

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

LISTED ON:	
VLR	09/22/2011
NRHP	11/22/2011

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 processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____
other names/site number Unison Battlefield Historic District; VDHR File Numbers: 053-6087; 44LD1610

2. Location

street & number Parts of Quaker Lane; Jeb Stuart, Unison, Newlin Mill, Millville, Bloomfield, Welbourne, Greengarden, Trappe, and Airmont roads; and parts of John S. Mosby Highway not for publication N/A
city or town Unison, Upperville vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Loudoun/Fauquier code 107/061 zip code 20185

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 official Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

Date 9/22/11

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

Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service 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 _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>52</u>	<u>695</u>	buildings
<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>55</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>62</u>	<u>757</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 155

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: See Continuation Sheet

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: See Continuation Sheet

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL: Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19TH-CENTURY: Greek Revival

OTHER: I-house

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE; BRICK; CONCRETE

roof METAL: tin; STONE: Slate; ASPHALT

walls WOOD: Weatherboard; BRICK; STONE; LOG

other WOOD; BRICK

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

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)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is 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.
X D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

MILITARY
ARCHEOLOGY: HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL

Period of Significance November 1-3, 1862

Significant Dates November 1-3, 1862

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation NON-ABORIGINAL: Euro-American

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (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

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources: Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 8,000 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 1, 2, 3, 4. Includes text: x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maral S. Kalbian, Architectural Historian; John Salmon, Historian; Ben Ford and Steve Thompson-Rivanna Archaeological Services, LLC
organization Maral S. Kalbian, LLC date May 17, 2011
street & number P.O. Box 468 telephone 540.955.1231
city or town Berryville state VA zip code 22611

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name SEE ATTACHED PROPERTY OWNERS LIST
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act 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.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.

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6. FUNCTIONS OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

DEFENSE
Battle Site

DOMESTIC
Single Dwelling
Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
Processing
Storage
Agricultural Field
Agricultural Outbuilding

RELIGION
Religious Facility

FUNERARY:
Cemetery

LANDSCAPE
Natural Feature
Stone walls

TRANSPORTATION
Road-related (vehicular)

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

DOMESTIC
Single Dwelling
Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE
Storage
Agricultural Field
Animal Facility
Agricultural Outbuilding

COMMERCE/TRADE
Specialty Store
Restaurant

TRANSPORTATION
Road-related (vehicular)

RELIGION
Religious Facility

FUNERARY:
Cemetery

SOCIAL
Meeting Hall

LANDSCAPE
Garden
Natural Feature
Stone walls
Conservation Area

GOVERNMENT
Fire Station
Post Office

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7. HISTORIC DISTRICT SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The Unison Battlefield Historic District encompasses 8,000 acres of pristine, rural Virginia Piedmont countryside. Located in the lower Loudoun Valley, the historic district stretches from just south of the village of Philomont southwest to Upperville located on the Ashby's Gap Turnpike (U.S. Route 50). This area experienced a series of engagements known collectively as the Battle of Unison that were fought over the course of three days in early November 1862. The majority of the battlefield district is located in southwestern Loudoun County, but the portion within the village of Upperville and points west, falls within Fauquier County. The battlefield district also extends north of Upperville along both sides of Trappe, Greengarden, and Airmont roads to include routes of significant troop movements integral to the battle.

The boundaries of the Unison Battlefield Historic District encompass the core area of the battle as identified in National Park Service Historian and Cartographer David Lowe's 2008 history of the battle as well as the retreat corridor west along the Ashby's Gap Turnpike (also known as the Winchester-Alexandria Turnpike) through Upperville, ending finally at a point nearly halfway to Paris. The arm that extends north of Upperville to the Ebenezer Baptist Churches along Airmont Road and part of Trappe and Millville roads represents significant troop movements that were critical to the delay tactics employed in the battle. The resulting district is therefore U-shaped (Figure 1).

Although primarily located in one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation, the Unison Battlefield Historic District is regarded as one the best-preserved battlefield historic districts in Virginia and possibly in the nation. Today more than half of the acreage within the battlefield district is held in conservation easements. The road network within the district, still comprised largely of pre-modern unpaved roads, is also remarkably little changed since the battle. Most roads follow the original road beds present in 1862 and are flanked by dry-laid stone walls. Where the roads have been modified and improved, the old beds have been preserved and are still clearly visible. The original dirt-road ford of the North Fork of Beaverdam Creek along Jeb Stuart Road continues to function as a ford, exactly as it did in 1862. Elsewhere, although not dating from the Civil War era, the many narrow, formed-concrete bridges within the district date to the first quarter of the 20th century and enhance the historic appearance of the road networks. The Beaverdam Creek Historic Roadways District, established as a local overlay district by Loudoun County in 2002, includes many of the roads within the Unison Battlefield Historic District, further ensuring their preservation.

