

ABSTRACT

HA-1543

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 26(28)

1766

Slate Hill, Pennsylvania vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 26(28) marks Mason and Dixon's 26th mile west of the initial stone at the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning point of their 230.228-mile West Line, the longest of their survey lines run and marked to define the boundary between the English provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania. This milestone, first set in 1766, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top. Quarried and carved in England, it originally measured about 12" square by about 4½' long, cut to stand about 3' above ground. Reset in its original site <sup>to about 1½' above ground</sup> in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, it now stands only about 3" high, apparently sinking slowly. It is in good condition, unaltered and with most embellishments clear (when exposed); the capital letters P on the north (Pennsylvania) side and M on the south (Maryland) side are distinct; but the top is noticeably weathered and all corners and edges chipped. On the federal and state levels, this monument is primarily significant as one of a series of 135 original Mason and Dixon stones still standing along their West Line, commonly known since Civil War times as the Mason-Dixon Line, notable for its historical impact and innovative boundary survey methods. Locally, as one of 17 original monuments marking the present Harford/York county boundary, No. 26(28) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a <sup>visually</sup> identifiable relationship to 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, 26th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

Mason-Dixon Line: Milestone No. 26 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 28)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET &amp; NUMBER off the west side of Flintville Road (MD 623/PA LR-66069)

CITY, TOWN

Slate Hill

 VICINITY OFCONGRESSIONAL 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>		<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 &amp; 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 &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

TITLE Harford County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE HA-1543 entered 2/25/80

 FEDERAL  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. 26(28) marks Mason and Dixon's 26th 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 of 1766, <sup>presumably</sup> in good condition, at its original site, where <sup>more firmly</sup> it was reset in 1902.

The area here is rural, mostly farmlands interspersed with woodlands, and scattered housing strung along the main roads. The site is located within Harford County Election District 5, York County's Peach Bottom Township; about 1 1/4 miles south-southeast of the scattered settlement of Slate Hill, Pennsylvania; about 2 1/2 miles northeast of the crossroads settlement of Prospect, Maryland; about 750' west of <sup>People's house on the</sup> the/main road, in the northwest corner of a young deciduous woods near a small stream. It cannot be seen from the road, nor easily from closeby.

The monument is an embellished <sup>oolitic</sup> limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England and originally measuring about 12" square by about 4 1/2' long, cut to stand about 3' above ground. At the time of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, it was reset to stand about 1 1/2' above ground and surrounded by a concrete collar below ground. It still measures about 12" square but <sup>now</sup> only stands about 3" high, with the embellishments scarcely visible. The capital letters P on the north (Pennsylvania) side and M on the south (Maryland) side <sup>and their circle panels</sup> are intact and clear, as are most of the margins and fluting; the top planes are still evident, <sup>weatherworn and</sup> but all corners and edges are chipped. The ground here is marshy enough that the monument may actually be sinking.

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

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
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) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon  
 SURVEYORS

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Milestone No. 26(28) is significant on the federal and state levels primarily as one of the series of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments still standing along their West Line, commonly known since Civil War times as the Mason-Dixon Line, notable for its historical impact and innovative boundary survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1765 and monumented the following year, where it remains to this day, although it was reset more securely in 1902 during the course of the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Individually, and as one of 17 original monuments still standing along the Harford/York county boundary, it is significant locally as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to 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

Quadrangle name: Delta; scale 1:24000

UTM Reference: zone 18 easting 39030 northing 439790

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 4/17/80 (site surveyed by Jean Ewing)

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

DELTA QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE 1/4 BEL AIR 15' QUADRANGLE

1956 PHOTO REV. 1974

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

57° 22' 30" W  
(WAKEFIELD)



17'3" 690 000 FEET (MD.)

391 392 76 15' 39 45'

4400

4399

4398  
690 000 FEET  
(MD.)

4397

42'30"

ASTLETON 3 MI.  
BRINKLEY 4 MI.



MHT

44-1543

Nason & Dixon west line; <sup>mile</sup> stone 26  
(28)

showing north, west sides & top (P/-)

Stone deeply submerged

PHOTO:  
Jean Ewing 17 April 80 (N.E.C. # 7A)

A black and white photograph showing a large, light-colored rock with a textured surface, possibly a fossil or mineral specimen, resting on a bed of dry grass and small plants. A ruler is placed horizontally in the foreground, partially overlapping the bottom edge of the rock. The ruler has markings and the text "M-D 216" printed on it. The background is filled with dense, dry vegetation.

M-D 216

MHT

HA-1543

Mason & Dixon west line: stone <sup>MNE</sup> 26<sub>1</sub> (28)

South & East sides (M/-)

Stone deeply submerged

Photo: JEAN

A. Ewing 17 April 80 (DET. #6A)