

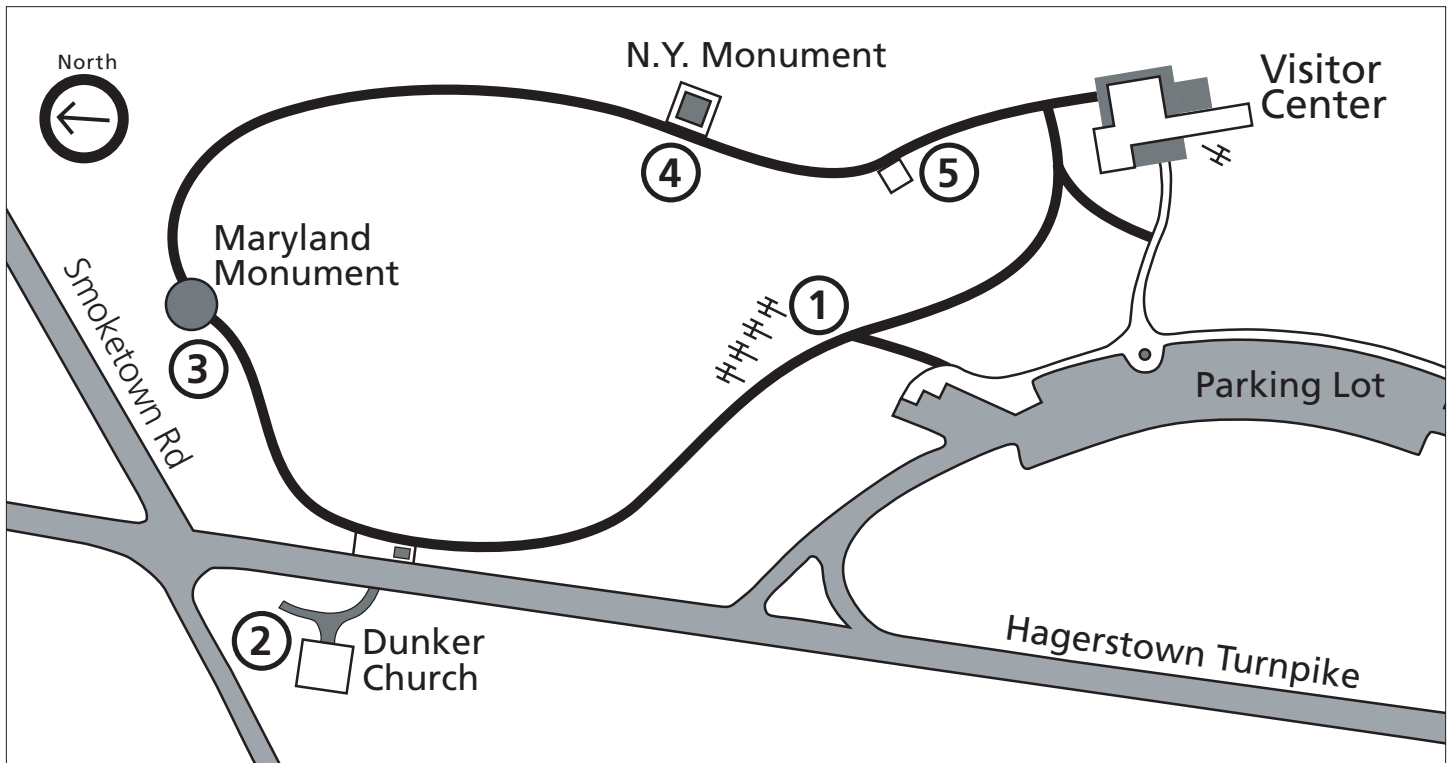
# Antietam Remembered A Walking Tour

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Antietam National Battlefield  
P. O. Box 158  
Sharpsburg, MD 21782



The area surrounding the Visitor Center saw significant action during the Battle of Antietam. This ridge was an objective point of Union attacks throughout the day. A **quarter-mile walking tour is paved and easily accessible** from the Visitor Center and will take you past some significant landmarks and monuments surrounding the Visitor Center. To begin the tour, exit through the front doors of the Visitor Center, turn right and follow the black walkway. This sidewalk will take you on a loop that ends back at the Visitor Center. Your first stop is the battery of four cannons 150 yards down the walk. See the walking tour map below.



