

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-024

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 123(127)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No.123 (127) marks Mason and Dixon's 123rd horizontal miles west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, famous for its historical and geographical impact, and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone; is in fair condition, unaltered, and at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely 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, 123rd Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON  
 MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 123 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 127)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)  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

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

**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 &amp; 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 &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

TITLE Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE WA-VI-024 entered 2/24/81  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Maryland 21401

**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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Milestone No. 123(127) marks Mason and Dixon's 123rd 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 at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely <sup>in 1902</sup> during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is in hilly, woodsy farmland, fringed by <sup>large</sup> fruit orchards and ridges, sparsely settled. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Thompson Township of Fulton County, PA; about 4 miles northeast of the town of Hancock, MD, at a point about 2000 feet north of Bain(Bane) Road and about 700 feet west-northwest of the de Feo house; on the east slope of a small hill, in an east-west wire fencerow (against the south side) between the deFeo pasture and the old Columbia Gas pipeline and open field on the north side. It cannot be seen from the road or the private drive or deFeo house, and not easily from closeby; but it is protected by the fencing and the deFeo family.

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 said to have originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4 feet or more in length, 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. Presumably reset to stand about 1½ feet high, it now stands only about 10 inches above ground, and measures close to 12 inches square. The letters and circle panels are clear, but the M is damaged by a huge chip out of the southeast edge; no fluting/<sup>or margins</sup> remain on the north or east sides, and only small bits on the south and west sides; there are chips along all edges and top corners; and no planes or fluting remain on the top. The entire stone is also quite weathered, especially on the top.

(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**

<b>PERIOD</b> <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> 400-1499 <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 <input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE <input type="checkbox"/> ART <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE <input type="checkbox"/> LAW <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) boundary surveying
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SPECIFIC DATES : 1767. (reset 1902) ~~BUILDING ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
 SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 123(127) 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 defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical and geographical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and 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. 123(127) 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: Cherry Run (Maryland-West Virginia-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000UTM reference: zone 17, easting 74812, northing 440071VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

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

STATE Maryland COUNTY WashingtonSTATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Fulton**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 3/29/81 (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

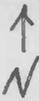
WA-VI-024

MASON & DIXON WEST LINE MILESTONE NO. 123 (127)

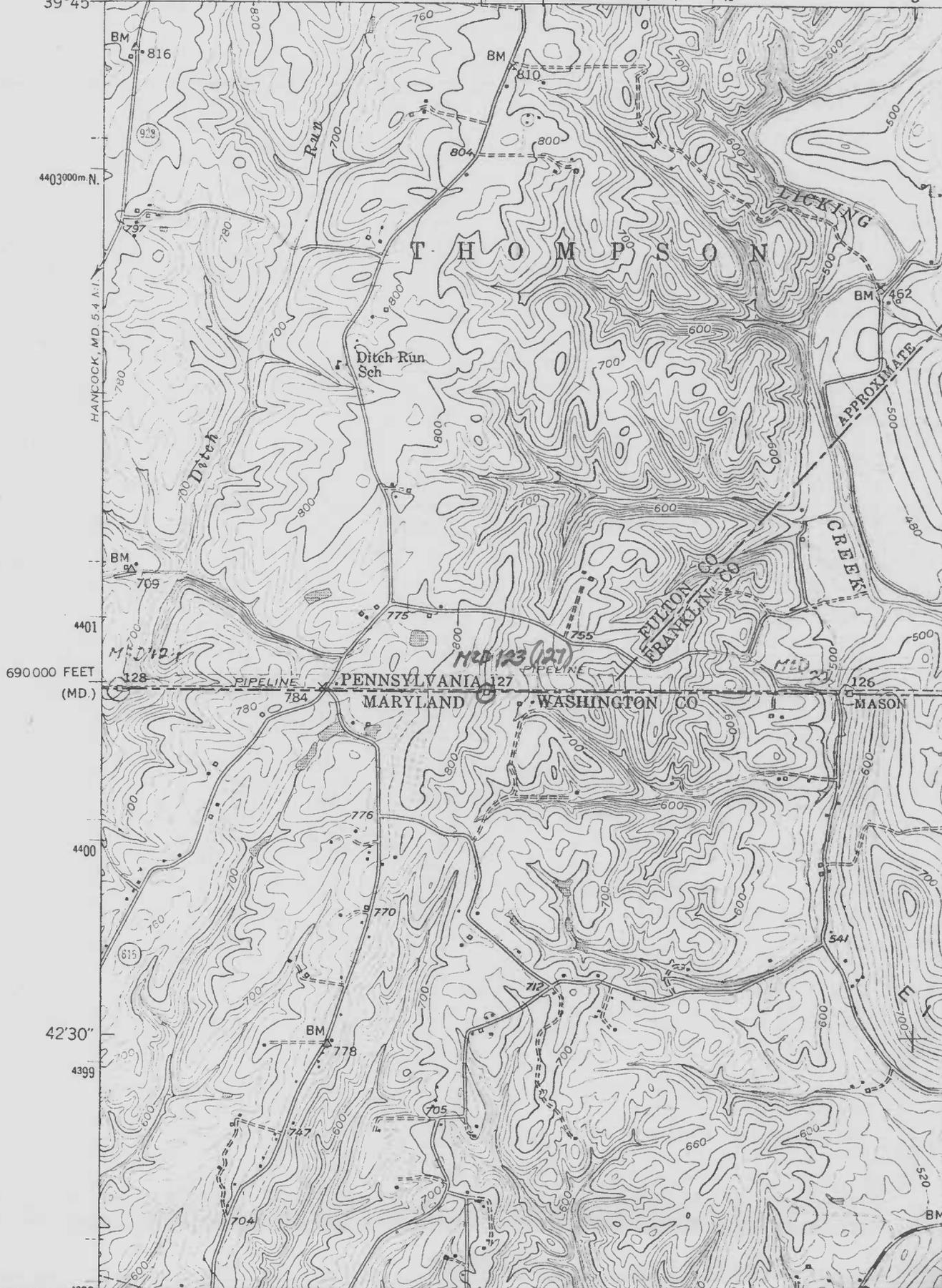
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CHERRY RUN QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND - WEST VIRGINIA - PENNSYLVANIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) 1  
1951 PHOTO REV. 1971 SCALE: 1" = 2000

5303 1 SW  
(NEED MORE)



78°07'30" 9.2 MI. TO U.S. 522 748000m E 490 000 FEET (MD.) 749 5'  
39°45' DICKEYS MOUNTAIN 3.5 MI.





WA-VI-024

HASSELL'S DITCH WEST SIDE MILESTONE 123 (127)  
SE CORNER (117), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981.14.6)



MPT

WA-III-624

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 123 (127)  
NW CORNER (P/-), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981.14.8)