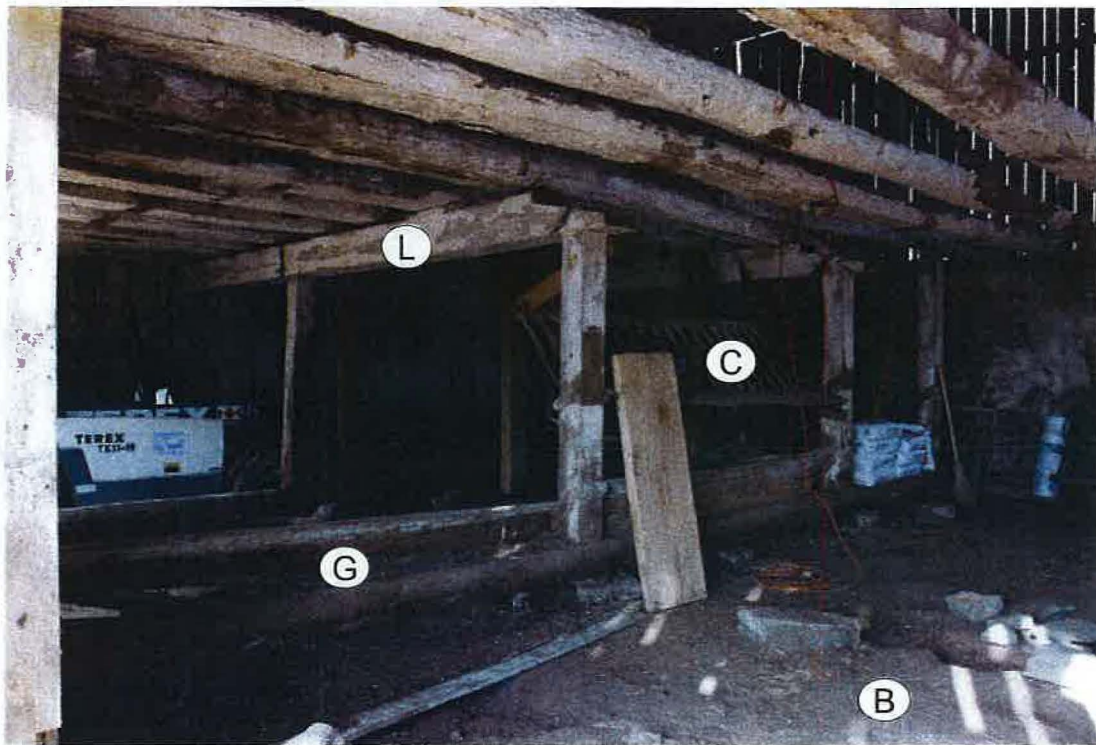




**BAY 6**

- A. Post and beam construction
- B. Earthen Floor.
- C. Wooden hay rack.
- D. Hand hewn floor joists.
- E. Foundation wall. Note red discoloration. See discussion on page. ____
- F. Newer, 20th century, hay rack.
- G. Feeding troughs.
- H. Horizontal dividing wall, circular sawn, since partially removed. (See photo on page 69)
- I. Storage cupboard, circular sawn..
- J. Board and batten dutch door, since removed.
- K. Window, framing remains.
- L. Hand hewn summer beams, since removed for repair.







INTERIOR BENTS

The upper level of the barn is constructed primarily of circular sawn pine. It has 5 H-bents constructed using mortise-and-tenon joinery. It has canted queen posts and a principal-purlin roof truss system. The construction technology used is consistent with post-1820 Pennsylvania German bank barns. Each bent is similar in construction, although some have particularities which will be discussed in greater detail.

BAY 6

- A. Canted-queen post triangular truss transfers the load from the roof to the center of the bent. The queen posts in pre-1820 barns are typically vertical.
- B. Horizontal straining or tie beam.
- C. Primary tie beam.
- D. Cross beam. In the early 19th century a cross beam was added several feet below the tie beam to provide structural support for the larger barns which were beginning to be supported.
- E. Structural post.
- F. Diagonal brace, added in conjunction with cross beam to provide greater support for large barns.
- G. Plate.
- H. Purlin.
- I. Ridgepole
- J. Roof.
- K. Rafter.
- L. Wall girt.