## 1 Colonel S.D. Lee's Artillery Battalion



Confederate Col. Stephen Lee held this position with about nineteen guns with units from Virginia, Louisiana, and South Carolina. After three desperate hours, Lee's guns were finally driven from this position by long-range artillery fire from across Antietam Creek (one mile to the east) and by a series of Union attacks during the "morning phase" of the battle. Lee wrote, *"A converging storm of iron slammed into the batteries from front and flank. Wheels smashed, men knocked down, horses sent screaming; to stay on that field was*

*to sacrifice units needlessly."* Of the 300 men Lee commanded, 25% were killed or wounded and 60 horses were lost. Four types of Civil War cannons that represent Colonel Lee's position are on display.

Continue on the paved walkway, carefully crossing over the historic Hagerstown Turnpike to the Dunker Church. For wheelchair access to the front of the church, use the path to the right.

## 2 Dunker Church



This church, built by the pacifist German Baptist Brethren was the center of fighting in the early hours of the battle. Known as the Dunkers, they built their church using architecture that reflected a simple way of life. The building sustained heavy damage that day, but remained standing. It was used as a field hospital, as were many buildings in the area after the battle. A severe storm destroyed the Dunker Church in 1921, but a local Sharpsburg man,

Elmer Boyer, saved many pieces of the destroyed building. The Washington County Historical Society, the state of Maryland and the National Park Service used these materials to help rebuild the church in the 1960's.

Please cross back over the road and walk up the sidewalk to the large monument with the green dome.

## 3 Maryland Monument



This monument is the only monument on the battlefield dedicated to the men who fought for both sides. During the Civil War, Maryland remained in the Union, but was a politically divided, slave-holding border state. Marylanders fought for both the Union and the Confederacy. Approximately 20,000 people attended the dedication on May 30, 1900. General James Longstreet, Henry Kyd Douglas and many veterans of both the Union and Confederate armies were all present for the ceremony. President William McKinley, also a veteran of the Battle of Antietam, was the keynote speaker: *"I am glad to meet on this field the followers of Lee,*

*Jackson, Longstreet, and Johnson, with the followers of McClellan, Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, greeting each other, not with arms at their hands but with affection in every heart... This meeting after these many years has but one sentiment, love for Nation and flag."*

The tall monument with the eagle on top is the New York State Monument. It is the next stop on your tour.

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## 4 New York Monument



Almost one-fourth of the Union army at Antietam was from New York. Costing \$30,000, the monument was dedicated September 17, 1920, on the 58th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. The bronze tablets list the generals from New York who were in command, the New York regiments and batteries at Antietam and the New York State coat of arms. It is the tallest monument on the field, approximately 58 feet high.

On your way back to the Visitor Center, stop at the pink obelisk that has a stone flag draped over it.

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## 5 20th New York Monument



The Twentieth New York Infantry was organized in New York City. Most of the recruits were recent immigrants living in New York City or Newark, New Jersey, and spoke only German. Just after 1 p.m., they charged the Confederates lined along the Hagerstown Turnpike. They drove the Southerners into the West Woods until they were abreast of the Dunker Church, the possession of which had been so fiercely contested throughout the day. They were unable to hold the ground gained and had to fall back. The regiment suffered 145 casualties, some of whom are buried in the National Cemetery. Their veteran's association erected

this monument in 1911. Another 20th New York monument, dedicated in 1887 to the regiment's dead, stands in the National Cemetery.

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## Conclusion

As you have seen from your walk, there are many ways to honor and remember the tragic and momentous events that occurred here. Placing cannons, restoring buildings, building monuments, even creating this battlefield, are all designed so that we never forget the tremendous sacrifice of those

that walked this field before. You have also helped keep the memory of blue and gray alive by taking the time to walk this field and remember Antietam.