

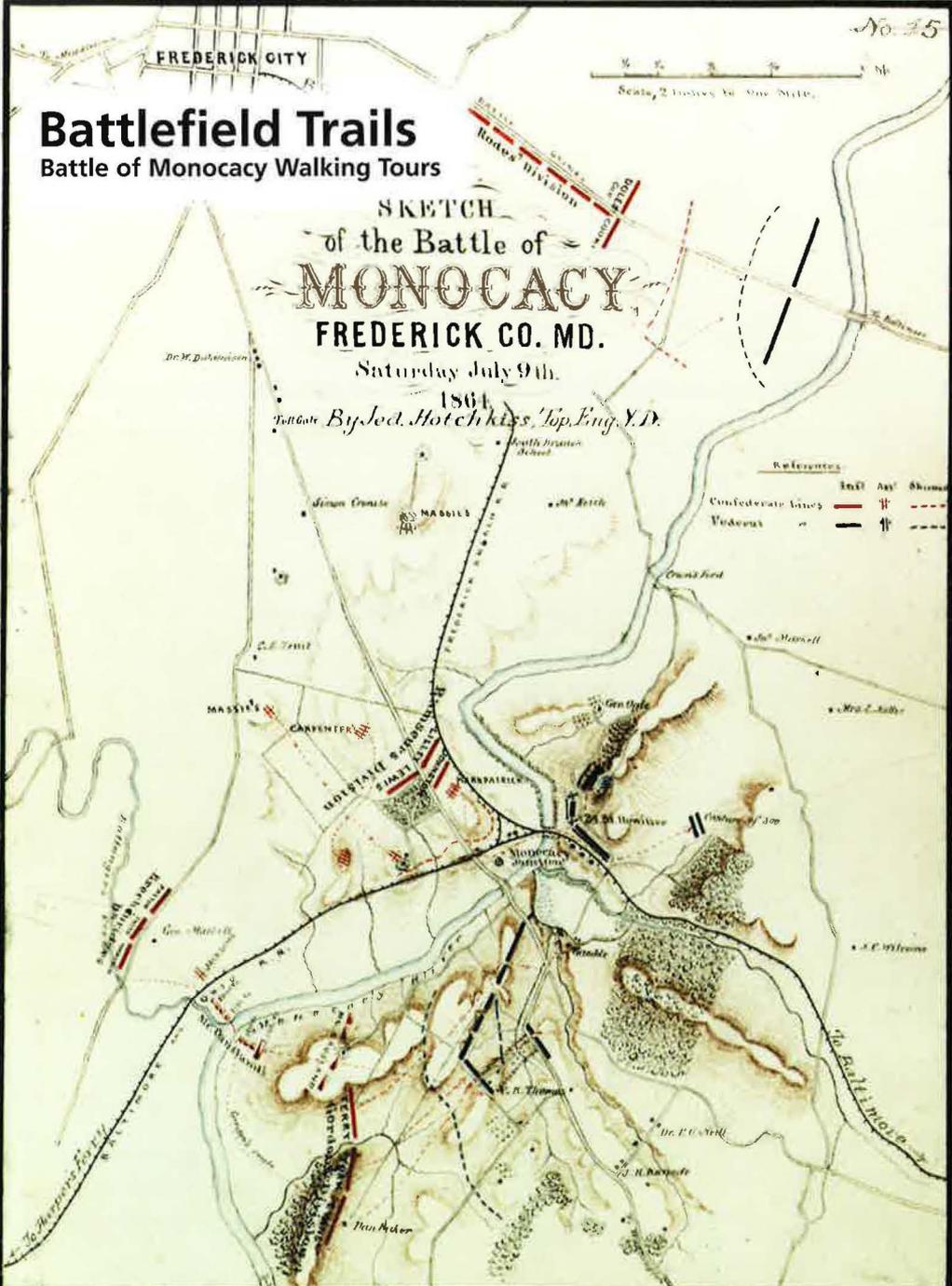


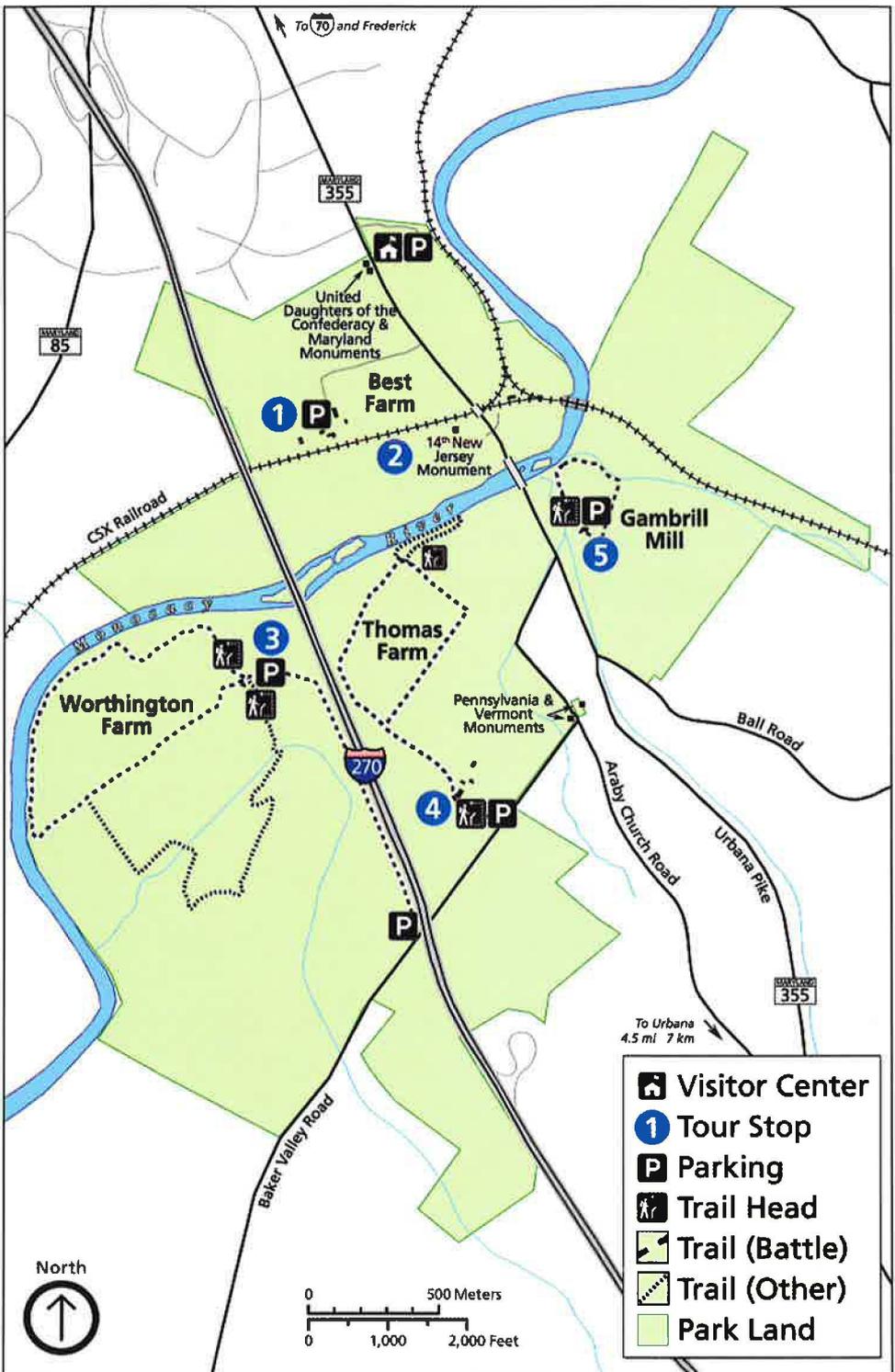
No. 25

Battlefield Trails

Battle of Monocacy Walking Tours

SKETCH
of the Battle of
MONOCACY
FREDERICK CO. MD.
Saturday July 9th.
1861
Traverse By Sect. Hotchkiss, Top. Eng. U.S.A.





2 Battle of Monocacy Trails



About Your Visit

Interpretation on the battlefield trails is self-guided. Each trail features a number of stops which will guide you through the major elements of the Battle of Monocacy as it unfolded on July 9, 1864. In this brochure the battle is interpreted at the Best Farm (Tour Stop ①), Worthington Farm (③), and the Thomas Farm (④). A self-guided ½-mile trail at the Gambrill Mill (⑤) features waysides which review battle events at Monocacy Junction. A portion of the Gambrill Mill trail is wheelchair accessible. The trails relating to the battle are blazed in blue.

