

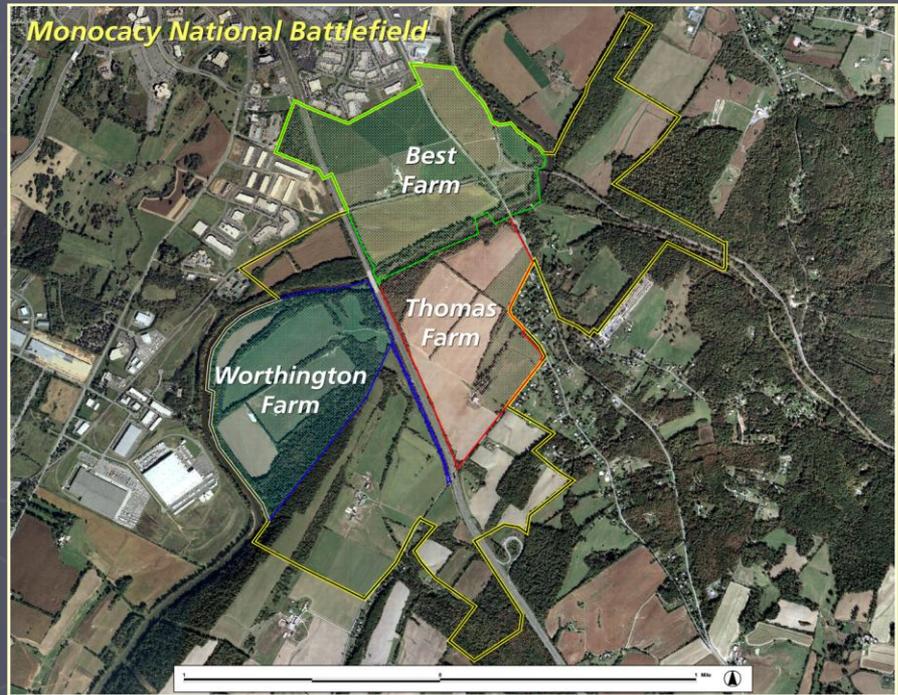
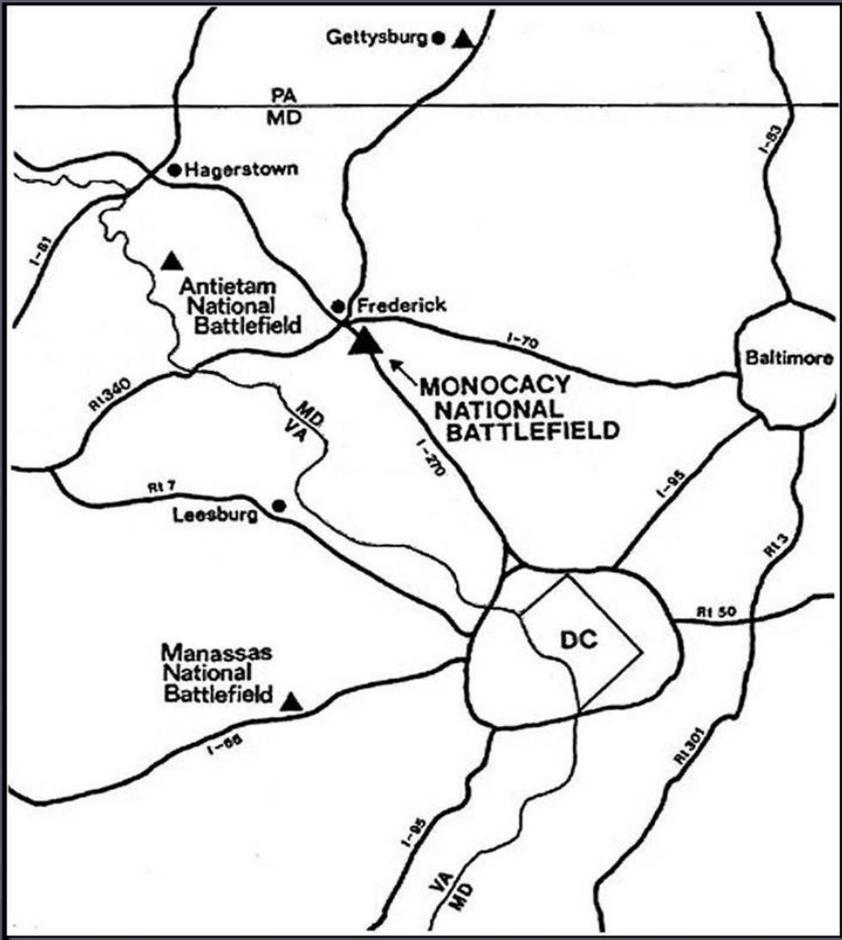
“Supplying the tools of civilization”: Archeological Research at the Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop

