

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site (preferred)  
other names Prospect Hill Farm; The Vineyard Farm; The Homeplace; Hillside Fruit Farm; Civil War Trust Property

2. Location

street & number Bloomery Road (Secondary Route 27) ☐ not for publication  
city or town Harpers Ferry ☒ vicinity  
state WV Code WV county Jefferson code 037 zip code 25425

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying officer/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying officer/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/26/01

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site

Name of Property

Jefferson County, WV

County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ Private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☒ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ District  
☒ Site  
☐ Structure  
☐ Object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	4	Buildings
1		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
1	4	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic Properties of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

### number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

## 6. Function of Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Defense/battle site  
Agriculture/subsistence/agricultural field

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/park

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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BolivarHeights/School House Ridge Skirmish  
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### Physical Description:

The Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site, more recently known as the Hillside Fruit Farm, is located along State Secondary Route 27 (Bloomery Road), formerly Old Furnace Road. Fronting on the east side of the road, the farm sits on the west face of Bolivar Heights, facing the School House Ridge to the west. The property is historically part of the eastern tract of the larger 277 acre grain farm belonging to Daniel Moler. Known as "Prospect Hill" Farm the property was bisected by the Old Furnace Road. It was across Moler's fields, between the School House Ridge and Bolivar Heights that the Confederate and Union skirmishers faced each other the morning of September 15, 1862. The farm was converted to the cultivation of fruits during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 56-acre section addressed in this nomination is currently uncultivated and all fruit trees have been removed. The c.1890 house and associated farm buildings, located centrally along the western boundary of the property, are vacant and in a state of decay. The Bolivar Heights ridge above the farm is wooded with deciduous trees. The land opposite the farm, across Bloomery Road, on the east face of School House Ridge is also fallow. The School House Ridge masks a small housing development on its west face.

The c.1890 house associated with the orchard era of the property is a two story braced frame structure on a limestone foundation. The west elevation, fronting on Bloomery Road, is three bays in a window/door/window pattern. Windows are six over six sash, the door is half-panel with a six light window. The front section of the house is one bay deep with a projecting three-part bay window on the south elevation. The full-length front porch has a hipped roof supported with square columns. The ell section of the house sits on the same stone foundation. Along the south elevation of the ell is a recessed two-story porch, which has been enclosed. The house was originally covered with weatherboard siding, which has been covered with rough stucco. The shallow pitched roof is sheathed with raised seam metal; there is one central brick chimney.

The interior of the house is extremely decayed. Windows and some moldings appear to be original, however, it seems floors may have been raised during a mid 20<sup>th</sup> century renovation. The front section of the house is two rooms on the first floor with the front door opening directly into the northwest room. The enclosed stairs are located in the center of the house, the second story has two smaller rooms with a large walk-in closet between. The ell section of the house consists of the kitchen and a mudroom in the enclosed side porch on the first story. The second story has several smaller rooms, including a room in the enclosed balcony.

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Several outbuildings are located to the rear of the dwelling house, all of which appear to be of a later construction date than the house. Directly behind the house, to the east is a one story frame shed with vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. Immediately to the east of the shed is a one-story frame garage with concrete block equipment shed attached which share a channeled metal roof. Southeast of the house complex is a large storage building associated with the orchard farm. It is a frame building on concrete foundation with corrugated metal siding.

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

**Area of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

**Period of Significance**

1862

**Significant Dates**

September 15, 1862

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

**Previous documentation on files (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### Statement of Significance:

The Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the September 1862 siege of Harpers Ferry by Confederate troops under the command of Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. By the morning of September 15, 1862, Gen. Jackson had surrounded the Union garrison at Harpers Ferry with artillery on Maryland Heights to the northeast, Loudoun Heights to the southeast, and along the School House Ridge to the west. Infantry under the command of Brig. Gen. Jubal Early, placed at the edge of the woods on the east face of School House Ridge, prepared to attack the Federal skirmish line along the west face of Bolivar Heights, in concert with A.P. Hill's attack from the southwest. Confronted with overwhelming Confederate artillery fire, the early morning surrender of Harpers Ferry by Col. Dixon Miles cut short the infantry attack. The School House Ridge Skirmish Site is part of the Multiple Property Documentation entitled "Historic Properties of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park." The site is significant within the context of Harpers Ferry in the Civil War as a Military Site property type.