Two other trails, the 1.9-mile Brooks Hill Loop nature trail (Worthington Farm) and the ½-mile Middle Ford Ferry Loop trail (Thomas Farm) explore other aspects of the battlefield's cultural and natural landscapes. These trails are marked with white blazes.

Hiking is permitted only on designated trails.

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For Your Safety

The terrain on the trails is variable, and the surface can be somewhat uneven. Sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Be on the lookout for groundhog holes, poison ivy, and other hazards.

The Best, Thomas, and Worthington farms are leased to local farmers whose crops help maintain the historic character of the landscape. Do not disturb any farming implements, and be aware of agricultural vehicles and activities. Also, do not disturb any crops under cultivation.

It is illegal to remove cultural or natural resources from this or any other National Park.

Help us preserve this beautiful battlefield landscape for future generations by obeying our park regulations:

- Monocacy National Battlefield is a trash free park. There are no trash receptacles in the park, so please take all your trash with you.
- Keep pets leashed at all times.
- Metal detectors, firearms, and alcohol are prohibited in the park.
- Bicycling is not permitted on trails.

Thank you. Enjoy your visit.

Precursors to the Battle of Monocacy

On July 9, 1864, Union and Confederate forces fought at Monocacy Junction. But why was the Battle fought here?

During the spring of 1864, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was continuously engaged with Union forces from May to early June. In mid-June, General Lee sent Lieutenant General Jubal Early, commander of the II Corps, to defend Lynchburg, Virginia. After chasing the Union forces from the outskirts of Lynchburg and out of the Shenandoah Valley, Early devised a bold plan to move north through the Shenandoah with the goal of attacking and possibly capturing Washington, D.C.

In late June, Early's II Corps marched through the Shenandoah Valley toward Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, with elements crossing into Maryland during the first few days of July. In addition to assaulting the capital, General Early was ordered to attack the prison camp at Point Lookout, with the goal of freeing additional troops to assist the Southern cause.

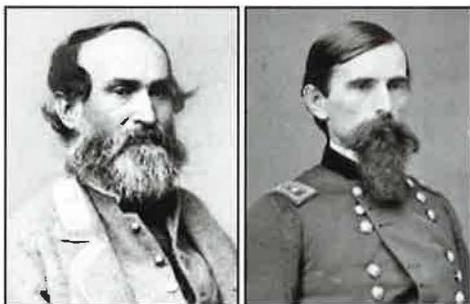
In the opening days of July, Early sent a cavalry brigade north to Hagerstown and several other surrounding towns where they levied ransoms for money and supplies.

Union Major General Lew Wallace, commander of the Middle Department headquartered in Baltimore, became aware of the Confederate advance. Operating under his own initiative, Wallace departed

Baltimore for Monocacy Junction in the early morning hours of July 5 in an attempt to mount a defensive force. For the most part, the troops he assembled were "green" regiments that had seen little to no combat, including a number of "100-days" men who had only enlisted for one hundred days of service.

Wallace had three objectives in pitting his small and unseasoned force against the advancing Confederates: 1) to determine the strength of Early's army, 2) to determine Early's objective (it was unclear initially whether Early intended to attack Baltimore or Washington, D.C.), and 3) to buy time to allow reinforcements to be sent north from Petersburg.

Fortunately, Union General Ulysses S. Grant was also receiving troubling reports from the Shenandoah Valley. Grant



Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early (left) and Union Major General Lew Wallace (right) fought at Monocacy Junction on July 9, 1864.

A BRIEF TIMELINE

June 12, 1864

General Robert E. Lee orders Lieutenant General Early to secure the Shenandoah Valley.

June 21st

Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early in command of II Corps—the Army of the Valley—heads north through the Shenandoah Valley in a campaign to capture Washington, D.C.

1864

dispatched the veteran 3rd Division of the VI Corps from Petersburg to reinforce Maryland.

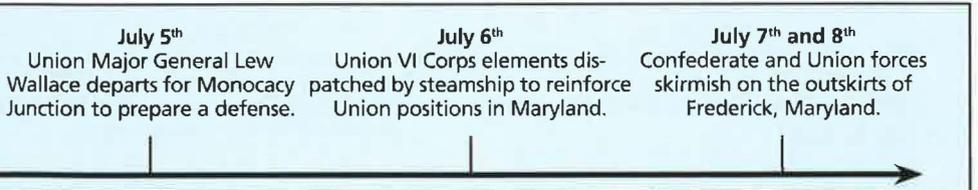
After a series of raids into the hill country of western Maryland, Early's army turned east, with cavalry forces reaching the outskirts of Frederick on July 7. Brisk skirmishing ensued on the fringes of Frederick, and the Confederates were forced to withdraw for the night. That same afternoon, Union Brigadier General James B. Ricketts' two brigades from the 3rd Division of the VI Corps—some 3,000 troops—began

to arrive at Monocacy Junction. Wallace withdrew his force from Frederick on the evening of July 8, and the last of the Union reinforcements arrived around 2:00 a.m. on June 9. This gave Wallace approximately 5,800 men with which to delay the advance of the entire Confederate II Corps, numbering around 15,000.

Still unsure of the strength of the main Confederate force, Wallace established a defensive position on the east bank of the Monocacy River. Early on the morning of June 9, the battle began.



Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early moved his troops from north of Richmond to Lynchburg, Virginia, to defend the city from Union forces. Once he drove the Union troops out of the Shenandoah Valley, his way was clear to move north and attack Washington, D.C.



The Start of the Battle

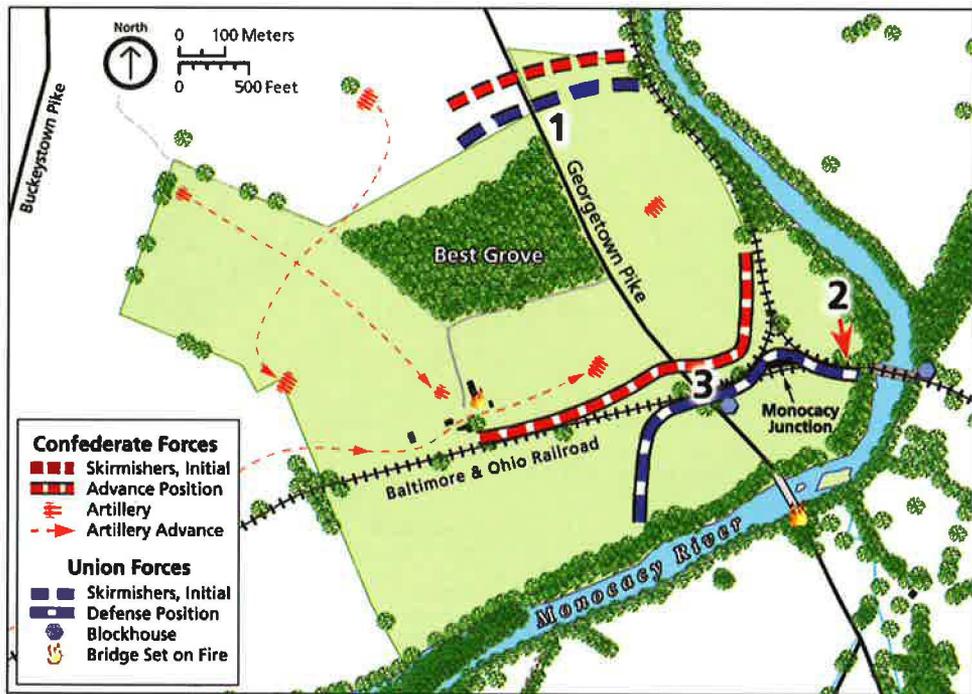
The Best Farm was the site of the opening stages of the Battle of Monocacy, when Confederate forces tried to capture the bridges over the Monocacy River during their advance on Washington, D.C.

Best Farm (Auto Tour Stop 1)

As dawn broke on the morning of July 9, 1864, the majority of Union General Lew Wallace's forces were concentrated along the eastern bank of the Monocacy River. As Early's intentions were not immediately clear, several troops were placed to guard the National Road toward Baltimore at the "Jug Bridge" over the Monocacy River.

The main attack toward Monocacy Junction began at about 8:00 a.m. At Best Farm, approximately one mile north of Monocacy Junction, Federal skirmishers contested the advance down the Georgetown Pike by elements of General Stephen Ramseur's division, (1) (on map below).

The Union skirmishers fell back to the south end of Best Farm near where the



BEST FARM TIMELINE

8:00 a.m.

The Confederates advance on the Georgetown Pike to capture the Monocacy bridges. Union skirmishers are engaged.