Upper Level Interior Features

Bent Configuration

The bent configurations found within the Poffenberger barn are typical of a 19th century Pennsylvania Bank Barn. Like many barns it does not represent a typical barn but is a conglomeration of construction techniques common in Pennsylvania Barns. Some of these techniques were used in the earliest barns, while others are more typical of later construction. The techniques used were determined based on the knowledge and experience of local carpenters.

The earliest bents were tie-beam-over-plate and post tying joint with vertical queen posts. These configurations were cumbersome because they required several phases of raising and assembly. Later barns were typically constructed by mortising the tie beam into the inner side of the end post below the roof plate. This was important in that it allowed the prefabrication of the bent. There are many examples, however, of mid-19th through early-20th century structures that continued to use the tie-beam-over-plate construction. The Poffenberger barn is constructed using the earliest construction technique. The traditional technology, while not as efficient, results in a stronger frame. The Poffenberger barn also retains the double tie beam which was typical of earlier construction and gradually phased out through the 19th century.

The earliest bents were constructed using vertical queen post and common rafter frame. As early as 1795, carpenters began to cantilever the queen posts. The triangular truss system was able to better transfer the load of the roof to the center of the bent below. This took away the pressure from the tie joints which attached the tie beams to the outside posts. Canted queen posts were common place by the 1810s. The Poffenberger barn makes use of a canted queen post truss system.

The 1st and 5th bents of the Poffenberger barn are further strengthened by collar and straining beams. These were common in earlier Pennsylvania barns but were later often cut out to make room for hay tracks, pulleys and boons. There are two mortise holes in the central bent that may indicate the location of missing bracing. They were often removed in the 20th century to provide greater openness and room for larger farming equipment.

Floor

The threshing area has a special floor designed to resist the vibrations from threshing and to prevent the grain, chaff and dust from sifting through to the lower level. These floors are two inches thick. The floor has double layered joints with staggered joints except where it has been replaced during the last century. The top layer of flooring is predominantly tongue-and-groove. The most frequent type of flooring in the area is a thick grooved plank floor with splined joints. There is no evidence that the flooring at the Poffenberger barn was splined. The upper level flooring of the barn was built during two periods of con-

struction. The east and west sections of flooring are divided by a center spline, that creates a significant break in the flooring. Each section is assembled using different nails. This indicates that the floors were assembled in two sections, but date, relatively, to the same period 1880-1890. There are sections that have been replaced, noticeably near the main entrance door, in the 20th and 21st centuries. There has also been a hay drop hole cut in the center bay along the south wall.

Doors

The upper level of the barn has one door along the east elevation and two doors along the south elevation that open out on to the barnyard below. These doors, and the associated hay drop hole in the floor, were used to drop hay, straw and fodder into the stables and barnyard for feed and bedding for the livestock. Additionally, when opened it allowed excess chaff and dust to blown off threshing floor.

The primary access to the threshing floor is achieved through the large double sliding doors.

Flailing Walls

Bordering the threshing floor are two flailing (or threshing) walls. The walls were designed to prevent chaff and dust from scattering into the mows and lower level during the threshing process. At four feet high they also created a barrier for the straw stored in the mows. The walls are built using horizontal tongue and groove plank. The wood is attached using machine cut nails. Access to the upper mows is provided by ladders built into the framing bents.

Roof

Wood lath is attached to the top of the rafters. The sheet metal roofing is visible through the lath. The original roof would most likely have been long oak shingles.

Mows and Granary

The mows are located in the 1st and 4th bays of the barn and were originally used for straw and hay storage. There is currently no substantial flooring located in the mows of the barn. Only the supporting lower level beams are visible. Most mows did have permanent flooring, although it was not typically as extensive as the threshing floor. It is possible that the mow floor consisted only of random width wood flooring that was not permanently attached. Access to the mow is through a small door in the threshing wall. There is currently little left, other than the location of the exterior upper level door and the threshing wall access door to indicate the site of the granary. The basic location and layout is visible the HABS drawings.

