ABSTRACT

F-6-38
MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 89(92) 1767 (first set 1902)
Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania/Maryland
Public/private

Milestone No. 89(92) is believed an original milestone of 1767, brought from Washington County in 1902 and set at the original site as a replacement, during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It marks Mason and Dixon's 89th 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 with a 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. When first set in 1902, it presumably stood about 1½' above ground; and presently stands about 15" high, measuring close to 12" square. It is in good condition, with most embellishments clear and remaining, though with large chips along all edges and the top corners. The P may have been recut, and the top planes are unusually high and converge at a squared (rather than pointed) apex. The monument had been recently broken through at ground level, but remained in place, in danger of being removed and the survey point lost. On the national and state levels, No. 89(92) 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-6-38
Magi No.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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, 89th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON: Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 89 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 92)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER: off northeast side of MD 550 and W.M.R.R.

CITY, TOWN: Blue Ridge Summit ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE: Pennsylvania

COUNTY: MD: Frederick/PA: Franklin

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: ___ 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 & NUMBER:

CITY, TOWN:

STATE:

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

TITLE: Frederick County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE: F-6-38 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	__DETERIORATED	?_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE (redetermined)
X_GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 89(92) marks Mason and Dixon's 89th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is a replacement of the original believed set here in 1767, a monument "obtained in Washington County" presumably one of the original milestones of 1767, and/set at a redetermined site in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is in good condition although broken through at ground level, propped up in place on its base, standing about 15" high. There is an uncharacteristic squared apex and a different capital P, as though the carving might have been recarved or altered.

The area here is the southeast corner of the town of Blue Ridge Summit, in a high level strand between two wooded higher tops of South Mountain. The site is about 500' northeast of MD 550 and the Robert Fox house, in a marshy thicket, close to a board marking their property corner but otherwise unmarked. It cannot be seen from the road of the house, but fairly easily when closeby. Because of the break, the monument is greatly endangered and should be repaired as soon as possible (or removed to prevent its being lost).

If this is one of the original Mason and Dixon milestones, as the 1900-03 Resurvey notes would indicate (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 89), it was originally quarried and carved in England, of oolitic limestone, measured about 12" square by about 4½' long, had a low pyramidal top, and was distinguished by vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, with 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 shallow plain circle panel near the top. By the time of the 1981 field inspection, the stone was still in good condition, with most embellishments clear and remaining, though with noticeable large chips along all edges and top corners. The P had been reworked (or recut) and the top planes were much higher than most other monuments, converging at a squared apex, and more weathered than any of the other surfaces. The source and history of this particular stone should be researched and verified at the National Archives during Phase II of the Mason-Dixon West Line boundary marker project.

(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

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) boundary surveying
		INVENTION		

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 89(92) 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, according to the 1900-03 Resurvey (MGS Vol. 7, 1908, p. 89): and a milestone was "presumably placed at this point by Mason and Dixon, but no trace of it could be found. The position was redetermined and a monument obtained in Washington County was placed here " (in 1902), where it remains, although broken completely through at ground level. Locally, as one of 14 original monuments marking the present Frederick/Adams-Franklin county boundary (2 crownstones; 12 milestones), No. 89(92) 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 28866, northing 439946

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE		COUNTY	
STATE	Maryland	COUNTY	Frederick
STATE	Pennsylvania	COUNTY	Franklin

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
2/15/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER
14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE
301/472

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-6-38

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 89 (92)

BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1953 PHOTOREV. 1971 SCALE: 1" = 2000'

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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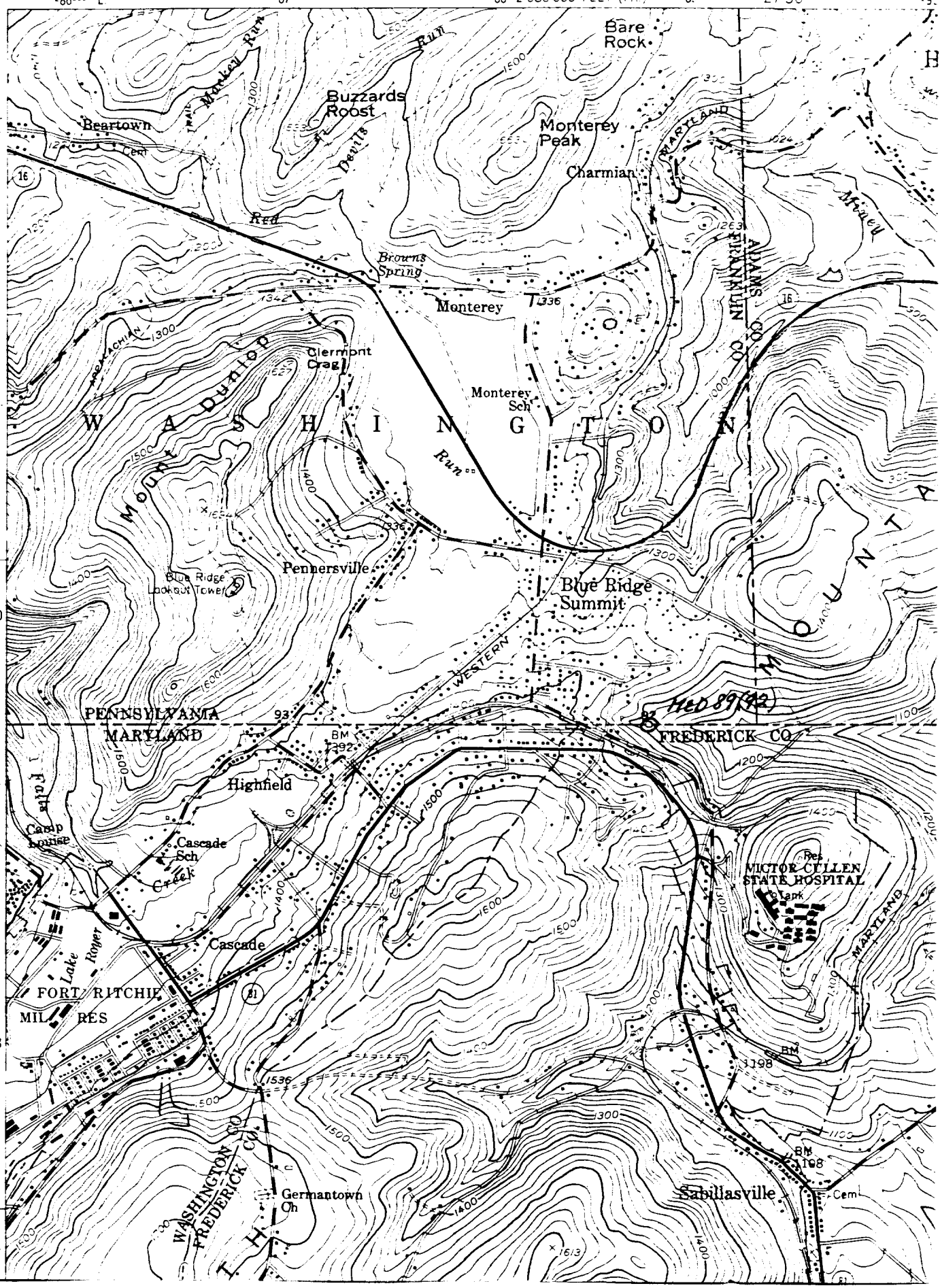

89

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89

F-6-38

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 89 (92)
NW CORNER (P/-)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1981.6 6) 21/5/81