July 9, 1864

11:00 a.m.

Confederate troops mount a second attack on the Union forces at the Junction. The Union defense holds, but the bridge is burned in order to prevent its capture by the Confederates.

Georgetown Pike crossed the Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) Railroad. There they joined elements of the 10th Vermont Volunteers under First Lieutenant George Davis and the 9th New York Heavy Artillery. About 600 Union forces were engaged at the Junction.

Davis' force was positioned west of the Georgetown Pike along the railroad cut. His line extended from a point where the B & O crossed the Monocacy River to just beyond the Pike bridge before swinging south. East of the Georgetown Pike, a Union blockhouse defended the approach to the covered wooden Pike bridge, as well as the iron railroad bridge.

At about 11:00 a.m., a second attack was launched by one of General Robert D. Johnston's regiments on the right of the Union skirmish line (2); however, Union pickets placed upriver warned the Federals positioned at the Junction in time to repel the attack. Concerned that Confederate forces would capture the Georgetown Pike bridge, General Lew Wallace ordered it burned, inadvertently trapping about 300 Union skirmishers at the Junction.

The third and final attack began around 3:30 p.m., with a large Confederate force attacking the outnumbered Union defenders who were able to hold for about an hour (3). With the covered bridge destroyed, the only avenue of escape was the railroad bridge. Lieutenant Davis' troops were forced to retreat under heavy fire. Davis was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his valiant defense of the Junction.

Artillery

In addition to infantry skirmishing, several artillery batteries were engaged on the Best Farm. Confederate sharpshooters harassed the Federals from their position in the Best Barn, but were eventually forced out by Union artillery. Union Private Frederick Wild recalled:

... [The] barn was filled with sharpshooters, so we directed our attention to them, the second shot burst inside of the barn, and so did the third, and the fourth; the barn was soon on fire, and we had the satisfaction of seeing some of them being carried away on a litter, and put into an ambulance.

If you wish to learn more, the Worthington Farm Ford Loop trail at Auto Tour Stop 3 continues the chronology of the battle.

OR

To learn more about the history of the Best Farm, be sure to look for the Best Farm brochure, available at the Visitor Center bookstore.



Elements of Confederate General Stephen Ramseur's (left) division advanced down the Georgetown Pike toward Monocacy Junction. Union First Lieutenant George Davis of the 10th Vermont Volunteers (right) was awarded the Medal of Honor for his defense of the Junction.

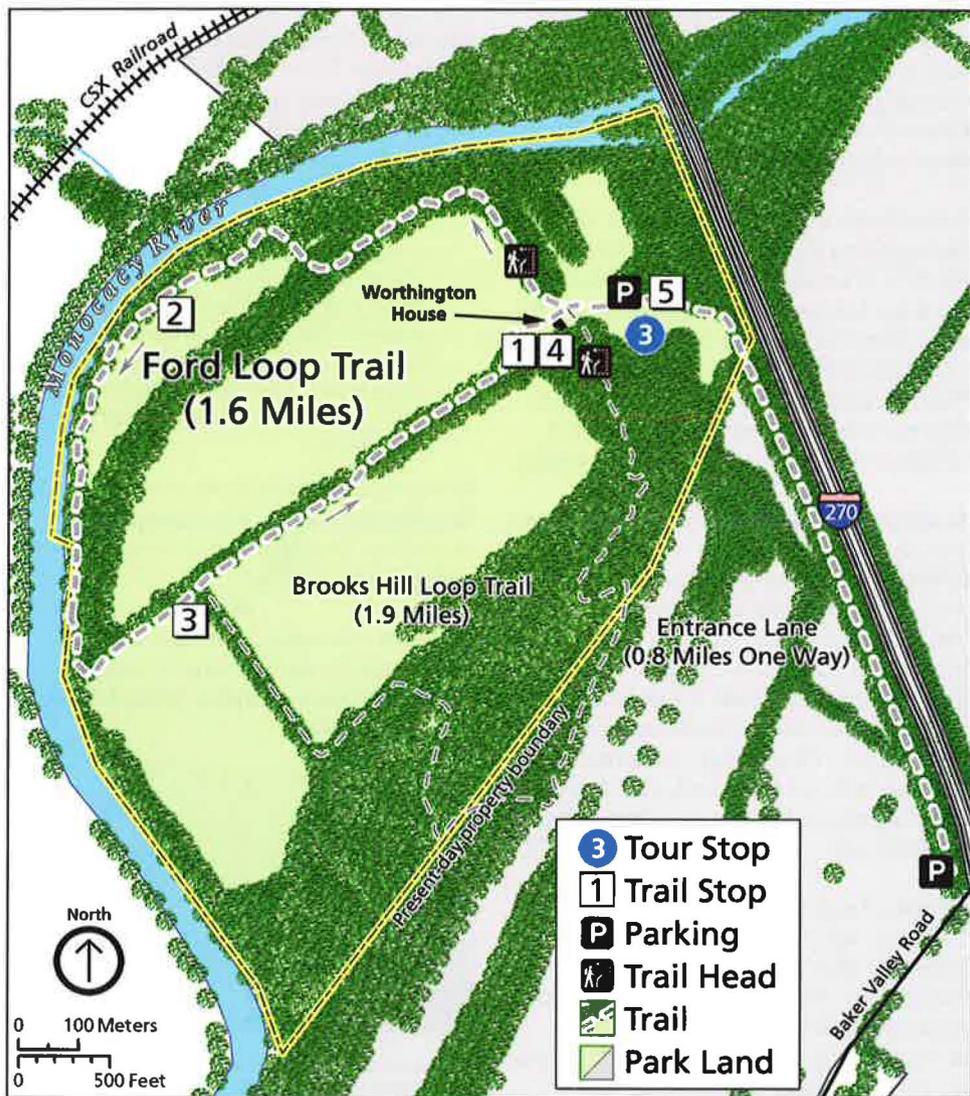
3:30 p.m.

Confederates attack the Junction a third time. The Union line holds for nearly an hour.

4:30 p.m.

Under heavy fire, Union defenders are forced to retreat over the railroad bridge.

3 Worthington Farm



The Worthington Farm—Present-day Landscape

The 1.6-mile Worthington-McKinney Ford loop trail encompasses the part of the battlefield where the Confederates forded the Monocacy River.

WORTHINGTON FARM TIMELINE

July 9, 1864

10:00 a.m.
Confederate General John McCausland's cavalry begins crossing the Monocacy River onto Worthington Farm.

10:30—11:00 a.m.
Confederate dismounted cavalry march toward the Union skirmish line at Thomas Farm fence line and are repulsed.



The Worthington House in 1934.

Stop 1

The Worthington House

Constructed ca. 1851, the Worthington House and surrounding 300-acre farm were purchased by John T. Worthington in 1862. Cultivating corn, wheat, and other small grains, the Worthington family operated a profitable and successful farm until 1953.

The house is a two-story brick dwelling and was typical for a prosperous farm family in the mid-19th century. Inside, the stair hall and parlor feature elegant trompe l'oeil (“fool the eye”) ornamental painting which is still visible today.

The Battle

As the battle raged throughout the day, the Worthingtons took refuge in the cellar of the house. Although the cellar windows had been boarded up prior to the battle, six-year-old Glenn Worthington was able to observe the

action through the spaces between the boards. Impressed with the scene that was forever etched in his memory, Glenn Worthington published the first book detailing the Battle of Monocacy in 1932, and was instrumental in the area’s designation as a national battlefield.

Acquisition

In addition to the house you see today, the farm complex also featured a barn, corncrib, kitchen and slave quarter. By the time the National Park Service acquired the Worthington Farm in 1982, it had been abandoned for many years and was in a state of extreme disrepair.

In the late 1990s the park began an exterior restoration and renovation of the Worthington House. Using historic photographs, written descriptions, and archeological and architectural evidence, the exterior restoration was completed in 2004.



The Worthington House after restoration in 2004.

