ABSTRACT

F-6-35
MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 86(89) 1767 (reset 1902)
Sabillasville, Maryland vicinity
Public/private

Milestone No. 86(89) is an original milestone of 1767, at its original site, where it was reset more securely in 1902 at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It marks Mason and Dixon's 86th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, longest of the 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, (no longer)with a low pyramidal top; quarried and carved in England; said to have been originally about 12" square by about 4½' long, and 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 in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. When reset in 1902, it presumably stood about 1½' above ground, as it would by now if the top couple of inches had not been broken off not too long ago (sometime after the 1950 field inspection). Though still measuring about 12" square, it is in deteriorated condition: all surfaces are very weatherworn, chipped and scratched; the letters and some of the other embellishments are visible but indistinct, and all edges are chipped. On the national and state levels, No. 86(89) is significant primarily as one of a 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.

Survey No. F-6-35

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)
(Mason and Dixon's) West Line, 86th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON: Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 86 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 89)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER: off northwest side of Friends Creek Road

CITY, TOWN: Sabillasville X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: MD: 6 / PA: 19

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: MD: Frederick / PA: Adams

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
X OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
	X not applicable	__NO	__MILITARY	X 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 (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

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-6-35 entered 6/23/81

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN: Annapolis

STATE: Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	X DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 86(89) marks Mason and Dixon's 86th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is the original milestone set at this site in 1767, although reset more securely in 1902 at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in deteriorated condition, from extreme weathering and chipping of all surfaces and the top several inches having been broken off; but otherwise is firmly in place, still standing about 15" above ground, and protected by the remoteness of the site.

The area here is the rocky steep southeast slope of Raven Rock mountain, densely forested with deciduous trees, perfect for rattlesnakes and copperheads. The site is within Election District 10 of Frederick County, MD; Liberty Township of Adams County, PA; nearly 3 miles northeast of the village of Sabillasville, MD; about 2500' northwest off Friends Creek Road; about 1400' northwest of the David Turner house; at a point just west of a ravine and about 300' north of a huge dome-shaped boulder, marked only by surveyors' tapes strung along to outline the convergence of three property lines at the milestone. It cannot be seen from any road, path, or easily from closeby.

As with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, this milestone is an embellished oolitic limestone post, (no longer) with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, said to have been originally about 12" square by about 4½' long, 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 in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. In 1902 this milestone was reset to stand about 1½' above ground, as it would remain approximately 2" today, had the top not been broken off not too long ago (sometime after the 1950 field inspection). Although the stone still measures about 12" square, all surfaces are very weatherworn, chipped and scratched; all edges are chipped; both letters and some of the other embellishments are visible but indistinct.

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

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

Survey No. F-6-35

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		boundary surveying

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ SURVEYORS Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 86(89) 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, the boundary 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 milestone set two years later, where it remains, although reset more securely in 1902 during 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. 86(89) 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.

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 acre

Quadrangle name: Blue Ridge Summit (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 29350, northing 439923

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE	COUNTY
Maryland	Frederick
Pennsylvania	Adams

11 FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION
Maryland Historical Trust & Maryland Geological Survey

DATE
3/15/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & 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

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 86(89)

F-6-35

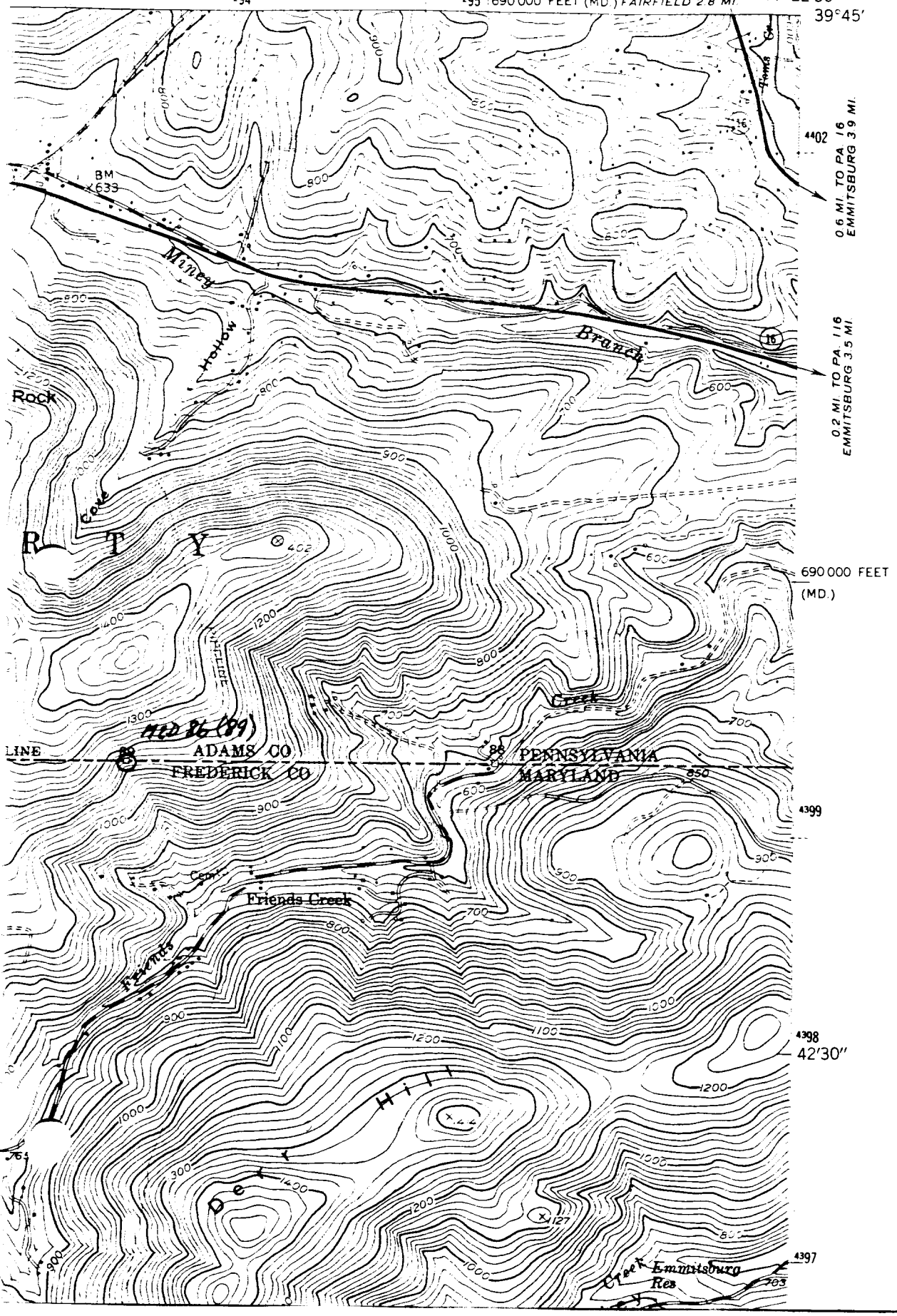
BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT QUADRANGLE