The Unison Battlefield Historic District also contains two previously listed National Register Historic

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Districts: the Unison Historic District [DHR# 053-0692], listed in 2003 that encompasses roughly 70 acres in and around the village of Unison; and a portion of the Upperville Historic District [DHR# 030-5438], a linear district that takes in the community of Upperville located along the former Ashby's Gap Turnpike (U.S. Route 50). The Middleburg Battlefield [DHR# 053-5057] and the Upperville Battlefield Historic District [DHR# 030-5438], both of which have been determined eligible for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, partially overlap the Unison Battlefield Historic District.

Five individually-listed properties also lie within the boundaries of the Unison Battlefield Historic District and contain resources present during the Battle of Unison. These include Ebenezer Baptist Churches [DHR# 053-0140; 053-6087-0211], Crednal [DHR# 053-0141; 053-6087-0062], Welbourne [DHR# 053-0120; 053-6087-0174], Rock Hill [DHR# 053-1057; 053-6087-0199], and Green Garden [DHR# 053-0509; 053-6087-0184].

The integrity of the Unison Battlefield Historic District is confirmed not only by its setting in a rolling topography with a highly preserved rural landscape dotted with historic resources and an intact road network, but also by the presence of relatively few modern intrusions. The modern development that has occurred within the battlefield is generally limited to dwellings and farm- and horse-related outbuildings that stand on parcels subdivided from larger tracts. No modern commercial development has occurred. The battlefield's archeological integrity is also intact, as supported by recent archeological investigations that were part of this nomination.

SETTING AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

The Unison Battlefield Historic District is primarily located in the lower southwest portion of Loudoun County within the Loudoun Valley, an eight- to 12-mile-wide and nearly 40-mile-long valley framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains to the west and the topographically lower Catoclin-Bull Run Mountains to the east. A continuation of Maryland's Middletown (historically, Catoclin) Valley, the northern end of the Loudoun Valley is defined by the Potomac River while its southern terminus is marked by the northern Fauquier County region known as the Broken Hills. The rolling terrain within the Loudoun Valley is marked by numerous hills, ridges, and intervening stream valleys and is fairly typical of Virginia's Piedmont physiographic province.

Despite an underlying north-south trending geology, the lower Loudoun Valley and the Unison Battlefield area are traversed by the generally eastward flowing headwaters and tributaries of Goose

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Creek, the primary course of which joins the Potomac River just east of Leesburg. Within the Unison Battlefield Historic District, Beaverdam Creek, which joins with Goose Creek at the eastern margin of the Loudoun Valley, and its tributaries are the principal watercourses; the southernmost portion of the battlefield is drained by Pantherskin Creek, a direct tributary of Goose Creek proper. Although the Loudoun Valley's flanking mountains create a broad, natural north-south corridor, the hydrological system of the lower Valley with its numerous cross-cutting stream valleys and intervening ridges present regular obstacles that, particularly from a military perspective, break-up and condition north-south movement while concurrently providing multiple natural settings that could be exploited defensively to further inhibit such movement. In fact, Confederate forces repeatedly took advantage of these natural topographical features of the lower Loudoun Valley during the three-day Battle of Unison.

Because of the nature of the Confederate objective, the three-day Battle of Unison consisted of a southward-shifting series of expediently-formed Confederate defensive lines that took advantage of natural landscape features and topography and elements of the built landscape such as roads, stone walls, and structures to temporarily engage and temporarily slow the more numerous advancing Union forces. With the inevitable forward progress of the Union troops, the Confederates would withdraw south to the next location that offered a defensible position. While the battle's progress southward was generally centered along what is now Unison Road (Route 630), the Confederate defensive lines typically extended outward both east and west of the road to form a broad (up to ½-mile long) but shallow front in opposition to the Union forces. Engagements typically lasted no more than several hours before Union pressure at their flanks forced the Confederates to shift the field of battle again.