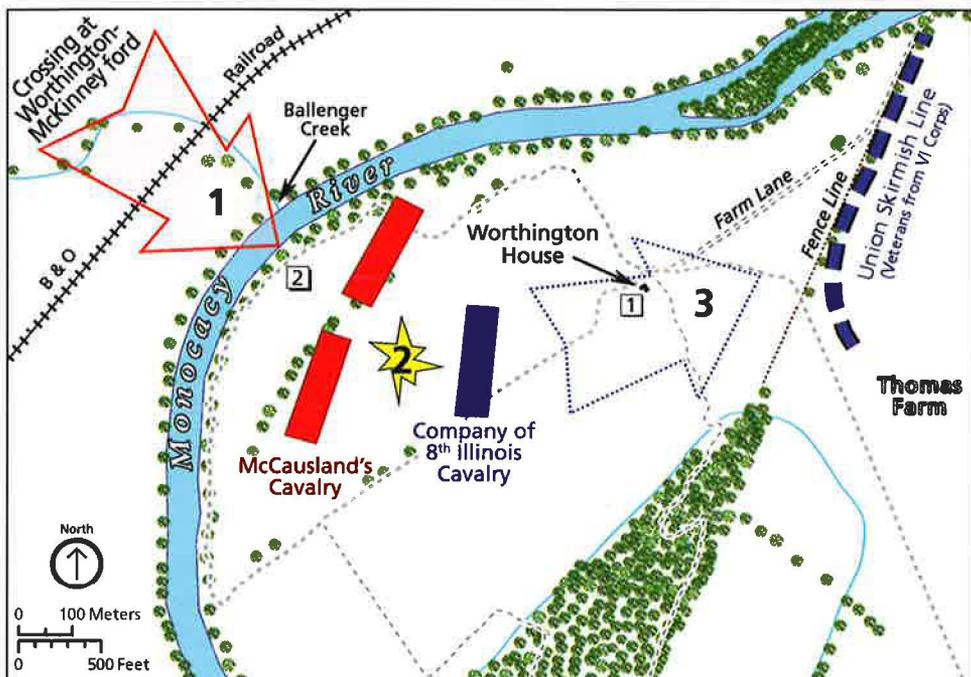
2:30 p.m.

Confederate troops bypass Union skirmishers and attack the main Union force on Thomas Farm. They are eventually forced to retreat.

3:00—4:30 p.m.

Confederate forces attack the Union line in three places, eventually forcing the Union troops to retreat.

3 Worthington Farm



Stop 2 Worthington-McKinney Ford

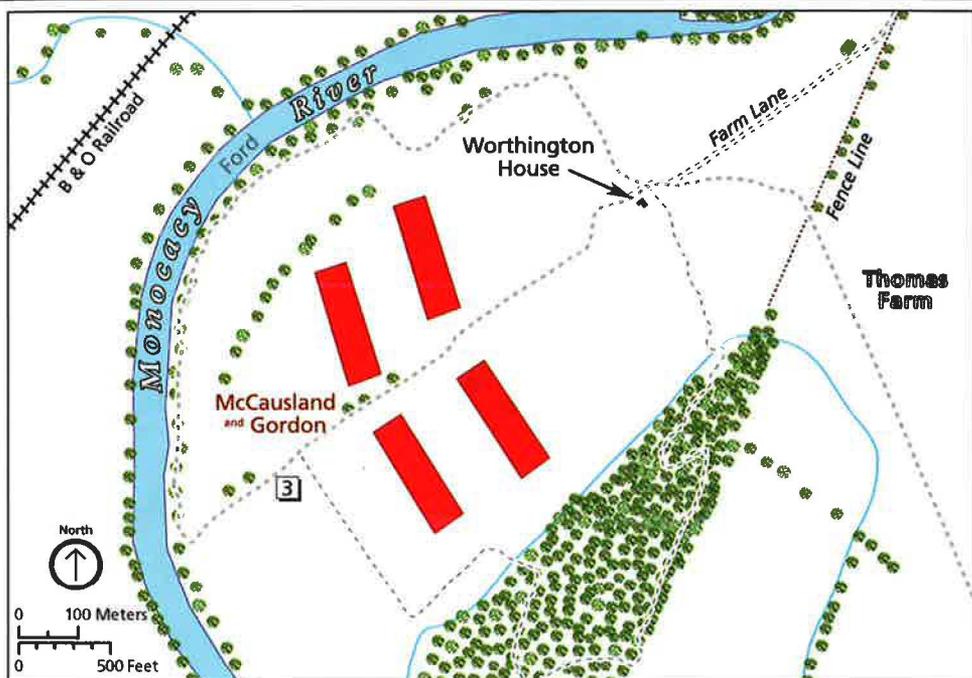
Nearby is the Worthington-McKinney Ford. Although the exact location of the ford is unknown due to natural changes in the course of the Monocacy River over time, it was probably near the mouth of Ballenger Creek. During the battle, General John McCausland's cavalry brigade and General John B. Gordon's infantry division used the Worthington-McKinney Ford to cross the river. They then regrouped in the low lying fields and advanced toward Union positions on the Thomas Farm.

General McCausland's cavalry began to cross the ford, which was knee-deep in places, at approximately 10:00 a.m. (1). As they crossed, lead elements of the cavalry encountered a company of 8th Illinois Cavalry. A small skir-

mish ensued (2) until the main body of Confederate cavalrymen crossed. The outnumbered Illinois men returned to the Union line to warn of the Confederate advance (3). A Union skirmish line was established behind the fence separating the Worthington and Thomas Farms in preparation for the Confederate attack.



Confederate General John B. Gordon (left) led an infantry division and General John McCausland (right) led a cavalry brigade in the attacks on Union positions on the Thomas Farm.



Stop 3 Staging Area

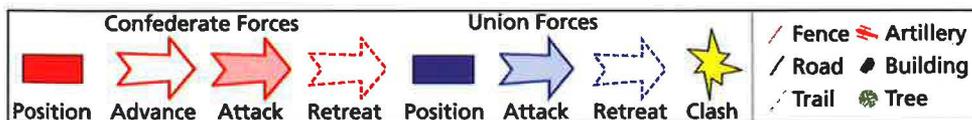
The trail follows a historic farm road that once connected the Worthington House to the river. The surrounding fields were used as a staging area for the Confederate Army, where McCausland and Gordon's men prepared for battle. Keeping battle lines in order was a difficult task as the Confederates advanced through waist-high corn and over fences that divided the different fields.

As I turned my eyes to the roads trending southwardly from Frederick, they fell upon reinforcing columns of Confederates in steady march to the fords below the wooden bridge. — General Wallace

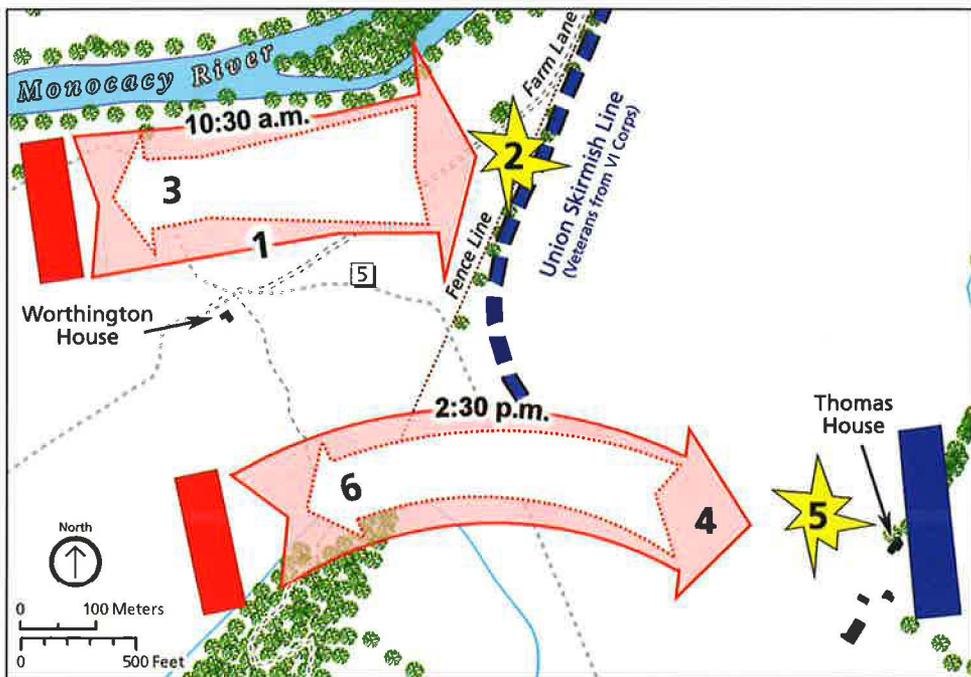
Stop 4 Artillery

A battery of Confederate artillery was brought across the Worthington-McKinney Ford to support Gordon's attack. One gun was positioned beside the Worthington House, while the others were placed at surrounding vantage points. The nearby Thomas House was struck by Confederate cannon fire and sustained major damage; the Worthington House was not damaged by artillery fire.

Of the artillery pieces brought across the ford by Confederate troops, the piece adjacent to the Worthington House is the only one whose specific location is known.