### Resource History

For two decades prior to the Civil War, Daniel Moler and his neighbors quietly farmed the pleasant little valley between the School House Ridge and Bolivar Heights. Visually cut-off from the civilization of Bolivar and Harpers Ferry just across Bolivar Heights to the east, it was conveniently connected by the Old Furnace Road to both the Charlestown Turnpike (now Route 340) on the south and Potomac Street extended on the north. The predominant cultivation of grains such as wheat, rye, and corn by farmers of the Shenandoah Valley would likely have been practiced on Moler's 280 acre "Prospect Hill Farm." The location of a nearby Grist Mill at the north end of Old Furnace Road, where grains could be processed for market, further enhanced the attractive farm location.<sup>1</sup>

The peace in the valley would be shattered severely in September 1862. Twelve thousand, five hundred Union soldiers had been garrisoned at Harpers Ferry, still within secessionist Virginia in 1862, to protect vital lines of supply and communication, as well as the B&O Railroad. General Robert E. Lee's invasion into northern territory in September of 1862 depended on the southern army's ability to move supplies and communications along the Shenandoah Valley "by way of Staunton, Harrisonburg, and Winchester, entering Maryland at

<sup>1</sup> See 1852 Map of Jefferson Co. West Virginia; also Jefferson Co. Land Records 26/455 and 3/327 for Daniel Moler's farm description.

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Shepherdstown.”<sup>2</sup> The Union presence at Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg had to be neutralized to make Lee’s invasion plans viable. General Lee’s famous Special Orders No. 191 detailed the split of the Army of Northern Virginia, sending the commands of Generals Jackson, McLaws, and Walker “to endeavor to capture the enemy at Harper’s Ferry and vicinity,” thereby freeing the Shenadoah Valley of any Union presence.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, Generals Longstreet and D. H. Hill waited at Boonsboro in Maryland. Their eventual objective was to move further north. By September 14<sup>th</sup> all of Jackson’s forces were in place to achieve the capitulation of Harpers Ferry. McLaws had overtaken the 2,000 Union troops on Maryland Heights and placed artillery there commanding the right of the Union defensive lines in Harpers Ferry. Walker had arrived on the undefended Loudoun Heights placing artillery on the left and rear of the Union defenses. The Union’s main defensive works were located along the ridge of Bolivar Heights. There a line of skirmishers stood in front along the western face of the ridge. Confederate infantry and artillery, Ewell’s division, under the command of General Jubal Early approached from the west to complete the three pronged advance to Harpers Ferry. Early reported,

After passing Halltown, the division advanced to the woods on School-House Hill, in line, in the following order: Lawton’s and Trimble’s brigades . . . on the right of the Turnpike; Hays’ brigade on the left of it, and my own brigade in rear of Lawton’s . . . thus getting possession of this hill, which fronted Bolivar Heights . . . My brigade was then moved across the road by flank and placed immediately in rear of Hays’ brigade . . . At dawn [Sept. 15] the brigades were advanced to the front of the woods . . .<sup>4</sup>

General “Stonewall” Jackson’s former division had advanced to the northern end of School House Ridge near the Potomac River, across from the extreme right of the Union defense. Henry Kyd Douglas, close aid to General Jackson recalled,

At three o’clock [a.m., Sept. 15] General Jackson sent for me and directed me to go at once to his old division and direct General D. R. Jones who was commanding it to move forward his skirmishers at daylight toward Bolivar

<sup>2</sup> James V. Murfin, The Gleam of Bayonets (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1965), p. 114; cited from Battles and Leaders, Vol. II, p. 605.

<sup>3</sup> Jay Luvaas and Harold W. Nelson, eds. The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam The Maryland Campaign of 1862. (Washington: HarperCollinsPublishers, 1987), p. 9.