MARYLAND—PENNSYLVANIA

N USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 EMMITSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

1953 PHOTO REV. 1971
SCALE: 1" = 2000'

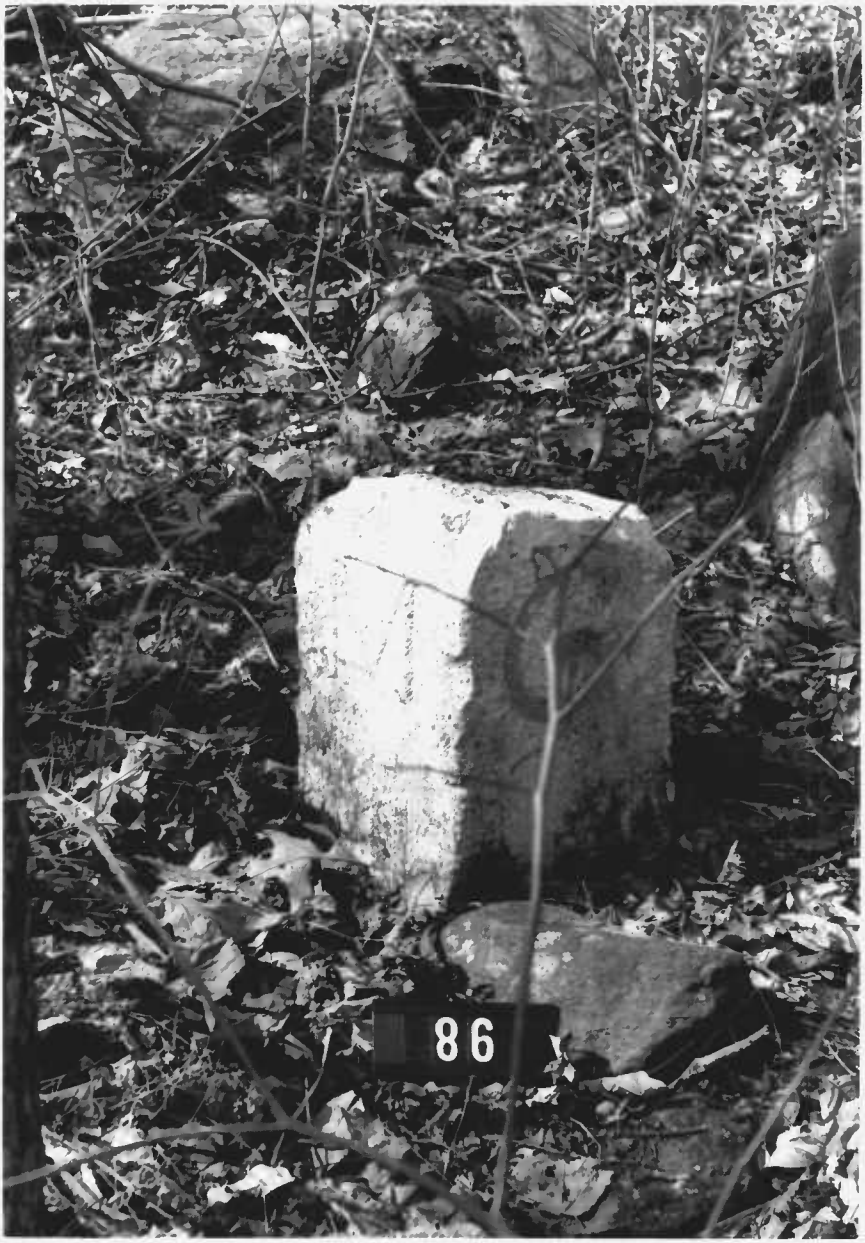


86

F-6-35

[illegible] WEST SIDE: MILESTONE 86 (19)
[illegible] CORNER (P[illegible])

[illegible] MARTIN 3/5/81 (19[illegible]) [illegible]


86

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MASON-DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 86 (89)
SE CORNER (MI-)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/15/81 (1981 11-7)