3 Worthington Farm



Stop 5

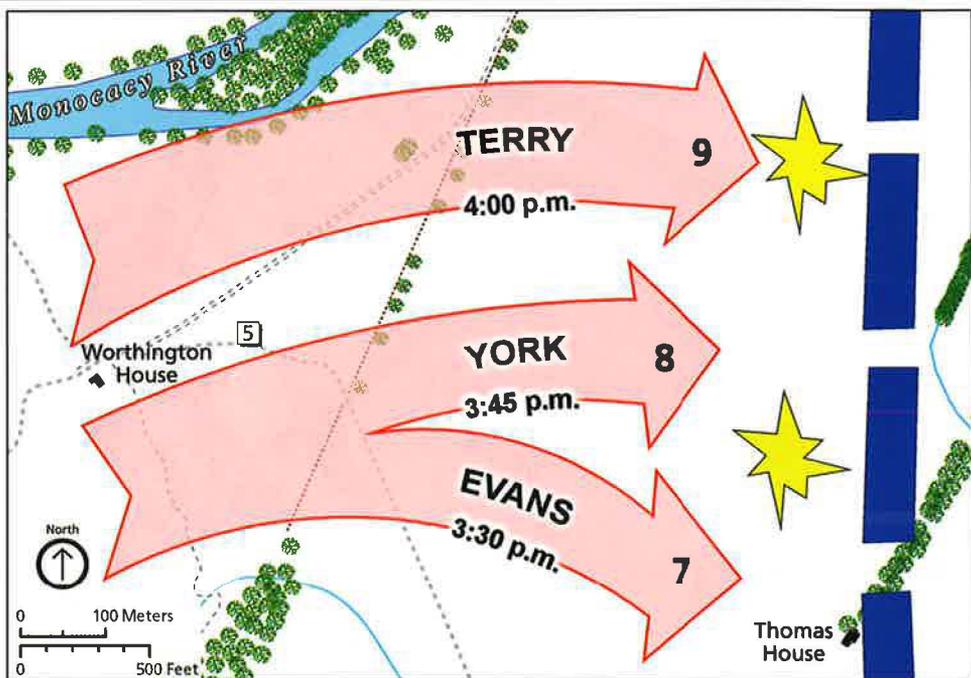
Worthington-McKinney Ford 10:30 a.m. The First Attack

The tree line that runs diagonally away from the gravel road marks the location of a fence that once divided the Thomas and Worthington Farms. Veteran Union soldiers from General James Ricketts' VI Corps formed a skirmish line and hid behind the fence waiting for the Confederate attack. Around 10:30 a.m., expecting an easy rout of green, 100-days men, General John McCausland's dismounted cavalry marched within 125 yards of the Union skirmishers (1). In unison, the Federals rose up and unleashed a withering volley (2) toward the unsuspecting Confederates. General McCausland's men fell back in confusion to the fields behind the Worthington House (3).

2:30 p.m. The Second Attack

The Confederate cavalymen were reorganized for a second attack around 2:30 p.m. and bypassed the Union skirmish line (4). McCausland's men struck the Union soldiers on the Thomas Farm (5) where they succeeded in dislodging the Union defenders and taking control of the Thomas House. After about 20 minutes, Union troops counterattacked and regained possession of the house (6).

[The Union troops] resolved into a flying mass, and directly the whole opposing [Confederate] formation, catching the contagion of retreat, was going headlong in the search of safety. ... This second [Union victory] was scored in a wheat-field but recently reaped. — General Wallace



Stop 5 (continued)

3:00 p.m. The Third & Final Attack

At approximately 3:00 p.m., using Brooks Hill as a screen, Confederate General Gordon advanced from the Worthington-McKinney Ford. General Clement Evans' brigade crossed Brooks Hill onto the Thomas Farm (7), and met stiff resistance from Union General Ricketts' veterans during the third attack on the Union line. Confederate Generals Zebulon York's (8) and William Terry's (9) brigades attacked the Union line at two different points after Evans, and fierce fighting continued until the Union's right flank crumbled

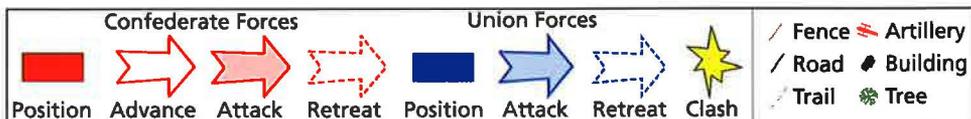
near the Georgetown Pike about one mile to the east.



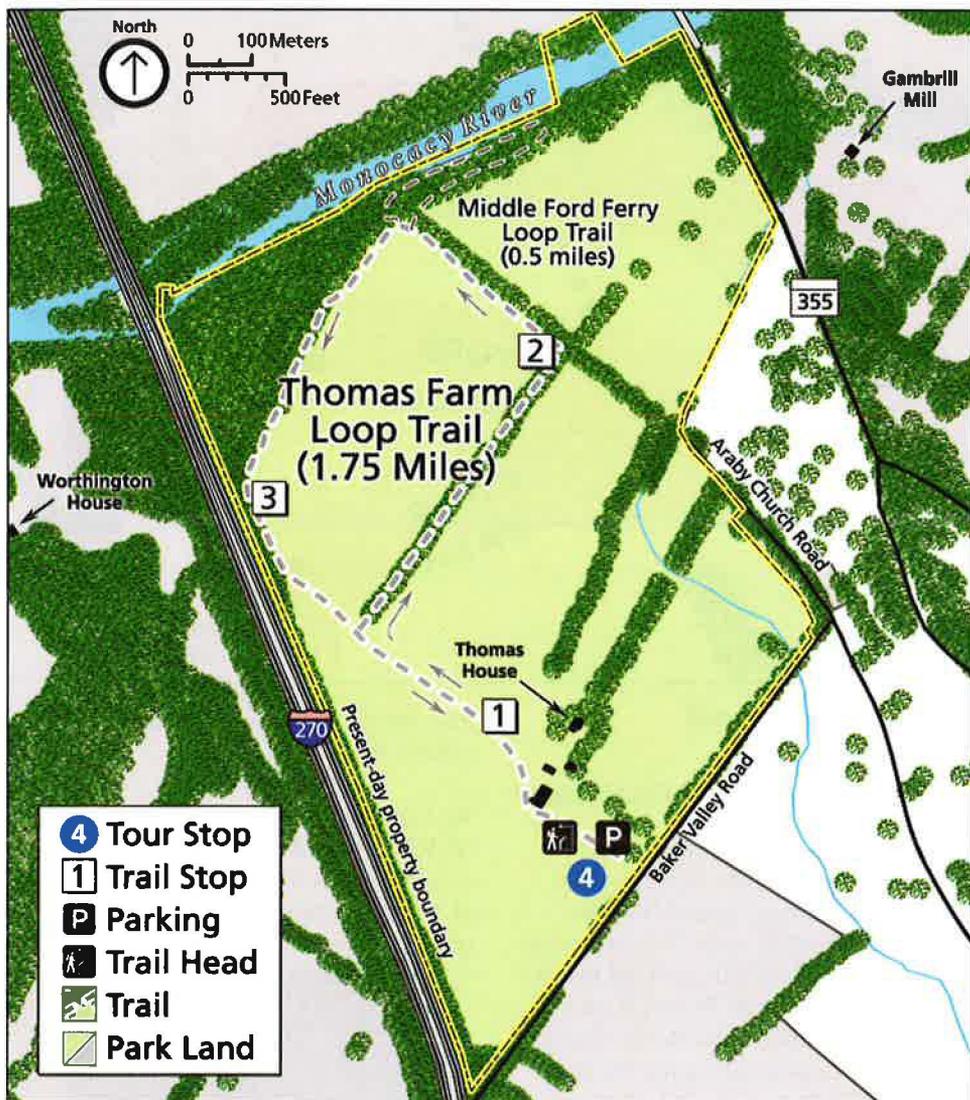
We hope you enjoyed the Worthington-McKinney Ford loop trail. If you wish to learn more, the Thomas Farm trail at Auto Tour Stop 4 provides another perspective on the battle.



Union General James Ricketts



4 Thomas Farm



The Thomas Farm—Present-day Landscape

The 1.75-mile Thomas Farm loop trail encompasses the part of the battlefield where the heaviest fighting took place.

THOMAS FARM TIMELINE

July 9, 1864



10:30—11:00 a.m.

Confederate dismounted cavalry march toward Union skirmish line at Thomas Farm fence line and are repulsed.



The Thomas House in 1932.