<sup>4</sup> War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. 19, Part I, p. 966.

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Heights, to open on it with his artillery, and make as imposing a demonstration as possible.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile A. P. Hill's division moved in on the Union left, along the Shenandoah River. With the Confederate batteries at Maryland Heights, Loudoun Heights, and School House Ridge raining fire on the Federal defense on the morning of September 15<sup>th</sup> the outlook was grim. General Jackson described the scene,

"At dawn, September 15 . . . Lawton's brigade . . . moved by flank to the bottom between School-House Hill and Bolivar Heights, to support the advance of . . . [A. P.] Hill. Lieutenant-Colonel Walker opened a rapid enfilade fire from all his batteries at about 1,000 yards range. The batteries on School-House Hill attacked the enemy's lines in front. In a short time the guns . . . under the direction of Colonel Crutchfield, opened from the rear. The batteries of Poague and Carpenter opened fire on the enemy's right. The artillery upon the Loudoun Heights, of Brigadier-General Walker's command . . . again opened upon Harper's Ferry, and also some guns of Major-General McLaws from the Maryland Heights.

In an hour the enemy's fire seemed to be silenced, and the batteries of General Hill were ordered to cease their fire, which was the signal for storming the works. General Pender had commenced his advance, when, the enemy again opening, Pegram and Crenshaw moved forward their batteries and poured a rapid fire into the enemy.<sup>6</sup>

By 8 a.m. the fight was over, the Union garrison had surrendered. Leaving General Hill to handle the parole of the 12,500 prisoners, Jackson, McLaws, and Walker headed for Sharpsburg and the battle brewing there.<sup>7</sup>

Following the Civil War, the quiet life of farming returned to the little valley below Bolivar Heights. In 1868, Samuel Howell Brown, local surveyor and mapmaker, purchased "the tract of land upon which the said [Daniel] Moler resided for many years . . . composed of two tracts of land."<sup>8</sup> In 1876, the farm, now containing 266 acres was sold to Rudolph Rau who also owned a farm on the south side of the Turnpike. It is possible that Rau was experimenting with

<sup>5</sup> Henry Kyd Douglas, I Rode With Stonewall (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1940), p. 161.

<sup>6</sup> O. R., Series I, Vol. 19, Part I, p. 955.

<sup>7</sup> Murfin, p. 202.

<sup>8</sup> Jefferson Co. Land Record, Liber 3, Folio 520, Jefferson County Court House, Charles Town, WV.



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the cultivation of market fruits, rapidly becoming popular with farmers in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. A sale of Rau's personal property in 1870, included among the farm equipment, a wine press and cider mill.<sup>9</sup> By 1897, following Rau's death, 92 acres of the original "Prospect Hill Farm," on the east side of Old Furnace Road, were sold separately as "The Vineyard Farm" to Rau's children. Clearly, this parcel of the farm was by then devoted to fruit farming. "The Vineyard Farm" also had on it a modest two-story dwelling, constructed late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, prior to Rudolph Rau's death.<sup>10</sup>

In 1904, "The Vineyard Farm," now 83 acres, was sold to Thomas Rutherford. Rutherford sold 81 acres in 1912 to W. A. Higgs, who then sold it to Fannie Hockensmith in 1925. The Hockensmith family owned and operated the orchard farm, which they called "The Homeplace" and later, "Hillside Fruit Farm," for approximately 60 years. By 1987, the "Hillside Fruit Farm" had been reduced to less than 60 acres.<sup>11</sup> A 1987 deed for the 56 acre property from the Hockensmith heirs to Charles and Janice Neidinger included covenants to keep the property clean and undeveloped.

In September 1992 a trustee for the Neidingers sold the property in two parcels to Jefferson Security Bank. The bank then sold the land to the Civil War Trust, an organization dedicated to the preservation of Civil War battlefields, in December 1992. In June 1998 the Civil War Trust deeded the Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site to the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

### Resource Evaluation:

The Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site is part of the Multiple Property Documentation entitled "Historic Properties of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park" within

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<sup>9</sup> Virginia Free Press, October 15, 1870, microfilm collection, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, WV.