Although suburban, commercial, and industrial development pushed steadily through eastern Loudoun County during the past half-century, the county's western portions remain largely rural. The use of the land today is primarily devoted to horse rearing, although historically the agricultural uses were more diversified. Nevertheless, southwestern Loudoun County and the Unison Battlefield Historic District area in particular look much the same as they did as in 1862. The landscape is fairly open and is characterized by fenced fields, copses of trees in isolated locations, and rolling hills cut by creeks and small drainages. Specifically, the area's extant network of largely unpaved, narrow roads and the extensive grid of dry-laid field stone walls that divide the terrain into a mosaic of fields and wood lots appear to retain significant integrity, seem little altered since the mid-19th century. Although a considerable number of residences and agricultural buildings have been constructed within the battlefield area since the Civil War, they are relatively visually unobtrusive. Many of the buildings standing at the time of the Battle of Unison remain. In this sense, the Unison Battlefield Historic District is differentiated from other Civil War battlefields in Virginia in that it possesses an extremely

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pristine landscape closely comparable to the one that framed and lent structure to the movement and engagement of Confederate and Federal forces in early November 1862. The 1853 Yardley Taylor Map of Loudoun County and William P. Smith's 1863 "Map of Fauquier and Loudoun Counties, Virginia" clearly show old roads and communities that were in place during the battle (Figures 2 and 3). A comparison with modern maps reveals that most of these elements remain intact today. As David Lowe stressed in his 2008 history, "those who fought [here] in 1862... would recognize their battlefield today."¹

BATTLEFIELD:

The Battle of Unison consisted of a series of relatively brief engagements that took place over the three-day period of November 1-3, 1862. For purposes of analysis and description, the battle is discussed here and in Section 8 in seven phases (Figure 4). The battle's longest and geographically most concentrated engagement (Phase 1) took place on the first day, November 1. Confederate and Federal artillery positions and dismounted cavalry opposed one another from the high ground (Philomont Heights and Carr House Hill) north and south of the present-day Jeb Stuart Road crossing of the North Fork of Beaverdam Creek. In all, this first phase of the Battle of Unison, which lasted four or five hours, probably took place within an area of little more than 100 acres that extended east-west perhaps 3,000 feet between Philomont Heights and Carr House Hill and laterally north-south no more than 1,000 feet to either side of Jeb Stuart Road. The landscape features of the Beaverdam ford, the graveled road now known as Jeb Stuart Road, Philomont Heights [included in Butcher's Run DHR# 053-1007; 053-6087-0001] and Sunny Fields DHR# 053-6087-0007] and Carr House Hill [Boots Hill DHR# 053-6087-0009] are still intact and easily recognizable today. Architectural resources that were standing during the battle in this area and still survive include Butcher's Run (also known as the Shepherd House) [DHR# 053-1007; 053-6087-0001; and the Carr House, for which only chimneys at present-day Boot's Hill now survive [DHR# 053-6087-0009]. Other historic buildings that were present during the battle have since been demolished and are not described here but are addressed in the Architecture section below.

The battle's second day saw no fewer than five separate engagements, each of which was initiated by Confederate defensive lines spread out on both sides of the "road to Upperville," the modern-day Route 630/Unison Road/Meeting House Road corridor, that constituted the Union army's principal avenue of approach. According to Lowe's reconstruction, the first engagement of November 2 (Phase 2) was centered on the Unison Road crossing of Dog Branch and, like the previous day's fight, took place within a fairly small area of probably less than 100 acres. Unlike the preceding day's fighting, the Dog

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Branch engagement was short-lived, lasting approximately one hour, before Confederate forces fell back roughly three-quarters of a mile to reestablish their defenses in the town of Unison. The roads used during this phase are all graveled and appear much as they did during the time of the battle. A small portion of what is now Unison Road west of its junction with St. Louis Road has been realigned and is not included within the district boundaries. The old road bed is still evident on the J. H. Whitacre Farm Property [DHR#053-1064; 053-6087-0014], which also includes the house and springhouse that were standing during the battle. Other architectural resources in the vicinity present during the battle include a mid-19th-century frame barn on the northeast bank of Dog Branch, now part of Akenfield [DHR# 053-6087-0026]; and parts of the main house and stone springhouse included within Unison Farm [DHR# 053-6087-0025].

