

GETT-112 /  
CRB113# 010821  
305/134723

10-23  
(May 1929)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

~~Gettysburg~~ <sup>Military</sup> NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

Report on

Proposed Extension of Gettysburg  
Borough Line Southward  
Along Emmitsburg Road  
and a  
Historical Statement  
Relating to the Significance  
of This Area

**IMPORTANT**

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

By: Frederick Tilberg,  
Asst. Historical Technician

September 6, 1940

ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
Director.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK  
GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

September 6, 1940

Memorandum for the Regional Director:

A report reached this office recently that residents of Steinwehr Avenue extension, which is that section of the Emmitsburg Road extending from the intersection of the Emmitsburg Road and Taneytown Road southwestward to the present boundary line of Government lands on the east and west sides of said road, are circulating a petition for the purpose of applying to the borough of Gettysburg for inclusion of these areas within the city limits. Although the west side of this section of the Emmitsburg Road as far south as the Government boundary line has been developed for residential purposes, it is felt that attention should be called to any action by the residents of this area which may render it more difficult, if not impossible, for the Park to protect historical values in that area.

With reference to the historical importance of this area, it is to be pointed out that a great part of Lee's final great effort on this battlefield on the afternoon of July 3 was directed over the ground on which this building development along the Emmitsburg Road has taken place. With the struggle ended at Spangler's Spring late on the forenoon of July 3, comparative quiet followed except for casual skirmishing, the intermittent outbreak of the fire of sharpshooters, and the burning of the Bliss farm buildings west of Ziegler's Grove between the main battle lines. Then, at one o'clock, 138 Confederate guns, in line from the Peach Orchard to the Seminary, opened fire against the Union center on Cemetery Ridge. The Confederate fire was answered by 80 Union guns located along Cemetery Ridge from Cemetery Hill southward to Little Round Top. At the opportune moment Colonel Alexander, Confederate artillery commander, signaled for the Confederate infantry charge. That portion of the Confederate line of attack which achieved fame in this charge was Pickett's Division, whose objective was a Copse of Trees at the center of the Union line. Although Pickett's Division of 4800 men, recently arrived upon the field, constituted the spear-head of this attack, they were supported by nearly 10,000 troops of the divisions of Beth and Pender.

The sector of the Union line, which was the objective of the combined attack, was narrow as compared with the front of the attack. The lines of the attacking Confederates, therefore, would have to converge. Pickett's Division was designated as the right wing of the attack with Kemper's brigade on the right and Garnett's on the left in his first line of attack. Armistead was to follow in support with his brigade. Heth's Division under Pettigrew was to form on Pickett's left. The two brigades of Fender's Division under Trimble were to be in support of Heth. On the extreme right, in rear of Pickett's right flank, the brigades of Wilcox and Perry were to be placed to meet any counter-attack against that flank.

As Pickett moved out to the attack, first northwardly, thence due eastwardly, in the direction of the Copse of Trees the troops of Heth and Fender advanced from Seminary Ridge due eastward in the direction of Ziegler's Grove. The attack was halted by the fence at the Emmitsburg Road, but only for a moment. Then as Pickett struck at The Angle, the divisions of Heth and Fender, with a hundred yards farther to their objective, charged the Union line posted behind the stone wall which extended from Ziegler's Grove southward to The Angle. So heavy was the infantry and artillery fire from the Union position at the stone wall that the Confederates were forced to turn back. Only a few Confederates crossed the Union line and these were captured. In scattered groups, the divisions of Heth, Fender, and Pickett drifted back across the open fields toward the Confederate line where they were met by General Lee who rallied them on Seminary Ridge for the expected counter-attack. The counter-attack never came. Thus ended Lee's final great effort at Gettysburg.

Upon investigation of the report concerning the proposed extension of the Gettysburg borough line, it was learned that it is the purpose to extend the line to include the triangle bounded on the west by the Emmitsburg Road, on the east by the Taneytown Road, and on the south by the Park boundary, a small part of which triangle at the intersection of the Emmitsburg and Taneytown Roads is within the present borough limits. This proposed area would include the Reconstruct Museum, advertised as the National Museum, opposite the west gate of the National Cemetery. On the west side of the Emmitsburg Road it is proposed to

include a parcel of land 200 feet in width, parallel to that highway, extending from the present borough line southward to the Park boundary. This 200-foot strip of land, bordering on the Emmitsburg Road, is designed to include only the existing line of residences located along that road. By inclusion within the borough limits, the residents would obtain the borough facilities of a sewage system, borough lighting, and lower property insurance rates, in addition to other facilities already extended.

Although the present line of residences along the Emmitsburg Road opposite Ziegler's Grove is an intrusion in a very important part of battle ground, and is an area which should eventually be cleared of such residences, the extension of the borough line to include these residences is not the point of immediate concern. The real concern is that if the borough line and borough facilities are extended to include this line of houses the next step would be the purchase of subdivisions from the William H. Johns farm to the west of these residences, and the development of an area of town lots, the owners of which would soon apply for a further extension of the borough limits. Thus, a residence section with borough facilities would be established on battle ground which is equally as important, from the view point of the preservation of historic values, as the area known as the field of Pickett's Charge lying immediately south of this tract.

It is felt, therefore, from the view point of the preservation of historic values in this area and of forestalling the expansion of a borough residential section on this ground, that the Johns farm adjoining the line of residences on Emmitsburg Road on the east, Park lands on the south and the borough line on the north, should be acquired in the near future. For the same reasons, the McMillan farm lying between the Johns farm and West Confederate Avenue should be acquired. It should be noted that the Park road between the proposed Administration Building west of the National Cemetery, indicated on the Master Plan, and Reynolds Avenue on the First Day's field crosses these two farms.

