

ABSTRACT

AL-IIIIC-162

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. ---(167)

Cumberland, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

1767 (mound of stones)

1902 (monument)

Milestone No. ---(167) and its mound of stones on Wills Mountain ridge mark a point on Mason and Dixon's West Line 159 miles and 71 chains "from the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field" (about 156.897 horizontal miles from the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line). The monument is a dressed magnesian limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in is in quite good conditon, though with altered top, and is firmly set. Cockeysville, Maryland, It measures 10 inches square by about 13 inches high above the mound, and is embellished only by the capital letter P on the north side facing Pennsylvania, M on the south side facing Maryland, the year 1766 (when this area was preliminarily surveyed) on the east side, and 1902 (when the new monument was added to the center of the mound) on the west side. The mound, originally with a wood centerpost marked M on the west side, was erected by Mason and Dixon in 1767 and has survived essentially intact, and is also in quite good condition except for the center being somewhat altered in the setting of as a substitute for the post to permanently mark the survey point. It measures about 8 feet in diameter at the bottom by about 2½ feet high at the center. This monument and mound are significant on the national and state levels primarily as being among the some 248 markers in the thematic group series still visually defining the West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as among the 37 markers (including 9 mounds) remaining along the present Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, they are also significant for their identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** Boundary Markers Along the Mason-Dixon Line (Thematic Group)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, Post and Pile of Stones marking 159 Miles and 71 Chains "from the Post Marked West in Mr. Bryan's Field"

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. --- (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 167)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off the west side of Valley Road, Wills Mountain summit

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Allegany / PA: Bedford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT S	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument and mound only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

NAME

State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

 VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE

Allegany County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

AL-IIIC-162 entered 6/2/81

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

**7 DESCRIPTION**

Survey No. AL-IIIC-162

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (mound & monument)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD (monument & mound)	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (monument & mound)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Milestone No. ---(167) was a new monument with when added in 1902 to an original/<sup>1767</sup> Mason and Dixon mound of stones during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is a Cockeyville marble post with a low pyramidal top, in quite good condition, firmly set, with an altered top; measures 10 inches square by about 13 inches high above the mound; and is embellished only by the capital letter P on the north side facing Pennsylvania, M on the south side facing Maryland, and the year 1766 (when this area was preliminarily surveyed) on the east side, and 1902 (when this new monument was set) on the west side. The mound of loose stones, also in fairly good condition, appears to have been slightly altered, measures about 8 feet in diameter at the bottom by about 2½ feet high at the center.

The area here is the/<sup>stoney, remote, densely forested</sup> high summit of Wills Mountain, elevation of 1955 feet at the site, and said to be a haven for rattlesnakes and copperheads. The site is **about 156.897 miles west of the northeast corner of Maryland; is** within Election District 5 of Allegany County, MD, and marks the southern boundary between Cumberland Valley Township and Londonderry Township of Bedford County, PA; about ¾ miles due north of the city limits of Cumberland, MD; about 6000 feet west of Valley Road/T-300 at the Line; at a point about 225 feet west of an old north-south trail along the ridge and about 45 feet south of the old pipeline. It <sup>but was identified by a nearby "witness post"</sup> cannot be seen from any road, trail or pipeline, and seems protected by the remoteness.

The monument, identical to 65 other monuments of 1902 west of Sideling Hill along the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, was quarried and carved in Cockeyville, MD, of a white, fine-grained marble called saccharoidal dolomite or magnesian limestone; was originally cut about 10 inches square by about 4½ feet long, intended for setting about 1½ feet above ground (or mound) with the remaining 3 feet for setting firmly into the ground. The letters and numbers are blocky, V-sunk without serifs, and are horizontally aligned as a band around the monument near the top. These are clear and intact, although the top has been completely/<sup>covered (and thus</sup> altered) by the cementing of a USC&GS triangulation station disk into the apex (WILLS 1955). There are small chips/<sup>and top corners</sup> along all edges, and particularly the <sup>southeast and southwest</sup> top corners. The mound/<sup>of loose stones</sup> seems more disturbed than most of the others, presumably at the time of setting of the stone in 1902, with excess concrete in evidence.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**  
(see Thematic Group NR nomination form for descriptions of new monuments and old mounds along the West Line)

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) boundary surveying
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (mound of stones) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
1902 (monument) SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. ---(167) and its mound of stones are significant on the national and state levels primarily as among the some 248 markers of the thematic group series still visually defining Mason and Dixon's West Line, the 230.228-mile boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. This part of the Line was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, the site marked by a wood centerpost surrounded by a pile of stones in 1767, and the <sup>new Cockeysville marble</sup> present/monument set into the <sup>remains of the</sup> mound in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as among the 37 markers along the present Allegany/Fulton-Bedford-Somerset county boundary, No. ---(167) and its mound are also significant for their identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Evitts Creek (Maryland-Pennsylvania-West Virginia), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1949 photorev. 1974, scale 1:24000UTM reference: zone 17, easting 69345, northing 439923

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY AlleganySTATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Bedford**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

## NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

## ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

## DATE

10/17/81 (site surveyed)

## STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

## TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

## CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

## STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

AL-III-C-162

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE - (167)

EVITTS CREEK QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA - WEST VIRGINIA

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1949 PHOTO REV. 1974 SCALE: 1"=2000'

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



78°45' 694000m E 695 1 730 000 FEET (PA.); 42'30" 697

39°45'

4402000m N

150 000 FEET (PA.)