The village of Unison [DHR# 053-0692], which was listed as a National Register Historic District in 2003, is a remarkably intact collection of 20 or so properties, more than half of which were standing during the battle. They include: Glatton Folly [DHR# 053-0692-0002; 053-6087-0236]; Langcor House [DHR# 053-0692-0003; 053-6087-0237]; Mary Phillips House [DHR# 053-0692-0004; 053-6087-0238]; Henry Evans House [DHR# 053-0692-0005; 053-6087-0239]; House 21131 Unison Road [DHR# 053-0692-0006; 053-6087-0240]; Unison Methodist Church [DHR# 053-0692-0007; 053-6087-0241]; Bonnycastle [DHR# 053-0692-0010; 053-6087-0244]; Mildred Shackelford House [DHR# 053-0692-0014; 053-6087-0248]; Butterland [DHR# 053-0692-0015; 053-6087-0249]; Ballenger House [DHR# 053-0692-0016; 053-6087-0250]; Elton [DHR# 053-0692-0017; 053-6087-0251]; and Thornton Walker House [DHR# 053-0692-0018; 053-6087-0252]. The brick Unison Methodist Church was used as a hospital by the Federals.

As the day progressed and the battle moved southward, the Federal forces, augmented by the arrival of an infantry brigade and another battery of horse artillery, gradually outflanked the Confederate defenses and the battlefield widened east-west on both sides of the Unison Road corridor. In Lowe's reconstruction, the primary Confederate defensive lines at Unison and the South Fork Quaker Meeting House (Phases 3 and 4 of the battle, respectively) measured roughly half a mile from end to end. Identified historic resources that were present during these phases of the battle include the cemetery at Somerset Farm [DHR# 053-6087-0040]; Fiddler's Green Farm [DHR# 053-6087-0045]; and the South Fork Meeting Site and Cemetery [DHR# 053-0637; 053-6087-0048]. Although the log South Fork Meeting House is no longer standing (it was demolished in 1916)², the cemetery surrounded by a stone wall survives.

Phase 5 involved the crossing of Beaverdam Creek where the road splits off to Quaker Lane and

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Newlin Mill Road. The steep bluffs, waterways, and narrow roads are still intact. Architectural resources that survive from this phase include the Butcher House [DHR# 053-0638; 053-6087-0049]; site of Newlin Mill [DHR# 053-0647; 053-6087-0069]; Beaver Dam Farm [DHR# 053-1047; 053-6087-0050]; the William Chamblin House [DHR# 053-1048; 053-6087-0051]; Kentwood [DHR# 053-1045; 053-6087-0054]; and the springhouse at Kentfields [DHR# 053-6087-0055].

South of Beaverdam Creek, the last engagement of the second day (Phase 6) was centered on Seaton's Hill and extended fully 1.5 miles from east to west. As mentioned, over the course of this long second day five discrete engagements were fought, each typically lasting one or two hours, before Stuart's cavalry was forced to shift the field of battle southward. The character of the landscape including narrow, stone-wall-lined roads, rolling terrain, and a combination of open fields and forested areas is intact within this area. These include the graveled Newlin Mill Road, Quaker Lane, and Welbourne Road. Multiple large properties that include dwellings and outbuildings that were present during the battle are still standing. These include Kentwood [DHR# 053-1045; 053-6087-0054]; the springhouse at Kentfields [DHR# 053-6087-0055] where the barn and house were destroyed during the battle; Crednal [DHR# 053-0141; 053-6087-0062], home of John Armistead Carter; the house at 34572 Welbourne Road [DHR# 053-6087-0053], which was part of Crednal at the time; and Welbourne [DHR# 053-0120; 053-6087-0074], where members of the Dulany family watched the fighting on the afternoon of November 2 from the front porch.³

By the morning of the battle's third day (November 3, 1862), Federal forces had been augmented again by the arrival of another cavalry brigade and a third battery of horse artillery. Their pressure was sufficient to force Stuart to extend his lesser numbers of Confederate forces across a two-mile-wide front along Pantherskin Creek just north of the Ashby's Gap Turnpike (U.S. Route 50) and east of Upperville. This began Phase 7. Many of the buildings standing at the time of the battle and which were landmarks noted in records of the battle, survive. These include the Mary Seaton House [DHR# 053-6087-0076]; The Maples [DHR# 053-0108; 053-6087-00872] home of Joshua Fletcher at the time; Greengarden Mill [DHR# 053-0510; 053-6087-0092]; Diamond Hill [DHR# 053-6087-0095]; Salem Farm [DHR# 053-6087-0097]; and Green Garden [DHR# 053-0509; 053-6087-0104]. Only part of the front lane of Oakley [DHR# 030-0046], home of Richard Henry Dulany, is included within the boundaries.