Monocacy National Battlefield
Frederick, MD

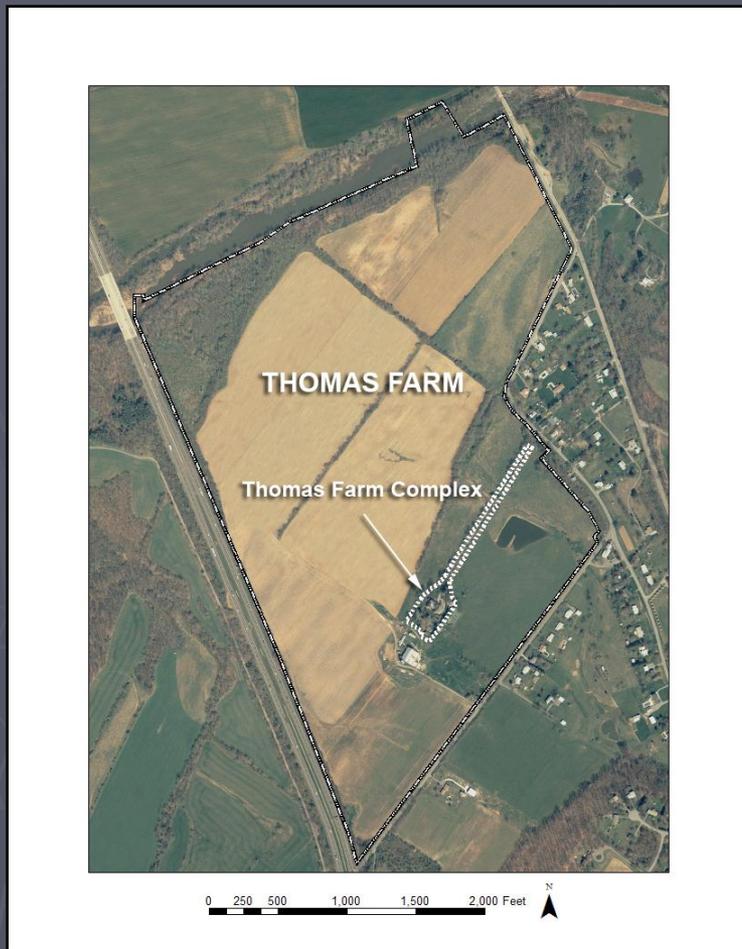
Elizabeth S. Ries
Graduate Student
Dept. of Anthropology
University of Maryland
College Park

Monocacy National Battlefield

“The Battle that Saved Washington”
July 9, 1864



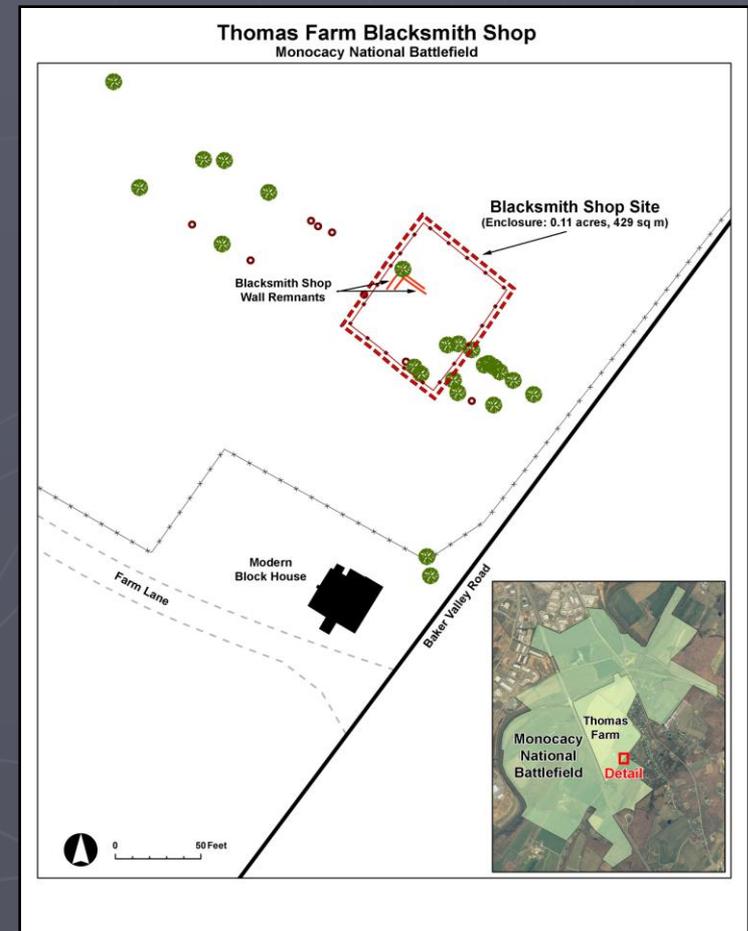
Monocacy National Battlefield Thomas Farm



Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop Remnants

Archeological Investigation Purpose and Goals

- ▶ Ruin stabilization FY 2008 – Spring
- ▶ Determine
 - Footprint
 - Operation date range
 - Spatial layout



Thomas Farm

Historical Context

- ▶ Early land tract and occupation
 - *Wett Work* - 1720s
- ▶ Numerous owners
 - 18th and 19th centuries
- ▶ The farm's namesake: Christian K. Thomas
 - 1860
- ▶ The anecdotal "blacksmith shop" ruins
 - 20th century

Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop

- ▶ Historical references
 - *Frederick Examiner* newspaper advertisement
 - ▶ 1856



with Back Building, suitable for a large family; a stone Tenant HOUSE, Blacksmith Shop, a large Switzer Barn, Corn Crib, Smoke House, Ice House, with all other suitable necessary out-buildings; running water in nearly every field, and a Pump

REAL ESTATE

of Griffin Taylor, late of said county, deceased, and of which he died seized and possessed, will proceed to sell said Lands,

On Saturday, the 8th. of March 1856, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at the City Hotel, in Frederick City, Md.

FIRST.—THAT BEAUTIFUL AND PRODUCTIVE



called "Araby," CONTAINING

261 acres of Land,

more or less. This Farm was the residence of the late deceased, and is one of the most desirable in the county. It lies three miles South of Frederick, on the Georgetown road and within half a mile of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and in sight of a large Flouring Mill. The improvements are of the best order, consisting of a large TWO-STORY BRICK



