

ABSTRACT

WA-I-489

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 108(112)

Fairview, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

1767 (reset 1902)

Milestone No. 108(112) marks Mason and Dixon's 108th 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 an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone; is in excellent condition, unaltered, and firmly in place at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1765, monumented two years later and reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. 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.

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, 108th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON  
 MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 108 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 112)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)  
 STREET & NUMBER off north side of Wishard Road

CITY, TOWN Fairview  VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MD: 6/ PA: 9  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY MD: Washington/PA: Franklin

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<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 \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code  
 \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)  
 COURTHOUSE, LIBER #:  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. 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-489 entered 2/24/81  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

Survey No. WA-I-489

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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. 108(112) marks Mason and Dixon's 108th 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 excellent condition, unaltered, and remains at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1765, monumented two years later, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here <sup>sparsely settled;</sup> is ~~rural~~; <sup>hilly</sup>, with broad strands of deciduous trees and a liberal sprinkling of cedars, mostly along the tributaries flowing into the Conococheague, less than a half mile south. The site is within Election District 13 of Washington County, MD, and Montgomery Township of Franklin County, PA; about 1/4 miles northeast of the scattered settlement of Fairview, MD; at a point about 1500 feet northwest of <sup>Wishard Road and</sup> the David Lowry farmhouse (on the south side of Wishard Road), west of the point where two small streams converge, on a grassy hillside bordered by a grove of cedars. It cannot be seen from any road, but easily from nearby, all seasons, and seems well protected.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, and probably <sup>originally</sup> measured <sup>square</sup> about 12 inches <sup>by</sup> about 4 or more 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 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. Because part of the foundation now shows, this milestone presumably stands about as reset in 1902, 18 inches above the concrete foundation, about 12 inches square. The letters and circle panels are clear and intact; most fluting and margins remain clear and intact except for minor chips along all edges and top corners; <sup>quite flat,</sup> the top planes and fluting are <sup>barely</sup> discernible from weathering; and all surfaces are mottled with bits of lichen.

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

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**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"/> 400-1499             | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)<br>boundary surveying |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                         |   |   |

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

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Milestone No. 108(112), a particularly fine example of an original milestone, 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 monumented two years later, where it remains in place, reset more securely 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. 108(112) 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)

**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 acreQuadrangle name: Mason-Dixon (Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series  
(topographic), 1953 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 18, easting 25796, northing 440046

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

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 2/28/81 (site surveyed)

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

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WA-I-489

MASON-DIXON REST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 108(112)  
MASON-DIXON QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND-PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
1953 PHOTOREV. 1971 SCALE: 1"=2000'

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



254000m E

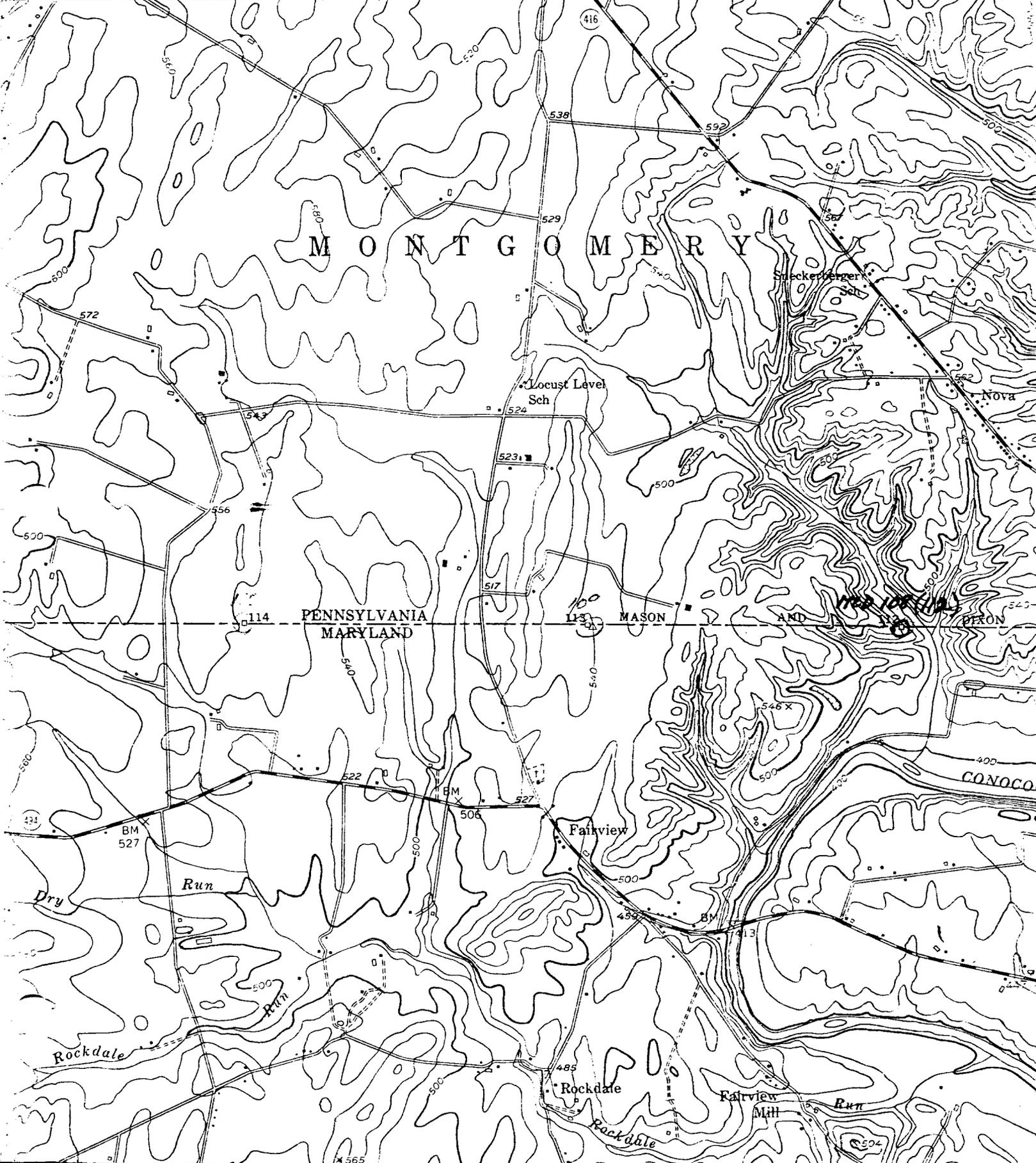
1970000 FEET (PA.)

WELSH RUN 1.2 MI.

257

50'

258



M O N T G O M M E R Y

PENNSYLVANIA  
MARYLAND

MASON

AND

DIXON

Locust Level Sch

Fairview

Rockdale

Fairview Mill

CONOCO

Dry Run

Rockdale

Run



1981

WA-7-489

MASON LINDSAY WEST LINE MILESTONE 108. "2"  
SE CORNER "101" ORIGINAL (1967)

PHOTO: ALICE MALTER (1981.6-19) 2/28/81



200

21-1 289

MARTIN & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MALESTONE 108 (12)  
NW CORNER (D)-1, ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 1981.6 21 2/28/81