<sup>10</sup> Jefferson Co. Land Records, D/66, and 83/133; Rudolph Rau Last Will and Testament, Will Book B/274.

<sup>11</sup> Jefferson Co. Land Records, 94/326, 107/223, 125/364, 164/488, 286/151, 205/12, 286/156, 284/511, 284/504; Samuel Hockensmith Last Will and Testament, Will Book M/144.

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the context of Harpers Ferry in the Civil War. Its significance as an historic landscape associated with the 1862 siege of Harpers Ferry is documented in the historic record. The integrity of the site, despite changes in land use since 1862 remains fairly good. While the farm moved from the cultivation of grains to fruit throughout the intervening years, all evidence of the orchard has been cleared from the site, leaving open fields. The four associated buildings from the later orchard occupation are in an extreme state of decay and are not considered eligible for National Register nomination. Much of the adjoining land to the east and north is owned by the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park and is currently wooded. The Old Furnace Road (now State Secondary Route 27 or Bloomery Road) retains its original path. Properties located on the west side of the road, on the School House Ridge, remain undeveloped at this time, however, development has occurred on the west face of the ridge. This development cannot be observed from the Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site.

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### Major Bibliographical References:

Douglas, Henry Kyd, I Rode With Stonewall. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1940.

Frye, Dennis E. "The Siege of Harpers Ferry" Blue and Gray Magazine, August-September 1987.

Jefferson County Land Records and Wills, Jefferson County Court House, Charles Town, WV.

Luce, William, CSA, 1862 Sketch of Vicinity of Harpers Ferry, Harpers Ferry NHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Luvaas, Jay, and Harold W. Nelson, eds. The U. S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam, The Maryland Campaign of 1862. Washington, D. C.: Harper Collins Publishers, 1987.

"Map of Jefferson County VA., Photographed for the Bureau of Topographical Engineers Oct, 1862," based on 1852 S. Howell Brown Map of Jefferson Co., VA, Harpers Ferry NHP Library, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Microfilm collection, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, WV.

Murfin, James V. The Gleam of Bayonets. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1965.

S. Howell Brown, "Map of the Battle-Field of Harper's Ferry and Sharpsburg, Sept. 13 to 17, 1862," Atlas of the Official Records, Plate 29.

War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Series I, Vol. 19, Parts I, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1889.

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County and State

**Acreage of Property** 56.07

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

## zip code 21740

Submit the following items with the completed form:

## Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

zip code 25425

**Paperwork Reduction Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et. seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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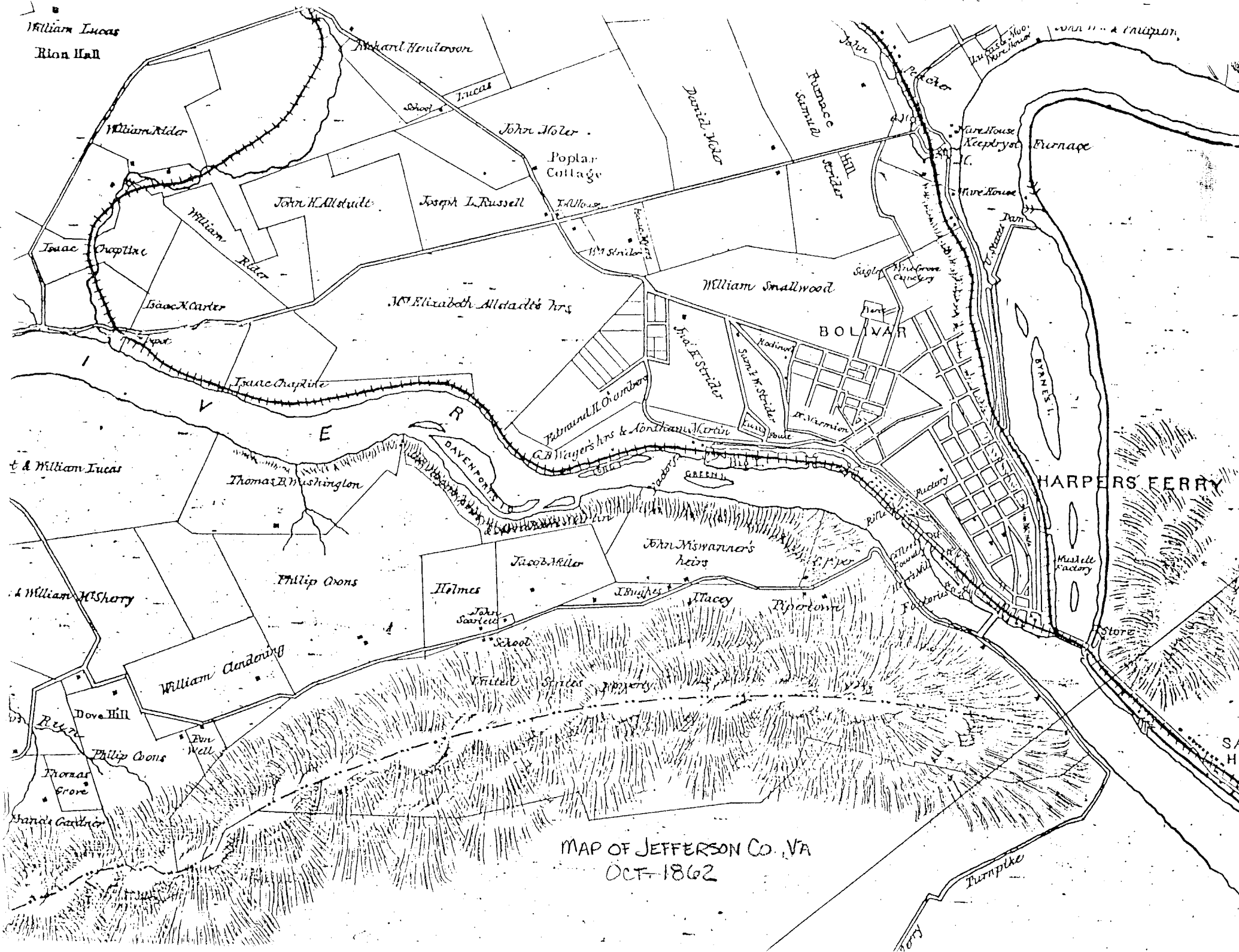
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### Verbal Boundary Description:

The Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site boundary is defined by the parcel boundaries found on Harper Ferry District Tax Map #7, Parcels 1 and 2, containing 56.07 acres in total.

### Boundary Justification:

The Bolivar Heights/School House Ridge Skirmish Site boundaries include more than half of the original eastern tract of the Daniel Moler farm, as it was composed during the Confederate siege in 1862. The eastern boundary line and part of the northern line are contiguous with current Harpers Ferry NHP property, adding an important section to the School House Ridge/Bolivar Heights Civil War era landscape.



William Lucas  
Rion Hall

Michael Henderson

School Lucas

John Holer

Poplar  
Collage

Joseph L. Russell

Fall House

184 Strider

Daniel Holer

Russell  
Samuel

John  
Pecker

Ware House  
Keepbryst

Burnage

Ware House

Dam

Sigley  
Mills  
Cannery

William Smallwood

BOLIVAR

John E. Strider

Nathan

Son of Strider

John E. Strider

John E. Strider

John E. Strider

John E. Strider

John E. Strider

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McElizabet Alstad's hrs

John H. Chambers

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John H. Chambers

John H. Chambers

John H. Chambers

John H. Chambers

John H. Chambers

William Lucas

Thomas B. Washington

William H. Sherry

Philip Oons

Holmes

Jacob Miller

John M. Swann's  
heirs

John M. Swann's  
heirs

John M. Swann's  
heirs

John M. Swann's  
heirs

John M. Swann's  
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John M. Swann's  
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John M. Swann's  
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John M. Swann's  
heirs