The granary is located in the southern corner of the east mow. Threshed grain would have been stored in the granary for use by livestock. The location of the granary is significant. In historic barns that pre-date machine threshing the granary is typically located, as in the Poffenberger barn, over the forebay. This was the ideal

location when both animal herds and grain technology remained small. With the introduction of machine threshing the location of the granary was often shifted to the bank-side of the barn or relocated in another structure. Due to the size and power requirements of the machine they were needed to be located close to a power source, often on the bank of the barn. This shift to mechanical threshing had taken place by 1850.

It is unclear why the granary of the upper level of the Poffenberger barn in its traditional spot above the forebay. The barn was constructed by Otho Poffenberger in the 1880s and 90s, long after machine threshing was introduced to the area.

1.D. Inventory of Character Defining Features

Terms

Contributing: These features, spaces, and elements of the house are original or historic fabric and were present during the building's period of significance. Within a restoration zone, these receive utmost priority, with protection of original and historic fabric critical. Elements that are not original within a restoration zone and that have been replaced or are to be replicated due to damage or deterioration are secondary in priority.

Contributing-secondary: These features, spaces, and elements of the house are character contributing while not original or historic and may include replaced-in-kind elements.

Noncontributing: These building elements are neither historic nor original to the building.

Other items that may be considered noncontributing are those building materials or features that have been replaced but with different materials that do not match the original or 1862 appearance.

Inventory of Character Defining Features:

Feature:	Dates to:	Physical Condition:	Contributing or Non-contributing:	Comments:
Course limestone foundation	C.1880 (west 3 bays) and C.1890	Original stone; Includes decorative Diamond stones. Good condition.	Contributing	Local limestone.
Earthen ramp wing walls.	C.1890	Original stone; has partially collapsed. Poor Condition.	Contributing	Local limestone.
North elevation window.	C.1880	Fair condition.	Contributing	

Vertical pine siding.	C.1880	Siding is missing or deteriorating in some sections. Fair condition.	Contributing-secondary	Original siding was likely oak.
Sliding door.	C.1890	Fair condition.	Contributing	
Seamed metal roof.	C.1890	Roof is functioning. Is severely rusted. Fair condition.	Contributing.	
East elevation door.	1890	Fair condition.	Contributing.	
East elevation window.	1890	Fair Condition	Contributing	
Forebay supporting wall.	C.1880	Good condition.	Contributing	Part of original design and forebay structural support.
Forebay	C. 1880/90	Good condition	Contributing	
South elevation door 1.	C.1880	Fair	Contributing	Early Hardware
South elevation door 2.	C.1880	Fair	Contributing	Early Hardware
South elevation door 3.	C.1880	Fair	Contributing	Some early hardware
South elevation door 4.	C.1890	Fair	Contributing	
South elevation door 5.	C.1890	Fair	Contributing	
South Elevation Chute	Post 1900	Good condition	Non-contributing	Recently removed
South Elevation Window 1	Post 1900	Fair Condition	Non-contributing	

South elevation upper level sliding door	C. 1890	Fair condition	Non-contributing	While there would have been originally likely been a door on this level, sliding doors were not built until c. 1890
South elevation upper level double door.	C.1880	Fair condition.	Contributing	Doors on second level associated.
Western elevation windows	C.1880	Poor condition	Contributing	Some of the windows retain original wooden louvers.
Western Elevation Windows	C.1880	Poor condition.	Contributing.	Some of the windows retain the original wooden louvers.
Interior Features				
General Lower Level				
Post and Beam construction	1880-90	Fair condition.	Contributing.	Some original material has been replaced in kind.
Interior walls and whitewash	C. 1830	Fair condition.	Contributing.	
Hand hewn summer beam	C. 1890	Fair condition.	Contributing	Beam has been cut and is being repaired in Bay 6.
Earthen Floor	1880/90	Good condition	Contributing.	Until recently coated with cement.
Bay 1				
Storage Cupboard	C. 1880	Good condition.	Contributing	Hand hewn
Wood Storage box and shelf	C.1880	Fair condition.	Contributing.	Circular sawn.