While Stuart's troops were able to hold their initial positions for two or three hours, they were ultimately forced to retreat rapidly west towards Paris along the turnpike through Upperville [DHR# 030-5438; 053-6087-010 through 0180]; 38 of the resources in Upperville date to the pre-November 3,

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1862 period. Historic resources west of Upperville that survive include the house at 9259 John S. Mosby Highway [DHR# 053-6087-0228]; Still House Farm [DHR# 053-6087-0229]; and Blackthorne Inn [DHR# 030-0029; 053-6087-0232] at the westernmost boundary of the district.

Although scattered skirmishes continued over the next several days, Stuart's final major stand along Pantherskin Creek on November 3 provided sufficient time for the first main column of Confederate troops to make their way out of the Valley at Chester Gap, and on towards Culpeper where they were able to seize control of the main avenues to Richmond thus thwarting the Union objective. While Ashby's Gap Turnpike (U.S. Route 50), Trappe Road, and Willisville Road are paved, they generally follow the same routes they did during the battle. Greengarden and Millville Roads are unpaved.

During Phase 2 of the battle, the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry was dispatched to the southwest along the Poor Farm Road and skirmished with the 9th Virginia beginning at Ebenezer Churches [DHR#053-0140;053-6087-0211] north of Bloomfield. This action continued through the end of the battle on November 3, and forms a branch of the battlefield between Ebenezer Churches and U.S. Route 50 west of Upperville. Although the northernmost portion of that road has been changed, the routes leading from Ebenezer Churches south are still intact and, therefore, included within the battlefield historic district. The Pennsylvanians continued slowly south along Airmont and Trappe roads on November 3, periodically skirmishing with the Confederates along the way. On November 3 Averell's brigade used Greengarden Road to reach Pantherskin Creek and Upperville. Resources within the district that were standing at the time of the battle include Sunnyside Farm [DHR# 053-6087-0182]; Spring House Farm [DHR# 053-1041; 053-6087-0192]; Gracie Reid House [DHR# 053-0062-0005; 053-6087-0193] and House, 20857 Greengarden Road [DHR# 053-0062-0001; 053-6087-0198] both located in the African-American community of Howardsville; Rock Hill [DHR# 053-1057; 053-6087-0199]; House, 20597 Airmont Road [DHR# 053-6087-0202]; House, 20596 Airmont Road [DHR# 053-5922; 053-6087-0203]; House, 20578 Airmont Road [DHR# 053-5925; 053-6087-0204]; a stone outbuilding at At Last [DHR# 053-5923; 053-6087-0207]; Johnston Memorial Chapel [DHR# 053-1055; 053-6087-0233] in the community of Bloomfield; House, 20469 Airmont Road [DHR# 053-6087-0210]; Thompson Farm [DHR# 053-1035; 053-6087-0215]; Kirkby Farm [DHR# 053-1029; 053-6087-0220]; House, 22202 Trappe Road [DHR# 053-6087-0222]; Rust/Moss Cemetery [DHR# 053-5567; 053-6087-0223]; and Ayrshire Farm [DHR# 053-1034; 053-6087-0234].

In David Lowe's reconstruction of the three days of running engagements between Philomont and Upperville, elements of the lower Loudoun Valley landscape that served as key features in the battle's unfolding included stream valleys, adjacent high ground, and fords; primary roadways and lesser farm

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roads; and the long and generally east-west trending field boundaries typically marked by stone walls and tree lines and sometimes paralleled by secondary roads. At its peak, the Battle of Unison probably engaged 5,000 combined Confederate and Federal troops and perhaps 29 pieces of artillery, and resulted in approximately 200 soldiers killed, wounded, or captured.⁴ Ultimately, Stuart's actions to delay the Federal force's passage through the lower Loudoun Valley and, more specifically, the Unison Road corridor, sufficiently slowed the Federal advance southward so that Confederate forces could march from the Valley to Culpeper Court House and effectively block the Union initiative to sever Lee's communications with Richmond, as Lincoln had directed McClellan. Achieving this objective with limited time and resources required that Stuart not rely solely on the obstructive power of his soldiers, but that he exploit the existing landscapes that were obstacles to movement (i.e. stream crossings) or that with the addition of troops could be made into effective obstructions. Stuart's success was also McClellan's failure and led to his ouster by Lincoln and his replacement by Major General Ambrose E. Burnside. As phrased by Lowe, "a small battle in Loudoun Valley had a disproportionate impact upon the course of the campaign and the war in Virginia."⁵ The battle's significance lay not in its size, the numbers of troops involved, or in works of military engineering. Rather, the historical significance of the battle stems from the ability of Stuart and his Confederate cavalry to expeditiously exploit the Unison landscape in a manner sufficient to substantially alter the calendar and course of subsequent events. Had McClellan been successful in carrying out Lincoln's plan to sever communication and transportation links between the Confederate capital in Richmond and Lee's forces in the Shenandoah Valley, the war's subsequent course may have been quite different.

