

MIDDLE FORD FERRY LOOP TRAIL MONOCACY NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

By Marylou Stone

This trail can be reached by first hiking part of the Thomas Farm Loop Trail. The Loop adds 0.5 miles to the Thomas Farm Loop. It circles down to the Monocacy River then back to the Thomas Farm Loop Trail for a round trip total of 2.25 miles.

To reach this trail, go south on Rt. 355 from Frederick. Cross the Monocacy River and turn right onto Araby Church Road. Turn tight onto Baker Valley Road and then turn right into the first small gravel drive next to a white cinder-block house where there is a small parking area. Hike 0.8 miles of the Thomas Farm Loop to the beginning of the Middle Ford Ferry Loop Trail.

The trail crosses a wooded area next to the river. At times it follows the original roadbed that use to go from the Worthington Farm to the Georgetown Pike, which is now Maryland Route 355. You can actually see areas where that roadbed was built up for farm traffic.

I hiked this trail in the late afternoon and spotted American Goldfinches, Eastern Bluebirds, Cardinals, Blue Jays, two Red Tailed Hawks, two Blue Herons, Catbirds, and Carolina Wrens.

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.

