

ABSTRACT

HA-1542

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 24(26)

Slate Hill, Pennsylvania vicinity

Public/private

1766

Milestone No. 24(26) marks Mason and Dixon's 24th mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning point of their 230.228-mile West Line, the longest run and marked to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The monument, originally set in 1766, is an embellished oolitic limestone post quarried and carved in England and measures about 12" square by about 4½' long, cut to stand about 3' above ground. Reset in 1902, it now stands about 1½' high, is in good condition, with the capital letters P on the north (Pennsylvania) side and M on the south (Maryland) side clear and intact, as is most of the fluting. On the federal and state levels, it is primarily significant/not only as one of the series of original monuments marking the boundary

known as the Mason-Dixon Line since Civil War times, but also for the settlement of longstanding provincial boundary disputes and the innovative survey methods utilized by Mason and Dixon a century earlier. Locally, it is significant as one of the diminishing number of objects and structures visually identifiable with our colonial and Civil War heritage.

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, 24th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 24 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 26)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off east end of junction of Tabernacle and North Cooper Roads

CITY, TOWN

Slate Hill

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 1 / PA: 19

STATE

Pennsylvania

COUNTY MD: Harford / PA: York

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <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

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION N/A

(see surrounding property ownership list) COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Harford County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE HA-1542 entered 2/25/80

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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. 24(26) marks Mason and Dixon's 24th horizontal mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning point of their West Line. It is an original milestone, set in 1766 and reset in 1902, of oolitic limestone quarried and carved in England, measuring about 12" square with a low pyramidal top, <sup>and</sup> now standing about 1½' above ground. It is in good condition, unaltered, and remains at its original site. Most of the embellishments are clear, but corners and edges are chipped, particularly the top northeast and southwest corners, and the top planes are weatherworn and with several deep pits. The site is protected by its remoteness, at the top of a high <sup>wooded</sup> bluff overlooking the Susquehanna River off to the east.

The area here is rolling, high, wooded lands, at the <sup>a few scattered</sup> east edge of farms, most still belonging to the Cooper family, among the first to settle here. The site is about 2¾ miles southeast of the scattered settlement of Slate Hill, Pennsylvania; about 4 miles northeast of the scattered settlement of Prospect, Maryland; off the east end of the junction of Tabernacle and North Cooper roads; about 2500' east-northeast of the old abandoned Cooper farm buildings; in a deciduous woods on the high bluff just west of the Susquehanna River. It cannot be seen from any road, nor easily from nearby, and is protected by this remoteness.

The monument, originally cut to stand about 3' above ground, was reset at the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary surrounded by a concrete collar below ground. It <sup>and with pits</sup> to stand about 1½" high, and remains in place firmly, though weathered/on top and with several large chips out of the top northeast and southwest corners. The capital letters P on the north (Pennsylvania) side and M on the south (Maryland) side are intact and clear; most fluting, margins and circle panels remain, though all surfaces are weathered and all edges nicked. The top planes are still discernible and rise about 1½" to a centered apex.

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

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

# 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 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 1766 (reset 1902) ~~COLONIAL ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are 24 original crownstones and 111 milestones of 1766-67 still standing along Mason and Dixon's West Line, set at mile intervals through the 132nd mile and including 12 added in 1902 beyond that point (3 crownstones, 9 milestones) set at irregular intervals. Milestone No. 24(26) is primarily significant as one of this original series, which with some additional 113 monuments and mounds represent a boundary of national and state importance, not only for its symbolism since Civil War times, but for its settlement of longstanding provincial boundary disputes and <sup>the</sup> innovative survey methods utilized by Mason and Dixon a century earlier. Individually, and as one of 17 original monuments (3 crownstones, 14 milestones) still standing along the present Harford/York county boundary, it is also significant locally as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures visually identifiable with our colonial and Civil War heritage.

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

# 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

USGS Conowingo Dam quadrangle, 7.5 minute series (topographic), scale 1:24000

UTM: 18.39336.439734

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY York

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason-Dixon Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust/Maryland Geological Survey DATE 4/19/80 (site surveyed by Jean Ewing)

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

HA-1542

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE 24 (26)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CONOWINGO DAM QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND - PENNSYLVANIA  
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1953 PHOTO REV. 1970 SCALE: 1"=2000'

5763 IV SE  
(HOLTWOOD)

76° 15' 39.3000m E. 394 2 430 000 FEET (PA.) 396 12' 30" 397  
39° 45'

4400000m N.