Thomas Farm

The 240-acre Thomas Farm, also known as *Araby*, was purchased by Christian Keefer Thomas in 1860. Thomas, a retired Baltimore merchant, hoped to avoid the impending Civil War by relocating to Frederick; unfortunately, he and his family had been at *Araby* only a short time before the war broke out.

The ca. 1780 Thomas House is a two-story brick manor house with a rear gallery porch. Historically, the house featured an impressive two-story Italianate porch that extended across the front elevation of the house (above). A number of 19th and 20th century outbuildings complete the building complex, and the yard area also features a mid-20th century formally designed garden.

The Battle

During the battle, the Thomas Farm was the scene of three Confederate attacks. As the battle raged around the house and outbuildings, the Thomas

and Gambrill families took refuge in the cellar.

The Thomas House and its surrounding farm fields sustained major damage as a result of the battle. As many as eight artillery shells are reported to have penetrated the house, and its surrounding trees, fences, and farm fields were virtually obliterated by the clashing armies. However, the process of rebuilding must have begun quickly, as the farm was sufficiently recovered to serve as the setting for Alice Thomas's wedding in 1868. Although C. K. Thomas died in 1889, *Araby* remained in the Thomas family until about 1910.

Acquisition

The National Park Service acquired the Thomas Farm in 2001; however, the area around the house is presently closed to the public. The National Park Service is currently conducting a number of historic preservation projects to stabilize and preserve the Thomas House and outbuildings.

The Thomas Farm trail traces the three Confederate attacks, but due to the limitations imposed on the trail's layout by the farm's natural terrain, the trail stops do not strictly follow the chronology of these attacks. The later Confederate attacks are detailed at the first two trail stops, while the first attack is discussed at the third stop.

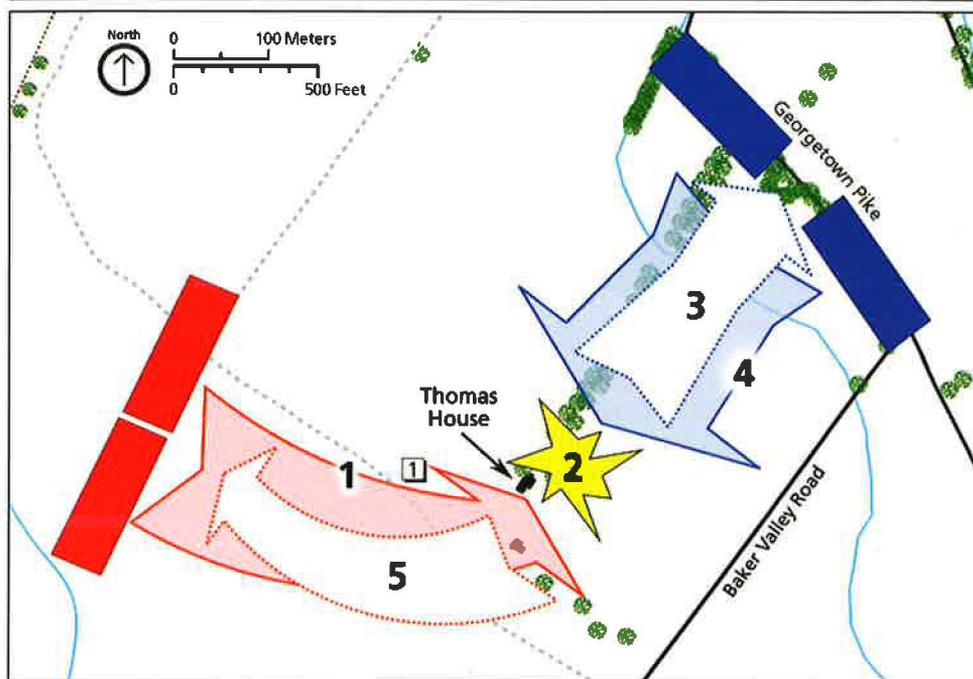
2:30 p.m.

Confederate troops bypass Union skirmishers and attack main Union force on Thomas Farm. They are eventually forced to retreat.

3:00—4:30 p.m.

Confederate forces attack the Union line in three places, eventually forcing the Union troops to retreat.

4 Thomas Farm



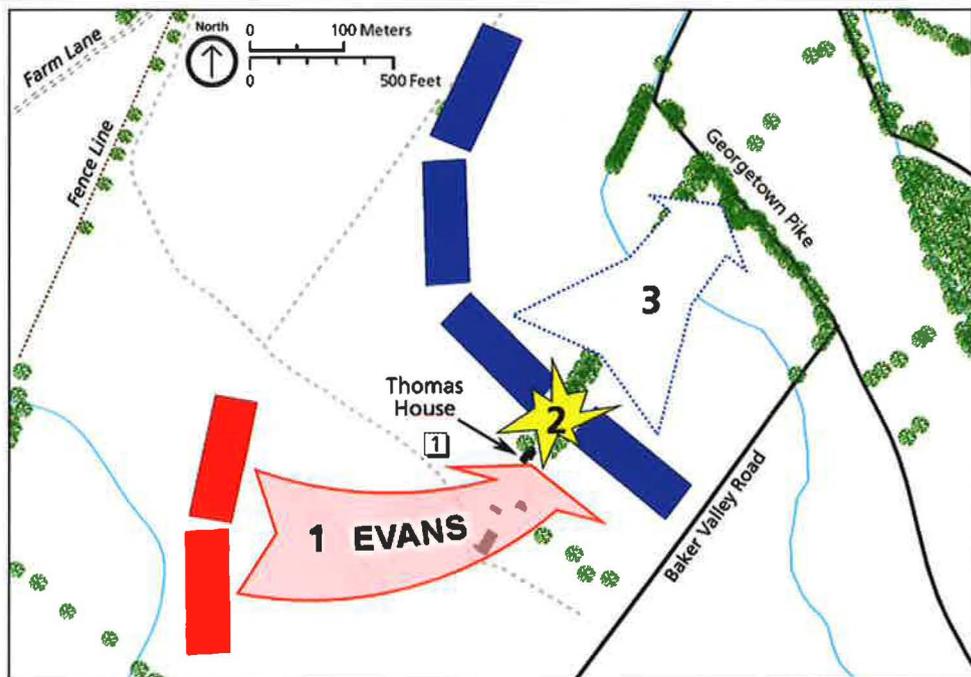
Stop 1

2:30 p.m. *The Second Attack*

Around 2:30 p.m. the Union line came under attack by a brigade of dismounted cavalymen commanded by General John McCausland. The Confederate approach from the Worthington Farm (1) avoided the Union skirmish line, and focused the attack on the Thomas House (2). Union defenders were dislodged from the house and pushed back to the Georgetown Pike (present-day Araby Church Road) (3). About 20 minutes later, Union troops mounted a counterattack (4), which drove the Confederates back to the Worthington Farm (5). McCausland's cavalymen suffered roughly 100 casualties (wounded, killed or captured) at the hands of Union troops during the two separate attacks.



Union General James Ricketts



Stop 1 (continued)

3:30 p.m. The Third & Final Attack (Part 1 – Union Left Flank)

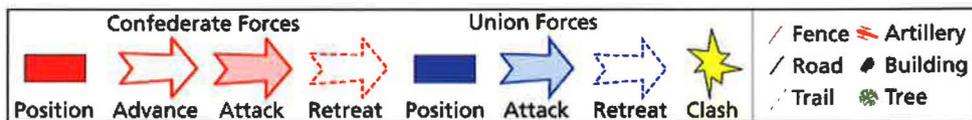
At roughly 3:30 p.m., Union General James Ricketts' left flank was attacked by a brigade of Confederate General John Gordon's division (1). The Union defenders were initially successful at slowing the advance by killing or wounding several field officers, including brigade commander General Clement Evans (right). The Federals were also aided by post and rail fences and stacks of wheat that disrupted the movement of the line of battle. Eventually, Evans' Georgians reassembled and continued the attack (2).