Bay 2				
Oak grain storage bins	C.1880	Fair condition	Contributing	Nails and hardware date c.1880
Oak dividing wall	C.1830	Good condition	Contributing	
Ventilation Slats	C.1880	Good condition	Contributing-secondary	Likely replaced earlier ventilation slats.
1910 "AVP" graffito	1910	Good condition.	Non-contributing	
Rear window framing	C.1880	Poor condition	Contributing	All that remains is framing.
Bay 3				
Wooden hay rack	C.1880	Fair	Contributing-secondary	
Slatted ventilation wall	C.1880	Good.	Contributing-secondary	Replaced earlier ventilation slats.
Hay rack	Post 1900	Good	Non-contributing	
Access door to bay 4	C.1880	Fair	Contributing	
Dividing wall to bay 4	C.1880	Fair	Contributing-secondary	
Bay 4/5				
Wooden hay rack	Post 1900	Fair	Non-contributing	
Feeding troughs	Post 1900	Fair	Non-contributing	
Horizontal dividing wall.	Post 1900	Fair	Non-contributing	Circular sawn. Since removed.
Bay 6				
Wooden Hay rack	Post 1900	Fair	Non-contributing	

Horizontal dividing wall	C 1890	Fair	Contributing	Circular sawn. Since partially removed
Storage cupboard	C.1890	Fair	Contributing	Circular sawn.
Interior Upper Level				
Structural system	1880/90	Good (sections poor)	Contributing	Closely resembles 1830 structural system.
Threshing floor	1880/90	Good (sections need repair)	Contributing	Sections of lower layer may be original.
Flailing Walls	1880/90	Fair.	Contributing	
Mows	1880/90	Fair.	Contributing	
Granary	1880		Missing structure.	

PREFERRED TREATMENT AND USE

A. Preferred Use

The preferred use for the Poffenberger barn is one that would contribute to the historic interpretation of Antietam National Battlefield. An important aspect to this interpretation is the barn's place within the context of the Poffenberger farmstead and the use of the barn as the headquarters for General Joseph Hooker. The Poffenberger Barn should be interpreted as a significant feature of the battlefield landscape and as a destination for historical interpretation. Site visitation should be limited to groups smaller than 20, in order to minimize negative effects to the building's condition.

The structure would require extensive stabilization and restoration prior to being safe for public visitation.

If it is proven that the barn post-dates the period of significance, the following proposed treatment and use recommendations remain appropriate. The features and characteristics of the barn, as it currently stands, are consistent with the features and character of the barn that stood during the Battle of Antietam. For this reason, the primary features of the barn, as described below, would remain contributing elements. The barn was a significant contributing element to the landscape of the Poffenberger farmstead during the battle.

Upper Level

The upper level of the barn would become the interpretive section of the barn. This may include exhibits of farming practices common during the Civil War Era. This interpretation may be done by NPS or by the Rural Heritage Museum.

Lower Level

The lower of the barn could be used for interpretive purposes. Ideally, this interpretation would include the maintenance of livestock in order to preserve the original use of the site. Any accessibility requirements would need to be addressed before this level is open to the public.

Barnyard

The barnyard would be closed from public access due to accessibility requirements. The barnyard should be maintained to preserve the appearance of its original use.

Any amenities, such as restrooms, would need to be located in another location of the park. Visitors with mobility requirements, including ADA accessible ramps, should be accommodated.

B. Treatment Philosophy and Guidelines

Previous sections of the report clearly labeled the significant features of the Poffenberger Barn and their conditions. The proper treatment for these features is clearly outlined in the standards and guidelines developed by the National Park Service. These guidelines are found in The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings. These standards are used by the architecture and preservation professionals as the guide for acceptable treatment in the United States. The principal treatment options to be applied to the Poffenberger Barn are: preservation, rehabilitation and restoration.