ARCHEOLOGY:

Archeological investigations in support of the National Register nomination of the Unison Battlefield were conducted across an approximately 50-acre study area near the battlefield's geographical center (Figure 5). The Fiddler's Green-South Fork Meeting House study area, corresponding to Phase 3 of the battle as reconstructed by Lowe, is thought to be broadly representative of the battlefield as a whole, both in terms of the types of durable militaria likely deposited across the landscape during the engagement and in regard to the types and severity of post-depositional processes and activities that may have acted upon and affected the integrity of this material assemblage. Archeological testing of the Fiddler's Green-South Fork Meeting House study area entailed systematic shovel testing in two locales in addition to a program of aerially extensive metal detection that combined systematic and opportunistic exploration and recovery.

Shovel testing at 20-foot intervals across the hypothesized 0.5-acre site of the South Fork Quaker

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Meeting House [DHR# 053-0637; 053-6087-0048], as determined through documentary research and oral history, recovered an artifact assemblage spanning the late 18th through early 20th centuries and dominated by building materials (nails, brick, and window glass). Although intact features indicative of the original location and construction of the meetinghouse were not identified, the recovered assemblage is broadly consistent with the documented history of the South Fork Meeting House. Relatively small quantities of artifacts associated with the storage, preparation, and consumption of food and beverages and with personal dress and adornment likely reflect the documented 19th-century use of the meetinghouse as a residence. Several fragments of slate pencils and other possible pieces of writing slate may be associated with the building's use as a school. No artifacts clearly associated with the Battle of Unison were recovered at the meetinghouse site during shovel testing.

Systematic shovel testing at 20-foot intervals was conducted within a 0.25-acre woodlot immediately north of Fiddler's Green [DHR# 053-6087-0045] that local tradition associates with a field hospital operative during the Battle of Unison. This work recovered no artifacts.

Metal detection conducted between Fiddler's Green and a point well east of the South Fork Cemetery along 10-foot-wide transects spaced at 100-foot intervals and within select "hot spots" resulted in the recovery of significant quantities of mid-19th-century militaria. Recovered remains associated with the Civil War engagement that engulfed the Meeting House ridge south of Unison on November 2, 1862, consisted primarily of small arms projectiles (conical lead minié balls and spherical lead musket balls), elements of artillery projectiles (fragments of iron shell and case and spherical lead case shot), and a relatively small number of personal items, most notably buttons that can be unequivocally associated with Civil War soldiers. Other recovered objects such as horseshoes, tack, iron hardware and tool fragments, and lumps and masses of melted lead may also derive from war-related activities; however, this association cannot be established with certainty. While the presence of so many battle-related artifacts confirms the importance of the Fiddler's Green-South Fork Meeting House ridge during the broader engagement, more specific expectations regarding the types and distribution of militaria as suggested by the historical reconstruction of events were not met. For example, archeological evidence for the massing of Confederate artillery in the field immediately north of the meetinghouse site was not recovered. More broadly, conclusive material evidence to support the contention that the study area lay within a primary Union field of fire is virtually absent from the recovered archeological assemblage. However, the abundant quantities of spent Confederate artillery collected throughout the study area indicate that the heaviest shelling of the landform came from the south and was directed at the advancing Union forces.