With the assistance of General Zebulon York's brigade, they pushed the Union defenders back to the Georgetown Pike

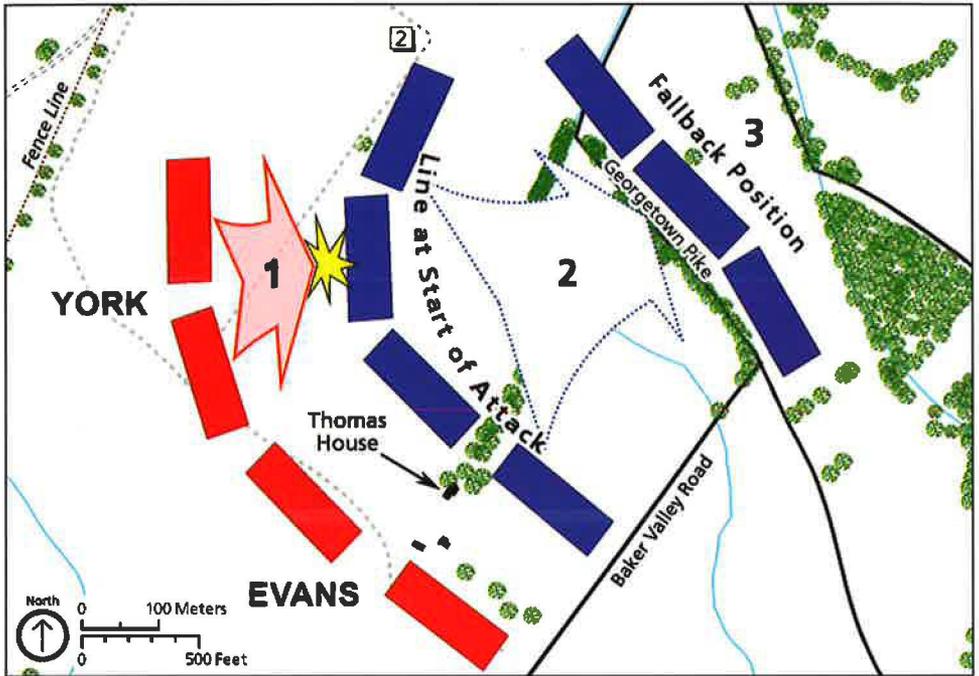


Confederate General
Clement Evans

(today's Araby Church Road) (3). At the Pike, Union troops used the natural breastworks (defensive positions) created by the road to hold both brigades at bay. The Georgians suffered over 400 casualties in the attack.



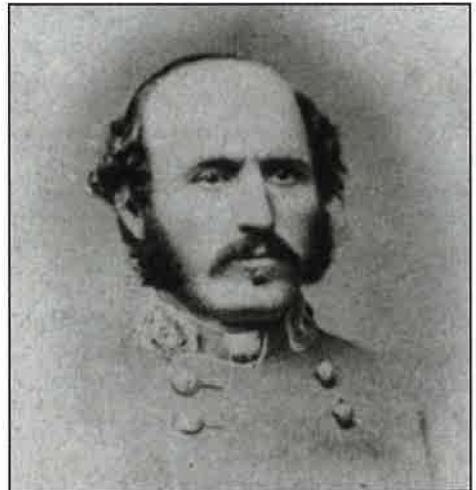
4 Thomas Farm



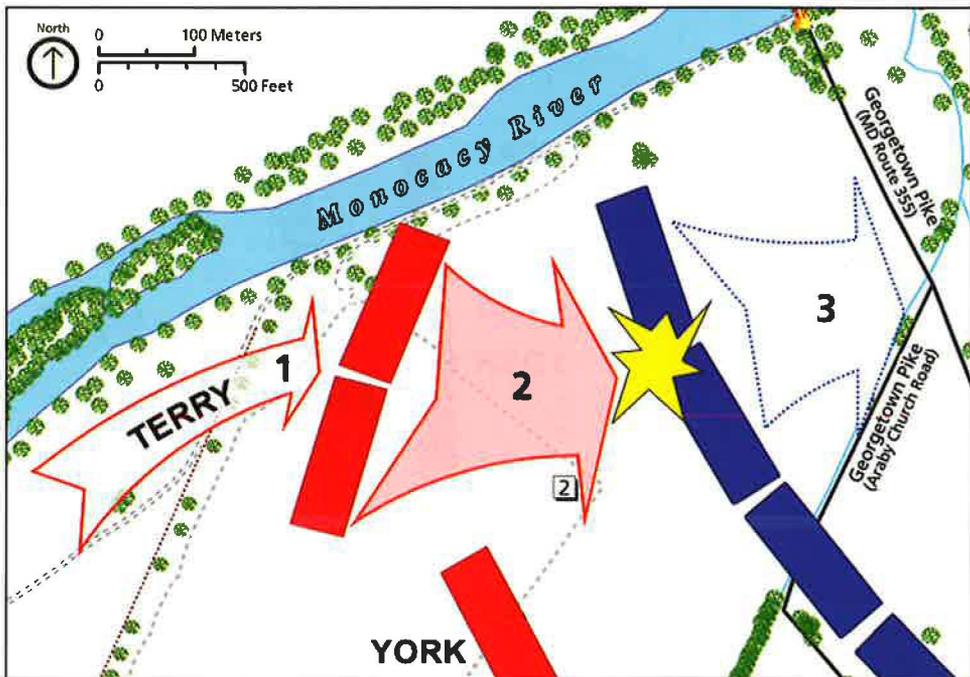
Stop 2

3:45 p.m. *The Third & Final Attack* (Part 2 – Union Center)

As the Union defenders slowed Evans' attack on the left flank, York's brigade of Louisianans attacked their middle (1). The Union defenders could not hold their ground against this combined force and were compelled to fall back to the Georgetown Pike (present-day Araby Church Road) (2). Here the Union troops sustained their position with the aid of the natural defenses provided by the roadbed (3). They held their ground until the order to retreat was issued, inflicting over 160 casualties on York's Louisianans.



Confederate General Zebulon York



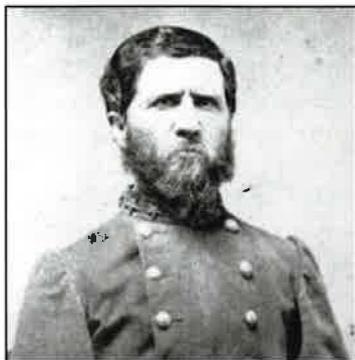
Stop 2 (continued)

4:00 p.m. The Third & Final Attack (Part 3 – Union Right Flank)

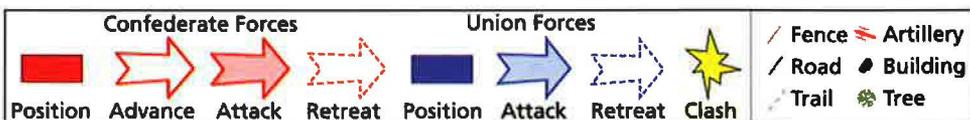
Around 4:00 p.m., the Union defense had stalled the Confederate attack, but the right flank was weakened by a continuous artillery barrage from the Best Farm across the river. Confederate General William Terry's brigade had been held in reserve prior to this time. Led by General Gordon, Terry used the river bank to mask his brigade's movement from the view of the Union defenders (1). The Union troops were hit hard (2) and could maintain their position for only a few minutes before being driven back to the Georgetown Pike

(present-day Araby Church Road) (3). The Union defense inflicted a little more than 110 casualties on the Virginians.

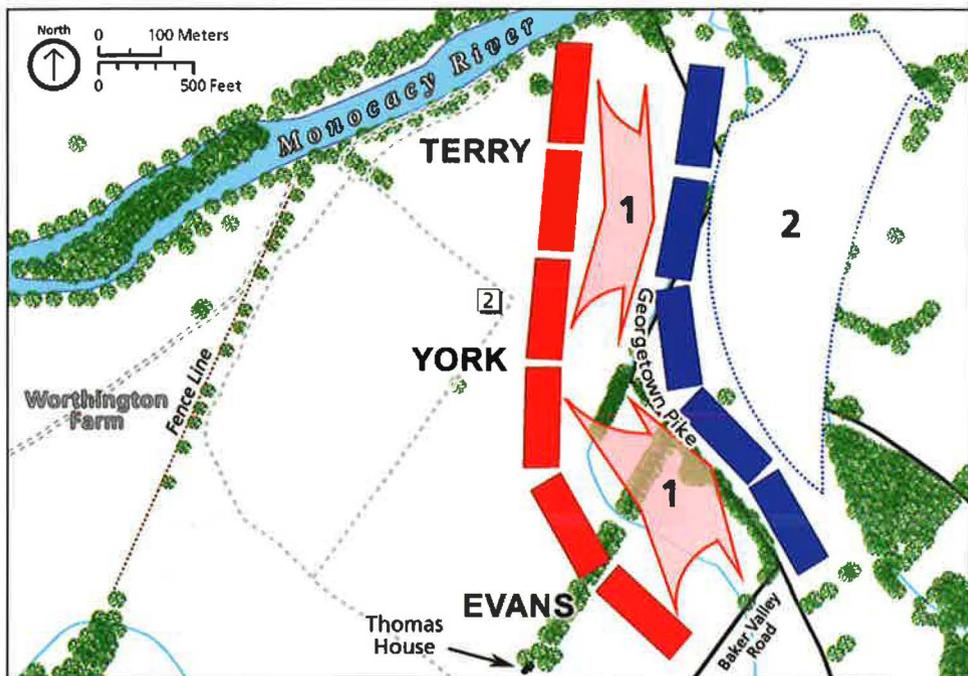
Stop 2 continues on the next page.