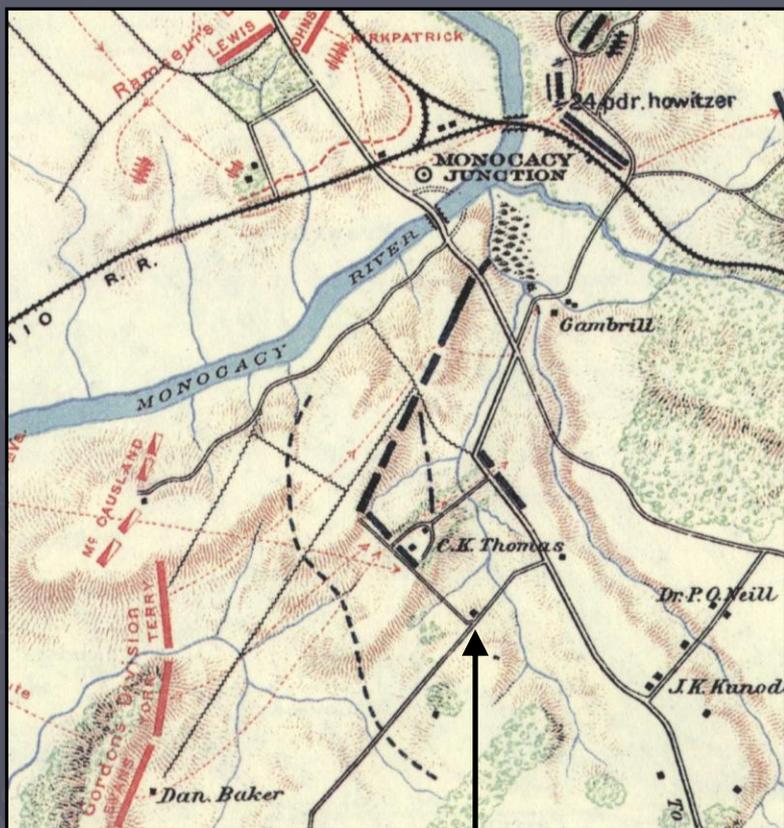
MANSION HOUSE,

with Back Building, suitable for a large family; a stone Tenant HOUSE, Blacksmith SHOP, a large Switzer Barn, Corn Crib, Smoke House, Ice House, with all other suitable necessary out-buildings; running water in nearly every field, and a Pump and running fountain in the Barn yard. There is a large Iron ore bank on this Farm, which makes it more valuable. This Farm, from its location, improvements and fertility, would be a desirable place for one wishing to retire from business. There is one of the finest Turnpike roads leading to it from Frederick, in the State. There is also, a large