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Although limited in extent, archeological investigation of the Fiddler's Green/South Fork Quaker Meeting House study area demonstrated that this portion of the Unison Battlefield Historic District contains archeological resources directly associated with the battle. Furthermore, like the surrounding battlefield landscape, these fields of buried resources retain considerable integrity. Controlled recovery and analysis clearly offer the potential to clarify and extend existing understanding of how and where the running three-day battle unfolded. While the historical significance of the Battle of Unison remains rooted in an understanding of broader events in the course of the war, the archeological record of the Unison Battlefield must be considered a discrete, physical component that contributes positively to the integrity and, ultimately, the significance of the surrounding battlefield as a historic resource. Thus, although not individually eligible for nomination to the National Register, the Fiddler's Green/South Fork Quaker Meeting House study area is a contributing element in the nomination of the encompassing core Unison Battlefield area to the National Register of Historic Places. Other areas of the broader landscape identified through documentary research and military terrain analysis as sites of significant engagements during the three-day battle should be treated as contributing elements as well. In planning for the battlefield's long-term management, every possible effort should be made to ensure that the archeological resources associated with the three-day battle are retained as an integral part of the landscape.

ARCHITECTURE:

The Unison Battlefield Historic District is composed of a pristine rural landscape dotted primarily with farms and small crossroads communities linked by a network of historic roadways. The predominant architectural type is the single dwelling, usually surrounded by outbuildings such as a meat house, chicken coop, springhouse, and utilitarian shed. Houses range from modest vernacular frame dwellings to large high-style mansions of masonry construction. Located more distant from the houses are the farm-related outbuildings including barns, corncribs, and various machine sheds. Since the district's historic agricultural focus in the 20th century shifted from a diversified production of crops and livestock to primarily horse farming, most of the properties also include stables and multiple loafing sheds. The district also contains numerous historic churches and cemeteries. A large number of architectural resources present during the Battle of Unison in early November 1862 remain standing. Due to the nature of the battle as a series of fairly short cavalry engagements, there was no widespread destruction of buildings except in the village of Unison.

A total of 254 properties containing architectural resources were identified within the historic district boundaries, with properties heavily clustered in Upperville (100) and Unison (20). Approximately 33%

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of all properties identified in the district contain resources that were present during the Battle of Unison, again heavily concentrated, with half of these properties located in either Upperville or Unison. Another 40% of all identified properties are historic (50 years or older), where the primary resource dates from the end of the battle up to 1960. The largest percentage of buildings date to the three decades after the Civil War. Although only 34% of all identified properties were standing during the battle, 75% of all the properties are historic, contributing greatly to the picturesque and pristine nature of the district. Only 25% of the properties are modern, having been constructed since 1970. The majority of late-18th- and early-19th-century extant resources are of stone construction, with a few of log. Often the stone was plastered and then scored to resemble more formal cut blocks, although most examples of this technique have been lost when exposed stone became a preferred appearance in later renovations. Bricks, usually fired on site, were more commonly used in the 1800s for construction. By the last quarter of the 19th century, balloon framing had become the preferred construction method.

The two oldest resources within the Unison Battlefield Historic District are places of worship dating to the last quarter of the 18th century. Recent archeological investigations and historic research conducted in support of this nomination have concluded that the Quaker meetinghouse, historically known as the South Fork Meeting House [DHR# 053-0637; 053-6087-0048], was a log building constructed ca. 1754 and demolished in 1916.⁶ The adjacent cemetery contains approximately 100 headstones, with the earliest marked stone dating to 1792. Both the site and cemetery are located along Quaker Lane, just southwest of Unison; each figured prominently in Phase 4 of the battle on November 2 from noon to 2 p.m.

The Ebenezer Baptist Churches [DHR# 053-0140; 053-6087-0211] are located near the northwestern-most point of the district boundary at 20421 Airmont Road. The property contains a late-18th-century, one-story, stone church and a larger, mid-19th-century, Greek Revival-style church surrounded on three sides by two cemeteries. The oldest cemetery is located in the southwest corner of the property, with the earliest marker dating to 1772. The churches and cemeteries were individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. At Ebenezer Churches, the 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry overran a 9th Virginia Cavalry outpost on the morning of November 2, 1862, capturing ten Confederates and rescuing a Union officer who had been captured earlier.

The district contains 13 properties on which at least a portion of the main house dates to the last quarter of the 18th century. Five of these, the Joseph Carr House [DHR# 030-5498; 053-6087-0114]; the James Plaskitt Houses [DHR# 030-5455; 053-6087-0100; and 030-5454; 053-6087-0101]; the Harry Triplett House [DHR# 030-5441; 053-6087-0113]; and the Joseph Carr House [DHR# 030-5470; 053-