Appropriate treatment for each significant feature and for the overall barn needs to take into account:

- Relative importance of history
- Physical condition
- Proposed use
- Mandated code requirements

All treatments need to apply the *Secretary of Interior's Standards*.

The preferred use of the Poffenberger Barn requires that it depict the form, features, and character of the barn as it appeared during its period of significance: c.1880-1890. While the barn, particularly the upper level, was altered significantly after the period of significance, it retains the essential appearance and character from the period of significance.

This restoration is possible to this period because:

- The period of significance has been clearly established.
- The barn retains considerable physical evidence that dates to the period of significance.
- The historical significance of the barn outweighs the loss of features from outside the period of significance.
- The preferred use does not require any contemporary alterations or additions that would negatively affect the integrity of the structure.
- Only minimal and sensitive upgrading is necessary to make the barn functional for its preferred use.

C. Preferred Treatment: Restoration

The most appropriate treatment for the Poffenberger Barn is an overall treatment planned guided by the restoration of the structure. The ten Standards for Restoration are established by the Secretary of Interior.

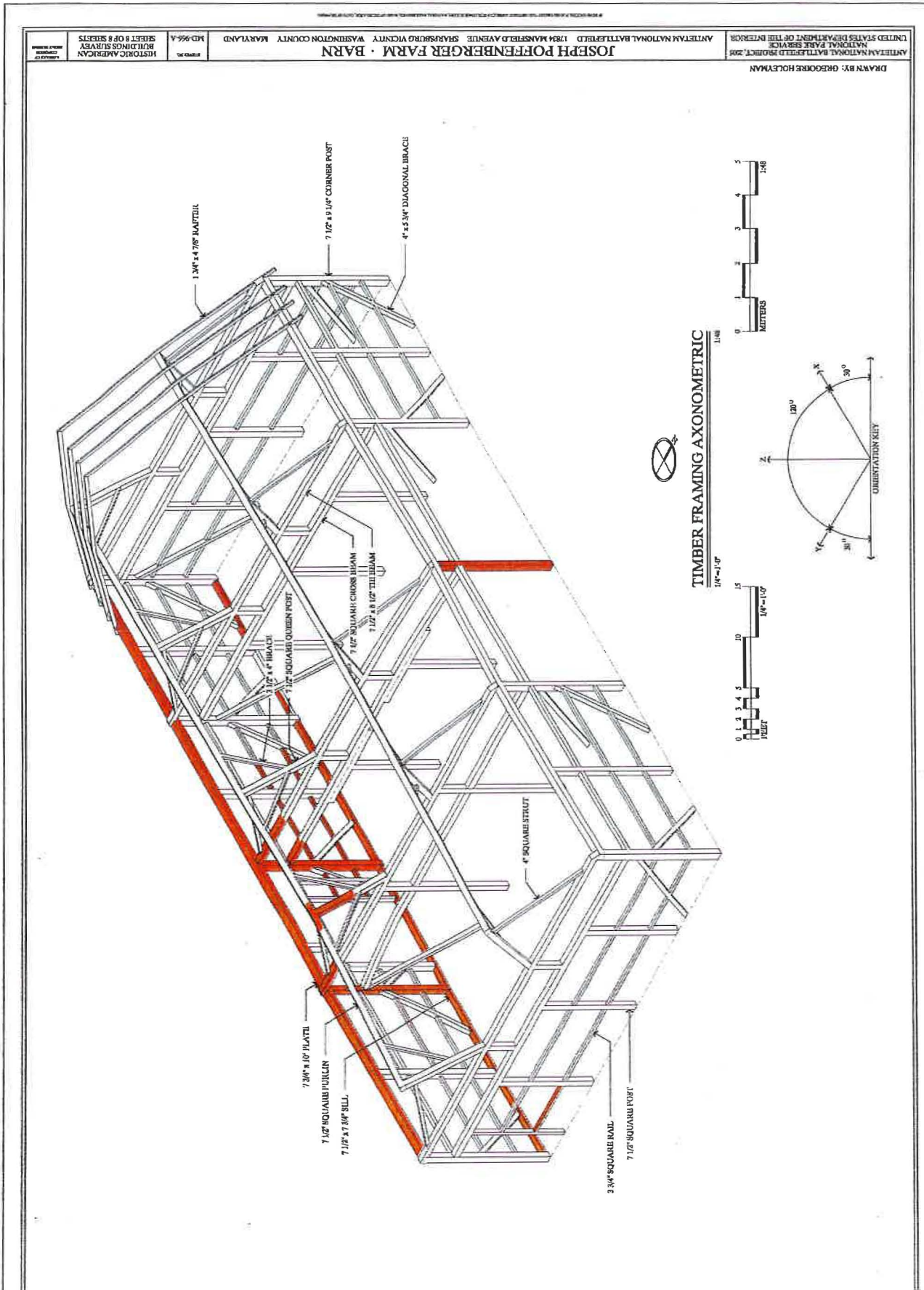
Standards for Restoration

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use which reflects the property's restoration period.
2. Materials and features from the restoration period will be retained and preserved. The removal of materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize the period will not be undertaken.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate and conserve materials and features from the restoration period will be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.
4. Materials, features, spaces, and finishes that characterize other historical periods will be documented prior to their alteration or removal.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize the restoration period will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated features from the restoration period will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and where possible, materials.
7. Replacement of missing features from the restoration period will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence. A false sense of history will not be created by adding conjectural features, features from other properties, or by combining features that never existed together historically.
8. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
9. Archeological resources affected by a project will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
10. Designs that were never executed historically will not be constructed.

Treatments for Restoration

In following these Standards for Restoration, the suggested overall treatment plan for the Poffenberger barn are:

- All significant features from the period of significance will be retained and preserved. The period of significance is defined as the period of original construction c. 1830 through the end of the Battle of Antietam in 1862.
- The appropriate treatment is to restore (conserve) individual elements to their original condition.
- Intrusions and building modifications that are incoherent with the period of significance should be removed and replaced with more congruous materials. This would include the removal of selected doors and the replacement of the metal roofing with a wood shingle roof.



- Missing features from the period of significance may be replaced based on documentation and physical evidence using appropriate building materials. These would need to be replicated only if there is sufficient documentation and should not be based on conjecture. Missing features include: the granary, original hinged doors, and the shingle roof.
- New electrical and fire protection systems should be installed as required to fulfill the code for the preferred use. These systems should be hidden in order to preserve the integrity of the Poffenberger Barn.
- ADA accessible ramps and other additions should be installed and designed in a manner sensitive to the use and integrity of the structure.

Treatment Recommendations by Feature/Material

A. Introduction

Setting

The setting of the Poffenberger Barn as part of a civil war homestead must be protected. This includes the maintenance and restoration of the surrounding structures, topography, and lanes. The physical integrity of the building is currently being threatened by the severe deterioration of several structural members. The repair and reconstruction of the structurally supporting beams is crucial to the barn.

The adjacent outbuildings should be researched and recorded.

Removal of Materials

Any materials removed during restoration should be, if at all possible, be used for repair and rehabilitation of the Poffenberger Barn. Material should be re-used if possible in its original location. If this is not possible, material should be saved for later replacement or repairs at the Poffenberger Barn. These materials should be stored in a controlled environment.

Replacement Materials

If re-use of original material is not possible, replacement material should match type and fabrication of original.

B. Individual Features and Recommendations

Site Features

- Protect the setting of the Poffenberger Barn as a historic farmstead.

- Details of landscape and siting are discussed thoroughly in 2008 CLI. The recommendations of the CLI should be followed.

Poffenberger Farmhouse

- In depth physical analysis and history of the house should be documented.
- House should be preserved and maintained.

Adjacent Outbuildings

- Many of the outbuildings date to the period of significance. These structures require further study and documentation.
- These structures should be maintained and preserved.
- Structures in poor condition should be repaired and stabilized.
- Research should include archeology and documentation of any missing structures, like the Poffenberger tenant house.

