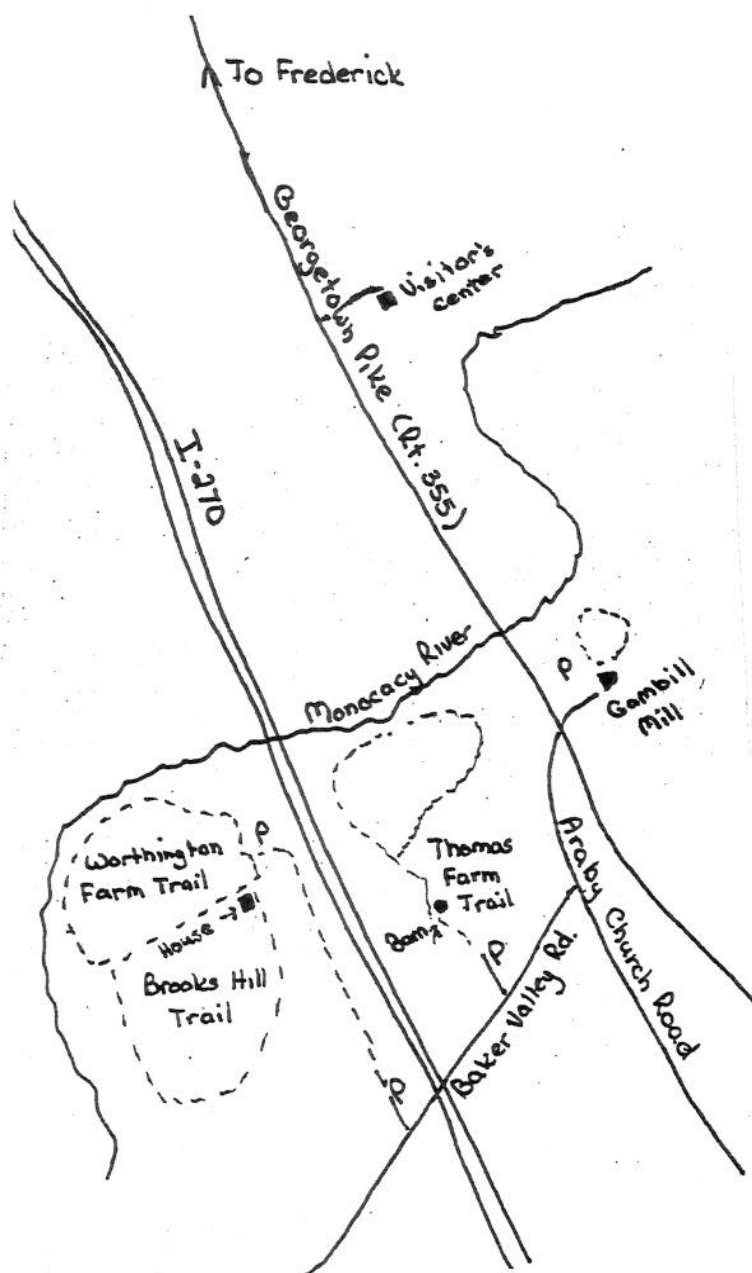


BROOKS HILL LOOP TRAIL

MONOCACY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

By Marylou Stone



This trail system encompasses two loop trails that take you on a self-guided tour through some of the most important and scenic areas of the battle field. You can park at two different locations. The first parking area will add 1.6 miles to the round trip distance walked. This 0.8 mile trail follows the gravel road back to the Worthington House where the two loops start and finish. The second parking area is at the Worthington House.

If you park at the first parking lot, it is 3.5 miles round trip. If you park at the second parking lot, it is 1.9 miles round trip.

I hiked the Brooks Hill Trail one early summer morning. It was one of those summer mornings when all the birds were singing to the top of their lungs. It was great. This trail does climb to the crest of the hill so either tennis shoes or hiking boots would be best.

I also spotted a Catalpa tree full of Catalpa worms. This worm has a distinctive feature of a little tail like "horn" on its rear end. The caterpillars are the larvae of a common gray moth. They are typically white with black splotches or black with wide yellowish-white stripes running down the sides. I had not seen this in years.

The National Park has written a booklet describing the trail and the battle that took place here. You can buy it at the Visitor's Center.