Iron Ore: Deposits supplied the Antietam Furnace before the C&O Canal was built.
Antietam Village: Once a thriving industrial area; only three lime kiln chimneys are left. First iron furnace began in 1765, producing arms for the Revolution, and parts for Rumsey’s steamboat. Area included rolling mills, a grist mill, cooperage, woolen mill, nail factories, and stove works. Industries declined due to fire, flood, disease—and war.
Boteler’s Hydraulic Lime Cement Mill: Mill manufactured cement for canal; burned by Union in 1861, destroyed in 1989 flood. Riffles in river mark the old dam location.
Miller’s Sawmill: Site of a wharf and warehouse. Canal supplied water to the mill until the Civil War.
Packhorse Ford: The only good river crossing for many miles. Settlers moving south from Pennsylvania in the 1720s followed an old Indian and packhorse trail from York, Pa., into Virginia. “Stonewall” Jackson crossed here enroute from Harpers Ferry to Sharpsburg. Army of northern Virginia crossed after withdrawal from Antietam.
Sharpsburg: The oldest town in Washington County, laid out in 1763 and names after Maryland Governor Sharpe. Town includes grocery stores and snack bars.

The oldest inhabited community of West Virginia, founded by Thomas Shepherd in 1734. The town was isolated from development for many years, and its main street looks for the most part, as it did in 1840. Fort Shepherd, a stockade used during the French and Indian War after Braddock’s defeat, was located on the site of Shepherd College. A 40-foot diameter mill wheel is featured at Shepherd’s Mill, now a private home; other buildings include the Old Market House (1800) in the center of town; and dozens of federal-style brick restored homes. Near the Potomac is the James Rumsey Monument, a granite column dedicated to the pioneer of steam navigation. Rumsey also designed the Patowmack Canal locks at Great Falls. Blackford’s Ferry ran across the river here, replacing Packhorse Ford as a downstream crossing. A covered bridge here was burned by Confederates in 1861; later its replacement was destroyed in a flood. Across the river in Maryland, the Ferry Hill Plantation occupies a commanding position on a hill overlooking the Potomac. First built in 1813, it is restored and owned by the National Park Service.