Ramp

- Stabilize and preserve earthen ramp that leads to upper level of barn.
- Reconstruct stone retaining wall.
- Protect ramp from further deterioration by limiting use of heavy equipment on ramp.

Barnyard

- Preserve and maintain original barnyard south of the barn.
- Vegetation in barnyard should be monitored.

Dry-laid Masonry Wall (South of Barn)

- Wall should be documented and added to the List of Classified Structures.
- Wall should be preserved and maintained.

C. Exterior Features of Barn

Overall Massing

- Maintain the overall massing of the barn.
- Stabilize deteriorated features (like the roof and earthen wing wall ramps).

Foundation Walls

- The foundation walls need to be preserved and maintained.
- Foundation walls need to be monitored and negative effects mitigated.

This would include:

1. Monitoring the effects of weathering and water damage.
2. Avoiding the use of heavy equipment and/or grain storage in the

barn.

3. Monitoring vegetation growth in and around foundation walls.

- Repair foundation walls.

Many of the foundation walls need to be repaired and re-pointed. This deterioration is particularly evident in the foundation walls of the forebay and in the northeast corner of the building.

Hand tools should be used to remove any loose mortar. The repair mortar mix should match in color and composition the original mortar. This should include as close a match as possible to the historic sand. Mortar should be applied using the historic inverted "v" hand tool technique.

Any broken field stones should be replaced in kind, matching color, veining and size.

Windows and doors located within foundation wall should be repaired using original material and hardware when possible. Most of these openings have significantly deteriorated.

Vertical Wood Siding

- There is no remaining original material. The existing wood siding is pine. The nails and pine siding indicate that most of the siding (with the exception of small repairs) were installed during the construction of the barn in the 1880s.
- A full scale restoration would include replacing the non-significant current siding with siding that matches in material, most likely oak, and dimension the original siding. These boards would be 1"x10" to 1"x12" in dimension and 1/8" to 1/4" thick.
- The economical and prudent option would be to replace missing elements to match the vertical siding currently in place. This is especially logical since most, if not all, of the upper level of the barn dates to the 1880s.
- There are several locations on the southern elevation where doors have been cut into the siding. These intrusions should be removed and these areas re-sided.
- Rusty nails and metal remnants should be removed from siding.

Symmetrical Gabled Roof

- The profile of the gable roof is typical of early 19th century bank barns and should be preserved.
- Repair common rafter and purlins.

- Replace damaged pine lathe.
- Remove the non-significant corrugated and seamed metal roof. The roof most likely dates to the 1890 construction of the upper level of the barn. The roof should be replaced the current metal roof with a similar seamed metal roof.



Deteriorated top sill plate and members.

• Interior Features of Barn:

Spatial organization

- The spatial organization of the upper level of the barn is consistent with the layout that would have existed during the period of significance and should be preserved and maintained.
- The spatial organization of the lower level of the barn is mostly original. There were some modifications during the 20th century to accommodate the switch to dairy farming. Since it is not possible to determine the original layout of the lower level, the current layout should be retained.

Exposed Structural Framing (Upper Level)

- The exposed upper level bents were constructed in the 1880s and 1890s. The bents in their current configuration should be preserved and maintained.
- The most unobtrusive method of repair should be used at all times in order to preserve the integrity of the original barn. This would include the use of epoxy to reinforce damaged members while retaining their original appearance. Epoxy should be considered when:
 - Rot and deterioration has only effected the strength of the existing member. In this case the rot could be hollowed out and filled with epoxy, preserving the exterior characteristics of the member.
 - Epoxy should be considered for other members when the repair size is less than 5% of the timber.
- Extensively deteriorated framing members should be replaced in kind: matching wood, size, shape, and texture.
- Confirm that structural framing can support a new roof and environmental loads.
- Top and bottom sill plates are severely rotted. They may need to be



Deteriorated bottom sill plate.

replaced in order to provide adequate support for floor and timber framing.