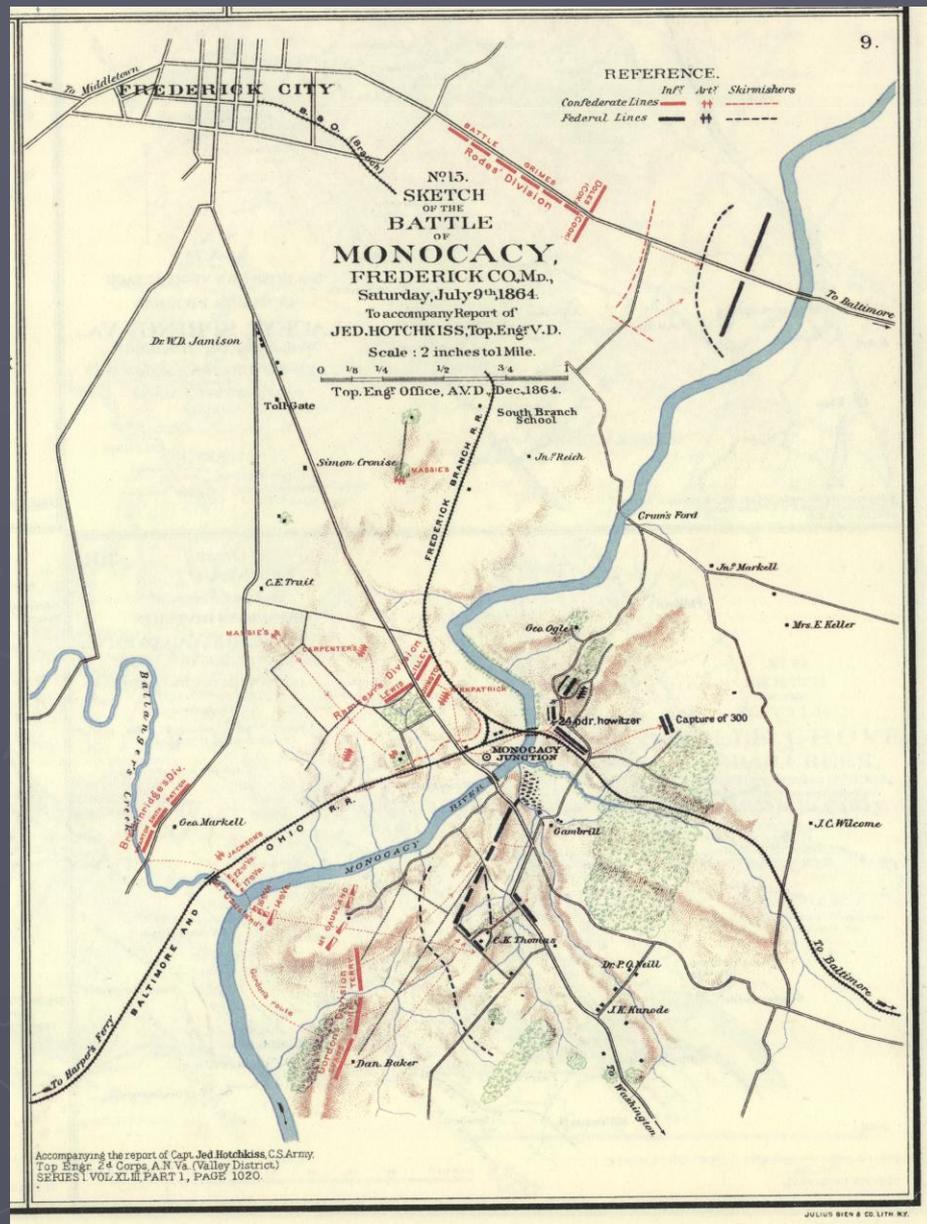
A BIDDING ADVERTISING

Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop

- Historical references
- Hotchkiss Map 1864

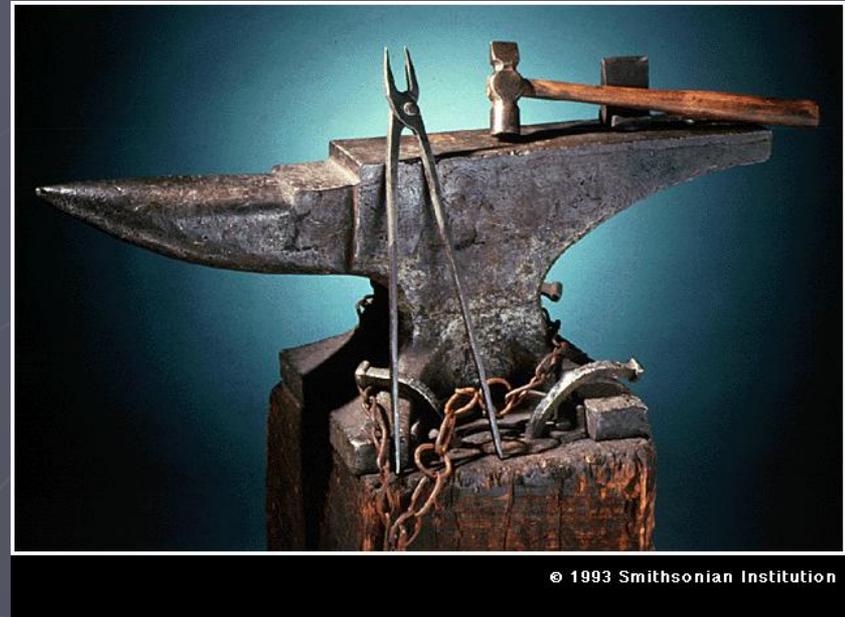


Location of present-day blacksmith shop remnants



Blacksmith Shops - Historical/Archeological Context

- ▶ The Indispensable Blacksmith
 - “Supplying the tools of civilization”¹
- ▶ Spatial Layout
 - Four areas of the shop
- ▶ Equipment
 - Forge
 - Anvil
 - Workbench



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Anvil and tools. photos.si.edu/material/anvil.gif

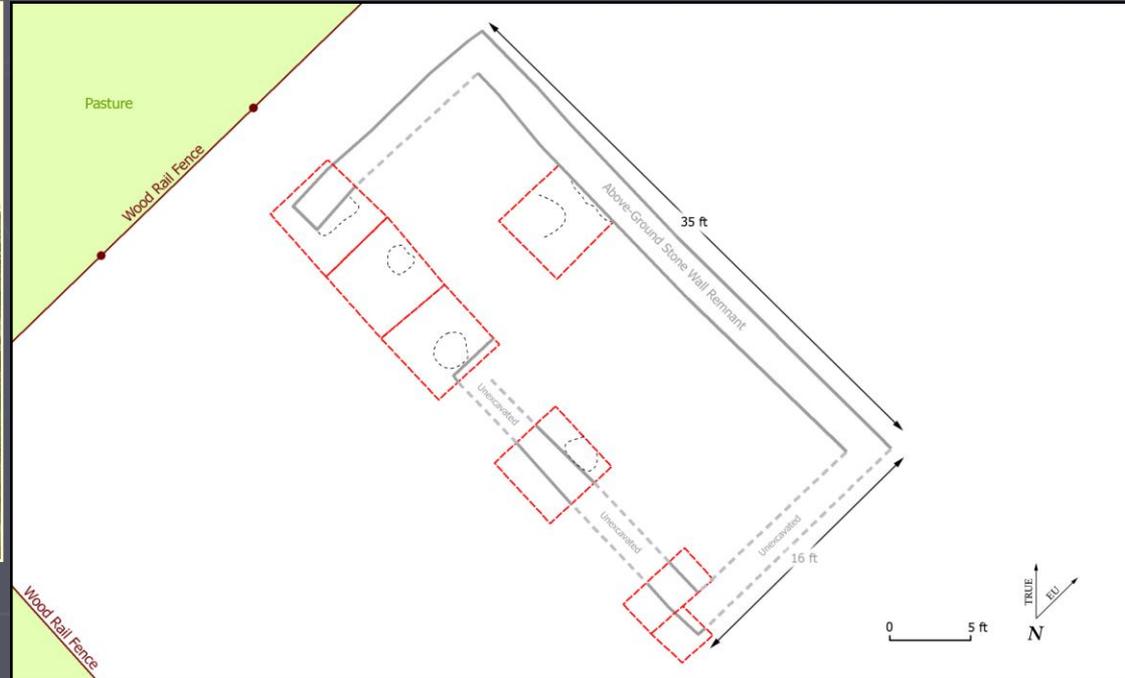
[1] Alex W. Bealer, *The Art of Blacksmithing*, 3rd ed., New York: Harper & Row, 1984: 19.

Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop Archeology

► Placement of Units



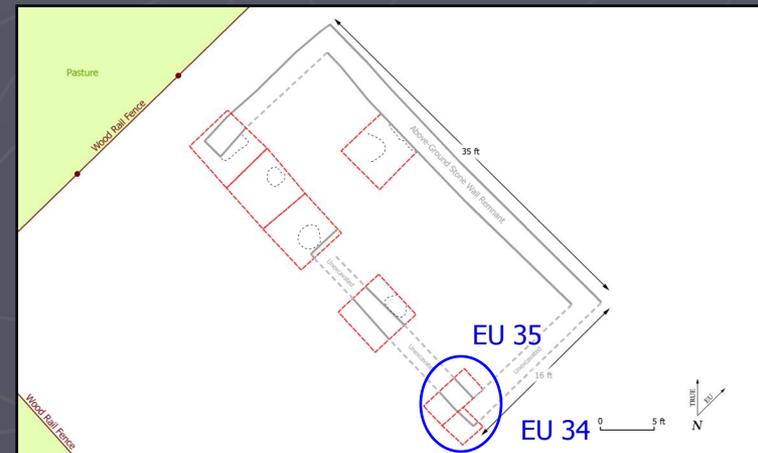
Window cut-out



Plan view of site

Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop Archeology

Determining the Footprint

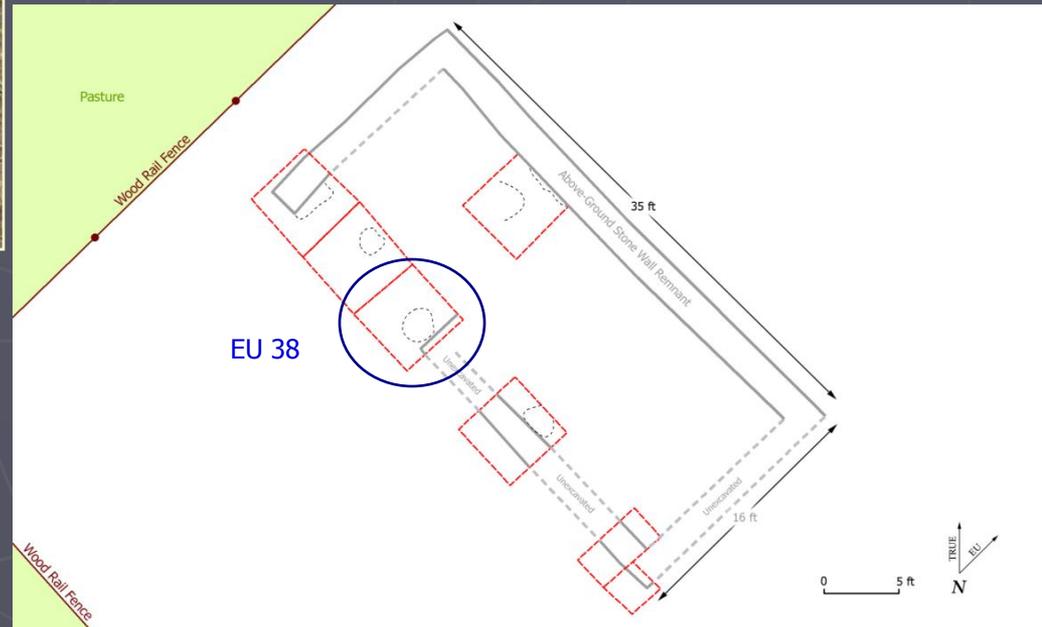


Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop Archeology – Surprise! There's a Front Wall