4401

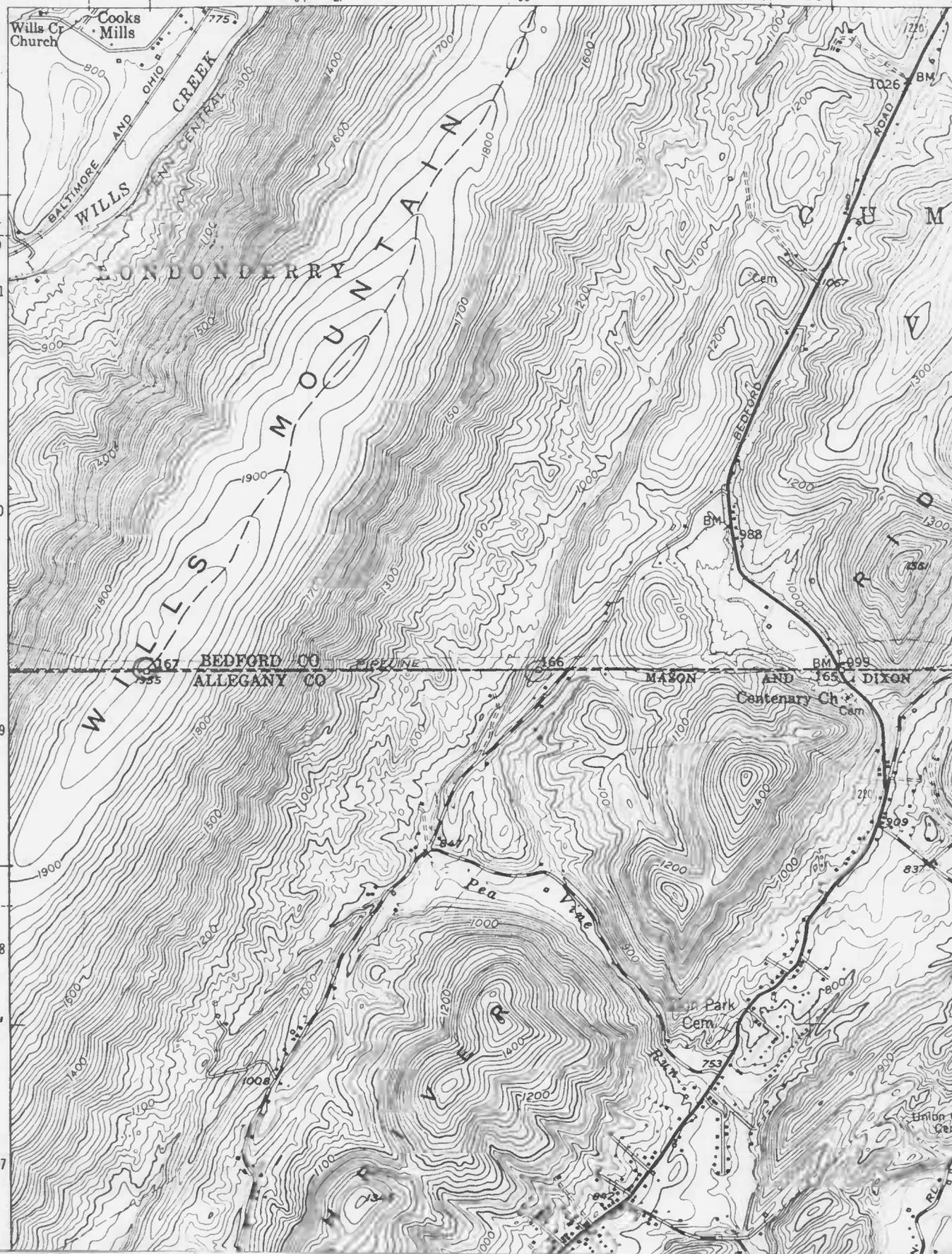
4400

4399

4398

42'30"

4397



78°45'

694000m E

695

1 730 000 FEET (PA.); 42'30"

697

Wills Cr Church

Cocks Mills

775

BALTIMORE AND OHIO

WILLS CREEK

PENN-CENTRAL

800

600

400

200

100

50

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50

100

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250

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550

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650

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1100

1150

1200

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MHT

AL-III C-162

MASON DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE — (167)  
STONE MONUMENT (1902) IN LARGE HED  
MOUND OF STONES (1767) + USC+GS  
TRIANGULATION STATION. WILLS 1955

SE CORNER (M/1766)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 10/17/81 (1981 46.24A)



MHT

AL-III C-162

MASON EDIXON WEST LINE; MILESTONE — (167)

STONE MONUMENT (1902) IN LARGE MED HOUND OF STONES (1767) +  
USCEGS TRIANGULATION STATION WALLS (1955)

NW CORNER (P/1902)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 10/17/81 (1981.46 21A)