Floor

- The upper level threshing floor, which dates to the 1880s, is a significant feature of the barn. Floor should be repaired, rather than replaced, whenever possible. Replacement is only appropriate where floorboards have lost their structural integrity.
- Floor joists should be repaired using the least intrusive methods available. Appropriate repairs would include the use of epoxy. Replacement is only appropriate when there is severe deterioration, particularly in the middle of the joist. In this case, joist should be replaced in kind using similar construction techniques. There are currently three joists which may need to be replaced.
- Flooring should match original in terms of type of wood, size, and sawing technique.
- Floorboards should be protected with a borate-based fungicide and insecticide.
- Flooring in east and west mows is currently missing. There is no record of what existed originally. Floor was most likely random width oak. There are two options regarding the replacement of the mow flooring:
 1. To not replace flooring in mows, leaving floor joists exposed.
 2. To reinstall using existing boards.
- Establish floor and occupancy loads for the Poffenberger Barn.

Missing Granary

- The dimensions and location of the missing granary are visible in the HABS/HAER drawings. The granary is a significant feature of a 19th century bank barn. If photographs or other documentary evidence are found, the granary could be re-constructed.

Exposed Structural Framing (Lower Level)

- The exposed lower level framing dates to c.1880 and 1890 and should be preserved and maintained.
- The most unobtrusive method of repair should be used at all times in order to preserve the integrity of the original barn. This would include the use of epoxy to reinforce damaged members while retaining their original appearance. Epoxy should be considered when:
 - Rot and deterioration has effected the strength of the existing member, but exterior appearance remains in tact. In this case the rot could be hollowed out and filled with epoxy, preserving the exterior characteristics of the member.
 - Epoxy should be considered for other members when the repair size is less than 5% of the timber.
- Extensively deteriorated framing members should be replaced in kind: matching wood, size, shape, and texture.
- Confirm that structural framing can support a new roof and environmental loads.

Wooden Hay Racks, Troughs and Dividing Wall

- Dividing walls date to the period of significance and should be preserved and maintained.
- Wooden hay racks and troughs were most likely constructed during the 1880s. They are contributing elements and should be preserved and maintained.
- Wooden elements all appear to be in fair to good condition. They should be preserved in situ during the restoration of the barn. If removal is necessary, the location of each board should be carefully recorded through photography and numbered. Following rehabilitation elements should be replaced in their current position.

Hardware

- Preserve and retain hardware from the period of significance.
- Repair hardware by removing rust and using a rust inhibitor.
- Remove any modern hardware (hinges, etc).
- Preserve and protect hardware and remaining historic cut nails. Hardware should be cataloged. Any loose hardware should be cataloged and stored.

Doors

- Preserve and maintain doors from the period of significance.
- Protect door with borate based insecticide and termicide.
- Repair or replace doors that are deteriorating, loose or broken.
- Replace extensively deteriorated boards in doors.
- Wood species (oak), board configuration, and hinges should match doors appropriate to period of significance. New doors and reproduction hardware should date stamped.

Windows

- Preserve and maintain windows from the period of significance.
- Replace or repair broken or missing wooden louvers.
- Replace severely deteriorated wood.

Further Recommendations

Architectural/Engineering Work

Every timber frame member needs to be examined to determine the structural load of the member and the extent of deterioration. This will aid significantly in determining the appropriate method of treatment. It will determine whether a member needs to be replaced entirely, or whether a less invasive repair method can be used. Additionally, the structural integrity of the foundation wall should be fully analyzed.

Archeological Investigations

An archeological investigation of the Poffenberger Barn could provide a fuller understanding of farm life and of activities during the Civil War. These objects would help to reinforce certain dates and to provide a more complete story of the barn's history. An archeological investigation may also lead to further clues regarding the possible late 19th century fire.

Material Analysis/Testing

A preliminary whitewash and mortar analysis has already been performed as part of this HSR. This can be found in the Appendix. Part of the recommendation of the report is a fuller analysis of mortar and whitewash. It may also be useful to perform a wood analysis to determine the exact species of wood on the lower level of the barn.

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