We are enclosing a section of a map which purports to show the battlefield as of July, 1863, indicating thereon the line of attack of Heth's and Pender's divisions over the ground discussed in this report. We are enclosing also a map indicating the present boundary of the borough, the proposed extension thereof, the present line of residences along the west side of the Emmitsburg Road, and the boundary lines of the Johns and McMillan farms which lie between the Emmitsburg Road and West Confederate Avenue. There is attached a panoramic view of the houses and the area westward therefrom, and a view of the same group of houses as seen from West Confederate Avenue.



Section of Map of the Battlefield of Gettysburg, based upon the Warren Survey Map of the Battlefield, 1868-69, which was designed to show farms and farm buildings, woodland, fields, fences and roads as of July, 1863. Arrows indicate the direction of the attack of the Keith and Pender divisions against <sup>that part of</sup> the Union line posted at Ziegler's Grove and southward to the Angle, on the afternoon of July 3, 1863.



# GETTYSBURG

*Park road proposed in the Master Plan to link the battlefield of July 1, west of the borough, with the field of July 2 and 3, south of the borough.*

*McMILLAN HOUSE AND FARM*

*BOROUGH LINE*

*W. H. JOHN'S FARM AND FARM BUILDINGS*

*U.S. Government Land*

*NATIONAL CEMETERY*

*Areas proposed for inclusion within the Gettysburg borough limits.*

*Ziegler's Grove*

*MEADE AVENUE*

*HUNT AVENUE*

*PLEASANTON AVENUE*

*Y AVENUE*

*HUMPHREYS AVE.*

*REYNOLDS AVE*

*ROAD*

*AVENUE*

*ROAD*

*The Angle*

*ROAD*

*WAINWRIGHT AVE.*

*EAST CONFEDERATE AVE.*

*SLOCUM AVE.*

*WILLIAMS AVE.*

*GEARY AVENUE*

*AVENUE*

*CARME AVENUE*

*CULP'S HILL*

*ROCK*



It was learned that the question of the proposed extension of the Gettysburg borough line will come before the next meeting of the borough council in September.

James R. McConaghie,  
Superintendent

By: Frederick Tilberg,  
Asst. Historical Technician

cc: Supervisor of Historic Sites

*Regional Supervisor  
of Historic Sites ✓*

Private developments along Emmitsburg Road, the owners of which seek inclusion within the Gettysburg borough limits. The view is westward from Ziegler's Grove on Cemetery Ridge, the panorama including at the left the boundary of United States Government land, and at the right the B. F. Redding house. This house, built in 1886, is located on the site indicated on the Warren Survey Map of 1868-69 as that of the E. Trostle house. The following objects may be observed:

1. Boundary of Government land.
2. Waybright tourist home and tourist cabin development.
3. Seminary Ridge (Confederate battle line).
4. The William Johns farm buildings.
5. The B. F. Redding house.



The ground over which the Heth and Pender divisions charged in the attack against the Union line on Cemetery Ridge on July 3, 1863. The objective of this attack was the sector of the Union line extending from Ziegler's Grove southward to the Angle, the space between numbers 4 and 8 on the accompanying photograph. This view eastward from Seminary Ridge shows the private developments of recent years along Emmitsburg Road in the line of the Confederate attack. The following objects may be observed:

1. Soldiers' National Monument, in the National Cemetery.
2. Present borough line crossing of Emmitsburg Road.
3. Round Top spur line of the Reading Railway Company.
4. The William Johns farm buildings. The farm lies between the railway and the line of houses along the Emmitsburg.
5. Ziegler's Grove, on Cemetery Ridge.
6. Park observation tower, Ziegler's Grove.
7. Boundary of Government land.
8. The Angle.
9. The High Water Mark of the Confederacy.



1  
↓

2  
↓

3  
↓

4  
↓

5  
↓

6  
↓

7  
↓

8  
↓

9  
↓



The William Johns farm buildings. That part of the Johns farm south of the present borough line, exclusive of the tract along the Emmitsburg Road which has been sold as residence lots, consists of approximately 44 acres. The house, built about 40 years ago, fronts on Emmitsburg Road.



The Clarence A. Sanders house, located on the Johns farm, about 100 yards west of the Emmitsburg Road. The house was built at some time after 1870. The lot is one-quarter of an acre in size, with egress to the Emmitsburg Road.



The McMillan house as it stands today. The original one and one-half story house, built about 1842, is the right half of the structure shown. The additional part was built about 1895. The present McMillan farm consists of twenty-five acres, and adjoins West Confederate Avenue. This view of the house is from the south.



View of the McMillan house from the northeast. The old part of the structure is at the left of the division line.

View of house located on the site indicated on the Warren Survey Map of the Battlefield of Gettysburg, 1868-69, as the location of the E. Treble house. This house, built in 1886, is situated on the east side of Emmitsburg Road, near Ziegler's Grove. With the exception of the small one and one-half story frame house which stood on this site in 1863, and which has been removed to the west side of the road, this large brick house is the only old structure along the Emmitsburg Road from the boundary of United States Government land northward to an old brick house near the present borough line of Gettysburg.



LODGING  
WELCOME  
THE HOUSE  
PROVIDES  
A PLACE  
FOR YOU