ABSTRACT

WA-I-488
MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 107(111) 1767 (reset 1902)
Cearfoss, Maryland vicinity
Public/private

Milestone No. 107(111), an original of 1767, marks Mason and Dixon's 107th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is a squared oolitic limestone post, quarried and carved in England, now standing about 18 inches above ground, measuring about 12 inches square, unaltered but in only fair condition from weathering and disfiguring chipping, and believed at its original site as reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary, but no longer firmly in place. It is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, 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. WA-I-488

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, 107th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON: MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 107 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 111)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER: off southwest side of Cearfoss Road (MD 58/PA 416)

CITY, TOWN: Cearfoss X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: MD: Washington/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: 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: Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE: WA-I-488 entered 2/24/81 __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

Survey No. WA-I-488

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	? X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 107(111) marks Mason and Dixon's 107th 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 fair condition, unaltered, and probably at its original site, though it doesn't seem firmly set, and, if so, where it was reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is rolling, sparsely settled farmed lands, interspersed with patches of deciduous woodlands. The site is within Election District 13 of Washington County, MD, and Montgomery Township of Franklin County, PA; about 2 miles northwest of the settlement of Cearfoss, MD; about 1 mile southeast of the settlement of Nova, PA; at a point about 400 feet west of the junction of Wishard Road with Cearfoss Road (MD 58/PA 416) and about 400 feet south of the McCauley tenant farmhouse on the north side of Cearfoss Road; in the middle of an unfenced level farmed field. It is unmarked but visible from both roads when vegetation is dormant, is not protected in any way from farming machinery damage, and may have been broken below ground level.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post, with (what is left of) a low pyramidal top, was quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone, and originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4½ feet long, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins, 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. It appears to stand as reset in 1902: about 18 inches above ground (on the north side, but 11 inches on the south side), and measures close to 12 inches square. But it has been greatly disfigured by farm machinery chips: most of the letter P and circle panel is gone, and some of the M and circle panel; bits of fluting but no margins remain; huge chunks have been chipped out of the northeast, northwest and southeast vertical edges; all other edges and top corners are chipped; all surfaces are very weathered; and the top is nearly flat, much of it cemented-over when the US Coast and Geodetic Survey disk was set into the apex (Reference Mark No. 2, 1939, BM 111).

(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. WA-I-488

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 (reset 1902) BUILDER/ARCHITECT SURVEYORS Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No.107(111) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers 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 milestone set two years later, where it appears to remain in place as reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 107(111) 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: Mason-Dixon (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1953 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 25958, northing 440040

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE		COUNTY	
STATE	Maryland	COUNTY	Washington
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 and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE
2/28/81 (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.

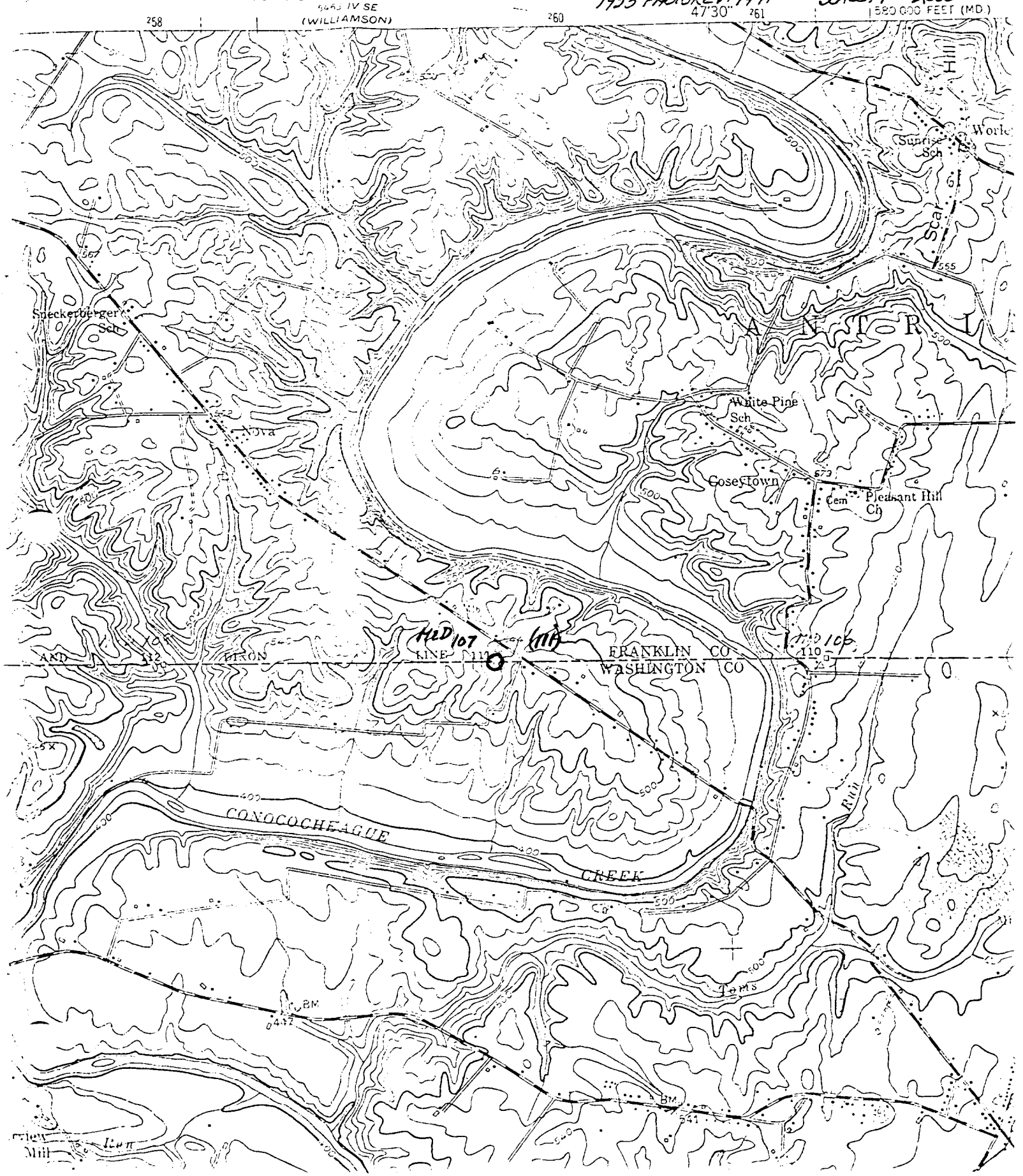
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

WA-I-488

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 107 (111)
MASON-DIXON QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA
USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1953 PHOTOREV. 1971
SCALE: 1" = 2000'



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MHT

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MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 107 (111)

[illegible] ORIGINAL (1767)

[illegible] ALICE MARTINI ([illegible]) 2/28/81

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MAT

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE
NW CORNER (PA—), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN (1981.6 10) 2/28/81