John M. Swann's  
heirs

John M. Swann's  
heirs

William H. Sherry

William Clendinning

Thomas Grove

Thomas Grove

Thomas Grove

Thomas Grove

Thomas Grove

MAP OF JEFFERSON CO. VA  
OCT-1862

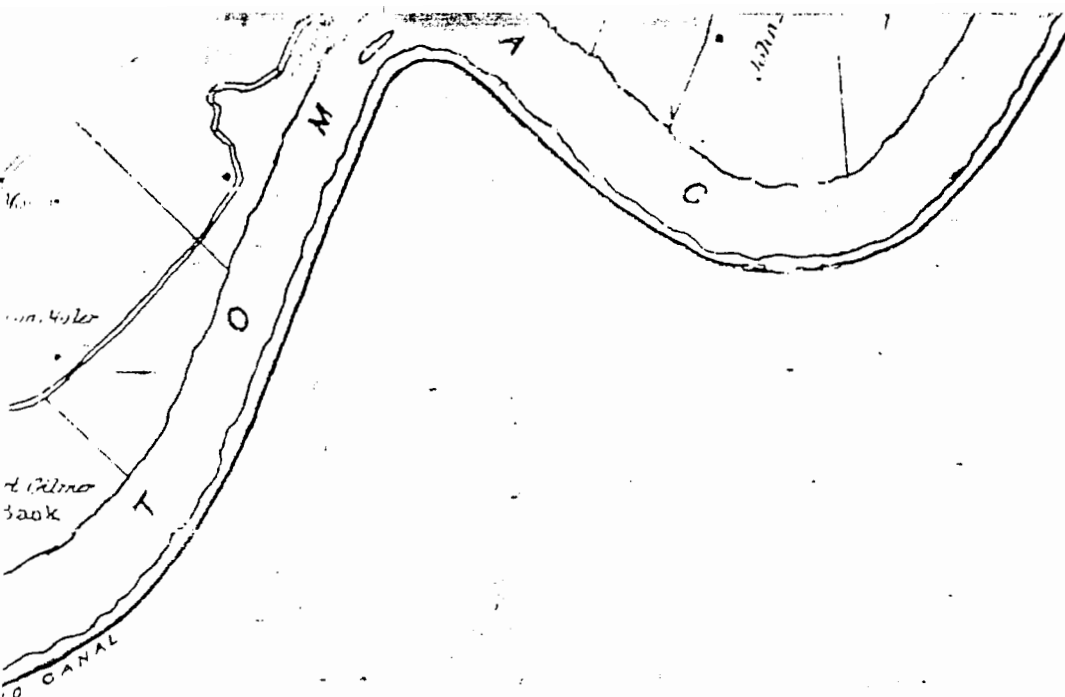
Turnpike

HARPERS FERRY

Mustell  
factory

Store

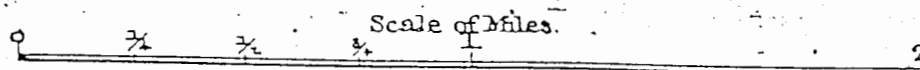
SA  
HI



MAP OF  
JEFFERSON COUNTY  
VA.