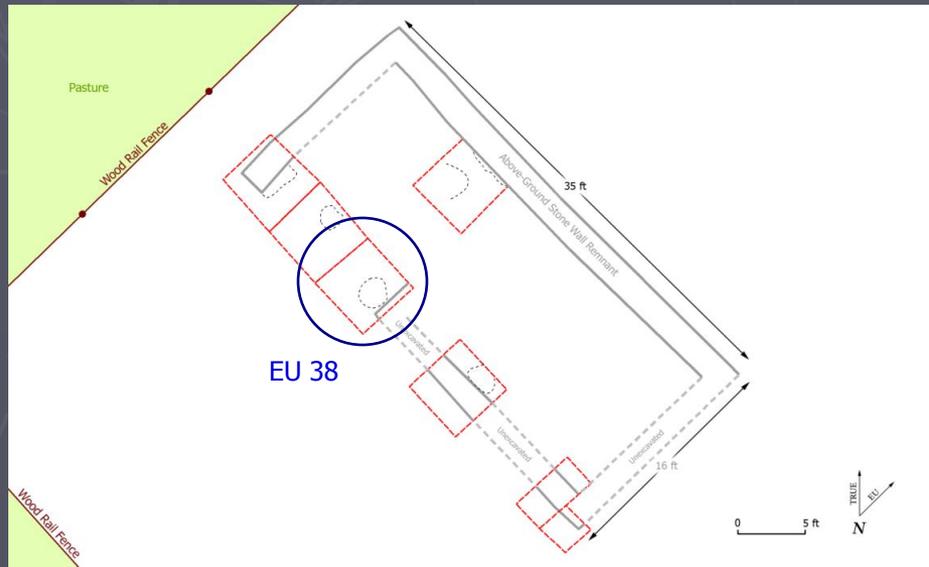


Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop Archeology – Determining the Footprint

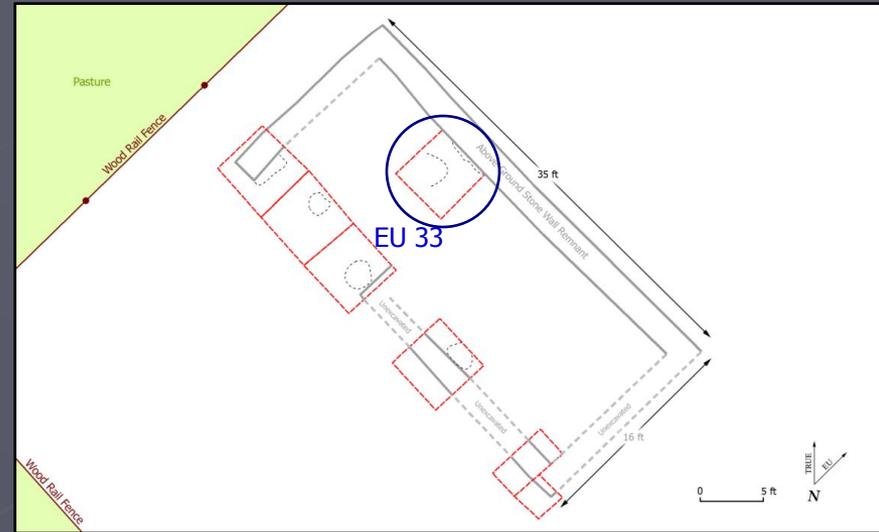
Double Surprise! There's a partition wall.



Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop Archaeology – Post holes/Post molds



Thomas Farm Blacksmith Shop Archeology – Work Space



Conclusions and Future Work

- ▶ Footprint
 - ▶ Dates of operation
 - ▶ Inside the shop
-
- ▶ Plans for stabilization
 - ▶ Public interpretation



Artifacts recovered from EU 33 (work space): sledge hammerhead, machine cut nails, and horseshoe.

Special Thanks

- ▶ Dr. Paul Shackel, University of Maryland
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- ▶ Joy Beasley, Monocacy National Battlefield
- ▶ Tom Gwaltney, Monocacy National Battlefield