

ABSTRACT

F-6-27

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 78(81)

1767 (reset 1902)

Harney, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 78(81) is an original monument of 1767 at its original site, marking Mason and Dixon's 78th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, longest of their survey lines run and marked during their 1763-68 commission to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. As with all original West Line monuments, this milestone is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, measuring about 11" square by approximately 4½' long, originally cut to stand about 3' above ground with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk into a plain shallow circle panel near the top. In 1902, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, this milestone was reset at a redetermined site to stand about 1½' above ground, and remains nearly that today, firmly set, in excellent condition, with all embellishments clear and intact, except for negligible chips along the edges and corners, and some weathering of the top and east side. On the national and state levels, No. 78(81) is significant primarily as one of the series of 135 original monuments still defining the West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. Locally, as one of 14 original monuments marking the present Frederick/Adams-Franklin county boundary (2 crownstones; 12 milestones), it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties, and is in the best condition of any in Frederick County.

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, 78th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON  
 Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 78 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 81)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)  
 STREET & NUMBER off south side of Mason-Dixon Road (LR-01003)

CITY, TOWN Harney  VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 6 / PA: 19  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY MD: Frederick / PA: Adams

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<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
	X not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)  
 NAME State of Maryland / Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Telephone #:  
 STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** N/A Liber #:  
 (see surrounding property ownership list) Folio #:  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

TITLE Frederick County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE F-6-27 entered 6/23/81  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE (redetermined) 1902
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

Milestone No. 78(81) marks Mason and Dixon's 78th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in excellent condition, unaltered, and firmly set at its original site, redetermined and reset in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is very sparsely settled, almost entirely open, quite level farmland, with a north-south stretch of deciduous woods dividing some of the Waybright farm lands. The site is within Election District 5 of Frederick County, MD; Freedom Township of Adams County, PA; about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles west northwest of the village of Harney, MD; about 2400' southeast of Mason-Dixon Road (LR-01003) at the Horace Waybright drive (about 2000' southeast of the <sup>farm</sup>house); in a weedy berm between two levels of cultivated fields, marked by a tall pipe and tattered rag, which can be seen from the house and barns <sup>all seasons</sup> area/but not from the road. It is well protected not only by the topography and "flag" but by the Waybrights, whose interest in its preservation is reflected in the name of their dairy farm: Mason-Dixon Farms, Inc.

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this milestone was quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, about 12" square by about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' long with a low pyramidal top, and cut to stand as a post about 3' above ground, with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. It was embellished with vertical fluting and horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, with the fluting carried up the top planes typically rising about 2" to a centered apex. The distinguishing decorative features are the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk into a plain shallow circle panel near the top. According to the Resurvey (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 88): "This monument was out of the ground and its position was lost. This was redetermined and the stone was reset as usual. <sup>(about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' above ground)</sup> It presently measures about 11" square by about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' above ground, is in excellent shape, <sup>firmly set,</sup> with all embellishments clear and essentially intact, except for negligible chips along the edges and top corners, and some weathering of the top and east side.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY the original Mason and Dixon  
monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

**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 (reset 1902)

~~NO ARCH/ARCHEOLOGY~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 78(81) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and the monument set in 1767, where it remains unaltered to this day, although the site had to be redetermined in 1902 and monument reset, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 14 original monuments marking the present Frederick/Adams-Franklin county boundary (2 crownstones; 12 milestones), No. 78(81) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties, and is in the best condition of any in Frederick County.

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: Emmitsburg (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), scale 1:24000UTM reference: zone 18, easting 30640, northing 439886VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY FrederickSTATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Adams**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

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

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust & Maryland Geological Survey <sup>DATE</sup> 10/4/80 (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





F-6-27

APR 27 2 10 PM WEST LINE: MILESTONE 78 (81)  
OFF S/S BRON-TON RIV. MARNE 117 - VICINITY  
SE CORNER (M-1)  
2-23: PLACE MARK APPROX. 25. (62) 10/4/80



78

F-6-27

MASON EDINON WEST SIDE PALESTONE TRACT  
OFF 23 MAP 20-3-28 ED. HARRIS PT. 10 70  
NW CORNER (PI-)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1280 SR. 24) 10/12/81