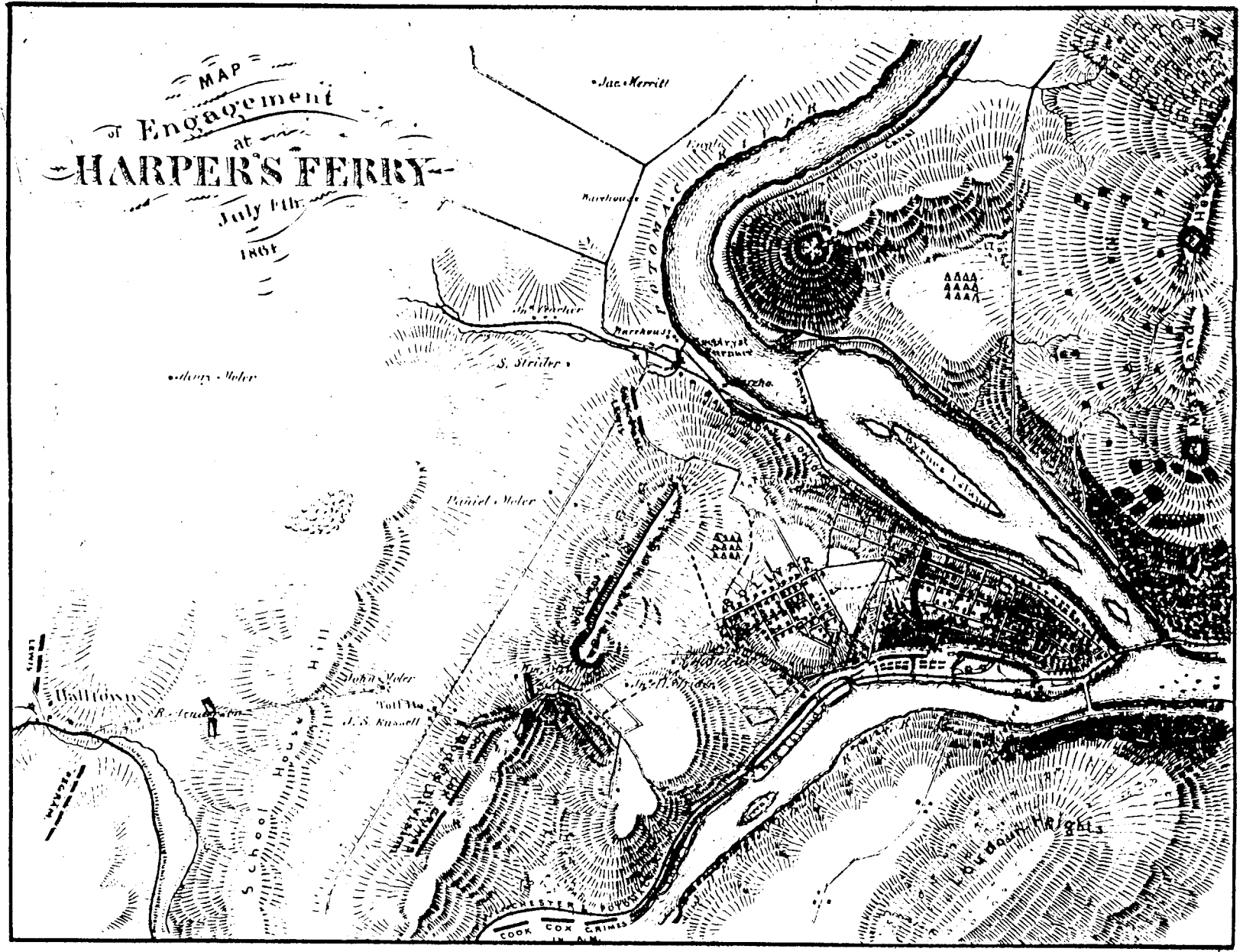
*Photographed for the Bureau of Topographical Engineers*