Confederate General William Terry



4 Thomas Farm



Stop 2

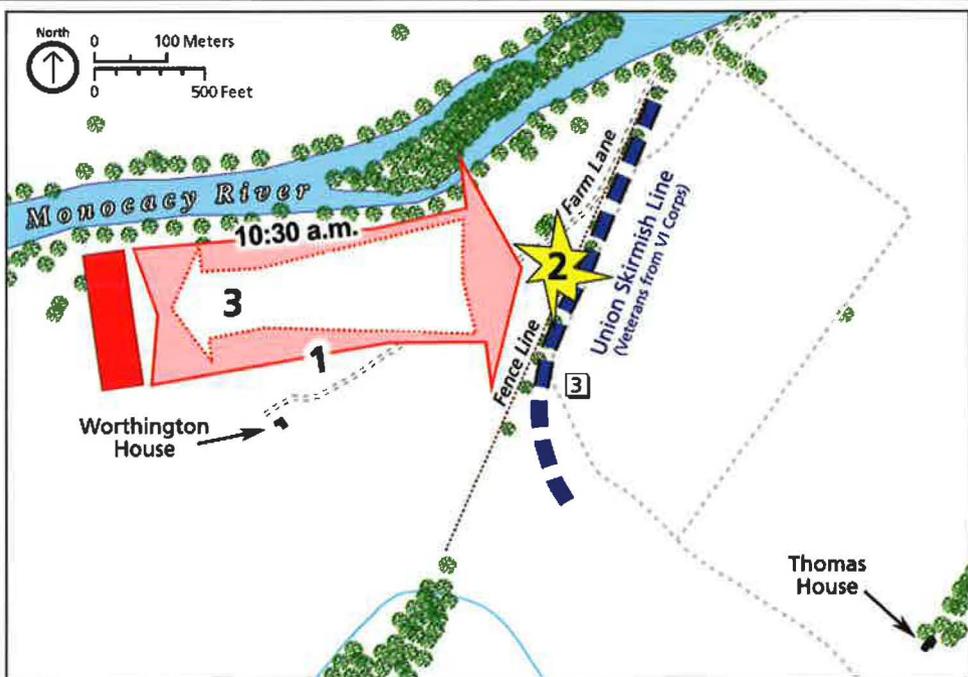
4:30 p.m. *Union Retreat*

About 4:30 p.m., Union troops had taken up a final defensive position along the Georgetown Pike (present-day Araby Church Road) in the natural breastworks created by the sunken road bed. Low on ammunition and no longer able to hold the line against the Confederate attack (1), General Lew Wallace ordered his army to retreat. The order reached the right flank as it began to crumble and was passed down the line. The Union troops retreated in the direction of the Gambrill Mill (2) to the National Road where they eventually made their way back to Baltimore by train. The Union defense succeeded in delaying the Confederates for a full day, forcing them to camp on the battlefield until the following morning. At the Thomas

Farm, Union troops suffered roughly 1,075 casualties throughout the day.



Corporal Alexander Scott, 10th Vermont Volunteers, was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery at the Battle of Monocacy.



Stop 3 10:30 a.m. The First Attack

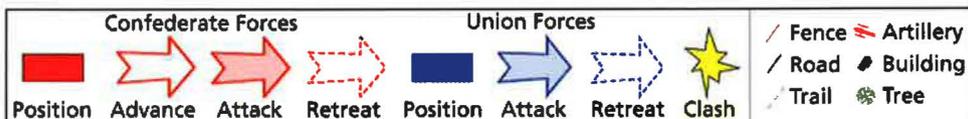
As General McCausland's Confederate cavalymen crossed the Monocacy River around 10:30 a.m., Ricketts positioned a skirmish line behind a post and rail fence on the Thomas Farm to meet the advance. (The forest in front of you at Stop 3 was not here during the time of the battle; instead there was a fence separating the Thomas and Worthington Farms, see map above). Hidden behind the fence, the Union defenders waited as the unsuspecting Confederates advanced toward them (1). When the Confederates were within 125 yards, the Union skirmishers rose

up and fired a volley (2), surprising the Confederates and pushing them back in disorder beyond the Worthington House (3). General Wallace wrote of the attack:

I heard no command given; however, up rose the figures behind the fence, up as one man. I saw the gleaming of the burnished gun-barrels as they were laid upon the upper rails. The aim was taken with the deadliest intent ... then a ragged eruption of fire. ... We looked for the [Confederate] line. It had disappeared.

This (first) attack resulted in a number of Confederate casualties but virtually no Union casualties.

To continue your visit, proceed to Auto Tour Stop 5.



5 Gambrill Mill



The Gambrill Mill complex ca. 1864. The miller's house can be seen at right.

Gambrill Mill

Gambrill Mill, known historically as the Araby Mill, was constructed in 1830 by John McPherson, a substantial landowner and entrepreneur. McPherson's fortunes eventually waned, however, and he sold the mill in 1844. In 1855, it was purchased by James H. Gambrill, who retained ownership of the mill complex until 1897.

The Araby Mill was a three-story stone mill fitted with two pairs of "burr" or flour-milling stones. The complex also included a sawmill along with a "chopping mill," which manufactured animal feed, and a "plaster mill," which ground gypsum into fertilizer. The milling machinery was powered by a millrace fed by nearby Bush Creek. The creek was dammed about a mile above the mill, and a sluice gate was constructed to regulate the amount of water that flowed into the millrace, which regulated the function of the mill's water wheel. A miller's house was located west of the mill complex.

The Battle

Gambrill Mill served as a staging area to the immediate rear of the Union lines during the opening stages of the battle.

As a result of its proximity to the battle, a field hospital was set up there; Major General Lew Wallace later remarked that the mill "appeared well selected for the purpose, its one inconvenience being that it was under fire."

Acquisition

The National Park Service acquired the Gambrill Mill property in the 1980s. The mill, much altered from its historic appearance, served as the park's primary visitor contact station from 1991 until 2007.



Present-Day Gambrill Mill Landscape

Gambrill Mill Loop Trail

The ½-mile loop trail at Gambrill Mill provides scenic views of the Monocacy River and bridges, as well as interpretive waysides. The section of the trail from the visitor parking area adjacent to the Mill to the river is an accessible boardwalk.

After the Battle

Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early's forces defeated the Union troops at the Battle of Monocacy, but was it a victory for his cause?



Victory or Defeat?

Three decades after the Battle, former Confederate Major General John Gordon was introduced to Union Major General Lew Wallace at a White House reception. Gordon was then a senator from Georgia, and he and Wallace reminisced about the Battle of Monocacy. Gordon stated that Wallace was the only general who had beaten him during the war, but Wallace protested, saying that the Confederate forces had won the battle. Gordon replied that

while it was true that his side was victorious that day:

... You snatched Washington out of our hands - there was the defeat ... The duty of driving you off the road fell to me; and I did it, but not until you had repulsed several attacks, and crippled us so seriously we could not begin pushing our army forward until next morning.

The Battle of Monocacy was the only Confederate victory in the North. More importantly, however, Major General Lew Wallace was able to meet his three main objectives: he ascertained the size of the Confederate force, determined that the target was Washington, D.C., and delayed General Early's drive to Washington, D.C. by a day. As a result of this delay, Union veterans sent to reinforce Washington by General Ulysses S. Grant reached the city before Early could mount a substantial attack, thwarting any serious attempts to capture the Union capital city. Because of this, the Battle of Monocacy has become known as the "Battle that Saved Washington."

"[Union Major General Lew] Wallace's army, after the most stubborn resistance and with heavy loss, was driven from railroad and pike in the direction of Baltimore. The Confederate victory was won at fearful cost and by practically a single division, but it was complete, and the way to Washington was opened for [Confederate Lieutenant] General [Jubal] Early's march."

"If Early had been but one day earlier he might have entered the Capital before the arrival of the reinforcements I had sent. Whether the delay caused by the battle amounted to a day or not, General Wallace contributed on this occasion, by the defeat of the troops under him, a greater benefit to the cause than often falls to the lot of a commander of an equal force to render by means of a victory."

— Confederate Major General John Gordon's *Reminiscences of the Civil War*

— Union General Ulysses S. Grant's *Memoirs*



Designed and written by Monocacy National Battlefield staff.

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