4399  
150 000 FEET  
(PA.)

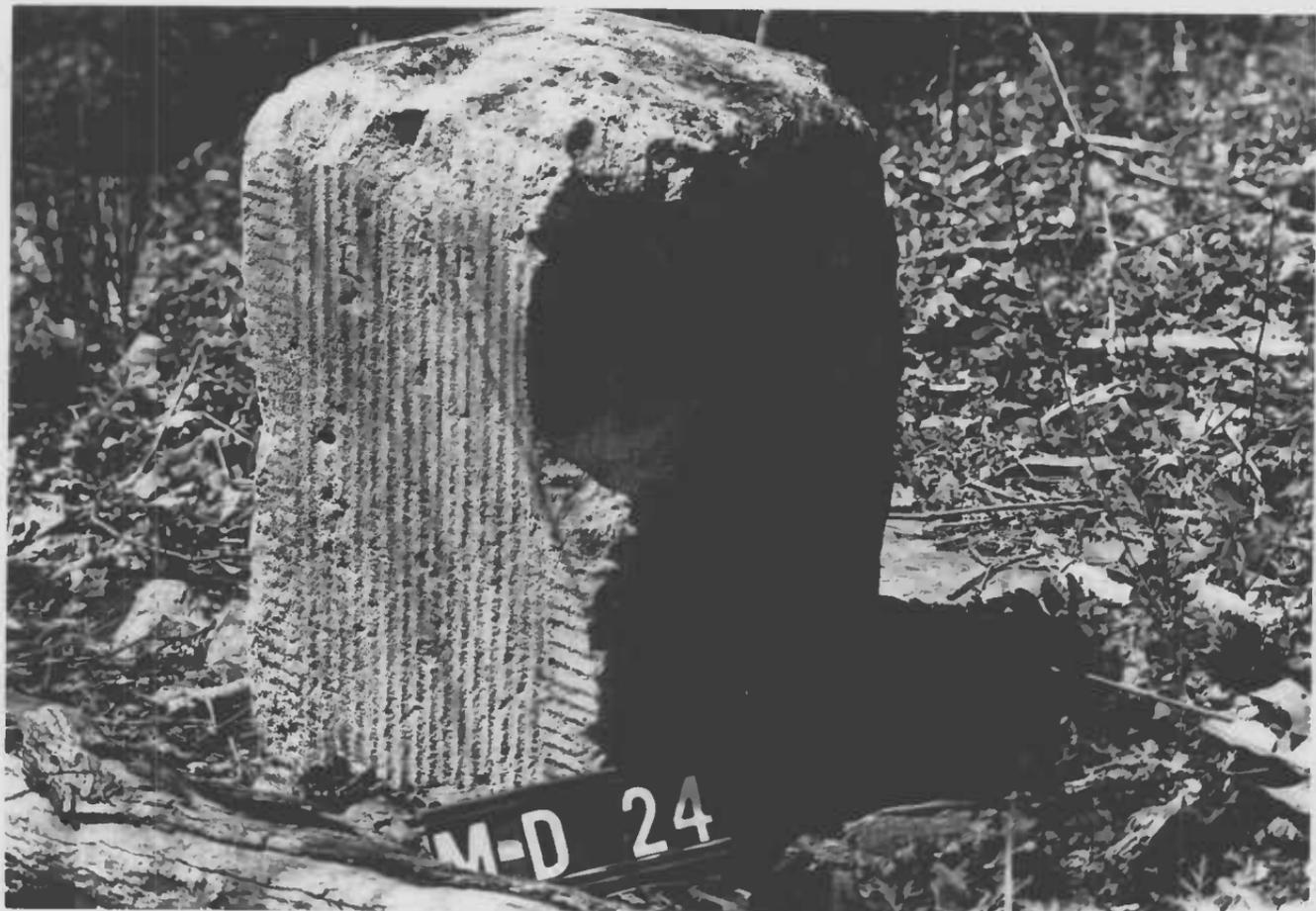


4398  
4397  
4396  
42' 30"

HILL, PA. 3.4 MI.

CECIL CO  
HARFORD CO

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M-D 24

North East corner

(-1/P)

MHT

HA-1542

Mason & Dixon west line;  
MILE Stone #24(26)

PHOTO: JEAN

A Ewing 19 April 80 (AEE #19A)



South & West sides (-/11)

MHT

HA-1542

Mason & Dix on west line: stone 24<sup>(26)</sup>

PHOTO: JEAN

Ewing 19 April '80 (NEG #200A)