*Oct, 1862*

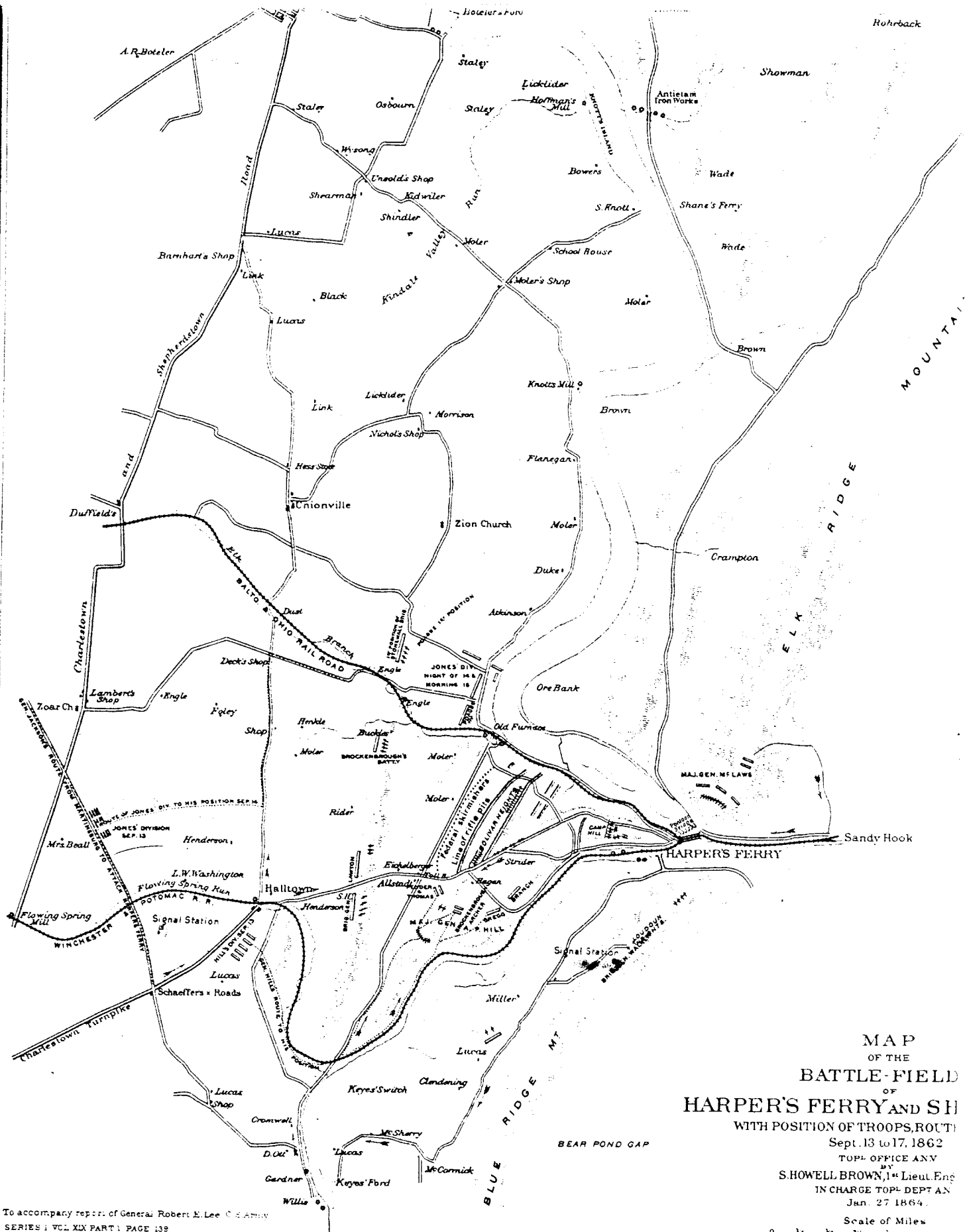


Speaker  
John Beard

As 13



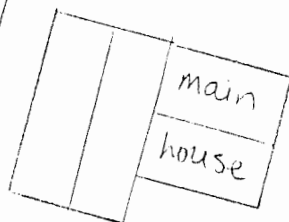




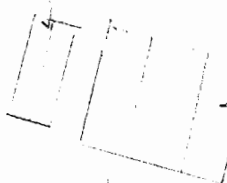
# SCHOOL HOUSE RIDGE SKIRMISH SITE

Sketch Map of Property  
or Attach Copy of USGS Map

Bloomery Road (State Secondary Rt. 27)



garage



equipment  
barn

fruit  
warehouse

Site No.



HARPERS FERRY NHP  
 SCHOOL HOUSE RIDGE SKIRMISH SITE  
 HARPERS FERRY DIST. TAXMAP#7  
 PHOTO KEY  
 ① → PHOTO # + DIRECTION  
 --- outline of  
 nominated  
 property





HARPERS FERRY NHP  
UTM REFERENCES:

- 18/266590/4357980
- 18/265840/4355790
- 18/263800/4354380
- 18/263960/4356560
- 18/264980/4358600
- 18/269780/4355600
- 18/266890/4353110
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